

PM TO LAUNCH PRADHAN MANTRI DHAN DHAANYA KRISHI YOJANA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the Pradhan Mantri DhanDhaanyaKrishiYojana (PMDDKY) on October 11 in New Delhi, a key initiative aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and improving the welfare of farmers across India. The scheme has identified 100 districts nationwide for its initial rollout, and from Andhra Pradesh, Alluri Sitaramaraju, Anantapuram, Anantamayya, and Sri Sathya Sai districts have been selected to participate. To mark the occasion at the state level, a special event will be held at Lam in Guntur district, with Agriculture Minister KinjarapuAtchannaaidu attending on behalf of the state government.

According to Director of Agriculture Dilli Rao, IAS, the PMDDKY is designed to run for six

years and is aligned with the Union Budget 2025-26 priorities for agriculture. The program aims to comprehensively address the challenges faced by farmers by focusing on increasing productivity, promoting crop diversification, supporting sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices, and enhancing irrigation facilities. Additionally, the scheme emphasizes improved access to credit, post-harvest storage, and value addition infrastructure, which will collectively contribute to higher income and better livelihoods for farmers.

A four-member delegation from each selected district in Andhra Pradesh will attend the launch event in Delhi, ensuring that the state's agricultural interests are represented at the

national level. The delegation will also bring back insights and updates from the central government to help implement the scheme effectively at the district level. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the preparations for the rollout and directed district Collectors to ensure active participation of public representatives, local officials, and farmer groups in the program. On the day of the launch, awareness campaigns and live streaming of the Prime Minister's event will be organized at district headquarters and at all KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs) across the state. These efforts aim to ensure that farmers are well-informed about the benefits of the scheme, as well as the resources and support available to



them. With its multi-pronged approach, the Pradhan MantriDhanDhaanyaKrishiYojana is expected to strengthen agricultural productivity,

promote sustainable practices, and improve the overall well-being of farmers, aligning with Andhra Pradesh's broader vision of modern and resilient agriculture.

NMC ENDORSES PPP MODEL FOR MEDICAL COLLEGES: PATTABHI

TPN/Vijayawada | October 10
Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Andhra Pradesh SwachhAndhra Corporation Chairman KommareddyPattabhiram has strongly defended the state government's decision to establish medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, saying the initiative aligns with recommendations made by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Pattabhiram referred to recent remarks by NMC Chairman Dr. AbhijatChandrakant Seth, who stated that the PPP model is among the most effective ways to advance medical education and healthcare infrastructure in India. Citing these comments, Pattabhiram questioned the opposition voiced by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who has criticized the state's move to adopt the model.

"The NMC itself has endorsed the PPP model for expanding medical education. How can Jagan Reddy oppose a policy supported by the country's top medical regulatory body?" Pattabhiram asked. He added that the NDA government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, had taken up this ap



proach to accelerate the construction of new medical colleges across Andhra Pradesh.

Explaining the benefits of the PPP system, Pattabhiram said the model ensures timely completion of projects, operational efficiency, and greater access to medical education, especially for students from economically weaker sections. The initiative, he noted, will help bridge the gap between public and private investment in healthcare infrastructure while maintaining transparency and accountability.

He further said that under the PPP model, the state will partner with reputed private institutions that have proven expertise in managing medical education and hospital facilities. "This collaboration will not only improve the quality of medical education but also enhance healthcare delivery in underserved areas," Pattabhiram said.

According to him, the new institutions will collectively add around 110 medical seats reserved for students from underprivileged backgrounds, ensuring that the benefits of expanded capacity reach those most in need. He said the state government has a clear roadmap to ensure fair admissions, reasonable fee structures, and consistent monitoring of academic standards in these colleges.

Pattabhiram asserted that while the NDA government is committed to development and modernization in health and education, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) is resorting to what he called "politics of obstruction." "Instead of supporting a forward-looking initiative that improves healthcare and creates opportunities for youth, Jagan Reddy and his party are behaving like a gang of disruptors trying to block every positive step," he said.

Reiterating the state government's focus on reform-driven governance, Pattabhiram emphasized that the PPP model would enable Andhra Pradesh to expand medical infrastructure faster than conventional public projects. "The objective is clear — better facilities, better education, and better healthcare for all," he concluded.

MINISTERS SHOULD BE DRIVING FORCE: CM

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has advised his ministers to act as the driving force for their respective departments. He emphasized that while officials provide rules and suggestions, it is ultimately the ministers who must steer their departments effectively. Chandrababu highlighted that ministers' capabilities become evident only when they interact with non-performing officials, guide

them, and ensure work gets done. He reminded the cabinet that while ministers are responsible for contesting elections, officials are not to be held accountable in the political arena.

During a recent cabinet meeting, after completing the scheduled agenda items, Chandrababu discussed current developments with the ministers. Reflecting on his tenure, he noted that although he has been Chief Minister

for 15 years, the volume of investments secured in the past 15 months has been unprecedented. He expressed satisfaction over the progress and urged ministers to take responsibility for ensuring that approved investments translate into operational projects on the ground.

The Chief Minister instructed that for each project approved in the cabinet, the concerned departmental minister must coordinate and en

sure that work commences without delays. He stressed the importance of effective coordination to implement decisions efficiently.

Chandrababu also highlighted the need to communicate the benefits of these investments to the public, both politically and socially, so that citizens can understand the tangible outcomes of the government's efforts. He pointed out that while attracting large-scale invest

ments requires considerable effort, it is equally important that the positive impact reaches the people and is clearly visible.

Through this guidance, the Chief Minister reinforced his vision of a proactive, results-oriented cabinet, where ministers not only approve projects but also actively drive their execution, ensuring rapid development and transparent governance in the state.

AAROgyasRI IS WEAKENING BY CHANDRABABU: VIDADALA RAJINI



TPN/Vijayawada
Former Minister Vidadala Rajini launched a sharp attack on the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the flagship Aarogyasri health scheme has collapsed under his administration and "turned into Anarogyasri."

Rajini said that with over 3,000 crore in pending arrears, several network hospitals have stopped providing services and displayed notices refusing treatment to Aarogyasri patients. Despite repeated representations and letters to the government, no action has been taken, she said. "Not a single state in the country has witnessed such a total breakdown of healthcare services," she added.

The former minister highlighted that under the previous YSRCP government, Aarogyasri services were expanded from 1,059 to 3,257 medical procedures, the AarogyasriAasara initiative was launched, and the number of network hospitals increased from 900 to 2,300. She also recalled the introduction of the Family Doctor scheme, which brought medi

cal services closer to rural communities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rajini accused the present government of neglecting public health as network and PHC doctors remain on strike, leaving patients to fend for themselves. "Families are being forced to sell assets for education and healthcare," she said.

Criticizing the government's proposed insurance-based healthcare model, Rajini remarked, "They have no clarity—sometimes it's an insurance model, other times a hybrid model—but even that is capped at just 2.5 lakh."

She alleged that while other states are adopting YSR's Aarogyasri model, the coalition government is attempting to dismantle it by moving towards the privatization of medical colleges.

The YSR Congress Party demanded the immediate clearance of arrears to hospitals and a rollback of the PPP model in healthcare. "The government's duty is to ensure health and financial security for every citizen. This coalition is doing neither," Rajini said.

ONLINE PORTAL BY AP WOMEN's COMMISSION

TPN/Vijayawada | October 10

In a significant move to strengthen women's safety and empowerment, Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission Chairperson RayapatiShailaja announced that an online grievance redressal portal will soon be launched to ensure the speedy and transparent resolution of women-related issues across the state.

Speaking at a Spotlight Session jointly organised by the UGC Women's Study Centre and the AP Women's Commission at KBN College, One Town, Vijayawada, on Friday, Shailaja said the initiative aims to simplify the complaint process and make it accessible to women from all sections of society.

Explaining the fea

tures of the upcoming portal, Shailaja said it will enable complainants to file cases online without the need to physically visit the Commission's office. "Women will also be able to track the progress of their complaints in real time, ensuring transparency, confidentiality, and accountability at every stage of the process," she explained.

The Chairperson reiterated the Commission's determination to take swift and decisive action in all cases of harassment, exploitation, or atrocities against women and girls. She issued a stern warning against those using social media platforms to post objectionable or abusive content targeting women. "Strict action will be taken against anyone indulging in such behav



our," she declared.

Referring to the recent Kurupam incident, Shailaja said the Commission had taken suo-motucognisance of the case and that she had personally visited the area to assess the situa

tion. "We will not tolerate any form of harassment or exploitation of women. The Commission stands firmly with victims and will ensure justice is delivered swiftly," she asserted.

Highlighting the im

portance of continuous awareness programmes, Shailaja stressed that such efforts must go beyond symbolic observances. "Awareness campaigns should not be limited to occasions like International Girl Child Day (October 11). They should be carried out throughout the year to create a lasting impact," she said.

The Chairperson also revealed plans to integrate women's rights and legal awareness education into the school and college curricula to help students understand the laws that protect them. "Educating young people about gender equality, legal rights, and digital safety is essential to preventing many issues before they occur," she added.

Shailaja noted that a

majority of complaints received by the Commission arise from mistakes or misjudgments made at a young age due to a lack of awareness. She emphasized the need for statewide legal literacy campaigns to empower women and girls with knowledge of their rights and remedies available under the law.

Earlier, Marpu Trust Chairperson R. Sujay interacted with Shailaja in a Q&A session, where she addressed questions related to harassment, online abuse, and preventive measures for ensuring a safer environment for women in Andhra Pradesh. Shailaja encouraged young participants to use the forthcoming digital platform responsibly and to report incidents without hesitation.

“STALL IN MALL” INITIATIVE BOOSTS RURAL ARTISANS

TPN/Vijayawada | October 10

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is extending strong market support to rural artisans and women members of self-help groups (SHGs) through its innovative "Stall in Mall" initiative, said NABARD Deputy General Manager M.M. Behera.

Inaugurating the latest edition of the exhibition at PVP Mall, Vijayawada, on Friday, Behera said the programme aims to create a sustainable market platform for SHG women and rural craftsmen, thereby improving their livelihood opportunities and ensuring greater financial independence.

The initiative, organised with the support of Nestham Voluntary Organisation under NABARD's assistance, seeks

to bridge the gap between urban consumers and rural creativity. "Through this platform, we are not only supporting livelihoods but also celebrating the cultural and artistic diversity of rural India," Behera said.

He explained that the 'Stall in Mall' exhibition will continue till January 9, featuring products from artisans across Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. He urged people in Vijayawada to visit the stalls and encourage rural artisans by purchasing their handmade products. "Each purchase makes a direct difference to the lives of these rural entrepreneurs," he emphasized.

Highlighting the success of earlier editions of the programme, Behera said the exhibitions

had featured a wide range of traditional and eco-friendly products — including handloom fabrics, jute bags, Kondapalli toys, Kalamkari prints, and pearl jewellery. These items, he noted, had attracted strong consumer response and impressive sales, proving the potential of rural craftsmanship in urban markets.

Behera added that the initiative aligns with NABARD's broader goal of promoting sustainable rural livelihoods through innovation, entrepreneurship, and value addition. He said such initiatives encourage SHG women to think beyond traditional markets and explore new opportunities in urban retail environments.

Speaking on the occasion, Nestham CEO V. Suresh said the organization, with NABARD's



support, has been successfully conducting 'Stall in Mall' exhibitions in major urban centres such as Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, each running for nearly 90 days. "Every participating artisan is allotted 15 days to display and sell their products, ensuring that a large number of SHG women and craftsmen get visibility and income opportuni

ties throughout the exhibition period," he explained.

Suresh added that the initiative has empowered hundreds of rural artisans by helping them gain exposure to consumer preferences, pricing trends, and brand presentation. "This experience not only improves their income but also enhances their confidence as entrepreneurs," he

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Honoring Nara Chandrababu Naidu’s 15-Year Journey as Chief Minister

TPN BUREAU, Chittoor ocgober 10: On the occasion of the completion of an extraordinary 15 years of service as Chief Minister dedicated to the welfare and progress of Andhra Pradesh, Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan extended heartfelt congratulations to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Highlighting Naidu's vision and leadership, Gurajala Jagan Mohan praised the Chief Minister as not only a seasoned political leader but a visionary statesman and talented architect of the state's future.

He remarked that Chandrababu Naidu has meticulously planned

Andhra Pradesh's development trajectory, especially with a keen eye on transforming the state into a global hub for Quantum Valley. Anticipating future needs, Naidu's leadership has been marked by embracing modern technology and systematic development policies. Gurajala Jagan Mohan acknowledged the pivotal role played by Chandrababu in putting Hyderabad on the global IT map, revolutionizing technology access for farmers, and expanding employment and livelihood opportunities for the youth.

