



BUZZ POINTS



DOCTOR'S ASSOCIATION DEMANDS RELEASE OF AROGYA SRI FUNDS

Private hospital doctors across Andhra Pradesh staged protests on Wednesday demanding the immediate release of long-pending bills under the NTR Aarogya Sri scheme, alleging that prolonged delays have pushed private health-care institutions into financial distress. Members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Andhra Pradesh Super Specialty Hospitals Association (ASHA) demonstrated in front of the Sub-Collector's Office in Rajamahendravaram

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SWACHH ANDHRA TEAM ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

A high-level delegation from the Swachh Andhra Corporation, headed by Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram, undertook a detailed study tour in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district to explore effective waste management systems and plastic recycling models. The visit, covering major facilities in Mangaluru, Edapadavu, and Ujire gram panchayats, was aimed at adopting best practices for implementation across Andhra Pradesh.

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Andhra Set to Become India's Sports Hub

Andhra Pradesh to Emerge as India's Sports and Innovation Hub: Lokesh's Strategic Meetings in Australia

TPN

Brisbane / Gold Coast Andhra Pradesh is set to become India's leading hub for sports, education, and technology-driven innovation, following a series of high-level strategic meetings held by Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh during his visit to Australia. In Brisbane, Minister Lokesh met with Shaun Gallagher and Elizabeth De Silva of Populous Architects, a globally acclaimed firm that has designed some of the world's most iconic sports arenas, including the Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad and the London Olympic Stadium.

With Populous holding

a four-decade legacy and a \$60-billion project portfolio, Lokesh urged the firm to collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh government in designing sustainable, world-class sports stadiums, training academies, and community-centered complexes. He emphasized Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into the "Sports Capital of India" through eco-friendly, multifunctional infrastructure that supports sports tourism and cultural development. At the Queensland Trade & Investment Centre, Lokesh announced a groundbreaking education reform introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) studies at the high school level across Andhra Pradesh.

Pradesh.

AI labs, robotics, and STEM centers are being established to prepare students for emerging global challenges. He also revealed plans to launch a dedicated AI University in the state to nurture high-end research and innovation, noting that AI adoption is already improving governance, healthcare, and education. The event saw participation from key education and trade leaders, including India's Consul General Neetu Bhagatodia and University of Queensland Deputy Vice-Chancellor Mark Harvey. Addressing a Business Round Table organized by the Indian Consulate and the Australia-India

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Pawan Kalyan and Raghurama Raju Lock Horns Over DSP

Cold War Brews Between Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Raju

TPN Bureau | Bhimavaram, Oct 22: Political tensions in Andhra Pradesh's ruling coalition have intensified following a dispute over a police officer's alleged misconduct in Bhimavaram, West Godavari district. What began as a departmental inquiry has quickly escalated into a political flashpoint between Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishna Raju (RRR) of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The controversy centers around DSP Jayasurya, currently posted in Bhimavaram, who has been accused of involvement in settlement activities, civil disputes, and illegal gambling operations. Acting on complaints from local leaders and residents, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan reportedly directed the West Godavari Superintendent of Police (SP) to initiate a formal inquiry into the officer's conduct.



He also sought a detailed report from the Director General of Police (DGP) regarding the scale of gambling activities across the state, signaling that the issue was being viewed beyond just a local concern. However, the matter took a political twist when Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishna Raju stepped in to publicly defend the officer.



Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Raju described DSP Jayasurya as a "sincere and efficient officer" and suggested that Pawan Kalyan may have been misinformed. He further asserted that no gambling centers were operating in Bhimavaram and that the officer's reputation was being "maliciously targeted." Contradicting Raju's claims, local reports indicate that while two clubs in the region hold valid li-



censes, nearly 20 illegal gambling centers have been functioning clandestinely in and around Bhimavaram.

Sources allege that DSP Jayasurya has been favoring one faction involved in these operations while cracking down on a rival group. The matter is believed to have reached Pawan Kalyan through multiple complaints, including from former minister Srinivasa Varma

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Andhra's Aqua Ambitions Get Global Push

Lokesh's Global Push to Boost Andhra's Aqua Sector Gains Momentum

TPN BUREAU

Vijayawada OCT 22: Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu has hailed IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh for his visionary drive to transform Andhra Pradesh's aqua sector into a global leader. Speaking on Tuesday, the minister said that Lokesh's proactive initiatives are opening new doors for the state's aqua farmers, exporters, and entrepreneurs through international collaborations and cutting-edge innovations.

Atchannaidu highlighted that Lokesh's recent efforts to forge partnerships with Australia have created promising avenues for modern aquaculture techniques, research exchange, and farmer empowerment.



These collaborations, he said, not only ensure knowledge transfer but also position Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of sustainable and technology-driven seafood production.

Pointing to the steep tariffs currently imposed by the United States on seafood imports, Atchannaidu appreciated Lokesh's foresight in searching for alternative global markets. He noted that by di-

versifying export destinations and engaging with new partner nations, the state could protect its aqua farmers from market volatility and enhance long-term resilience in global trade. The minister said Lokesh's emphasis on improving product quality, cold storage infrastructure, processing efficiency, and packaging standards through the adoption

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Sobha Realty Bets Rs 100 Cr on Amaravati Library

Sobha Realty Group Offers Rs 100 Crore for World-Class Library in Amaravati

TPN

Vijayawada / Dubai, Oct 22: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's ongoing three-day tour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attract global investments for Andhra Pradesh began on a promising

note as leading real estate developer Sobha Realty Group announced a significant contribution of Rs 100 crore for establishing a world-class library in Amaravati. During a series of high-level one-on-one meetings with top industry leaders in

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Naidu Seals Big Deals with Global Investors

CM Chandrababu Secures Key Investment Offers from Global Industry Leaders in Dubai.



TPN

Vijayawada / Dubai Oct 22: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a series of high-level meetings with international industry giants in Dubai on Wednesday, inviting them to participate in the upcoming Visakhapatnam CII Partnership Summit and explore investment opportunities across key sectors in the state. The meetings focused on attracting strategic investments to boost Andhra Pradesh's logistics, industrial, and healthcare infrastructure.

Mr. Naidu met Sharaf Group Vice Chairman and Sharaf DG Founder Sharafuddin and highlighted the promising potential for investments in logistics parks and warehousing facilities across Andhra Pradesh. Emphasizing the state's robust connectivity and strategic coastal advantage, the Chief Minister assured that the government is ready to modify policies if necessary to create a more conducive environment for investors. Responding positively, Sharaf Group representatives expressed their intent to collaborate with the state government to establish logistics parks and warehousing projects, contributing to the growth of supply chain networks across major industrial corridors. Continuing his efforts to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's maritime and industrial infrastructure, the Chief Minister held discussions with Transworld Group Chairman Ramesh S. Ramakrish-

na. Mr. Naidu explained the vast opportunities available in shipbuilding and port-based industries, particularly in Dugarajupatnam, which has been earmarked for a major shipbuilding unit. The Transworld Group, with its significant experience in global shipping and logistics, showed keen interest in partnering with the state in the proposed project. The Chief Minister reiterated that improving port connectivity and infrastructure remains a top priority for the government, ensuring long-term economic benefits along the state's coastline. In the healthcare sector, Mr. Naidu engaged with Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, Founder and Chairman of Burjeel Holdings,

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UAE Rolls Out Red Carpet for Naidu

CM Chandrababu Naidu Receives Grand Welcome in Dubai, Seeks UAE Investments for Andhra Pradesh.



TPN

Vijayawada / DUBAI OCT 22: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu arrived in Dubai on Wednesday to a grand reception from members of the Telugu community, entrepreneurs, and women representatives at the

Dubai International Airport, marking the start of his three-day official tour to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The visit is aimed at promoting Andhra Pradesh as a preferred global investment destination and inviting industry leaders to participate in the upcoming CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam

on November 14 and 15. The Chief Minister's delegation was received with cheers, garlands, and cultural performances by the local Telugu diaspora, reflecting the strong emotional connection between the expatriate community and their home state. Immediately after his arrival,

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Pawan Kalyan and Raghurama Raju Lock Horns Over DSP

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 and Bhimavaram MLA Anji Babu, both of whom reportedly urged the Deputy CM to address the issue urgently. Political observers interpret the incident as symptomatic of deeper rifts within the ruling alliance of the TDP and Jana Sena. Raghurama Krishna Raju's vocal defense of the DSP, despite

the ongoing inquiry, has been perceived as an attempt to assert his influence locally and perhaps indirectly challenge the growing assertiveness of the Jana Sena in West Godavari. The rivalry is also said to mirror the local factional struggle, where opposing gambling groups are backed

by individuals aligned with the two coalition partners. While Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's supporters argue that his stand is guided purely by principles and his commitment to law enforcement, critics within political circles are questioning whether the move was also aimed at strengthening his party's control in

Bhimavaram, a Jana Sena stronghold. Party insiders, however, insist that the Deputy CM's directive to the DGP for a statewide list of gambling camps proves that his approach extends beyond local politics. "Pawan Kalyan is focusing on cleaning up the system. His intention is to ensure law and order; not to target individuals

politically," said a senior Jana Sena leader. Meanwhile, allies of Raghurama Krishna Raju maintain that DSP Jayasurya is a casualty of internal party tussles. "The officer is being victimized for doing his duty. This entire controversy is politically motivated," one of Raju's aides stated. As the in-

vestigation proceeds, the issue has evolved into a symbolic test of strength between the two coalition partners. Both leaders appear unwilling to soften their positions, and administrative leaders are treading cautiously to avoid further friction between the Deputy CM's office and the Deputy Speaker's camp.

Analysts suggest that while the official narrative focuses on law enforcement, the underlying tensions highlight fault lines within the government that could widen over time. For now, Bhimavaram a town known more for its business and cultural vibrancy — finds itself at the center of an unfolding political drama

that could have broader implications for the state's coalition dynamics. With attention now on the DGP's forthcoming report and potential disciplinary action, this controversy is poised to either reaffirm the government's commitment to integrity or expose cracks between its leading partners.

Sobha Realty Bets Rs 100 Cr on Amaravati Library

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 Dubai, the Chief Minister held his first discussion with Sobha Realty Group Chairman Ravi Menon. Mr. Naidu explained the State government's ambitious vision of developing Amaravati as a world-class capital city, equipped with advanced infrastructure and global amenities. He also emphasized investment prospects in tourism, real estate, hospitality, and urban development sectors across Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the State's growing appeal among internation-

al investors, the Chief Minister informed the Sobha Group chairman that Google had recently agreed to set up a major Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre in Visakhapatnam. He invited Mr. Menon to visit Amaravati personally to witness the rapid pace of developmental works being undertaken in the capital region. In response, Mr. Menon expressed his appreciation for the Chief Minister's leadership and extended his company's willingness to partner in the State's development journey. Announcing a

contribution of Rs 100 crore for building a world-class library in Amaravati, he stated that Sobha Realty was keen to associate with initiatives that promote knowledge, education, and innovation. The proposed library is expected to become an architectural and intellectual landmark in Amaravati, symbolising Andhra Pradesh's cultural and educational renaissance. The announcement marks another milestone in the State's efforts to attract global investments and build a knowledge-driven economy.

Naidu Seals Big Deals with Global Investors

one of the UAE's leading healthcare and research organizations. During the meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 Andhra Pradesh's pioneering initiative to digitize health cards as part of a pilot project to improve health service accessibility. The Burjeel Group expressed interest in establishing a state-of-the-art cancer centre in Tirupati, leveraging its extensive experience in oncology care and research. Mr.

Naidu underscored that the government's focus is on building world-class infrastructure in ports, highways, and healthcare, while simultaneously strengthening key sectors such as automobiles in Rayalaseema. He invited all global investors to participate in the Visakhapatnam CII Partnership Summit next month, emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh is open for business and ready to support transformative investments.

Andhra Set to Become India's Sports Hub

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 Business Council, Lokesh highlighted Andhra Pradesh's strong contribution to India-Australia trade, particularly in petroleum, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. He underscored the rapid expansion of bilateral trade following the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), and invited Australian investors to the Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam. The state, under Chief Minister Naidu's leadership, has already attract-



ed ₹10 lakh crore in global investments, including major projects by Google and ArcelorMittal. In Gold Coast, Lokesh met Griffith University Vice President Marnie Watson and proposed establishing a "Griffith University India Centre" in Andhra Pradesh to promote research, student exchange, and curriculum innovation. He invited the university to collaborate on dual-degree programs and join the Andhra Pradesh Global Education Forum and Partnership Summit 2025, reinforcing the state's commitment to global innovation and sustainable development.

