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AP CM MEETS PM MODI, Invites him to state major events.

TPN / Vijayawada / New Delhi Oct 13: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday in what sources described as a highly productive and forward-looking meeting aimed at accelerating development across the state. The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's official residence, focused on strengthening collaboration between the Centre and the State to push major infrastructure and industrial projects forward. During the discussion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu formally invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Andhra Pradesh for two significant forthcoming events, the 'Super GST - Super Savings' event to be held in Kurnool and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam.



Both events are expected to play an instrumental role in promoting the state's ambitious industrial agenda and showcasing its readiness for

large-scale investments. The Chief Minister's invitation comes at a time when Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself as one of India's fastest-growing states in terms of business attractiveness, infrastructure readiness, and policy reforms. The two events are likely to highlight the vibrant

growth potential of Andhra Pradesh, encouraging both domestic and international investors to explore opportunities in manufacturing, technology, logistics, and green energy. Accompanying the Chief Minister at the meeting were Union Ministers Ram Mohan

Naidu Kinjarapu and Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, along with TDP MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu. Their presence underscored the common goal shared by the State and Central leaders to enhance coordination between both governments for seamless implementation of

infrastructure expansion, irrigation modernization, and renewable energy corridors. The Chief Minister is said to have sought continued central support for accelerating these projects, highlighting their potential to transform Andhra Pradesh into a leading economic and technological powerhouse in South India. The 'Super GST - Super Savings' event in Kurnool is being organized as a major platform to recognize the highest-performing business entities and industrial contributors across the state, while also promoting awareness of the benefits of GST compliance. It is expected to draw wide participation from traders, industrial associations, and government departments, emphasizing efficiency, transparency, and tax awareness as key drivers of economic progress. The CII Partnership Summit, to be hosted in Visakhapatnam, will be yet another milestone in Andhra Pradesh's pursuit of global partnerships. The summit will

convene policymakers, business leaders, foreign delegates, and investors to discuss sectors such as infrastructure, electronics manufacturing, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and ports. Through this event, the state aims to attract long-term investments and strategic collaborations that can significantly boost its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and employment generation. Speaking to mediapersons following the meeting, a senior official from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) noted that the interaction between Chandrababu Naidu and Prime Minister Modi reflected the "maturity and mutual commitment" of both governments to achieving the vision of a prosperous and self-reliant Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister reportedly emphasized that AP's growth would directly contribute to India's broader economic objectives outlined under the Modi-led NDA government, particularly in manufacturing excellence, export-led growth,

and innovation-driven entrepreneurship. Political observers have described this meeting as an important signal of the enduring alliance and cooperation between the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) within the NDA framework. The partnership, they noted, is set to play a crucial role in bolstering developmental synergy between the State and Centre, especially at a time when the government of Andhra Pradesh is focused on rebuilding economic momentum and ensuring transparency in governance. As Andhra Pradesh prepares to host these two major summits, the state's leadership appears energized to position it among the top destinations for investment in India. The upcoming months are expected to witness a series of initiatives highlighting the state's renewed development vision, emphasizing industrial innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth as the key pillars of progress.



AP TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH GOOGLE

TPN BUREAU, ANDHRAPRADESH OCT 13: The Government of Andhra Pradesh is set to sign a landmark agreement with Google on Tuesday for the establishment of a 1-gigawatt hyperscale data center campus in Visakhapatnam, marking one of Google's largest infrastructure projects in Asia. Valued at \$3,000 crore (approximately USD 10 billion), this investment will be the foundation of "AI City Vizag," India's first integrated artificial intelligence hub. The signing ceremony will take place at Hotel Taj Mansingh in New Delhi, with participation from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh, senior Google executives including Thomas Kurian (CEO, Google Cloud), Bikash Koley (Vice President, Global Infrastructure), Karan Bajwa (President, Asia Pacific Google Cloud), and key Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Ashwini

Vaishnav.

The project aims to connect Vizag to Google's global network through subsea and terrestrial systems while integrating clean-energy power sources, positioning Vizag as a cutting-edge center for AI and digital infrastructure. Described by Minister Nara Lokesh as a transformative initiative, the 1GW data center is expected to catalyze the development of AI City Vizag, envisaged as India's digital powerhouse. Economic projections estimate the project will contribute an average annual Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) boost of 10,518 crore between 2028 and 2032. Moreover, it is anticipated to directly and indirectly support approximately 1.88 lakh jobs per year across sectors such as construction, data center operations, engineering, IT, and the supply chain. Additional productivity spillovers enabled by Google Cloud

could amount to 47,720 crore over five years, significantly enhancing the state's economic landscape. The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board, chaired by Chief Minister Naidu, has approved this ambitious project, which benefits from streamlined single-window clearances, reliable utilities, and renewable energy integration. The Economic Development Board and the Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Department will facilitate its execution, ensuring plug-and-play infrastructure aimed at operational stability for such hyperscale development. The project not only signifies a major technological leap for Andhra Pradesh but also triggers ancillary sector growth in power, fiber optics, real estate, and telecommunications. It is set to strengthen infrastructure upgrades in roads, power, and fiber connectivity while enhancing state revenues

through SGST, electricity duty, and property tax in the long term. As Chief Minister Naidu stated, "This is not just an investment; it's a vision being realized. Andhra Pradesh is proud to host one of the world's largest technology investments, a testament to our policy strength, governance, and our people's capability. The Google Data Center in Vizag will anchor our journey towards becoming the AI capital of India and a global hub for digital innovation." This historic pact showcases Andhra Pradesh's strategic role in accelerating India's AI-driven digital transformation and reflects growing investor confidence in the state's governance and infrastructure capabilities. The project underpins the government's ambition to create a vibrant ecosystem fostering AI, cloud computing, IoT, 5G, and e-governance platforms, reinforcing Vizag's emergence as a global technology hub.

VIZAG TO HOST 4TH CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT



TPN BUREAU, VIZAG OCT 13: To Boost Andhra Pradesh's Brand Image and Attract Investments In a strategic move aimed at elevating its global profile and attracting foreign investments, Andhra Pradesh is preparing to host the fourth edition of the prestigious CII partnership summit in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu underscored the significance of this event, emphasizing its dual purpose of enhancing the state's brand image and fostering international trade and collaboration. During a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat, Naidu highlighted the importance of the summit as a platform to showcase Andhra Pradesh's development initiatives and strategic advantages on the world stage. He expressed his intention to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to participate in

the event, which would add high-level political support and visibility. The Chief Minister directed officials to extend invitations to influential global leaders, CEOs, industry representatives, and policy thinkers from across the globe, underscoring the summit's focus on global economic transformations. The upcoming summit carries a theme centered around technology, trust, and navigating the geoeconomic order, with an agenda comprising 13 focused sessions. These sessions will cover critical sectors such as trade, technology, innovation, defence, aerospace, healthcare, biotechnology, smart manufacturing, logistics, supply chain management, sustainability, and clean energy. The emphasis on such diverse sectors reflects Andhra Pradesh's strategic vision of becoming a hub for technological innovation and sustainable development. Visakhapatnam, which

previously hosted the summit in 2016, 2017, and 2018, will once again serve as the focal point for international economic discourse in the region. The summit aims to attract participation from delegates representing over 40 countries, including 29 commerce ministers, 80 foreign CEOs, and 13 union ministers. This extensive participation underscores the event's significance as a premier platform for fostering international investment and trade partnerships. Minister Nara Lokesh has played a proactive role in outreach efforts by visiting several countries and organizing road shows to invite foreign delegates and business leaders. These efforts are expected to bolster the summit's success by ensuring robust international participation. The preparations for the summit involve meticulous planning and coordination among government officials, industry leaders, and

the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Chief Secretary K Vijayanand and CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee are among the key officials overseeing these arrangements. The event is also expected to spotlight emerging sectors such as biotechnology, health care, and renewable energy, aligning with Andhra Pradesh's long-term goals of sustainable and inclusive growth. As Andhra Pradesh gears up for this high-profile international event, the state aims to project itself as an attractive destination for foreign investment and technological collaboration. The summit promises to not only bolster the state's economic profile but also catalyze new opportunities for industry and trade partners worldwide. Through this event, Andhra Pradesh seeks to strengthen its position in the global geoeconomic landscape and secure a brighter, more prosperous future for its citizens.

SURYA SAI PRAVEEN CHAND - JMD OF APTRANSCO

TPN / Vijayawada, October 13: G Surya Sai Praveenchand Takes Charge as JMD of APTRANSCO, Vows Round-the-Clock Quality Power Supply

G Surya Sai Praveenchand, IAS, has officially assumed charge as the Joint Managing Director (JMD) of the Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) at Vidyut Soudha, Vijayawada, on Monday. On this occasion, he reaffirmed his strong commitment to ensuring 24x7 reliable and quality power supply across the state while further strengthening the operational efficiency and reliability of APTRANSCO, one of the country's leading

power transmission utilities. After taking charge, Praveenchand emphasized that APTRANSCO has been implementing several best practices aimed at enhancing its operational efficiency, improving transmission infrastructure, and maintaining top reliability standards.

He expressed confidence that, with collective effort and dedication, the organization would continue to uphold its legacy of excellence and achieve the goal of emerging as the nation's No.1 power transmission utility in the near future. Praveenchand expressed deep gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu,



Energy Minister (Energy) K. Vijayanand for entrusting him with this key responsibility. He assured them that he

would discharge his duties with complete dedication, accountability, and focus on achieving the government's vision for the power sector.

He reiterated his commitment to align APTRANSCO's growth and modernization strategies with the broader objectives of the Energy Department, which include strengthening the state's power infrastructure, enhancing digital integration, and ensuring uninterrupted power supply even to the most remote corners of Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the importance of teamwork, Sri Praveenchand stated

that collaboration and collective participation would be the foundation of APTRANSCO's progress. He urged all officers, engineers, and employees to work in close coordination with renewed energy and commitment toward operational excellence.

He remarked that serving in the power sector is not just a professional responsibility but also a privilege, as reliable electricity is the backbone of economic and social development. The new JMD also outlined his plans to focus on improving grid stability, adopting advanced technologies for real-time monitoring and control, and enhancing system resilience against natural contingencies.

Under his leadership, APTRANSCO is expected to play a key role in supporting the state's industrial, agricultural, and domestic energy needs through efficient transmission management and future-oriented capacity augmentation projects.

Senior officials of APTRANSCO, including Directors A.K.V. Bhaskar, J.V. Rao, N.V. Ramana Murthy, Additional Secretary Peddi Raja, and other senior staff members of the power utilities attended the event. They congratulated Sri Praveenchand on assuming charge and assured their full cooperation in realizing the corporation's developmental and operational goals. The officers collectively expressed confidence that under Praveenchand's leadership, APTRANSCO will continue to scale new heights, further improving the state's power transmission network and contributing to Andhra Pradesh's broader developmental vision.

The ceremony concluded with a renewed pledge from all attendees to work towards achieving 24x7 quality power supply for the people of Andhra Pradesh and to make the corporation a model for power utilities across the country.

