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SWARNANDRA TO LEAD VIKSIT BHARAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the pivotal role of Andhra Pradesh in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) through the emergence of Swarna Andhra Pradesh (Golden Andhra) during the Super GST – Super Savings event at Nannur Check Post near Orvakal, Kurnool. He stressed that promoting local production and entrepreneurship gives real meaning to GST reforms and praised the state's leadership and dynamic youth for driving rapid development in the region. The Prime Minister highlighted Andhra Pradesh's importance in India's economic revolution and its growing global profile, especially with major investments in technology. The event was graced by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and IT Minister Nara

Lokesh, who led the state-wide campaign on GST 2.0 reforms. PM Modi inaugurated projects worth 13,429 crore aimed at accelerating growth in Rayalaseema and enhancing Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure and industries. He lauded the double-engine government model for accelerating progress both in Delhi and Amaravati and called Andhra Pradesh a key player in India's economic transformation. One of the landmark announcements was Google's largest investment to date in Andhra Pradesh, with the establishment of the country's first and largest Artificial Intelligence Centre in Visakhapatnam. This AI hub will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure such as a data centre, fiber optic network, and advanced digital technology, further reinforced by a sub-sea cable project that

will enhance India's eastern coast connectivity. Modi highlighted how these developments position Andhra Pradesh as a global technology center and a new power hub in Atmanirbhar Bharat. PM Modi criticized the Congress government for stalling Andhra Pradesh's growth and credited the NDA government with re-opening doors of development. He underscored the development of Rayalaseema as critical for the prosperity of the entire state and pointed out the establishment of industrial nodes at Orvakal and Kopparthi, which are expected to attract green investments and generate employment. The Prime Minister also inaugurated a defence manufacturing facility in Krishna district producing night-vision goggles, missile sensors, and drone guards, praising Andhra Pradesh's initiative to make Kur



nool the Drone Hub of India. Infrastructure development was a major focus, with the inauguration of 3,000 crore worth of transmission projects aimed at enhancing energy capacity and addressing past shortages. Modi also dedicated the Srikakulam–Angul Gas Pipeline to the nation and inaugurated an Indane bottling plant in

Chittoor. He pointed out new highways and modernization of railway facilities for better connectivity and passenger comfort. Modi expressed confidence that by 2047, India's centenary of independence, the vision of Viksit Bharat will be achieved with Andhra Pradesh playing a crucial role. The Prime Minister re-

affirmed the government's focus on citizen-centric development through initiatives like Ease of Living, tax reforms offering relief up to 12 lakh income, and healthcare schemes like Ayushman Bharat for senior citizens. He appreciated Minister Nara Lokesh for turning GST reforms into a people's movement saving 8,000

crore for citizens, asserting that the benefits must reach all for the reform to be complete. Earlier in the day, PM Modi visited the Srisailem Temple with CM Naidu and DCM Pawan Kalyan, performing special pujas and receiving blessings for the state's progress. He paid tributes to revered historical figures symbolizing devotion

and courage and appreciated the artistic heritage showcased at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Meditation Centre. The grand public meeting concluded with widespread cheers from thousands, marking a new chapter in Andhra Pradesh's ambitious journey toward Viksit Bharat 2047.

JAGAN GAVE WRONG NUMBER - CBI

Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and YSR Congress Party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is facing a fresh legal controversy after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) approached the special CBI court alleging that he violated one of the key conditions associated with his foreign travel permission. Jagan, who is currently on a Europe trip after receiving conditional clearance from the CBI court earlier this month, was required to submit his mobile phone number, email ID, and complete travel itinerary as part of the approval process. The court had permitted him to visit his daughters abroad for about 15 days between October 1 and 30, subject to strict compliance with the specified conditions.



clearance, asserting that such conduct amounts to contempt of court and misrepresentation of information.

The issue has sparked outrage within legal and political circles, as the CBI described the act as an "irresponsible violation" of judicial restrictions. The agency urged the court to immediately cancel the conditional travel permission and direct Jagan's return to India. Sources indicate that the petition has already been listed for hearing, with Jagan's legal counsel expected to file a counter during the proceedings today. Jagan's legal team, meanwhile, is preparing to argue that there was no deliberate attempt to mislead the court, maintaining that the controversy stems from a misunderstanding. Jagan has long claimed that he

does not personally use a mobile phone a statement he has made multiple times in public. Nonetheless, CBI officials have argued that such an excuse does not justify submitting another person's contact details in an official judicial document. The incident has emerged as another significant turning point in Jagan's ongoing legal battles. The former Chief Minister continues to face scrutiny over his bail conditions in the long-pending disproportionate assets case investigated by the CBI. Any violation, even technical in nature, can lead to severe repercussions including the potential cancellation of his bail. Observers note that this episode has once again drawn national attention to Jagan's legal issues, which have persisted since his tenure as Chief Minister. The court, now examining the CBI's petition, will decide whether Jagan's actions constitute a serious breach of his conditional travel privileges. If the court finds merit in the CBI's claims, Jagan may be ordered to return to India immediately, marking yet another major blow to his political and personal agenda.

DASPALLA GROUP TO INVEST IN AMARAVATHI

Amaravati, October 16: Daspalla Group to Build 4-Star Hotel in Amaravati with Government Incentives. The Andhra Pradesh government has given a major boost to tourism and hospitality in the state capital region by approving the construction of a four-star hotel by Daspalla Amaravati Hotels Private Limited. The luxury project, estimated to cost around Rs. 200 crore, is set to become a landmark addition to Amaravati's growing urban landscape. According to official orders released on Wednesday, the government has granted multiple incentives under the Tourism Policy 2024–2029 to facilitate the project's execution. The decision aims to encourage private investment in the tourism and hospitality sector, which is considered a vital component of Amaravati's economic development and employment generation strategy. Special Chief Secretary of the Tourism Department, Ajay Jain, issued the government order permitting Daspalla Hotels to

proceed with construction and outlining the series of financial and policy incentives approved for the project. Comprehensive Incentives for Growth As part of the government's incentive package, the Daspalla Group will receive a 100% refund on state taxes and stamp duty for a period of ten years. Additionally, electricity will be billed at industrial tariff rates, easing the operational costs for the company. The government has also assured a refund of electricity duty for the initial five-year period after the hotel begins operations. Officials stated that these concessions are consistent with the provisions of the AP Tourism Policy 2024–2029, which seeks to attract large-scale investment into the hospitality and travel sectors. The policy offers a range of financial incentives, simplified clearances, and infrastructure development support for investors establishing new hotels, resorts, and eco-tourism projects across the state.



Employment and Economic Impact: The Rs. 200-crore Daspalla Amaravati project is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for over 400 individuals, including administrative staff, technical personnel, and service workers. The hotel's operations will provide work opportunities for professionals in tourism, catering, maintenance, and event management, contributing to the local economy and skill development. Tourism Department officials highlighted that the project will not only strengthen Amaravati's hospitality infrastructure but

also enhance its appeal as a destination for business, conferences, and leisure travel. Given the capital's proximity to Vijayawada and its growing prominence as an administrative hub, the new hotel is anticipated to attract corporate visitors, government delegations, and national events. Boosting Amaravati's Urban Profile: The Daspalla Group, known for its notable hospitality ventures in Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, and Kakinada, is entering Amaravati with premium infrastructure and modern facilities aligned with international stand-

ards. The proposed 4-star hotel will include accommodation suites, multi-cuisine restaurants, convention halls, and wellness amenities designed to cater to both domestic and international guests. State officials said the initiative aligns with the government's broader strategy to make Amaravati a vibrant economic zone with robust support from sectors like hospitality, tourism, education, and commerce. By attracting reputed hotel chains such as Daspalla, the administration hopes to build tourism-led economic momentum and strengthen investor confidence in the capital region. The project's approval marks another milestone in the AP government's proactive approach to promoting tourism as a key engine of growth. Construction is expected to begin soon, following environmental and infrastructure clearances, signaling a new era of hospitality development in Amaravati's emerging skyline.

AP WILL BE NO.1 - LOKESH



TPN / KURNOOL Oct 16: Continuity in Governance Key to Making Andhra Pradesh No. 1: Minister Lokesh GST 2.0 Brings 8,000-Crore Relief; Modi's Leadership Driving India's Rise Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh asserted that sustained and stable governance would pave the way for Andhra Pradesh to emerge as India's number one state. Speaking at the Super GST – Super Savings public meeting held at Nannur in Orvakal, Kurnool district, on Thursday, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh's growth journey is being accelerated by the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Addressing a massive gathering in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, and the Deputy CM, Lokesh said the people of Andhra Pradesh have immense affection for the Prime Minister, who has visited the state three times in just sixteen months and fulfilled all promises made to them. He highlighted how consistent leadership has transformed Gujarat into a model state and asserted that a similar trajectory awaits Andhra Pradesh if the current coalition government continues its unified effort. "Because Narendra Modi served as Prime Min-

ister for three consecutive terms, India has grown from the 10th to the 4th largest economy in the world," Lokesh stated. "Good governance is like a twin bull-oak cart driven by welfare and development. With continuity, Andhra Pradesh becoming No. 1 is guaranteed," he added. Lokesh commended Prime Minister Modi's bold reform under GST 2.0, which he said brought an 8,000-crore benefit to the state. "Officials warned the government would lose revenue, but PM Modi said that if the people gain, the government must not mind the loss. Today, every middle-class and poor family will save up to 15,000 per year

through GST 2.0," he explained. "Reducing taxes on essentials, education, healthcare, and agriculture has turned this reform into a festival for 140 crore Indians," the Minister said to loud applause. Calling the NDA alliance a "Double Engine Bullet Train," Lokesh said the partnership between PM Modi and CM Chandrababu Naidu is propelling Andhra Pradesh's rapid economic and infrastructure growth. "With PM Modi's support, we protected Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, secured a new Railway Zone, and fast-tracked the works of Polavaram and Amaravati. We are also establishing a High Court bench in Kurnool,"

Lokesh announced. Highlighting industrial progress, the Minister said the cooperation between the Centre and State has attracted mega projects such as the ArcelorMittal Steel Plant, Google AI Hub, Space City, Drone City, Orvakal-Kopparthi Industrial Node, and the Bulk Drug Park. "That is the power of the Double Engine Bullet Government," he remarked. "Modi means victory," Lokesh declared, praising the Prime Minister's work ethic and unwavering dedication even after twenty-five years in public service. "He transformed Gujarat into a powerful state and is now turning India into a global superpower," he said.



MODI'S FUNNY COMMENTS TO LOKESH



KURNOOL, October 16: Prime Minister Modi's Light-Hearted Remarks Add Cheer to Kurnool Visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the joint Kurnool district took a jovial turn on Thursday morning, as he made light-hearted remarks to Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, drawing warm laughter from those present at the Orvakal airport. Prime Minister Modi arrived at Orvakal airport to a grand reception from a host of state dignitaries. Among those present were Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. The visit marks another important engagement in Modi's continued outreach to Andhra Pradesh, particularly as the region undergoes significant developmental activities. Upon stepping out of his specially chartered flight, Modi im-

mediately exchanged greetings with all top leaders. When his turn came to meet Nara Lokesh, the Prime Minister took a moment to observe the Minister's noticeably leaner physique. With a wide smile, Modi remarked, "You have lost a lot of weight now compared to the last time I saw you. You will soon become like your father," referencing Lokesh's father, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, known for his trim and active lifestyle. The comment set off a round of laughter among the invitees, lightening the atmosphere during the formal proceedings.

Sources at the airport report that the jovial exchange was well received, with Minister Lokesh responding with humility and appreciation. The camaraderie between the central and state leaderships was evident as they later held brief discussions on key topics pertinent to the district's

growth and ongoing projects. The Prime Minister's itinerary in Kurnool includes review meetings on developmental projects, an address to a gathering of party workers, and the inauguration of several new initiatives aimed at boosting infrastructure and local livelihoods. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his cabinet, including Nara Lokesh, are expected to accompany the Prime Minister to various scheduled events through the day. Locals and party supporters gathered in significant numbers outside the airport campus, expressing enthusiasm for both the Prime Minister's visit and the visible unity among the leading political figures. Modi's humorous remark has quickly become a talking point across social media, with many seeing it as a sign of healthy rapport and a lighter side to otherwise businesslike political engagements.

CBN TO VISIT LONDON ON NOV-2

Naidu to Visit London to Attract Global Investments for Andhra Pradesh

TPN | Amaravati, Oct 16: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will embark on a four-day visit to London from November 2 to 5, aiming to strengthen the state's investment profile and invite global business leaders to participate in its upcoming partnership summit. The visit reflects the government's renewed push to position Andhra Pradesh as a preferred destination for industries, innovation, and technology-driven growth. According to official sources, the Chief Minister's delegation will include key officials from the Department of Industries and Commerce, Economic Development Board, and IT and Infrastructure departments.

During his stay in London, Naidu is expected to hold meetings with top executives, investors, and representatives from global corporations to showcase the state's industrial potential and investment-friendly policies. The government has planned a major partnership conference in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15, which will serve as a networking platform for global investors,



Indian entrepreneurs, and state officials. Naidu will personally extend invitations to industrialists during his London visit, urging them to attend the summit and explore strategic collaborations across sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, automobiles, healthcare, education, and digital technology. Sources indicated that the Chief Minister will also highlight Andhra Pradesh's proactive approach in creating world-class infrastructure, including industrial corridors, deepwater ports, and logistics hubs, alongside its focus on skill development and ease-of-doing-business reforms. The state aims to project itself as a gateway to Southeast Asia through its coastal advantages and expanding global connectivity. The upcoming Visakhapatnam Partnership Conference is expected to bring together leading domestic and international players, policy makers, and innovators to

discuss the next phase of Andhra Pradesh's economic transformation.

Investments secured through the London visit and the summit are likely to support the government's vision of generating large-scale employment opportunities and enhancing per capita income in the state. Speaking ahead of his visit, Chief Minister Naidu reportedly emphasized that attracting global investments was crucial for building a stronger and self-reliant Andhra Pradesh. His London trip marks another milestone in his ongoing efforts to project the state as an emerging economic hub in India's new growth landscape. With the state preparing to host one of its most significant investment events next month, the Chief Minister's foreign outreach is expected to set the stage for new partnerships that can drive sustainable development and long-term prosperity in Andhra Pradesh.

