



BUZZ POINTS



RELAXATION
FOR MITHUN
REDDY FROM
ACB COURT

MP Mithun Reddy Gets Conditional Court Permission to Travel Abroad. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Member of Parliament from Rajampet, P. Mithun Reddy, has received a significant relief as the Vijayawada Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court granted him conditional permission to travel abroad. According to the court's order issued on Friday, he is allowed to visit New York, United States, from October 23 to November 4, under a set of specific conditions aimed at ensuring his accountability during the trip. The court's decision comes in response to a petition filed by MP Mithun Reddy seeking permission to travel overseas for personal reasons.

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CAPTAIN WITH SOLDIERS - PAWAN KALYAN

TPN Bureau,

CAPTAIN WITH SOLDIERS - PAWAN KALYAN

Maravati, October 17: Pawan Kalyan Launches "Sena tho Senani" Program to Engage Youth in Political System. In a significant move aimed at fostering youth participation in Andhra Pradesh's political landscape, State Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) President Konidela Pawan Kalyan un-

veiled the party's new program "Sena to Senani - Let's walk together for our land." Addressing the media and his followers on Friday through a virtual message, Pawan Kalyan stressed that active participation of the younger generation in politics is essential for meaningful change in society. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan

Kalyan said, "I am determined to involve the new generation of youth in the political system. Everyone who desires to see transformation in society should have the opportunity to contribute their services to our motherland."

Stressing the need for innovation and inclusivity, he announced that the

Jana Sena Party would soon initiate the "Sena to Senani" program. Through this initiative, enthusiastic young men and women will be given a unique platform to choose issues that matter to them, work collaboratively, and provide meaningful services in their chosen domains. The Deputy Chief Minister noted that mere wishful thinking does not bring about change. "Change does not occur

just because you want it. It comes through consistent and determined effort. I urge everyone, especially the youth, to come forward and become part of this endeavor," Pawan Kalyan emphasized. The program, according to party sources, is targeted at college and university students, young professionals, and other socially conscious youth who aspire to

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TRIAL IS SURE FOR ACCUSED
OF FAKE LIQUOR



TPN BUREAU,

under strict supervision and precision.

Chittoor, Oct 17: Fake Liquor Case Chittoor: Excise Police Intensity Probe into Ten Accused - Separate Interrogation of Key Suspect Katta Surendra Naidu.

The investigation into the sensational fake liquor case that rocked Molakalacheruvu in Chittoor district has gained momentum with the excise department commencing the interrogation of all ten accused. Acting upon the orders of the Tamballa Palle court, the excise police took custody of the accused, who had been remanded to the Madanapalle sub-jail, on Friday morning for a detailed probe. According to sources, the investigation is being carried out

Before beginning the interrogation, the excise officers shifted the ten accused to the Madanapalle Government Hospital for mandatory medical examinations. Following the tests, they were brought to the excise office in Madanapalle, where questioning sessions began immediately. Among the ten accused, the focus of the investigation has been drawn particularly to the alleged mastermind, identified as A13 Katta Surendra Naidu. Police sources confirmed that Surendra Naidu is being interrogated separately, considering his reported key role in the entire operation.

The court has permitted his questioning for a

period of three days, allowing investigators to extract crucial information regarding the manufacturing, distribution, and financial chain behind the illegal liquor business. The remaining nine accused are being interrogated separately by different teams within the excise department. Officials stated that the Tamballa Palle court had granted two days of custody for the remaining accused, emphasizing the urgency of uncovering how the fake liquor network expanded across the region. The investigation team has now begun piecing together details of how the culprits managed to produce and distribute counterfeit liquor under the guise of branded products,

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OUR AIM IS TO
ERADICATE POVERTY - CBN

On the occasion of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has urged the people of the state to actively join hands in the government's ambitious 'P-4 Zero Poverty' programme. In a social media post on X, the CM emphasized that eradicating poverty is not merely about giving financial aid but also about protecting the dignity of the poor and providing them with opportunities to grow and progress equally. Chandrababu Naidu explained that the coalition government has been relentlessly working towards the eradication of poverty since the very first day of assuming office.

TPN Bureau,

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MINING POLICY FOR
VADDERA COMMUNITY

CM Orders Policy for Mining Leases to Vaddera Community; Calls for Scientific Study on Mineral Wealth

TPN |

Vijayawada Oct 17: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the Mines and Geology Department to undertake a comprehensive scientific study to assess the total value of mineral resources available across Andhra Pradesh. Chairing an extensive review meeting on the mining sector and the free sand policy at the State Secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister emphasized that



sized that adopting a systematic and value-added approach to mineral exploitation can drastically increase the State's revenue potential. Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the de-

partment has set an ambitious revenue target of ₹3,320 crore for the 2025-26 financial year from both major and minor minerals a 34 percent rise over the

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THEY ARE JUST FALSE RUMORS

TTD Chairman Denounces False Rumors on Tirumala Laddu Price Hike: Assurance of Stable Rates Brings Relief to Devotees

TPN BUREAU,

Tirumala, Oct 17: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) administration has issued categorical clarification regarding recent rumors and speculation about possible price hikes for the Tirumala Srivari Laddu prasadam, a sa-

cred offering regarded with immense reverence by devotees worldwide. The TTD Chairman, BR Naidu, expressed strong disappointment and frustration at the persistent false propaganda regarding the laddu price, asserting that certain media outlets are deliberately misleading the public and attempting to

damage the reputation of both TTD and the Andhra Pradesh government.

For centuries, the Srivari Laddu has held a special place in the hearts of millions of devotees visiting the holy Tirumala shrine. As the iconic prasadam distributed after the darshan of Lord Ven-

kateswara, the laddu symbolizes not only the blessings received but also the warmth and generosity with which TTD serves pilgrims from across the globe. The news of a possible price increase triggered widespread concern and debate among devotees and temple regulars, sparking anxious inquir-

ies at counters and a flurry of social media discussions. Responding decisively to the swirling rumors, Chairman BR Naidu held a media briefing, forcefully refuting the reports of any plan to raise the price of the Srivari Laddu.

He called out the irre-

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REFORMS ARE AID TO FUTURE - CBN

TPN

Vijayawada, Oct 17: Reforms Are the Key to Changing the Future, Says CM Naidu Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that reforms are the driving force of progress, stating that only through consistent and forward-looking changes can the future be shaped meaningfully. Addressing

young winners of the "Super GST - Super Savings" campaign at the State Secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister underscored that reforms must evolve with time to meet the aspirations of a developing society. Seventeen students from the thirteen erstwhile districts of the state were felicitated by the Chief Minister for winning various competitions held under the campaign.



sion, the Chief Minister conversed with the students, congratulating them for their thoughtful participation and creative expression. He

them now fall under the 0% and 5% tax brackets. Impressed by their understanding, Mr. Naidu elaborated on the broader impact of reforms

the process. Just as a tree takes time to bear fruit, reforms, too, yield lasting benefits in the long run," the Chief Minister remarked. He

my where citizens enjoy more equitable opportunities. Encouraging the young participants to think critically about public policies and gov-

ernance, Mr. Naidu said the involvement of youth in understanding reforms is crucial for national progress.

"You are the future of this state and this country. The more you understand about governance, taxation, and reforms, the better prepared you will be to lead with integrity and innovation," he told the students. The Chief Minister also appreciated the initiative of the Commercial Tax-

es Department for creatively engaging students to spread awareness about GST and its impact on everyday life.

He suggested that similar awareness campaigns should be extended to schools and colleges across the state to ensure future generations understand the significance of responsible governance and economic policy. Concluding

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MINING POLICY FOR VADDERA COMMUNITY

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previous year's earnings.

They noted that manganese alone accounts for over 72 percent of the major mineral revenue. Responding to the update, the Chief Minister directed officials to assess the total economic worth of Andhra Pradesh's mineral wealth, citing the example of Odisha, which

earns more than ₹50,000 crore annually through mineral value addition. "If we adopt a similar vision plan, Andhra Pradesh could generate ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 crore from mineral-based industries," Naidu said. The Chief Minister also issued specific instructions for formulating a new policy to allocate mining leases to members of the Vaddera com-

munity. He proposed that draft guidelines be prepared to enable 15 percent reservation in mining leases for Vadderas and cooperative societies, to be presented at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting, Naidu emphasized that the new policy must ensure tangible economic benefits for the community by offering a 50 percent concession on seigniorage fees and pre-

mium amounts. He suggested integrating the proposed policy with the State's MSME initiatives to help Vaddera entrepreneurs develop sustainable small-scale mining businesses. Highlighting the need for transparency and accountability in the mining sector, Naidu urged officials to deploy advanced technologies such as satellite imagery,

drones, and analytics tools to track mining operations in real time. He stressed that officials should regularly compare permitted excavation levels with actual extraction to prevent illegal mining. Special attention, he said, should be given to the exploitation of heavy minerals like beach sand, which can yield substantial revenue through value-add-

ed processing. The Chief Minister also called for a detailed feasibility study on the supply of iron ore for the upcoming Kadapa Steel Plant.Reaffirming the government's commitment to transparency under the free sand policy, Naidu instructed officials to ensure that sand reaches beneficiaries without middlemen or corruption. He

directed that transportation costs be kept minimal and that all stock points and border check-posts operate under CCTV surveillance. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 66.5 lakh metric tonnes of sand have been stocked for the current season, with 43 lakh tonnes already available at various depots. Naidu insisted that sand

availability be monitored through the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) system to guarantee efficient public service delivery. Mines and Geology Minister Kollu Ravindra, Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena, Commissioner Praveen Kumar, and senior officials of the department and RTGS attended the review meeting.

TRIAL IS SURE FOR ACCUSED OF FAKE LIQUOR

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causing wide public concern and endangering lives.

An extensive team comprising Kadapa Assistant Commissioner Chandrasekhar Reddy, Annamaya District Excise Assistant Superintendent Jogendra, and another senior officer from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to lead the inquiry. The officers are jointly interrogating the suspects and cross-verifying statements to identify inconsistencies and discover potential links to larger networks. Initial questioning, according to insiders, hints at

the involvement of certain organized groups that may have extended their operations beyond Chittoor district.

The investigation is exploring whether illegal raw materials and packaging equipment were sourced from neighboring states. Authorities suspect that the fake liquor may have been distributed to local shops and outlets under false labeling, evading excise supervision. The case has stirred major public outrage, pressing the authorities to ensure a fair and thorough probe. Senior officials have reiterated their commitment to tracing every link in

the chain right from production units to distribution networks.

If proven, the case could expose one of the largest illicit liquor manufacturing rings in the Rayalaseema region in recent times.As the interrogation continues, speculation grows regarding possible revelations from the prime accused that could lead to further arrests.The coming days are expected to be crucial for the investigation team, which is determined to uncover the full truth behind the Molakalacheruvu fake liquor case and bring all those responsible to justice.

THEY ARE JUST FALSE RUMORS - TTD CHAIRMAN

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1
sponsible behavior of certain television channels and online media platforms for broadcasting baseless allegations. "There is absolutely no question of increasing the price of Srivari Laddu. Such news is completely unfounded and misleading," said Naidu, emphasizing that TTD remains committed to upholding the traditions and accessibility of its sacred prasadams. Naidu went further, declaring that the spread of such rumors is not only mischievous but also aimed at eroding public trust in TTD's management and the government.

He expressed anguish at attempts to tarnish the image of a trust that has for decades administered the world-renowned Tirumala temple with integrity and dedication. He stressed that the current price of the Srivari Laddu would remain unchanged, and devotees need not pay heed to misinformation spread for ulterior motives. The episode has shed light on the growing problem of fake news in the digital age, especially with sensitive is-

ssues linked to faith and religious sentiments. For TTD, maintaining the sanctity and transparency of its operations is an ongoing priority.

The administration further assured that any official decisions regarding temple services, including the prices of prasadams, would always be communicated clearly through credible channels.In conclusion, the TTD Chairman urged devotees and the public to rely exclusively on official announcements and ignore unsubstantiated claims circulating in the media.

His clear and robust declaration has put to rest rising anxiety among pilgrims and reestablished the trust that TTD continues to honor the centuries-old tradition of serving Srivari Laddu at an affordable price to all.As devotees continue to arrive at Tirumala for darshan and religious observances, the assurance from TTD comes as a welcome relief, reaffirming the institution's commitment to upholding faith and tradition without succumbing to commercial pressures or rumors.

REFORMS ARE AID TO FUTURE - CBN

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his address, Mr. Naidu reiterated that reform-driven governance is not just an administrative agenda but a moral responsibility. "Reforms strengthen the foundation of so-

ciety. They help us adapt to the changing times and ensure that the benefits of development reach every individual, especially the youth who carry the hopes of tomorrow," he said.

CAPTAIN WITH SOLDIERS - PAWAN KALYAN

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contribute to governance, local development, environmental causes, education, and a host of civic initiatives. JSP representatives highlighted that the approach will be both digital and on-ground, enabling broad participation regardless of location. Pawan Kalyan also announced the opening of registrations for the event. The party has set up a QR code and digital link for easy registration, reflecting its aim to leverage technology in attracting the tech-savvy youth demographic.

Through a tweet on "X," Pawan Kalyan called upon interested individuals across the state to scan the code or

click the link to secure their participation in this pioneering event.Political analysts have noted the strategic timing of the move. Following the 2024 state assembly and Lok Sabha elections, which saw the Jana Sena Party gain unprecedented visibility, Pawan Kalyan has reiterated his commitment to youth engagement. Observers say that with Andhra Pradesh's significant youth population, such initiatives could reshape both party politics and the broader participatory landscape in the state.

Several district coordinators from JSP have already begun informal outreach campaigns in universities and colleg-

es. Early response indicates strong enthusiasm, with many youth expressing readiness to work on issues such as education reforms, environmental sustainability, and social justice. Party spokespersons summarized, "The energy and drive of young people is our state's greatest resource. Through 'Sena to Senani,' we intend to channel this strength towards nation-building."As the registrations pick up pace, all eyes are now on the rollout of "Sena tho Senani," which promises not only fresh ideas and vigor for the party but new hope for socially relevant action across Andhra Pradesh.

