



BATTLE BETWEEN YSRCP AND NDA OVER PPP MODEL

AP Govt, YSRCP Clash Over PPP Model for 10 New Medical CollegesThe ambitious plan to expand Andhra Pradesh's medical education landscape has sparked an intense political battle, with the NDA-led state government and the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) trading charges over the decision to build 10 new medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The initiative traces back to the YSRCP government under former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, that laid the foundation for 17 new government medical colleges aimed at providing advanced healthcare in every district.

Of these, five colleges, Vizianagaram, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Machilipatnam and Nandyal were completed and became functional before the 2024 elections, with classes for 750 MBBS seats starting in the 2023-24 academic year. However, by the time YS-



RCP left office, only 1,550 crore had been spent over four years, leaving a funding gap exceeding 6,100 crore. The NDA government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, argued that the fiscal burden and slow pace of construction demanded a new approach.

In September 2025, the cabinet approved the creation of 10 medical colleges—at Adoni, Madanapalle, Markapuram,

Pulivendula, Penukonda, Palakollu, Amalapuram, Narsipatnam, Bapatla and Parvathipuram under the PPP model. According to officials from the Health and Medical Education Department, the PPP framework will keep land ownership with the government, reserve 50% of MBBS seats under the government covenor quota, and regulate fees through state oversight.

They maintain that private sector participation will deliver faster completion, superior infrastructure, and reduce financial pressure on the exchequer.The decision has met fierce resistance from YSRCP, which claims the move amounts to privatization of public healthcare infrastructure. Party president Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that the PPP model would hand over vital assets to private entities

“for profit,” ultimately hurting poor and middle-class students. He argued that the original plan could have added 4,910 medical seats, 2,360 of them free for disadvantaged students and accused the NDA government of falsely citing lack of funds. “Chandrababu can spend 2 lakh crore on Amaravati but not 500 crore on a medical college,” Jagan said, calling it a matter of misplaced priorities.

The dispute has moved into the judicial arena, with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the PPP model now before the Andhra Pradesh High Court. While the court has declined to stay the tender process, it has directed the state to file a detailed counter-affidavit explaining its decision. Meanwhile, YSRCP has mobilized mass protests under the banner of “Praj Udyamam” (People's Movement). Through September and October, the party has conducted rallies, district-wide demonstra-



tions, and launched a one-crore signature campaign demanding a reversal of the policy.

Chief Minister Naidu has sought to reassure the public that “the PPP model is not privatization,” stressing that ownership remains with the

government and projects revert to it after an agreed period. He promised that all healthcare services, including medicines and NTR Vaidya Seva treatments, will remain free for the people. As the political confrontation intensifies, the fu-

ture of Andhra Pradesh's medical education expansion hinges on both the court's verdict and the public's response to these competing visions for healthcare infrastructure. By CH. PRADEEP KUMAR

GOOGLE ANNOUNCES \$15 BILLION FOR VIZAG

CM Naidu thanks PM Modi for support

TPN/VIJAYAWADA/ DELHI OCT 14: Google Announced \$15 Billion AI Hub and Data Centre in Visakhapatnam to emerge as India's Artificial Intelligence capital;

In a historic development, global technology giant Google has announced plans to establish a \$15 billion world-class Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub and large-scale data centre in Visakhapatnam, positioning Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of India's digital transformation. The announcement was made at the “Bharat AI Shakti” event organized by Google in New Delhi on Tuesday, marking one of the largest technology investments in India to date. The high-profile event was attended by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union IT and Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Google Cloud CEO



Thomas Kurian.

The project aims to integrate cutting-edge AI technologies, renewable energy infrastructure, and a highly advanced fiber-optic network, making Visakhapatnam a global powerhouse for digital innovation and AI-driven services.Termining it an “auspicious day for Andhra Pradesh,” Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Central Ministers for their col-

laboration and visionary support in making this monumental project possible.

“This initiative will propel real-time decision-making using historical and live data, bringing revolutionary changes across industries. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India is rapidly emerging as a global technology leader,” Naidu said. He also highlighted that the upcoming Global AI Conference in February 2026 will further

strengthen India's leadership in the world's AI ecosystem. Reiterating his longstanding focus on technology-led development, Naidu recalled his earlier vision of “One IT Professional per Family” and introduced his new goal—“One Family, One Entrepreneur” for the digital era.

He assured that the Andhra Pradesh government will extend full cooperation to ensure the success of this project, paving the way for smart cities, digital

governance, and innovation-driven growth across the state.Minister for IT Nara Lokesh hailed Google's decision as a landmark achievement made possible through the strong partnership between the Centre and the State. “With the support of Prime Minister Modi and under the leadership of Chief Minister Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is entering a new digital age.

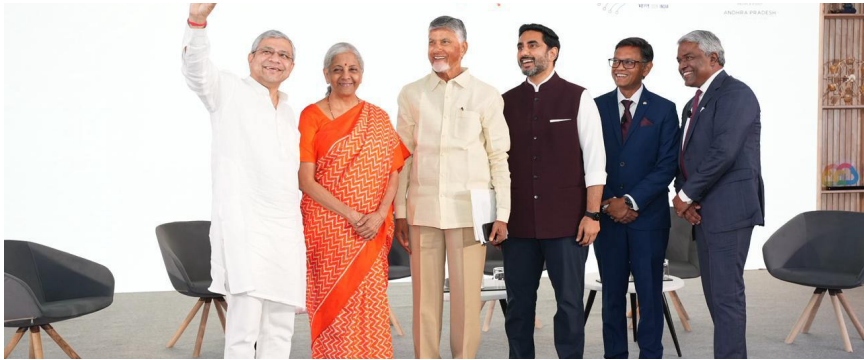
Google's AI hub will create new opportunities for young professionals, accelerate real-time governance, and boost economic transformation,” Lokesh emphasized.Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said the Visakhapatnam data centre represents Google's largest single investment in India and aligns with the nation's “Viksit Bharat 2047” vision. He noted that under-sea cables linking India to global digital networks would be laid from Visakhapatnam, turning the city into a major connectivity hub.



“This effort will generate vast economic and societal opportunities for both India and the United States, driving a generational leap in AI capabilities,” Kurian remarked.Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lauded the project as a re-

flection of forward-looking policies driven by PM Modi and CM Naidu. Meanwhile, Ashwini Vaishnaw underscored the importance of developing skilled manpower to sustain India's expanding AI ecosystem and proposed establishing

Andaman as a global sea cable hub. With this monumental partnership, Visakhapatnam is poised to become the epicentre of India's AI and digital revolution, fueling innovation, investment, and employment for the nation's next generation.



AP CM CHANDRABABU ON SOCIAL MEDIA (X)

TPN BUREAU, AMARAVATHI OCT 14: AP Govt Signs Historic MoU with Google for 1-Gigawatt Data Center in Visakhapatnam. In a landmark development that could redefine Andhra Pradesh's digital infrastructure and cement its place on the global technology map, the state government has signed a historic agreement with Google to establish a 1-gigawatt hyperscale data center in Visakhapatnam. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks one of the largest technology investments in South India and aligns with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global digital hub. The official signing ceremony was held at the prestigious Tajmansingh Hotel in New Delhi, in the presence of several key dignitaries. Alongside Chief Minister Naidu, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Andhra Pradesh IT Min-

ister Nara Lokesh, Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurien, Global Infrastructure Vice President Bikash Kole, and Google Cloud Asia-Pacific President Karan Bajwa participated in the event. The ambitious project aims to provide cutting-edge cloud services, artificial intelligence infrastructure, and digital connectivity across the region. With a massive capacity of one gigawatt, the proposed facility in Visakhapatnam will be among Google's largest hyperscale data centers worldwide, enabling advancements in sectors such as e-governance, education, healthcare, and industry automation. The initiative is also expected to generate thousands of job opportunities for skilled professionals and boost ancillary industries in the state. Expressing his enthusiasm on social media, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu made a clever and engaging post that quickly went viral. Captioned "Ok Google..."

Synchronize for Vikasit Bharat," the post drew both admiration and attention for cleverly using the tech company's iconic voice-assistant trigger phrase "Ok Google." Naidu's message symbolized a national vision for development aligned with the "Viksit Bharat" goals under India's digital transformation road map. He also tagged several notable personalities and influencers, using the trending hashtag #Google Comes To AP. With the entry of a global technology leader like Google, Andhra Pradesh is poised to become a key node in India's growing cloud infrastructure network, strengthening its digital economy. Visakhapatnam, already recognized as a promising smart city and IT destination, is now expected to witness rapid growth in innovation, investment, and employment. This partnership underscores Andhra Pradesh's renewed focus on technology-driven progress and solidifies its reputation as one of India's most future-ready states.

'AP EXCISE SURAKSHA' APP INSPECTED

TPN BUREAU /VIJAYAWADAOct 14: Excise Minister Ravindra Reviews 'AP Excise Suraksha' App Functioning in Vijayawada In a major step toward promoting transparency and strengthening enforcement in the liquor trade, Andhra Pradesh Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra on Monday inspected the functioning of the state's new mobile application "AP Excise Suraksha" at M/s Liquor Home located on Sambamurthy Road, Sitaramapuram, Vijayawada. The visit marked a hands-on evaluation of how the innovative digital platform is transforming the way liquor authenticity is verified at the retail level. Accompanied by Excise Commissioner Chamakuri Sridhar and other senior officials from the department, the

Minister personally reviewed the operational features of the app. During the demonstration, he cross-checked the app's efficiency, user interface, and real-time functionality. Using the application, the Minister verified the genuineness of several liquor bottles firsthand, ensuring that the system was accurately identifying authentic products. The exercise also included a live demonstration conducted for members of the media, showcasing how the app empowers consumers and retailers to verify a bottle's authenticity through simple barcode scanning. Speaking to reporters after the inspection, Minister Ravindra expressed satisfaction with the app's performance and its potential benefits to the public. He highlighted that the "AP Ex-

cise Suraksha" application represents an important milestone in the state government's efforts to curb the circulation of spurious liquor and promote ethical trade practices. "This initiative will not only eliminate illegal liquor movement but also foster transparency and build confidence among consumers," the Minister stated. He urged every consumer in Andhra Pradesh to download and actively use the app to verify key details about liquor products, including brand authenticity, manufacturing origin, and source of supply. According to the Minister, widespread adoption of the app would act as a powerful deterrent against counterfeit liquor distribution and ensure that buyers receive only certified and safe

products. During the interaction, Ravindra also directed Excise Commissioner Sridhar and the Chief Project Engineer to make the system more inclusive and user-friendly by addressing the needs of illiterate consumers. He suggested that within the next 45 days, the team should develop a visual indicator feature at liquor shops. Under this proposed enhancement, when a salesperson scans a bottle, the display system at the counter should automatically flash a green light for genuine liquor and a red light for fake or non-genuine liquor. This method, he emphasized, would simplify the verification process and make alcohol safety easily understandable for all sections of society. Commissioner Sridhar briefed the Minister

on the technical architecture of the new app, explaining its integration with the excise department's centralized monitoring and product tracking systems. He assured that continuous improvements and updates would be implemented to enhance efficiency and consumer experience. Appreciating the department's technology-driven approach, Minister Kollu Ravindra lauded the Excise Department's ongoing reforms aimed at digitization, accountability, and ensuring the sale of only genuine liquor across Andhra Pradesh. He reiterated the government's commitment to using modern technology to safeguard consumers' interests and build a transparent, responsible liquor distribution network throughout the state.

AP GOVT TO RETURN ZEZ LANDS TO FARMERS

TPN BUREAU, AMARAVATHI OCT 14: Government decided to Return 2,180 Acres to Kakinada SEZ Farmers, Fulfilling Election Promise In a significant policy decision aimed at addressing long-pending grievances, the Andhra Pradesh coalition government has announced the return of 2,180 acres of land to farmers whose holdings were acquired for the Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The state's decision fulfills a key election promise made by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, marking an important milestone in the government's pro-farmer agenda. According to the or-



ders issued by the Special Chief Secretary of the Revenue Department, the identified award lands within the Kakinada SEZ region will be formally registered back in the names of the original farmers. Importantly, the government has exempted the farmers from paying registration and stamp duty fees for these transactions, en-

suring that the process does not create any financial burden on beneficiaries. This decision will directly benefit about 1,551 farmers belonging to Uppada Kothapalli and Thondangi mandals of Kakinada district. The lands were originally acquired years ago for industrial development under the Kakinada SEZ project, but the

project's lack of progress had led to growing demands from local farmers for the return of their lands. The coalition government's intervention, therefore, is being seen as a major relief for affected families who had been awaiting justice for years. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who played a crucial role in addressing the issue, expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Revenue Minister Angani Satya Prasad for acting swiftly in line with the promise made during the election campaign. He noted that the decision reflects the government's commitment to uphold the trust placed in it by the people and

to ensure fairness and accountability in governance. Pawan Kalyan had personally taken up the issue during his recent visit to the Pithapuram constituency, discussing it in detail with local officials and the Kakinada district administration. Following his review, he urged the government to expedite the process, leading to the issuance of the latest orders by the Revenue Department. With this move, the coalition government has not only fulfilled a major electoral assurance but also strengthened its image as a pro-farmer administration dedicated to ensuring justice, transparency, and equitable growth across Andhra Pradesh.

