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MODI'S VISIT TO SRISAILAM AND KURNOOL

CM Calls for Grand Success of PM Modi's Visit to Srisaillam and Kurnool

TPN / Vijayawada Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called upon the leaders and activists of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties in Andhra Pradesh to work collectively to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forthcoming visit to Srisaillam and Kurnool a historic success. The Prime Minister's visit, scheduled for Thursday, is expected to mark a major milestone in the state's development journey under the "double-engine government" of the NDA.

During a high-level teleconference held on Wednesday with MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and senior party functionaries from across the state, the Chief Minister said that

Andhra Pradesh is experiencing rapid progress in multiple sectors due to the synergy between the State Government and the Central Government led by Prime Minister Modi. He described the Prime Minister's scheduled programmes as a moment of pride for Andhra Pradesh, emphasizing that the visit will not only boost the morale of citizens but also provide momentum to several transformational development projects.

According to the Chief Minister, Prime Minister Modi will begin his day with prayers at the sacred Srisaillam temple, one of India's most revered Shakti Peethas. The temple town is expected to welcome the Prime Minister amid great enthusiasm and devotion. The Chief Minister stated that Srisaillam would witness accelerated infrastructure and tourism development following the visit, with fo-



cused initiatives to enhance pilgrim amenities and connectivity. Later in the day, Prime Minister Modi will address a massive public meeting

in Kurnool, where he is set to speak on the transformative benefits of the newly introduced GST 2.0 reforms.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the new GST framework is designed to economically empower people at all levels, bringing greater transparency and effi-

ciency into taxation. He said that the reforms could generate savings of nearly 15,000 per annum for households across the state, helping

families manage expenses and drive consumption-led growth. The State Government, he said, has already launched an extensive awareness campaign titled "GST for Growth," which will run throughout the month to educate citizens and business owners about the new system.

Chief Minister Naidu also announced that Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate several key development projects worth 13,000 crore during his Kurnool programme. These projects, he said, will accelerate regional development and create significant employment opportunities. In one of the most notable announcements, the Chief Minister revealed that the Andhra Pradesh Government has signed an MoU with global technology giant Google to set up a world-class Artificial In-

telligence (AI) Data Center in Visakhapatnam.

Valued at USD 15 billion, the project will be one of the largest tech investments India has witnessed. The Chief Minister credited Prime Minister Modi, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for their cooperation and vision in supporting the initiative.

He also lauded State IT Minister Nara Lokesh for his persistent efforts in attracting Google's investment and facilitating Visakhapatnam's emergence as a global technology hub. Calling for wholehearted participation from party cadres and citizens, the Chief Minister urged the NDA leadership to ensure that Prime Minister Modi's visit becomes a resounding symbol of unity, progress, and pride for every citizen of Andhra Pradesh.

YSRCP TO AGITATE STATEWIDE

YSRCP to Launch Statewide Agitation Against Privatisation of Medical Colleges- Sajjala

TPN BUREAU / Vijayawada Oct 15: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has decided to intensify its mass movement across Andhra Pradesh to oppose the Chandrababu Naidu-led government's alleged move to privatise government medical colleges. At a crucial review meeting of YSRCP's State Affiliated Wings held at the party's Central Office in Tadepalli, Party State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy announced that the party will spearhead large-scale public campaigns to resist what he termed an "anti-people and anti-student policy."



manoeuvres," Sajjala charged. He described the move as a direct attack on public health, social welfare, and equality in access to education. According to him, the Naidu government's policies would dismantle the legacy of the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy and undo the progress made in strengthening public healthcare infrastructure in the state.

Drawing a sharp contrast between the two governance models, Sajjala said that under former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Andhra Pradesh had seen transparent welfare delivery systems and governance driven by compassion and social justice. In contrast, he alleged that the current government is marked by "reverse governance"—a decline into corruption, administrative failure, and policy capture by vested interests. He cited the proliferation of illegal liquor trade and unchecked corruption as indicators of a government losing control over accountability mechanisms. Appealing to the party cadre, Sajjala called for unity and determination in confronting what he de-

scribed as the state's "ongoing assault on people's rights."

He urged every affiliated wing including student, youth, women, and labor groups to actively participate in outreach campaigns, village meetings, and awareness rallies to mobilize public support against the privatisation agenda. On organisational matters, Sajjala informed that the YSRCP currently has an active grassroots cadre strength of over 18 to 20 lakh members. Data profiling is underway to strengthen local structures with the formation of new village-level committees to complement the existing mandal networks.

He directed affiliated wings to complete committee formation in coordination with the Central Office to ensure seamless communication and mobilisation at the ground level. Reiterating the party's stand, Sajjala declared, "YSRCP will continue to safeguard public education, public healthcare, and the rights of the common people. We will not allow any government to sell off public institutions that belong to the people of Andhra Pradesh."

PM MODI TO LAUNCH 13,000 CRORE PROJECTS

TPN / Vijayawada, October 15: Investment Boom in Andhra Pradesh: PM Modi to Unveil 13,000-Crore Projects Tomorrow Andhra Pradesh is on the cusp of a new investment wave as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to launch a series of major projects worth 13,000 crore during his visit to Kurnool on Thursday. The initiative comes as part of the double-engine government's drive to transform the state into one of India's leading industrial and technology hubs under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav announced that the state is witnessing unprecedented investor confidence due to the proactive and coordinated efforts of

the Union and State governments. He noted that the direct involvement of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and the collaborative governance approach have resulted in several national and international corporations choosing Andhra Pradesh as a destination for expansion and innovation. Highlighting a milestone achievement, Satya Kumar said that global technology giant Google will establish one of its largest data centers in Visakhapatnam. "This marks a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh and a turning point for Visakhapatnam's future," he said. The mega project is expected to reshape the city's skyline, generate thousands of jobs, and attract more AI and technology-driven industries to the region. The minister credited

PM Modi, CM Chandrababu Naidu, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their determined efforts in securing this landmark investment. During Thursday's visit, the Prime Minister will either inaugurate or lay the foundation stones for projects amounting to 13,000 crore across multiple sectors including infrastructure, renewable energy, and industrial manufacturing. In addition, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will soon lay the foundation for twelve new bank offices within the CRDA region of Amaravati, further strengthening the financial network and boosting investor confidence in the state's capital region. Emphasizing the government's focus on inclusive development, Satya Kumar reiterated that the

NDA coalition's core goal is balanced regional progress through decentralization.

"No region in the state will be left behind in the growth story," he stated, adding that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's strategic vision ensures equitable industrial development across all districts. The minister elaborated on the state's industrial roadmap, pointing out that Anantapur and Kurnool are fast emerging as centers for cement production and pumped storage projects, while Chittoor and Kadapa are being developed into key electronics manufacturing hubs. The Nellore, Tirupati, Sri City corridor, under the Greater Sri City ecosystem, has already begun attracting substantial international investments, particularly in logistics, automom-

obile, and electronic sectors. Meanwhile, Amaravati has gained national attention for its advancements in quantum computing and next-generation technology infrastructure. Looking ahead, Satya Kumar revealed that Andhra Pradesh will host a Global Investment Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15. The event, expected to draw record-breaking participation from global investors and industry leaders, will project Andhra Pradesh as an attractive and secure destination for large-scale industrial and technology investments. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit, signaling yet another milestone in the state's accelerating growth story.

AP TARGETS 20 LAKH JOBS

Collective Effort Brought Google to Andhra Pradesh - Minister Lokesh State Achieves Historic \$15 Billion Google Investment, Targets 20 Lakh Jobs

Ch. Pradeep Kumar | TPN BUREAU | Vijayawada Oct 15

In a landmark achievement for Andhra Pradesh, the state has secured a massive \$15 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) from global technology giant Google, marking one of India's largest single investments in the technology sector. Announcing this at a press conference in Vijayawada on Wednesday, IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh described the deal as "a historic milestone, made possible through

the collective vision and leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu."

Lokesh said the investment represents the culmination of sustained collaboration between the central and state governments, calling it "not just Andhra's success, but India's triumph." He said that under the "Double Engine Bullet Train" government, led jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the most investment-attractive state in the country. "Whether it's creating history or re-writing it, it's possible only because of Chandrababu Naidu's vision. The arrival of Google in Visakhapatnam signifies India's technological rise on



the global stage," Lokesh said, adding that this is a moment for every citizen to take pride.

The \$15 billion project will establish Google's largest data center outside the United

States in Visakhapatnam. The initiative will also include a cable landing station, renewable energy units, and AI-related enterprises that are expected to accelerate the region's digital economy. Lokesh

said the investment will have a 25x economic multiplier effect, potentially generating 48,000 crore in economic output and creating 1.88 lakh direct and indirect jobs over the next five years.

He recalled Andhra Pradesh's track record in attracting major global manufacturers under Naidu's leadership, citing the successful establishment of Kia Motors in Anantapur between 2014-19 as a benchmark. "What we achieved with Kia then, we are repeating on a global scale with Google now," Lokesh remarked. Lokesh revealed that negotiations with Google began in 2024, during which the company had sought specific legislative reforms to ease operational hurdles.

BULLDOZERS CAN EVEN BUILD



TPN BUREAU, Amravati, October 15: Minister for IT, Electronics, and Education Nara Lokesh today inaugurated the new Tata Hitachi showroom of the Lakshmi Group in Mangalagiri, Guntur district. Speaking at the event, Lokesh declared that under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, bulldozers were now symbols of progress rather than destruction, emphasizing that constructive development has replaced destructive politics in Andhra Pradesh.

Lokesh stated that the faith reposed by Mangalagiri's people in him was being rewarded with unprecedented development initiatives. He highlighted major projects like the upcoming Gems and Jewellery Park, designed to be a national model of excellence. Lokesh reiterated his government's commitment to ensuring industrial and employment growth, urging Lakshmi Group to establish not just Tata Hitachi facilities but other allied units as part of Mangalagiri's industrial expansion.

Expanding on the Gems and Jewellery Park, Lokesh said the project includes a Common Facility Centre and a Centre of Excellence offering world-class training to around 4,000 individuals annually. The park will feature zones for manufacturing, retail, residential, and commercial activities turning Mangalagiri into a skill and investment hub. Lokesh explained that the initiative will attract India's top 20 jewelry manufacturers, modeled after the Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery, Udipi.

Commending the region's economic transformation, senior TDP leader Kambhampati Rammohan Rao praised the coalition government's focus on youth empowerment. He credited Chief Minister Naidu and Minister Lokesh for drawing record investments into the state and said that under their leadership, Andhra Pradesh was evolving into a magnet for industrial growth.

He pointed out that Lakshmi Group, which operates both Hyundai and Tata showrooms, had created 6,000 jobs, reflecting the government's enduring vision for employment-driven development. As bulldozers rolled at the new showroom, Lokesh's message stood clear: Andhra Pradesh's future is built not on ruins but on reconstruction, enterprise, and empowerment. The event underscored his growing push to make Mangalagiri not just a constituency of projects but a model for modern governance and people-centric progress.

SC CLARIFIED ON BAIL PLEA



TPN BUREAU, New Delhi, October 15: Supreme Court decided on Bail Plea of YSRCP Leader Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy

In a significant development in the ongoing liquor case, the Supreme Court has issued a key clarification regarding the bail plea of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and MLA Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy. The apex court directed the trial court to independently decide on Chevireddy's bail without linking it to the decisions or petitions of other accused involved in the same case. The directive came during the hearing held on Wednesday on Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy's petition challenging a previous order issued by the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The High Court had earlier instructed the trial court not to proceed with the bail applications of other accused persons until a final decision was reached on the bail plea of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy, who is also among the accused in the liquor-related case. Displeased with the High Court's instructions, Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy approached the Supreme Court seeking relief and clarification. He contended that each accused's bail petition should be considered on individual merit and that his plea should not be tied to proceedings involving other accused persons.

The Supreme Court bench, presided over by Justices hearing the matter, agreed with this argument and made it clear that the trial court has full authority to make an independent decision in Chevireddy's bail matter. The apex court observed that the trial court should hear and decide Chevireddy's petition based on the merits of his case, rather than waiting for developments in the bail application of

MP Mithun Reddy or others. This clarification is expected to speed up the bail process and possibly influence similar petitions connected to the high-profile liquor case that has drawn considerable attention in Andhra Pradesh's political circles.

Legal experts see the Supreme Court's ruling as a reaffirmation of the principle that bail decisions must be based on individual circumstances, and not dependent on collective proceedings involving multiple accused. The ruling now paves the way for the trial court to conduct hearings and deliver its order on Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy's bail petition in due course. The liquor case, involving several political figures, continues to be under trial and is being closely monitored both by investigative agencies and the public for its broader implications on political and legal accountability in the state.