Andhra's Aqua Ambitions Get Global Push

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 of advanced technology will directly benefit farmers. These interventions would strengthen the state's export competitiveness and ensure that Andhra seafood products meet international standards. "At a time when global demand for healthy and traceable seafood is rising, our government's focus on 'Andhra Pradesh Seafood' as a recognizable global brand reflects forward-thinking leadership," Attchannaidu remarked. With a rich

1,000-kilometer coastline and extensive aqua resources, Andhra Pradesh has immense potential to become a global hub for fisheries and allied industries, he added. Attchannaidu also welcomed Lokesh's move to initiate joint research projects with Western Sydney University to advance scientific innovation and skill development. Such partnerships, he said, would equip young farmers and entrepreneurs with modern aquaculture knowledge and global best practices.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing renewed investor interest and an upsurge in industrial development, he noted. The aqua sector, in particular, has emerged as a key driver of rural prosperity and employment generation. "With Nara Lokesh leading the global outreach, Andhra Pradesh's seafood industry is set to scale new heights in quality, branding, and global recognition," Attchannaidu affirmed.

UAE Rolls Out Red Carpet for Naidu

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 Naidu held discussions with A. Amarnath, Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of India, and Satish Sivan, Consul General of India in Dubai, focusing on strengthening trade and investment relations between Andhra Pradesh and the UAE. During the meeting, both officials emphasized the growing economic partnership between India and the UAE. Consul General Satish Sivan pointed out that bilateral trade between the two nations has surged by nearly 50 percent over the past three years, fueled by mutual investments in trade, technology, and innovation. "India has rapidly emerged as a

global hub for the knowledge economy, while the UAE continues its diversification drive by investing in advanced technologies and non-oil sectors. The establishment of a dedicated Ministry for Artificial Intelligence in 2017 underscores the UAE's futuristic vision," he remarked. A. Amarnath informed the Chief Minister that the UAE has so far invested close to \$23 billion in India, generating an impressive 50 percent return within just three years. He added that Emirati investors are particularly keen on expanding their footprint in priority sectors such as education, healthcare, green energy, and food processing. "Investment prospects in Andhra Pradesh's food parks, renewable clusters, and industrial corridors align well with the UAE's diversification goals," Amarnath said.

Speaking after the meeting, Chief Minister Naidu highlighted that India-UAE relations have entered a new era of strategic collaboration under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Prime Minister's proactive diplomatic efforts have opened new pathways for international cooperation and investment. This momentum offers tremendous potential for Andhra Pradesh to partner with global players," Naidu stated. He reiterated his gov-

ernment's vision of developing Andhra Pradesh into a technology-driven, sustainable, and innovation-led economy. "Our state is emerging as a hub for green energy, data centers, quantum technology, and food processing. We provide industry-friendly policies, robust infrastructure, and a highly skilled workforce. Many global technology majors, including Google, have already begun operations in Andhra Pradesh," he said. Naidu also invited investors to visit Visakhapatnam for the CII Partnership Summit, emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh aims to become a gateway for international collabora-

tion and sustainable growth in South India. He expressed confidence that the state's strong governance model and transparent policy framework would further attract global investors seeking stable, high-return opportunities. Ministers B.C. Janardhana Reddy, T.G. Bharath, and senior officials from the Andhra Pradesh government accompanied the Chief Minister on the UAE visit. During the three-day tour, Naidu is expected to meet top industrial leaders, explore investment agreements, and showcase Andhra Pradesh's readiness to partner with the world in driving the next phase of industrial transformation.

DOCTOR'S ASSOCIATION DEMANDS RELEASE OF AROGYA SRI FUNDS

TPN, Doctors' Associations Demand Immediate Release of ₹670 Crore Pending Under NTR Aarogya Sri.

Rajamahendravaram, Oct 22 (TPN Bureau – East Godavari): Private hospital doctors across Andhra Pradesh staged protests on Wednesday demanding the immediate release of long-pending bills under the NTR Aarogya Sri scheme, alleging that prolonged delays have pushed private healthcare institu-

tions into financial distress. Members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Andhra Pradesh Super Specialty Hospitals Association (ASHA) demonstrated in front of the Sub-Collector's Office in Rajamahendravaram. They sought clearance of arrears that have remained unpaid for over

nine months. ASHA State President Dr. K. Vijay Kumar said that the government owes nearly ₹3,000 crore to private hospitals across the state, forcing many to operate under severe financial strain. He urged the government to immediately release at least ₹670 crore to sustain healthcare services for

poor patients continuing treatment under the NTR Aarogya Sri scheme. "Hospitals are managing daily operations by taking loans, and the system is now on ventilator support," Dr. Vijay Kumar stated. IMA President Dr. Pidugu Vijayabhaskar expressed similar concern, describing healthcare as a funda-

mental necessity like food and shelter. He criticized the government's apathy, revealing that several hospitals have mortgaged family assets and gold to maintain services. "If dues are not cleared soon, many hospitals may be forced to halt services, putting thousands of patients at risk," he warned. The associations an-

nounced a state-wide protest to be held at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada on October 23 to press for quick disbursement of pending funds. Doctors from multiple districts are expected to join the demonstration, stressing that timely payment is crucial to saving the state's private healthcare network and ensuring uninterrupted service to poor and critical patients.

STERN ACTION AGAINST ASSAULT ON MINOR GIRL

Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission Takes Stern Action on Tuni Minor Assault Attempt

TPN BUREAU,

Amaravati, October 22, 2025: "The police must ensure the perpetrator is apprehended without delay," she stated. She also confirmed that the Commission has taken up the case suo-motu, underscoring its seriousness. Dr. Shailaja instructed law enforcement to expedite the investigation and ensure that the accused faces strict punishment under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. She emphasized that anyone involved in such heinous acts, regardless of their societal standing, should not be spared and must face the full force of the law. The Commission Chairperson also directed the district administration, including the Collector's

office and Child Welfare Committee, to provide the victim with immediate protection, medical care, and legal support. To ensure transparency and accountability, she demanded that the police department submit a comprehensive report on the incident to the Commission within 48 hours. Further, Dr. Shailaja issued written recommendations to the state's Education Department to tighten security measures in all residential schools to prevent such incidents in the future. Addressing the media, she made it clear that the Women's Commission will not tolerate any violations against the safety of women and girls in the state and vowed to monitor legal proceedings closely to ensure the strictest possible punishment for the accused.

SWACHH ANDHRA TEAM ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

Swachh Andhra Team Studies Karnataka's Waste Management Success for Statewide Model

TPN

Vijayawada / Bengaluru Oct 22: A high-level delegation from the Swachh Andhra Corporation, headed by Chairman Kommarreddy Pattabhiram, undertook a detailed study tour in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district to explore effective waste management systems and plastic recycling models. The visit, covering major facilities in Mangaluru, Edapadavu, and Ujire gram panchayats, was aimed at adopting best prac-

tices for implementation across Andhra Pradesh. During the visit, the team examined the working mechanisms of Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Centers and Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), which have played a key role in Karnataka's efficient waste management network. Pattabhiram highlighted that the Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to creating a "dump yard-free" and "plastic-free" Andhra



Pradesh through sustainable solutions and community involvement. "Our goal is to make Andhra Pradesh the cleanest state in India. To achieve that, we are learning from successful models in other

states and integrating those systems to handle waste efficiently. Plastic waste management is now our special focus area," Pattabhiram said. He announced an ambitious plan to set up plas-

tic waste processing units across all 175 Assembly constituencies, extending beyond municipal zones to remote rural areas. These units will ensure daily waste processing, preventing the accumulation of plastic and other pollutants while encouraging segregation at the source. Pattabhiram also pointed out the government's success in clearing more than 85 lakh tonnes of legacy waste left behind by the previous administration. "Under the Chief Minister's vision of a

Swarnandhra-Swachh Andhra, citizens are actively contributing to maintaining sanitation standards statewide. The next phase of this mission focuses on long-term environmental preservation and rural sustainability," he added. Senior officials from Swachh Andhra Corporation accompanied the chairman during the Karnataka visit, gathering insights to formulate a comprehensive waste management model tailored to Andhra Pradesh's environmental and developmental priorities.



JANMABHOOMI EXPRESS TO HALT IN ANAPARTHI

Anaparthi Achieves Long-Awaited Janmabhoomi Train Halt After Persistent Efforts.

TPN Bureau, East Godavari Oct 22: After years of continuous representation and effort, the long-standing dream of Anaparthi residents to have a Janmabhoomi Express halt has finally become a reality. The Ministry of Railways has officially approved the proposal to provide a permanent halt for the Janmabhoomi Super Fast Express at Anaparthi Railway Station. This long-pending demand has been successfully achieved through the combined efforts of

Rajahmundry MP Dagubati Purandeswari and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy. Their relentless pursuit and coordination with the Union Ministry have culminated in this significant development, marking a new chapter in the region's railway connectivity. District BJP President Pikki Nagendra, speaking on behalf of the people of Anaparthi, extended heartfelt gratitude to Union Railway Minister Ashwini



Vaishnav, MP Purandeswari, and MLA Ramakrishna Reddy for making this project a reality. He remarked that the announcement has brought immense joy among the public, who have long awaited a stoppage that would greatly benefit commut-

ers, students, and local traders.

MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy stated that the halt approval has been formally sanctioned and the official commencement date will be announced soon by the Railway Board. He reiterated that the halt would not only ease travel for local passengers but also strengthen Anaparthi's economic growth by improving connectivity to major cities. Citizens of Anaparthi hailed MLA Ramakrishna Reddy as a tireless reformer who fought unwaveringly like a modern Bhagira-

tha for the cause of securing the Janmabhoomi Express stoppage. Many also appreciated MP Purandeswari for her effective coordination with the central ministry, which played a crucial role in finalizing the decision. With this long-cherished demand fulfilled, Anaparthi stands poised for better connectivity, increased passenger convenience, and renewed development opportunities. The official inauguration of the halt is expected shortly, marking a proud moment for the residents who have patiently awaited this accomplishment.

AP Citizens Give Coalition Govt 75% Thumbs Up: Minister



TPN / Vijayawada Oct 22: Public satisfaction levels in Andhra Pradesh have crossed 75 percent under the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, according to a Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) survey. Announcing the results at a media conference in the Secretariat on Wednesday, Minister for Housing, Information and Public Relations Kolusu Parthasarathy said that Andhra Pradesh remains the only state in India that continuously assesses public opinion on welfare and governance through such extensive surveys.

Minister Parthasarathy stated that Chief Minister Naidu reviewed the RTGS report and expressed happiness over the encouraging results. However, he emphasized that the Chief Minister has directed officials to analyse the reasons behind the remaining 25 percent dissatisfaction and work towards complete satisfaction. "We will identify whether the lapses are administrative or due to local representatives and take corrective measures immediately," the Minister said.

Highlighting the government's proactive approach to infrastructure, power, and welfare delivery, Parthasarathy mentioned that the Chief Minister had instructed the Energy Department to guarantee uninterrupted power supply across the state. Each substation would henceforth be treated as a distinct survey unit to ensure close monitoring of voltage levels

and supply quality. Showcasing the coalition government's emphasis on growth and transparent governance, the Minister revealed that within one and a half years, the government had convened 34 Cabinet meetings and 26 State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meetings. These efforts have led to the approval of major investment projects worth 7.65 lakh crore, expected to generate 7.21 lakh jobs. The government also aims to create 20 lakh employment opportunities for youth across various sectors. Despite significant revenue losses, Parthasarathy confirmed that free sand distribution continues as part of the government's commitment to public welfare. Addressing the



YSRCP Rallies Across AP to Stop Medical College Privatization

YSRCP Launches Statewide Agitation TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 22: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Tuesday announced a massive statewide protest against the alleged privatization of government medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh. The party's State Coordinator, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, unveiled the poster of the "YSRCP Praja Udyamam" at the party's central office in Tadepalli, declaring that the agitation would continue until the state government withdraws what he described as an "anti-people and destructive decision." Speaking on the occasion, Sajjala said that the YSRCP's protest program would be carried out in multiple phases.

