

DNA PROFILING OF THE BUS MISHAP
VICTIMS TO COMPLETE BY MONDAY

The DNA profiling of victims from the tragic Andhra Pradesh bus fire accident will be completed by Monday, according to local officials. The catastrophic accident claimed the lives of 20 individuals, including 19 bus passengers and a motorbike rider, in the early hours of Friday at Chinnatekuru village of Kurnool district. The incident, which unfolded when a private bus collided with a two-wheeler, left several passengers with burns so severe that their bodies could not be immediately identified.

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BUZZ POINTS



RIDER DIES BEFORE BUS TRAGEDY IN KURNOOL

Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Oct 25 — In a tragic sequence of accidents on Friday near Chinna Tekuru village in Kurnool district, police have clarified that the rider of the two-wheeler involved in the horrific bus fire had died moments before the bus ran over the vehicle. The clarification came after an official investigation and questioning of the pillion rider who survived the incident. According to Kurnool Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil, the deceased rider, identified as Siva Shankar, died instantly after his motorcycle skidded on the slippery road and hit the divider. The subsequent collision involving a private sleeper bus occurred moments later, after the two-wheeler was left on the roadway. “While approaching Chinna Tekuru village, the two-wheeler skidded and Siva Shankar fell to his right, striking the divider.

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Cyclone Montha Brewing, AP Coast on Alert

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 25: A potentially dangerous cyclonic system is brewing in the Bay of Bengal, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue alerts across Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh's coastal districts as it tracks the progression of Cyclone 'Montha', which is expected to make landfall early next week. The developing story has generated widespread concern, with authorities, fishermen, and residents urged to take precautionary measures as the system continues to

intensify.

IMD Issues Alert Over Bay of Bengal

On Saturday, the IMD confirmed that a well-marked low-pressure area situated over the southeast Bay of Bengal had intensified into a depression, the precursor to cyclonic activity. The depression, located approximately 990 km east-southeast of Chennai, is advancing west-northwestward and is anticipated to become a deep depression by Sunday. By Monday morning, it is expected to escalate further into a cyclonic storm officially named 'Montha'. The meteorological forecast indicates that Cyclone Montha will traverse the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, moving in a north westward direction.

Preliminary models suggest a landfall somewhere between Machilipatnam and Visakhapatnam along the Andhra Pradesh coast, with potential impacts felt from early next week. Precautionary Measures Along Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh CoastGiven the increasing risk, the IMD has directed the hoisting of storm warning cage No. 1 at nine ports spanning Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. This is an important indication of approaching squally weather conditions that threaten safe navigation and fishing operations in the region's coastal waters. Fishermen have been strongly advised to avoid venturing into sea, while coastal inhabitants are being asked to remain vigilant to further developments. The IMD has stressed the possibility of heavy rain, strong winds, and perilous sea conditions coinciding with Montha's landfall, potentially causing disruptions to daily life and physical infrastructure along the coast.

Rainfall and Weather Forecasts Across Tamil Nadu While Andhra Pradesh is expected to bear the brunt of Montha's impact, districts in Tamil Nadu will not be spared from associated weather changes. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has forecast isolated showers with light rain in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, and Kanchipuram over the weekend. These districts, collectively known as the KTCC region, will see a gradual increase in rainfall intensity as the cyclone

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Smartphones May Have Fanned Kurnool Bus Blaze, Say Police

Preliminary investigations into the devastating bus fire near Kurnool, which claimed 19 lives, have revealed that explosions from hundreds of smartphones stored in the vehicle's luggage cabin may have worsened the blaze. Andhra Pradesh Police and forensic experts found that a consignment of 234 smartphones, valued at around Rs 46 lakh, played a key role in intensifying the inferno that engulfed the Hyderabad-Bengaluru bus early Friday morning.



TPN,

Kurnool, Oct 25: The private sleeper bus, operated by V. Kaveri Travels, had started its journey from Hyderabad on Thursday night, heading towards Bengaluru with nearly 46 passengers onboard. Around 3 a.m. on Friday, tragedy struck near Chinnatekuru village on the outskirts of Kurnool when the bus hit a two-wheeler that was reportedly lying on the road after a prior accident. The bike got stuck under the bus, and the resulting friction and possible petrol leakage likely triggered the initial fire, officials said. According to survivors, the flames erupted sud-

denly beneath the vehicle before rapidly spreading to the passenger cabin.

Many passengers reported hearing a series of loud explosions as the fire intensified. Investigators believe that these explosions came from the lithium batteries of the smartphones packed in the luggage hold beneath the seats. The heat generated by the fire would have caused the batteries to overheat and explode, adding fuel to the already raging blaze.

P. Venkataraman, Director-General of the Andhra Pradesh Fire Services Department, stated that the situation was aggravated further when electrical

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Trump Tightens Biometric Surveillance for Foreigners



Trump Administration Moves to Tighten Immigration SurveillanceIn a move aimed at strengthening immigration control and border security.

TPN BUREAU,

Vijayawada, U.S OCT 25: President Donald Trump's administration has unveiled a

new policy that expands photo and data collection procedures for all non-U.S. citizens entering or leaving the country. The latest directive, published in

the Federal Register this week, grants the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) broader authority to capture

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3 AP Launches 'Pravasa Andhra Bharosa' for NRAs

Ensures Global Support and Security

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 25: In a landmark initiative reaffirming its commitment to the welfare and safety of Non-Resident Andhraites (NRAs), the Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched the 'Pravasa Andhra Bharosa' Insurance Scheme through the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu (APNRT) Society. The scheme was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during his recent official visit to Dubai,

marking yet another milestone in the state's outreach to its global diaspora community.

The 'Pravasa Andhra Bharosa' scheme is designed to provide comprehensive social security and financial protection to Andhra-origin individuals living and working abroad. This includes employees in foreign firms, migrant workers in various sectors, and students pursuing academic programs overseas. The scheme offers financial assistance of ₹10 lakh in the unfortunate event of accidental death or permanent

disability, ensuring that every registered beneficiary and their family receive timely and adequate support during times of crisis.

Speaking at the launch event, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that the welfare of Non-Resident Andhraites remains one of the top priorities of his government. “Our people abroad are valuable ambassadors of our culture and contributors to our state's progress. It is our responsibility to ensure

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Naidu: This Decade Belongs to PM Modi

Naidu Declares Current Decade Belongs to PM Modi, Pledges Campaign Support for Bihar Ally Nitish KumarAndhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has expressed unwavering confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, declaring that the current decade belongs to the Prime Minister while announcing his readiness to campaign for Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the upcoming Assembly elections.

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 25: Speaking exclusively to PTI Videos during his investor outreach visit to Dubai, Naidu praised Modi's political journey and electoral success spanning over two decades. “This decade belongs to Narendra Modi. And when this decade belongs to Narendra Modi ji, then automatically it belongs to Indians,” the TDP supremo stated, highlighting the Prime Minister's consistent electoral victories since 2000.

NDA Unity and Bihar Campaign Plans

Naidu reinforced the National Democratic Alliance's strength ahead

of Bihar's Assembly polls, expressing confidence in the coalition's victory. When asked about campaigning for Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, he responded positively, saying, “NDA, whenever they tell me, I am prepared to go and work with them. “The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister described the NDA government at the Centre as progressive, emphasizing its focus on reforms benefiting common people. He particularly lauded the recent GST rate rationalization as a “win-win situation for everybody,” leading to significant savings for consumers while keeping MSME sector and businesses satisfied.

Andhra

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What's The Mystery Behind Kurnool Bus Mishap

Investigation Reveals Key Chain of Events

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 25: The Kurnool bus tragedy that shocked the Telugu states earlier this week has finally yielded critical answers, as police investigators have pieced together the sequence of events leading to the horrifying accident that claimed 19 lives. Kurnool District Superintendent of Police, Vikrant Patil, on Saturday revealed that the fatal collision stemmed from a series of tragic mishaps involving a motorcycle and a private travel bus. According to the official investigation,

the mishap occurred on National Highway-44 between Chinnatekuru and Chettlamallapuram villages in Kallur Mandal.

Preliminary reports indicated that a Vemuri Kaveri Travels bus, carrying passengers from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, collided with a motorcycle late in the night. The impact triggered a massive fire that engulfed the bus, reducing it to ashes within minutes and resulting in the deaths of 19 passengers on the spot. The unfortunate motorcyclist, identified as Shiva Shankar of Lakshimpuram

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Trump Tightens Biometric Surveillance for Foreigners

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biometric data, including photographs, from departing and arriving travelers, starting December 26th. According to federal sources, the new rule will apply not only to visa holders and undocumented immigrants but also to lawful permanent residents commonly known as Green Card holders. The administration argues that the expanded data-

gathering measures are essential to detect fraudulent travel documents, curb illegal immigration, and enhance national security. The CBP will employ advanced biometric imaging systems at airports, seaports, and land borders to build a robust traveler verification framework. Officials say that by compiling a database of travel records paired with biometric identification, they can more

effectively track individuals who overstay their visas or attempt to bypass immigration laws through unauthorized routes. "This initiative ensures that the integrity of America's borders is protected using the most modern identification technologies available," a senior Department of Homeland Security official said. "It strengthens not only border protection but

also public safety and national security."The Trump administration has long advocated for stricter immigration oversight and a merit-based entry system. As part of his "Make America Great Again" vision, President Trump has repeatedly emphasized that immigration processes should prioritize the safety and employment of U.S. citizens. In continuity with this agenda, the White

House has also implemented sweeping changes to the H-1B visa program, which allows skilled foreign professionals to work in the United States. Earlier, President Trump approved a proposal to raise the H-1B application fee to an unprecedented \$100,000, a move that sparked intense debate across corporate and immigration circles. White House Press Secretary Karoline

Leavitt stated that the decision reflects the administration's determination to reform the H-1B system and ensure that American workers are not disadvantaged in the highly competitive job market. "The President believes the H-1B visa system must serve the American people first," Leavitt noted. "This fee structure underscores the administration's commitment to fair-

ness, accountability, and prioritizing domestic talent."The new immigration surveillance rule marks another step in the administration's ongoing campaign to close loopholes in border enforcement and tighten control over non-citizen movement across the United States. Analysts suggest that while the measures may raise privacy concerns, they are likely to receive strong support

from conservatives who argue that greater monitoring is imperative to protect national interests. As of December 26, travelers leaving or entering the United States will face expanded biometric checks as part of a comprehensive effort to modernize immigration enforcement and advance President Trump's longstanding promise to secure America's borders.

What's The Mystery Behind Kurnool Bus Mishap

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village, also died instantly in the collision. The police have since uncovered a clear timeline leading to the tragedy. "During the investigation, we identified the deceased motorcyclist as Shiva Shankar and the pillion rider as Erriswamy alias Nani," SP Vikrant Patil told media representatives. "Both had left their native Lakshmipuram village around 2 a.m. on a Pulsar bike heading towards Tuggali. At about 2:24 a.m., they stopped near a petrol bunk beside the Kia showroom and refu-

eled with ₹300 worth of petrol. Shortly afterward, while proceeding towards Chinnatekur, their bike skidded and struck a road divider."SP Patil further elaborated that the crash proved fatal for Shiva Shankar, who sustained severe head injuries. Erriswamy, however, managed to survive with minor wounds. "While Erriswamy was attempting to move his injured companion and drag the damaged motorcycle to the roadside, a speeding bus approached from behind and hit the vehicle. The bike got trapped un-

der the front section of the bus and was dragged for several meters, causing sparks and igniting a fire. Within moments, the flames spread rapidly, engulfing the entire bus," he explained. The survivor, Erriswamy alias Nani, reportedly fled the scene in panic, fearing for his life and shock-stricken by the explosion. He later returned home to Tuggali village, where he was traced by the police during their probe. His statement proved vital in reconstructing the complete sequence of events. Based on his ac-

count and CCTV footage retrieved from the nearby highway stretch, officers were able to confirm that the fire was accidental and not caused by any mechanical fault in the bus. The Ulindakonda Police have registered a case and are continuing further inquiries, including forensic examination of the burnt bus and remnants of the motorcycle. Investigators are also checking whether the bus's safety protocols, such as emergency exits and fire-safety equipment, complied with transport depart-

ment regulations. The tragedy has cast a long shadow of grief across both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as families and local communities mourn the loss of lives in one of the region's deadliest road accidents in recent memory. Local officials have urged the Transport Department to conduct safety audits for long-distance luxury buses operating on the highway corridors and ensure better emergency response systems for future incidents.

Naidu: This Decade Belongs to PM Modi

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Pradesh's Development SuccessNaidu credited the success of his state government's flagship 'Super Six' poll promises to the 'double engine' regime, with both state and central governments working in coordination. He announced that the foundation stone for ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel's proposed 7.3 Million Tons per Annum steel plant would be laid next month, highlighting PM Modi's role in securing necessary permissions within two months. The Chief Minister revealed impressive investment figures, stating that his government has secured investments worth Rs 10 lakh crore in the last 15 months, with another Rs 5 lakh crore in the pipeline. He identified Green Energy, Agriculture, Horticulture, Logistics,

and the Amaravati capital city as key sectors with immense investment potential.Digital Governance and Global Telugu VisionEmphasizing technological advancement in governance, Naidu highlighted his administration's Real Time Governance initiative, which provides 750 services through What'sApp, including temple darshan reservations, bus tickets, and hotel bookings. The TDP leader shared his ambitious vision for the global Telugu community, announcing plans to create non-resident Telugu community chapters worldwide. "One day you are going to see, the most influential and powerful community will be the Telugu community in the planet. That is what we are planning," he declared, outlining strategies to train Telugu diaspora

members as entrepreneurs.Investor Outreach in DubaiDuring his Dubai visit, Naidu met several business leaders and investors, inviting them to participate in the CII Partnership Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam next month. This international outreach reflects his government's commitment to positioning Andhra Pradesh as a preferred investment destination.Naidu's statements underscore the strengthening bonds within the NDA coalition while projecting confidence in both national and state-level political prospects. His emphasis on development partnerships between Centre and state governments signals continued cooperation in advancing India's growth trajectory under Prime Minister Modi's leadership.

Cyclone Montha Brewing, AP Coast on Alert

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system develops.Southern districts including Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Tenkasi are expected to witness moderate rainfall, along with thunder and lightning, particularly during the northeast monsoon's

surge. Over the previous 24-hour period, scattered rainfall was observed across Tamil Nadu, with Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts recording the highest amounts. Coastal Residents on AlertWeather officials caution that the intensity

of rainfall may amplify as Cyclone Montha gains strength. Residents in vulnerable coastal and adjoining districts are being urged to monitor official updates and pay heed to evacuation advisories should conditions deteriorate. The combination of incoming cyclonic

weather and an active northeast monsoon presents heightened risks of flooding and wind damage in low-lying and exposed areas. As the system moves toward landfall, collaborative efforts between meteorological authorities, local governments, and

disaster response teams are being ramped up to minimize loss of life and property. The coming days will be instrumental in determining Cyclone Montha's final trajectory and severity, as communities brace for the storm and hope for minimal devastation.