OUR AIM IS TO ERADICATE POVERTY - CBN

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1
In a social media post on X, the CM emphasized that eradicating poverty is not merely about giving financial aid but also about protecting the dignity of the poor and providing them with opportunities to grow and progress equally. Chandrababu Naidu explained that the coalition government has been relentlessly working towards the eradication of poverty since the very first day of assuming office.

Highlighting the government's welfare and development initiatives, he revealed that more than Rs 1 lakh crore worth of programs have been undertaken in just 16 months. One notable program is the 'NTR Bharosa Pensions,' which amounts to Rs 2,758 crore being distributed monthly the highest pension expenditure of its kind not seen anywhere else in the country.The CM also

cited the reopening of 207 'Anna Canteens' across Andhra Pradesh, serving affordable meals to the poor at just Rs 5, which is aimed at tackling hunger among the underprivileged. Through the 'Deepam 2.0' scheme, the government provides three free cooking gas cylinders annually to women from poor households, thereby promoting clean energy and reducing their financial burden.To support the education of children from impoverished backgrounds, the government runs the 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme, offering financial assistance of Rs 15,000 per year for every child studying in these families.

Additionally, the 'Stree Shakti' initiative provides free travel in RTC buses for all women, encouraging mobility and empowerment. Farmers receive support through the 'Annadata Sukhibhava'

scheme, with the first installment of Rs 7,000 already deposited to aid their livelihood. The government has also allocated Rs 246 crore under the 'Matsyakarkar Sevalo' scheme for fishermen and Rs 435 crore under the 'Auto Driver Sevalo' scheme, aiming to uplift these vulnerable occupational groups. Chandrababu Naidu underlined that the 'P-4 Zero Poverty' program is the path chosen by the government to illuminate the lives of the poor through these comprehensive welfare efforts.

He called on everyone to re-engage with the goal of poverty eradication and become active partners in the initiative. The main vision driving these efforts is encapsulated in the broader Swarnandhra Vision 2047, with poverty eradication as its primary mission.The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed globally on Oc-

tober 17, underlines the importance of dignity, justice, and inclusive development beyond mere economic assistance. It recognizes the need to combat social and institutional mistreatment that impoverished families often face and stress- es opportunities for growth and self-respect as critical components of eradication efforts.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's message resonates with this global theme, focusing on building a society where opportunities are equitable and the self-respect of every individual is safeguarded. The state's various schemes reflect the government's commitment to holistic development, covering financial aid, healthcare, education, and social inclusion—to ensure poverty is addressed at its roots. By encouraging every citizen to participate in the P-4 program, Chandrababu Naidu envisions a united front

where government, communities, and individuals together can secure a poverty-free future for Andhra Pradesh.

His appeal signifies the blending of policy measures with collective social responsibility to bring about sustainable change in the lives of millions across the state.This International Day for the Eradication of Poverty thus marks not only a reflection on past achievements but also a renewed commitment to continue fighting poverty through dignity, opportunity, and partnership. The P-4 program stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action for all stakeholders to join in this transformative journey. The Chief Minister's appeal and government initiatives represent a robust and inclusive framework designed to uplift the vulnerable sections of society while fostering economic and social progress.

MODI GIVES MORE PREFERENCE TO AP - SATYAKUMAR YADAV

TPN

VIJAYAWADA, Oct 17: PM Modi's Deep Affection for Andhra Pradesh Reflected in Frequent Visits: Minister Satya Kumar Yadav

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds a special place in his heart for the people of Andhra Pradesh, as reflected through his frequent visits and keen focus on the state's development. Addressing reporters following the Prime Minister's recent tour of Kurnool, the minister remarked that the successful visit once again reaffirmed PM Modi's unwavering commitment to the growth and welfare of Andhra Pradesh.

Satya Kumar Yadav expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for his consistent support to Andhra Pradesh's progress. He highlighted that among all Indian states, Andhra Pradesh enjoys a unique position in the Prime Minister's agenda for national development. "Since assuming office for the third term, Prime Minister Modi has visited Andhra Pradesh five times, inaugurating and laying foundations for key projects that will transform the state's economic landscape. This

record, unmatched by any other state, clearly shows his affection and priority towards the people of Andhra Pradesh," the minister said, adding that he had personally verified this information with the Prime Minister's Office.

Detailing the Prime Minister's visits, the minister listed several landmark occasions that have contributed to the state's development trajectory. PM Modi's first visit after assuming office in 2024 was on June 12, when he attended the oath-taking ceremony of the NDA government led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. "Both leaders are working tirelessly to translate the Prime Minister's vision into reality. With the strong partnership and guidance of the Union Government, Andhra Pradesh is set to emerge as one of the most developed states in the country," Yadav stated.

Reiterating that each of the Prime Minister's visits brought tangible developmental outcomes, the minister added that PM Modi's affection for Andhra Pradesh is reflected not only in words but in action through strategic investments, infrastructure creation, and consistent policy support aimed at improving people's lives across the state.

RELAXATION FOR MITHUN REDDY FROM ACB COURT

TPN

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After reviewing the case and hearing arguments from both sides, the ACB court agreed to grant approval with certain safeguards in place. The order stated that the parliamentarian must comply with all conditions before leaving the country and immediately upon his return.As per the court directives, Mithun Reddy must furnish two

sureties of ₹50,000 each before commencing his trip. These sureties act as a financial guarantee to the court, ensuring the MP's return to India within the stipulated time frame. Additionally, he is required to submit the complete details of his itinerary, including the address and contact information of his place of stay in New York.

Along with the travel details, the Vijayawada ACB court also instructed Mithun Reddy to provide his email ID and mobile phone number, to remain reachable during his stay abroad. This measure is intended to ensure that the authorities can contact him at any time if required for judicial or investigative purposes. Further, the court mandated that photocopies of the flight tickets booked for his New York visit must be presented before departure. This requirement aims to verify the authenticity of the trip and maintain a record of his travel schedule. On completion of his foreign visit, Mithun Reddy must surrender his passport to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials without delay.

This condition is part of the stringent measures placed on him to

prevent any misuse of travel privileges or failure to comply with ongoing legal processes. The conditional permission comes as a relief for the YSRCP MP, who has been facing legal proceedings connected to earlier cases under investigation by the ACB. While the nature of those cases was not elaborated upon in the court's latest directive, sources indicate that the court was cautious in balancing the petitioner's request with the ongoing judicial interests. Party sources within the YSR Congress said that the MP's trip is of a personal nature and that he intends to return by the first week of November as instructed by the court.

They also noted that Mithun Reddy has cooperated with investigative authorities in the past and is expected to comply fully with the current set of judicial conditions.With this permission, the Rajampet MP can now travel overseas with the court's approval, though he remains bound by legal obligations upon his return.The order marks an important development in his ongoing legal matters, giving temporary relief while reinforcing judicial oversight.

POLICE WEIGHTLIFTING CLUSTER ENDS

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 17: Second All India Police Weightlifting Cluster 2025-26 Concludes Grandly in Amaravati. The Second All India Police Weightlifting Cluster 2025-26, hosted by the Andhra Pradesh Police Department under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board, Delhi, concluded on a high note in Amara-vati on Friday. The five-day sporting extravaganza, held from October 13 to 17, witnessed remarkable displays of strength, endurance, and discipline by police athletes from across the nation. The closing ceremony was held at the Andhra Pradesh Special Police

Parade Grounds in Mangalagiri, with State Director General of Police and Cluster Chairman, Harish Kumar Gupta, IPS, presiding as the chief guest. Senior police officials, athletes, coaches, and dignitaries from various states attended the ceremony, which celebrated the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship among India's uniformed forces. Over 1,010 athletes from 32 teams representing different states, Union Territories, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) competed in three major disciplines — weightlifting, powerlifting, and

yoga. The weightlifting and powerlifting events were held at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU), Guntur, while the yoga competitions took place at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Amaravati, showcasing the excellent sporting infrastructure available in Andhra Pradesh. The championship produced fierce but friendly competition, with participants demonstrating high levels of physical fitness, commitment, and team coordination. In the overall medal tally, Uttar Pradesh Police topped the chart with 37 medals,

followed by the Border Security Force (BSF) with 33 medals, and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) with 20 medals. The host team, Andhra Pradesh Police, secured 6th place with a commendable 11 medals, earning appreciation for their consistent performance across all categories. In individual yoga events, Soniya Kumari (BSF) emerged as the most decorated athlete in the women's category, while Rajiv Kumar (Uttar Pradesh) led in the men's category, both earning accolades for their outstanding performances. Team results reflected strong competition: CISF

clinched first place in weightlifting (men & women) with Uttar Pradesh as runners-up; Uttar Pradesh dominated powerlifting, followed by Tamil Nadu; while BSF took top honors in yoga, with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan sharing the runners-up spot. Addressing the closing ceremony, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta lauded the athletes, coaches, and supporting teams for their dedication and discipline. He noted that the participants had elevated the prestige of the police forces through their exemplary sporting spirit. He also expressed gratitude to Joint Director



(IB) Abhishek, IPS, for his valuable guidance and praised IGP (Sports) KV Mohan Rao, IPS, and DIG (Welfare & Sports) KK N Anburajan, IPS, for their seamless coordination of the event. The DGP extended spe-

cial thanks to the Vice Chancellors of ANU and VIT Amaravati for their institutional support in hosting the competitions. In his concluding message, he emphasized that such national-level events strengthen unity

among police forces, promote physical fitness, and inspire excellence in service and teamwork. He formally declared the cluster closed, congratulating all winners and participants for their spirited performances.

AMADAGURU, A MODEL VILLAGE - PALLE SINDHURA REDDY

PTN BUREAU, Puttaparthi, Oct 17: MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy Selects Amadaguru as Model Village for Comprehensive Development. In a significant step toward rural transformation, Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy has selected Amadaguru Panchayat for development as a model village. A review meeting was held at the MLA camp office on Friday, attended by officials from various departments, to chart out a comprehensive development plan for the village. MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy emphasized that Amadaguru will be developed as an ideal village showcasing progress in every sector from infrastructure and sanitation to education, health, and digital connectivity. She held an extensive brainstorming session with officials and directed them to submit detailed departmental reports identifying key works to be undertaken. The MLA stressed that each department must actively contribute to creating a replicable model of rural growth that can inspire other villages in the constituency. During



the meeting, Palle Sindhura Reddy reviewed existing amenities in the Panchayat and discussed measures to upgrade them. She instructed the departments of rural development, agriculture, engineering, education, and health to prepare integrated action plans. Special attention will be given to roads, water facilities, the cleanliness mission, waste management, and women's empowerment programs. The MLA said the aim was to ensure people in Amadaguru benefit directly from government welfare and development schemes. Highlighting her commitment to public service, Palle Sindhura Reddy announced that public grievance meetings will be held every Friday to address the issues faced by local residents. These regular grievance sessions

will help deliver quick resolutions through direct coordination with concerned departments. The MLA advised the officials to utilize the time before the next review meeting to gather detailed field reports, which will be presented at the upcoming review to be held in Amadaguru itself. Former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy also participated in the discussions, stressing the need for sustainable planning, youth participation, and community involvement to ensure long-term results. He noted that Amadaguru's selection was inspired by its potential for holistic improvement and community cooperation. Meanwhile, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr. Palle Raghunath Reddy on Friday also met District Collector Shyam

Prasad to discuss the progress of development works related to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 100th birth anniversary celebrations. The meeting was held to review the ongoing projects in Puttaparthi and ensure smooth coordination among departments as part of the centenary preparations. The MLA and the former minister explained to the Collector the initiatives planned to beautify the area, strengthen infrastructure, and support the large inflow of devotees expected for the celebrations. Collector Shyam Prasad assured full administrative cooperation and appreciated their proactive approach in accelerating district development works. Municipal Commissioner Krantikumar, DE Narasimhamurthy, Engineer Satyanarayana, and other local officials took part in the interaction. The meetings reflected the commitment of the Puttaparthi leadership to combine spiritual heritage with tangible progress, making Amadaguru and the entire region a model for planned rural advancement in the Sathya Sai district.



LIQUOR MAFIA UNDER PROTECTION OF TDP

TPN / Vijayawada, OCT 17: Perni Nani Alleges Massive Fake Liquor Mafia Protected by TDP Leaders. In a scathing attack on the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), former minister and YSRCP leader Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) on Friday alleged that a sprawling fake liquor network is operating across Andhra Pradesh under the direct protection of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and senior party leaders. Addressing the media at the YSRCP Central Office in Vijayawada, Perni Nani accused the government of turning a blind eye to the illegal liquor trade, which he claimed has become a multi-crore daily racket endangering the lives of innocent citizens. He alleged that adulterated and spurious liquor is being openly sold through bars, belt shops, and permit rooms across the state with the tacit backing of powerful TDP

financiers and political operators. According to Nani, the TDP's much-publicized QR code system for liquor bottles is nothing but a diversionary ploy to distract the public from the ongoing illegal operations. He reminded that the QR code traceability system was originally introduced during the YSRCP regime to prevent smuggling and duplication. However, he charged that the TDP government had initially removed the system after coming to power to facilitate free circulation of fake liquor, and only restored it when the racket came to light. He further alleged that the fake liquor is being produced in areas like Mulakalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam and distributed statewide through more than 1.5 lakh illegal belt shops and 3,736 permit rooms. "What is the use of QR codes when you allow thousands of illegal outlets to operate with-

out regulation?" he questioned, challenging the government's claims of transparency and reform. Nani went on to name senior TDP leaders Jayachandra Reddy, Surendra Naidu, and Janardhan Rao as the masterminds behind the massive liquor network. Despite strong evidence, he said, no concrete action or arrests had been made. "The government is protecting mafia leaders while targeting ordinary YSRCP workers by issuing Red Corner Notices for trivial social media comments," he charged. Highlighting another major scam, Nani accused the ruling party of manipulating the bar policy to allow select bars to sell non-duty-paid liquor, thereby evading government stock purchases and taxes. He claimed that bar owners are forced to pay monthly bribes, and that the profits from such transactions are being

routed to the ruling party's coffers. Perni Nani demanded that the state government constitute an independent fact-finding committee comprising representatives of all political parties and journalists to verify bar stocks, check digital payment records, and investigate the controversial '99 liquor sale scheme. He also questioned the silence of Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, asking why he has not spoken out against what he called the "biggest liquor scam in India." Urging immediate action, the former minister called for statewide raids on bars and belt shops, arrests of mafia leaders, a complete rollback of what he termed the corrupt bar policy, and a judicial inquiry into the entire liquor network. "This is not governance; this is a criminal empire. Chandrababu Naidu is the political protector of the liquor mafia," Perni Nani asserted.