The MLA lauded the Chief Minister's foresight in frameworks such as Smart Andhra

Pradesh, infrastructure advancements, e-governance initiatives, water management, and strengthening farm-to-market linkages. The visionary approach is also reflected in fundamental state projects like the conceptualization of Amaravati as the capital, the innovative village secretariat system, and various farmer-support schemes that represent a people-centric governance model.

Each era under Naidu's leadership, Gurajala noted, has brought progressive changes that positively impacted citizens' lives. In addition to his impressive administrative skills and work ethic, Chandrababu

Naidu's transparent governance has consistently set an example. Gurajala also underscored Naidu's significant contributions at the national level, placing Andhra Pradesh on a development path aligned with good governance and technological modernization.

The Chittoor MLA expressed optimism on this milestone, wishing the Chief Minister many more successful years filled with good health and continued dedication to public service. He called Naidu a blessing for the state, envisioning Andhra Pradesh progressing steadily towards becoming a smart state under his able gov-

ernance. As the state marks this memorable 15 years of leadership by CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, his legacy as a visionary, reformer, and unwavering public servant shines bright, setting the stage for Andhra Pradesh's bright future.

The MLA pointed to various sectors where Chandrababu's exceptional work ethic and transparent governance set a strong example. Naidu's leadership led the state towards modernization through initiatives such as Smart Andhra Pradesh, infrastructure development, e-governance, water management, and farm-to-market linkages. Gurajala also mentioned icon-



ic projects under Naidu's tenure, including conceptualizing Amaravati as the capital city, introducing the village secretariat system, and launching farmer-friendly schemes, reflecting his people-centric governance style.

Each decision and policy during Naidu's era resulted in positive changes for the lives of Andhra Pradesh's citizens. Emphasizing Chandrababu Naidu's administrative skills, determination, and dedication to public service,

Gurajala noted the Chief Minister's unparalleled contributions at the national level as well. This milestone reaffirms Naidu's continuing role in advancing the state through innovative development and governance.

Sanitation Workers Stage Protest at Tullur CRDA Office Demanding Salary Arrears, Wage Hike



TPN BUREAU, AMARAVATHI, OCTOBER 10: Sanitation workers employed in the capital Amaravati under the auspices of the Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) besieged and staged a sit-in protest at the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) office in Tullur on Friday. The workers demanded immediate payment of two months' salary arrears for August and September and a wage hike to Rs. 21,000, seeking parity with sanitation workers in other municipalities of Andhra Pradesh.

The workers steadfastly remained seated in the office, raising slogans and vocalizing their frustration for over an hour, amid a tense atmosphere. They pressed the officials to address the salary backlog and presented a petition to the Nodal Officer, Jaya Sri, through the Deputy Collector. The protest saw active participation from sanitation workers, CITU leaders Ravi, Lakshmana, Bhagyaraju, and CPM state secretary CH Baburao, who led the agitation and voiced the workers' grievances.

After prolonged discussions between officials and representatives of the sanitation workers, and following assurances from the authorities that salary arrears would begin to be paid from Friday evening, the workers called off their protest. The union also submitted petitions demanding that along with arrear payments, wages be increased to Rs. 21,000

to bring them on par with other municipal workers across the state. They raised additional concerns regarding unpaid Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) dues affecting housekeeping workers and sanitation staff working in government offices and villages of Amaravati.

Speaking on the occasion, CPM state secretary CH Baburao condemned the government's negligent attitude toward the workers and farmers of the capital. He lamented the irony that while Amaravati is being developed with investments amounting to several lakhs of crores, sanitation workers cleaning the roads and offices had to protest for their basic wages. Baburao criticized advances being given to major construction companies like L&T, Shapoorji, and NCC, while the workers who labored for them were left unpaid. He highlighted the wage disparity where apparently Rs. 21,000 is paid to sanitation workers in surrounding municipalities such as Mangalagiri, Tadepalli, Vijayawada, and Guntur, whereas workers in Amaravati receive only Rs. 12,000, calling it an outright discrimination against the poor of the capital. Baburao accused the CRDA and government of violating labor laws and failing to provide promised social security to the workers, despite presenting a favorable image to international

banks like the World Bank. The leaders pointed out that the number of sanitation workers in Amaravati has been reduced by half, negatively impacting public health in the region. They also decried delays in rent payments to farmers and stagnation in the development of plots, expressing disappointment over the government's lack of employment provisions for local people and failure to fulfill commitments made to workers and farmers. Baburao urged the Municipal Minister Narayana to cease foreign travels and instead visit the villages of Amaravati to listen to the voices of the poor, workers, and farmers and to fulfill the promises of wage hikes and regular salary payments.

The agitation leaders warned that the protest would intensify if issues remained unresolved. Besides Baburao and Ravi, CITU leaders Lakshmana Rao, Bhagyaraju, Babu, Mabu, Sushila, Gopi, Buiji, and several others participated in the protest. The sanitation workers affirmed that they would resume agitations if the government fails to pay the full arrears and meet their demands for wage increase and improved working conditions.

The CRDA Deputy Collector Jaya Sri briefed that efforts were ongoing to resolve the payment issue, with initial payments scheduled to be deposited by Friday evening and the balance by Monday, as promised to the workers. This report covers the protest details, demands, leaders' statements, and government responses comprehensively for a 500-word news publication on the sanitation workers' agitation in Amaravati.

Give People Clean Water, Not Adulterated Liquor:



TPN BUREAU, KAKINADA, OCTOBER 10: YSRCP Leader Dadishetti Raja Slams Coalition Government. YSR Congress Party Kakinada District President Dadishetti Raja fired a strong salvo at the ruling coalition government, accusing it of neglecting public welfare and deceiving people with false promises. "Provide people clean drinking water, not adulterated liquor," he said, speaking at a press conference held at the party office in S. Annavaram village of Tuni mandal on Friday.

The meeting was attended by several key party leaders and activists, who also launched the poster for the YSR Crore Signature Campaign as part of the event. Dadishetti Raja expressed serious concern over the state of public health, particularly among students. He recalled that during the previous YSR Congress government led

by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, several RO (Reverse Osmosis) water purification plants were installed in government schools under the Nadu-Nedu scheme. These facilities, he said, provided safe drinking water to thousands of children. However, after the coalition government came to power, the maintenance of these RO plants was completely neglected. "The authorities have abandoned them to deteriorate. As a result, students are now forced to drink contaminated water, and many have fallen ill," Raja said.

The YSRCP leader

also criticized the behavior of some officials during Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent visit to Narsipatnam Medical College. According to him, the officials acted irresponsibly and tried to create unnecessary obstacles to tarnish the former Chief Minister's image. He alleged that the ruling coalition is deliberately attempting to privatize government medical colleges across the state, which would deprive poor and middle-class families of affordable education. "The government should focus on strengthening public institutions, not selling

them to corporate interests," he charged. Raja strongly advised parents to believe in government-run medical colleges and send their children there with confidence. "People know their rights and understand the value of education.

They are not naive anymore," he said, adding that the public has seen through the manipulative tactics of the present government. He warned officials and coalition leaders that power is not permanent for anyone. "A day will come when the same officials who are acting arrogantly today will

have to hide their faces in shame when our government returns to power," he said. Dadishetti Raja emphasized that despite hostile actions by the ruling coalition, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy continues to enjoy unwavering public support.

"No matter how hard they tried to stop his visit, people came in huge numbers. The love and respect for Jagan cannot be suppressed by intimidation," Raja stated. Concluding his remarks, he said the YSR Congress Party will continue to fight for the welfare of the poor, the protection of public institutions, and the right of every citizen to access clean drinking water. "We may face challenges, but our commitment to people's welfare will never fade. The future will once again belong to YSR Congress," he declared, as party workers raised slogans in support of their leader.

Konaseema Tragedy: Minister Vasamsetty Subhash Inspects Victims' Bodies, Orders Safety Reviews at Firecracker Units



TPN BUREAU, Ramachandrapuram, Konaseema District October 10: In the aftermath of the devastating fire accident at the Rayavaram Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi Firecracker Center, State Labor Minister Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Vasamsetty Subhash visited the Ramachandrapuram Area Hospital on Thursday to pay respects to the victims and assess the situation.

The explosion, which occurred earlier this week, claimed eight lives, including that of the unit's owner, sending shockwaves across the district during the festive season preparations.

Minister Subhash personally inspected the remains of the deceased at the hospital, where he was accompanied by hospital superin-

tendent Dr. Praveen, police officials, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) city president Undavilli Shiva, former municipal councilor Dangeti Gauri Shankar, and several leaders of coalition parties. Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss of life, the Minister interacted with grieving family members present at the hospital, offering words of comfort and as-

suring that the government will extend all possible support.

He directed hospital authorities and police personnel to expedite postmortem examinations so that the bodies can be promptly handed over to families for final rites. "This tragedy is heart-wrenching," Minister Subhash said. "We will ensure that the kin of the victims receive as-

sistance through State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), Chandranna Bhima, insurance coverage, and other welfare schemes available to them." Discussing the cause of the accident, Subhash revealed that forensic samples had been gathered from the fireworks center and dispatched to the Vijayawada forensic laboratory for detailed

Supremd court issues interim protection to Chevireddy Mohith Reddy

Chevireddy Mohit Reddy, son of YSRCP leader and former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, has received interim protection from the Supreme Court in the ongoing Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case. The apex court granted him relief and directed that no coercive action, including arrest, be taken against him for the next four weeks. This development comes after the Andhra Pradesh High Court rejected Mohit Reddy's anticipatory bail petition

earlier. The Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath heard the matter today. The court also issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh government and directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case to file its counter within four weeks. The matter is scheduled for the next hearing after this period. The liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh involves alleged irregularities and massive money laundering tied to liquor kick-

backs and election funding. Mohit Reddy is accused of misusing his position as the chairman of the Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) and using official vehicles to transport illicit money. Investigations suggest that he played a significant role in channeling unaccounted cash through benami companies and deploying it for the 2024 election expenditures. Mohit Reddy's defense team argued that the case against him was politically motivated and that there was no direct evidence apart from the statements of co-accused individuals. The Andhra Pradesh High Court, however, dismissed his anticipatory bail plea last week, citing the



gravity of the allegations and the ongoing investigation. Earlier this year, Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, Mohit's father, was arrested while allegedly trying to flee the country amid the investigation.

The family's companies and properties have been raided by SIT teams multiple times, uncovering several shell companies with suspicious financial transactions linked to the liquor scam. The Supreme

Court's interim protection allows Mohit Reddy temporary respite from arrest while ensuring that the probe continues robustly. The SIT has been directed to finalize their investigation and respond in court within the stipulated four weeks. This latest development is significant in the politically sensitive case that has rocked Andhra Pradesh, with prominent political figures from YSR Congress Party being implicated.

The liquor scam case itself revolves around a

staggering Rs 3,200 crore financial irregularity involving illicit funds derived from liquor sales and kickbacks. While Mohit Reddy enjoys temporary relief, the shadow of the liquor scam looms large, with the investigation ongoing and more legal hurdles expected in the coming weeks. The Supreme Court's intervention underscores the case's gravity and the judiciary's role in overseeing the legal process in high-profile political and financial scandals.

Red Run Marathon Spreads AIDS Awareness in Vijayawada

TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, 10TH OCTOBER: A marathon named Red Run was organized on the Vijayawada BRTS road under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) to promote awareness about HIV and AIDS among the youth. The event drew enthusiastic participation from hundreds of runners, including students, social activists, health workers, and fitness enthusiasts, all united by a single mission to spread awareness and combat the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS. Dr. Neelakanta Reddy, IAS, Project Director of the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, graced the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the importance of educating the youth about the causes, prevention, and social impact of HIV and AIDS. He explained that such awareness events are crucial in curbing the transmission of infections, as the younger generation today faces greater exposure to risk factors. He stated that the Red Run was not merely a sporting event but a social movement aimed at promoting responsibility, compassion, and knowledge about health and prevention. "In the current period, there are increasing incidents of young people being exposed to infections like HIV and AIDS. Awareness and proper education are the most effective tools to prevent these infections," Dr. Reddy said in his address. The event began early in the morning with an energizing warm-up session, after which participants took off from the BRTS road, cheering slogans on health, awareness, and social unity. The route was decorated with



red ribbons, the universal symbol of AIDS awareness, and banners carrying motivational messages about prevention, testing, and compassion toward HIV-positive individuals. Organizers from APSACS collaborated with local NGOs, healthcare volunteers, and educational institutions to ensure maximum participation. Volunteers distributed informative pamphlets detailing the causes, modes of transmission, and preventive measures for HIV. Medical teams were stationed at different points along the route to provide first aid and hydration facilities for the runners. Dr. Reddy also encouraged participants to act as youth ambassadors for HIV awareness by spreading accurate information and countering myths around the disease in their communities. He urged schools, colleges, and social organizations to include awareness sessions on reproductive health and HIV prevention in their educational activities. As part of the program, winners of the marathon were felicitated with med-

als and certificates. Dr. Reddy announced that the top performers from the Vijayawada Red Run will be nominated to represent Andhra Pradesh at the national-level marathon program scheduled to be held in Nagaland. This gesture aims to encourage greater youth participation in health-awareness events across the country. Participants expressed their excitement about being part of an event that combined health, fitness, and social responsibility. Many felt that initiatives like the Red Run help break misconceptions surrounding AIDS and foster empathy and inclusion for those affected by HIV. Events like the Red Run reaffirm the government's and public institutions' commitment to reducing the spread of HIV while promoting a healthy, informed, and compassionate society. By bringing people together through a shared purpose, the marathon highlighted the message that awareness and collective action remain key weapons in the fight against AIDS.