TPN BUREAU Amaravati, October 16: Farmers Voluntarily Offer Land for Completion of Amaravati Seed Access Road

In a significant development reflecting renewed trust in the Amaravati capital project, several farmers from Undavalli and Penumaka villages have voluntarily contributed their land to facilitate the completion of the long-pending Seed Access Road — a crucial arterial stretch connecting Thullur and Undavalli with the National Highway. The initiative marks a strong revival in cooperation between local farmers and the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), which has been actively reviving various infrastructure works in the capital region.

According to official sources, 22 farmers from Undavalli village have collectively offered 12 acres, while another 14 farmers from Penumaka have voluntarily contributed about 28.25 acres. This voluntary land contribution is expected to significantly aid in bridging the missing link required to complete the Seed Access Road, which has been un-

AMARAVATHI FARMERS VOLUNTARILY OFFER LAND



der construction for nearly a decade. The road, once fully operational, is expected to serve as a vital link that enhances connectivity between major parts of the capital region and improves access to Amaravati from Vijayawada and other nearby areas.

The agreements with the farmers were finalized after constructive discussions led by APCRDA Commissioner K. Kannababu, who personally interacted with the landowners to explain the importance of the project. The Commissioner's direct dialogue

and assurance of fair recognition for their contribution reportedly encouraged the farmers to come forward voluntarily. Officials from the APCRDA, including Additional Commissioner Bhargav Teja, described this development as a "positive sign of renewed confidence" among farmers in the government's vision for Amaravati.

Expressing gratitude towards the farmers, K. Kannababu thanked them for placing their trust in the administration's commitment to revive the capital's core de-

velopmental works. "The voluntary cooperation of the farmers from Undavalli and Penumaka symbolizes the collective spirit of rebuilding Amaravati. Their contribution will help fast-track road connectivity and support long-term development objectives in the region," the Commissioner said.

Officials also clarified that while a major portion of the required land has been made available through LPS (Land Pooling Scheme) and voluntary contributions, the APCRDA is exploring the possibility of acquiring any remaining land either through further pooling arrangements or land acquisition as per existing regulations. This step, they said, would ensure seamless completion of the Seed Access Road, which is essential for integrating the region's infrastructure network. In addition

to road development, the APCRDA has intensified works on several critical infrastructure projects, such as the Kondaveeti Vagu flood management structures and other arterial roads that form the backbone of the Amaravati township plan.

These projects are aimed at accelerating the city's progress, improving urban connectivity, and establishing Amaravati as a model for sustainable regional development. With the latest land contributions and the government's reasserted focus on key capital works, the momentum for Amaravati's development appears to be regaining pace. The voluntary participation of farmers has injected new optimism into the project, giving fresh impetus to the long-standing dream of transforming Amaravati into a well-planned and vibrant administrative capital.

DELAY IN SCR - VIZAG ZONE

Today in Visakhapatnam, the much-anticipated South Coast Railway Zone (SCR), with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters, is making vital progress, but official implementation still faces delay. This development has brought considerable happiness among the people of the state, yet challenges remain due to the Railway Board's delay in releasing the crucial official Gazette needed for the zone's full operational status. The South Coast Railway Zone was formed after extensive lobbying and political efforts following the coalition government taking power. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the General Manager (GM) office earlier this year, and temporary office space has been secured in the VMRDA's 'The Deck' building in Visakhapatnam.

The interior work of this office, spanning two

floors, is almost complete, enabling the appointed GM and associated officers to start functioning. Despite these facilities being ready and the GM appointed, the release of the Railway Board Gazette, which officially details the zone's operational boundaries and jurisdiction, has been delayed. This Gazette is legally mandatory to start the full functions of the new zone, including staff adjustments and allocation of resources. Currently, administrative activities of the Waltair division, which falls under the South Coast Zone, are still managed from the East Coast Railway Zone headquarters in Bhubaneswar. This has led to an awkward situation where the South Coast Zone's GM is unable to exercise full administrative control. The East Coast Zone's GM often conducts inspections in the Waltair

division, raising questions about the authority of two GMs over the same division. Because the official operationalization has not been gazetted, certain employees and resources needed to run the new zone efficiently remain attached to the older zones of Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, further complicating governance. The delay in Gazette issuance is reportedly influenced by resistance from higher officials in the existing zones who may be reluctant to release key personnel and assets.

This interference obstructs the smooth transfer of employees and hinders the new zone's independent functioning. The public and rail users alike have voiced their concerns, urging Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who is currently visiting, to raise this issue with the Prime Minister and expedite the Gazette re-



lease. The South Coast Railway Zone is strategically important, combining divisions including Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal, and Visakhapatnam, and serves areas rich in minerals and port infrastructure. The establishment of this zone is expected to improve administrative efficiency, local decision-making, freight management from key ports, and accelerate regional development.

Despite the bureaucratic hurdles, positive momentum continues with the appointment of the GM and progress on the zonal headquarters office construction. Once the Gazette is published, administrative control will shift fully to the

South Coast Zone, enabling smooth operations and resource management. The people hope this delay will soon be resolved so the South Coast Railway Zone delivers its promised benefits to Andhra Pradesh and neighboring areas.

In summary, while the South Coast Railway Zone's creation is a significant advancement for Indian Railways and regional development, bureaucratic delays in formalizing its operational status remain a challenge. Public demand and political advocacy continue to push for swift action to release the Railway Board Gazette, allowing the new zone to operate independently and efficiently

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT REVIEW - GUNTUR COLLECTOR

TPN BUREAU, Guntur, Oct 16: Collector Dr. Kritika Shukla Reviews Tourism Development at Kondaveedu Fort

District Collector Dr. Kritika Shukla visited the historic Kondaveedu Fort in Yadlapadu mandal on Thursday and reviewed ongoing and proposed development works aimed at promoting the fort as a premier tourist destination. Kondaveedu Fort, often referred to as the 'Golconda of Andhra,' is a symbol of the region's medieval heritage and architectural brilliance. Dr. Kritika Shukla, accompanied by District Forest Officer (DFO) Krishna Priya, inspected several landmarks across the fort area, including the Ghatroddu, Mahadwaram, Children's Play Park, East Gate (Kattindiddi Walkway), and Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple.

She also visited Vemana Mandapam, the statue of Anavema Reddy, the historical gallery explaining Kondaveedu's legacy, and the sacred

spots of Muthyalamma and Puttalamma. The Collector further explored the Vedulla Cheruvu Deck area and other hilltop historical structures, where boating activities were also conducted as part of the tourism promotion efforts. During an interaction with reporters, the Collector emphasized that Kondaveedu has immense potential to become a globally recognized heritage tourism center. She instructed officials to take immediate measures for the fort's preservation while enhancing its visitor amenities. Highlighting the need for comprehensive planning, she called for improvements in infrastructure, road connectivity, security systems, and eco-friendly facilities to ensure comfortable and sustainable tourism. The Collector held discussions with DFO Krishna Priya and tourism officials to assess the ongoing works and future proposals.

She directed all departments to work in

unison to elevate Kondaveedu's prominence on the world tourism map, noting that the site's ancient significance and scenic surroundings could attract both domestic and international travelers. As part of the promotional efforts, Dr. Shukla announced that a grand Kondaveedu Festival would be organized during the upcoming Sankranti festival under the aegis of the Tourism Department. The celebrations are set to include a Food Festival, Kite Festival, and Night Campaign to showcase local culture and traditions while drawing more visitors to the fort. Plans are being formulated to include cultural performances and interactive programs involving local communities.

DFO Krishna Priya informed that the Forest Department has already drafted a comprehensive plan for the event. District MP Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu and local MLA Prathipati Pullarao are actively overseeing



these preparations, ensuring inter-departmental coordination and resource mobilization. The Collector made it clear that the earlier Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Kondaveedu development would be replaced by a freshly prepared one aligning with the new vision and priorities. The review meeting and inspection were attended by RDO Madhulatha, Tourism Officer Nayudamma, R&B SC Yadlapadu, Tehsildar Vijaya Sri, and MPDO V. Hemalatha Devi, along with representatives from various departments. Yadlapadu Mandal Parishad President

Kamineni Saibabu, Cluster Incharge Madduri Srinivasa Reddy, Kothapalem Sarpanch M. Sambayya, Kondaveedu Development Committee Convener Kolli Siva Reddy, Unit Incharge Maddiboina Durga Rao, and several local leaders also participated in the inspection and review. Dr. Kritika Shukla stressed collective action to preserve Kondaveedu's rich heritage while balancing developmental goals with ecological conservation, reaffirming the district administration's commitment to turning Kondaveedu into a vibrant heritage tourism hub.

CIA Reportedly Probes YSRCP’s Alleged False Propaganda During PM’s State Visit

TPN BUREAU | Amravati, October 16: Central sources have reportedly confirmed that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has inquired into alleged false propaganda spread by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent state visit to Andhra Pradesh. The inquiry follows claims that the YSRCP used the official occasion of the Prime Minister’s visit to Kurnool for political publicity and misinformation. During the official visit, the state government had allowed YSRCP representatives

alongside other protocol-invited dignitaries to participate in welcoming and bidding farewell to Prime Minister Modi at Kurnool Airport. This gesture was part of standard procedures under the coalition government, which ensures due respect and representation to all recognized political groups in public events involving the Prime Minister. However, the privileges extended to YSRCP leaders appear to have become the center of controversy. According to reports, although YSRCP leaders did not submit any formal petition to Prime



Minister Modi, certain YSRCP-affiliated media outlets circulated stories claiming that their rep-

resentatives handed him a petition seeking inclusion of Valmiki community members in the Scheduled Tribes list and immediate establishment of new medical colleges across the state. These reports sparked criticism after central sources labeled them as “false propaganda,” suggesting intentional distortion of facts for political mileage. The CIA’s reported inquiry aims to assess whether any deliberate dissemination of fake news was carried out to mislead the public and influence perceptions during the high-profile visit. Senior offi-

cials have indicated that such actions, if proved, could amount to misuse of the Prime Minister’s protocol arrangements for partisan publicity. The incident has raised serious questions about the ethical conduct of political communication in the state. Political analysts observe that this development also highlights a sharp contrast in how official protocols were handled under different administrations. During the previous YSRCP-led government, opposition parties were often excluded from formal invitations and receptions during Prime

Minister Modi’s state visits. In contrast, the present coalition government has followed inclusive procedures, ensuring that all public representatives regardless of party affiliation receive recognition and due respect at national-level events. Coalition leaders have reportedly expressed their fury at what they describe as a “breach of trust and decorum” by YSRCP figures who allegedly exploited the government’s goodwill gesture. They argue that politicizing a national-level event not only disrespects the protocol but

also undermines the spirit of cooperative governance the coalition has tried to foster in the state. Observers suggest that this fresh controversy could deepen existing political frictions in Andhra Pradesh, especially as preparations for upcoming development reviews and central-aided projects are underway. The alleged misuse of Prime Minister Modi’s visit could prompt tighter scrutiny of media narratives and stricter communication protocols by both the central and state governments in future high-level visits.

QR SCAN IS A SCAM - POTHINA MAHESH, YSRCP

QR Code Move a Cover-Up for Fake Liquor Scam: YSRCP’s Pothina MaheshTPN / VijayawadaYSR Congress Party’s Guntur Parliament constituency observer Pothina Mahesh has lashed out at the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing it of misleading the public with its new initiative to print QR codes on liquor bottles. He claimed that the move is nothing but a political gimmick designed to divert attention away from the rampant fake liquor racket allegedly operating across Andhra Pradesh under the protection of ruling party leaders. Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Mahesh alleged that the QR code initiative was merely an eyewash intended to give a false impression of transparency in liquor sales. “This is not a reformative step but an attempt to cover up the massive spurious liquor trade flourishing across the state. While the government boasts of digital tracking, fake liquor continues to flow freely in the market,” he said. According to Mahesh, the sale of spurious liquor is not occurring in the government-run shops but in illegal belt shops and permit rooms, which, he alleged, are openly operating with the political backing of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders.



He raised serious doubts about the effectiveness of QR codes in curbing counterfeit liquor, pointing out that most fake liquor is sold loose and unlabeled, rendering the QR code system irrelevant. “What is the use of QR codes when liquor is sold in plastic containers or directly from drums? Is the government trying to fool the people?” he questioned. Mahesh argued that the government’s decision itself was an indirect admission of the existence of fake liquor, which, he said, has been circulating in the state for several months. He cited instances of major illegal liquor plants uncovered in Molakalacheruvu, Ibrahimpatnam, Anakapalli, and Eluru, claiming that despite such exposures, the government has failed to take follow-up action such as raids or quality testing of liquor in nearby shops. “The officials act only after media exposure, not before. There has been no systematic crackdown despite the repeated discovery of fake manufacturing units,” he remarked.

Highlighting the social implications, Mahesh said that nearly 70% of the liquor consumed in the state belongs to the low-cost category, often exploited by mafia groups to mix and market counterfeit brands. He questioned the practicality of digital measures in this socioeconomic scenario. “Daily wage workers neither have smartphones nor understand how to scan QR codes. So, who is this scheme really for?” he asked. Mahesh also came down heavily on the Chief Minister, accusing him of handing over the liquor trade to private mafias, and criticized Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for maintaining silence despite his earlier advocacy of total prohibition. Demanding the closure of belt shops, statewide liquor quality checks, and stringent punishment of offenders, Mahesh termed the QR code initiative as a drama to distract citizens from the multi-crore fake liquor scam. “Instead of transparency, this government is promoting deception,” he concluded.