LEGAL NOTICES TO MOVIE TEAM

PTN BUREAU, Kaddapa, October 17, 2025: YS Viveka Case Accused Sends Legal Notice to 'Murder' Movie Team Over Vulgar Portrayal of Mother In a new development connected to the sensational YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case, one of the accused, Sunil Kumar Yadav, has issued legal notices to the production team of a recently released movie, alleging that his mother's character was portrayed in a vulgar and objectionable manner. The notice, sent through a Supreme Court advocate on Friday, demands an explanation from the movie unit within seven days, failing which, Sunil warned he would initiate a defamation suit seeking 5 crore in damages. According to Sunil Kumar Yadav, the movie unit has deliberately misrepresented his family in the film, which he claims has caused deep emotional distress and tarnished their reputation. Yadav stated that certain scenes de-



meaned his mother and projected their family in a humiliating light under the guise of creative freedom. He asserted that no prior consent or verification was sought by the filmmakers, who allegedly used real-life references closely linked to the YS Viveka murder case. The controversy centers around a movie apparently inspired by the high-profile killing of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy, the younger brother of late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Vivekananda Reddy was found dead at his residence in Pulivendula on March 15, 2019. While

his death was initially attributed to a heart attack, the subsequent postmortem report revealed homicide, leading to widespread shock and suspicion across Andhra Pradesh's political circles. The murder case later became the subject of intense investigation and media scrutiny. Amid rising doubts and demands from the family, particularly from YS Sunitha, Viveka's daughter, the court finally transferred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI's probe, which involved multiple suspects and political twists, remains one of the most

closely followed criminal cases in recent years. Capitalizing on public curiosity surrounding the case, several Telugu filmmakers have produced movies inspired by the incident. Among them, a film titled 'Vivekam' was released earlier, exploring the murder mystery through fictionalized elements. Following that, another controversial film titled 'Khatya' hit digital platforms on January 25, 2025, drawing both attention and criticism for its resemblance to actual individuals connected to the case. It is this second film, reportedly available on OTT platforms,

that prompted Sunil Yadav's legal notice. He claims the filmmakers intentionally depicted his mother's character in a manner that crosses ethical and legal boundaries. The notice insists on an official apology and removal or correction of the offending scenes. Sunil maintains that the depiction was not only insulting to his family but also prejudicial to his ongoing legal battle in the YS Viveka proceedings. As of now, the makers of the "Murder" movie have not issued any public response to the notice. Legal experts suggest that if the allegations are substantiated, the case could open a significant debate over creative freedom versus defamation in films based on real-life criminal cases. With emotions still raw and investigations continuing under the CBI, the issue adds yet another layer of tension to one of Andhra Pradesh's most contentious murder cases.

GREEN SIGNAL FOR DIWALI GIFT TO NGOS

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 17: Naidu Gives Green Signal for Political Appointments as Diwali Gifts to Party Loyalists and NGOs. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has finally cleared the decks for long-awaited political appointments across Andhra Pradesh, describing the move as a Diwali gift to party loyalists, supporters, and social organizations that stood firmly behind the coalition government. The decision, which has generated considerable buzz in political circles, is seen as an effort to reward dedication, recognize contributions to public causes, and strengthen the system of participatory governance. According to sources in the Chief Minister's Office, the government has decided to fill nominated posts in several corporations, commissions, and advisory

bodies before the festival. The exercise, which had been pending since the formation of the coalition government, gained urgency after senior leaders urged the Chief Minister to acknowledge the sacrifices and efforts of individuals and groups who actively supported the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) during the recent Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. Party insiders revealed that Naidu has been particularly keen on recognizing those who, despite not holding official positions in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) during the previous term, played a significant role in exposing the alleged misgovernance of the YSRCP government. Many intellectuals, activists, and professionals who were part of the

Amaravati capital movement have already been inducted into various government bodies and advisory positions as an expression of gratitude and appreciation. Prominent among the names being discussed is that of Mohammad Farooq Shubli, an educationist and social activist known for his long-standing commitment to community development and minority welfare. Shubli, the founder-president of the Minority Hakkula Porata Samati, has been widely acknowledged for his advocacy of educational reforms and empowerment initiatives among marginalized sections. Sources in the TDP indicate that both Chief Minister Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh have responded positively to the proposal to appoint him as Chairman of the State Minority Commission.

‘2 CRORE’ WORTH JEWELLERY PRESENTED TO MAA DURGA - KIRTILAL JEWELLERY

TPN BUREAU, VI-JAYAWADA, OCT 17: Kirtilal Jewellery Presents Diamond-Studded Gold Ornaments Worth Rs. 2 Crore to Goddess Kanakadurgamma at Indrakeeladri VIJAYAWADA.

In a grand gesture of devotion and religious reverence, renowned jewellery house Kirtilal Jewellery presented exquisite gold ornaments embedded with diamonds, valued at Rs. 2 crore, to Goddess Kanakadurgamma at the sacred Indrakeeladri temple on Thursday evening. The magnificent offering was made during a special ceremony held within the temple premises, marking a significant moment in the temple's history. The elaborate collection of ornaments included traditional pieces such as sun and moon motifs, an ornate nose ring, elegant bulaki, decorative bottu, sacred sutras, chains, and an intricate necklace. These precious items were crafted using 531 grams of pure gold and adorned with carefully selected diamonds,



showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and attention to detail that Kirtilal Jewellery is renowned for.

The ceremonial presentation was conducted in the presence of temple chairman Borra Radhakrishna and Executive Officer Seena Nayak, who formally received the ornaments on behalf of the temple administration. The duo expressed their gratitude for this generous contribution, which will enhance the divine beauty of the goddess during various festivals and spe-

cial occasions. The ceremony witnessed the attendance of several distinguished personalities, adding prestige to the religious occasion. Tamil Nadu Governor's wife, Lakshmi Ravi, graced the event with her presence, demonstrating the inter-state reverence for the goddess. Former Members of Parliament Gokaraju Gangaraju and Kanumuri Bapiraju were also present, highlighting the political significance and widespread respect for the temple.

Kirtilal Jewellery Director Suraj Shanthaku-

mar, accompanied by his wife, personally oversaw the presentation ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Shanthakumar expressed his family's deep devotion to Goddess Kanakadurgamma and emphasized their commitment to supporting religious institutions and preserving traditional craftsmanship. The Indrakeeladri temple, situated on the banks of the Krishna River in Vijayawada, holds immense religious significance for devotees across Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states. Goddess Kanakadurgamma, the presiding deity, is revered as the patron saint of the region and attracts millions of pilgrims annually, especially during the auspicious Dussehra festival.

This generous donation by Kirtilal Jewellery reflects the continuing tradition of corporate social responsibility in supporting religious and cultural institutions. The ornaments will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the goddess but also serve as a testament to the devo-

tion of contemporary business leaders toward preserving ancient traditions. The temple administration announced that these ornaments will be displayed during major festivals and special puja ceremonies, allowing devotees to witness the divine beauty enhanced by these precious offerings. The intricate designs and superior craftsmanship of the ornaments are expected to attract art enthusiasts and devotees alike.

This significant contribution underscores the harmonious relationship between modern business enterprises and traditional religious institutions, demonstrating how contemporary success can be channeled toward preserving cultural heritage and supporting spiritual centers that serve millions of faithful devotees. The event concluded with special prayers and blessings, with all attendees expressing their appreciation for this remarkable gesture of faith and devotion toward Goddess Kanakadurgamma.

NEW LEADERSHIP CHART FOR FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

New Leadership Charts Growth Path for AP Food Processing Industries.

TPN BUREAU, Vijayawada, Oct. 17: The Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Industries Federation (APFPPIF), an affiliate of the AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), has ushered in a new era of leadership and sector-focused initiatives following its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday. The event, attended by top industry and government officials, set the tone for strategic collaboration designed to accelerate the state's burgeoning food processing sector.

At the AGM, Potluri Bhaskara Rao, the founder of APFPPIF and a key figure in the state's industrial development, was reconfirmed as the Honorary Chairman. New office-bearers were formally inducted, including Velagapudi Sambasiva Rao as President, Dr Prasad as Vice President, Vamsi Vetcha as General Secretary, Dr Challa Sekhar Reddy as Treasurer, and P Ram Mohan as Joint Secretary. The leaders promised to infuse fresh energy into the federation's activities by focusing on policy advocacy, investment facilitation, and stakeholder engagement. The newly constitut-



ed leadership pledged to work closely with AP Chambers and state authorities to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's food processing ecosystem. Their forward-looking agenda centers on formulating supportive policies, promoting domestic and foreign investments, and resolving operational bottlenecks that hinder industry progress. Additionally, the focus remains on value addition and advanced processing techniques to boost employment generation and ensure the sector's inclusive growth.

Addressing the AGM, Chiranjeevi Choudhary, Principal Secretary (Food Processing), outlined the salient features of the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Policy 2024-29. He said, "The food processing sector is one of Andhra Pradesh's strongest growth engines. The government is committed to enabling investments and partnerships that drive inclusive growth." Choudhary highlighted the government's proactive approach to nurturing the sector through incentives, cluster development,

and skill enhancement initiatives.

Sekhar Babu, CEO of the AP Food Processing Society, expanded on upcoming opportunities across the industry's value chain, emphasizing the need for continuous engagement between industry and government. Both Choudhary and Babu announced the establishment of a Stakeholder Consultative Committee under the APFPPIF, designed to facilitate regular dialogue, address industry concerns, and ensure more responsive policy decisions. Potluri Bhaskara Rao, President of AP Chambers and Honorary Chairman of APFPPIF, remarked, "Together, AP Chambers and APFPPIF will act as a strong bridge between the government and industry to position Andhra Pradesh as a national leader in the food processing value chain." With the new leadership team in place and robust public-private cooperation on the agenda, Andhra Pradesh's food processing sector is poised to achieve significant growth and innovation over the coming years.

KOLIKAPUDI FIRES ON JAGAN

TPN BUREAU,V Am-aravathi, October 17, 2025 TDP MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao Criticizes Jagan's Rule Over Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Tirupur MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao has openly criticized the administration of YSRCP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of destroying major irrigation projects in the state during his five-year tenure. Speaking to media persons in Tirupur today, Kolikapudi voiced his strong concerns over the alleged neglect and mismanagement of key water projects, emphasizing damage to the ambitious Polavaram project among others.

Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao said the Polavaram project, a vital irrigation and drinking water source for the region,

suffered significant setbacks and destruction during Jagan's rule. He claimed that under the pretext of reverse tendering, the entire Polavaram project was submerged in floods, implying poor governance and project execution. He highlighted that the irrigation infrastructure was badly handled, and the project faced damages that could be traced back to Jagan's administration. The TDP MLA reminded the media that it was under the previous TDP government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that the Polavaram project was vigorously developed and brought to life. He praised Naidu's efforts in giving momentum to the project, which has so far reached approximately 86 percent completion. Kolikapudi asserted that his party government had provided significant financial support to people

displaced by the Polavaram project, releasing Rs. 2,100 crores in total over 16 months, including Rs. 1,100 crores recently announced on the occasion of Diwali. Further criticizing the Jagan regime, Kolikapudi said that Jagan's government did not allocate any funds for the displaced people affected by the Polavaram project throughout its five-year rule. He referred to experts from IIT Hyderabad who revealed that the critical diaphragm wall of the project was damaged due to the previous government's mismanagement.

He also accused Jagan of political theatrics, such as distributing Handreeniva water to certain constituencies before the completion of the Polavaram project. He took a jibe at the YSRCP government for prematurely dedicating the Veligonda project to

the nation despite it being incomplete. Kolikapudi also alleged that the Annamayya project was flooded due to illegal sand mining, a development that claimed 42 lives, further signifying negligence. Kolikapudi reassured that the current TDP government is committed to completing the Polavaram project by the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu festival. He emphasized that the government has implemented the "Super Six" schemes, marking significant progress in irrigation and job creation.

He further mentioned that Minister Nara Lokesh is actively working to provide 20 lakh jobs for the youth of Andhra Pradesh. Kolikapudi's remarks come amid a wider political battle in Andhra Pradesh where irrigation projects, especially the Polavaram, remain a major point of contention between the TDP

and the ruling YSRCP. His accusations reflect deep political disagreements over governance, project funding, and state development priorities, with irrigation and water management at the core of the discourse. The TDP claims that only under their rule was the Polavaram project properly funded and prioritized, contrasting sharply with the alleged neglect and mismanagement accused against Jagan's government. Through these allegations, Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao strives to assert the TDP's developmental legacy and criticize the incumbent government's shortcomings in critical infrastructure sectors. This article summarizes the allegations and political context related to Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao's recent statements on irrigation projects under Jagan's government in Andhra Pradesh.