RIDER DIES BEFORE BUS TRAGEDY IN KURNOOL

Police Clarify Sequence of Fatal Crash

TPN Bureau,

Vijayawada, Oct 25: The DNA profiling of victims from the tragic Andhra Pradesh bus fire accident will be completed by Monday, according to local officials. The catastrophic accident claimed the lives of 20 individuals, including 19 bus passengers and a motorbike rider, in the early hours of Friday at Chinnatekuru village of Kurnool district. The incident, which unfolded when a private bus collided with a two-wheeler, left several passengers with burns so severe that their bodies could not be immediately identified. DNA Profiling Underway for Charred VictimsDistrict Collector A Siri, addressing the media on Saturday, confirmed the scale of the tragedy and outlined ongoing efforts to identify those who lost their lives. "Samples from 19 bodies were collected and promptly sent to the Forensic Sciences Laboratory in Vijayawada. I am informed that DNA profiling will take about 48 hours, so we expect completion by October 27," Siri stated. The gravity of the fire was such that the remains were described as being "completely charred and black, with only the trunk part left in most cases," explained the collector. As such, scientific DNA profiling became the only viable method for establishing the identities of the deceased. Without this pro-

cess, handover of bodies to families would be impossible. **Coordination with Victims' Families** According to the district administration, relatives of 16 victims have arrived and provided DNA samples, while family members for two additional victims are expected to reach Vijayawada for the same purpose. Notably, one body remains unclaimed, further complicating identification and handover procedures. "We are making all necessary arrangements, including ambulances and vehicles, so that as soon as the results are available, we can ensure swift and dignified transportation of the bodies to their respective hometowns," Collector Siri assured. Currently, all bodies are being preserved at the Kurnool Government General Hospital (GGH) to await identification and the arrival of associated families. **Factors Aggravating the Fire** Preliminary official findings have shed light on the potential causes behind the ferocity of the fire. A consignment of cell phones stored in the luggage rack reportedly intensified the blaze. "I saw a few boxes of unburnt cell phones," noted Collector Siri during her visit. Adding to the complexity, Kurnool Superintendent of Po-

lice Vikrant Patel indicated that several factors played a role in ensuring the fire spread rapidly and proved fatal. "The bus batteries, presence of flammable furnishings in the bus, and the cargo consisting of cell phones all aggravated the fire leading to the tragic event," Patel said in a previous statement. These findings point to the hazardous mix of combustible materials that made rescue and escape difficult for many inside the vehicle.Survivors and Scene ResponseOut of a total of 44 bus passengers, multiple individuals managed to escape the burning vehicle, though the number of injured and the extent of injuries was not detailed in the official statement. Rescue teams, police, and local authorities coordinated to evacuate survivors and manage the aftermath, moving bodies first to the hospital and subsequently to Vijayawada for forensic procedures. The Kurnool bus accident stands as one of the most devastating recent tragedies in Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the urgent need for stringent safety standards and scrutiny of cargo and passenger vehicles. As families await DNA results to lay their loved ones to rest, officials continue the difficult task of piecing together the full sequence of events, underscored by the combined grief and resolve of an affected community.

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He died on the spot, but the pillion rider, Erri Swamy, survived with minor injuries," SP Patil said in an official press release. "The bus did not hit the two-wheeler from behind, as initially believed. It ran over the motorcycle after the first accident had already taken place."Nineteen passengers aboard the private sleeper bus lost their lives after the vehicle caught fire following the impact. Dozens of others suffered burn injuries and were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment. The bus, en route from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, was completely gutted in the incident. Fresh details from police investigations suggest that the catastrophe was set off by two back-to-back accidents, both happening within moments. The first involved the motorcycle skidding and crashing, and the second occurred when the speeding bus unintentionally ran over the fallen vehicle, leading to an explosion and massive blaze.Police said the survivor, Erri Swamy, provided crucial information that helped piece together the correct sequence. Swamy and Shankar had departed from Lakshmipuram village around 2 am on Friday, with plans for Shankar to drop Swamy at Tuggali village. On their way, they stopped at a petrol bunk near the

Kia car showroom around 2:24 am to refuel, spending ₹300 on petrol a short halt that was captured in CCTV footage and later went viral on social media. Shortly after they resumed their journey, the heavy rain that had drenched the area left the road surface wet and muddy, causing the two-wheeler to lose control. "When Swamy pulled Shankar from the middle of the road and checked his breath, he realised Shankar had died on the spot. As he was trying to move the bike aside, the bus rushed in and ran over it, dragging it for some distance," SP Patil said.Following the twin accidents and the bus fire, Swamy, reportedly in shock, fled to his native Tuggali village. Police later traced him and recorded his statement. The Kurnool district police have launched further investigations into the tragedy, including technical assessments and inspection of CCTV footage from the surrounding area. Authorities are also examining whether poor visibility, excess speed, or negligence contributed to the bus driver's inability to avoid the motorcycle on the road.The devastating double accident has left local residents in shock and raised concerns about road safety and emergency response infrastructure on the busy highway.

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their safety, social security, and trust in the state's support system," he stated. He urged all Andhra-origin individuals globally to enroll in the scheme and secure its benefits, describing it as a lifeline and reassurance for thousands of families back home. The Chief Minister also highlighted that the government aims to build a strong and united global network of Andhraites through proactive engagement and collaboration. By connecting professionally and emotionally with the diaspora, Andhra Pradesh intends to transform its overseas community into a vibrant global family that contributes not just financially, but also intellectually, to the state's development and innova-

tion landscape. The AP-NRT Society, which has been playing a crucial role in facilitating grievance redressal, repatriation, and welfare activities for NRAs, will serve as the executing body for this insurance program. The Society will oversee enrollment, claim processing, and awareness campaigns to ensure that every eligible member of the diaspora community becomes a part of the scheme. Interested individuals can register for the scheme online through the official APNRT portal at https://apnrts.ap.gov.in/insurance. Officials explained that the scheme reflects Andhra Pradesh's inclusive governance philosophy bridging the emotional and economic distance between the state and its non-resident population.

With lakhs of Andhraites working in Gulf countries, the United States, Europe, and other regions, this program is expected to significantly improve their sense of security and trust in state institutions.The 'Pravasa Andhra Bharosa' initiative underscores the state government's proactive and compassionate approach to governance, ensuring that every Andhraite, irrespective of their geographical location, feels protected, valued, and connected. Through this landmark scheme, the Andhra Pradesh government reaffirms its image as a people-centric and globally connected administration dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of its citizens both at home and abroad.

Smartphones May Have Fanned Kurnool Bus Blaze, Say Police

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batteries used in the bus's air conditioning system also exploded. "The heat was so intense that it melted the aluminium sheets on the floor. In some areas, bones and ashes were visible beneath the melted sections," he said, describing the scene as one of the worst fire tragedies witnessed in recent years. The accident left 19 passengers, including two children, charred beyond recognition, while 27 others managed to escape with burns and injuries. Forensic teams have launched extensive DNA testing to help identify the deceased, as most of the

bodies were unrecognisable. Ten teams of forensic experts are conducting these tests, while additional police units are sifting through evidence to reconstruct the sequence of events leading to the tragedy. State Home Minister V. Anitha confirmed that 16 teams from the Police, Fire Services, and Forensic Departments are collectively probing the incident. Four teams have been tasked specifically with determining the nature of the explosions, while two teams are performing chemical analyses of the debris collected from the accident site. Authorities

are also investigating the identity of the bike rider allegedly involved in the initial collision. According to the bus driver, the motorcycle appeared to have already been involved in an accident before the bus ran over it.The deceased were identified as residents of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Bihar, while one victim remains unidentified. The government has announced financial assistance to the victims' families and assured strict action against any parties found negligent in this shocking tragedy.

LOKESH CONCLUDES 7-DAY AUSTRALIA TOUR

Eyes Workforce, Innovation and Sports Economy Boost

TPN | Vijayawada | October 25, 2025: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resource Development and Information Technology, Nara Lokesh, has concluded his week-long visit to Australia, marking a significant milestone in the state's ongoing efforts to strengthen global partnerships in education, research, and industry. The seven-day tour, which took him across four major Australian cities, aimed at exploring new avenues of collaboration spanning academia, workforce development, technology, aquaculture, and the sports economy.

During his visit, Lokesh engaged with a diverse array of universities, trade bodies, industry leaders, and members of the India-Australia councils. These interactions, officials said, aligned perfectly with the state government's larger vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a \$2.4 trillion knowledge-driven economy over the coming years. Taking to the social media platform X after concluding his journey, the Minister wrote, "And that's a wrap! My 7-day tour of Australia across four cities comes to an end.

From universities and leading industries to India-Australia councils, seafood trade bodies and sports complexes it's been a deeply insightful journey. "The post reflected the strong emphasis Lokesh placed on innovation exchange, skill development, and research partnerships throughout his tour. According to sources in the HRD Department, the Minister held productive



meetings with top Australian institutions and companies to discuss student and faculty exchange programs, research collaborations, cutting-edge technology investments, and joint

ventures in aquaculture development. A major highlight of his visit was the focus on sports as an emerging sector of economic growth.

Lokesh underlined that the evolving sports ecosystem should not only be seen as a recreational pursuit but as a catalyst for investment, employment generation, and infrastructure development. "I see immense potential in treating

sports as a powerful avenue of economic activity," he remarked during one of his interactions with sports authorities and facility managers in Australia.

The Minister's engagements also reflected Andhra Pradesh's proactive approach in reaching out to global innovation hubs to strengthen its startup ecosystem. By leveraging Australia's expertise in research and technology commercialization, the state aims to nurture innovation clusters, encourage entrepreneurship, and expand opportunities for youth in advanced manufacturing, IT, and sustainable industries. Lokesh's discussions with universities further explored pathways for setting up joint skill certification programs and R&D collaboration models aligned with Andhra Pradesh's educational reforms.

These collaborations are expected to provide students from the state access to world-class learning and training platforms, preparing them for the demands of a rapidly evolving global job market. Officials accompanying the Minister stated that several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) are expected to materialize in the coming months based on the deliberations held during the visit. Concluding the tour, Lokesh expressed optimism that the outcomes of his meetings in Australia would translate into meaningful partnerships benefiting the state's economic and social development goals.

"This visit has been a step forward in building international bridges of collaboration that will empower our youth and transform Andhra Pradesh into a hub for innovation and knowledge," he noted. His visit is seen as a critical component in the state's broader mission to link education, industry, and research with global standards — laying the foundation for a truly transformative growth story.

VIKSIT BHARATH'S MOMENTUM BY INDIAN ECONOMY - LANKA DINAKAR



VIKSIT BHARATH'S MOMENTUM BY INDIAN ECONOMY - LANKA DINAKAR Steering Vision of Viksit Bharat

TPN | Vijayawada | October 25, 2025: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Council Member and Chairman of the Twenty Point Programme Implementation Committee, Lanka Dinakar, emphasized that Bharath's strong and resilient economy is the driving force behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India). Addressing the media in Vijayawada on Saturday, Dinakar underscored that the nation's economic rise reflects decisive governance, visionary reforms, and a commitment to inclusive growth. Dinakar said that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has evolved into a symbol of strength and stability, achieving remarkable progress across multiple sectors.

He noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected India to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world over the next two years. According to the IMF's latest report, India's GDP is expected to grow at 6.6% in 2025 and 6.2% in 2026, outpacing global and regional averages by a wide margin. Presenting comparative figures, Dinakar said, "While the global economy is expected to grow at 3.2% in 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, the United States will witness growth of around 2%, and China around 4.8% in 2025.

In contrast, Bharath's consistent growth projections demonstrate our resilience and long-term economic strength." He added that India's growth fundamentals remain robust, supported by structural reforms, capital investments, and rapidly expanding digital and manufacturing sectors. Reflecting on the progress achieved since 2014, Dinakar observed that India was the world's 11th-largest economy when Prime Minister Modi assumed office. "In just eleven years, our nation has advanced to the fourth-largest economy and is on track to become the third-largest within the next two years," he stated, attributing this surge to sound fiscal policies, enhanced infrastructure investment, and a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Highlighting the government's efforts in implementing balanced development, Dinakar said the Modi administration has ensured that economic expansion goes hand in hand with social upliftment. Projects under road, rail, aviation, and port infrastructure have not only modernized Bharath's logistics and connectivity but also boosted regional employment opportunities. Simultaneously, flagship schemes reaching the poorest and most marginalized citizens exemplify the spirit of Antyodaya, he said. Dinakar underlined that major national missions such as Make in India, Digital India, PM Gati Shakti, and Atmanirbhar Bharat have strengthened the country's economic base and enhanced its global standing.

"Our policies today are preparing India for a transformative leap toward becoming a developed nation by 2047," he said, referring to the Viksit Bharat Sankalpa 2047 initiative. Expressing confidence in India's future, Dinakar concluded that the world now views Bharath as a model of political stability, economic resilience, and social harmony. "The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has redefined governance and development paradigms. Under his vision, Bharath will not just become a developed nation but emerge as the Vishwa Guru—a global leader that guides the world in peace, technology, and prosperity," he said.

NATIONAL SPOKESPERSONS APPOINTED FOR YSRCP

YSRCP Appoints Karthik Yellapragada and Margani Bharat Ram as National Spokespersons

TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 25: In a move aimed at strengthening its national communication strategy and visibility, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has appointed Karthik Yellapragada and Margani Bharat Ram as the party's new National Spokespersons. The announcement was made by the YSRCP Central Office on Friday under the instructions of the party's president, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The appointments have come into immediate effect and mark another significant step in the party's effort to expand its influence beyond Andhra Pradesh.



According to the official statement, the decision to bring in two dynamic leaders to the national communication team reflects the YSRCP's renewed emphasis on building a robust and articulate representation at the national level. Both appointees have backgrounds that combine political experience, public communication skills, and a deep understanding of the party's people-centric governance model. Karthik Yellapragada, who hails from Mandapeta in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district, has been serving as the YSRCP representative for Europe. Over the years, he has played a crucial role in connecting the Telugu diaspora with the party's ideology and its developmental agenda. Karthik is recognized for his active engagement with the global Telugu community, fostering awareness about the welfare

and economic initiatives championed by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration. His efforts have significantly contributed to building international solidarity around YSRCP's governance model that prioritizes social equity, empowerment, and transparency.

Through his work in Europe, Karthik has also helped organize outreach programs and discussions to highlight the transformation stories emerging from Andhra Pradesh, particularly in education, healthcare, and rural development. His appointment as a national spokesperson is seen as an acknowledgment of his consistent efforts to globalize YSRCP's message and establish bridges between

the party and overseas supporters. Margani Bharat Ram, the other appointee, is a familiar name in the Andhra political landscape. A former Member of Parliament from Rajahmundry in East Godavari district, Bharat Ram has earned a reputation as a strong orator and an articulate representative of public issues.