LIQUOR SYNDICATE - AUDIO LEAK

TPN, Rajamahendravaram Oct 16: Liquor Syndicate Audio Leak Creates Stir in Rajamahendravaram: Former MP Margani Bharat Ram Demands Action A political storm erupted in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday night following the alleged leak of an audio clip linked to a liquor syndicate, sparking outrage across the city. YSR Congress Party State Spokesperson and former MP Margani Bharat Ram accused certain Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders of orchestrating an organized liquor racket that endangers public health and exploits regulatory loopholes for massive profits. Speaking at a press conference, Bharat Ram alleged that a group of TDP leaders in Rajamahendravaram has been operating a powerful liquor syndicate by selling spurious liquor across urban and rural areas under a coordinated network. He directly accused TDP city president Majji Rambabu of leading the operation, alleging that he has been “spinning the wheel” in liquor management and

collecting huge illegal profits through unfair means. Bharat Ram revealed that evidence existed showing the owners of 39 liquor outlets in Rajamahendravaram had conspired to raise liquor prices in unison, in blatant violation of government regulations. Instead of adhering to standard rates, these shop owners allegedly decided to continue selling liquor at inflated prices and offered bribes to excise officials to ensure no action was taken. According to the former MP, the syndicate leaders had resolved that if any cases were filed by excise officials, only one case per shop should be registered to minimize legal risk. He said the group also forced shop owners to sign 100 bond papers and hand over cheques worth 1 lakh each, effectively binding them to the syndicate’s decisions. “This entire structure is not just unethical it’s criminal,” he declared. Bharat Ram further claimed that Majji Rambabu’s alleged advisory role in uniting the



liquor sellers made him equally responsible for the exploitation. He condemned Rambabu’s suggestion that all 39 shop owners “move forward with unity” in price manipulation and illicit sales, calling it a direct attack on fair business practices and consumer safety. The YSRCP leader demanded that stringent legal action be taken against all those involved. He urged excise authorities to register cases against Majji Rambabu and other members of the liquor network under multiple

legal provisions, including Section 37(a) and Sections 39(1)(2) of the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, as well as Sections 274 and 276 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deal with adulteration of liquor and endangering human life through harmful substances. “This conspiracy is not merely about illegal trade, it is about risking the lives of thousands of citizens. The government must treat this with zero tolerance,” Bharat Ram insisted. He called on excise officials to act with “an

iron hand” to dismantle the syndicate, seize all fake liquor stock, and ensure that the accused face imprisonment without delay. As the allegations continue to circulate, the incident has rattled Rajamahendravaram’s political circles, with residents and local traders demanding transparency and accountability. The unfolding controversy is expected to intensify political tensions between the YSR Congress Party and the Telugu Desam Party in East Godavari district in the coming days.

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE REVIVAL OF STEEL PLANT



iron content below 40 percent are economically nonviable. He assured that the plant’s operational efficiency is steadily improving, particularly after the third blast furnace became active,

pushing production closer to breakeven levels. Rao did not mince words in criticizing the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led administration, accusing it of saddling the plant with a

massive 38,500-crore debt burden and undermining the state’s industrial ecosystem. “The past regime’s negligence crippled employment potential and eroded confidence

among industrial investors,” he remarked, contrasting it with the present government’s mission to create “employment for every youth and security for every family.” He further highlighted the government’s focus on protecting the livelihoods of displaced and long-term contractual employees. Under the new single-window contracting system, all such workers would be retained and integrated into the plant’s workforce framework. “The government stands solidly with every worker who contributed to the rise of Vizag Steel,” Rao assured. Reiterating the Telugu

Desam Party’s firm stance against privatization, Rao declared, “In 1998, we stopped it; and in 2025, we will protect it again.” He underscored that the commitment to preserve public control over VSP remains unwavering and integral to the government’s development vision. Concluding his statement, the Gajuwaka MLA said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s blueprint for a “Swarna Andhra Pradesh” rests on three strategic pillars: steel, information technology, and logistics sectors poised to drive sustainable growth, job creation, and economic vitality across the state.

TPN | Visakhapatnam | October 16, 2025: Historic Step in Vizag Steel Plant Revival: Naidu’s Government Converts 2,400 Crore Dues into Equity In a transformative move signaling a new chapter in Andhra Pradesh’s industrial resurgence, the Chandrababu Naidu-led government has approved the conversion of 2,400 crore in pending power dues into equity for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP). The landmark decision, hailed as “historic” by State TDP President and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, marks a major step forward in the long-awaited revival of the state’s flagship public

sector enterprise. Palla Srinivasa Rao described the government’s initiative as a defining moment in restoring the pride of Andhra Pradesh’s steel industry. “This move demonstrates Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s foresight and the coalition government’s firm commitment to reviving industrial strength and protecting thousands of families dependent on the plant,” he said, emphasizing that the decision offers both financial stability and renewed confidence to VSP’s workforce and stakeholders. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, once regard-

ed as the “Jewel of Andhra,” has been grappling with mounting debts and operational challenges for several years. Under the new revival roadmap jointly facilitated by the Central and State governments, an 11,500 crore restructuring package has been initiated — out of which 9,500 crore has already been released. According to Rao, this infusion is “more than just fiscal reform; it is an affirmation to rebuild Andhra Pradesh’s steel legacy.” Addressing concerns raised by some union leaders regarding the absence of captive iron ore mines, Palla Srinivasa Rao clarified that the available mines with



MAA BHAVANI INITIATION END SHEDULE UNVEILS

Indrakeeladri Temple Unveils 2026 Calendar, Announces Bhavani Initiation Ending Schedule
Vijayawada, October 16: The sacred hill of Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada, home to Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, witnessed a spiritually significant announcement on Thursday, as the temple authorities unveiled the 2026 official temple calendar and released the detailed schedule for the Bhavani initiation ceremonies. The event took place in the presence of Temple Chairman Borra Radhakrishna and Executive Officer Seena Nayak, who jointly revealed this year's festive and ritual calendar.

Series of Divine Events Before Karthika Month

Speaking to the media, Chairman Radhakrishna detailed that the forthcoming weeks will be filled with grand religious celebrations. On October 19, marking Dhana Trayodashi, devotees can participate in the Sri Mahalakshmi Yagam. The following



day, October 20, coinciding with Deepavali, the temple will host the Sri Dhanalakshmi Puja, Deepalankarana, and fireworks display to mark the occasion. As per the temple's tradition, all inner and sub-temples will remain closed to devotees from 7 PM onwards that evening. The temple will also observe special Abhishekam rituals dedicated to Lord Malleswara Swamy from October 22 to November 20, aligning with the auspicious Karthika month.

Bhavani Initiations Begin November 1st.

Temple EO Seena Nayak elaborated on the long-standing tradition of Bhavani Deeksha observed by thousands of devotees each year. The Bhavani initiations (Deeksha initiation ceremonies) will begin on November 1st, marking the start of Durgamma Mandala Deeksha. This will be followed by the Ardha Mandala Bhavani initiations from November 21, allowing devotees to undertake shorter vows and penances. A highlight of the schedule is the Kalasajyoti festival, set for December 4, when ceremonial flames

symbolizing divine energy will be taken in a grand procession through the temple premises and surrounding streets.

Suspension of Services During Bhavani Concluding Rituals

The temple management announced that all direct and indirect temple services will be suspended between December 11 and 15 as the Bhavani Deeksha reaches its culminating stage. This period will witness thousands of devotees participating in rituals, religious chants, and ceremonial offerings to

mark the completion of their spiritual vows. The Maha Poornahuti and final Bhavani initiation ceremonies are scheduled to conclude at 10 AM on December 15, symbolizing the spiritual fulfillment of the devotees' commitments and prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga.

Commitment to Tradition and Devotees' Safety

Chairman Borra Radhakrishna reaffirmed that the Devasthanam is fully committed to upholding the sanctity of these age-old rituals while ensuring smooth conduct for the massive inflow of devotees expected throughout the festival months. He emphasized that elaborate arrangements will be made for crowd management, safety, and accommodation facilities. The unveiling of the 2026 calendar marks an auspicious start for Vijayawada's spiritual activities for the upcoming year, with the continuation of rich traditions that connect faith, devotion, and community on the divine hill of Indrakeeladri.



VIJAYAWADA TO AVAIL AI

Vijayawada to Embrace AI and Modern Civic Technologies: Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi

Vijayawada, October 16, 2025: Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi has lauded the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) for its remarkable strides in harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance citizen services. She announced that the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) is gearing up to adopt similar cutting-edge technologies to transform the city into a model urban center driven by innovation and efficiency. Mayor Bhagyalakshmi participated in the National Urban Conclave and Mayoral Summit, held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on October 15 and 16. The event was organized to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel under the theme "Shaping the Future of Cities."

streamlined administration, improved transparency, and made public service delivery much more responsive," she stated.

She emphasized that Vijayawada would soon initiate projects that integrate AI and other emerging technologies into municipal operations to enhance efficiency and citizen engagement. During the conclave, participants explored several successful urban development models that showcased how technology can reshape city governance. Key presentations included the Sabarmati Riverfront Development project, Ahmedabad's Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), and the Metro infrastructure, all of which were highlighted as exemplary initiatives driving urban transformation.

The Mayor also took part in field visits to the Waste-to-Energy Plant and the Narasapur Sports Complex, where Ahmedabad officials demonstrated their city's achievements in sustainability, environmental management, and modern public amenities. Speaking to the delegation, Mayor Bhagyalakshmi said such experiences provide valuable insights for Vijayawada's growth vision. She noted that the integration of AI, smart waste management, and sustainable infrastructure aligns perfectly with Vijayawada's ambition to evolve into a digital, green, and people-friendly city.

"We are preparing a roadmap for smart governance that will make Vijayawada not only technologically advanced but also environmentally responsible," she remarked. The Mayor further emphasized that the lessons learned from Ahmedabad's development trajectory could serve as a blueprint for Vijayawada's transformation. Plans are underway to explore AI-driven modules for waste management, traffic regulation, public grievance redressal, and revenue administration. She pointed out that such innovations could significantly improve service delivery, reduce manual delays, and strengthen public accountability.

Concluding her address, Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi reaffirmed her commitment to bringing innovative urban practices to Vijayawada. "We will develop Vijayawada with advanced technology and modern civic systems that reflect the spirit of progress. Our goal is to ensure that every citizen benefits from a smarter, cleaner, and more inclusive city," she said. The Mayor's participation in the summit has opened new avenues of collaboration for the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation as it looks to embrace a future defined by technology, sustainability, and citizen-centric governance under Public Relations Officer Vijayawada Municipal Corporation

MITHUN REDDY'S VERDICT RESERVED



Amaravati, October 16: Court Reserves Verdict on MP Mithun Reddy's Plea for U.S. Visit

The Vijayawada ACB Court has reserved its verdict on the petition filed by YSR Congress Party MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy, who sought permission to travel to the United States. The court announced that the order would be pronounced on Friday, following the completion of arguments from both sides on Thursday. Mithun Reddy, an accused in the alleged multi-crore liquor scam, was re-

cently released on bail from the Rajahmundry Central Jail. He filed the petition requesting permission to visit New York on October 20 as part of a parliamentary delegation scheduled to attend the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The delegation, led by BJP MP Dagubati Purandeswari, is expected to leave for the U.S. on October 26. During his arrest, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) seized Mithun Reddy's passport. To facilitate his foreign travel, the MP filed a separate plea

asking the court to direct the SIT to return the document. The ACB court subsequently ordered the officials to hand over the passport to him. In addition, the MP filed another petition seeking the cancellation of the lookout circular (LOC) issued against him, enabling smooth international travel.

The ACB court's forthcoming verdict is now being closely watched, as it will determine whether the YSRCP MP can join the parliamentary delegation representing India

at the UN. The meetings are scheduled to begin on October 27, with the Indian group expected to participate in several UN sessions and bilateral programs. The liquor scam case, in which Mithun Reddy is named as one of the accused, dates back to the tenure of the previous YSRCP government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. In the 2019 elections, the YSRCP achieved a massive victory and formed the government. However, soon after, allegations surfaced that several irregularities took place in the state's li-

quor policy. It was alleged that new brands introduced by the state replaced existing ones, leading to poor-quality liquor being supplied. Hundreds reportedly died and thousands fell sick after consuming these liquor brands.

Following the 2024 elections, the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government constituted a SIT to probe the scam, which reportedly amounted to 3,500 crore. The SIT has since arrested several individuals, including Mithun Reddy, in connection with the case.

319 ACRES OF LAND RECOVERED - WAQF BOARD

TPN BUREAU, VIZAGAP Waqf Board Commends Survey Commissioner for Recovering 319 Acres of Encroached Land in Visakhapatnam

In a significant step toward protecting Waqf properties across Andhra Pradesh, the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board has lauded the efforts of Mrs. Sheikh Shireen Begum, IPS, Survey Commissioner of Waqf, for successfully identifying and reclaiming 319 acres of encroached Waqf land in Devada village, Pedagantyada mandal of Visakhapatnam district. This land, which had been under the control of NTPC Simhadri for several years, has now been restored to the Waqf under the supervision of the Survey Commissioner's office in Tadepalli. The recovery operation, carried out under the guidance of the Minorities Welfare



Department, Velagapudi, marks one of the largest land reclamations by the Waqf Board in recent years.

The detailed survey, led by Mrs. Shireen Begum and her dedicated team, involved cross-verifying old records,

ground-level inspections, and coordination with local authorities to ensure accurate identification and demarcation

of Waqf lands that had been unlawfully occupied. Recognizing the remarkable achievement, Waqf Board Chairman

Abdul Aziz, accompanied by CEO Sheikh Mohammad Ali and other senior staff members, met Mrs. Shireen Begum and her team at the Survey Commissioner's office in Tadepalli. The team was felicitated with bouquets and shawls in a warm ceremony that reflected the Board's deep appreciation of their commitment and diligence.

Officials commended the Commissioner's persistence in overcoming administrative hurdles and legal complexities to safeguard the properties belonging to the Waqf institutions. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Abdul Aziz said that the successful reclamation of the Devada lands represented a breakthrough in the Board's ongoing mission to protect and preserve religious and community assets across the state. He praised the

Survey Commissioner and her team for their meticulous work, stressing that the recovery not only restores valuable property but also strengthens the trust and confidence of the Muslim community in the administration's efforts to uphold Waqf rights.