WORK SHOP ON PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

TPN BUREAU, VI-JAYAWADA OCT 17: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Andhra Pradesh unit recently organized a focused workshop for its official spokespersons and media panelists, aiming to enhance public communication and strengthen ideological clarity among party ranks. The workshop was attended by key leaders, including AP BJP President PVN Madhav, Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Rajya Sabha MP P Satyanarayana, and senior party officials like State Chief Spokesperson Valluru Jayaprakash and State Media In-Charge Kilaru Dilip. PVN Madhav, addressing the attendees, emphasized the importance of deeply integrating India's Swadeshi movement and the BJP's nationalist ideology into society. He urged the spokes-



persons to effectively communicate the party's vision and government reforms to every citizen, calling the media the "invisible lion of democracy." Madhav highlighted the need to counter misinformation about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) during its centenary celebrations by explaining its contributions and inspiring the younger generation with stories of great personalities influenced by the Sangh. Madhav underscored the transformative achievements under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, noting milestones

such as the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) 4G rollout, strides toward self-reliance in defense production, vaccine innovations, and the promotion of small and medium enterprises under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. He presented a positive outlook on Andhra Pradesh's development, highlighting that the state has attracted investments worth 10 lakh crore and received significant central support for key projects, including Amaravati, Polavaram, and green energy sectors. Visakhapatnam, Madhav pointed out, is emerging as a global data hub, with the current double-engine government ensuring visible development across the region. Madhav contrasted this progress with the corruption witnessed during the Congress regime, emphasizing the

people's recognition of Modi's government's effective governance.

He tasked the cadre with explaining these developments to the public to build trust and confidence among citizens. The workshop was part of a broader BJP strategy to strengthen the party's communication infrastructure ahead of crucial elections, with the recent appointment of 14 new state spokespersons from across Andhra Pradesh's districts to intensify outreach and counter opposition narratives. The appointments aim to improve the party's media presence and grassroots engagement. Alongside the communication drive, the BJP is actively promoting the economic growth facilitated by central government support. The leadership also emphasized social commitments, with Madhav

recognizing nomadic tribes as cultural heirs and the BJP's pledge to support their development. With a strengthened media team and clear ideological messaging, the BJP is poised to intensify its presence and influence in Andhra Pradesh's political and developmental landscape. This workshop reflects the BJP's strategic focus on reinforcing nationalist ideals, promoting government reforms, and shaping public discourse in Andhra Pradesh to consolidate its base and broaden its appeal in the lead-up to forthcoming elections. The party's message seeks to emphasize transparent governance, significant developmental milestones, and a resilient national and regional vision under the leadership of PVN Madhav and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The "One Family One Entrepreneur" initiative is designed to foster one entrepreneur per family, especially among women SHG members across Andhra Pradesh. It is being supervised at the state level by Principal Secretary (MA&UD) S. Suresh

SAVE THE GIRL CHILD - DR. EB. DEVI

TPN BUREAU, ANANTHAPUR, October 17, 2025: A rally commemorating International Girl Child Day and Week was held today at the District Medical & Health Office (DM&HO) in Anantapur, led by DMHO Dr. E. B. Devi. The event, which began with a flag-hoisting ceremony and concluded with a human chain at the statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, was organized as part of a week-long series of programs aimed at empowering and uplifting the girl child in society. Celebration of International Girl Child Day in Anantapur.

On October 17, 2025, a vibrant rally marked the observance of International Girl Child Day in Anantapur. The rally, organized by the District Medical and Health Office, brought together various stakeholders, including health officials, program officers, administrative staff, and groups of enthusiastic nursing students from local colleges. The event commenced at the DM&HO premises, where Dr. E. B. Devi launched the celebrations by hoisting the flag, symbolizing unity and collective commitment



to the development and welfare of the girl child.

The rally moved through the main thoroughfares of Anantapur, carrying banners and placards highlighting the significance of the empowerment of girls and the ongoing need to protect and nurture them. Participants marched with energy and resolve until they reached the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar statue, where a human chain was formed as an expression of community solidarity for the cause of the girl child. Emphasis on Rights, Equality, and Safety

Addressing the gathering, Dr. E. B. Devi underscored the central message of International

Girl Child Day: "Development of girl child is the stepping stone for the progress of the country." She highlighted that the celebration was part of a week-long initiative, running from October 11 to 18, under the powerful slogan 'Save the Girl Child'. Various awareness and educational programs have been underway throughout the week, each focusing on enhancing understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by girls in society. Dr. Devi spoke directly to the assembled girls, encouraging them to be vigilant about their own safety and well-being. She stressed the importance of self-protection and awareness of rights,

including the fundamental rights to education, health, safety, and equality. Dr. Devi called for collective action against gender discrimination, reminding attendees that girls deserve to be treated on par with boys in all spheres of life.

Girls Excelling in Every Field The event also highlighted the achievements of girls across various domains, emphasizing that given equal opportunities, girls are excelling alongside boys in academics, sports, arts, and leadership. "There should be no room for gender-based discrimination. Today's girls are tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and professionals, making invaluable contributions

to our society," Dr. Devi asserted.

Participation and Community Involvement

Several notable officials participated in the program, including Dr. Narayanaswamy and Dr. Jayalakshmi, Program Officers at the DM&HO, along with Office Administrative Officer Girija Manohar Rao, Demo Nagaraju, Health Extension Officer Thyagaraju, Deputy HEOs Gangadhar, Vijaya Bhaskar, Venkatesh, and Kiran. The rally also saw the active involvement of college nursing students, whose presence added youthful dynamism and reinforced the event's educational focus. The week-long observance of International Girl Child Day in Anantapur, which culminated in today's rally, reflected a shared commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and equitable environment for girls. The series of programs organized by the DM&HO aimed to raise awareness, inspire confidence, and encourage active participation in the development of the girl child, recognizing that their advancement is integral to the nation's progress.



CM RELIEF FUND TO 62 BENEFICIARIES

TPN BUREAU, Vinukonda, October 17: CM Relief Fund Assistance Distributed to 62 Beneficiaries in Vinukonda. In a move reflecting the state government's commitment to citizen welfare, Vinukonda MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques amounting to 40.63 lakh to 62 beneficiaries at a programme organized at the local party office on Friday. The event marked yet another step in the government's mission to extend timely support to families facing health and financial hardships. Addressing the gathering, MLA Anjaneyulu urged beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance wisely and highlighted the government's dedication to ensuring that every eligible citizen benefits from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"The coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is working tirelessly to guarantee

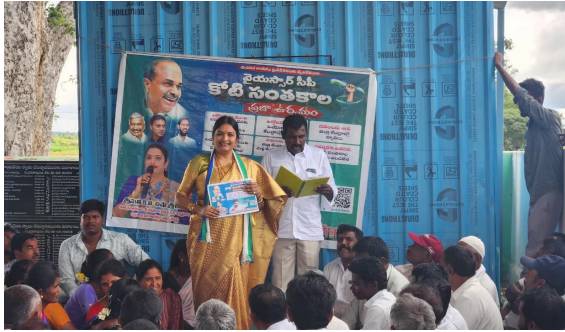
transparency and accessibility in welfare delivery," he said. The MLA informed that within just 16 months of the coalition government's tenure, a total of 1,147 beneficiaries in the Vinukonda constituency alone have received 7.90 crore under the CMRF. He pointed out that such a transparent and people-oriented approach stands in stark contrast to the previous YSRCP regime, under which, he alleged, the fund was distributed only on paper. He further noted that across Andhra Pradesh, 400 crore has been disbursed under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support thousands of needy citizens.

Highlighting broader welfare and reform measures, Anjaneyulu lauded initiatives aimed at reviving government schools through sports and co-curricular development. He said the coalition government had successfully implemented several welfare

schemes such as Super Six, Fee Reimbursement, Annadata Sukhikhava, and Free Bus Travel for Women, which have collectively strengthened the state's social and economic fabric. The MLA also emphasized that despite a revenue loss of 8,000 crore, the government took the crucial step of reducing or completely removing GST on essential medicines and food items to provide relief to common citizens.

"People's welfare remains our top priority, and every policy decision is guided by that principle," he affirmed. Councillors, local leaders, and party activists attended the programme and appreciated the government's ongoing efforts to deliver welfare benefits effectively. The event concluded with the distribution of cheques and words of gratitude from beneficiaries who said the timely financial aid eased their burdens significantly.

PENUKONDA AGAINST PRIVATIZATION



TPN BUREAU, Penukonda, Sri Sathya Sai District Oct 17: Massive People's Movement Rises in Penukonda Against Privatization of Medical Colleges A strong wave of public dissent surged through the Penukonda constituency as the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) intensified its fight against the proposed privatization of government medical colleges. The movement, inspired by the "Rachabanda - Crore Signatures" campaign, has rapidly gained momentum, drawing wide spread support from local leaders, activists, and the general public.

At the forefront of this protest is former Minister and YSRCP Sri Sathya Sai District President Ushasree Charan, who is also the party's MLA candidate from Penukonda. Charan has made an impassioned appeal to residents, urging them to unite and oppose what she described as a deliberate attempt by political opponents to undermine public healthcare in the region. "The public healthcare system should not be allowed to go into private hands. Former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy started the collection of one crore signatures through the Rachabanda

program. Chandrababu's goal is to weaken public healthcare and push it into the hands of private capitalists," she stated, speaking at a mass gathering in Parigi Mandal head quarters.

Leaders and party members, alongside a large number of local citizens, actively participated in a signature collection drive held at Parigi Mandal Center and Narasapuram Panchayat. The program aimed to mobilize overwhelming public support by collecting one crore signatures, a symbolic move to showcase the widespread opposition against any attempt to shift government medical colleges into private control. Ushasree Charan did not mince words when criticizing TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the current alliance government is pursuing an agenda that serves private interests over public welfare. "The frauds being done by Chan-

drababu Naidu should be exposed from time to time.

Even after coming to power with false promises, he is misleading the people by fulfilling the promises made less than a year and a half ago," she remarked. She called for vigilance and unity, stressing that such actions must not go unchecked. Further reinforcing the commitment of YSRCP to grassroots activism, Charan emphasized a decentralized approach to the protest movement. "The YSRCP will move forward systematically through party committees at the village level.

Every leader and activist should take their village as their responsibility and make the movement successful together with the people," she declared, mobilizing the cadre to become proactive agents of change in their respective localities. The event saw the participation of mandal presidents, district and man-

dal-level association presidents, community leaders, MPPs, sarpanches, MPTCs, and party activists, reflecting a broad-based coalition rallying for the protection of public healthcare infrastructure.

Concluding her address, Ushasree Charan stressed the upcoming elections as a decisive moment for the region's future. She called upon everyone to work collectively toward reinstating YS Jaganmohan Reddy as Chief Minister, framing the movement as not just a protest but a fight for people's right to accessible healthcare. As signature drives continue and the Rachabanda campaign expands, the Penukonda constituency stands as a prominent example of democratic resistance against privatization, with YSRCP aiming to make public healthcare a cornerstone issue in the political discourse leading up to the state elections.

REVIEW ON RABI SEASON FOR AP

TPN BUREAU, Tadepalli, October 17: State-Level Meet Reviews Rabi Season Readiness in Andhra Pradesh The Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, convened a high-level state conference on Rabi season preparedness on Friday at the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Conference Hall in Tadepalli. The meeting aimed to ensure effective planning and execution of key strategies for the upcoming Rabi crop cycle across all districts of the state. Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Sri Budithi Rajasekhari, IAS, chaired the session, which was attended by Director of Agriculture Dr. Manazir Jilani Samoon, IAS, Agriculture Officers from all 26 dis-

tricts, and MARKFED district managers.

The conference centered on enhancing fertilizer supply, streamlining distribution networks, and adopting technology-based monitoring systems to achieve equitable and timely delivery to farmers. Addressing the gathering, Sri Rajasekhari emphasized the critical importance of real-time planning in fertilizer management, instructing officials to ensure that no farmer faces delays or shortages during the crucial Rabi period. He urged district officers to collaborate closely with local cooperative outlets and private agencies to maintain uninterrupted supply chains.

One of the major highlights of the conference

was the presentation of the West Godavari district's fertilizer distribution model, which has been commended for its efficiency and farmer satisfaction. Officials noted that the district's performance, validated through an IVRS survey, reflected a high level of coordination between field officers and suppliers. This model will reportedly serve as a benchmark for replication across other districts in the state. To improve transparency and accountability, the Agriculture Department instructed all districts to use Webland for crop-wise and stage-wise fertilizer allocation. This system links fertilizer distribution to Aadhaar-based landholdings, ensuring that only eligible

farmers receive the supplies recommended by ANGRAU (Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University). The integration of scientific recommendations with digital monitoring is expected to optimize fertilizer utilization and crop productivity. The conference also announced the mandatory use of the new Fertilizer Sale Application (AAP) developed by the state government. All fertilizer transactions are to be verified through OTP-based confirmation from farmers' registered mobile numbers. This initiative aims to eliminate middlemen and irregularities, creating a direct and traceable digital record of every sale. District officials and District Collectors were directed to conduct

needs-based assessments of fertilizer requirements at the mandal level, avoid overstocking, and ensure accurate reconciliation of existing stocks by October 23.

The leadership stressed that realistic stock planning, based on factual field-level data, would prevent both wastage and scarcity. During interactive sessions, officers from several districts shared experiences from past Rabi seasons, particularly challenges related to fertilizer shortages and distribution bottlenecks. Solutions such as decentralized godown management, GPS-based tracking of fertilizer movement, and concurrent online reporting were discussed for immediate adoption.

ANDHRA BOY AND A GERMAN GIRL - A CROSS CULTURE MARRIAGE



TPN BUREAU, NELLORE, OCT 17: Andhra Boy Marries German Girl in a Grand Hindu Wedding at Nellore: A cross-cultural love story bridging India and Europe blossomed into a beautiful union in Nellore, where Girish, a software engineer from Andhra Pradesh, married his German sweetheart Katharina in a traditional Hindu ceremony that blended two cultures with grace and grandeur. The wedding, held on Friday at a prominent wedding hall in Nellore city, became a memorable affair that symbolized love beyond borders.