The first phase will begin with mass dharnas across all Assembly constituencies on October 28, followed by district-level rallies on November 12. He added that the party's ongoing one-crore signature campaign, aimed at mobilizing public opposition to the privatization move, would conclude on November 23. The collected signatures will be submitted at the party headquarters on November 24, after which former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and senior party leaders will meet the Governor to convey the people's concerns. Sajjala firmly asserted that the movement is not politically motivated but a fight for the future of the state and the integrity of its public health

infrastructure. "This is a battle for the people, not a partisan struggle," he said, noting that students, government employees, medical professionals, and intellectuals have already come forward to support the campaign. Highlighting YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's earlier initiatives, Sajjala recalled that the former Chief Minister had sanctioned 17 new government medical colleges, of which seven were completed and several others were nearing completion. "Instead of continuing that vision, the present coalition government is auctioning these institutions to private players," he alleged. Sajjala also reminded that the Pulivendula and Paderu colleges had earlier faced ob-

struction during Chandrababu Naidu's government, which, he claimed, showed the current administration's disregard for accessible healthcare. He criticized the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model being introduced, calling it a "disguised form of privatization" that would allow private entities to profit from public investments while depriving the poor of affordable medical education and healthcare. He concluded that the YSRCP would not rest until the government reverses its decision, vowing to transform the "Praja Udyamam" into a people's movement to safeguard public sector medical education in Andhra Pradesh.

YSRCP's 'One Crore Signatures' Drive Takes on Health Privatization

TPN BUREAU, ANANTAPUR Oct 22: YSRCP Anantapur district president Anantha Venkataramireddy strongly opposed the state government's move to privatize government medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, warning that such a step would force citizens to "buy medical care" in the future. Speaking at a public meeting in Gutti on Wednesday, he participated in the 'One Crore Signatures' campaign led by former MLA Y. Venkataramireddy as part of a statewide movement against privatization in the health care sector. Party leaders, including constituency observer T.

Tippteswamy, attended the event. Alongside the signature drive, the leaders also reviewed the formation of new YSRCP committees and directed local cadres to complete the appointments swiftly. Addressing the gathering, Anantha Venkataramireddy recalled the welfare measures initiated by the late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, especially the fee reimbursement scheme that enabled thousands of poor students to become doctors and engineers. He noted that Dr. Reddy's Aarogyasri program had brought corporate-level health services within the reach of the poor.



Continuing that legacy, he said, the former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had supported weaker sections through revolu-

tionary schemes such as Amma Vodi, which has no parallel elsewhere in the country. The district YSRCP chief emphasized that before 2019,

Andhra Pradesh had only 11 government medical colleges offering 2,550 seats. Under the Jagan-led administration, the number of med-

ical seats was increased by 4,500 through the initiation of 17 new government medical colleges worth 8,000 crore. He noted that five of

He urged citizens, so-

cial organizations, intellectuals, and Left groups to join the movement and help "bend the back of the coalition government."

"Calling on YSRCP cadres to intensify the campaign, he instructed them to visit every household, educate people about the government's anti-public policies, and strengthen the party from the village level upward. He directed all district units to complete the formation of village, ward, and division-level committees by November 15, asserting that strong grassroots leadership is the key to success in the upcoming local body elections.

AP Braces for Heavy Rainfall

DEEP DEPRESSION IN SOUTHWEST BAY MAY BRING HEAVY RAINS TO ANDHRA PRADESH.

TPN BUREAU VIJAYAWADA, OCT 22: A deep depression that has developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal, centered along the Tamil Nadu coast, is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction over the next 24 hours, according to Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhari Jain. He stated that the weather system is expected to advance toward the northern Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and

south coastal Andhra Pradesh coastlines by Thursday, potentially bringing widespread rainfall to several parts of the state.

In his weather briefing on Wednesday, Jain said that due to the influence of this system, heavy rainfall is likely to occur in isolated places across Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, and Tirupati districts, while the remaining districts may experience light to moderate rainfall. He further warned that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are expected to continue across the state for the next five days. Coastal areas are likely to experience strong surface winds with speeds ranging between 35 and 55 km per hour.

The APSDMA advised residents in coastal regions to remain alert and take precautions against possible flooding and damage due to gusty winds. Fishermen have been strictly warned not to venture into the sea until Saturday, as conditions are expected to remain rough along the coast. To ensure swift response to any emergency, Jain announced that one team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and four teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have already been deployed in the affected districts. These teams will assist local authorities in rescue and relief operations if the situation worsens. The APSDMA also shared rainfall data recorded until 6 p.m. on

Wednesday. The highest rainfall was registered at Marripadu in Nellore district with 89.2 mm, followed by Mogilicherla with 79 mm. Bhavadevarapalli in Krishna district recorded 75 mm, Umarreddypalle in Prakasam received 62.2 mm, and Duggirala in Guntur district reported 61.5 mm of rainfall. Officials urged citizens to stay informed through official channels, avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rain, and keep emergency contacts ready. With continuous monitoring from the disaster management control room, the state administration remains on high alert to tackle any potential crisis arising from the developing weather system.



Elderly Man Held for Raping Minor in Orchard; Video Goes Viral in Tuni.



TPN BUREAU, Tuni Oct 22: (Kakinada District): A shocking incident has come to light in Tuni town where a 62-year-old man was arrested for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl inside an orchard. The accused, identified as T. Narayana Rao, allegedly posed as the girl's grandfather to pick her up from her government school hostel on Tuesday morning before committing the crime, according to police officials. Kakinada District Superintendent of Police (SP) Bindu Madhav Garikapati said the incident occurred around 11 a.m. on Tuesday when Rao lured the girl into accompany-

ing him. "The girl went with him on her own, but the consent of a minor is not considered valid. It technically falls under kidnapping and constitutes a serious sexual assault under the POCSO Act since the consent of her parents was not obtained," the SP explained. The case came to light after a video, purportedly recorded by the orchard owner where the assault took place, went viral on social media. The footage, which allegedly showed the minor visibly, triggered public outrage and forced the police to take immediate action. Surprisingly, the

orchard owner did not lodge a complaint with authorities but instead circulated the video online. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on the girl's statement. SP Bindu Madhav stated that both the accused and the victim hail from the same locality in Tuni and belong to the same community. He further revealed that Rao had reportedly taken the girl out once before, raising concerns about earlier missed warning signs. Authorities are also deliberating on whether to file a case against the orchard owner for violating the child's privacy and spreading sensitive content instead of reporting the crime. Another video showing the accused being beaten by the victim's family has also gone viral. Police have assured that a thorough investigation is underway and affirmed that strict action will be taken against all those responsible for the distressing incident.

District Health Chief Reviews Services Online

TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA OCT 22: The District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. E.B. Devi, conducted a virtual review meeting on Wednesday with doctors and staff working at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban Health Centres (UHCs) across the district. The meeting, held through Zoom, focused on improving healthcare delivery and enhancing public trust in government health services. Dr. Devi instructed all medical officers and staff to respond promptly to public grievances received through the complaint redressal system. She emphasized that timely action and patient-friendly services would help build a positive image of the health department among the people. The officer urged all staff to ensure that every patient visiting government hospitals receives proper medical attention and compassionate care. Highlighting the ongoing rainy season, Dr. Devi warned that the conditions could lead to an



increase in seasonal and water-borne diseases. She directed the staff to conduct continuous awareness campaigns to educate the public on preventive measures against such illnesses. During the session, the implementation status of various health programs—including infectious and non-communicable disease control initiatives, as well as national health schemes—was reviewed thoroughly. Dr. Devi also advised strengthening community-level health interventions and ensuring coordination among all health centers for better service delivery. The meeting concluded with renewed commitment from medical officers and field staff to enhance the quality and efficiency of healthcare services across the district.

“Know What You Drink” Campaign Launched to Ensure Liquor Authenticity

TPN | VIJAYAWADA, Oct 22 : The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition and Excise Department has rolled out a statewide public awareness campaign titled “Know What You Drink”, aimed at helping consumers verify the authenticity of liquor purchased from licensed retail shops. The initiative was formally launched in Vijayawada on Wednesday by Chamakuri Sridhar, Director of Prohibition and Excise, marking a significant step toward enhancing transparency and consumer safety in the liquor trade. Focus on Consumer Awareness. Launching the campaign at a retail liquor outlet in Veterinary Colony, Vijayawada, the Director unveiled and affixed awareness posters designed to educate consumers on identifying genuine liquor bottles. The posters provide detailed instructions on using the AP Excise Suraksha mobile application, an innovative tool developed to combat the circulation of spurious liquor in the state. Through this app, customers can scan the QR code printed on the bottle cap to instantly verify its authenticity.



The app immediately displays a message confirming whether the bottle is an “Authentic Product”, along with key details such as the batch number, manufacturing date, and maximum retail price (MRP). Sridhar clarified that, at present, the verification feature is available for Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) only, and not for beer products. He emphasized that the campaign's core objective is to empower consumers with the knowledge to make safer and more informed purchases. Inspection at Nidamanur Depot Following the programme in Vijayawada, Director Sridhar, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, Vijayawada, conducted an inspection at the AP State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSB-CL) Depot in Nidamanur. During the visit, the Depot Manager explained the stock indenting and

supply processes in detail. The Director also interacted with depot staff and suppliers, listened to their operational challenges, and issued immediate instructions to resolve pending concerns to ensure smoother management of the distribution channels. Statewide Rollout and Objectives As part of the campaign's statewide implementation, the Excise Department has instructed that “Know What You Drink” posters be displayed prominently at all licensed retail liquor outlets across Andhra Pradesh. The initiative seeks to strengthen public trust, encourage responsible drinking, and curb the sale of illegal or counterfeit liquor. Officials expressed confidence that the drive would help safeguard consumer interests while promoting a transparent and accountable retail environment in the state's excise sector.

AISF Hits NRI IT Over Illegal Fees

AISF DEMANDS IMMEDIATE REVOCATION OF NRI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S AUTONOMY OVER ILLEGAL FEE COLLECTION

TPN, Vijayawada, October 22 : The Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (AISF) has strongly condemned the management of the NRI Institute of Technology (NRI IT), Agiripalli, accusing it of gross violations of government and university norms. The student organization demanded that the state government immediately revoke the institute's autonomous status for running illegal programs and exploiting students through unauthorized fee collection. Addressing the media at Dasara Bhavan, AISF National Secretary Shi-

va Reddy and State Vice-President M. Sai Kumar alleged that the NRI IT management had turned education into a business enterprise under the veil of autonomy. They charged that the college was violating the rules of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), urging regulatory bodies to initiate action. AISF leaders highlighted several major violations. Firstly, they claimed that the college had disregarded the Andhra Pradesh Fee Regulatory Commission (APFRC) norms and was collecting a fee of 2.10 lakh annually from each student far exceeding the officially approved amount. This, they said, constituted a direct contravention of the state's fee regulation laws. Secondly, the institute was accused of conducting illegal B.Tech courses in collaboration with the private firm Nxt Wave's NIAT program without

any approval from the UGC or AICTE. According to AISF, NIAT lacks the authority to issue B.Tech degrees, yet NRI IT was misusing its autonomous status and JNTU Kakinada affiliation to run two parallel academic systems within the same campus. This “illegal dual system,” they stated, severely disadvantages students admitted under the government quota. Unlike those enrolled under the NIAT program who pay high fees, government quota students reportedly receive no additional facilities, resources, or specialized training. Such discriminatory practices, AISF leaders said, undermine the equity and quality of education. AISF issued four key demands: Immediate revocation of NRI IT's autonomous status. Strict criminal and disciplinary action against the college management. A joint high-level investigation by UGC, AICTE,

and APSCHE into all unauthorized programs. Refund of the illegally collected excess fees to all affected students. Sai Kumar also questioned the inaction of JNTU Kakinada authorities despite repeated complaints. Shiva Reddy warned that if prompt action was not taken, the issue would be escalated to the Union Ministry of Education. BANNER INSIDE STORY Southwest Bay Depression May Drench AP TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA OCT 22: A deep depression that has developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal, centered along the Tamil Nadu coast, is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction over the next 24 hours, according to Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Pra-

khar Jain. He stated that the weather system is expected to advance toward the northern Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and south coastal Andhra Pradesh coastlines by Thursday, potentially bringing widespread rainfall to several parts of the state. In his weather briefing on Wednesday, Jain said that due to the influence of this system, heavy rainfall is likely to occur in isolated places across Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, and Tirupati districts, while the remaining districts may experience light to moderate rainfall. He further warned that thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are expected to continue across the state for the next five days. Coastal areas are likely to experience strong surface winds with speeds ranging between 35 and 55 km per hour. The APSDMA advised residents in coastal regions to remain alert and take precautions against possi-



ble flooding and damage due to gusty winds. Fishermen have been strictly warned not to venture into the sea until Saturday, as conditions are expected to remain rough along the coast. To ensure swift response to any emergency, Jain announced that one team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and four teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have already been deployed in the affected districts.

