

AP CM Naidu
Directs
Officials to
Stay Alert as
Cyclone
'Montha'
Nears Andhra
Coast.

TPN, Vijayawa-
da, Oct 26:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the state administration to remain on high alert as Cyclone 'Montha' approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy to extremely heavy rainfall accompanied by gale-force winds along coastal districts between October 27 and 29.

The Chief Minister conducted a high-level teleconference with senior officials and district collectors on Sunday, instructing them to ensure that there is no loss of life or major damage to property during the cyclone's landfall. According to the IMD's forecast, Cyclone Montha currently brewing over the south west Bay of Bengal—is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by the early hours of October 28. The system is likely to move north-westward and cross the coast between Machilipatnam and Kakina, bringing intense rainfall, rough seas, and wind speeds exceeding 100 kmph.

Andhra Pradesh
Deploys Senior IAS
Officers for Relief
Coordination
TPN / Vijayawada,
Oct. 26:

With the deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensifying into a potential severe cyclonic storm "MONTHA," the Government of Andhra Pradesh has switched into high alert mode, launching an extensive preparedness and coordination mechanism across all vulnerable coastal districts. The system, currently positioned around 990 km southeast of Kakinada, is expected to cross the state's coast between Machilipatnam and Kakinada on the evening or night of October 28, bringing with it strong winds, torrential rainfall, and possible storm surges. In a decisive move to ensure swift ground-level action, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has appointed senior IAS officers as Special Officers to lead cyclone relief operations in all coastal and adjoining districts.

The officers have been instructed to proceed immediately to their respective areas, establish Cyclone Control Rooms, and coordinate seamlessly with District Collectors to supervise rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts. According to official orders, R.P. Sisodia, a senior IAS officer, will act as the Zonal In-charge Officer for the southern coastal belt overseeing preparedness and response efforts from West Goda-



vari to Chittoor districts. Similarly, Ajay Jain will serve as the Zonal In-charge Officer for the Visakhapatnam zone, covering districts from Srikakulam to Konaseema, which are expected to witness the most intense impact when the cyclone makes landfall. To reinforce

district-level command and enhance response efficiency, the government has designated a robust administrative team of senior IAS officers: KV N Chakradhara Babu (Srikakulam), Pattanshetti Ravi Subash (Vizianagaram), Narayana Bharath Gupta (Parvathipuram



Manyam), Vadarevu Vinay Chand (Alluri Sitarama Raju), K. Kanna Babu (East Godavari), VR. Krishna Teja (Kakinada), Vijaya Rama Raju (Konaseema), V. Prasanna Venkatesh (West Godavari), Kantilal Dande (Eluru), Amrapali Kata (Krishna), Shashi Bhushan Kumar

Cyclone Montha Prompts School Closures

In the wake of Cyclone Montha, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken precautionary measures to ensure public safety, announcing the temporary closure of educational institutions in multiple districts expected to be hit hardest by the storm.



Cyclone Montha on the Horizon

Govt on High Alert as Deep Depression Likely to Turn Cyclonic in 24 Hours

TPN/VIJAYAWADA, Oct 26:

With the deep depression brewing over the Bay of Bengal expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm within the next 24 hours, the Andhra Pradesh government has gone on high alert. As the system moves closer to the state's coast, authorities have stepped up all precautionary and preparedness measures to minimize potential damage, particularly in the coastal districts that are likely to face the brunt of the storm. State Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha personally monitored the evolving situation on Sunday from the State Disaster Management Authority

(SDMA) control room at Tadepalli.

Reviewing the updates with officials, she directed all government departments to remain on high alert and ensure that field-level preparedness is fully operational. Minister Anitha stated that the cyclone could pose a serious threat to the state, especially to the coastal districts, which may witness heavy to extremely heavy rainfall and strong gusty winds on October 27 and 28. She informed that, as per the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the state administration has activated a multi-departmental coordination mechanism.

All ministers, principal secretaries, IAS officers, district collec-

tors, and field personnel have been instructed to focus on cyclone preparedness and emergency response. To minimize loss of life and property, NDRF and SDRF teams have already been positioned in vulnerable districts, while additional rescue teams are kept on standby for emergency mobilization. The Minister warned officials that any negligence in disaster management efforts would be viewed seriously and invite strict disciplinary action. Special instructions were issued to district collectors to suspend all boating activities in rivers and coastal areas and to restrict tourist access to beaches immediately.

Control room contact numbers at the district and mandal

levels are being widely publicized to ensure public access to information and support. Citizens have been urged not to panic, but to remain indoors unless absolutely necessary. Residents living in low-lying or unsafe houses have been advised to move to nearby relief and rehabilitation centers, with arrangements made to ensure safety and comfort. For assistance, the public can contact the State Control Room through helpline numbers 112, 1070, and 1800-425-0101.

The Minister also directed Irrigation Department officials to clear canal and stream obstructions to prevent flooding, while schools and government buildings would serve as temporary

shelters if the situation demands. Relief camps must be stocked with essential amenities, and route maps for evacuation and relief operations are being rechecked for efficiency. In urban areas, municipalities have been instructed to dismantle weak and dangerous hoardings or structures that could collapse due to strong winds.

Departments such as Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Irrigation, Civil Supplies, Power, and Medical are working in close coordination to ensure rapid response. Drawing lessons from earlier cyclones like Hudhud, Minister Anitha noted that the government is taking a comprehensive and proactive approach this time.

She further assured that special care would be taken to protect fishermen's boats and nets, and reiterated that spreading false information about the cyclone on social media platforms would attract legal action. With all precautionary measures in motion, the Andhra Pradesh government is fully geared up to face the potential cyclone head-on, ensuring maximum public safety and preparedness.