Minister Satyakumar Yadav Emphasizes Urgent Need for More Mental Health Professionals in Andhra Pradesh

TPN BUREAU, Governorpet, Vijayawada October 10: State Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav has emphasized the urgent need to strengthen mental health services across Andhra Pradesh, citing a growing shortage of psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. Speaking at an awareness conference on "Mental Health Care in Emergency Situations" organized by Indlas Hospitals on Friday at the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Hall, the minister said the government is taking concrete steps to address the scarcity of mental health professionals and ensure better mental health care for the public. Minister Yadav, who attended the conference as the chief guest, inaugurated the event by flagging off a "Mental Health Walk" organized by Indlas Hospitals to spread awareness among citizens. He participated in the walk alongside doctors, medical students, and volunteers, symbolizing the need for collective action in promoting mental well-being. Later, he unveiled a brochure titled "Mental Health Care in Emergency Situations," which highlights the importance of immediate psychological support during crises. Addressing the gathering, Minister Yadav expressed concern over the increasing incidence of mental health issues, particularly among youth. He remarked that the pressures of modern life—academic competition, professional stress, and social changes—have been causing a worrying rise in mental illnesses and suicides. "The mental stress today's youth face is leading to tragic consequences that not only affect their families but also have a deeper impact on our society and nation," he said. Citing recent health statistics, the minister noted that mental disorders have now been in-



cluded among the ten major diseases affecting people in India. He pointed out that mental health issues not only harm personal well-being but also have significant economic repercussions. "Mental illnesses contribute heavily to the loss of productivity and economic damage. If we do not treat this challenge with urgency, it will continue to weaken the country's socio-economic fabric," he cautioned. To address the severe shortage of qualified professionals, the health minister announced that the government has initiated steps to fill vacant positions and expand mental health education. He commended Indlas Hospital for launching new clinical psychology courses, describing it as a meaningful contribution to society's growing mental health needs. "We are encouraging more medical institutions to offer post-graduate courses in psychiatry and clinical psychology. Increasing PG seats will help produce more specialists capable of treating mental disorders effectively," Yadav announced. He also underlined the im-

portance of early diagnosis and timely counseling, especially at the primary healthcare level, to prevent psychological distress from escalating into severe psychiatric conditions. The minister assured that the government is developing strategies to strengthen mental health infrastructure in all districts, integrate counseling services in public hospitals, and hold awareness campaigns at schools and workplaces. Calling for collective responsibility, Minister Yadav appealed to doctors, educators, and families to collaborate in building a society that prioritizes mental well-being. He stressed that awareness, compassion, and timely treatment can save lives and build a stronger, healthier community. The event witnessed participation from leading psychiatrists, psychologists, medical faculty, and students. Various speakers discussed emergency mental health responses, suicide prevention measures, and the growing importance of psychological first aid in disaster management.

All set for entertainment. Mini Theater at Vijayawada's PNBS Ready to Reopen After 5 Years

TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 10: After a gap of almost five years, the much-talked-about mini theaters at Pandit Nehru Bus Station (PNBS) in Vijayawada are finally set to reopen, bringing renewed entertainment options for passengers and visitors. Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) officials have announced that tenders have been successfully called, and arrangements are now being made to lease the premises to the current contractor on a monthly rental basis of ₹2.50 lakh. The mini theaters, popularly known as Y Screens, were first introduced at PNBS in 2015, marking a pioneering concept in India. Designed to provide short-duration movie screenings and entertainment for bus passengers during waiting periods, the facility quickly gained attention as an innovative blend of transport utility and leisure. Equipped with modern seating, sound systems, and air-conditioning, the theaters catered to travelers looking to enjoy a cinema experience without having to leave the bus station premises. However, the venture faced difficulties in 2020 when APSRTC officials seized the premises due to the operators failing to pay rents on time. The decision effectively shut down the facility, leaving the once vibrant entertainment zone inoperational. Despite multiple attempts by APSRTC to revive the concept by inviting new bidders through tenders over the past five years, there was no significant response, resulting in the space remaining unused. In a fresh push to reopen the theaters, APSRTC has now finalized plans to lease them to the current contractor at a fixed monthly rent of ₹2.50 lakh. Officials believe this arrangement



will not only revive passenger entertainment but also generate steady income for the corporation. The reopening is expected to happen in the coming weeks after all contractual and logistical processes are completed. Interestingly, in the earlier operational phase, APSRTC had permitted the setting up of small shops around the theater to serve snacks, beverages, and other passenger needs. These stalls added to the vibrancy of the area and acted as an additional source of revenue for the bus station. However, APSRTC officials have clarified that, this time, no permission has been granted to set up any commercial shops around the theater premises. This decision is expected to maintain better crowd control, reduce clutter, and keep the focus solely on the theater's core entertainment function. Passengers and local residents have welcomed the move, seeing it as a step toward reviving a unique facility that had once set Vijayawada apart from

other bus stations in the country. Industry watchers say the combination of bus travel and cinema could prove to be an attractive model if managed efficiently, as it caters to both long-distance travelers with waiting time and local visitors seeking short entertainment. Given PNBS's position as one of the busiest transport hubs in Andhra Pradesh, officials are optimistic that the reopening will draw significant footfall, especially during evenings and weekends. This initiative is also aligned with APSRTC's broader goal of diversifying revenue streams beyond traditional ticketing, ensuring that bus stations evolve into lively, multi-functional spaces. If successful, this revival could inspire similar projects in other major bus stations across the state and potentially across India. The countdown has begun for the Y Screens at PNBS to switch on the projector lights once again, bringing back a long-missed dose of cinema for travelers.

Goddess Durga to be presented with jewellery worth over 2 crore



TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 10: Prominent Diamond Jewellery Company to Donate Jewellery Worth ₹2 Crore at Durga Temple A leading diamond jewellery company has announced a major philanthropic gesture by donating diamond jewellery worth over ₹2 crore to the famous Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam in Vijayawada. The donation, which includes diamond-studded nose rings, mangalsutras, and other ornaments, will be officially handed over during a special ceremony to be held next week at the temple premises. Representatives of the company recently met the temple authorities to finalize the arrangements for the event and to discuss the procedures for the ceremonial handover. Sources indicate that the management of the firm has taken personal interest in organizing the event with grandeur, inviting a large number of their relatives, friends, and business associates to witness the presentation. The event is expected to draw around 300 prominent personalities from across the country, including industrialists, philanthropists, and public figures. According to temple insiders, the ceremony will not only mark the company's generous contribution but also serve as a platform for temple authorities to highlight the upcoming development plans for the Durga temple. During the program, officials are likely to outline several proposals, including the ambitious

plan to gold-plate parts of the main temple structure, beautify the surroundings, and improve amenities for devotees. This initiative forms part of a broader vision to enhance the temple's spiritual and cultural prominence, attracting more devotees and donors from across India and abroad. Temple authorities recalled that during the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, a special delegation was formed to explore developmental opportunities for the temple. This team had toured various regions in North India and even foreign countries to meet potential donors and explain the temple's development goals. Their efforts at that time led to many donors coming forward with financial and material contributions for the temple's modernization. This renewed wave of donations, temple officials believe, is a positive sign of continued faith and generosity towards the goddess Kanaka Durga. They also hope that such high-profile acts of philanthropy will inspire other devotees and corporate groups to participate in the temple's development and welfare activities. The upcoming event, combining religious significance with goodwill and corporate social responsibility, is expected to be one of the most notable ceremonies at the Durga temple this year, marking a new chapter in its ongoing journey of spiritual and infrastructural growth.

Dwakra Loan Scam of 2.80 crore Unearthed in Gollapudi



CC and APM Suspended Amid Major Irregularities A major Dwakra loan scam has come to light in Gollapudi village under Vijayawada Rural Mandal, exposing serious violations in the sanctioning process of government loans meant for women self-help groups (SHGs). District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao on Thursday issued suspension orders against Gollapudi Cluster Coordinator (CC) Chimata Srilakshmi and Assistant Project Manager (APM) Gandhamu Chandrasekhar, who allegedly diverted huge sums meant for women's empowerment. According to official sources, the two suspended officers recently sanctioned loans in the names of 14 women's savings societies at a National Bank near the NTR statue in Gollapudi. Each society was granted a loan of ₹20 lakh, bringing the total to a massive ₹2.8 crore. The fraudulent operations were reportedly carried out from a building located on Saipuram Colony Road in Gollapudi. Officials say that the accused flouted all established procedures of the Micro Credit Plan (MCP) system, which is mandatory for sanctioning loans to women's groups. Preparing an MCP ensures transparency by verifying whether the members have already received loans elsewhere or are part of other groups. However, in this case, CC Srilakshmi allegedly collected Aadhaar cards of women from different areas including Vi-

jayawada city, Kondapalli, and nearby villages and grouped them under fake savings societies. Instead of entering the details online through the MCP system, they applied for loans manually, convincing bank officials to release funds directly into a single account, thus concealing irregularities. The DRDA PD initiated a preliminary investigation after receiving complaints about irregularities in loan disbursal. Upon verification of data from four societies, glaring violations were observed, prompting immediate action. Both Srilakshmi and Chandrasekhar have been placed under suspension pending further disciplinary proceedings. Authorities are now probing how the sanctioned funds were utilized. Key questions remain unanswered: Was the money distributed to women beneficiaries? Were loans obtained in the names of unsuspecting women? Or did the accused misappropriate the funds for personal gain? Bank officials have been instructed to verify digital records, account statements, and beneficiary acknowledgments. Speaking about the case, DRDA PD A.N.V. Nanchara Rao stated that a comprehensive investigation is underway to uncover the extent of the fraud and identify other individuals who might be involved. He assured strict action against all those found guilty, reaffirming that the government will not tolerate misuse of funds meant for women's development through self-help initiatives.

We wii never let the Steel Plant be Privatized The Coalition Government Defends PPP Policy, Dismisses Privatization Rumours

TPN BUREAU, Visakhapatnam, 10 October: Jana Sena Party MLA Vamsi Krishna Srinivas has strongly defended the coalition government's recently introduced Public-Private Partnership (PPP) policy, describing it as a pragmatic measure based on the economic realities of Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a media conference at the Seethampet Jana Sena office on Friday afternoon, Srinivas stated that the arrangement was aimed at striking a balance between welfare and develop-

ment, as envisioned by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He reiterated that the people of the state desire simultaneous economic growth and welfare measures, and under the coalition's leadership, both aspects are being pursued hand in hand. According to Srinivas, the PPP policy is intended to attract private investment in infrastructure and services without compromising public ownership of critical assets. Responding

to recent allegations by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), Srinivas accused the opposition of spreading misinformation regarding privatization of key public institutions. "The claims that medical colleges are being privatized under PPP are completely baseless," he asserted, adding that the initiative simply involves collaboration between the public and private sectors to improve facilities, expand medical education, and ensure better healthcare access, especially in un-

derprivileged regions. He also dismissed rumours about the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, calling them an attempt to mislead the public. "The steel plant is the property of the people of Visakhapatnam. Under no circumstances will it be privatized," Srinivas declared emphatically. He added that the plant holds strategic importance for the region's economy and employment, and the government was committed to strengthening it rather than selling it off. The

MLA highlighted that false propaganda from the YSRCP was intended to create distrust in the government and slow down its momentum in delivering development projects. He accused YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of trying to act like an opposition leader despite not holding the official position. "Jagan's political approach has been to obstruct rather than contribute," Srinivas remarked, warning that such narratives could harm the state's progress. Emphasizing long-

term goals, Srinivas stated that for Andhra Pradesh to achieve sustained economic and social growth, the coalition government must be allowed to remain in power for at least another 15 years. This, he said, would provide the political stability needed to implement reforms, attract large-scale investments, and expand public welfare programs without interruption. The press meet also touched upon the broader philosophy behind the coalition's governance model—ensuring that



welfare schemes such as pensions, healthcare benefits, and support for farmers continue alongside ambitious infrastructure projects like roads, ports, and industrial hubs. Srinivas stressed that PPP ventures would be carefully monitored to protect public interests while leveraging private expertise and efficiency. He concluded by urging citizens to remain vigilant against misinformation and to recognize the government's

efforts in steering Andhra Pradesh towards a future of economic strength and social welfare. "We are committed to the people's aspirations. Our path is transparent, and our loyalty is to the public interest," he affirmed. This declaration by Vamsi Krishna Srinivas is likely to intensify the ongoing political debate in the state over the PPP policy, privatization fears, and the future direction of Andhra Pradesh's economy.

Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy and Former Minister Palle Raghunath Reddy Fulfill Decades-old Dream for Kotha Cheruvu Cemetery



TPN BUREAU, Kotha Cheruvu, October 10th: In a landmark development that brought an end to a decades-old struggle, the people of Kotha Cheruvu village in the Puttaparthi constituency have finally received a permanent solution to their much-awaited cemetery issue. Thanks to the determined efforts of local MLA Mrs. Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, Kotha Cheruvu's longstanding demand for a proper burial ground has now become a reality. For many years, the villagers of Kotha Cheruvu faced significant hardship due to the lack of a designated cemetery. Past appeals to authorities had fallen on deaf ears, leaving the issue unresolved and causing much distress among the local population. However, the matter gained new momentum after being brought to the personal attention of MLA Mrs. Palle Sindhura Reddy, who

took a special initiative to address the villagers' concerns. On Friday, former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, along with key Mandal Revenue officials, public representatives, and coalition party leaders, visited the proposed cemetery site. Following the constructive intervention of Mrs. Sindhura Reddy, the revenue officials, under the leadership of Dr. Raghunath Reddy, allocated 3.25 acres of government land, located in survey numbers 1451/1, 2, and 3 of Kotha Cheruvu Panchayat, for the cemetery. The selected land is positioned at Nallagutta Konda near the railway track, making it accessible for the local community. Expressing his satisfaction on the occasion, Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy remarked that the allocation of this land had fulfilled a dream cherished by the people of Kotha Cheruvu for several decades. He acknowledged the persistent efforts of MLA Mrs. Palle Sind-

hura Reddy, who consistently championed the cause of the villagers and ensured that the challenge was given due priority by the authorities. The local people have expressed their heartfelt gratitude to both Mrs. Palle Sindhura Reddy and Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, as well as the Mandal Revenue officials who worked tirelessly to resolve the issue. The handover event was attended by Mandal Revenue Officer Ramanjineyulu, Panchayat Secretary Srinivas Reddy, coalition party leaders Salekka Gari Srinivasulu, Valipi Srinivasulu, Ramakrishna, contractor Lakshminarayana, Raju, and numerous TDP, BJP, Jana Sena leaders and activists. With this major step, Kotha Cheruvu has not only secured a crucial facility for its residents but has also set an example of effective leadership and responsive governance in resolving long-pending civic issues.



Vempali Bhaskar Yadav Felicitated as Chairman of Katuru Cooperative Society in Buchi Naidu Kandriga Mandal

TPN BUREAU, BN KANDRIGA MANDAL, OCTOBER 10TH: Vempali Bhaskar Yadav, who was recently appointed as the Chairman of the Katuru Cooperative Society in Buchi Naidu Kandriga Mandal, was felicitated in a grand ceremony organized under the auspices of Buchi Naidu Kandriga Mandal Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President M. Sudhakar Naidu. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party leaders, activists, and supporters, marking a moment of pride for the local TDP cadre. Addressing the gathering, Mandal TDP President M. Sudhakar Naidu congratulated Bhaskar Yadav on his new role and emphasized that the Telugu Desam Party has always given immense respect and recognition to leaders from the Backward Classes (BC) communities. He stated that BCs have played a vital role in shaping the party's grassroots strength, and their contributions have always been valued by the leadership. Sudhakar Naidu further asserted that every dedicated

worker in the Telugu Desam Party will receive due justice and appreciation for their commitment. "The party gives opportunities to those who truly work for the people and the organization. If justice is not done to hardworking members, it will lead to setbacks in the system," he remarked. His comments resonated strongly with the attendees, highlighting the party's continued focus on inclusivity and recognition of grassroots efforts. Speaking about the Katuru Cooperative Society, Sudhakar Naidu expressed confidence that the institution would make remarkable progress under the stewardship of Vempali Bhaskar Yadav. He noted that cooperative societies play a crucial role in the economic empowerment of rural communities, particularly in supporting farmers, small traders, and self-help groups. With transparent governance and collective participation, he believed that the Katuru Cooperative Society would emerge as a model for others in the

GST Reduction Brings Cheer to Citizens: MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar Highlights Lower Prices in Gudur



TPN BUREAU, Gudur, Nellore District, October 10: A wave of optimism spread among consumers and traders in Gudur town as MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar announced that the recent reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has made several essential commodities and daily-use goods available at lower prices. He further stated that such a historic tax reduction has never occurred before, marking a significant step toward easing the financial burden on common citizens. As part of the 'Super GST Super Savings' initiative, the Gudur Chamber of Commerce organized a grand electronic sale exhibition in the town. MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar inaugurated the event as the chief guest, while Gudur Circle GST Assistant Commissioner Praveen Kumar underlined the government's commitment to fostering economic development through efficient tax collection. He explained that earlier, GST was divided into four slabs but has now been simplified into two, making it more

transparent and manageable for both traders and customers. Highlighting the economic impact, he estimated that the GST reduction will generate savings of nearly Rs 2 lakh crore nationwide, including Rs 8,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh. This, he said, embodies the government's vision to benefit the public and stimulate market growth. He also advised consumers to compare the old and new prices while purchasing goods to fully appreciate the effect of the tax cut. On this occasion, MLA Pasham Sunil Kumar was felicitated by the organizers for his continuous efforts toward local development. Municipal Commissioner Venkateshwarlu, Sales Tax Practitioner Kota Sunil Kumar, Somiseti Chenchuramaiah, Gubba Chandrasekhar, Yavu Gandla Sudhakar, Venkatasubbaiah, Suresh, Konda Bhaskar, Prasad, Sridhar, and other dignitaries participated in the event, marking a strong show of community involvement in promoting legal and fair trade practices.

CM Ramesh Slams Jagan for 'Destroying State Even in Opposition'; Defends PPP Policy of Medical Colleges

TPN BUREAU, ANAKAPALLE, OCTOBER 10: BJP Rajya Sabha MP CM Ramesh strongly criticized former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of continuing to harm Andhra Pradesh even while in opposition. Addressing the media at his office in Anakapalle, the MP alleged that Jagan, who had already damaged the state during his term as Chief Minister, was now trying to obstruct the government's developmental initiatives from the opposition benches. Ramesh accused Jagan of resorting to baseless criticism against the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for establishing new medical colleges across the state. He said Jagan was de-

liberately misrepresenting the policy without proper understanding, only to mislead the public and create unnecessary controversy. The BJP MP stressed that the PPP model was being successfully implemented in several BJP-ruled states such as Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, where it has significantly improved healthcare infrastructure and accessibility. He remarked that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's intention behind introducing the PPP model was to strengthen the state's medical education and provide better healthcare services to people, particularly in rural and underserved regions. "While Chandrababu Naidu is working sincerely to build medical colleges through the PPP

policy to ensure justice to medical students and to improve hospital facilities, Jagan is opposing it without any logical reasoning," he said. CM Ramesh alleged that large-scale corruption took place during Jagan's administration under the guise of issuing tenders for medical colleges. He said that the former CM was in no position to question the current government, given the number of irregularities and scandals that occurred during his rule. "Jagan only knows how to create trouble. He doesn't attend the Assembly or debate on people's issues; instead, he keeps issuing threats to investors and dictating his followers through emails," Ramesh alleged.



He further claimed that Jagan's obstructionist politics were aimed at stalling investment and development in the state. However, he maintained that no matter how many "dramas" Jagan performs, development will continue under the joint leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. "With the initiative of Modi, Chandrababu, and Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Pradesh is moving forward with a double-engine government. Despite Jagan's attempts to mislead people, the state is progressing on the path of growth and stability," he said. Ramesh emphasized that the alliance government was working dedicatedly

to create new opportunities in education, healthcare, and industry. He also thanked the people of Andhra Pradesh for believing in the leadership of the BJP-TDP-Jana Sena alliance and supporting their vision for rebuilding the state. BJP district president Dwarapureddy Parameswara Rao, TDP state executive secretary Dadi Ratnakar, Buddha Naga Jagadishwara Rao, and leaders of alliance parties participated in the media conference. They echoed Ramesh's views, asserting that the government's reforms would strengthen Andhra Pradesh's health and education sectors, ensuring long-term progress and transparency in public policy.



Has Britain gone too far with its digital controls?

A man in a stroller-pushing couple being stopped and arrested outside a police van with cameras on Oxford Street has become a striking symbol of Britain's growing use of live facial recognition. Since January 2024, the technology has helped police charge or cite more than 1,000 people in London, scanning crowds against a database of 16,000 wanted individuals. Authorities say the tool boosts safety, but critics see a dangerous ex-

pansion of state surveillance. The embrace of facial recognition is part of a wider push under Prime Minister Keir Starmer to deploy advanced technology in governance. Moves include expanding oversight of online speech, introducing stricter age and verification checks for digital platforms like Instagram and Reddit, pushing back against encrypted services, and experimenting with artificial intelligence to

process asylum claims. Civil liberties groups warn that such steps intrude on daily life, but government officials argue they are pragmatic measures to protect citizens in the digital era. "There's a big question about what is freedom and what is safety," said Ryan Wain of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, which supports the policies. Britain's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said citizens expect-

ed the state to use modern tools against crime, child exploitation, and border threats, while pledging that freedoms would be safeguarded. The new online safety law has stirred controversy. Child safety advocates back it, but opponents, including Nigel Farage, call it censorship and "borderline dystopian." Ofcom CEO Melanie Davies defended the law, stressing it aims to protect children, not stifle speech. The issue has

also drawn criticism from the US, with Donald Trump's administration and lawmakers condemning Britain's policies as attacks on free speech and American tech firms. Britain has also rolled out AI tools to streamline immigration, using algorithms to screen asylum claims. Officials say this reduces backlogs and frees case-workers from routine tasks, but insiders worry about oversight gaps and legal challenges. Critics argue that

AI-driven decisions in sensitive cases risk undermining accountability without clear regulatory safeguards. Supporters see these measures as necessary modernization, while detractors warn of eroding liberties. As Britain becomes a test case for how democracies balance security, privacy, and technological change, the debate over surveillance and digital governance is only intensifying.

Modi's Governance Model: Turning Crises into Catalysts for Growth

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi enters his 25th consecutive year in executive office — first as Chief Minister of Gujarat (2001–2014) and then as India's Prime Minister since 2014 — one theme has remained constant: transforming crises into opportunities. This philosophy has come to define what many now call the Modi Model of Opportunity-Driven Governance. His journey began in 2001, when Gujarat was devastated by a massive earthquake. With little administrative experience, Modi took charge of a broken state and launched a grassroots transformation. Water management reforms, canal restoration, and participatory irrigation were introduced alongside technological interventions like the creation of BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics), which pioneered satellite-driven planning in India. He also launched the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, which turned the state into a magnet for investment, laying the foundation for similar national efforts later. By the time Modi moved to Delhi in 2014, India was battling fiscal stress, policy paralysis, and infrastructure bottlenecks.

In just over a decade, India has shifted from being one of the "Fragile Five" economies to the world's fourth-largest economy, thanks in part to reforms like GST, digital banking, direct benefit transfers, and income-tax relief. Over 27 crore people have exited extreme poverty, and rural per-capita spending has quadrupled in 14 years. Welfare delivery has become more direct and leak-proof through the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity. On the global stage, India has shed its "emerging potential" label and is now seen as a growth engine, ranking 39th on the Global Competitiveness Index (up from 71 in 2014) and a top-five investment destination at Davos 2025. Defence exports have surged, and even nuclear capacity has doubled. Infrastructure, too, is transforming. From the world's longest LPG pipeline to the first Hyperloop test track, and the success of UPI and India Stack in global fintech, India is exporting not just goods but governance models. Modi's governance blends technological pragmatism with citizen-focused storytelling, turning policies like Swachh Bharat



and Digital India into movements. As India eyes its centenary in 2047, the Modi model offers a roadmap where constraints become catalysts, and crises, the foundation for renewal.