Girish, who has been living in Germany for several years as a software engineer, met Katharina, a nurse working in the same city, through mutual friends. What began as a simple acquaintance soon deepened into a strong bond of friendship and affection. Over the past three years, their relationship grew into a committed love story. Despite being from two different countries and cultural backgrounds, both Girish and Katharina found deep understanding and shared values that united them. Their decision to marry was warmly accepted after thoughtful discussions and mutual consent from both families, whose support made their dream wedding possible. The couple opted for a traditional Hindu wedding, honoring Indian customs and rituals.

The event was marked by sacred

chants, colorful decorations, and rich cultural symbolism that reflected the heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Katharina's appearance in a traditional saree, adorned with ethnic jewelry, drew admiration from all as she participated gracefully in the rituals alongside Girish, dressed in an elegant sherwani. What added a delightful charm to the ceremony was the participation of several guests who arrived from Germany to bless the couple. Embracing Indian culture, they attended the wedding in traditional Hindu attire, adding to the joyful and vibrant atmosphere.

Their enthusiasm and respect for Indian traditions received widespread praise from the attendees. Relatives and friends from both countries witnessed the blending of two families and two cultures in a festive spirit. The event was followed by a sumptuous reception where guests celebrated the couple's union with music, dance, and heartfelt wishes.

Girish and Katharina's wedding is being hailed as a heartwarming example of love that transcends nationalities and traditions. Their marriage stands as a reminder that genuine affection knows no boundaries and that love, when rooted in understanding and respect, can unite even the most diverse of worlds.



Empowering Lives Beyond Walls: The Case for Community-Based Rehabilitation



As India deepens its commitment to human rights and social inclusion, the rehabilitation of survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation demands renewed attention. A growing body of evidence suggests that the country's long-standing dependence on institutional care—shelter homes, child care institutions, and aftercare facilities—has too often failed to deliver meaningful reintegration. Instead, advocates are calling for a shift toward non-institutional and community-based rehabilitation, an approach that restores dignity, autonomy, and belonging to some of the country's most marginalized women and children.

A recent national

study by the Bengaluru-based Enfold Proactive Health Trust, titled Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Women and Children in Shelter Homes, Aftercare, and Child Care Institutions, highlights the deep-seated challenges within institutional systems. It found that prolonged stays in shelter homes frequently lead to emotional isolation, social stigma, and difficulty adjusting to independent life. The report urges that institutionalization be used only as a last resort, emphasizing family and community-based care as a more sustainable alternative.

A Distressing Picture from Andhra Pradesh

In Andhra Pradesh, the survivor collective VIMUKTHI has carried out its own analysis

through a series of Right to Information (RTI) applications. The findings, compiled in a 2023 report, reveal striking gaps in the state's rehabilitation framework for rescued survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

According to government data shared with VIMUKTHI, 2,737 survivors were housed in various shelter homes between 2019 and June 2023. Of these, 2,265 were accommodated in Ujjawala Homes, 447 in Swadhar Homes, and 25 in NGO-run facilities. Yet, despite this scale of institutional support, only 692 survivors formally applied for social entitlements or rehabilitation services—and just 592 actually received them. That means fewer than one in four survivors (22 percent) accessed the benefits and schemes designed for their recovery.

The report also found that many shelter home administrators still view institutionalization itself as the end goal of rehabilitation, rather than a temporary safety net. This mindset contradicts the very spirit of G.O. Ms. No. 1 (2003), issued by the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare (DWD-CW) for the explicit purpose of reintegrating rescued women into society through holistic, non-institutional measures.

The policy, once active and effective, fell into disuse after the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, leaving survivors adrift without proper follow-up or access to schemes.

Numbers That Tell a Deeper Story

The data paint a sobering picture of systemic neglect. Between 2016 and 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported 2,890 women and children rescued from trafficking across Andhra Pradesh. Yet, only five survivors—all from Machilipatnam in Krishna District—applied for compensation under the state's victim compensation scheme during 2022-23.

While over 12.14 crore in compensation funds were allocated across 12 districts, none of this was disbursed to trafficking survivors. Similarly, under G.O. Ms. No. 28, which mandates an immediate relief payment of 20,000 to each rescued victim, just 132 survivors—barely 4 percent of the total housed between 2019 and 2023—received the support.

VIMUKTHI's analysis suggests that lack of awareness, bureaucratic delays, and poor inter-departmental coordination have all contributed to this breakdown, undermining survivors' rights to justice and dignity.

Inside the Walls: The Human Cost of

Institutionalization

The Enfold study identifies several recurring problems across shelter homes and child care institutions nationwide. New entrants struggle to adjust to rigid routines after the chaos of exploitation, while those restored to their families often face difficulties re-adapting to life outside. The absence of trained counselors exacerbates widespread mental health issues—depression, anxiety, anger, and self-harm tendencies are alarmingly common.

Children and women with disabilities remain particularly marginalized due to the lack of inclusive infrastructure and skilled caregivers. Many residents also face

lescent girls and survivors of sexual violence, encounter moral policing within the homes themselves.

Educational and vocational barriers further limit prospects for independence. Inconsistent schooling, scarce certified training programs, and safety restrictions on mobility make reintegration nearly impossible. Financial and administrative delays, coupled with staff shortages and high attrition rates, compound these problems. The COVID-19 pandemic only worsened the crisis, disrupting rehabilitation programs and mental health services.

The Case for Community-Based

cost-effective. They focus on reintegrating survivors into family and community life, offering personalized care that addresses each individual's needs and aspirations. In India, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 already embraces this philosophy, emphasizing "non-institutional care" and prescribing alternatives such as foster care, adoption, sponsorships, and family-based placements.

Experts argue that CBR fosters stronger family and community bonds, reduces the psychological damage of institutionalization, and promotes independence through life-skills and vocational training. It is also more sustainable than maintaining large state-run facilities. Importantly, it aligns with global human-rights frameworks like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), both of which endorse community reintegration as the preferred model of care.

Reimagining the Future

Advocates say the path forward must blend compassion with systemic reform. Governments and civil-society organizations need to collaborate on strengthening

family-based care, reviving G.O. Ms. No. 1 (2003), and expanding awareness about rehabilitation entitlements. Community networks and survivor-led groups such as VIMUKTHI can play a pivotal role in identifying survivors, linking them to social protection schemes, and preventing re-trafficking.

Investing in mental health support, education, and vocational training remains crucial for building long-term resilience. Training caregivers in trauma-informed practices and ensuring access to legal aid and victim compensation would bring the state closer to fulfilling its obligations under national and international law.

Beyond Walls

Non-institutional Community Based rehabilitation is more than a policy shift—it is a moral imperative. As the statistics from Andhra Pradesh reveal, institutional care alone cannot rebuild lives shattered by exploitation. What survivors need is not confinement but community; not dependency but empowerment.

By investing in community-based care and restoring faith in the state's commitment to justice, India can transform rehabilitation from a process of containment into one of true inclusion, dignity, and hope.



stigma from local schools and employers once their institutional background becomes known. Others, especially ado-

Rehabilitation

Globally, Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) models have proved both humane and

Senior IPS Officer's Suicide Sparks Debate on Service Challenges and Discrimination

A senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer recently committed suicide at his home, leaving behind a suicide note accusing colleagues and superiors of discriminatory, humiliating, and vengeful behavior. The officer alleged that he was denied rightful positions due to his Scheduled Caste (SC) background. His wife, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, publicly supported his claims, intensifying the political and media uproar. There are now calls for the officers named in the note to be arrested and prosecuted under all applicable laws.

While emotions run high, this incident invites a broader reflection on the realities faced by senior civil servants in India, particularly within the elite All India Services (AIS) like IAS and IPS.

The AIS represents the pinnacle of civil services in India, with thousands of aspirants competing annually for limited vacancies. Selection into these services immediately elevates one's social and economic status, often bringing prestige to the entire family. The jobs



come with significant perks—secure tenure, time-bound promotions, subsidized housing, official staff, and

land allotments—making mid-career exits rare.

Although officers from SC/ST communi-

ties sometimes face discrimination in subordinate ranks, promotions within the IAS and IPS are generally automa-

tic and based on seniority fixed at entry level through UPSC rankings. The system is designed to ensure equi-

table advancement regardless of caste, gender, or religion.

However, frustration

can arise due to the limited availability of top posts like Chief Secretary or Director General of Police in each

state. To address this, governments have created multiple additional positions by splitting departments, which sometimes leads officers to feel sidelined in less prestigious roles. This "miniaturization" of posts often dilutes responsibilities but provides career progression, a practice common across all communities.

Frequent transfers and postings to less significant roles affect many officers, not just those from marginalized backgrounds. Notable examples, such as IAS officer Ashok Khemka's multiple transfers, illustrate this challenge.

Despite the considerable stress associated with their roles—political pressures, workplace dynamics, and public scrutiny—IAS and IPS officers serve with dedication and commitment to nation-building.

While the tragic death of the officer is deeply saddening, it also calls for a deeper understanding of the systemic challenges and pressures faced by India's civil servants, beyond individual cases of discrimination or grievance.

BJP Names PM Modi, CMs, Celebrities as Star Campaigners for Bihar Polls



TPN Bureau | Patna
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday released its list of 40 star campaigners for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, showcasing a powerful mix of senior leaders, regional influencers, and film celebrities.

Topping the list is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose presence is expected to be a major draw across the state. Other key names include BJP national president J.P. Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The list also features five Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states, including Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis, and Delhi BJP leader Rekha Gupta. Their inclusion signals the party's intent to target a wide voter base across caste and regional lines.

In a bid to appeal to the state's cultural sentiments, the BJP has again brought in Bhojpuri cinema stars and sitting MPs Manoj Tiwari and Ravi Kishan, alongside singer-actor Pawan Singh. Their popularity among Bihar's youth and rural voters is seen as a key asset.

The inclusion of film personalities alongside heavyweight politicians reflects the BJP's campaign strategy of blending star power with political leadership to energize the electorate.

The BJP's campaign is expected to focus on development, law and order, and national leadership under PM Modi, as it seeks to retain its influence in the politically significant state.

Bihar, known for its complex caste dynamics and high voter turnout, will see a multi-phase election later this year. With alliances forming and campaigns heating up, the BJP's early release of its star campaigners list signals the start of an aggressive election season.



New Gujarat Cabinet Sworn In

Harsh Sanghvi named Deputy CM, Rivaba Jadeja among new faces
TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major political reshuffle, Gujarat's newly reconstituted Cabinet under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was sworn in on Friday, with Harsh Sanghvi taking oath as the Deputy Chief Minister — the youngest to hold the position in the state's history.

The ceremony, held at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar, saw the induction of 21 new ministers following the mass resignation of the previous Cabinet on Thursday, excluding the Chief Minister. With the latest appointments, the Cabinet now comprises 26 members, including the Chief Minister.

Union Minister and BJP national president J.P. Nadda attended the swearing-in, underlining the party's full backing for the reshuffled state leadership.

Among the notable new faces in the Cabinet is Rivaba Jadeja, the first-time MLA from Jamnagar North and wife of cricketer Ravindra Jadeja. Her inclusion signals the party's efforts to strengthen its outreach among women and youth, while also appealing to the influential Rajput community.

Harsh Sanghvi, a rising star within the Bharatiya Janata Party, previously served as Minister of State for Home and earned praise for his handling of law and order issues. His elevation to Deputy CM reflects his growing stature in Gujarat politics and is seen as a move to energize the party's young leadership ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls.

The reshuffle comes amid efforts to reset the governance agenda and bring in fresh political momentum as the BJP looks to consolidate its dominance in the state. While the move surprised many, party insiders see it as a strategy to pre-empt anti-incumbency and prepare the state leadership for the future.

With this new Cabinet, the BJP aims to project a more dynamic and inclusive leadership, aligned with its broader national strategy as Gujarat remains a key stronghold for the party.

‘Apple Invested Here, Not In Andhra’: Siddaramaiah Snaps Amid Investment Row



TPN Correspondent | Patna
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hit back Friday amid a growing spat with Andhra Pradesh over crumbling infrastructure and investment losses in Bengaluru, after tech giant Google confirmed a \$15 billion investment in Visakhapatnam (Vizag) for an AI and data hub.

Responding to Andhra Minister Nara Lokesh's jabs on social media, Siddaramaiah said, "Investors will invest where they want to," and reminded critics that Apple chose Karnataka over Andhra for major projects. "These posts (against Karnataka) are deliberate and politically motivated," he said, referring to online attacks on Bengaluru's infrastructure.

The war of words escalated after Lokesh, in a post on X, said, "Karnataka is feeling the burn!" — following Google's announcement. Janata Dal (Secular) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy also took a dig, comparing the Congress-led Karnataka government unfavourably with Andhra's TDP regime.

The feud began in September after Rajesh Yabaji, co-founder of a Bengaluru-based logistics firm, criticised the city's traffic and poor road conditions. Lokesh offered Vizag as an alternative, sparking debate over the future of investment in Bengaluru. Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge responded sharply, accusing "weaker ecosystems" of trying to feed off stronger ones. He cited data projecting Bengaluru's GDP to grow at 8.5% annually until 2035 — potentially the fastest in the world.

Lokesh, unapologetic in interviews, claimed Andhra had secured over \$120 billion in investments and urged states like Karnataka to step up if they wanted to stay competitive.

Fueling the controversy, Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's viral post about potholes and garbage in Bengaluru triggered more criticism of Karnataka's civic infrastructure, with some residents threatening to withhold property tax unless repairs are made.

With political jabs turning into a full-blown state rivalry, the South's battle for investment is heating up.

Indian Peacekeepers Earn Global Goodwill: President Murmu

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday praised the commendable contribution of Indian peacekeepers to United Nations missions, highlighting their global reputation for professionalism, gender inclusion, and community engagement in conflict zones.