THREE JUDGES TO AP HIGH COURT

Three Judges Transferred to Andhra Pradesh High Court Following Collegium Approval TPN BUREAU, AMARAVATHI OCT 14: In a significant development for the judiciary in Andhra Pradesh, three sitting High Court judges from different states have officially been transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The move comes after the Supreme Court Collegium's earlier recommendation, which has now received the formal approval of President Draupadi Murmu. Orders to this effect have already been issued by the Central Government. Justice Manavendranath, previously serving in the Gujarat High Court, Justice Dundi Ramesh from the Allahabad High Court, and Justice Subendu Samantha, who was a sitting judge in the Calcutta High Court, will soon take up their new assignments in Amaraty, where the Andhra Pradesh High Court is located. These transfers are part of the regular administrative reshuffle aimed at strengthening the judicial bench in various states and ensuring equitable distribution of experienced judges across the country. According to legal experts, such transfers are essential to ensure uniformity in judicial functioning and to enhance the efficiency of courts in states facing rising caseloads. Andhra Pradesh's High Court has been witnessing a steady increase in



fresh filings, particularly in civil and commercial disputes, along with an uptick in public interest litigations addressing governance, infrastructure, and social welfare issues. The arrival of these three judges is expected to bolster the court's capacity and possibly expedite hearings in pending matters. The Supreme Court Collegium, comprising the Chief Justice of India and senior-most judges of the apex court, had recommended the transfers earlier this year after reviewing the overall requirements of different High Courts and the experience of the judges concerned. Justice Manavendranath is known for his expertise in constitutional matters and commercial law. Justice Dundi Ramesh has built a strong profile in criminal jurisprudence and has presided over several high-profile cases in Uttar Pradesh. Justice Subendu Samantha is widely respected for his judgments in civil and taxation domains, and his tenure in the Calcutta High Court has been marked by several landmark orders. President Draupadi Murmu's approval marks the final stage in the transfer process, following which the Ministry of Law and Justice is-

sued the formal notification. This step is consistent with constitutional provisions under Article 222, which deals with the transfer of High Court judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India. Judicial sources in Andhra Pradesh expressed optimism that the addition of these judges would help reduce case backlogs that have been a persistent challenge. Lawyers practicing at the High Court also welcomed the move, noting that the diverse backgrounds and legal specializations of the incoming judges would contribute to more comprehensive judicial perspectives. As the three judges prepare to assume their new responsibilities, the focus will be on how their collective experience can enhance the credibility, speed, and quality of judicial outcomes in Andhra Pradesh. The transfers underscore the judiciary's commitment to maintaining a balanced and effective system, capable of delivering justice efficiently across different regions. With the Collegium's vision and the President's endorsement now implemented, the Andhra Pradesh High Court is poised for a strengthened bench and renewed judicial momentum.

TRANSPORT MINISTER TO REVIEW RTC ARRANGEMENTS



TPN BUREAU Amaraty Oct 14: Transport Minister Reviews RTC Arrangements for PM Modi's Visit. Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Doddi on Tuesday held a high-level review meeting with transport department and Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) officials to finalise arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Kurnool and Nandyal districts on October 16. During the

meeting, the Minister extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Modi for the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reduction, describing the decision as historic and undertaken with public welfare in mind. He emphasised that the GST relief would benefit common citizens and improve affordability in various sectors, thereby bolstering economic activity. The Chief Minister's office has already coordinated with district administrations to ensure smooth con-

duct of Modi's programmes, and the Transport Department is playing a major role in enabling large-scale public participation. Minister Ramprasad Doddi personally reviewed RTC's operational plans for the visit, which is expected to draw significant crowds to political meetings and public gatherings. As part of the arrangements, APSRTC will make available a total of 3,500 buses to meet transport demands during the Prime Minister's tour.

Out of these, 3,070 buses have been earmarked to carry attendees to the major public meeting scheduled in Nannur, Kurnool district. Officials stated that efforts are being made to mobilise fleets from adjoining depots and districts to ensure timely transportation without affecting regular passenger services. In addition to the Nannur meeting, 150 buses will be prepared for the Prime Minister's visit to Srisailem. These buses will facilitate easy travel for people heading to religious and cultural events scheduled alongside the PM's programme. Special attention is being given to ensuring that all vehicles deployed for the tour are in optimal condition, with teams assigned to carry out maintenance checks, fuel arrangements, and logistical readiness. Furthermore, Transport Minister Ramprasad Doddi directed that 80 buses be reserved exclusively for police and security personnel movement. This measure aims to strengthen coordination among various security agencies, including state police, SPG (Special Protection Group), and other central forces assigned to the visit. By ensuring smooth transit for security staff, the government is seek-

ing to enhance crowd management and ensure strict adherence to safety protocols. The Minister instructed that designated parking zones, pick-up points, and route diversions be planned well in advance. He also sought detailed briefings from RTC officials on real-time monitoring systems that will track bus movements on the day of the visit. Control rooms will be set up in district headquarters to coordinate with drivers, conductors, and field staff, ensuring seamless transport operations for thousands of attendees. Speaking to media after the meeting, Ramprasad Doddi reiterated that Prime Minister Modi's visit is of great significance to the people of Andhra Pradesh. "The GST decision is people-centric and reflects commitment towards economic growth. We will ensure flawless transport arrangements so that citizens can participate comfortably in the Prime Minister's programmes," he said. Officials confirmed that all logistical plans will be ready by October 15, with trial runs scheduled in key locations on the eve of the visit. With preparations in full swing, Kurnool and Nandyal districts are gearing up for a historic and well-attended tour.

NIMMALA CREDITS CBN'S VISION FOR AP



TPN BUREAU, Kurnool, Oct 14: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Credits Chandrababu Naidu's Vision for AP's Strong Water Storage Levels. Andhra Pradesh State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu highlighted the remarkable progress in water conservation and

management across the state, attributing the success to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's visionary approach and scientific water management strategies. Speaking at a review meeting with Irrigation Department officials at the Chief Engineer's Office in Kurnool, the minister

revealed that out of the total 961 TMC capacity of reservoirs across Andhra Pradesh, an impressive 87.86 percent, equivalent to 844 TMC has been successfully stored. Ramanaidu stated that this record-level storage is the outcome of the government's effective

monitoring, timely execution of reservoir operations, and decisive leadership under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. "The efficient coordination between various departments, use of real-time data for reservoir management, and focused implementation of interlinking projects

have made this achievement possible," he said. During the review, the minister examined various aspects related to the Handreeniva Sujala Sravanti project, assessing the status of tanks and reservoirs connected to it. He instructed the officials to prioritize the filling of tanks to ensure adequate water availability for drinking, irrigation, and industrial needs in drought-prone Rayalaseema districts. Emphasizing the government's dedication, Ramanaidu explained that over Rs. 3,850 crore had been spent to bring Krishna River water to a distance of 738 kilometers, enabling water supply even to the suburban regions of the state. "Our government's primary objective is to ensure equitable distribution of water resources across all districts, especially Rayalaseema, which has historically faced severe scarcity," he added. The minister sharply

criticized the previous government led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for neglecting crucial irrigation projects in Rayalaseema. He accused the former administration of ignoring the Handreeniva project despite its importance to millions of people. "Jagan, who calls himself the son of Rayalaseema, did not allocate even a single rupee for Handreeniva, the lifeblood of this region. No meaningful progress was made during his tenure," Ramanaidu asserted. He reaffirmed that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, irrigation projects across Andhra Pradesh are being revitalized, ensuring long-term sustainability in water management. The minister assured that every pending phase under the Handreeniva Sujala Sravanti scheme will be completed in a time-bound manner,

with uninterrupted monitoring and transparent execution. Ramanaidu also highlighted the importance of modern technology in irrigation, stressing the use of digital mapping, sensor-based flow monitoring, and GIS-linked resource tracking to enhance efficiency and accountability. He directed the officials to maintain constant supervision of canal systems and reservoir inflows to prevent wastage and ensure maximum utilization of stored water. The meeting concluded with the minister reaffirming the government's resolve to transform Rayalaseema into a fertile region through sustained water security initiatives. "Our vision is clear—every drop of water shall reach every acre of land. Under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh will become a model state in water management and irrigation efficiency," Ramanaidu declared.



SIT RAIDS ON MITHUN REDDY'S RESIDENCES



SIT Raids YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy's Residences in Connection with Liquor Scam Probe
TPN BUREAU, RAJAMPET, OCT 14: Andhra Pradesh's Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday intensified its investigation into the alleged liquor scam that took place during the YSR Congress Party's regime by conducting searches at multiple properties linked to YSRCP Rajampet MP P.V. Mithun Reddy. The coordinated raids were carried out simultaneously in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, targeting residences and offices belonging to the MP. According to official sources, SIT officials began searches early in the morning at Mithun Reddy's high-profile residences located in Film Nagar, Prashasan Nagar, and Gayathri Hills in Hyderabad's upscale Yusufguda area. Another team carried out searches at his office in Kondapur, where they reportedly examined several financial records, electronic devices, and property documents. Simultaneously, a separate SIT unit conducted raids at his residence in Bengaluru, ensuring the operation was comprehensive and synchronized. The searches come as part of the SIT's ongoing investigation into the alleged irregularities and financial mismanagement in the liquor distribution and

tendering process that occurred during the previous YSRCP government. Sources close to the investigation revealed that the agency suspects a network of political figures, business associates, and government officials may have colluded to generate illegal commissions and kickbacks through liquor contracts. The SIT's operations on Tuesday were primarily aimed at collecting key evidence and tracing money trails linked to the scam. Officials remained tight-lipped about the findings of the searches, but sources suggested that significant digital data, including laptops, mobile phones, and financial papers, were seized for forensic examination. The team reportedly questioned a few staff members and personal aides of the MP during the searches to verify details related to transactions and ownership of certain firms allegedly used for routing funds. This development has drawn substantial attention within political circles in the state. Opposition parties, including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena, have claimed that the raids validate their long-standing allegations of large-scale corruption during the YSRCP's rule. TDP leaders welcomed the SIT's action, calling it a crucial move toward

uncovering the "truth behind the liquor cartel that looted public wealth." Meanwhile, YSRCP sources have downplayed the searches as politically motivated. Party leaders asserted that such actions are being carried out to tarnish the image of their representatives ahead of possible upcoming by-elections and to divert public attention from governance issues. They maintained that Mithun Reddy has fully cooperated with investigators and has nothing to hide. The liquor scam case has been one of the most high-profile investigations launched after the change in government. The SIT, constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government earlier this year, has been pursuing various leads involving alleged financial irregularities that amount to hundreds of crores. With Tuesday's raids, officials have indicated that the probe is entering a critical phase, with several prominent figures likely to face questioning in the coming weeks. The SIT plans to submit an interim report to the state government after completing analysis of the seized materials. If further discrepancies or money laundering links are established, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to step in to trace interstate financial transactions.



Dharmana Prasada Rao Warns TDP Coalition against Privatization of Medical Colleges

TPN BUREAU/ Vijayawada Oct 14: Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Dharmana Prasada Rao issued a stern warning to the TDP-led coalition government over its reported move to privatize government medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh. He termed the proposal "irresponsible and anti-people," alleging that it would seriously endanger the state's public healthcare system while prioritizing profit over people's welfare. Speaking at a press conference in Srikakulam on Monday, Dharmana condemned the coalition's decision as an assault on the very foundation of social justice and constitutional responsibilities. "Public health is the government's duty, not a commodity for private business. Handing over the healthcare system to corporate interests is like sacrificing the poor at the altar of profit," he said. He cautioned that if

the government failed to withdraw its privatization plans, the YSR Congress Party and the people would launch a massive state-wide agitation to compel the administration to reverse its decision. Dharmana added that the growing public outrage reflected a deep sense of betrayal among citizens who had trusted successive governments to expand healthcare access, not restrict it. Dharmana contrasted the coalition's approach with the initiatives undertaken during the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy administration. He recalled that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Andhra Pradesh's network of government hospitals strengthened under Jagan's leadership provided free treatment to thousands of patients and played a vital role in saving lives. "The same system that protected people during a global health emergency is now being dismantled for private gain," he remarked.