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JAL HARATHI TO HANDRI NEEVA WATERS

Handri–Neeva Canal Waters Bring Joy to Villages: MLA Paritala Sunitha Leads Jal Haarathi at Alamuru Tank.

TPN RAPTHADU, OCT 22: The arrival of Handoori–Neeva canal waters has brought visible happiness across several villages in the Rapthadu constituency, according to MLA Paritala Sunitha. The legislator visited Alamuru village in the Anantapur Rural mandal area, where the long-awaited canal water has finally reached the local tank, filling it to the brim and bringing delight to farmers and villagers alike.As the clear waters gushed into the Alamuru tank, residents extended a warm welcome to the MLA with festive cheers, flowers, and traditional greetings.

TDP leaders, local farmers, and villagers participated enthusiastically in the event, marking the occasion as a moment of celebration and hope for agricultural rejuvenation.During the visit,

MLA Sunitha performed a Gangamma Puja at the tank site, symbolically offering respects to the goddess of water and prosperity. She also carried out a Jal Haarathi (water offering ceremony) and made a traditional Saare Samarppana (ritual offering) to express gratitude for the renewed inflow of life-giving water.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Sunitha criticized the false propaganda spread by YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders who had previously claimed that Handoori–Neeva waters would never reach the Rapthadu constituency. “We have proved them wrong. Today, not only has water reached Alamuru, but most of the tanks across our constituency are receiving more water than before,” she asserted.She further said that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government’s commitment is to ensure that every possible tank in the region gets filled through the Handoori–

Neeva irrigation system.

“Our goal is to fill every available tank and provide sufficient irrigation to all our farmers. Development doesn’t come from false promises—it needs dedication, planning, and consistent effort,” she emphasized. The MLA also challenged YSRCP leaders to disclose how many tanks were filled during their tenure. “They spread lies but lack the courage to show results. The people can see the difference now with their own eyes,” she remarked.

The event concluded with local farmers expressing their gratitude to MLA Paritala Sunitha for her continued efforts to bring irrigation water to the drought-prone regions of Anantapur. The filling of the Alamuru tank through the Handoori–Neeva waters is being seen as a turning point in boosting agricultural prospects and reviving the rural economy of Rapthadu constituency.

REVIEW ON MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS - COLLECTOR



Collector Reviews Performance of Municipal Departments in Anantapur District

TPN BUREAU, Anantapur, October 22: District Collector O. Anand conducted a comprehensive review meeting on Wednesday evening at the Mini Conference Hall in the District Collectorate, focusing on the performance of various municipal departments across the district. The review covered all municipalities including Anantapur, Tadipatri, and Guntakal, examining the progress of ongoing development works and the implementation of the AMRUT scheme. During the meeting, the Collector emphasized the need for efficient drinking water supply under the AMRUT scheme and directed officials to ensure uninterrupted distribution.

He instructed municipal commissioners and Public Health officials to coordinate with the RWS department and com-

plete the construction of four overhead tanks in Tadipatri within two months. The Guntakal municipal commissioner was directed to allocate land for setting up a sewage treatment plant.The Collector reviewed key sectors such as drinking water supply, sanitation, property and water tax collections, management of Anna Canteens, allocation of TIDCO houses, and implementation of MEPMA schemes.

He instructed officials to enhance sanitation works across all municipalities and to set up a new Anna Canteen at the Anantapur Government General Hospital. Under MEPMA supervision, he directed the establishment of Thrupti Canteens to provide quality meals to the public.To support self-help groups, the Collector asked officials to allocate vacant rooms at the Shilparamam shopping complex on the outskirts of Anantapur to interested groups. He also stressed the

completion of pending infrastructure works and full occupancy of vacant TIDCO houses.

Officials were told to coordinate address changes for beneficiaries and facilitate their relocation to permanent TIDCO housing.The Collector further directed that all government employees in the district must set up home compost units and roof gardens as part of eco-friendly initiatives. He instructed the MEPMA department to ensure these systems are implemented in 30,000 households within two months.

Emphasizing self-help group empowerment, he called for progress in bank linkage loans.To conclude, the Collector urged all municipal officials to improve the efficiency of local governance, resolve minor issues promptly, promote greenery drives, and strengthen the delivery of urban services for the welfare of citizens.

FEEDING IS A GREAT VIRTUE - DRM LALITH BOHRA

“Serving Devotees is a Great Deed,” Says DRM Lalit Bohra.

TPN, Visakhapatnam, October 22: Railway Divisional Manager (DRM) Lalit Bohra stated that offering food to devotees is one of the noblest services, emphasizing that Annadanam stands above all charitable activities. He made these remarks while attending the Mandalakala Maha Annadanam program organized for Diksha Dharulu (devotees undertaking religious vows) under the auspices of the Sri Kodandarama Temple Committee at Alipuram Wireless Colony in Visakhapatnam.

The event was organized by the Sri Hari Haratmaja Annadana Charitable Trust, where Bohra personally served holy meals to devotees. Speaking on the occa-



sion, DRM Bohra commended the trust’s initiative, noting that serving clean and tasty food to devotees maintaining spiritual discipline and purity is a highly commendable act. Trust president and Guruswa-

mi K. Ramana Murthy announced that the Maha Annadanam program would continue from October 22 to December 1, providing daily meals to hundreds of devotees performing Ayyappa Deeksha.

He informed that with the blessings of Lord Ayyappa, the trust aims to prepare and serve hygienic, delicious meals to all devotees free of cost. Ramana Murthy appealed to spiritual leaders, philanthropists, and

Ayyappa devotees in Visakhapatnam to extend their cooperation for this large-scale charitable initiative, either through donations in kind such as rice, pulses, and vegetables or financial contributions to the trust. Donors would be issued receipts in the name of Sri Hari Haratmaja Annadana Charitable Trust, Visakhapatnam.

On the first day alone, meals were served to over 1,000 devotees, and the trust plans to feed around 1,500 to 2,000 devotees daily in the coming weeks. The trust also announced that the Sabarimala Yatra will be organized on December 4th. Temple committee president K. Koteswara Rao, trustees K. Srinu, K. Subrahmanyam, K. Srinivas, and several devotees participated in the inaugural event.

undreds of Students Struggle for Education Amid Transport Crisis



TPN, Kalyandurg, October 10 — Education has become a daily life-risking ordeal for hundreds of students in and around Kalyandurg constituency of Anantapur district. Every day, students from several surrounding villages travel to Kalyandurg town to pursue higher studies, but their journey resembles a nightmare. With only one overcrowded bus available to serve hundreds of commuters, students are forced to endure suffocating and dangerous rides just to reach their schools and colleges.

At the P. Venkatampalli bus stand in Kambaduru mandal, a chaotic scene unfolds every morning. Hundreds of students gather in desperation, pushing and struggling to squeeze into the lone bus

that serves their route. The bus is so overcrowded that passengers can barely breathe, prompting parents and locals to call the situation “a moving death trap.”

Many commuters hang dangerously by the doors or stand precariously in passageways, fearing injury but left with no other option.Parents and residents have expressed severe frustration, accusing the transport authorities of negligence. “If our children want to study, they have to risk their lives every single day,” said Raju, the father of one student. “We have complained to the RTC depot manager multiple times, but he doesn’t even answer our calls.

Do the lives of our children mean nothing to them?” his anguished complaint echoed the

sentiments of many families in the region.Students say they have repeatedly appealed to the Road Transport Corporation (RTC) officials to allocate additional buses during peak hours, but their pleas have gone unanswered. “Despite our repeated requests, officials act as if our suffering doesn’t matter,” Raju added, warning that parents are prepared to organize protests if the government continues to ignore their calls.

Residents argue that while the state government has introduced several welfare schemes such as free bus travel for women, the welfare of students — the very future of the state has been forgotten. Parents stressed that education policy cannot succeed without providing safe and reliable transport to

students from rural areas. The demand is straightforward: allocate at least one or two additional buses for school and college timings to ease the burden on the existing overloaded service.

Locals have appealed directly to the district collector and Kalyandurg MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu to intervene and ensure that RTC takes immediate action.The situation underscores a deeper rural infrastructure problem — while educational opportunities have expanded in towns, accessibility remains a major challenge for students in remote areas. For now, hundreds of young passengers continue to endure a daily “hell ride,” their determination to learn overshadowed by the risks they take each morning and evening.

Unless swift action is taken, this issue could spiral into a larger safety crisis. Parents and students have vowed to intensify their agitation if authorities fail to act, emphasizing that safe transport is not a privilege but a basic necessity for every child seeking an education in rural Andhra Pradesh.

AP GOVT CLEARS 250 CRORE PENDING MEDICAL BILLS

Another 250 Crore in Pipeline

TPN | Vijayawada | October 22, 2025: In a major step towards addressing the financial concerns of empaneled hospitals, the Andhra Pradesh Government has released 250 crore to Dr NTR Vaidya Seva (Network) Hospitals across the state. This move brings immediate relief to medical institutions struggling with pending dues for months.According to official sources, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav held a crucial meeting with Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Wednesday to review the settlement of arrears pending under the state’s flagship health insurance scheme.

Following detailed discussions, the Finance Department cleared the file, paving the way for the timely release of the first tranche of 250 crore. Health Department Principal Secretary Saurabh Gaur confirmed the development and announced

that another installment of 250 crore would soon be released as part of the government’s phased clearance plan. He said the State Government remains committed to ensuring that payments to network hospitals are made systematically and without unnecessary delay.“The government is fully committed to ensuring that patients do not face any inconvenience and that all eligible hospitals receive their dues promptly,” Gaur emphasized.

He mentioned that the clearance process had been expedited after several rounds of consultation involving the Finance and Health

Departments.Gaur also interacted with representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Super Specialty Hospitals Association and other hospital management bodies, urging them to withdraw their ongoing protests and resume regular operations. The association had recently launched agitation over non-payment of dues, warning that continuing delays could affect medical services to economically weaker patients relying on NTR Vaidya Seva coverage.

He appealed to the hospital representatives to consider the government’s proactive steps and cooper-

ate in maintaining uninterrupted services to the public. “With this release, we have set the process in motion to settle all legitimate dues. The next phase of 250 crore will follow soon,” he assured. The Health Department clarified that the state government attaches top priority to patient welfare and smooth functioning of the health system. Officials estimate that the pending bills under Dr NTR Vaidya Seva cumulatively amount to several hundred crores, and the staged release of payments is expected to stabilize healthcare delivery across public and private institutions.

Why States Deserve the Real Credit for GST ‘Savings’

As the Union government celebrates the conclusion of its much-publicised ‘GST Bachat Utsav’, it’s time to shift the spotlight where it truly belongs — the State governments. While the Centre has rolled out a campaign around recent GST rate revisions, it is the States, especially those ruled by Opposition parties, that have borne the brunt of revenue losses and deserve recognition for their role in the GST reform process.

The revision in GST rates, which took effect a month ago, has been widely marketed by the Centre as a Diwali “gift” to citizens. However, behind the scenes, many States were hesitant and sought revenue loss assurances before approving the changes. Their concerns were valid — GST, in its very structure, limits State autonomy over indirect taxation. With delays in



compensation payments and a pattern of selective fund allocation, States have had to navigate not just financial shortfalls but also a Centre that

many say favours BJP-ruled States.

Data from the Reserve Bank of India backs these concerns. From 2014 to 2023, Gujarat and

Maharashtra — both BJP strongholds — topped the list in private corporate investment intentions, with Gujarat alone accounting for nearly a

quarter of total projects. Of the top ten States attracting such investments, nine were BJP-ruled. Several Opposition leaders have accused the

Centre of diverting investment projects — including multi-crore deals originally earmarked for Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and even NDA-ruled Ma-

harashtra — to Gujarat, particularly its GIFT City, which has received sustained incentives.

Such actions have increased calls from States

for a fairer federal approach. It’s no surprise then that non-BJP States insisted on revenue protection before agreeing to GST changes. Their unity on the issue shows how federal cooperation — not unilateral decision-making — led to the rate revision success.

Interestingly, back in 2014, Narendra Modi, then Gujarat’s Chief Minister, had criticised the Centre’s GST preparations for ignoring State concerns. A decade later, as Prime Minister, the same concerns persist — only now, the marketing has intensified, and the politics, more layered.

