



BUZZ POINTS



PM MODI ENDORSES NITISH, PREDICTS NDA RECORD VICTORY IN BIHAR

In a landmark public endorsement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday declared Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the undisputed leader of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state, asserting that the coalition is set to break all previous electoral records under his leadership.

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TRUMP-KIM MEETING SPECULATION AHEAD OF SOUTH KOREA VISIT

Speculation is mounting over a possible meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during Trump's upcoming visit to South Korea. This marks Trump's first trip to Asia since returning to office, and observers are closely watching whether history could repeat itself.

Trump's previous visit to South Korea in 2019 included an unexpected stop at the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he met Kim at the North Korean side of the border in Panmunjom. That surprise encounter aimed to revive stalled nuclear negotiations and drew global attention for its unconventional diplomacy.

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CM Chandrababu Naidu Engages Telugu Diaspora at Grand Dubai Event

TPN /

VIJAYAWADA / DUBAI, Oct 24: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu concluded his Gulf tour with a spectacular interaction with the Telugu diaspora at the Le Meridien Hotel in Dubai. The event drew an overwhelming crowd of Telugu expatriates from across Gulf nations including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar, marking one of the largest gatherings of the Telugu community overseas in recent times.

Addressing the jubilant gathering, Chief Minister Naidu lauded the remarkable achievements of Telugu professionals settled abroad and expressed pride in their growing global influence. He described the Telugu community as "unstoppable," asserting that its spirit of resilience and pursuit of excellence would one day make it one of the world's most influential global communities. Lauding their contributions to various sectors, particularly technology, business, and education, he said

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AP ON TRACK OF WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

Minister Lokesh's Key Interactions in Melbourne

TPN/

VIJAYAWADA / MELBOURNE Oct 24: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh has unveiled the state government's ambitious plan to transform Andhra Pradesh into a global hub for education, technology, and sustainable economic growth by 2047. During a series of strategic meetings in Melbourne, Lokesh outlined reforms, investments, and international collaborations that aim to position the state as a center of innovation and opportunity.

Speaking at the International Education Round Table hosted by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Lokesh emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is implementing revolutionary education reforms to make every student future-ready by 2029. He introduced the Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh (LEAP) program, launched

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Andhra Pradesh Commits to 100% Electrification of APSRTC Fleet Under PM's E-Drive Scheme

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has pledged full support to the Union Government's Clean Mobility Transition initiative, marking a major stride toward achieving sustainable transport and climate action goals. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the State has announced an ambitious plan to achieve 100% electrification of the APSRTC fleet through its E-Mobility Policy.

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20 BURNT ALIVE IN TERRIBLE BUS MISHAP

20 Dead as Hyderabad–Bengaluru Bus Catches Fire Near Kurnool- One of the Deadliest Road Accidents in Andhra Pradesh in Recent Years

TPN |

Kurnool, Oct 24: According to police reports, the accident occurred around 3 a.m. when the Kaveri Travels bus, carrying 44 passengers including four children, was speeding along National Highway 44. Preliminary investigations suggest that the motorcycle, reportedly involved in an earlier hit-and-run incident, had fallen on the road moments before the bus reached the spot. The bus is believed to have run over the two-wheeler laden with petrol,

dragging it for nearly 300 metres and generating intense sparks due to friction.

A senior police officer stated that the sparks ignited leaking petrol from both the motorcycle and the bus's fuel tank, triggering a massive explosion. Within seconds, the luxury sleeper coach was engulfed in raging flames, leaving barely any time for sleeping passengers to react or escape. The intensity of the fire turned the vehicle into an inferno, reducing it to a charred shell before emergency responders could arrive. Horrified

villagers from Chinnatekuru and nearby areas, who spotted the flaming vehicle from a distance, immediately alerted local police and fire services. Rescue operations were launched swiftly, with fire tenders and medical teams rushing from Kurnool and nearby stations.

Despite their efforts, officials said most of the bus was completely gutted by the time the flames were brought under control. Police later confirmed that 27 passengers, including two drivers, managed to survive by breaking open windows and jumping

out before the blaze spread through the vehicle. Many survivors sustained burn injuries and fractures during their escape. Twenty victims including five women and two children were found dead inside the charred remains of the bus.

The bodies were recovered after fire units cooled the wreckage. The survivors were transported to the Government General Hospital in Kurnool. Medical staff said seven of them were treated as outpatients while four others remained under observation with minor

In a devastating road accident that has shocked the state, at least twenty passengers were burnt alive and several others sustained injuries when a private sleeper bus travelling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru caught fire after colliding with a motorcycle near Chinnatekuru village in Kalluru mandal of Kurnool district during the early hours of Friday.



burns and shock.

Forensic teams have been deployed to assist in the identification of the deceased, as several bodies were badly charred.

By evening, authorities confirmed the identification of eleven victims. The ill-fated bus bore registration number DD 01 N 9490 and was registered in Rayagada district of Odisha.

Officials from the Telangana Transport Department confirmed that it belonged to Kaveri Travels, a private operator running inter-state services between Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Investigators are now checking whether the vehicle possessed valid inter-state per-

mits, insurance, and fitness certification at the time of the journey. Kurnool Superintendent of Police has ordered a detailed probe, citing that possible mechanical inspection lapses and over-speeding could have aggravated the tragedy. "We are investigating all angles including the circumstances that led to the collision and the vehicle's

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BUS TRAGEDY RAISES QUESTIONS ON SLEEPER BUS SAFETY

TPN BUREAU,

KURNOOL OCT 24: The Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh has been struck by an immense tragedy after a devastating fire engulfed a private sleeper bus in the early hours of Friday. The vehicle, which was traveling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, was completely charred, leaving behind scenes of horror and inconsolable grief among families of the victims. This accident, eerily similar to a recent tragedy in Rajasthan just ten days ago that claimed over 20 lives, has reignited the nationwide debate over the safety standards of

sleeper buses operating across India's highways.

Over the past few years, the number of accidents involving luxury and sleeper coaches has seen a worrying rise. Most of these mishaps occur either due to overheating, electrical short circuits, or human error; but experts emphasize that poor design and lack of regulation severely worsen the consequences when disasters strike. According to transportation safety experts, the first two minutes following a bus fire or crash are absolutely crucial. "Those who manage to respond or wake up immediately in the first two minutes

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Four Teenagers Drown in Swarnamukhi River near Tirupati, One Body Recovered

TPN /

Tirupati, Oct 24: A pall of sorrow descended on Vedantapuram village near Tirupati on Friday afternoon after four teenage boys drowned in the Swarnamukhi River while taking a bath. The inci-

dent, which has left the community shocked and grieving, occurred when seven friends ventured into the river without anticipating the strength of the water currents. According to local police and rescue officials, the group of teenagers had gone to the river, a

popular spot for locals, around midday.

While playing and swimming, the boys reportedly moved toward a deeper stretch of the river where the current was unexpectedly strong. Within moments, four of them were

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AP CM SHOCKED OVER BUS MISHAP - ORDERS HIGH LEVEL INQUIRY

TPN /

Vijayawada, October 24: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock and sorrow over the devastating bus accident near Chinnatekuru village in Kalluru mandal of Kurnool district, which claimed



several lives and left many others injured in the early hours of Friday. The tragedy oc-

curred when a Hyderabad–Bengaluru private sleeper bus belonging to Kaveri Travels collided with a motorcycle and caught fire, reducing the vehicle to ashes within minutes.

Officials described the incident as one of the most

PAGE 02

Four Teenagers Drown in Swarnamukhi River near Tirupati, One Body Recovered

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 pulled into the fast-flowing waters before the others could react. Local fishermen, alerted by the cries for help, rushed to the scene and managed to rescue three of the boys. Despite efforts to save the remaining four, they were swept away by the current. The deceased have been identified as Prakash (17), Chinna (15), Teja (19), and Balu (16) all residents of nearby localities in Tirupati rural mandal. Rescue teams comprising police, fire department personnel, and expert divers swiftly launched an extensive search operation. Boats and mechanical equipment were deployed as the team combed through the river stretch. After several hours of relentless effort, the body of Balu was recovered from a downstream area. The search for the other three missing boys continued late into the evening, with authorities expressing cautious optimism that their bodies would be located soon. Tirupati district officials, including senior police officers and local revenue authorities, reached the spot to monitor the rescue operations firsthand. They coordinated with the disaster management department to intensify the search using advanced techniques such as sonar-based scanning and additional divers from neighboring mandals. Officials also appealed to local residents not to venture into the river until the rescue mission concluded, citing the dangers of unpredictable river currents. Emotional scenes were witnessed along the riverbank as family members, friends, and villagers gathered in distress, praying for the recovery of the missing teens. Many wept inconsolably as the body of Balu was brought ashore, while others stood in silence, hoping against hope that the others might still be found. The tragedy left the entire community grieving, with villagers describing the deceased youths as energetic and well-liked by their peers. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident. Preliminary inquiries suggest the group had gone to the river for leisure after returning from school, unaware of the increased water flow due to recent rains upstream. Authorities are also examining whether there were any safety warnings or signboards in the vicinity of the river to prevent such mishaps. The incident has renewed concerns about water safety in the region's rivers and lakes, which attract young people during weekends and holidays. Officials have urged parents to caution their children against bathing in unsafe water bodies and have assured that steps will be taken to install warning signs and increase patrolling in vulnerable areas. As night fell over Vedantapuram, search teams remained on duty under floodlights, determined to recover the missing boys and bring closure to the grieving families.

AP CM SHOCKED OVER BUS MISHAP - ORDERS HIGH LEVEL INQUIRY

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 horrific road accidents in recent years. The injured passengers were rushed to the Kurnool Government General Hospital for emergency treatment, while efforts are underway to identify the deceased. Upon receiving the news during his three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates, Chief Minister Naidu immediately convened a high-level teleconference with ministers and top officials to review the situation. He directed Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Chief Secretary K Vijayanand, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, and Kurnool District Collector to rush to the accident site, ensure proper rescue measures, and provide immediate relief to victims and their families. The Chief Minister also ordered a detailed inquiry into the causes of the mishap, instructing officials to identify any lapses in vehicle safety or highway maintenance. He stressed the need for comprehensive road safety audits to prevent such tragedies in the future. Acting quickly on the Chief Minister's directions, Transport Minister Ramprasad Reddy, Home Minister Anitha, and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta arrived at the site to supervise rescue operations. Minister Anitha expressed profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and announced ₹5 lakh ex-gratia to the next of kin of each deceased victim and ₹2 lakh to the injured. She assured that the state government would provide all necessary assistance to the affected families and ensure the best medical care for the injured. Transport Minister Reddy instructed officials of the Transport Department to conduct a thorough verification of the fitness, permits, and safety compliance of all private travel buses operating across Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized strict enforcement of safety norms and regular vehicle inspections to curb negligent operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences over the tragic accident and announced ex-gratia relief of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 to those injured. Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer, too, offered his sympathies to the bereaved families, calling the incident deeply distressing. Several ministers, including Nara Lokesh, K Atchannaidu, BC Jannardhana Reddy, Y Satya Kumar Yadav, NMD Farooq, TG Bharath, and Anagani Satyaprasad, conveyed their condolences and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. Meanwhile, the Kurnool District Administration has set up a control room at the Collectorate to assist the victims and their families. The helpline numbers are 08518-277305, 9121101059, 9121101061, and 9121101075. A hospital help desk has also been arranged at Kurnool GGH, which can be reached at 9494609814. Four member family including Golla Ramesh (35), his wife G Anusha (30), their daughter Manwita (10) and son Maneesh (12) were burnt alive in the accident while two young women Software Engineers Gannamaneni Dhatri (27) Anusha (24) were also killed in the mishap.



BUS TRAGEDY RAISES QUESTIONS ON SLEEPER BUS SAFETY

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 have the highest chance of survival," they explain. Sleeper buses, by design, often carry passengers who are asleep during long overnight journeys. This significantly reduces their ability to react quickly in emergencies. Passengers seated or lying on lower berths have comparatively higher chances of escape since they are closer to exit doors. However, those sleeping on the upper berths face extreme difficulty in getting out, particularly if flames or smoke spread rapidly inside the vehicle. When panic ensues in a confined space, every second counts yet the design of most multi-axle sleeper buses makes quick evacuation almost impossible. Typically, multi-axle sleeper coaches accommodate around 36 to 40 passengers. Each berth is about six feet long and 2.6 feet wide, offering compact personal space. The issue arises in the narrow connecting gallery a corridor that runs between rows of berths. These galleries are usually wide enough for only one person at a time, and during emergencies, this design flaw becomes life-threatening. "The narrow passage prevents multiple passengers from exiting quickly, trapping many inside when fires spread," experts note. Although sleeper buses provide comfort and convenience for long-distance travelers, their design compromises safety in critical situations. The limited movement space between rows of berths, the absence of sufficient emergency exits, and inadequate fire suppression measures create a lethal combination during accidents. In most cases, there are no clear evacuation drills, and safety instructions are either poorly communicated or ignored entirely. The recurring incidents have prompted widespread calls for stricter regulations and better safety enforcement in the private bus travel sector. Passengers, safety activists, and transport engineers are urging authorities to implement clear design standards, install fire-resistant materials, and mandate emergency exit provisions in all sleeper buses. As authorities probe the Kurnool disaster, one truth remains evident unless firm measures are introduced to address design flaws and ensure compliance with safety norms, such tragedies will continue to claim innocent lives on India's highways. For now, grief-stricken families across Andhra Pradesh and beyond are left to mourn the irreversible loss caused by yet another preventable accident.