Elaborating further, Dharmana highlighted that the YSRCP government had sanctioned 17 new medical colleges to decentralize medical education and strengthen public healthcare. Of these, seven institutions were already completed, each built at a cost of around Rs 500 crore and spread over 50 acres. These colleges, he said, were envisioned to ensure that corporate-level medical facilities reached remote and economically weaker regions of the state. "Turning these government assets over to private management would defeat their original purpose," he added. Dharmana also accused the coalition of deliberately weakening the Aarogyasri health scheme, which provides free treatment for low-income families. He alleged that the government was delaying payments to empanelled hospitals, causing disruptions in treatment and hardship for poor patients. "Instead of improving the system, the coalition is choking it to make room for private profiteering," he claimed. Noting that both the education and health sectors had witnessed remarkable progress under Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, Dharmana argued that the state's current direction could undo years of reform and public welfare. He warned that any attempt to erode those achievements for the benefit of private forces would face strong and organized resistance. Concluding his address, Dharmana urged the Chandrababu Naidu-led government to reconsider the proposed privatization policy and uphold its duty to serve the people. "Healthcare and education are not commodities—they are constitutional rights. Any government that forgets this truth will face the wrath of the people," he said emphatically.

KESINENI FLATTERS SERVICES AT GGH

TPN BUREAU / Vijayawada Oct 14: Services at Vijayawada Government General Hospital Lauded by MP Kesineni Sivanath, Collector Dr Lakshmisha

The Government General Hospital (GGH), Vijayawada, has earned high praise for its quality medical services and advanced treatment facilities, with visiting dignitaries commending the doctors for performing complex surgeries on par with leading private hospitals. At the 42nd Hospital Development Committee (HDC) meeting held on Tuesday, District Collector and HDC Chairman Dr G Lakshmisha expressed his appreciation for the hospi-

tal staff's dedication to delivering healthcare to the city's poor and underprivileged communities. He emphasised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's directive that all healthcare officials must treat patients with dignity, empathy, and respect, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr Lakshmisha stressed that the hospital must continue to improve its infrastructure and patient-friendly facilities. He directed officials to ensure cleanliness across all wards, provide safe drinking water, and install clear signboards and display boards for easy navigation.



As part of enhancing patient feedback systems, he proposed introducing QR codes that would allow visitors to share their experiences and suggestions directly with hospital administrators. The Collector singled out ENT Department Head Dr K Ravi and Plastic Surgery Head Dr Mohan for successfully performing highly complex surgeries. He also announced the approval for purchasing two automated Coagulometers worth 24 lakh for the Pathology Department, aimed at boosting diagnostic accuracy. Commending the hospital's swift measures during the recent diarrhea outbreak, he applauded the commitment shown by doctors

and support staff in tackling emergencies.

MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), addressing the gathering, hailed the GGH team for undertaking surgeries that even many private hospitals hesitate to perform. He noted that the hospital is progressively adopting advanced equipment and technology, reaffirming the coalition government's commitment to improving healthcare facilities for the poor.

Hospital Superintendent Dr A Venkateswara Rao reported that several patient-friendly measures have been implemented recently. These include initiatives aimed at boosting comfort for inpatients and ensuring

that life-saving surgeries, some costing several lakhs in private facilities are provided free of cost to economically weaker patients at GGH. The meeting was attended by MLA and HDC Co-Chairman Gadde Rammohan, MLA and Co-Chairman Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, Additional Director of Medical Education Dr D Venkateswara Rao, DMHO Dr Suhasini, HRMO Dr Padmavati, department heads, and nursing staff. Both MPs and officials reiterated their commitment to making Vijayawada Government General Hospital a model institution in public healthcare delivery across Andhra Pradesh.



WOMEN'S COMMISSION SLAMS BOLLA'S REMARKS

Demands Public Apology

TPN BUREAU, Amaravati, October 14: The Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission has expressed strong objection to the controversial remarks made by former Vinukonda MLA Bolla Brahmanaidu, who reportedly stated in a public interaction that "all women are drunkards." Calling the comments deeply derogatory and unacceptable, the Commission's Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Sailaja said such statements insult the dignity of women and tarnish democratic values. Addressing the media on Tuesday, Dr. Sailaja described Brahmanaidu's words as "an affront to the entire female community" and a reflection of his disrespectful attitude towards women.

to do so would invite serious action from the Commission.

The Chairperson warned that the State Women's Commission will treat the matter with utmost seriousness if Bolla Brahmanaidu continues to remain unapologetic. She stated that words of political leaders should serve as a social model for people, not as a cause for public outrage. "No civilized person would speak in such a manner. Leaders who insult women are unfit to hold any public post," she added. Dr. Sailaja reminded that before making any remark about women, one must remember that "their mother, sister, wife, and even the goddess they worship are also women."

She asserted that the Commission would continue to act firmly against any person or leader who makes statements that degrade the honor of women. The Women's Commission Chairperson also appealed to government officers and law enforcement agencies to stay vigilant and act against the toxic culture of sexist or derogatory political speech. She stressed that such comments not only hurt women but also weaken the values of respect and equality enshrined in Indian society. The Commission concluded that protecting women's dignity is a collective responsibility that every elected representative should uphold.

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR DR. POTHINENI

TPN/Vijayawada/Delhi Oct 14

Dr Pothineni Ramesh Babu Receives Lifetime Achievement Award in Cardiology and Healthcare Leadership

Dr Pothineni Ramesh Babu, Chief Cardiologist at Aster Ramesh Hospitals, Vijayawada, has been honoured with the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement in Regional Cardiology and Healthcare Leadership Award" at the BEAT 2025 National Cardiovascular Summit & Awards. The event was organised by Voice of Healthcare (VOH) and held at the Shangri-La Eros Hotel, Janpath, New Delhi.

The award was presented by Ravinder Singh, Minister for Social Welfare, SC/ST Development, and Cooperatives, Government of Delhi, during a grand ceremony attended by eminent cardiologists, researchers, and healthcare leaders from across India. This accolade recognises Dr Ramesh Babu's outstanding contributions in advancing cardiac care and healthcare leadership in Andhra Pradesh and beyond. At the same summit,

another notable honour — the Lifetime Achievement in Interventional Cardiology & Innovation Award was conferred upon Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, for his pioneering work in the field of interventional cardiology.

Visionary Leadership in Cardiac Care

Under Dr Ramesh Babu's leadership, Aster Ramesh Hospitals has emerged as a premier institution for advanced cardiac treatment in Andhra Pradesh. His achievements span clinical excellence, research, technology adoption, and public health initiatives. Over a distinguished career of 37 years, Dr Ramesh Babu has pioneered several landmark innovations in regional cardiology, including Establishing Andhra Pradesh's first Digital Cath Lab in 1996 Expanding Telemedicine and Tele-ICU facilities to rural and remote regions Introducing cutting-edge AI-based CT Angiogram and CT-FFR diagnostics Initiating the DNB Cardiology Super Specialty Program to train future cardiologists.

Promoting Basic Life Support (BLS) and CPR aware-

ness among the general public. By integrating advanced technologies with a patient-centric approach, he has significantly enhanced early diagnosis and treatment outcomes for cardiovascular diseases in underserved communities. Champion of Digital Healthcare Access In his role as Secretary of the Telemedicine Society of India (Andhra Pradesh Chapter), Dr Ramesh Babu has been a driving force in leveraging digital platforms to bridge healthcare access disparities. His initiatives in telehealth have connected rural patients to specialised medical expertise, reducing response times during emergencies and improving continuity of care.

BEAT 2025 – A Platform for Excellence

The BEAT 2025 National Cardiovascular Summit served as a hub for thought leadership, where India's top cardiac experts discussed strategies to combat the rising burden of heart disease. Sessions focused on technological innovation, preventive healthcare, and policy frameworks to strengthen the nation's cardiovascular health systems.



Dr Ramesh Babu's recognition at this distinguished forum underscores the critical role of regional leaders in shaping the future of India's healthcare.

His work has not only transformed cardiac services in Andhra Pradesh but also set benchmarks in preventive care, digital health integration, and medical training. As India continues

to confront cardiovascular challenges, the exemplary career of Dr Pothineni Ramesh Babu stands as an inspiring model of dedication, innovation, and service to humanity. His lifetime achievement award serves as both a recognition of past accomplishments and a call to continue advancing healthcare accessibility and quality across the nation.

VIJAYAWADA METROLINE - DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR TENDERS



Amaravati, October 14: Deadline Extended for Vijayawada Metro Rail Project Tenders The Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (APMRC) has announced an extension of the deadline for submission of

tenders related to the highly anticipated Vijayawada Metro Rail project. The new deadline has been moved to October 24, providing an additional 10 days for interested companies to finalize their bids. The

extension has generated considerable relief among infrastructure firms that were preparing their tender documents, as the earlier timeline posed challenges due to the complexity and scope of the project.

According to reliable sources, the APMRC decided to extend the deadline following requests from several contracting companies that sought additional time to prepare comprehensive, competitive proposals.

The Vijayawada Metro Rail project is expected to transform public transport in the city, offering a modern, efficient, and sustainable alternative to current commuting options. With Vijayawada's rapid urban growth and increasing traffic congestion, the project has been viewed as a crucial step toward reducing travel times, lowering pollution levels, and improving connectivity within the city and surrounding regions.

Major infrastructure companies across India are closely watching this development. Industry analysts note that metro rail tenders attract some of the largest players in construction, engineering, and transport solutions. These companies bring expertise in ad-

vanced rail technologies, urban design, and large-scale project management. The bidders for the Vijayawada Metro Rail project are expected to include renowned national and international firms with extensive portfolios in mass transit systems. The tender process is considered a critical stage in kick-starting the project, as it will define the execution partners, timelines, and cost structures.

APMRC officials have stated that ensuring thorough and competitive bids is essential for maintaining transparency and securing the best possible value for the state's investment. By granting an extension, the corporation aims to encourage broader participation and higher-quality proposals,

ultimately leading to a more robust implementation plan. Local business and civic groups have welcomed the deadline extension, observing that the metro project will have significant ripple effects on Vijayawada's economy. From job creation in construction and engineering to increased activity in the service, retail, and hospitality sectors, the metro rail is poised to reshape the urban economic landscape.

In addition, improved public transport can contribute to reduced reliance on private vehicles, helping address air quality concerns and easing road congestion. The Vijayawada Metro Rail project is expected to be planned in multiple phases, covering key routes that connect com-

mercial hubs, residential areas, and vital transit points such as railway stations and bus terminals. Each phase will involve detailed engineering works, environmental assessments, and integration with existing transport infrastructure.

As the October 24 deadline approaches, the focus will remain on which companies submit bids and how their proposals measure up to APMRC's criteria. The eventual awarding of contracts will mark a turning point in the project's progress. Given the level of industry interest and public anticipation, observers expect a competitive and high-stakes tender process that could set a benchmark for future infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh.



TREAT HOSTLERS AS OWN CHILDREN - DISTRICT COLLECTOR

TPN BUREAU/VIJAYAWADA OCT14: Hostel Students Are Our Precious Children: Collector Dr Lakshmisha

Officials Instructed to Ensure Constant Monitoring and Support for All-Round Growth: Emphasizing the critical role hostels play in shaping the futures of children from economically weaker sections, District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha has called upon welfare authorities to treat hostel students as their

own children and take full responsibility for their education, health, and career development. He underlined that parents from poor families send their children to hostels with great hopes, and it is the government's duty to ensure those aspirations are fulfilled through dedicated care and effective support systems.

On Tuesday, Dr Lakshmisha paid a surprise inspection visit to the BC Girls' Government Hos-

tel at Gunadala. During his visit, he personally interacted with the students, enquired about their daily experiences, and shared breakfast with them. He checked whether meals were being served according to the prescribed nutritious menu. His inspection also covered the availability and quality of drinking water, where samples were tested at supply points, and sanitation standards across the hostel premises.

Highlighting the importance of continuous monitoring, the Collector announced that each hostel in Krishna District will be placed under special supervision by designated officials. These officials will visit twice every week to inspect food quality, sanitation levels, and water safety, and will submit detailed reports online. To maintain safe drinking water, daily chlorine tests and weekly nitrate tests are being conducted across hostels. In addition,

Dr Lakshmisha informed that the food safety department and medical staff are carrying out regular check-ups to protect students from health risks.

He stressed that hygienic conditions and balanced diets are indispensable for the physical and mental growth of children. By ensuring these measures are strictly implemented, the administration aims to create a healthy and conducive learning envi-

ronment for hostel residents. Going beyond physical welfare, Dr Lakshmisha urged officials to take steps to inspire students toward academic excellence and career success. He suggested organizing motivational and career guidance sessions featuring alumni who have previously lived in hostels and are now established in various professions.

