



Deputy CM
PawanKalyan
Conducts
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Survey 02



YS Jagan Demands Rollback of Medical College Privatization



TPN/VIJAYAWADA/9th OCT
Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediately roll back its plan to privatize government medical colleges. Speaking at Narsipatnam in front of the semi-completed medical college, he warned that if corrective action is not taken, the party would launch statewide protests and a one-crore signature campaign to exert

pressure on the government.
Y.S. Jagan criticized the current government, alleging that while his administration had laid the foundation for 17 new government medical colleges to make medical education and healthcare affordable, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is pushing privatization, depriving poorer sections of these facilities. He described hospitals as “modern temples,” warning that private players would ex-

ploit the poor and that public health would be compromised under Naidu’s plans.
Of the 17 colleges, five were completed during his term, including those at Pulivendula and Paderu, where classes have already begun. According to Y.S. Jagan, the total seats in these colleges would have risen to 4,910, with 2,360 seats available free of cost to poor students, while the rest would have been offered at significantly lower fees than in private institu-

tions. He accused the current government of halting construction through official memos despite funding being available through NABARD and central infrastructure schemes, which could have financed the projects with interest-free loans repayable over 50 years.
Highlighting the neglect of public health, Y.S. Jagan cited the Kurupam hostel incident, where tribal students fell ill due to contaminated water, leading to 170 students being affected and two deaths. He also criticized the lack of maintenance of RO plants and basic hospital infrastructure, which has forced patients to travel to KGH, Visakhapatnam, for treatment.
Y.S. Jagan recalled his government’s efforts to expand healthcare infrastructure in North Andhra, including the establishment of RIMS, Paderu, Parvathipuram, and Narsipatnam, and five multi-specialty ITDA hospitals. Seven of the 17 medical colleges were completed during his term, providing 800 medical seats, but the Naidu government allegedly blocked additional seats at Pulivendula Medical College and stalled re-

maining projects, which could have added 2,500 seats to the state’s medical education capacity.
Detailing the agitation program, Y.S. Jagan announced Rachabanda outreach programs from October 10 to November 22, constituency- and district-level dharnas on October 28 and November 12, and the collection of one crore signatures. The signature sheets would be sent to Vijayawada by November 23 and submitted to the Governor on November 25.
During his journey to Narsipatnam, Y.S. Jagan also met VSP employees, who raised concerns about privatization, and Chodavaram Sugar Factory farmers, who claimed the government withheld 35 crore owed to 24,000 families. He further criticized land acquisition delays for a bulk drug factory and the demolition of 4,500 small shops in Visakhapatnam, which left nearly 32,500 people without livelihoods.
Y.S. Jagan concluded with a stern warning to Chandrababu Naidu, asserting that unless the privatization plan is reversed, history will judge him as a leader who disregarded the welfare of the poor and public health.

Major IAS Reshuffle in Andhra Pradesh: 31 Officers Transferred

TPN/VIJAYAWADA

In a major administrative reshuffle, the Andhra Pradesh Government on Thursday transferred and posted 31 IAS officers across various departments, marking one of the largest bureaucratic reorganisations in recent months. The orders, issued by Chief Secretary K Vijayanand, reflect the government’s intent to strengthen key sectors including energy, agriculture, housing, education and urban development.
Among the significant appointments, KVN Chakradhar Babu (2011 batch), who was awaiting posting, has been appointed Director, Secondary Health, in the Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department. Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon (2012) has been posted as Director of Agriculture, in place of S Dilli Rao (2013), who has been transferred as VC & MD, AP State Civil Supplies Corporation, and will also hold additional

charge as Controller, Legal Metrology.
Pattanshetti Ravi Subash (2013) has been posted as Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, while Siva Sankar Lotheti (2013) will serve as Chairman & Managing Director, AP Southern Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APSPDCL). P Arun Babu (2014) takes charge as VC & MD, AP State Housing Corporation, replacing M. Siva Prasad, IFS.
In the education sector, P Ranjit Basha (2013) has been appointed Director, Intermediate Education and will also serve as Commissioner, School Infrastructure. B Navya (2016) will now lead as VC & MD, AP State Warehousing Corporation, after being transferred from her role as Joint Collector, Kurnool.
Key postings in infrastructure and energy include Praveen Adhithya CV (2017), who moves from CEO, AP Maritime Board to

MD, AP Airports Development Corporation, with additional charge as VC & MD, INCAP. G Surya Sai Praveenchand (2019) becomes Joint MD, AP TRANSCO, while Muralidhar Kommisetty, IRS, is appointed MD, AP Dairy Development Corporation and Special Officer, AP Amul Project.
In the information sector, KS Viswanathan (2017) has been named Director, Information & Public Relations, relieving Prakhkar Jain (2021) from additional charge.
Several officers received district-level assignments: Rahul Meena (2021) as Commissioner, Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation; Apoorva Bharat (2021) as Joint Collector, Kakinada; Mantri Mourya Bharadwaj (2022) as Joint Collector, Sri Satya Sai District; and Tirumani Sri Pooja (2022) as Joint Collector, Alluri Sitharama Raju District in full additional charge.

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CM Directs Introduction of Mobile Rythu Bazaars

TPN / Vijayawada
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to introduce mobile Rythu Bazaars and prepare a comprehensive master plan for upgrading existing Rythu Bazaars across the state. The initiative aims to ensure remunerative prices for farmers while providing quality produce at affordable rates for consumers.
During a review meeting on agriculture and allied sectors at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister stressed that the 218 market committee sites in the state must be effectively utilized to strengthen the agricultural marketing system. He also reviewed preparations for the PM DhanaDhanyaKrishiYojana, which is scheduled to be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 11.
The CM emphasized the need for close coordination between the Agriculture and Marketing Departments to deliver measurable benefits to both producers and consumers. Citing the recent drop in tomato prices in Pattikonda, he instructed market committee officials to act promptly by moving the produce to Rythu Bazaars or utilizing cold storage facilities to prevent distress sales. He also called for upgrading infrastructure at all market yards and Rythu Bazaars to provide better facilities for both farmers and buyers.
Naidu directed officials to educate farmers on reducing fertilizer



and pesticide use, highlighting the harmful effects of excessive urea application. Officials informed him that 23 lakh metric tonnes of urea are available for the Rabi season. In response, the CM ordered expedited soil testing and preparation of plans to distribute micro-nutrients based on soil health results. He insisted that Aadhaar authentication be made mandatory for fertilizer distribution to ensure transparency.
The Chief Minister noted that the state anticipates a crop yield of 90.91 lakh metric tonnes this year, a 44% increase over last year. He stressed the importance of maintaining accurate records of fertilizer distribution to both farmers and tenant cultivators.
Referring to the PM DhanaDhanyaKrishiYojana, he said farmers should be encouraged to grow high-value and profitable crops. He noted that the Central Government has committed to procure 100% of pulses

and suggested studying Karnataka’s successful model in sericulture, where output is eight times higher than Andhra Pradesh’s. He also proposed exploring partnerships with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance the state’s capabilities in agri-tech and sericulture.
The Chief Minister further called for regular monitoring of vegetable prices, encouraged farmers to cultivate crops with strong market demand, and recommended linking produce to food processing units to prevent price crashes and ensure income stability. Stressing the promotion of natural farming, he urged departments to ensure fair prices for forest produce, particularly to uplift tribal communities through value addition.
Minister for Agriculture K. Atchannaidu, chairpersons of agriculture and allied corporations, and senior officials attended the review meeting.

Govt Will Not Tolerate Spurious Liquor Supply: Minister Kollu

TPN / Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has reiterated that the state government will not tolerate anyone involved in the manufacture or supply of spurious liquor. Speaking at the AP Secretariat on Thursday, he affirmed that the government is taking all false reports and allegations seriously and will conduct thorough investigations to uncover the truth and ensure accountability.
The minister highlighted that the Excise Department’s Enforcement Wing has been working effectively to curb illegal liquor production across the state. He emphasized that stringent measures have been put in place to regulate liquor manufacturing, enforce quality standards, and prevent the sale of adulterated products. Under the Navodayam initiative, 21 districts have already been declared illicit liquor-free, a milestone achieved through coordinated efforts between local authorities and the Excise Department.
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has issued clear directives to completely eliminate illicit liquor from Andhra Pradesh.