20 BURNT ALIVE IN TERRIBLE BUS MISHAP

CONTINUED FROM >>>P1 compliance with safety norms," the officer said. Terming the mishap as one of the deadliest road accidents in Andhra Pradesh in recent years, officials said the state government has directed a thorough inquiry and asked local authorities to submit a detailed report. District administration teams supervised relief efforts, while ambulances and fire units remained on standby at the site through the day. Meanwhile, the tragedy has reignited concerns about passenger safety in long-distance private buses. Transport officials noted that many operators continue to flout mandatory safety protocols, including regular vehicle inspections, emergency exit demarcations, and adherence to permitted speed limits. Condolences poured in from across the state as news of the disaster spread. Officials confirmed that further announcements regarding compensation and support for victims' families would be made once identification and verification are completed. The accident has once again highlighted the pressing need for strict enforcement of highway safety measures to prevent the recurrence of such devastating incidents. CM Chandrababu Naidu, who has consistently proven their ability to excel wherever they go. In an inspiring reflection on his longstanding development vision, Naidu reminded the audience of his early efforts three decades ago in promoting the IT sector in undivided Andhra Pradesh, which paved the way for Telugu professionals to gain international recognition. He cited Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella as a shining example of Telugu talent achieving success at the highest level. The Chief Minister also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the overseas community for their overwhelming support during the 2024 elections, which played a significant role in the coalition's victory in Andhra Pradesh. Highlighting the progress made in the state, Naidu showcased Andhra Pradesh's rapid transformation into a knowledge-driven economy. Drawing parallels with the Gulf's shift from oil-based growth to innovation-led industries, he said Andhra Pradesh is embracing similar forward-looking changes. The hospitality sector, he noted, is booming with nearly 1.5 lakh hotel rooms contributing major revenue to the economy. Revealing new milestones, Naidu shared that after Hyderabad's success in attracting global technology giants, Google is now establishing a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence Data Center in Visakhapatnam with an investment of \$15 billion. He added that Andhra Pradesh is home to India's only "Quantum Valley," built to nurture innovation, deep-tech research, and entrepreneurship. Recognizing the growing role of technology in public service, he said the state government is delivering more than 730 citizen services through WhatsApp, an example of how technology is revolutionizing governance and improving efficiency. Emphasizing his government's investment-friendly policies, the Chief Minister said the "Speed of Doing Business" initiative has successfully created a dynamic industrial ecosystem that continues to attract large-scale domestic and international investments. His vision, he said, is to see every household in Andhra Pradesh becoming a hub of entrepreneurship, ensuring widespread economic empowerment. The Dubai event not only celebrated the achievements of the Telugu diaspora but also reaffirmed the state's commitment to strengthening global partnerships, promoting technological innovation, and expanding business opportunities. Ministers T. G. Bharath, B. C. Jannardhan Reddy, and AP NRI Chairman Vemuri Ravi were among the dignitaries present at the gathering, adding significance to the event that symbolized global unity among Telugu people.

Andhra Pradesh Commits to 100% Electrification of APSRTC Fleet Under PM's E-Drive Scheme

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 24: The Government of Andhra Pradesh has pledged full support to the Union Government's Clean Mobility Transition initiative, marking a major stride toward achieving sustainable transport and climate action goals. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the State has announced an ambitious plan to achieve 100% electrification of the APSRTC fleet through its E-Mobility Policy. As part of this initiative, Andhra Pradesh will align with the Prime Minister's prestigious E-Drive Scheme, which carries a nationwide outlay of ₹10,900 crore aimed at boosting electric mobility and reducing carbon emissions. The Chief Minister has instructed the Transport Department to draft a comprehensive roadmap to implement this vision and position the State as a national frontrunner in clean, energy-efficient transport. Special Chief Secretary (Transport, Roads &



Buildings) M.T. Krishna Babu emphasized collective action among key stakeholders, urging agencies like the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), and its subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to support Andhra Pradesh's mission for complete bus electrification. During a meeting with EESL Adviser (Government Affairs & Media) A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy and officials from the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM), Krishna Babu highlighted the State's readiness to leverage CESL's extensive experience in deploying over 33,000 electric buses across India. He lauded CESL's Hydrogen Mobility Action Plan as a step toward achieving sustainable economic growth and environmental stewardship. The State government's strategic plan includes establishing charging stations every 30 km along green corridors, setting up over 100 incubation centers to nurture e-mobility start-ups, and creating a 500 crore corpus fund for developing e-mobility cities. Additionally, efforts are underway to establish an integrated EV manufacturing and value chain within Andhra Pradesh. With these decisive actions, the Andhra Pradesh Government aspires to lead the nation's clean mobility transformation enhancing the economy, reducing emissions, and ensuring a sustainable future for the next generations.

YSRCP GRUMBLES OVER MALICIOUS IVRS CAMPAIGN

YSRCP Lodges Complaint Over “Malicious” IVRS Campaign Targeting Party Leaders

Vijayawada, October 24: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has accused the ruling coalition in Andhra Pradesh of launching a politically motivated Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) campaign aimed at maligning its senior leaders and deflecting attention from the recently exposed fake liquor racket. A high-level delegation of YSRCP leaders formally lodged a complaint at the office of the Director General of Police (DGP) in Mangalagiri, seeking a detailed investigation into

the cyber campaign and stringent legal action against those behind it. The complaint was submitted to the Cyber Crime Division under the leadership of former ministers Jogi Ramesh and Velampalli Srinivas, accompanied by MLC Mondithoka Arun Kumar, State Legal Cell President Manohar Reddy, former MLA Malladi Vishnu, and NTR District President Devineni Avinash. The delegation alleged that the IVRS calls, which circulated defamatory messages about YSRCP leaders, were systematically designed to divert public discourse from the corruption and criminal nexus exposed in the liquor scandal. Speaking to media-persons after filing the complaint, former minister Jogi Ramesh delivered a sharp criticism



of the ruling coalition, asserting that the people of Andhra Pradesh were “furious over the spurious liquor operations that have unveiled the deep-rooted corruption of those in power.” He accused the TDP and its allies of “resorting to diversionary tactics such as spreading lies through IVRS calls to malign YSRCP leaders,” instead of owning up to their alleged role in the racket. Ramesh also con-

demned sections of what he termed the “yellow media” for amplifying unfounded allegations linking him to the liquor scam. He called it “a deliberate attempt at character assassination,” stressing that false narratives were being deliberately promoted to mislead the public. “It is a shameful act of political manipulation, designed to create confusion among the people who are already angered by the

liquor scandal,” he remarked. Demanding immediate action from the cybercrime authorities, Ramesh urged them to trace the origins of the IVRS calls and hold the culprits accountable. “Those behind this malicious propaganda must be exposed. Truth must prevail,” he declared. In a direct challenge to the Chief Minister and his son, Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh, Ramesh said, “Only Chandrababu and Lokesh are capable of such propaganda. If Chandrababu truly believes in transparency, he should order a CBI investigation into the liquor racket.” He further stated that he was willing to undergo a lie-detector or narco-analysis test to prove his innocence, adding that “YS-

RCP leaders have nothing to hide. “Reiterating the party’s demand for a transparent and independent probe, the YSRCP leaders described the twin issues, the liquor scam and the IVRS defamation campaign—as intertwined examples of political misconduct. The party called upon law enforcement agencies to ensure justice and uphold democratic integrity in the state. The incident has sparked further debate across Andhra Pradesh’s political circles, with YSRCP maintaining that such campaigns represent a “test of political integrity” for the ruling coalition. As investigations begin, the controversy appears poised to intensify the already heated political climate in the state.

Pawan Kalyan Expresses Profound Shock Over Kurnool Bus Tragedy;



Orders Preventive Measures

TPN, Amaravati, October 24: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has expressed deep anguish and shock over the horrific bus accident that claimed 19 lives in Kurnool district early Friday morning. He described the incident as heart-rending and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families while praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. According to official reports, the private travel bus belonging to Vemuri Kaveri Travels was en route from Hyderabad to Bengaluru when it caught fire after colliding with a motorcycle

near Kurnool in the early hours. The sudden impact caused the fuel tank to burst into flames, engulfing the vehicle within moments. Despite immediate response from nearby residents and local police, the intensity of the fire left little time for rescue operations, resulting in a massive loss of life. Preliminary figures indicate that 19 passengers were charred to death, and several others sustained severe burns. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, upon receiving briefings from senior officials, termed the tragedy “deeply distressing” and instructed authorities to provide all necessary medical support to the injured. He directed the Transport and Police Depart-

ments to conduct a detailed probe into the cause of the accident and enforce strict safety measures for long-distance night bus services. “Such unfortunate incidents must not recur,” Pawan Kalyan reportedly told the officials, emphasizing the need for regular vehicle inspections, fire-safety audits, and better emergency exit mechanisms in passenger buses. He also advised the transport authorities to launch awareness programs among private operators to ensure compliance with safety norms. The state government is expected to announce ex-gratia relief to the victims’ families. District authorities have been instructed to coordinate with hospitals treating the injured and

to facilitate quick identification and handover of the remains to relatives. Eyewitnesses described scenes of chaos and helplessness, as flames spread rapidly through the bus. Many passengers were asleep when the fire broke out, leaving them trapped inside. Fire tenders and emergency response teams arrived soon after receiving alerts, but the blaze was too fierce to be contained immediately. The Kurnool tragedy has sent shockwaves across the state, reigniting concerns over road safety and emergency preparedness. The Andhra Pradesh government has assured that comprehensive preventive measures will be put in place to safeguard passengers and avert future mishaps.



TDP HID ADANI'S ROLE IN GOOGLE DATA CENTER - GUDIVADA AMARNATH



Just to deny YS Jagan Credit

TPN, Visakhapatnam, Oct 24: Former minister and Anakapalli district YSRCP president Gudivada Amarnath launched a sharp attack on the ruling TDP-led coalition, accusing Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh of intentionally concealing the involvement of Adani Group in the Google Data Center project at Visakhapatnam. He alleged that the coalition’s move was politically motivated to prevent former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy from receiving due credit for initiating the prestigious venture. Amarnath, addressing the media on Thursday, claimed

that YS Jagan had laid the foundation stone for the Adani Data Center on May 3, 2023, and took the initiative to hold talks with the Singapore government for setting up a submarine cable network. He said that Google had officially confirmed Adani as its partner through a letter to the state government and even mentioned it publicly on its social media handles. Despite this transparency, Amarnath alleged that the TDP and its allies deliberately avoided mentioning Adani’s name after coming to power. The YSRCP leader ridiculed TDP’s recent claims on job creation, saying the exaggerated numbers were part of a propaganda campaign aimed at misleading the youth. According to Amarnath,

official company communications indicated around 200 direct jobs, which contradicted the coalition’s tall promises of thousands of employment opportunities. “The government is trying to hijack recognition from those who actually delivered the project,” he remarked. Amarnath emphasized that the YSRCP had always supported the project but found fault with the false job projections and lack of clarity regarding its real employment potential. He accused the TDP-led administration of resorting to marketing gimmicks instead of transparent governance. Drawing a comparison, Amarnath cited the Bhogapuram Airport project as an example of YSRCP’s administrative efficiency. He noted that the

previous YSRCP government had acquired 2,700 acres for the airport, completed the rehabilitation process, and began construction works. In contrast, he said, Chandrababu Naidu’s earlier foundation stone ceremony at the site had no tangible backing in terms of land acquisition or groundwork. “Chandrababu and Lokesh have mastered the art of stealing credit. They are running a marketing agency, not a government,” Amarnath said, alleging that even BJP leaders had turned into “pocket partners” of the TDP in shielding the truth behind major development projects.

MOBILE HEALTH SERVICE LAUNCHED IN ANANTHAPUR

RBSK Mobile Vehicle Health Service Launched in Anantapur District

TPN BUREAU/VIJAYAWADA/ Anantapur, October 24, 2025: The District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr. E. B. Devi formally inaugurated the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) Mobile Vehicle Service in a ceremonial event held today. The new mobile unit marks another milestone in the government's ongoing efforts to ensure the health and well-being of

children across rural areas of Anantapur district. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devi stated that the RBSK program is an essential initiative aimed at identifying and addressing health issues among children below 18 years of age studying in Anganwadi centers and government schools. She recalled that the program was officially launched last year on November 14 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, symbolizing the state government's commitment to building a healthier generation. Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, special focus is given to identifying children with congenital disorders,

developmental delays, disabilities, and other health problems. Once such health issues are detected, the children are referred for further evaluation and specialized treatment. The newly launched RBSK mobile vehicle will play a crucial role in improving the efficiency of this referral system by facilitating the safe and swift transportation of identified children from rural health facilities to the District Early Intervention Center (DEIC) located in Anantapur. Dr. Devi emphasized that after receiving medical attention at the DEIC, the children will be taken back to their native villages using the same mobile vehicle, ensuring a hassle-free and

supportive experience for families.