According to him, such interactions can significantly boost confi-

dence and ambition among the current student population. Encouraging the girls to aim high and work hard, the Collector told them they should "study well, achieve success, and bring pride to their parents, the state, and the nation." He assured that the district administration is committed to extending every possible support for their growth, both in education and life skills. Special Hostel Officer P Lavanya Kumari, Hostel Welfare Of-

ficer A Rajani Kumari, and other staff members accompanied Dr Lakshmisha during the inspection and participated in discussions about improving hostel management standards. With sustained official oversight, strengthened health and nutrition monitoring, and enhanced motivational programs, the district authorities hope to ensure that hostels truly fulfill their role as nurturing homes for the children entrusted to them.

SAJJALA ACCUSES CBN FOR DIVERSION POLITICS

TPN BUREAU/ Vijayawada Oct 14: Sajjala Slams Chandrababu for 'Diversion Drama' Amid Fake Liquor Mafia Exposure

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has sharply criticised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that he is orchestrating a "diversion drama" to distract public attention from the exposure of an alleged fake liquor mafia operating in Andhra Pradesh under the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government. Speaking at a meeting of YSRCP State Secretaries (Parliament) at the party's Central Office in Vijayawada on Monday, Sajjala charged that the Chief Minister was "panic-stricken" and "behaving irresponsibly" as the spurious liquor network linked to his administration was gradually coming to light. Instead of ordering a fair and transparent probe, Sajjala claimed, Chandrababu was attempting to levy false charges against YSRCP leaders.

"The Chief Minister is resorting to cheap diversion tactics rather than confronting the truth about the liquor mafia flourishing under his watch," he al-



leged. The YSRCP leader ridiculed the TDP government's recently launched liquor verification app, describing it as a "self-goal". He questioned the rationale behind such an initiative, arguing that the very necessity of an app to check whether liquor is genuine or fake proves the extent of adulteration under the present regime.

"In the history of India, no Chief Minister has ever needed to launch an app for this purpose. If Chandrababu has done so, it is clear evidence that fake liquor is being produced and sold across the state," Sajjala remarked. He further alleged that belt shops and permit rooms were functioning round-the-clock under TDP supervision, many of them

delivering adulterated liquor straight to consumers' doorsteps. Sajjala contrasted this with measures implemented during YSRCP's tenure under former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, where every liquor bottle carried a QR-code tracking system from distillery to retail, ensuring transparency and preventing black market activities. Condemning what he called "cheap diversion politics", Sajjala pointed to a recent development where "a man was brought from Africa, given lavish treatment, and then used to exact political revenge."

He criticised attempts to implicate former minister Jogi Ramesh without any substantiated evidence,

calling it a sign of Chandrababu's "desperation and fear." Sajjala also used the meeting to rally YSRCP cadre, urging them to resist politically motivated propaganda and focus on strengthening the party's organisational structure from the grassroots level. He directed secretaries to form ward and village committees, coordinate with regional units, harness social media for outreach, and identify committed workers for key responsibilities.

"Only a strong organisational foundation can withstand TDP's conspiracies and safeguard the people from misrule," he said, adding that the current political climate starkly highlighted the difference between YSRCP's "integrity-driven governance" and what he termed TDP's "mafia politics." Sajjala concluded his remarks with an assertion that the people of Andhra Pradesh were aware of the contrast in governance styles between Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration and Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. "The truth will prevail, and every falsehood spread by the TDP will be exposed," he stated.



PK SRIMATI VISITS PALLE FAMILY

TPN/ANANTAPUR, October 14: Former Kerala Health Minister PK Smriti Visits Anantapur; Meets Palle Family and AIDWA Leaders

In a warm and cordial gathering that highlighted the spirit of women's empowerment and interstate camaraderie, Former Kerala Health Minister and current National President of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), Dr. P.K. Smriti, arrived in Anantapur on Tuesday. The senior leader was accompanied by AIDWA National General Secretary MM Mariam Dhawale, as part of her visit to strengthen women's initiatives and review ongoing social programs in the region.

Dr. Smriti and Ms. Dhawale were accorded a heartfelt welcome by the Palle family upon their arrival at the residence

of Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, situated on the outskirts of Anantapur. Former Minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, PVKK Engineering College Chairman Palle Venkata Krishna Kishore Reddy, and other family members extended a traditional reception, felicitating the guests with shawls and floral bouquets. During the meeting, the AIDWA leaders appreciated the developmental efforts being carried out in the Puttaparthi constituency under the leadership of MLA Sindhura Reddy.

MM Mariam Dhawale, who has been actively spearheading AIDWA's national campaigns for gender equality, lauded Sindhura Reddy for her impressive and articulate performance in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. She noted

that the young MLA's speeches on public welfare and women's empowerment have drawn wide appreciation.

"Women like Sindhura Reddy represent a new generation of leaders who blend compassion with competence," Ms. Dhawale said. "Her interventions in the Assembly reflect the aspirations of thousands of women who wish to see their concerns brought to the forefront of governance."

Dr. P.K. Smriti, known for her notable contributions to Kerala's public health sector and her proactive role during the state's celebrated healthcare reforms, emphasized the need for collaboration among women leaders across India. She encouraged Sindhura Reddy to play a greater role in advancing women's welfare schemes,

skill development, and representation in politics.

"As women leaders, it is our responsibility not only to address constituency-specific issues but also to stand together for the upliftment of women across the nation," Dr. Smriti said. "AIDWA looks forward to working with committed representatives like Sindhura Reddy who have the vision and determination to create change."

The Palle family expressed their gratitude to the visiting dignitaries for their encouragement and assured continued efforts toward inclusive growth in the region. Dr. Raghunath Reddy, a senior political leader and educationist, recalled the long-standing ties between Kerala and Andhra Pradesh in areas of education and social reform.

US-China Trade War Becomes a Siege – and India Is Caught in the Crossfire

What began as a tariff skirmish has now escalated into a full-blown global supply chain siege, with the United States and China weaponising their respective technological and material strengths. And in this escalating economic battle, India finds itself deeply exposed.

Ahead of a Trump-Xi summit slated for late October in South Korea, Beijing announced sweeping export controls on rare-earth elements, magnets, and battery materials. These moves, framed as national security measures, are seen as a direct response to

U.S. export curbs on Chinese chipmakers and higher port duties on Chinese-built ships.

Washington retaliated with threats of 100% tariffs and restrictions on software exports. But this is no longer a trade war—it is now a strategic siege, where semiconductors and minerals are new-age weapons.

India's Growing Vulnerability

India imports nearly 90% of its rare-earth magnets from China, totalling 53,700 tonnes in 2024–2025. These critical materials power electric vehicles, wind turbines, electronics, and defence

systems. With China tightening licensing rules—even for products made abroad using Chinese inputs—India's production lines from Pune to Coimbatore are at risk of disruption.

The export curbs are a stark reminder of India's dependency. Despite having the fifth-largest rare-earth reserves globally, India lacks the refining and magnet-making infrastructure to fully utilise them.

Early Moves, But a Long Road Ahead

In response, New Delhi is advancing plans for a National Critical Minerals Stockpile, aiming to

secure a year's worth of strategic reserves. The government is also drafting a Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to seed India's first magnet plants by 2026. Meanwhile, Indian Rare Earths Limited has been directed to prioritise domestic users and reduce exports.

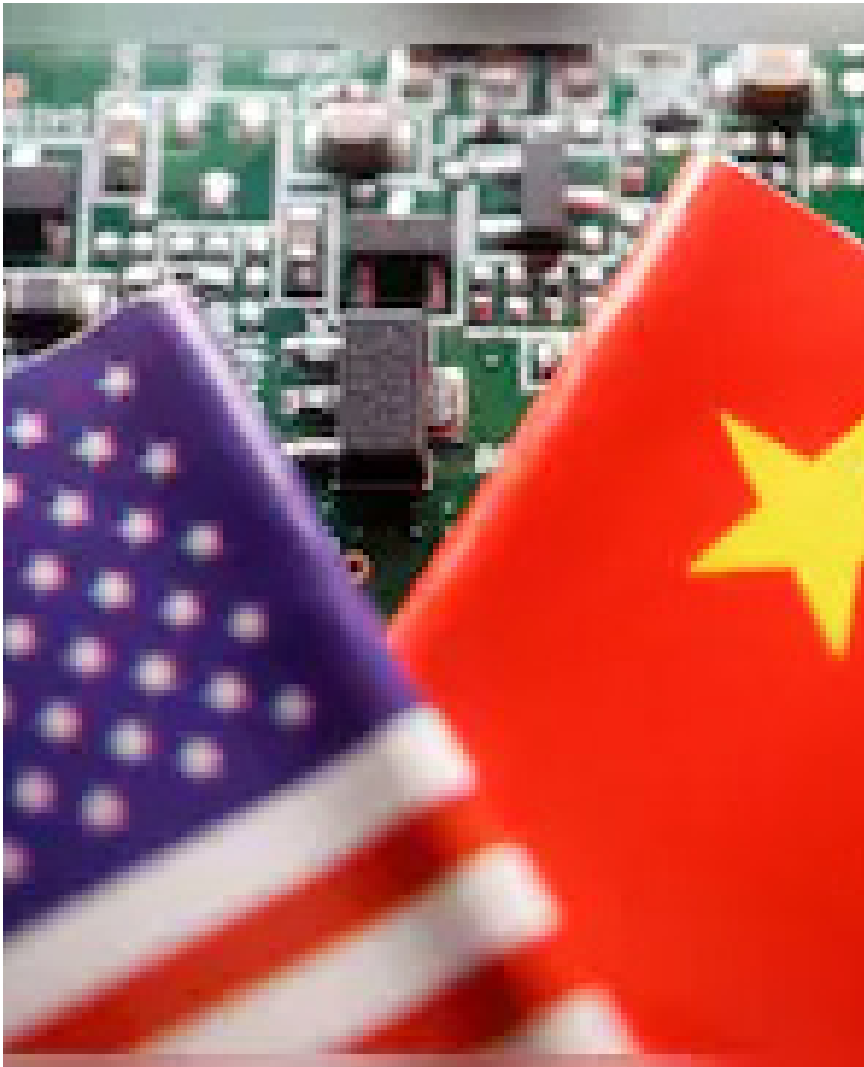
Some companies are experimenting with magnet-free motor designs to reduce reliance on rare-earths altogether.

Building Sovereignty from Scarcity

India's path forward lies in stability, strength, and solidarity. Strategic

buffer stocks, investments in downstream processing, public-private partnerships, and international alliances like the Minerals Security Partnership will be key.

Beijing's actions may be born of insecurity, but they've sounded a wake-up call for India. Just as the 1991 oil crisis triggered economic reform, the 2025 mineral crisis must drive industrial transformation. From elemental dust, India can forge a sovereign future—if it acts with urgency, innovation, and resolve.



Trump's Tariff Threats Rattle Markets – But Timing Raises Eyebrows



U.S. President Donald Trump's latest tariff threat against China has stirred financial markets once again—but this time, investors are questioning not just the substance, but the timing.

On Friday morning, the S&P 500 was on track for yet another record close when Trump abruptly declared a 100% tariff on Chinese goods. The news sent shockwaves through Wall Street, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq dropping 3.6% and the CBOE Volatility Index, Wall Street's so-called "fear gauge," surging over 30%.

By Sunday, Trump's administration had already started walking back the threat, suggest-

ing a willingness to strike a deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of their planned meeting in South Korea later this month.

Notably, the announcement and the reversal both occurred while Asian markets were closed for the weekend, allowing U.S. investors to bear the brunt of the immediate fallout. By Monday, when Chinese markets reopened, traders had already priced in the likelihood that Trump's tariff hike wouldn't materialize. The Hang Seng Index dropped just 1.7%, a relatively modest slide compared to the 13.1% plunge it experienced during Trump's earlier

"Liberation Day" tariffs in April.

This peculiar timing raises questions: why didn't Trump wait for a broader global market reaction? Has he inadvertently revealed that China now holds greater leverage in this ongoing economic contest?

The impact is potentially more serious this time. China's aggressive new export controls on rare earth elements, which are essential to AI chip production and high-precision tools like ASML's lithography machines, could disrupt semiconductor supply chains globally. Taiwan's TSMC reportedly relies on Chinese materials for 30% of its advanced chip

production.

Even as the U.S. tries to build rare-earth resilience domestically, Beijing's grip remains firm. Meanwhile, China has started distancing itself from U.S. tech giants, with customs cracking down on advanced chip imports and a directive to local firms to stop buying Nvidia's H20 AI chips. Nvidia's stock fell 4.9% on Friday.