KOLLU RAVINDRA FLATTERS GOOGLE PROJECT

TPN BUREAU, Vijayawada, October 15: Kollu Ravindra Praises Google Data Center Project; Predicts Andhra Pradesh's Transformation in a Decade.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed confidence that the establishment of Google's prestigious data center in Visakhapatnam will transform the state's economy and global profile within the next ten years. Speaking at a meeting of the Joint Krishna District Public Representatives Coordination Committee, the Minister described the project as a landmark milestone that would firmly place Andhra Pradesh on the global technology map. Kollu Ravindra said Visakhapatnam being chosen as the venue for Google's data center, reportedly the first of its kind outside the United States is a matter of immense pride for all Telugu people.

He revealed that the project involves laying



an undersea cable to directly connect India with global internet infrastructure, thereby linking Andhra Pradesh to the digital backbone of the world. He hailed the initiative as a testament to the visionary leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. Recalling the days when Chandrababu Naidu was criticized for pioneering the IT revolution in Hyderabad, Ravindra remarked that the same vision had now turned Hyderabad into one of India's leading technology and economic hubs.

"Just as Hyderabad underwent dramatic development in twenty years, the entire face of Andhra Pradesh will change within a decade," he asserted, predicting that the new wave of industrial and technology investments will redefine the state's future. Ravindra noted that many investors are already showing keen interest in establishing industries in Rayalaseema and other regions, signaling balanced regional growth under the current administration. He emphasized that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government is committed to inclusive development and ensuring equal opportunities across all

districts.

The Minister also reflected on the recent electoral success of the TDP, highlighting that the party secured 16 assembly seats in the joint Krishna district. He urged all public representatives to work together to maintain public trust and strengthen the connection between the party and the people through regular outreach programs across the state. While praising developmental initiatives, Ravindra also criticized the YSRCP for what he described as an attempt to create instability in the state. He accused the opposition of spreading false information to discourage investment and hamper progress. Referring to recent remarks by former minister Amarnath, he questioned the credibility of leaders who, according to him, contributed little to real growth during their tenure.

The Minister announced that a major investment meet is scheduled to be held in

Visakhapatnam on November 15, which will showcase Andhra Pradesh's industrial potential and attract global investors. He said Visakhapatnam would soon emerge as an ideal financial capital and a benchmark for sustainable urban growth. Lauding the Chief Minister's "Super Six" welfare schemes, Kollu Ravindra said the government had laid a strong foundation for people's welfare alongside economic modernization. He reiterated the government's commitment to transparency and asserted that recent allegations regarding fake liquor and other issues would soon be clarified.

"With Google's data center, Andhra Pradesh is entering a new era of opportunity, innovation, and global integration," the Minister concluded, expressing optimism that the coming decade would mark a golden chapter in the state's journey toward progress and prosperity.

DGP STRICTLY WARNS THE NETIZENS

DGP GUPTA WARNS OF STERN ACTION AGAINST MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 15: Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta has issued a firm and unequivocal warning against the misuse of social media platforms, emphasizing that spreading false information, defamatory remarks, or content that provokes hatred among communities will invite strict legal consequences. He stated that the police department has already identified several individuals indulging in objectionable online behavior aimed at disturbing public peace and harmony. Addressing the issue during a media briefing in Vijayawada, DGP Gupta said, "Social media must be used responsibly.



Posting or sharing videos, messages, or comments intended to incite religious, regional, or community sentiments will not be tolerated. We will take stringent action against such offenders." He added that law enforcement agencies are fully prepared to act against those propagating hate through digital channels. The DGP explained that spreading fake news or misinformation is also considered a punishable offense under law. He said that individuals responsible for creating unrest or provoking violence

through social media posts will face criminal proceedings under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"No one is above the law, regardless of their position or employment status. The police will treat all such cases seriously and ensure justice is served," he asserted. Highlighting the growing instances of misuse among educated professionals and tech employees, DGP Gupta specifically cautioned employees of software and private firms against posting divisive or inflammatory content related to caste, religion, language, or community. He noted that offenders would be booked under BNS Sections 353 (2) and (3), which deal with the promotion of enmity and disturbance of public order through electronic media. Furthermore, details of such

individuals would be forwarded to their respective employers for disciplinary measures, including suspension or termination.

Warning about the misuse of emerging technologies, he raised concern over the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create fake images, voice clips, and videos to mislead the public. "Our surveillance teams are monitoring online networks round the clock. Techniques including digital fingerprinting and metadata tracking are being used to trace the source of fake content. We will take action based on technical evidence and ensure offenders face punishment in court," he said.

The DGP appealed to citizens, particularly social media users, to exercise caution before posting, commenting, or sharing online mate-

rial. He urged the public to verify the authenticity of information and refrain from forwarding content that might disturb communal harmony or spread misinformation. "People have a moral responsibility to protect peace and unity in society.

Social media should remain a space for responsible and constructive communication," he remarked. Reiterating the department's commitment to maintaining digital order and community harmony, DGP Gupta stated that cybercrime wings and intelligence teams are working together to detect and act against malicious activities in real-time. He assured that the Andhra Pradesh Police would continue its proactive efforts to preserve law and order both online and offline.

NEW RULES AT LIQUOR SHOPS IN AP

TPN BUREAU, Amravati, October 15: AP Government Issues Strict New Rules to Curb Counterfeit Liquor Sales

In a decisive move to curb the menace of counterfeit and spurious liquor in Andhra Pradesh, the state government has rolled out a new set of rules mandating stringent verification procedures for every liquor bottle sold in shops and bars. The Excise Department has issued official orders to ensure that only genuine and high-quality liquor reaches consumers across the state.

Under the new regulations, all liquor shop and bar owners must verify the authenticity of each bottle before sale. The verification process must be done using the AP Excise Suraksha app, which allows the scanning of the QR code printed on the bottle to confirm its genuineness.



Officials stated that the measure is aimed at eradicating counterfeit liquor from the market and protecting public health.

As part of the new directives, orders have been issued to display special boards at every shop and bar stating, "The liquor sold here has been verified to be genuine and of good quality by scanning the QR code." These boards will serve as a visible assurance to consumers about the authenticity of the

products being sold.

The government has also mandated that the seal, cap, hologram, and QR code status of every bottle must be checked before sale. To maintain transparency, each establishment is now required to maintain a 'Daily Liquor Genuineness Verification Register', recording details such as brand name, batch number, time of sale, QR code verification result, and approval stamp. The app must reflect this data in real time.

To ensure compliance,

excise officials have been instructed to conduct daily random inspections at shops and bars. They must document inspection details in the verification register and sign it each day. Additionally, every licensee must verify a minimum of five percent of the bottles from each batch received from the depot before sale and sign a batch verification certificate. The certificate must also be filed in the daily register. In case counterfeit liquor is detected, both the shop owner and concerned officer are required to immediately file a complaint with the excise authorities.

Failure to do so will be treated as negligence and aiding the distribution of counterfeit liquor. Legal action, including license cancellation, will be taken against violators. Further, the state government has directed the department to estab-

lish a 24-hour control room and dedicated WhatsApp helplines where the public can report complaints regarding fake liquor. Such complaints must be investigated promptly, and action reports should be submitted within 24 hours. Chief Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena has instructed the Managing Director of the Excise Department and AP State Beverages Corporation to oversee strict implementation of these rules and to ensure state-wide compliance.

Officials believe that these reforms will not only prevent the sale of spurious liquor but also strengthen public confidence in the state's regulated alcohol trade. The new rules come as part of the government's ongoing effort to enhance safety, transparency, and accountability within Andhra Pradesh's liquor distribution system.

BHANU PRAKASH'S FIERY COMMENTS ON YV

TPN BUREAU, THIRUPATHI, OCT 15: Allegations of Irregularities in TTD: Bhanuprakash Reddy Targets Former Chairman YV Subba Reddy Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Governing Council member Bhanuprakash Reddy has leveled serious allegations against the administration of the TTD during the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime. Addressing a media conference in Tirupati on Tuesday, Bhanuprakash accused the former TTD Chairman, YV Subba Reddy, of violating established norms and misusing administrative powers for personal and political convenience. During the press interaction, Bhanuprakash Reddy criticized the earlier TTD management for what he described as a “complete deviation” from traditional and procedural systems in temple management. He said that TTD, an institution guided by time-honored rules and religious sanctity, had become a victim of arbitrary decisions under the YSRCP government. “The then TTD

Chairman YV Subba Reddy conducted affairs of the board as if it were his personal property. Several important protocols were ignored, and many decisions were taken without consulting the governing council or following due process,” Bhanuprakash alleged. He described the functioning of TTD during that period as “ruleless and reckless,” claiming that accountability was completely ignored. One of the main issues highlighted by Reddy was the controversial handling of the Par-

akamani (counting of offerings) case, which he alleged had been deliberately sidelined in 2023. According to him, instead of ensuring a fair and transparent probe, key individuals within the administration worked to suppress the matter. “The Parakamani case was sent to the Lok Adalat in a questionable manner. It is cruel to reach a compromise under intense pressure on TTD officials. The entire case was managed to protect certain influential figures,” he said. Bhanuprakash further

named Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy as one of the individuals who influenced the case’s transfer to the Lok Adalat. He alleged that such actions amounted to a conspiracy to cover up the misappropriation of temple funds. “Bhumana played a key role in ensuring the case was moved away from normal judicial proceedings. The intention was clear, to shield those who are actually responsible,” he charged. He also alleged that the person involved in the hundi theft case had

forcibly taken away temple assets and valuables, calling it a major betrayal of devotees’ faith. “The man who looted the hundi was protected by the then authorities. These incidents show how sacred funds meant for religious and public service activities were misused. The real culprits in the Parakamani case will be exposed soon, and justice will prevail,” he declared. Bhanuprakash urged the current TTD administration to initiate a thorough review of decisions and financial



transactions made under the previous regime. He demanded that the government re-open the Parakamani case and bring those responsible to book through a transparent judicial process. Concluding his address, he appealed to devotees and the public to remain vigilant and safeguard the sanctity of TTD. “Tirumala is not just a temple; it is a symbol of devotion for millions. We must ensure its purity and transparency are never compromised again,” he said.

YAMINI STRONGLY COUNTERS SHARMILA



TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, OCT 15: AP Congress President YS Sharmila faced a strong rebuttal from BJP Andhra Pradesh State Spokesperson Sadineni Yamini Sharma over her recent comments on the newly launched GST 2.0 system in India. Speaking at the BJP office in Vijayawada on October 15, 2025, Yamini Sharma urged Sharmila to stop spreading what she described as “nonsense” related to GST and economic reforms. Yamini Sharma firmly defended GST 2.0, calling it a “Great System of Transformation” rather than the “Gabbar Singh Tax” as Sharmila had described.

She explained that GST 2.0 is foundational to India's economic self-reliance by reducing the tax burden on the common man, facilitating easier operations for small businesses, and providing greater financial autonomy to states. Yamini criticized the Congress party for focusing on political campaigns based on misinformation instead of acknowledging the benefits of GST 2.0 for the economy and people. She questioned why Congress leaders fail to recognize the positive impact of GST 2.0, which includes lower taxes on over 375 everyday goods, increased financial freedom for states, and a boost to economic activities. Yamini accused Congress of deceiving

the public by politicizing issues such as the special status of Andhra Pradesh, reminding that the same party was responsible for the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh and thus has no moral right to talk about special privileges for the state. Yamini Sharma highlighted that the current coalition government is effectively delivering special development status to Andhra Pradesh through practical measures. She framed the upcoming GST 2.0 festival event in Kurnool not just as a meeting but a celebration of the state's economic revival and called for the assembly to join in celebrating these economic reforms with the public.

The GST 2.0, launched across India in September 2025, is hailed by the BJP as a transformative reform that cuts tax rates on numerous daily-use items, lowers prices for consumers, and supports business growth. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman projected that GST 2.0 would inject Rs 2 lakh crore into the Indian economy, benefiting both urban and rural consumption, and easing taxation complexities for businesses. YS Sharmila's earlier criticism of GST 2.0 centered on it being a “Gabbar Singh Tax,” a label implying that it is burdensome and detrimental to the public. She has also been vocal in accusing other political parties, including YSRCP and the BJP, of failing to fulfill promises related to Andhra Pradesh's development and special status. Her politics often stress the perceived neglect of Andhra Pradesh and dissatisfaction with the BJP-led central government's policies. The dispute between Sharmila and Yamini Sharma reflects the broader political contest in Andhra Pradesh wherein the Congress and BJP are vigorously contesting each other's narratives on economic development, governance, and state rights. Yamini's rebuttal is a sharp attempt to undermine Sharmila's influence by portraying Congress as disconnected from the economic progress driven by GST 2.0 reforms. In conclusion, BJP spokesperson Yamini Sharma's remarks appear aimed at not only countering Sharmila's statements but reinforcing GST 2.0 as a pivotal reform benefiting the common people and states, while casting Congress's criticism as baseless political rhetoric.

