



Durga Idol Immersions in Hyderabad Delayed by Heavy Rain, Conclude Peacefully by Evening

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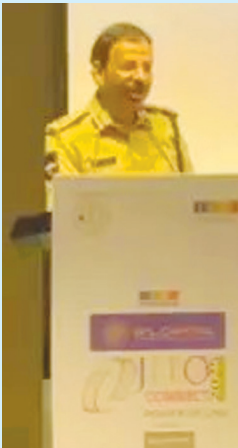
BUZZ POINTS



DEPUTY CM BHATTI VIKRAMARKA HEADS TO DELHI OVER 42% BC QUOTA CASE

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Vakati Srihari left for Delhi on Sunday to prepare for the Supreme Court hearing on Telangana's 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs).

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SAJJANAR PRAISES WOMEN'S ROLE IN SOCIETY; URGES VIGILANCE IN DIGITAL SPACE

City Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar praised the contribution of women in professional and entrepreneurial roles during a meeting with cybercrime officers and members of the Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) at TGICCC on Sunday.

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Two Hyderabad Students Die in the US Within 48 Hours

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: In two separate tragedies within 48 hours, two students from Hyderabad lost their lives in the United States, sparking grief among families and concern over the safety of Indian students abroad.

On Sunday, 25-year-old Mehtab Mohammed from Chanchalguda, Hyderabad, died in a road accident in Chicago. He had recently moved to the US to pursue higher studies and was reportedly settling into his new

environment when the accident occurred. MBT spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan confirmed the news on social media, offering condolences to Mehtab's family and urging the Indian government to assist in repatriating his body.

Just a day earlier, 28-year-old Chandrashekhar Pole from BN Nagar, Hyderabad, was shot dead during an armed robbery at a gas station in Dallas, Texas. Chandrashekhar, who was pursuing a Master's degree in Data

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ALL SET FOR A NEW PARTY AFTER LOCAL BODY POLLS, BY KAVITHA?

Speculation surrounding Kavitha's next political move has gained momentum, with strong indications that she is preparing to launch her own political party. The outfit is expected to be named Telangana Jagruti Samiti and could be announced soon after the upcoming local body elections. Political observers believe that Kavitha has been carefully studying the state's evolving political landscape and is now convinced that the timing is right to step into the arena independently.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: For months, Kavitha had maintained that she was in an observation mode and would take a decision at an appropriate time. She repeatedly stated that her focus was on assessing the performance of the major parties—the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Congress, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—before charting her own course. Given the lack of preparation time, she strategically avoided launching her party ahead of the local elections, preferring instead to gauge voter sentiment in those contests.

One of the main reasons her decision is attracting significant attention is the ongoing rift within her family. Kavitha, daughter of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), has in recent months openly expressed discontent

with her position inside the BRS. While she initially hinted at differences with her brother K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), the blame has gradually shifted towards Finance Minister T. Harish Rao. In her statements and interactions, she has targeted Harish Rao and BRS MP Santosh Rao, while at the same time defending her father and brother, cautioning them about the alleged influence of those leaders.

Analysts say that while Kavitha's new party may not immediately have the strength to secure a sweeping victory, it can certainly disrupt the existing balance of power. A section of the BRS's support base, especially those loyal to Kavitha, might shift their allegiance to her new platform. Even a minor division in votes could significantly impact the BRS's performance, particularly in close contests. This



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BJP State Office-Bearers Meet to Strategise for Local Body Elections

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: A key meeting of Telangana BJP state office-bearers was held at the party headquarters in Hyderabad under the leadership of State President N. Ramchander Rao to finalise strategies for the upcoming local body elections.

The meeting was attended by senior leaders including Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, BJP National Vice President D.K. Aruna, Legislative Party Leaders Aleti Maheshwar Reddy and A.V.N. Reddy, and state in-charge Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, along with MPs, MLAs, and MLCs. Discussions focused on

voter engagement, mobilisation of party workers, and strengthening the BJP's grassroots network across municipalities and panchayats. Leaders reviewed outreach initiatives and coordination between state, district, and local units to ensure full election

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BJP's N Ramchander Rao Calls for Change, Accuses Congress of Neglect



Sangareddy: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao has urged the people of the state to support the Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming local body elections, accusing both the Congress and BRS governments of corruption and neglect of public welfare.

Speaking at the "Alai Balai" programme organised under the leadership of former Zaheerabad MP B.B. Patil in Sangupet, Andole Mandal, Ramchander

Rao welcomed several local Congress leaders—including Chanti Prabhud and Chanti Devika—into the BJP fold. He expressed confidence that more leaders would soon join the party ahead of the elections.

Rao accused the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government of betraying the public with false promises and poor governance. He alleged that despite extensive crop losses due to heavy rains, the state government has failed to assess or compensate farmers.

"The Congress government has shown complete indifference to the plight of farmers," he said.

He further claimed that the state's financial condition has deteriorated, with the government struggling even to pay salaries to its employees. "What was left after BRS looted the state is now being looted by Congress," he remarked.