Speaking at the Army Chiefs' Conclave for UN Troop Contributing Countries at Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Murmu said Indian peacekeepers have carved "a special place for themselves" and earned "immense goodwill" among communities in strife-torn regions.

"Indian peacekeepers have consistently upheld the highest standards of conduct and commitment, whether it's protecting civilians, rebuilding societies, or promoting gender equity," she said. The President noted India's growing role in advancing gender inclusion in UN missions, citing the deployment of all-women contingents as a step towards greater diversity and empowerment.

India is one of the largest and oldest contributors to UN peacekeeping operations, with over 2,75,000 Indian personnel having served in various missions since 1948. Currently, thousands of Indian troops serve in hotspots across Africa and Asia, contributing not just to security but also to humanitarian and development efforts.

President Murmu emphasised the broader impact of India's peacekeepers, stating, "Their commitment to community welfare and local empowerment has strengthened India's image as a responsible and compassionate global actor." The conclave, attended by Chiefs and Vice-Chiefs from several UN troop-contributing nations, focused on enhancing cooperation, sharing operational experiences, and addressing emerging challenges in global peacekeeping.

Murmu also reaffirmed India's commitment to multilateralism and its readiness to lead in reforms that make UN peacekeeping more effective and inclusive. The event underlined India's aspiration not just to participate in global peace efforts but to shape the future of peacekeeping through innovation, training, and diplomacy.

"India stands firm in its resolve to foster global peace and stability," the President concluded.



“Indian PM Likely To Be Leader Of Free World In 40-50 Years”: Tony Abbott

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has predicted that India could emerge as the leader of the free world in the next four to five decades, overtaking the United States in global influence. Speaking at the NDTV World Summit 2025 on Friday, Abbott praised India's rise as a democratic superpower and called it a vital counterbalance to China's growing dominance.

"The 21st century belongs to India," Abbott said, highlighting the country's strategic advantages — democracy, the rule of law, and the English language — as key assets in its ongoing economic and military rise. He added, "India is now the most populous country, with massive infrastructure expansion. It can substitute China as the world's next industrial hub." Calling on India to embrace its role as a regional and global leader, Abbott urged Delhi to act as a "democratic counterweight" to China in the Asia-Pacific and a "strong, reliable partner" for Australia. He cited free trade agreements with Australia and the UK as signs of a global pivot away from China. Abbott also warned of China's ambitions to become a hegemonic power, noting that its aggressive stance on Taiwan could be a flashpoint. "Weakness is provocative," he said, urging democracies to make it clear that any Chinese incursion would face resistance. On global issues, Abbott criticized former US President Donald Trump's punitive tariffs on India, saying, "Trump misplayed his hand, especially when China, which imports more Russian oil, wasn't penalised the same way."

He also criticized past US policy for favouring Pakistan — "a military dictatorship" — over democratic India during the Cold War. "The future of freedom depends on nations like India stepping up," Abbott concluded, calling for stronger global alliances led by democratic powers.



Yunus Urges Unity as Bangladesh Parties Prepare to Sign July Charter



TPN Bureau | Dhaka

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has called on all political parties in Bangladesh to come together and sign the July National Charter 2025, a consensus document aimed at restoring democratic governance following last year's political upheaval.

The charter, prepared by the National Consensus Commission — a seven-member body formed by the Yunus-led interim government in February — will be signed at a public ceremony at the South Plaza of the National Parliament building on Friday evening. Major parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), are expected to participate, although BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman will not attend, and chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia may skip the event due to health concerns.

However, the National Citizen Party (NCP), a key political force that emerged after Sheikh Hasina's fall from power, has refused to sign the charter, claiming it lacks legal

legitimacy. "This will remain confined only to formality," the party said in a statement, calling for legal foundations and public endorsement through a referendum before it commits.

Despite Yunus' last-minute appeal for unity, NCP and some leftist parties have chosen to wait for a revised draft. The commission has clarified that those unwilling to sign now may do so later.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki described the event as the beginning of a "festive election journey," aimed at showcasing how the charter will reshape the nation's future.

Meanwhile, controversy continues over a potential referendum. While Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh demands one before elections, BNP has opposed the idea, insisting polls must come first.

"This is our moment of pride and hope," Yunus said on X, urging all Bangladeshis to witness the ceremony live and celebrate the spirit of unity despite political, religious, and ethnic differences.

Pakistan Open to Talks with Afghanistan If Conditions Met: PM Shehbaz



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan is ready for dialogue with Afghanistan if the Taliban-led government in Kabul meets Islamabad's "justified" conditions, amid a fragile ceasefire following deadly cross-border clashes.

Speaking to the federal cabinet on Thursday, the prime minister stated, "The ball is in their court. If they want to fulfil our justified conditions through talks, then we are ready." His remarks come a day after both countries agreed to a temporary 48-hour ceasefire starting at 6 pm on October 15, following escalating hostilities along the border.

The ceasefire, requested by the Afghan Taliban and confirmed by Pakistan's Foreign Office, aims to prevent further conflict after recent violence claimed lives on both sides. PM Shehbaz warned, however, that if the ceasefire was "only done to buy time," Pakistan would not accept it.

He also emphasized the need for the elimi-

nation of extremist elements — referred to as "Fitna al-Khawarij" — from Afghan soil to ensure terrorists can no longer use Afghanistan to target Pakistan.

Highlighting diplomatic efforts, Shehbaz acknowledged Qatar's role in easing tensions and noted that Pakistani officials had made multiple attempts to hold peaceful discussions in Kabul, but with little success.

He praised the response of the Pakistani armed forces and Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir during the clashes, calling their actions "necessary" given the toll from terrorism.

On international developments, the prime minister also welcomed the ceasefire efforts in Gaza, thanking global and regional leaders for their roles. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Palestinian statehood.

Shehbaz concluded by lauding the recent staff-level agreement with the IMF and urged Pakistan to strive for economic independence, stating, "This should be the last programme we enter with the IMF."

Madagascar Coup Leader Sworn in as President Amid Global Condemnation

TPN Correspondent | ANTANANARIVO

Colonel Michael Randrianirina, commander of Madagascar's elite CAPSAT military unit, was officially sworn in as the country's new President on Friday, just days after leading a military coup that ousted the democratically elected government.

The swift takeover, announced only three days earlier, culminated in a formal swearing-in ceremony at the High Constitutional Court in the capital, Antananarivo. Randrianirina took the oath of office before the court's nine red-robed judges, marking the final step in a power grab that has drawn widespread international condemnation.

The coup followed three weeks of mounting anti-government protests, largely driven by young demonstrators frustrated with soaring unemployment, inflation, and alleged corruption. Tensions escalated sharply this week as military forces moved in, forcing the now-former President to flee the country and go into hiding.

The United Nations has strongly condemned the military takeover, calling for a return to constitutional order and urging the protection of civilian rights. In response to the coup, the African Union has suspended Madagascar from all activities until democratic governance is restored.

Randrianirina has yet to announce a clear political roadmap or timeline for



elections, raising concerns about the stability and future of democratic institutions in the Indian Ocean nation of 30 million. In his first address, he pledged to "restore national unity and security," but did not clarify the role the military

would play in the interim government.

Observers fear the takeover could spark further unrest and isolate Madagascar diplomatically and economically. The nation has a turbulent history of coups, with this being the second mili-

tary seizure of power in just over a decade.

The international community is now watching closely, urging restraint and a swift return to civilian-led governance.

Bright lights, big city: Diwali's festive spirit takes over London

TPN Correspondent | London

London embraced the spirit of Diwali with grandeur and inclusivity this year, as Trafalgar Square transformed into a vibrant hub for the city's official Festival of Lights celebration, "Diwali on the Square," held on October 12.

Against the backdrop of crisp autumn air, the square came alive with music, dance, and the colours of Indian tradition. From a 200-member dance troupe to sari-tying and yoga workshops, the event showcased the richness of Hindu, Sikh, and Jain cultures. A children's zone and South Asian vegan and vegetarian food stalls made it a family-friendly affair.

Mayor Sadiq Khan hailed the festival as a symbol of unity: "Diwali is a celebration of light overcoming darkness, hope overcoming hardship, and unity in our diversity."

The celebration extended beyond Trafalgar Square. At Knightsbridge, iconic department store Harrods collaborated with British-Indian artist Natasha Kumar for a Diwali-themed light installation, marking a first for the luxury retailer. "To illuminate this iconic London landmark for Diwali is a very special moment," said Harrods' creative director Alexander Wells-Greco.

Across London, the festive spirit was visible in boutique windows, floating floral installations in Canary Wharf, and diya-lined courtyards in the City. Soho restaurants like Fatt Pundit and Dishoom hosted Diwali specials, blending traditional rituals with modern flair.



Diwali even lit up Downing Street, continuing a tradition started by former PM Rishi Sunak, the UK's first leader of Indian heritage, who celebrated Diwali

inside No. 10 with diyas and sweets.

From marigolds in Covent Garden to kathak dancers in Devonshire Square, Diwali is no longer a niche festival—it

has become an integral part of London's cultural calendar. As one child put it while leaving Trafalgar Square, "It's like London has its own Diwali now."

Iran Condemns Israeli Strikes in Lebanon as Ceasefire Violation

TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Iran on Friday strongly condemned Israel's recent airstrikes in southern Lebanon, labelling them a "blatant violation" of Lebanese sovereignty and a breach of the ongoing ceasefire.

The condemnation came after an Israeli airstrike hit the southern Lebanese village of Ansar on Thursday, killing one person and injuring seven others. The attack targeted a cement plant in a region known to be a stronghold of Hezbollah, Iran's close ally in the region.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei sharply criticized the assault, saying, "These repeated attacks reflect Israel's aggressive nature and its disregard for international law and agreements." He urged the international community and the United Nations to take immediate action to stop what he called Israel's "escalatory behaviour."

The Israeli military confirmed the strike, stating it had targeted Hezbollah and affiliated militant groups in response to cross-border threats. Tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border have remained high, despite international efforts to maintain a fragile ceasefire in place since earlier this year.

The incident marks yet another flashpoint in the already volatile Middle East region, with concerns rising about further escalation. Hezbollah has yet to officially respond to the strike, but local media reported increased military readiness in southern Lebanon.



Lebanese officials have also condemned the attack, calling it an unjustified aggression that undermines peace and stability in the region. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has appealed to the

United Nations to intervene and ensure Israel respects its international commitments.

As regional powers exchange accusations, fears grow that continued skir-

mishes could spiral into broader conflict. Iran's strong rhetoric signals a warning to Israel and its allies, amid growing uncertainty over the long-term sustainability of the ceasefire.

Coca-Cola Considers \$1 Billion IPO for Indian Bottling Unit



Coca-Cola Co. is reportedly exploring a potential \$1 billion initial public offering (IPO) of its Indian bottling operations, in a move that could bring one of the world's most iconic brands to India's booming stock market.

According to sources familiar with the matter, the US beverage giant is in early discussions with financial advisors about listing its Indian bottling subsidiary, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB), on domestic exchanges. While the final decision is yet to be made, the IPO could take

place as early as 2026, subject to market conditions and regulatory approvals.

The proposed IPO would mark Coca-Cola's first significant listing in India and could significantly boost its brand presence in one of its fastest-growing markets. The company has been ramping up investments in India to expand its distribution, increase local manufacturing, and respond to rising demand for both carbonated and non-carbonated beverages.

If it proceeds, the \$1 billion offering would make HCCB one of the largest FMCG listings in India in recent years and could attract major institutional and retail interest. The deal would also coincide with a record-setting year for India's IPO market, which has already seen several high-profile listings and strong investor appetite in 2025.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages handles the manufacturing, packaging, sale, and distribution of Coca-Cola beverages in most parts of India and plays a critical

role in the company's supply chain strategy.

The potential listing could serve multiple purposes — including unlocking value, raising capital for expansion, and aligning with Coca-Cola's global strategy of streamlining operations and empowering local units.

India's stock markets have remained resilient despite global headwinds, making it an attractive venue for global corporations seeking growth and exposure to a rapidly expanding consumer base.

Markets Rebound on Foreign Fund Inflows, Fed Rate Cut Hopes



Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply on Friday morning, recovering early losses amid continued foreign fund inflows and renewed optimism around potential interest rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

The BSE Sensex, which opened on a weak note and dropped 261.58 points in early trade to hit 83,206.08, staged a recovery as investor sentiment improved. Similarly, the NSE Nifty initially declined by 76.7 points to 25,508.60 but soon regained lost ground, trading in the green later in the session.

Analysts attributed the rebound to increased foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, with global

investors showing confidence in Indian equities amid expectations that the U.S. Fed may shift toward a more accommodative policy stance in the coming months. This comes after mixed economic signals from the U.S., raising hopes of rate cuts in early 2026.

"Market volatility remains, but foreign inflows and global central bank cues are key drivers," said a senior market analyst. "Investors are watching Fed signals closely as any shift in rate expectations can significantly impact emerging markets like India."

In the broader Asian region, South Korea's Kospi was trading in positive territory, showing resilience,

while other key indices like Japan's Nikkei 225, Hong Kong's Hang Seng, and Shanghai's SSE Composite Index were in the red, reflecting mixed sentiment across the continent.

Back home, sectors such as banking, IT, and consumer goods led the recovery, supported by positive domestic macroeconomic data and robust corporate earnings.

Despite global uncertainties, Indian markets appear to be drawing strength from strong fundamentals and foreign interest, positioning them favorably heading into the final quarter of 2025. Investors are expected to remain cautious but optimistic as global cues unfold.

Zepto Raises \$450 Million, Valuation Jumps to \$7 Billion



Quick commerce startup Zepto has raised \$450 million in its latest funding round, pushing its valuation to a remarkable \$7 billion, the company announced on Friday. The fresh capital infusion strengthens Zepto's financial position and reinforces investor confidence in the company's rapid growth trajectory.