The GST 2.0 festival in Kurnool is being positioned as a major event to highlight the successes of economic reforms and rally public support around the state government's development agenda in Andhra Pradesh. This contest of narratives continues as both parties vie for political dominance in the region. The GST 2.0 festival in Kurnool is being positioned as a major event to highlight the successes of economic reforms and rally public support around the state government's development agenda in Andhra Pradesh. This contest of narratives continues as both parties vie for political dominance in the region.

er political parties, including YSRCP and the BJP, of failing to fulfill promises related to Andhra Pradesh's development and special status. Her politics often stress the perceived neglect of Andhra Pradesh and dissatisfaction with the BJP-led central government's policies. The dispute between Sharmila and Yamini Sharma reflects the broader political contest in Andhra Pradesh wherein the Congress and BJP are vigorously contesting each other's narratives on economic development, governance, and state rights. Yamini's rebuttal is a sharp attempt to undermine Sharmila's influence by portraying Congress as disconnected from the economic progress driven by GST 2.0 reforms. In conclusion, BJP spokesperson Yamini Sharma's remarks appear aimed at not only countering Sharmila's statements but reinforcing GST 2.0 as a pivotal reform benefiting the common people and states, while casting Congress's criticism as baseless political rhetoric.

rather than a city used for mere political optics,” he added. Criticizing the present administration's economic model, Bharat alleged that the Naidu-led government had earlier failed to retain major investors such as Jindal, which later relocated to Maharashtra. “This government's so-called investment-friendly image masks past failures that cost Andhra Pradesh thousands of jobs,” he said. The former MP also took aim at the government's decision to adopt the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in medical education, arguing that it undermines

public healthcare. “No government in the past even considered handing over public hospitals to private institutions. The same government that once refused to allocate 1,000 crore for medical colleges is now pretending to champion healthcare,” he remarked. On the ongoing spurious liquor case, Bharat sought to dismiss allegations of YSRCP's involvement and clarified that the main accused, Jayachandra Reddy, had no ties with the party. “He even received a Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) ticket during the last elections, clearly establishing that

he is not connected with YSRCP,” Bharat asserted. Expressing doubt over the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, Bharat urged that the case be handed over to a Central investigation agency to ensure fairness. “The SIT probe will serve no meaningful purpose under state control. Only a Central agency can conduct a transparent, unbiased investigation,” he said. With the YSRCP turning up the heat, the political debate over IT development and industrial policy in Andhra Pradesh appears set to intensify in the coming days.

MARGANI TO DEBATE WITH CBN AND LOKESH ON DATA CENTER

TPN BUREAU / Vijayawada Oct 15: YSRCP Challenges Naidu, Lokesh to Debate on IT and Data Centres; Calls Development Claims “Exaggerated” The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Wednesday launched a blistering counterattack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, accusing the ruling TDP of indulging in exaggerated claims about attracting investments and developing Andhra Pradesh's IT sector. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, former MP Margani Bharat threw an open challenge to IT Minister Nara Lokesh for a public debate with former IT Minister Gudivada Amarnath. The debate, he said, should revolve around facts on data centres, IT growth, and the actual progress made in the state's technology infrastructure. “Instead of boasting about non-existent development, Lokesh should come forward for a fact-based debate. Let the people see the real picture,” Bharat said. Bharat strongly rejected Loke-

sh's repeated claims that Chandrababu Naidu was solely responsible for Hyderabad's IT boom. The former MP asserted that the city's transformation into a technology hub was a result of groundwork laid during the tenure of former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. “It was YSR who ensured comprehensive development of Hyderabad through inclusive policies and large-scale infrastructure creation. The narrative that Naidu single-handedly transformed Hyderabad is a myth,” he stated. Turning attention to Visakhapatnam, Bharat said that the YSRCP government under former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagannathan Mohan Reddy had prioritized sustainable and decentralized growth. He highlighted several initiatives undertaken during Jagan's tenure, including promotion of the blue economy, aquaculture expansion, port-based industrial development, and strengthening of coastal infrastructure. “These initiatives positioned Vizag as a true economic growth centre



POLAVARAM MUST BE COMPLETED FAST - KIRAN KUMAR REDDY



Kiran Kumar Reddy Urges Speedy Completion of Polavaram Project TPN BUREAU, Rajahmundry, East Godavari Oct 15: Calls for united effort to protect Krishna water rights; attends Somu Veerraju's birthday in Rajahmundry. Former Chief Minister and BJP national executive member Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy emphasized the urgent need to expedite the completion of the Polavaram project, describing it as the lifeline for Andhra Pradesh's agricultural and power sectors. Speaking at a press conference organized by

MLC Somu Veerraju at the district BJP office in Rajahmundry on Wednesday, Reddy said the project should be completed on a war footing. Recalling his tenure as Chief Minister, Kiran Kumar Reddy mentioned that the project's cost was estimated at 16,100 crore at that time but has since escalated considerably. “Once Polavaram is completed, it will ensure water supply for around 7.20 lakh acres and stabilize irrigation for nearly 23 lakh acres. Additionally, the 960-megawatt hydroelectric capacity of the project will provide cheap and clean electricity,” he stated.

He added that the project has the potential to benefit not only Andhra Pradesh but also Rayalaseema and Telangana regions by supplying water to nearly 13 lakh acres of land. Highlighting the importance of safeguarding Andhra Pradesh's rights under the Bachawat Tribunal Award of 1976, Kiran Kumar Reddy said that the unified state was entitled to utilize 811 TMC of Krishna waters. “Every drop of water should be used judiciously. Telangana's move to seek a review of the tribunal orders calls for a strong and coordinated response from our govern-

ment,” he asserted. Reddy clarified that he had raised this issue with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over a phone call and urged the governments of both Telugu states to work together to ensure a legal victory in the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal case. “When I was the Chief Minister, I led an appeal to the Supreme Court and succeeded in getting a stay on the tribunal's orders. Both Chief Ministers must now cooperate and defend our rightful share of river waters,” he stressed. Commenting on the performance of the coalition government in the state, Kiran Kumar Reddy said that while it was moving in the right direction, it should act with greater speed and efficiency. He also expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would extend full support for Andhra Pradesh's growth, especially in crucial infrastructure and technology sectors. Touching upon economic opportunities, Reddy urged the

state to develop IT and aqua sectors in line with local conditions. “Our state produces substantial quantities of shrimp and fish worth nearly 11,000 crore annually. We must tackle challenges arising from foreign tax systems, particularly those in the U.S., to increase our export competency,” he noted. Reflecting on political unity, Reddy remarked, “If unity brings happiness, division brings weakness. During the united Andhra Pradesh era, we stood next to Maharashtra in development — we must now reflect on where Andhra and Telangana stand today.” Earlier in the day, Kiran Kumar Reddy and Somu Veerraju paid floral tributes to former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary. Later, they participated in Somu Veerraju's birthday celebrations, where Reddy fed cake to Veerraju amid greetings from party leaders, activists, and supporters including Pikki Nagendra, Bomula Dattu, Relangi Sridevi, and many others.



YARLAGADDA THROWS SATIRES ON YSRCP

TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, OCT 15: Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao, a prominent leader of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), stirred political discussions on October 15 by throwing down a bold challenge to leaders of the YSR Congress Party (YCP), juxtaposing the achievements of both parties in Andhra Pradesh's economic landscape. His fiery remarks, made at a public event in Gannavaram, highlighted the recent announcement of Google's arrival in the state as a signal of paradigm shift and pride for Andhra Pradesh. In a pointed and satirical tone, Venkatarao quipped, "YCP brought chicken eggs, but TDP brought Google," underscoring the perceived difference in the scale and impact of investments made under both administrations.

TDP's Google Triumph vs YCP's Track Record-Venkatarao didn't hesitate to mock the YCP's past efforts, comparing them to bringing in traditional entities like Bobbatlu, Appadalu, and Pachchallu companies, instead of fostering world-class IT giants. He criticized a former minister of the previous government for speaking on data centers, arguing that even basic call cent-



ers could not be established under his watch. Venkatarao asserted that Google's entry marks Andhra Pradesh's transformation into a "high-est investment state," a milestone he attributed to TDP's pro-business philosophy. Drawing parallels with Loudoun County, Virginia, a region in the United States renowned for its tech-driven economy, the MLA projected that Visakhapatnam, with Google's presence, is set to emerge as India's next tech-economic powerhouse. He credited Minister Nara Lokesh, TDP's face for technology and youth empowerment, for vowing to create 20 lakh jobs, positioning the TDP as a harbinger of employment and progress in the state.YCP Facing Tough QuestionsOn the occasion, Venkatarao challenged YCP leaders to clarify their stance on Google's entry whether

they welcomed this major investment or sought to oppose it. He accused them of conspiring to undermine initiatives promising large-scale employment and development, contrasting TDP's forward-looking agenda with the alleged obstructionism of the opposition. The MLA's direct questioning put the YCP on the defensive, inviting a public debate on who really supports the state's modernization. The KDCC Bank Success Story Speaking on his personal achievements, Venkatarao recounted his tenure as chairman of Krishna District Co-operative Central Bank (KDCC Bank). Under his leadership, the bank's turnover surged from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 9,000 crore, reportedly making it the top-performing DCCB in the country. He used this example to il-

lustrate his commitment to tangible growth and regional financial empowerment. However, Venkatarao accused former Chief Minister Jag-an Reddy of selectively extending the terms of 12 other DCCB chairmen while denying a renewal of his own post, a decision he interpreted as reflecting the Chief Minister's supposed lack of sincerity toward genuine development. A Call for Open Debate Finishing on a combative note, Venkatarao expressed his readiness to go head-to-head with any intellectual from YCP in a public discussion on the benefits of Google's arrival in Andhra Pradesh. The challenge was not just about scoring political points, but also to spark a statewide conversation about the true implications of global investments, job creation, and the future of Andhra Pradesh in the technology sector. Venkatarao's speech in Gannavaram thus framed TDP's partnership with global industry as a leap into modernity, while casting doubts on YCP's economic vision. With Google's entry attracting national attention, this political face-off sets the stage for a wider debate on development, governance, and the state's place in the digital world.



AIIMS OBSERVES WORDLD HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE DAY

TPN BUREAU/Vijayawada Oct 15: AIIMS Mangalagiri Marks World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025 with Renewed Commitment to Compassionate Service Theme: "Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care" AIIMS Mangalagiri observed World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025 on Wednesday, embracing the global theme "Achieving the Promise Universal Access to Palliative Care." The event underscored the institution's unwavering dedication to providing comprehensive and compassionate care for patients facing chronic and life-limiting conditions. The observance, led by the Palliative Care Unit of the Department of Anesthesiology, highlighted the crucial role of multidisciplinary support in improving the quality of life for patients and families. The unit continues to operate through outpatient, inpatient, and home-based care services, ensuring that even

the most vulnerable individuals receive timely medical, nursing, and emotional support. Under the visionary leadership of Dr Ahanthem Santa Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Mangalagiri, the institution has expanded its palliative care reach across the region. The initiative now supports hundreds of patients through continuous and coordinated care. Dr Singh emphasized the importance of accessible palliative services, stating that "achieving universal access is not just an aspiration—it is a humanitarian responsibility we must fulfill."The AIIMS Mangalagiri Palliative Care team, led by Dr Samarjit Dey (In-Charge) and Dr Sunit Kumar Gupta (Co-In-Charge), functions under the guidance of Dr HM Krishna, Head of the Department of Anesthesiology. The program is designed around a holistic model that addresses pain management alongside the psychological, social, and spiritual facets of illness. This inte-

grated approach reflects the global call for palliative care to be treated as a fundamental aspect of healthcare rather than an optional service.Currently, more than 300 patients with chronic or advanced illnesses are enrolled in AIIMS Mangalagiri's outreach services. These patients benefit from consistent care delivered by trained professionals, including doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, and social workers. The institution also works actively to educate caregivers, providing them with essential guidance and emotional strength to support their loved ones through the care journey. To commemorate World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025, AIIMS Mangalagiri organized several meaningful initiatives. A new outreach vehicle, provided under the CSR initiative by GVS Projects Pvt. Ltd., Vijayawada, was inaugurated by Dr Ahanthem Santa Singh. The vehicle aims to extend community-based palliative services into rural

and underserved areas, allowing patients who cannot commute to still receive quality medical assistance at home. The event also saw the unveiling of the cover page of a new 'Caregiver Guidebook,' a resource created to empower families with practical information on home-based care, symptom management, and emotional well-being. Public health education stalls were set up in the hospital's OPD area, spreading awareness about palliative nursing, physiotherapy interventions, dietary support, and holistic approaches to end-of-life care. Through these activities, AIIMS Mangalagiri reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to ensuring equitable and universal access to palliative care. As part of the nationwide movement towards inclusive healthcare, the institution continues to stand as a beacon of empathy and excellence, helping patients live with dignity and comfort amidst their most challenging times.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR'S WING TAKES UP CHARGES