AP AIMS ON ASIAN TOURISM LEADERSHIP- MINISTER DURGESH

TPN | Vijayawada | October 13, 2025 Andhra Pradesh is setting its sights on becoming one of Asia's leading tourist destinations by 2030, according to Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, who will lead a high-level state delegation to Udaipur, Rajasthan, for the National Mission meeting on Tourism on October 14-15. The event, chaired by Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, will bring together tourism leaders from across India to discuss the development of 50 competitive tourist destinations and evaluate the implementation of key tourism initiatives under the Union Budget 2025-26.

Minister Durgesh will present Andhra Pradesh's proposals under the National Mission, showcasing the state's comprehensive strategy to strengthen tourism infrastructure, attract investments, boost local economies, and create employment opportunities—particularly for the youth. Highlighting the state's ambitious plans, he said, "We aim to make Andhra Pradesh one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Asia by 2030. "The National Mission on Tourism Development



has been launched by the Union government to promote competitive federalism among states and reward them for effective destination management. The initiative provides performance-based incentives for states demonstrating progress in areas such as infrastructure creation, cleanliness, digital readiness, marketing, and visitor experience enhancement.

As part of the program, states are also encouraged to streamline land availability and clearances for tourism projects, ensuring ease of doing business and faster project execution. Over the past few years, Andhra Pradesh has witnessed strong investor interest in its tourism sector. The state has already attracted investments worth 12,000 crore, spanning projects in eco-tourism, heritage restoration, coastal resorts, and

religious circuits. Officials expect this momentum to rise further following the Udaipur meeting, where Andhra Pradesh aims to position itself as a key beneficiary of the national tourism push.

Minister Durgesh emphasized that tourism is one of the pillars of Andhra Pradesh's economic diversification strategy. "Our focus is not only on attracting tourists but also on ensuring that tourism becomes a sustainable driver of rural development and entrepreneurship," he said. The state government plans to develop world-class facilities, including modern resorts, improved connectivity, smart tourism infrastructure, and digital visitor engagement systems to elevate the overall experience. The government's roadmap includes the promotion of cultural, heritage,

beach, religious, and eco-tourism circuits, reflecting the state's diverse attractions—from the scenic Araku Valley and the spiritual city of Tirupati to the pristine beaches of Visakhapatnam and the architectural marvels of Amaravati.

In addition, partnerships with private investors and international operators are being strengthened to enhance service standards and global visibility. Officials from the tourism and investment sectors, along with stakeholders from hospitality, transportation, and environmental planning, are expected to participate in the two-day deliberations in Udaipur. These discussions will also explore collaborations with international organizations for sustainable tourism, capacity building, and promotion of India's tourism brand abroad.

Minister Durgesh expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh's active participation in the National Mission will accelerate development and help the state emerge as a globally competitive tourism hub, combining natural beauty, cultural heritage, and modern infrastructure to create rewarding experiences for visitors from across the world.

AP HIGH COURT COMMENTS ON POLICE

TPN BUREAU, Amaravati, October 13: AP High Court Slams Police Over Tirupati Parakamani Case, Questions Department's Commitment. In a scathing observation, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday came down heavily on the state police department, questioning its efficiency, accountability, and commitment in handling the high-profile Tirupati Parakamani case. The court went to the extent of remarking that it would be better to close down the AP State Police Department if this was the way it functioned.

The bench expressed outrage at the continued inaction of the department despite clear orders issued weeks earlier. On September 19, the High Court had instructed the police to seize key records linked to alleged irregularities in the Parakamani—the counting and accounting process of offerings made by devotees at the Tirumala temple. However, those orders remained unimplemented till date, prompting the court to raise serious questions about the integrity of the investigation.

The judges did not mince words in calling out the Director General of Police



(DGP) and other top officials, asking whether they were "sleeping" while such sensitive matters remained pending. "Is this how the police system works?" the court demanded. The judiciary took particular note of the explanation offered by authorities that an Inspector General (IG) post in the Crime Investigation Department (CID) was currently vacant, and hence the orders could not be carried out.

Rejecting that reasoning outright, the High Court observed that genuine commitment would have led to the immediate appointment of an IG-level officer to execute the seizure orders. The court stressed that procedural hurdles cannot be used to justify delays in critical cases involving potential tampering of evidence. In a strongly worded accusation, the court alleged that police officials appeared to have

cooperated with those involved in wrongdoing, enabling them to manipulate or destroy vital evidence. This, it said, reflected directly on the department's supposed honesty in investigating the case. The Tirupati Parakamani case has been under the spotlight for suspected irregularities in the counting and recording of offerings received at the temple.

Devotees and public interest groups have long demanded transparency and accountability in the process, and the case was seen as an important litmus test for the state's law enforcement capacity to handle sensitive religious and financial matters. The High Court's fury signals growing frustration with what it perceives as systemic negligence within the Andhra Pradesh Police. In its latest directions, it ordered the CID Director General to take immediate

possession of the relevant records and submit them before the court without further delay. The judiciary also warned that failure to comply would attract serious consequences. The hearing has now been adjourned to October 17, when the court expects a complete update on its directives. Legal experts believe that the High Court's strong remarks could have far-reaching implications for the credibility of the police department, especially in cases involving public trust and religious institutions. With public confidence in law enforcement already under strain, the High Court's intervention underscores the urgent need for decisive action and reform within the department. Observers say this episode may well turn into a turning point for accountability in the AP Police system, depending on how swiftly and sincerely its leadership responds.

AP PANEL TO BOOST REVENUE

AP Government Forms Cabinet Panel to Boost Revenue Sources

TPN BUREAU, Amaravati, October 13: The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step towards strengthening its financial base by initiating measures to expand and diversify revenue sources. In a decisive move, the state has constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to explore, identify, and implement alternative avenues of revenue mobilisation. According to official orders issued on Monday, the sub-committee will consist of six ministers, reflecting the coalition government's focus on collective deliberation

for economic improvement.

Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav will play a key role in this panel along with Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Angani Satya Prasad, Satyakumar Yadav, Kandula Durgesh, and Vangalapudi Anita. The government has entrusted this Group of Ministers (GoM) with a comprehensive mandate covering immediate, medium, and long-term strategies aimed at revenue growth.

The directive outlines multiple responsibilities for the committee, including reviewing monthly revenue performance against set targets and recommending reforms



to improve financial results. The GoM will study alternative revenue generation models, incorporating technology to enhance efficiency, transparency, and collection mechanisms across departments. Additionally, the committee will examine

ways to strengthen the administrative apparatus and assess the need for amendments to laws, rules, and policies that could foster better income streams for the state. One important focus area is interdepartmental coordination.

The government has

emphasized resolving policy bottlenecks that hinder revenue generation in various sectors. By harmonizing efforts across ministries and agencies, AP hopes to establish a more integrated fiscal approach capable of delivering consistent growth. Furthermore,

the GoM has been tasked with aligning its recommendations with the Swarnandhra-2047 vision—a long-term developmental blueprint aimed at propelling Andhra Pradesh into an advanced economic and social status by the nation's centenary of independence.

This alignment ensures that the short-term measures taken today will contribute to the state's long-term prosperity. The orders mandate that the sub-committee hold monthly meetings to review progress, introduce new measures, and address obstacles. The ministers must present periodic reports and suggestions to the government,

ensuring continuous monitoring and adaptability in strategies. These reviews will enable the tracking of revenue flows and allow timely adjustments in policies where needed.

Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has already directed the Finance Department to take immediate follow-up actions based on the committee's findings and proposals. This step signals that the government intends to move swiftly from planning to execution, minimizing delays in policy implementation. Given the rising demands on public expenditure and developmental commitments, the focus

on broadening revenue sources comes at a crucial time.

The evolving fiscal strategy aims not only to address current budgetary needs but also to build resilience against future economic challenges. With coordinated ministerial effort, targeted reforms, and the integration of modern technology, the AP government hopes to set a clear roadmap for sustainable revenue growth—one that supports both present-day governance and the ambitious goals of Swarnandhra-2047. Would you like me to also create a shorter 250-300 word TV bulletin version of this news for quick broadcast?



A TWIST IN LIQUOR SCAM



TPN BUREAU Amaravati, October 13, 2025 – The liquor scam case has taken a significant turn as the Vijayawada Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court extended the remand of several main accused till October 16. This decision comes amid ongoing investigations into the high-profile scam that has drawn widespread attention across Andhra Pradesh. In today's proceedings at the Vijayawada ACB court, the judge approved the extension of custody for key accused, reflecting the seriousness and complexity of the case.

The extended remand is intended to allow investigative agencies more time to delve deeper into the allegations and gather crucial evidence that could lead to convictions. Among the accused, Rajampet Member of Parliament (MP) from the YSR Congress Party, Mithun Reddy, has made headlines with his recent petition to the court. Mithun Reddy requested permission to travel to New York starting October 20. The court, however, has instructed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials to prepare a counter to his petition.

The matter is expected to be revisited in tomorrow's hearing, where the court will decide whether to grant or deny the MP's travel request amid the ongoing legal proceedings. Meanwhile, another



VINUTHA ON DRIVER RAMUYUDU'S CASE

TPN BUREAU, KALAHASTI OCT 13: Former Sri Kalahasti Janasena in-charge Vinutha Kota has made an emotional video statement denying any involvement in the murder of her driver Rayudu and highlighting conspiracies against her. She clarified that although she went to jail for the case, she did not commit the crime, and false propaganda regarding her involvement has caused her deep emotional pain. Kota expressed that she entered politics not for personal gain but to serve the public and gave up a high-paying job to do so.

She assured that she will prove her innocence in court and come out with a clean chit, and that she will soon release a detailed video with evidence exposing the conspiracies against her. The case revolves around the murder of Srinivasulu aka Rayudu, who was a driver and former personal assistant for Vinutha Kota. Rayudu's body was found in Chennai's Koovam River in July 2025 with signs of strangulation and torture. Kota, her husband Chandrababu,



and three aides were arrested, accused of killing Rayudu and disposing of his body. The police initially suggested the motive was Rayudu leaking sensitive political and personal information about Vinutha Kota to political rivals. Kota

claimed the allegations were politically motivated to ruin her reputation. A major twist came when a video surfaced, reportedly recorded by Rayudu before his death, accusing Telugu Desam Party MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy of

conspiring against Kota and her husband. According to Rayudu's video, Bojjala's camp offered him money and threatened him to make false statements against Kota, and tried to involve private video surveillance.

Bojjala Sudheer Reddy has denied all allegations, calling the video a doctored attempt to malign him politically and urging a thorough investigation. Kota expressed in her video that although she is not regretful of going to jail for something she did not do, the false narratives about her murdering her driver are deeply hurtful. She addressed Janasena chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, urging reconsideration of political decisions related to her constituency as she feels sidelined through conspiracies.

She said the court granted her bail in 19 days due to lack of evidence against her. The case has stirred political tension in Srikalahasti, with allegations and counter-allegations between Janasena and TDP leaders intensifying. The ruling parties are expected to investigate thoroughly to maintain alliance trust and public confidence. Vinutha Kota assures more revelations with evidence to expose the conspiracy shortly and clear her name once the legal process unfolds fully.