As a parliamentarian, he was known for raising key concerns affecting Andhra Pradesh, including matters related to the state's financial support, infrastructure needs, and developmental priorities. His deep connection with the people of the Godavari region and his commitment to the YSRCP's values have positioned him as one of the party's promising young leaders. Party sources stated that both leaders bring complementary strengths: Karthik's global perspective and diaspora engagement combined with Bharat Ram's national parliamentary experience and

strong media presence. Together, they are expected to strengthen YSRCP's narrative on national platforms and help project the party's stance on critical issues affecting Andhra Pradesh. The YSRCP Central Office emphasized that communication has become a vital component of modern political engagement, and the new appointments are meant to ensure that the party's vision and achievements reach a wider audience. The inclusion of energetic young leaders in spokesperson roles, the statement added, underlines YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's approach to nurturing leadership that blends experience, innovation, and commitment to public welfare. With these appointments, the YSR Congress Party aims to reinforce its presence in political debates at the national level while continuing to highlight Andhra Pradesh's development journey under YSRCP governance.

CM & Lokesh Foreign Trips Only To Hide Loot: T Chandrasekhar

As the political atmosphere intensifies in Andhra Pradesh, Yerragondapalem MLA Tati-parthi Chandrasekhar has unleashed a scathing attack on Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh, questioning the very intent of their ongoing foreign tours. Addressing the media at the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) central office in Tadepalli, Chandrasekhar alleged that the duo's international visits have nothing to do with attracting investment to the state but are instead "pleasure trips" meant for concealing ill-gotten gains.

Chandrasekhar did not mince words, claiming, "Chandrababu and Lokesh are now enjoying abroad under the guise of investment promotion tours after having looted public money for 17 months." He further criticized the TDP for its alleged indifference to the plight of Andhra Pradesh's farmers, who are currently battling hardship brought on by untimely rains. "While our farmers are suffering, the government is ignoring their distress," he

added, targeting both the TDP's past administration and current narratives on development.

Taking forward his barrage, Chandrasekhar described Naidu as a "master of credit theft," accusing the TDP chief of habitually taking credit for projects initiated by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "Chandrababu failed to bring even half a rupee of investment during his own tenure, yet he never hesitates to claim ownership over every achievement made under YSRCP's leadership," he said. He went on to recall several high-profile promises made during the TDP regime, including claims of investments from global giants such as Airbus, Alibaba, Lulu Group, and Saudi Aramco between 2014 and 2019.

Highlighting the hollowness of these claims, Chandrasekhar pointedly stated, "Not a single project materialized. Even his much-publicized Dubai visits, which were supposed to usher in 4.39 lakh crore in investments, ended up being empty hype." The MLA went further to bring up the Google Data



Center project established in Visakhapatnam, affirming that the vital IT infrastructure was conceived and executed during the YSRCP's tenure, with key collaboration from Adani Group, Google, and Airtel. "Naidu deliberately hid Adani's involvement in the project, fearing that the credit would inevitably go to Jagan Mohan Reddy," Chandrasekhar alleged.

Under YSRCP, the Vizag Data Center is projected to bring in investments worth 87,000 crore and generate 25,000 direct jobs, positioning Visakhapatnam as a Tier-1 IT hub and a leading des-

tination for global technology companies. Shifting the focus towards Nara Lokesh, Chandrasekhar was sharply critical of the former minister's handling of the education sector. Citing recent incidents of student abuse and deaths in Gurukulam schools, as well as troubling reports of surveillance practices in girls' hostels, he accused Lokesh of both mismanagement and apathy.

"No meaningful action has been taken in response to serious lapses in student safety," he asserted. Chandrasekhar concluded his attack by challenging the TDP's oft-touted "vision." He

questioned why, despite Amaravati being promoted relentlessly by Naidu, no major company has chosen to invest there, while industries are flocking to Visakhapatnam under Jagan Mohan Reddy's stewardship.

"Chandrababu is at his peak in propaganda and credit theft, but the weakest in governance and integrity," he said. The remarks from the Yerragondapalem MLA underline the deepening rift between the YSRCP and TDP camps, even as Andhra Pradesh navigates economic challenges and developmental aspirations.

CHECKS ON PRIVATE BUSES IN AP - 289 CASES BOOKED

Statewide Drive by Transport department

TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 25: In a swift response to the recent Kurnool bus tragedy, the Andhra Pradesh Transport Department has launched an extensive statewide enforcement drive to improve passengersafety and ensure compliance with transport regulations. The initiative, directed by the Transport Commissioner, aims to scrutinize the safety and operating standards of all private travel buses across the state.As part of the special drive, transport officials carried out surprise inspections across every district, focusing on



critical safety parameters such as roadworthiness, fire safety equipment, and passenger documentation. During the statewide checks, as many as 289 violation cases were

registered against private travel operators for non-compliance with mandatory safety norms. Authorities also seized 18 buses found to be in serious violation and imposed fines amounting to 7.08 lakh. Eluru district topped the list with 55 cases and three bus seizures, highlighting widespread irregularities in the region's private transport sector. East Godavari followed with 17 cases and four seizures, while Konaseema recorded 27 violations. Chittoor reported 22 cases, Kurnool 12, Visakhapatnam 7, and Nandyal 4, reflecting a pressing need for stronger enforcement statewide. Officials noted several recurring safety lapses during the inspections. These included eight

buses operating without valid certificates, 13 lacking emergency exits, and 103 without functional fire extinguishers. Another 34 vehicles failed to maintain accurate passenger lists, while 127 other cases were registered for operational and maintenance deficiencies ranging from poor vehicle upkeep to missing documentation. Transport authorities emphasized that the enforcement drive would continue daily across the state until complete adherence to safety standards is ensured. They reiterated that strict legal and financial action would be taken against any operator who neglects the prescribed guidelines or compromises passenger safety.In a statement, de-

partment officials reminded private travel operators of their responsibility to maintain well-equipped vehicles with all mandatory safety gear, update passenger registers accurately, and secure valid fitness and roadworthiness certifications. They added that negligence or violations would invite severe penalties, given the department's commitment to public safety and accident prevention.The Transport Department assured that its intensified checks are not punitive alone, but part of a broader safety reform effort meant to instill accountability among private travel operators and reduce the risk of avoidable road tragedies across Andhra Pradesh.

RPF VIJAYAWADA EXCELS IN CRIME DETECTION

Passenger Safety and Rescue Operations.

TPN / Vijayawada, October 25 The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway, has set a remarkable benchmark in crime detection, passenger safety, and humanitarian service through a series of successful operations carried out from October 16 to 23, 2025. The week-long period showcased the RPF's efficiency, vigilance, and commitment to the safety of passengers as well as the protection of railway property. Under Operation Satark, aimed at curbing the transport of contraband and illegal goods through railways, RPF Vijayawada, in co-



ordination with Customs and CPSSR officials, intercepted a major smuggling attempt on October 21. The team seized 48,000 foreign brand cigarettes, ESSE Lights of KT&G Korea worth 4.8 lakh. The consignment, falsely declared as "Micro Coffee", was booked from Dimapur to Vijayawada. The goods were confiscated under provi-

sions of the Customs Act, 1962, marking a significant strike against smuggling activities on railway routes.Safety and crime detection efforts under Operation Yatri Suraksha also produced notable successes across several stations in the division. In Kakinada, a chain-snatching case reported on October 21 was swiftly detected, leading to the arrest of Galeri Dora Babu (37) and recovery of gold worth 16,000. In a separate operation at Tenali on October 18, RPF and GRP teams apprehended four members of the notorious OG Kuppam attention diversion gang, recovering 50 grams of gold and eight stolen mobile phones together valued at 6.6 lakh.

RPF Vijayawada teams demonstrated their prompt action again when they solved a chain-snatching case on



Train No. 17209 within just 12 hours. The accused, Ravuri Nagaraju (25), was arrested and gold jewellery worth 1.10lakh was recovered. At Kavali, two mobile theft cases reported on October 18 were successfully cracked, leading to the recovery of the stolen devices worth 35,000. Beyond crime control, RPF personnel showed exemplary humanitarian service under Operation Nanhe Farishtey, aimed at rescuing and rehabilitating missing or runaway children. On October 22, Constable P. Venkatamma rescued a nine-year-old missing boy at Tuni, while Constable K. Venkatesh located a 16-year-old runaway boy at Bapatla a day earlier. Both children were safely handed over to child welfare authorities, reflecting RPF's compassionate approach alongside its law

enforcement role.In another major breakthrough, a joint RPF-GRP team at Gudivada nabbed Goriparthi Siva Koteswara Rao (37), a wanted robbery suspect, on October 23rd. Adding to the week's achievements, RPF Nellore recovered a trolley bag containing gold ornaments valued at 20 lakh that had been left behind on Train No. 12664 on October 24. Through prompt coordination and honesty, the valuables were traced and returned to their rightful owner, earning widespread appreciation. Continuing its dedicated service, the RPF Vijayawada Division reinforces its mission to ensure passenger safety, safeguard railway assets, and uphold public confidence through its key national operations Yatri Suraksha, Satark, and Nanhe Farishtey.



CII Partnership Summit Preparations in Full Swing

TPN / Visakhapatnam, Oct 25: With Visakhapatnam gearing up to host the prestigious International CII Partnership Summit 2025, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has intensified its beautification and infrastructure development works across the city. GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg has directed officials to expedite all ongoing projects and complete them on a war footing to ensure the city presents a world-class ambience before the summit scheduled for November.On Saturday, Commissioner Garg, along with Additional Commissioner S.S. Varma, GVMC engineering officials, and representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Green Urban Corporation, conducted a detailed inspection of development and beautification works being undertaken across various key zones of the city. The inspection covered Zones 3, 4, 5, and 8 — including Telugu Thalli Flyover,

Thatichetlapalem, Uravashi Junction, NAD Flyover, the stretch leading up to the airport, and the main venue area at Andhra University Grounds. During the inspection, the Commissioner emphasized the need for quality and timely completion of works such as road dividers, central medians, roadside islands, footpaths, road resurfacing, street lighting, plantation, and painting. He specifically instructed officials to ensure uniform landscaping and maintain attractive greenery along major routes from the RTC Complex to Telugu Thalli Flyover, Railway New Colony Road, Thatichetlapalem, Uravashi Junction, NAD Flyover, and Airport Highway. Highlighting the importance of aesthetics, the Commissioner directed that plants in central medians should be neatly trimmed, overgrown tree branches pruned, and any withered plants promptly replaced with fresh saplings. He further in-

structed that lighting systems be checked thoroughly to ensure enhanced nighttime visibility and decorative illumination ahead of the summit.Later, Commissioner Garg inspected the helipad area and reviewed beautification and painting works underway at the Andhra University Grounds, which will serve as the main venue for the International Partnership Summit. He underscored the need for maintaining the highest quality standards in every aspect of the work and urged officials to meet deadlines without compromise.Superintending Engineer K. Srinivasa Rao, Executive Engineers Tara Prasanna, Dileep, and other officials were present during the inspection. The Commissioner also appreciated the coordination among departments and reiterated that Visakhapatnam must reflect its stature as a global investment and economic destination during the CII Partnership Summit 2025.

CS DIRECTS COLLECTORS TO BE VIGILANT DURING 'MONTHA'

TPN / Vijayawada, October 25: Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand on Saturday conducted an intensive review with district collectors and key officials via teleconference to assess the preparedness across coastal districts in view of the approaching Cyclone 'Montha', expected to make landfall near Kakinada on October 28. Addressing the collectors, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for heightened vigilance and immediate readiness to tackle any emergency situation arising from the impending cyclone. Calling for proactive and detailed preventive measures, he instructed all district administrations to ensure the protection of human lives

and minimize damage to property through timely action and coordination. Vijayanand directed that control rooms be set up in every mandal to coordinate local-level responses, monitor field updates, and act swiftly in case of distress calls. He said that all village-level officials and staff must remain on constant alert, particularly in vulnerable coastal and low-lying areas, so that evacuation and relief operations can be executed without delay when required. The Chief Secretary advised officials to identify and stockpile essential commodities such as milk, vegetables, food grains, candles, and other civil supplies at strategic locations. He under-

scored the importance of ensuring uninterrupted access to these items, especially in regions likely to face power disruptions or transportation difficulties once the cyclone approaches land. Vijayanand directed that all cyclone shelters and temporary relief camps be prepared and kept ready to accommodate evacuees safely and comfortably. Local authorities were instructed to ensure that drinking water, sanitation, and first-aid facilities are functional in these shelters. The Chief Secretary highlighted that special attention must be given to vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and pregnant women, particularly those residing in low-



lying or flood-prone "Lanka" villages. He instructed that such women be shifted to nearby government health centres well in advance as a

precautionary measure. Ensuring infrastructure resilience, Vijayanand called upon officials of the Energy Department to maintain uninterrupted

power supply across critical installations and residential areas. He stressed the need for quick restoration of electricity in the event of

outages and urged immediate removal of fallen trees and debris to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and repair teams. Coordination with the Roads and Buildings Department and emergency response agencies was deemed essential for maintaining smooth logistics.The Chief Secretary also directed coordination with telecom service providers to ensure continuity in mobile network connectivity, enabling uninterrupted communication during and after the cyclone. Further, water resources officials were instructed to monitor all major and minor water bodies, tanks, canals, and rivers continuously

to prevent any breach or overflow that might lead to flooding. Necessary flood control arrangements were to be put in place wherever required. Vijayanand reiterated that fishermen should not venture into the sea under any circumstances until further notice and urged the general public to restrict unnecessary travel and remain indoors as the cyclone nears landfall. He informed that the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) would continue issuing real-time alerts, and all departments must remain on the highest level of preparedness until the cyclone threat fully recedes.

RUDA Under Fire: Alleged Corruption Sparks Outcry

Widespread Irregularities and Alleged Corruption Rock Rajamahendravaram Urban Development Authority.

Ch Raju | Rajahmundry, East Godavari Oct 25: The Rajamahendravaram Urban Development Authority (RUDA) has recently come under intense scrutiny, with public outcry growing over what many allege is systematic corruption, administrative negligence, and blatant disregard for urban regulations. RUDA, which is supposed to steer development projects and urban planning in various fewparts of East Godavari, is now being called out for allegedly facilitating irregularities that benefit a select while undermining the interests of ordinary citizens.

