



BUZZ POINTS
BRS LAUNCHES "CHALO BUS BHAVAN" PROTEST AGAINST RTC FARE HIKE

Former Minister and MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, where the BRS announced an agitation demanding the immediate rollback of the recent RTC bus fare hike. The party criticized the ₹10 increase as an added financial burden on commuters who rely on buses and cannot afford alternative transport like auto-rickshaws or private vehicles.

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CONGRESS FAILED TO PROVIDE FREE POWER TO NAI BRAHMINS, SAYS ETELA

Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etnala Rajender participated in the 'Alayi Balayi' program organized by the Telangana State Nai Brahmin Seva Sangham Aikya Vedika in Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal District. Speaking at the event, he criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its election promise of providing 200 units of free electricity to the Nai Brahmin community.

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Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao Lays Foundation for Key Road Works in Khammam

Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao laid the foundation stone for a cement concrete (CC) road and accompanying side drains in the 46th division of Khammam city. Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized that the State government is committed to improving infrastructure to meet the needs of Khammam's growing population.

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Revanth Reddy Leads Crucial Strategy

Meet Ahead of HC Hearing on BC Quota

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday convened a high-level meeting with key Congress leaders and ministers at his official residence to strategize the government's stand on the Backward Classes (BC) reservation case, which is scheduled for hearing in the Telangana High Court on Tuesday.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The meeting, seen as politically and socially significant, was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, PCC Working President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar, N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Varkati Srihari, and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

The discussions primarily revolved around framing a robust legal argument and ensuring a unified political narra-

tive to defend the state government's 42% BC reservation in local body institutions. Officials were briefed on the legal nuances and the state's data-based justification for the enhanced quota.

The Chief Minister reportedly instructed the legal and ministerial teams to be fully prepared for the High Court proceedings and to articulate the state's position clearly. The meeting underscored the Congress government's firm stance that BC reservations are a cornerstone of social justice and eq

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HOW COME CONGRESS LEADER DISTRIBUTES VOTER ID CARDS: KTR

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing one of its leaders in the Jubilee Hills constituency of distributing voter ID cards. His remarks have sparked a political storm ahead of the much-anticipated by-election, which has already seen intense campaigning and strategic maneuvering from both major parties.



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Speaking to reporters, KTR questioned the legitimacy of the Congress leader's actions and demanded immediate intervention by the Election Commission of India (ECI). "Who has authorised a Congress leader to distribute voter ID cards? Has the Election Commission handed over its responsibilities to the Congress party in Telangana?" KTR asked. He claimed that

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Ponnam Declines to Respond, Says Will Abide by PCC Chief's Instructions

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday refused to comment publicly on the allegations made by Minister Adluri Laxman, saying he would follow the instructions issued by PCC Working President Mahesh Kumar Goud.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Prabhakar confirmed that he has explained his version of the incident to the party leadership and will not engage further on the issue. His statement comes after Laxman warned him to "realize his mistake" and tender an apology

for his alleged remarks.

By refraining from public comment, Prabhakar appears to have deferred the dispute to the party high command for resolution, signaling that the Congress leadership is keen to prevent any escalation of internal tensions ahead of crucial elections.

Adluri Laxman Flags Ponnam's Remarks, Writes to Party High Command



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: A fresh rift has emerged within the Congress cabinet as SC, ST and Minorities Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman strongly objected to alleged derogatory remarks made against him by BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar.

Laxman alleged that Prabhakar made "insulting" comments during a recent public event in the presence of Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy. He has demanded

a public apology from Prabhakar, warning that failure to do so could "have consequences in the state."

In a strongly worded letter to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Laxman stated that he would not tolerate any humiliation of his community. He also expressed displeasure at Minister Vivek's "strategic silence" over the issue, saying it reflects internal

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Government Firm on Thummidihatti Barrage, Two Alternatives Under Review: UTTAM

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has reaffirmed the Telangana government's commitment to the construction of the Thummidihatti barrage, stating that the project will be executed with full transparency and technical precision. The minister conducted a detailed

review meeting with senior officials and engineers of the Irrigation Department to assess progress and future plans related to the state's key water projects.

Speaking to the media after the review, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that two alternative proposals are currently under consideration for the

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IT Department Cracks Down on ₹300-Crore Dal Trade Scam Across Telugu States

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The Income Tax Department on Tuesday launched large-scale raids across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in connection with an alleged ₹300-crore dal trade scam.

Simultaneous searches were conducted at over 25 locations, including

Hyderabad, Guntur, Vijayawada, Kurnool, and Visakhapatnam. Officials suspect that several trading firms manipulated civil supplies contracts, conducted massive cash transactions, and withdrew large sums during the 2024 election period.

Preliminary findings suggest that multiple companies obtained government permits for the supply of pulses but

failed to deliver the goods, diverting funds instead. Documents seized during the raids reportedly point to a nexus between traders and certain officials from the previous administration.

The raids are ongoing, and officials said the final report will reveal the full scale of financial irregularities in the alleged scam.



HOW COME CONGRESS LEADER DISTRIBUTES VOTER ID CARDS:- KTR

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such actions undermine the democratic process and compromise the integrity of elections.

According to KTR, the alleged incident took place in areas of Jubilee Hills where the Congress party is making aggressive efforts to consolidate its vote base. He alleged that the Congress aspirant for the by-election was personally involved in distributing the cards, a move KTR described as "illegal and unethical." He warned that the BRS would take the issue to the Election Commission if no immediate action was initiated.

"This is a clear attempt to manipulate the voter list and influence the outcome of the by-election. Rahul Gandhi speaks repeatedly about vote theft across the country, but what his own party leaders are doing in Telangana is a far greater crime," KTR

said, adding that the Congress party was showing "utter disregard" for electoral norms.

KTR also accused the Revanth Reddy-led state government of turning a blind eye to violations by its own party members. He alleged that the ruling party was misusing official machinery to strengthen its political position in constituencies where by-elections are imminent. "The Congress government has been in power for less than a year, but it has already started misusing state institutions for political gain. This is not democracy; this is dictatorship in disguise," KTR remarked.

The Jubilee Hills by-election has become one of the most closely watched political battles in Telangana. The Congress has already announced Maganti Sunitha, wife of late MLA Maganti Gopinath, as its

candidate, banking on sympathy votes and local support. The BRS, on the other hand, is preparing to field a strong contender and has intensified its outreach in the constituency.

Political analysts say KTR's remarks are aimed at drawing the Election Commission's attention while simultaneously mobilising the BRS cadre. They also view the incident as an early indication of how high the political stakes are in the upcoming by-election.

As the controversy continues to unfold, the Election Commission is expected to take note of the allegations. Meanwhile, both parties are ramping up their campaigns, signalling that the Jubilee Hills by-poll could set the tone for the political climate in Telangana ahead of the next general elections.

Government Firm on Thummidihatti Barrage, Two Alternatives Under Review: UTTAM

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Thummidihatti project. "One proposal involves constructing a canal from Mailaram to Sundilla, while the other focuses on directly transferring water to Yellampalli. We will take into account factors such as cost, hydraulic feasibility, and energy requirements before finalising the decision," he explained.

He further stated that a final decision regarding the canal alignment would be made by October 22. "We have direct-

ed engineers to submit detailed reports on both proposals within two weeks," he said, adding that the government is committed to completing the SLBC tunnel by December 2027. "As soon as the monsoon recedes, construction works will begin without delay," he assured.