GST Reforms Bring Cheer Across
Sections, Says PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat:

In the 127th episode of his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the recent changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate slabs have brought happiness to all sections of society. Speaking on Sunday, the Prime Minister noted that these reforms, introduced ahead of the festive season of Dussehra and Diwali, have encouraged domestic consumption and boosted trade in Indian-made products.

Highlighting the government's effort to create a more people-friendly and transparent taxation system, Modi mentioned that the revised GST slabs were carefully structured to ease the burden on consumers while stimulating markets. He said the shift has significantly benefited both small traders and middle-class families, who can now purchase more locally produced goods at fairer prices. "During the festive months, when fami-



lies come together and celebrate, these changes in GST have infused positivity and optimism in the markets," Modi emphasized.

The Prime Minister added that the surge in demand for Indian products signifies growing public trust in domestic industries and the government's economic measures. He urged citizens to continue supporting "Made in India" products, reinforcing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). He noted that the government's tax policy reforms were not only aimed at boosting eco-

nomical growth but also at ensuring equitable opportunities for producers and customers alike.

Touching on another topic, Modi shared an inspiring initiative from Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur district the "Garbage Café." He praised the Ambikapur Municipal Corporation for operating this unique café, where citizens can exchange plastic waste for meals. Those who bring one kilogram of plastic waste are served lunch or dinner, while a half kilogram fetches breakfast. Modi lauded the project for simultaneously addressing en-

vironmental concerns and supporting urban cleanliness goals.

"This café reflects how innovation and civic responsibility can work together to protect the environment while meeting people's needs," he said. In his address, the Prime Minister also referred to a nationwide campaign promoting reduced oil consumption. He stated that the government had received a positive response to a citizen's suggestion encouraging Indians to cut down on cooking oil usage by at least 10 percent.

Modi said that this not only supports

healthier lifestyles but also reduces dependency on imports, further strengthening national self-reliance. Toward the end of the broadcast, Modi spoke about the significance of the Chhath Puja festival being celebrated across several states. He highlighted how such traditional and spiritual festivals unite communities and evoke collective responsibility toward nature and social harmony.

He also briefly mentioned efforts to tackle Maoist extremism in some regions, reaffirming the government's commitment to development, peace, and inclusion in all parts of the country. Concluding his 127th Mann Ki Baat episode, Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that the spirit of festivals, economic growth, and social progress would continue to drive India forward. He thanked the citizens for their active participation in the nation's journey, emphasizing that collective effort remains the true foundation of India's success.

Andhra Pradesh to
Create Six New Districts

Cabinet Sub-
Committee to Finalise
Proposals
TPN/VIJAYAWADA,
Oct 26:

The Andhra Pradesh government is gearing up for another major administrative overhaul, with plans underway to create six new districts and expand the state's total district count from 26 to 32. The move aims to strengthen local governance and bring administration closer to the people through improved efficiency and accessibility. According to official sources, a Cabinet Sub-Committee is in the final stages of deliberation on the proposals for the reorganisation of districts, mandal boundaries, and the realignment of district headquarters.

The detailed proposals are expected to be presented before Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during a crucial meeting on October 28. Following the discussion, the final blueprint will be placed before the Cabinet on November 7 for approval. Under the proposed plan, six new

districts Palasa, Amaravati, Markapuram, Gudur, Madanapalle, and Rajampet are likely to be carved out from the existing districts. However, officials have indicated that minor boundary adjustments may still be made before the final notification is issued.

Revenue divisions and administrative jurisdictions will be realigned to ensure balanced development and ease of governance. One of the most significant developments in the upcoming reorganisation is the proposed formation of Amaravati district. As the state's capital region, Amaravati is expected to assume greater administrative importance and emerge as the nucleus for government operations.

The creation of a dedicated district for the capital is seen as a key step in strengthening the administrative structure around the capital area. In addition, district authorities from Nellore and Bapatla have been directed to prepare plans for merging Kandukur and Addanki Assembly constituencies back into Prakasam district, addressing long-standing demands from local civic



bodies and representatives.

Ongole is set to continue as the district headquarters of Prakasam. The government aims to complete the reorganisation process by December 31, 2025. Revenue and planning officials have been instructed to submit comprehensive field reports to facilitate swift execution once Cabinet approval is obtained.

This exercise, sources say, reflects the government's broader vision of decentralised development, improved service delivery, and clear administrative boundaries. By expanding to 32 districts, Andhra Pradesh hopes to ensure more responsive governance and equitable access to government services across its regions.

CESL BOOSTS e-MOBILITY PLANS IN AP

National Drive for PM e-Drive Gathers Pace:

Vijayawada, October 26, 2025: India's push toward clean urban transport has reached a major milestone as the National Movement for the PM e-Drive and PM e-Bus Sewa gathers strong nationwide momentum. Spearheading the initiative, Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has received an overwhelming response to its mega tender for 10,900 electric buses, India's largest such procurement to date. The tender, issued under the Prime Minister's visionary PM e-Bus Sewa Programme, aims to revolutionize public transport in five major metropolitan cities, driving India closer to its Net Zero Emissions target by 2070. As part of this initiative, Delhi will receive 2,800 e-buses, while Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Surat will get 4,500, 2,000, 1,000, and 600 buses respectively. CESL has extended the bid submission deadline to November 6, 2025, providing bidders additional time for infrastructure planning and financial structuring. At the forefront of the country's electric mobility transition, CESL serves