Repeated complaints suggest that certain officials at RUDA, coupled with the perceived indifference of its chairman, have allowed the agency to devolve into a hub for



malpractice. Common allegations revolve around the issuance of approvals and clearances by bypassing established norms, sanctioning layouts and constructions contrary to the master plan, and granting permissions without essential clearances such as the Fire NOC. One glaring example concerns a high-rise building near Ravulapalem, reportedly

constructed to a height of 21 meters. According to official regulations, any building exceeding 15 meters must possess a Fire Department NOC. However, RUDA authorities are alleged to have manipulated documentation, declaring the structure's height as 15 meters to expedite approvals. Similarly, approval was reportedly granted to a lo-

cal hotel without the mandated Fire NOC. Master plan violations are not limited to high-rises. In one instance, a 15-acre private layout near Rajamahendravaram was approved with master plan roads 'omitted' from the sanctioned drawings, effectively converting land earmarked for public infrastructure into a private layout. Such practices,

critics say, are clear examples of collusion between RUDA officials and real estate interests. In Madurapudi, a 14-acre layout was greenlit even though the mandatory 'change of land use' process had not been completed. Authorities included the land in the master plan and approved the layout in violation of planning guidelines. Questions have



also been raised about key RUDA positions, particularly the Chief Urban City Planner. Despite the official's deputation period ending, he allegedly continues to make pivotal decisions, with his signature required for most layout clearances and building permits. Many view this as evidence of undue influence and lack of oversight. These systemic issues have had a direct impact on citizens. While ordinary people wait for months to obtain permis-

sions for individual house plans, large-scale layouts receive overnight approvals. There are also allegations of the authority neglecting government revenue generation by waiving applicable fees and charges, to the benefit of select developers and intermediaries. Calls are mounting from local residents and urban planning experts for a comprehensive probe into RUDA's operations. They insist that agencies like the Vigi-

lance or Housing Department must intervene to restore public trust. Experts warn that unless RUDA acts transparently and eliminates corruption and political interference, the very prospects of sustainable urban development for Rajamahendravaram and its surroundings could be doomed. In response to these allegations, Chief Urban Planner GVS Murthy offered inconsistent explanations, claiming ignorance of unauthorized approvals and urging that details be collected from Panchayat officials. He insisted that no illegal layouts had received permissions during his tenure. Nonetheless, public perception remains skeptical, especially since major irregularities reportedly escalated after Boddu Venkatarama Chowdary assumed charge as RUDA chairman. As public disillusionment grows, many now view RUDA not as a beacon of urban progress, but as a symbol of compromised integrity in local governance.

Service Inam Land Policy to Roll Out in 45 Days

Comprehensive Policy Soon on Service Inam Lands: Report in 45 Days Land Allocation and Housing Initiatives to Receive Major Overhaul.



TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 25: The Andhra Pradesh Government is preparing to unveil a comprehensive policy to resolve long-pending disputes surrounding Service Inam Lands, signaling a major step toward reforming the state's revenue and land administration systems. Revenue, Registration, and Stamps Minister Anagani Satya Prasad announced the decision after a meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on revenue system reforms held at the Secretariat in Vela-

gapudi on Friday. Minister Satya Prasad stated that committees comprising Endowments Department officials and Tahsildars are being set up to study the issue in depth and submit a report within 45 days. "The government will review the committee's recommendations with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and take decisions aimed at permanently settling the Service Inam Land issues that have remained unresolved for decades," he said. The GoM meet-

ing was attended by Ministers P. Narayana, Payyavula Keshav, and NMD Farooq, along with senior officials from the concerned departments. A separate session of the GoM later focused on the "Houses for All" initiative, which discussed strategies to ensure affordable housing for all eligible families and streamline land allocation for various purposes, including housing, industry, and social development. Minister Satya Prasad noted that the govern-

ment is also formulating a new and transparent policy for land allocation catering to industrial, infrastructural, and developmental needs. He emphasized that Chief Minister Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh are making concerted efforts to attract industries and investments to Andhra Pradesh by creating a predictable and investor-friendly environment. "We are also addressing issues related to pre-hold lands and Waqf properties to ensure procedural clarity and avoid future

legal complications," he added. Expanding on housing progress, Urban Development Minister P. Narayana highlighted that during the previous TDP government (2014-19), plans were made to construct seven lakh TIDCO houses equipped with full amenities, and administrative sanction was given for five lakh units. He criticized the subsequent YSRCP administration for scaling down the target to 2.6 lakh houses, many of which remained incomplete. Minister Narayana said that under the current leadership, Chief Minister Naidu has directed officials to complete all 2.6 lakh TIDCO houses by June 2026, reaffirming the government's commitment to providing homes for the poor. Meanwhile, Information & Public Relations and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasaradhi said that the government

is working toward allocating 2 to 3 cents of land per eligible beneficiary, covering all deserving poor families. Addressing the long-pending demands of the journalist community, he said the government intends to remove legal hurdles preventing house site allocations for journalists. "We are exploring legal options and will seek the Advocate General's opinion before proceeding. The policy reflects Chief Minister Naidu's inclusive housing vision, ensuring journalists also benefit from the government's welfare initiatives," Parthasaradhi said. The Ministers agreed that the forthcoming policies on Service Inam Lands, industrial land allocation, and housing for all will form the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's next phase of growth, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and long-term stability for beneficiaries.



Injured as TSRTC Bus Collides with Lorry in Palnadu

TPN DACHEPALLI, Oct 25: 8 Injured as Lorry and TSRTC Bus Collide Near Srinagar in Dachepalli A road accident near Srinagar village in Dachepalli mandal of Palnadu district on Saturday evening left eight passengers injured when a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus collided with a lorry. The mishap occurred as the bus was traveling from Miryalaguda towards Dachepalli. According to preliminary reports, the TSRTC bus carrying 45 passengers was proceeding on the Miryalaguda, Dachepalli route when a speeding lorry coming from the opposite direction suddenly lost control and rammed into the bus. The impact of the collision caused significant damage to the front sides of both vehicles and left several passengers with minor injuries. Local residents quickly alerted the police and emergency services. Dachepalli police reached the scene promptly, providing initial assis-

tance to the injured and ensuring smooth traffic flow on the busy route. The injured passengers were immediately shifted to a nearby government hospital for medical treatment. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported, and doctors confirmed that the injuries were not life-threatening. Police officials stated that an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the crash. They suspect that over-speeding and possible negligence by one of the drivers could have led to the collision. Both vehicles have been seized for further examination. The accident caused temporary disruption of traffic on the route connecting Miryalaguda and Dachepalli, but normal flow was restored after the damaged vehicles were cleared from the road. Authorities have appealed to drivers to maintain safe speeds and follow traffic regulations to prevent such incidents in the future.

AP CM HOLDS EMERGENCY MEETING ON MONTHA, ORDERS QUICK ACTION

TPN | Vijayawada, Oct 25: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday convened an emergency teleconference with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and senior officials to review the state's preparedness for the approaching Cyclone 'Montha'. With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a Red Alert for the state, the Chief Minister directed all departments to stay fully alert and make arrangements to ensure that there is no loss of life or property. According to the IMD forecast, Cyclone 'Montha' is expected to make landfall near Kakinada on the evening of October 28 as a severe cyclonic storm, with wind speeds ranging between 90 to 110 kmph. The cyclone is likely to have a widespread impact, affecting dis-



tricts from Srikakulam to Tirupati, and is expected to bring heavy rainfall ranging from 80 to 100 mm across coastal and nearby regions. With this prediction, the Chief Minister has instructed officials to take precautionary steps on a war footing. During the high-level review, Naidu empha-

sized the need for meticulous district-level contingency planning, immediate readiness of disaster response teams, and pre-emptive evacuation of residents from vulnerable coastal areas. He stressed that officials must act swiftly and coordinate seamlessly to minimize dam-

age and disruption once the cyclone crosses the coast. "Our top priority is the safety and security of people. Every measure should be taken to avoid casualties and damage to infrastructure," he said. The Chief Minister directed the district administrations to identify and prepare shelters for evacuees, ensure proper food and water arrangements, and keep emergency services operational round-the-clock. He also advised District Collectors to declare holidays for educational institutions in cyclone-prone zones if necessary, ensuring student safety. Naidu instructed the irrigation department to closely monitor reservoir and dam water levels, carry out scientific release of water where needed, and share real-time updates with relevant control rooms. He also told the

power and communication departments to ensure immediate restoration mechanisms in case of disruptions. Department heads of Roads & Buildings (R&B), Power, Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, and Municipal Administration were asked to function uninterruptedly and coordinate with local teams for rapid response. In an innovative step, Naidu suggested launching "Hospital on Wheels" services in Kakinada to provide essential medical support to people in affected areas, particularly in cases where hospital access may become difficult. He said the deployment of NDRF and SDRF teams must begin immediately to vulnerable stretches, ensuring that rescue and relief efforts could commence without delay once the cyclone system nears the coast. The Chief Minis-

ter further directed that in-charge senior officers be stationed in each cyclone-affected district to oversee coordination between departments, streamline relief operations, and supervise post-cyclone restoration activities. He underscored that maintaining uninterrupted drinking water, electricity, mobile connectivity, and supply of essentials must be treated as top priorities. Naidu concluded the meeting by cautioning officials not to take any chances and to ensure continuous communication between state and district-level control rooms. With Cyclone 'Montha' intensifying in the Bay of Bengal, the Chief Minister's proactive review has set the state machinery in motion for a comprehensive preparedness exercise across Andhra Pradesh's coastal belt.

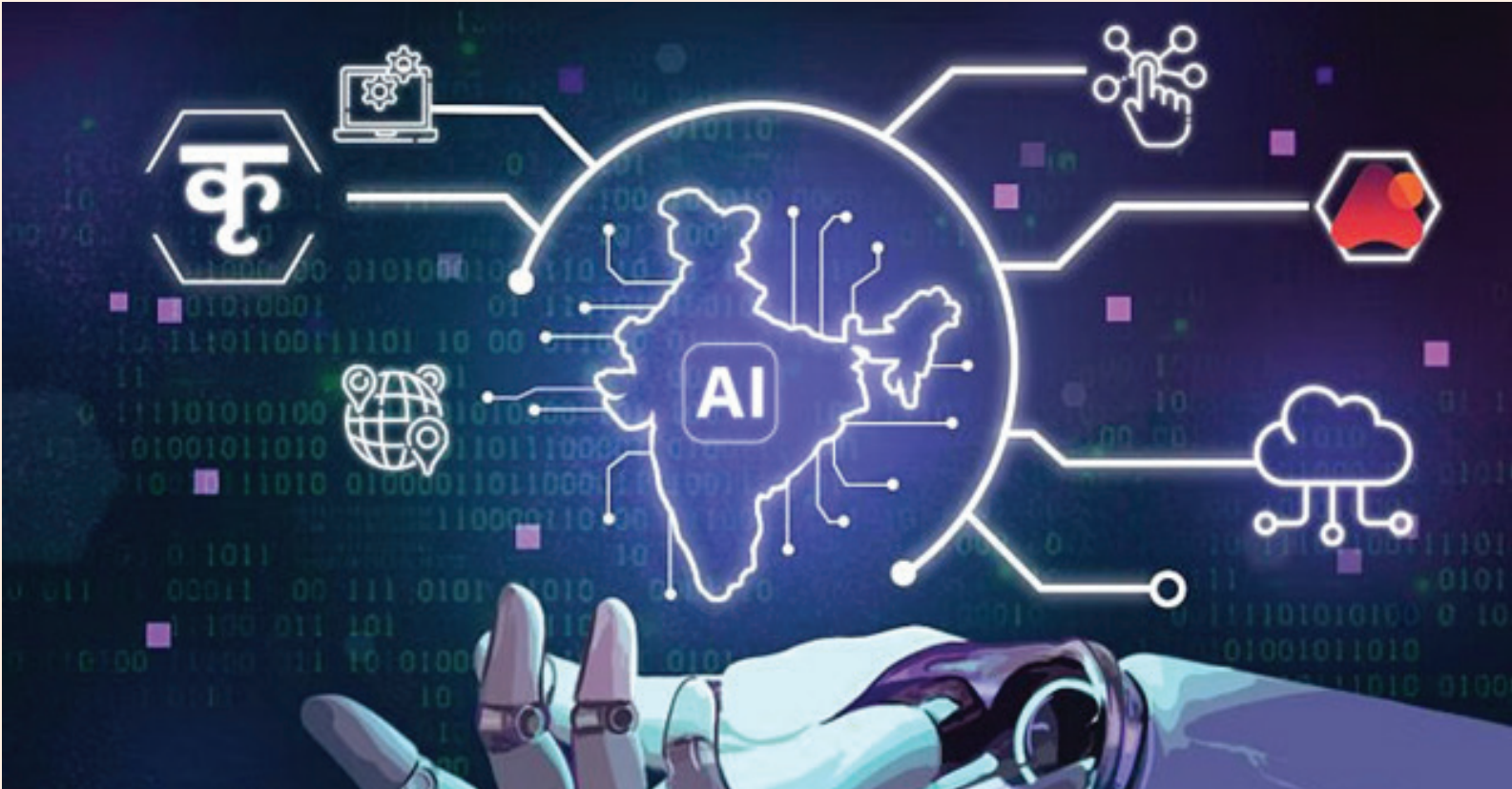
Centre Drafts India’s First AI Regulation To Curb Deepfakes, Tighten Social Media Oversight

In a landmark move, the Union Government has initiated steps toward enacting India’s first substantive Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulation, aimed at curbing the spread of deepfakes and synthetic media on social platforms. On October 22, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued draft amendments to the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021, proposing a detailed framework to govern the creation and circulation of AI-generated content online.

The new draft rules come amid global concerns over the misuse of generative AI tools capable of producing text, images, audio, and videos that mimic real people or events. The amendments propose that social media companies and any digital services facilitating AI-generated content must label, watermark, or embed meta-data to help users identify synthetic material.

According to the draft, such content must be visibly labelled, with at least 10% of the display area carrying a clear warning. In addition, major social media platforms would need to obtain and verify user declarations whenever synthetic or AI-altered content is uploaded.

The proposals are in line with international developments — China already mandates clear labels on AI-generated media, while the European Union’s AI Act requires disclosure of deepfakes. India’s initiative appears to follow a similar model of assertive digital governance while balancing innovation and accountability.



Erosion of Safe Harbour Protections

The most significant change, however, lies in the redefinition of “safe harbour” — the legal immunity enjoyed by intermediaries for user-generated content. Under the new draft, platforms can remove AI-generated content

based on user complaints, even without a court or government order. This marks a shift from India’s long-held “passive conduit” model, where platforms were not responsible for deciding what constituted illegal or harmful content.

Experts warn this could lead to over-censorship, as companies might prefer deleting content to avoid regulatory penalties. The

move also dilutes the “actual knowledge” standard established in the 2015 Supreme Court judgment in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India*, which placed the responsibility for determining illegality on the government and courts rather than intermediaries.

“This change effectively turns social media platforms into arbiters of free speech,” a digital rights lawyer said, adding that it

may create tension between government expectations, user freedoms, and corporate accountability.

Implementation Challenges

While the draft seeks to enhance online transparency, experts caution that labeling AI content at scale will be technologically and operationally complex. Automated systems may fail to detect

some synthetic content or mistakenly label genuine posts, leading to confusion and misinformation.