TPN BUREAU | Vijayawada, Oct 15: AP Chambers Women Entrepreneurs' Wing Office-Bearers Assume Charge for 2025-2027 Term. A new era of leadership began for the Women Entrepreneurs' Wing of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), Central Zone, as the newly elected office-bearers formally assumed charge for the 2025-2027 term at a special meeting held in Guntur on Wednesday. The occasion marked a significant milestone in AP Chambers' ongoing efforts to strengthen the presence and participation of women in the state's business

ecosystem. Dr Mamatha Rayapati officially took charge as the Chairperson of the Women Entrepreneurs' Wing (Central Zone), while Sakku Madhavi assumed the role of Vice Chairperson of the Central Zone. Sravanti Kancharla and G. Jayashree were also appointed as Vice Chairpersons to support the new leadership team. The ceremony was graced by Shaik Sajeela, Deputy Mayor of Guntur, who attended as the Chief Guest. Commending the achievements of women entrepreneurs across Andhra Pradesh, she emphasized the growing importance of female leadership in driving local industry



and innovation. "Empowering women through entrepreneurship is essential for inclusive economic growth," she remarked, adding that initiatives like these create lasting opportunities for self-reliance. Sujith Mallick, IRS, Commissioner, Central GST, Guntur Commissionerate, attended as the Guest of Honour.

In his address, he discussed the upcoming GST 2.0 reforms, highlighting the new provisions that would simplify compliance and enhance transparency. Mallick also offered insights into how small business owners, especially women-led enterprises, could benefit from the restructured tax system to expand op-

erations smoothly. The meeting saw participation from senior AP Chambers officials who reaffirmed their support for fostering women's entrepreneurship and business innovation in the Central Zone. Among those present were AP Chambers President Potluri Bhaskara Rao, Executive Vice President B. Raja

Sekhar, General Secretary Subbarao Ravuri, Vice President (Central Zone) Sidda Sudheer Kumar, Chairman (Central Zone) V. Satish Babu, and Vice Chairman (Central Zone) G. Vijay Kumar.In addition to the leadership appointments, ten new committee members formally took up responsibilities to assist in program execution and outreach. The new members include Peddi Manjusha, Priyanka Chukkappalli, and Amrutha Pamulapati, among others, who represent various sectors such as textiles, education, crafts, and technology. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson Dr. Mamatha Rayapati

expressed her vision for the next two years. She emphasized the importance of collaborative learning and innovation-driven initiatives to support women-led startups. "Our goal is to create a dynamic platform where women entrepreneurs can connect, learn, and grow together. Through continuous training and networking, we will help them scale their ventures to new heights," she said. The Women Entrepreneurs' Wing also unveiled a comprehensive action plan for 2025-2027, focusing on practical skill-building programs and networking opportunities. Several work-

shops and development programs including fabric painting, sewing, personal branding, personal finance management, and business expos are scheduled to be conducted across various districts. These initiatives aim to nurture creativity, financial literacy, and business acumen among aspiring women entrepreneurs.Concluding the event, the leadership pledged to make the AP Chambers Women Entrepreneurs' Wing a robust support system for women in business throughout Andhra Pradesh, fostering an environment conducive to innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

MARKET OFFICIALS TURNED CRAFTY

Rotten Tomatoes, Rotten Deals: Corruption Scandal in Amaravati's Farmers' Markets TPN BUREAU, Amaravati, Oct 15: A major scandal has erupted in the NTR district's farmers' markets, exposing deep-rooted corruption within the agricultural marketing department. The system, once hailed as a revolutionary marketing model to ensure farmers receive fair prices for their crops, has reportedly turned into a hub of fraudulent activities and unhealthy trade practices.The farmers' markets were originally launched during the tenure of then Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu with the primary goal of bridging the gap between producers and consumers. The intention was to create transparent and fair marketplaces where farmers could sell their produce directly at reasonable prices. However, recent investigations and reports suggest that these very markets are

now being manipulated by agricultural marketing officials for personal gain.According to reliable sources, officials in the NTR district have been involved in a dubious operation where they purchase low-quality, grade-3 tomatoes from other districts—particularly from Prathikonda in Kurnool—at throwaway prices and sell them in local markets at inflated rates. Records indicate that these rotten tomatoes were procured at just Rs 6 per kg. With transportation, loading, and unloading charges included, the total cost is roughly Rs 10 per kg. Yet, the same tomatoes are being sold to consumers for a staggering Rs 18 per kg.The discrepancy raises serious questions about where the remaining Rs 8 per kilogram is going. Whose pockets are being filled by these unethical transactions? The purchase records also fail to clarify which farmers were paid for these transactions and



whether the payments were genuinely transferred to legitimate farmers' accounts or merely shown as fabricated entries. Adding to the gravity of the situation is the health risk posed to consumers. Many of the tomatoes purchased are reportedly decomposed and unfit for consumption. These are the same low-grade tomatoes that are typically used only in juice factories or processing units for sauce production. By selling such produce directly in farmers' markets, officials are endangering public health for financial gain.Sources claim that certain marketing officials in the district have formed a nexus with middlemen and traders to exploit price margins. This network ensures that low-quality produce is circulated under the banner of "farmers' fresh markets," misleading the public and defrauding the farmers' welfare objectives.Local residents have expressed

outrage over the issue. "These markets were supposed to help farmers and consumers alike. Now they have become centers of corruption," lamented a consumer in Vijayawada. Farmers, too, are demanding immediate action and accountability. Experts and activists are now pressing the district collector and higher authorities in the agriculture marketing department to initiate a comprehensive probe. They insist that the investigation should trace the procurement sources, verify payment records, and hold officials responsible for any misuse of funds or health hazards caused by selling unfit produce.If authorities act decisively, this scandal could potentially expose a larger network of corruption within the state's agricultural marketing system. Until then, consumers and farmers remain victims of what once was envisioned as a fair and noble initiative.

ATTACK ON HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT

Attack on Vijayawada Government Hospital Superintendent's House: Canteen Contractor Allegedly Behind Incident TPN | Vijayawada, Oct. 15: Tension prevailed in Vijayawada late Tuesday night after unidentified persons attacked the residence of Dr. A. Venkateswara Rao, Superintendent of Vijayawada Government Hospital. Two individuals reportedly created havoc by kicking open the gates and doors of his house and hurling abuses at him. The attack is suspected to be linked to a dispute over the renewal of the hospital canteen lease. According to hospital sources, the "Hunger Kingdom" (also known as "Akali Rajyam") canteen situated inside the new government hospital premises had earlier been leased to one Kallem Nageswara Rao, a contractor known to be close to former minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao. During the previous YSRCP regime, the can-



teen was permitted to operate allegedly by misleading district officials, including then District Collector Delhi Rao, and against court orders. Allegations were also raised at that time that the former superintendent had unilaterally allowed the construction and operation of the canteen in violation of norms. Amid the change in political climate with the TDP-led government assuming power, several administrative reforms are being undertaken in Vijayawada health services. As part of this, the Hospital Development Committee (HDC) held a crucial meeting on Tuesday to discuss multiple issues, including the status of

the hospital canteen. During this meeting, the committee reportedly decided that new tenders should be called for the canteen, as the previous lease period had expired. Sources said that this decision angered the current contractor, Mr. Kalyana Nageswara Rao, who allegedly met Superintendent Dr. Venkateswara Rao and pressured him to renew the lease in his name without calling for a new tender. However, the superintendent clearly informed the contractor that such a renewal was against rules and that fresh tenders would be invited transparently.Reportedly fearing that he might lose the contract

if a new tender was issued, the contractor resorted to threatening tactics. Around midnight, two men believed to be connected to the contractor arrived at Dr. Rao's house and verbally abused him, damaged the property, and threatened him to approve the lease renewal. Family members were reportedly frightened by the sudden attack, and neighbors immediately alerted the police.This is not the first time that controversy has surrounded the Hunger Kingdom canteen and its management. When the same contractor demolished a canteen structure earlier at the old hospital campus (near the DME office), a violent incident had occurred, during which women were reportedly assaulted. A police case related to that event is still under investigation, and medical staff have previously expressed concern over the contractor's aggressive behavior.

Nitish and Tejashwi: 11 Key Forces That Will Decide Bihar’s 2025 Election



As Bihar heads into a high-stakes assembly election, the battle is far from straightforward. While the spotlight often falls on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav, this election is being shaped by a far more complex web of political forces. Shifting alliances, social welfare dynamics, caste arithmetic, and the emergence of a third front have all made this one of the most unpredictable elections in Bihar’s recent history.

Here are the 11 major factors that will ultimately decide who forms the next government in the state.

1. Alliance Chemistry and Internal Friction

The NDA and the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) are both grappling with internal tensions. The NDA, led by BJP and JD(U), has brought in smaller players like the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), but these additions haven’t come without complications. In 2020, a lack of effective vote transfer between BJP and JD(U) damaged their prospects. This time, the Jan Suraj Party (JSP) may disrupt intra-alliance vote transfers further.

Vote Transfer between Partners in Bihar & Leakages		
Leakage between BJP and JDU highest		
Vote transfer between NDA partners	Voted NDA	Leakages
JDU-HAM contested seats		
Traditional JDU-HAM Supporters	75%	25%
Traditional BJP supporters	55%	45%
BJP contested seats		
Traditional JDU-HAM Supporters	70%	30%
Traditional BJP supporters	75%	25%
Vote transfer between MGB partners	Voted MGB	Leakages
INC contested seats		
Traditional INC Supporters	84%	16%
Traditional RJD Supporters	83%	17%
RJD contested seats		
Traditional INC Supporters	82%	18%
Traditional RJD Supporters	90%	10%

The MGB faces its own coordination hurdles with new allies like the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), alongside a faction of the LJP. Seat-sharing remains unresolved, and friction is growing with the Congress asserting itself post its Voter Adhikar Yatra success.

Maintaining internal unity and ensuring seamless vote transfers across alliance partners will be key for both sides.

2. Leadership Preferences: Fragmented Loyalties

Tejashwi Yadav leads in Chief Ministerial preference polls, but only marginally. His appeal is mostly limited to the MY (Muslim-Yadav) vote and some segments of youth. Nitish Kumar, though still respected, is facing

voter fatigue after nearly two decades in power. Prashant Kishor, once a strategist, now poses a fresh political challenge. Leaders like Chirag Paswan and Samrat Choudhary appeal to specific caste groups.

However, only 15% of voters base their decision on CM faces. A larger share is driven by development, caste, religion, and local issues. This diffused focus makes cohesive leadership appeal even more critical.

3. Pro- and Anti-Incumbency: A Split Verdict

VoteVibe surveys indicate that 48% of voters are anti-incumbent, while 32% are pro-incumbent and 14% remain neutral. This near-even split creates a volatile environment where coalition cohesion and voter mobilisation matter more than overarching popularity.

Although discontent exists with Nitish Kumar’s government, the opposition is fragmented. If MGB consolidates anti-incumbent sentiment effectively, it has a strong shot. But NDA’s last-minute welfare schemes have boosted pro-incumbency sentiment from 18% in July to 34% in September, complicating the narrative.

4. The Welfare Push: Last-Minute Lifeline or Election Gimmick?

The NDA has launched a sop spree, targeting women, youth, farmers, senior citizens, and labourers. Key schemes include:

- ₹10,000 business grant for women
- Unemployment allowance for youth
- 125 units of free electricity
- ₹5,000 for daily labourers
- Increased pensions for elderly and widows

Despite these efforts, Bihar’s per capita income remains one-third of India’s average, the same as in 2005. Opposition parties argue that short-term welfare measures can’t mask long-term underdevelopment. Whether voters buy into the immediate relief or punish the lack of structural change remains to be seen.