Since assuming office, the coalition government has strengthened enforcement mechanisms, enhanced the functioning of border check-posts, and established laboratories in five key regions to conduct rigorous quality testing. These measures aim to curb the menace of adulterated liquor, protect public health, and uphold law and order.
Referring to a recent incident in Kadiri, Anamayya district, the minister said that during inspections on October 3, officials seized 30 cans of spirit, cartons, and bottle caps from a shed in Kodirinaidukota village. Cases have been registered against Adepalli Janardhan Rao, Kodali Srinivas Rao, and several others. Investiga-

tions are also ongoing into bars and wine shops connected to these individuals in Tenali, highlighting the comprehensive approach taken by the government to trace and penalize those involved in illegal liquor operations.
Ravindra pointed out that the government is giving special attention to the Mulakalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam spurious liquor cases, which had allegedly been neglected by the previous YSRCP administration. He accused YSRCP leaders of politicizing the issue and spreading false propaganda, calling it shameful and misleading.
Condemning certain media reports, he said some YSRCP-affiliated

outlets falsely linked natural deaths to consumption of spurious liquor. He warned that individuals spreading such misinformation via social, print, or electronic media would face action under Sections 353 and 356 of the BNS Act.
The minister also demanded that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy explain why no action was taken against Tenali YSRCP booth convener Kodali Srinivas Rao, who is allegedly connected to spurious liquor cases. Enforcement officials had also detained Adempalli Jaganmohan Rao, brother of Ibrahimpatnam resident Janardhan, after discovering evidence of adulterated liquor being sold through the

ANR Bar.
He confirmed that TDP leader Jayachandra Reddy, implicated in the case, has been suspended, along with an Excise Sub-Inspector found negligent. Ravindra reiterated that the coalition government prioritizes public welfare and will not spare anyone involved in spurious liquor activities, regardless of their political or social influence.
The press meet was attended by Excise Commissioner Sridhar and Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma, who supported the minister in underlining the state government’s determination to eradicate the menace of spurious liquor and ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

AP Govt Constitutes High-Level Panel to Probe Rayavaram Firecracker Explosion



TPN / Vijayawada
The Andhra Pradesh government has ordered a comprehensive probe into the tragic firecracker explosion that took place in Rayavaram, Dr. B.R. AmbedkarKonaseema district, earlier this week, which claimed multiple lives and left several others injured. Taking serious note of the incident, the state government has constituted a high-level committee to investigate the causes of the explosion and recommend strong preventive and regulatory

measures to avoid similar accidents in the future.
Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand issued Government Order (GO) RT No. 1841 on Thursday, formally announcing the formation of the inquiry committee. The order stated that the government views the loss of lives and injuries in the mishap with utmost seriousness. It directed the committee to conduct a thorough investigation to identify safety lapses, violations, and the persons responsible for the

tragedy.
The committee will be chaired by S. Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government (Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department), while Ake Ravi Krishna, Inspector General of Police, Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), will serve as a member. The panel has been tasked with examining the immediate causes that triggered the explosion at the firecracker manufacturing unit in Rayavaram and

the systemic shortcomings that allowed unsafe operations to continue.
According to the GO, the committee will review the licensing and regulatory framework under which the firecracker unit was functioning, assess the compliance of safety norms prescribed under the Explosives Act, and identify failures in enforcement at various levels. It will also recommend a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure stricter monitoring of such hazardous industries across the state. The panel has been directed to submit its report within one week, outlining short-term and long-term measures to strengthen safety mechanisms.
The District Collector and Superintendent of Police of Dr. B.R. AmbedkarKonaseema district have been instructed to extend complete cooperation to the inquiry team. They have been directed to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate with the committee and provide all necessary data, logistical arrangements, and administrative support to facilitate the investigation. The government has emphasized that the inquiry should be transparent, evidence-based, and

aimed at preventing future tragedies rather than merely identifying procedural lapses.
Preliminary reports suggest that the explosion occurred due to improper storage and handling of explosive materials in violation of safety guidelines. The intensity of the blast was such that it caused extensive damage to the surrounding structures and resulted in multiple casualties. Rescue and relief operations were immediately launched under the supervision of the district administration, and injured victims were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment.
Officials said the findings of the high-level committee would form the basis for policy-level reforms in the licensing, inspection, and monitoring of firecracker manufacturing units. The state government is expected to consider stricter regulations, mandatory periodic safety audits, and enhanced coordination between local authorities and disaster management agencies.
The inquiry panel's report, once submitted, is likely to play a pivotal role in shaping the state's future approach to industrial safety and accident prevention.



Govt to Develop Roads Worth 2,500 Crore This Year

TPN / Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Roads and Buildings Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy has announced that the State government will undertake road development works worth nearly 2,500 crore this year. Chairing a review meeting with senior officials of the R&B Department at the ENC office in Vijayawada on Thursday, the Minister directed them to expedite ongoing and pending projects to ensure smooth road connectivity across the State.
Janardhan Reddy instructed chief engineers to personally monitor field conditions and ensure timely completion of repairs and reconstruction. He asked officials to classify completely damaged roads into three priority groups and undertake restoration works accordingly.
Highlighting the need to revive stalled infrastructure projects, the Minister said around 650 km of road works under the NDB and CRIF schemes, which had been pending for some time, must be accorded top priority. The government will soon hold a meeting with NDB contractors to accelerate these projects. He assured that clearing contractors' pending bills promptly would help resume and complete the remaining works without delay.
Janardhan Reddy suggested ex-

ploring the use of drone surveys to assess the condition of roads and bridges across the State. He added that priority-based works on damaged bridges will begin shortly, while construction of nearly 10 incomplete bridges will be undertaken immediately.
In a push for innovation, the Minister announced the experimental construction of Eco Pave roads using steel slag in select areas to promote sustainable infrastructure. He also directed officials to identify four road projects that require no land acquisition or viability gap funding and implement them under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
With Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) already prepared, he called for their swift execution. Janardhan Reddy further instructed officials to utilize vacant R&B lands for PPP-based development and to fill vacant engineering posts by appointing Engineering Assistants from the Village Secretariat system to strengthen field-level supervision.
The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary (R&B) M.T. Krishna Babu, APRDC Chairman PragadaNageswara Rao, and other senior officials.

Deputy CM PawanKalyan Conducts Aerial Survey



TPN / Kakinada
Representatives of fishermen's associations in Kakinada district, particularly from U. Kothapalli Mandal, Ameenabad, have raised concerns about design flaws in the construction of the Uppada Fishing Harbor. They brought the matter to the attention of Deputy Chief

Minister PawanKalyan, highlighting risks to both fishermen and boats.
Following the Uppada public meeting, PawanKalyan proceeded to Rajahmundry by helicopter. During the flight, he conducted an aerial survey of the harbor construction at Ameenabad. Fishermen's repre-

sentatives had pointed out that the construction of cement bunds in the sea was causing significant damage to boats, creating dangerous conditions, and leading to accidents that could result in loss of life.
The issues were formally discussed during a meeting at the Kakinada Collectorate, where rep-

resentatives emphasized the urgent need to rectify the harbor design to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of the local fishing community.
At the Uppada public meeting, Deputy CM PawanKalyan assured the community that the concerns would be reviewed by experts. Acting on this commitment, he inspected the harbor construction from the air, evaluating the layout and the areas where the cement bunds were causing disruptions to navigation and fishing activities.
The survey aimed to gather a clear understanding of the structural challenges and safety risks posed by the current harbor design. Officials and community representatives hope that this assessment will lead to corrective measures, safeguarding both livelihoods and lives in the region.