To address these challenges, analysts suggest adopting global technical standards such as those from the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA), which establish traceable origins for digital content. Additionally, the government is being urged to complement the labeling mandate with public awareness and media literacy campaigns to help users identify manipulated media.

Balancing Regulation and Innovation

The draft’s release coincides with India’s growing optimism toward AI, highlighted by the upcoming AI Impact Summit 2026. However, critics argue that overly stringent controls could stifle innovation and mimic China’s tightly controlled digital ecosystem rather than democratic models of governance.

Policymakers emphasize that the proposed measures are open for public consultation, reflecting an attempt to balance the need for accountability with freedom of expression and technological progress.

If enacted, the new framework would mark India’s first major legal step toward AI governance, positioning the country among a select group of nations actively regulating synthetic media — a crucial move as the digital future grows increasingly artificial.

Pakistan’s Decades-Old Terror Playbook: Target Hindus to Divide India



For more than four decades, Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has followed a grimly predictable playbook—using terrorism as a weapon to weaken India from within. Since the 1980s, the ISI has deployed terror proxies to attack Hindus in India, hoping to provoke communal retaliation and internal instability. The ultimate aim: to vindicate Pakistan’s founding ideology, the two-nation theory, by showing that Hindus and Muslims cannot coexist peacefully.

The strategy’s origins date back to the post-1979 era, when Pakistan became a key U.S. ally during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The West, along with Saudi Arabia, empowered Pakistan’s military and intelligence establishment to use jihad as a tool of warfare. The ISI soon redirected this strategy toward India, framing Hindus as “infidels” and backing extremist groups that would strike at the country’s religious and cultural heart.

The first major manifestation of this plan appeared in Punjab in 1980-81 with the rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Initially targeting rival Sikh groups and police, his men soon began attacking Hindus. The Dhillwan bus massacre of October 1983, where six Hindus were singled out and killed, marked the first targeted communal terrorist attack in modern India. It shocked the nation and led Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to impose President’s Rule in Punjab.

From there, the pattern spread and intensified. Between the 1980s and 2000s, ISI-backed groups—from Khalistani militants to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed—launched over a hundred attacks specifically targeting Hindus and Hindu places of worship. These included the Lalru (1987, 38 dead) and Fatehabad (1987, 34 dead) bus massacres, Ludhiana train killings (1991, 125 dead), Coimbatore bombings (1998, 58 dead),

Amarnath Yatra attacks (2000, 21 dead), Raghunath Temple assaults (2002, 26 dead), and the Akshardham Temple attack (2002, 33 dead).

The Indian Mujahideen, formed later with ISI support, carried out serial blasts in Delhi (2005, 62 dead) and Jaipur (2008, 63 dead). The purpose was not merely to kill but to provoke Hindu retaliation against Muslims—pushing India toward internal communal conflict.

Analysts note that the ISI’s long-term goal has been to present India as a country divided by religion, thereby justifying Pakistan’s creation. This is why Pakistan’s leaders, including current Army Chief General Asim Munir, frequently invoke religious narratives and accuse India of persecuting minorities.

India’s response, however, has evolved. Leaders across ideological lines, from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, have

avoided communal language even in the face of provocation. The RSS, too, described recent attacks as assaults on “tourists” rather than “Hindus,” signaling restraint and unity. Owaisi’s harsh condemnation of terrorists as “kameene” and “haramzaade” reflects an effort to show solidarity across communities.

The ISI’s strategy—what experts call “Subversion 101”—has repeatedly failed. Despite the pain inflicted, India has resisted turning on its own people. Even during the 1993 Bombay bombings, then Chief Minister Sharad Pawar’s quick action in controlling communal tension prevented a nationwide crisis.

As Pakistan’s internal stability crumbles, its attempts to export unrest to India continue. But after 45 years of provocations, India’s resilience stands firm. The challenge now is to ensure that the old Pakistani playbook—designed to divide—fails yet again.



Trump Effect: How America’s Tough Talk Could Spark India’s Next Reform Wave

Is Donald Trump’s return to global prominence and the resurgence of “Trumpism” good or bad news for India? On the surface, his “America First” rhetoric and frequent targeting of India as the “tariff king” suggest an adversarial stance. Yet, a closer look reveals that Trump’s aggressive economic posturing could become the external shock India needs to trigger long-overdue reforms — much like past crises that reshaped the country’s economy.

From the moment Trump entered the White House, his message has been blunt: “Everybody has robbed us, friend or foe.” He has chastised allies in Europe, Canada, Mexico — and India — over trade, defense, and tariffs. For New Delhi, this renewed Trump-era assertiveness feels like a gun pointed at its head. But as history shows, India often reforms best under pressure.

India’s two previous waves of deep economic reform were born of crisis. The first came in 1991 when a balance of payments emergency forced Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh to seek an IMF bailout. That external compulsion dismantled decades of socialist controls and opened the Indian economy. The second came after the Pokhran-II

nuclear tests in 1998, when global sanctions isolated India. The Vajpayee government, led by Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha, responded with bold liberalisation, disinvestment, and a push for foreign investment.

Trump’s renewed pressure, particularly on trade and tariffs, could provide the third such moment. His worldview is transactional — nations must earn America’s friendship through fair trade and strategic alignment. For India, this may be a catalyst to confront longstanding inefficiencies, improve competitiveness, and deliver on the “Make in India” promise that has struggled to take off.

Reforms during past crises did not come easily. In the 1990s, powerful corporate lobbies like Rahul Bajaj’s “Bombay Club” resisted liberalisation, arguing that Indian industries were not ready to face global competition. Rao held firm, citing the IMF loan as an unavoidable necessity. The result was transformative — creative destruction that cleared space for modern, competitive enterprises. Legacy companies like Hindustan Motors and Premier Automobiles faded, while the likes of Tata and Mahindra thrived in the new era.

Similarly, post-Pokhran re-

forms — ranging from PSU disinvestment to FDI liberalisation and tariff cuts — unleashed a second wave of growth. India’s integration into the global economy deepened, and ordinary citizens benefited from new freedoms such as overseas investment under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme.

Since then, however, reform momentum has slowed. India has often fallen back on slogans of being the “world’s fastest-growing major economy” rather than confronting structural bottlenecks. The manufacturing revolution repeatedly promised has yet to arrive.

Trump’s economic nationalism, though seemingly hostile, could jolt India’s political and bureaucratic establishment out of complacency. Just as past “guns-to-the-head” moments created reform breakthroughs, this one might force India to accelerate trade rationalisation, boost exports, and modernise domestic industry.

In the long run, a tough, transactional America might be exactly the partner India needs — not one that flatters, but one that forces reform. Trump’s pressure may sting in the short term, but it could push India toward the next phase of its economic transformation.

PM Modi Endorses Nitish as NDA CM Face, Slams RJD’s ‘Jungle Raj’



TPN Bureau | Patna
Prime Minister Narendra Modi endorsed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the face of the NDA ahead of the Assembly elections, framing the contest as a choice between the “NDA’s good governance” and the “RJD’s

jungle raj.” Modi launched the campaign from Samastipur, the ancestral land of late socialist icon and former CM Karpoori Thakur. “This time, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA is going to break all past records of victory,” Modi said,

marking his first public endorsement of Nitish for the upcoming polls. The Prime Minister recalled the BJP-JD(U) alliance formation in 2005, which ended Lalu Prasad’s 15-year rule in Bihar, emphasizing NDA’s role in bringing stability and governance to the

state. Modi accused the Congress-RJD government at the Centre of obstructing Bihar’s development in the years following the NDA’s rise in the state, claiming they sought revenge for the RJD’s 2005 defeat. “It was in October 2005 that Bihar was liber-

ated from ‘jungle raj’ and began witnessing good governance under Nitish Kumar,” he said. The campaign launch from Samastipur was symbolic, underlining NDA’s claim as the “actual inheritor” of Karpoori Thakur’s pro-poor and OBC-focused legacy. Modi highlighted the alliance’s focus on development and welfare while contrasting it with the RJD’s past governance. The Prime Minister’s announcement ends any speculation over Nitish Kumar’s future role in the NDA and comes a day after the INDIA bloc named RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav as its CM candidate. The election battle is now clearly framed as a contest between continuity under Nitish Kumar and a potential return of RJD’s past regime. The rally drew significant local attention, with NDA leaders emphasizing governance, development, and social justice as the core themes of their campaign strategy.

Delhi Air Quality Shows Slight Improvement; Anand Vihar Still ‘Severe’



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Delhi’s air quality improved slightly on Saturday, though pollution levels remained a concern across the city. The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 261, placing it in the ‘poor’ category and showing a mar-

ginal drop from 290 the previous day, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Despite the slight improvement, Anand Vihar remained the most polluted area, registering a ‘severe’ AQI of 415, the

highest among all monitoring stations in the capital, as per the Sameer app developed by the CPCB. Seven monitoring stations in Delhi recorded AQI levels in the ‘very poor’ range, while the remaining stations stayed in the ‘poor’ category. Ex-

perts warn that such pollution levels continue to pose significant health risks, particularly for children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory conditions. The CPCB categorizes air quality on a scale where 0–50 is ‘good’, 51–

100 ‘satisfactory’, 101–200 ‘moderate’, 201–300 ‘poor’, 301–400 ‘very poor’, and 401–500 ‘severe’. While the slight dip in AQI offers minor relief, authorities caution residents to take preventive measures, including wearing masks outdoors, avoiding strenuous physical activity, and using air purifiers indoors where possible. In response to rising pollution, Delhi authorities have continued efforts such as deploying anti-smog guns, controlling vehicular emissions, and limiting construction activities. Images from the city show anti-smog guns spraying water along key areas like Kartavya Path, near Rashtrapati Bhavan, in a bid to reduce dust levels. Environmental experts emphasize that sustained measures and public awareness are crucial to improving air quality in the coming weeks, as seasonal factors like crop stubble burning in neighboring states and weather conditions continue to influence pollution levels in the capital.

Amit Shah Vows to Deport Infiltrators in Bihar Poll Rally

TPN Correspondent | Patna
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday promised that every infiltrator in Bihar would be detected, deleted from electoral rolls, and deported to their countries, while criticizing the INDIA bloc for opposing the special intensive revision (SIR) of voters’ lists. Addressing a rally in Khagaria district, Shah said the ongoing Assembly elections would decide whether Bihar would continue on the path of development or witness a return of ‘jungle raj.’ “Let Rahul Gandhi launch yatras to protect these infiltrators. It does not matter. He cannot safeguard them through his ‘Ghuspetiya Bachao Yatra’. Every infiltrator will be detected, deleted from the voters’ list, and deported to their countries,” Shah asserted. The Home Minister also targeted RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, alleging that he focused solely on his family’s prosperity rather than Bihar’s overall devel-



opment. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and CM Nitish Kumar ji want the overall progress of Bihar, but Lalu Prasad wants ‘vikas’ only for his family,” Shah said, adding that voters do not want the return of ‘jungle raj.’ Shah further claimed

that heinous crimes in Bihar, including murders and dacoity, had substantially decreased under the NDA government, contrasting it with the RJD rule, which he alleged had normalised such criminal activities. The rally highlighted

the BJP’s emphasis on law and order, development, and strict action against infiltrators, with Shah framing the Bihar Assembly elections as a choice between governance that ensures safety and progress versus a return to chaotic administration un-

der past regimes. The Home Minister’s comments come amid heightened political activity in Bihar as parties gear up for the crucial state elections, with voter lists and security issues emerging as major campaign themes.

“This Government Doesn’t Hide Reports”: Delhi Minister To AAP On Yamuna Revival



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi’s political discourse heated up on Saturday after the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) released a report indicating worsening water quality in the Yamuna River, just ahead of Chhath Puja, when thousands of devotees are expected to take a holy dip. The DPCC October 2025 report, based on October 9 water samples, revealed that most stretches of the river remain unsafe for bathing, except at Palla, where the Yamuna enters Delhi. Key pollution sources include the city’s 27 major drains, many exceeding safe limits for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The Molarband and Sahiba-

bad drains were the worst offenders, with BOD at 145 mg/l and COD at 416 mg/l, nearly five times the permissible limits. Some drains, including Sweeper Colony and Old Agra Canal, had no flow, while only the Abul Fazal drain approached safe levels. Responding to the report, Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Verma defended the BJP-led government, emphasizing transparency and ongoing cleanup efforts. “The difference between samples taken on the 9th and those taken today is like night and day. Women visiting the ghats say they’ve never seen the Yamuna this clean. This is the result of seven months of hard work,” Verma said. He added that the river’s revival is part of a three-to-four-year plan, noting visible improvements

compared to the past decade. In contrast, Delhi Aam Aadmi Party President Saurabh Bhardwaj accused the government of politicizing pollution ahead of the Bihar elections. “The Yamuna is neither fit for drinking nor bathing. The BJP is playing with the lives of Purvanchal residents,” he said. The government has set up temporary ghats and deployed sanitation and safety teams for Chhath Puja. Officials also noted water quality improvement after Har yana increased releases from the Hathnikund Barrage on October 21, boosting river flow. Despite ongoing challenges, the administration maintains that its efforts have brought measurable improvements and continues to focus on long-term river restoration.

Tejashwi Promises Government Jobs to Every Family in 20 Days



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

RJD leader and INDIA bloc Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday promised that if the coalition comes to power in Bihar, a law will be enacted within 20 days to provide government jobs to every family, with recruitments to be completed within 20 months. Addressing an election rally in Gogri, Khagaria district, Yadav emphasized that his fight in the Assembly elections was not just about forming a government but about building Bihar as a developed state. “We need to make Bihar number one, and for

that, we must attract investment, promote education, and ensure proper health facilities for all,” he said. Highlighting his vision for the state, Yadav stressed the importance of holistic development, saying the INDIA bloc aimed to focus on infrastructure, employment, and welfare schemes that would benefit all sections of society. He argued that creating opportunities and ensuring proper governance were essential steps to transform Bihar into a progressive state. The RJD leader also underlined his commitment to youth empowerment and employment generation, stating that

providing government jobs to every family would not only boost livelihoods but also strengthen public confidence in governance. Tejashwi’s announcement comes amid a fierce campaign battle in Bihar, with the BJP emphasizing law and order, development, and deportation of infiltrators, while the INDIA bloc is highlighting employment, social welfare, and state development as its key promises. The rally in Khagaria attracted large crowds, reflecting growing political mobilization as parties intensify efforts to win voter support ahead of the crucial state Assembly elections.

Early Voting Begins in NYC Mayoral Race



TPN Correspondent | NYC

Early voting opened on Saturday in New York's high-stakes mayoral race, with Democratic candidate Zohran Mamdani emerging as the surprise frontrunner. The 34-year-old state lawmaker, a self-described socialist, has captured widespread attention and energized young voters across the city, positioning himself as a formidable challenger to the political establishment and potential national figures, including former President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly criticized him.