With the recovery of 319 acres in Visakhapatnam, the total extent of Waqf land reclaimed across Andhra Pradesh has reached 479 acres. This milestone underscores the impact of coordinated action between the Waqf Board, the Survey Commissioner's Office, and the Minorities Welfare Department. Officials noted that several similar surveys are underway in other districts, aiming to identify encroachments and restore rightful ownership to Waqf institutions.

Assistant Survey Commissioner Y. Thoyajakshara Rao and surveyors G. Siva Nageswara Rao, Routhu Hanumantu, and B.R.V. Siva played instrumental roles in the survey and field verification process. Their technical support and attention to detail were key to the successful mapping and documentation of the reclaimed lands. The Waqf Board has announced that it will soon initiate steps to develop the recovered lands for educational and welfare purposes, ensuring that the properties serve the community's long-term interests.

The recovery in Visakhapatnam is being hailed as a model for future operations, demonstrating how teamwork, administrative will, and accurate surveying can transform the protection of Waqf assets in Andhra Pradesh.



ACB CAUGHT AMALAPURAM TAHSILDAR



Amalapuram Tahsildar Caught by ACB for Accepting 1 Lakh Bribe

TPN | Amalapuram, October 16: Officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Amalapuram Tahsildar Ashok Prasad and his office staff member, a data entry operator named Ramu, on Wednesday for allegedly accepting a bribe of 1 lakh to con-

Satyanarayana, had purchased a 15-cent land plot in Amalapuram way back in 1995.

Due to old age and ill health, the family could not process the necessary survey and documentation for sale of the property. When the land was recently taken up for boundary marking, Tahsildar Ashok Prasad allegedly demanded a bribe of 1 lakh from them to complete the work officially. Unable to tolerate the demand, Durgakondalarao approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau and lodged a complaint. Acting swiftly, the ACB team set up a trap. On Wednesday, when the complainant went to the Tahsildar

office to pay 50,000 as the first installment through data entry operator Ramu, the ACB officials caught Ashok Prasad in the act.

The team immediately conducted raids in the Tahsildar's office and recovered 5,88,500 in cash hidden inside a table drawer. In total, the officials seized 6,38,500 from the accused, including the bribe money. ACB DSP M. Kishore Kumar confirmed that both Tahsildar Ashok Prasad and data entry operator Ramu were taken into custody under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The officials stated that they would be produced before the ACB Court for judicial remand. ACB Circle In-

spectors Y. Satish and N. P. Bhaskara Rao, along with other staff members, took part in the operation that led to the arrests and seizure of the unaccounted cash.

The raid has sent shockwaves across the local administration and the revenue circles of Konaseema district, where several complaints concerning land-related services have been pending for months. ACB officials are now investigating whether the arrested officials were involved in similar cases in the past. Further inquiry is underway to trace the sources of the seized money and identify any other individuals connected to the bribery network.

PALLE'S ATTENDS SUPER GST 2.0



TPN BUREAU | Puttaparthi | Oct 16: Puttaparthi MLA Mrs. Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy attended the massive "Super GST - Super Savings" public meeting organized as part of the GST 2.0 Reforms Utsav at Ragamayuri Green Hills in Kurnool on Thursday. The event, held under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, drew a huge gathering from across Andhra Pradesh, marking one of the state's largest public meetings celebrating the new tax reform initiative.

Speaking at the program, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for fostering economic revival in the state through progressive reforms like GST 2.0. She said that these reforms not only simplify taxation but also bolster industrial growth, leading to new employment opportunities for youth. She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for their efforts in bringing major IT investments to Andhra Pradesh, including the recently announced Google Data Center in Visakhapatnam, which she said would transform the state's IT landscape just as Hyderabad did during the early 2000s.

Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy, addressing the gathering, said that the GST 2.0 reforms would directly benefit families by reducing taxes on essential commodities, household goods, and vehicles. He highlighted that the Super GST initiative was a practical demonstration of the government's efforts to make everyday products more affordable for the

poor and middle classes. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi and visionary leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Andhra Pradesh is moving confidently towards Swarna Andhra," he said.

Palle Sindhura Reddy also noted that the influx of industries and IT companies into Andhra Pradesh signifies strong investor confidence in the current government's policies. She emphasized that the combination of Naidu's administrative acumen and Modi's national economic vision guarantees a prosperous future for the state. Referring to past governance, she remarked that "all systems were destroyed during the previous YCP rule," criticizing the opposition for their present stance on social and economic issues. The Super GST - Super Savings program is part of a nationwide campaign led by the Central government to promote awareness about the benefits of GST 2.0 reforms, which include tax reductions on numerous common-use items, personal insurance policies, and agricultural equipment. The Andhra Pradesh government has aligned this initiative with its vision of ensuring sustainable economic growth and greater financial stability for citizens.

The Kurnool event also symbolized the strengthening alliance between the TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena, as thousands turned up to show support for the reform-driven governance model. With the energetic participation of leaders like MLA Sindhura Reddy and Dr. Raghunath Reddy, the meeting echoed a unified message that Andhra Pradesh is on the path of development, transparency, and prosperity under the current leadership.

GST AWARENESS IN PALAKOLLU

GST Awareness Rally in Palakollu Highlights Benefits of Tax Slab Reduction

TPN | Palakollu, West Godavari District, October 16: An awareness rally on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reduction was organized in Palakollu on Thursday under the auspices of the Transport Department. The event aimed to educate citizens, particularly those from poor and middle-class families, about the positive impact of the revised tax slabs on their daily lives. The rally was attended by local officials, traders, students, and members of various welfare organizations. Participants held placards and ban-

ners displaying messages about the benefits of the new GST structure, marching through the main streets of the town to raise public awareness.

GST officials, who led the initiative, explained that the revised tax rates are specifically designed to reduce the financial burden on common people while supporting key sectors that influence the country's social and economic growth. Speaking on the occasion, a senior GST official noted that the recent reduction in GST rates would directly benefit agriculture, education, and healthcare—the three sectors that touch every segment of society. He

explained that essential agricultural tools, educational equipment, and medical supplies now attract lower tax rates, making them more affordable for farmers, students, and patients alike. The move, he said, demonstrates the government's commitment to fostering inclusive growth by ensuring that vital services remain within reach of the poor and middle-class citizens.

Officials also highlighted that businesses connected to these sectors would experience lower operational costs, leading to possible price reductions and better accessibility for consum-



ers. This, in turn, would encourage broader participation in formal trade systems and increase compliance with tax regulations. Such awareness activities are crucial to ensuring that citizens understand how tax reforms are meant to strengthen the economy by promoting fair taxation and transparency. The rally concluded with a call to the public to stay informed about policy changes and cooperate with tax authorities for

smooth implementation.

Participants praised the government's initiative to revise the GST structure, stating that it reflects concern for the common man's economic welfare. The event ended on a positive note, with officials reaffirming that continued awareness drives will further enhance understanding of GST reforms and promote responsible citizenship in the years ahead.

Awareness on Cervical Cancer

Awareness Program on Cervical Cancer and HPV Vaccine Held at Anantalakshmi Engineering College

TPN BUREAU | Anantapur, October 16: An awareness program focusing on cervical cancer prevention and the importance of the HPV vaccine was organized at Anantalakshmi Engineering College under the auspices of the College Women Development Committee. The event aimed to educate female students on the growing threat of cervical cancer and highlight the preventive role of vaccination and early diagnosis. College Principal Dr. Kutala Srinivasulu inaugurated the



program and emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in promoting health awareness among young women.

He stated that the Women Development Committee has been actively conducting health and social awareness programs to sensitize students about issues affecting women's health and empowerment. The chief guest, Dr. M. Swe-

tha, MBBS, Gynaecologist, delivered an insightful session on cervical cancer, describing it as one of the most common and preventable diseases among women. She remarked that the number of women affected by cervical cancer is increasing annually, which calls for greater awareness and timely preventive measures.

Stressing the importance of early detection, Dr. Swetha explained

that cancers detected in their initial stages are often easier to treat, greatly improving recovery rates. She also discussed the crucial role of the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccine in the prevention of cervical cancer, noting that vaccines are both safe and effective. "The HPV vaccine can reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer by up to 90%, and every young woman should consider taking it as a preventive step," she told students.

Dr. Swetha encouraged them to stay informed, undergo regular medical check-ups, and adopt hygienic health practices. Dr. Madhavi, Chairperson of the Women Development Committee, also

addressed the gathering, noting that cancer has become one of the most serious health challenges worldwide. She explained that viral infections cause several types of cancer, with cervical cancer being one of the most prominent examples.

She emphasized that preventive health care through vaccination, personal hygiene, and awareness can significantly lower the risk of such diseases. Faculty members, staff, and students actively participated in the program, engaging with medical experts and raising questions about prevention, testing, and treatment. The event concluded with a message that awareness, vaccination, and early diagnosis are the key to winning the fight against cervical cancer. Would you like me to create a short

SUNITHA GLAD WITH THE ENTRY OF GOOGLE

Hyderabad Had Hi-Tech City, Now Vizag Rises With Google: MLA Sunitha

TPN | Anantapuram, October 16, 2025: Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha has lauded Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visionary leadership for transforming Visakhapatnam into the new technology capital of India with Google's arrival. Drawing parallels with Hyderabad's transformation under Chandrababu's leadership during the initial Andhra Pradesh era, when Microsoft was brought to the city, she noted that Vizag's partnership with Google now marks the beginning of a new digital revolution. Speaking at her camp office in Anantapuram on Thursday, Sunitha said, "Just as Hyderabad grew with Hi-Tech City, Visakhapatnam is set to develop with Google." She applauded the Chief Minister's foresight and determination in attracting global investments that redefine Andhra Pradesh's digital identity. According to official announcements from the state government and Google, the tech giant has signed a historic agreement to establish its largest Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub outside the United States at Visakhapatnam. The project entails a 1.33 lakh crore (\$15 billion) investment over the next five years (2026-2030). This initiative will consist of a gigawatt-scale AI data center campus housing cutting-edge computing infrastructure, renewable energy facilities, and fiber-optic networks.

MLA Sunitha commended IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh for his instrumental role in securing Google's investment, calling his efforts "commendable and consistent with the Naidu family's commitment to technological progress." Lokesh has been credited with leading negotiations and establishing Andhra Pradesh as India's first AI Infrastructure Hub. The Visakhapatnam AI hub is expected to create around two lakh direct and indirect jobs, spanning fields such as information technology, engineering, data science, and digital services. It will also accelerate opportunities



for startups and foster skill development across the coastal region.

MLA Sunitha stated that this development embodies Chandrababu Naidu's long-term vision of "AI for Every Family," ensuring that artificial intelligence applications enhance everyday life from education and healthcare to agriculture and governance. She expressed confidence that "the unemployment problem will be largely eliminated" as the state transitions into an innovation-driven economy under the Chief Minister's guidance. Earlier this week, Google CEO Sundar Pichai confirmed that the Vizag facility would serve as a cornerstone for AI-driven solutions across India, connecting enterprises and professionals through new digital infrastructure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Ashwini Vaishnaw also hailed the project as a step toward realizing India's 'Viksit Bharat' digital vision. Concluding her remarks, MLA Sunitha said, "Hyderabad became a global IT hub through Naidu's leadership in the past. Today, Visakhapatnam stands ready to become the world's next AI capital — a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh and every Telugu citizen." She emphasized that continued collaboration between Google, the state government, and local industries will position Andhra Pradesh as a beacon of technological progress for decades to come.

2 LAKH JOBS EXPECTED FROM GOOGLE

TPN BUREAU, Tuni, Oct 16 Two Lakh Jobs to Be Created Through Google AI Center in Visakhapatnam: Yanamala Divya

Government Whip and Tuni MLA Yanamala Divya announced that nearly two lakh job opportunities will be generated through the upcoming Google AI Center in Visakhapatnam, marking a major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's industrial and technological progress. Speaking at a media conference after participating in the 'Super GST Super Savings' awareness program held at the Tuni Municipal Office on Thursday, she highlighted the transformative impact of the new project and the vision driving it. Addressing the gathering, Divya lauded the continuous efforts of

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh, who have spearheaded the initiative to bring Google's advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) operations to Andhra Pradesh. She revealed that Google has agreed to establish its AI facility with an investment of 1.33 lakh crore, aimed at making Visakhapatnam one of the most advanced technology hubs in India and a global destination for innovation.

"Visakhapatnam will soon emerge as a global investment center and will stand proudly on the world map as a city fostering future technology," Divya said. She expressed her delight over the way employment prospects are improving across various fields and how the youth of Andhra



Pradesh will benefit immensely from cutting-edge AI research, digital infrastructure, and skill development programs linked to the Google venture. Divya stated that the government's long-term vision focuses not only on attracting international investments but also on creating sustainable employment and stimulating local entrepreneurship.

The Google AI project, she said, will serve as a catalyst for similar ventures by other tech giants, accelerating job creation and economic development across the state. The MLA empha-

sized that this achievement is a result of the decisive leadership and strategic policies implemented by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. "Under his guidance, Andhra Pradesh has successfully regained momentum in development, drawing global investors and reviving confidence among industrial stakeholders," she said. Divya also thanked the Chief Minister and Minister Nara Lokesh on behalf of the people of Tuni constituency, expressing gratitude for their commitment to the technological and economic empowerment of the state.

She further appreciated the support and participation of Tuni Municipal Chairperson Narla Bhavana Ratna, Yanamala Rajesh, Surla Loveraju, Chintamaneedi Abbayi, and Inuganti Satyanarayana, who joined the program alongside other municipal officials. The awareness event on GST savings also showcased the government's wider efforts to strengthen financial knowledge among small business owners. The MLA concluded by affirming that Visakhapatnam's upcoming transformation through the Google AI Center will not only generate massive employment but also pave the way for Andhra Pradesh's emergence as a national leader in digital innovation and global investment.

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.