Ramchander Rao also accused the government of exploiting Backward

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Azharuddin Urged to Contest Jubilee Hills Bypoll

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: Former Indian cricket captain and senior Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin is once again in the political spotlight, as several Muslim leaders and Congress workers are urging him to contest the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll. With the election approaching, supporters believe Azharuddin's popularity and

close ties with the local community could significantly strengthen the party's prospects in this key constituency.

Party cadres and local leaders have reportedly expressed confidence that Azharuddin's entry would energise the Congress base and attract a broad voter segment, particularly the youth and minorities. They view him not only as a respect

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Congress Leaders Discuss Strategy for Local Elections and Jubilee Hills Bypoll



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: In a key meeting held at the MLA Quarters, senior Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) leaders met with AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan to deliberate on strategies for the upcoming local body elections and the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll.

The meeting, attended by TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, and Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar,

was held ahead of crucial legal proceedings. The Supreme Court is set to hear a case related to local body elections tomorrow, followed by a Telangana High Court hearing on October 8. Party leaders discussed legal preparedness and measures to ensure the party's stance is strongly represented.

A major focus of the meeting was the Jubilee Hills bypoll. Leaders discussed strategies to prevent vote manipulation, ensure fair conduct, and strengthen voter outreach mechanisms. They

reviewed the progress of voter verification drives and other grassroots-level preparations aimed at improving performance in the constituency.

The meeting also addressed organisational strengthening at district and booth levels, calling for improved coordination among DCC presidents, booth committees, and grassroots workers. Leaders emphasised the need for unified decision-making and discipline to enhance efficiency during the campaign.

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ALL SET FOR A NEW PARTY AFTER LOCAL BODY POLLS, BY KAVITHA?

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could also indirectly help the Congress or BJP, depending on how the vote split plays out across constituencies. The potential launch of Telangana Jagruti Samiti also poses a challenge to the BJP's current strategy in the state. Over the past year, the BJP has been making efforts to attract leaders from the BRS into its fold, seeking to strengthen its presence in Telangana. However, Kavitha's entry could complicate that process. Disgruntled leaders or

supporters who might have considered shifting to the BJP could now see her party as an alternative platform, thus creating an additional hurdle for the safe from party's growth plans. Political observers point out that Kavitha's party could emerge as a "spoiler" in Telangana politics. Even without winning a large number of seats, her presence has the potential to influence outcomes by cutting into the vote share of established parties. For the BRS, already fac-

ing growing competition from the Congress and the BJP, this development could be particularly damaging. As the state waits for the outcome of the local body elections, attention will be firmly fixed on Kavitha's next move. Whether her new political outfit can transform into a serious force or remain a disruptive player is yet to be determined, but one thing is certain—her entry will add another twist to the dynamic and fast-changing political narrative of Telangana.

Two Hyderabad Students Die in the US Within 48 Hours

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Analytics at the University of North Texas since August 2023, worked part-time at the gas station to support himself. He had completed a Bachelor's in Dental Surgery (BDS) in India before moving to the US to further his academic career. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed condo-

lences to both grieving families and assured government assistance for the swift repatriation of the bodies. BRS leader Harish Rao and MBT's Amjed Ullah Khan also visited Chandrasekhar's family in Hyderabad to offer support. The two deaths have cast a shadow of sorrow over Hyderabad, particularly among fami-

lies with children studying abroad. Many community members have called for stronger support systems for Indian students overseas and better coordination with local consulates. Both incidents serve as a grim reminder of the challenges and risks faced by young Indians pursuing education and opportunities overseas.

Congress Leaders Discuss Strategy for Local Elections and Jubilee Hills Bypoll

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The discussions reflected the party's intent to consolidate its position across Telangana and to tackle internal

and administrative challenges proactively. The meeting concluded with leaders reaffirming their commitment to strong

organisational discipline, voter engagement, and legal preparedness ahead of both the Jubilee Hills bypoll and the local body elections.

BJP State Office-Bearers Meet to Strategise for Local Body Elections

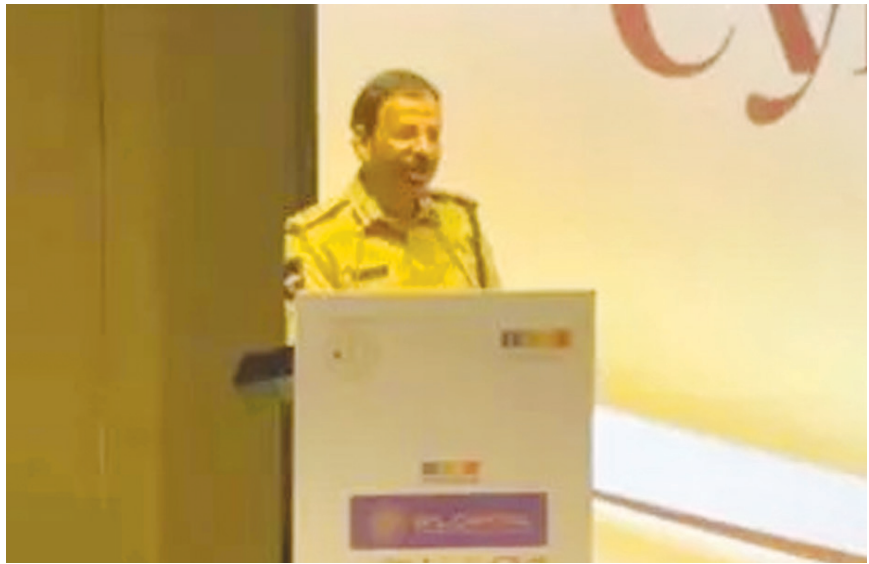
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preparedness. Emphasising people-centric governance, Ramchander Rao urged leaders to work with unity and discipline. He said cohesive efforts at all lev-