In the past, markets profited from Trump's tariff reversals in what traders dubbed the "TACO trade." But now, Trump is reversing too quickly, leaving little room for tactical plays—and potentially more room for China to set the tempo.



Double-Edged Sword For Vijay's Party, Blow For DMK

The Supreme Court's order for a court-monitored CBI investigation into the tragic Karur rally deaths, where 41 lives were lost, marks a critical turning point in Tamil Nadu's heated political battle between actor-turned-politician Vijay's Tamizha Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) and the ruling DMK.

The top court struck down the Madras High Court's decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT), citing procedural flaws and lack of sensitivity, and emphasized the need for an independent probe to ensure impartiality. To oversee the investigation, a three-member committee headed by former

Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi has been appointed.

This ruling provides TVK with a significant legal shield against DMK's aggressive accusations. The DMK had blamed Vijay's party for negligence during the rally, alleging they failed to provide essential facilities and abandoned the site during the crisis. Until now, TVK had mostly remained defensive, with political allies AIADMK and BJP stepping in to criticize the state government.

The Supreme Court's intervention means the state police and DMK's narrative will no longer dominate unchecked, giving Vijay

the leverage to contest allegations while preparing for his public engagements, including meeting the victims' families in Karur. Notably, despite DMK's accusations, neither Vijay's fan base nor victims' families have publicly blamed him, underscoring his strong support.

However, the CBI probe is a double-edged sword. Should the central agency's findings implicate TVK, it would deal a severe blow to the party, pushing it into political isolation. The DMK has accused the BJP of using central agencies to politically target opposition parties, while the BJP welcomes the CBI in-

vestigation and supports Vijay.

Meanwhile, AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswamy has expressed tentative openness to an alliance with TVK. Yet, fundamental disagreements remain, especially over leadership roles and the BJP's involvement, complicating any potential coalition.

With Tamil Nadu's assembly elections looming in 2026, this tragic incident and the subsequent probe are set to intensify political rivalries. The unfolding investigation will significantly influence Vijay's political future and the state's electoral dynamics in the months ahead.

If Political Parties Fear POSH, The Real Problem Runs Deeper

India's democracy faces a glaring contradiction: while women are encouraged to enter politics, the very institutions they join remain unsafe and unregulated spaces. This troubling reality was underscored by the Supreme Court's recent refusal to include political parties under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH). The court

reasoned that joining a political party is not "employment" and therefore doesn't establish the formal employer-employee relationship required under the Act.

This decision opens a Pandora's box—but not the one the court warned about. The true Pandora's box is the unchecked harassment and impunity within political parties that remain exempt from statutory protections. Po-

litical life is work, often grueling and public, and women stepping into this male-dominated arena deserve the same safeguards guaranteed in other workplaces.

India has six national parties, 67 state parties, and nearly 3,000 registered unrecognised political parties. Yet none are legally mandated to protect women against harassment. This legal vacuum starkly contrasts with government

promises to reserve one-third of parliamentary and assembly seats for women, ignoring the hostile environment that deters women from participating in politics.

Women politicians frequently face opaque complaint processes, lenient punishments, and offenders reinstated to power. While many parties have nominal Internal Complaints Committees, they often lack independence and fail

to provide real justice. This cycle of silence and shame discourages especially young women aspirants and erodes public trust in political institutions.

Democracy demands accountability. If parties, as institutions that shape governance and policy, fail to protect their own members, the very fabric of democracy is weakened. Treating POSH as optional for political parties sends a dangerous mes-



sage: that power supercedes dignity.

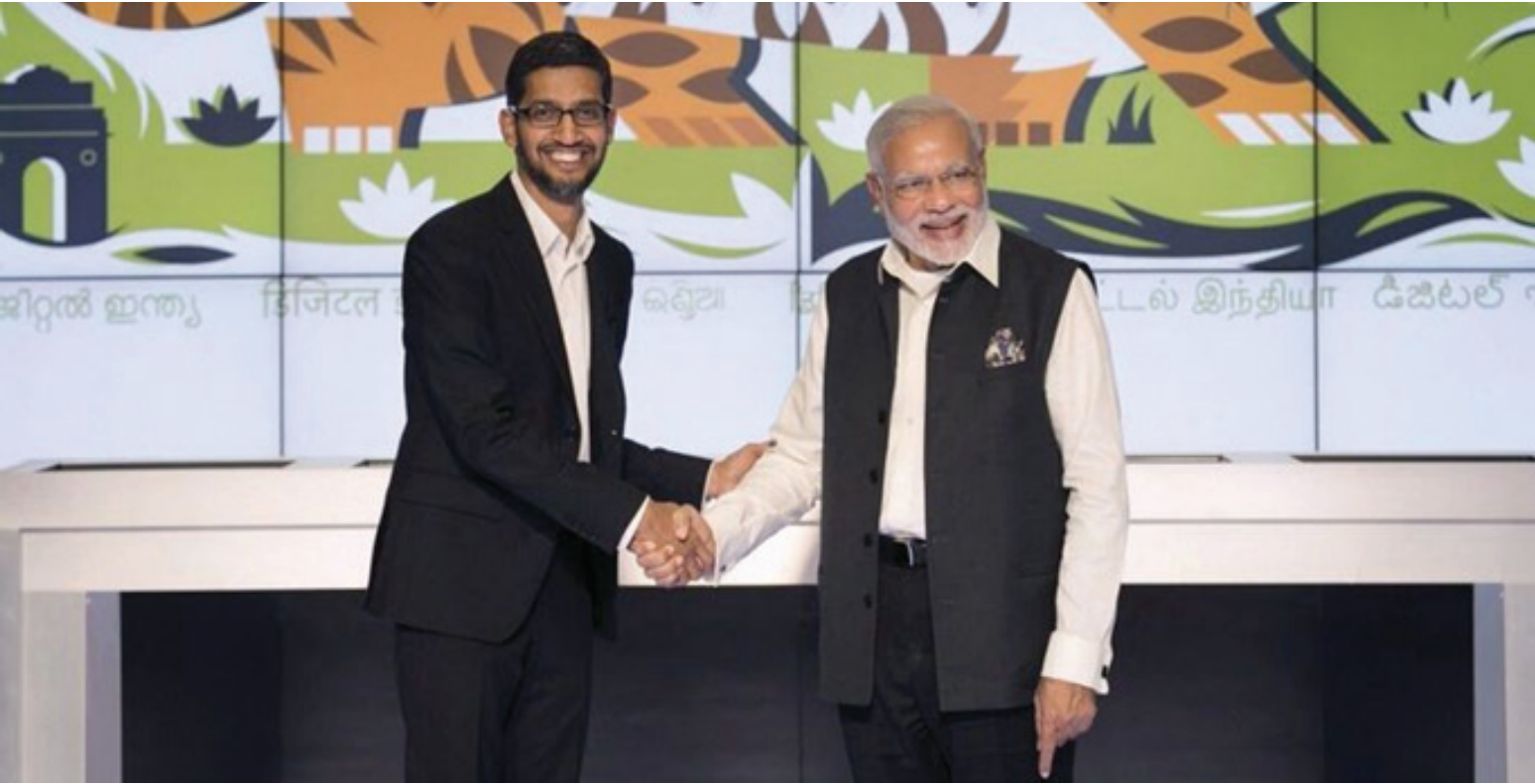
Political parties must adopt independent, transparent complaint mechanisms and comply with the POSH Act as a bare minimum

standard. The government and judiciary need to close the legal loophole that leaves political organizations outside the reach of laws protecting women at work.

Bringing political parties under POSH is not charity—it is a democratic imperative to ensure women serving the nation can do so free from harassment and fear.

Google to Invest \$15 Billion in Visakhapatnam AI Hub, Pichai Briefs PM Modi

Teams up with Adani group for India’s largest AI data centre



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

In a major boost to India’s digital economy, Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced a \$15 billion investment to establish the company’s largest artificial intelligence (AI) hub outside the United States in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The announcement was made after Pichai briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the tech giant’s ambitious plans. The investment, to be made over the next five years, will include a gigawatt-scale data centre, a subsea internet gateway, and large-scale renewable energy infrastructure. “Through it, we will bring our industry-leading technology to enterprises and users

in India, accelerating AI innovation and driving growth across the country,” Pichai posted on X, calling the development a “landmark moment” for India’s digital future. Google has partnered with the Adani Group for the project, which aims to serve as a central AI and cloud infrastructure hub for India and other emerging markets. The facility will also support advanced AI model training, cloud services, and enterprise solutions, making Visakhapatnam a strategic tech centre. Prime Minister Modi welcomed the investment, calling it a step towards building a “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India). He emphasized that the project aligns with India’s vision of “AI for All” and will democratize access to cutting-edge technology. “This multi-faceted investment will be a powerful force in boosting our digital economy and securing India’s place as a global technology leader,” Modi said in response to Pichai’s post. The AI hub is expected to create thousands of jobs in tech, data, and energy sectors, while significantly enhancing India’s AI and digital infrastructure capabilities. This is Google’s largest single investment in India to date, reinforcing the country’s growing importance as a global technology innovation hub.

‘India Proved Doubters Wrong...’: IMF Chief’s Praise In Global Economy Meet

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Monday praised India’s “bold economic and structural reforms” during the opening session of the IMF’s semi-annual meeting of global finance ministers and central bank governors. Georgieva highlighted key Indian reforms such as the recalibration of Goods and Services Tax (GST) brackets, overhaul of income tax laws, mass digital payments adoption, and the rollout of Aadhaar — the country’s digital social identity program. “Everyone told India that digital identity on a mass scale could not be done... but India proved them wrong,” she said. She specifically applauded the recent GST restructuring, which included eliminating the 12% and 28% slabs and introducing a 40% ‘sin tax’, aimed at boosting consumption by making essentials like milk, coffee, and ghee more affordable. She also reinforced earlier remarks made last week, calling India a “key growth engine” amid global slowdown concerns. The IMF projects India’s GDP to grow at 6.5% in 2025 and 2026, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projects 6.8%, citing structural reforms as the growth driver. However, Georgieva also sounded alarms on global economic challenges. She warned that global public debt is set to exceed 100% of GDP by 2029, with over 150 developing countries nearing or already in debt distress. While she



appreciated G20 efforts, she pressed for greater focus on debt relief, especially as South Africa chairs the group. The next G20 chair, the United States under President Trump, has shown little interest in the issue. Georgieva also flagged fresh risks from esca-

lating US-China trade tensions. Trump’s threat of a 100% tariff on Chinese goods could derail recent progress and spark a renewed global trade war. “If Trump goes back to 100% tariffs... there’s going to be a lot of pain,” former IMF strategist Martin Muehleisen warned.

Congress to Boycott JPC on Bills for PM, CM Removal Over Criminal Charges

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party has officially decided to boycott the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) formed to examine three controversial bills related to the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and other Ministers arrested on serious criminal charges for a 30-day period. The decision was communicated to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday, October 13, party sources confirmed. The boycott marks a sharp political stance against what the Congress terms an attempt to “undermine democratic institutions through questionable legislative processes.” The bills in question were introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 20. Soon after the introduction, the House passed a resolution to refer the legislation to a joint committee for further scrutiny. The proposed bills aim to establish a legal framework for suspending top executive office-holders, including the PM and CMs, from their posts if they are arrested on charges deemed “serious” by the judiciary or investigative agencies. Congress leaders argue that the legislation sets a dangerous precedent and could be misused for political vendetta. “These bills are vague, open to misuse, and politically motivated. We cannot be part of a process that



legitimizes such overreach,” a senior party leader told The Hindu. The party has also questioned the urgency and timing of the bills, especially ahead of key state elections and rising political tensions across the country. This move by the Congress could potentially lead to a wider opposition boycott, complicating the review process in the committee. The government, however, maintains that the bills are aimed at ensuring accountability in public office and upholding the rule of law. The JPC is expected to begin its deliberations later this month, with or without Congress participation.

Delhi Waives Late Fees on Water Bills Till Jan 31, Cuts Charges for Illegal Connections



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant relief for Delhi residents, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced a complete waiver of late payment surcharge (LPSC) on domestic water bills till January 31, 2026. The move is aimed at easing the financial burden on consumers and encouraging the regularisation of illegal water connections. Addressing a press conference, Gupta revealed that the Delhi government will write off over ₹11,000 crore worth of surcharge on domestic water bills. After January 31, the waiver will be reduced to 70% and will remain in effect till March 31, 2026. “The LPSC waiver will be 100% till January 31. After that, we are offering a 70% waiver till March 31, but there will be no extension beyond that,” Gupta said. In another major decision, the gov-

ernment slashed the conversion charges for unauthorised water connections. For domestic connections, the fee has been reduced from ₹25,000 to just ₹1,000. For non-domestic connections, the charges have been cut from ₹61,000 to ₹5,000. These measures aim to bring more than 29 lakh illegal connections in the city under the legal network. According to officials, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is owed a staggering ₹87,589 crore in unpaid water bills. Of this, only ₹7,125 crore is the principal amount, while ₹80,463 crore — about 91% — is late payment surcharge. The chief minister urged residents to take advantage of the waiver and regularisation drive, adding that the scheme will not be extended beyond March 31, 2026. The initiative is expected to boost DJB’s revenue recovery and improve water supply infrastructure in the capital.