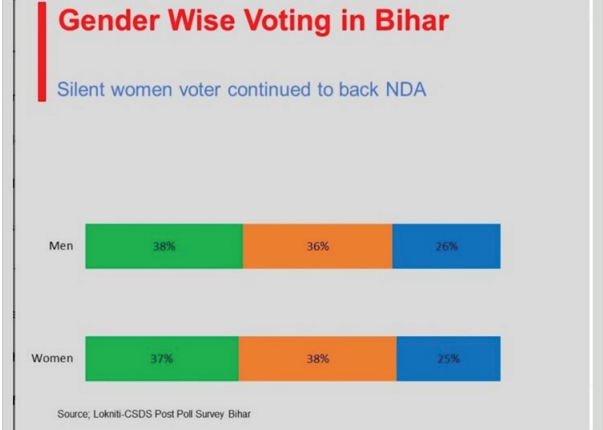
PM Modi holds a 52% approval rating in Bihar compared to Rahul Gandhi’s 41%, per C-Voter. However, Gandhi is gaining ground through his Bharat Jodo Yatra and outreach among Dalits, minorities, and youth. His appeal complements Tejashwi’s, creating a potentially powerful combination for the MGB.

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.

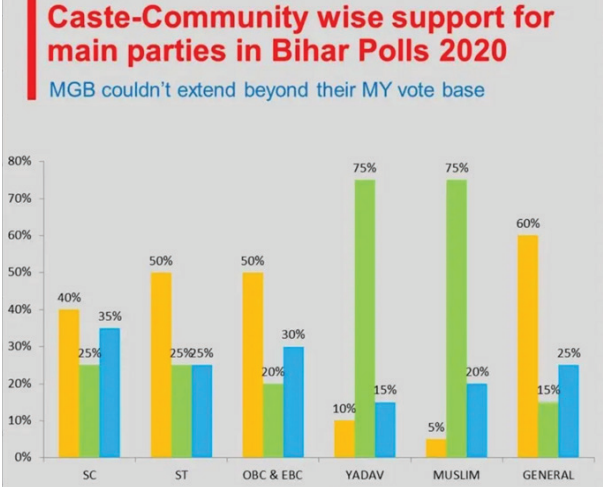


Nitish Kumar has historically focused on female welfare — from bicycle schemes to police quotas and self-help groups. The new ₹10,000 Mahila Rozgar Yojana aims to expand this base.

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 us-

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

PM Modi Launches Projects Worth ₹13,430 Crore in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth ₹13,430 crore in Andhra Pradesh, covering a range of sectors including industry, power transmission, roads, railways, defence manufacturing, and petroleum & natural gas.

A key highlight was the foundation stone for the Transmission System Strengthening at Kurnool-III Pooling Station, a ₹2,880 crore project aimed at enhancing renewable energy transmission with an additional capacity of 6,000 MVA.

The PM also launched industrial area developments at Orvakal (Kurnool) and Kopparthi (Kadapa), with combined investments of over ₹4,920 crore. These industrial hubs, developed jointly by NICDIT and APIIC, are expected to draw investments of ₹21,000 crore and create nearly one lakh jobs, boosting Rayalaseema's industrial growth.

In the roads sector, PM Modi laid the foundation for a six-lane greenfield highway from Sabbavaram to Sheelanagar at a cost of ₹960 crore, aiming to decongest Visakhapatnam and enhance trade flow. He also inaugurated the four-laning of the Pileru-Kalur section, upgrades on NH-544DD and NH-165, and the Kanigiri Bypass.

The Prime Minister also launched railway projects worth



over ₹1,200 crore, including the Kothavalasa-Vizianagaram Fourth Railway Line, Rail Flyover between Pendurthi and Simhachalam North, and doubling of key sections like Kottavalasa-Bodavara and Shimiliguda-Gorapur.

In the energy sector, PM Modi inaugurated the Srikakulam-Angul Natural Gas Pipeline by GAIL India (₹1,730 crore), and Indian Oil's LPG bottling plant in Chittoor (₹200 crore).

He also launched Bharat Electronics Ltd's Advanced Night Vision Products Factory in Krishna district, built at ₹360 crore, enhancing India's defence manufacturing capabilities.

The PM visited Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna temple in Srisailem earlier in the day before returning to Kurnool for the ceremonies.

All Gujarat Ministers Resign As CM Bhupendra Patel Set To Rejig Cabinet

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major political development, all ministers in the Gujarat government, except Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, have submitted their resignations ahead of a major cabinet reshuffle. The resignations have been accepted by the Chief Minister, who is expected to meet Governor Acharya Devvrat later today to formally stake a claim to form a new cabinet.

The move is being seen as part of a broader administrative and political overhaul in the state, likely in preparation for upcoming political events and elections.

According to senior BJP leaders, the new cabinet is expected to be announced and sworn in on Friday at 11:30 AM. Sources indicate that nearly 10 new ministers may be inducted, while about half of the existing ministers could be replaced. The reshuffle aims to bring in fresh faces and revamp the state leadership.

Currently, the Gujarat cabinet comprises 17 ministers, including the Chief Minister, with eight holding cabinet rank and eight others serving as Ministers of State (MoS). As per constitutional provisions, Gujarat is permitted to have up to 27 ministers, which is 15% of the total 182-member Assembly.

Notably, this reshuffle follows the recent appointment of Jagdish Vishwakarma as the new president of the Gujarat BJP unit, replacing Union Minister C.R. Paatil.

Bhupendra Patel first assumed office as Chief Minister in 2021 and began his second



term on December 12, 2022. The upcoming cabinet expansion is expected to reflect strategic adjustments by the BJP as it strengthens its position in the state.

The reshuffle is being closely watched both within Gujarat and at the national level, as it may signal the party's broader game plan ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Gauhati HC Quashes Lower Court Order Against Rahul Gandhi in Defamation Case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant relief to Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the Gauhati High Court has set aside a lower court's order allowing additional witnesses in a long-pending defamation case against him.

The case, filed by an RSS worker in 2016, alleged defamatory remarks made by Gandhi during a speech. The matter was being heard in a trial court in Kamrup Metropolitan district.

On Monday, October 13, Justice Arun Dev Choudhury of the Gauhati High Court issued the order in a criminal revision petition, quashing the decision by the additional sessions judge that had permitted more prosecution witnesses to be summoned. The High Court ruled that the lower court's move to expand the scope of the trial by adding further witnesses was not justified at this stage of the proceedings.

The trial court's order had been challenged by Gandhi's legal team, who argued that the inclusion of new witnesses after such a long duration would delay justice and was procedurally flawed.

With this decision, the High Court has effectively streamlined the trial, which had been ongoing for nine years, offering Gandhi a legal breather amid several other litigations he faces across the country.

The defamation case stemmed from Gandhi's remarks allegedly linking the RSS to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi — a claim that has repeatedly landed him in legal



trouble.

The court's decision is seen as a temporary but important legal win for the Congress MP, who remains a key figure in national politics ahead of crucial state and general elections.

The trial is now expected to proceed without the additional witnesses, as per the original framework.

JD(U) Releases Full List of Candidates for Bihar Assembly Polls



TPN Correspondent | Patna

The Janata Dal (United), led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, on Thursday announced its second list of 44 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, completing its lineup of 101 nominees. The party is contesting as part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Several key ministers have found a place in the second list, including Sheila Mandal, Vijendra Prasad Yadav, Leshi Singh, Jayant Raj, and Mohd Zama Khan. Their inclusion signals the party's intent to retain experienced faces and consolidate its governance record.

The JD(U) has also fielded a few political turncoats in this round. Chetan Anand, formerly with the RJD, will contest from Nabinagar, while Vibha Devi, also previously associated with the RJD, has been nominated from Nawada. Kaladhar Mandal has been fielded from the Rupauli

constituency.

The first list, released earlier, featured 57 candidates. With Thursday's announcement, the party has now declared all its 101 candidates for the 243-member Bihar Assembly.

Elections will be held in two phases — on November 6 and November 11 — and results will be declared on November 14.

The announcement comes at a crucial time as the NDA looks to maintain its grip on power in Bihar amidst a growing challenge from the opposition INDIA bloc, led by the RJD and Congress.

The JD(U)'s candidate list reflects a mix of senior leaders, loyalists, and strategic new entrants, aimed at balancing caste dynamics and regional representation across the state.

All eyes are now on how the final phase of campaigning unfolds, with Bihar once again set to play a key role in the national political narrative.

Execution of Indian Nurse in Yemen Stayed, SC Told



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court was informed on Thursday that the execution of Indian nurse Nimisha Priya, who is on death row in Yemen for murder, has been stayed, and there are no adverse developments in her case at present.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta heard the update during the proceedings on a petition filed by the 'Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council'. The organisation has been providing legal assistance to Priya, a 38-year-old nurse convicted in 2017 for the murder of her Yemeni business partner.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, told the court that a new mediator has intervened in the matter. "The only good thing is, nothing adverse is happening," Venkataramani said, confirming that efforts are ongoing to resolve the issue diplomatically.

The bench inquired about the sta-

tus of the execution, to which the petitioner's counsel confirmed it is currently stayed. The lawyer also requested that the matter be adjourned in view of the recent developments.

"List in January 2026. It will be open for the parties to apply for early listing in case the situation so demands," the bench directed.

Earlier in August, the court was told there was "no immediate threat" to Priya, whose execution had initially been scheduled for July 16, 2025, but was subsequently stayed.

The petition had sought a directive to the central government to intensify diplomatic efforts to save Priya's life. The case has drawn significant attention from human rights groups and the Indian diaspora, particularly in the Middle East.

With the involvement of a new mediator and diplomatic efforts underway, Priya's case remains in a delicate but stable phase.

'Priority To Safeguard National Interest': India On Trump's Russia Oil Claim



TPN Bureau | Washington

New Delhi has firmly rebutted U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him India would stop purchasing oil from Russia. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasized that India's energy policy is guided solely by its national interest and the welfare of Indian consumers.

"India is a significant importer of oil and gas. It has been our consistent

priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. He added that ensuring stable prices and secure energy supplies remains central to India's approach.

Trump had recently claimed, "He [Modi] has assured me there will be no oil purchases from Russia. He can't do it immediately, but the process is going to be over soon." His remarks have triggered a political row in India, with the opposition accusing the Prime

Minister of compromising national interest.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi criticized Modi, saying the PM is "frightened of Trump" and accused him of allowing a foreign leader to dictate India's energy choices. Gandhi also listed a series of alleged diplomatic missteps, including cancelling the finance minister's U.S. visit and not challenging Trump's public assertions.

In response, Union Minister Piyush Goyal hit back at the Congress, calling it a "rudderless, leaderless, and direction-

less" party. "They must make up their mind — one day they ask why there's no trade deal, and the next day they attack us for diplomacy," Goyal said.

India has faced Western criticism over its continued purchase of Russian oil since the Ukraine conflict began. However, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has defended India's stand, asserting it acts in its citizens' best interests and highlighting Western double standards on global issues.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a troubling incident that has raised concerns about student safety and financial accountability, eighteen Indian students who had applied for admission to the prestigious University of Malta are facing serious financial distress after a Malta-based accommodation company, Peppercorn Ltd, allegedly failed to refund their advance payments following visa rejections.

Malta, a reputed European nation located near Italy, has become a growing destination for international education, particularly among Indian students. Every year, dozens of students choose the University of Malta for its globally recognized programs. As part of the visa application process, students are required to furnish proof of accommodation before approval is granted.

According to reports, these eighteen Indian students had each paid ₹1,00,000 as an advance to Peppercorn Ltd to secure their stay during their academic program. The total payment, amounting to ₹18,00,000, or nearly ₹14 lakh, was made in good faith to facilitate the visa process. However, when their visa applications were unexpectedly rejected, the students requested a refund of the advance amount, as is customary practice in such cases.

To their dismay, the students claim that Peppercorn Ltd has not refunded the money, despite repeated requests



Indian Students Seek Refund After Visa Rejection: Peppercorn Ltd Faces Legal Action in Malta

and assurances. Sources say that the company has been unresponsive to several communications, forcing the affected students to explore legal options. Legal notices have reportedly been served to the company, demanding repayment of the full amount.

"The students followed all legal procedures and paid the advance amount to fulfill the visa requirements. When the visas were denied, it was expected that the accommodation provider would return the money, as the service was never availed. But Peppercorn Ltd has not taken any action so far," said a source familiar with the issue.

The incident has sparked outrage among

parents and education consultants, who argue that such practices could damage Malta's reputation as a safe and reliable destination for international education. They fear that future students may hesitate to apply to Maltese universities if financial disputes of this nature are not resolved promptly and fairly.

Education experts have urged the High Commission of Malta to intervene and ensure that the affected students receive justice. "This is not just about one company. It is about protecting Malta's credibility and ensuring that international students are treated fairly," said an education consultant

based in Hyderabad.

The students have appealed to both Indian authorities and the Maltese government for assistance in recovering their funds. They have also expressed hope that the University of Malta and other educational institutions will take note of the situation and introduce safeguards to prevent such incidents in the future.

If the issue remains unresolved, observers warn that it could create a chilling effect on student mobility and harm Malta's growing education sector. As of now, the victims continue to await a fair resolution and the return of their hard-earned money.

"India's Proxy War": Khawaja Asif's Bizarre Claim On Pak-Afghan Clashes



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a controversial claim, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has accused India of backing the Taliban-led Afghan government in an alleged "proxy war" against Pakistan. His remarks come amid a fragile 48-hour ceasefire between the two neighbours, following deadly cross-border clashes.

Speaking to Geo News, Asif claimed, "I have my doubts that the ceasefire will hold, because the decisions of the [Afghan] Taliban are being sponsored by Delhi. Right now, Kabul is fighting a proxy war for Delhi." He further suggested that Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttuqi's recent six-day visit to India may have in-

volved more than trade and bilateral discussions, implying "ulterior plans."

The Indian government has yet to respond officially to the comments. India has long maintained a firm stance against terrorism and has reiterated its commitment to peaceful regional cooperation, particularly in areas of trade and development with Afghanistan.

The ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan began at 6:00 P.M. IST on Wednesday after both sides reported escalating violence over the past week. Dozens of troops and civilians were reportedly killed in the clashes, prompting urgent diplomatic engagement. Both countries claimed the other had requested the ceasefire to halt

the escalation.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that during the ceasefire, "both sides will sincerely strive to find a positive solution through constructive dialogue." The Taliban's government in Kabul echoed the sentiment, stating it had instructed Afghan forces to respect the truce "unless it is violated" by Pakistan.