Minister Satyakumar Yadav Accuses YS Jagan of Obstructing Development

TPN / Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Minister Satyakumar Yadav on Thursday accused YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of engaging in multiple conspiracies to hinder the state's development. Speaking to the media, he claimed that Jagan had frequently filed petitions in courts to stall various projects.
Minister Yadav said that the government had decided to construct medical colleges under the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model to benefit the poor. "Everyone has seen the incomplete walls in these medical colleges. Yet, YSRCP leaders are spreading false propaganda, claiming that the government is selling these institutions to private entities. When invited to discuss the matter in the Legislative Assembly or at the mandal level, they run away. Jagan is relying solely on lies to campaign and create unrest among the people. Can he clearly explain the purpose of his Narsipatnam tour? He is traveling just to showcase power



and provoke the public. We have seen in the past how his tours in various areas have unfolded. Jagan has no genuine interest in medical colleges; these trips are merely for show and publicity," Ya-

dav said.
He further criticized Jagan for misrepresenting the PPP model. "The ownership rights remain with the government. What losses have come

from the PPP model? Claiming it's privatization—have they proven this? The total expenditure required for medical colleges was 8,500 crore, but only 1,550 crore has been spent so far. Even then, full funds were allocated to just the Pulivendula college. Did Jagan make Pulivendula the state's capital? Is development only meant for one college? Jagan's distorted mindset does not allow him to support Andhra Pradesh's growth. He traveled 5 km by helicopter but seeks permission to travel 60 km by road. People have seen how he caused havoc in Visakhapatnam earlier. He blocked the establishment of the Tribal University in North Andhra, and now if he inspects these areas, he will witness the reality for himself," Yadav asserted.
The minister concluded by emphasizing that Jagan's actions are motivated by political theatrics rather than genuine concern for the state's development or the welfare of the people.

Speaker Ayanna Patrudu Showcases Strength of Indian Democracy on Global Stage

TPN / Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker ChintakayalaAyyanaPatrudu highlighted the vibrancy, inclusiveness, and resilience of India's democracy while addressing the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Thursday. Speaking on the theme "Parliamentary Scrutiny for Improved Democracy," he described India as a shining example of a robust democracy where the people are truly sovereign and the institutions uphold transparency and accountability.
Tracing India's democratic journey, Speaker

Patrudu noted that the nation's success as the world's largest democracy for over 75 years as a republic lies in the pivotal role of Parliament and State Legislatures. "Our Constitution, built on the principle of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, remains the cornerstone of India's democratic ethos," he stated.
He emphasized the strength of India's electoral system, highlighting that nearly 970 million voters participated in the 18th Lok Sabha elections. Over 18 generations have peacefully changed governments



eight times, reflecting their political maturity, civic awareness, and faith in democratic institutions. These transitions demonstrate that India's democracy functions not only as a system of governance but also as a platform where public opinion is respected and change occurs through constitutional means.
Mr. Patrudu also spoke about the adaptability of the Indian Constitution, which has undergone over 100 amendments to respond to the evolving needs and aspirations of its citizens. Quoting legendary leader NandamuriTaraka Rama Rao (NTR), he said, "People

are the gods, and society is the temple," emphasizing the centrality of citizens in India's political framework. He also recalled Mahatma Gandhi's vision of participatory democracy, underlining the need for active citizen engagement in governance.
To further strengthen accountability, the Speaker proposed that public representatives voluntarily disclose their assets and liabilities, thereby fostering transparency and public trust. He stressed that openness and self-regulation are vital for sustaining democratic credibility.
Delegates from across

the Commonwealth attended the conference, which focused on enhancing parliamentary institutions, promoting ethical governance, and ensuring legislative responsiveness. Speaker Patrudu concluded by reaffirming India's commitment to democracy, equality, and justice—values that continue to inspire democratic movements worldwide.
This address reinforced India's position as a global model of democratic governance, highlighting the country's ability to maintain stability, inclusiveness, and citizen participation while adapting to changing times.

Lankevani Dibba Revives Vanishing Traditions Through Grand Atla Taddi

TPN BUREAU, REPALLE, OCT. 09TH.

Lankevani Dibba, a remote village in Repalle Mandal of coastal Andhra Pradesh, has emerged as a beacon of cultural revival by preserving age-old customs that are fast disappearing in the modern age. The village recently celebrated the traditional Atla Taddi festival with grandeur and devotion under the leadership of Sri Chilakalapudi Paparao, Chairman of the Agnikula Kshatriya Welfare and Development Corporation. Every year, residents of Lankevani Dibba come together to celebrate Atla Taddi with unmatched enthusiasm, turning the festival into a community celebration that upholds Andhra's rich heritage. Brightly decorated streets, cheerful chants of women, and traditional rituals filled the air with festive spirit, transforming the village into a vibrant center of cultural unity. As part of the celebration, Sri Paparao distributed sarees to women in the village, symbolizing joy, respect, and togetherness. The event was not only a religious observance but also a social gathering that fostered solidarity among villagers. His leadership has been



instrumental in reviving the festival as a grand annual tradition that brings the community closer while rekindling their connection to ancestral customs. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Paparao expressed concern over the fading charm of rural festivities amid rapid modernization. He emphasized the importance of preserving traditional culture for future generations, stating that his mission as Sarpanch has

been to make Atla Taddi a flagship celebration of the village. "It pains me to see our cultural roots weakening with time. Through events like this, we ensure our children grow up valuing our traditions," he said. Lankevani Dibba's efforts stand as a shining example of how collective spirit and devotion can revive Andhra's vanishing village traditions, ensuring they continue to thrive for generations to come.

Minister Lokesh Pledges Full Support to Family of Party Worker

TPN Bureau, Vijayawada | October 9, 2025

Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, reaffirmed his commitment to the solidarity and welfare of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers, describing them as the backbone of the party and integral members of one extended family. Lokesh made these remarks while personally meeting the family of late Namburi Seshagiri Rao, a dedicated TDP activist from Palvai Gate village in Machera constituency, Palnadu district, at his residence in Undavalli on Thursday. During the emotional meeting, Lokesh extended heartfelt condolences to Seshagiri Rao's wife Krishnaveni, his son, daughter, and other family members. He enquired about their living conditions and assured them that the party would remain steadfast in supporting them both morally and financially. "The Telugu Desam Party will take full responsibility for the welfare of Seshagiri Rao's family. We will ensure they never face any hardship," Lokesh declared, emphasizing that loyalty and sacrifice of grassroots workers will always be honored by the TDP. Late Namburi Seshagiri Rao had been an active and loyal TDP worker who played a crucial role during the 2024 general elections. He served as a polling agent at the Palvai Gate polling station during the infamous EVM vandalism incident. According to reports, when YSRCP candidate Pinnelli Ramakrishna



Reddy allegedly tried to destroy an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), Seshagiri Rao intervened courageously, attempting to prevent the act. In retaliation, he was brutally attacked by YSRCP supporters and sustained serious injuries. Despite his recovery from those injuries, he tragically passed away two months ago following a heart attack, leaving his family grief-stricken. Minister Lokesh recalled Seshagiri Rao's selflessness and valor, describing him as a symbol of courage and party loyalty. "Namburi Seshagiri Rao stood firm for justice and protected democracy even under threat. His commitment inspires us all,"

Lokesh said, paying rich tributes to the departed leader. He reiterated that TDP's strength lies in the dedication of its ordinary workers who uphold the party's ideals at the grassroots level. Lokesh also reaffirmed that the sacrifices of workers like Seshagiri Rao would never be forgotten and that their families would always be treated with utmost care and respect within the TDP structure. "Every worker is a pillar of our movement. Their courage and service keep our ideals alive. TDP is not merely a political party—it is a family that shares both struggles and victories together," he said. Expressing empathy towards Seshagiri Rao's family, Lokesh emphasized the TDP leadership's commitment to protecting its cadre across Andhra Pradesh. He directed local leaders from Palnadu district to stay in touch with the bereaved family and ensure that all necessary support, including educational and financial assistance, reaches them promptly. The visit demonstrated Lokesh's personal approach to party management and his emphasis on emotional connection with TDP's grassroots workers. His gesture has been widely appreciated across the party as a reaffirmation of his father and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's long-standing principle—that party workers are the foundation upon which the Telugu Desam Party stands strong, resilient, and united.