as the nodal public-sector agency responsible for aggregating demand, standardizing procurement, and accelerating the deployment of electric buses nationwide. Through this initiative, India is set to cut urban pollution, modernize its public transport systems, and significantly reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Recognizing Andhra Pradesh as one of the most proactive states in India for implementing renewable energy and e-mobility programs, CESL has announced plans to prepare an exclusive action plan for time-bound implementation of electric mobility. In the first phase, CESL will focus on Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Nellore, and the pilgrimage hub of Tirupati. A CESL spokesperson also lauded the Andhra Pradesh government's strategic efforts to achieve 100 percent elec-

trification of the AP-SRTC fleet. Since 2022, CESL has established itself as India's most experienced public-sector body in electric bus contracting, successfully awarding 17,838 buses under various programs. These include 3,472 buses under FAME-II, 6,465 under the National Electric Bus Programme (NEBP), 6,743 under PM e-Bus Sewa, and 1,158 under city-specific projects in Delhi and Bengaluru. This cumulative portfolio ranks among the largest public-sector EV procurements globally. Under the PM E-DRIVE initiative launched in June 2025, CESL has adopted a demand aggregation model that standardizes specifications and significantly reduces costs. In earlier tenders, this approach brought down operating rates below those of diesel and CNG buses, a remarkable feat given the higher upfront costs of



EVs. The program also integrates comprehensive feedback from city authorities to ensure operational suitability and infrastructure readiness. To boost operator confidence and ensure financial reliability, the Government of India launched a Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) in October 2024, with a fund outlay of 3,435 crore. CESL acts as the implementing agency for this scheme, ensuring secure fund flow and timely payments to service providers. Additionally,

4,391 crore has been earmarked for deploying 14,028 e-buses across nine major cities under PM E-DRIVE. As the CESL-led initiatives advance, India's public transport sector is witnessing a transformative shift toward cleaner, smarter, and more sustainable mobility. With policy strength, financial assurance, and collaborative engagement with states, CESL's leadership is shaping a greener and more self-reliant urban future for the nation.

NTR Collector Orders Full Readiness as Cyclone 'Montha' Nears

TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 26: With the Indian Meteorological Department sounding alerts over the impending Cyclone Montha, NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has directed all departments to remain on high alert and ensure zero loss of life and property through coordinated disaster management efforts across the district. During a high-level teleconference held on Sunday with RDOs and officials from the departments of Revenue, Electricity, Irrigation, Civil Supplies, Roads & Buildings, Panchayat Raj, and Municipal Administration, Dr. Lakshmisha reviewed the district's cyclone preparedness and instructed all units to implement contingency plans at the mandal and village levels without delay.



to citizens to avoid travel during heavy rains and strong winds and urged officials to create awareness across communities on precautionary measures. Special attention is being paid to farmers, pregnant women, and patients requiring medical care. The Collector directed medical and field teams to remain available round-the-clock to ensure timely assistance and relocation to nearby hospitals if necessary. Officials were asked to keep communication lines open with local farmers and provide emergency support promptly. Dr. Lakshmisha also ordered the removal of dangerous hoardings, inspection of dilapidated structures, and immediate relocation of occupants to rehabilitation camps equipped with sufficient amenities. Fishermen have been strictly warned not to venture

into rivers or the sea until the situation stabilizes. He emphasized that every department must sustain constant vigilance, prompt response, and seamless coordination through the control room. "Our goal is to safeguard every life and ensure that essential services continue uninterrupted," the Collector reiterated. The district administration has activated Cyclone Control Helplines to assist the public during emergencies. Citizens can reach out for any help at the following numbers: Collectorate Control Room: 91549 70454 Vijayawada RDO: 0866-2574454 Nandigama RDO: 78930 53534 Tiruvuru RDO: 83098 36215 / 08673-251235. Authorities assured that proactive coordination and real-time monitoring would remain the guiding principles in facing Cyclone Montha.

AP HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO FOLLOW 3 - TIER PLAN TO CURB DISEASE.

AP Health Department Adopts Three - Tier Plan to Prevent Disease Outbreaks During Cyclone 'Montha'

TPN / Vijayawada As Cyclone 'Montha' approaches the eastern coastline, the Andhra Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Department has launched an exhaustive three-tier strategy aimed at preparedness, response, and post-disaster disease management. The initiative, directed by Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, focuses on safeguarding public health during and after the cyclone's landfall. Following the minister's approval, the department issued a comprehensive set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will guide the response from sub-centers to district-level hospitals. These protocols, designed in coordination with the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), define the

measures to be taken before, during, and after the cyclone's impact. Under the preparedness phase, Primary Health Centers (PHCs) have been instructed to stock emergency medical supplies — including essential antibiotics, 30 vials of anti-snake venom, 100 doses of anti-rabies vaccine, and at least 500 packets of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and intravenous fluids. Hospitals at every level are required to maintain adequate stocks according to their service capacity to handle any surge in patient inflow. The SOP also mandates the immediate setup of medical camps in cyclone shelters and affected localities to provide first aid and preventive care. Ensuring access to clean drinking water, maintaining sanitation

facilities, and curbing the spread of infectious diseases like diarrhea, cholera, and dengue are central to the plan. The Health Commissioner will serve as the state nodal officer, while the State Surveillance Officer will head a 24-hour epidemic cell coordinating closely with disaster management teams to track and respond to health emergencies in real time. Each district emergency operations center will work in tandem with a District Epidemic Control Room to link weather alerts with health response units. The guidelines emphasize round-the-clock availability of doctors, paramedical staff, and ambulance teams. Lists of vulnerable individuals — including pregnant women, senior citizens, and chronically ill patients — are being pre-

pared to ensure early evacuation and medical attention. Women expected to deliver within 15 days of the cyclone's forecast must be shifted to nearby hospitals at least two days prior to landfall. Further, every 50,000 population zone will have one Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) officer on active duty. Dedicated WhatsApp groups are being created for coordination among hospital superintendents, doctors, paramedics, and ambulance personnel to enable swift communication. Cyclone shelters will be staffed with one doctor, a senior nurse, and two paramedics each. The state's emergency ambulances under services 108, 104, and 102 will remain fully functional, fueled, and ready for deployment. In low-lying and flood-

prone areas, boat clinics will be kept ready, and the distribution of chlorine tablets and bleaching powder will help combat water contamination. Hospitals have been instructed to secure alternate power sources with generator backups capable of sustaining operations for at least three days. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) will be mobilized immediately in areas showing signs of disease outbreaks or water-borne infections. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav emphasized that protecting public health during Cyclone 'Montha' requires quick, coordinated, and proactive action. "Every level of the health system must function with precision to prevent secondary health crises and ensure the safety of our people," he directed.