BHUMA NAGARAGINI OATHS AS MARKET YARD CHAIRMAN

Anantapur, October 13: Bhuma Nagaragini Takes Oath as Tadipatri Market Yard Chairman Amid Grand Celebrations

The oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Market Yard Committee in Tadipatri took place on Monday with great fanfare and enthusiasm. The event turned into a grand celebration, drawing massive participation from leaders, supporters, and the public across the constituency. A massive rally of two-wheelers and cars was organized from Ashok Pillar Circle to the Market Yard, marking the beginning of the celebratory event. Tadipatri Municipal Chairman JC Prabhakar Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest and administered the oath of office to the new committee members.

Bhuma Nagaragini of Tadipatri was sworn in as the Market Yard Chairman, while Parimi Srihari of Yadiki took oath as the Vice Chairman. Along with them, 13 other members pledged to uphold their responsibilities and work for the development of the Market Yard. Speaking on the occasion, JC Prabhakar Reddy said that the Market Yard has played a major role in Tadipatri's economic growth and deserved renewed attention to restore its past glory. "In the past, the Market Yard

was profitable, but not now. I firmly believe the new committee will work collectively to make it number one again," he said.

Referring to his decision to appoint Bhuma Nagaragini as Chairman, Prabhakar Reddy stated, "Everyone did not want Bhuma Nagaragini, but I trusted her; and that is why I gave her the opportunity. She is a young and energetic woman who has the potential to achieve anything." He also emphasized his faith in women's leadership, saying, "I have great faith in women. Whatever work they take up, they do it with sincerity and dedication." Acknowledging the trust reposed in her by JC Prabhakar Reddy and MLA JC Asmit Reddy, Chairman Bhuma Nagaragini expressed her gratitude and vowed to work hard for the progress of the Market Yard.

She assured that her tenure would focus on improving facilities, supporting farmers, and ensuring transparent operations. Following the oath ceremony, the newly sworn-in committee members were felicitated with shawls amid cheers from the crowd. Leaders and activists from the ruling alliance, along with hundreds of supporters, attended the event, making it one of the most vibrant political gatherings witnessed in Tadipatri in recent months.



POLICE WEIGHTLIFTING CLUSTURE 2026-26



TPN BUREAU, MANGALAGIRI OCT 13: 2nd All India Police Weightlifting Cluster 2025-26 Begins in Andhra Pradesh commenced on Monday amid an atmosphere of enthusiasm and competitive spirit at the 6th Battalion Andhra Pradesh Special Police Sports Grounds in Mangalagiri. Organized under the guidance of the All India Police

Sports Control Board, Delhi, and hosted by the Andhra Pradesh Police Department, the event has brought together police personnel from across the nation to participate in various strength and fitness competitions. The opening ceremony was presided over by Minister for Home Affairs and Disaster Management, Vangalapudi Anitha, and

State Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta. Senior police officials, dignitaries, and sports enthusiasts attended the grand inaugural, marked by a ceremonial march past from the participating teams. A total of 32 teams representing different states, Union Territories, and central police organizations are competing in the

national-level event. This year's tournament features three categories — weightlifting, powerlifting, and yoga — for both men and women. The weightlifting and powerlifting competitions are being conducted at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU) in Guntur, while yoga events are taking place at the Vellore Institute of Technology

(VIT) in Amaravati. The scale of the event is impressive, with 1,010 athletes from across the country showcasing their skills, endurance, and teamwork in front of an enthusiastic audience. Addressing the gathering, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha emphasized the state government's commitment to fostering sports culture in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. She underscored that the ongoing development of the Sports City in Amaravati, built to international standards, will transform the region into a premier destination for national and international sporting events. Minister Anitha also highlighted the importance of police sports clusters, noting that they not only promote fitness and discipline among police personnel but also reflect



their dedication to team work and excellence. She praised Andhra Pradesh's recent achievement in setting a Guinness World Record during the Yoga-Andhra program in Visakhapatnam, which witnessed participation from an unprecedented 3,20,000 people, calling it a testament to the State's sporting spirit. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, in his address, commended the sense of unity and mutual respect fostered by such tournaments. He remarked that beyond winning medals, the essence of the competition lies in participation, camaraderie, and the strengthening of bonds among different police forces. Gupta reiterated the department's commitment to encouraging physical fitness, mental resilience, and holistic well-being for its personnel. Senior officials including Inspector General, Welfare & Sports, KV Mohan Rao, and Deputy Inspector General Anburajan also addressed the audience, speaking on the significance of embedding sports activities within police welfare measures. They stressed that sports are a vital tool for boosting morale, building discipline, and reducing stress among officers. With a vibrant mix of competitive

events and cultural exchanges, the 2nd All India Police Weightlifting Cluster promises to offer memorable experiences to participants and inspire younger generations of police personnel. The tournament is expected to strengthen the culture of sporting excellence within the country's law enforcement agencies while reinforcing the values of unity, discipline, and mutual respect.



Vijayawada Division Observes 'Swachh Spardha Diwas' under Swachhta Pakhwada-2025



Promoting Cleanliness and Public Awareness Across Stations As part of the ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada-2025 initiative under the Indian Railways, the Vijayawada Division of the South Central Railway observed "Swachh Spardha Diwas" (Clean Competition Day) on Monday with great enthusiasm and public involvement. The event formed an integral part of Special Cleanliness Campaign 5.0, being held from 1st to 15th October 2025, focusing on reinforcing a culture of cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental responsibility across the railway network. Under the dynamic leadership of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Mohit Sonakiya, the campaign saw active participation from all sections of the railway community, including cleaning staff, regular employees, contract workers, and supervisory staff. As part of the day's observance, various cleanliness competitions were organized at stations across the division to inspire teamwork, innovation, and pride in maintaining hygienic facilities for millions of railway passengers. The competitions included station cleanliness drives, waste segregation challenges, and creative displays that emphasized sustainable waste management practices.

Employees were encouraged to implement eco-friendly measures such as composting, recycling of plastic waste, and efficient water use. These contests fostered a healthy competitive spirit while spreading a powerful message of commitment to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan vision initiated by the Government of India. To extend the impact beyond railway employees, extensive efforts were made to spread public awareness about cleanliness and civic responsibility. At various stations, public announcement systems were used to broadcast messages discouraging littering and wastage. Travellers were urged to dispose of waste responsibly, use designated dustbins, and support railway efforts in maintaining clean platforms and trains. The announcements also highlighted the harmful consequences of littering including pollution, drainage blockages, and health hazards thereby motivating passengers to become active partners in the mission for a cleaner environment. Speaking on the occasion, DRM Mohit Sonakiya lauded the collective participation across all departments and reiterated the importance of maintaining cleanliness not just during the campaign period but as a daily commitment and cultural habit.

He emphasized that a clean railway environment directly contributes to a pleasant travel experience and reflects the dedication of railway staff towards passenger service. "Swachh Spardha Diwas" underlines the Indian Railways' broader focus on creating a clean, hygienic, and passenger-friendly ecosystem. The Vijayawada Division, being one of the busiest divisions of South Central Railway, has consistently implemented cleanliness and greening initiatives across its stations, colonies, and train depots. Regular monitoring, innovative waste management methods, and awareness campaigns have already led to visible improvements in station aesthetics and sanitation standards. The Special Cleanliness Campaign 5.0, which runs until mid-October, continues to feature a series of activities including cleanliness inspections, plastic waste collection drives, plantation efforts, and recognition of best-performing stations and staff. The Vijayawada Division's proactive observance of "Swachh Spardha Diwas" beautifully demonstrates the collective will of railway personnel to transform the vision of Swachh Bharat into sustained action, fostering a cleaner, greener, and healthier railway environment for all.

YD RAMARAO IN RED CROSS SOCIETY



YD Rama Rao Elected to National Managing Body of Indian Red Cross Society TPN | Vijayawada | October 13, 2025: In a proud recognition of Andhra Pradesh's contribution to humanitarian service, YD Rama Rao, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), has been elected to the National Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society, headquartered in New Delhi. The apex body of the IRCS operates under the leadership of JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Out of 28 State and Union Territory branches, only twelve members were chosen for the National Managing Body for a

two-year term, making Rama Rao's election a distinguished honor. His selection reflects not only his long-standing dedication to humanitarian causes but also his strong leadership in expanding community service and disaster relief operations across the state. A senior Red Cross member with decades of experience, YD Rama Rao has played a pivotal role in driving social welfare and disaster response efforts in Andhra Pradesh. Before assuming the state-level leadership, he served as Chairman of the Kakinada District Branch, where he led numerous initiatives to provide emergency relief during floods, cyclones, and other natural calamities. Under his guidance, the Red Cross branches in the district strengthened their volunteer network

and increased their outreach to rural and vulnerable communities. His unwavering commitment and exceptional service have brought him several accolades, the most notable being the President's Gold Medal for 2018-19, awarded in recognition of his outstanding contributions to humanitarian work and community development. With his inclusion in the National Managing Body, experts and officials in the organization believe that he will bring valuable perspectives from the field to the national level. His leadership is expected to further enhance the Red Cross's initiatives across South India, with a particular focus on strengthening health programs,

promoting blood donation drives, improving disaster preparedness, and expanding youth engagement activities. Members and officials of the Indian Red Cross Society across Andhra Pradesh have extended their congratulations to YD Rama Rao on his election. They expressed confidence that his dedication, administrative acumen, and vision will inspire more volunteers and strengthen the organization's humanitarian mission. Rama Rao's inclusion in the national body marks a significant milestone for Andhra Pradesh, reinforcing the state's active role in advancing the cause of compassion, humanity, and service under the emblem of the Red Cross.



WASP ATTACK COSTS A LIFE IN ARAKU

TPN BUREAU, ARAKU OCT 13: Wasp Attack Claims Young Woman's Life in ArakuA tragic incident unfolded in the scenic Araku region of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, where a young woman lost her life following a severe wasp attack. The victim has been identified as Shanti, a 20-year-old resident of Karaiguda village in Ananthagiri

mandal.According to local sources, Shanti went out on Monday morning to herd cattle as part of her daily routine. While tending to the animals in a nearby field, she was suddenly surrounded and attacked by a swarm of wasps. The insects stung her repeatedly, leaving her shocked and severely injured. Witnesses said the attack was

so intense that Shanti fell unconscious within minutes.Hearing her screams, villagers rushed to the spot and managed to chase away the wasps. They immediately shifted the injured woman to the Araku Valley Area Hospital for emergency treatment. Medical officers placed her in the Intensive Care Unit and

provided intensive care, but her condition continued to deteriorate. Despite the doctors' best efforts, Shanti succumbed to her injuries late in the evening while undergoing treatment. Her sudden demise has plunged Karaiguda village into deep mourning. Emotional scenes were witnessed at her home, where family members

and neighbors wept inconsolably. Local authorities have advised residents to remain cautious when venturing into forested or hilly areas where wasp nests are common during this season. Experts also suggest avoiding strong fragrances or disturbing vegetation that might trigger insect aggression.The incident serves as a grim reminder of

the hidden dangers faced by those living in rural and forest-fringe communities, where encounters with wild insects and animals remain a constant risk. Shanti's death has left the entire village in sorrow, marking an unfortunate tragedy in the peaceful valley of Araku.