The mayoral contest has seen dramatic twists. The incumbent mayor chose not to seek re-election, leaving a vacuum that reshaped the race. A once-favored Democratic contender also lost in the primaries, opening the path for Mamdani, whose campaign has gained momentum with grassroots support and extensive engagement on social issues important to younger constituents. Analysts note that his rapid rise reflects a growing appetite among New Yorkers for fresh leadership and alternative voices in city politics.

Mamdani's platform focuses on affordable housing, climate action, and expanding social services, which has

resonated particularly with progressive voters. His outsider status and hands-on campaign approach—holding rallies, town halls, and social media outreach—have amplified his visibility and appeal.

Political observers are also watching closely to see how the race shapes up in a general election that could carry national implications. Mamdani's potential victory would mark a significant shift in the city's political landscape, challenging both traditional Democratic power structures and drawing attention from Republican figures, including Trump, who has repeatedly weighed in on New York politics.

Early voting is expected to continue through the week, with election day set for early November. Campaign teams from all sides are mobilizing volunteers and final messaging strategies, while polls suggest a highly competitive race, reflecting New Yorkers' engagement and the unpredictable nature of the current political climate.

The outcome of this mayoral election could set the tone for future national contests, with Mamdani's rise signaling a potential new chapter in progressive urban leadership.

Pakistan, Afghanistan Hold Second Border Talks in Turkiye



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Officials from Pakistan and Afghanistan convened in Türkiye on Saturday for the second round of talks aimed at easing tensions along their shared border and addressing security concerns, including cross-border terrorist activities. The dialogue comes after a brief period of calm was restored following the first round of discussions in Doha on October 19, which was mediated by Qatar and Türkiye.

The talks are focused on finding a negotiated solution to recurring clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces that have disrupted trade and daily life along key crossing points. Notably, the Spin Boldak border had been closed for nearly two weeks following violent incidents, affecting the movement of goods and creating economic strain for border communities on both sides. Trucks carrying essential supplies have been reported stranded near the closed crossing, highlighting the urgency of a resolution.

Officials emphasized that the Istanbul talks aim to implement practical measures to prevent further escalation and enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism efforts. Both sides

are expected to discuss border management, intelligence sharing, and joint patrol mechanisms to reduce misunderstandings and build trust.

The dialogue reflects broader diplomatic efforts to stabilize relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, two countries with a history of complex cross-border security challenges. The first round in Doha established a framework for continued engagement, and the Istanbul meeting is seen as a step toward operationalising agreements reached earlier.

Observers note that maintaining peace along the border is crucial not only for bilateral relations but also for regional stability, particularly as trade and civilian movement are directly affected by intermittent border closures. Both governments have expressed optimism that sustained dialogue will create a predictable and secure environment, reducing the risk of future clashes and facilitating coordinated action against militant groups operating along the frontier.

The outcome of these talks could set the tone for longer-term cooperation and help mitigate the security and humanitarian challenges faced by border communities.

Trump Calls North Korea 'Sort of a Nuclear Power'

TPN Bureau | SEOUL

U.S. President Donald Trump described North Korea as "sort of a nuclear power" on Friday, as he departed for South Korea to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum. The comment comes amid speculation that Trump could meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his Asia trip.

Asked whether he would consider recognizing North Korea as a nuclear state, a condition Pyongyang has repeatedly demanded for talks with Washington, Trump said: "Well, I think they are sort of a nuclear power." The remarks suggest a pragmatic acknowledgment of Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities while leaving room for diplomatic engagement.

Trump's statements come at a time of heightened attention on North Korea's missile tests and nuclear ambitions, which have drawn global concern. Analysts note that his comments signal a potential willingness to engage in negotiations



without formally granting North Korea nuclear recognition, a delicate

balancing act in U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. president's

Asia trip will include the APEC summit in South Korea, where regional

security and economic issues are expected to dominate discussions.

While no formal meeting with Kim Jong Un has been confirmed, Trump's remarks fuel speculation that such a dialogue could occur, continuing a pattern of personal diplomacy that has characterized U.S.-North Korea relations in recent years.

Experts caution that any recognition of North Korea as a nuclear power could have significant implications for non-proliferation efforts, regional security, and U.S. alliances in East Asia. However, Trump's phrasing suggests he is stopping short of a formal acknowledgment, framing the statement as a practical observation rather than a policy shift.

The trip also provides Trump an opportunity to address broader security concerns in the region, including North Korea's missile tests and ongoing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Officials will be closely watching his statements and potential meetings, as they could set the tone for renewed diplomatic efforts with Pyongyang.

Russian Strikes Hit Kyiv, At Least Eight Wounded

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Russian forces launched a series of missile and drone attacks on Ukraine's capital on Saturday, causing damage to buildings and homes across multiple districts and injuring at least eight people, city officials confirmed.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko described the situation on Telegram, stating, "Explosions in the capital. The city is under a ballistic attack." Emergency services were deployed immediately to assess the damage and provide medical assistance to the wounded. Several residential buildings sustained structural damage, and authorities have urged residents to stay in shelters and avoid open areas.

The strikes come as the war in Ukraine enters its fourth winter, with Kyiv's Western allies intensifying pressure on Moscow. Recent months have seen increased military and economic support from NATO countries to Ukraine, along with diplomatic efforts to hold Russia accountable for its continued aggression. Analysts warn that attacks on major cities like Kyiv may aim to undermine civilian morale and test the limits of Ukraine's air defense capabilities.



Local authorities have confirmed that the casualties include civilians caught in residential areas, and the full extent of damage is still being assessed. Hospitals in Kyiv are reportedly treating those injured, while city officials are coordinating with emergency responders

to ensure essential services continue uninterrupted.

This latest strike adds to a string of attacks on Ukrainian cities in recent months, highlighting the ongoing volatility in the region. Kyiv residents have been urged to remain vigilant and follow safety advisories

issued by local authorities.

The international community has condemned repeated attacks on civilian areas, emphasizing that such actions violate international humanitarian law. The Ukrainian government continues to call for increased global support, including ad-

vanced air defense systems, to protect its population and infrastructure.

The situation in Kyiv remains tense as authorities monitor potential follow-up attacks and work to stabilize the city in the aftermath of Saturday's bombardment.

US-China Talks Aim to Salvage Trump-Xi Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Top economic officials from the United States and China met on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur to avert a renewed escalation of their trade war and pave the way for a high-stakes meeting between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping next week at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea.

The talks come after Trump threatened to impose 100% tariffs on Chinese goods starting November 1, in retaliation for China's expanded export controls on rare earths and minerals. The dispute has disrupted a fragile trade truce negotiated over four rounds of talks since May between US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

Officials are focused on finding a compromise on rare earths and US technology export curbs, which remain the core sticking point. Analysts say the meeting must restore an "intermediate ceasefire" in trade tensions to allow Trump and Xi to meet successfully. The truce, initially brokered in Geneva in May, had lowered tariffs on both sides and ensured the flow of critical magnets, but it frayed after the US expanded its export blacklist in late September, affecting



thousands of Chinese firms. China countered with strict export controls on rare earths in early October.

The Kuala Lumpur talks are being closely watched, as any breakthrough could stabilize global supply chains and prevent tariffs from spiraling to

triple-digit levels again. US officials are also pressing China to resume purchases of American soybeans and manufactured goods, commitments from the 2020 Phase One trade deal that were largely unmet.

The outcome remains uncertain, with observers warning

that failure to reach a compromise could trigger harsher trade measures, escalating economic tensions with global repercussions. Meanwhile, details about the Malaysian meetings, including the venue and media briefings, remain tightly controlled, highlighting the high-

stakes nature of the discussions.

This session is seen as crucial for maintaining at least a temporary truce before the Trump-Xi summit, which could determine the trajectory of US-China economic relations in the coming months.

Indian Markets at a Crossroads: Weekly Wrap on Sector Swings and Key Stock Moves



Atuluri Ganesh
Founder: The Rupee Company

Indian share markets wrapped up the week ending October 24, 2025, with moderation after a n enthusiastic post-Di-wali rally, with benchm ark indices Sensex and Nifty displaying early strength before suc-cumbing to profit-book-ing and mixed global cu-es in later sessions. The Sensex began the week on a buoyant note, open-ing at 84,363 and nudg-ing higher through Muh-urat trading.

But by Friday, the inde x had fallen 344 points in the last session, to 84, 211. This cautious ap-proach was reflected in the Nifty, which finished the week at 25,795, 96



points lower than its midweek peak.

Additionally, Nifty Midcap and Smallcap experienced modest drops of 0.24% and 0.21%, respectively, whi ch were indicative of widespread profit book-ing in smaller stocks.

Sector Highlights & Investment Picks:

As financial stocks found support from stro ng quarterly results and firm credit growth fig-ures, the banking sec-tor's resilience was de-mons trated, with ICICI Ba nk (1,004) and HDFC Bank (1,550, up 0.84%) both offering attractive value.

Due to expectations of further digital transfor-mation, IT stocks, which are typically strong dur-ing earnings season, at-tracted buying interest.

With a number of do-mestic companies intro-

ducing new AI-driven products and analytics platforms, artificial in-telligence (AI), which is currently at the core of IT innovation, remained in the spotlight and in-creased investor inter-est and sectoral growth.

Because of widespre ad digital adoption and AI-led service launches, Tata Consultancy Ser-vices (TCS, 3,698, up 0.79%) and Infosys (1,576, up 0.72%) have emerged as dependable momentum trades in the information technology and artificial intelli-gence space.

Drones emerged as a star theme for the fu-ture, thanks to renewed government policy sup-port and swelling pri-vate investment.

Major IT and indus-trial players are anti-cipated to announce new ventures in the upcom-ing months as a result of the "Atmanirbhar Bha rat" incentives, which are driving fresh capital into drone infra stru ctu

re. BEL (Bharat Electron-ics, 222, up 0.85%) stands out as a robust pick in the drone and de-fense market, driven by new sectoral policies and government direc-tives.

The performance of energy stocks was ro-bust. With production-linked incentives, ONGC (217, up 0.90%) and Tata Power (374, up 0.68%) provide strong exposure to both tradi-tional and emerging en-ergy trends.

Due to a spike in in-vestor interest in solar stocks and the demand for renewable energy, Waree Energies was one of the market's biggest winners. With a sharp 6.92% increase (671.70 719.10), the stock led the energy sector's gains this week, closing at 3529.5 this Friday.

Healthcare was a two-way street; while lead-ing pharmaceutical sto-cks, such as Cipla (1,308) and Max Healthcare

(805), underperformed during the week due to profit-taking, the long-term outlook is still posi-tive, particularly for businesses utilizing AI in digital health and diagnostics.

The week's top gainers:

Hindalco Up 3.76% (793.10 822.20), buying interest was fueled by the global metal rally and strong quarterly earnings.

Infosys: Up 3.86% (1,473.85 1,528.85) due to strong momentum for AI contracts and posi-tive guidance.

Waree Energies: Lea-di ng renewables due to policy incentives and solar demand, up 6.92% (671.70 719.10).

Bharti Airtel: Higher ARPU and growing 5G drove a 1.03% increase (2,007.15 2,027.50).

ICICI Bank: Strong growth in retail and dig-ital banking, up 0.88% (1,364.16 1,375.45).

Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL): Up 0.85%



(417.10 422.05), thanks to government direc-tives for defense techn ology.

Sun Pharma: Up 0.63% (1,690.00 1,699.65) due to an increase in exports of specialty drugs.

ONGC: Up 0.90% (183.80 185.80), as high-er crude prices favored upstream energy stocks.

The week's top Losers:

Hindustan Unilever: Due to profit-booking and margin pressure in the FMCG sector, Hindu- stan Unilever saw a 3.20% decline (2,597.40 2,517.10).

Cipla: After a sector rotation and significant previous gains, it is down 2.57% (1,646.60 1,602.80).

Kotak Mahindra Bank: Down 2.30% (2,225.60 2,174.50), as

banking stocks saw weakness post-rally. Max Healthcare: As profit-taking hit health-care counters, the com-pany fell 1.75% (1,217.80 1,189.80).

UltraTech Cement: Despite ongoing de-mand in infrastructure construction, UltraTech Cement saw a 1.70% de-crease (12,112.00 11,939.00).

Adani Ports: Down 1.65% (1,450.00 1,434.60), amid global trade uncertainties.

Tata Motors: After its recent demerger, the company experienced a sector-wide cool-off and restructuring, which re-sulted in a significant decline (672.00 403.50).

Sagar Cements: The cement industry under-performed the overall market, resulting in a 4% decline (285 273.60).

Titan: As discretion-

ary spending stocks de-creased, the stock fell 1.52% (3,781.00 3,724.90).

Prospects and Outlook:

Given the continued emphasis on global pol-icy and macroeconomic data, investors are en-couraged to give prefer-ence to businesses that exhibit innovative lead-ership and sectoral re-silience. With AI, re-newables, and digital transformation provid-ing conviction-led growth into next week, the top investment op-portunities are still found in ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, TCS, Info-sys, BEL, ONGC, and Tata Power.

As markets process the post-festival reset, rotational movements between defensive and innovation-led stocks are anticipated.

Tata Motors Shares Fall 40% After Demerger

Shares of Tata Mo-tors opened nearly 40% lower on Tuesday, trig-gering concern among investors. However, the company clarified that the sharp fall is a tech-nical adjustment fol-lowing the demerger of its commercial vehicle business.

The stock opened at 399, significantly down from Monday's close of 660.90, bring-ing the company's mar-ket capitalisation to around 1.45 lakh crore. Despite the steep fall, the move does not re-lect any erosion in in-vestor wealth, but rat-her a realignment due to the demerger.

As part of the re-structuring, sharehold-ers as of the record date (October 14) will receive one share of Tata Motors Com-mercial Vehicles Limited (TMLCV) for every share they held in Tata Motors. This adjust-ment explains the price



drop in Tata Motors' existing stock, which now represents only the passenger vehicle, electric vehicle (EV), and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) busi nesses.

The company's re-structured entity is now listed as Tata Mo-tors Passenger Vehi-cles Limited (TMPVL). Meanwhile, the com-mercial vehicle arm, TMLCV, will be re-named Tata Motors Limited after complet-ing regulatory app- rovals.

TMLCV shares are not yet available for trading and will be list-ed separately in the coming 45-60 days, pending exchange ap-

proval. Also, derivative contracts for the old Tata Motors expired on Monday. New F&O con-tracts for TMPVL be-gan trading on Tues-day, while TMLCV will not be available for F&O trading for now.

No Loss to Investors For those holding Tata Motors shares as of the record date, the allocation is clear:

100 shares of TMPVL (passenger ve-hicle business)

100 shares of TML- CV (commercial ve-hicle business)

Investors are advised not to panic, as the per-ceived drop is simply a restructuring formal-ity, not a decline in ac-tual value.