Collector Reviews Manginapudi Beach Preparedness as Cyclone 'Montha' Nears

TPN, MACHILIPATNAM: Oct 26: With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a warning rainfall heavy and strong winds under the influence of an emerging cyclone over the Bay of Bengal, Krishna District Collector DK Balaji conducted an inspection of Manginapudi Beach on Sunday to assess the ground situation and preparedness of local authorities. According to IMD forecasts, a low-pressure system over the southeast Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into Cyclone 'Montha', likely bringing heavy to very heavy rainfall in coastal Andhra Pradesh districts, especially between October 27 and 29. In light of the warning, Collector Balaji reached the Manginapudi coast to personally examine sea conditions and precautionary arrangements being made by various departments. During the visit, Balaji carefully reviewed the wave intensity, wind patterns, and safety measures in place to protect fisher-



men, tourists, and coastal residents. He instructed the Fisheries Department to ensure that no fishing boats venture into the sea until the weather stabilizes. Special emphasis was placed on informing all fishing communities through continuous communication and local announcements. Interacting with police personnel stationed at the beach, the Collector directed them to restrict public access near the shoreline and maintain strict surveillance along the beach stretch. He emphasized that visitors must not be allowed to gather in vulnerable zones and told officers to remain fully alert round the clock. Balaji also discussed coordination plans with Machilipatnam Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) K. Swathi, Dis-

trict Fisheries Officer Nagaraja, and Revenue Department officials, who accompanied him during the inspection. He instructed all concerned departments to stay in close touch with the District Emergency Control Room for real-time updates. Highlighting the need for continuous monitoring of the coastal belt, Balaji stated that the administration's primary priority is the safety of residents in low-lying and cyclone-prone areas. He directed staff to keep evacuation shelters ready and ensure that relief materials are stored in advance to meet any emergent situation. The Collector further appealed to the public to cooperate with the administration, avoid unnecessary travel to beaches, and heed official advisories until the weather situation improves. The district administration has activated all emergency response teams and placed disaster management units on standby to respond immediately if Cyclone 'Montha' hits the coast.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Online CLU Permission System to Boost Ease of Doing Business

Amaravati, October 26, 2025: The Government of Andhra Pradesh has approved and issued a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions through the upgraded Andhra Pradesh Development Permission Management System (APDPMS 2.0) portal. The initiative marks a major step toward enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in urban governance while reinforcing the State's leadership in Ease and Speed of Doing Business. Under the new digital system, all CLU applications across Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Urban Development Authorities (UDAs) will be handled completely online, eliminating manual

interventions. The move is part of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Department's continued reforms to ensure a citizen-friendly, time-bound process for land use conversions. Streamlined, Time-Bound Process Change of Land Use (CLU) refers to converting land from one designated category to another — for instance, from agricultural to residential, or residential to commercial or industrial use. The new SOP ensures that such changes comply with approved Master Plans, zoning regulations, and infrastructure standards to maintain the integrity of planned urban growth. According to the approved framework, the entire process is gov-



erned by a 45-day Service Level Agreement (SLA). Each stage from application scrutiny, departmental reviews, and ministerial approval to public notifications and

final orders is digitally time-stamped and tracked to ensure strict adherence to deadlines. Delays are auto-escalated, holding officers accountable for

performance. Citizens Can Apply Online Citizens, developers, and institutions can now apply for CLU permissions at https://apdpms.

ap.gov.in. The portal allows users to upload documents, pay fees online, and track applications in real-time, with SMS and email alerts at every stage. An application fee of 10,000 and conversion charges based on zoning rates can be paid digitally, ensuring a transparent financial trail. Digital Integration and Transparency The system integrates with GIS-based Master Plans, PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, and other government modules like TDR, LRS, BPS, and RERA to enable spatial validation and coordinated planning. Approved CLUs are automatically updated on the APDPMS portal and reflected in the GIS Master Plan for public view. Speaking on the occasion, Sri S. Suresh Ku-

mar, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, MA&UD Department, said the new SOP establishes a predictable, standardized, and paperless mechanism for land use permissions. "Applicants can now apply, pay, and track their requests online without any physical interface. This is a significant leap toward transparent and efficient service delivery," he said. He added that the reform complements key innovations such as the Common Zoning Regulations-2025 and Self-Certified Building Permissions, both driven by the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu to achieve "Governance at the Speed of Business. A New Era of Urban Governance

Through this digital transformation, ULBs and UDAs can monitor all CLU cases using real-time dashboards, while the MA&UD Department and DT&CP can supervise state-level implementation through an integrated monitoring system. The move ensures faceless, paperless, and time-bound urban service delivery, aligning with the State's core goal of "Governance at the Fingertips." With this milestone, Andhra Pradesh has once again reaffirmed its commitment to smart, digital, and transparent urban governance setting a national benchmark in administrative innovation and citizen-centric service delivery.