“This initiative bridges the gap between primary health services and specialized care centers, particularly in areas where access to medical resources remains limited,” she added. She urged parents to make the best use of the opportunity by cooperating with health staff during the screening process and ensuring that their children participate in the health examinations conducted at schools and Anganwadi centers. The screenings are designed not only to detect birth-related defects but also to identify nutrition deficiencies,



hearing and visual impairments, and other developmental conditions that can be treated effectively if detected early.

The RBSK mobile vehicle is equipped with necessary medical instruments and facilities to provide first-aid care and transport children safely to the referral center. The integration of this service is expected to significantly strengthen the preventive and curative aspects of child healthcare under the district public health framework. The launch event also witnessed the participation of key medical and administrative personnel including RBSK Program Officer Dr. G.

Narayanaswamy, DEIC Manager Smt. Rajitha, DEMO Nagaraju, and Deputy DEMO Thyagaraju, among others.

The officials collectively reaffirmed their commitment to serving the children of the district with dedication and compassion. With this new addition, the Anantapur health department aims to intensify outreach activities and ensure that no child is left behind due to geographical or economic barriers. The RBSK mobile service stands as a symbol of the government's inclusive approach toward healthcare and its vision of nurturing a healthy, strong, and bright future generation.

Four New Directors Take Charge in AP State Housing Corporation



TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 24: A new chapter began in the functioning of the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation (AP-SHC) on Friday as four newly appointed Directors formally assumed charge at the corporation's head office in Vijayawada. The induction ceremony marked a key administrative development in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the State's housing initiatives and ensure effective coordination across ongoing housing projects. The newly appointed Directors B. Jagannadha Reddy, Krishnayya, Muthyala Priya Soujanya, and L. Ramalingeswara Rao were administered the oath of office by AP-SHC Chairman B. Tata Babu.

The appointments were made through official orders recently issued by the State Government to enhance the management structure of the corporation and bring in new leadership perspectives to support the government's ambitious housing programs. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Tata Babu welcomed the new Directors into the organization and expressed confidence that their experience and commitment would accelerate progress in implementing major housing schemes.

He emphasized that the State Housing Corporation plays a vital role in fulfilling the government's vision of providing decent and affordable housing for every eligible family under

welfare programs such as Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu. Chief Engineer Jayaramachari, Chief General Manager N. Annapurna, General Manager Venkata Ramana, Superintending Engineers, and several senior officials of the corporation attended the ceremony and extended their greetings to the newly inducted Directors.

The event concluded with the presentation of mementos and bouquets, followed by congratulatory remarks from senior officials who stressed teamwork and accountability as the cornerstones of successful housing implementation across districts. Later in the day, the four new Directors visited the camp office of State Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy in Vijayawada. During the courtesy meeting, the Minister congratulated them on their new responsibilities and discussed ongoing initiatives aimed at speeding up house construction and ensuring quality in project execution.

He also reiterated the government's commitment to transparency, timely delivery, and the continuous monitoring of housing projects across the State. With the assumption of charge by the new Directors, officials believe the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation will move forward with renewed energy and clarity of purpose, further enhancing its operational efficiency in delivering housing to thousands of families across the State.

69 RECEIVE APPOINTMENT ORDERS AT ROZGAR JOB MELA

69 Candidates Receive Appointment Orders at Rozgar Mela in Vijayawada

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 24: As part of the 17th tranche of the nationwide Rozgar Mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday virtually addressed newly appointed officials across 40 locations in the country. The event, aimed at boosting employment opportunities and ensuring career growth for India's youth, saw over 51,000 candidates receiving appointment orders from various Central Government departments and ministries. In Andhra Pradesh, Rozgar Mela events were simultaneously held in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

The Vijayawada event was conducted at the Divisional Railway Auditorium, where 69 candidates were handed appointment letters from seven Central Government departments. The occasion marked a significant step in the government's ongoing

mission to provide employment opportunities under the Rozgar Mela initiative. Out of the total 69 candidates, 45 were selected for appointments in the Indian Railways, 13 for the Department of Posts, four for the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), three for the Ministry of Home Affairs, two for the Airports Authority of India, and one each for the Department of Financial Services and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

The event was graced by several key dignitaries, including Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma, Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel. Also present were BP Sridevi, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle; PE Edwin, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure), Vijayawada Division; and DSVR Murthy, Postmaster General, Vijayawada Region. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma expressed pride in the Central Government's consistent efforts to generate employment and empower the country's youth.

These programs, he said, are helping realize the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, a developed India that offers equal growth opportunities to all citizens. BP Sridevi, Chief Postmaster General, also addressed the newly appointed candidates and encouraged them to work diligently and uphold the values of efficiency, transparency, and public service. She said that joining central government service is not only a career opportunity but also a responsibility to serve the nation with dedication.

The newly appointed officials, representing various departments, expressed their gratitude to the Central Government for providing such platforms that facilitate direct employment. They shared enthusiasm about beginning their careers and contributing to national progress through their respective roles. The Rozgar Mela initiative continues to underscore the government's unwavering commitment to employment generation and skill development, paving the way for India's transformation into a self-reliant and economically strong nation.

RAILWAY TTE BOOKED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

Railway TTE Booked for Sexually Harassing Student on Narasapuram-Nellore Train Route.

TPN BUREAU, VIJAYAWADA, OCT 24: In a disturbing incident highlighting passenger safety concerns, a Railway Ticket Examiner (TTE) from the South Central Railway zone has been booked for allegedly sexually harassing a 20-year-old student during a train journey from Narasapuram to Nellore on October 8th. The accused, identified as Abhijit Kumar, aged 27, was performing his

duty when the episode reportedly occurred.

According to the victim's complaint, she was traveling alone when the TTE approached her compartment to verify her ticket details. Under the pretext of confirming her berth in the air-conditioned coach, the accused allegedly sat beside her and began behaving in an indecent manner. The woman stated that he touched her inappropriately and made unwanted advances despite her visible discomfort. Frightened by his actions, the student quickly moved to another compartment and sought help from nearby passengers.

Several co-passengers came forward to assist her and immediately contacted the rail-

way authorities. With their support, the young woman lodged a formal complaint with the Vijayawada Railway Police soon after the train reached the station. Based on her statement, the police registered a case under FIR No. 38/2025, applying Sections 74 and 75(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which pertain to sexual harassment and outraging the modesty of a woman. Law enforcement officials confirmed that the accused has been placed under suspension pending further investigation.

A senior railway official from the South Central zone stated that an internal departmental inquiry has also been initiated. “The railway administration takes such incidents very seriously.

Allegations Surface Against Siddhartha Medical College Principal for Running Private Clinic

TPN, Vijayawada, Oct. 24 Serious allegations have emerged against Dr. Alapati Yedukondala Rao, Principal of Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, claiming that he has been operating his own private clinic while holding a key administrative position in government service. Questions are being raised over whether such practices violate service norms and government directives that prohibit private medical practice among certain categories of government doctors.

According to sources in the medical commu-

nity, Dr. Rao is reportedly managing his own clinic in Vijayawada and simultaneously working as a consultant at Pushpa Clinic in Ongole. These reports suggest that his association with the Ongole clinic began during his tenure at RIMS, Ongole, and allegedly continued even after his transfer to Vijayawada. It has further been alleged that he has maintained his private practice in Vijayawada for over two decades. As per government service rules, doctors working in government institutions are not permitted to run private clinics if they draw Non-Practice Pay (NPP) a financial allowance given as compensation for refraining from private practice.

While some consultants are allowed to practice privately before or after official duty hours, holding an administrative position like Principal places additional restrictions. Government



orders issued after 1987 explicitly prohibit officials in such top roles from engaging in private practice. Clarifying the government's stance, Director of Medical Education (DME) Dr. Raghunandan stated, “Those who are not receiving Non-Practice Pay are permitted to practice privately.

However, those holding administrative posts are not allowed to do so if they were appointed after 1987.” When asked about Dr. Yedukondala Rao's specific case, the DME refrained from offering further comments or confirmation. The

larger controversy also brings attention to a deeper issue within the state's healthcare administrative system. Several staff and insiders claim that certain officials in the Health Department act as intermediaries in transfer and promotion processes, allegedly facilitating such activities in exchange for monetary benefits.

This network, according to allegations, has managed to influence promotions and postings by aligning itself with successive political regimes. Critics claim that the same group that operated with influence during the YSR Congress government has now adapted to maintain its hold under the present Alliance Government. In Dr. Rao's case, sources allege that he enjoyed the support of influential political figures, including former minister Vellampalli Srinivasa Rao, and leveraged such connections to secure promo-

tions beyond normal service parameters.

These allegations, if verified, raise serious concerns about transparency and accountability in appointments to key administrative positions within the state's medical education system. Meanwhile, healthcare professionals and staff organizations have reportedly appealed to higher authorities in the Health Department and the state government to order a formal inquiry into the matter.

They insist that if the claims prove true, disciplinary action must be initiated to uphold the integrity of public health institutions. As the controversy unfolds, all eyes are on the Health Department to see whether an impartial investigation will be initiated and whether the government will reaffirm its commitment to enforcing service rules uniformly, irrespective of position or influence.

KURNOOL BUS MISHAP CLAIMS 19 LIVES

19 Dead in Tragic Bus Accident in Kurnool District, Says AP Home Minister Anita.

TPN BUREAU, Kurnool, Oct 24, Andhra Pradesh – A tragic bus accident in Kurnool district has claimed the lives of 19 people, including two children, Andhra Pradesh Home Minister V. Anita confirmed during a media briefing on Friday. The horrific incident has shaken the state, with several victims hailing from differ-

ent parts of southern and eastern India. Speaking at a press conference held at the Kurnool Vyas Auditorium, Ministers Anita and Ram Prasad Reddy detailed the grim aftermath of the crash.

According to their statement, the ill-fated bus was carrying 44 passengers – 39 adults, four children, and an unidentified individual. Out of them, 27 people, including two drivers, managed to survive the tragedy. Twelve of the injured are currently undergoing treatment for minor injuries at local hospitals. The minister



revealed that the deceased included six passengers each from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, two from Tamil Nadu, two from Karnataka, and one each from Odisha and Bihar.

The identity of one more victim is still being verified. The impact of the crash and ensuing fire was so severe that several bodies were charred beyond recognition, necessitating DNA

testing to identify the remains before handing them over to their respective families. Minister Anita stated that an FIR has been registered, and a thorough investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident. The police have taken the bus driver into custody for questioning. “Based on the driver’s preliminary statement, we are investigating the circumstances that led to the mishap,” she said. The Home Minister added that 16 specialized teams have been constituted to examine all aspects of the incident. “Of these, 10 teams are

dedicated to DNA testing, four teams are probing mechanical and operational causes, and two teams are analyzing chemical residues related to the fire,” Anita clarified.

Minister Ram Prasad Reddy announced immediate government assistance for the victims. Families of the deceased from Andhra Pradesh will receive a financial aid of 5 lakh each, while the injured will be granted 2 lakh. He expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy and assured that the government would extend every possible support to bereaved fam-

ilies and survivors. Kurnool Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil also provided crucial details during the press meet.

He stated that initial findings point to a collision between the bus and a motorcycle lying on the road. “The driver informed us that the bus ran over a bike that had already fallen due to an earlier mishap. As the vehicle ran over it, flames erupted immediately,” SP Patil explained. “We are investigating all angles to confirm whether this version aligns with physical evidence and witness statements.” Au-

thorities have cordoned off the accident site for forensic examination.

Teams are collecting samples to confirm the source of the fire and possible mechanical faults in the bus. Meanwhile, the state government has directed senior officials to ensure that the injured receive best medical care. The ghastly accident has sparked concerns over passenger safety and road conditions on national highways passing through Kurnool district. The government has promised swift action based on the inquiry report once it is finalized.

WORLD POLIO DAY - 2025



Anantapur Health Department Urges Public Cooperation on World Polio Day 2025

TPN BUREAU, Anantapur, October 24, 2025 – On the occasion of World Polio Day, celebrated every year on October 24, the Anantapur District Medical and Health Department extended warm greetings to the public and called upon every citizen to play their part in keeping the district and the nation free from polio. In a statement issued by District Medical and Health Officer Dr. E. B. Devi, the department emphasized that India has remained polio-free since 2014, a historic milestone achieved through relentless efforts by health workers, volunteers, and

the active participation of people from all walks of life.

However, as a few countries around the world continue to report cases of poliomyelitis, maintaining vigilance and ensuring complete immunization remains crucial. Dr. Devi reminded parents and guardians that every child under the age of five must receive polio drops during each National and Sub-National Pulse Polio round without fail. Even children who have already received their routine vaccinations should be given these drops, as they provide additional protection against the poliovirus.