As the ‘GST Bachat Utsav’ concludes, it’s clear: while the Centre controlled the narrative, the States — especially those in the Opposition — ensured the policy didn’t come at a greater cost to the public. They may not have the spotlight, but they do deserve the credit.

Trump’s H-1B Policy Risks U.S. Edge as Global Competition for Indian Talent Grows

A recent move by the Trump administration to tighten the H-1B visa program has raised serious concerns about America’s long-term competitiveness in science, technology, and innovation. With a new \$100,000 fee per H-1B petition and entry restrictions for certain nonimmigrant workers, the U.S. may be ceding its advantage in attracting top Indian talent — long seen as vital to its tech economy.

In FY-2024, over 71% of H-1B visas were granted to Indian nationals, with 64% going to tech-related roles. These figures highlight how heavily U.S. companies rely on skilled Indian professionals. However, the revised policies — framed as measures to prioritize American workers — are already pushing students and professionals to explore friendlier alternatives like Australia, France, and Germany.

Shifting Global Preferences

Australia, for instance, has introduced the MATES program, allowing Indian STEM graduates to work for two years. France has committed to hosting 20,000 Indian students by 2030 and offers five-year Schengen visas for Indian postgraduates. Germany has tripled



skilled Indian worker visas and eased bureaucratic hurdles.

These moves make it clear: other nations are actively positioning themselves as welcoming destinations for Indian talent. Meanwhile, the U.S. risks undoing decades of goodwill by making it harder — and costlier — to work and stay.

Economic and Educational Impact

The U.S. higher education system is also under threat. In 2023-24, international students contributed \$43.8 bil-

lion and supported nearly 380,000 jobs. NAFSA estimates a potential \$7 billion loss and 60,000 job cuts if the current trajectory continues. Restricting H-1Bs doesn’t just affect the workforce — it hurts universities, research, and regional economies.

The Way Forward

Experts suggest that the U.S. revise its H-1B strategy to focus on merit over lottery and invest in domestic talent without alienating global contributors. Rather than tariffs, robust tax credits, skill-building programs, and

stakeholder consultations could help rebuild manufacturing while retaining top foreign talent. The U.S. must also consider how emerging global competitors like China, with its new “K visa” for STEM experts, are strategically recruiting the very minds America is pushing away.

In its attempt to protect domestic jobs, the U.S. risks losing its competitive edge. Striking a balance between safeguarding local employment and welcoming global talent is the key to long-term growth.

Bihar 2025: The Missing Music of Democracy



In 1995, Bihar’s elections were more than a political event—they were a festival. Streets came alive with drums, folk songs, colourful processions, and theatre-like campaign performances that turned even the most rural village into a carnival of democracy. Thirty years later, the scene has changed drastically. The Bihar of 2025 is witnessing a quiet, almost muted campaign season, leaving many to wonder: has democracy in Bihar lost its soul?

Veteran journalist Ajiit Kumar Jha recalls the electric atmosphere of the 1995 elections—where slogans echoed from every corner, local artists composed campaign songs, and participation wasn’t just a duty, but a celebration. Campaigns were loud, physical, and full of

community spirit, even with restrictions from the Election Commission. People sang, danced, debated, and believed.

Today, the election landscape feels eerily quiet. Gone are the bamboo loudspeakers and folk singers. Instead, social media reels, 30-second shorts, and hashtags dominate the campaign narrative. Walls once covered in political posters are now bare. Village gatherings have been replaced by livestreams and virtual speeches. The largest visible campaigner isn’t a candidate but strategist Prashant Kishor, whose Jan Suraa Yatra travels the state more on YouTube than on foot.

Some blame the silence on timing—Diwali and Chhath have left little room for campaigning before the first phase of polls on November 6. Others

point to the Election Commission’s hurried voter roll revisions. The broader truth, however, may be more troubling: a sense of political fatigue. Voters aren’t angry, they’re indifferent.

This shift isn’t just stylistic, it’s spiritual. When politics ceases to be participatory, democracy begins to lose its vitality. Voter turnout may drop. A subdued electorate often benefits incumbents. Yet, perhaps the silence offers a chance for thoughtful reflection—a pause before the people speak.

Still, many in Bihar miss the music, the hope, the drama. As the 2025 elections approach, it’s not just votes at stake—it’s the very spirit of democracy that once made Bihar’s elections a vibrant celebration of the people’s will.

Public Anger Grows Over Rising Customs Harassment in India

In recent months, Indians returning from abroad have taken to social media to voice growing frustration with the harassment and arbitrary treatment by customs officials at airports across the country. Despite government claims of improved governance and reduced ministerial corruption, a parallel rise in bureaucratic overreach and misconduct is triggering national outrage.

One recent case that drew attention was that of Wintrack, a tech company whose imported consignment was held up by customs for weeks under unclear allegations. Despite being eventually cleared, the ordeal involved extensive delays, informal demands, and financial losses. Rather than serve as a cautionary

tale, the incident seems to have emboldened some customs officials, as complaints from ordinary travellers and businesses continue to rise.

Journalist Vir Sanghvi, in a recent opinion column, highlights a troubling trend: a decline in political corruption balanced by a surge in bureaucratic corruption—particularly among customs, enforcement, and police personnel. He refers to this growing menace as the new “Inspector Raj,” where power is wielded without transparency and often without accountability.

Travellers often report being stopped for minor discrepancies, such as carrying electronics or luxury goods well within permissible limits, only to be subjected to intimidation,



unnecessary fines, and even demands for bribes. Many claim that the process is arbitrary,

lacking due process or consistent application of rules. Stories of harassment are common

among Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who frequently express frustration at the treatment

they receive despite bringing valuable remittances and investments to the country.

Experts argue that this behaviour undermines India’s image as a global economic desti-

nation. While the government has made progress in digitising public services and launching ease-of-doing-business campaigns, customs harassment remains a black mark that threatens investor confidence and citizen trust.

Many are now calling for stronger oversight, real-time grievance redressal mechanisms at airports, and the urgent implementation of anti-corruption reforms within customs and enforcement agencies.

As Sanghvi notes, the real test of good governance lies not in stopping high-level corruption alone but in curbing the daily exploitation faced by average citizens. Until then, the anger and disillusionment will only grow—while the “Inspector Raj” thrives quietly in the shadows.

Modi-Trump Likely to Meet at ASEAN Summit to Revive India-US Trade Talks



TPN Bureau | Patna
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump are expected to hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the upcoming ASEAN Summit, with a focus on reviving stalled India-US trade negotiations. Speaking to reporters in

Washington, President Trump confirmed he had a recent phone conversation with PM Modi. "We're working on a great deal with India," he said, signalling renewed interest in strengthening economic ties between the two countries. Sources from the Indian

government also indicated that both sides are coordinating schedules to make room for a focused discussion during the ASEAN summit in Jakarta next week. The meeting, if it takes place, would mark the first in-person engagement between the two leaders

since Trump returned to office. India-US trade discussions had seen significant progress during Trump's first term, but stalled amid disagreements over tariffs, market access, and digital trade. The two leaders are now reportedly keen

to restart the dialogue, especially with growing global supply chain realignments and rising strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Officials familiar with the matter said the upcoming talks could include discussions on reducing tariffs, enhancing technology cooperation, and facilitating smoother investment flows. The proposed meeting may also touch on defence ties and collaboration in critical areas like semiconductors and artificial intelligence. The ASEAN summit will also provide a platform for broader regional dialogue, including maritime security and China's expanding influence in the Indo-Pacific. With both leaders enjoying a strong personal rapport, expectations are high that their meeting could unlock long-pending trade hurdles and boost strategic convergence between the world's largest democracies. Further details are expected to be finalised by the end of this week.

Karnataka Congress MLA Flags ₹900 Crore Fund Crunch In Free Bus Travel Scheme

TPN Correspondent | Patna
Congress MLA and NWKRTC Chairman Raju Kage has raised concerns over a massive ₹900 crore funding shortfall under the Karnataka government's Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel for women across the state. Kage revealed that the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) is struggling financially and urged the state to release the overdue funds. "We are not making profits. We're trying to reach a break-even point. We are owed around ₹900 crore under the Shakti scheme, which has not been released since its implementation two years ago," Kage said. He explained that the government currently pays only 70% of the cost, holding back the remaining 30%, making it difficult for transport corporations to stay afloat. The MLA added that the issue has already been brought to the attention of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy.



In response, Minister Reddy defended the government's efforts, stating that the state had sanctioned ₹2,000 crore to support road transport corporations when they were in distress. "Out of this, over ₹500 crore has already been allocated to

NWKRTC. Additionally, 700 new buses worth ₹350 crore are being provided. This totals ₹850 crore in support," he said. Despite these measures, Karnataka's road transport sector remains in financial turmoil. As of November 2024, total

liabilities across KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC stood at ₹6,330 crore, with ₹3,000 crore in immediate dues. KSRTC alone recently requested a ₹623 crore loan to clear fuel and statutory payments. Key reasons behind the

fiscal stress include the COVID-19 impact, delayed fare revisions, and the financial burden of the Shakti scheme. Stakeholders are now urging urgent financial intervention to sustain essential public transport services in the state.

Congress Leader Alleges Bias in Sarfaraz Khan Snub, BJP Slams "Communal Politics"

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Congress leader Shama Mohamed has stirred controversy by alleging religious bias in the exclusion of middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan from the India A squad set to play South Africa A later this month. Khan, a consistent performer in domestic cricket, was overlooked despite strong performances and improved fitness. Taking to social media, Mohamed hinted at communal discrimination, tweeting, "Is Sarfaraz Khan not selected because of his surname? #justasking." She further targeted former cricketer and BJP leader Gautam Gambhir, suggesting his alleged bias influenced selections. Khan, 28, last played for India in a home series against New Zealand. Though left out of the Australia A series due to injury, his omission from the upcoming matches, under Rishabh Pant's captaincy, has sparked debate. The BJP quickly hit



back. Party spokesperson CR Kesavan condemned Mohamed's remarks, calling them "disgusting" and "divisive." "This shows the toxic politics of polarisation Congress thrives on. They are now trying to communalise Indian cricket," he said. Former cricketer Atul

Wassan also criticised the religious angle, stating, "Yes, Sarfaraz deserves more chances, but playing the religion card is unfair. Indian sport has never worked that way." AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and spokesperson Waris Pathan echoed concerns, questioning



what more Sarfaraz must do to earn a spot. "He's fit, lost 17 kg, averaged 110 in first-class cricket over five years—what else is required?" Pathan said. Sarfaraz's fans also expressed disappointment, pointing to his 92-run knock for India A earlier this year before injury

sidelined him. His continued exclusion has revived concerns over transparency and merit in team selections. The India A vs South Africa A series begins October 30 in Bengaluru, with Rishabh Pant returning as captain following a foot injury.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's Pay Jumps to \$96.5 Million Amid AI Success



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's total compensation for the financial year 2024-2025 has surged to \$96.5 million, marking his highest annual pay since taking over the tech giant in 2014. The sharp increase is attributed to Microsoft's dominant strides in artificial intelligence (AI) under his leadership. According to the company's regulatory filing, nearly 90% of Nadella's earnings came in the form of Microsoft shares, with a base salary of \$2.5 million. In comparison, he earned \$79.1 million the previous year. In a note to shareholders, Microsoft's board credited Nadella and his executive team for positioning the company at the forefront of the glob-

al AI revolution during a "generational technology shift." Other top Microsoft executives also saw significant compensation packages. CFO Amy Hood earned \$29.5 million, while Judson Althoff, who heads the commercial business, received \$28.2 million. Microsoft shares have climbed 23% this year, largely due to the strong performance of its Azure cloud services, which continue to challenge market leader Amazon Web Services. Since taking the helm in 2014—succeeding Steve Ballmer and co-founder Bill Gates—Nadella has reshaped Microsoft into a cloud-first, AI-driven company. His strategic bets on cloud computing and key acquisitions such as

LinkedIn, GitHub, and Activision Blizzard have expanded Microsoft's reach across enterprise software, professional networking, and gaming. One of Nadella's most transformative moves was backing OpenAI. What began as a \$1 billion investment evolved into a \$10 billion partnership, enabling Microsoft to integrate cutting-edge AI tools like ChatGPT across its products, from Office to Azure. Born in Hyderabad, Nadella earned his engineering degree from Mangalore University before completing a master's in computer science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He joined Microsoft in 1992 and rose through the ranks before becoming CEO.