els are crucial for success and directed members to focus on resolving public grievances and implementing development-oriented programmes. The meeting ended

with a collective resolution to intensify outreach, enhance organisational efficiency, and secure a decisive mandate for the BJP in the forthcoming local body elections.

Sajjanar Praises Women's Role in Society; Urges Vigilance in Digital Space



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: City Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar praised the contribution of women in professional and entrepreneurial roles during a meeting with cybercrime officers and members of the Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) at TGICCC on Sunday. "Women are a source of inspiration and strength for the entire world," Sajjanar said. "Nearly 50% of my team

comprises women IPS officers who manage dual responsibilities every day — balancing their homes and their demanding duties with dedication and discipline." Addressing women entrepreneurs at the event, he added, "Interacting with such inspiring women, true symbols of resilience, leadership, and innovation, is a proud moment for me." The commissioner also issued an important advisory on digital safety, urging citizens to avoid

sharing private photos or sensitive data online, warning that such information can be easily misused. "Many women fall prey to online fraudsters who hide their identities. Even after realising they have been deceived, some continue to communicate, putting themselves at greater risk," he said. "Stay alert, verify before you trust, and let's work together to make the digital world safer for everyone," Sajjanar emphasised. He later shared the advisory on his social media handles.

Azharuddin Urged to Contest Jubilee Hills Bypoll

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ed sportsman but also as a unifying figure capable of bridging communities and revitalising the Congress image in Hyderabad.

Despite mounting pressure, Azharuddin has maintained a composed stance. According to party insiders, he has assured his supporters that he has complete faith in the Congress high command — including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, and state in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan. He has conveyed that he will abide by the leadership's decision regarding his candidature.

Azharuddin has also told his followers that, regardless of current political developments or internal challenges, the Congress leadership will ensure he secures a posi-

tion as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). His remarks reflect both his loyalty to the party and his belief in the leadership's commitment to acknowledging his service and political contributions. Discussions around his potential candidacy have generated considerable buzz in Telangana's political circles. Jubilee Hills, a high-profile constituency with a diverse electorate, is considered strategically vital for all major parties. A decision on Azharuddin's candidature is expected soon, and his participation could alter the local political landscape. The Congress leadership, meanwhile, continues internal deliberations to finalise its candidates for the bypoll. Supporters remain hopeful that Azharuddin's charisma and wide public appeal will give the party an advantage in the upcoming election.

BJP's N Ramchander Rao Calls for Change, Accuses Congress of Neglect

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Classes for political gains while ignoring their welfare. He reminded that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who granted constitutional status to the BC Commission, proving the BJP's commitment to social justice. Highlighting the BJP-led central government's contribution to rural development, he said that infrastructure, cremation grounds, and resource protection projects were devel-

oped with central funds, not state ones. He also expressed grief over the suicides of sarpanches during the BRS regime due to unpaid bills and alleged that Congress was following a similar path of negligence. Concluding his address, Ramchander Rao called upon the people to teach both Congress and BRS a lesson in the upcoming elections and give BJP a chance to deliver honest and development-driven governance in Telangana.



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Heads to Delhi Over 42% BC Quota Case

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Vakati Srihari left for Delhi on Sunday to prepare for the Supreme Court hearing on Telangana's 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs). The state government plans to present strong arguments supporting the policy, highlighting its necessity for social

justice and equality in education and employment. Officials said Telangana remains firm in its commitment to protecting BC interests and ensuring fair opportunities. During the visit, Bhatti Vikramarka and Srihari will meet senior advocates to fine-tune the legal strategy, review constitutional provisions, and draw from previous judgments to strengthen their case. The government aims



Durga Idol Immersions in Hyderabad Delayed by Heavy Rain, Conclude Peacefully by Evening

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: The immersion of Goddess Durga idols marking the end of Navaratri was delayed on Sunday due to heavy rainfall across the city. Despite the disruption, the event concluded peacefully by evening, with thousands of devotees participating with enthusiasm. Morning showers disrupted immersion processions, causing major traffic snarls on key routes leading to immersion points. Around 100 trucks and DCM vehicles car-

rying idols were stranded between Necklace Road, Secretariat, and Telugu Thalli Flyover. Traffic police and GHMC staff were deployed in large numbers to regulate movement and ensure devotees' safety. CCTV surveillance was used to monitor traffic and respond quickly to congestion. Even with the delays, the festive spirit remained high. Many devotees, equipped with umbrellas and raincoats, chanted bhajans and danced alongside the processions as they headed toward immersion

points at Hussain Sagar and other lakes. Officials coordinated with temple committees and volunteers to ensure safe and eco-friendly immersions. GHMC workers were stationed at major ghats to manage debris clearance. By afternoon, rainfall eased, and the process picked up pace. All major immersions were completed by evening without incident. Authorities expressed satisfaction with the peaceful conduct of the event and thanked citizens for their cooperation and discipline.