PALKE SINDHURA ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



TPN BUREAU, KOTHACHERUVU OCT 13: MLA Palke Sindhura Reddy Highlights Industrial Development Plans at Kothacheruvu Event
MLA Palke Sindhura Reddy criticized the previous YSRCP government for failing to create employment opportunities or attract industries to Andhra Pradesh over the past five years. She stated that the state's economy suffered severe setbacks due to poor industrial policies, leaving many without jobs.MLA Sindhura Reddy, along with former minister Dr. Palke Raghunath Reddy, Jana Sena IDC State Director Patti Chandrasekhar, Kothacheruvu Market Yard Chairman Pula Sivaprasad, Kalahasti Devasthanam Board Member Lakshminarayana, and other leaders, participated as chief guests in the oath-

taking ceremony of the governing body members of the Talamarla Primary Cooperative Society.
Speaking at the event, Sindhura Reddy highlighted that under the current coalition government, massive employment creation efforts are underway. She cited the establishment of a Google data center worth 87,500 crores in Visakhapatnam and recruitment of over 15,000 teachers through Mega DSC. She expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh would soon become an industrial hub and urged cooperative society members to work sincerely for farmers' benefit.Dr. Raghunath Reddy emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's administration is prioritizing farmers' welfare.

He mentioned that 95% of the coalition's "Super Six" promises have already been implemented. Welfare measures such as doubling social pensions, free travel for women in RTC buses, and three free LPG cylinders annually were noted. He also underlined the success of the "Thaliki Vandanam" scheme benefiting 65 lakh families and spending 8,700 crores for students' education support.Later, MLA Sindhura Reddy distributed financial assistance cheques from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to beneficiaries who had spent heavily on medical treatment. The event concluded with congratulations to the newly elected cooperative society members and assurances of continued local development initiatives.



COLLECTOR ON MORE PROGRESS

TPN BHREAU, Anantapur, October 13: District Collector O. Anand directed officials to ensure faster progress in employment-related works and take up extensive plantation activities under various developmental programs. He emphasized that employment generation, wage improvement, and timely completion of government schemes must be given top priority across all mandals.Holding a review meeting through video conference with district officers, RDOs, SDCs, Tahsildars, MPDOs, and departmental field officers, the Collector reviewed key initiatives including the Employment Guarantee Scheme, Super GST - Super Savings, Pension Distribution, E-Crop Registration, APMIP, and Housing programs.



instructed officials to enhance man-days under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, noting that the current wage of 282 would be revised to 285. He advised extending labour hours marginally to boost daily average wages and urged awareness campaigns among workers, particularly in backward mandals such as Uravakonda, Kuderu, and Narpala. Despite achieving 50

percent of the labour budget, he observed that several mandals were lagging behind and insisted that the seasonal opportunity be fully utilized to meet set targets.Stressing environmental responsibility, the Collector announced that plantation programs would be intensified as part of the Clean Air Campaign under Swachh Andhra and Swarna Andhra.

He directed that 200 saplings be planted in every gram panchayat and that a massive plantation drive be organized on the third Saturday of the next year.Regarding Super GST - Super Savings, Anand asked officials to organize indigenous project exhibitions and other scheduled awareness activities within the week. On pension distribution under the NTRBharosa scheme, he warned of

action against officials who failed to disburse pensions within the stipulated timeframe.
Reviewing the progress of E-Crop registration, the Collector noted poor performance in some mandals like Kambadur, Shettur, Yellanur, and Brahmasamudram and directed that all crop registrations be completed within five days.He also instructed officials to expedite housing construction, as the government plans to launch three lakh houses across the state by Diwali. Underscoring the importance of cleanliness in welfare hostels, Anand directed hostel wardens and Panchayat Secretaries to ensure hygienic conditions, periodic water testing, and collaboration with health officials.
District officials including DAO Umamaheswaramma, BC Welfare DD Khushboo Kothari, CPO Ashok Kumar, DWAMA PD Salim Bhasha, and DMHO Dr. E.B. Devi participated in the video conference.

NASA Shutdown: Warning Signs and Window of Opportunity for India

NASA—the world’s most prominent space agency—was forced to suspend many operations after the US Congress failed to pass a federal budget. This political deadlock has sent shockwaves through the global scientific community, as more than 15,000 NASA employees were furloughed, labs were shut, and crucial missions—including the Artemis Moon programme and Mars Sample Return—have been paused.

While essential operations like maintaining the International Space Station (ISS) and monitoring key satellites continue, much of NASA’s scientific engine is now idle. For the

world, and especially India, this is more than an American budget crisis—it’s a stark reminder of how globally reliant space science is on one agency’s funding cycles.

NASA’s reach is global. Its Earth-monitoring satellites feed critical data into weather models, disaster forecasting, and climate research used across Asia and Africa. The Indian Meteorological Department depends on NASA data to model monsoons—a disruption could impact millions of farmers. Open access to NASA’s data also supports Indian PhD students, researchers, and agencies like ISRO in climate and space research.

India’s joint NASA-ISRO mission, NISAR, aimed at studying Earth’s ecosystems and tectonic activity, could face delays due to the shutdown. The episode has highlighted how vulnerable international collaborations can be to domestic politics—even in a developed nation.

However, the shutdown is not just a warning—it’s an opportunity for India. As ISRO establishes itself through missions like Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1, it has proven capable of delivering complex missions on limited budgets. India can now present itself as a reliable, stable space partner to countries and companies seeking alternatives to NASA’s unpredictability.

There are key takeaways for India. First, ISRO must be insulated from political turbulence with multi-year funding commitments. Second, India should enhance its own Earth-observation satellite capabilities to reduce dependence on foreign data. Lastly, it should diversify international partnerships—with Europe, Japan, and private American firms like SpaceX.

The symbolism of NASA’s silence is powerful. For decades, it has embodied the spirit of human exploration. Its sudden halt reflects how even the most advanced scientific institutions are not immune to politics. China, advancing

rapidly with its Tiangong space station and lunar ambitions, may capitalise on this moment for strategic messaging.

When funding resumes, NASA will recover, but the damage to timelines, costs, and credibility may linger. For India, the lesson is clear: space science needs political insulation, reliable funding, and strategic independence.

In a world shaken by geopolitical shifts, India has a rare chance to position ISRO as a dependable global space leader. As the US falters—however briefly—New Delhi can rise, not in competition, but as a collaborative force in the evolving space economy.



How the U.S. Gifted China Its Rare-Earth Monopoly

In a twist of history and policy missteps, China’s current dominance over the global rare-earth market—a strategic resource crucial for electric vehicles, missiles, and microchips—was inadvertently enabled by the United States, with India playing a surprising supporting role.

The story begins in Inner Mongolia, where a diorama at the local museum depicts nomadic families sacrificing their pastoral life for China’s industrial rise. In the 1950s, China, concerned over Soviet reluctance to share nuclear technology, began developing its own rare-earth capabilities under chemist Xu Guangxian. At the same time, the U.S. explored rare earths for advanced military and aerospace

technologies.

Facing famine post-independence, India sought food aid from the U.S., which proposed repayment via strategic minerals, including monazite—critical to America’s nuclear ambitions. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru rejected this conditional deal to safeguard Indian sovereignty, narrowing U.S. access to key minerals.

The discovery of bastnaesite in California’s Clark Mountain Range in 1949 offered the U.S. an alternative. The Mountain Pass mine soon met over 70% of global demand. However, growing environmental concerns in the 1980s, championed by President Nixon’s brother Edward, led to rare-earth processing being outsourced to

China. It appeared mutually beneficial—China gained industrial might, and the U.S. avoided regulatory hurdles.

Yet, the environmental cost in China was catastrophic. The Baogang tailings lake in Inner Mongolia now holds 200 million litres of toxic waste. Locals suffer from cancers, birth defects, and ruined farmland—sacrifices invisible in global trade talks.

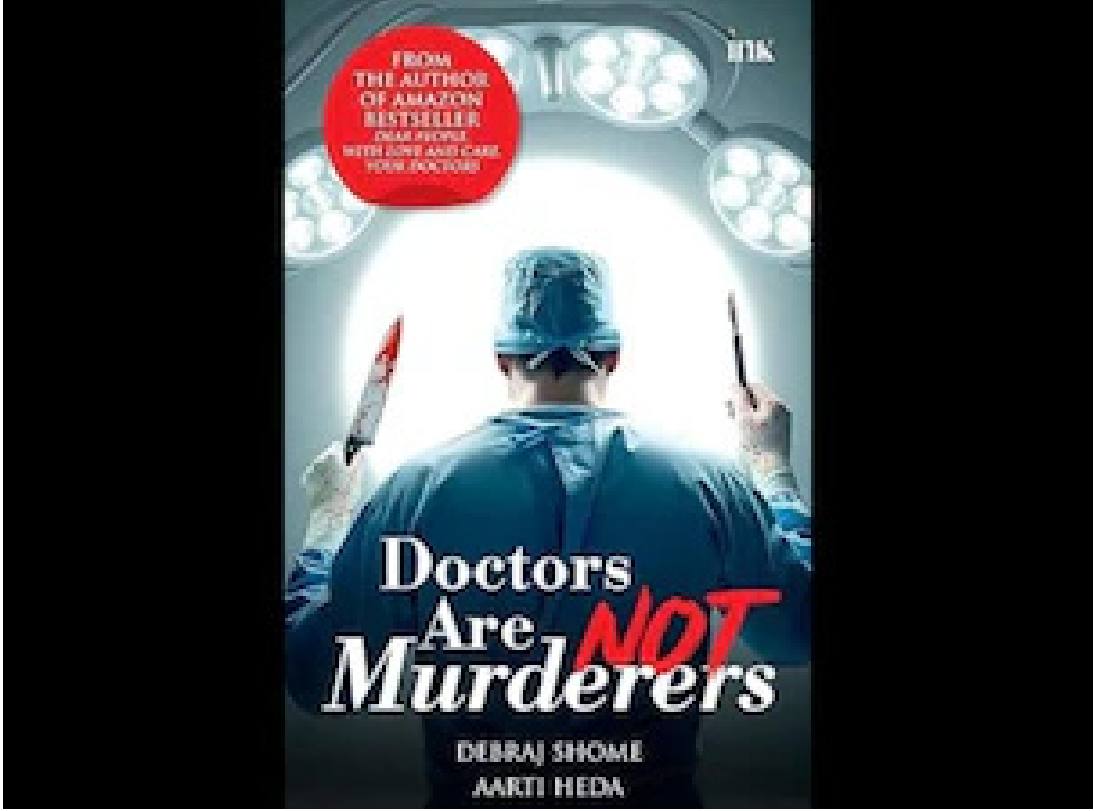
Today, countries like India, Australia, and Brazil are slowly diversifying the rare-earth supply chain. The crisis serves as a cautionary tale: how geopolitical naivety and corporate short-sightedness created a global dependency—with severe human and environmental consequences.