Medical Services Bandh: Hospitals to Halt Treatment



TPN BUFEAU, AMARAVATI, 9TH OCTOBER

Andhra Pradesh faces a major healthcare disruption as the Andhra Pradesh Speciality Hospitals Association (ASHA) announces a bandh of all services under the NTR Medical Services Trust from tomorrow, citing unresolved dues from the state government. Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav has responded, expressing concern over the impending situation and assuring action to resolve the crisis. The announcement by ASHA has sent shockwaves across the state's healthcare system. ASHA revealed that despite repeated appeals to government authorities, dues remain unpaid, forcing hospitals to operate at a loss. The association emphasized that escalating operational costs combined with an absence of payment have made the situation untenable, compelling the drastic step of suspending all medical services in hospitals affiliated with the NTR Medical Services Trust. According to the association's statement, the decision to halt services was not taken lightly. The leadership cited multiple attempts at dialogue with officials but observed that promises made in the legislative assembly by Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav for dues clearance have not materialized. The financial strain, coupled with growing frustration among hospital managements, has culminated in a total medical services bandh, effective from tomorrow. "All types of medical services will have to be stopped from tomorrow unless there is an urgent intervention from the government," the statement warned. Minister Satyakumar Yadav's Response Reacting to the crisis, Health Minister

Satyakumar Yadav acknowledged the gravity of the situation and urged hospitals not to halt services, stressing the hardship this would impose on the public. The minister pointed out that the problem stemmed largely from arrears, amounting to Rs. 2,500 crore left unpaid by the previous administration. Minister Yadav stated that since taking office, the current government has been addressing payment delays through phased, installment-based payouts. Minister Yadav reiterated the government's commitment to resolving the crisis and showed empathy for the challenges faced by the hospitals. He assured that immediate discussions would be held with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. "We understand the difficulties hospitals are facing and are committed to finding a solution. I will meet with the CM to discuss how best to address the pending dues and ensure uninterrupted medical services for the people of Andhra Pradesh," Yadav said. Public Impact and Next Steps The suspension of services poses a significant threat to healthcare access for thousands of patients relying on NTR Trust-affiliated hospitals. The move underscores broader issues in public-private healthcare partnerships and fiscal management. With government and hospital representatives expected to meet urgently, citizens hope for a swift resolution to avoid a prolonged healthcare crisis. As the state waits for clarity, all eyes remain on the outcome of discussions between Minister Satyakumar Yadav, CM Chandrababu Naidu, and the hospital association, with the wellbeing of patients hanging in the balance.

APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Slams YSRCP for Attempts to Create Unrest

TPN BUREAU, Machilipatnam, Oct 9:

APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana strongly criticized the YSRCP leaders for allegedly trying to create unrest in the state by resorting to provocative acts and spreading misinformation. Speaking at a protest program held on Thursday at Lakshmi Talkies Center in Machilipatnam, Narayana declared that the ruling coalition led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is committed to maintaining law, order, and social harmony, while opposition forces are attempting to disrupt peace for political gains. The protest, organized under the leadership of Krishna District SC Cell President Machavarapu Adinarayana, was held to condemn alleged attempts to desecrate the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The participants staged the protest by performing a symbolic anointment of Ambedkar's statue, reaffirming their commitment to his ideals of equality and social justice. APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana and Krishna District DCMS Chairman Bandi Ramakrishna attended the program as chief guests and extended solidarity to the Dalit community. Addressing the gathering, Konakalla Narayana accused certain YSRCP elements of trying to create disturbances in society by exploiting caste sentiments. He stated that such actions not only tarnish the image of the late Dr. Ambedkar but also aim to malign the government that is working for the welfare of all sections. He urged people to remain vigilant and not to fall prey to false propaganda being spread by opposition forces. Krishna District DCMS Chairman Bandi Ramakrishna echoed similar views, saying that YSRCP's political desperation is driving them to resort to divisive politics. He commended the TDP-JSP government's efforts in promoting social welfare, empowering marginalized communities, and ensuring equal opportunities for all. He added that the government stands firmly on the path of Ambedkar's principles and will continue to work toward a just and inclusive society. Machavarapu Adinarayana, who presided over the protest, said the aim of the program was to send a strong message against anyone attempting to disrespect icons like Ambedkar. He emphasized that Ambedkar belongs to all sections of society and that any attempt to dishonor his legacy will be met with united resistance. Local leaders, Dalit organizations, and social activists participated in large numbers, raising slogans in defense of Ambedkar's ideals and calling for unity among communities to prevent political provocations. The event concluded peacefully with the participants pledging to uphold social harmony and continue Ambedkar's vision of equality.

Sales of fake liquor in Srinivasa Wines.

Fake Liquor Racket Busted in Vijayawada: Multiple Accused in AP Excise Case

TPN BUREAU, Amaravati, Oct 9 –

A major fake liquor racket operating across different parts of Andhra Pradesh has come to light following an intensive excise department investigation in Vijayawada. According to officials, counterfeit liquor bottles filled in Ibrahimpatnam were being sold at several outlets, including the ANR Bar in the name of Addepalli Janardhan Rao, and at a liquor shop in Bhawanipuram. Key accused Addepalli Jaganmohan Rao (A-2) reportedly confessed during interrogation that he had supplied fake liquor to Srinivasa Wines, a shop partly owned by Janardhan Rao. Angaluru Kalyan, the manager of this outlet, allegedly procured up to 15 cases of counterfeit liquor every week, selling them to customers and splitting the proceeds equally with suppliers. The network of operations was extensive. Authorities revealed that Jaganmohan Rao became cautious after a fake liquor consignment was recently discovered in Mulakalacheruvu. In response, he shifted his illegal production setup from the premises of the old ANR Bar to a go-down close to the current bar. The counterfeit bottles were then distributed through various channels. Excise officials, acting on credible information, conducted raids and collected samples from the seized goods in the presence of mediators. These samples have been sent to the state forensic science laboratory for chemical analysis to determine the composition and potential health hazards posed by the fake liquor. Investigators say the syndicate extended beyond Vijayawada, involving individuals from other states. The accused list includes: A-1: Addepalli Janardhan Rao A-2: Addepalli Jaganmohan Rao A-3: Balaji (Bangalore) A-4: Ravi (Hyderabad) A-5: Syed Haji (Ibrahimpatnam) A-6: Katta Raju Das (Odisha) A-7: Badal Das (Odisha) A-8: Pradeep (Vijayawada) A-9: Mithun Das (Odisha) A-10: Anta Das (Odisha) A-11: Srinivasaddi (Owner of Srinivasa Pet Bottles) A-12: Angaluru Kalyan (Kothapeta, Ibrahimpatnam) Authorities believe the racket's interstate links may have facilitated large-scale distribution, with suppliers from Odisha and Karnataka transporting illicit material into Andhra Pradesh. The use of Srinivasa Pet Bottles reportedly aided in packaging the fake liquor to resemble genuine branded products, making detection difficult for unsuspecting customers. The offenders are facing serious charges. A case has been registered at Bhawanipuram Excise Station under several provisions of the AP Excise Act, including Sections 13 (6), 13 (25), 34 (2) 3 25, 34 (2) (1), 34 (8), 34 (5), and Sections 36 (1)(b)(c), 37, 42, 50, 50B of the AP Excise (Amendment) Act, 2020. Officials warn that consumption of such counterfeit liquor poses grave health risks, ranging from intoxication-related accidents to life-threatening poisoning. This incident underscores the need for strict monitoring of liquor manufacturing and distribution channels across the state. The AP Excise Department has intensified its crackdown on illicit liquor rackets and vowed to bring all those involved to justice. Further arrests are expected as the investigation advances, with chemical analysis results likely to serve as critical evidence in court.



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Fake Liquor Racket in Mulakalacheruvu: Minister's Name Surfaces, More Officials Under Scanner

TPN BUREAU, MULAKALACHERUVU, OCTOBER 9:

The fake liquor manufacturing case that recently came to light in Mulakalacheruvu, in Annamayya district, is taking new twists by the day, with sensational details emerging about those allegedly involved. Police and excise officials, who have already arrested several accused in connection with the racket, are now tracking the network further based on statements given during interrogation. According to official sources, the most recent development has put a local political figure under the spotlight. The name of Minister Giridhar Reddy from the Mulakalacheruvu area has allegedly surfaced in the case. Investigators claim that based on testimony given by A13 in the case, Katta Surendra Naidu, Giridhar Reddy not only had knowledge of the fake liquor business but also played a key role in its sale. Excise officials allege that Giridhar Reddy acquired the Andhra Wines shop in PTM mandal specifically to facilitate the distribution of counterfeit liquor. It was reportedly stored at his residence in Kammavariapalle before being supplied to belt shops in the region. Officials state that such organized supply channels made it possible for the fake liquor to reach multiple pockets without attracting immediate suspicion. Growing List of Suspects and Official Complicity The investigation has taken a serious turn after call data analysis reportedly suggested that certain excise officials had cooperated with those running the racket. This has triggered deeper scrutiny into recent police transfers and postings. In particular, CI Himabindu, who was posted to Mulakalacheruvu police station just two months ago after being transferred from another location, is now under the scanner. Authorities are probing the recommendations that led to her appointment. Officials are also revisiting the role of her pre-