Referring to the repairs at Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages, the minister said that all rehabilitation works will be carried out strictly based on the recommenda-

tions of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). "We have already issued notifications to engage national-level expert institutions for preparing the design works. Repairs will be done scientifically and with complete transparency," he added.

On the Dindi lift irrigation project, Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to submit a detailed status report within three days. He emphasised the importance of accountability

and timely completion of all pending works to ensure efficient utilisation of water resources.

Highlighting the government's renewed focus on irrigation, the minister noted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administration is determined to restore efficiency and credibility to the state's water infrastructure sector, which had faced several technical and administrative setbacks in recent years.

"The Thummidihatti

project is crucial for Telangana's irrigation network. We will ensure that every technical and financial decision is made in the best interest of farmers and the state's long-term water security," Uttam Kumar Reddy concluded.

The meeting marks a key step in the government's broader strategy to revive stalled irrigation projects and strengthen Telangana's agricultural backbone through sustainable water management.

Revanth Reddy Leads Crucial Strategy Meet Ahead of HC Hearing on BC Quota

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uitable representation in governance.

Following the CM's meeting, another key discussion was held at Minister Varkati Srihari's residence, attended by senior BC leaders including Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnam

Prabhakar, PCC Working President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and several MLAs.

The leaders emphasized the need for a united front within the party to safeguard the BC quota framework and prevent any legal dilution.

Sources said the

Congress leadership views the High Court hearing as a major test of the government's commitment to the backward classes, especially as opposition parties have begun politicizing the issue ahead of the upcoming elections.

Adluri Laxman Flags Ponnam's Remarks, Writes to Party High Command

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insensitivity towards community representation.

Laxman told party colleagues that he plans to personally meet Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi

over the matter. Sources said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has advised both ministers to exercise restraint and avoid internal conflicts during the election period.

Telangana Set to Break Paddy Production Records in Kharif

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana is on the verge of achieving an unprecedented milestone in agriculture with record paddy production and procurement during the Kharif (Vanakalam) 2025-26 season. Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that the state is projected to produce 148.30 lakh tonnes (LMT) of paddy, surpassing all previous records since India's independence. This makes Telangana the frontrunner in national paddy output.

The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation plans to procure 80 LMT of paddy, which will require an estimated ₹21,112 crore, including ₹19,112 crore earmarked for direct Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments to farmers. The Minister urged the Centre to immediately release the pending ₹6,500 crore rice subsidy, which is critical to ensuring timely MSP payments.

In addition, the Congress government will continue the ₹500 per quintal bonus for fine paddy, requiring ₹3,159 crore this year. This incentive has successfully motivated farmers to switch to fine-grain varieties, which have higher market value and better export potential. Telangana rice is now exported to

multiple countries, including the Philippines, highlighting the state's growing role in international rice trade.

However, Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed serious concern over storage bottlenecks. Of the 22.61 LMT of godown capacity available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), nearly 21.72 LMT is already occupied, leaving only 0.89 LMT vacant. About 20 LMT of boiled rice remains in idle stock due to delayed movement to consuming states, blocking space needed for new procurements.

To address this, Telangana has requested several urgent measures from the Centre, including raising the boiled rice procurement target by 10 LMT under the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2024-25, extending deadlines for Rabi 2024-25 deliveries, and clearing 9.43 LMT of unallocated fine paddy procured beyond targets.

The Minister highlighted that Telangana's agricultural growth is a direct result of irrigation-led reforms, strong governance, and farmer-friendly policies. He instructed officials to prepare a detailed action plan for collaboration with FCI, including proposals for additional godowns and temporary storage solutions, to ensure seamless procurement and timely payments to farmers.

Irrigation Minister Reviews Key Projects, Stresses Timely Completion

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana's Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister, Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, conducted a detailed review meeting with senior officials, reiterating the government's focus on completing pending irrigation projects with time-bound execution and technical transparency.

The discussion highlighted critical projects such as the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project, the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel, and the restoration of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages under the Kaleshwaram scheme.

For the Thummidihetti component, engineers are evaluating two alternative canal alignments, considering cost, efficiency, and energy requirements. A final recommendation is expected by October 22 and will be placed before the Cabinet for approval.

The Minister confirmed that the SLBC tunnel—a lifeline for southern districts—will be completed by December 2027. Work will resume post-monsoon after approvals for a helicopter-borne aerial magnetic survey by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) to map underground rock structures, ensuring safer tunneling operations.

Restoration of the Kaleshwaram barrages



is proceeding strictly in line with the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) recommendations. The State has floated an Expression of Interest (EoI) for the

restoration work, with a leading IIT expected to serve as the technical partner. The full design and restoration plan is expected within one year, emphasizing ac-

countability and adherence to technical norms.

Additionally, the Minister reviewed ongoing legal matters before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II)

and directed the immediate release of ₹33 crore for Devadula Project land acquisition, reflecting the government's commitment to mission-mode project execution.



Minister Ponguleti calls on AICC President Kharge

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Sri Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, visited AICC President Sri

Mallikarjun Kharge in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The visit was a courtesy call during Kharge's recuperation from a recent illness.

Minister Ponguleti extended his heartfelt wishes for Kharge's speedy recovery and ex-

pressed hope that the Congress leader will soon resume active public and political engagements. The visit reinforced solidarity and goodwill between the Telangana leadership and the national party leadership.

Telangana Charts Path to National Leadership in Digital Agriculture

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana aims to become a national leader in digital agriculture, leveraging advanced technologies to support small and marginal farmers. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu emphasized that Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and data-driven systems will make agriculture more profitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient.

The government's focus is to reduce cultivation costs, minimize chemical usage, and ensure small farmers adopt modern tools that boost productivity while protecting the environment. Telangana's unique position as an agriculture-heavy yet tech-forward state provides a strong foundation to serve as a national model for digi-



tal agriculture.

Highlighting ongoing initiatives, the Minister explained that soil sensors, early warning systems, and AI analytics help farmers reduce pesticide usage, lower input costs, and adopt climate-smart practices. He reviewed the "Accelerating Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Telangana" project, implemented in three villages near Vemulawada with guidance

from Germany's Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute (HHI).

Minister Sridhar Babu urged Fraunhofer HHI to expand the project statewide, ensuring broader farmer benefits. The program demonstrates that technology integration and farmer-centric policy can revolutionize agriculture, making Telangana a trailblazer in sustainable farming.

NRIs oppose Modi, back Congress, says Madhu Yashki Goud

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 07: TPCC Publicity Committee Chairman and former MP Madhu Yashki Goud attended the Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti celebrations held in the New Jersey Chapter of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC). The event was organized under the leadership of IOC New Jersey Chapter President Pradeep Kotari and Incharge Harkesh Thakur. The IOC representatives warmly welcomed Madhu Yashki Goud as the Chief Guest. A large number of his friends and well-wishers from his time residing in America also attended the program, sharing

their bond and affection with him. During the program, which was organized to mark the formation of the New Jersey Chapter of the IOC, several NRIs joined the organization. Notably, many NRIs from the state of Gujarat enrolled in the IOC. Madhu Yashki Goud draped shawls over them, warmly welcoming them into the Indian Overseas Congress. He also presented appointment letters to the representatives of the IOC working committee on this occasion. Speaking at the event, Madhu Yashki Goud stated that many NRIs are showing immense interest in joining the Indian Overseas Congress, citing a growing

opposition towards the Modi government among the NRI community. He asserted that NRIs from Gujarat, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, have understood the true nature of the Modi-BJP government and are now being drawn towards the Congress party. He criticized the Modi government's foreign policy as a failure, stating that Modi's efforts with the US were merely a "publicity stunt" and that he failed in trade policy. He accused Modi of remaining silent even as aggressive tariffs negatively affected the Indian business sector, simply because he considered Trump his

"friend." Madhu Yashki Goud alleged that the Modi government is working contrary to the principles of 'Unity in Diversity,' secularism, and democracy envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel. He mentioned Rahul Gandhi's fight, through initiatives like the Bharat Jodo Yatra and Voter Adhikar Yatra, against the Modi government's undermining of constitutional values. He stressed that the support of the NRIs is essential for the Congress party in its fight under Rahul Gandhi's leadership to protect democracy and the Constitution in the country. He commended



ed the efforts of Shyam Pitroda and Pradeep Kothari in strengthening the Indian Overseas Congress. The event was attended by IOC Telangana Chapter President Rajeshwar Gangasani, IOC USA Vice President Baldev Randhawa, Ram Gadula, and IOC Telangana General Secretary Sudheer Bandi, among others.