5. Modi vs Rahul: National Leaders in a State Battle

Unlike previous elections, national leaders are playing a significant role. The election is increasingly becoming Modi vs Rahul, rather than Nitish vs Tejashwi.

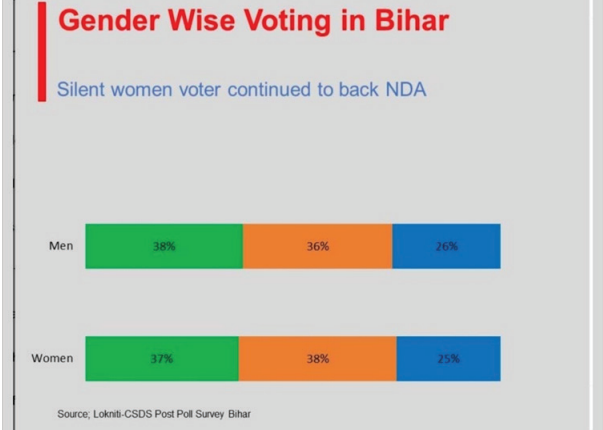
PM Modi holds a 52% approval rating in Bihar compared to Rahul Gandhi’s 41%, per C-Voter. However, Gandhi is gaining ground through his Bharat Jodo Yatra and outreach among Dalits, minorities, and youth. His appeal complements Tejashwi’s, creating a potentially powerful combination for the MGB.

Meanwhile, NDA banks heavily on Modi’s charisma and welfare narrative, hoping it offsets any local dissatisfaction with Nitish.

6. Women Voters: Bihar’s Silent Game Changers



Women account for nearly 50% of Bihar’s voters, and in 2020, their turnout exceeded men’s in 167 seats. The NDA won 99 of those.

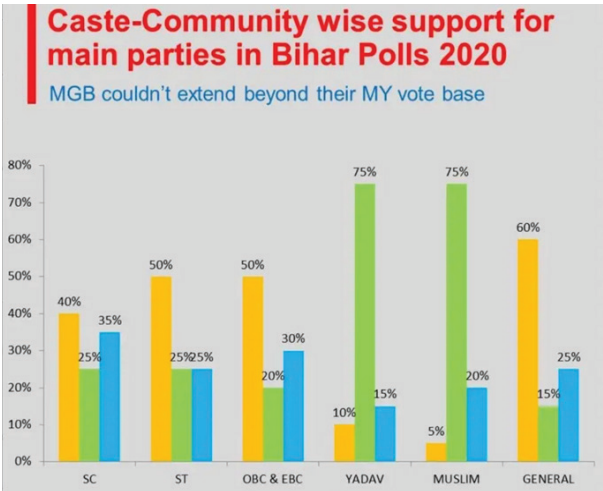


Nitish Kumar has historically focused on female welfare — from bicycle schemes to police quotas and self-help groups. The new ₹10,000 Mahila Rozgar Yojana aims to expand this base.

The MGB, meanwhile, is attempting to woo women with a monthly ₹2,500 direct benefit promise. The question is: Will women choose trusted continuity or tempting alternatives?

7. Youth: Angry, Unemployed, and Politically Crucial

With 35% of voters under 35, young voters are a decisive force. They’re less swayed by past governance vs. “jungle raj” narratives. Their focus is on jobs, education, and migration.



Tejashwi’s promise of “a government job in every home” may sound utopian, but it resonates emotionally. Prashant Kishor appeals to educated and urban youth, especially via digital platforms.

The youth are angry, and their vote is split. Who wins this group could tip dozens of tight races.

8. Caste Dynamics: Still the Heart of Bihar Politics

Caste remains the strongest voting determinant in Bihar. The traditional NDA support base (Upper Castes, Non-Yadav OBCs, EBCs, Mahadalits, and Paswans) adds up to 68%. But their actual 2020 vote share was only 37%, showing leakages and cross-voting.

EBCs (26%) and SCs (20%) are the real swing voters. MGB is trying to counter with Mukesh Sahni (EBC) and Rajesh Ram (SC) as potential Deputy CMs.

The NDA’s edge lies in its multi-caste leadership—

from Nitish (Kurmi) to Choudhary (Kushwaha) and Paswan (Dalit). How much caste leaders can pull their community votes remains to be tested.



9. The Dalit Vote: Diverse, Divided, and Decisive

Dalits, especially Paswans and Ravidas, make up 20% of the electorate. The NDA traditionally dominated these votes through Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi. But the Ravidas vote is showing signs of shifting to MGB and Congress, who are highlighting representation gaps and promising social justice.

Prashant Kishor is also trying to attract young, educated Dalits through development-focused messaging rather than caste identity. These shifts could influence up to 40 reserved seats, where 2020 saw NDA win 22 and MGB 18.

10. Muslim Voters: Reliable Yet Restless

Muslims, at 18% of the population, have long been a pillar of MGB support. But this bloc is no longer monolithic. AIMIM’s emergence and JSP’s appeal among young Muslims threaten to fragment it.

While traditional loyalty to RJD and Congress remains, underrepresentation (only 8% MLAs) has sparked community discontent. AIMIM offers assertive Muslim representation but risks acting as a vote-splitter in tight seats—especially in Seemanchal.

If Muslims consolidate behind MGB, it could sweep Muslim-heavy constituencies. If not, the NDA could benefit again, as it did in 2020.

11. The PK Wildcard: Spoiler or Kingmaker?

Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraj Party is the biggest wildcard in this election. He has created buzz, especially among urban, youth, and upper-caste voters. His 10% vote share in recent bypolls reduced the MGB’s tally from 3 to 0 and handed the NDA key wins.

In over 83 seats with thin victory margins, even a small JSP vote could tilt the balance. Kishor’s strategy may be to force a hung assembly, where he can play kingmaker.

The biggest test for JSP is turning social media support into actual votes.

Conclusion: A Battle of Margins, Not Waves

With no clear wave in sight, Bihar 2025 will be an election of wafer-thin margins. A mere 2-3% shift in women’s votes, youth mobilisation, caste realignment, or minor party interference could decide the outcome.

More than Nitish or Tejashwi, it is the interplay of these 11 powerful factors—from alliance mechanics to demographic shifts—that will shape Bihar’s political destiny in this high-stakes election.

India Needs a Trade Exposure Inflation Index to Tackle Global Price Shocks

India’s inflation story is no longer confined to domestic monsoons or policy rate hikes. It now has a global dimension—from Indonesia’s palm oil exports to freight costs on Red Sea routes. And yet, India lacks a dedicated tool to measure how much of its inflation is imported.

Despite recent moderation in headline inflation—retail inflation dropped to 3.16% in April 2025 and 1.55% in July—external factors like global commodity prices, rupee depreciation, and shipping disruptions continue to impact household costs. For example, over 85% of India’s crude oil is imported, and a 1.2% rupee fall in FY24 raised input costs across sectors.

To address this, experts propose a Trade Exposure Inflation Index (TEII)—a new tool to quantify imported inflation. It would break down consumer prices into three trade-exposed components: imported goods (like electronics), imported inputs (like fertilisers), and exchange rate effects. Initial estimates suggest 40% of India’s recent inflation may have come from external sources.

The TEII would not replace the Consumer Price Index (CPI) but act as a complementary lens, much like “core inflation.” It could guide smarter policymaking—combining monetary tools with trade, tariff, or stockpile strategies. For instance, during 2022–24, when RBI raised rates by 250 basis points, a TEII might have revealed that much of the inflation was beyond the central bank’s control.

India already has the data infrastructure



needed for TEII—CPI weights (MoSPI), import exposure (DGCIS), and exchange rate studies (RBI). A joint working group could

launch it within a year.

In a globalised economy, ignoring imported inflation risks misdiagnosing the problem—and using

the wrong tools to fight it. With TEII, India could lead the way in building inflation transparency and smarter economic coordination.

“Towering Statesman”: PM Modi Condoles Death Of Ex-Kenyan PM Raila Odinga

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who died at the age of 80 while undergoing medical treatment in Kerala’s Ernakulam district.

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi remembered Odinga as a “towering statesman and a cherished friend of India.” Odinga had been receiving treatment in India for the past few weeks and breathed his last earlier in the day.

“Deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend and former Prime Minister of Kenya, Mr. Raila Odinga. He was a towering statesman and a cherished friend of India,” PM Modi wrote.

The Prime Minister recalled his long-standing association with Odinga, which began during Modi’s tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. “He had a special affection for India, our culture, values and ancient wisdom. This was reflected in his efforts to strengthen India-Kenya ties,” Modi added.

Odinga, a major political figure in Kenyan politics and a five-time presidential candidate, played a pivotal role in shaping Kenya’s democratic journey. His contributions extended beyond politics, with strong ties to India culturally and diplomatically.

PM Modi also noted Odinga’s deep appreciation for Ayurveda and India’s traditional medical systems, highlighting how Odinga had witnessed their positive impact on his daughter’s health. “He particularly admired Ayurveda, having seen its benefits first-hand,” Modi stated.

Offering condolences to Odinga’s family and the people of Kenya, PM Modi said, “I extend my deepest condolences to



his family, friends, and to the people of Kenya in this hour of grief.”

The Indian government is expected to co-ordinate with Kenyan authorities for formal arrangements as tributes pour in globally.

27 Maoists Surrender in Chhattisgarh’s Sukma

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant development in Chhattisgarh’s insurgency-hit Sukma district, 27 active Maoists surrendered before the police on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. The surrender took place in the presence of senior police officials and was confirmed through an official statement by the Sukma police.

Among the surrendered individuals are 17 men and 10 women, including two hardcore Maoists, who were described as key figures in the outlawed group. Together, the group carried a combined bounty of 50 lakh, highlighting the importance of this mass surrender in the ongoing efforts to combat Left-Wing Extremism in the region.

The police termed this a major success in their continued efforts to weaken Maoist influence in south Chhattisgarh, particularly in the Sukma and Bastar regions, which have long been hotbeds of Naxalite activity. Officials attribute the surrender to sustained pressure from security forces, along with intensified community outreach programs aimed at encouraging militants to rejoin mainstream society.

The surrendered Maoists were reportedly influenced by state rehabilitation policies, which offer financial support, employment assistance, and protection for those willing to give up arms and cooperate with authorities. Over recent months, the Chhattisgarh government has ramped up its efforts to create awareness about these schemes in remote tribal areas.



Photographs released by the police show the surrendered Maoists standing alongside security personnel, symbolizing a step forward in restoring peace in the region. The district administration is expected to begin the process of verifying their involvement and enrolling them in the state’s surrender and rehabilitation program.

With this latest surrender, the state hopes to send a strong message to remaining insurgents, offering them a chance to return to a life of dignity while reinforcing its commitment to peace and development in conflict-affected zones.

‘Vijay Arrived 7 Hours Late...’ MK Stalin Slams TVK Boss Over Karur Stampede

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday held actor-turned-politician Vijay and his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), responsible for the tragic Karur stampede that claimed 41 lives on September 27. The CM made the remarks during a heated session in the state Assembly, pointing to “gross mismanagement” by the TVK.

Stalin said the police were informed that the event would begin at 3 pm and last five hours. However, TVK later told authorities that Vijay would arrive by noon, requiring changes to the security plan. Ultimately, Vijay arrived seven hours late, causing a massive crowd surge. “This was a key reason behind the stampede,” Stalin said.

He also slammed the organisers for failing to provide basic amenities such as drinking water and toilets, particularly for women. The Chief Minister further revealed that two ambulance drivers were attacked by TVK workers, and emergency vehicles were vandalised while trying to help the injured.

In response to TVK’s claim that the state cut power to the venue, Stalin clarified that the generator was shut off to prevent further mishaps during the chaos.

The stampede occurred as thousands waited for Vijay to appear. The crowd swelled to over 25,000, far exceeding the expected 10,000. The police had prepared for 20,000 people but were overwhelmed as barricades collapsed.

The Supreme Court has ordered a CBI probe into the incident, a move welcomed



by TVK. The investigation will be led by a three-member panel headed by former SC judge Justice Ajay Rastogi.

So far, two TVK functionaries have been arrested, and cases have been filed against top leaders N. “Bussy” Anand and Nirmal Sekar. The political blame game continues, with the NDA also criticising both the TVK and the DMK for “administrative collapse.”

Prashant Kishor Opts Out of Bihar Polls, Sets 150-Seat Target for Jan Suraj



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a key political move ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, Jan Suraj Party founder and political strategist Prashant Kishor announced on Wednesday that he will not contest the upcoming polls, citing organisational priorities and the larger interest of the party.