Delhi Lifts Ban on Chhath Puja at Yamuna, Over 1,000 Ghats to Be Set Up



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant move ahead of Chhath Puja, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Wednesday that the long-standing ban on organising the festival on the banks of the Yamuna river has been lifted. This marks a major shift in the capital's festive preparations and religious policy. Speaking at a press briefing, CM Gupta stated, "For years, the government had banned Chhath Puja on the Yamuna. This time, after our government came to power, we have lifted the ban and are providing all necessary arrangements for devotees."

To facilitate smooth celebrations, the Delhi government will construct over 1,000 Chhath ghats across the city, with at least one model ghat in every district and sub-district. Seventeen of these model ghats will be built along the Yamuna itself. Each site will be equipped with tents, lighting, sanitation, drinking water, and mobile toilets to ensure a safe and clean environment. The Chief Minister also said that grand welcome gates will be installed at major locations across the capital to greet devotees. "Last year, Chhath was celebrated at 929 locations. As of today, we've received over 1,000 appli-

cations from committees for organising Chhath Puja this year," she added. The decision has been widely welcomed by the Purvanchali community in Delhi, for whom Chhath Puja is a significant religious occasion. The lifting of the ban reflects a more inclusive approach by the current administration and a focus on better management of religious events in the city. It also places a renewed emphasis on cultural and religious traditions while ensuring public safety and environmental care. Preparations are already underway, with the festival scheduled to begin in the first week of November.



PM Carney Confirms Arrest of Netanyahu if He Enters Canada

Advocates
Palestinian
State

TPN Correspondent
| Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney confirmed that he would enforce the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he sets foot in Canada. Carney affirmed this stance during a Bloomberg interview on Sunday, directly responding “Yes” when asked about arresting Netanyahu.

Carney also addressed Canada’s position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, stating, “The end goal is a free and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace

and security with the State of Israel.” He sharply criticized Netanyahu’s administration, accusing it of actions aimed at ending any possibility of a Palestinian state, which he said violates the UN Charter and contradicts longstanding Canadian policy.

Despite disagreement from the United States, Carney stressed that Canada’s approach aligns with over 150 UN member states, including Spain, France, and the UK. He noted that while the US opposes Canada’s stance, their shared objective remains regional peace and security.

Carney’s comments come amid ongoing tensions in the region, following a recent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, bro-

kered under former US President Donald Trump’s peace plan.

Reports from The Jerusalem Post indicate there is little chance that Netanyahu or Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will have their ICC arrest warrants lifted as part of any political deal or apology. Earlier discussions on “transitional justice” have largely faded.

The Post further noted that Netanyahu’s legal risks could increase if he loses the 2026 elections, as sitting heads of state often have immunity from prosecution which may expire once they leave office.

Though the ICC’s Appeals Chamber softened the arrest warrants in April, the cases remain active, with final rulings expected

Trump celebrates Diwali at White House, calls PM Modi ‘great friend’

TPN Bureau | United States

US President Donald Trump joined the Diwali celebrations at the White House on Tuesday, extending warm greetings to the people of India and Indian-Americans on the festive occasion. In his remarks, Trump praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him a “great person” and “a great friend.”

Trump highlighted the strengthening ties between the US and India, especially in trade and regional peace. “I just spoke to your Prime Minister today. Had a great conversation. We talked about trade... and also about having no wars with Pakistan. The fact that trade was involved made it a very, very good thing,” Trump said. He emphasized the friendly relation-

ship between the two countries and Modi’s role in it.

The President spoke about the symbolic importance of Diwali, saying, “We’ll light the diya as a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness... knowledge over ignorance and good over evil.” He explained that during Diwali, people recall stories of enemies defeated and obstacles removed, and the diya’s flame encourages wisdom, diligence, and gratitude.

After his speech, Trump lit the diyas at the White House to mark the festival. Several senior officials were present, including FBI Director Kash Patel, ODNI Director Tulsi Gabbard, White House Deputy Press Secretary Kush Desai, India’s Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan



Kwatra, and US Ambassador to India Sergio Goro. The event also saw participation from prominent Indian-American business leaders, underscoring the Indian diaspora’s growing engagement in

US-India relations.

In a related development, US Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Brian Fitzpatrick introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US House recognizing Diwali’s religious and his-

torical significance to over three million Indian-Americans.

Diwali, a five-day festival beginning with Dhanteras, celebrates prosperity, wisdom, and the triumph of good over evil.

Motorist Crashes Into White House Gate, Arrested by Secret Service

TPN Correspondent | US

A man was arrested late Tuesday night after crashing his vehicle into a security gate near the White House complex, the U.S. Secret Service confirmed. The incident occurred at approximately 10:37 pm near the corner of 17th and E Streets NW.

According to the Secret Service, the vehicle struck a security barrier located on the southwest perimeter of the White House, close to the American Red Cross headquarters. The driver was immediately taken into custody by responding officers.

The agency stated that

a thorough inspection of the vehicle was carried out by Secret Service officers alongside Washington Metropolitan Police officials, who later confirmed that the car posed no threat. The vehicle was cleared and subsequently towed from the scene.

No injuries were reported, and the White House was not placed on lockdown. However, the area around the impacted gate was temporarily closed off while authorities completed their investigation and secured the site.

Footage from the scene circulated widely on social media, showing officers examining the ve-



hicle, measuring its position, and taking photographs. The crash drew public attention due to its proximity to one of the most heavily secured

government buildings in the country.

At the time of the incident, U.S. President Donald Trump was present inside the White House,

the Secret Service confirmed.

Authorities have yet to release the identity of the driver or provide any details regarding a potential motive behind the crash. The investigation remains ongoing.

This is not the first time a vehicle has rammed a security gate at the White House. Similar incidents were reported in January and May of last year, raising ongoing concerns about perimeter security around the presidential complex.

The Secret Service has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the safety of the White House and its occupants.

Jaish-e-Mohammed Launches Online Jihadi Course for Women with 500 PKR Fee



TPN Correspondent | Tehran

In a disturbing development, Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), led by UN-designated terrorist Masood Azhar, has launched an online jihadi training course exclusively for women. The course, named Tufat al-Muminat, aims to recruit and indoctrinate women into the group’s newly formed women’s unit, Jamat ul-Muminat. According to exclusive documents obtained by NDTV, the course is scheduled to begin on

November 8 and will be conducted entirely online to bypass extremist social norms in Pakistan that discourage women from venturing out alone. Each session will last 40 minutes daily and be led by Masood Azhar’s sisters, Sadiya Azhar and Samaira Azhar. Sadiya, who heads the women’s unit, will be one of the primary instructors encouraging women to participate actively in the organization.

The course requires a fee of 500 Pakistani Rupees (approximately 156 Indian Rupees) from eve-

ry woman enrolling, with participants required to fill out an online information form. This fee collection appears to be part of an intensified ‘donations’ drive by Masood Azhar, following his recent public address at the Markaz Usman O Ali in Bahawalpur.

Sadiya’s husband, Yusuf Azhar, was among ten members of Masood Azhar’s family killed during India’s Operation Sindoor airstrike on the Jaish headquarters in Bahawalpur earlier this year, a retaliatory action

against the April terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam.

Also involved in the course is Afreer Farooq, wife of one of the Pahalgam attackers, Umar Farooq.

This online initiative not only highlights the group’s attempt to expand its influence through women but also exposes Pakistan’s claim of compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) regulations, revealing a worrying nexus between militancy and financial channels.



Hamas Returns Remains of Two More Hostages to Red Cross Amid Ceasefire

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Hamas has handed over the remains of two additional hostages to the Red Cross in Gaza, the Israeli military confirmed on October 22. This development comes amid the ongoing ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which began on October 10.

Since the ceasefire took effect, the remains of 13 hostages have been returned to Israel as part of efforts to recover those captured or killed during the recent conflict. Following this latest transfer, Israeli officials say that the remains of another 13 hostages are still held in Gaza and await recovery and handover.

The transfer of bodies is being facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is overseeing the humanitarian aspects of the ceasefire agreement. Red Cross vehicles were seen escorting a truck transporting the remains in the Gaza Strip’s Deir Al-Balah area, highlighting the fragile but ongoing cooperation between the conflicting parties.

The return of the remains marks a significant humanitarian step in the tense and complex aftermath of the conflict, which saw numerous kidnappings and casualties on both

sides. Families of the missing hostages in Israel continue to seek closure as the process of recovery and identification continues.

The ceasefire, brokered earlier this month, has provided a temporary halt to active hostilities but challenges remain in resolving the broader conflict and addressing humanitarian concerns in the region.

With the recovery of these two additional remains, efforts continue to locate and retrieve the rest of the hostages’ bodies still held in Gaza, underscoring the ongoing humanitarian impact of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Core Sector Growth Slows to 3% in September, Hits 3-Month Low

Growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The deceleration was mainly due to contractions in key fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products — as well as a marked slowdown in fertiliser production.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, which represents about 40% of the weight of items in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), showed that although growth in September 2025 was higher than the 1.5% growth recorded in the same month last year, it was the weakest performance since June 2025.

Sector-Wise Performance:

Coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products all registered declines in output compared to September 2024.

Fertiliser output, while not contracting, saw significantly slower growth, further dampen-



ing the overall index.

Sectors like steel, cement, and electricity provided some cushion with moderate gains but were not enough to offset the drag from energy-related sectors. Analysts attributed the slowdown to seasonal factors, lower global demand, and operational bottlenecks in certain sectors. The contraction in coal and refinery products, in particular, may affect downstream industries and overall industrial momentum in the coming months.

Despite the setback, the government maintains that the medium-term outlook remains stable, with core sector growth for the first half of FY2025-26 still showing positive trends.

The data will likely be closely watched by policymakers and the Reserve Bank of India, as it offers early signals for industrial output and broader economic performance. The next few months will be crucial in determining whether the slowdown is temporary or indicative of a more sustained moderation.

Silver Prices Likely to Fall as Global Supply Increases



Silver prices in India are expected to decline further after a sharp correction, following an increase in global supply aimed at cooling down soaring demand during the Diwali festival season, according to industry experts.

Kumar Jain, national spokesperson for the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), said the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) has released additional silver stocks into the international market to counterbalance India's high demand, which led to a recent price surge. This increase in supply has caused silver prices to drop sharply, and further declines are anticipated.

During the festive season, Indian investors heavily bought silver jewelry and silver ETFs, leading to a shortage of physical silver. This demand spike was intensified by financial influencers promoting silver as an attractive investment with a favorable ratio compared to gold. The demand pressure

was so intense that MMTC-Pamp, India's largest precious metals refinery, exhausted its silver stock for the first time ever.

Silver premiums in India surged above \$5 per ounce, far exceeding normal levels. Due to the shortage, several mutual fund houses, including Kotak MF, UTI, and SBI MF, had to halt new silver fund subscriptions. Globally, the silver market faces supply challenges due to China's holiday slowdown and increased silver shipments to the US amid tariff concerns.

Following Dhanteras, silver prices fell over 5-6% in the past two days, with international spot prices dropping below \$50 per ounce after a 60% rally year-to-date. In India, silver traded at Rs 1,62,000 per kg on October 22.

Despite recent corrections, structural demand for silver remains strong, driven by industrial uses such as solar panel manufacturing, which continues to outpace mining and recycling supply.

Net FDI Plunges 159% in August 2025 as Outflows Exceed Inflows



India's net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plunged 159% in August 2025, with more capital leaving the country than entering, marking a rare instance of negative net FDI, according to official data. This is

only the second time in the current financial year that outflows have surpassed inflows.

Gross FDI into India during August stood at \$6,049 million, which is 30.6% lower than August 2024 and a significant

45.5% drop compared to July 2025. The sharp decline signals a temporary slowdown in foreign investment interest or increased repatriation of funds by foreign investors.

Despite the disappointing

figures for August, the broader picture remains positive. Over the five-month period from April to August 2025, net FDI rose by more than 121% compared to the same period last year, indicating robust inflows

earlier in the year helped offset the recent dip.

Experts suggest the August outflows could be linked to global economic uncertainties, portfolio rebalancing by multinational companies, or sector-specific challenges within India. However, sustained government reforms and easing regulatory frameworks continue to attract foreign investors over the longer term.

The decline in net FDI during August is likely to raise concerns for policymakers who are keen to maintain India's position as a top destination for foreign investment. The government has recently emphasized initiatives to boost manufacturing, digital infrastructure, and ease of doing business to sustain and grow foreign capital inflows.