BRS Demands Welfare Board for Auto Drivers

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 07: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has demanded that the Telangana government immediately establish a welfare board for auto drivers in the state.1 KTR stated that the Congress government had promised several welfare schemes for auto drivers before the 2023 Assembly elections, including an annual financial assistance of ₹12,000 for each driver and comprehensive insurance coverage.2 KTR criticized the Congress government, noting that even after six months, "not a single driver has received any support," and

pointed out that Andhra Pradesh already provides such benefits. The former minister visited Nampally Satish, an auto driver from Adavipadira village, who attempted suicide due to severe financial distress.3 Satish is currently undergoing treatment at Ashwini Hospital in Ellaredypet. KTR consoled Satish's family and personally offered ₹25,000 in financial assistance. KTR also claimed that the Congress government has discontinued the accident insurance scheme introduced during the previous BRS government.4 He added that due to the cancellation of this scheme, nearly 8 to 8.5 lakh drivers are now left without any form of insurance coverage.



26th Police Case Filed Against BRS Social Media Convenor Krishank

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 07: This marks the 26th case filed against BRS Social Media Convenor Manne Krishank since the Congress government came to power. The case arose after the Congress government allocated 2,500 square yards of land in Alkapuri Colony for a Muslim graveyard just 48 hours before the election code came into effect in Jubilee Hills constituency. Army officials later took possession, claiming the land be-

longed to the Defence Department. Krishank questioned the move on social media, calling it a "drama" by the Congress to secure Muslim votes. Following his post, Congress leaders filed a complaint at Borabanda Police Station, leading to the registration of the 26th case. Krishank strongly objected, claiming the police maliciously fabricated the report. He noted that the complaint included cases against him during the Telangana movement at Osmania

University, which were later quashed by the court. He condemned their inclusion, stating the list of dismissed cases is not publicly accessible, suggesting police involvement. Krishank suspects this is part of a conspiracy to label him a "habitual criminal" and file a 'Suspect Rowdy Sheet.' BRS leaders argue this case demonstrates a rising trend of politically motivated vendetta against party leaders since the Congress government assumed office.

Congress failed to provide free power to Nai Brahmins, says Etela

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 07: Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etela Rajender participated in the 'Aalay Balayi' program organized by the Telangana State Nai Brahmin Seva Sangham Aikya Vedika in Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal District. Speaking at the event, he criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its election promise of providing 200 units of free electricity to the Nai Brahmin community. He lamented that the community is now in a miserable situation where they have to fight for the implementation of a promise that was freely given. He stated that the government lacks awareness, and given the situation, promises will not be fulfilled unless people fight for them. Etela Rajender assured the community that he would speak with government officials regard-



ing the implementation of the free electricity promise. He also promised to make efforts to arrange for the construction of a compound wall and the digging of a borewell at the site, as requested by the Nai Brahmin Association. He praised the Nai Brahmin community for their selfless service during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that they risked their lives to serve the public. He expressed great appreciation for their invaluable service. Etela Rajender concluded by giving his word that he would always stand by the community and strive to ensure justice for them. The program was attended by Nai Brahmin Sangham District Presidents Satyam, Ramesh, Gopal, Balakrishna, Bhikshapati, Rakesh, Yadagiri, former MPP Chandrasekhar Yadav, and others.



Prashanth Reddy Criticizes Delay in RRR and Development Projects

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 07: Former Minister a n d M L A Prashanth Reddy held a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, primarily to criticize the delay in the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR) project and other development

works, blaming both the BJP at the Centre and the Congress government in the State. He accused both parties of dragging the RRR project—a concept born from KCR's vision after Telangana was formed—for eight years (six years under BJP and two years under Congress), thereby

misleading the people. He criticized the eight BJP and eight Congress MPs for lacking the courage to question Prime Minister Modi. Prashanth Reddy detailed the RRR project timeline, stating that KCR had been requesting it since 2015, received an agreement in

principle in 2017, and submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in 2018. The alignment approval took five years, finally granted in December 2021. He alleged that the Centre then created a new hurdle, demanding ₹2,000 crores upfront for land acquisition. He stated that the pre-

vious BRS government had completed 50% of the land acquisition process, but the current Congress government has not spent a single rupee, compensated a single farmer, or acquired a single acre of land in its two years. He questioned the fate of the ₹3,000 crores the BRS had se-

cured for the project. He accused the Congress government of changing the alignment for their own self-interest in the real estate business to inflate their land values, while failing to submit the new alignment to the Centre. Regarding the North Side RRR, he noted that although

tenders worth ₹7,000 crores were called, they have been postponed three times and remain unopened. He also criticized the R&B Minister for giving contradictory statements on the Uppal-Narapally flyover and the inordinate delay in the construction of the four TIMS (Telangana

Institute of Medical Sciences) hospitals, a project initiated by KCR to provide corporate healthcare to the poor. He concluded by demanding that the government immediately start the RRR works and focus on public welfare rather than real estate dealings.

BRS Launches “Chalo Bus Bhavan” Protest Against RTC Fare Hike

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Former Minister and MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, where the BRS announced an agitation demanding the immediate rollback of the recent RTC bus fare hike. The party criticized the ₹10 increase as an added financial burden on commuters who rely on buses and cannot afford alternative transport like auto-rickshaws or private vehicles.

Highlighting the contradiction of free travel

for women while fares for other family members rise, the BRS pointed to the economic strain on families in a state already affected by low money circulation and a struggling real estate sector.

The party accused the Congress government of a covert plan to privatize the RTC, citing the ₹400 crore lease of Gowliguda bus stand and similar attempts for depots at Kondapur and Ranigunj. They condemned the replacement of regular RTC staff with outsourced personnel, emphasizing the RTC's national repu-

tation for safety and efficiency. The BRS also recalled the promises made during KCR's tenure to merge the RTC with the government, regularize employees, and provide PRC benefits.

As part of its innovative approach, the BRS proposed training existing RTC employees to operate electric buses rather than outsourcing routes to private companies.

The major protest, “Chalo Bus Bhavan,” is scheduled for the day after tomorrow. BRS working president KTR, former Ministers Harish

Rao, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Padma Rao, and Mutha Gopal, along with MLAs, MLCs, former MLAs, and corporators from Greater Hyderabad, will travel by bus from various starting points to Bus Bhavan to submit a petition to the RTC MD. Key leaders' starting points include: KTR from Nandi Nagar, Harish Rao from Mehdiapatnam, Sabitha Indra Reddy from Maheshwaram, Talasani Srinivas Yadav from Secunderabad, Padma Rao Goud from Chilakalaguda, and Mutha Gopal from Musheerabad, among others.