decessor, CI Madhavi, to determine whether lapses or collusion occurred during her tenure. Investigators are tracking communications, financial transactions, and property details of the accused and suspected beneficiaries. Sources say that certain transactions may have been deliberately conducted under false or alternative names to obscure the trail. Government's Tough Stance. The seriousness of the issue has prompted the state government to fast-track the probe. Top-level officials have been instructed to leave no stone unturned, given the broader implications for public safety and law enforcement credibility. The government is reportedly considering stringent action against all individuals—whether political figures, police officials, or excise staff—found to be involved. The fake liquor trade has long been a menace in parts of rural Andhra Pradesh, often leading to severe health hazards and fatalities. The Mulakalacheruvu case, however, stands out for the alleged nexus among political leaders, suppliers, and law enforcement personnel. Political and Social Reactions The latest revelations have become a hot topic in both political and administrative circles. Opposition leaders are demanding immediate suspension of all officials named in the investigation and calling for the arrest of any politician found directly involved. Meanwhile, local residents have expressed shock, especially at claims that fake liquor was stored in the house of a public representative. As the probe continues, more names could emerge in what is now shaping up to be one of the most high-profile illicit liquor cases in the district's recent history. Police and excise teams are expected to file additional chargesheets in the coming weeks, potentially making this a long legal battle involving both political and bureaucratic accountability.

Go back Jagan

Dalit Groups Stage Protest in Narsipatnam Against Former CM Jagan’s Visit

TPN BUREAU, NARSI-PATNAM, 9TH OCTOBER: In a powerful show of dissent, several Dalit groups in Narsipatnam town of Anakapalle district staged a large-scale protest on Thursday against the visit of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The protest, organized at the town square, drew significant attention as Dalit leaders, social activists, and community representatives joined hands to form a human chain and raise slogans denouncing the former CM and his previous administration.

Carrying placards and banners, the protesters expressed their anger and grief over what they described as continuous injustice and humiliation faced by Dalit individuals during the YSRCP regime. The participants invoked the



memory of anesthesiologist Dr. K. Sudhakar, who had faced disciplinary action and social humiliation during the pandemic period. Protesters recalled that Dr. Sudhakar, then serving in Visakhapatnam, had merely questioned the lack of adequate PPE kits for

medical staff during the height of the COVID-19 crisis but was allegedly humiliated and mentally harassed by officials acting under political influence.

Dalit groups alleged that such mistreatment and relentless pressure eventually led to his trag-

ic death, which they termed as a “state-induced injustice.” Placards displayed during the demonstration carried poignant messages such as “This is Jagan Reddy’s tribute to a Dalit intellectual” and “A Dalit heart that stopped tired of



fighting the Jagan Reddy government.” Resonating through the gathering were chants of “Jagan Go Back,” as the protesters demanded acknowledgment of the alleged atrocities faced by Dalits under his rule.

Leaders said that inviting Jagan to Dalit-dominated areas was tantamount to reopening wounds that had not yet healed. Before the main demonstration, Dalit leaders performed a symbolic ritual in mem-

ory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, garlanding his statue and performing a milk anointment ceremony (paalabhishekam) as a mark of reverence and solidarity. They asserted that Dr. Ambedkar’s ideals of equality

and social justice were being betrayed by those in power.

Speaking to the media, several Dalit activists emphasized that their protest was not politically motivated but a collective call for justice and respect. They demanded an official apology from Jagan Mohan Reddy for the alleged harassment of Dr. Sudhakar and accountability for the injustices against marginalized communities during his tenure. As Jagan’s convoy entered the town later in the day, heavy police deployment was observed along the main road, ensuring that the protest remained peaceful. The incident has, however, reignited the debate over Dalit rights and the political sensitivity surrounding Dr. Sudhakar’s case in Andhra Pradesh’s social and political discourses.

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and cadres carried out a high-decibel protest

TPN BUREAU, CHITTOOR, 9TH OCTOBER

TDP, in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, on October 9, 2025, took out a protest, demanding the arrest of former Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy for his alleged involvement in the recent Ambedkar statue burning incident in Devalampeta of Gangadhara Nellore constituency. The demonstration, marked by passionate sloganeering and pointed allegations, served as both a condemnation of the event and a critique of political maneuvering in the district.



TDP Protest Details: The TDP’s protest began with a rally from the Gandhi statue and culminated in a spirited demonstration at the Ambedkar statue in Chittoor district. Led by prominent local leaders, including Gangadhara Nellore MLA Dr. V.M. Thomas, District President CR Rajan, “Chuda” chairman Katari Hemalatha, and former MLC Dorababu, the event drew significant attention from party workers and local citizens.

The display of unity among party ranks underscored the gravity with which the TDP views the alleged desecration of Ambedkar’s legacy and the perceived attack on Dalit sentiments. Allegations against Narayana Swamy, raising slogans throughout the protest, TDP members accused former Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy of orchestrating the statue burning incident. They claimed that Narayana Swamy, along with others, played a key role in the incident and should be held accountable by law enforcement authorities.

The party leaders pointed to a local controversy involving Bommayapalli Sarpanch Govindayya, who allegedly attempted to implicate the TDP in the drama surrounding the statue

fire. The TDP leaders asserted that Govindayya’s efforts to frame their party ultimately failed, and he has since been arrested and remanded for his part in the incident. Calls for Justice and Political Repercussions: Addressing the gathering, TDP functionaries strongly criticized the YSRC Congress Party (YSRCP), making emotional appeals regarding the impact of the incident on Dalit communities.

According to TDP leaders, YSRCP’s tacit support or silence on the burning of Ambedkar’s statue has wounded Dalit pride and undermined efforts at social justice. They warned that the YSRCP would face significant political backlash for “breaking the hearts of Dalits,” predicting dire consequences in upcoming elections and local political contests. Central to their demands was the immediate arrest of Narayana Swamy, whom they accused of collaborating with Govindayya in the statue burning case.

TDP workers insisted that swift action be taken to reaffirm the rule of law and restore trust among Dalits in the region. “We will not rest until justice is served

and those responsible for this heinous act are brought before the law,” declared one of the party’s senior leaders at the protest. Community Reaction and Broader Context: The protest attracted considerable attention from local residents and media.

Many Dalit community members joined the demonstration, expressing outrage over the desecration of the Ambedkar statue and calling for uncompromising action against those implicated in the incident. Political observers note that the campaign over the statue burning has heightened tensions between TDP and YSRCP supporters in Chittoor and may escalate the political rivalry in the days ahead.

TDP’s protests in Chittoor highlight not only the sensitivity surrounding Ambedkar’s legacy but also the intense political competition in Andhra Pradesh as parties compete for support among Dalit voters and other marginalized communities. With the controversy still unfolding, all eyes remain on law enforcement’s next steps, the fate of Narayana Swamy, and the evolving political dynamics in the region.

Train Horror: Woman from Erode Escapes Sexual Assault Attempt on Kurla Express

TPN BUREAU, CHITTOOR, 9TH OCTOBER

In yet another disturbing incident highlighting the increasing number of atrocities against women on trains, a young woman from Erode, Tamil Nadu narrowly escaped a sexual assault attempt by a rogue by name Sankar, 45 traveling to Erode on cloth business by the Kurla Express from Bangalore to Erode.

The horrifying incident took place early Wednesday morning, once again underlining the urgent need for tighter security measures on trains to safeguard women passengers. According to police reports, the 24-year-old victim, who works for a private IT company in Bangalore, had boarded the Kurla Express on Tuesday night to travel home to Erode. She was seated in a reserved compartment, expecting a routine overnight journey.

Among the other passengers in the same com-

partment was a 45-year-old man identified as Shankar, a businessman from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, who was on his way to Erode for his garment trade. However, as the train passed Dharmapuri in the early hours of Wednesday, Shankar allegedly attempted to sexually assault the woman. Shocked and terrified, the young woman immediately started screaming for help. Her cries alerted fellow passengers nearby, who rushed to her aid.

The other travelers quickly intervened and caught hold of the accused before he could escape. The passengers immediately informed the railway police about the incident. On receiving the complaint, officers from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) swung into action. The police detained Shankar when the train reached Salem railway



station around 4 a.m. on Wednesday. After preliminary inquiries, he was formally arrested and taken into custody for further investigation.