Admissions Open at 'Young India Police School' in Manchirevula

Rangareddy: Admissions have begun at the 'Young India Police School' located on the Greyhounds Campus in Manchirevula. Launched under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the school aims to offer quality education to children of police and uniformed personnel, as well as the general public. The initiative addresses challenges faced by police families due to long working hours and limited time for their children's education. The government's goal is to blend discipline, academics, and character development. Half of the seats are reserved for children of police and uniformed

staff — from Home Guards to IPS officers — while the remaining 50% are open to the public, promoting inclusivity. The fee structure is designed to be affordable for police families, ensuring access to quality education. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated the school's website and brochure, commending officials for completing formalities, staffing, and infrastructure setup efficiently. The school, officially inaugurated on March 31, 2025, has already begun classes for its first batch. It represents a forward-looking effort to combine education with discipline and service values, setting an example for other states to follow.





Case Filed Against MLA Raja Singh Over Alleged Remarks on Prophet Mohammed

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: A case has been registered against Goshamahal MLA T. Raja Singh for allegedly making derogatory remarks about Prophet Mohammed during a recent public rally in Hyderabad. The controversy erupted after a video clip of his speech went viral on social media, sparking outrage and formal complaints from residents.

Police said the case was filed at Shahalibanda Police Station following a complaint from community members who alleged that Raja Singh's comments hurt the sentiments of the

Muslim community and could disturb communal harmony.

Acting on the complaint, the police booked the MLA under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology (IT) Act. Investigators are verifying the authenticity of the viral video, its circulation online, and identifying the organisers of the rally where the alleged remarks were made.

Senior police officials said legal procedures are being followed. "We have taken cognisance of the complaint and initiated an investigation. Action will be taken based on evidence," a senior officer said.

The video, which purportedly shows the MLA making provocative statements, prompted police to heighten patrolling in sensitive areas to maintain peace. Additional security was deployed in the Old City to prevent disturbances.

This is not the first time Raja Singh has courted controversy. Known for his hardline views, he has faced multiple cases in the past for alleged hate speeches.

Community leaders have urged the public to remain calm and allow the law to take its course, while police have cautioned citizens against sharing inflammatory content online.

Harish Rao Targets Congress Failures in Jubilee Hills Bypoll Campaign



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: Former minister Harish Rao intensified the BRS campaign for the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll, distributing "Baki Cards" highlighting the unfulfilled promises of the Congress government.

Rao said the initia-

tive aims to remind people that "Congress promised much but delivered nothing." He listed key pledges—₹2,500 for every woman, ₹4,000 for senior citizens, 200,000 jobs for youth, and fee reimbursement for students—none of which have been implemented.

"If Congress loses

in Jubilee Hills, it will send a strong message of public dissatisfaction to the Revanth Reddy government," he said.

Rao also alleged that Congress was attempting to influence voters with money and liquor, urging citizens not to fall for such tactics. He appealed to voters

to support BRS candidate Sunita, calling her "a dedicated leader committed to the welfare of women and the poor."

He accused Congress of betraying the Muslim community, citing unfulfilled promises like Shadi Mubarak funds and minority welfare budgets. He

contrasted this with the BRS government's record, including appointing a Muslim Home Minister and setting up 203 minority schools.

Rao concluded by urging voters to teach Congress a lesson and "vote for a government that truly delivers on its promises."



Ponnamp Prabhakar Launches Membership Drive at Sheikpet Fisheries Cooperative Society

Hyderabad: Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar inaugurated a membership drive for the Sheikpet Fisheries Cooperative Society in the Jubilee Hills constituency, marking a revival of activity in the long-dormant organisation.

During the event, attended by Fisheries Corporation chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, the minister distributed membership cards to 96 women and 45 men, emphasising the role of co-

operatives in empowering fishermen and boosting local livelihoods.

Prabhakar called for improved infrastructure and coordination with GHMC for better fish market facilities. He highlighted that fish, being affordable compared to vegetables, can strengthen both nutrition and income generation in local communities.

Encouraging women's participation, he said in-

clusive growth is essential for the cooperative's long-term success. He urged members to remain active, united, and politically aware, stressing that collective effort is key to community advancement.

The minister reiterated the government's commitment to supporting fishermen through sustainable initiatives, ensuring steady income, and strengthening cooperative structures across Telangana.