BRS MLAs Stage Bus Ride Protest Against RTC Fare Hike



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: BRS MLAs D. Sudheer Reddy, Kaleru Venkatesh, and Mutha Gopal staged a visible protest against the RTC bus fare hike by traveling in a city bus from Nampally Exhibition Grounds to the Assembly on Tuesday. The legislators used the journey to interact directly with commuters, many of whom ex-

pressed anger at the ₹10 increase, calculating an additional monthly expense of ₹400-₹500 for daily travel.

The MLAs raised slogans against the Congress government, labeling it “anti-poor.” After alighting near the Assembly, they addressed the media, highlighting how the fare hike follows other financial increases imposed by the government, including vehi-

cle taxes, liquor prices, and student bus pass charges. They alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is attempting to extract money from citizens wherever possible and warned that the hike could push the RTC further into financial crisis.

The BRS leaders affirmed their commitment to continuing the agitation until the government reverses the fare hike.



Jubilee Hills Bye-Election: Grievance Committee Set Up

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner, R.V. Karan, constituted a District Grievance Committee for the Jubilee Hills Assembly Constituency Bye-Election on October 7, 2025. Following Election Commission guidelines, the committee will handle complaints, monitor cash seizures, and ensure strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in Hyderabad.

The committee implements SOPs for Flying Squad Teams (FST) and Static Surveillance Teams (SST) to prevent the movement of unaccounted cash and valu-

ables. The public has been urged to cooperate for smooth, transparent, and fair elections, carrying only limited cash and maintaining clarity on the source and purpose of funds.

The committee comprises K. A. Mangathayaru (Addl. Commissioner, Estates, GHMC) as Chairperson, S. Venkateshwar Reddy (Chief Examiner of Accounts & Nodal Officer for Election Expenditure Monitoring) as Convener, and Vasundara (Deputy Director, DTO, Hyderabad) as Member. It will operate from the GHMC Head Office, Tank Bund, Hyderabad. Citizens are encouraged to approach the committee with grievances.

TPCC Legal Cell Protests Attack on CJI



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Legal Cell, led by Chairman Sri Ponnamm Ashok Goud, held a protest at Gate No. 6 of the Telangana High Court on October 7, 2025, condemning the attack on Supreme Court Chief

Justice B. R. Gavai.

Speaking at the event, Ponnamm Ashok Goud stated that assaulting the judiciary is equivalent to attacking the pillars of democracy. He urged lawyers and citizens to unite to protect the independence and integrity of the judicial system. The protest saw a large turnout of advocates and TPCC

Legal Cell members, including Momin Roshan Zameer, Kuruma Narendar, Abhilash Ashrith, Kamalakara, Rajendra Prasad, Muzakkir, Hyder, Balaji, Rajkumar, Inayatullah, Lukman Ali, Shiba Rani, Santhosh, Mahesh, Sharada, Prabhakar, Silam, Raghavendra Reddy, Narsing, and Harinder Singh.

Telangana tourism police hit the road, first batch sets sail for visitor safety

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana's tourism scene is getting a safety upgrade as the state's first-ever 'Tourism Police' batch began training at the National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) in Gachibowli on Monday, October 7.

The inaugural batch includes 80 personnel who will be deployed across key destinations such as Amrabad, Somasila, Ananthagiri, Ramappa, Yadagirigutta, Pochampally, Buddhavanam,

Bhadrachalam, and Hyderabad. Their mandate: assist visitors, maintain law and order, and provide seamless facilitation services.

“In a significant step to enhance tourist safety and overall visitor experience, the Police Department, in coordination with the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department, has deployed trained Tourist Police personnel at major destinations across Telangana,” said Mahesh M Bhagwat, IPS.

The training covers soft skills, tourist facilitation, public

guidance, festival and crowd management, emergency preparedness, communication, ethics, and cyber awareness—preparing the force to handle a wide range of visitor needs.

With this initiative, Telangana now boasts one of the largest Tourism Police forces in India, joining 14 other states in the country. Kerala pioneered the effort in 2010, and globally, over 60 countries maintain more than 20,000 Tourist Police personnel. Telangana's new force now stands proud in this elite league.

Actor Srikanth Iyengar Sparks Controversy with Gandhi Remarks

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Character artist Srikanth Iyengar has ignited a major political and social controversy by launching a scathing attack on Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. In a highly agitated manner, captured in a self-recorded video that is now viral on social media, Iyengar declared that Gandhi was no “Mahatma.” He went further to make sensational comments, challenging Gandhi's role in India's independence struggle. Iyengar explicitly claimed that freedom was not achieved through Gandhi's non-violent methods, but was instead the direct



result of the sacrifices and efforts of revolutionary figures such as Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh. This public denunciation by the actor has drawn widespread attention and condemnation, particularly for his use of

inflammatory language against a historical national figure, instantly stirring up intense debate and sharp criticism across social media platforms regarding the misrepresentation of history and national reverence.

Sajjanar goes social: Citizens can reach him directly on X & Insta

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, IPS, has once again taken a people-first step — this time by becoming directly accessible on social media. The top cop, who recently took charge as the Hyderabad Police Commissioner, is now active on X (Twitter) and Instagram, allowing citizens to reach out to him for help, support, or to share grievances.

The Hyderabad City Police announced the move on X, encouraging citizens to contact

the Commissioner directly through his official handle @SajjanarVC. Those who prefer Instagram can connect with him via @vcsajjanar_ips.

This initiative underscores the Hyderabad Police's intent to strengthen public engagement and make communication more transparent and efficient. Citizens have welcomed the move, lauding Sajjanar for staying connected and approachable. Social media users have also praised his proactive approach to addressing public issues and ensuring accountability.



Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao Lays Foundation for Key Road Works in Khammam

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao laid the foundation stone for a cement concrete (CC) road and accompanying side drains in the 46th division of Khammam city. Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized that the State

government is committed to improving infrastructure to meet the needs of Khammam's growing population. He called on citizens to maintain a peaceful and cooperative environment, free from political vendettas, while stressing that public support is vital for timely completion of road projects. High-

lighting past criticism, Rao noted that the city bypass, once controversial, is now a vital artery easing traffic congestion. Additionally, he assured citizens that the government would continue delivering Indiramma houses to eligible families, fulfilling the dream of homeownership for the underprivileged.

Supreme Court Upholds Telangana High Court Order on Group-1 Exams



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The Telangana government received a measure of relief from the Supreme Court on the contentious

Group-1 Exams issue. The apex court declined to interfere with the interim order previously issued by the Telangana High Court, effectively maintaining the status quo. A bench led

by Justice Surya Kant clarified that since the High Court Division Bench has already pronounced an interim ruling, the Supreme Court would not intervene at this stage. This decision

comes as a setback to petitioners challenging the High Court's ruling regarding the appointment of Group-1 rankers. The Telangana government welcomed the decision, stating that

it provides legal certainty and allows administrative processes to continue without disruption, bringing temporary relief to candidates and officials awaiting clarity on appointments.



Senior Maoist Leader Manda Ruben Surrenders to Warangal Police

Manda Ruben, a senior Maoist leader known by aliases Kannanna, Manganna, and Suresh, surrendered to Warangal police on Tuesday after decades underground. Ruben, 67, had previously

served as the Secretary of the Maoist South Bastar Division Committee and as a member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. Carrying a bounty of ₹8 lakh on his head, Ruben cited deteriorat-

ing health and a desire to reunite with his family as reasons for surrender. Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh took him into custody. Ruben's past included involvement in high-profile op-

erations, including the 1991 Jagdalpur jailbreak. Authorities have confirmed that Ruben will cooperate with ongoing investigations, signaling a potential reduction in Maoist activities in the region.