Central banks beyond the bottom line



The financial performance of central banks has recently sparked debate, particularly after the US Federal Reserve came under fire for spending on office renovations while reporting heavy losses. Critics argued that such losses undermine credibility, but economists stress that a central bank's bottom line is not a true measure of its effectiveness. The Fed reported an operating loss of USD 77.6 billion in 2024, down from USD 114 billion the previous year, alongside cumulative unrealised losses of USD 1.06 trillion on its bond holdings. These figures have drawn public scrutiny, but analysts point out that unlike commercial banks, central bank profits or losses are essentially transfers within the financial system, not wealth creation or destruction. Central banks play a broader role in society, providing predictability, confidence, and stability while pursuing monetary policies that foster socially optimal outcomes. Their earnings largely stem from seigniorage, non-interest-bearing reserves from commercial banks, and interest on government bonds, much of which returns to governments as dividends. While profits help maintain independence and resilience,

they are not central to performance assessment. Instead, success should be judged by whether central banks achieve low and stable inflation, financial stability, and effective management of liquidity. Excessive interventions in currency or bond markets to generate profits could create moral hazard, as markets may rely too heavily on central bank support. Experts suggest adopting best practices such as market-to-market accounting in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and separating income recognition from distribution. Unrealised gains should be retained as capital buffers rather than automatically transferred to governments, a practice already followed in countries like Australia and the UK. Stress tests and forward-looking income distribution rules can ensure resilience and protect independence. Ultimately, central banks' credibility hinges not on accounting losses but on their ability to meet mandates such as price stability and financial security. Paper losses should not hinder them from routine functions, including administrative spending. What truly matters is whether they uphold stability and public trust.

No-bell for Trump: Venezuela's Maria Corina Machado gets the Nobel Peace Prize 2025



In a landmark moment for Venezuela, Maria Corina Machado, a veteran opposition leader and industrial engineer, has been awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her tireless efforts in promoting democratic rights and peaceful political transition in her country. The Norwegian Nobel Committee made the announcement on their official X (formerly Twitter) handle, stating: "The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Corina Machado for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy." Machado has long been a key figure in Venezuela's pro-democracy movement, often facing repression, legal threats, and political disqualification by the Maduro-led regime. Despite these obstacles, she has consistently advocated for free elections, civil liberties, and institutional reforms in a nation plagued by authoritarian rule, economic collapse, and widespread human rights abuses. Her win is being seen as a major recognition not just for her, but for the broader Venezuelan opposition movement that has battled to restore democratic governance for over a decade. Supporters across Latin America and beyond have

hailed the award as a timely spotlight on Venezuela's ongoing crisis and the resilience of its democratic fighters. Interestingly, former U.S. President Donald Trump was also among the high-profile names nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. In August, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt had publicly endorsed Trump for the award, claiming he had "ended several conflicts around the world." This fueled significant public speculation and debate leading up to the announcement. However, the Nobel Committee's decision clearly leaned toward recognizing grassroots efforts in volatile political landscapes, with Machado's on-ground activism and unwavering resolve taking precedence over political leaders' diplomatic legacies. Machado's Nobel win adds to a growing list of global figures celebrated for non-violent resistance and democratic advocacy. As Venezuela prepares for its next round of political developments, this international honor is expected to significantly boost her influence both at home and abroad. The award not only acknowledges Maria Corina Machado's courage, but also serves as a powerful message to authoritarian regimes — that the world is watching, and that voices for democracy cannot be silenced.

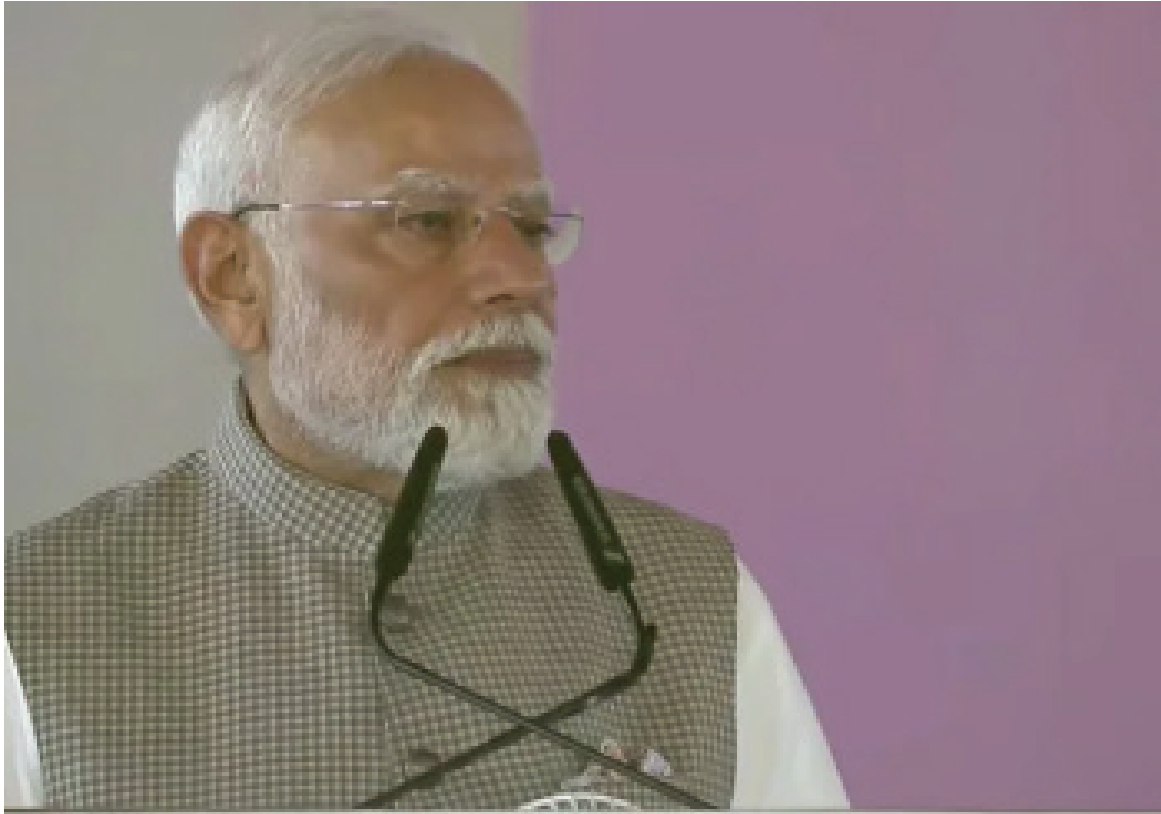
Mental Health Fundamental To Our Overall Well-Being: PM Modi

TPN Bureau | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked World Mental Health Day by emphasising that mental health is a crucial component of overall well-being. In a post on social media platform X, PM Modi called for greater compassion and mainstream conversation around mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

"World Mental Health Day serves as a powerful reminder that mental health is a fundamental part of our overall well-being," the Prime Minister stated. He urged citizens to reflect on the fast-paced nature of modern life and show empathy towards those facing mental health challenges. The Prime Minister also praised the efforts of mental health professionals and caregivers, saying, "Let us also work collectively to create environments where conversations around mental health become more mainstream. My compliments to all those working in this field and helping others heal and find happiness."

According to the National Mental Health Survey (2016), around 13.2% of Indians experience a diagnosable mental health condition in their lifetime, with 10.6%



currently affected. Depression, especially among women, is among the most common conditions. To address this growing concern, the government has launched key initiatives like Tele-MANAS, which offers 24/7 mental health counsel-

ling in 20 languages across 36 states and has received over 23.8 lakh calls since 2022. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) now covers over 700 districts, supported by multidisciplinary teams. The Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

initiative is also expanding access to mental health services at the primary health-care level, with cashless treatment under AB PM-JAY for 22 mental disorder procedures. This year's theme, "Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and

Emergencies," highlights the urgent need to support people affected by humanitarian crises, according to the WHO. PM Modi called for continued efforts to build a world where mental health is valued, protected, and supported for all.

Stay Within Limits": Mamata Banerjee Targets State's Poll Body Chief



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee issued a stern warning to the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Manoj Agarwal, on Thursday, cautioning him to "stay within his limits." Speaking to reporters at the state secretariat, Banerjee alleged that the CEO was threatening government officers, despite facing corruption allegations himself.

"That CEO from this state, who has allegations against him – which I will talk about when the time comes – I hope he stays within his limits. Don't overreact," Banerjee said, without naming Agarwal directly. Her remarks came as an Election Commis-

sion (EC) delegation, led by senior official Ganesh Bharti, concluded a two-day visit to review the state's preparedness for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The EC has reportedly set an October 15 deadline for completing preparations, though no official timeline has been announced.

Banerjee's comments triggered a sharp response from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which accused the Chief Minister of threatening a constitutional functionary. Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari raised the issue with the Chief Election Commissioner of India in a post on X (formerly Twitter), calling for immediate action.

"It is with grave concern that I draw attention to the audacious threats made by Mamata Banerjee against the Chief Electoral Officer," Adhikari said. He also referenced a past incident from July 28, when Banerjee allegedly threatened Booth Level Officers during an administrative meeting in Bolpur. The BJP has welcomed the SIR process, claiming that over 1 crore "fake" voter names may be removed from Bengal's electoral rolls. The EC delegation, meanwhile, met with district officials across the state, barring flood-affected North Bengal. With elections approaching, tensions between the ruling TMC and the EC appear to be intensifying.

Amit Shah Reviews J&K Security, Praises Response After Pahalgam Attack

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, following the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The meeting, held in New Delhi, was attended by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and senior officials from security and intelligence agencies.

During the meeting, Shah commended the swift and coordinated action taken by the J&K administration and security forces in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. He said their efforts had significantly contributed to strengthening the overall security environment in the Union Territory.

Sources said the meeting focused on the current threat assessment, counter-terror operations, and steps taken to prevent cross-border infiltration. Special attention was also given to the protection of civilians, infrastructure, and personnel involved in ongoing development projects in the region. The Home Minister reviewed the preparedness of forces ahead of the upcoming winter season, when infiltration attempts along the



Line of Control (LoC) are typically expected to rise. Officials briefed him on recent intelligence inputs and counter-insurgency strategies.

Shah reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring lasting peace and stability in Jammu and

Kashmir. He directed the security agencies to maintain a high level of alertness and continue proactive operations to eliminate remaining terrorist threats.

The recent attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of security personnel, has triggered increased se-

curity across the region. Officials said enhanced surveillance and intelligence coordination are already in place. The meeting also reviewed the progress of infrastructure development and public outreach initiatives being carried out under the Union Govern-

ment's J&K development plan.

Amit Shah stressed the need for continued coordination among central and state agencies to maintain peace and support the region's path toward economic growth and normalcy.

Jairam Ramesh Slams PM Modi Over 'Selective Diplomacy' Amid Gaza Crisis

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he called "selective diplomacy" and misplaced international priorities. He accused the Prime Minister of ignoring critical humanitarian issues like the ongoing crisis in Gaza while engaging in high-profile conversations with global leaders.

In a sharply worded post on social media platform X, Ramesh said, "Prime Minister Modi spent all day yesterday talking to UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and sending message after message of praise and admiration to President Trump. He did not,

of course, forget to speak to the man who had unleashed the genocide on Gaza, the Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, also during this time."

Ramesh's remarks come amid growing international criticism of Israel's military actions in Gaza and concerns about India's diplomatic stance. The Congress leader questioned Modi's silence on the suffering in Gaza, calling it a moral failure in India's foreign policy.

He also mocked former US President Donald Trump for his repeated and controversial claim that he halted "Operation Sindoor" — a military campaign in South Asia — using trade tariffs as a diplomatic tool. "Yesterday was also the day when President

Trump, during his meeting with Finland's President Alexander Stubb, reached the half-century mark on his claim that he stopped Operation Sindoor using trade and tariffs as his brahmstra," Ramesh said.

The comment referred to Trump's repeated boasts about using economic pressure to stop regional conflicts, a claim that has not been substantiated by international observers.

With tensions escalating in the Middle East and Indian opposition parties growing more vocal, Ramesh's remarks highlight the sharp divide in how India's foreign policy is being perceived across the political spectrum.