The police have registered a case under relevant sections dealing with sexual assault and harassment of women. The investigation is currently underway to gather additional evidence and statements from passengers who witnessed

the incident. This unfortunate event adds to a growing list of reports involving harassment and abuse of women commuters across various parts of the country. Despite the presence of helpline numbers and railway police patrolling units, several such incidents continue to occur, raising concerns about women’s safety during long-distance and nighttime travel. Authorities

have urged women passengers to immediately report any suspicious behavior or harassment to the railway helpline. Meanwhile, women’s rights groups have demanded stronger surveillance systems, including installation of more CCTV cameras and the continuous presence of security personnel in all reserved coaches, to ensure safe travel for women across India.

Flexis of Dr. Sudhakar appeared in Jagan's visit

TPN BUREAU, NARSIPATNAM, 9th October: Dalit Groups Protest with Flexi Sheets Ahead of Jagan’s Visit to Narsipatnam: Narsipatnam, Anakapalle District: Tension gripped Narsipatnam on Wednesday as several flexi sheets bearing the image of late Dr. Sudhakar were displayed across key locations in the town, ahead of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s visit to the region. The flexis carried a sharp message that sparked public attention: “Are those who committed murders because they could not provide masks talking about medical colleges? People... be careful.”

The display of these provocative posters coincided with Jagan’s

scheduled inspection of the under-construction government medical college at Makavaram in Narsipatnam constituency. The messages, set up by certain Dalit group leaders, directly referred to the controversial case of Dr. K. Sudhakar, an anesthesiologist who served at Narsipatnam Government Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dalit organizations have long accused Jagan’s previous government of indirectly causing Dr. Sudhakar’s death.

They allege that Dr. Sudhakar, a Dalit doctor, was publicly humiliated, mentally harassed, and suspended after raising concerns over the shortage of protective gear and masks for medical staff at the height of the pan-

demic. The doctor’s tragic death under mysterious circumstances later intensified criticism against the then YSRCP administration. As news of Jagan’s visit spread, several Dalit activists in Narsipatnam and nearby villages expressed outrage, calling for justice for Dr. Sudhakar.

The activists alleged that those responsible for his humiliation had faced no consequences despite widespread protests at the time. “It’s an insult to his memory that the same people who made his life unbearable are now visiting medical colleges and speaking about healthcare development,” said a local Dalit leader, demanding accountability from the former ruling party. Au-



thorities swiftly moved to remove the provocative flexis from prominent public places, including junctions, bus stops, and near government offices.

Police maintained a close vigil in the area to prevent the situation from escalating during the former Chief Minister’s visit. The incident has once again brought the issue of justice for Dr. Sudhakar back into public discussion, reviving old wounds among many in the Dalit community. Political

observers note that the resurfacing of this controversy just ahead of Jagan’s public engagements could have wider political implications, especially in the Anakapalle region where Dalit sentiment runs strong.

While Jagan’s visit aimed to highlight progress in medical education and infrastructure, the unexpected protest through flexi displays turned the spotlight back on one of the most painful chapters of his previous tenure.

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 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.

PM Modi Inaugurates Rs 19,650-Crore Navi Mumbai International Airport



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Navi Mumbai International Airport, marking a major milestone in India's aviation sector. Built at a cost of 19,650 crore, the Greenfield airport is expected to significantly boost trade, tourism, and connectivity across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, and the Konkan belt. PM Modi, joined by Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, was given a walk-through of the state-of-the-art facility before unveiling it to the public. Addressing the

gathering, PM Modi said the airport's inauguration ends Mumbai's long wait for a second major international gateway. "This is a big step toward the vision of Viksit Bharat, which aims for gati aur pragati (speed and progress)," he said. Highlighting the government's achievements, Modi noted that India had only 74 airports in 2014, which has now grown to 160, thanks in part to the UDAN scheme. "Lakhs of people have taken to the skies for the first time, fulfilling their dreams," he added. Chief Minister Fadnavis called the airport a "game-changer" that will "redefine air travel" and drive Maharashtra's growth. The airport, built under a

Public-Private Partnership between Mumbai International Airport Ltd (a subsidiary of Adani Airports Holdings Ltd) and CIDCO, is designed to handle 2 crore passengers annually in its initial phase, and eventually scale up to 90 million. Equipped with a 3,700-metre runway, the airport will operate in tandem with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to ease congestion and place Mumbai among global cities with multi-airport systems like London and Tokyo. Airlines such as IndiGo, Akasa Air, and Air India Express have already announced plans to operate from the new facility, with domestic routes launching soon.

Kerala Assembly Uproar: CM Vijayan's Height Remark Sparks Body Shaming Row

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's comment mocking the short stature of an opposition MLA has ignited a political storm and accusations of body shaming in the state assembly. The controversial remark came on Wednesday during a heated Assembly session marked by scuffles and shouting between ruling and opposition members over the alleged disappearance of gold from the dwarapalaka idols at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple. As the Opposition boycotted proceedings, tensions escalated when some of its MLAs clashed with the House's watch and ward staff, including female personnel. In response, CM Vijayan, while addressing the unrest, made a veiled reference to an unnamed opposition legislator involved in the scuffle. Using colloquial language, the Chief Minister mocked the MLA's short height and suggested that his actions were not due to physical strength but because of the legislative immunity he enjoys as an elected representative. The comment quickly drew sharp criticism. Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan condemned the Chief Minister's remark, calling it "politically incorrect" and "body shaming." He added, "Calling themselves progressives is meaningless. They ought to be living in 19th-century Spain." The episode has added fuel to the ongoing protests by the Opposition in the Assembly over the Sabarimala gold-plating controversy. The



Opposition has been demanding accountability over missing gold and accusing the ruling LDF government of trying to deflect from the issue. The height remark has now shifted the spotlight from the gold-plating issue

to concerns about the decorum of debate in the House, sparking fresh outrage on social media and in political circles. No apology or clarification has been issued by CM Vijayan so far.

Centre Rebuts Mamata's 'No Flood Funds' Claim, Says ₹1,290 Crore Released to Bengal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid criticism from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the Centre's alleged inaction during the Darjeeling flash floods, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry on Tuesday clarified that the Central government has already released ₹1,290 crore to the state under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP). The Ministry rejected Banerjee's accusation that the Centre had not extended any financial help to manage the floods or responded to her repeated calls for setting up an Indo-Bhutan River Commission. In a statement, it said the Centre remains actively engaged with Bhutan on issues of river erosion, siltation, and flash floods affecting trans-border rivers in north Bengal. "The Government of India is in regular contact with Bhutanese authorities to address the shared concerns on river management," the Ministry said, adding that both countries are coordinating on mitigation efforts related to river debris and sudden water surges. Mamata Banerjee had earlier claimed that her government had received "zero support" from the Centre for tackling recurring flash floods in the region and demanded the formation of a joint river commission with Bhutan. She also criticised the Centre for not recognising the "urgent ecological threat" posed by trans-border rivers flowing from Bhutan into Bengal.



The Centre, however, maintained that it has provided substantial assistance through existing mechanisms, including FMBAP, and urged the state government to strengthen coordination with central agencies to implement flood control and disaster mitiga-

tion projects more effectively. The recent flash floods in north Bengal, triggered by intense rainfall and glacial water surges, have left several dead and displaced thousands, prompting a political row over relief and accountability.

Vijay Video Calls Families of Karur Stampede Victims, Promises Visit



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Nearly 10 days after the tragic stampede at Karur during his campaign rally that claimed 41 lives, actor-turned-politician Vijay reached out to bereaved families via video calls on Monday evening. The move comes amidst mounting criticism over his absence from the tragedy site and delay in offering condolences in person. The outreach, conducted by Vijay's party Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK), was coordinated by K G Arun Raj, TVK's general secretary for propaganda and policy. Raj, a former Income Tax official, led a team from Chennai to initiate the process. According to party insiders, at least eight families were contacted on the first day, with all 27 affected families expected to receive video calls in the coming days. Families were instructed not to record the private conversations, which lasted only a few minutes

each. Vijay reportedly expressed sorrow, offered support, and promised to meet them in person soon. The actor's low-profile response to the September 27 stampede had drawn sharp criticism from political opponents and sections of the public, who accused him of "fleeing" Karur the same night without meeting the victims' families. Many questioned the handling of crowd control at the event and the apparent lack of accountability. TVK leaders defended Vijay's response, citing security concerns and the need to avoid further disruption during the ongoing investigation. The party is reportedly planning a formal condolence meet later this month. While the video calls may ease some public anger, questions remain over event mismanagement and the future of TVK's mass outreach strategy as the state gears up for the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections.