The statement further appealed to residents, local representatives, community associations, and voluntary organizations to actively participate in both the Pulse Polio and Routine Immunization programs. Their cooperation is vital to ensure

that every child in the district receives complete immunization coverage without any missed doses. Collective community involvement, door-to-door awareness campaigns, and timely participation in immunization drives were highlighted as key methods to sustain the region’s polio-free status. Underlining the department’s commitment to public health, Dr. Devi reiterated that continued awareness and proactive immunization efforts are essential for safeguarding children against preventable diseases.

The statement emphasized that preventing even a single case of polio is a shared social responsibility that demands participation from each family and community group. As the district joins the global observance of World Polio Day 2025, the Anantapur Health Department reaffirmed its mission of maintaining a healthy, disease-free community and urged everyone to support the ongoing immunization initiatives. With everyone’s cooperation, Dr. Devi expressed confidence that the goal of “Polio-Free Anantapur Polio-Free India” will continue to be a reality for generations to come.

Department of Communications Holds Grand Revenue Review Meeting in Visakhapatnam

TPN, Visakhapatnam, October 24 The Ministry of Communications, Government of India, conducted a grand Revenue Review Meeting of the Department of Communications at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Visakhapatnam. The event brought together senior officials, telecom experts, and circle heads to evaluate the revenue performance of various telecommunications zones and discuss major policy and operational issues. The meeting was graced by Manish Sinha, Member of the Digital Communications Commission (DCC), Department of Telecommunications, as the chief guest.

In his keynote address, Mr. Sinha emphasized the importance of assessing the revenue growth of different circles under the Central Zone and identifying solutions to the challenges faced by internet service providers. He noted that the telecommunications sector continues to evolve rapidly, and the Department’s goal is to ensure robust digital infrastructure and uninterrupted services across the country. Highlighting Visakhapat-



nam’s growing role in India’s digital economy, Mr. Sinha said that the upcoming Google Data Center in the city is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities and bolster technological development in the region.

He stated that discussions were held on how the Department and its allied agencies could coordinate effectively to facilitate the smooth establishment and operation of such major digital facilities. “Internet usage in India is expected to scale new heights in the coming years. To sustain this growth, we are focusing on improving service quality, expanding connectivity, and framing progressive policies that support both consumers and service providers,” he said. The meeting also witnessed active participation from senior officials, including Shikha Mathur Ku-

mar, Senior DDG, DRT, New Delhi; Ashok Kumar, Principal CCA, Central Zone, Hyderabad; and Nagesh Rao, Additional Director General, Hyderabad.

The event was hosted under the supervision of Tara Chand, CCA, Andhra Pradesh Circle. Officials from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana circles participated and shared valuable insights on regional developments and challenges. The Department of Telecommunications reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening India’s digital communication ecosystem through innovation, cooperation, and efficient governance. With initiatives like the upcoming data centers and expanding infrastructure in tier-two cities like Visakhapatnam, the telecom sector is poised for significant growth and modernization in the near future.

GIST DELEGATION FLATTERS AP’S NATURAL FARMING

GIST Delegation Praises Andhra Pradesh’s Natural Farming Model in NTR District

TPN / Vijayawada, October 24: A high-level delegation from the Global Initiative for Sustainability (GIST), headed by Chairperson André Hoffmann, visited natural farming fields in NTR District on Friday, expressing deep appreciation for Andhra Pradesh’s pioneering initiatives in sustainable agriculture. The delegation comprised Rosalie Hoffmann and Pavan Sukhdev, CEO of GIST, an internationally reputed organization known for advancing sustainability through scientific analytics and promoting equitable green economies.

The team was accompanied by Satya S. Tripathi, Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP), which supports large-scale social and environmental transformation projects. Their visit aimed to understand the impact and scalability of the Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, implemented under Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), Government of Andhra Pradesh.



The delegation arrived at Chevuturu village in G. Konduru mandal, where they were warmly received by T. Vijay Kumar, Executive Vice Chairman of RySS. Kumar presented a detailed demonstration using a “Nine Core Principles of Natural Farming” wheel model, explaining how APCNF ensures year-round green

cover, enriches soil fertility, and fosters ecological balance while reducing dependency on chemical inputs. He emphasized that natural farming not only revitalizes soil health but also builds climate resilience and enhances long-term farm productivity.

During the visit to the Bio Resource Centre (BRC) managed by Ch. Sudheer, the delegation interacted with field experts and learned about the input-output linkage systems that sustain natural farming practices. They observed live demonstrations led by Sankar Naik, District Project Manager, on the preparation of bio-stimulants, seed treatment, and Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) techniques, innova-

tions that strengthen soil biome health and reduce water stress.

The visitors also explored a Natural Farming Exhibition and Food Basket Stall, which showcased the interconnection between Health and Nutrition (H&N) and natural farming systems. Women farmers engaged in Nutri Garden initiatives shared experiences of cultivating diverse vegetables and greens that contribute to family nutrition. One such farmer, Venkataramanamma, explained how her kitchen garden ensures year-round access to nutritious food and enhances family food security.

The delegation then inspected fields owned by V. Poornachandra Reddy, where comparative results highlighted superior crop quality, higher BRIX values indicating sweetness and nutrient density, and better soil health in natural farming plots compared to conventional fields. Another notable interaction took place with Madhu-

sudhan Reddy, a progressive farmer who established a dedicated rice mill to process and market chemical-free rice, representing a model of farmer-driven value-chain development.

Towards the end of their tour, the GIST team met with members of Village Organizations (VOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) actively promoting sustainable practices. They lauded the women farmers for their leadership, financial management, and strong commitment to expanding natural farming in rural communities. Officials from the Agriculture Department and senior RySS staff participated in the event, marking it as a milestone in global recognition of Andhra Pradesh’s efforts to lead a natural farming revolution. The visit strengthened collaborations for sustainable agriculture and underscored the state’s vision of becoming a global model for climate-smart, resilient, and equitable farming systems.

65 LAKH SCAM IN KADIYAPULANKA PANCHAYAT

Officials Report Misuse During Former Sarpanch’s Tenure

TPN Bureau, East Godavari, Oct 24: A major financial irregularity involving public funds has come to light in Kadiyapulanka village panchayat under the Kadiyam constituency of East Godavari district. According to an official investigation, approximately 65.6 lakh of panchayat funds were misused between 2021 and 2023 during the tenure of the then Sarpanch, late Ammanee. The inquiry followed a formal complaint lodged by Ward Member B.V.V.S. Subrahmanyam, prompting panchayat authorities to carry out a detailed investigation into fund utilization and record-keeping.

Officials found that several development funds and local tax collections were diverted and utilized in viola-

tion of established norms. Incomplete records, unverified bills, and false work reports were discovered, all pointing to rampant financial mismanagement during the administration led by Ammanee.

Irregularities Traced to Sarpanch’s Tenure The inquiry report confirms that the irregularities occurred exclusively during Ammanee’s period as Sarpanch. Financial records were either missing or incomplete, and work documentation lacked proper verification. Several bills were submitted for works that were never executed, indicating deliberate attempts to misappropriate funds. As Ammanee has since passed away, the accountability for supervision lapses has been directed toward the then panchayat secretaries who were responsible for maintaining fiscal discipline.

Based on the investigation, officials issued show-cause notices to two former secretaries, Vijaya Raj and K.V.V



.S.N. Rajashekhar for their negligence in monitoring fund usage and maintaining transparent financial records. The notices held Vijaya Raj accountable for 55,84,960 and Rajashekhar for 9,75,793, respectively. Officials clarified that although the misuse primarily occurred under the directives of the Sarpanch, procedural lapses and lack of financial oversight by the secretaries contributed significantly to the embezzlement.

Political Motives and Clarification

Following Ammanee’s death, Vice-Sarpanch Ranjey assumed charge temporarily. However, local sources allege that certain individuals attempted to falsely implicate Ranjey in the misappropriation with political mo-

tives. Ranjey has strongly denied any involvement, asserting that the corruption was confined to Ammanee’s administration and that the recent official report vindicates him. The report’s findings, issued last week, conclusively stated that no wrong-doing was linked to Ranjey. The authorities confirmed that he bore no responsibility and that all irregularities occurred before he assumed acting responsibilities. Villagers and panchayat members have since rallied behind him, dismissing the allegations as politically driven defamation.

Public Reaction and Demands for Accountability

Residents of Kadiyapulanka and members of the local panchayat welcomed the

investigation results and the subsequent accountability proceedings. They have called for strict punitive action against those responsible for the misappropriation of public funds. Community leaders emphasized the need for stronger monitoring systems to prevent such corruption in future panchayat administrations.

Several locals also demanded systemic reforms to ensure all panchayat-level financial transactions are digitized and periodically audited to enhance transparency. The investigation into the 65 lakh scam has now become a rallying point for citizens advocating cleaner governance and financial accountability at the grassroots level.

OpenAI’s ChatGPT to Offer Erotica for Verified Adults

OpenAI has announced a major update to its ChatGPT platform that has sparked widespread debate and public outrage. The upcoming version of ChatGPT, set to roll out from December, will allow verified adult users to request the generation of erotica, according to a post by CEO Sam Altman on social media platform X on October 14, 2025.

Altman explained that this decision is part of OpenAI’s principle to “treat adult users like adults.” He argued that past restrictions, implemented to prevent mental health issues and protect children, made the chatbot experience less enjoyable for adult users without mental health concerns. “Now that we have tools to mitigate serious mental health risks, many of the restrictions can be relaxed,” Altman wrote.

The announcement drew over 15 million views within days and ignited a firestorm of reactions online. While some users expressed curiosity and enthusiasm about the added flexibility, critics raised ethical and legal concerns. Many worried about child safety, potential misuse, and the broader societal implications of AI-generated erotica.

In response to mounting backlash, Altman issued a clarification on October 16, emphasizing that safeguards will be in place to prevent underage access and that the feature would only be available to verified adults. He reassured the public that the company is committed to addressing mental health concerns and minimizing potential harms, although these claims have yet to be independently validated by regulators.

OpenAI’s move has reignited debates about AI ethics, content moderation, and the balance between innovation and social responsibility. Analysts point out that the decision could position ChatGPT as the first mainstream AI chatbot offering explicit adult content, a development that raises questions about age verification, user consent, and regulatory oversight.

Despite controversy, Altman has defended the update as a necessary step to improve user experience and agency. “Our goal is to create a platform that is both safe and enjoyable for all users,” he said. Industry observers note that while OpenAI continues to prioritize safety, the introduction of erotica may attract further scrutiny from lawmakers, consumer groups, and international regulators.

The new feature is expected to be implemented in the upcoming ChatGPT release in December, and the company has indicated that additional controls and moderation tools will accompany the update to ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.



Is Modi bypassing the 8th Central Pay Commission

The much-anticipated Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC), whose recommendations are scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2026, has yet to be formally constituted by the government, raising questions about the Modi administration’s approach to public sector pay revisions.

The Central Pay Commission is a technocratic body tasked with reviewing and recommending salary structures, allowances, and benefits for government employees, including civilian staff, armed forces personnel, and pensioners. Its recommendations have historically had a direct impact on millions of employees and indirectly influence the broader economy through government expenditure.

Experts note that, unlike previous regimes, the Modi government appears to be bypassing the traditional timeline of the pay panel. “Never has such a cavalier approach been adopted in setting up a pay commission,” said Sandeep Joshi, a policy analyst. Sources within the bureaucracy suggest that political considerations and perception management might be taking precedence over routine administrative timelines, especially with general elections approaching.

Observers argue that in the Modi era, even a technocratic exercise like the Central Pay Commission can be easily delayed or sidelined in the battle for perception and votes. With the previous, Seventh CPC having been implemented fully only in 2020, government employees were expecting timely initiation of the next panel to avoid pay stagnation and inflationary losses.

Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, say that consultations are ongoing, and key parameters—such as fiscal space, inflation projections, and government revenue—are being carefully assessed before constituting the commission. However, no formal notification has been issued, fueling speculation among employees and pensioners.

The delay has also stirred debate about the government’s commitment to institutional processes. Analysts warn that prolonged indecision may lead to discontent among public servants and could have repercussions in sensitive sectors such as defense, railways, and administrative services.

As January 1, 2026, approaches, stakeholders are urging the government to act swiftly and announce the 8th CPC to ensure continuity in pay revisions. The panel’s recommendations are crucial not only for employee welfare but also for maintaining morale and operational efficiency across central government departments.



US H-1B Fee Sparks Brain Drain Debate in India

New Delhi/Washington: Washington’s recent announcement of a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions has reignited India’s decades-old debate over brain drain and raised questions about whether the country can retain its skilled workforce. The fee, announced on September 19 by former US President Donald Trump, applies only to new applications and does not affect currently valid visas or petitions filed before September 21, 2025, according to guidelines from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The fee is officially described as a cost-sharing mechanism to reduce American dependence on foreign talent. However, experts warn it could significantly impact skilled Indian professionals, who constitute a large portion of H-1B visa recipients. Companies facing higher hiring costs may curb recruitment, freeze salaries, shift operations overseas, or pass the burden onto employees. This, analysts say, could disadvantage both US businesses reliant on specialized talent and foreign professionals seeking legitimate opportunities.