Andhra mountaineer becomes first Indian

To summit 9 of world’s highest 8,000 metre peaks



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bharath Thammineni, a 36-year-old mountaineer from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, has become the first Indian to successfully summit nine of the world’s 14 highest peaks over 8,000 metres. His latest feat was conquering Mt Cho Oyu (8,188m), the world’s sixth-highest mountain, in China. Thammineni reached the Cho Oyu base camp on September 30 but faced setbacks due to bad weather and heavy snowfall. After waiting for better conditions, he made a final summit push on October 12, reaching the peak at 6:55 am China time (8:55 am IST). Notably, he accomplished this climb without Sherpa support, highlighting his skill and resilience. Before Cho Oyu, Thammineni had already scaled eight other 8,000+ metre peaks: Mt Everest (May 2017), Mt Manaslu (September 2018), Mt Lhotse (May 2019), Mt Annapurna (March 2022), Mt Kanchenjunga (April 2022), Mt Makalu (May 2023), Mt Shishapangma (October 2024), and Mt Dhaulagiri (April 2025). Five remaining highest

peaks—Mt K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I and II, and Broad Peak—are located in Pakistan and currently off-limits to Indian climbers. Thammineni is the founder of Boots & Crampons, a mountaineering company, and is widely regarded as one of India’s most accomplished high-altitude climbers. Over the past decade, he has guided expeditions across six continents and inspired many aspiring climbers. His leadership was instrumental in the Everest 2025 expedition, which included historic achievements such as Chhonzin Angmo becoming the world’s first blind woman to summit Everest and Vishwanath Karthikey becoming the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits challenge. From his summit camp, Thammineni dedicated his achievement to India’s adventure sports community, saying, “This is not just a personal achievement but a testament to the potential of Indian adventure sports. I hope this inspires a new generation of climbers to aim for the highest peaks.”

PM Modi Welcomes Release of All Hamas Hostages, Backs Trump's Peace Efforts



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed the release of all remaining Israeli hostages held by Hamas, praising the resilience of their families and the peace efforts led by US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Monday, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that all 20 surviving Israeli hostages, held captive for over two years in Gaza, were freed and returned to Israeli authorities. This announcement came on the eve of the Jewish festival Simchat Torah, marking a significant moment for Israel and supporters of peace worldwide.

"We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity. Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support President Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region," PM Modi said in a post on X.

IDF spokesperson Efi Efrin called the return of the hostages "a defining moment" that belongs to all those who believe in humanity, underscoring the emotional and political significance of the development.

India has consistently condemned the terror attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the resulting civilian casualties in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated India's call for the release of all hostages, a ceasefire, and a peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

India has also stressed the urgent need for safe and sustained humanitarian aid to affected areas. This stance has been voiced in multiple international platforms, including the UN, BRICS, NAM, and the Voice of the Global South.

PM Modi and External Affairs Minister have engaged in extensive dialogue with leaders from Israel, Palestine, and the broader region to encourage peace and stability.

Venezuela Closes Norway Embassy After Machado Wins Nobel Peace Prize



TPN Correspondent | Gaza

In a move seen as a direct response to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, President Nicolás Maduro's government has ordered the closure of Venezuela's embassy in Norway. The decision came just days after Machado was honoured for her efforts promoting democracy and peaceful transition in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry cited a "reorganisation" of its diplomatic network as the official reason for shutting down the Oslo embassy. Phone lines at the embassy were disconnected by Monday evening. At the same time, Caracas announced plans to close its mission in Australia while opening new diplomatic posts in Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso, signalling a strategic realignment aimed at strengthening ties with the Global South.

Norway's Foreign Ministry expressed regret over the closure, stating that Venezuela had not provided any official explanation. Spokesperson Cecilie Roang emphasised that despite differences, Norway wishes to maintain dialogue with Venezuela. Roang also

clarified that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded independently of the Norwegian government.

Machado, a leading figure in the opposition Vente Venezuela party, has been a vocal critic of Maduro's administration, which she frequently describes as a dictatorship. She has led multiple anti-government protests and went into hiding last year amid threats to her safety. Following the controversial 2024 presidential election, which Maduro won amid opposition allegations of fraud, Machado claimed her party's candidate Edmundo González was the rightful winner.

Although Maduro has not publicly addressed Machado's Nobel Prize, he reportedly referred to her in derogatory terms during a recent speech. Speaking from hiding, Machado declared that "Maduro's time is over" but urged a peaceful transition, offering negotiations to ensure stability.

This latest diplomatic fallout underscores the deepening tensions between Maduro's regime and the opposition, complicating Venezuela's fragile political landscape.

Trump Praises Modi, Sees Hope for India-Pakistan Peace at Egypt Summit

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump praised India and its leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, without naming him directly, while expressing optimism about peace between India and Pakistan at a world leaders' summit in Egypt. The gathering followed a ceasefire agreement that ended the more than two-year-long Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Addressing the summit on Monday, Trump called India "a great country with a good friend of mine at the top" and lauded Modi's leadership. Turning his gaze toward Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif standing behind him, Trump said, "I think Pakistan and India are going to live very nicely together," prompting Sharif to respond with a chuckle.

Earlier, Trump praised Sharif and Pakistan's army chief, General Asim Munir, whom he called his "favourite field marshal." He invited Sharif to speak, during which the Pakistani leader credited Trump's "untiring and relentless efforts" for achieving peace in the Middle East.

Sharif also announced Pakistan had nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in stopping the war between India and Pakistan and brokering the Gaza ceasefire. He expressed interest in nominating Trump again for saving millions of lives across South Asia and the Middle East.

Trump, who previously claimed credit for resolving seven conflicts including the India-Pakistan dispute, now asserts he has helped settle eight, adding the Israel-Gaza conflict to his tally.

Since May 10, when Trump announced a "full and immediate" ceasefire between India and Pakistan following US mediation, he has frequently asserted his role in ending the hostilities. However, India has maintained that the ceasefire understanding was



reached through direct talks between military officials.

The ceasefire followed India's Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7 to target terror infrastructure in

Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after a deadly attack in Pahalgam. The truce brought an end to four days of cross-border drone and missile strikes between the two countries.

Pakistan on High Alert After Fierce Border Clashes with Afghanistan



TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

Pakistani troops remain on high alert along the 2,600-km border with Afghanistan following intense fighting over the weekend that left dozens dead. The clashes between Afghan and Pakistani security forces have heightened tensions and disrupted cross-border trade, with Pakistan closing several border crossings.

The weekend violence saw heavy exchanges of fire, drawing the attention of US President Donald Trump, who expressed willingness to assist in ending the conflict. The fighting led to the closure of key trade routes, leaving scores of loaded goods vehicles stranded on both sides of the frontier.

A Pakistani industry representative confirmed that the border closures have halted vital trade between the two neighbours, impacting businesses and local economies dependent on cross-border commerce. The border stretches through remote mountainous terrain, making it difficult to manage security and trade effectively.

The border closure has also affected Afghan refugees, many of whom were seen waiting at camps near the closed crossings, unsure when they would be able to return home or continue their journeys.

This latest flare-up adds to the ongoing instability in the region, where disputes over border demarcations and security concerns have frequently sparked clashes. Both countries have accused each other of violating sovereignty and escalating tensions.

Authorities on both sides have called for calm and dialogue, but the situation remains fragile. The conflict threatens to worsen an already volatile relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with potential regional implications.

As of Monday, no immediate resolution has been reached, and the border remains sealed. The international community, including the United States, continues to monitor the situation closely, hoping to mediate peace and restore stability in the region.

Amazon Fires Employee Over Protest Against Israel Ties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amazon has terminated Ahmed Shahrour, a 29-year-old Palestinian engineer working for its Whole Foods Market unit, following his protests against the company's business ties with Israel. Shahrour was fired on Monday for violating company policies, including making statements deemed to "threaten, intimidate, coerce or interfere with" senior leaders and colleagues, according to an internal email obtained by Bloomberg.

Last month, Shahrour was suspended after posting messages in corporate Slack chat rooms criticizing Amazon's involvement with the Israeli government. He further protested by distributing fliers at Amazon's Seattle headquarters. In one message to colleagues, Shahrour stated, "Amazon is not a neutral observer. We are active participants," highlighting his concerns about the company's role.

Amazon confirmed it does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or threatening behavior in the workplace and takes necessary action when such conduct is reported. Spokesperson Brad Glasser said, "We investigate and take appropriate action based on our findings."

The controversy surrounds Amazon's participation in Project Nimbus, a contract through which it, along with Google's parent company Alphabet Inc., pro-



vides cloud computing services to Israeli government and military agencies. This involvement has sparked protests amid the recent conflict in Gaza, where thousands died before a ceasefire.

Shahrour has also been involved in protests targeting other tech giants. In August, he was one of seven current and former tech employees who staged a sit-in at Microsoft President Brad Smith's office, demanding the company halt its sales to Israel. The protesters were arrested but later released. Following public pressure, Microsoft restricted some of its software

usage by an Israeli military unit. The firing of Shahrour underscores growing tensions within the tech industry over corporate contracts linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the challenges companies face balancing business interests with employee activism.

GST Annual Return Filing for FY25 Begins: Key Rules, Turnover Limits, and Compliance Tips



The GST portal has officially opened the window for filing the GSTR-9 annual return and GSTR-9C reconciliation statement for the financial year 2024-25. These filings are mandatory for all taxpayers registered under GST and provide a comprehensive summary of the year's tax transactions, including outward and inward supplies, tax paid, and input tax credit claimed. GSTR-9 must be filed annually, consolidating all monthly or quarterly GST returns filed during the year: GSTR-9C, applicable to taxpayers whose turnover exceeds the prescribed limit, serves as a reconciliation statement and requires certification by a Chartered Accountant or Cost Accountant.

According to Prabhat Ranjan, Senior Director at Nexdigm, while most taxpayers are familiar with GSTR-9 and 9C filings, this year's filing comes with new disclosure requirements and stricter validations on the GST portal. He urged taxpayers to be meticulous while filing to avoid errors and potential penalties.

Important Points to Note:

Deadline: The last date for filing GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C for FY25 is December 31, 2025. Taxpayers are advised not to wait for any extensions, as no grace period is expected this year, unlike previous years when extensions were sometimes granted due to technical glitches.

Turnover Limits: GSTR-9C filing is mandatory for taxpayers with a turnover exceeding the threshold specified by the government, usually above 5 crore.

Compliance Tips: Early preparation, accurate reconciliation of data with annual financial statements, and cross-verification of input tax credit claims are essential for smooth filing.

The GST portal now enforces stricter validations to minimize discrepancies and improve compliance. Taxpayers should ensure their returns for the entire financial year are correctly filed before attempting the annual return.

With the financial year-end approaching, businesses are urged to prioritize GST annual return filing to avoid last-minute rush and penalties.

Tata Motors Shares Fall 40% After Demerger



Shares of Tata Motors opened nearly 40% lower on Tuesday, triggering concern among investors. However, the company clarified that the sharp fall is a technical adjustment following the demerger of its commercial vehicle business.

The stock opened at 399, significantly down from Monday's close of 660.90, bringing the company's market capitalisation to around 1.45 lakh crore. Despite the steep fall, the move does not reflect any erosion in investor wealth, but rather a realignment due to the demerger.

As part of the restructuring, shareholders as of the record date (October 14) will receive one share of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles Limited (TMLCV) for every share they held in Tata Motors. This adjustment explains the price drop in Tata Motors' existing stock, which now represents only the passenger vehicle, electric vehicle (EV), and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) businesses.

The company's restructured entity is now listed as Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited (TMPVL). Meanwhile, the commercial vehicle arm, TMLCV, will be renamed Tata Motors Limited after completing regulatory approvals.

TMLCV shares are not yet available for trading and will be listed separately in the coming 45-60 days, pending exchange approval. Also, derivative contracts for the old Tata Motors expired on Monday. New F&O contracts for TMPVL began trading on Tuesday, while TMLCV will not be available for F&O trading for now.