India to Upgrade Kabul Technical Mission to Full Embassy: Jaishankar

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India will upgrade its Technical Mission in Kabul to the status of a full Embassy, announced External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday. This move signals India's intent to strengthen diplomatic ties with Afghanistan despite the ongoing challenges posed by the Taliban government. Jaishankar made the announcement during a meeting with Amir Khan Mut-

taqi, Foreign Minister of the Taliban administration, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. The talks highlighted India's commitment to Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. India had shut its Embassy in Kabul in 2021 following the Taliban's takeover after the withdrawal of U.S.-led NATO forces. However, India reopened a Technical Mission in Kabul a year later to maintain diplomatic engagement and assist in de-

velopmental projects. During the meeting, Jaishankar also raised concerns about Afghan refugees being pushed back into Afghanistan from Pakistan, urging collaborative efforts to address the humanitarian crisis. Both ministers identified cross-border terrorism as a shared threat and discussed the importance of closer cooperation to combat it.

"India is fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial in-

tegrity and independence of Afghanistan. Closer cooperation between us contributes to your national development, as well as regional stability and resilience. To enhance that, I am pleased to announce today the upgrading of India's Technical Mission in Kabul to the status of Embassy of India," Jaishankar said. This upgrade is expected to boost India's diplomatic presence and deepen bilateral relations amid a complex

geopolitical environment marked by security challenges and humanitarian concerns. India's move also underscores its strategic interest in maintaining stability in Afghanistan and countering regional threats, particularly from cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. The elevation of the mission to an Embassy marks a significant step in India-Afghanistan ties under the evolving regional landscape.





Maria Corina Machado Awarded Nobel Peace Prize 2025

TPN Bureau | Washington
Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has been awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her unwavering fight for democracy and her role as a unifying force in Venezuela's fractured opposition. The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised her for promoting democratic values and standing firm against authoritarianism, despite grave personal risks.

Machado, a longtime critic of President Nicolás Maduro, was disqualified from running in the last election despite being the opposition's frontrunner. The government crackdown that followed saw mass disqualifications, arrests, and violent suppression of dissent. More than 20 people died during post-election protests, and diplomatic ties with several countries, including Argentina, were severed.

In his announcement, Nobel Committee Chair Jorgen Watne Frydnes described Machado as a "key, unifying figure in a political opposition that was once deeply divided." He lauded her decision to remain in Venezuela despite threats and persecution, calling her an inspiration for millions across Latin America.

Forced into hiding since January, Machado has not been seen in public. Her chosen replacement, Edmundo



González, also faced persecution and was later granted asylum in Spain.

This year's Nobel Peace Prize comes amid global attention on democratic backsliding and political repression.

There had been speculation that the prize might go to Donald Trump

following his involvement in brokering a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, but the committee instead chose to highlight civilian resistance in Latin America.

Machado now joins a distinguished list of Nobel laureates recognised for peaceful resistance and advocacy

of democratic rights under authoritarian regimes.

The Nobel Peace Prize is the only Nobel award presented in Oslo, Norway. Last year, it was awarded to Japan's Nihon Hidankyo, a group of atomic bomb survivors campaigning against nuclear weapons.

Trump Team Plans New H-1B Visa Curbs After \$100,000 Fee Hike



TPN Correspondent | Pyongyang
The Donald Trump administration is preparing to tighten restrictions on the H-1B visa programme, following a steep hike in mandatory fees to \$100,000. The latest proposed changes aim to overhaul how employers use the permit and who qualifies, with the goal of increasing oversight and protecting U.S. workers. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has introduced a rule under the title "Reforming the H-1B Non-immigrant Visa Classifica-

tion Program" in the Federal Register. Key proposals include stricter scrutiny of employers, redefining eligibility for cap exemptions, and tighter regulations on third-party job placements. The changes could particularly affect nonprofit research organisations, universities, and healthcare institutions, which are currently exempt from the annual visa cap. It remains unclear whether these exemptions will remain under the new rule.

"These changes are intended to improve the in-

tegrity of the H-1B programme and better protect U.S. workers' wages and working conditions," the DHS stated. A final rule could be published as early as December 2025.

The Trump administration is also considering replacing the current H-1B lottery system with a wage-based selection model — prioritising higher-paying jobs over random selection. This move could have a major impact on thousands of Indian professionals, who account for nearly 75% of approved H-1B applica-

tions, according to the Pew Research Centre. The H-1B visa is a key pathway for high-skilled foreign workers to gain employment in the U.S., especially in tech, healthcare, education, and research sectors. Despite criticism, research shows H-1B workers often earn equal or higher wages compared to American peers, due to legal wage protections. With the new rule, the Trump administration is signaling a broader immigration crackdown, especially on skilled worker visas central to U.S. industries.



Internet Shut Down in Islamabad, Rawalpindi Ahead of TLP Anti-Israel Protest

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan's federal government has suspended mobile and internet services in Islamabad and Rawalpindi ahead of a major anti-Israel protest called by the Islamist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The move comes amid heightened security concerns surrounding TLP's planned "Aqsa Million March" from Faizabad to the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. The protest is aimed at opposing the recently brokered Gaza ceasefire deal between Is-

rael and Hamas, which TLP claims was an "embarrassing surrender" by the Shehbaz Sharif government and Pakistan's military leadership to U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

To counter potential unrest, authorities have placed containers and trailers at key intersections across Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Roads near Faizabad Junction have already been blocked, and police in Rawalpindi have begun seizing transport vehicles to prevent crowd

mobilization. According to reports, security forces have arrested at least 280 TLP activists in a preemptive crackdown. The Islamabad Police have also detained local TLP leaders and increased their presence across sensitive areas of the capital. Pakistan's Ministry of Interior has directed the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to cut off mobile and internet services in both cities from midnight on Friday, with no official timeline for restoration. The shutdown is intended to disrupt protest coordina-

tion and prevent misinformation during the rally.

Several educational institutions in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have announced temporary closures due to safety concerns, while businesses in the affected areas are bracing for disruptions. The protest and the government's response come at a time of growing political and public unrest in Pakistan over its foreign policy stance on the Gaza conflict. With the internet blackout and mass arrests, tensions are expected to remain high over the coming days.

"If Not India, Who?" Palestine Envoy Asks New Delhi To Lead Gaza Reconstruction

TPN Correspondent | Sidiarjo

Palestine's Ambassador to India, Abdullah Abu Shawesh, has called on New Delhi to take a leading role in alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and shaping its post-war future. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, the envoy said India's historic ties with Palestine and its strong relationship with Israel give it a unique position to press for peace and accountability.

Abu Shawesh urged India to act as a bridge, stating, "If it is not India, then who?" He described India as a "champion of the Global South" and appealed for it to be a major partner in Gaza's reconstruction. The ambassador painted a grim picture of the humanitarian collapse in Gaza. "The 67,000 Palestinians who were killed... are purely civilians," he said, rejecting claims that most victims were Hamas fighters. He also de-



scribed dire conditions, including surgeries on children without anesthesia and hundreds of deaths due to malnutrition.

Calling the violence a "genocide," Abu Shawesh said international bodies and even Israeli watchdogs had used similar language. He challenged the global narrative around Hamas, ques-

tioning the absence of equal condemnation for the Israeli occupation. The envoy reiterated the Palestinian Authority's stance against armed militias in a future state and claimed that Israeli policies had historically enabled Hamas's rise. Shawesh also reminded India of its historical support for Palestine, from Mahatma Gandhi's era

to India's recognition of the Palestinian state in 1988. He cited strong public support across Indian states and political parties. In conclusion, he urged India to use its diplomatic influence to help end the suffering in Gaza and assist in building a peaceful, two-state solution that ensures long-term security and justice for Palestinians.

Pakistan Warns Afghanistan Over Cross-Border Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a stern message to the Taliban-led government in Kabul, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif warned that Islamabad would no longer tolerate terrorist attacks launched from Afghan soil. Speaking in the National Assembly, Asif said Pakistan's patience has "run out" after a recent spike in cross-border terrorism that has killed several Pakistani soldiers in tribal regions.

"Enough is enough. Our patience has limits. Those who shelter or facilitate terrorists — whether in Pakistan or Afghanistan — will face the consequences," Asif declared, according to a report by Dawn. He emphasized the need for a "unified response" against those aiding militants and hinted at possible retaliation if the Taliban fails to act. Asif revealed that during a visit to Kabul three years ago, the Taliban demanded PKR 10 billion to relocate Tehreek-e-Taliban Pa-



kistan (TTP) fighters from border areas. However, no assurance was given that terror attacks on Pakistan would cease.

The comments come amid rising tensions between Islamabad and Kabul, as TTP attacks continue to destabilize Pakistan's northwest. Islamabad now plans to send an official delegation to Kabul to press its concerns di-

rectly. Pakistan, however, is also confronting criticism over its own history of sponsoring extremist groups. Asif himself admitted in a 2025 interview that Pakistan did the "dirty work" for the U.S. during the Cold War and post-9/11 era. Former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto echoed these sentiments, acknowledging that Pakistan's past links to terror have had

long-term consequences.

Both leaders insist that Pakistan has moved away from this legacy and undergone internal reforms to combat extremism.

Despite this, Pakistan's warning to Afghanistan signals growing regional instability — and Islamabad's desperation to stem the growing tide of violence within its borders.



Sensex Jumps 329 Points on Pharma, Banking Boost; Nifty Closes Above 25,280



Indian equity markets closed on a strong note Friday, with the BSE Sensex rallying nearly 329 points, led by gains in pharmaceutical and banking stocks alongside sustained foreign institutional inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 328.72 points, or 0.40%, to end the session at 82,500.82, after hitting an intraday high of 82,654.11, up 482 points. Meanwhile, the broader NSE Nifty gained 103.55 points, or 0.41%, to settle at 25,285.35.

Investor sentiment remained buoyant, buoyed by positive global cues, expectations of robust earnings in the banking sector, and a continued rally in pharma stocks. The pharmaceutical

index led sectoral gains, driven by strong Q2 forecasts and improving export outlooks.

Banking stocks also attracted strong buying interest, with heavyweight private lenders leading the charge amid easing inflationary concerns and improved credit growth projections. Analysts noted that foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in recent sessions, supporting the uptrend.

"Strong inflows from foreign funds and optimism around earnings season have supported market sentiment. Pharma and banks provided the major thrust today, supported by a stable global environment," said a

market analyst at a leading brokerage.

Among key gainers on the Sensex were Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank. On the flip side, select IT and FMCG counters faced mild selling pressure.

With today's rally, both benchmark indices closed the week on a positive note. Analysts remain cautiously optimistic, though they advise investors to monitor global cues, geopolitical developments, and domestic macro data for near-term direction.

Market participants now await the upcoming inflation and industrial production data due next week, which could further influence investor sentiment.

Urban Company Shares Soar Over 10% After Strong Market Debut



Urban Company shares made a bumper debut on the Indian stock exchanges on Wednesday (September 17), listing with a stellar premium and continuing their rally through the trading session. The stock opened at ₹162.25 apiece on the NSE, reflecting a 64.77% jump over the issue price of ₹103. On the BSE, it listed at ₹161.00, marking a 56.31% premium. Soon after listing, Urban Company surged fur-

ther to hit an intraday high of ₹179.00 apiece, nearly 74% above its IPO price and more than 10% higher than its listing price.

The ₹1,900 crore IPO, open between September 10 and 12, received overwhelming investor response, being subscribed 103.63 times. The grey market premium (GMP) had already hinted at a strong debut, indicating nearly 50% gains over the issue price.

Urban Company, a tech-enabled marketplace for home and beauty services, operates in 51 cities across India, UAE, and Singapore. The successful listing is being viewed as a boost for India's startup IPO market, which has seen cautious momentum in recent years.

Post listing, analysts largely advised investors to hold the stock for long-term gains. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Eq-

uities, said the company offers a compelling structural growth story in the expanding home services segment. He recommended allotted investors to hold, while non-allotted investors should adopt a wait-and-watch strategy for a possible price dip. Shivani Nyati of Swastika Investmart suggested partial profit booking while holding the rest with a stop loss at ₹120. Meanwhile, Harshal Dasani of INVAsset

PMS highlighted that the stock's opening market capitalization of nearly ₹25,300 crore reflects investor conviction but also raises expectations on profitability and execution.

At 2:05 PM, Urban Company was trading at ₹163.30 apiece on the BSE, up 58.54% from its issue price, underscoring strong investor confidence in the company's long-term growth prospects.

GST Cut on Renewables to 5% Aims to Power India's Green Future



US tariffs to hit 8% of India's auto component output

The Indian auto component industry is facing significant headwinds as high US tariffs are expected to impact nearly 8% of the sector's total production, according to ratings agency Icara. Auto component exports contribute almost 30% to the industry's revenues, with the United States alone accounting for 27% of this share. However, the recent imposition of a 50% tariff on Indian goods has placed Indian exporters at a relative disadvantage compared to several Asian peers.