The border tension stems from Islamabad's accusations that Kabul is harbouring members of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a charge the Taliban denies. The conflict underscores the fragile relationship between the two neighbours, even as wider regional tensions threaten to complicate diplomacy further.

Taiwan Detects 23 chinese Aircraft , 8 naval vessels near its territory

TPN Correspondent | Taiwan

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) reported on Thursday (October 16) that it detected 23 Chinese military aircraft, 8 Chinese naval vessels, and 2 official ships operating near its airspace and territorial waters as of 6 a.m. local time.

According to the MND, 21 out of the 23 aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, entering Taiwan's northern, southwestern, and eastern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) — a significant escalation in Chinese

military activity in the region.

"We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan's Defense Ministry said in a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter). The incursions were part of a continuing pattern of aggressive maneuvers by China around Taiwan's borders. The latest development comes just a day after a similar display of military pressure, when Taiwan recorded 16 Chinese aircraft and 13 naval vessels, with 14 aircraft violating the median line and entering Taiwan's ADIZ.



Beijing does not recognize the median line, an unofficial boundary in the Taiwan Strait long respected by both sides to avoid conflict. Chinese military activities near Taiwan have sharply in-

creased over the past year, raising regional tensions.

Adding to the geopolitical strain, recent reports highlight China's growing nuclear capabilities, with analysts

warning of possible "nuclear blackmail" scenarios in case of conflict over Taiwan. During a recent military parade in Beijing, China showcased nuclear-capable missiles — including the JL-1, JL-3, and DF-61 — demonstrating its progress toward a nuclear triad, the ability to launch nuclear weapons from air, land, and sea.

The United States and other democracies have expressed concern over Beijing's escalating military assertiveness and rapid weapons development, particularly in relation to Taiwan's security.

With Gaza Ceasefire Holding, Trump Shifts Focus to Ending Russia-Ukraine War

TPN Correspondent | Washington

With a fragile ceasefire currently holding between Israel and Hamas, U.S. President Donald Trump is now turning his attention to another major global conflict — Russia's war in Ukraine. Trump, who made ending foreign wars a key part of his 2024 re-election campaign, is reportedly exploring new strategies to bring Moscow to the negotiating table.

"Now that Gaza is calming down, it's time to get Russia done," Trump was quoted as saying in private conversations with senior aides, according to U.S. officials. The President is considering the option

of supplying Ukraine with long-range weapons — a move he hopes will pressure Moscow into serious negotiations while strengthening Kyiv's leverage.

The latest diplomatic push comes amid growing pressure on Trump to deliver on his campaign promises of restoring global stability. Throughout the 2024 race, Trump repeatedly criticized former President Joe Biden's handling of both the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts, vowing that he would end both swiftly if elected.

With the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage exchange currently in place, Trump's administration sees a narrow

window to make progress in Eastern Europe. Officials say Trump's team is engaging both NATO allies and neutral parties in a bid to facilitate a framework for negotiations.

Meanwhile, concerns remain high over whether the Gaza truce will hold, as previous ceasefires have often collapsed within days. However, with a degree of stability returning to the region, Trump appears determined to pivot toward resolving the Ukraine conflict — a war that has dragged on since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

While critics remain skeptical of Trump's approach, supporters ar-



gue that his unconventional diplomacy could yield breakthroughs where traditional efforts have stalled. Whether Trump's focus shift will

bring real results in Ukraine remains to be seen, but the renewed push signals a high-stakes phase in global diplomacy.

Sensex Surges 575 Points, Nifty Closes Above 25,300 on Global Market Rally

The benchmark Sensex jumped sharply by 575 points on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, as positive cues from Asian and European markets boosted investor sentiment. The Nifty also closed above the 25,300 mark, led by strong buying in banking and financial shares amid growing expectations of an upcoming rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve later this month.

The 30-stock BSE Sensex soared 575.45 points, or 0.70%, to settle at 82,605.43. During the trading session, it hit a high of 82,727.02, gaining 697.04 points, reflecting robust investor confidence. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty 50 index also mirrored the bullish trend, ending above the key psychological level of 25,300.

Among the Sensex constituents, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv emerged as the top gainers, benefiting from renewed investor interest in the financial services sector. Banking stocks, in general, witnessed healthy buying, supported by expectations that a potential rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve could ease global borrowing costs and stimulate economic growth.

The rally in Asian markets provided a strong impetus for Indian equities, with investors hopeful that central banks will adopt accommodative monetary policies amid concerns about slowing economic growth. European markets also contributed to the positive momentum, further bolstering global risk appetite.

Market analysts noted that the combination of do-



mestic factors, including steady corporate earnings and improving economic indicators, along with favorable global cues, helped sustain the buying momentum in Indian markets.

Investors will now closely watch the upcoming Federal Reserve meeting for clues on interest rate policy,

which is expected to influence market direction in the near term.

Overall, Wednesday's session underscored the resilience of Indian markets amid global uncertainties, with key indices registering solid gains driven by financial stocks and positive sentiment abroad.

SEBI Bans Eight for ₹173 Crore Insider Trading in India Energy Exchange



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned eight individuals for alleged insider trading in the shares of India Energy Exchange (IEX), involving transactions worth ₹173.14 crore. The regulator's interim order, released on October 15, revealed that the accused had access to confidential regulatory information before its public announcement, enabling them to trade and gain unfair advantage.

SEBI's investigation found that several of the noticees were privy to a regulatory notification from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regarding market coupling, a mechanism involving the centralized matching of bids across power exchanges to establish a uniform market clearing price. This information had significant market-moving potential but was accessed prior to official disclosure.

The individuals banned by SEBI include Bhoovan Singh, Amar Jit Singh Soran, Amita Soran, Anita Narender Kumar, Virender Singh, Bindu Sharma, and Sanjeev Kumar. The regulator's action underscores its continued crackdown on unfair trading practices that undermine market

integrity.

Insider trading involves trading based on material non-public information, which gives an unfair edge and harms the interests of ordinary investors. SEBI's swift intervention aims to maintain investor confidence and ensure a level playing field in the securities market.

The order highlights SEBI's enhanced surveillance and enforcement mechanisms to detect and act against insider trading activities. Market experts say such regulatory actions are critical for fostering transparency and safeguarding the integrity of India's capital markets.

SEBI's ban on the eight individuals comes amid increasing scrutiny of corporate disclosures and market conduct, especially in sectors like energy where regulatory developments can significantly impact stock prices.

The regulator has barred the accused from participating in securities markets and dealing in securities, pending further investigation and final adjudication. This move sends a strong message to market participants about the consequences of insider trading.

Rupee Recovers 75 Paise to Close at 88.06 Against US Dollar



The Indian rupee bounced back sharply on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, recovering 75 paise from its all-time low to close at 88.06 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar. This marked the currency's biggest intraday gain in nearly four months, driven by a combination of likely intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and a strong rally in domestic equity markets.

Forex traders attributed the rupee's recovery to positive sentiment sparked by optimism over ongoing trade talks between India and the United States. The improvement in bilateral trade relations boosted investor confidence, which was reflected in the surge of domestic markets. The benchmark indices rose by nearly 0.70%, supporting the rupee's rebound against the greenback.

Market participants also pointed to the RBI's probable intervention in the foreign exchange market to curb excessive volatility and stabilize the currency, helping the rupee recover

from previous sharp losses. The central bank's efforts are aimed at maintaining orderly market conditions amid global uncertainties.

Despite the recovery, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued to show caution, selling equities worth 1,508.53 crore on October 14, according to exchange data. This indicates ongoing concerns among foreign investors, even as domestic market sentiment improved.

The rupee had recently hit record lows against the dollar due to a stronger greenback and global economic pressures. However, Wednesday's sharp bounce suggests that the worst may be over, at least for now, as trade optimism and RBI support provide relief.

Analysts will closely monitor upcoming developments in trade negotiations and global market trends to assess the rupee's direction in the near term. For now, the currency's 75 paise intraday gain offers some respite for importers and market participants concerned about currency volatility.

Nestle India's Q2 Profit Drops 17.4% to ₹743 Crore, Revenue Rises 11%



Nestle India Ltd reported a 17.37% decline in consolidated net profit for the September quarter of 2025, posting ₹743.17 crore compared to ₹899.5 crore in the same

period last year. The FMCG major attributed the profit dip to rising input costs and inflationary pressures, despite steady revenue growth.

The company's revenue for the quarter grew 11% year-on-year to ₹5,630.23 crore, supported by healthy demand across key product segments including beverages, culinary products, and packaged foods. The increase in sales reflected Nestle's continued focus on innovation, premiumisation, and expanding its distribution reach amid challenging market conditions.

Nestle India's results highlight the broader trend in the FMCG sector, where companies are balancing rising raw material costs with efforts to maintain consumer affordability and market share. While revenue growth indicates robust consumer demand, margins came under pressure due to inflation and higher input prices.

In its regulatory filing, Nestle India noted that ongoing investments in brand building and product portfolio expansion remain central to its long-term growth strategy. The company also highlighted efforts to improve operational efficiencies and supply chain resilience to navigate a volatile economic environment.

Market analysts suggest that despite the profit decline, Nestle India's strong revenue performance signals resilience amid a competitive FMCG landscape. The company's premium brands and focus on health and wellness products continue to drive consumer interest.

Investors will be watching closely how Nestle India manages cost pressures in the coming quarters and whether it can sustain revenue growth while improving profitability. Overall, the September quarter results reflect the mixed impact of inflation and consumer demand dynamics on India's leading FMCG players.

Price of gold skyrocketing; why is this, will it continue?

The price of gold surged above USD 4,100 an ounce on Wednesday, marking an extraordinary rally of over 50% this year and nearly 100% since the run began in early 2024. The rapid rise has far outpaced analysts' expectations, driven by several key factors reshaping the global gold market.

While economic uncertainties such as ballooning government debt and the US government shutdown add to gold's appeal as a safe haven, the main driver of this meteoric price surge is growing demand for gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs). These financial products have made gold more accessible to everyday investors by allowing it to be traded easily on stock exchanges, shifting gold's role from just a physical safe haven to a mainstream financial asset.

In addition to retail demand, emerging market economies like China and Russia are increasingly moving their official reserves from major currencies such as the US dollar into gold. According to the International Monetary Fund, central bank gold holdings in emerging markets have soared 161% since 2006. This shift is largely due to concerns over geopolitical tensions, financial sanctions, and efforts to reduce reliance on Western currencies.

Russia, a major gold buyer since 2006, accelerated purchases after its 2014 Crimea annexation, while China has been actively "de-dollarising" by reducing US government bond holdings in favor of gold. These moves signal a broader trend toward gold as a shield against financial sanctions and currency risks.

With sustained demand from both investors and central banks, analysts at Goldman Sachs have revised gold's price target to USD 4,900 an ounce by the end



of 2026. The World Gold Council also reported record ETF inflows, highlighting strong market appetite.

For Australia, the world's third-largest gold producer, rising gold prices are a boon. Gold export values are expected to

surpass liquefied natural gas exports next year, making gold Australia's second-most important export commodity.

Rs 70K Salary, Zero Savings: Gurugram Techie’s Story Sparks Online Debate



A 25-year-old techie from Gurugram has unintentionally sparked a financial reality check for an entire generation. Sharing his story anonymously on Reddit, the young professional revealed how, despite earning a monthly salary of Rs 70,000, he has no savings to show for it — a post that quickly went viral across social media.

The techie began his career four years ago with a salary of Rs 24,000. Since then, his income has nearly tripled, yet financial security remains elusive. He broke down his monthly expenses: Rs 20,000 goes to support his family, Rs 10,000 for rent, and the rest is absorbed by EMIs, SIPs, and credit card bills. “The salary comes and goes like a breeze,” he wrote, reflecting a feeling of fatigue and stagnation that resonated with many young urban professionals.

His post highlighted a growing concern in Indian cities — rising incomes that are offset by high living costs, family responsibilities,

and debt. The added social pressure to marry by 28 only deepens the anxiety for many in similar situations.

Despite the financial stress, the techie has outlined clear goals: paying off family debt, creating an emergency fund of Rs 10 lakh, getting health insurance, and starting disciplined investments. Currently employed at a startup, he’s also looking to switch jobs for a better paycheck.

Reddit users offered overwhelming support and practical advice — from adopting a strict “Monk Mode” lifestyle for six months to prioritizing health insurance and budgeting aggressively. Some recommended halting SIPs temporarily to focus on debt repayment, while others stressed the importance of upskilling for long-term growth.

The story has become a mirror for thousands navigating similar struggles, reminding us that earning well isn’t enough — financial planning is key to real stability in today’s economic landscape.

Google AI Aids Breakthrough Cancer Therapy Discovery with Yale



In a major development at the intersection of technology and medicine, Google Inc. has partnered with Yale University to uncover a promising new cancer therapy — with the help of artificial intelligence. The breakthrough came using one of Google’s cutting-edge AI systems built on its Gemma family of models, showcasing the transformative potential of AI in biomedical research.

According to reports, Google’s AI played a crucial role in analysing complex biological data to identify novel drug targets and predict treatment outcomes. These advanced models enabled researchers to accelerate what would typically take years of lab work into weeks, helping them focus on molecules and proteins most likely to offer effective therapeutic results.

While exact details of the therapy are yet to be publicly disclosed, early findings suggest that the AI-assisted approach could lead to treatments targeting certain hard-to-treat or drug-resistant cancers.

The collaboration with Yale’s team of oncologists and biomedical scientists marks a significant step forward in AI-driven drug discovery, a field gaining momentum across the globe. The AI was trained on vast datasets of genomic, molecular, and clinical information, learning patterns that even seasoned researchers may miss.

Google’s Gemma AI models, designed for both scientific and general-purpose reasoning, were fine-tuned for biomedical applications in this study. The success has opened new doors for applying AI in other areas of disease research, potentially revolutionising how treatments are developed for conditions like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and autoimmune disorders.