Fake Liquor Behind Kurnool Bus Tragedy - YSRCP

Blames Government and Seeks 1 Crore Aid to Victims' Families

TPN / Kurnool, Oct 26: YSR Congress Party Kurnool District President and former MLA SV Mohan Reddy has accused the Andhra Pradesh coalition government of being directly responsible for the recent Kurnool bus tragedy, alleging that the entire incident stemmed from the unchecked sale of fake liquor across the state. He described the tragedy as a "government-made massacre," asserting that the administration's greed and negligence had cost 20 innocent lives.

Mohan Reddy held the ruling Telugu Desam

Party (TDP) and its leadership accountable, demanding that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu issue a public apology to the victims' families, announce 1 crore compensation for each victim, and register a criminal case against Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra for his alleged role in enabling the illegal liquor network. The YSRCP leader cited preliminary police investigation findings revealing that the biker who caused the collision with the Kurnool-Tirupati bus had consumed spurious liquor purchased from an illicit belt shop at Lakshmipuram. His intoxicated state led to the devastating fire that engulfed the bus, killing 20 passengers on the spot.

"If liquor hadn't been sold illegally that night, those 20 lives would've been saved. These aren't accidents they're mur-



ders committed by the government's greed," Mohan Reddy said, visibly emotional. He criti-

cized what he termed the rampant liquor culture prevailing under the current administration.

Taking a sharp dig at the TDP government, he remarked, "Andhra Pradesh has turned into

'Madhyandra Pradesh,' where liquor flows freely day and night. Belt shops are decorated like festi-

vals, women fear walking past them, and public welfare is being sacrificed for revenue from alcohol.

"Mohan Reddy further alleged that TDP leaders were themselves financing and protecting fake liquor operations across the state. "Fake liquor manufacturing units have been exposed in Mulakalacheruvu, Ibrahimpatnam, Repalle, Anakapalli, Nellore, and Eluru," he said. "Despite the seizure of thousands of fake liquor bottles, not a single belt shop has been sealed, nor have any culprits been punished. The government is not fighting the menace it is the supplier." He claimed that nearly one in every four liquor bottles sold in Andhra Pradesh is counterfeit and estimated that the ruling party has amassed over 5,000 crore through this illegal trade.

"If the government

says it cannot compensate the victims, then it should take the 1 crore aid per family from that illegal loot," he added. Mohan Reddy accused the Chief Minister of repeatedly failing to uphold safety and accountability. "From the Godavari Pushkar stampe to the Kandukur public meeting deaths, Chandrababu's negligence has taken hundreds of lives. Now, the same negligence has claimed 20 more lives because of his liquor policy," he said.

The YSRCP district chief concluded by demanding an impartial judicial inquiry into the tragedy and immediate closure of all belt shops in Kurnool district. He warned that if the government failed to act, the opposition would take the issue to the streets in a state-wide agitation.

Paritala Sriram Strongly Reacts to Papampeta Land Dispute Allegations



TPN, Anantapur, October 26:

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Dhar-mavaram constituency in-charge Paritala Sriram has firmly responded to the controversy surrounding the Papampeta land dispute, stating that no outsider can interfere in the issue or harm any household in the region. "If even a single hand is laid on one house, it will be as if it has been laid on our own homes," Sriram asserted, emphasizing the unity and resolve of the local people.

Addressing the media in Anantapur on Saturday, Sriram countered the claims made by former Rapthadu MLA and YSRCP leader Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy, whom he accused of "deliberately spreading panic" by alleging that 10,000 houses were to be demolished in Papampeta. Sriram described Prakash Reddy as a "politically unem-ployed leader desperate for attention" who was trying to stir controversy for political mileage.

Dispute Limited to 20 Acres, Not 10,000 Houses

Clarifying the situation, Sriram explained that the actual dispute involves only about 20 acres of private land, not thousands of resi-

dential houses as being alleged. "Until now, no one has officially approached us on this matter. We refrained from commenting until we understood the full details," he said. He added that both parties involved in the dispute had presented their arguments before the court and that the TDP fully respects judicial proceedings.

The TDP leader also clarified that attempts to drag Paritala Siddhartha's name into the issue were politically motivated. "They are trying to malign Siddhartha's name unnecessarily. We will always stand on the side of justice and ensure that no one is subjected to injustice," Sriram declared, urging affected individuals to come forward and present facts transparently.

Allegations Against YSRCP Leaders

Sriram alleged that Subhash Reddy and Sriramulu, who had executed a GPA (General Power of Attorney) in the disputed area, are both associated with the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). According to him, the ruling party's local leaders were attempting to shift blame onto TDP members to divert public attention from their own role in the matter. Drawing parallels from a previous in-

cident, Sriram cited the Vidyaranyanagar land dispute, where similar confusion had arisen.

"In that case, we ensured that the victims received 4.20 acres of land worth 2 crore, securing justice for them," he said. However, Sriram claimed that Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy had then obstructed the settlement process and was now attempting to create chaos once again.

No Link to Minister Lokesh

"Categorically rejecting claims that Minister Nara Lokesh was in any way connected to the Papampeta issue, Sriram termed such suggestions "utterly ridiculous and politically motivated." He said critics were dragging the minister's name only to gain cheap publicity and confuse the public. Sriram reaffirmed that the TDP remains committed to justice, transparency, and the protection of people's interests. "We will act responsibly and lawfully. No house will be harmed unjustly. Papampeta belongs to the people, and we will stand with them until peace and justice prevail," he concluded.

Andhra Pradesh Government Condemns False Propaganda Over Kurnool Bus Accident

TPN / Vijayawada, Oct 26:

In a strong statement, the Andhra Pradesh Government has denounced the false and misleading propaganda circulating online and in sections of the media regarding the recent tragic bus accident near Chinna Tekur in Kurnool district. The government clarified that several individuals and groups were deliberately spreading misinformation surrounding the incident, urging citizens not to believe unverified claims.