Historically, immigrant talent has been central to the US innovation ecosystem. From Silicon Valley engineers to scientists at NASA and the National Institutes of Health, foreign professionals—particularly from India—have fueled research, technology, and economic growth. International students contribute over \$40 billion annually to the US economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, with mid-tier universities particularly vulnerable to declining enrollment. Restricting talent flow sends a worrying signal about the value of global collaboration in innovation.

For India, the developments present both a challenge and an opportunity. The nation’s “brain drain,” which peaked in the 1960s and 1970s, continues today with 2.5 million Indians emigrating annually. Professionals cite limited career advancement, research opportunities, and inadequate higher education options as key drivers of emigration. Some also point to perceived barriers to merit-based progress due to reservation policies.

Experts argue that reversing brain drain requires more than curbing migration. Past proposals, such as imposing a tax on income earned abroad, were considered but largely impractical. Today, the emphasis is on creating an environment where talented citizens choose to stay, with improved research facilities, competitive pay, career opportunities, and merit-based recognition. Analysts stress that only long-term structural reforms, rather than short-term political promises, can ensure India retains and nurtures its intellectual capital in an increasingly competitive global landscape.



Bagram Base Sparks Afghanistan-Pakistan Tensions

New Delhi/Washington: The sudden escalation of border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan has drawn global attention, with speculation pointing to the Bagram Air Base as the flashpoint. Analysts suggest the tensions may be linked to former US President Donald Trump’s push to regain control of the strategic base, abandoned by US forces during their 2021 withdrawal.

Located in Parwan province, about 60 km from Kabul, Bagram is one of the largest and most powerful air bases in the world. Originally built by the Soviets in the 1950s and expanded by the US after the 9/11 attacks, it features heavy concrete runways, permanent barracks, and extensive logistics capabilities. Reestablishing a US presence there would provide a foothold in Eurasia, allowing oversight of China, Iran, Russia, Central Asia, and Pakistan, including its nuclear arsenal.

Pakistan stands to gain from such an arrangement. The US would rely on Pakistan for logistics and supply chains, generating revenue while enabling Islamabad to influence Taliban behavior. The recent clashes coincided with the visit of Afghanistan’s acting Taliban foreign minister to India, adding to Pakistan’s strategic anxieties over India’s growing presence in Kabul.

Within Afghanistan, opposition groups like the National Resistance Front (NRF), composed mainly of former Afghan soldiers loyal to the US-backed government, have expressed support for a US return to Bagram. Analysts argue these groups possess local networks that could secure American operations more reliably than the Taliban, whose control remains contested.

However, the Taliban have categorically rejected all proposals, citing Afghan sovereignty. Regional powers, including China, Iran, Russia, and Central Asian states, have also expressed opposition to a US military footprint, emphasizing stability over renewed conflict. A joint Moscow-format statement, signed by multiple regional countries including India and Pakistan, condemned attempts to deploy foreign military infrastructure in Afghanistan.

Experts warn that any renewed US presence could trigger instability similar to the 2001–2014 “War on Terror,” further empowering groups like ISIS-KP and creating internal Taliban divisions. Additionally, US reliance on Pakistan—whose past duplicity in counterterrorism is well-documented—adds layers of risk.

For the Taliban, Bagram is emerging as a key test of leadership: balancing international pressures, domestic cohesion, and regional diplomacy. How they navigate this challenge may determine Afghanistan’s stability in the years ahead.

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PM Modi Endorses Nitish, Predicts NDA Record Victory in Bihar



TPN Bureau | Patna
In a landmark public endorsement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday declared Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the undisputed leader of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state, asserting that the coali-

tion is set to break all previous electoral records under his leadership. Launching the Bihar poll campaign from Samastipur, the ancestral home of former CM and socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, Modi praised Nitish Kumar's governance and projected the NDA's

victory as historic. "This time, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA is going to break all past records of victory," he said, dispelling speculation about the JDU chief's role in the coalition. Modi highlighted the NDA's development agenda with slogans such as

"Phir ek baar Sushasan sarkar" and "Nai raftaar se chalega Bihar, jab phir aayegi NDA sarkar," while taking pointed swipes at the opposition Mahagathabandhan alliance led by the RJD. He referred to past misgovernance as "jungle raaj" under the RJD and accused leaders

of the Congress and RJD of corruption, highlighting ongoing multi-crore scam cases. The PM also invoked the legacy of Karpoori Thakur, crediting him for advancing the cause of backward and underprivileged communities. "Backward people like me, Nitish ji, and Ramnath Thakur ji are standing here today because of the pro-poor policies of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur," Modi said, recalling Thakur's Bharat Ratna award last year. Citing NDA's recent election successes in Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, Modi said Bihar would follow the same trend of pro-incumbency voting. The state will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11. This marks the first time Modi has publicly endorsed Nitish Kumar as the NDA leader in Bihar, signaling a united campaign front and high-stakes political momentum ahead of the assembly elections.

Modi skipping ASEAN meet to avoid being cornered by Trump: Congress



TPN Correspondent | Patna
The Congress on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose to participate virtually in the ASEAN summit instead of attending in person in Malaysia to avoid "being cornered" by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh made the claim on social media platform X, suggesting that while Modi has often praised Trump in posts and statements, attending the summit physically could have been politically risky. Ramesh pointed to Trump's repeated assertions, including claims that he stopped India's alleged "Operation Sindoor" and that India had promised to halt oil purchases from Russia, as rea-

sons Modi might prefer a virtual presence. "It is one thing to post messages in praise of President Trump, but far too risky to be physically seen with the man who has claimed 53 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor and that India has promised to stop buying oil from Russia," Ramesh wrote. The Congress statement comes amid heightened attention on Modi's international engagements and India-U.S. relations, especially as the ASEAN summit is expected to discuss issues like regional security, trade, and climate cooperation. Analysts note that high-profile multilateral meetings often require careful diplomatic balancing, particularly when leaders with contrasting political styles meet.

While Modi will attend the summit virtually, India's delegation in Malaysia is expected to engage with other ASEAN members and address regional cooperation initiatives. Sources say the Prime Minister will deliver a speech and participate in key discussions via video link, ensuring India's voice is represented without a physical presence. The Congress criticism adds a domestic political dimension to Modi's foreign engagements, with opposition parties frequently scrutinizing his international trips and engagements with global leaders. The virtual participation marks a rare instance of the Prime Minister opting for a remote appearance at a major summit.

Jaisalmer Bus Fire Caused by AC Short Circuit: FSL



TPN Correspondent | Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
A forensic investigation has confirmed that the tragic bus fire near Thaiyat village in Jaisalmer, which claimed 26 lives on October 14, was caused by a short circuit in the vehicle's air-conditioning system. The incident occurred barely 10 minutes after the private bus departed for Jodhpur. The joint Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) re-

port from Jodhpur and Jaipur ruled out the involvement of explosives or firecrackers, confirming that the fire originated from the roof-mounted AC unit. Investigators found that the unit's wiring, directly connected to the engine, sparked, producing smoke and carbon monoxide that led to the suffocation of passengers. Flames intensified when a window broke, allowing a rush of oxygen into the bus.

"The spark from the wiring caused smoke and the spread of carbon monoxide inside the bus, leading to suffocation of passengers. As soon as the window broke, the oxygen inflow caused the flames to intensify," an official explained. The report also highlighted that the tyres, fuel tank, and lower section of the bus remained intact, confirming the fire started from the top. Firecrackers found in the luggage

compartment were soaked in water and deemed unrelated to the incident. Jaisalmer Superintendent of Police Abhishek Shivhare said the investigation pointed to "gross negligence and violation of safety norms" by the bus operator and associated parties. Following the findings, the bus owner, driver, and body manufacturer have been arrested. Authorities have urged private bus operators to

strictly adhere to safety standards, including proper wiring and maintenance of air-conditioning units, to prevent such tragedies. Families of the victims continue to mourn, while the government has promised compensation and strict enforcement of transport safety regulations. The FSL report underscores the critical need for vigilance and compliance in passenger transport to avoid further loss of life.

India does not do trade deals in hurry or with gun to our head: Goyal

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar
Berlin/New Delhi: India does not rush into trade agreements or succumb to external pressure, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, underlining the country's emphasis on safeguarding national interests in international negotiations. Speaking in Berlin during the European School of Management and Technology's Global Dialogue, Goyal stated, "I do not think India has ever decided who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest." He emphasized that India engages in trade discussions carefully and strategically, avoiding deals under duress. The minister highlighted ongoing negotiations with major economies, including the European Union (EU) and the United States, saying India is committed to fostering mutually beneficial trade relations. "We are actively negotiating trade pacts, but these will be undertaken only when they meet



India's long-term interests," he added. Goyal's remarks come at a time when global trade dynamics are evolving rapidly, with rising protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and calls for supply chain diversification influencing countries' trade policies. Analysts note that India's cautious ap-

proach aims to ensure that trade deals support domestic industry, protect jobs, and maintain a balanced economic relationship with partners. During the event, Goyal also engaged with European business leaders and policymakers, exchanging views on investment opportunities, tech-

nology cooperation, and sustainable economic growth. His visit underscores India's efforts to strengthen economic ties with Europe while asserting its position as a responsible and strategic global trade partner. India's stance contrasts with countries that may seek quick trade agree-

ments under political or economic pressure, reinforcing its approach of measured, interest-driven diplomacy. Observers say that such prudence could help India negotiate better terms and avoid potential pitfalls of rushed agreements, particularly with major economies like the EU and the U.S.

Centre Initiates Process to Appoint New CJI



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
With barely a month left for Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's retirement, the Centre on Thursday initiated the process to appoint his successor, sources said. CJI Gavai, who will retire on November 23 upon attaining the age of 65, has been formally approached by the government to recommend the next Chief Justice. According to the memorandum of procedure for the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court deemed fit for the office is usually appointed as the Chief Justice of India. Following this convention, CJI

Gavai is expected to recommend Justice Surya Kant, the current senior-most judge, as his successor. Justice Surya Kant, born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar, Haryana, hails from a middle-class family. He earned his bachelor's degree in law from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 1984 and rose quickly in the legal field. At the age of 38, he was appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000. Justice Kant was appointed as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004. He later became the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018,

gaining recognition for his judicial acumen and integrity. Legal experts note that Justice Surya Kant's elevation would continue the established seniority convention in the Supreme Court, ensuring smooth leadership transition. His tenure as CJI is expected to oversee significant cases and continue the court's focus on judicial reforms, constitutional interpretation, and public interest litigation. Observers said the prompt initiation of the appointment process reflects the Centre's commitment to maintaining continuity at the highest levels of the judiciary and minimizing any administrative gaps in the Supreme Court.

“Keep Dreaming”: Khamenei a Elon Musk Reacts to ‘Silicon Valley Sex Warfare’ Report Sites “Obliterated” Claim



TPN Correspondent | US

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has reacted to a controversial report claiming Chinese and Russian operatives are targeting the American tech industry through seduction and espionage. Sharing a screenshot of a UK Times report titled “Female spies are waging ‘sex warfare’ to steal Silicon Valley secrets,” Musk tweeted, “If she’s a 10, you’re an asset,” referencing a popular online meme.

The report alleges that foreign powers are sending attractive women to seduce U.S. tech workers, sometimes marrying and even having children with their targets to gain access to sensitive information. Silicon Valley, home to major tech firms like Apple, Google, and Facebook, has been cited as a hot spot for these operations.

James Mulvenon, chief intelligence officer at Pamir Consulting, claimed he was recently approached by women acting as spies, using romantic or sexual methods to access confidential U.S. technology. According to the report, China is also reportedly organizing startup competitions in the U.S. to allegedly steal business ideas and undermine

the American tech ecosystem.

U.S. officials have expressed concern over the scope of these operations. A February report from a U.S. House committee revealed that China’s Communist Party was involved in more than 60 spying cases in the U.S. over the past four years, with experts suggesting the actual figure may be higher. Jeff Stoff, a former national security analyst, emphasized, “China is targeting our startups, academic institutions, innovators, and DoD-funded research projects. But there’s not enough oversight and action.”

The phenomenon, described as “sex warfare,” reportedly extends beyond casual flirtation, with some operatives marrying American engineers in defense and tech sectors to gather information over the long term. One highlighted case involved a Russian woman who married a U.S. engineer to infiltrate crypto and defense networks.

Musk’s reaction has drawn attention for its mix of humor and criticism, while the report underscores rising concerns about foreign espionage targeting America’s innovation hubs.

Afghanistan Moves to Limit Water Flow to Pakistan



TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Afghanistan has announced plans to restrict water flow into Pakistan by building dams on the Kunar River, mirroring steps taken by India after the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam in April. The move was ordered by Taliban Supreme Leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, with acting Water Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor stating that domestic firms will lead the construction, emphasizing Afghanistan’s right to manage its own water resources.