This is not the first time tech giants have entered the medical field, but the pace and scale of this development signal a new era of collaboration between AI and healthcare.

With further validation and trials ahead, the partnership’s findings could soon translate into life-saving cancer therapies for millions worldwide.

Bengaluru Zepto Agent Earns ₹21K in a Week, Internet Applauds His Hustle

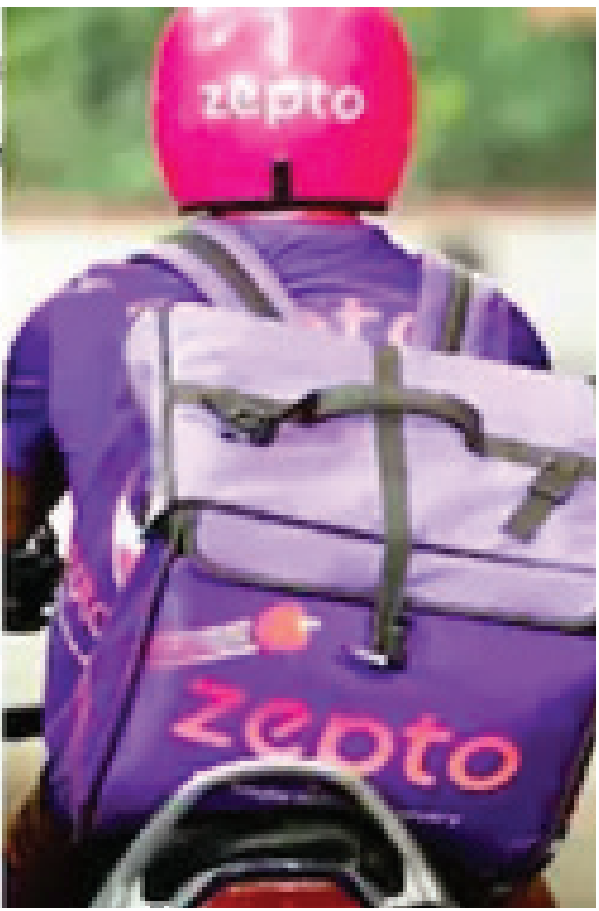
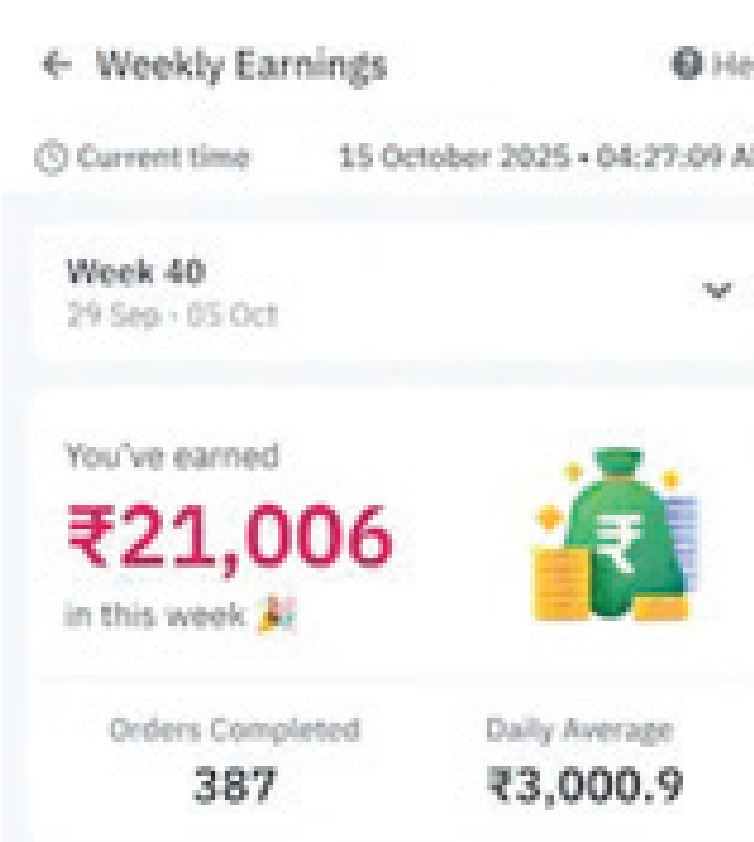
A Bengaluru-based Zepto delivery agent has gone viral for showcasing his impressive weekly earnings on Reddit, earning both praise and curiosity from netizens. According to a screenshot he shared, the agent made ₹21,000 in a single week by completing 387 deliveries, averaging about ₹3,000 per day.

This marked his 40th week with Zepto, covering the period from September 20 to October 5. His caption read, “What I earned in a week (working morning 10 am to night 10 pm) as Zepto delivery.” The breakdown showed standout days like October 2, when he earned ₹3,749 from 62 deliveries, and October 5 (a Sunday), when he made ₹4,020 from 50 deliveries.

In response to questions about expenses, the agent revealed that his daily fuel cost is around ₹300, amounting to ₹2,100 per week. This leaves him with a net weekly income of approximately ₹18,900.

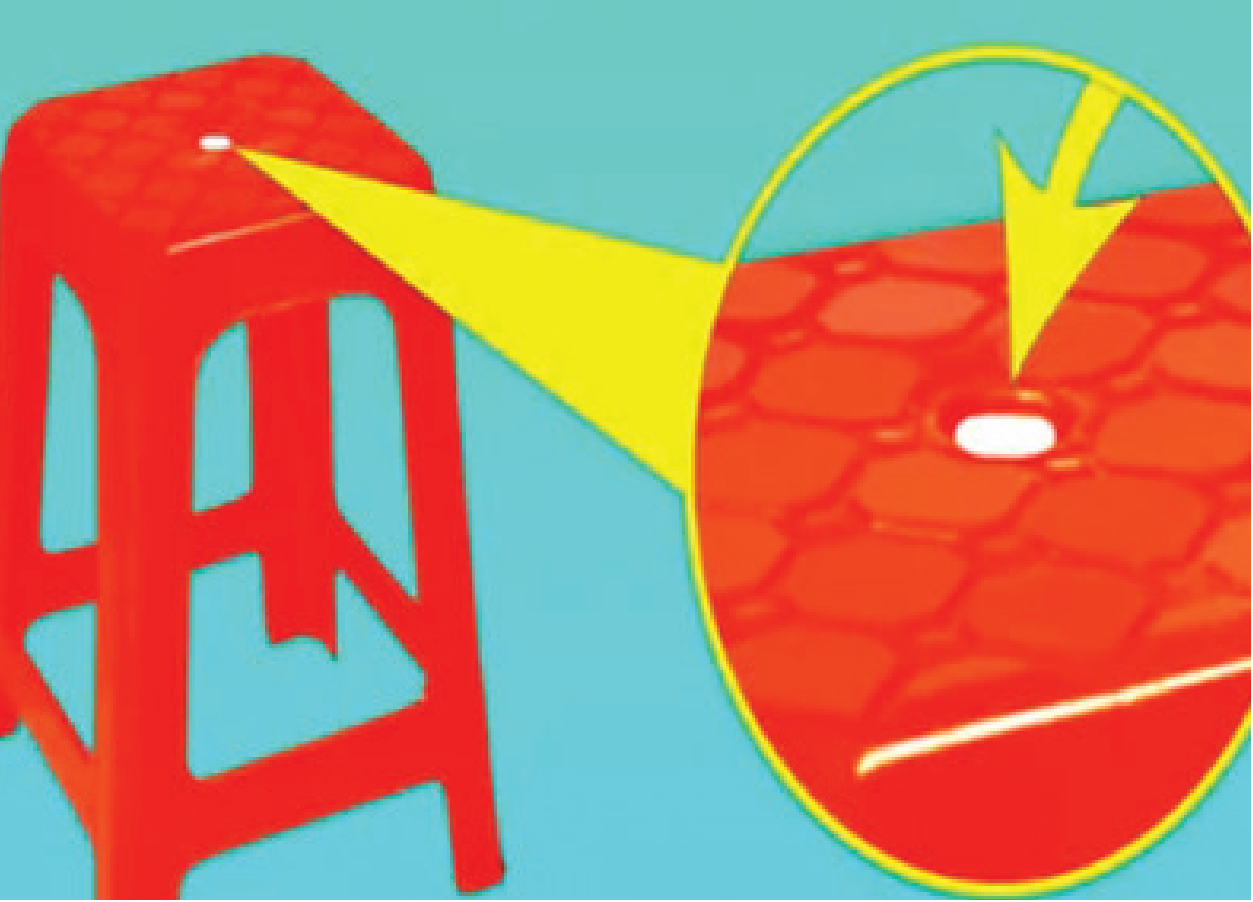
He also shared insights into delivery patterns. Most deliveries were within 2-3 km, and knowing the local roads helped him complete orders efficiently. He noted that rainy days, especially with light drizzle, often result in surge bonuses and fewer competing riders, allowing him to earn more in less time.

While many Reddit users saluted his dedication — one comment read, “Most of us don’t earn itna. Keep hustling!” — others raised questions about sustainability and whether



such earnings were feasible for all. Despite the long hours and physical demands, the agent’s story resonated with many as a powerful example of hard work, smart timing, and street knowledge. Whether viewed as inspiring or cautionary, his story adds a new dimension to the gig economy in urban India.

Why Plastic Stools Have a Hole in the Middle: The Practical Science Explained



If you’ve ever wondered why most plastic stools have a hole in the center, you’re not alone. While internet jokes claim it’s for releasing “fart air,” the real reason is far more practical — and scientifically sound.

This hole isn’t just a design choice or for aesthetic appeal. According to manufacturing experts, the primary purpose of the hole is to prevent vacuum formation during stacking. When plastic stools are stacked one on top of another, air can get trapped between them, creating suction. This makes the stools stick together and difficult to separate.

The hole allows air to flow freely, making stacking and unstacking easy — especially important in places like schools, factories, event venues, and homes where multiple stools are stored together.

From a production standpoint, plastic stools are manufactured using injection moulding, where melted plastic is poured into a mould. The hole not only helps in the de-moulding process but also reduces the amount of plastic used, leading to 10-15% material savings, which is significant for manufacturers.

There are other added benefits too:

- **Ease of Lifting:** The hole can serve as a grip or handle, making it easier to lift and move the stool.
- **Stable Stacking:** In some stool designs, the legs of the top stool fit into the hole of the one below, ensuring a tighter and more stable stack.

While memes have added humor to the mystery of the plastic stool hole, the real answer lies in engineering efficiency and functionality.

So, the next time you sit on a plastic stool or stack one away, remember — that simple hole is a clever solution to multiple practical challenges.

Apple Launches Vision Pro with M5 Chip and Dual Knit Band

Apple has officially unveiled the new Apple Vision Pro, now powered by the advanced M5 chip and featuring a redesigned Dual Knit Band for improved comfort and usability. The announcement was made on October 16, 2025, with the device promising a significant performance upgrade and an immersive next-gen experience.

Running on the latest visionOS 26, the updated Vision Pro offers enhanced spatial computing capabilities, smoother multitasking, and better power efficiency. The M5 chip brings superior processing power and AI integration, aimed at delivering more fluid mixed-reality experiences, from productivity to entertainment and gaming.

The new Dual Knit Band offers better weight distribution and comfort for longer usage. Apple claims it has been designed based on user feedback from the previous model, focusing on both aesthetics and ergonomics.

Key Features:

- **M5 Chip:** Improved CPU and GPU performance with built-in neural engine for AI-driven tasks.
- **visionOS 26:** Advanced software features for spatial interactions and enhanced compatibility with Apple ecosystem devices.
- **Micro-OLED Display:** High-resolution visuals with vivid color accuracy



and wide field of view.

- **Eye and Hand Tracking:** Enhanced precision for gesture control and navigation.
- **Dual Knit Band:** Comfortable, adjustable fit aimed at reducing fatigue during extended use.

Price and Availability:

The new Apple Vision Pro starts at \$3,499 and will be available in select global markets beginning November 10, 2025, with pre-orders opening on October 25 via the Apple Store and authorized resellers.

With this release, Apple aims to strengthen its position in the high-end spatial computing market, taking on rivals like Meta and Samsung in the premium AR/VR space.

Early responses suggest strong interest, especially from developers, tech enthusiasts, and enterprise users exploring immersive computing solutions.

Ahmedabad Recommended to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

Ahmedabad is on track to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games after receiving a strong recommendation from the Executive Board (EB) of Commonwealth Sport. The announcement came on October 15, 2025, signaling a major sporting milestone for the city and India.

The EB's recommendation is a significant step in the bidding process, positioning Ahmedabad as the preferred host for the prestigious multi-sport event, which will mark the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games. While the final decision will be formally made at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly scheduled in Glasgow on November 26, 2025, this is widely expected to be a procedural formality given the board's endorsement.

Ahmedabad's bid has been bolstered by extensive preparations and infrastructure development, including the construction of the state-of-the-art Veer Savarkar Sports Complex. The complex is expected to serve as one of the main venues for the Games, showcasing the city's readiness to host a large-scale international sporting event.

The Commonwealth Games, held every four years, bring together athletes from countries across the Commonwealth to compete in various sports, promoting camaraderie, unity, and sporting excellence. Hosting the 2030 Games will not only enhance Ahmedabad's global sporting profile but also drive infrastructure growth, tourism, and economic activity in the region.

This will be a landmark event for India, marking the country's increasing prominence in the global sports arena. Ahmedabad's successful bid follows India's hosting of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and reflects the country's ambition to continue playing a significant role in international sports.

Local officials and sports authorities have expressed confidence that Ahmedabad's facilities and organizational capabilities will meet the high standards expected for the Games. The city's rich cultural heritage and modern amenities are also seen as an advantage in welcoming athletes and visitors from across the Commonwealth.

Once officially confirmed at the November General Assembly, Ahmedabad will join the ranks of elite host cities that have staged the Commonwealth Games, benefiting from years of planning, investment, and international attention.

In summary, Ahmedabad's recommendation by the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board marks a promising future for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with the final approval expected soon, signaling India's continued rise as a global sports host.