Dulquer Salmaan, Film Stars' Houses Raided Again In Luxury Car Smuggling Case

Kerala HC Allows to Seek Release of Car



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Kerala High Court permitted actor Dulquer Salmaan to approach customs authorities for the provisional release of his seized luxury vehicle — a 2004 Land Rover Defender — taken during the recent crackdown under 'Operation Numkhor'. Justice V.G. Arun directed the actor to file an application under Section 110A of the Customs Act, 1962 with the Additional Commissioner of Customs in Kochi, who must decide on the matter within one week of submission. The court also emphasised that provisional release is a legal right under normal conditions and rejection, if any, must be backed by a "speaking order" detailing reasons. The Land Rover was among over 35 luxury vehicles seized during raids on multiple properties, including the residences of actors Dulquer Salmaan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Customs officials allege

that these vehicles were illegally imported from Bhutan using falsified registrations to evade taxes. Dulquer had earlier submitted documents to prove the vehicle's legality, but his initial request for release was denied by Customs. Challenging the decision, the actor moved the High Court seeking relief. The court's interim order now opens the door for the actor to present his case again before the competent authority. Operation Numkhor, launched by Indian Customs, is aimed at identifying and penalising tax evasion involving the import of high-end vehicles through deceptive means. The investigation is still ongoing. On the professional front, Dulquer is preparing for the release of his Tamil-Telugu bilingual film 'Kaantha', a family drama teased on his 42nd birthday. The case highlights growing scrutiny on luxury imports and tax compliance in India's film industry and high society.

CIA Files Reveal Alleged Biden Cover-Up of Ukraine Corruption Complaints



TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

President Joe Biden’s alleged involvement in suppressing corruption concerns in Ukraine during his tenure as Vice President in the Obama administration. According to a report by the New York Post, the files reveal that Ukrainian officials were “bewildered and disappointed” by Biden’s anti-corruption speech during his December 2015 visit to Kyiv, citing his family’s business ties to the controversial energy firm Burisma. The documents, recently uncovered during an internal CIA review ordered by Director John Ratcliffe, suggest that Biden’s then-national security adviser, Colin Kahl, intervened to prevent a damaging intelligence report from being included in the President’s Daily Brief (PDB). An internal CIA email dated February 10, 2016, from a person identified as “PDF Briefer” stated that Kahl “would strongly prefer the report not/ not be disseminated,” a rare and highly unusual move for intelligence handling. At the time of Biden’s speech, his

son Hunter Biden was reportedly earning USD 1 million annually as a board member at Burisma, a company long accused of corruption. Ukrainian officials, the documents say, privately viewed Biden’s public remarks as hypocritical, given the ongoing US media scrutiny of Hunter Biden’s role. The PDB is the most sensitive intelligence report delivered to the US President, compiling insights from across the 18-agency intelligence community. Intelligence officials claim this omission shielded the Obama administration from internal criticism and public scrutiny at a crucial time. The revelations add a new dimension to past accusations of political interference in foreign policy and intelligence reporting. The documents also implicate senior intelligence officials from the Obama era, including James Clapper, who is reportedly under federal investigation for his role in the Trump-Russia probe. The Biden administration has not yet responded to the claims.

Indian Captured Fighting for Russia in Ukraine, MEA Verifying Claim



TPN Correspondent | Pyongyang

Ukraine has claimed to have captured a 22-year-old Indian national allegedly fighting for the Russian army. The man, identified as Majoti Sahil Mohamed Hussein from Morbi, Gujarat, appeared in a video released by Ukraine’s 63rd Mechanised Brigade. However, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not yet confirmed his identity or the circumstances. “We are ascertaining the veracity of the report. No formal communication has been received from the Ukrainian side so far,” MEA sources told NDTV. According to The Kyiv Independent, Hussein had initially gone to Russia for studies but ended up joining the Russian army under duress. In the video, Hussein claimed he was sentenced to seven years in a Russian prison on drug charges and was later offered a deal: military service in exchange for release. “I didn’t want to stay in prison, so I

signed a contract for the ‘special military operation’,” he said, referring to Russia’s war in Ukraine. After only 16 days of training, Hussein was sent on a combat mission on October 1. He claims to have fought for three days before surrendering to Ukrainian forces following a dispute with his commander. “I walked up to a Ukrainian trench, put down my rifle, and said I didn’t want to fight. I needed help,” he told the Ukrainian military. Hussein also alleged that promises of financial compensation were not fulfilled and expressed his unwillingness to return to Russia. This incident follows earlier reports that Russia has been recruiting foreign nationals, including Indians, with false job offers. In January, India reported 12 deaths and 16 missing cases among Indians misled into fighting for Russia. The Indian government has since raised the issue with Moscow, seeking early release of its citizens caught in the conflict.

“Transformative President”: Canadian PM Praises Trump Over India-Pak Peace

TPN Bureau | Washington

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney lauded former U.S. President Donald Trump as a “transformative president” during bilateral talks at the White House, notably crediting him for fostering peace between India and Pakistan. The remarks came during Carney’s second visit to the Oval Office since assuming office in March 2025. “You hosted me and some of my colleagues a few months ago, and I said at the time, ‘You are a transformative president,’” Carney told Trump. “Since then, the transformation in the economy, unprecedented commitments of NATO partners, peace from India-Pakistan through to Azerbaijan-Armenia, disabling Iran as a force of terror—these were important.” Trump, visibly pleased, nodded during the exchange. He has repeatedly claimed credit for mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during a 2025 border confrontation—claims that New Delhi has strongly denied. Indian officials have maintained that the ceasefire followed a request from Pakistan’s military leadership and not due to third-party intervention. Carney’s visit also comes ahead of a scheduled review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). While trade tensions persist—particularly over U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber, aluminium, steel, and automobiles—Carney offered no concrete breakthroughs following the meeting. “We’re focused on building new opportunities,” he said in a later statement. During the meeting, Trump humorously referred to earlier controversial remarks about annexing Canada, joking about a “merger,” to which Carney replied, “That wasn’t where I was going.” Despite the upbeat tone and mutual praise, the talks did not yield any announcements on tariff relief. Trump praised Carney as a “world-class leader” and hinted at future progress, stating, “I think they’re going to walk away very happy.” Carney concluded by reaffirming support for U.S. efforts in the Middle East and expressed optimism over future trade negotiations.



LeT-ISKP Alliance Exposed: ISI Weaponising Terror in Balochistan, Kashmir



TPN Correspondent | Paris

A new Indian intelligence dossier has revealed a dangerous nexus between Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), orchestrated and funded by Pakistan’s intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The report highlights Pakistan’s continued use of terror groups as tools of statecraft, now focusing on destabilising Balochistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir. The dossier reveals that ISKP, once labelled un-Islamic by the Afghan Taliban, is being restructured by ISI to wage a hybrid war against Baloch nationalists and anti-Pakistan factions within the Taliban regime. Recent editions of ISKP’s propaganda magazine Yalgaar also indicate a shift towards Kashmir, marking a dangerous expansion of the terror threat in South Asia. A crucial piece of evidence is a photograph showing ISKP’s Balochistan coordinator, Mir Shafiq Mengal, handing a pistol to LeT’s Nazim-e-Ala, Rana Mohammad Ashfaq. The image reportedly captures the formalisation of a terror alliance, crafted under direct ISI supervision. Mengal, son of ex-Balochistan Chief Minister Nasir Mengal, has long operated as an ISI asset. Known for running death squads targeting Baloch nationalists, he now facilitates ISKP operations, managing arms, funding, and logistics. Under ISI’s guidance, ISKP bases were set up in Mastung and Khuzdar to suppress local resistance and stage attacks in Afghanistan. After Baloch fighters killed 30 ISKP militants in March 2025, the ISI turned to LeT to rebuild its proxy strength. By June 2025, LeT leaders Rana Ashfaq and Saifullah Kasuri hosted a Jigra in Balochistan, pledging jihad against “anti-Pakistan” forces. Experts warn the LeT-ISKP collaboration signals a new phase in Pakistan’s proxy war doctrine—merging extremist factions under state control. The move could reignite terrorism in Kashmir and intensify unrest in Balochistan and Afghanistan. As Pakistan’s denials grow weaker, the evidence of its deep state’s terror complicity becomes harder to ignore.