Angry Victims Attack House of Fraudster Who Defaulted on ₹10 Crores

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: In a dramatic turn of events in Padamati Thanda, Nalgonda district, agitated victims of a local moneylender, Balaji

Naik, attacked and set fire to his residence. The victims allege that Naik defaulted on loans exceeding ₹10 crores owed to more than 300 people. Frustrated after years of waiting and being misled, the crowd

smashed windows, destroyed furniture, and set fire to parts of the property. Naik is accused of promising high interest returns, evading repayment, and allegedly filing for bankruptcy under the

Insolvency Process to avoid his creditors. Local police arrived after the incident and have begun investigating the case, while the victims claim their actions were driven by desperation and betrayal.

Thousands Pay Tribute to Kumram Bheem on 85th Martyrdom Anniversary

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Thousands of Adivasis gathered at the memorial in Jodeghat village, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, to honor legendary tribal leader Kumram Bheem on his 85th martyrdom anniversary. District Collector Venkatesh Dothre and Superintendent of Police Kantilal Patil attended the ceremony, alongside Bheem's family, including Sone Rao,

who led traditional rituals at the three wooden flags representing the Gond deities Persapen and Avvalpen. Community leaders and officials reflected on Bheem's historic fight for "Jal, Jangal, Jameen" (Water, Forest, Land), celebrating his enduring influence on tribal rights movements. The event also underscored efforts to educate younger generations about Bheem's vision of justice and empowerment for marginalized communities.

Minor Girl Murdered in Nalgonda, Suspect on the Run

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: A horrific incident shook Nalgonda as a first-year intermediate minor girl was allegedly raped and murdered by 22-year-old Gaddam Krishna, a local tractor driver. The accused reportedly lured the victim under the guise of love, and an auto driver is suspected of assisting him. The District SP, Sharath Chandra Pawar, visited

the crime scene and confirmed that a case has been registered under the Rape and POCSO Acts at the Town Police Station. Police have launched a thorough investigation to identify any additional accomplices and are actively gathering evidence to ensure swift justice. The tragic incident has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting the urgent need for stronger protection for minors.

Minister Seethakka Commemorates Komaram Bheem, Emphasizes Tribal Upliftment

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare, Seethakka, announced that the state will officially commemorate the death anniversary of tribal leader Komar-

am Bheem through a special Government Order (GO). Minister Seethakka highlighted that Bheem's struggle was for self-respect, tribal rights over Jal, Jungle, Jameen (Water, Forest, Land), inspiring constitutional protections like Schedule 5 and the Tribal Ministry. His ideals influ-

enced leaders such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Prime Minister Nehru, shaping safeguards for Adivasi communities. The Minister emphasized that Telangana's development initiatives—including Indiramma houses in tribal areas, Podu rights, and employment opportunities

under GO Number 3—are designed to realize Bheem's vision. She drew a parallel between Bheem's Jal, Jungle, Jameen movement and the Telangana state's Neellu, Nidhulu, Niyamakalu (Water, Funds, Jobs) campaign, reinforcing the government's commitment to holistic tribal development.

High Stakes in Rangareddy ZPTC and MPTC Elections

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The upcoming Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency

(ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections in Rangareddy district, surrounding Hyderabad, are

shaping up to be fiercely contested. The district has 21 ZPTC seats and an equal number of Mandal Parishad Presidents (MPPs)

to be elected. This cycle, the Zilla Parishad Chairperson post is reserved for an SC Woman, intensifying competition among politi-

cal parties. With 50% of local body seats reserved for women, nine ZPTC and MPP posts are allocated to women, sparking intense

rivalry for seats like Kandukur and Shahbad. Leaders from ruling and opposition parties are reportedly fielding family

members and strategizing to secure key positions. The contest underscores Rangareddy's political significance as a

stronghold for Congress, BRS, and BJP, with local dynamics likely to influence larger state-level calculations.

Modi’s Political Dominance Faces No Real Disruption-Yet

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi approaches the first anniversary of his third term, his political footing appears more assured than ever. The initial wobble following the BJP’s reduced tally of 240 seats in the Lok Sabha has faded, replaced by a renewed confidence bolstered by recent victories in Maharashtra and Haryana—and, critically, the disarray within the Opposition.

But beneath this confidence lies a deeper truth: there is currently no disruptive idea, leader, or movement capable of challenging Modi’s dominance. The political climate is stagnant. The BJP,

under Modi, has absorbed, repackaged, or outperformed the key planks of its rivals. The Opposition’s playbook—from secularism and social justice to rich-versus-poor populism—feels dated and dull in contrast.

Modi, meanwhile, continues to deliver efficient, targeted welfare to 80 crore citizens with schemes like free food grains, direct benefit transfers, and Mudra loans—making him more “pro-poor” in the public perception than his opponents. As a result, attacks branding him pro-corporate or elitist fail to stick, not because of PR spin,

but because voters see real benefits.

The caste census, the latest Congress experiment, has failed to ignite public imagination. Within Congress-led states like Karnataka, the complexities and internal frictions it creates are already surfacing. The party, once a broad-based national umbrella, appears awkward and unconvincing in its new avatar as a caste-centric platform.

Attempts to challenge Modi on nationalism, religion, or “temple politics” are non-starters. The Opposition has no compelling ideological alternative and no charismatic disruptor.

Voters, particularly the floating 15%, are fatigued by predictable rhetoric and recycled promises.

Historically, Indian politics has been shaken by three big ideas: Garibi Hatao, Mandal, and Mandir. Today, none of these offer disruption. Hindutva remains the BJP’s strength; the rest are now shared or neutralised.

Globally, figures like Trump, Georgia Meloni, and Javier Milei have succeeded by breaking the mould. India once had its own libertarian spark in C. Rajagopalachari’s Swatantra Party, advocating small government, wealth



creation, and freedom from state control—an idea that may be due for revival.

Unless a bold, alternative ideology—libertarian, not leftist nor statist—emerges,

Modi will continue to dominate unchallenged. India doesn’t just need new leaders.

It needs a new idea that can genuinely excite a bored, transactional electorate.

Straight Talk: Just How Big Is The Effect Of Trump Tariffs On India?

As geopolitical tensions and trade realignments reshape global commerce, India finds itself grappling with an increasingly hostile export environment, particularly from its largest trading partner, the United States. The recent wave of steep tariffs imposed by the current US administration is now threatening the very backbone of India’s export economy — its informal, labour-intensive sectors.

India’s bilateral trade with the US stood at \$131.84 billion, with the US accounting for nearly 18% of India’s total goods exports. Yet, tariffs as high as 50%-64% on Indian goods have left key industries in distress. Leather, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and especially gems and jewellery — sectors that form the core of India’s export basket — are bearing the brunt.

The informal economy, which absorbs more than 80% of India’s workforce, is the



hardest hit. In Q1 FY26, informal manufacturing employment dropped by 9.3%, and the total informal workforce shrank by 2.1% to 12.86 crore. The number of enterprises declined by 4.7%, despite India’s overall GDP growing at 7.8%.