Aadit Palicha, CEO and Co-Founder of Zepto, confirmed the development, stating, "We now have approximately \$900 million of net cash in the bank and are more than well-capitalised for the future."

He emphasized that the funding will be used to deepen market presence, enhance supply chain infrastructure, and drive profitability.

This marks one of the largest funding rounds in India's startup ecosystem this year, especially in the quick commerce space — a sector that has seen intense competition and consolidation. Zepto, known for its 10-minute delivery model, has rapidly expanded across major Indian cities, offering groceries, daily essentials, and ready-to-eat items.

While Palicha did not disclose the investors

involved in the latest round, sources indicate participation from both existing and new global investors, reflecting strong belief in the long-term potential of India's fast-growing quick commerce segment.

Zepto's latest raise comes at a time when many startups are struggling to secure capital amid a tighter funding environment. However, the company's focus on operational efficiency, customer experience, and hyper-local execution has helped it maintain investor interest.

Industry experts view Zepto's \$7 billion valuation as a strong signal of market leadership. With the fresh funds and strong balance sheet, Zepto is well-positioned to scale further, potentially eyeing an IPO in the coming years as it continues to disrupt traditional retail with technology-driven delivery solutions.



LIC Increases Stake in Dr. Reddy's to Over 10%

State-owned insurance giant Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in pharmaceutical major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, crossing the 10% ownership mark. According to a regulatory filing by the company, LIC acquired over 1.71 crore shares through open market purchases over the past few months.

The additional acquisition translates to a 2.05% increase in LIC's holding, taking its total stake from 8.21% in early June to 10.26% as of October 15. The insurer purchased 1,71,40,819 shares during this period, underscoring its growing confidence in the Hyderabad-based drug manufacturer.

LIC, one of India's largest institutional investors, frequently holds significant stakes in key Indian companies. The increased investment in Dr. Reddy's comes at a time when the pharmaceutical sector is showing signs of stability and growth, buoyed by steady demand for generic drugs, strong export performance, and strategic product launches.

Dr. Reddy's, known for its presence in both domestic and international markets, has reported steady earnings in recent quarters. Analysts suggest LIC's move reflects long-term institutional confidence in the company's fundamentals, research capabilities, and future growth prospects.

Market experts view this development as a positive signal for investors. "LIC's increased holding in Dr. Reddy's reinforces institutional trust in the pharma sector and the company's business model," said a senior market strategist.

The acquisition comes amid a broader trend of rising institutional interest in pharma stocks, driven by expectations of consistent earnings, product pipeline expansion, and regulatory approvals in key markets such as the U.S. and Europe.

Dr. Reddy's stock could see increased investor interest following LIC's disclosure, potentially supporting its valuation in upcoming trading sessions.



Wipro Posts Muted Q2 Profit Growth at 3,246 Crore

IT services major Wipro Ltd reported a subdued performance for the July–September quarter, with net profit inching up to 3,246 crore — a marginal rise from 3,208 crore recorded in the same period last year.

The Azim Premji-promoted firm saw a modest 1.7% year-on-year increase in revenue from operations, which stood at 22,697.3 crore compared to 22,301 crore in Q2 FY24. However, its

core information technology (IT) services revenue came in at \$2.6 billion, marking a slight 0.7% sequential growth but a 2.1% decline year-on-year.

CEO and Managing Director Thierry Delaporte noted persistent global economic challenges, while CEO-designate Srinivas Pallia highlighted sectoral headwinds. "Tariff uncertainties continue to

impact key sectors such as consumer, energy, and manufacturing, leading clients to re-evaluate and realign their supply chains," Pallia said.

Despite the muted topline and bottom-line figures, the company reported strong deal momentum. Wipro secured total contract wins worth \$4.7 billion during the quarter, with 13 large deals contributing \$2.9 billion — a sign of continued client trust in

Wipro's long-term digital transformation capabilities.

Market analysts attribute the soft numbers to prolonged decision-making cycles and spending caution among global clients, particularly in Europe and North America. However, the healthy deal pipeline and focus on operational efficiencies are expected to support growth in upcoming quarters.

Wipro's leadership

transition also remains in focus, as Pallia prepares to take over the reins in a challenging macroeconomic environment.

With global uncertainties continuing to influence tech spending patterns, Wipro's cautious yet steady performance reflects the broader industry sentiment, as peers also report varied results in a volatile market landscape.

IRCTC Website Crashes Amid Diwali, Chhath Tatkal Booking Rush



Thousands of passengers were left frustrated on Friday morning as the IRCTC website went down during the peak Tatkal booking window ahead of Diwali and Chhath Puja. As booking for Tatkal tickets opened, the site became unresponsive, leaving users unable to secure tickets during one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

A notice displayed on the IRCTC website read: "The server is currently unavailable due to an influx of service requests." The outage began around 10 AM, coinciding with a surge in login and booking attempts, as reported by real-time outage tracker Downtdetector. A significant spike in complaints was registered during this time, indicating a major system overload.

This is not an isolated incident—IRCTC has faced similar breakdowns in the past, with three major outages reported during the 2024 holiday season. However, the

timing of the current crash, just before Dhanteras and during high-demand Tatkal hours, has caused widespread outrage among travelers.

Social media users were quick to voice their frustration. One user on X (formerly Twitter) posted, "Once again, IRCTC servers down during Tatkal booking right in the middle of Diwali. Railways deserve better tech for the world's largest passenger network." Another user wrote, "This happens every festival. Please upgrade your server capacity!"

With the festive season rush at its peak, IRCTC is under renewed pressure to address recurring technical failures. Despite being the backbone of India's passenger rail system, the platform continues to struggle with high-volume traffic during key travel windows.

Railway officials have yet to release an official statement regarding the outage or when full service will be restored.

Aliens May Have Stopped Contacting Humans Out of Boredom: NASA Scientist



In a fascinating and unconventional theory, Dr. Robin Corbet, a senior research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, suggests that extraterrestrial civilizations might have simply lost interest in trying to contact humanity.

The theory, proposed in his recent paper titled "A Less Terrifying Universe? Mundanity as an Explanation for the Fermi Paradox," explores the idea that aliens might be only marginally more advanced than us — and possibly bored or unmotivated to initiate or maintain contact.

The Fermi Paradox — which questions why we haven't yet encountered intelligent alien life despite the vastness of the universe — serves as the basis for Corbet's proposal. Rather than imagining hyper-advanced civilizations with reality-bending technology, Corbet leans on the principle of "radical mundanity," suggesting that alien life, if it exists, might be more ordinary than we

expect. "They don't have faster-than-light travel or black hole-based machines. It's more like they have an iPhone 42 while we're on iPhone 17," Dr. Corbet told The Guardian. "They might be advanced, but not incomprehensibly so."

In the paper, which is yet to undergo peer review, Corbet argues that alien civilizations may lack the technological means or even the motivation to engage in high-energy communication that could take millions or billions of years to yield a response — a process that could understandably become tedious.

Rather than a terrifying silence caused by non-existence or hostile intent, Corbet's theory presents a universe that's "less terrifying" — just more mundane. He concludes that if we ever do make contact, the result might not be the awe-inspiring event we expect, but rather a slightly underwhelming exchange with civilizations not so different from our own.

“Flour Cheaper Than Wheat?” Viral Dmart Video Sparks Online

A viral video showing a bizarre price difference between wheat and flour at a Dmart store has left the internet both amused and puzzled. In the clip, a shopper points out that while wheat is priced at ₹37.50 per kg, flour (atta) is being sold for just ₹32 per kg — a contradiction that sparked an avalanche of online reactions.

The video, originally posted with the caption "Aata Gehu se sasta kaise ho gaya?" (How did flour become cheaper than wheat?), shows two price boards in the store — one for wheat and one for flour. The visibly confused customer pans the camera from the boards to his own baffled expression, making it a hilarious moment for viewers.

The post has since gone viral across social media platforms, drawing thousands of likes, shares, and comments. While many users laughed at the irony, others jumped in to explain the price difference.

One user commented, "This is the secret of business!" while another explained, "There are different varieties of wheat. Some like Lokwan or Sharbati are more expensive. Atta is often made from mixed or lower-grade wheat, hence the price difference."

Another user added, "You may know atta and gehu, but not the quality types. Market atta is often mass-



produced and treated with pesticides. Not all wheat is the same."

While the humorous video offered some comic relief, it also sparked an

educational discussion on food processing, grain quality, and pricing dynamics in Indian retail.

As the video continues to circulate

widely, it serves as both a lighthearted moment and a reminder of how product pricing can often defy basic logic — or at least appear to.

Zepto Delivery Agent Reveals ₹21,000 Weekly Earnings, Sparks Online Debate

A Zepto delivery agent from Bengaluru has gone viral after sharing his weekly earnings on Reddit, claiming to have earned ₹21,000 in just one week. The post, which included a screenshot of his delivery stats, quickly drew attention and sparked a wave of reactions online.

According to the Reddit post, the agent worked 12-hour shifts from 10 AM to 10 PM between September 29 and October 5, delivering a total of 387 orders. After deducting fuel expenses, he claimed a net earning of approximately ₹18,906.

Captioned "What I earned in a week (working morning 10am to night 10pm) as Zepto delivery," the post featured earnings per day ranging from ₹2,460 to ₹4,020, with higher payouts on days like October 2 and 5 — possibly due to festive or weather-related demand spikes.

While some users praised the delivery partner's dedication, others



questioned the legitimacy of such high figures. In response, the agent clarified that factors such as rain, peak-hour bonuses, and surge pricing play a crucial role in boosting payouts.

"What's better is rain — not full-blown, but gentle rain that lasts long — as we get surge bonuses," he wrote in the comments. He added that during another week, he earned ₹12,000 in just three days, thanks to persistent rain and high demand.

The viral post has reignited conversations about the gig economy in India, with some users impressed by the income potential, while others raised concerns over long working hours and sustainability.

With delivery platforms like Zepto offering incentives during peak periods, earnings can vary dramatically depending on location, weather, and time investment — making each rider's experience unique.

Viral Video of Woman Taking Bicycle on Mumbai Metro Sparks Debate Online

A viral video showing a woman carrying her bicycle inside a Mumbai Metro coach has ignited a spirited debate across social media platforms. The video, shared on X (formerly Twitter), has divided opinions among netizens, with some hailing it as a sign of urban progress, while others questioned its practicality in India.

The clip captures the woman calmly entering a Mumbai Metro train, using a designated bicycle slot where she hangs her bicycle by the front wheel. She later unhooks it with ease and exits the train, demonstrating how the system is designed to work.

Mumbai Metro currently allows bicycles onboard specific lines — namely Line 2A (Yellow Line) and Line 7 (Red Line) — in an effort to promote eco-friendly travel and improve last-mile connectivity for commuters. Importantly, passengers are not charged extra for bringing bicycles aboard, making it an accessible green option.

The video was originally posted by a user named Lord Immy Kant, who praised the facility: "This is a fantastic facility in the Mumbai Metro. I wish to see more and more Mumbai-



kars using it."

However, the post received mixed reactions. While some applauded the initiative, others expressed skepticism about its long-term viability. "No. That feature is not meant for a country like India," one user replied. "What happens when ten cyclists try

to get on during rush hour?"

Another user took a more balanced view: "Integrating metro services with last-mile connectivity is the future. If managed well, this could reduce traffic and pollution."

As Indian cities grow denser and traffic issues worsen, such sustaina-

ble transit initiatives may become increasingly important — provided they can be effectively implemented and managed. Early responses suggest strong interest, especially from developers, tech enthusiasts, and enterprise users exploring immersive computing solutions.

India Beat Malaysia 2-1 to Reach Sultan of Johor Cup Final

India marched into the final of the Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament with a hard-fought 2-1 win over hosts Malaysia in their last group match on Friday.

Despite tricky wet conditions that delayed the start, India showed resilience and tactical discipline to notch their record eighth final appearance in the tournament's 12-year history. They will face Australia in the summit clash on Saturday.

After a cagey first quarter, India broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute when Gurjot Singh converted a rebound from a penalty corner. India dominated the first half, earning nine penalty corners, but failed to convert most, with Malaysian goalkeeper Haziq Hairul making multiple saves.

Malaysia responded strongly after halftime and levelled in the 43rd minute through Naaveenesh Panicker, who tapped in a loose ball as India's defenders struggled to clear their lines. However, India quickly regained control, and five minutes later, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha restored the lead with a clinical finish from a rebound in a one-on-one situation.



India's defence held firm in the final minutes, denying Malaysia from two late penalty corners. The Indian backline, backed by sharp man-to-man marking and calm under pressure, ensured no further slip-ups. Though wasteful in penalty

corner conversions, India showed tactical maturity and composure to close out the game. Their ability to respond swiftly after conceding, and their control in the dying minutes, highlighted the squad's growing confidence heading into the final.

The victory puts India on course for a potential fourth Sultan of Johor Cup title, with their last win coming in 2014. Saturday's final against Australia promises a high-octane clash between two traditional junior hockey powerhouses.

Travis Head Backs Kohli and Rohit to Play 2027 ODI World Cup



Australian opener Travis Head has expressed confidence that Indian cricket stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will continue playing till the 2027 ODI World Cup, calling them the

"great white ball" duo of modern cricket. As India gears up to face Australia in a three-match ODI series starting October 19 in Perth, speculation around the future of the two senior

Indian batters has intensified. Both Rohit and Kohli have remained non-committal about their long-term ODI plans following India's heart-breaking loss in the 2023 World Cup final, but their fitness and form have continued to defy age-related concerns.

Speaking ahead of the series, Head praised the Indian veterans for their longevity and consistent performances on the international stage. "They're absolute legends of the game. The way they've performed over the years is unbelievable. I don't see any reason why they wouldn't be part of the next World Cup," Head said.