While China, Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia face tariffs in the 15–30% range, India's much higher tariff burden makes its products less competitive.

Adding to the challenge, manufacturers in Mexico and Canada enjoy exemptions under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), further intensifying competition in the American market. This disparity underscores the growing need for India to accelerate trade talks with Washington to protect its export interests.

Despite the hurdles, Indian auto component exports to the US have witnessed steady growth in recent years. Shipments rose from USD 4.1 billion in FY2021 to USD 6 billion in FY2022, followed by USD 6.5 billion in FY2023, and USD 6.8 billion in FY2024. For FY2025, exports are projected to touch USD 7.3

billion, reflecting the strong demand for Indian-made components. However, experts caution that the escalating tariff regime could slow this momentum in the near future.

Geographically, Europe remains India's largest export market with a 30% share, followed closely by the US at 27%, Asia at 26%, Latin America at 3%, and other regions contributing 13%. Domestic sales account for 56% of the industry's revenues, while replacement demand makes up the remaining 15%. With exports under pressure, industry stakeholders are calling for urgent policy interventions to safeguard market access and sustain the sector's growth trajectory.

The government's decision to rationalize GST rates across the renewable energy value chain from 12% to 5% is set to bring down the cost of clean energy projects, making electricity more affordable for households, farmers, industries, and developers. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the move will significantly reduce capital costs for utility-scale projects, rooftop solar systems, and solar pumps, while strengthening India's clean energy ecosystem.

For large-scale solar projects, where the cost typically stands at ₹3.5–4 crore per MW, the revised GST is expected to generate savings of ₹20–25 lakh per MW. A 500 MW solar park, for instance, could see project costs cut by over ₹100 crore, improving tariff competitiveness and lowering the financial burden on distribution companies (DISCOMs). Nationwide, annual savings of ₹2,000–3,000 crore in power procurement costs are anticipated. Households will also benefit as rooftop solar systems become cheaper. A 3 kW system will



now cost ₹9,000–10,500 less, accelerating adoption under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Farmers under the PM-KUSUM scheme are expected to save nearly ₹17,500 on a 5 HP solar pump, translating into a collective saving of ₹1,750 crore

across 10 lakh pumps, making irrigation more sustainable and cost-effective.

The reform is also set to enhance competitiveness of Indian-made solar equipment, reducing module and component costs by 3–4%. With India targeting 300 GW

of renewable capacity by 2030, a modest 2–3% cost reduction could free up investments worth ₹1–1.5 lakh crore, while creating 5–7 lakh jobs in the next decade. Faster renewable deployment will also help India avoid 50–70 million tonnes

of CO2 emissions annually by 2030.

Effective from September 22, 2025, the GST cut is being hailed as a landmark step to advance India's green growth, energy independence, and Paris Agreement commitments.

Gold and Silver prices hit record high, driven by global uncertainty



₹1,04,075. Prices of 22-carat gold followed suit, ending the week at ₹1,00,492 per 10 grams, up from ₹98,962 earlier in the week.

Silver prices also maintained a strong rally. The met-

al ended the week at ₹1,28,008 per kilogram, higher by ₹3,595 from Monday's ₹1,24,413. With silver holding firm above ₹1.20 lakh levels, investor appetite remains robust. On the futures market,

October gold contracts settled at ₹1,09,356 per 10 grams, up 0.34 per cent, reflecting sustained optimism. Globally, Comex gold traded at \$3,680.7 per ounce, extending gains as traders

sought refuge from economic and political uncertainties.

Analysts believe the upward trend will remain intact, citing geopolitical risks, a fragile economic outlook, and ongoing tariff issues. Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities noted that gold gained 0.35 per cent at ₹1,09,350, with Comex prices factoring in expectations of a possible U.S. Fed rate cut to support economic growth. Despite being in overbought territory, bullion continues to attract premium buying. Market watchers see gold trading within a range of ₹1,07,000–₹1,12,000 in the coming weeks, reinforcing its role as a safe-haven asset during global uncertainty.

Venom vs Poison: Key Differences You Should Know

Many people use the terms venom and poison interchangeably, but they are not the same. Understanding the crucial difference between the two could be life-saving, especially in encounters with wildlife or in medical emergencies. Experts explain that the primary difference lies in how these substances enter the body. Venom must be injected, typically through a bite or sting — think snakes, spiders, or scorpions. In contrast, poison causes harm when it is ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Wildlife expert Abhishek, who has over 27 years of experience, clarifies that people

often mistakenly label snakes and scorpions as “poisonous.” “These creatures are actually venomous, not poisonous, because they deliver toxins through specialized fangs or stingers,” he explains. Venom is usually a protein-based toxin that only becomes dangerous when it enters the bloodstream directly. Once inside, it can disrupt nerve signals, blood clotting, or cell structures, depending on the species. This is why a venomous bite or sting can lead to rapid and severe reactions, including paralysis or death, if not treated promptly. On the other hand, poison is typically associated with acci-

dental exposure through eating, drinking, or inhaling toxic substances. For example, consuming spoiled food can lead to food poisoning, a common form of internal toxic reaction. Other examples include inhaling chemical fumes or touching poisonous plants. Both venom and poison can be fatal, but knowing how they work — and how they enter the body — is crucial in responding effectively. Mislabeling them can lead to the wrong treatment in emergencies. So the next time someone says a snake is poisonous, you’ll know: it’s actually venomous — and there’s a big difference.



Doctor’s Bold Health Claims Go Viral, Grok AI Steps In With Fact-Check



A controversial health post by Dr. Mansafa Bepari, a women’s health coach, has gone viral on X (formerly Twitter), stirring up a digital storm. The post, which listed bold claims like “Air fryer is healthy,” “Diet Coke is safe,” and “Ayurveda causes liver damage,” caught the attention of netizens — and eventually, Grok, an AI chatbot, was tagged to verify the accuracy of her statements. The post sparked debate across social media, with many users skeptical about the sweeping nature of the claims. Responding to a user’s request, Grok performed a public fact-check of the 10 health assertions, delivering results that quickly went viral for being both informative

and entertaining.

Grok’s verdicts included: Air fryers: Confirmed healthier than deep frying due to lower oil usage.

Whey protein: Safe for healthy adults, but cheaper brands may have contaminants.

Turmeric tea: Grok debunked Dr. Bepari’s claim, affirming turmeric’s anti-inflammatory benefits through curcumin.

Ayurveda: Misuse or contaminated products can harm the liver, but traditional Ayurvedic practices are not inherently dangerous.

Protein & Kidneys: No harm to healthy kidneys, but may affect those with existing conditions.

Diet Coke: Safer than regular Coke in terms of sugar, but artificial sweeteners may have long-term effects.

Paneer: High in saturated fat — low-fat versions recommended.

Alcohol vs Bread: Bread is a far better option; alcohol has no safe consumption level, according to WHO.

Smoking: Firmly confirmed as a major health risk.

Grok’s analysis reminded users that AI tools aren’t wellness authorities, and health advice should be sourced from certified professionals. Still, the viral fact-check became a trending moment, proving that in the age of AI, no bold claim goes unchallenged.

Surat’s Diamond-Inspired Bullet Train Station Wows Netizens

India’s first-ever bullet train project is making impressive strides, and the spotlight is currently on the Surat City Station, part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor. A recent image of the under-construction station went viral on social media, drawing attention for its futuristic, diamond-inspired architecture.

Shared on Reddit with the caption, “Under-construction India’s upcoming bullet train Surat city station”, the photo showcases the gleaming, angular exterior of the station, which mirrors the look of a cut diamond — a tribute to Surat’s global reputation as a diamond processing hub.

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), which is overseeing the 508-km-long bullet train corridor, has already completed much of the exterior work at the Surat station. Efforts are now focused on interior fittings, roofing, and installation of station facilities, keeping the project on a fast track.



The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train will feature 12 stations and is expected to revolutionize travel by drastically cutting journey times between the two cities. Surat’s station, with its symbolic design and cutting-edge infrastruc-

ture, is already emerging as one of the project’s architectural highlights. However, the station’s viral image also sparked humorous reactions online. While many praised the design as “futuristic” and “world-class,” others jokingly commented, “Beauti-

ful, but paan stains loading...”, referring to a common issue of public spaces in India being defaced by spit stains. Despite the light-hearted jabs, the public response has been largely positive, with many expressing pride in the technological

and design progress symbolized by the station.

As India moves closer to launching its first bullet train, Surat’s diamond-shaped station is shining both literally and figuratively — a glittering sign of the future of Indian railways.

1,000-Year-Old Ceremonial Heads, Ancient Structures Found In Peru

Lima, In a major archaeological breakthrough, researchers in Peru’s Amazon region have unearthed 1,000-year-old ceremonial stone club heads, nearly 200 ancient structures, and a unique zigzag frieze at the Ollape site in La Jalcá district. The area was once home to the Chachapoyas civilization, also known as the “Warriors of the Clouds,” who thrived between 900 and 1450 AD. According to lead archaeologist Pablo Solís, the intricately carved club heads are believed to have held ceremonial or symbolic importance, shedding light on the ritual practices of a civilization that remains largely understudied. “These artifacts offer a rare glimpse into the ceremonial life of the Chachapoyas people,” Solís said.

The site also features a zigzag frieze, a decorative pattern never before found in the region. Archaeologists believe this discovery could represent a unique architectural style or symbolic motif



used by the Chachapoyas. The sheer number of structures discovered at Ollape suggests that it may have served as a major ceremonial and residential center.

The Chachapoyas civilization, known for its distinct cliffside tombs and cloud-forest architecture, has long fascinated histo-

rians but remains relatively mysterious compared to other ancient Andean cultures like the Incas. Peru continues to be a global hotspot for archaeological discoveries. With landmarks like Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines, the country’s vast and varied geography remains rich in historical secrets. The lat-

est discoveries in Ollape add to a growing body of evidence highlighting the complexity and cultural richness of pre-Columbian societies in the Amazon region. Further excavations and studies are expected to reveal more about the Chachapoyas’ social structure, religious beliefs, and daily life.

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 per-

spective. A user suggested that the “working environment must be lit and hyped up all the time,” implying that the energetic 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.



Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto Enter Arctic Open 2025 Quarterfinals

Indian mixed doubles duo Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto have stormed into the quarterfinals of the Arctic Open 2025, following a hard-fought comeback win over Ukraine's Oleksii Titov and Yevheniia Kantemyr in Vantaa, Finland, on Thursday. The eighth-seeded Indian pair bounced back after losing the first game to clinch a 23-25, 21-14, 21-17 victory in a tightly contested 54-minute encounter at the Energia Areena, as per

Olympics.com. After narrowly losing the opening game in extra points, Kapila and Crasto regrouped strongly. They led 11-9 at the mid-game break in the second set and maintained the momentum to level the match. The decider followed a similar pattern, with the Indians again taking an 11-9 lead at the break before comfortably sealing the contest to advance into the final eight. In other Indian action, Anmol Kharb, ranked 62nd

in the world, also produced a gritty performance in the women's singles category. She upset world No. 32 Hsu Wen-chi of Chinese Taipei with a 18-21, 21-18, 21-17 victory after coming from behind. However, it was the end of the road for Tanya Hemanth, who lost in straight games 21-9, 21-8 to Thailand's second seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon. In the men's singles, Tharun Mannepal, who had stunned world No. 14

Toma Junior Popov in the opening round, was knocked out by Japan's Koki Watanabe. Despite leading 11-6 in the first game and holding five game points, Mannepal faltered, eventually going down 22-20, 21-12. With mixed results overall, Indian hopes now rest on the remaining contenders heading into the quarterfinals.

India Hold Singapore 1-1 to Keep Asian Cup 2027 Qualification Hopes Alive

A 10-man Indian football team salvaged a crucial 1-1 draw against Singapore in their Group C Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier on Thursday, thanks to a last-minute equaliser by substitute Rahim Ali. The result keeps India's slim qualification hopes alive with two points from three games. India found themselves trailing after Ikhshan Fandi scored in the first-half stoppage time, capitalising on poor defensive coordination between Anwar Ali and Muhammed Uvais. The goal gave Singapore a de-

served lead after dominating possession (over 60%) and constantly pressing the Indian defence with swift passing and attacking moves. The situation worsened for India early in the second half when senior defender Sandesh Jhingan received his second yellow card in the 47th minute, reducing the visitors to 10 men. Jhingan, returning from facial surgery and playing in a protective mask, was shown red by Chinese referee Shen Yin-hao, putting India on the back foot for the remainder

of the match. Despite being a man down, Khalid Jamil's side remained resilient. Their persistence paid off in the 90th minute when Singapore defender Jordan Ema-viwe inexplicably sent a long back pass from near the halfway line, catching his goalkeeper Izwan Mahbud off guard. Rahim Ali seized the opportunity, calmly rounding the goalkeeper and slotting the ball into an empty net. Singapore, who now have five points from three matches, had multiple

chances to seal the game earlier but failed to capitalise on India's defensive vulnerability. Their inability to convert and a costly late error handed India a lifeline. India previously drew 0-0 with Bangladesh and lost 0-1 to Hong Kong, making their path to qualification difficult. Only the top team from each group secures a direct spot in the AFC Asian Cup 2027, with six matches to be played in a home-and-away format. India next need wins, not draws, to keep their Asian dream alive.