India’s Amended Abortion Law: Progress, But Still Far from Enough

India’s 2021 amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act marked a significant step forward in reproductive rights. It extended the legal abortion limit from 20 to 24 weeks for select categories—survivors of rape, incest, minors, and in cases of foetal anomalies—with approval from two doctors or a medical board. Unmarried women were also finally included under the clause for contraceptive failure.

However, as Dr. Nikhil Datar writes in *Doctors Are Not Murderers*, the amendment still falls short of addressing deeper systemic issues. Many life-altering foetal abnormalities are only detected during the second trimester—often after the 20-week mark. Women like Asha, who discover conditions like hydrocephalus late due to delayed access to sonography, are still forced to carry pregnancies to term, even when the prognosis is bleak.

Dr. Datar recounts harrowing cases where



women had to choose between illegal abortions or raising children with severe disabilities, pushing families into emotional and financial distress. Others, like Sheetal, opted for premature termination before test results confirmed abnormalities, fearing they’d miss the legal window—only to later

discover the foetus was healthy.

Despite medical advancements making second-trimester abortions safer, the law remains overly restrictive. It also ignores socio-economic disparities—millions of rural women lack timely access to healthcare, making early diagnosis nearly

impossible.

Globally, abortion laws remain contentious. Even in developed nations like Finland and the U.S., access is often conditional, politicised, or hindered by stigma. In several countries, abortion is still banned regardless of circumstance.

While India’s

amended MTP Act is a step in the right direction, it doesn’t go far enough in empowering women with full bodily autonomy. True progress will require trusting women with the final say over their pregnancies—beyond arbitrary deadlines and restrictive conditions.

Playing Pakistan: Cricket Is Not a Battleground for Justice



As debates rage over whether India should face Pakistan in cricket post-Operation Sindoor, the real issue lies deeper than sports or diplomacy—it’s about national hypocrisy and emotional grandstanding. Critics argue that playing Pakistan is morally wrong while Indian soldiers’ families grieve. But does boycotting matches deliver justice that our armed forces haven’t already pursued?

The logic is flawed. India’s military response to terrorism—be it airstrikes or counter-terror operations—has been robust and visible. Indian cricket cannot and should not be positioned as a replacement for national security policy. Refusing to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments doesn’t punish terrorism; it merely gifts walkover victories to the opponent.

Cricket isn’t the only sport where India and Pakistan face off. Recently, Olympic champions Neeraj Chopra and Pakistan’s Arshad Nadeem competed at the World Athletics Championship without public outrage. This shows that the outrage

over cricket is not moral but performative—driven by engagement farming and primetime hysteria.

Data, too, tells a compelling story. Over the past 20 years, India has overwhelmingly dominated Pakistan in cricket—an 11-3 T20 record and 8-1 in ODIs over the past decade. Conceding matches now reverses this hard-earned dominance and sends a message of strategic weakness.

Unlike the past, where boycotts were multilateral—such as against apartheid South Africa or during the Cold War—unilateral action now would harm India’s global sporting reputation. With India leading global cricket administration, including the ICC and Asian Cricket Council, realpolitik demands dialogue, not disengagement.

India’s strength lies in maturity, not reaction. Playing Pakistan in sport is not betrayal—it is a demonstration that a confident, strong nation can separate battlefield from playing field, and anger from action. Cricket is not a warrior in this fight—and nor should it be.

Bihar Assembly polls



- **BJP, JD(U) to Contest 101 Seats Each**
- **Chirag Paswan's LJP Bags 29 Seats**

TPN Bureau | Mumbai ₹
After weeks of intense negotiations, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has officially sealed its seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. The final agreement was announced by Union Minister and BJP's Bihar in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan via a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday. Under the deal, the BJP and Nitish Ku-

mar's Janata Dal United (JDU) will contest 101 seats each out of the total 243 assembly seats in the state. This reflects a slight reduction from the 2020 elections, where the BJP contested 110 and the JDU 115. Smaller allies Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) have been allocated six seats each. The highlight of the agreement, however, is the final allocation of 29 seats to Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), whose demands had caused prolonged delays. Initially pushing for 40-45 seats, the LJP had even hinted at exploring an alliance with Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party if demands were not met. Despite the BJP initially offering just 25 seats, persistent negotiations with Pradhan led to a compromise, with all major partners making room for the LJP. The agreement reportedly involved sacrifices from both the BJP and JDU's share to accommodate Paswan's demands. The LJP's claim was backed by its 100% strike rate in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, winning all five constituencies it contested, and its performance in the 2020 assembly elections. Chirag Paswan also pushed for at least two assembly seats in each of his party's Lok Sabha strongholds, along with seats for senior party leaders. The NDA hopes the unified front will strengthen its chances against the Mahagathbandhan in the upcoming polls.

Sonia Gandhi Unveils Statue of Virbhadra Singh in Shimla

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday unveiled a statue of the late six-time Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh at Daulat Singh Park, located on the historic Ridge Ground in Shimla. The event marked a significant tribute to the towering political figure who left a lasting legacy in the state. Ms. Gandhi, who is also the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson, was accompanied by her daughter, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, as they paid floral tributes to Virbhadra Singh. The ceremony attracted several local dignitaries, party members, and supporters who gathered to honor the veteran leader's contributions. Virbhadra Singh, known for his long and influential political career, served as Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh six times and was a prominent figure in Indian politics for over five decades. His leadership was widely respected for his focus on the development of Himachal Pradesh and his ability to connect with the grassroots. Sonia Gandhi's presence at the event underscored the importance of Virbhadra Singh's legacy within the Congress party and the region. Her unveiling of the statue was seen as a gesture to keep alive the memory and ideals of the late leader. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also expressed her admiration for Virbhadra Singh's dedication and commitment to public service, highlighting his role in shaping the political landscape of Himachal Pradesh. The installation of the statue at the Ridge Ground, a historic and symbolic location in Shimla, reflects the deep respect and affection that people of the state hold for Virbhadra Singh. The tribute serves as a reminder of his enduring impact on Himachal Pradesh and the Congress party. The event concluded with calls for unity and progress, inspired by the late leader's vision for the state and the nation.

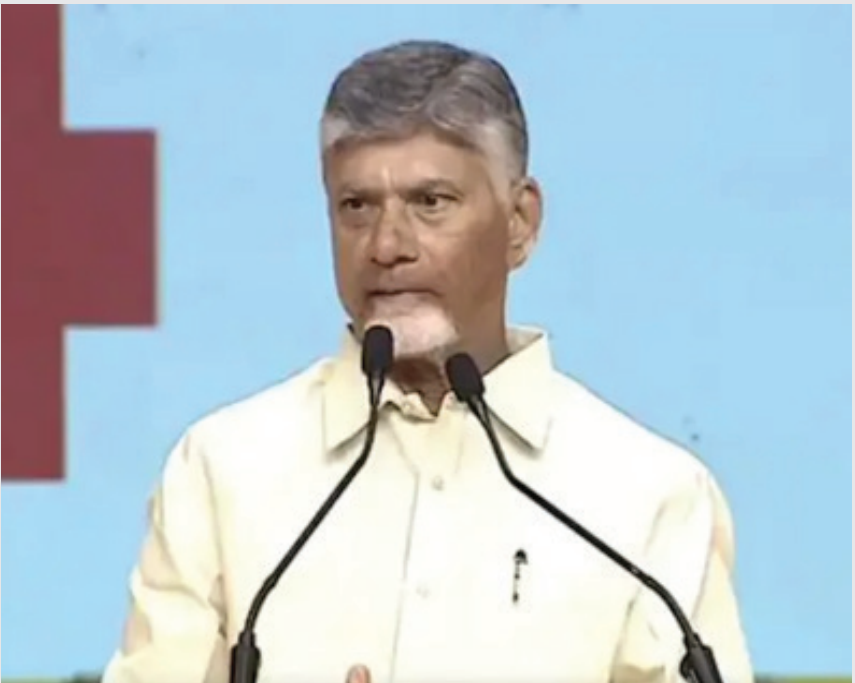


Afghan Minister Defends Absence of Women Journalists at Presser as 'Technical Issue'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Senior Congress leader Lalu Prasad Yadav and key members of his family, including his son and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav and wife, former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, were formally charged Monday in the high-profile IRCTC scam case. The timing—less than 30 days before the Bihar Assembly elections—poses a major challenge for the RJD, the main rival to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his Janata Dal (United). Lalu Yadav and his family pleaded not guilty when the court asked if they admitted the charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy. The case stems from allegations that during Lalu's tenure as Railway Minister (2004-2009) in the Congress-led UPA government, he influenced tenders for maintenance contracts of IRCTC hotels in Ranchi and Puri. It is alleged that in return, a shell company acquired prime land in Patna, which was undervalued and registered in the names of Tejashwi Yadav and Rabri Devi. The contracts were awarded to Sujata Hotel, owned by Vijay and Vinay Kochar, who are also named in the case. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) initiated its probe in 2006 and filed charges against Lalu Yadav in July 2017. Multiple raids were conducted at properties linked to the Yadav family across Patna, Delhi, Ranchi, and Gurugram. In its verdict, the court observed that "probable fraud must be tried as cheating," and found sufficient evidence to proceed. The accused face charges under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code, punishable by up to life imprisonment and fines. The trial will now move forward with examination of evidence and witness testimonies. This latest legal setback comes amid RJD's intense election battle in Bihar, potentially impacting the party's campaign momentum.



Chandrababu Naidu To Meet PM Modi, Sign \$10 Billion Google Deal In Delhi



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu embarked on a high-stakes two-day visit to the national capital, combining vital political consultations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and securing one of India's largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) deals—a \$10 billion Google Data Center project in Visakhapatnam. Naidu's visit, viewed as a milestone in the renewed alliance between the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), signals a strengthened partnership after a six-year estrangement over Andhra Pradesh's Special Category Status demands. The Chief Minister is scheduled to meet PM Modi today at 4:45 PM, where discussions will focus on state-centre coordination, crucial for accelerating development initiatives and ensuring smooth execution of the Google project. The meeting also includes formal invitations to the Prime Minister for the state's upcoming 'Super GST – Super Savings' program in Kurnool and the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam (November 14-15). The highlight of the trip is the signing ceremony tomorrow at 10:00 AM at Hotel Taj Mansingh, where the Andhra Pradesh government will officially ink the agreement with Google to develop a 1 Gigawatt hyperscale data center campus in Vizag. Senior Union ministers, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, will attend, underscoring the project's strategic importance. Described as the highest-ever FDI in India's digital infrastructure, the \$10 billion investment is expected to generate around 1,88,220 jobs annually and position Visakhapatnam as 'AI City Vizag', India's first AI hub. The project aligns with India's 'Digital India' and 'IndiaAI Mission' goals, directly challenging established tech hubs like Hyderabad and Bengaluru. AP IT Minister Nara Lokesh called the project "transformative" for the state's future, highlighting Naidu's successful lobbying for tax incentives and policy reforms under the National Data Centre Policy that helped attract this landmark investment.