On the ground, in regions like Ambur, a leather hub, over 50 out of 300 factories have shut down since the US tariffs took effect. Workers like P. Gopi, once earning Rs 450 a day, have lost livelihoods, forcing families into crisis. Similarly, Tiruppur’s knitwear industry, responsible for over

60% of India’s knitwear exports, is struggling under a combined 64% tariff, pushing businesses toward Vietnam and Bangladesh, where duties are lower.

The gems and jewellery sector, employing nearly 10 lakh workers in Gujarat, is also under severe stress. The US, which imports \$10 billion worth of polished diamonds annually from India, has revised tariffs sharply, putting slim-margin polishing units at risk of collapse.

High-value sectors like electronics and pharmaceuticals, key

to India’s “Make in India” push, also face long-term threats. The Chief Economic Adviser warned that tariffs could shave off 0.5%-0.6% of GDP growth, a figure likely to rise with recent pharma tariffs.

Unless India diversifies export destinations, strengthens access to finance, and resolves the structural fragilities in its informal economy, these external shocks risk cascading into long-term economic and social disruption — with vulnerable workers and industries paying the highest price.

Hyderabad : We need an urban climate emergency fund

This year’s monsoon has once again exposed the growing vulnerability of Hyderabad to climate-induced urban flooding. Torrential rain events through the 2025 season left key areas of the city waterlogged for days, damaging roads, disrupting power supply, and halting business operations. From upscale neighbourhoods to river-edge settlements, the deluge disrupted daily life and left thousands struggling to recover.

According to long-term data, Hyderabad’s average monsoon rainfall through the 20th century stood at 76.88 cm. Over the last 25 years, that average has surged to 91.84 cm. While scientists continue to study the precise links to climate change, for the city’s residents, the shifting rainfall patterns are already a lived reality. Each monsoon now carries the risk of devastation.

This year, basements of high-rises were flooded, vehicles were swept away, and roads collapsed under the weight of water. But the brunt was borne by the urban poor, especially those living in vulnerable areas like Moosa Nagar, Chaderghat, and



Kishanbagh along the Musi River. For these communities, flooding meant more than just inconvenience—it meant the loss of rations, appliances, documents, and months of fragile financial stability.

Children have dropped out of school. The spread of water-borne illnesses has increased. With no insurance coverage or state relief readily available, families are left to rebuild their lives from scratch, often multiple times in a decade.

Yet, even as urban

flooding becomes a regular monsoon occurrence in Indian cities, disaster relief continues to rely on ad hoc grants and delayed government responses. This reactive approach is proving inadequate in the face of intensifying climate events.

Experts now argue that cities like Hyderabad need a dedicated Urban Climate Emergency Fund—a proactive, fast-disbursing financial mechanism designed to support pre-disaster preparation and post-disaster recovery. Such a fund

could cover emergency shelters, health kits, temporary schooling, and direct cash transfers to affected families.

The 2025 monsoon should be a wake-up call. As rainfall becomes more intense and less predictable, Indian cities must evolve from disaster response to climate resilience. A dedicated climate emergency fund is not just an environmental imperative—it is a social and economic necessity for urban India’s most vulnerable.

How Pakistan thinks: Army for hire, ideology of convenience

A sudden turn in Pakistan’s foreign policy has triggered global debate, as Islamabad appears to be moving closer to recognising Israel—an unimaginable move just weeks ago. This comes in the wake of former US President Donald Trump’s 20-point Gaza resolution, announced alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a surprising twist, Pakistan became the first Islamic nation to openly support the plan, even before regional powerhouses responded.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s effusive praise of Trump’s plan sparked confusion and quiet

Pakistan’s Shift Toward Israel Reveals Its True Strategic Ideology

backtracking in Pakistan’s domestic discourse. But the episode is symptomatic of a deeper pattern in Pakistan’s geopolitical behaviour—one where ideological rhetoric rarely matches action.

Despite its self-declared identity as an Islamic republic, Pakistan’s strategic decisions have long been shaped not by Islamic solidarity, but pragmatic self-interest—and, more often than not, anti-India sentiment. Historically, Pakistan has never taken military action to defend any Muslim cause, even while invoking the Ummah in international forums like the OIC, especially

over Kashmir.

Its military involvements in Islamic countries—from Jordan (1970) during the Palestinian revolt to Saudi Arabia (1979) during the Mecca siege—were not in defence of Islamic ideals but to protect ruling regimes. Even during the Gulf War, Pakistan joined forces to defend Saudi Arabia, not Iraq, and again acted in line with client-patron interests rather than ideology.

The Afghan example reveals even starker contradictions. Pakistan first supported the Mujahideen in the 1980s, only to join the US in fighting the Taliban post-9/11—



held Islamic positions, is acceptable.

In the end, Pakistan’s core ideology is not Islamism—it is anti-Indianism. As long as this defines its national identity, peace with India remains elusive. And any

Pakistani leader who dares to challenge this status quo, from Benazir Bhutto to Nawaz Sharif, risks

political punishment—often at the hands of the very army that controls the state.

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 Vettri 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.

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.

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.



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 policy-making 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.



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:

- Tata Capital Ltd., backed by the trusted Tata Group.
- LG Electronics India Ltd., aiming to expand global exports.
- Anantam Highways Trust, linked to infrastructure boom.
- Rubicon Research Ltd., focusing on debt reduction and growth.

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.



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 mega-sales - 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.

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.



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.



‘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 semiconductor.

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 ser-

vice 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 travelers to instantly access critical information by scanning QR codes while on the move.

The vertical signboards will feature project-specific details such as the national highway number, chainage, project length, and timelines for construction and maintenance. More importantly, they will pro-

vide quick access to emergency helpline numbers, including 1033, as well as contact details of key officials like highway patrol officers, toll managers, project managers, resident engineers, and NHAI field offices.

Additionally, the QR codes will offer digital access to nearby essential services such as hospitals, petrol pumps, toilets, police stations, restaurants, vehicle repair shops, truck lay-byes, toll plazas, and electric vehicle charging stations. This will help travellers locate emergency and utility services quickly, making journeys safer and smoother.

To maximize impact, NHAI plans to place these QR code sign-

boards at strategic locations such as toll plazas, rest areas, wayside amenities, truck lay-byes, and at the start and end points of highway stretches.

The Ministry emphasized that beyond providing project information, these signboards will enhance road safety by improving access to emergency services and boost user experience by increasing awareness about the national highways.

This initiative represents a significant step towards leveraging technology for safer, more informed travel on India’s highways, reflecting NHAI’s commitment to enhancing commuter convenience and transparency in infrastructure projects.

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

Coconut is a staple in Indian households, used in everything from curries to chutneys. But for the millions living with diabetes, the question remains: Is coconut safe to consume regularly?

Health experts suggest that coconut can be included in a diabetic-friendly diet—but in moderation. The white flesh of the coconut, though slightly sweet, contains relatively low net carbohydrates due to its high fibre content. This fibre slows down digestion and reduces the risk of sudden spikes in blood sugar, making it a better alternative to many refined carbohydrate foods.

A study published in the British Journal of Nutrition supports this claim, stating that coconut flour and other fibre-rich foods are associated with a lower glycemic index in both healthy individuals and those with diabetes. This means co-



conut-based foods may have a gentler effect on blood sugar levels.

However, the story doesn’t end there. Coconut is also high in calories and saturated fat. This makes it a double-edged sword, especially for diabetics who already face an increased risk of cardio-

vascular issues. Overconsumption could lead to weight gain and heart-related complications, negating the benefits of its fibre content.

Nutritionists advise strict portion control. A few tablespoons of grated coconut or a small amount of coco-

nut milk in cooking is generally considered safe for most diabetics. However, regularly consuming large quantities—especially in sweets or fried dishes—could be harmful.