According to the official statement released by the AP Government Fact Check Department, certain media houses, including Sakshi newspaper, along with various social media handles associated with the YSRCP, have been accused of publishing and circulating fabricated claims linking the accident to illegal liquor sales and consumption. The state government described such reports as base-



less and motivated attempts to malign the administration and mislead the public.

The government emphasized that factual investigations revealed a completely different picture. Based on CCTV footage and verified records, the two-wheeler rider involved in the accident had purchased alcohol from a licensed retail liquor shop in Pedda Tekur village once at around 7 PM and again at 8:25 PM on the night before the mishap. The fatal accident occurred in the early hours of the following morning, well after the purchases had been made. Authorities therefore ruled out any connection between the

tragedy and alleged "belt shops" or illegal liquor outlets, calling those claims entirely false.

"Spreading misinformation that the accident occurred because the motorcyclist had consumed alcohol from unauthorized belt shops is a deliberate distortion of facts," the statement noted. "These actions constitute criminal behavior under law. The government will not tolerate attempts to create confusion or defame its regulatory mechanisms." The Fact Check department further clarified that there has been no recent rise in the number of belt shops in the state, as al-

leged in some media reports.

It reaffirmed that the government remains committed to strict enforcement against illegal liquor sales and has introduced several monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance. Officials reiterated that the spread of false information in sensitive cases such as accidents could not only distort public perception but also hamper ongoing investigations and affect victims' families. They warned that individuals or organizations responsible for spreading such deliberate misinformation through print, electronic, or social media would face legal conse-

quences as per provisions of the law.

The statement concluded with a cautionary appeal to the public and media outlets to verify facts before forwarding or publishing any unsubstantiated claims. "We strongly condemn the malicious propaganda regarding the Kurnool bus accident. Any individual or organization found guilty of spreading myths and falsehoods will be dealt with strictly," the government asserted.

The Andhra Pradesh Government urged responsible reporting and public awareness, reminding that accurate information builds trust, while rumors erode social harmony and respect for institutions. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, truth, and justice for those affected by the tragedy.

Lokesh Orders Police Action Against Fake Propaganda Slams 'Blue Batch' for Misleading Public

Amaravati, October 26: Minister for Information Technology and Panchayat Raj Nara Lokesh has directed the state police to take immediate action against individuals and groups spreading fake news and misleading propaganda through social media. He condemned the ongoing disinformation campaigns being circulated by what he called the "Blue Batch," accusing them of trying to incite political tension and mislead the public with fabricated stories.

Lokesh criticized this group for deliberately using old videos and false narratives to create confusion. He pointed out that a 2023 video from a Gurukula school in a neighboring state was recently published as though it depicted a current incident in Araku. This misleading post, he said, was extensively circulated on social media platforms associated with the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Lokesh asserted that such at-

tempts to manipulate public opinion through distortion were not only unethical but also dangerous to society. Responding to recent reports in certain sections of the media, including Sakshi newspaper, and to posts on YSRCP-linked online platforms, Lokesh strongly rebuked the campaign relating to the recent bus accident in the state.

He said he was deeply disappointed by the deliberate attempt to link the tragic incident with the alleged rise of belt shops in Andhra Pradesh. According to Lokesh, the false claims asserted that the two-wheeler rider responsible for the accident had consumed liquor purchased from an illegal belt shop, which led to the crash. However, Lokesh clarified that this was entirely untrue. Based on verified CCTV footage, the individual in question had bought alcohol twice, once at 7:00 PM and again at 8:25 PM from a licensed retail liq-



uor outlet in Peddateekuru village.

The accident, he said, occurred in the early hours of the following morning, well after his purchases. "The facts are clear," Lokesh stated. "There is no connection between the belt shop issue and this accident. Spreading fake information and twisting events for political gain is not only irresponsible but also a punishable offense." He emphasized that such acts of misinformation constituted a serious crime and warned that those

responsible would face strict legal consequences.

Lokesh directed the police to identify those circulating the fabricated posts and take immediate action in accordance with the law. He asserted that the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu would not tolerate defamatory or misleading campaigns that harm the public image or disrupt social harmony.

"The spread of fake news aimed at discrediting the government or

misleading citizens will be dealt with sternly," he warned. "We are committed to maintaining truth and transparency in public communication." Lokesh appealed to citizens to verify facts before believing or sharing content on social media and urged all political parties and media organizations to act responsibly. Calling false propaganda a threat to democracy and social order, he reiterated that Andhra Pradesh would uphold accountability and truth in governance and public discourse.

Cyclone Montha Prompts School Closures

TPN VIJAYAWADA OCT 26: In the wake of Cyclone Montha, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken precautionary measures to ensure public safety, announcing the temporary closure of educational institutions in multiple districts expected to be hit hardest by the storm. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu instructed district officials and education authorities to remain alert and take immediate steps to safeguard students and the general public. According to official sources, the cyclone is likely to bring heavy rainfall and strong winds across coastal Andhra Pradesh, prompting red alerts in several districts including Visakhapatnam, Anaparthi, East Godavari, and West Godavari. Following the Chief Minister's directives, district collectors have issued notifications declaring holidays for schools and colleges.

Visakhapatnam District Collector M.N. Harendira Prasad has ordered the closure of all government and private schools, junior and degree colleges, and anganwadi centers for two days October 27 and 28. The decision was made after a review meeting with education department officials to assess the safety risks posed by the approaching cyclone. The collector stated that restoration and relief teams were being kept ready to respond to any emergency situations in the district.