Ponnamp Prabhakar Condemns TRS Social Media for Twisting Remarks on Minister Adluri Lakshman

Karimnagar: Telangana minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has condemned the TRS/BRS social media campaign for allegedly misrepresenting his remarks about fellow minister Adluri Lakshman.

Speaking to the media, Prabhakar clarified that his comments were taken out of context and falsely portrayed as derogatory. "I have great respect for Adluri Lakshman, who is an elder and colleague. My remarks were purely about administrative coordination, not personal criticism," he said.

He described the viral posts as a deliberate attempt to create political controversy, accusing BRS of resorting to "low-level tactics" to mislead the public. "Such distortion of facts erodes public trust and undermines healthy political discourse," he said. Prabhakar urged citizens and supporters to verify information before sharing it on social media. He reaffirmed his respect for Adluri Lakshman and warned that misinformation only distracts from genuine governance issues affecting Telangana.



KTR Condemns Bus Fare Hike: "How Will the Poor Survive?"

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has lashed out at the state government for the recent TSRTC bus fare hike, calling it "cruel and insensitive."

In a social media post, KTR said the ₹10 hike per ticket will force poor and middle-class com-

muters to spend an extra ₹500 a month, worsening their financial burden.

He criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for ignoring the plight of daily travellers, students, and workers, saying the decision reflects poor planning and disregard for public welfare.

KTR also accused the government of targeting citizens to cover up

RTC's financial issues, instead of finding sustainable solutions. "Instead of strengthening public transport, this government is punishing those who rely on it," he said.

He demanded an immediate rollback of the hike and urged the government to adopt citizen-friendly policies that make transport affordable and accessible.

Kavitha Slams Revanth Reddy Over Bus Fare Hike: "Why So Much Anger Towards the Poor?"

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: Telangana Jagruthi president Kavitha has criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for the recent TSRTC bus fare hike, accusing him of burdening the poor and middle-class.

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Kavitha asked, "Why does the

Chief Minister seem to have so much anger towards common people?"

She condemned the government's decision to increase both bus fares and pass prices, saying it directly affects thousands of workers, students, and small employees who depend on public transport. "People who rely on buses are being punished as if using public trans-

port is a crime," she said.

Kavitha accused the Congress government of using the 'Green Journey' initiative as a pretext to raise revenue. "In the name of the Green Journey, this government is sucking the blood of the poor," she remarked.

She reminded that the Congress had promised affordable transport and better faci-

ties before elections, but has instead made commuting costlier. Political observers say her remarks reflect growing resentment among citizens over the hike, which affects millions of daily commuters.

Kavitha urged the Chief Minister to withdraw the fare hike immediately and focus on policies that ease, not worsen, people's financial strain.



Downpour brings Hyderabad to a halt, yellow alert issued across Telangana

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: Heavy rains pounded Hyderabad and several districts across Telangana on Sunday, bringing traffic to a crawl and flooding many roads. Areas such as Ameerpet, Panjagutta, Filmnagar, Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Yousufguda, Koti, Sultan Bazaar, Abids, Nampally, Basheerbagh,

Lakdikapul, Himayatnagar, Narayanguda, Necklace Road, Kukatpally, Malkajgiri, and Secunderabad witnessed severe waterlogging and traffic disruptions. According to the Telangana State Disaster Management Department, Eturunagaram in Mulugu district received the highest rainfall of 11 cm. Other areas recorded significant downpours: Lingala (Kham-

m a m) 1 0 c m , Mogdampally (Sangareddy) 9.8 cm, Pallegudem (Khammam) 8.98 cm, Medaram (Mulugu) 8.43 cm, and Pulkal (Sangareddy) 7.45 cm. Several locations, including Gudur (Jangaon) and Basheerabad (Vikarabad), also saw over 7 cm of rainfall. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) attributed the rains to a surface cir-

coastal Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, a severe cyclonic storm over the Arabian Sea continues to persist, centred about 530 km east of Dwarka, and is expected to make landfall near Oman's coast by Monday. Authorities have urged residents to remain indoors, avoid low-lying areas, and adhere to safety advisories until weather conditions improve.



Hyderabad police intensify drunk driving crackdown with surprise checks

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: In a determined effort to improve road safety and curb the growing menace of drunk driving, the Hyderabad Traffic Police launched a large-scale enforcement drive across 23 major city locations on the night of October 4, 2025. The operation aimed to tackle a worrying trend — an increase in daytime drunk driving, which has become a major contributor to road accidents in the city. Traditionally, drunk driving was considered a nighttime offence, but recent observations by the police show a sharp rise

in cases during the day. Many offenders include drivers of two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and transport vehicles, putting themselves and others at serious risk. During the latest surprise checks, police apprehended 312 drivers under the influence of alcohol. Of all the offenders, 259 were two-wheelers, 17 three-wheelers and 36 four-wheelers. All violators have been booked under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and will be produced before the courts. They face penalties ranging from hefty fines and imprisonment to temporary or permanent suspension of their driving licences, depend-

ing on the severity of the offence. The Hyderabad Traffic Police reiterated that drunk driving is a serious and punishable crime that endangers both the driver and the public. Officials said such enforcement drives will continue regularly, both during the day and at night, to ensure safer roads. Authorities appealed to the public to act responsibly, avoid drinking and driving, and cooperate with police during checks. They also urged media outlets to widely publicise the message, reinforcing the importance of road safety and the dangers of driving under the influence.