In conclusion, coconut is not off-limits for diabetics, but it must be consumed mindful-

ly. Diabetic individuals should consult their doctors or dietitians before making coconut a regular part of their diet, especially in high-fat forms like coconut oil or cream.

Moderation is key—coconut can be part of a healthy diabetic diet when used wisely.

Women’s ODI: Mlaba, Brits Shine as South Africa Crushes New Zealand



South Africa bounced back in style at the ICC Women’s ODI World Cup, registering a comprehensive six-wicket victory over New Zealand at the Holkar Stadium on Monday. Spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba, along with batters Tazmin Brits and Sune Luus, played key roles in dismantling the White Ferns and guiding the Proteas to their second win in the tournament. After suffering a heavy defeat to England in their previous outing, South Africa returned with renewed energy. Left-arm spinner Mlaba spun a web around the Kiwi batters, picking up a superb four-wicket haul, helping restrict New Zealand to 231 all out. The chase got off to a slightly shaky start when captain Laura Wolvaardt fell early, but the Proteas didn’t falter. Brits and Luus built a massive 170-run stand for the second wicket, effectively taking the game away from New Zealand. Brits, aggressive yet composed, smashed 101 off 89 balls, including 15 fours and a six. Her century celebration, a dramatic ‘archer pose’, was met with cheers from the crowd. This was her second century in ODI cricket and came at a crucial moment in the campaign. Luus anchored the innings with finesse, finishing unbeaten on 83 off 114 balls, as South Africa crossed the finish line with more than four overs to spare. The win not only lifts South Africa up the points table but also restores confidence after a tough start. For New Zealand, the loss puts their semifinal hopes in jeopardy, with bowlers struggling to make breakthroughs and the batting effort falling short of a competitive total. With this result, South Africa reasserts its credentials as a serious contender, while highlighting the value of spin and partnerships in tournament cricket.



Barcelona Thrashed 4-1 by Sevilla as Lewandowski Misses Penalty

Barcelona’s woes deepened as they suffered a crushing 4-1 defeat to Sevilla in La Liga on Sunday, marking their second consecutive loss after a midweek setback to PSG in the Champions League. Already hampered by the absence of teenage star Lamine Yamal, who is out for 2-3 weeks with a groin injury, Robert Lewandowski’s missed penalty in the 74th minute further compounded their misery. His stutter-step attempt went wide left, denying Barça a chance to equalize when the score was 2-1. Sevilla, who hadn’t beaten Barcelona in La Liga in over a decade, capitalized early in scorching 33°C heat. Isaac Romero earned a penalty after being fouled by Ronald Araujo, which Alexis Sanchez converted in the 13th minute. Romero then doubled the lead in the 36th, finishing off a counter after Jules Koundé lost possession. Barcelona’s only bright spot came from Marcus Rashford, who scored his first La Liga goal just before half-time, redirecting a Pedri cross. But Sevilla struck twice more late on: Jose Angel Carmona in the 89th minute and Akor Adams deep into stoppage time. With the result, Real Madrid remain top of the table, two points ahead of Barcelona, after their 3-1 win over Villarreal. Barça coach Hansi Flick admitted, “It’s a tough defeat. But we must regroup and fight for every title after the break.” Elsewhere, Atletico Madrid were held 1-1 by winless Celta Vigo after going down to 10 men. Alaves beat Elche 3-1, Real Betis edged Espanyol 2-1, and Rayo Vallecano won 1-0 away at Real Sociedad.

Shanghai Masters: Zverev Stunned by World No. 54 Arthur Rinderknech

In a major upset at the Shanghai Masters, third seed Alexander Zverev was knocked out in his opening match by 54th-ranked Arthur Rinderknech, who came back from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Monday. The Frenchman, who had already defeated Zverev earlier this year at Wimbledon in a five-set thriller, repeated the feat, sealing a famous win in just over two hours. Zverev looked in control after a confident first set but failed to maintain his momentum. Rinderknech broke once in the second set and twice in the third, while Zverev failed to convert a single break point after the opening set. The loss means the tournament’s highest-ranked remaining player is now out. Rinderknech, 30, is enjoying a career-best season with 23 wins and will now face Jiri Lehecka, who defeated Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 6-4, for a place in the quarterfinals. Elsewhere, Alex De Minaur, the seventh seed, beat Kamil Majchrzak 6-1, 7-5 under humid conditions to notch his 36th hard-court win of the season and reach his seventh Masters 1000 fourth round of 2025. He next faces Nuno Borges, who edged out Shang Juncheng in three sets. Felix Auger-Aliassime also progressed, defeating Jesper de Jong 6-4, 7-5 despite a mid-match slip that required help from a ball kid. He will next face fellow seed Lorenzo Musetti, who beat Luciano Darderi 7-5, 7-6(1). Meanwhile, defending champion Jannik Sinner retired mid-match due to cramps, while Carlos Alcaraz skipped the tournament entirely due to minor injuries. In another surprise, American teenager Learner Tien stunned Cameron Norrie 7-6(4), 6-3.



Australia Announces Squads for Home ODIs, First 2 T20Is Against India

Cricket Australia (CA) on Tuesday named the squads for the upcoming home white-ball series against India, featuring three ODIs starting October 19 and the first two T20Is from October 29. The squads mark the return of several key players, including fast bowler Mitchell Starc and opener Matt Short. Starc, who had retired from T20 internationals last month ahead of next year’s ICC T20 World Cup, will make a comeback in the ODI series. His return bolsters Australia’s bowling attack, especially with the absence of injured skipper Pat Cummins. In his stead, Mitch Marsh will captain both the ODI and T20I teams against India. The Indian squad is expected to be strong, led by their new ODI captain Shubman Gill and boosted by the returns of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. This sets the stage for an exciting contest between two powerful line-ups. In addition to Starc and Short, Australia has recalled Matt Renshaw and Mitchell Owen to the ODI squad. These changes come after the Australian team’s recent 2-1 series loss to South Africa. Dropped from the ODI squad are Aaron Hardie, Matthew Kuhnemann, and Marnus Labuschagne. Labuschagne will focus on four-day cricket for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield as he prepares for the Test series against England later this year. With Starc’s return and Marsh’s leadership, Australia aims to challenge India strongly in both formats, providing fans with a highly competitive and entertaining series ahead.

Lakshya Sen, Srikanth Lead Indian Charge at Arctic Open 2025

World Championship medalists Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth will spearhead India’s campaign at the Arctic Open 2025, beginning Tuesday in Vantaa, Finland. The BWF Super 500 tournament offers Sen another opportunity to claim his first title of the year after falling short in the Hong Kong Open final and suffering an early exit at the China Masters. Srikanth, a former World No. 1, arrives on the back of strong performances, including a semifinal finish at the Al Ain Masters and a runner-up showing at the Malaysia Masters earlier this year. India’s men’s singles draw also features Ayush Shetty, the nation’s only BWF World Tour title winner this year, having clinched the US Open in June. He faces a tough opener against Paris 2024 silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn. Other Indian shuttlers in the draw include Kiran George, S Sankar Muthusamy, and Tharun Mannepal. In a major setback, Asian Games gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have withdrawn from the men’s doubles event. The women’s singles campaign will be led by rising stars Tanya Hemant and Anmol Kharb, with PV Sindhu absent from the tournament. Kavipriya Selvam will also compete, having made it through the qualifiers. India’s mixed doubles hopes rest on Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila, while Selvam teams up with Simran Singhi in women’s doubles. No Indian player has ever won a title at the Arctic Open, and the 2025 edition presents a fresh opportunity for India’s young squad to break that streak.