UK PM Keir Starmer in India to Boost Trade Ties Post-FTA

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday for a two-day visit aimed at strengthening economic and strategic ties with India following the signing of a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) earlier this year. Accompanied by a 125-member delegation of top business leaders—including British Airways CEO Sean Doyle—Starmer’s visit signals a renewed focus on expanding the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the “Vision 2035” roadmap. Upon arrival at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Starmer was welcomed by Maharashtra and Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar. Later on Wednesday, Starmer is expected to hold discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. On Thursday, Starmer will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The leaders will review progress on the bilateral partnership and explore new areas of cooperation, particularly in fintech, defence, climate, and trade. The leaders will then address the CEO Forum and the 6th edition of the Global Fintech Fest, where they will engage with Indian and UK business leaders on opportunities arising from the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). With bilateral trade currently valued at \$54.8 billion, both countries



view the new FTA as a central pillar for future economic growth. The agreement includes tariff reductions on British

goods like whisky and medical devices and Indian exports like garments and frozen prawns. However, despite busi-

ness calls for expanded labour mobility, Starmer ruled out easing visa rules for Indian professionals.

Gold Hits Record High of ₹1.24 Lakh per 10 Grams

Gold prices soared by ₹700 reaching an all-time high of ₹1.24,000 per 10 grams in the national capital. This sharp jump comes amid rising global uncertainty, driven by fears of a prolonged US government shutdown and increasing expectations of further interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9% purity had settled at ₹1,23,300 per 10 grams on Monday. The fresh surge marks a significant milestone for gold, which continues to gain favour as a safe-haven asset in times of economic and geopolitical turbulence. Traders and analysts attributed the price rally to strong safe-haven demand, as investors around the world are growing cautious. The risk of a fiscal deadlock in the United States, combined with the Fed's dovish signals, has weakened the dollar and boosted demand for gold. "Concerns over the US government shutdown and talk of more rate cuts have pushed investors toward safer assets like gold. The weakening of the dollar has further supported this up-trend," said a senior analyst from a Delhi-based bullion trading firm. In addition to global factors, strong domestic buying ahead of the festive season is also supporting prices in India. With festivals like Dussehra and Diwali approaching, demand for gold jewelry and investment products is expected to rise further, which could drive prices even higher. Silver also saw a modest gain, trading at ₹1,48,500 per kg, up by ₹500 from the previous close. Bullion traders expect volatility to persist in the coming weeks, with gold likely to remain firm if economic uncertainties continue to mount.



World Bank Ups India's Growth Forecast to 6.5% Remains Fastest-Growing Major Economy



The World Bank on Tuesday raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.3%, reaffirming India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. The upward revision comes on the back of robust consumption growth, improved rural demand, and favourable domestic conditions. According to the World Bank's South Asia Development Update (October 2025), India's economic momentum has been supported by better-than-expected agricultural output and rising rural wages. Recent reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) — including simplification of compliance and reduction in tax brackets — have also contributed to boosting business activity. "India is expected to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy," the report stated, highlighting strong internal drivers of growth. However, the World Bank also issued a cautionary note, citing external risks. The imposition of 50% tariffs by the United States on nearly 75% of Indian exports is expected to impact trade and may slow down economic growth in the coming year. As a result, the GDP forecast for 2026-27 has been revised downward to 6.3%, from the earlier projection of 6.5%. The report noted that growth across South Asia is projected to slow sharply from 6.6% in 2025 to 5.8% in 2026, mainly due to weaker export demand and tightening global financial conditions. Despite the slowdown, South Asia will still outperform other emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). Inflation in India is expected to remain within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, aided by stable commodity prices and monetary policy continuity. Overall, while India's economic outlook remains strong, the report emphasizes the need to stay vigilant amid rising global trade tensions and policy uncertainties.

Tata Trusts Infighting Deepens, Govt Steps In Amid 'Coup Attempt' Allegations

A power struggle within Tata Trusts, the principal shareholder of Tata Sons, has escalated sharply, with reports of a "coup attempt" by four trustees against Chairman Noel Tata. The infighting has drawn the attention of the government, which is now actively engaging to prevent instability at the \$180-billion Tata Group. Sources close to the Tata Group told CNBC-TV18 that the Centre is "fully seized of the matter" and cannot remain a silent spectator. The tension centres around governance issues, board appointments at Tata Sons, and a growing divide between factions of trustees. On Tuesday evening, Noel Tata and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, accompanied by Vice-Chairman Venu Srinivasan and trustee Darius Khambata, held a closed-door meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also attended the high-level discussions. The current rift is reportedly driven by four trustees — Darius Khambata, Jehangir HC Jehangir, Pramit Jhaveri, and Mehli Mistry — who are alleged to be functioning as a "super board," undermining Noel Tata's authority. Key disagreements include the proposed ₹1,000-crore equity infusion into Tata International, chaired by Noel Tata, and suggestions around new executive roles at Tata Sons. In contrast, the faction opposed by Noel Tata reportedly pushed for the appointment of Mehli Mistry to the Tata Sons board—an idea Noel resisted. Discontent over unilateral decisions has been reflected in internal communications, including a May 26 email from Mistry objecting to board appointments without full trustee approval. The Tata Trusts board is set to meet on October 10, with key philanthropic decisions on the agenda. While sources claim the meeting is unrelated to the internal tensions, many expect the power struggle to overshadow proceedings. The government's intervention underlines the high stakes, as continued insta-



bility could impact the broader functioning of one of India's most critical corporate institutions.

September CPI Seen at 1.2% Amid Sharp Fall in Food Prices



India's retail inflation is expected to ease significantly, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) projected at just 1.2% for September 2025, according to Bank of Baroda's latest Price Picture report. The report attributes this sharp moderation to continued deflation in essential food items, especially tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP), alongside a favourable base effect. The BoB Essential Commodities Index (BoB ECI) remained in deflation for the fifth straight month, showing a 1% year-on-year decline in September and a sharper 3.8% fall in the first six days of October. Month-on-month, the index dropped 0.3%, indicating sustained easing in food price pressures. Retail prices of tomatoes fell by 8.3% in September, while onions and potatoes witnessed even steeper declines — 46.2% and 30.9%, respectively. These corrections were driven by strong market arrivals and efficient supply chain management. "Headline CPI is experiencing a food-driven downward spiral, supported by robust arrival statistics of TOP vegetables," the report stated. Notably, cumulative arrivals of these key vegetables rose by 10.3% in FYTD26, a sharp turnaround from a 15.4% contraction during the same period last year. Additionally, global food prices have remained favourable, and recent GST rate cuts by automakers, FMCG companies, and e-commerce platforms are also contributing to the disinflationary trend. Bank of Baroda now expects the headline CPI to fall well below the Reserve Bank of India's inflation forecast for FY26, easing pressure on monetary policy and potentially creating room for rate cuts if needed. The continued deflationary trend could also support consumer sentiment and boost discretionary spending in the upcoming festive season, further aiding economic recovery.

Rupee Rises 2 Paise to 88.75 Against U.S. Dollar Amid Range-Bound Trade



The Indian rupee appreciated marginally by 2 paise to 88.75 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Wednesday, tracking a positive trend in domestic equities and limited inflows linked to ongoing IPO activity. The local currency had closed at 88.77, after falling 3 paise. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.76 and moved slightly to 88.75, showing modest strength despite ongoing global headwinds. Traders described the movement as range-bound, with broader cues keeping the currency under pressure. "Rupee is expected to remain in the range of 88.50 to 89.00 for the day as inflows on account of IPOs remain tepid with subscriptions being completed only on the last day," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. He also warned that negative global cues, including a stronger dollar index and weaker Asian currencies, could challenge the rupee's position unless the RBI steps in to defend the crucial 88.80 level. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, was trading higher at 98.85, up 0.28%. Meanwhile, Brent crude oil rose 0.75% to \$65.94 per barrel, putting some pressure on import-heavy economies like India. On the equity front, domestic markets opened strong with the Sensex gaining 254.02 points to reach 82,180.77, while the Nifty rose by 70.25 points to 25,178.55. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers on Tuesday, investing ₹1,440.66 crore in Indian equities, according to exchange data. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also noted that India and the U.S. remain in active talks over a bilateral trade agreement, though the ongoing U.S. government shutdown may delay further negotiations.

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 laybys, 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 laybys, 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 Kalaipuli 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.