The Kunar River originates in Pakistan’s Hindu Kush mountains and flows through Afghanistan’s Kunar and Nangarhar provinces before joining the Kabul River, which ultimately enters Pakistan’s Punjab province to merge with the Indus. These waters are vital for irrigation, drinking water, and hydroelectric power, particularly in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, already affected by India’s restrictions on Indus water.

Unlike the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan, there are no formal agreements governing the Kabul and Kunar rivers, leaving Islamabad with limited immediate

recourse. Analysts warn that dam construction in Afghanistan could severely impact Pakistani agriculture and domestic water supply, heightening the risk of cross-border tensions.

Since taking control of Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban has focused on asserting authority over rivers and canals, including projects aimed at food and energy security. Notable efforts include the Qosh Tepa canal in northern Afghanistan, which is projected to irrigate over 550,000 hectares but could divert up to 21% of the Amu Darya River, affecting downstream countries like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Last week, Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi visited India, highlighting collaboration on hydroelectric projects in Herat province. The visit underscored Afghanistan’s intent to strengthen its water management while advancing agricultural and energy development.

Experts warn that Afghanistan’s latest riverine strategy may intensify regional water disputes, particularly with Pakistan, as both nations grapple with shared resources and rising geopolitical tensions.

Trump-Kim Meeting Speculation Ahead of South Korea Visit



TPN Bureau | SEOUL

Speculation is mounting over a possible meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during Trump’s upcoming visit to South Korea. This marks Trump’s first trip to Asia since returning to office, and observers are closely watching whether history could repeat itself.

Trump’s previous visit to South Korea in 2019 included an unexpected stop at the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he met Kim at the North Korean side of the border in Panmunjom. That surprise encounter aimed to revive stalled nuclear negotiations and drew global attention for its unconventional diplomacy.

If a meeting occurs during the upcoming visit, it would be the first summit between the two leaders since June 2019 and their fourth overall. Analysts say a renewed dialogue could have significant implications for denuclearization talks, regional security, and U.S.-North Korea relations.

The 2019 Panmunjom meeting

was notable not only for its spontaneity but also for the symbolism of Trump stepping across the border into North Korean territory—a historic first for a sitting U.S. president. While no official confirmation has been made regarding a new meeting, both governments have indicated an interest in keeping diplomatic channels open.

South Korea is preparing for Trump’s visit with heightened security and logistical arrangements, given the potential for high-profile bilateral discussions. Regional experts note that while a formal summit may not be guaranteed, even informal talks or a symbolic encounter could signal a shift in U.S.-North Korea relations.

As Trump’s schedule in South Korea becomes clearer, world leaders and diplomats will be closely monitoring any developments. With tensions on the Korean Peninsula remaining a sensitive issue, a potential Trump-Kim meeting could once again place the spotlight on the delicate balance of diplomacy in East Asia.

Japan’s New PM Pledges Deeper Ties with India

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Japan’s newly elected Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, has pledged to deepen multilateral dialogue with India and other regional partners, including South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, while promoting a “free and open Indo-Pacific” amid rising Chinese military activities.

In her first policy address to Japan’s Parliament (Diet) on Friday, Takaichi emphasized the U.S.-Japan alliance as the “cornerstone” of her country’s diplomatic and security policies. At the same time, she described China as an “important neighbour” with which Japan seeks a “constructive and stable” relationship, aiming for a strategic and mutually beneficial partnership.

Takaichi, the first woman to lead Japan as Prime Minister, announced plans to raise defence spending to 2% of GDP by March—two years ahead of the current 2027 target. She also vowed to pursue aggressive fiscal measures, including lifting the nontaxable income threshold and abolishing the provisional gasoline tax, while redesigning household tax deductions and cash benefits to boost in-



comes and consumer confidence.

“Responsible and proactive fiscal policies will raise incomes, enhance business profits, and strengthen our economy,” Takaichi said, highlighting her focus on tackling rising living costs and responding to evolving security challenges. She also announced plans to revise Japan’s key security documents—the National Defence Strategy, Defence Build-up Program, and National Security Strategy—by the end of next year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Takaichi on her historic election, underlining the importance of Japan-India ties for peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. “I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership,” Modi said in a post on X, emphasizing the shared commitment to regional security and development.

Takaichi’s leadership signals a continuation of Japan’s strategic engagement in the region, balancing robust defence policies with deepening diplomatic relations with India and key partners.

Indian-Origin NY Worker Arrested for Moonlighting

TPN Correspondent | Iran

New York: A 39-year-old Indian-origin New Yorker, Ehul Goswami, has been arrested on charges of “grand larceny” for allegedly working a second full-time job while employed by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services. The case, reported by NDTV and other US media outlets, highlights concerns over misuse of taxpayer money amid remote work arrangements.

According to a joint investigation by the New York State Inspector General’s Office and the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Office, Goswami earned \$117,891 in 2024 as a state project coordinator while simultaneously working as a contractor for semiconductor company GlobalFoundries in Malta from March 2022. Investigators determined that his actions amounted to the misuse of approximately \$50,000 in public funds.

The probe was triggered by an anonymous email alleging that Goswami performed private work during the same hours he was meant to fulfill his state duties. “Public employees are entrusted with the responsibility to serve with integrity, and Goswami’s alleged conduct represents a serious breach of that trust. Working a



second, full-time job while claiming to be working for the State is an abuse of public resources, including taxpayer dollars,” Inspector General Lucy Lang said, according to CBS 6 News.

Goswami was arrested on October 15 by the Saratoga County

Sheriff’s Office for grand larceny in the second degree, a class C felony that carries a maximum prison sentence of up to 15 years. He appeared before Judge James A. Fauci in Malta Town Court later in the week and was released without bail while the case proceeds.



New York law does not classify the charges against him as a qualifying offence for bail.

Lang added, “My office will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to hold anyone accountable who would undermine the integrity of public service in

New York State.”

The case has reignited debate on the ethics and legality of moonlighting, particularly among remote workers handling taxpayer-funded roles, and raises questions about oversight of public employees working outside office hours.

SBI and Bharti Airtel Lead Top Firms’ Market Valuation Gains



The combined market valuation of seven of India’s top-10 most valued companies soared by 1,18,328.29 crore last week, reflecting renewed investor optimism in equities. State Bank of India (SBI) and Bharti Airtel emerged as the biggest gainers during this period, as the BSE benchmark surged 721.53 points, or 0.88 per cent.

SBI’s market capitalisation jumped 35,953.25 crore, taking its valuation to 7,95,910 crore, while Bharti Airtel added 33,214.77 crore, reaching

11,18,952.64 crore. Reliance Industries, continuing its dominance, saw its market cap rise 17,389.23 crore to 19,04,898.51 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) also posted gains, climbing 12,952.75 crore to 1,46,879.47 crore.

Other winners included Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), whose valuation edged higher by 12,460.25 crore to 5,65,612.92 crore, and Infosys, which rose 6,127.73 crore to 6,39,901.03 crore. HDFC Bank’s market cap inched

up by 230.31 crore, taking it to 14,84,816.26 crore.

On the flip side, some major companies saw declines. ICICI Bank’s valuation fell 10,707.87 crore to 10,01,654.46 crore, Bajaj Finance dipped 6,346.93 crore to 6,17,892.72 crore, and Hindustan Unilever lost 5,039.87 crore, standing at 6,01,225.16 crore.

Overall, the week highlighted strong performance by state-owned and tech-centric firms, signaling sustained investor confidence

amid positive market sentiment. Reliance Industries retained its position as the most valued company in India, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, SBI, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, and Hindustan Unilever.

As equities continue to show momentum, investors are closely watching the performance of these blue-chip companies, whose market movements often influence broader market trends and investor strategies.



Major Carmakers Slash Prices Ahead of Navaratri, GST Cut Benefits Customers

Buyers are in for a bonanza as leading automakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Hyundai Motor India, and luxury carmakers like Mercedes-Benz and BMW announce significant price cuts effective from September 22, coinciding with the start of the auspicious Navaratri period. Two-wheeler makers are also joining the trend, passing on GST benefits to customers.

Maruti Suzuki India, the country’s largest carmaker, has reduced vehicle prices by up to 1.29 lakh. The company aims to attract two-wheeler users to four-wheelers by offering additional dis-

counts on small cars beyond the GST cut of 8.5%. Popular models such as S-Presso, Alto K10, Celerio, Wagon-R, and Ignis have seen price reductions ranging from 71,300 to 1,29,600. Premium models including Swift, Baleno, Dzire, Fronx, Brezza, Grand Vitara, Jimny, Ertiga, and XL6 also received substantial cuts, with savings of up to 1.12 lakh.

Tata Motors has cut prices across its passenger vehicles by 75,000 to 1.45 lakh, including Rs 85,000 off the compact SUV Punch and Rs 1.55 lakh on Nexon. Premium SUVs Harrier and Safari now cost 1.4 lakh and

1.45 lakh less, respectively. Mahindra & Mahindra has already reduced prices by up to 1.56 lakh on models like Bolero, XUV300, Thar, and Scorpio Classic. Hyundai, Honda, Kia, and Toyota are also implementing reductions, with Hyundai Tucson seeing the highest cut of 2.4 lakh. Luxury automakers have followed suit. Mercedes-Benz announced reductions ranging from 2 lakh (A-Class) to 10 lakh (S-Class), while BMW Motor India is cutting prices by up to 13.6 lakh across its portfolio. Audi and Jaguar Land Rover have also reduced prices, with

cuts ranging from 2.6 lakh to 30.4 lakh.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp and Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India are lowering prices by up to 15,743 and 18,800, respectively.

According to Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer Partho Banerjee, “With car penetration in India at just 34 per 1,000 people, there is no better time to put India on wheels.” Consumers are expected to benefit significantly from these combined GST-related and additional price cuts, making the festive season an ideal time for vehicle purchases.

India’s Forex Reserves Cross USD 700 Billion, Third Weekly Rise in a Row



India’s Forex Reserves Cross USD 700 Billion, Third Weekly Rise in a Row

India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 4.698 billion in the week ending September 12, reaching USD 702.966 billion, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) latest ‘Weekly Statistical Supplement.’ This marks the third consecutive week of gains and sees the much-anticipated USD 700 billion milestone crossed.

The largest component of the reserves, India’s foreign currency assets (FCA), increased by USD 2.537 billion to USD 587.014 billion. Gold reserves also contributed to the rise, climbing USD 2.12 billion to reach USD 92.419 billion.

show India steadily building its forex reserves over recent years. In 2023, the country added roughly USD 58 billion to the kitty, reversing a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, reserves rose by over USD 20 billion, while 2025 has already seen a cumulative increase of about USD 53 billion so far.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a country’s central bank, primarily in major reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. The RBI actively manages these reserves to stabilize the rupee, buying dollars when the rupee strengthens and selling them when it weakens.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, following the latest monetary policy review, emphasized that India’s foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover approximately 11 months of the country’s imports. This provides a strong buffer to manage external shocks and support the stability of the Indian rupee.

Historical trends

With the forex kitty crossing the USD 700 billion mark, India’s external stability outlook remains strong, giving policymakers greater flexibility to respond to global volatility and reinforcing confidence in the country’s economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

India Emerges as Leading Flexible Office Market Globally



Driven by strong global demand, India has become one of the world’s most mature flexible office ecosystems, with international firms accounting for 72 per cent of flex space absorption in 2024, according to Cushman & Wakefield’s Global Trends in Flexible Office 2025 report. The remaining 28 per cent of demand came from startups, leveraging flexible offices to manage costs, attract talent, and scale efficiently in a competitive land scape.

India scored a perfect 100 on Cushman & Wakefield’s maturity index, surpassing global peers including the UK at 98, France at 97, the US at 81, and Japan and Singapore at 77. The score reflects multiple metrics, including flexible inventory as a share of total office space, number of operators, leasing activ-

ity, emerging agreement structures, and overall market depth.

Ramita Arora, Managing Director Bengaluru & Head – Flex, India, Cushman & Wakefield,

highlighted India’s market maturity, diversity of operators, and ability to pivot with demand, noting that many Western markets are still evolving.

Flexible office demand in India has risen nearly sixfold since 2020, with 2024 alone seeing flex space account for 15 per cent of new office leasing. Operator expansion

has surged, with 33.5 million square feet leased between 2022 and 2024—equivalent to over 500,000 seats. Annual take-up has tripled over five years, confirming flexi-

ble workspace as a mainstream solution rather than an alternate option. India is now the largest flexible office market in APAC, with 79.7 million square feet of stock across the top eight cities, expected to reach 85 million square feet by year-end and surpass 100 million by 2026. Managed office and enterprise models now dominate, accounting for 70-80 per cent of demand. Bengaluru leads with 30 per cent of national flex inventory, followed by Delhi NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad.