Markets Dip as Trump's New Tariffs on China Rattle Global Sentiment

Indian equity markets ended lower on Monday, dragged down by IT and FMCG stocks, as global markets reacted nega-tively to fresh trade ten-sions between the US and China. The down-turn followed US Presi-dent Donald Trump's an-nouncement of a 100% tariff on Chinese im-ports starting November 1.

The BSE Sensex slipped 173.77 points, or 0.21%, to close at 82,327.05, snapping its two-day winning streak. Earlier in the session, it plunged as much as 457.68 points to a low of 82,043.14, reflecting in-vestor caution amid global uncertainty.

The broader NSE Nifty fell 58 points, or 0.23%, to settle at 25,227.35. Among the 50 constituents, 30 ended in the red, 19 in green, while one re-mained unchanged.

Sectorally, IT and FMCG stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. Ma-jor laggards included



Tata Motors, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Bharat Electronics, ITC, and UltraTech Cement. The renewed tariff threat has sparked fears of a further slowdown in global trade, dampening investor sentiment across Asian and Euro-pean markets. "With Trump's an-nouncement of addition-al tariffs on Chinese ex-ports, markets globally have turned risk-averse," said a market analyst at a domestic brokerage. "Investors are also book-ing profits ahead of key US economic data and corporate earnings re-ports due later this

week."

The imposition of new tariffs threatens to dis-rupt fragile global sup-ply chains already deal-ing with inflationary pressures and geopoliti-cal uncertainties.

On the domestic front, concerns also linger over the impact of high gold and commodity prices on inflation and consump-tion, especially ahead of the festive season.

Going forward, inves-tors will closely watch developments around US-China trade talks, in-flation data, and com-mentary from central banks for further cues.

WPI Inflation Eases to 0.13% in September on Lower Food and Fuel Prices



India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation cooled to 0.13% in September 2025, marking a steady decline from 0.52% in August and a signifi-cant drop compared to 1.91% in September 2024, according to data released by the gov-ernment on Tuesday.

The moderation in wholesale inflation was primarily driven by a decline in prices of food articles, fuel, and manufactured goods, offering some relief amid persistent concerns over infla-tionary pressures in the economy.

Analysts noted that softening prices in key segments — in-cluding vegetables, ce-reals, and cooking gas — played a major role in easing WPI infla-tion for the month. Crude petroleum pric-es also remained rela-tively stable, further contributing to the lower overall index.

The data suggests that supply-side pres-sures have started to ease, especially in the food and energy sec-tors, after months of volatility caused by global disruptions and erratic monsoon pat-terns.

"The decline in WPI inflation reflects im-

proving supply chains and a drop in global commodity prices. This is a positive sign for producers and in-dustries dependent on wholesale inputs," said an economist with a leading finan-cial services firm.

The continued mo-deration in WPI also bodes well for overall inflation manage-ment, as it may even-tually translate into lower retail inflation (CPI) in the coming months. However, ex-perts caution that ex-ternal risks, includ-ing global oil price fluctuations and geo-political tensions, re-main potential chal-lenges.

WPI inflation had been volatile over the past year, touching negative territory for several months before turning positive in re-cent readings. The September figure re-inforces a trend of moderation, which may provide addition-al space for the Re-serve Bank of India (RBI) to maintain a balanced monetary policy approach.

Further data on sec-tor-wise WPI trends is expected in the de-tailed release later this week.

GST Annual Return Filing for FY25 Begins: Key Rules, Turnover Limits, and Compliance Tips



The GST portal has officially opened the window for filing the GSTR-9 annual return and GSTR-9C reconcil-iation statement for the financial year 2024-25. These filings are mandatory for all tax-payers registered under GST and provide a comprehensive sum-mary of the year's tax transactions, includ-ing outward and in-ward supplies, tax paid, and input tax credit claimed.

GSTR-9 must be filed annually, consolidat-ing all monthly or quarterly GST returns filed during the year. GSTR-9C, applicable to taxpayers whose turn-over exceeds the pre-scribed limit, serves as a reconciliation state-ment and requires cer-

tification by a Char-tered Accountant or Cost Accountant.

According to Prab-hat Ranjan, Senior Di-rector at Nexdigm, while most taxpayers are familiar with GSTR-9 and 9C filings, this year's filing comes with new disclosure re-quirements and strict-er validations on the GST portal. He urged taxpayers to be meticu-lous while filing to avoid errors and poten-tial penalties.

Important Points to Note: Deadline: The last date for filing GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C for FY25 is December 31, 2025. Taxpayers are advised not to wait for any extensions, as no grace period is expect-ed this year, unlike pre-vious years when ex-

tensions were somet-imes granted due to technical glitches.

Turnover Limits: GSTR-9C filing is man-datory for taxpayers with a turnover ex-ceeding the threshold specified by the gov-ernment, usually above 5 cror e. Co mpliance Tips: Early preparation, accurate reconciliation of data with annual financial statements, and cross-verification of input tax credit claims are essential for smooth filing. The GST portal now enforces stricter validations to mini-mize discrepancies and improve compli-ance. Taxpayers should ensure their re-turns for the entire fi-nancial year are cor-rectly filed before attempting the annual return. With the finan-cial year-end app-ro-aching, businesses are urged to prioritize GS T annual return filing to avoid last-minute rush and penal ties.

HCLTech Reports Flat Q2 Net Profit, Revenue Grows 11% Amid Workforce Expansion



HCL Technologies (HCLTech), the IT serv-ices giant promoted by Shiv Nadar, reported a flat net profit of 4,235 crore for the second quarter (July-Septem-ber) of fiscal year 2025-26. Despite the steady net profit, the company post-ed an impressive 11% year-on-year revenue growth, reaching 31,942 crore compared to 28,862 crore in the same quar-ter last year.

Sequentially, HCLT ech's net profit and re-venue grew by 10% and 5.2% respectively, signal-ing a steady business momentum amid a chal-lenging global tech envi-ronment. The company's

diversified portfolio, in-cluding digital transfor-mation and AI services, continues to fuel growth and resilience.

In a surprising move that bucks the trend of layoffs in the technology sector, HCLTech report-ed a net addition of 3,489 employees during the quarter. This brought the total workforce count to a robust 2,26,640 employees, underscor-ing the company's confi-dence in expanding op-erations and talent ac-quisition despite un-certainties in the glob-al IT market.

The company also an-nounced an interim di-vidend of 12 per equity

share for the financial year 2025-26, reflecting its strong cash flow po-sition and commitment to shareholder returns.

Analysts view HCL Tech's results positively, noting that the com-pany's balanced growth in revenue and workforce, coupled with stable prof-itability, positions it well to capitalize on emerging opportunities in AI and digital services. The on-going investments in tal-ent and technology un-derscore HCLTech's strategy to deepen client engagements and scale up high-value services.

With the IT sector fac-ing headwinds globally, HCLTech's ability to sus-tain growth and expand its workforce highlights its robust business fun-damentals and strategic agility in a competitive landscape. Investors and market watchers will keenly watch the com-pany's performance in the coming quarters as it navigates evolving in-dustry dynamics.



From Ashes to Wine: Canary Islanders Turn Volcano Ruins into Liquid Gold

In the Canary Islands of Spain, where volcanic eruptions once scorched the earth and left vast stretches covered in black ash, locals have accomplished something extraordinary. What was once a symbol of destruction has now become the foundation of one of the world's most unique wine cultures.

On the islands of Lanzarote and Tenerife, grapevines grow

in soil enriched by volcanic minerals, producing wines renowned for their distinct flavour and rarity. This transformation didn't happen overnight. Islanders have cultivated this harsh terrain for centuries, digging pits into the volcanic ash to plant grapevines, shielding them from strong Atlantic winds while allowing them to absorb the rich nutrients hidden beneath the

surface.

This method of viticulture is as practical as it is poetic. The ash retains moisture and regulates temperature, creating ideal conditions for grape growing in an otherwise unforgiving climate. The result? Wines with unmatched minerality, complexity, and a story as deep as the lava fields themselves.

In 2024 alone, the Canary Islands produced around 3.5 million litres of wine, much of which was exported to Europe and the Americas. These wines, often described as earthy, vibrant, and full of character, are increasingly sought after by connoisseurs and collectors alike.

Locals take immense pride in this legacy—turning devas-

tation into opportunity. What once buried their homes and farmlands now sustains their economy and preserves their culture.

The vineyards of the Canary Islands are a testament to human resilience and ingenuity. They remind the world that even in the wake of natural disasters, there is room for re-birth—sometimes, even in a bottle of volcanic wine.

Microsoft Unveils MAI-Image-1, Its First In-House AI Image Generator



Microsoft has introduced its first natively developed image generation model, MAI-Image-1, marking a significant milestone in its generative AI journey. The announcement was made via the company's official newsroom post on Monday.

MAI-Image-1 is part of Microsoft's MAI (Microsoft AI) initiative, which focuses on building purpose-built models for enhanced integration within its products. The model debuted on the public AI leaderboard LMArena, where it ranked 9th among top-performing text-to-image models. Although still in pre-release testing, the model's performance has already attracted attention.

This release follows a string of in-house AI developments by Microsoft this year. In July, the company unveiled MAI Diagnostic Orchestrator (MAI-DxO), designed for medical diagnosis, and in August, it launched MAI-Voice-1, a voice generation model praised for its natural and expressive speech output.

While Microsoft hasn't released technical specifications for MAI-Image-1, it emphasized the model's ability to generate high-quality photorealistic images—including lighting effects, landscapes, and dynamic visuals. The company claims the model is faster than many existing large-scale models, making it more efficient for everyday use.

Microsoft says its goal is not to compete in the race for general-purpose mega-models, but to build AI tailored for real-world applications. MAI-Image-1 is expected to be integrated soon into Microsoft's Copilot and Bing Image Creator, bringing advanced creative tools to a broader audience.

The model was trained using carefully selected datasets and underwent rigorous evaluations, focusing on real-world use cases. Microsoft also incorporated feedback from professionals in the creative industries to refine its performance.

As competition in generative AI intensifies, MAI-Image-1 represents Microsoft's growing independence in AI innovation, moving beyond partnerships and into proprietary development that aligns with its product ecosystem.

Google Launches \$15-Billion AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

In a major boost to India's growing tech ecosystem, Google has announced the launch of a \$15-billion Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The initiative aims to drive AI-led innovation, research, and economic growth across the country.

The announcement was made by Google CEO Sundar Pichai during a virtual address, where he emphasized the importance of inclusive AI development and India's role in shaping the future of technology. "India has always been a global talent hub. With this new AI centre in Visakhapatnam, we aim to empower local talent, collaborate with academic institutions, and create scalable AI solutions for real-world challenges," said Pichai.

The AI hub will focus on several key sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and climate tech. Google plans to partner with Indian startups, researchers, and government bodies to build tools that are socially impactful and accessible to diverse communities.

According to early reports, the facility will also house advanced research labs, training centers, and incubation programs for AI startups. Thousands of jobs are expected to be created, both directly and indirectly, through this long-term investment.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomed the move, calling it a historic milestone for the state. "This will put Andhra Pradesh on the global AI map and provide our youth with access to world-class opportunities," he said.

This strategic investment reflects Google's larger vision of making AI helpful for everyone, especially in emerging markets like India. With Visakhapatnam now set to become a major AI innovation hub, the project is seen as a pivotal step in advancing India's digital transformation on a global stage.

British Vlogger's Viral Video Slams Trash Crisis at Indian Tourist Spot

A British travel vlogger has sparked a heated conversation online after posting a candid video exposing the severe littering problem at a tourist hotspot in India. The video, shared on Instagram by content creator Alex, has gone viral with nearly 80,000 views and hundreds of comments, many supporting his frustration over the country's growing waste issue.

While travelling between Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal, Alex visited the scenic Lover's Viewpoint—a location known for its breathtaking river confluence and natural beauty. However, what greeted him was a familiar sight: heaps of trash scattered by careless tourists.

"It just frustrates the sh*t out of me," he said in the video. "I keep hearing people say, 'Come to the mountains in India, that's where the



true beauty is.' But it's the same here—the same treatment of the land. Maybe there's no hope."

In the now-viral clip, Alex points out the contradiction between the natural beauty of the location and the irresponsible behavior of visitors. "There's always going to be trash where there are people. And I

guarantee you, there's a bin super close. You are only trashing your own country," he added.

The video, captioned "When will it end India", has resonated with many viewers who praised Alex for calling out the issue so bluntly. "Thanks for raising awareness," commented one user. Others echoed his senti-

ments, calling for stricter enforcement and public responsibility.

As India continues to promote tourism both domestically and globally, Alex's video is a stark reminder that preserving the country's natural beauty must be a shared responsibility—not just for locals but for all who travel through it.



Own iPhone 17 Pro Max for 7,670/ Month, Upgrade to iPhone 18 Next Year

Apple enthusiasts in India can now own the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max at just 7,670 per month, thanks to a new upgrade program introduced in partnership with select retailers and finance partners. The offer makes it easier for users to experience Apple's flagship device without bearing the full upfront cost. The iPhone 17 Pro Max, launched in September 2025, features the powerful A19 Pro chipset, a stunning Super Retina XDR display,

and a 48MP triple rear camera setup designed for pro-grade photography and video recording. With this EMI plan, customers can enjoy the premium smartphone with minimal initial payment. What makes the deal even more attractive is the guaranteed upgrade option. Customers enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to upgrade to the upcoming iPhone 18 in 12 months by simply trading in their iPhone 17 Pro Max, provided the device is in good working condition.

The financing scheme is available through major retailers, Apple Authorised Resellers, and select online platforms. The 7,670 monthly EMI typically spans 12 to 24 months depending on the plan chosen, with the upgrade window kicking in after the first year. No-cost EMI options and bundled device protection plans are also being offered.

This move is expected to boost Apple's market

penetration in India, where high upfront costs often discourage users from buying flagship devices. By offering a subscription-style model, Apple is making its premium smartphones more accessible while also locking in customer loyalty with yearly upgrades.

For those seeking the best of Apple without a steep one-time investment, this could be the smartest way to get on board—and stay upgraded.

Lakshya, Diksha, Shaina Advance To Quarterfinals At Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Championships

India's young shuttlers continued their impressive run at the Badminton Asia U-17 and U-15 Championships 2025, with Lakshya Rajesh, Diksha Sudhakar, and Shaina Manimuthu storming into the girls' singles quarterfinals on Friday.

In the U-17 category, sixth seed Diksha Sudhakar displayed remarkable control and composure to overcome Chinese Taipei's Pin Hsuan Chiang 21-19, 21-15, securing a spot in the last eight. Lakshya Rajesh joined her compatriot with a commanding 21-16, 21-11 win over Korea's Lee Yun Seo, showcasing her agility and precision throughout the match.

Meanwhile, in the U-15 segment, top seed Shaina Manimuthu lived up to her billing by defeating China's Li Man Lin 21-17, 21-16 in straight games. Shaina's dominance at the net and consistency in long rallies ensured a smooth passage into the quarterfinals.