In the neighboring Anaparthi district, the administration has announced a three-day holiday for all educational institutions from October 27 to 29. District Collector Vijaya Krishnan stated that the decision was taken in view of expected heavy rains and high-velocity winds in the coming days. She warned that strict action would be taken against any private or government institutions that attempt to operate during the declared holidays, emphasizing that public safety remains the top priority.

Similarly, East Godavari District authorities have declared holidays for all schools and colleges on October 27 and 28. Control rooms have been set up at the Collectorate and Revenue offices to monitor developments and coordinate emergency responses. Power department officials have also been placed on alert to minimize disruptions and restore damaged supply lines quickly in the event of power outages. Meanwhile, concerns are growing among farmers in the delta region as paddy crops, nearly ready for harvest, face potential damage due to strong winds and water logging.

Many farmers expressed worry that the cyclone could result in heavy crop losses, particularly in the low-lying agricultural zones near the Godavari river. In West Godavari district, Collector Chadalawada Nagarani has issued a public advisory urging residents to avoid unnecessary travel between October 26 and 29. She instructed people living in coastal areas to stay indoors and refrain from visiting beaches or recreation sites, which have already been closed as a precautionary measure.

All power department staff have been directed to remain on standby to address any emergency disruptions and to ensure that power restoration efforts begin immediately if outages occur. The collector also ordered the temporary suspension of the "People's Grievance Redressal Forum" (PGRS) meetings scheduled for Monday, citing the need for officials to focus on cyclone preparedness and response activities.

She urged all district, mandal, and village-level officers to be available for coordination and to take proactive steps to prevent loss of life or property. As Cyclone Montha continues to approach the coast, the state machinery is on high alert, coordinating efforts across departments to ensure safety, minimize disruptions, and respond swiftly to any emergencies.

Officials from various departments, including Revenue, Police, Electricity, Medical, and Disaster Management, to evaluate the coordination mechanisms being implemented at the ground level.

Minister Manohar emphasized the importance of readiness and public awareness, urging both officials and residents to remain vigilant. "It is vital that every precaution is taken well in advance. District officers must ensure that emergency supplies, shelters, and communication systems are functioning efficiently," the statement quoted him as saying. He also appealed to citizens to stay indoors during heavy rains and avoid venturing into low-lying or coastal areas.

District Collector and other senior officials are expected to brief the minister on the latest updates and the steps being taken to mitigate potential damage, including evacuation planning, safe shelter arrangements, and restoration strategies for essential services in case of disruption.

Authorities have already activated control rooms and helplines across the district to monitor the situation round-the-clock. Rescue and relief teams have been placed on standby, while fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea until further notice. Minister Manohar's proactive visit aims to strengthen coordination among departments and ensure the Eluru district is fully prepared to face any eventualities arising from Cyclone 'Montha.'

Minister Nandendla Manohar to Visit Eluru to Review Preparations for 'Montha' Cyclone

TPN Eluru, October 26, 2025: In light of the cyclone warnings issued by the Meteorological Department, Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister and Eluru district in-charge, Nandendla Manohar, will visit Eluru on Monday, October 27, to review precautionary measures and preparedness in the district. The minister's office confirmed his visit through an official statement on Sunday evening. Minister Manohar's visit comes as the state braces for the potential impact of Cyclone 'Montha,' which is predicted to bring heavy rains, strong winds, and possible disruptions across coastal Andhra districts.

As per the latest updates from weather officials, the cyclone is expected to approach



the state's coast within the next 48 hours, prompting authorities to heighten alert levels and ensure all disaster response mechanisms are in place. During his Eluru visit, the minister will hold a comprehensive review meeting at the district collectorate control room, where he will assess the intensity of the cyclone, its projected path, and the district administration's preparedness efforts. He is scheduled to interact with senior of

officials from various departments, including Revenue, Police, Electricity, Medical, and Disaster Management, to evaluate the coordination mechanisms being implemented at the ground level.

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Health Awareness Drives by Aster Ramesh Hospitals Inspire Public Participation in Gudivada and Koduru

TPN / Vijayawada, Oct. 26: As part of the upcoming World Stroke Day on October 29, Aster Ramesh Hospitals took a major step toward promoting preventive healthcare and public awareness by organizing a series of health programs in the towns of Koduru and Gudivada, Krishna district. The initiatives, held under the hospital's community outreach and CSR activities, aimed at educating citizens about stroke prevention, heart health, and emergency response techniques.

At Koduru, Aster Ramesh Hospitals, in collaboration with the Panchajanya Geetha Parayana Sangham, hosted a Walkathon, CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and BLS (Basic Life Support) training sessions, followed by a free health camp. The event witnessed overwhelming participation with more than 450 members from the public taking



part. Participants availed themselves of free medical checkups for blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol key indicators linked to stroke and cardiovascular diseases. Local representatives, volunteers, and medical professionals enthusiastically supported the initiative, making it a community-driven health awareness program.

Similarly, at Gudivada, another Walkathon and CPR training session were conducted, accompanied by free health screenings and consultations. The Secretary of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Gudivada, Dr. Maganti Srinivas, flagged off the Walkathon and joined the participants. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that such awareness campaigns instill a sense of responsibility towards health and encourage people to seek medical attention at the right time.

"Prompt recognition and response to stroke symptoms can save lives. Regular health checks are essential for maintaining wellness," he noted. Nearly 200 citizens benefited from free consultations and diagnostic services offered during the event. The dual programs, focused on wellness education and community engagement, earned strong appreciation from the public.