Rinderknech Shocks Auger-Aliassime to Enter Shanghai Masters Semifinals

French tennis star Arthur Rinderknech continued his dream run at the Shanghai Masters 2025, defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4, to storm into the semifinals. The unseeded Rinderknech, currently ranked No. 54, delivered another stunning performance, having already upset world No. 3 Alexander Zverev earlier in the tournament. The 30-year-old Frenchman looked composed and confident throughout the match, breaking the 13th-ranked Canadian in the sixth game of the opening set with a perfectly executed down-the-line winner. He

maintained that momentum to close out the set and carried his dominance into the second, never allowing Auger-Aliassime to recover. Speaking after the match, Rinderknech expressed satisfaction with his performance: "Sometimes you like to win ugly, and today I thought it was a pretty good-looking win," he said with a smile. "It was good conditions today... with some family in the box. I'm following Val again today," he added, referring to his cousin, Valentin Vacherot, who also reached the semifinals on Thursday by defeating Denmark's Holger Rune. This marks a re-

markable milestone for the Rinderknech-Vacherot family, with both cousins making it to the final four of a Masters 1000 tournament — a rare feat in professional tennis. Arthur Rinderknech will now face the winner of the quarterfinal clash between Daniil Medvedev and Alex de Minaur, scheduled for later on Friday. With two seeds already knocked out by the Frenchman, his presence in the semifinals will be closely watched by fans and analysts alike. From underdog to giant-slayer, Rinderknech's Shanghai journey is quickly becoming one of the biggest surprises of the 2025 ATP season.

Jaiswal Hits 173 As India Dominate Day 1 Against West Indies



India ended Day 1 of the second Test against West Indies in commanding fashion at 318/2, thanks to a magnificent unbeaten 173 from opener Yashasvi Jaiswal at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Jaiswal, batting from start to finish, continued his rich vein of form and etched his name in history by becoming only the second Indian after Sachin Tendulkar to score seven or more Test centuries before the age of 24. His innings was a blend of patience, timing, and calculated aggression, anchoring India through all three sessions. The 23-year-old left-hander shared a crucial 185-run partnership with B Sai Sudharsan, who registered his highest Test score of 87 before falling just 13 runs short of a maiden century. Sudharsan looked solid before he was dismissed by left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican, who was the lone

bright spot for the visitors with two wickets to his name. Warrican also claimed the scalp of KL Rahul with a stunning delivery that left the Indian batter completely beaten and stumped—a rare sight for Rahul in Tests. Earlier in the day, Indian captain Shubman Gill won the toss and chose to bat, marking his first toss win as Test skipper after six unsuccessful attempts. Gill, who came in at No. 4, finished the day unbeaten on 42 and will resume alongside Jaiswal on Day 2. West Indies, led by Roston Chase in this match, struggled to find breakthroughs as the Indian batters dominated on a slow but steady surface. With Jaiswal eyeing a double century and India already in a strong position, the hosts look set to build a massive first-innings total and keep the pressure firmly on the visitors.

Sabalenka Storms Into Wuhan Open Semifinals, Extends Win Streak to 20 Matches

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka maintained her dominance at the Wuhan Open by defeating Elena Rybakina 6-3, 6-3 on Friday, extending her incredible winning streak at the tournament to 20 consecutive matches. With this victory, the reigning US Open champion advanced to her 11th semifinal of the 2025 season. Sabalenka, who previously won the Wuhan Open titles in 2018, 2019, and again on her return in 2024, showed her class by breaking Rybakina's serve three times in the 1-hour, 25-minute contest. Despite Rybakina's strong reputation, Sabalenka stayed composed and aggressive,

sending powerful groundstrokes past the eighth seed with ease. "We have a really huge history against each other," Sabalenka said in her on-court interview. "It's always a great battle. She always pushes me to the limit to get the win." Sabalenka acknowledged the crowd with a wave and blew kisses after her straight-set win, a gesture now familiar to fans in Wuhan, where she remains unbeaten for nearly seven years. Up next, she will face Jessica Pegula, the sixth seed, in the semifinals. Pegula survived a shaky start in her quarterfinal against Katerina Siniakova, losing the first set 2-6 before bouncing back

with a dominant 6-0, 6-3 performance. The American has now gone to a deciding third set in seven consecutive matches, showcasing her grit and fitness in the late stages of the season. Elsewhere, quarterfinal action continued with Iga Swiatek taking on Jasmine Paolini, and Coco Gauff scheduled to meet Laura Siegemund in what promises to be a high-octane finish to the WTA 1000-level event. Sabalenka's consistency at Wuhan not only strengthens her claim as one of the top players of the decade but also sets the stage for a thrilling showdown as the tournament heads into its final rounds.





Kishkindhapuri Locks Digital Premiere on ZEE5

The recent Telugu horror thriller Kishkindhapuri, starring Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and Anupama Parameswaran, has officially sealed its digital premiere date. After a decent theatrical run post its release on September 12, the film is all set to stream on ZEE5 starting October 17, 2025.

Directed by Koushik Pegalapati and produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner, Kishkindhapuri blends horror and thriller elements with a unique premise. The film revolves around a ghost walking tour company, where Bellamkonda and Anupama play key roles as part of the team conducting eerie tours through haunted locales. What begins as an adventurous job soon turns into a terrifying ordeal, as the supernatural elements take a sinister turn. The film received appreciation for its atmospheric storytelling, strong performances, and

chilling visuals, making it a satisfying watch for horror genre lovers. The Telugu audience, known for their continued interest in well-crafted horror flicks, responded positively, helping the film secure a decent box office return. ZEE5 announced the film's digital debut with the tagline, "The Broadcast of Fear 'Kishkindhapuri' is live from October 17th ONLY on ZEE5," building anticipation among OTT audiences who missed the theatrical release or are eager for a rewatch. With its arrival on ZEE5, Kishkindhapuri joins the growing list of regional horror hits finding a wider audience on digital platforms. The film is expected to gain further traction post its streaming debut, particularly among fans of supernatural thrillers. Mark your calendars for October 17 as Kishkindhapuri brings its ghostly chills to your screens, promising a thrilling watch from the comfort of home.



Trisha to Tie the Knot? Parents Reportedly Approve Chandigarh Businessman

Popular South Indian actress Trisha Krishnan is once again in the spotlight, but this time, it's not for a film. According to a report by Siasat.com, the actress may soon be getting married, with her parents reportedly approving a match with a businessman from Chandigarh. While Trisha has not officially confirmed the news, this development has sparked widespread interest among fans and media alike.

The report claims that both families have known each other for years, which could be a key factor in the match. However, further details about the businessman remain undisclosed for now. Trisha recently addressed the ongoing wedding speculation, stating that she is indeed open to marriage if she finds the right person. "The right time hasn't come yet," she said, indicating that while she is not opposed to the idea, nothing has been finalized publicly. This is not the first time the actress has made headlines for her personal life. In 2015, Trisha was engaged to entrepreneur Varun Manian, but the engagement was called off shortly after. Back then, reports suggested that disagreements over her acting career post-marriage may have led to the split.

Adding more fuel to the buzz are the long-standing rumours of romance between Trisha and actor Vijay. Their on-screen chemistry in Tamil blockbusters like Ghilli, Thirupaachi, and Kuruvu won hearts, and off-screen speculation followed. However, both stars have consistently denied any romantic involvement, maintaining they were just friends. Meanwhile, Trisha was last seen in Thug Life alongside Kamal Haasan and continues to remain active in the Tamil and Telugu film industries. As of now, Trisha's parents have not issued any statement on the wedding rumours, but fans are closely watching for official confirmation.



Andhra King Taluka Teaser to Drop on October 12

Young and dynamic star Ram Pothineni is all set to entertain audiences with his upcoming romantic entertainer Andhra King Taluka. Directed by P. Mahesh Babu, the film has already generated significant buzz through its promotional content, and fans are eagerly waiting to see more. Adding to the excitement, the makers have officially announced that the teaser of Andhra King Taluka will be released on October 12, 2025. The film team promises that the teaser will offer a glimpse into the high-energy romance, drama, and entertainment the movie is set to deliver. With Ram in a stylish and energetic avatar, expectations are sky-high. The film also features a stellar supporting cast, including Kannada superstar Upendra and rising actress Bhagyashree Borse, who plays the female lead. Their

roles are said to be pivotal to the storyline, adding depth and drama to this vibrant entertainer. The music for Andhra King Taluka is composed by the popular Tamil music duo Vivek-Mervin, whose tracks are expected to be a major highlight of the film. The soundtrack is likely to offer a mix of peppy romantic numbers and emotional melodies, fitting the mood of the movie. Backed by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers, the film is being mounted on a grand scale and is set for a worldwide theatrical release on November 28, 2025. With a combination of youthful energy, star power, and strong production values, Andhra King Taluka is shaping up to be one of the most awaited releases of the season. Mark your calendars — October 12 for the teaser and November 28 for the big-screen release.



Fans of Superstar Mahesh Babu and ace director SS Rajamouli were eagerly waiting for an official update on their much-anticipated collaboration, tentatively titled SSMB29. With Rajamouli celebrating his 52nd birthday today (October 10), expectations were high that the makers would reveal something significant about the project.

However, there was no official update or announcement regarding SSMB29 on the occasion. Still, fans were treated to a delightful surprise when Mahesh Babu shared an unseen candid picture of himself with Rajamouli on social media, along with a heartfelt birthday wish.

"Wishing the one and only @ssrajamouli a very Happy Birthday... The best is always yet to come. Have a great one sir," Mahesh captioned the post. The picture shows both stars flashing wide smiles, radiating warmth and camaraderie, which quickly went viral across platforms.

Mahesh Babu's rugged look in the picture — long hair tucked under a cap and a thick beard — is fueling further speculation about his look in SSMB29. Rajamouli, meanwhile, appears in his signature style with a salt-and-pepper beard and casual attire. Though no formal details were revealed today, the

buzz surrounding the project remains strong. According to insider sources, the title of the film might be unveiled on November 16 in a grand launch event. The makers are reportedly considering "Varanasi" as the film's title, hinting at a possibly spiritual or culturally rooted narrative. SSMB29 is touted to be a globetrotting action-adventure, and marks Mahesh Babu's first collaboration with Rajamouli — a director known for his record-shattering blockbusters. Until official updates arrive, fans can enjoy this candid moment shared between two of Indian cinema's biggest names.

CULT CLASSIC 'UPENDRA' SET FOR RE-RELEASE ON OCTOBER 11

The 1999 Kannada cult classic Upendra, starring and directed by the maverick filmmaker Upendra, is all set to return to the big screens after over 26 years. Known for its bold themes and unconventional storytelling, the film has achieved legendary status among fans in Karnataka and the Telugu states, and is now gearing up for a grand re-release. The re-release is being spearheaded by Mythri Movie Distributors, the distribution arm of leading Tollywood production house Mythri Movie Makers. The company has acquired the theatrical rights to release Upendra across the Nizam region, targeting both nostalgic fans

and curious new-age viewers.

Upendra is a dark socio-psychological satire that questions societal norms, ego, identity, and human behavior. Its layered narrative and provocative dialogues created waves back in the day, and its impact continues to resonate. The film's unapologetically bold take on human nature made it a sensation, establishing Upendra not only as a powerhouse actor but also a visionary director.

The newly launched re-release trailer has stirred up considerable excitement, especially among Gen Z audiences who've only heard about the film's cult following. With digitally

enhanced visuals and sound, the re-release promises to elevate the cinematic experience for both old fans and newcomers.

Also starring Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon, the film features an intense performance by Upendra in a role that blurs the line between protagonist and antagonist.

As anticipation builds, theatres are expected to see strong footfalls for the re-release, marking a celebration of one of Indian cinema's most unique storytelling experiments. Fans can relive the madness—or experience it for the first time—when Upendra returns to cinemas.