Institutional interest is growing, with four operators already public and more IPOs anticipated. The next 3-5 years are expected to see consolidation, with leading players strengthening market share while niche operators continue to meet specialised needs.

Wholesale Price Inflation at Two-Year Low, Core Inflation Rises



India’s factory gate inflation, measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at a two-year low of -0.58% in July, continuing the deflationary trend observed in June. Analysts attribute the recent change in the wholesale price trajectory to an upswing in food prices after months of decline.

Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research,

noted that food prices played a significant role in reversing the deflationary trend. In August 2025, food prices rose 0.2% compared with the same month last year, while the decline in vegetable prices slowed to 14.2% year-on-year—the lowest pace in six months. Edible oils recorded a sharp increase of 22.9% in August, marking the highest surge in three months. Jewellery prices also

climbed significantly, rising 32.6% year-on-year in August, contributing to a rise in core inflation, which reached a five-month high of 1.6%. Experts expect core inflation to remain around 1.8% through the end of 2025 due to a low base effect, keeping overall price pressures in check.

Food items accounted for 73 basis points of the 110 basis points uptick in the headline WPI be-

tween July and August, highlighting the dominant role of essential commodities in inflation trends. Non-food manufactured items, which make up the core WPI, added 27 basis points to the headline print, according to Rahul Agrawal, Senior Economist at ICRA.

While deflationary pressures have eased, the rise in essential commodity prices indicates that inflation dy-

namics remain sensitive to changes in food and commodity markets. Policymakers and analysts will continue to monitor WPI and core inflation trends closely

as India navigates supply-side pressures and prepares for the upcoming festive season, where consumer demand is expected to rise.

“World’s Heaviest Gold Dress Set a Guinness Record”

Prepare to be dazzled by a world first: a dress made entirely of gold has officially set a Guinness World Record for being the heaviest gold dress ever created. Crafted by the renowned Saudi Arabian company Al Romaizan Gold and Jewellery, this extraordinary creation, aptly named the Dubai Dress, weighs a staggering 10.0812 kilograms of 21-carat pure gold and is valued at an astonishing AED 4.6 million, approximately Rs 11 crore.

Unveiled at the Sharjah Watch and Jewellery Expo, the Dubai Dress immediately turned heads with its sheer opulence and intricate craftsmanship. The design is composed of four major elements: a 398-gram gold tiara, an 8,810.6-gram statement necklace, earrings weighing 134.1 grams, and a 738.5-gram gold piece. Each component features meticulous carvings and is adorned with vivid precious stones, showcasing both luxury and artistry. The ensemble is not just a display of wealth but also a tribute to Emirati cultural heritage,

blending traditional symbolism with modern aesthetics.

Mohsin Al Dhaibani, Regional Deputy Manager at Al Romaizan Gold, highlighted that the creation reflects the UAE’s vision of global excellence and reinforces Dubai’s reputation as a global hub for gold and jewellery. The Dubai Dress demonstrates the meticulous effort, skill, and creativity of the artisans involved, making it a masterpiece in both design and cultural storytelling.

The Sharjah Expo itself was a glittering showcase of global artistry, featuring over 1,800 designers and artisans from around the world. Standout exhibits included a gold-plated bicycle valued at AED 1.5 million, among many other luxurious displays. The Dubai Dress not only sets a world record but also elevates the conversation about craftsmanship, innovation, and the allure of gold, capturing the imagination of jewellery enthusiasts and art lovers worldwide.



“Swiggy Introduces Faster Food on Train Service with Easy Eats”



Swiggy has launched an upgraded Food on Train service, making dining on trains faster, easier, and more convenient for travellers this festive season. Now, passengers can choose from over 5,000 dishes across more than 115 railway stations and have them delivered directly to their seats, enhancing the train journey experience.

With the upgraded Food on Train page, Swiggy users can order up to 25 per cent faster than before. The new interface has been designed to work efficiently even on patchy internet connections, ensuring a seamless ordering experience for travellers in motion. This enhancement comes as part of Swiggy’s continued effort to make food delivery accessible and hassle-free, even in challenging conditions.

In addition, Swiggy introduced the Easy Eats menu, specially curated to guarantee a convenient training experience. Easy Eats includes a selection of City Best meals, featuring carefully chosen dishes

from popular restaurants at various stations. These meals are designed to be portable, satisfying, and quick to serve, allowing passengers to enjoy a delicious and hassle-free meal while on the move.

The new features are particularly relevant during the festive season, when train travel increases significantly, and passengers seek reliable and convenient food options. By combining speed, accessibility, and variety, Swiggy aims to enhance the overall travel experience, ensuring that hunger never interrupts the joy of the journey.

With these upgrades, travellers can now look forward to a smoother, more enjoyable train journey with freshly prepared meals arriving at their seats on time. Swiggy’s initiative highlights the growing convenience of technology-driven services and reinforces its commitment to bringing quality food to customers wherever they are, including on the move in India’s vast railway network.

“Capgemini Kolkata Office Turns Carnival for Durga Puja 2025”

The festive spirit is alive not just in homes but also in offices this Durga Puja season, and Capgemini’s Technopolis office in Kolkata has set the perfect example. The office was transformed into a vibrant carnival as employees celebrated the auspicious occasion with full enthusiasm and traditional flair.

A video shared on Instagram captures the colorful celebrations, showing employees dressed in stunning saris and elegant kurta pyjamas. The office floor resembled a festive fair, complete with energetic dancing, clapping, and joyous laughter. One man could be seen dancing his heart out while others joined in, creating a lively and contagious atmosphere. The accompanying caption read: “Corporate Durga Puja Celebration... Ft. Cap



gemini.”

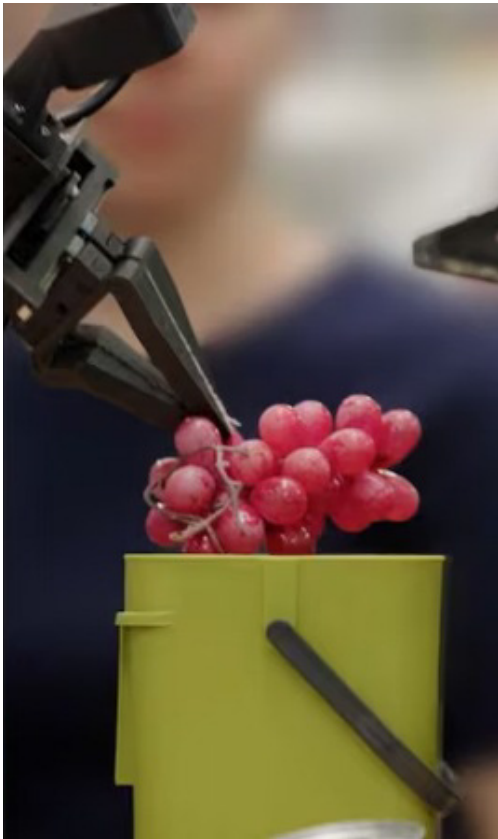
Since going online, the video has garnered over one lakh views and a wide range of reactions. Netizens expressed their excitement, with comments like, “Such things can happen in Kolkata IT offices only,” and humorous remarks such as, “Vacancy hai to bata do please,” reflecting the playful envy of viewers wishing to join the celebration. Employees who

participated shared their joy, highlighting how special and fun it felt to celebrate Durga Puja together at work.

Durga Puja, or Durgotsava, is one of the most significant Hindu festivals, especially among the Bengali community. This year, the festivities begin on September 28 with Shashti and will continue over the following days, culminating on October 2 with Durga

Visarjan, the immersion of the idol.

Capgemini Kolkata’s celebrations are a wonderful reminder that festivals are not limited to homes but can bring people together at workplaces too, fostering joy, unity, and cultural pride. With offices embracing tradition and fun, employees get to experience a vibrant celebration while staying connected to their roots.



“Google DeepMind Unveils Gemini Robotics 1.5 AI Models

Google DeepMind has introduced two cutting-edge AI models in the Gemini Robotics family, aimed at powering general-purpose robots with advanced reasoning, vision, and action capabilities. The models, named Gemini Robotics-ER 1.5 and Gemini Robotics 1.5, represent a significant leap in robotics, allowing machines to operate more efficiently in complex, real-world scenarios.

The Gemini Robotics-ER 1.5 model functions as the planner or orchestrator, offering advanced reasoning and tool-calling abilities. It can create multi-step plans for tasks, make logical decisions in physical environments, and even call external tools such as Google Search for information. By separating planning from execution, this model addresses a key limitation of previous embodied AI systems, which often struggled with understanding spatial and temporal dimensions or performing precise movements. The ER 1.5 model is also reported to achieve state-of-the-art performance on several spatial understanding benchmarks.

Once a plan is generated, the Gemini Robotics 1.5 model takes over. As a vision-language-action (VLA) model, it interprets visual inputs and natural language instructions to execute tasks. The model converts plans into precise motor commands, determining the most efficient path to complete actions while maintaining transparency by explaining its reasoning in natural language. This two-model approach—one for planning and one for execution—ensures faster, more accurate, and reliable performance for general-purpose robots.

These models are now available to developers via the Gemini API in Google AI Studio, enabling wider experimentation and implementation in real-world robotics applications. By combining advanced reasoning, vision, and motor capabilities, Google DeepMind’s Gemini Robotics 1.5 models aim to redefine how AI-driven robots interact with and navigate the physical world, setting a new benchmark for embodied intelligence.

“Million-Year-Old Skull Suggests Humans Diverged Earlier and in Asia”

A million-year-old skull discovered in China could reshape our understanding of human evolution, suggesting that humans may have diverged from their ancient ancestors 400,000 years earlier than previously believed and possibly in Asia rather than Africa. The skull, known as Yunxian 2, was originally unearthed in 1990 and long thought to belong to Homo erectus.

Using advanced digital reconstruction techniques, including CT scanning, structured light imaging, and virtual modeling, researchers were able to recreate the crushed skull in detail. By comparing it with over 100 other fossils and relying on similar skulls for reference, they identified features that challenge previous assumptions. While some traits, like a projecting lower face,



align with Homo erectus, other characteristics—such as a larger brain capacity—closely resemble Homo longi and modern Homo sapiens. “This changes a lot of thinking,” said Chris Stringer, anthropologist at the Natural History Museum, London. He added that by one million years ago, human ancestors had already split into distinct groups, indicating an earlier and more complex evolutionary timeline than previously

recognized. The findings also suggest the possibility of earlier members of other early hominins, including Neanderthals and Homo sapiens. However, the study complicates the traditional view that early humans primarily dispersed from Africa. Michael Petraglia of Griffith University notes that East Asia may have played a more significant role in hominin evolution than previously assumed.

Published in the journal Science, this research sheds light on what has been termed the “Muddle in the Middle,” the confusing array of human fossils between 1 million and 300,000 years ago. Fossils like Yunxian 2 highlight the complexity of human evolution and remind us that much about our origins remains to be discovered. As Stringer concludes, “We still have so much to learn about our shared history.”

India Storms Into Semifinals With Dominant Win Over New Zealand

India produced a stellar all-round performance to seal the final semifinal berth in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, defeating New Zealand by 53 runs via the DLS method at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Thursday. The emphatic win ended an eight-year wait for a last-four appearance and reignited India's campaign after three consecutive losses.

Under the lights and before a spirited crowd of over 25,000 fans who defied the rain, openers Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana delivered a record-breaking show. The duo smashed scintillating centuries and stitched together a commanding 212-run partnership — India's highest opening stand in Women's World Cup history. Pratika dazzled with elegant stroke play, while Smriti combined aggression with finesse, ensuring India dominated from the outset.

After the openers departed, Jemimah Rodrigues maintained the tempo with a blistering unbeaten 76 off 55 balls, propelling India to



a massive 340 for three in 49 overs. Her calculated aggression and quick running between the wickets ensured that New Zealand never regained control of the innings.

In response, the White Ferns fought hard, with Brooke Halliday and Izzy Gaze displaying grit and determination. However, the mounting required rate and disciplined Indian bowling attack, led by Sree Charani and Renuka Singh, proved too much to overcome. Charani's crucial breakthrough — the dismissal of Halliday — sealed New Zealand's fate.

With this win, India became the last team to qualify for the semifinals, joining Australia, England, and South Africa. The victory not only restored confidence in the squad but also underlined India's batting depth and resilience under pressure.

The Women in Blue will now look to carry this momentum forward as they chase their long-awaited World Cup glory.

South Africa Crushes Pakistan by 8 Wickets to Level Test Series



South Africa produced a dominant performance to level the two-Test series against Pakistan, cruising to an eight-wicket victory on Day 4 of the second Test in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Off-spinner Simon Harmer starred with a

brilliant six-wicket haul that dismantled Pakistan's batting lineup and set up an easy chase for the visitors.

After Pakistan claimed the first Test in Lahore with a 93-run win, the hosts entered the decider

with confidence. However, their batting faltered against Harmer's relentless spin. The 35-year-old bowler returned figures of 6 for 50 as Pakistan was bundled out for just 138 in their second innings. His precision, flight, and control on a turning pitch proved decisive, leaving South Africa with a modest victory target of 68 runs.