Heavy rush on Vijayawada-Hyderabad highway as holiday travellers return

With the Dussehra holidays coming to an end, thousands of travellers returning to Hyderabad led to heavy congestion on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad National Highway over the weekend. Vehicles moved at a snail's pace across several key points, including Naraketpalli Kamineni Junction, Chityal, Peddakaparthi, Pantangi Toll Plaza, and Choutuppal, where traffic bottlenecks caused long delays.

Anticipating the rush, authorities deployed additional staff to manage traffic. At the Korlapahad Toll Plaza in Kethapalli Mandal — which usually handles around 25,000 vehicles daily — the number surged to 34,000 on Saturday. By Sunday evening, nearly 27,000 vehicles had passed through. At the Pantangi Toll Plaza, which typically processes 40,000 vehicles a day, the figure jumped to 51,000 on Saturday and 49,000 by Sunday evening.

To ease congestion, 12 toll booths were opened on the Hyderabad-bound side of Pantangi Toll Plaza, while only four booths operated for Vijayawada-bound traffic to prioritise returning commuters. Toll officials coordinated closely with Rachakonda Traffic Police to streamline vehicle flow and reduce waiting times. Bhuvanagiri Traffic ACP Prabhakar Reddy and Choutuppal Traffic Inspector Vijay Mohan supervised operations along key stretches, di-

recting traffic and ensuring real-time coordination between police and toll staff. Despite the surge, the joint efforts of police and toll authorities helped manage the flow and prevent gridlock. Commuters were advised to remain patient and cautious, with officials stressing that better planning and coordination during festive periods are crucial to maintaining safety and avoiding prolonged delays on major highways.



“Operation Cleaning” revives Batukammakunta after festivities

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: In the aftermath of the Batukamma festival celebrations, Hyderabad civic authorities launched a major cleanup drive at the Batukammakunta under the banner of “Operation Cleaning” on Sunday, October 5. Led by Hydra Inspector Balagopal, the operation saw active participation from DRF and MET staff who removed flower waste and debris left behind after three days of festivities. During the celebrations, large quantities of flowers were immersed in the pond. While some waste was cleared earlier, a considerable amount had settled at the bottom. The cleaning teams focused on removing residual flowers, discarded trays, and other debris, restoring the pond to a clean and well-maintained state. The initiative came just days after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inaugurated the pond, marking the beginning of the celebrations.

The operation also addressed long-standing issues around the pond. The surrounding area, previously cluttered with construction debris and used for GHMC garbage vehicle parking, was cleaned and redesigned. The makeover transformed the site into a pleasant public space suitable for recreation and gatherings. To resolve parking congestion, particularly for garbage collection vehicles, a dedicated parking zone was set



up near the nearby petrol station. This ensured smooth access to the pond and improved traffic flow in the vicinity. “Operation Cleaning” not only restored the pond's cleanliness but also set an example of effective civic management after large-

scale cultural events. The coordinated efforts by Hydra officials and staff turned the Batukamma pond into a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming space for the community — a reminder of the importance of preserving public spaces after festive celebrations.



BJP Leaders Pay Homage to Late ZPTC Member Bakkareddy in Kandugula

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 05: BJP district president Gangadi Krishnareddy, along with several senior leaders, visited Kandugula village to pay tribute to former ZPTC member Padidam Bakkareddy, who passed away recently. The leaders offered condolences to the bereaved family and recalled his dedicated service to the community. The condolence meeting was attended by BJP Mandal President Ramulu Kumar, senior leaders

Ravula Bhaskar Reddy, Kesireddy Vijender Reddy, Toorpati Raju, Gangishetti Prabhakar, Kondal Reddy, Muppu Mahesh, Chidural Srinivas Reddy, and Ponnam Chandra Reddy. Krishnareddy urged party members to uphold Bakkareddy's legacy of service and social responsibility. He emphasised the need for continued commitment to local development and ongoing public welfare programmes in Kandugula and neighbouring areas. The meeting also discussed strategies to strengthen the BJP's grassroots presence, with leaders calling for closer coordination and active engagement with local residents. The gathering reflected the party's focus on unity, community outreach, and leadership continuity. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the people of Huzurabad and vowed to carry forward the late Bakkareddy's ideals of service and integrity, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future party work.