No Loss to Investors

For those holding Tata Motors shares as of the record date, the allocation is clear: 100 shares of TMPVL (passenger vehicle business) 100 shares of TMLCV (commercial vehicle business)

Investors are advised not to panic, as the perceived drop is simply a restructuring formality, not a decline in actual value.

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 geo-



political 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.

HCLTech Reports Flat Q2 Net Profit, Revenue Grows 11% Amid Workforce Expansion



HCL Technologies (HCLTech), the IT services giant promoted by Shiv Nadar, reported a flat net profit of 4,235 crore for the second quarter (July-September) of fiscal year 2025-26. Despite the steady net profit, the company posted an impressive 11% year-on-year revenue growth, reaching 31,942 crore compared to 28,862 crore in the same quarter last year.

Sequentially, HCLTech's net profit and revenue grew by 10% and 5.2% respectively, signaling a steady business momentum amid a challenging global tech environment. The company's diversified portfolio, including digital transformation and AI services, continues to fuel growth and resilience.

In a surprising move that bucks the trend of layoffs in the technology sector, HCLTech reported a net addition of 3,489 employees during the quarter. This brought the

total workforce count to a robust 2,26,640 employees, underscoring the company's confidence in expanding operations and talent acquisition despite uncertainties in the global IT market.

The company also announced an interim dividend of 12 per equity share for the financial year 2025-26, reflecting its strong cash flow position and commitment to shareholder returns.

Analysts view HCLTech's results positively, noting that the company's balanced growth in revenue and workforce, coupled with stable profitability, positions it well to capitalize on emerging opportunities in AI and digital services. The ongoing investments in talent and technology underscore HCLTech's strategy to deepen client engagements and scale up high-value services.

With the IT sector facing headwinds globally, HCLTech's ability to sustain growth and expand its workforce highlights its robust business fundamentals and strategic agility in a competitive landscape. Investors and market watchers will keenly watch the company's performance in the coming quarters as it navigates evolving industry dynamics.

WPI Inflation Eases to 0.13% in September on Lower Food and Fuel Prices

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation cooled to 0.13% in September 2025, marking a steady decline from 0.52% in August and a significant drop compared to 1.91% in September 2024, according to data released by the government on Tuesday.

The moderation in wholesale inflation was primarily driven by a decline in prices of food articles, fuel, and manufactured goods, offering some relief amid persistent concerns over inflationary pressures in the economy.

Analysts noted that softening prices in key segments — including vegetables, cereals, and cooking gas — played a major role in easing WPI inflation for the month. Crude petroleum prices also remained relatively stable, further contributing to the lower overall index.

The data suggests that supply-side pressures have started to ease, especially in the food and energy sectors, after months of volatility caused by global disruptions and erratic monsoon patterns.

"The decline in WPI inflation reflects improving supply chains and a drop in global commodity prices. This is a positive sign for producers and industries dependent on wholesale inputs," said an economist with a leading financial services firm. The continued moderation in WPI also bodes well for overall inflation management, as it may eventually translate into lower retail inflation (CPI) in the coming months. However, experts caution that external risks, including global oil price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions, remain potential challenges.

WPI inflation had been volatile over the past year, touching negative territory for several months before turning positive in recent readings. The September figure reinforces a trend of moderation, which may provide additional space for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to maintain a balanced monetary policy approach.

Further data on sector-wise WPI trends is expected in the detailed release later this week.





From Ashes to Wine: Canary Islanders Turn Volcano Ruins into Liquid Gold

In the Canary Islands of Spain, where volcanic eruptions once scorched the earth and left vast stretches covered in black ash, locals have accomplished something extraordinary. What was once a symbol of destruction has now become the foundation of one of the world's most unique wine cultures.

On the islands of Lanzarote and Tenerife, grapevines grow

in soil enriched by volcanic minerals, producing wines renowned for their distinct flavour and rarity. This transformation didn't happen overnight. Islanders have cultivated this harsh terrain for centuries, digging pits into the volcanic ash to plant grapevines, shielding them from strong Atlantic winds while allowing them to absorb the rich nutrients hidden beneath the

surface.

This method of viticulture is as practical as it is poetic. The ash retains moisture and regulates temperature, creating ideal conditions for grape growing in an otherwise unforgiving climate. The result? Wines with unmatched minerality, complexity, and a story as deep as the lava fields themselves.

In 2024 alone, the Canary Islands produced around 3.5 million litres of wine, much of which was exported to Europe and the Americas. These wines, often described as earthy, vibrant, and full of character, are increasingly sought after by connoisseurs and collectors alike.

Locals take immense pride in this legacy—turning devas-

tation into opportunity. What once buried their homes and farmlands now sustains their economy and preserves their culture.

The vineyards of the Canary Islands are a testament to human resilience and ingenuity. They remind the world that even in the wake of natural disasters, there is room for rebirth—sometimes, even in a bottle of volcanic wine.

Microsoft Unveils MAI-Image-1, Its First In-House AI Image Generator



Microsoft has introduced its first natively developed image generation model, MAI-Image-1, marking a significant milestone in its generative AI journey. The announcement was made via the company's official newsroom post on Monday.

MAI-Image-1 is part of Microsoft's MAI (Microsoft AI) initiative, which focuses on building purpose-built models for enhanced integration within its products. The model debuted on the public AI leaderboard LMArena, where it ranked 9th among top-performing text-to-image models. Although still in pre-release testing, the model's performance has already attracted attention.

This release follows a string of in-house AI developments by Microsoft this year. In July, the company unveiled MAI Diagnostic Orchestrator (MAI-DxO), designed for medical diagnosis, and in August, it launched MAI-Voice-1, a voice generation model praised for its natural and expressive speech output.

While Microsoft hasn't released technical specifications for MAI-Image-1, it emphasized the model's ability to generate high-quality photorealistic images—including lighting effects, landscapes, and dynamic visuals. The company claims the model is faster than many existing large-scale models, making it more efficient for everyday use.

Microsoft says its goal is not to compete in the race for general-purpose mega-models, but to build AI tailored for real-world applications. MAI-Image-1 is expected to be integrated soon into Microsoft's Copilot and Bing Image Creator, bringing advanced creative tools to a broader audience.

The model was trained using carefully selected datasets and underwent rigorous evaluations, focusing on real-world use cases. Microsoft also incorporated feedback from professionals in the creative industries to refine its performance.

As competition in generative AI intensifies, MAI-Image-1 represents Microsoft's growing independence in AI innovation, moving beyond partnerships and into proprietary development that aligns with its product ecosystem.

Google Launches \$15-Billion AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

In a major boost to India's growing tech ecosystem, Google has announced the launch of a \$15-billion Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The initiative aims to drive AI-led innovation, research, and economic growth across the country.

The announcement was made by Google CEO Sundar Pichai during a virtual address, where he emphasized the importance of inclusive AI development and India's role in shaping the future of technology. "India has always been a global talent hub. With this new AI centre in Visakhapatnam, we aim to empower local talent, collaborate with academic institutions, and create scalable AI solutions for real-world challenges," said Pichai.

The AI hub will focus on several key sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and climate tech. Google plans to partner with Indian startups, researchers, and government bodies to build tools that are socially impactful and accessible to diverse communities.

According to early reports, the facility will also house advanced research labs, training centers, and incubation programs for AI startups. Thousands of jobs are expected to be created, both directly and indirectly, through this long-term investment.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomed the move, calling it a historic milestone for the state. "This will put Andhra Pradesh on the global AI map and provide our youth with access to world-class opportunities," he said.

This strategic investment reflects Google's larger vision of making AI helpful for everyone, especially in emerging markets like India. With Visakhapatnam now set to become a major AI innovation hub, the project is seen as a pivotal step in advancing India's digital transformation on a global stage.

British Vlogger's Viral Video Slams Trash Crisis at Indian Tourist Spot

A British travel vlogger has sparked a heated conversation online after posting a candid video exposing the severe littering problem at a tourist hotspot in India. The video, shared on Instagram by content creator Alex, has gone viral with nearly 80,000 views and hundreds of comments, many supporting his frustration over the country's growing waste issue.

While travelling between Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal, Alex visited the scenic Lover's Viewpoint—a location known for its breathtaking river confluence and natural beauty. However, what greeted him was a familiar sight: heaps of trash scattered by careless tourists.

"It just frustrates the sh*t out of me," he said in the video. "I keep hearing people say, 'Come to the mountains in India, that's where the



true beauty is.' But it's the same here—the same treatment of the land. Maybe there's no hope."

In the now-viral clip, Alex points out the contradiction between the natural beauty of the location and the irresponsible behavior of visitors. "There's always going to be trash where there are people. And I

guarantee you, there's a bin super close. You are only trashing your own country," he added.

The video, captioned "When will it end India", has resonated with many viewers who praised Alex for calling out the issue so bluntly. "Thanks for raising awareness," commented one user. Others echoed his senti-

ments, calling for stricter enforcement and public responsibility.

As India continues to promote tourism both domestically and globally, Alex's video is a stark reminder that preserving the country's natural beauty must be a shared responsibility—not just for locals but for all who travel through it.



Own iPhone 17 Pro Max for 7,670/ Month, Upgrade to iPhone 18 Next Year

Apple enthusiasts in India can now own the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max at just 7,670 per month, thanks to a new upgrade program introduced in partnership with select retailers and finance partners. The offer makes it easier for users to experience Apple's flagship device without bearing the full upfront cost. The iPhone 17 Pro Max, launched in September 2025, features the powerful A19 Pro chipset, a stunning Super Retina XDR display,

and a 48MP triple rear camera setup designed for pro-grade photography and video recording. With this EMI plan, customers can enjoy the premium smartphone with minimal initial payment. What makes the deal even more attractive is the guaranteed upgrade option. Customers enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to upgrade to the upcoming iPhone 18 in 12 months by simply trading in their iPhone 17 Pro Max, provided the device is in good working condition.

The financing scheme is available through major retailers, Apple Authorised Resellers, and select online platforms. The 7,670 monthly EMI typically spans 12 to 24 months depending on the plan chosen, with the upgrade window kicking in after the first year. No-cost EMI options and bundled device protection plans are also being offered.

This move is expected to boost Apple's market

penetration in India, where high upfront costs often discourage users from buying flagship devices. By offering a subscription-style model, Apple is making its premium smartphones more accessible while also locking in customer loyalty with yearly upgrades.

For those seeking the best of Apple without a steep one-time investment, this could be the smartest way to get on board—and stay upgraded.

India beat West Indies by 7 wickets to clinch Test series 2-0

Shubman Gill's first series win as Test skipper

India's Test cricket team made history by matching the world record for the most consecutive series wins against a single opponent, with a 2-0 clean sweep over the West Indies in the recent home series. This marks India's 10th consecutive Test series win against the Caribbean side since their last defeat in 2002, equaling South Africa's record of 10 straight series victories against the West Indies from 1998 to 2024.

The series concluded with a commanding seven-wicket victory in the second Test at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium. Needing just 58 runs to win, KL Rahul's unbeaten 58 guided India to a comfortable finish alongside Dhruv Jurel. The match stretched into the fifth day for the first time since 2011 in an India-West Indies Test series, largely due to strong batting performances from West Indies centurions John Campbell (115) and Shai Hope (103), and a resilient 10th-wicket partnership.

This was also a landmark series for Shubman Gill, who captained India at home for the first time and secured his maiden Test series win as captain. Earlier this year, Gill led



India to a 2-2 draw in the challenging England tour.

India's dominance was evident with their bowlers taking all 40 West Indies wickets across the two Tests. Despite unhelpful pitch conditions for spinners, Indian pacers performed admirably, while spinners showed patience on slow tracks. The batting lineup flourished as well, with five centuries and a near-century scored by the top six batsmen over the series.

This victory not only underlines India's continued home supremacy but also sets a strong tone for their future in Test cricket under Gill's leadership.

9 Records Broken in Australia's Thrilling Win Over India in 2025 Women's World Cup



Australia's Alyssa Healy played one of the finest innings in Women's World Cup history, scoring a blistering 142 off 107 balls to lead her team to a record-breaking three-wicket win over India

in Visakhapatnam. The match saw a series of records fall as both teams showcased exceptional cricket.

India's Smriti Mandhana made history by be-

coming the first woman to score 1,000 ODI runs in a single calendar year, surpassing Belinda Clark's previous record of 970 runs set in 1997. Mandhana also became the fastest woman to reach 5,000 runs in Women's ODIs, achieving the milestone in just 112 innings, breaking Stafanie Taylor's record of 129 innings.

Mandhana's 46-ball half-century in the match helped her surpass Mithali Raj for the most 50+ scores by an Indian against Australia in women's ODIs. She, along with Pratika Rawal, put on a massive 155-run opening partnership, the highest for India against Australia in Women's World Cup history, and the first century-plus opening stand of the tournament.