“Incident Shook The Nation”: SC Orders CBI Probe In Karur Stampede



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday directed a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into the deadly stampede at actor-turned-politician Vijay's rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, last month. The court also constituted a three-member monitoring committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ajay Rastogi, including two IPS officers not native to Tamil Nadu, to oversee the probe. The bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and NV Anjaria expressed concern over why a single judge of the Madras High Court had earlier denied a CBI investigation but still took cognizance of the case and passed an order describing the stampede as an incident that "shook the conscience of the nation." The tragedy on September 27 claimed 41 lives and injured at least 60 people. Nearly 30,000 people gathered at a venue designed for just 10,000 attendees for Vijay's rally. Officials cited severe violations of security protocols, including inadequate food and drinking water arrangements, as factors contributing to the disaster. Vijay, who was scheduled to arrive at noon, appeared only at 7 PM, causing the crowd to swell dangerously. His arrival triggered another surge as people pushed and jostled to catch a glimpse of the TVK chief. Many spectators climbed trees, roofs, and power lines, forcing authorities to cut electricity to prevent electrocution. The crowd's restlessness escalated with slippers thrown at the campaign bus, fainting incidents, and a subsequent police lathi charge to disperse the masses. Following the incident, Vijay announced compensation of Rs 20 lakh for families of the deceased and Rs 2 lakh for the injured. He suspended his statewide tour and spoke to victims' families via video call, promising to visit Karur soon. Meanwhile, TVK Karur West District Secretary Mathiyazhagan was arrested for negligence, and cases are filed against TVK's General Secretary Bussy Anand and Joint General Secretary Nirmal Sekar, who are currently absconding.

Netanyahu Skips Gaza Peace Summit Amid Holiday; Hostages Return to Israel



TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Monday that he would not attend the Gaza Peace Summit in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh, citing "time constraints" ahead of the Shemini Atzeret-Simchat Torah holiday starting that evening.

Netanyahu had initially accepted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's invitation to the summit, which is being hosted alongside US President Donald Trump and other global leaders. However, his office confirmed that he would be unable to travel due to the Jewish holiday, a period when Israeli leaders traditionally refrain from official trips unless in exceptional circumstances.

The Prime Minister thanked Trump for the invitation and praised his efforts to expand peace through strength. Israel also endorsed Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize next year, calling him "the most deserving" candidate.

Netanyahu was present with Trump in the

Knesset Chamber when the decision was announced. Notably, Netanyahu did not mention Sisi's invitation personally extended by phone.

Meanwhile, Trump's visit to Israel coincided with the release of 20 hostages freed by Hamas after intense negotiations. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that 13 of the hostages were being escorted from southern Gaza to Israel for medical assessments by IDF and Israel Security Agency personnel.

The released hostages include Elkana Bohbot, Avinatan Or, Yosef-Haim Ohana, and others. Earlier, seven hostages had safely reached Israeli forces near the Gaza border for physical and mental checkups.

"The commanders and soldiers of the IDF salute and embrace the returning hostages as they make their way home to the State of Israel," the IDF stated.

Trump's visit underscored international efforts to stabilize the region amid ongoing tensions.

Jaishankar, Canadian FM Hold Talks to Rebuild Bilateral Ties



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held "constructive discussions" with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand in New Delhi on Monday, marking a key step toward restoring strained ties between India and Canada. The high-level meeting is Anand's first official visit to India since assuming office.

Jaishankar welcomed Anand and said the talks focused on reviving key mechanisms to move the partnership forward. In a post on social media platform X, he noted, "Had constructive discussions to restore and reinvigorate the mechanisms necessary to advance our partnership. Also exchanged views on global developments and our responses to shared challenges."

The two sides also agreed on an "ambitious cooperation roadmap," aimed at rebuilding cooperation that meets the expectations of both governments and benefits the citizens of both countries.

The visit comes amid

a cautious thaw in relations, which had faced turbulence in recent months due to diplomatic tensions. Both leaders emphasized the importance of dialogue and mutual respect as they aim to strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties.

Anand's visit is seen as part of Canada's broader effort to reset relations with India, a key partner in the Indo-Pacific. While specifics of the cooperation roadmap were not publicly detailed, officials indicated that trade, security, education, and technology collaboration would feature prominently in future engagements.

India and Canada have traditionally enjoyed strong people-to-people ties, with a large Indian diaspora playing a vital role in Canadian society. However, recent issues had caused friction, making this dialogue crucial for realignment.

Anand's visit signals renewed diplomatic intent from both sides to move past challenges and focus on shared global concerns and strategic cooperation.

Threatened India, Pakistan with 200% tariffs, which ended conflict, claims Trump

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has claimed that he used tariffs as a diplomatic tool to prevent international conflicts, including a potential war between India and Pakistan. Speaking to reporters during a press gaggle aboard Air Force One, Trump said he threatened to impose steep tariffs to push both countries toward de-escalation.

"I settled a few of the wars just based on tariffs," Trump remarked. "For example, between India and Pakistan, I said, if you guys want to fight a war and you have nuclear weapons, I'm going to put big tariffs on you both — 100 per cent, 150 per cent, and even 200 per cent."

The President claimed that this strategy worked instantly. "I had that thing settled in 24 hours. If I didn't have tariffs, you could have never settled that war," he added, without specifying the timeline of the intervention or the exact nature of the conflict he referred to.

Trump also repeated similar assertions in an interview with Fox News on October 9, stating that he "brought peace between India and Pakistan" through tariff threats, and has used the same approach to resolve several other global issues. "Having the ability to use tariffs has brought peace to the world... I made seven peace deals," he said.

This isn't the first time Trump has claimed to have played a key role in defusing tensions between the South Asian neighbours. He previously offered to mediate during heightened border tensions, though both India and Pakistan have historically maintained that bilateral issues must be resolved directly.

There has been no official response from India or Pakistan regarding Trump's latest remarks. However, his comments are likely to stir debate over the effectiveness and appropriateness of using economic threats in sensitive geopolitical conflicts.



Pakistan Burns Over Gaza As Palestinians Rejoice After Ceasefire



TPN Correspondent | Gaza

At least one police officer and multiple protesters were killed on Monday during violent clashes in Lahore, Pakistan, as supporters of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) clashed with security forces during an anti-Israel march. The unrest brought the city to a standstill and raised fresh concerns about political instability.

According to Punjab Police Chief Usman Anwar, protesters opened fire on police, killing one officer and injuring several others. The TLP claimed in a statement that "many" of its supporters were also killed or wounded in the violence, although official numbers were not confirmed.

Among the injured is TLP chief Saad Rizvi, who reportedly sustained multiple bullet wounds and is said to be in critical condition. A video released before he was shot showed Rizvi calling for calm and urging security forces to stop firing. Gunfire can be heard in the background of the video, which has since gone viral on social media.

The clashes began when demonstrators attempted to dismantle shipping containers placed by police to block the march route. Protesters set vehicles ablaze, including a truck carrying TLP workers leading the so-called "long march", which started in eastern Pakistan on Friday and is aimed at reaching the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad for a pro-Palestinian rally.

Authorities had arrested over 100 protesters during earlier demonstrations on Saturday. Police launched operations to prevent further escalation as the crowd advanced toward the capital.

The government has faced criticism for its handling of the protests. Deputy Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry questioned the timing and motive of the march, especially as reports suggest the Gaza conflict has cooled.

TLP rose to prominence in 2018 by supporting Pakistan's blasphemy laws and has a history of staging disruptive and sometimes violent protests.

Macron Refuses to Resign Amid No-Confidence Threats to New Government

TPN Correspondent | France

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday rejected calls to resign amid mounting political turmoil, as his newly appointed government faces two no-confidence motions that could topple it by the end of the week.

France is grappling with its worst political crisis in decades, marked by successive minority governments struggling to pass deficit-cutting budgets through a deeply divided legislature. Since 2023, Macron has cycled through five Prime Ministers, reflecting growing instability.

Speaking after arriving in Egypt for the Gaza Peace Summit, Macron blamed his political rivals for destabilizing France and affirmed he will complete his second and final term ending in 2027. "I ensure continuity and stability, and I will continue to do so," he said, urging the public to remember the president's mandate "to serve."

Last Friday, Macron reappointed Sebastian Lecornu as Prime Minister after his recent resignation. Lecornu's new cabinet was announced Sunday, largely retaining top ministers despite promises of renewal and diversity. On Monday, both the far-left France Unbowed (LFI) and far-right National Rally (RN) parties filed no-confidence motions against Lecornu's government.



Lecornu faces a crucial no-confidence vote expected on Thursday. His survival hinges on support from the Socialists, who are demanding the repeal of Macron's pension reforms and introduction of a billionaires' tax — policies opposed by the right. Socialist

lawmaker Philippe Brun said there would be no censure if Lecornu abandons Article 49.3, a constitutional provision allowing legislation to pass without a parliamentary vote.

The new cabinet must present a budget by Wednesday to address France's

eurozone-leading deficit. Macron blamed opposition parties for the ongoing crisis, saying they are "solely responsible for this mess."

The political uncertainty continues to cast a shadow over Macron's presidency and France's economic future.

Retail Inflation Drops Sharply to 1.54% in September Amid Falling Food Prices



India's retail inflation eased significantly to 1.54% in September 2025, down from 2.07% in August, driven by a sharp fall in prices of essential food items, particularly vegetables and pulses, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday.

This marks a substantial drop from 5.49% in September 2024, highlighting a strong cooling trend in consumer price pressures over the past year.

The inflation data, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), showed that food inflation played a major role in the moderation, with several key components like tomatoes, onions, and pulses registering a notable price correction. Analysts suggest a bumper harvest and improved supply chains post-monsoon contributed to the dip.

"The softening of food prices has significantly eased the pressure on household budgets and will likely allow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) more policy flexibility," said an economist from a leading private bank.

Despite global uncertainties, such as renewed U.S.-China trade tensions, India's domestic inflation trajectory appears under control for now. This has also opened up room for potential rate cuts in the coming quarters if growth support is needed.

Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, also remained benign, suggesting stable demand-side pressures.

The sharp decline in retail inflation is also likely to support consumer sentiment ahead of the festive season, boosting retail demand and easing pressure on businesses.

However, experts caution that inflation could tick up again in coming months if global crude oil prices rise or supply-side shocks re-emerge.

The RBI's inflation target is 4% with a 2% margin on either side. With inflation now well below the lower bound, the central bank may review its monetary policy stance in upcoming meeting.

Gold Hits Record 1.23 Lakh/10g on US-China Tensions

Gold prices surged to an all-time high in India on Monday, hitting 1,23,977 per 10 grams in domestic futures trade as escalating US-China tensions and global economic uncertainty triggered a rush towards safe-haven assets.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for December delivery soared by 2,613, or 2.15%, reaching a new lifetime high. The February 2026 contract also moved close to its record, trading at 1,24,999 per 10 grams, just below its previous peak of 1,25,025 touched last Thursday.