In response, South Africa made light work of the chase, reaching 73 for 2 in just 12.3 overs. Captain Aiden Markram led from

the front with a composed 32 not out, guiding his team to a comprehensive win. Despite losing two early wickets, the visitors never looked troubled, with Keegan Petersen providing steady support.

Pakistan's bowlers struggled to make an impact, unable to extract much from the deteriorating pitch that had earlier aided Harmer's spin. The loss marked a disappointing end for the hosts, who had looked in control of the series after their first-Test triumph.

The result means the two-match series finishes 1-1, with both teams showcasing moments of dominance. Harmer's match-winning spell earned him the Player of the Match award, reaffirming his reputation as one of the most effective spinners in Test cricket.

The two sides will now shift focus to the limited-overs leg of the tour, starting with the three-match ODI series next week.

Pakistan Withdraws From Junior Hockey World Cup in India

Pakistan has officially withdrawn its team from the upcoming FIH Junior Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held in India from November 28 to December 10, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed on Friday. The decision comes barely a month before the tournament, which will take place across Chennai and Madurai.

An FIH spokesperson told PTI that Pakistan's withdrawal had been formally communicated, and the federation is now in the process of finalizing a replacement team. "Pakistan will not be participating in the upcoming Junior Hockey World Cup. The replacement nation will be announced shortly," the spokesperson said.

While the FIH has not cited a specific reason for the withdrawal, reports suggest administrative challenges within the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and visa-related issues may have played a role. The development marks a major setback for Pakistan's junior hockey contingent, which had been



preparing to return to the global stage after missing several international events in recent years due to organizational and funding problems.

The tournament was expected to feature 16 teams, with top hockey-playing

nations competing for the coveted junior title. Pakistan, a former powerhouse in world hockey and past World Cup winner at the senior level, had been looking to rebuild its youth setup through this competition.

India, the defending champions, will host the event for the second time in four years, with matches scheduled at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai and the newly renovated facility in Madurai.

With Pakistan's withdrawal, the FIH will soon announce the replacement nation to ensure the tournament proceeds as planned. The decision has disappointed many fans who were anticipating another India-Pakistan hockey encounter on home soil.

Bangladesh Clinches ODI Series With Record Win Over West Indies



Bangladesh ended its long wait for an ODI series victory in emphatic fashion, defeating West Indies by a massive 179 runs in the third and final match at Mirpur on Thursday. The win sealed a 2-1 series triumph — Bangladesh's first since March 2024 — and marked their biggest-ever victory over the Caribbean side.

The hosts completely outplayed West Indies, with their spinners taking all ten wickets to bowl out the visitors for just 117 in 30.1 overs. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain starred again, taking 3 for 54 and finishing the series as the highest wicket-taker with 12 scalps — the most by a Bangladesh spinner in a single ODI series. Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed also shone with a destructive spell of 3 for 11, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Tanvir Islam picked up two wickets each. Remarkably, pacer Mustafizur Rahman didn't bowl a single over as the

spinners dominated throughout.

Earlier, Bangladesh posted a commanding 296 for 8 after captain Mehidy Hasan opted to bat first. Openers Saif Hassan and Soumya Sarkar laid the perfect platform with a record 176-run stand. Sarkar smashed 91 off 86 balls with seven fours and four sixes, while Saif notched his maiden ODI fifty, scoring 80 off 72 balls. Najmul Hossain Shanto added a brisk 55 to keep the scoreboard moving.

For West Indies, Akeal Hossain was the standout performer with 4 for 41, including three wickets in a single over, but the early damage from Bangladesh's openers proved too much to recover from.

The comprehensive victory gives Bangladesh much-needed momentum as they head into the three-match T20I series against West Indies in Chattogram, beginning October 27.

Liverpool Seek Bounce Back as City and Arsenal Eye Momentum



Liverpool will look to end their three-game Premier League losing streak when they visit Brentford on Saturday, hoping to stay in contention with leaders Arsenal and resurgent Manchester City. With pressure mounting on new manager Arne Slot, the Reds' recent 5-1 Champions League victory over Eintracht Frankfurt has offered a much-needed boost.

Injuries have been a key concern, with record signing Alexander Isak sidelined by a groin problem. Interestingly, his absence could help Liverpool rediscover balance in attack. Hugo Ekitike, restored as the central striker, scored in midweek and is expected to lead the line again. Behind him, Florian Wirtz — who notched two assists against Frankfurt — may retain his preferred No. 10 role after a £100 million move from Bayer Leverkusen.

Meanwhile, Manchester United face a stern test against Brighton at Old Trafford, looking to sustain momentum following their first win at Liverpool in

nearly a decade. Manager Ruben Amorim remains cautious, calling the upcoming fixture the "true test" of his side's revival. Brighton, however, boast a strong record against United, having won six of their last seven league meetings — including three consecutive victories at Old Trafford.

At the top end of the table, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City appear to be rediscovering their rhythm after a disappointing previous season. Currently second, three points behind Arsenal, City travel to Villa Park — a venue where they've lost in their last two visits. With Erling Haaland in unstoppable form, scoring in 12 consecutive matches, and new goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma impressing, Guardiola is optimistic. "I feel things are coming back to what we were in the past," he said after a 2-0 Champions League win over Villarreal.

Arsenal, meanwhile, will host Crystal Palace as they aim to maintain their lead atop the Premier League standings.

Prabhas And Prakash Raj Face Off In Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit



Prabhas' birthday celebrations took a thrilling turn with the release of the Spirit audio teaser, helmed by Animal and Arjun Reddy director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. While fans were already excited with new updates from Fauzi and The Raja Saab, it was the teaser of Spirit that stole the spotlight, setting social media abuzz.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga shared the teaser on Instagram with the caption, "Happy Birthday Prabhas anna. Presenting a 'SOUND-STORY' in five Indian languages straight from the heart, for every fan who's felt his." The teaser stands out for its unconventional approach — relying entirely on sound, dialogue, and background music to build anticipation rather than visuals.

The audio teaser features the intense voices of Prabhas and Prakash Raj, supported by Harshavardhan Rameshwar's powerful background score. The story introduces Prabhas as a former IPS officer and

academy topper who finds himself imprisoned due to misconduct. His incarceration leads to a dramatic clash with a strict prison warden, portrayed by Prakash Raj, who runs the facility on his own terms.

The audio hints at a psychological and emotional battle between the two formidable characters, teasing audiences with gripping tension and power dynamics. The highlight of the teaser is Prabhas' chilling line: "I just have one bad habit since childhood," a moment that encapsulates Sandeep Reddy Vanga's signature mix of raw intensity and mass appeal.

Spirit marks the first collaboration between Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga, making it one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema. With its innovative sound-driven teaser and star-studded cast, the project promises to deliver an intense cinematic experience, blending emotion, action, and Vanga's trademark grit.

Mowgli 2025 First Single 'Sayyare' Strikes a Soulful Chord



Young actor Roshan Kanakala, who impressed audiences with his debut in Bubblegum, is set to charm viewers once again in his upcoming romantic action drama Mowgli 2025. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Sandeep Raj of Colour Photo fame, the film is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. Set against a lush forest backdrop, Mowgli 2025 explores love, sacrifice, and human connection in a visually captivating setting.

After a striking teaser that generated strong buzz, the makers have now unveiled the first single, "Sayyare." Composed and sung by Kala Bhairava, with poignant lyrics by Academy Award-winning lyricist Chandra Bose, the song has quickly captured hearts with its emotional depth and melody.

"Sayyare" tells a moving story — a girl who is deaf and mute and a boy

who gives up his hearing to understand her world. Through a heart-felt letter, he expresses a love that transcends sound, making the track both touching and thought-provoking.

Adding to the emotion, Aishwarya Daruri's vocals lend softness and sincerity to the composition. Roshan Kanakala showcases a matured performance, displaying effortless chemistry with his co-star Sakshi Mhadolkar. The song's tender visuals and soulful tune have already made it a hit among music lovers.

The film also stars Bandi Saroj Kumar as the antagonist and Harsha Chemudu in a key supporting role. With its blend of romance, emotion, and adventure, Mowgli 2025 promises to be both a musical and visual spectacle. The film is slated for a theatrical release on December 12, 2025, and expectations are running high after this heartfelt musical start.

Bison : Dhruv Vikram Shines in a Partly Engaging Sports Drama

Rating: 2.75/5

Dhruv Vikram's Bison Kaalamaadan (titled Bison in Telugu) has hit the Telugu screens a week after its Tamil release during Diwali. Directed by Mari Selvaraj, the film attempts to blend sports drama with social commentary but delivers mixed results.

Set in the 1990s, the story follows Kit-tayya (Dhruv Vikram), a passionate kabaddi player from a marginalised community. His father Velusamy (Pasupathy) disapproves of his sports ambitions, fearing the caste barriers that have long suppressed their family. The film traces Kit-tayya's struggles to rise against discrimination and realise his dream.

Mari Selvaraj, known for Karnan



and Pariyerum Perumal, once again highlights oppression and inequality, this time through the kabaddi arena. While his intent is strong, the narrative often feels stretched and less impactful compared to his earlier works. The emotional weight is diluted by repetitive scenes and a predictable storyline.

Dhruv Vikram delivers a committed and physically intense performance, bringing depth to his role. Pasupathy is equally compelling as the conflicted father, and their relationship forms the emotional core of the movie. Supporting actors Lal, Ameer, and Rajisha Vijayan contribute well, while Anupama Parameswaran has limited screen time. Technically, Ezhil

Arasu K's cinematography captures the rural atmosphere and kabaddi sequences impressively. Nivas K. Prasanna's music is decent but occasionally overbearing, and Sakthi Thiru's editing could have been tighter. The Telugu version suffers from poor localisation, with untranslated visuals and inconsistent dubbing.

Overall, Bison Kaalamaadan is a partially effective sports drama that works mainly due to Dhruv Vikram's dedication and Pasupathy's emotional presence. However, the lengthy runtime, uneven pacing, and muted emotional resonance make it a below-average outing. Watch it only if you're curious about Mari Selvaraj's socially charged storytelling.

Stranger Things Finale To Hit Theatres on December 31



Netflix's global phenomenon Stranger Things is set to make history with a theatrical release of its highly anticipated Season 5 finale. The final episode, titled The Rightside Up, will premiere simultaneously on Netflix and in more than 350 cinemas across the US and Canada on December 31 at 5 PM (local time). The screenings will continue through January 1, 2026, allowing fans to bid farewell to the beloved sci-fi series in grand fashion.

According to a report by Variety, specific details about the participating theatres will be announced soon. This move marks a significant moment for Netflix, blurring the lines between streaming and traditional cinema, and highlighting the scale of excitement surrounding the conclusion of

the hit show. The Duffer Brothers — Matt and Ross, the creators of Stranger Things — expressed their enthusiasm about the theatrical release. In an interview with Variety,

Matt Duffer said, "People don't get to experience how much time and effort is spent on sound and picture, and they're seeing it at reduced quality. More than that, it's about experiencing it at the same time with fans."

Ross Duffer added, "That would be amazing. Because the fans could be there with other fans and experience it as a communal event — it would be incredible."

Since its debut in 2016, Stranger Things has grown into a pop culture juggernaut, blending nostalgia, supernatural mystery, and emotional storytelling. With the finale promising epic scale and closure to years of anticipation, fans can look forward to celebrating the end of an era — both on the big screen and from the comfort of home.

Allu Arjun Hails Rishab Shetty's Kantara: Chapter 1 As A "One-Man Show"



Telugu superstar Allu Arjun has heaped praise on Rishab Shetty's latest cinematic spectacle, Kantara: Chapter 1, calling it a "mind-blowing film" and a "one-man show." The much-anticipated prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara released worldwide on October 2 in six languages — Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, and English — and has been garnering rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.

Taking to social media on Friday, Allu Arjun shared his admiration for Rishab Shetty's multifaceted performance and filmmaking brilliance. "Watched #Kantara

last night. Wow, what a mind-blowing film. I was in a trance watching it. Kudos to @shetty_rishab garu for a one-man show as writer, director, and actor. He excelled in every craft," the Pushpa star wrote. Allu Arjun also lauded the cast and crew for their outstanding contributions. "Aesthetic performances by @rukuminitweets garu, #Jayaram garu, @gulshandevaiah garu, and others. Brilliant work by the technicians — especially the music by @AJANEESH B garu, cinematography by @AravindSKashyap garu, art direction by @DharaniGange91

garu, and stunts by #ArjunRaj garu," he added.

Directed and headlined by Rishab Shetty, Kantara: Chapter 1 delves deeper into the mythological and cultural roots of the original film, blending folklore with gripping action and intense drama. The movie has been praised for its powerful storytelling, visually rich frames, and haunting background score by Ajaaneesh B. Loknath.

Allu Arjun's heartfelt appreciation adds to the growing acclaim for the film, further cementing Kantara: Chapter 1 as one of Indian cinema's most ambitious and artistically crafted projects of the year.