Speaking to PTI in an exclusive interview, Kishor said the decision was taken collectively by the party. “If I were to contest, it would have distracted me from necessary organisational work,” he explained. The party has fielded another candidate from Raghopur, where Kishor was expected to challenge RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Kishor, widely known for crafting several high-profile election campaigns—including PM Modi’s 2014 victory—declared that anything less than 150 seats in the polls would be a personal defeat. “If we do well, we will have the mandate to transform Bihar.

If we don’t, it means people haven’t shown enough confidence in us,” he said. “There will be no middle ground—either under 10 seats or more than 150.”

Kishor also ruled out the possibility of supporting either NDA or the INDIA bloc in case of a hung assembly, stating that he does not foresee a fractured mandate.

Reacting to his announcement, RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwary claimed Kishor has already accepted defeat. “He knows his party will be humiliated and has stepped back before the battle began,” Tiwary said.

Bihar goes to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11, with results to be declared on November 14. Kishor predicted a defeat for the ruling NDA, pointing to its struggle in finalising candidates and seat-sharing arrangements.

The elections will serve as a crucial test for Kishor’s political debut on the electoral front.

Bihar Assembly Polls: JD(U) Releases First List of 57 Candidates

CM Nitish to Begin Campaign Oct 16



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Patna: The Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] on Wednesday released its first list of 57 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar set to launch his campaign on October 16 from Samastipur district. The move comes amid ongoing seat-sharing discussions and confusion within both the ruling NDA and the Opposition’s Mahagathbandhan.

The JD(U)’s candidate list reflects a mix of sitting MLAs, new faces, and loyal party workers, with sources indicating a focus on caste balance and winnability. The party is expected to release its second and final list of candidates by October 17.

Nitish Kumar, who is seeking another term as Chief Minister, will begin his campaign with a rally in Samastipur on Thursday. According to party insiders, he will focus on JD(U)’s development agenda, social welfare schemes, and law-and-order

track record to connect with voters.

Significantly, poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor, who had previously been speculated to enter the electoral fray, will not contest the elections. His name was absent from the first list, and party sources confirmed he will play no direct role in the campaign.

With both the NDA and Mahagathbandhan still ironing out seat-sharing formulas, JD(U)’s early candidate announcement is seen as a strategic move to assert leadership within the alliance and gain early momentum.

The Election Commission is yet to officially announce the full schedule, but the polls are expected to be held in multiple phases across late October and November.

As political temperatures rise in Bihar, all eyes are now on Nitish Kumar’s first campaign rally, which is expected to set the tone for the JD(U)’s electoral messaging.

India Growing Force On World Stage: UK PM Keir Starmer After Mumbai visit



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer updated the House of Commons on Tuesday about his successful two-day visit to Mumbai last week, leading the largest UK trade delegation ever to India. The visit culminated in securing deals worth around £1.3 billion, aimed at boosting trade, investment, and job creation between the two countries.

Addressing Parliament, Starmer emphasized the strengthening partnership following the “historic” India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed in July during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the UK. The deal is expected to expand bilateral trade beyond the current £44 billion annually.

“India is a growing force on the world stage, projected to become the third largest economy by 2028,” Starmer said. He highlighted the “living bridge” of family, history, and shared future opportunities that unite both nations.

During his first official visit to India as UK Prime Minister, Starmer

held talks with PM Modi and announced that more British universities will establish campuses in India, reinforcing the UK’s role as a top international education provider.

He also outlined the deepening of the UK-India Technology Security Initiative to enhance collaboration in the tech sector. The new deals include investments in advanced manufacturing, defence, car production, and Bollywood filmmaking in the UK, which are expected to create over 10,600 jobs across the country.

A joint statement from the UK-India dialogue reaffirmed support for early UK parliamentary ratification of the CETA and welcomed the reactivation of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) to oversee the agreement’s implementation.

Leading a delegation of 127 business leaders, entrepreneurs, and university heads, Starmer pledged to further open doors for British businesses in India, with the ambitious Free Trade Agreement set to make trade quicker, cheaper, and easier for both nations.

Sri Lanka PM Harini Amarasuriya to Visit Delhi on October 16



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Sri Lanka’s Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya is set to arrive in New Delhi on October 16, 2025, for a three-day visit featuring high-level meetings with Indian government officials and business leaders. This visit follows her recent trip to Beijing, where she participated in the ‘Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women 2025’ and met Chinese President Xi Jinping.

This will be Prime Minister Amarasuriya’s first official visit to India since taking office last year. During her stay, she is scheduled to hold important discussions with India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Sources in New Delhi confirm that Jaishankar is expected to call on the Sri Lankan leader on the day of her arrival.

The visit aims to strengthen bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka, focusing on cooperation in economic, strategic, and cultural areas. Engagements with India’s business community are also planned, high-

lighting the importance of enhancing trade and investment links between the two neighboring countries.

Prime Minister Amarasuriya’s tour comes at a time when Sri Lanka is actively pursuing stronger diplomatic and economic partnerships amid regional geopolitical shifts. Her prior engagement in China’s global summit reflects Sri Lanka’s balanced foreign policy approach, seeking constructive relations with major powers in the region.

The three-day schedule in India will include official meetings, business forums, and cultural exchanges designed to deepen mutual understanding and cooperation.

This visit is viewed as a significant step in bolstering the long-standing friendly ties between India and Sri Lanka, reaffirming their commitment to regional stability and shared development goals. Further details of the agenda and agreements expected from the visit will be announced in the coming days.

Trump Labels BRICS an ‘Attack’ on U.S. Dollar, Threatens Tariffs

TPN Bureau | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has described the BRICS grouping as an “attack” on the U.S. dollar, asserting that his threats of tariffs forced nations to reconsider joining the bloc. Trump claimed that after he warned countries against aligning with BRICS, “everybody dropped out,” underscoring his tough stance on what he calls the group’s “anti-American” policies.

BRICS is an influential international coalition comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and recently expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. The bloc is seen as a counterbalance to Western economic dominance and has been exploring ways to reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar in global trade and finance.

Trump has frequently criticized BRICS, suggesting that its efforts to challenge U.S. economic supremacy threaten American interests. During his tenure, he repeatedly warned member countries of potential tariff increases and other trade restrictions in response to policies he deemed unfair or hostile to the United States.

“Their actions are a direct attack on the U.S. dollar and American economic leadership,” Trump said in recent comments. He reiterated that his headline approach was aimed at protecting U.S. jobs and industries from what he de-



scribed as “anti-American” economic moves by the BRICS nations.

The BRICS bloc has been pursuing initiatives to strengthen economic cooperation among member countries, including discussions on creating alterna-

tive payment systems and expanding trade in local currencies to reduce dependence on the dollar.

Trump’s remarks highlight ongoing tensions between the United States and emerging global powers seeking to re-

shape international economic structures. While his approach has been controversial, it reflects broader concerns in Washington about maintaining America’s economic influence in an evolving multipolar world.

India Drops to 85th in Henley Passport Index 2025; Singapore Tops

TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

The latest Henley Passport Index 2025 has ranked the Indian passport at 85th position globally, offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to only 57 countries. This marks a decline for India in the annual ranking, reflecting growing challenges for Indian travelers amid changing global visa policies.

The Henley Passport Index, compiled by global citizenship advisory firm Henley & Partners, measures the strength of passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index is widely regarded as an indicator of a country’s global mobility and diplomatic reach.

Topping the list this year is Singapore, whose passport grants visa-free access to 194 countries, making it the most powerful passport in the world. Japan and Germany closely follow, with access to 193 destinations each.

Other top-ranking passports include South Korea (192), Finland and Italy (190), and Luxembourg (189). These countries benefit from strong diplomatic ties and open travel agreements worldwide.

India’s drop to 85th place contrasts sharply with regional neighbors like the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, which have steadily climbed the rankings in



recent years due to aggressive diplomatic and economic outreach.

The decline highlights the need for India to enhance bilateral relations and negotiate better travel arrangements to improve the global mobility of its citizens. Visa restrictions not only affect personal travel but can also impact business, education, and cultural exchanges.

As global travel dynamics continue to evolve, India faces the challenge of boosting its passport’s standing to keep pace with other emerging economies.

Top 10 Passports in Henley Passport Index 2025:

- Singapore – 194 countries
- Japan – 193
- Germany – 193
- South Korea – 192
- Finland – 190
- Italy – 190
- Luxembourg – 189
- Spain – 188
- Austria – 188
- Denmark – 187

India’s passport strength remains modest, underscoring the importance of diplomatic efforts to expand travel freedoms for its citizens.

Deadly Cross-Border Clashes Erupt Between Afghan Taliban and Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | Gaza

Dozens of people have been killed and many more injured in the deadliest exchange of gunfire in years between Afghan Taliban forces and Pakistan’s military along their shared border. The latest clashes, which took place early Wednesday, mark the second violent confrontation this week, escalating tensions between Islamabad and Kabul and raising fears of a broader regional conflict.

The fighting centered around Pakistan’s Chaman district and Afghanistan’s Spin Boldak district, a key border area in Kandahar province. Reports indicate that the Afghan Taliban forces destroyed a Pakistani border outpost and captured a tank used by Pakistani forces to target Taliban positions.

Both sides blamed each other for initiating the violence. Afghanistan claimed its forces killed 58 Pakistani soldiers during the overnight operations. In contrast, Pakistan asserted it had killed over 200 Afghan fighters while losing 23 soldiers.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid shared details of the clashes on X (formerly Twitter), stating that Pakistani forces launched an early morning attack on Spin Boldak using light and heavy weapons. Mujahid said that this strike killed at least 12 civilians and injured over 100.

Responding to the attack, Afghan forces reportedly retaliated strongly, killing numerous Pakistani soldiers, seizing weapons and tanks, and destroying Pakistani military installations in the area. Muja-



hid emphasized the readiness of the Afghan fighters to defend their homeland and people against what they described as “aggressor soldiers.”

The violence comes amid growing hos-

tility between the two neighboring countries and threatens to destabilize the already volatile region. Officials from both sides have yet to agree on a ceasefire, raising concerns of continued clashes in the

border region.

This latest incident underscores the fragile peace and complex security dynamics along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.



India’s September Trade Deficit Hits 13-Month High of \$32.15 Billion

New Delhi: India’s trade deficit surged to a 13-month high of \$32.15 billion in September 2025, driven by a sharp rise in imports compared to exports, official data revealed on October 15. The deficit widened from \$26.5 billion recorded in September last year, reflecting growing demand for foreign goods amid economic recovery and inflationary pressures.

Exports grew by 6.7% year-on-year to reach \$36.38 billion in September, showing steady improvement supported by strong global demand for Indian products such as pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and textiles. However, imports climbed at a faster pace of 16.6% annually, reaching \$68.53 billion. This surge was primarily due to higher crude oil prices, increased purchases of electronic goods, and rising demand for raw materials and machinery.

The widening trade gap underscores the challenges India faces in managing its external balance, especially with volatile global commodity prices and geopolitical uncertainties impacting supply chains. Energy imports remain a significant contributor to the import bill, with crude oil and petroleum products accounting for a major share.

Economists suggest that while export growth is encouraging, the faster rise in imports is a cause for concern as it puts pressure on the country’s current ac-



count deficit and foreign exchange reserves. The government has been focusing on boosting manufacturing and export competitiveness through initiatives like ‘Make in India’ and expanding free trade agreements to curb the trade imbalance.

Despite the trade deficit increase, India’s overall trade volumes continue to recover from the pandemic-induced slump, signaling resilience in the economy. Policymakers will likely monitor these trends closely to balance growth with external stability.

Bharti Airtel Partners with IBM to Strengthen Airtel Cloud Services



Bharti Airtel has announced a strategic partnership with global tech giant IBM to enhance its Airtel Cloud offering, enabling customers to access IBM’s advanced Power Systems as-a-service. This collaboration is set to boost Airtel Cloud’s capabilities in delivering secure,

scalable, and AI-ready cloud infrastructure to enterprises across India.

As part of the partnership, Airtel Cloud customers can now deploy IBM’s Power Systems portfolio, including the latest IBM Power11 servers, which are designed to sup-

port AI workloads, mission-critical applications, and high-performance computing needs. These systems will be offered on a flexible, as-a-service model, allowing businesses to scale on demand while optimizing costs.

The IBM Power11 servers are equipped with autonomous capabilities and AI readiness, aligning with the growing demand for intelligent infrastructure in industries such as banking, telecom, manufacturing, and healthcare. Airtel’s extensive data center network across India will host these systems, ensuring low-latency and secure access for Indian enterprises.