As the economic landscape evolves globally, the coming months will be critical for India to stabilize FDI flows and ensure continued confidence among foreign investors. Market watchers will closely monitor upcoming data to assess whether August's net outflow is an isolated incident or a sign of shifting investment trends.

India Emerging as Global Hub for Services Exports: NSE



India is rapidly establishing itself as a global hub for services exports, outpacing the growth of goods exports, according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE). NSE chief economist Tirthankar Patnaik said, "India will be to services what China has been to manufacturing," highlighting the country's transformation in the global economic landscape.

The NSE reported that India's services exports have been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.8%, significantly higher than the 9.8% CAGR observed in goods exports. This robust expansion is attributed to several factors, including structural reforms, digital innovation, and demographic advantages that position India favorably in the global services market.

The services sector, which includes IT and software services, finance, telecommunications, and professional services, has become a key driver of India's economic growth. Investments in technology, skill development, and infrastructure have accelerated the sector's

ability to compete on a global scale. Additionally, India's young and dynamic workforce provides a demographic edge that fuels the expanding services industry.

The NSE also pointed out that policy reforms aimed at easing business regulations and boosting digital infrastructure have created a conducive environment for growth. These reforms have enhanced efficiency and enabled Indian service providers to tap into international markets more effectively.

This rise in services exports is transforming India's economic profile, reducing dependence on manufacturing and goods exports, and contributing to higher foreign exchange earnings. It also reflects the global shift toward a knowledge and technology-driven economy, where services play a pivotal role.

As India continues to capitalize on these strengths, experts believe it will solidify its position as a global leader in services exports, further integrating into the global value chain and contributing to sustainable economic development.

Stock Markets Closed for Bali Pratipada; Trading Resumes October 23

Indian stock markets remained closed on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in observance of the Bali Pratipada festival, according to the official National Stock Exchange (NSE) holiday calendar. Trading activities will resume on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

The day prior, on Tuesday, October 21, the benchmark indices closed marginally higher during the special Muhurat trading session, which is conducted annually to mark the auspicious occasion of Diwali. The Muhurat session saw cautious but positive investor sentiment as participants welcomed the festival season.

Bali Pratipada is a significant Hindu festival that celebrates the legendary victory of Lord Vishnu's Vamana avatar over the mighty yet righteous demon king Bali. The festival is symbolic of humility, devotion, and the restoration of cosmic balance. Traditionally, it is regarded as an auspicious day for new beginnings, prosperity, and success, often marked by rituals and prayers across many parts of India.

The closure of the stock markets for the festival is part of the broader tradition of observing major cultural and religious events in India, reflecting the country's re-



spect for its diverse heritage.

Investors are expected to resume trading with fresh enthusiasm on October 23, following the mid-week break. Market participants

will be closely watching for movements in global cues and domestic developments as the festive momentum continues through the week.

As the markets reopen,

analysts anticipate a return to regular trading patterns with potential volatility driven by global economic factors and corporate earnings announcements sched-

uled later in the week.

For now, investors and traders observe the festive pause, marking a moment of cultural significance amidst the fast-paced world of finance.



Smart Bed Worth 1.75 Lakh Malfunctions , Users Face Sleepless Night

Owners of the high-end Eight Sleep “Pod” smart beds, priced around 1.75 lakh (\$2,000), were left frustrated after a global Amazon Web Services (AWS) outage caused widespread malfunctions late Monday night. The Pod beds, known for their automated temperature control and adjustable settings, suddenly overheated and froze in fixed positions, leaving users stuck and

sleep-deprived. The issue was traced to a disruption in AWS’s US-EAST-1 region, which began around 3 a.m. ET. The beds rely on AWS servers to function via app-based controls. By morning, Downdetector had recorded over eight million outage reports globally, affecting not just smart home devices but also apps, gaming platforms, and banking services.

Several users took to Reddit and X (formerly Twitter) to share their ordeal. Some reported intense heating issues, while others were unable to adjust their beds, leading to discomfort and panic during sleep. Eight Sleep’s CEO Matteo Franceschetti issued a public apology on X:

“The AWS outage has impacted some of our users since last night,

disrupting their sleep. That is not the experience we want to provide, and I want to apologize for it.” Franceschetti added that the company would work round-the-clock to ensure such issues don’t happen again. He revealed that developers were building an “outage-proof mode” that would allow the bed to operate independently of AWS during similar incidents.

While some services have been restored, Franceschetti noted that data processing delays may persist, and full functionality would return as AWS stabilizes. For now, frustrated users are demanding a “real solution” — with many questioning the reliability of smart home devices that rely entirely on cloud services for basic operations.

Modern Problems Require Modern Solutions

Bengaluru’s crumbling roads have long been a sore spot for its residents, but a recent incident near KR Road has pushed the frustration to new heights — or depths. A pothole nearly half a foot deep was spotted covered by an old couch, reportedly placed there by local shopkeepers as a warning for drivers and two-wheelers.

The unusual workaround gained attention after a photo of the scene was shared on Reddit. The uploader explained that despite the pothole being a hazard large enough to trap a scooter wheel, civic authorities had done little beyond placing traffic cones and barricades.

“The shopkeepers didn’t complain or attempt to fix it, they just placed a couch there,” the user wrote, noting how pedestrians and drivers merely avoid the pothole instead of addressing the larger issue. The Redditor also mentioned filing a complaint through the Namma Bengaluru (Sahaya) app, but said no response was received from civic authorities.

The image has since gone viral and reignited public anger over BBMP’s (now GBA’s) inaction. “I honestly don’t expect anything from the authorities,” the Reddit user added. “Unless people force change, things will remain the same for another decade.”

This pothole protest comes amid increasing scrutiny of Bengaluru’s urban infrastructure. Recent comments from top entrepreneurs like Rajan Anandan and Aadit Palicha highlight growing concern about the city’s traffic congestion and road conditions, while civic issues have sparked political debates between BJP and Congress leaders.

While the couch-covered pothole may have served as a creative — albeit desperate — safety measure, it also symbolizes the city’s deeper problem: citizens losing faith in civic accountability and choosing to improvise rather than wait for official action.



How Do Engineers Keep The Water Out While Building Bridges On Rivers?

Ever wondered how massive bridge foundations are laid in deep, fast-flowing rivers? Unlike land construction, building in water poses serious challenges, including strong currents, limited visibility, and high risk for workers. To overcome this, engineers use a remarkable technique called a cofferdam — a temporary watertight structure that makes underwater construction possible in dry conditions.

A cofferdam is essentially an enclosed area built within the river using interlocking steel sheet piles, typically 10 to 20 metres long. These sheets are hammered deep into the riverbed using hy-

draulic or vibratory hammers, forming a sealed circle or rectangle that blocks water from entering. Once sealed, powerful pumps remove the water from the inside, creating a dry workspace. This method was used in major Indian infrastructure projects like the Thane Creek Bridge, where engineers noted that vibrations from the pile-driving process even scared off nearby fish.

Before construction begins, a thorough survey of the riverbed is conducted to measure depth, soil stability, and current speed. These details determine how deep the foundation needs to be and how many support pillars are

required. Once water is pumped out and the space is dry, workers can safely descend into the cofferdam — often via ladders or crane platforms — to begin laying the bridge foundation. Strict safety measures are in place, with helmets and life jackets mandatory on site. Despite its temporary nature, a cofferdam plays a critical role in ensuring bridge stability and safety. Once the foundation work is complete, the structure is dismantled, and water is gradually reintroduced to the area. This ingenious engineering solution allows for massive construction projects to succeed — even in the middle of a river.

What Should Disappear From Earth?

Internet Replies with UV Rays, Tobacco Stains & More

In a thread that quickly turned hilarious and insightful, a Reddit user recently asked: “Delete one thing from Earth that you think would make it better?” What followed was a mix of clever, quirky, and unexpectedly deep responses that reflected the internet’s creativity and collective frustrations.

Among the most viral responses was one user suggesting “UV rays because sunscreens are oily,” blending humour with a common skincare complaint. Another top comment simply read: “My browsing history”, drawing laughs and thousands of upvotes.

Others were slightly more practical but still amusing, such as “tobacco stains”, “occasional cold that brings immense throat pain”, and even “alarm clocks”. One user mused, “Mosquitoes. No one would miss them.”

However, the conversation also took a more philosophical turn. One Redditor stated: “Greed—the root of all problems.” Another added: “Remove the concept of



politics,” though that sparked a debate, with one reply noting, “Politics isn’t inherently bad. It’s how people use it.”

The post spurred hundreds of responses within hours, ranging from light-hearted irritants like pop-up ads and spam emails to global issues such as poverty, corruption, and pollution.

Many agreed that removing even one small annoyance could drastically improve daily life,

while some believed only deeper systemic changes could bring true transformation.

As the thread grew, it became a mix of meme-worthy answers and real reflections — a rare internet moment where entertainment met empathy.

One thing is clear: from UV rays to rude drivers, the world might be a little better with a “delete” button — if only it existed.

Viral Metro Art Mistaken for Madhubani Is Actually Warli, Confirms AI

A viral image showing a metro coach covered in stunning traditional artwork had the internet buzzing, with many believing it was part of Patna Metro’s initiative to celebrate Madhubani art. The vibrant patterns and cultural designs led social media users to praise the effort — but it turns out, the art isn’t Madhubani at all.

As appreciation poured in, eagle-eyed users began questioning the authenticity of the claim. “This doesn’t look like Madhubani,” one user wrote. Another chimed in, “Looks more like Warli art to me.” The confusion prompted a fact-check from an unusual but modern source — Grok, the AI chatbot from X (formerly Twitter).

When asked to identify the art form, Grok responded clearly: “That’s Warli art. Those geometric stick figures and tribal motifs are classic Warli style from Maharashtra

— fits the Pune Metro hint perfectly.”

The revelation shifted the narrative. Not only was the artwork not Madhubani, it also wasn’t from Patna Metro. It was actually a Pune Metro coach, decorated in Warli art, a tribal style native to Maharashtra known for its simple stick figures and depictions of rural life.

Despite the confusion, the viral post highlighted public appreciation for India’s diverse folk art traditions. While one user joked, “At least it’s not the floor — or it would be covered in pan masala stains,” others celebrated the creative fusion of culture and urban transit. The mix-up sparked debate but also showcased how India’s artistic heritage continues to thrive, even on modern platforms like metro coaches — whether it’s Madhubani in Bihar or Warli in Maharashtra.



LaLiga Cancels Barcelona-Villarreal Miami Match Amid Controversy

LaLiga has officially canceled its plans to hold the December 2025 league match between Barcelona and Villarreal in Miami, citing growing uncertainty in Spain in recent weeks. The announcement came on October 21, 2025, following widespread backlash and disputes surrounding the move.

The controversial plan to stage a LaLiga match outside Spain, specifically in the United States, had initially received reluctant approval from UEFA, European football's governing body. UEFA acknowledged the match's relocation but noted that there was no existing FIFA framework to prevent such a move, which raised concerns about precedent and the future of domestic leagues.

The decision to cancel the Miami match followed strong opposition from players and unions. Over the weekend, players in LaLiga staged a symbolic protest by standing still for the first 15 seconds of their matches. This was orchestrated by the Span-



ish Footballers' Association (AFE) to express frustration over what they described as the league's "lack of transparency, dialogue and coherence" in handling the situation.

The players' protest underscored broader tensions between LaLiga's management and stakeholders, highlighting issues over how decisions impacting the sport and its fans are made without sufficient consultation.

The Miami match was seen by many as an attempt to globalize LaLiga's brand and tap into the lucrative U.S. market. However, it also sparked fears about the erosion of traditional league structures and the potential alienation of local fanbases.

With the cancellation, the Barcelona-Villarreal game will now be held in Spain as part of the regular season schedule, maintaining the integrity of the domestic league format.

This episode reflects the growing challenges European football faces in balancing commercial ambitions with the interests of players, fans, and the sport's heritage.

Lakshya Sen Exits French Open After First-Round Defeat



Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen bowed out of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament following a straight-game loss to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in the men's singles opening round in Paris on October 21, 2025.

Lakshya, who had recently reached the finals of the Hong Kong Open, appeared off-colour from the outset and struggled to find his rhythm against the world number 29. He was defeated

7-21, 16-21 by Nguyen, who dominated the match with consistent play and sharp shot-making.