Last week, gold had rallied by 3,251, or 2.75%, before seeing some profit-booking ahead of the weekend.

Silver followed suit, with December contracts jumping 5,856 or 4% to 1,52,322 per kilogram on MCX, nearing its record of 1,53,388. The March 2026 silver contract also rose by 4,992 to 1,52,011.

Analysts attribute the rally to renewed geopolitical tensions and economic jitters. "Safe-



haven demand has soared as the US-China trade spat escalates, the US government shutdown drags on, and fears over a global slowdown grow," said Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

Internationally, gold futures surged over 2% to touch a lifetime high of \$4,096.06 per ounce, while silver climbed to \$49.44 per ounce on COMEX.

Domestically, expectations of increased festive demand ahead of Diwali are also likely to support prices. "Gold demand typically rises during the festive season, which could add more upside pressure," said Aksha Kamboj, VP of the India Bullion and Jewellers Association.

Investors now await the US CPI inflation data and key commentary from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell for further cues on monetary policy and rate cuts.



Markets Dip as Trump's New Tariffs on China Rattle Global Sentiment

Indian equity markets ended lower on Monday, dragged down by IT and FMCG stocks, as global markets reacted negatively to fresh trade tensions between the US and China. The downturn followed US President Donald Trump's announcement of a 100% tariff on Chinese imports starting November 1.

The BSE Sensex slipped 173.77 points, or 0.21%, to close at 82,327.05, snapping its two-day winning streak. Earlier in the session, it plunged as much as 457.68 points to a low of 82,043.14, reflecting investor caution amid global uncertainty.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 58 points, or 0.23%, to settle at 25,227.35. Among the 50 constituents, 30 ended in the red, 19 in green, while one remained unchanged.

Sectorally, IT and FMCG stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. Major laggards included Tata Motors, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Bharat Electronics, ITC, and UltraTech Cement. The renewed tariff threat has sparked fears of a further slowdown in global trade, dampening investor sentiment across Asian and European markets.

"With Trump's announcement of additional tariffs on Chinese exports, markets globally have turned risk-averse," said a market analyst at a domestic brokerage. "Investors are also booking profits ahead of key US economic data and corporate earnings reports due later this week."

The imposition of new tariffs threatens to disrupt fragile global supply chains already dealing with inflationary pressures and geopolitical uncertainties.

On the domestic front, concerns also linger over the impact of high gold and commodity prices on inflation and consumption, especially ahead of the festive season.

Going forward, investors will closely watch developments around US-China trade talks, inflation data, and commentary from central banks for further cues.

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

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.



How the Immune System Is Kept in Check: Nobel-Winning Discovery

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to U.S.-based researchers Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Japan's Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking discovery on how the immune system is regulated to prevent it from attacking the body itself. Their work on "peripheral immune tolerance" has deepened our understanding of immune system balance

and opened pathways for new treatments in cancer and autoimmune diseases. The immune system is vital in defending the body against infections and harmful invaders. However, if it is not properly controlled, it can mistakenly attack the body's own cells, leading to autoimmune disorders such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, and type 1 diabetes. Until now, scientists struggled

to understand why most people do not develop such conditions despite the immune system's power. The three laureates independently identified a specific type of immune cell known as regulatory T cells, or Tregs. These cells act as peacekeepers, preventing the immune system's aggressive cells from attacking healthy tissues. By doing so, regulatory T cells maintain what scientists

call "immune tolerance," ensuring the immune system targets only harmful threats and not the body's own organs. This discovery has profound implications for medicine. Understanding how regulatory T cells function has paved the way for new therapies aimed at enhancing or suppressing immune responses. For example, boosting Treg activity could help treat

autoimmune diseases, while blocking their function may improve cancer immunotherapy by allowing the immune system to better attack tumors. The Nobel laureates' research marks a significant milestone in immunology, offering hope for better management of diseases caused by immune system dysfunction and advancing personalized medical treatments.



China's Holiday Traffic Jam Turns 36-Lane Highway Into Sea of Red Lights



Millions of travellers returning home after China's National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival caused an enormous traffic jam, turning a 36-lane highway into a glowing sea of red lights. The massive congestion unfolded at Wuzhuang toll station in Anhui province, one of China's largest toll booths. Drone footage and videos shared on social media showed thousands of cars lined up bumper to bumper, causing hours-long standstills. Officials reported that around 1,20,000 vehicles passed through the station on the day the jam occurred, with queues

stretching endlessly. The traffic chaos erupted at the end of the long holiday week, which ran from October 1 to October 8. To ease the gridlock, authorities urged drivers to take alternative routes. Additionally, Shenzhen extended the operating hours of its underground and bus services to help reduce pressure on roadways. Social media users reacted with a mix of humor and disbelief. Comments ranged from "I would rather die than be in that jam" to "The cars on the left side look like something straight out of a video game." Some noted the irony of such a massive jam

in a tech-advanced country, saying, "I thought China was at the peak of technology. Toll booths are 20th-century." Others praised the organization, calling it a "pretty organised traffic jam." China has faced notorious traffic jams before, including the infamous 12-day jam in 2010 on the Beijing-Tibet motorway, where vehicles were stranded for days due to truck breakdowns. This recent congestion highlights the challenges faced by China's massive population during major holiday travel, making even a 36-lane highway buckle under the pressure.

Stunning View of Mount Everest Captured from Space by NASA Astronaut

A breathtaking photograph of Mount Everest and the surrounding Himalayan peaks taken from space has left the world in awe. NASA astronaut Don Pettit captured this extraordinary image during his recent six-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), which lasted 220 days and concluded earlier this year. Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain standing at 8,848.86 meters, is located in Nepal's Solukhumbu district and is a symbol of nature's grandeur and a challenge for mountaineers worldwide. Pettit shared the photo on X (formerly Twitter), captioning it, "Orbiting the Himalayas mountain range. Mount Everest is in this photo, with much of Nepal visible as well." The image clearly shows not only Everest but also other towering peaks of the Himalayas, offering a rare and majestic perspective from space. The photograph has captivated social media users, garnering over three lakh views. Many

expressed their admiration, calling it "amazing," "beautiful," and "breathtaking." Some compared the snowy mountain ridges to ocean waves, highlighting the unique perspective the photo offers. This stunning space photo comes just days after residents in Bihar's Madhubani district reported an unusual sighting of Mount Everest. After rains cleared the skies, locals captured images of Everest and the nearby peaks of the Mahalangur Himal sub-range, including Lhotse, Makalu, and Mera Peak, visible from Jainagar, Bihar. Such clear views from Bihar are rare and reminiscent of the times during the Great Trigonometric Survey of India in the 19th century. Mount Everest has occasionally been spotted from Bihar, notably during the COVID-19 lockdown when reduced pollution cleared the skies. This latest space photo adds to the growing fascination with the iconic peak and the majestic Himalayan range.



Train Ran for 3 Years for Just One Schoolgirl in Japan

In a heartwarming example of prioritising education over economics, a train in Japan ran for three years with just one passenger on board — a schoolgirl named Kana Harada. The rare gesture took place on Hokkaido island, where local authorities and the railway company decided to keep the Kyu-Shirataki Station operational solely for Kana's commute to school. In 2016, due to a significant drop in population, the railway authorities had planned to shut down the station. At one point, only 36 residents remained in the area. The station had seen a sharp decline in passengers, making it financially unviable to



continue operations. However, Kana, who depended on the train to attend school, faced a major setback if the service stopped. Moved by her situation, the railway company made a rare and compassionate

decision — to continue the train service for three more years, just for Kana. Every morning, the train would arrive to pick her up for school, and return in the evening to drop her back home. Most days, she was the sole passenger.

The story drew international attention and admiration, as it highlighted Japan's commitment to education and its citizens, even in remote areas. The decision stood in stark contrast to the profit-driven logic often seen in public service cuts. In a world where trains in countries like India now face overcrowding, with passengers struggling even to secure waitlisted tickets during festive seasons like Diwali and Chhath Puja, the story of Kana's train is both extraordinary and inspiring. It serves as a reminder of empathy and commitment can make a world of difference — even if it's for just one person.

Rs 1.25 Billion Lottery Winner Missing in Australia; Search Underway

A mystery surrounds the winner of Australia's biggest Oz Lotto jackpot after a \$15 million (approx. Rs 1.25 billion) prize went unclaimed more than 38 hours after the draw. The winning ticket, from Draw No. 1651 held on October 7, 2025, was sold at Greenhills Newsagency in East Maitland, New South Wales, but the lucky ticket-holder has yet to come forward. Despite extensive nationwide publicity, there is still no sign of the winner. Officials have urged anyone who bought a ticket at the store to double-check their numbers. The winning combination was 44, 46, 39, 34, 7, 15, and 3, with supplementary numbers 24, 19, and 13. However, since the ticket was not registered with The Lott Members Club, the lottery operator cannot directly contact the winner. Tierna Perry, a staff member at Greenhills Newsagency, expressed amazement at the huge jackpot. "We've sold



winning tickets before, but nothing close to this," she said. "We hope the winner realises soon that they're the new millionaire everyone is talking about." Authorities are reviewing CCTV footage from the store to identify the purchaser. According to New South Wales lottery laws, the winner has up to six years to claim the prize, or else the money will return to the state treasury. This case follows another

unclaimed massive jackpot in June 2025, when a \$100 million Powerball prize went unclaimed. Matt Hart, senior official at The Lott, noted that it is rare for winners not to claim such large sums quickly. "When winners don't come forward, it leaves everyone wondering what might have happened," he said. In 2025, there have been 326 Division One wins nationwide, with 92 in New South Wales, including a recent \$100 million winner from Elizabeth Hills.

IPL 2026 Auction Likely Mid-December; Retention Deadline November 15

The IPL 2026 auction is expected to take place between December 13 and 15, according to discussions between franchise officials and BCCI authorities, although the exact dates are yet to be finalized by the IPL Governing Council.

Unlike the last two editions, which saw auctions held overseas—first in Dubai (2023) and then in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (2024)—this year’s auction is likely to be conducted in India, sources suggest. However, no official confirmation on the venue has been made yet.

Franchises are required to submit their retention lists by November 15, confirming which players they will keep and which ones will be released ahead of the auction. Early indications suggest there won’t be a major shakeup in player retention, except possibly from struggling teams like Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Rajasthan Royals (RR).

Reportedly, players like Deepak Hooda, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tripathi, Sam Curran, and Devon Conway could be released by CSK, which already has INR 9.75 crore in budget space following R. Ashwin’s retirement. For Rajasthan Royals, Sanju Samson’s future remains uncertain unless a trade deal is made.

There are also rumors about the potential release of Sri Lankan spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana, but the return of Kumar Sangakkara as head coach may influence those decisions.

Other players who might find themselves looking for new teams include T Natarajan, Mitchell Starc, Akash Deep, Mayank Yadav, and David Miller. Meanwhile, Cameron Green is expected to be one of the marquee names at the auction, having missed the last due to injury.

Franchise buzz and final decisions are awaited as the retention deadline approaches.