India also impressed in doubles action. The girls' pair of Aditi Deepak Raj



and BV Ponnamma Vridhi battled past Korea's Lee Yun Seo and Park Yoo Jeong, bouncing back from a first-game loss to win 17-21, 21-15, 21-17. In the boys' doubles, Charan Ram Thippana and Hari Krishna Veeramreddy produced a clinical performance, dispatching Japan's Kosuke Shinohara and Hiroto Nakatsuka 21-14, 21-8.

In singles, Jagsher Singh Khangurra advanced with a comfortable 21-12, 21-17 victory over Malaysia's Winson Choh, while Wazir Singh narrowly missed a quarterfinal berth after a heartbreaking 19-21, 22-20, 22-24 defeat to Indonesia's seventh seed Revan Adrilleo Saputra in the

U-15 boys' category. With multiple Indian players progressing, the contingent remains in strong contention for medals as the tournament heads into its decisive stages in Chengdu.

Rybakina Books WTA Finals Spot With Tokyo Semifinal Win



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina sealed the final qualifying spot for next month's WTA Finals after defeating Canada's Victoria Mboko 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in the Pan Pacific Open quar-

terfinals on Friday. The 2022 Wimbledon champion's victory also secured her place among the elite eight players set to compete in Saudi Arabia from November 1-8.

Rybakina, who recently lifted the Ningbo Open title in China, continued her strong form in Tokyo, reaching the semifinals for the first time. "It's great to qualify and play some more

matches, especially against top players," said the world number seven. "I knew it was going to be a long road, but everything worked out pretty well." The 26-year-old made a

blistering start, taking the first three games against the 19-year-old Mboko before comfortably sealing the opening set. The second set saw tighter exchanges, with Mboko pushing Rybakina to save a set point before the Kazakh held her nerve in the tiebreak.

Rybakina dominated with five aces and 23 winners, compared to Mboko's 17. "It was a very difficult match. I'm glad I managed to win in two sets," she said. "The tiebreak was tight, but I served well and stayed focused."

The second seed will next face Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic in the semifinals, while on the other side of the draw, Belinda Bencic meets Sofia Kenin, who survived four match points to oust third seed Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Rybakina joins Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Amanda Anisimova, Madison Keys, Jessica Pegula, and Jasmine Paolini at the WTA Finals. "I'll try to do well there," she said, "but for now, I just want to finish the season healthy."

Pakistan Withdraws from Junior Hockey World Cup in India

Pakistan has officially withdrawn from the 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 tournament will take place across Chennai and Madurai, featuring the world's top junior teams.

The FIH, in a statement to PTI, said it will announce Pakistan's replacement team soon. Details regarding the reasons behind Pakistan's withdrawal have not been disclosed, but the move comes amid ongoing geopolitical and logistical challenges that have occasionally impacted sporting events in the region.

Pakistan's withdrawal is a significant development, given the country's historic presence in hockey at both senior and junior levels. The nation has a strong track record in international hockey tournaments, and their absence will be felt in the competitive balance of the junior championship.

The Junior Hockey World Cup is a key event for



emerging talent, offering young players a platform to showcase their skills on the global stage. With Pakistan's exit, the FIH will work to ensure that the tournament maintains its full complement of teams, confirming a replacement to preserve the event's format and competitiveness.

India, as host nation, is expected to field a strong side and will now compete against a revised lineup of international teams. The tournament remains a crucial opportunity for scouts and hockey federations to identify the next genera-

tion of world-class players. The FIH emphasized that preparations for the event are continuing as planned, with strict adherence to safety and organizational protocols. Fans and stakeholders can expect further announcements regarding fixtures, groups, and the re-

placement team in the coming days.

The Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 promises intense competition, with young athletes from across the globe aiming to leave their mark on the sport, even as Pakistan steps back from participation.

Messi Brace Powers Inter Miami Past Nashville SC in MLS Playoffs



Argentine superstar Lionel Messi scored twice as Inter Miami defeated Nashville SC 3-1 in the opening game of their MLS Cup round one playoff series on Friday. The win gives Miami a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three series, with game two set for November 1 in Nashville.

Messi, who was presented with the Golden Boot before the match for finishing the regular season with 29 goals in 28 games, wasted no time showcasing his scoring prowess. In the 19th minute, he opened the scoring with a diving header off a precise pass from Luis Suarez, following a build-up involving Sergio Busquets and Rodrigo De Paul.

Miami doubled their lead in the 62nd minute when Tadeo Allende headed in a cross from Ian Fray, putting the hosts 2-0 ahead. Despite Nashville striker Hany Mukhtar pulling one back late in stoppage time, Messi sealed the win in second-half injury time, calmly slotting home after Nashville keep-

er Joe Willis failed to control a Jordi Alba delivery.

The victory comes a day after Messi signed a three-year contract extension, keeping him in Florida until 2028. MLS commissioner Don Garber, who presented the Golden Boot, praised Messi's impact on the club and league, saying, "He has reset the trajectory for Major League Soccer... having three more years is just another gift."

De Paul, who assisted Messi's opener, lauded the team's intensity and focus. "We showed that we are growing as a team, and that's the most important thing," he said. Fellow teammate Javier Mascherano emphasized that Miami must maintain focus despite the win, with the team chasing their first MLS Cup title.

With Messi in top form and now committed for three more years, Inter Miami appears well-poised to make a deep playoff run and continue reshaping the MLS landscape.

Rohit, Kohli Shine as India Win 3rd ODI, Australia Take Series 2-1



India ended the 3rd ODI on a high note with a commanding 9-wicket victory over Australia in Sydney on Saturday, but the hosts had already sealed the series 2-1 with wins in the first two matches.

Chasing a target of 237, India cruised to victory in 38.3 overs thanks to stellar performances from Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Rohit smashed his 33rd ODI century, finishing unbeaten on 121, while Kohli supported him with a fluent 74 not out, ensuring a smooth chase with minimal fuss.

Australia, electing to bat first after winning the toss, looked in control at 183 for 3, with captain Mitchell Marsh providing steady contributions. However, India's bowlers, led by Harshit Rana, staged a remarkable comeback. Rana, trusted by head coach Gautam Gambhir, returned 4 for 39, dismantling the Australian middle order and restricting the total to 236.

The Indian bowling attack showed discipline and cohesion, striking at crucial mo-

ments to maintain pressure on the home side. Rana's performance, combined with contributions from the other bowlers, highlighted India's ability to fight back even when the game seemed in Australia's favor.

Rohit and Kohli's partnership in the chase was clinical. The duo steadily took India to the target without losing a wicket, demonstrating their experience and composure in pressure situations. Their innings also underscored the depth and reliability of India's batting lineup.

Despite India's victory in the final ODI, Australia had already secured the series, leaving the dead rubber as an opportunity for India to gain momentum and confidence. The performance, particularly from Rohit, Kohli, and Rana, provides a positive takeaway for the Indian side as they look ahead to future fixtures and series.

Scorecard Summary: Australia 236 all out; India 237/0 in 38.3 overs. Rohit Sharma 121*, Virat Kohli 74*, Harshit Rana 4/39.

‘Baahubali: The Epic’ Hyderabad Bookings Begin with Blockbuster Response



The anticipation surrounding SS Rajamouli and Prabhas’ Baahubali: The Epic has reached a fever pitch, as advance bookings in Hyderabad opened to a phenomenal response. Following an extraordinary start in the USA, where the film is projected to earn over \$1 million from premiere shows alone, local audiences are now showing equal enthusiasm.

According to trade analysts, ticket sales in Hyderabad began on a solid note, with select screens opening bookings earlier today. Within hours, the film shot up to the top of the hourly trending list on BookMyShow, clocking more than 5,000 tickets sold per hour. Exhibitors expect the momentum to accelerate sharply once additional theatres across the city join the booking phase.

Baahubali: The Epic—helmed by visionary director SS Rajamouli—marks one of the longest Indian cinematic experiences ever, with a runtime of 3 hours and 44 minutes. The film promises to deliver a grand visual spectacle, blending state-of-the-art VFX with Rajamouli’s trademark storytelling finesse.

The magnum opus features an ensemble cast led by Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty, Tamannaah Bhatia, Ramya Krishnan, Satyaraj, and Nassar, all reprising their iconic roles in what’s being described as a definitive retelling of the Baahubali saga.

Produced by Arka Media Works, the film is set for a pan-India release across major formats, including IMAX and 3D, further fuelling excitement among fans. Music maestro MM Keeravani has composed the soundtrack, with early previews hinting at a powerful and emotionally resonant score.

With advance bookings off to a roaring start both in India and overseas, Baahubali: The Epic is on track to become one of the year’s biggest global blockbusters, reaffirming Rajamouli’s legacy as India’s premier epic storyteller.

‘Mass Jathara’ Trailer to Drop on October 27: Makers Promise a Festive Treat



The makers of Mass Jathara, one of Tollywood’s most-awaited releases of the season, have officially announced the date for the film’s theatrical trailer launch. The much-hyped trailer, featuring Ravi Teja in his trademark energetic avatar, will be unveiled on October 27 (Monday), just days before the film’s grand worldwide release on October 31, 2025. Directed by Bhanu Bhogavarapu in his directorial debut, Mass Jathara marks his first collaboration with the “Mass Maharaja” Ravi Teja. The film promises to be a high-voltage entertainer packed with powerful dialogues, mass action, and Ravi Teja’s signature charisma. Sreeleela plays the female lead, bringing a dose of freshness and glamour to the project.

The trailer launch announcement came with a striking new poster showcasing Ravi Teja in a fierce and dynamic look, further amplifying the buzz among fans. Expectations are sky-high as this mass entertainer is set to clash at the box office with the monumental Baahubali: The Epic, making the trailer’s impact even more crucial. Produced jointly by Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas banners, Mass Jathara boasts strong technical values. Music is composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, known for delivering energetic soundtracks that complement Ravi Teja’s style. Veteran actor Rajendra Prasad also plays a significant role, adding depth to the ensemble. With the film’s songs and promotional interviews already creating a viral buzz, the upcoming trailer is expected to offer audiences a glimpse into the film’s story and tone. Trade circles predict Mass Jathara could be one of the biggest commercial entertainers of the year—provided the trailer lands the right punch on Monday.

The Girlfriend Trailer: Rashmika stirs up a storm

The trailer of The Girl Friend, starring Rashmika Mandanna and Dheekshith Shetty, was unveiled on Friday, promising a layered romantic drama filled with complex emotions and moral dilemmas. Directed by Rahul Ravindran, the film explores the darker and more realistic side of modern relationships.

Rashmika, fresh from her success in the Hindi film Thamma, returns to Telugu cinema in a role unlike any of her previous performances. Dheekshith Shetty, known for Dia and Dasara, plays Vikram, a man whose love story with Bhoomi (Rashmika) takes a turbulent turn when she asks for a break in their relationship. What follows is an emotional roller-coaster as Vikram moves on and finds love again with another woman, played by Anu Emmanuel.



The trailer hints at an intense narrative filled with heartbreak, betrayal, and the blurred lines between love and morality. A standout moment comes from veteran actor Rao Ramesh, who delivers a powerful line branding his on-screen daughter as “characterless,” signaling the film’s bold take on societal judgment and female agency. Visually rich and

emotionally charged, The Girl Friend promises to delve into the grey shades of love and identity, moving away from formulaic romance to present a more introspective story. Rashmika’s transformation into a conflicted and vulnerable woman, coupled with Dheekshith’s subtle performance, adds depth to the drama.

Produced by Vidya Koppineedi and Dheeraj Mogilineni under Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment, and presented by Allu Aravind, the film features music by Hesham Abdul Wahab. The Girl Friend is set for a pan-India release on November 7, 2025, in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Sreeleela Dazzles in London With Stunning Grazia Shoot

Actress Sreeleela is on a roll, and there seems to be no slowing her down. Fresh off her high-profile Chings advertisement with Ranveer Singh and Bobby Deol, the young star has now turned heads with her latest Grazia magazine cover shoot, captured in the heart of London.

The vibrant city backdrop perfectly complements Sreeleela’s stylish wardrobe and commanding presence. Dressed in maroon leather pants and a dotted jacket, she exudes power and confidence, her piercing stare adding an unmistakable touch of attitude. In another look, she switches gears effortlessly, donning a black fuzzy jacket and a short skirt, blending boldness with playful charm. Each frame captures a different facet of her personality—cool, chic, and entirely self-assured.

What stands out most in the London shoot is Sreeleela’s natural ease in front of the camera.



She’s clearly having fun, striking a perfect balance between glamour and authenticity. The styling, energy, and backdrop come together to highlight her growing confidence as one of Telugu cinema’s most bankable young stars.

Beyond fashion, Sreeleela’s film career is heating up too. Her next big release, Mass Jathara, pairs her with Ravi Teja under the direction of Bhanu Bhogavarapu. Produced by Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the movie is slated for a grand theatrical release on November 31, 2025.

With her effortless charm, back-to-back brand features, and a major release on the horizon, Sreeleela seems to be striking the perfect balance between cinema and style. From the ramp to reel, she’s proving once again that she’s one of the brightest stars to watch out for in the South Indian film industry.

Rajinikanth in Talks with Sundar C for New Project



Kollywood superstar Rajinikanth is reportedly in talks with popular director Sundar C for his upcoming Tamil film, according to industry sources. This project is set to be produced by actor-politician Udhayanidhi Stalin under his Red Giant Movies banner.

Rajinikanth, who is currently busy with the highly anticipated Jailer 2, directed by Nelson, is also gearing up for a multi-starrer project alongside Kamal Haasan. That film, produced by Kamal Haasan, has already created significant buzz due to the combination of two of Tamil cinema’s biggest legends.

While Jailer 2 and the Kamal Haasan multi-starrer are in advanced stages of planning, the proposed Sundar C collaboration appears to be Rajinikanth’s next venture. Sundar C is widely known for his Aranmanai horror-comedy franchise and for helming blockbuster films including Rajinikanth’s earlier hit, Arunachalam. His experience with both commercial entertainers and Rajinikanth’s style makes him a strong contender for this new project.

Industry insiders suggest that the collaboration between Rajinikanth and Sundar C could mark a return to the mass commercial entertainer template, combining action, comedy, and larger-than-life sequences that fans associate with the superstar. Udhayanidhi Stalin’s Red Giant Movies, known for backing high-profile Tamil projects, is expected to provide a strong production platform for the film.

No official announcements have been made yet, but talks are reportedly progressing well, with final decisions expected in the coming weeks. Fans are eagerly waiting to see what the Rajinikanth-Sundar C combination will bring to the silver screen, especially after the massive success of Jailer.

As Tamil cinema continues to witness big-budget releases and multi-starrer collaborations, this new project could be another major highlight in Rajinikanth’s illustrious career.

Updates on the film, including the title, cast, and release date, are expected soon. Fans are advised to stay tuned for official confirmations.