Rohit, 38, and Kohli, 36, remain two of the most prolific run-scorers in ODI history. Both have maintained top-level performances even as younger talents emerge in Indian cricket. Their presence in the squad for the Australia series has renewed debate on whether they are planning a full four-year cycle or a more gradual exit from the format.

The Indian team management has not issued any official statement about their ODI plans beyond this season, but insiders suggest both players are motivated by unfinished business, especially after the missed opportunity in 2023.

The series in Australia will likely offer more clues, but for now, the endorsement from a respected rival like Head adds weight to the belief that Rohit and Kohli may yet have another World Cup run left in them.

Harry Brook to Lead England in 1st T20I Against New Zealand

The England Men's Cricket Team has announced its playing XI for the first T20I of the three-match series against New Zealand, set to be held at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday. Right-handed batter Harry Brook has been named captain, with former skipper Jos Buttler returning as wicketkeeper.

The match, scheduled to begin at 7:15 am UK and Ireland time, marks the start of an exciting white-ball tour for both sides. England will aim to set the tone early in the series, especially with several fresh faces and a change in leadership.

England Playing XI: Phil Salt, Jos Buttler (wk), Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook (c), Tom Banton, Sam Curran, Jordan Cox, Brydon Carse, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Luke Wood.

England's squad blends experience and emerging talent, with Brook at the helm in the absence of regular white-ball captain Moeen Ali. The inclusion of youngsters like Bethell and Cox suggests a strategic eye toward the future.

Following the T20Is, the tour continues with three One Day Internationals (ODIs) starting October 26 in Mount Maunganui, followed by matches in Hamilton (October 29) and Wellington (November 1), all starting at 1:00 am UK time.

Meanwhile, hosts New Zealand will be without several key players due to injury, including Finn Allen, Adam Milne, Glenn Phillips, Lockie Ferguson, and Will O'Rourke. Mitchell Santner will captain the side.

New Zealand T20I Squad: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Bevon Jacobs, Kyle Jamieson, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Tim Seifert (wk).

With both teams fielding experimental line-ups, the series promises competitive action and a glimpse into the next generation of cricketing stars.



FIFA Confirms Over 1 Million Tickets Sold for 2026 World Cup



FIFA has announced that over 1 million tickets have already been sold for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, set to take place across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This marks the first official sales update since ticketing began earlier this month.

Despite only 28 of the 48 participating teams having secured qualification so far, fans from 212 countries and territories have already purchased tickets, reflecting the global excitement surrounding football's biggest tournament.

As expected, the highest demand has come from residents of the host nations — the U.S., Canada, and Mexico — but the international response has been substantial. The expanded format of the 2026 tournament, with 48 teams and matches in 16 cities across North America, has only added to the appeal.

In addition to announcing the sales milestone, FIFA also opened its official ticket resale platform. Notably, tickets for the

highly anticipated World Cup final, set to be held at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, are now available on the resale site at eye-watering prices ranging from \$9,538 to \$57,500 per seat.

FIFA has emphasized that all resale transactions should go through the official platform to prevent fraud and ensure ticket authenticity. The organization also confirmed that more ticket batches will be released in the coming months as additional teams qualify.

With the tournament now less than a year away, preparations are ramping up across host cities. The 2026 edition is expected to break multiple records, including total attendance and global viewership, cementing its place as one of the most anticipated sporting events in history.

Fans hoping to attend are advised to register with FIFA for upcoming sales phases and monitor official channels for updates.

Liverpool Eye Rebound vs Man United, Postecoglou Seeks First Win at Forest



Liverpool will aim to rediscover their winning form against arch-rivals Manchester United on Sunday, while Nottingham Forest boss Ange Postecoglou continues his search for a first league win of the season.

Just one point behind Premier League leaders Arsenal, Liverpool are looking to shake off a run of three consecutive defeats — including losses to Crystal Palace, Chelsea, and Galatasaray. The Reds will hope to channel the energy of Anfield and take inspiration from their famous 7-0 demolition of United in March 2023, which the club cheekily referenced on social media this week.

Mohamed Salah, who scored twice in that historic win and has netted in 10 of his last 11 games against United, will be key to Liverpool's hopes. However, the Egyptian forward is yet to hit top form this season, while big-money signings Florian Wirtz and Alexander Isak are still settling in.

United haven't won at Anfield

since 2016, but have managed back-to-back draws on their last two visits. While still in mid-table, manager Ruben Amorim will sense an opportunity to expose Liverpool's recent defensive vulnerabilities.

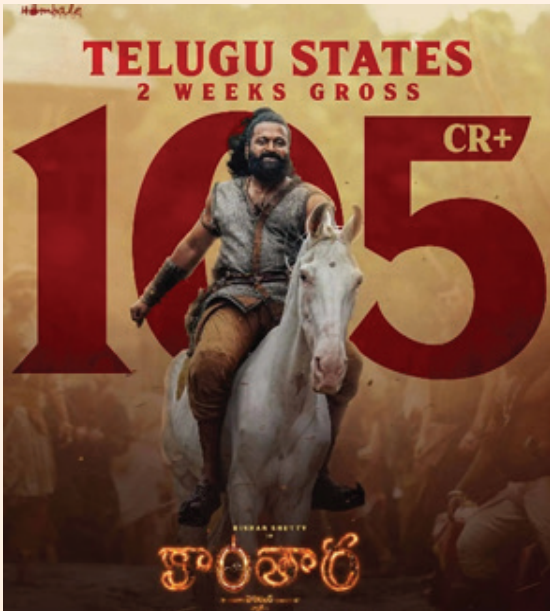
Meanwhile, Ange Postecoglou's position at Nottingham Forest remains under scrutiny. After a winless start to the campaign, Forest sit just one spot above the relegation zone. They host Chelsea in Saturday's early kick-off, hoping to end a dismal run that has seen fans call for the Australian's exit.

Postecoglou, however, remains defiant, saying he "loves the fight," amid reports linking Sean Dyche to his job.

Elsewhere, in-form Antoine Semenyo leads high-flying Bournemouth into a clash with Crystal Palace. The Ghanaian winger has contributed to 82% of his team's goals this season, making him one of the league's standout performers.

Premier League action resumes this weekend with high stakes across the table.

Kantara Chapter 1 Crosses ₹100 Cr Mark in Telugu States



Rishab Shetty's mythological action-drama Kantara Chapter 1 continues its unstoppable box office run, now achieving a significant milestone in the Telugu states. The film has grossed a staggering ₹105 crore in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana alone, just two weeks after its theatrical release. Produced by Hombale Films and directed by Rishab Shetty himself, Kantara Chapter 1 is being praised as one of the most culturally rooted and visually striking Indian films in recent memory. Its powerful storytelling, rich folklore elements, and intense performances have resonated with audiences across regions and languages. The film has now amassed a global gross of ₹717.50 crore, cementing its status as one of the year's biggest cinematic successes. In North America, Kantara Chapter 1 has also performed exceptionally well, earning over \$4.3 million—a rare feat for a film so deeply steeped in regional my-

thology and tradition. The strong performance in Telugu-speaking regions highlights the pan-Indian appeal of the film. It joins the elite club of films that have crossed the ₹100 crore mark in these states, showcasing the growing market for content-driven, culturally rich cinema. This milestone also reinforces Hombale Films' position as one of the leading production houses in Indian cinema, following the success of K.G.F and Salaar. With its theatrical run still going strong, Kantara Chapter 1 is expected to climb higher on the box office charts in the coming weeks. The film's emotional depth, action sequences, and rooted narrative continue to draw audiences in large numbers. Fans now eagerly await updates on Kantara Chapter 2, as the franchise appears poised to become one of Indian cinema's most significant cultural sagas.

Prithviraj Sukumaran Unveils First Look of New Film i, Nobody



Actor-filmmaker Prithviraj Sukumaran has announced his next project, titled i, Nobody, much to the delight of fans. The announcement came via his official Instagram handle, where he also unveiled the film's first look poster. The poster features Prithviraj in a strikingly different avatar — sporting a nerdy look with a checkered shirt and spectacles, hinting at a character far removed from his usual action-hero image. The caption read, "I, NOBODY. Shoot in progress." The minimalist poster has already sparked curiosity among movie buffs across social media platforms. i, Nobody is directed by Nissam Basheer, known for his work in Rorschach, and stars acclaimed actress Parvathy Thiruvothu in a pivotal role. While specific plot details are under wraps, the film is expected to be a character-driven drama, possibly touching on themes of identity and self-

worth, given the intriguing title. The announcement comes on the heels of another big reveal — the first glimpse teaser of Prithviraj's high-octane action drama Khalifa, which he released as a special treat for fans on his birthday. The back-to-back updates have kept fans buzzing with excitement about the actor's dynamic film lineup. Parvathy and Prithviraj have previously collaborated to critical acclaim, and their reunion in i, Nobody is already generating strong anticipation among Malayalam cinema enthusiasts. While the production of i, Nobody is currently underway, a release date has not yet been announced. The unique first look has set the tone for what appears to be a thought-provoking film, signaling yet another bold choice in Prithviraj Sukumaran's versatile career. Stay tuned for more updates on i, Nobody as the shoot progresses.

Pradeep Ranganathan's Dude – A Watchable Entertainer with Some Bumps



Rating: 3/5 After back-to-back blockbusters with Love Today and Dragon, Pradeep Ranganathan returns with Dude, a youth-centric entertainer directed by Keerthiswaran. Starring Mamitha Baiju as the female lead, the film brings a blend of comedy, emotion, and relationship drama. The story revolves around Gagan (Pradeep Ranganathan), a heartbroken youngster who runs an event management company with his cousin

Kundhana (Mamitha Baiju). Things take a turn when Kundhana confesses her feelings for Gagan, leading to a series of impulsive decisions that alter their lives. Pradeep once again proves his strength as a performer with his sharp comic timing and quirky expressions, especially in the laugh-out-loud interval block. Sarathkumar, in a dual-shaded surprise role, delivers a strong performance, adding depth to the story. Mamitha Baiju impresses in a key role

and shares good chemistry with Pradeep. The first half, although slow initially, picks up pace and is packed with fun moments. However, the second half struggles to maintain the same momentum. As the film shifts towards emotional storytelling and a social message, the entertainment quotient drops. While the intent is appreciable, the emotional core doesn't hit as hard, and Pradeep's character arc may leave audiences divided. Technically, Sai Abhyankkar's music

and background score work well, with the "Boom Boom" song standing out. Niketh Bommi's cinematography is vibrant, and production values by Mythri Movie Makers are solid. Debutant director Keerthiswaran shows promise, though he needs to handle pacing and transitions better. Dude is a decent one-time watch, especially for fans of Pradeep Ranganathan's style of humor. It entertains in parts but doesn't quite deliver a fully satisfying emotional payoff.

Telusu Kada – Urban Romance with a Bold Twist



Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Raashii Khanna, and Srinidhi Shetty headline Telusu Kada, a contemporary romantic drama that explores surrogacy and emo-

tional complexities. Directed by debutante Neeraja Kona, the film released on October 17, 2025. The story follows Varun (Siddhu), a chef seeking

stability, who marries Anjali (Raashii Khanna) through a matrimonial site. When Anjali discovers she cannot conceive, she turns to her husband's ex-girlfriend, Raaga (Srinidhi Shetty), now a doctor, to help with surrogacy. The emotional fallout from this decision forms the crux of the film. The first half is engaging, with mature handling of the surrogacy theme. Siddhu Jonnalagadda delivers a solid performance, breaking away from his DJ Tillu image. His character, though ambiguous, is portrayed with depth. Raashii Khanna shines in a well-written role, while Srinidhi Shetty's character is intriguing but slightly underdeveloped. Viva Harsha impresses in a key role, adding humor and relatability. Technically, Telusu Kada excels. Thaman S delivers impressive songs and background score. Cinematographer Gana Shekar VS and editor Navin Nooli contribute to the film's sleek, polished feel. Costumes and production design elevate the film's urban aesthetic. However, the second half falters with confusing character arcs and pacing issues. The film is a modern reimagining of Chori Chori Chupke Chupke, with a few narrative changes, but struggles to maintain clarity in its layered storytelling. Verdict: Telusu Kada is a refreshing take on urban relationships with bold themes, strong performances, and high technical finesse. While the second half lacks clarity, the film will resonate with audiences open to emotionally complex romantic dramas.

Chiranjeevi Felicitates Asia Cup Star Tilak Varma



Megastar Chiranjeevi honoured Indian cricketer Tilak Varma in a special ceremony held on the sets of his upcoming film Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu. The young Hyderabad cricketer was the star of India's recent Asia Cup triumph, playing a match-winning knock in the final against Pakistan. Tilak Varma, whose unbeaten 69 led India to a thrilling victory, was felicitated by Chiranjeevi in a traditional and heartfelt manner. The actor draped a shawl over Tilak and gifted him a framed photograph of himself, making it a memorable token of appreciation. The event was held in the presence of the film's team, including actress Nayanthara, director Anil Ravipudi, and the producers. The entire crew joined in to applaud Tilak's stellar performance, which has made him a household name across the country. Speaking on the occasion, Chiranjeevi praised Tilak for his determination, composure, and extraordinary fight-

ing spirit under pressure. He called Tilak's Asia Cup final innings a "masterclass" that exemplified the qualities of a true champion and noted that such grit at a young age is inspirational for the entire nation. The meeting highlighted not just a celebration of sporting excellence, but also the cultural unity between cinema and cricket—two passions that unite millions of Indians. This gesture from Chiranjeevi has further endeared him to fans, while also giving due recognition to a rising sports star whose performance on the cricketing stage brought immense pride to the nation. Tilak Varma, visibly humbled by the honour, thanked Chiranjeevi and the film crew for their warm welcome and encouragement, calling the moment "unforgettable." The brief yet emotional ceremony became a trending moment, reflecting the spirit of mutual admiration between India's entertainment and sports icons.