Healy’s wonderful hundred powers Australia to 3-wicket win over India

Australia pulled off the highest-ever successful run chase in women’s ODI history, defeating India by three wickets in a thrilling ICC Women’s ODI World Cup clash at the ACA-VDCA Stadium on Sunday. Skipper Alyssa Healy led from the front with a magnificent 142 off 107 balls, guiding her team past India’s formidable total of 330.

Healy’s innings — her sixth WODI century and first as Australia’s captain — was a masterclass in timing, power, and composure. She reached her hundred with a single off Deepti Sharma and acknowledged the milestone with a calm wave of the bat. Her knock included 21 boundaries and three sixes, setting the tone for the record-breaking chase.

India had earlier posted a challenging total of 330, with key contributions from Smriti Mandhana and young batter Pratika Rawal, both scoring crucial fifties. Despite the mounting pressure, Australia responded with confidence and control, with Healy anchoring the innings and receiving valuable support from the middle order.

India fought back with quick wickets in the later stages, but Australia’s depth and experience prevailed. Ellyse Perry and Kim Garth ensured there were no last-minute hiccups, guiding their side home with just a few balls to spare.

The match was a showcase of high-quality women’s cricket and saw the Visakhapatnam crowd witness history. Healy’s knock will go down as one of the finest in World Cup history, not just for its brilliance but for the context and pressure under which it came.

Australia, with this win, strengthens its position in the tournament while India will look to bounce back quickly from the narrow defeat.

West Indies set India 121-run target to win 2nd Test

India were set a modest target of 121 runs to win the second and final Test after bowling out the West Indies for 390 in their second innings on Day 4 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Following on, the West Indies showed remarkable resilience, largely led by centuries from opener John Campbell (115) and Shai Hope (103), who stitched together a crucial 177-run partnership for the third wicket. At one point, the visitors stood strong at 212/2, sparking hopes of a turnaround.

However, a dramatic collapse saw them slump to 311/9, with Indian bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav leading the charge. Both claimed three wickets apiece to bring India back into control. Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja chipped in with a wicket each.

Just when it seemed the West Indies innings would wrap up quickly, the final-wicket pair of Justin Greaves (50 not out) and Jayden Seales (32) frustrated the Indian bowlers with a gritty 79-run stand, extending into the final session. Their efforts delayed India’s victory charge and pushed the total close to the 400-mark.

Bumrah (3/44) eventually ended the resistance by dismissing Seales, closing the innings at 390 and bringing India’s target to a gettable 121. Despite the follow-on, West Indies’ second innings was their best batting performance of the tour, displaying fight and character.

India now head into Day 5 needing 121 runs to clinch the series 2-0. With ample time left and a manageable target, the hosts will be confident of sealing the victory, although they will be wary of early morning pressure and pitch behavior.

The stage is set for an exciting final day.



Satwik-Chirag Eye First Title of Season at Denmark Open

India’s top men’s doubles pair Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are set to lead the country’s challenge at the prestigious Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament, starting Tuesday in Odense. With a prize pool of \$950,000, the event attracts the world’s best shuttlers, and the Indian duo aims to convert their recent good form into their first title of the season.

Seeded sixth in the tournament, Satwik and Chirag enter as the reigning Asian Games champions, adding to their growing confidence. They will kick off their campaign against the Scottish pair Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley, hoping to make a strong start on Danish courts.

Over the past season, Satwik and Chirag have shown flashes of brilliance, reaching the finals in several major events but have yet to clinch a big title this year. Their performance in Odense could mark a turning point in their campaign, helping boost their rankings and momentum ahead of bigger tournaments.

The Denmark Open is a key event in the BWF World Tour calendar, and a title here is highly coveted. For Satwik-Chirag, who have been steadily climbing the world rankings, a win will solidify their place among the elite pairs globally.



Coco Gauff Clinches Wuhan Open Title in All-American Final



Coco Gauff continued her stellar season by defeating fellow American Jessica Pegula 6-4, 7-5 to win the Wuhan Open on Sunday, claiming her second title of the year and the 11th of her career.

In a high-intensity final between two of America’s top tennis stars, the 21-year-old Gauff displayed her trademark athleticism and resilience. After splitting early breaks in the first set, Gauff surged ahead, reeling off four consecutive games to take the opener 6-4.

The second set was a tighter affair. Pegula, seeded higher, pushed Gauff with her aggressive baseline play, but the younger star held her nerve. Trailing 3-5, Gauff mounted a strong comeback, winning four games in a row to close out the match in straight sets.

This victory adds to Gauff’s growing list of accomplishments in 2025. She won the French Open earlier this year, proving her strength on clay, and has now triumphed on hard courts in Wuhan. Her versatility across surfaces and maturity in high-pressure matches continue to draw praise from fans and analysts alike.

With this win, Gauff becomes one of the few active players to win 11 career titles before turning 22, reinforcing her status as a rising icon in women’s tennis. Pegula, though falling short in the final, showed her consistency in reaching another major tournament final and remains a strong contender on the WTA Tour.

Gauff’s Wuhan title cements her place among the elite players this season as she eyes further success in the WTA Finals and upcoming Grand Slams.



Siddu Jonnalagadda Starrer Telusu Kada Trailer Launched

Celebrity stylist Neeraja Kona is stepping into the director's chair with her debut film Telusu Kada, a romantic drama featuring Siddu Jonnalagadda, Raashii Khanna, and Srinidhi Shetty in lead roles. The makers of the film launched the theatrical trailer at a grand event held today, creating a buzz among fans and the industry.

At the event, lead actor Siddu Jonnalagadda expressed his gratitude to the audience for their overwhelming response to the trailer. "I love my audiences always. Looking at the excitement and response, I believe everyone liked the trailer," he said. Choosing to keep his speech short, Siddu promised to speak in more detail at the pre-release event.

He also highlighted a

unique aspect of the film's storytelling, stating, "We showed emotional intimacy in Telusu Kada, not physical intimacy. Hence, we avoided kiss scenes. Even without a kiss scene, the interval scene will leave a strong impact."

Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner, Telusu Kada brings a

fresh romantic narrative to Telugu cinema. Music for the film is composed by the acclaimed S Thaman, adding emotional depth to the story through his score.

Neeraja Kona, known for her styling work with several top actors, has taken a significant leap with this film, marking her evolution in the industry as a filmmaker. With a talented cast, heartfelt storytelling,

and strong production backing, Telusu Kada is set for a grand theatrical release on October 17, 2025.

The film's trailer has already garnered attention online and raised expectations among fans of romantic dramas. As the release date nears, audiences eagerly await what promises to be an emotionally engaging experience on the big screen.

Anand Deverakonda Transforms for Netflix's Takshakudu

Netflix has officially announced its upcoming Telugu original film Takshakudu, featuring Anand Deverakonda in a bold new avatar. The film marks a reunion between Anand and director Vinod Anantoju, the duo behind the critically acclaimed Middle Class Melodies. This time, they return with a gritty and intense revenge drama, signaling a sharp departure from their earlier work.

In Takshakudu, Anand Deverakonda takes on the role of a Naxalite, showcasing a fierce and rebellious character. The first-look poster, unveiled by Netflix, features the actor in a rugged, militant appearance

with a powerful tagline: "In the history of a hunter, deers are the culprits." The line hints at a narrative filled with social commentary and emotional depth.

The film also introduces Laapataa Ladies actress Nitanshi Goel to the Telugu audience, marking her Tollywood debut. Her inclusion adds a fresh dimension to the cast and raises curiosity about her role in the intense storyline.

Takshakudu is being produced by two renowned production houses—Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinema—known for delivering quality content. The project has

been in the making with careful attention to storytelling and production values, reflecting Netflix's continued push to invest in regional and genre-defining content.

While the premiere date is yet to be announced, Netflix has confirmed that more updates will follow soon. With a strong team, a compelling subject, and Anand Deverakonda in a never-seen-before role, Takshakudu is shaping up to be a promising addition to Netflix's slate of Telugu originals.

Audiences can expect a gripping tale of resistance and retribution when Takshakudu hits the streaming platform in the coming months.

Kantara Chapter 1 Crosses \$4M in North America

The divine action saga Kantara Chapter 1 continues its victorious run at the box office, especially in international markets. Directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, the film has struck a chord with audiences worldwide, and its performance in North America has been nothing short of phenomenal.

As of its second Sunday, the film has officially crossed the \$4 million mark at the North American box office. This remarkable feat highlights the growing appeal of Kannada cinema on the global stage and reaffirms the film's strong connect with the Indian diaspora as well as local audiences. With the current momentum, trade experts predict that Kantara Chapter 1 could breach the \$5 million milestone in the coming days.



Rishab Shetty, who received widespread acclaim for the original Kantara, returns with more intensity in this prequel chapter. Alongside him, Rukmini Vasanth plays a crucial role with negative shades, adding depth to the mythological and action-driven narrative. Jayaram and Gulshan Devaiyah also play pivotal characters in the film.

Backed by the prestigious Hombale Films, known for blockbusters like KGF and Salaar, Kantara Chapter 1 carries the production house's trademark qual-

ity and vision. The film is further elevated by a powerful background score and music composed by B. Ajaneesh Loknath, which plays a vital role in amplifying its divine and intense atmosphere.

The success of Kantara Chapter 1 in North America underscores the global appetite for culturally rooted Indian stories told with cinematic flair. As the film inches toward more milestones, it stands as a proud representation of Kannada cinema's growing influence worldwide.

SSMB 29 Actress Priyanka Chopra Shines at Diwali Bash

Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra, who is gearing up for the much-anticipated Indian film SSMB29 directed by SS Rajamouli and starring superstar Mahesh Babu, stole the spotlight at fashion designer Manish Malhotra's All That Glitters Diwali Ball 2025 in Mumbai.

Accompanied by her husband, international pop sensation Nick Jonas, the couple dazzled attendees with their coordinated white ensembles. Priyanka looked stunning in a chic Indo-Western outfit featuring a sarong-style choli paired with a silver mirror-work jacket and matching trousers, blending traditional and contemporary

styles effortlessly.

Nick complemented her perfectly in a white mirror-work sherwani, making them one of the most talked-about couples of the evening. Together, they exuded elegance and grace, instantly becoming the center of attention at the star-studded event.

The glamorous Diwali party saw several Bollywood celebrities, including Bhumi Pednekar, Nora Fatehi, and Sidharth Malhotra, gracing the occasion in exquisite designer outfits. However, it was Priyanka's unique style and radiant presence that truly outshone many of her contemporaries.

The buzz around SSMB29 is growing

rapidly, and Priyanka's appearance at the event has only added to the excitement. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of this film, which promises to be a major cinematic spectacle with SS Rajamouli's signature direction and Mahesh Babu's stellar performance.

Meanwhile, Priyanka continues to balance her global career in both Bollywood and Hollywood while maintaining a high profile on the fashion and social scenes, as seen at the Diwali bash.

With this dazzling look and her rising prominence, Priyanka Chopra remains one of the most influential and stylish actresses in the industry.