Ajay Chitkara, Director and CEO of Airtel Business, said, “This partnership with IBM is a major step in our mission to offer cutting-edge cloud solutions to Indian businesses. As digital transformation accelerates, our customers require agile and reliable infrastructure, and with IBM’s powerful systems, we’re well-positioned to meet that need.”

Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India & South Asia, added, “We are excited to collaborate with Airtel to bring the performance and security of IBM Power to more Indian enterprises. This partnership underscores our commitment to empowering organizations with the technology needed to thrive in the AI era.”

The move comes as more Indian companies shift to hybrid and multi-cloud strategies to modernize operations. The Airtel-IBM collaboration is expected to accelerate this trend, offering a robust platform for innovation and digital growth.

Sensex, Nifty Open Higher Tracking Asian Market Rally

Indian stock markets opened on a positive note on Wednesday, buoyed by strong cues from Asian peers and rising hopes of an interest rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve later this month.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 354.57 points to 82,384.55 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty gained 109.55 points to reach 25,255.05. The rally comes a day after both indices ended in the red amid global uncertainty.

Gains in early trade were led by key Sensex constituents such as Asian Paints, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finserv, and Power Grid. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Infosys, and Titan saw some profit booking and traded in the red.

The upbeat sentiment on Dalal Street mirrored broader gains across Asian markets, where indices such as South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225, Shanghai’s SSE Composite, and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng were trading higher. Investors appeared optimistic after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled the possibility of two rate cuts this year, citing concerns over a sharp slowdown in U.S. hiring and its potential impact on economic growth.

“Fed Chair Jerome Powell’s comments have increased market expectations of policy easing, which is supportive for risk assets globally,” said Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

Meanwhile, Brent crude prices dipped 0.19% to USD 62.27 per barrel, providing some relief for oil-importing countries like India.

On the institutional front, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,508.53 crore on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) remained net buyers, purchasing stocks worth ₹3,661.13 crore.



The positive opening follows Tuesday’s losses, when the Sensex fell 297.07 points and the Nifty dropped by 81.85 points. Investors will now focus on upcoming economic data and corporate earnings for further direction.

FM Sitharaman Urges Farmers to Use PMFME, PMDDKY for Profitable Farming



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday called on farmers to actively leverage government schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) to make agriculture more profitable and sustainable.

Speaking at the inauguration of a Farmers’ Training and Common Facility Centre in Karnataka’s Koppal district, Sitharaman emphasized the government’s commitment to promoting rural entrepreneurship and creating jobs in villages. The newly inaugurated facility was funded through her Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund.

Highlighting the benefits of the PMFME scheme, Sitharaman said it supports value addition in agricultural produce and provides both financial and technical assistance to small food processing units. “More than ₹3,700 crore has been disbursed to states under PMFME since 2020, leading to the emergence of over one lakh agriculture entrepreneurs,” she said.

On PMDDKY, Sitharaman noted that the government has allocated ₹24,000 crore in the 2025–26 Union Budget. The scheme is designed to enhance agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification, and uplift farmer incomes, especially in 100 low-performing agricultural districts, including Koppal.

She also reassured farmers about the benefits of the ongoing GST reforms, stating that they are aimed at simplifying tax processes and indirectly supporting rural economies.

The Finance Minister further highlighted that over 43 lakh farmers in Karnataka have benefitted from the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which provides ₹6,000 annually to eligible farmers in three instalments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Sitharaman urged farmers to take advantage of these initiatives, saying, “With the right support, agriculture can be transformed into a thriving, entrepreneurial sector for the rural youth.”

Gold Hits Record ₹1.27 Lakh Per 10 Grams on Fed Rate Cut Hopes



New Delhi: Gold prices soared to an all-time high of ₹1,27,500 per 10 grams in domestic futures trade on Wednesday, as global investors rushed to safe-haven assets amid heightened geopolitical tensions and expectations of U.S. Federal Reserve rate cuts.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), December gold futures rose ₹1,244 or 0.98% to touch the new record. The February 2026 contract also surged by ₹943 to ₹1,28,435 per 10 grams. The rally was mirrored in the global markets, where Comex gold futures jumped nearly 2% to hit a record USD 4,211 per ounce.

Analysts attributed the sharp rise to increased safe-haven demand following renewed concerns over U.S.-China trade tensions and signs of a slowing U.S. economy. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell recently hinted at the possibility of two rate cuts this year, saying a slowdown in hiring poses a significant risk to economic growth.

“Gold prices climbed to USD 4,200 per ounce and extended their bullish run as investors sought safety and ramped up bets on additional monetary easing,” said Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

The latest spike was also fuelled by U.S. President Donald Trump’s accusations of “economically hostile” behavior by China, following Beijing’s decision to halt soybean imports and impose sanctions on U.S.-linked firms. Trump warned of potential retaliatory measures, including a cooking oil embargo.

Silver prices followed suit, with MCX silver futures for December delivery rising ₹1,256 to ₹1,60,760 per kg. Global Comex silver touched USD 51.27 per ounce, inching closer to its Tuesday record of USD 52.49.

Despite an optimistic global growth outlook from the IMF, the ongoing trade and geopolitical frictions continue to support gold and silver’s bullish momentum.

1kg Gold for a Rolls-Royce by 2030?

Can 1 kilogram of gold buy you a Rolls-Royce by 2030? Industrialist Harsh Goenka's viral post suggests it might.

The RPG Enterprises Chairman recently took to X (formerly Twitter) to illustrate gold's skyrocketing value over the decades by comparing it to popular car models. His post, blending finance with nostalgia, has garnered over 9 lakh views and sparked debate on the power of

long-term gold investment.

"In 1990, 1kg gold could buy a Maruti 800. By 2000, an Esteem. In 2005, an Innova. In 2010, a Fortuner. In 2019, a BMW. In 2025, a Land Rover," Goenka wrote. He concluded, "Lesson: Keep the 1kg gold — in 2030 it may equal a Rolls-Royce, and in 2040, a private jet."

Goenka's post came amid record-high gold prices. In Mumbai, 24K gold recently touched

1,28,890 per 10 grams, while silver soared to 1,90,000 per kg. On the MCX, gold futures for December delivery crossed 1,22,000 per 10g, driven by strong demand and expectations of lower interest rates.

Globally, gold surged past \$4,060/oz, its highest ever, amid geopolitical uncertainty and central bank buying. In India, gold ETFs saw historic inflows—8,363 crore in September 2025, up 285% from August, as per AMFI data.

The 52% annual jump in gold prices is fuelling optimism about its future value. While a Rolls-Royce might seem ambitious, Goenka's point is clear: gold, as an asset, has preserved and expanded purchasing power like few others.

As gold continues its golden run, Goenka's post offers both a humorous and thought-provoking lens into long-term wealth building.



Man Caught Begging Inside Bengaluru Metro, Video Goes Viral

A video of a man begging inside a Bengaluru Metro train has gone viral on social media, raising concerns about security and enforcement of public transport rules. The footage, reportedly shot by a commuter, shows the man walking through a moving Namma Metro train, requesting alms from passengers.

The incident is said to have occurred on the Green Line between Mantri Square Sampige Road and Srirampura stations. In the video, commuters appear surprised, with some visibly uncomfortable. The man, casually dressed and carrying a small bag, is seen addressing passengers in Kannada.



Netizens expressed mixed reactions. While some criticised the lapse in security, others pointed to the larger issue of poverty and urban displacement. "It's shocking but also sad. This shows how people are struggling," a user commented on X (formerly Twitter).

The incident has reignited discussions around the need for enhanced monitoring, especially during peak hours, and the importance of sensitising security personnel to maintain vigilance without compromising on humane treatment.

As Bengaluru's metro network expands, ensuring that public spaces remain safe, accessible, and orderly remains a key challenge for city authorities.

hibited under the rules of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL), and such incidents are rare in the well-guarded metro system. The video's viral spread has sparked a debate about safety, enforcement, and how beggars are entering the metro despite multiple

layers of ticket checks and security at station entrances.

BMRL officials have acknowledged the video and stated that they are investigating the matter. "We are reviewing CCTV footage and will strengthen surveillance at key stations," a BMRL spokesperson said.

Are You Addicted to Ultra-Processed Foods? 10 Warning Signs

Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) — like chips, instant noodles, biscuits, and packaged snacks — now make up a major part of modern diets. But could you be addicted to them?

Mounting research shows that UPFs not only contribute to weight gain and poor metabolic health, but they also alter how we eat. A landmark NIH trial found people consumed significantly more calories on an ultra-processed diet than on a whole-food one, even when the meals were nutritionally matched.

Researchers now warn of an "ultra-processed food addiction" pattern — marked by strong cravings, com-



pulsive overeating, and difficulty cutting back. Here are 10 signs that UPFs may be taking control of your diet:

- You always reach for packaged foods when tired or busy.
- You crave specific snacks, not just food.
- You eat more than intended and can't stop.

You choose UPFs even when healthier options are available. Your portion sizes have slowly increased. You eat UPFs when stressed or emotional. You're always thinking about your next UPF snack. Cutting back causes irritability or poor

sleep. You use UPFs to reward or celebrate. You return to UPFs quickly after dieting. Experts suggest small steps — like replacing one frequent UPF with a whole-food alternative, eating slowly, and increasing protein and fibre — to regain control.

If cravings feel compulsive or distressing, consult a health professional. Some individuals benefit from behavioural therapy or structured dietary support.

UPFs may be convenient and tasty, but recognising the signs of over-dependence is key to taking back control of your health and habits

Why You Feel Sleepy After a Heavy Meal: Explained



Ever felt like taking a nap right after a big lunch? You're not alone — and there's a scientific reason behind this post-meal drowsiness.

After we eat, our body begins the complex process of digestion. To break down food and absorb nutrients, more blood is directed toward the stomach and intestines. This temporary shift in blood flow means slightly less oxygen reaches the brain, which can lead to feelings of sluggishness or sleepiness.

But the type of food we consume also plays a key role. Meals high in carbohydrates — such as rice, bread,

pasta, and sweets — cause a spike in blood glucose levels. In response, the body produces more insulin to manage this sugar. Insulin, in turn, helps certain amino acids, especially tryptophan, enter the brain.

Once in the brain, tryptophan boosts the production of serotonin and melatonin, two chemicals that regulate mood and sleep. This hormonal effect, combined with reduced brain oxygen levels due to redirected blood flow, creates the perfect setup for a post-meal nap.

This is why heavier meals — particularly those high in carbs —

are more likely to trigger drowsiness compared to lighter, balanced meals.

To avoid feeling sleepy after eating, experts recommend:

- Eating smaller portions
- Including more protein and fibre in meals
- Avoiding excessive sugar and refined carbs

Taking a short walk post-lunch to stimulate blood circulation

In essence, your body isn't "shutting down" — it's just prioritising digestion. So, next time you feel like dozing off after biryani or a rich thali, know that your biology is simply doing its job.



WhatsApp Tests Status Update Notifications for Selected Contacts

WhatsApp is reportedly testing a new feature on Android that lets users receive notifications when specific contacts post new status updates. This upcoming functionality aims to give users more control over whose updates they want to follow closely, enhancing the overall experience of staying connected.

Currently available in WhatsApp beta version

2.25.30.4 for Android, the feature allows users to activate alerts directly from the status update screen. To enable it, users open a contact's status, tap the overflow menu, and select "Get notifications." After confirming, they will receive real-time alerts whenever that contact shares a new status. Notifications can also be muted at any time through the same menu.

When a chosen contact posts a status update, WhatsApp sends a notification showing the contact's name and, if the update includes an image or video, a small preview is displayed. This helps users quickly see important updates without needing to open the app, improving convenience and engagement.

The feature is being rolled out gradually to beta users, allowing

WhatsApp to monitor its performance and ensure stability before a wider release. Importantly, the contacts for whom notifications are enabled are not informed, allowing users to discreetly follow key updates without alerting others.

This new functionality fits into WhatsApp's ongoing efforts to provide a more personalised and user-friendly experience. By prioritising updates

from selected contacts, users can better manage notifications and focus on the posts that matter most to them, avoiding distractions from less important status updates.

The feature is expected to roll out to a broader audience soon, with further enhancements likely as WhatsApp continues to refine its status update features across devices.

Norway Chess Launches Total Chess World Championship Tour



The organisers of Norway Chess have announced the launch of the Total Chess World Championship Tour, a groundbreaking new series that will crown a combined champion across three chess disciplines: Fast Classic, Rapid, and Blitz. The tour is set to begin in 2027 following a long-term agreement signed with the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Norway Chess CEO Kjell Madland revealed that the tournament will be an annual event featuring four tournaments each year held in various global cities. The prize pool will total a minimum of USD 2.7 million annually, with USD 750,000 allocated for each of the first three events and USD 450,000 for the finals, alongside performance bonuses.