The early exit was a disappointing outcome for Lakshya, who had entered the tournament with hopes of

making a deep run after his strong performance in Hong Kong. Despite a better showing in the second game, he was unable to overcome the challenge posed by Nguyen, who controlled the tempo and capitalised on Lak-

shya's errors.

In contrast, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde made a winning start to the tournament, showing promise as they advanced through their initial match.

Lakshya Sen's loss highlights the growing competitiveness in men's singles badminton, with emerging talents from across the globe pushing the boundaries at major tournaments. The French Open, a Super 750 event on the BWF World Tour, attracts top-ranked players, making every match a tough contest.

While this defeat is a setback for Lakshya, he remains one of India's brightest badminton prospects and will look to bounce back in upcoming tournaments. The young player's recent performances signal potential for future success, provided he can maintain form and fitness.

The French Open continues with several exciting matches ahead as players vie for crucial ranking points and titles.

Haaland Shines Again as Manchester City Beat Villarreal 2-0

Erling Haaland continued his impressive scoring streak as Manchester City secured a comfortable 2-0 victory against Villarreal in the Champions League on Tuesday. The win at Estadio de la Ceramica kept Pep Guardiola's side unbeaten in the group stage.

Haaland opened the scoring in the 17th minute, finishing off a neat move set up by Rico Lewis. The Norwegian striker has now scored in 12 consecutive games for club and country, tallying 22 goals in that run. Bernardo Silva added the second before halftime with a well-placed header from a Savinho cross, effectively sealing the win.

Guardiola made four changes from the side that beat Everton, resting Phil Foden as City aimed to end their year-long winless streak on the road in European competition. Despite Villarreal, third in La Liga, gaining some foothold after conceding, City controlled most of the game.

City faced a setback when midfielder Nico Gonzalez left due to injury, compounding worries with Rodri Hernandez already sidelined.



However, City's defense held firm, with goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma making key saves, including one from Nicolas Pepe.

Villarreal's best chance came late when Renato

Veiga's header struck the post, but City managed to keep a clean sheet. Guardiola was optimistic, stating, "Things are looking good, we are playing a little bit better day after day,

and that's a good sign."

The victory reinforces Manchester City's status as group leaders as they build momentum in their Champions League campaign. Villarreal, on the other hand,

remain winless in Europe this season with just one point from three matches.

With Haaland continuing to fire, City look strong as they aim for success in Europe.

Novak Djokovic Withdraws from Paris Masters Due to Injury



Novak Djokovic has announced his withdrawal from the upcoming Paris Masters, citing a leg injury sustained during an exhibition match. The 24-time Grand Slam champion shared the news on social media on October 22, 2025, just days after he was forced to quit the exhibition event due to the injury.

Djokovic's decision to pull out comes amid a challenging season for the Serbian tennis star, who has been competing sporadically. This year, he has participated in only eight ATP Tour events outside of the four Grand Slam tournaments, indicating a cautious approach to managing his fitness and form.

The Paris Masters, one of the ATP Tour's most prestigious indoor hard-court events, was expected to be an important tournament for Djokovic as he looks to regain momentum. However, his recent injury setback has

put those plans on hold.

Djokovic, known for his resilience and competitive spirit, has been dealing with various physical issues over the past seasons, which have affected his tournament schedule and performance. His absence in Paris is a blow to the event, which draws many of the world's top players competing for valuable ranking points ahead of the ATP Finals.

Fans and analysts alike will be watching closely to see how Djokovic recovers and plans his return to competitive play in the remaining part of the season. His health and readiness will be key factors in determining his prospects for the 2026 season and beyond.

Meanwhile, the Paris Masters will proceed without the former world No. 1, who remains one of the sport's most decorated and influential figures.

Women's ODI World Cup: South Africa Crushes Pakistan to Seal Semis Spot



South Africa stormed into the semifinals of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 with a commanding victory over Pakistan in a rain-hit encounter at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Tuesday. Skipper Laura Wolvaardt and veteran all-rounder Marizanne Kapp led the charge as Pakistan crumbled under pressure while chasing a daunting 306 in 40 overs.

Opting to bat first, South Africa set the tone with a clinical batting performance. Wolvaardt anchored the innings with a fluent 87, while support came from the middle order to post a challenging 305/6, capitalising on a slightly shortened match due to early rain delays.

In response, Pakistan's innings never got going. Muneeba Ali fell in the second over, setting the tone for a collapse. Kapp, in top form, removed Sidra Amin and Bismah Maroof in the same over, reducing Pakistan to 24/3. Her fiery spell of 3/26 shattered the chase early. Pakistan struggled to build

partnerships, with rain interruptions doing little to aid their rhythm. Fatima Sana's team looked out of depth against South Africa's disciplined bowling attack and aggressive fielding. Despite a brief resistance from Aliya Riaz and Nida Dar, the run rate climbed beyond reach, and Pakistan was eventually bowled out for 167 in the 34th over.

This defeat ends Pakistan's World Cup campaign, having won just one match in the group stage. Their batting inconsistencies and inability to counter pressure situations were exposed throughout the tournament.

For South Africa, this victory underlines their title ambitions. With Wolvaardt's leadership and Kapp's all-round brilliance, they now look ahead to the semifinals with momentum and belief.

The match also highlighted the resilience of teams to adapt to weather-hit games in a tightly scheduled tournament.

Prabhas Sparks Spy Rumours In Pre-Look Poster Of Hanu Raghavapudi Film



Ahead of his birthday Rebel Star Prabhas has already given fans a reason to celebrate. The makers of his upcoming film with director Hanu Raghavapudi and Mythri Movie Makers have released a striking pre-look poster, adding to the Diwali festivities and stirring massive buzz online.

Set against the backdrop of colonial India, the pre-look hints at a gripping tale of mystery, bravery, and espionage. Prabhas is seen donning a long trench coat and boots, exuding a secretive, spy-like aura. The visual style, along with quotes like “A Battalion Who Walks Alone” and “Most Wanted Since 1932”, suggests that he may be playing a lone warrior or undercover agent involved in India’s silent freedom struggle.

The poster’s background features soldiers marching in formation, subtly symbolizing resistance and rebellion. Intriguingly, Sanskrit verses are overlaid on the de-

sign, adding a spiritual and philosophical tone to the already intense visuals.

The concept poster released earlier had already piqued curiosity, but today’s pre-look has amplified expectations for the official title poster, which is scheduled for release tomorrow on Prabhas’ birthday.

Fans are now eagerly speculating whether Prabhas will portray a spy, revolutionary, or unsung hero in what appears to be a patriotic period drama. The project marks the actor’s first collaboration with Hanu Raghavapudi, known for his rich storytelling and visual flair.

With the title reveal just hours away, the pre-look poster has succeeded in creating a storm on social media, placing the film among the most anticipated upcoming Indian releases. The blend of action, history, and mystery promises yet another epic from Prabhas.

Pradeep Ranganathan on the verge of creating sensation



Actor-director Pradeep Ranganathan is on the verge of creating a sensational box office milestone with his latest film ‘Dude’, which is raking in impressive numbers across Tamil and Telugu markets.

Directed by Keerthiswaran in his debut, Dude is a rom-com entertainer that has struck a chord with audiences. Featuring Mamitha Baiju as the female lead, the film has managed to draw large crowds despite stiff competition in both language circuits.

According to the latest update from the production team, Dude has grossed ₹95 crore globally in just five days, and is expected to cross the ₹100 crore mark by the end of the day. This makes Pradeep Ranganathan one of the few stars to achieve consecutive ₹100 crore grossers early in his career, following the success of his previous film Love

Today.

The film’s strong performance underlines Pradeep’s growing popularity as a pan-South Indian star, with significant traction in both Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana. Industry trackers believe this marks the emergence of a new-gen crowd puller who blends relatable storytelling with commercial appeal.

Dude also stars Sarathkumar, Hridhu Haroon, Rohini, and Aishwarya Sharma in important roles, while the music is composed by Sai Abhyankkar, whose peppy tracks have helped boost the film’s youth appeal.

With Dude marching towards blockbuster status, Pradeep Ranganathan seems well on his way to establishing himself as one of the most bankable young stars in Indian cinema. All eyes are now on how far this rom-com will go in the coming weeks.



Kantara: Chapter 1 English Release Set for Oct 31

Kantara: Chapter 1, the Kannada blockbuster that has dominated the Indian box office in 2025, is now set to make its mark globally. The makers have officially announced the English version of the film, scheduled for release on October 31, 2025. However, fans are left with two pressing questions.

The announcement came with a fresh poster and key detail — the English version will have a runtime of 2 hours, 14 minutes, and 45 seconds, nearly 30 minutes shorter than the original Kannada version currently running in cinemas. This has sparked concern among die-hard fans, who are questioning what scenes were removed and whether this will dilute the story’s impact for international audiences.

Adding to the online chatter is the lack of clarity around the Tulu version, which was widely expected given the film’s coastal and cultural roots. Fans from Karnataka’s Tulu-speaking regions expressed disappointment, with many assuming the Tulu version will now skip theatrical release and head straight to OTT platforms.

Despite the concerns, the film’s English release is being welcomed as a major step forward for Indian regional cinema on the global stage. Kantara: Chapter 1 is a visually rich mythological action-drama starring Rishab Shetty, Rukmini Vasanth, Jayaram, Gulshan Devaiah, and Pramodh Shetty. It is backed by Hombale Films, the banner behind hits like KGF and Salaar.

The powerful score by Ajaanesh Loknath is another highlight that has helped elevate the film’s immersive storytelling. With the global release days away, the international box office response — especially in Western markets — will be closely watched.

Whether the trimmed runtime affects the film’s core narrative remains to be seen. For now, fans are waiting, curious and hopeful.

Bill Gates To Make A Cameo In Indian Serial?



In what could be a surprising crossover between global philanthropy and Indian television drama, reports have emerged suggesting that Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates may soon appear in a cameo role on the popular Hindi serial ‘Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2’.

The show, which marks the acting comeback of Smriti Irani, actress-turned-politician and former Union Minister, premiered on July 29, 2025,

and has since received a positive response from viewers. Irani reprises her iconic character in a modernised setting with a storyline that now integrates social awareness themes, particularly surrounding maternal and child health.

According to media reports, Gates’ cameo will involve a video call sequence with Smriti Irani’s character, focusing on issues related to the health of pregnant women and newborn babies—a cause close to Gates’ philanthropic work through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The segment is expected to be featured over three episodes.

Though the rumour has created buzz across fan communities and social media, the show’s producers have not yet confirmed Gates’ involvement. Sources suggest the idea stemmed from the show’s mission to raise awareness on real-world health issues, and that Gates’ global reputation for advocacy in this area made him an ideal fit for the appearance.

If true, Gates’ cameo would follow a series of special appearances on the show, with actors Sakshi Tanwar and Kiran Karmarkar having recently featured in guest roles.

Whether the tech billionaire’s debut on Indian television materialises or not, the speculation has already brought renewed attention to the serial’s evolving storyline and its focus on blending entertainment with social messaging.

Vishal To Compete With Dhanush, But Not as An Actor!



Actor Vishal is taking a bold new step in his film career — by turning director. Known for his action-packed roles, the Tamil star has now joined the league of actor-directors in Kollywood, sparking comparisons with Dhanush, who has already made his mark in the dual role.

Vishal recently surprised fans with two major announcements — his engagement to actress Sai Dhansika and his decision to helm his next film, Makutam, as a director. Interestingly, Makutam was originally set to be directed by Ravi Arasu, with first-look posters already released. However, Vishal has now taken over the project, citing “circumstances and a sense of responsibility” as the key reasons for the directorial switch.

In Tamil cinema, it’s rare for mainstream actors to successfully wear the director’s hat. Among Vishal’s contemporaries, only Dhanush has emerged as a successful actor-

director. After debuting with Power Paandi, Dhanush returned to direction with projects like Raayan, Jabilamma Neeku Antha Kopama, and Idly Kottu, most of which were critically and commercially well-received — except his most recent release, which underperformed.

Now, the industry is closely watching how Vishal’s Makutam shapes up under his vision. With his career needing a strong comeback after a series of underwhelming performances at the box office, this directorial venture could be a turning point.

While Vishal has not yet revealed much about the film’s plot or cast updates, fans are intrigued by his new creative direction. If Makutam strikes the right chord, Vishal could join Dhanush as a rare success story among Tamil actor-directors.

One thing is clear — the competition between Vishal and Dhanush is no longer just in front of the camera.