INCREASING CYBER FRAUDS: MAN LOST Rs.2 LAKH

A man from Hyderabad fell victim to cyber fraud and lost nearly ₹2 lakh while trying to rent a car online. The incident, reported by the Cyber Crime Police, highlights once again how fraudsters are exploiting online platforms to trap unsuspecting individuals. According to officials, the victim, a resident of Lalaguda, wanted to rent a car in Coimbatore. He searched on Google and came across a service named Shiva Shakthi Car Rentals. Believing it to be genuine, he contacted the number listed on the website. The fraudsters informed him that a registration fee of ₹149 was required and sent him a link to download an APK file to complete the process. Trusting the instructions, the man downloaded the APK file and paid the ₹149 registration fee. However, the APK contained malware designed to gain access to his phone. Through this malicious



software, the cybercriminals intercepted and auto-forwarded the one-time passwords (OTPs) received on his device. Using these OTPs, the fraudsters gained access to his bank account and siphoned off ₹1.98 lakh. By the time the victim realized he had been duped, the money was already withdrawn. He immediately lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police, who have begun investigating the case.

Authorities have once again urged the public to remain cautious while using online services, especially those discovered through random internet searches. Officials warned that downloading unknown APK files or clicking on suspicious links can allow cybercriminals to install malware on devices, giving them access to sensitive data including bank details and OTPs.

Police have also advised citizens never to share OTPs, banking credentials, or passwords with anyone and to rely only on verified platforms for services such as rentals, bookings, or online transactions. This case adds to the growing list of cyber fraud incidents being reported in the city, as criminals continue to devise new methods to cheat people. The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have appealed to

the public to report such scams immediately through their helpline or online portal to prevent further losses. The incident serves as yet another reminder of the need for vigilance in the digital space. With online fraud becoming increasingly sophisticated, experts stress that awareness and caution are the only effective tools to safeguard oneself against such financial crimes.

Seetakka Calls for Unity and Discipline Among Congress Cadre Ahead of Local Body Polls

Kothagudem, Mahabubabad: In a significant political meeting, State Minister and senior Congress leader D. Anasuya Seetakka addressed a large gathering of party workers and leaders from Kothagudem and Gangaram mandals. She attended as the chief guest to provide direction and strategy ahead of the upcoming local body elections. In her address, Minister Seetakka underscored the need for unity within the party, urging all leaders and workers to ensure victory for every Congress candidate. She emphasised that a strong

grassroots network and coordinated teamwork were crucial to consolidating the party's base in the region. Seetakka called on candidates to actively communicate government welfare schemes to the public. She highlighted the importance of explaining programmes benefiting women, youth, senior citizens, and marginalised groups, noting that doing so would strengthen voters' trust and reflect the Congress party's commitment to inclusive development. A key highlight of the meeting was the induction of leaders from other political parties into the Congress fold. Minister Seetakka personally handed over party scarves to the new members, symbolising their formal entry into the party. This move, she said, would further boost Congress's organisational strength at the local level. Several senior leaders were present, including Chall Narayana Reddy, State Director of the National Employment Guarantee Scheme, Vajja Sarayya, Kothagudem Mandal Congress President, Jadi Venkateshwar, Gangaram Mandal Congress President, Issar Khan, Mulugu Youth Congress District President, and Maram Suman Reddy, Constituency Youth Congress President.

Minister Seetakka urged all leaders to maintain discipline, nurture young talent, and remain active within their communities. She encouraged party workers to focus on outreach, strengthen public engagement, and carry forward the Congress message with renewed energy. The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to launch intensive campaigns across Kothagudem and Gangaram, with Minister Seetakka's guidance setting the tone for a united and determined effort in the forthcoming polls.



Only Eight Applications Received for 294 Liquor Shops in Warangal

Warangal: The Excise Department has received just eight applications for 294 liquor shops across the erstwhile Warangal district, even as the October 18 deadline approaches. The lottery to allot licences will be held on October 23. The tender notification for the liquor shops was issued on September 25, and applications have been accepted since September 26. So far, three applications have been received from Warangal district for 57 shops, one from Hanamkonda for 67 shops, two from Jangaon for 50 shops, and two from Mahabubabad for 61 shops. No applications have been filed

from Mulugu and Jayashankar Bhupalpally districts, which together have 59 shops. The Congress government has retained the existing reservation system for liquor shop allotments—15% for the Goud community, 10% for Scheduled Castes, and 5% for Scheduled Tribes. The department also released the tax structure, to be paid in six instalments over two years. The licence fee varies with the population served: ₹50 lakh for up to 5,000 people, ₹55 lakh for up to 50,000, ₹60 lakh for up to one lakh, ₹65 lakh for up to five lakh, ₹85 lakh for up to 20 lakh, and ₹1.10 crore for a population exceeding 20 lakh.

MISINFORMATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA CAUSING TROUBLES

Nizamabad police have intensified their crackdown on misinformation and misuse of social media, particularly in the run-up to the local body elections. Officials revealed that several incidents over the past months highlight how fake messages and posts are being used to spread panic, target political rivals, or trigger communal tensions. One such case occurred on May 2, when a man from Hyderabad dialed 100 and falsely claimed that a bomb had been planted at the Nizamabad railway station. Police rushed to the scene and conducted thorough checks, only to find it was a hoax. The caller was later traced, arrested, and remanded to judicial custody. In another case, a youth created false propaganda against a political party on social media in an attempt to defame it. Police promptly removed the posts and registered a case against him. Similarly, a group of youngsters who flaunted swords and posted videos online were detained, counseled, and booked. Police officials expressed concern that, during election season, some individuals and groups are attempting to manipulate public opinion by circulating misleading content. This includes creating photos and videos designed to incite communal disharmony or to glorify one group while vilifying another. Often, such material is reshared across groups without verification, raising the risk of disputes and unrest. Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against anyone spreading false information. A special social media monitoring cell has been established to detect and act against fake posts. Not only the creators but also group administrators will be held accountable if such content circulates in their groups. So far this year, police have registered 45 cases related to fake social media posts in Nizamabad district alone. ACP Raja Venkat Reddy of Nizamabad urged the public not to believe or share unverified messages. "Do not trust every piece of information that circulates on social media. Verify at least once or twice before sharing. Group admins must identify and remove those spreading misinformation. Anyone found circulating fake content, no matter who they are, will face legal action," he warned.

MULTIPLE VEHICLES DAMAGED IN A CHAIN COLLISION ON ORR

In a shocking incident, a major pile-up occurred on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Hyderabad on Sunday, October 5. The accident took place near ORR Exit Number 17, under the jurisdiction of the Rajendranagar Traffic Police Station. According to officials, multiple vehicles were involved in a chain collision while travelling towards the Telangana State Police Academy from the Rajendranagar Toll Gate. Fortunately, all passengers escaped without major injuries as airbags deployed upon impact. The vehicles, however, sustained minor damage. The accident caused heavy traffic congestion along the busy stretch of the ORR. Police immediately rushed to the scene, worked to clear the pile-up, and restored normal traffic flow after some time. The Cyberabad Traffic Police also issued an advisory on X (formerly Twitter), alerting commuters about traffic congestion between the Rajendranagar Toll Gate and the Telangana State Police Academy. They urged motorists to remain cautious, maintain safe distances, and stay alert while travelling on high-speed stretches of the ORR. The incident has once again drawn attention to road safety concerns on the ORR, which has witnessed a string of serious accidents in recent weeks. Just last week, three youngsters lost their lives when two bikes collided under the Padishareef Police Station limits. On September 28, an IT professional died at Thondapalli in

Shamshabad while travelling with his family from Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh on September 14, another IT employee lost his life in a car crash near Pedda Amberpet in Abdullapurmet. Authorities have repeatedly warned that overspeeding, reckless driving, and lack of lane discipline are the major contributors to accidents on the ORR. Police have urged commuters to follow traffic rules strictly and exercise caution, particularly on accident-prone stretches. While Sunday's pile-up did not result in casualties, it has added to the growing list of mishaps on Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road, underlining the urgent need for stricter enforcement of traffic regulations and increased public awareness about road safety.

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 communities. 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 In-

dia'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-



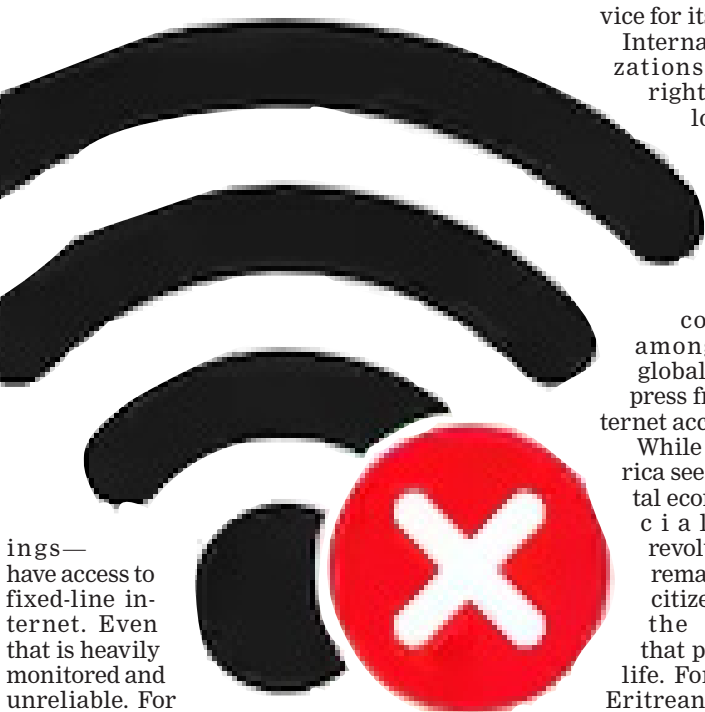
perform traditional diamonds in industrial and electronic applications. Unlike standard cubic diamonds, which can fracture along specific planes, hexagonal diamonds have a more robust atomic structure. Until now, attempts to synthesize them in labs had mostly produced ordinary diamonds due to structural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

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-

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 development, 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 cin-

ema. 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.