Madland said, “We expect the Total Chess World Championship Tour to become one of the most prestigious events in the chess calendar.” The tour will complement the traditional World Chess Championship, which focuses on classical chess, as both formats have been officially approved by FIDE.

A key innovation is the inclusion of Fast Classic chess, a faster format of classical chess with time controls as short as 45 minutes, alongside Rapid and Blitz formats. The combined results across these three disciplines will determine the overall FIDE World Combined Champion.



Messi’s Two Assists Help Argentina Crush Puerto Rico 6-0

Lionel Messi delivered two assists as reigning World Cup champions Argentina thrashed Puerto Rico 6-0 in a friendly match relocated from Chicago to a different venue on Tuesday night. The game was initially scheduled for Monday in Chicago but was moved last week due to low ticket sales and an ongoing immigration crackdown in the city.

Playing on the field he calls home with Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, Messi set up Gonzalo Montiel’s goal with a deft lob in the first half. Later, in the 83rd minute, Messi’s clever back pass led to Lautaro Martínez’s second goal of the night. Martínez and Alexis Mac Allister each scored twice for Argentina, with the South American giants also benefiting from an own goal by Puerto Rico.

The match had unusual circumstances on and off the field. Tickets were available for as low as \$25 shortly before kickoff—rare for a match featuring Messi—and the stadium was only half-filled initially, though attendance improved during the game.

Argentina, ranked No. 3 by FIFA, faced Puerto Rico, ranked 155th, which fielded some college players including goalkeeper Sebastian Cutler, who made notable saves against Messi. Puerto Rico nearly shocked Argentina early on with a long-range attempt that just missed. Despite the competitive spirit, Argentina dominated throughout, using the match as part of their preparations for the 2026 World Cup set to be hosted across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

Ronaldo Sets World Cup Qualifier Record, Extends Lead Over Messi



Cristiano Ronaldo made history once again by scoring twice in Portugal’s 2-2 draw against Hungary in a FIFA World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, extending his lead as the all-time top scorer in World Cup qualifying matches. The 40-year-old forward netted his 40th and 41st goals in World Cup qualifiers, breaking the previous record held by former Guatemala striker Carlos Ruiz.

Ronaldo opened the scoring in the 22nd minute with a close-range finish and added his second in first-half stoppage time. His brace took his tally to 41 goals in 51 qualifying appearances, a remarkable achievement that sets him well ahead of other greats in the competition.

Lionel Messi, for comparison, has scored 36 goals in 72 World Cup qualifiers for Argentina, placing him third on the all-time list. The Al-Nassr striker also holds other major international records, including most international goals (143) and most appearances for a men’s national team (over 215).

Noman Ali, Shaheen Afridi Shine as Pakistan Beat South Africa in 1st Test

Lahore: Pakistan secured a thrilling 93-run victory over World Test Champions South Africa in the first Test at Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday, thanks to exceptional performances by left-arm spinner Noman Ali and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.



Chasing a challenging target of 277 on a deteriorating pitch that offered sharp turn and variable bounce, South Africa was bowled out for 183 on day four. Noman Ali was the standout bowler, taking 4 wickets for 79 runs in the second innings and finishing with match figures of 10-191, marking his third ten-wicket haul in Tests.

The 39-year-old exploited the spinning track expertly despite a resilient 73-run partnership between Dewald Brevis and Ryan Rickelton in the morning session. Brevis, who scored an aggressive 54 with six fours and two sixes, was eventually trapped by Noman’s turning delivery. Rickelton’s stubborn 45 was ended by Sajid Khan just before lunch. Fast bowler Shaheen Afridi also played a crucial role, taking 4 wickets for 33 runs, including important scalps of Kyle Verreynne, Prenelan Subrayen, and Kagiso Rabada.

Ayush Shetty, Anmol Kharb Exit Early at Denmark Open 2025

India’s young badminton talents Ayush Shetty and Anmol Kharb faced early exits at the Denmark Open 2025 after losses in the opening round at Odense on Tuesday. In the men’s singles, 20-year-old Ayush Shetty, ranked 30th globally, fought a tough battle against France’s world No. 15 Toma Junior Popov. The match lasted 77 minutes with Shetty narrowly losing 21-19, 17-21, 21-15.

Ayush started strong, keeping pace in a closely contested first game before losing a late surge. He bounced back in the second, taking a slim lead to force a decider. However, Popov dominated the final game to seal the win.

In women’s singles, 18-year-old Anmol Kharb, ranked 46th, went up against Indonesia’s Putri Kusuma Wardani, world No. 7. Anmol lost 21-9, 21-14 in a match lasting 34 minutes. After a one-sided first game, Anmol fought back in the second, leveling at 14-all, but Wardani finished strong with seven consecutive points. Kharb was India’s sole female singles representative at the event. In men’s doubles, the Indian pair of Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K were defeated 21-13, 21-17 by Liu Kuang-Heng and Yang Po-Han of Chinese Taipei.



Meanwhile, Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi lost 21-4, 21-11 to Bulgaria’s Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva in women’s doubles. The Panda sisters, Rutaparna and Swetaparna, are scheduled to play later in the day. Indian stars Lakshya Sen, along with top men’s doubles duo Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, are set to begin their campaigns on Wednesday at the BWF Super 750 event.

“Trend Set Cheyy” from Jatadhara is a Catchy Dance Anthem



The makers of Jatadhara, Sudheer Babu's upcoming fantasy-action entertainer, have released their latest promotional song titled “Trend Set Cheyy”, and it's already setting the tone for a lively musical ride. Bursting with energy and youthful appeal, the track blends modern beats with eye-catching visuals and is winning hearts across platforms.

Composed by Raees & Zain – Sam, the song features a fast-paced, contemporary soundscape that resonates with today's youth. Lyricist Shree Mani adds his signature flair, cleverly mixing Telugu and English in a way that's both catchy and culturally rooted. The result is a peppy number that complements the stylish and intense world of Jatadhara.

Vocals by Spoorthi Jitender and Rajeev Raj infuse the track with infectious energy. Their dynamic singing enhances the vibrant vibe of the song, making it a surefire crowd-puller.

Set in a trendy pub setting, the video highlights Sudheer Babu's effortless dance moves alongside Shreya Sharma, adding visual appeal to the already energetic audio.

Choreographed with flair and packed with colorful aesthetics, “Trend Set Cheyy” breaks the mythological intensity of Jatadhara with a fun, party-ready detour. The track is expected to be a chart-topper and a favorite at dance floors and playlists.

Jatadhara is produced by Zee Studios in collaboration with Preena Arora, and marks the Tollywood debut of Sonakshi Sinha. The film is a bilingual (Telugu-Hindi) mythological fantasy drama and is slated for a grand theatrical release on November 7, 2025.

With its striking blend of mythology and modern style, Jatadhara continues to build buzz — and “Trend Set Cheyy” is the latest reason fans are getting excited.

Shriya Saran Stuns with Bold New Look



Shriya Saran continues to steal the spotlight in 2025 with her bold choices—both on screen and off it. After impressing Telugu audiences with contrasting roles this year, the veteran actress shows no signs of slowing down.

Earlier this year, she appeared in a sizzling special number in Suriya's Retro, exuding vintage glamour and energy. On the other end of the spectrum, she played a strong-willed mother in the emotionally charged film Mirai, proving her versatility once again. Both performances were met with praise, as Shriya seamlessly blended style and substance.

Now, the actress is making waves on social media with her latest photo shoot. Dressed in a pink halter-neck bralette and matching skirt, Shriya strikes graceful, sculpted poses that have left fans and fashion circles talking. With minimal accessories—a pair of simple earrings—and her hair tied up in a high ponytail, the look

is effortlessly elegant yet daringly bold.

Her poised expression and statuesque styling suggest more than just a fashion moment—it almost feels like she's channeling a character, or perhaps setting the tone for an upcoming role. Either way, the response has been overwhelmingly positive, with fans praising her confidence, charm, and timeless appeal.

While no official announcements have been made, industry buzz suggests Shriya is in talks for a couple of OTT projects, indicating her growing interest in digital platforms. With her strong presence and adaptability, she's expected to bring depth and glamour to any role she takes on next.

As always, Shriya Saran proves that age is just a number, and style, when backed by talent, never goes out of fashion. Her journey continues to inspire and intrigue audiences across generations.

Sai Durgha Tej Unleashes Fierce Avatar in ‘Asura Aagamana’ Glimpse

In a fiery birthday surprise for fans, the makers of Sambarala Yetigattu have unveiled a powerful glimpse titled Asura Aagamana, featuring Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej in what appears to be his fiercest avatar yet.

Released on the special occasion of Sai Durgha Tej's birthday, Asura Aagamana is the first official glimpse from the highly anticipated film Sambarala Yetigattu. Directed by debutant Rohith KP and produced by K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under Primeshow Entertainment, the glimpse sets the tone for an intense action-packed drama.

The visuals hint at a gripping tale of rebellion, with Sai Durgha Tej leading a fearless fight against oppression—possibly against the mythological Asuras, symbolizing tyranny and injustice. Set against a hauntingly powerful score, the glimpse captures high-octane action, emotional gravitas, and a deep sense of purpose.

Tej, known for his impactful screen presence, seems to have undergone a complete transformation. With a rugged look and intense eyes that reflect both pain and power, this is clearly a new dimension in his acting journey. His commanding performance in the glimpse promises a raw and powerful portrayal, one that could redefine his



on-screen identity. Fans and cine-goers have already begun hailing Asura Aagamana as one of the most exciting teasers in recent times. The combination of fresh direction, strong visuals, and Sai Durgha Tej's magnetic presence is expected to elevate Sambarala Yetigattu as a must-watch film.

Ram Charan's Peddi on Track for March 2026 Release



Ram Charan's much-anticipated rural action entertainer Peddi is right on schedule for its theatrical release on March 27, 2026. Directed by Uppena fame Buchi Babu

Sana, the film is shaping up to be a high-energy sports drama set in a rustic backdrop.

Breaking the usual trend of big-budget films facing delays, Peddi

has managed to stay on track. The producers, Mythri Movie Makers, who are presenting the film, confirmed during the promotions of Dude that there will be no changes

to the release timeline.

The production team recently completed a high-energy song shoot featuring Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor in Pune. Although initially planned for a Diwali release, the song is now being fine-tuned to meet PAN-India standards, prioritizing quality and perfection over speed.

Behind the scenes, post-production work, including editing and VFX, is progressing simultaneously to ensure the film is ready on time. The team is reportedly working round the clock to meet the deadline.

Peddi boasts a powerful ensemble cast, including Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyenndu of Mirzapur fame. The film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under Vriddhi Cinemas, marking his ambitious foray into large-scale cinema.

Adding to the excitement is the film's music, composed by the legendary A.R. Rahman, which is expected to elevate the emotional and dramatic core of the story.

With a compelling mix of action, sports, and rural drama, Peddi is gearing up to be a major theatrical event in early 2026, promising Ram Charan fans an intense and memorable cinematic experience.

Vamshi Paidipally's next: Aamir Khan out, Salman Khan in?

After much speculation, fresh reports suggest a major change in Tollywood director Vamshi Paidipally's upcoming Bollywood venture. Originally in talks with Aamir Khan, the filmmaker is now reportedly in discussions with Salman Khan for the same project.

Aamir Khan, who recently delivered the emotionally resonant Sitaare Zameen Par, is currently preparing for his next big project — the Dadasaheb Phalke biopic, to be directed by Rajkumar Hirani. This will mark their third collaboration after the massive success of 3 Idiots and PK. With his plate full, Aamir is said to have backed out of Vamshi Paidipally's film, despite being impressed with the script during earlier meetings.

Vamshi, who last directed Varisu starring Thalapathy Vijay, has not announced any new projects since. However, his long-gestating Bollywood dream now seems to be getting a new lease of life, with Salman Khan reportedly being the top choice for the lead role. Sources suggest that initial talks with Salman have taken place, and if all goes well, the collaboration will be made official soon.

The film is likely to be produced by renowned Telugu producer Dil Raju, who has already ventured into Hindi cinema and maintains a strong rapport with Vamshi. If the Salman-Vamshi combo materializes, it will mark a



fresh and exciting addition to Salman Khan's upcoming lineup, and a significant Bollywood breakthrough for Vamshi.

As of now, no official confirmation has been made by either party. Fans of both Salman and Vamshi are eagerly waiting for an announce-

ment. One thing's for sure—this high-profile project could become one of the biggest pan-India ventures in the coming year.