Lakshya Sen and Satwik Advance to Denmark Open 2025



Indian badminton stars Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made a strong start at the Denmark Open 2025, progressing into the tournament's pre-quarterfinals with impressive wins in their opening matches.

Competing at the Jyske Bank Arena, world

No. 21 Lakshya Sen faced Ireland's Nhat Nguyen, ranked 28th in men's singles. Sen recovered from a slow start to clinch a thrilling three-game victory with scores of 10-21, 21-8, 21-18 in a match lasting one hour and 19 minutes. Sen lost the first game decisively but bounced back strongly in the second, conceding only eight

points to force a decider. The final game was tightly contested, with both players exchanging points before Sen held his nerve to secure the win. This victory marked Sen's third triumph in four matches against Nguyen. Notably, Lakshya Sen was a semi-finalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, and this win bolsters his confidence moving forward in the tournament.

In men's doubles, the Indian duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded sixth, overcame the Scottish pair Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley 17-21, 21-11, 21-17. The match lasted one hour and four minutes and saw the Indian pair recover after losing the first game 17-21. Satwik and Chirag responded emphatically in the second, dominating 21-11 to level the contest. The final game was fiercely competitive, with the Scottish duo holding a narrow 11-10 lead at the interval. However, the Indians surged ahead in the second half, winning 11 of the next 17 points to seal their place in the next round. Satwik and Chirag are looking to improve on their recent performances, where they finished runners-up at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters last month.

On the other hand, Indian mixed doubles pair Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan faced an early exit after losing 21-14, 21-11 to Indonesia's Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil.

As the Denmark Open progresses, Indian shuttlers will be hoping to carry this momentum deeper into the competition.

India Junior Hockey Team Falls 2-4 to Australia at Sultan of Johor Cup 2025

The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team faced a 2-4 defeat against Australia in their fourth pool-stage match of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 held in Johor, Malaysia. The Blue Colts' goals came from Captain Rohit (22') and Arshdeep Singh (60'), while Australia's goals were scored by Oscar Sproule (39', 42'), Andrew Patrick (40'), and their Captain Dylan Downey (51').

The first quarter was closely contested, with India dominating possession and controlling the tempo. Australia had an early chance, but Indian goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh made a crucial save. India's attacking pressure continued, and despite a missed penalty corner flick by Anmol Ekka in the 17th minute, Rohit successfully converted a penalty corner in the 22nd minute to give India the lead.

In the third quarter, Australia staged a strong comeback, scoring three consecutive goals. Oscar Sproule equalized in the 39th minute with a well-placed strike from the right flank. A minute later, Andrew Patrick put Australia ahead with a deflection during a penalty corner. Sproule then scored his second goal in the 42nd minute with a powerful backhand shot, turning the tide firmly in Australia's favor.

India tried to respond, winning a penalty corner in the 49th minute, but Rohit's flick missed the target. Australia extended their lead when Captain Dylan Downey scored from their fifth penalty corner in the 51st minute. In the final minute, Arshdeep Singh scored a skillful deflection to close the gap to 2-4, but India couldn't find another goal before the final whistle.

This loss puts India's hopes in the tournament under pressure as they prepare for their remaining matches in the pool stage. The Blue Colts will need to regroup and focus on



their upcoming fixtures to stay in contention at the Sultan of Johor Cup.

Tearful Naomi Osaka Battles Injury to Reach Japan Open Quarter-Finals



Naomi Osaka fought through pain and emotion to secure a hard-fought victory and reach the quarter-finals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, marking a poignant moment for the home favorite playing on Japanese soil for the first time in three years.

The top-seeded Osaka faced defending champion Suzan Lamens in a gripping three-set match, eventually winning 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 in a contest lasting two hours and 20 minutes. Osaka's victory was marked by resilience as she battled an injury that forced a medical timeout when she was leading 5-0 in the deciding set.

During the medical break, Osaka received treatment for a left leg injury and returned to the court with heavy strapping on her thigh. Despite the discomfort, she managed to close out the match after dropping two games post-treatment. The four-time Grand Slam champion was visibly emotional, wiping away tears after hitting the winning backhand shot and later describing the match as a mentally tough battle.

"Emotionally I was going through a lot in this match,"

Osaka said. "And then in the third set I tried my best to have no regrets."

Osaka admitted she had taken painkillers to manage the pain but acknowledged the injury "doesn't feel good." She explained her limited mobility, saying, "I couldn't really move that well." However, she remains optimistic about her recovery, adding, "It's not good, but I think I'm a fast healer so it should be OK for my next match."

The 27-year-old Osaka is returning to competitive tennis after a strong showing at the US Open, where she reached the semi-finals before losing to Amanda Anisimova. This marks her first major tournament progress beyond the second week since she won her second Australian Open title in 2021.

Osaka will next face Romania's Jaqueline Cristian in the quarter-finals, hoping to continue her comeback despite the injury setback. Fans and analysts alike are keenly watching the Japanese star's performance, inspired by her grit and determination to play through adversity in front of her home crowd.

Virat Kohli Quashes ODI Retirement Rumors Ahead of Australia Series



Virat Kohli has put to rest all speculation about his One Day International (ODI) future ahead of India's upcoming series against Australia. The former captain, who has retired from Test and T20I cricket, remains active only in the ODI format. Kohli's recent cryptic social media post on X (formerly Twitter) — "The only time you truly fail, is when you decide to give up" — was widely interpreted as a response to rumors about his potential retirement.

With the 2027 ODI World Cup approaching, fans and cricket experts have been debating whether Kohli will continue representing India in the limited-overs format. Some Australian players speculated that this tour Down Under could be his last. However, sources close to the team clarified that Kohli's post was meant to silence doubts about his commitment.

During the squad announcement, chief selector Ajit Agarkar confirmed that Kohli, along with

Rohit Sharma, has been selected with the 2027 World Cup in mind. "Not as far as I know. They have met the required fitness standards and are part of our plans for the World Cup," Agarkar said. He dismissed rumors of retirement, emphasizing that the selection was based on current fitness and form.

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir also addressed the issue following India's 2-0 series win over the West Indies. He stressed the importance of focusing on the present and expressed hope that the experienced duo of Kohli and Rohit would perform well in Australia's challenging conditions. "The 50-over World Cup is still two and a half years away. Their experience will be crucial," Gambhir added.

With Kohli and Rohit both cleared for selection and committed to the team, the cricket fraternity can expect the veterans to continue their contributions in the ODI format for at least the next couple of years.

Final Destination: Bloodlines Now Streaming on Jio Hotstar



The chilling sixth installment in the popular Final Destination franchise, Final Destination: Bloodlines, has officially made its digital debut in India. The supernatural horror thriller is now streaming on JioCinema (Jio Hotstar) in multiple languages, including English, Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi, giving horror fans a wide array of options to experience the film.

Directed by Zach Lipovsky and Adam Stein, Bloodlines stars Kaitlyn Santa Juana in the lead role and has already made a strong impression at the box office, emerging as the highest-grossing film in the long-running franchise. The movie's theatrical run was especially successful in India, where horror cinema has seen a growing fanbase in recent years.

The film carries an A (Adults Only) rating due to its intense horror sequences and mature themes, staying true to the franchise's

signature mix of suspense, supernatural elements, and unexpected twists of fate.

For viewers who prefer alternate platforms, Final Destination: Bloodlines is also available on Amazon Prime Video as a pay-per-view option, allowing users to rent the film for a fee.

With its OTT launch, the film is expected to draw in a fresh wave of viewers who missed it in theatres or are eager to rewatch it from the comfort of their homes. Given its success and critical praise for delivering tense, unpredictable scares, Bloodlines may find a strong second life in the digital space.

More updates on upcoming OTT releases and streaming debuts are expected in the coming days as platforms gear up for the festive season lineup. For now, horror fans can buckle up for a terrifying ride with Final Destination: Bloodlines, now streaming on Jio Hotstar.

Mithra Mandali: Patchy Comedy That Misses the Mark



The much-hyped small-budget comedy drama Mithra Mandali, starring Priyadarshi and Niharika NM, hit the screens today (October 16, 2025). Directed by Vijayendar S, the film attempts to blend friendship, love, and chaos into a quirky narrative but ends up being a largely underwhelming ride.

The story revolves around four aimless friends — Chaitanya (Priyadarshi), Satvik (Vishnu Oi), Abhi (Rag Mayur), and Rajeev (Prasad Behara) — whose lives take a chaotic turn when Abhi and Satvik fall for the same girl, Swecha (Niharika NM), a politician's daughter. Chaitanya decides to help them, but things spiral into unexpected trouble.

While the film does deliver a few laughs, thanks mostly to Satya's hilarious cameo and Priyadarshi's comic timing, the humor is inconsistent. Satya, with his unique characterization, stands out and injects much-needed en-

ergy whenever he's on screen.

The first half offers some light-hearted fun, but the second half loses steam quickly. A self-aware opening that jokes about the absence of a solid story doesn't do enough to excuse the lack of engaging content. The plot meanders, with scattered comic moments that fail to connect due to weak writing and poor editing.

Technically, RR Dhruvan's music and Siddharth SJ's cinematography are decent, but they can't compensate for the lack of narrative grip. The editing by Peekay feels sluggish, especially in the second half.

In summary, Mithra Mandali is a mixed bag that tries to emulate successful comedies like Jathi Ratnalu but falls short. Despite a few enjoyable scenes and a committed cast, the film fails to maintain interest, making it a forgettable experience.

Rating: 2.5/5 – A few laughs, but not enough to save the film.

Khalifa Glimpses Unveiled on Prithviraj's Birthday

Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran turned a year older today, and his fans were in for a special treat. To mark the occasion, the makers of his upcoming film Khalifa unveiled the first glimpse of the highly anticipated gangster drama.

Titled "The Bloodline," the teaser introduces Prithviraj in a fierce and intense avatar as Aamir Ali, a powerful gangster operating in the world of the gold mafia. The visuals are gripping, hinting at a dark and gritty narrative packed with action, betrayal, and power struggles.

Directed by Vaishakh, Khalifa promises to be a stylish action entertainer with a fresh backdrop rarely explored in Malayalam cinema. The film is set in the murky underworld of gold smuggling and mafia networks, and Prithviraj's character seems to be at the heart of it all.

The film is being jointly produced by Jinu V. Abraham and Suraj Kumar, with music by Jakes Bejoy, whose pulsating background score in the teaser has already caught the attention of fans. The technical team and production values showcased in the glimpse suggest a high-budget venture with pan-Indian appeal.

Khalifa is slated for a grand release in 2026 during the Onam festival season, making it one of the most awaited Malayalam films of the coming year. With Prithviraj playing a never-before-seen gangster role, expectations are sky-high.

The teaser has already gone viral across social media, with fans and



film buffs lauding the slick visuals, intense tone, and Prithviraj's commanding screen presence.

As anticipation builds, Khalifa looks set to be a landmark film in Prithviraj Sukumaran's career and a major highlight of Malayalam cinema in 2026. The teaser has already caught the attention of fans. The technical team and production val-

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Mahesh Babu to Launch Trailer of 'Jatadhara'



Superstar Mahesh Babu is all set to launch the theatrical trailer of the much-anticipated socio-mythological film Jatadhara, adding significant momentum to the movie's already growing buzz. Known for supporting promising content, Mahesh's involvement is expected to give the film a wider reach and elevate its visibility among audiences.

Jatadhara features Sudheer Babu in the lead, portraying a fierce devotee of Lord Shiva who takes on the forces of evil. Making her Telugu cinema debut, Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha plays the antagonist, adding an intriguing twist to the film's narrative. The unusual casting and powerful character arcs have already captured the attention of moviegoers.

Directed by Venkat Kalyan and Abhishek Jaiswal, the film promises a visually rich and spiritually engaging experience. The story reportedly delves into the mystical secrets and hidden treasures of

ancient Indian temples, a concept rarely explored at this scale in Indian cinema.

Produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal and Prerna Arora, Jatadhara is being made on a grand scale, with elaborate sets, VFX, and a multi-language release plan. The promotional material released so far — including the teaser and posters — has struck a chord with fans, who are now eagerly awaiting the trailer drop.

The film is slated for a theatrical release on 7th November 2025, and will be released in multiple languages, aiming for a pan-India audience. With Mahesh Babu backing the trailer release, expectations are sky-high for this epic.

As the countdown begins, all eyes are now on the trailer launch, which is expected to showcase the film's grandeur, intense performances, and its spiritual-meets-action theme that could set new benchmarks in Indian mythological storytelling.



STR's Arasan Becomes Saamrajyam in Telugu; Jr NTR Lends Voice for Promo Salman Khan in?

Silambarasan TR (STR) and acclaimed director Vetri Maaran have teamed up for the much-anticipated Tamil film Arasan, which now officially has a Telugu title — Saamrajyam. The makers revealed the update today, along with an exciting surprise for Telugu fans.

Adding star power to the project, none other than Jr NTR has lent his voice for the Telugu promo of Saamrajyam, which is set to be unveiled tomorrow (October 17, 2025) at 10:07 AM. The Tamil version of the promo will also be released simultaneously.

Saamrajyam marks STR's 49th film and brings together some of the most talented names in the industry. Though the full cast is yet to be officially confirmed, reports suggest that Samantha Ruth Prabhu is in talks to play the female lead, raising expectations even further.

The film is being bankrolled by noted producer Kalaipuli S. Thanu

under the prestigious banner V Creations. Known for delivering intense, hard-hitting cinema, director Vetri Maaran is reportedly helming Saamrajyam as a two-part epic, promising a grand cinematic experience.

With Jr NTR lending his voice to the promo, the Telugu version is expected to gain massive traction. The collaboration between STR and Vetri Maaran, combined with NTR's involvement, has sparked a wave of excitement among fans across both Telugu and Tamil industries.

More details about the storyline, cast, and release plans are expected soon. For now, all eyes are on tomorrow's promo release, which will offer the first glimpse into this high-profile project.

Stay tuned for the Saamrajyam promo launch at 10:07 AM on October 17 — a moment set to kick off the reign of STR's next cinematic chapter.