Samantha to star in Simbu & Vetrimaaran’s film?

In a major development that has stirred excitement among Tamil cinema fans, actor Silambarasan TR (Simbu) and acclaimed director Vetrimaaran have joined hands for the first time for a project tentatively titled #STR49. What makes the announcement even more thrilling is that the film will be part of the Vada Chennai universe, a detail confirmed by Vetrimaaran himself during a recent award function.

Vada Chennai, released in 2018, is widely regarded as a modern-day cult classic. With its gritty portrayal of North Chennai’s underworld and powerful performances, it set a new benchmark in Tamil cinema. The idea of expanding this universe has sparked tremendous anticipation, especially with a versatile actor like Simbu on board.

According to the latest buzz in Kollywood circles, the film’s makers have initiated talks with actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu to play the female lead. Though discussions are still in the early stages, if confirmed, this will mark the first collaboration between Simbu and Samantha, two of the most popular stars in the South Indian film industry.

Adding further star power to the film, Anirudh Ravichander is expected to compose the music. Known for his chart-topping albums and electrifying scores, his involvement has only raised expectations.

The project will be bankrolled by renowned producer Kalaippuli S Thanu under the prestigious V Creations banner, known for backing several blockbuster hits.

Fans won’t have to wait long for a sneak peek—a title glimpse of #STR49 is set to be unveiled tomorrow morning. With such a powerful team coming together and the legacy of Vada Chennai behind it, #STR49 is shaping up to be one of the most-awaited films in Tamil cinema.



LIK Postpones Release, Avoids Diwali Clash with Pradeep Ranganathan’s Dude

The much-anticipated sci-fi romantic comedy LIK (Love Insurance Kampany), headlined by Pradeep Ranganathan, was initially slated for a Diwali 2025 release, clashing with another Pradeep-led project, Dude. However, the box office face-off has now been officially averted, with the makers of LIK announcing a new release date — December 18, 2025.

In a statement, the LIK team likened the potential clash to “two trains on the same track,” emphasizing that such a scenario would have benefited neither film. Opting for a strategic move, the team decided to delay the release, allowing both projects the space to shine. They also extended their

heartfelt wishes to the Dude team, showing camaraderie in an industry often marked by fierce competition.

LIK is directed by Vignesh Shivan, known for his unique blend of humour, romance, and emotion. The film features Krithi Shetty as the female lead, alongside a star-studded supporting cast that includes SJ Suryah, Yogi Babu,

Gouri G Kishan, and Mysskin.

The project is being jointly produced by SS Lalit Kumar of Seven Screen Studio and Rowdy Pictures, the banner run by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara. With Anirudh Ravichander on-board as the music composer, expectations are high for a youthful, vibrant soundtrack that com-

plements the film’s quirky premise.

LIK’s new December release gives it a solo window at the box office, increasing its chances for commercial success. Fans of Pradeep Ranganathan can now look forward to two different releases — Dude this Diwali and LIK just before Christmas, ensuring a double treat to end 2025 on a high note.



‘Bad Boy Karthik’ Teaser Out: Naga Shaurya Returns in Mass Avatar

Actor Naga Shaurya is back in action with his latest film Bad Boy Karthik, a high-octane mass entertainer that marks the directorial debut of Raam Desina. After a brief break from the big screen, Shaurya returns in a rugged new avatar, promising to showcase a wilder and fiercer side than ever before.

The makers unveiled the official teaser of the film, and it’s packed with adrenaline-fueled action sequences, punchy dialogues, and a glimpse into the protagonist’s intense journey. Shaurya’s transformation into the titular Bad Boy Karthik is evident, as he sports a bulked-up physique and a raw, aggressive style.

The teaser also introduces the film’s key characters. Vidhi Yadav plays the female lead and Shaurya’s romantic interest, while seasoned actors Samuthirakani, Naresh VK, and Saikumar appear in powerful supporting roles. Venela Kishore adds a dash of comedy, ensuring the film strikes a balance between action and entertainment.

With music composed by Harris Jayaraj, the film has already created buzz through its songs, and the teaser only adds to the anticipation. The background score amps up the intensity, hinting at a storyline driven by revenge, redemption, and raw emotion.

Produced by Ramesh under the banner of Ramesh Films, Bad Boy Karthik is being positioned as a complete commercial entertainer aimed at fans of mass cinema. With its slick visuals, explosive action, and a mass-appeal lead, the film is expected to be a game-changer for Naga Shaurya.

The release date is yet to be announced, but the teaser has set the tone — Bad Boy Karthik is coming, and he means business.

Baahubali: The Epic’ Re-Release on Oct 31; No Baahubali 3 Announcement Yet

The legendary Baahubali franchise, which reshaped the landscape of Indian cinema, is set to return to theatres in a grand re-release as Baahubali: The Epic on October 31, 2025. The two-part magnum opus, directed by SS Rajamouli and starring Prabhas in the iconic role of Amarendra and Mahendra Baahubali, will hit screens in major premium formats across India.

In the lead-up to the re-release, rumours began circulating that the new cut would include a teaser for Baahubali 3, sending fans into a frenzy. However, producer Shobu Yarlagadda has put all speculation to rest.

“There won’t be a Baahubali 3 announcement for sure,” he said in a recent interview. “We might have some other surprise, but it isn’t related to Baahubali 3. There is still a lot more work to be done for the third part.”

While a direct sequel is not yet in the works, Yarlagadda hinted at something equally exciting. “This re-release is not just a one-off thing. It’s the beginning of Phase 2 of the Baahubali universe. We believe there are plenty of untold stories in this world.”

This statement has sparked new curiosity among fans about potential spin-offs, prequels, or web series based on characters from the Baahubali uni-



verse. SS Rajamouli has previously expressed interest in expanding the franchise beyond films, possibly exploring the medium of streaming or animation.

For now, audiences can revisit the grandeur of Baahubali: The Beginning and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion in remastered glory. While Baahubali 3 may not be arriving just yet, something big is clearly brewing in Mahishmati.

Roshan’s ‘Champion’ Set for Christmas Release

Young actor Roshan is all set to make a powerful return to the big screen with his upcoming film Champion, which is officially locked for a Christmas release. The much-anticipated period sports drama, directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Pradeep Advaitam, will hit theatres on December 25, just in time to leverage the festive season.

The makers confirmed the release date with a striking new poster showing Roshan stepping out of an aircraft in a dark belted overcoat, hinting at a stylish and intense character transformation. With the

shoot nearing completion, buzz around the film is beginning to build as audiences look forward to holiday releases.

Champion is said to blend the excitement of sports with a deep emotional arc, balancing action with romance. Roshan reportedly underwent a complete makeover for the role, with early glimpses promising a more mature and impactful performance from the young star.

The film stars Anaswara Rajan as the female lead opposite Roshan. Their on-screen chemistry is expected to add depth to the love story

that runs parallel to the central sports narrative.

Produced jointly by Swapna Cinemas, Anandi Art Creations, and Concept Films, Champion is presented by Zee Studios, adding strong backing to the film’s release and distribution plans.

With a prime release date, a compelling mix of drama, sport, and romance, and an acclaimed director at the helm, Champion is positioning itself as a major contender for the 2025 holiday box office.

Stay tuned as more promotional content and the official trailer are expected to drop in the coming weeks.