This partnership also made Mandhana and Rawal India's most prolific opening duo in women's ODIs, breaking the previous record of five 100-plus stands held by Jaya Sharma with different partners.

India posted a total of 330 runs, their highest-ever Women's World Cup total and the highest score against Australia in World Cup matches. Australia's successful chase of 331 runs became the highest ever in women's ODI history, surpassing Sri Lanka's 302-run chase against South Africa in 2024.

The match featured 13 sixes, the most in any Women's World Cup game, with the final boundary hit by Ellyse Perry sealing Australia's historic win. This thrilling encounter will be remembered as one of the most record-filled matches in Women's World Cup history.

Argentina vs Australia Friendly Match Set for Kochi on November 17

The much-anticipated international friendly football match between defending World Cup champions Argentina and Australia will take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kaloor, Kochi, Kerala, on November 17, 2025. The Argentine Football Association officially confirmed the date, according to the match sponsors, Reporter Broadcasting Company.

This exciting fixture will see Argentina's star forward Lionel Messi lead his team against Australia in what promises to be a thrilling encounter for football fans in India and around the world. The match provides a rare opportunity for local fans to witness some of the biggest names in international football live on Indian soil.

Ticket fares for the event will be announced soon, giving fans time to plan their attendance. Organizers are expected to release detailed pricing and ticketing information in the coming days.

The match will be held at one of India's premier sports venues, the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium, known for hosting several major sporting events, including international football and cricket matches. The stadium's large seating capacity and state-of-the-art facilities make it an ideal venue for a high-profile game like this.

Football enthusiasts in Kerala and beyond are eagerly awaiting the event, as it marks another significant moment in India's growing association with international football. Hosting teams of such calibre reflects the rising interest and investment in football within the country.

With Argentina coming off their recent World Cup triumph, the match promises high-quality football action and a chance to see Messi in action once again. The Australian side, known for



their physical and tactical gameplay, will look to challenge the champions and provide an entertaining contest.

Fans are encouraged to stay tuned for ticket announcements and prepare for an unforgettable football experience in Kochi this November.

Olympics Medalist Aman Sehrawat Hopes WFI Will Revoke Ban



Paris Olympics bronze medalist Aman Sehrawat is optimistic that the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will lift the one-year ban imposed on him after he failed to make weight at the World Championships in Zagreb last month. Sehrawat was 1.7 kg over the limit during the weigh-in, which led to the ban.

The 22-year-old wrestler from Bihari, Haryana, explained that his failure to make weight was due to illness. "I joined the Croatia camp about 15 days before the competition but was taken ill with a stomach bug, which made it impossible to shed the required weight despite trying for two days," Sehrawat told The Tribune.

Though disappointed by the ban, Aman acknowledged the need to follow rules. "Nobody wants to be tagged as banned, but the rules are clear, so I have accepted the situation," he said.

Despite the setback, Sehrawat remains hopeful about his future in wrestling. He has already spoken to the federation multiple times and expects a decision soon, as the WFI plans to hold a meeting next week that could revoke his suspension.

However, Aman admitted that he will likely miss the upcoming Senior National Wrestling Championships, with the venue yet to be announced. His focus now shifts to bigger goals, including the Asian Games next year and other international competitions.

The Indian Olympic Association recently felicitated Aman Sehrawat, with IOA president PT Usha and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya in attendance, recognizing his achievement and encouraging him during this challenging phase.

Sehrawat's determination and positive outlook reflect his readiness to bounce back and continue representing India at the highest level in wrestling.

Gautam Gambhir Turns 44, Receives Warm Wishes from Cricketing Fraternity



Former Indian opener and current men's team head coach Gautam Gambhir celebrated his 44th birthday on Tuesday, with heartfelt wishes pouring in from teammates, cricket legends, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The cricket world united to honour one of India's most successful batsmen and a respected coach.

Gambhir, who played for India from 2003 to 2016, was instrumental in many memorable victories. Known for his tough opening partnerships alongside Virender Sehwag, Gambhir's standout moment came during the 2011 World Cup final, where his vital 97 runs helped India chase down Sri Lanka's total at the Wankhede Stadium, ending a 28-year wait for the trophy.

His birthday was made even more special as India secured a dominant 2-0 Test series sweep over the West Indies, with the final win coming at the Arun Jaitley Stadium — where a stand is named in his honour, symbolizing his impact on Indian cricket.

BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla praised Gambhir's dedication both on and off the field, wishing him health, happiness, and continued success. Former teammates also expressed their affection: Yuvraj Singh posted on social media, calling him "Gambhir when he played and even more Gambhir now while coaching," while Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan shared warm birthday messages and nostalgic memories.

Over his international career, Gambhir amassed 10,324 runs in 242 matches across formats, including 20 centuries and 63 fifties, maintaining an average of 38.95. In the Indian Premier League, Gambhir led Kolkata Knight Riders to two titles in 2012 and 2014 and scored 4,217 runs in 154 matches.

As Gambhir continues to shape Indian cricket as coach, his legacy as a player and mentor remains strong, celebrated by fans and peers alike on his special day.

“I’m The Guy” from Aaryan Is Peppy, Soulful & Full of Charm



Vishnu Vishal’s upcoming Telugu investigative thriller Aaryan is creating buzz ahead of its theatrical release on October 31. Directed by Praveen K and produced under Vishnu Vishal Studioz in collaboration with Shubhra and Aryan Ramesh, the film stars Vishnu Vishal in a never-before-seen role—as a sharp, emotionally complex police officer. As part of the film’s promotional campaign, the makers recently dropped the first single, I’m The Guy, and it’s already catching ears. Composed by Ghibran, the song is a refreshing blend of energy and emotion. The music is upbeat and catchy, staying true to Ghibran’s signature style. Interestingly, the composer also lends his own voice to the track, alongside singer Sreekanth Hariharan. Together, their vocals bring a soulful, heartfelt layer to the song. Lyricist Samrat crafts verses that reveal the softer side of the protagonist—a tough cop with a tender heart, deeply in

love with Shraddha Srinath’s character. The song captures this emotional duality beautifully, giving audiences a glimpse of the layered personality Vishnu Vishal portrays in Aaryan. The visuals in I’m The Guy highlight this contrast further, showing lighthearted romantic moments that balance the film’s otherwise intense tone. Shraddha Srinath brings charm and warmth to the screen, complementing Vishnu Vishal’s restrained intensity. With Aaryan promising a blend of crime, emotion, and layered storytelling, I’m The Guy sets the tone perfectly. It’s not just a promotional number, but a character-building piece that gives insight into the emotional stakes of the story. As the release date nears, this peppy yet heartfelt song adds to the growing excitement around Aaryan, proving that even gritty thrillers can have a touch of soul.

Imanvi Joins Prabhas-Hanu’s Period Action Drama



In an exciting development for Indian cinema, debutante Imanvi has officially joined the cast of the much-anticipated untitled period action drama starring pan-India superstar Prabhas and directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. The announcement came with a special twist—the team revealed the news on the occasion of Imanvi’s birthday, giving her what they called the “perfect birthday gift.” The film is being bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers, the powerhouse production banner known for blockbusters like the Pushpa franchise. With their new collaboration with Hanu Raghavapudi—the celebrated for the critically acclaimed Sita Ramam—expectations are soaring. Taking to social media, Mythri Movie Makers shared a special poster to welcome Imanvi. The post read: “Team #PrabhasHanu wishes the gorgeous @imanvi1013

a very Happy Birthday! We are fully confident that she will have one of the most celebrated and loved debuts of Indian Cinema with this film.” The announcement has set social media abuzz, with fans excited to see a fresh pairing of Prabhas and Imanvi in what is said to be a grand, visually rich period drama. While details about Imanvi’s character remain under wraps, industry insiders hint at a strong female lead role set against a historic backdrop with intense emotional depth—a hallmark of director Hanu Raghavapudi’s storytelling style. With Prabhas leading the cast, a proven director at the helm, and Mythri Movie Makers backing the project, the film is already being dubbed one of the most ambitious ventures in recent years. The film’s title, music composer, and additional cast members are expected to be revealed in the coming weeks.

‘Meesaala Pilla’ from Chiranjeevi’s MSG: A Soulful Melody About Separated Love

The first single from Megastar Chiranjeevi’s upcoming Sankranthi release, Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu (MSG), has finally been released, much to the delight of fans. Titled ‘Meesaala Pilla’, the song is a melodious and emotional number that captures the bittersweet essence of a separated couple. Though initially scheduled for release yesterday, the makers dropped the track a day late. However, the delay hasn’t dampened the excitement—the song is already creating waves across social media platforms, with fans praising its soothing composition and heartwarming visuals. The song features Chiranjeevi and Nayanthara, who portray a separated husband and wife in the film. Their chemistry, coupled with lighthearted choreography by Vijay Polanki, adds a layer of charm to the visuals. Chiranjeevi’s subtle expressions and Nayanthara’s graceful screen presence enhance the song’s emotional tone. Playback legends Udit Narayan and Shweta Mohan lend their voices to the track, delivering a touching rendition that perfectly complements the gentle music composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. The lyrics, penned by Bhaskara Bhatla, strike a delicate balance between playfulness and emotion, giving the song a universal appeal. ‘Meesaala Pilla’ has already struck a chord with both fans and music lovers, and is being hailed as a perfect family-friendly melody. The visuals, featuring traditional festive settings and vibrant costumes, further add to the festive Sankranthi spirit. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu is a family entertainer slated for a



grand theatrical release in January 2026. The film is produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under the banners Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments. With this promising start, expectations are now sky-high for the film’s remaining soundtrack and trailer.

Baahubali Re-Release Sets New Benchmark for Pan-India Films



SS Rajamouli’s Baahubali is returning to theatres like never before. Titled Baahubali: The Epic, this reimagined, recut version of the two-part blockbuster has been condensed into a single cinematic experience, set to release worldwide on October 31, 2025. What sets this re-release apart is its unprecedented rollout across almost every major premium format—IMAX, Dolby Cinema, 4DX, DBox, EpiQ, ICE, and PCX. At a time when many Pan-India films struggle to meet the demands of just one or two high-end formats, Baahubali: The Epic is breaking barriers with its technical ambition. Audiences today expect a truly immersive experience, especially when paying premium ticket prices. While most big-budget Indian films face challenges in delivering content across multiple formats, Rajamouli and his team seem to have cracked the code. The re-release promises upgraded visuals, remastered sound, and a tighter, more cinematic runtime. Producer Shobu Yarlagadda shed light on the behind-the-scenes effort in a recent tweet: “Today, with multiple release formats, languages, and worldwide release, on-time content delivery has become a challenging logistical exercise. Reviewing the many formats and timelines for delivery with Annapurna Studios. We ensure all content is delivered seamlessly and on time to all the partners.” As anticipation builds for Rajamouli’s next mega-project starring Mahesh Babu in 2027, Baahubali: The Epic serves as a reminder of why this franchise changed the landscape of Indian cinema. More than just a re-release, it’s a technical and cinematic statement—one that most current Pan-India films are yet to match.

Pradeep Ranganathan Accidentally Reveals Title of Prabhas–Hanu Raghavapudi Film

In what appears to be an unexpected slip-up, actor-director Pradeep Ranganathan may have just confirmed the long-rumored title of Prabhas’ upcoming film with Sita Ramam director Hanu Raghavapudi. While promoting his own film Dude at a Chennai event, Ranganathan casually mentioned the title Fauji, referring to the Prabhas-starrer being produced by Mythri Movie Makers. Prabhas’ film with Hanu Raghavapudi is a big-budget action drama set in the pre-Independence era. The film is currently under production, with popular social media star Imanvi playing the female lead. Despite ongoing speculation in media circles, the makers have not yet officially revealed the film’s title. However, during the Dude event, Pradeep Ranganathan said, “I don’t know if I can say this or not, but my producers have shown me a few clippings of Prabhas sir’s Fauji. Naveen sir and Ravi sir are among the most passionate producers I have ever seen. It will come out, and you will all witness it. What I have seen is extraordinary. Did I make a mistake by revealing? (laughs).” The candid comment has since gone viral, with fans and media outlets treating it as an unofficial confirmation of the title. Though there has been no word yet from Mythri Movie Makers, this unintentional reveal has fueled fresh excitement around the film. If the title Fauji holds, it would align well with the film’s military backdrop and patriotic setting. With Prabhas in the lead and Hanu Raghavapudi at the



helm, expectations are sky-high. An official announcement is now eagerly awaited, but thanks to Pradeep Ranganathan’s slip, fans may already know what to expect.