They reflected Aster Ramesh Hospitals' continued commitment to promoting proactive healthcare and health literacy across the state. Dr. Pothineni Ramesh Babu, Managing Director of Aster Ramesh Hospitals, highlighted the importance of awareness and prevention in combating lifestyle diseases. "Awareness and early detection are critical to saving lives. Regular monitoring and control of blood pressure, sugar, and cholesterol can significantly reduce the risk of strokes and heart diseases. Our mission is to foster a healthier, more informed society," he stated, reaffirming the hospital's dedication to community well-being.

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Two Indigo Flights Make Emergency Landing at Gannavaram Airport Due to Bad Weather

TPN, Vijayawada, October 25, 2025: In a rare aviation incident, two Indigo passenger flights were forced to make emergency landings at the Gannavaram Airport near Vijayawada on Saturday evening after adverse weather conditions disrupted operations at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. According to official sources, one flight was traveling from Assam to Hyderabad, while the other was operating from Bengaluru to Hyderabad. Both aircraft encountered deteriorating weather conditions over Telangana, which included heavy rains, poor visibility, and strong crosswinds.



Following standard safety protocols, air traffic control diverted the flights to the nearest operational airport with suitable weather conditions—Gannavaram. Authorities at the Vijayawada International Airport immediately activated emergency procedures to accommodate the two incoming aircraft. Both landings were completed safely, and no injuries to passengers or crew were reported.

The prompt response by the pilots and ground staff averted what could have been a serious situation.

Indigo Airlines issued a statement confirming the diversions and assuring passengers that their safety remained the airline's highest priority. "Due to adverse weather conditions at Hyderabad, two Indigo flights one from Guwahati and another from Bengaluru—were diverted to Gannavaram. All passengers are safe, and necessary arrangements are being made for their onward journey," said an airline spokesperson.

The sudden diversion, however, caused considerable inconvenience to passengers, many of whom were left stranded at the Gannavaram terminal awaiting further instructions. Ground staff provided refreshments and updates, while technical teams monitored weather conditions in Hyderabad to decide when the flights could continue their journey. Indigo representatives informed passengers that travel would resume as soon as visibility and weather at Hyderabad improved.

Meanwhile, airport sources indicated that the Hyderabad airfield experienced temporary operational slowdowns due to the weather disturbance but resumed limited operations later in the evening. Meteorological officials attributed the disruption to a low-pressure zone over southern India that brought heavy rain and thunderclouds to parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The smooth handling of the incident by air traffic controllers and Indigo crew drew appreciation from passengers, who acknowledged the airline's swift response to ensure their safety. Normal flight operations from both Gannavaram and Hyderabad airports were expected to return to schedule once the weather stabilized.

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Gandhi Hill in Vijayawada Gets a Stunning Makeover

Reopens for Tourists

TPN Vijayawada, October 26: Gandhi Hill, the country's first memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, has undergone a remarkable transformation, regaining its old charm and prominence as one of Vijayawada's key tourist attractions. The hill, located beside the city's railway station, was once a popular viewpoint but gradually fell into neglect over the years. Thanks to recent redevelopment works and innovative design upgrades, Gandhi Hill is

once again buzzing with visitors.

Once known mainly for its steep climb of over 230 steps that discouraged many tourists, Gandhi Hill now offers an effortless ride to the top with a newly installed jumbo lift, built at a cost of around one crore rupees. The lift provides direct access from the mid-hill area to the Gandhi memorial through a newly constructed ramp. This ramp itself offers an enchanting panoramic view of Vijayawada city, stretching from the sacred Indrakeeladri Hill and the Krishna River to

the Yanamalakuduru temple. The redesigned Gandhi Hill not only enhances accessibility but also brings new experiences for visitors.

A mini-train, which once circled the hill decades ago, has been restored and now delights children and families as it tours the green slopes. Beautifully landscaped lawns and fresh beautification works have added vibrant greenery to the area, while the long-neglected planetarium has been modernized and reopened, blending science learning with leisure. Standing 500 feet above sea level, Gandhi

Hill holds great historical and cultural significance. It was originally known as Orr Hill, named after British engineer Captain Charles Orr who built the first barrage across the Krishna River in 1852.

The site later gained national importance as Mahatma Gandhi visited Vijayawada six times between 1919 and 1946. The All-India Congress Committee sessions held near the hill further cemented its historical identity. In fact, during the historic 1921 session, the tricolor flag designed by Pingali Venkayya was publicly displayed here for

the first time. Recognizing its legacy, the foundation stone for the Gandhi Memorial Stupa was laid by then-Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on November 9, 1964.

The 55-foot memorial was inaugurated on October 6, 1968, by President Zakir Hussain. The mini-train that loops around the hill was introduced in 1969, along with a library containing books on Gandhi's life and philosophy, and a planetarium to inspire education and curiosity among youth. Over time, however, much of this infrastructure was left in disuse until this revival

brought new light to the landmark.

Looking ahead, the Gandhi Hill Society is planning a much larger project titled the Gandhi Indi International Center, envisioned to make the site a global destination for peace and learning. The proposal includes a large museum, convention centre, and guest houses. The society's chairman, KPC Gandhi, recently met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to discuss the master plan, which aims to expand Gandhi Hill into a world-class tourist and cultural hub honoring the Mahatma's ideals. Vibrant once more,

Gandhi Hill now combines history, technology, and scenic beauty, reaffirming its place as a symbol of peace and progress in the heart of Vijayawada.

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PRIVATE HOSPITALS SHOULD ALSO BE SERVICE MINDED - MLA SUNITHA

TPN BUREAU, Anantapur, October 26:

Emphasizing the need for compassion in the medical profession, Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha called upon private hospitals to uphold a service-oriented mindset rather than viewing healthcare solely as a business. She made these remarks while inaugurating the newly constructed SIMS (Sai Institute of Medical Sciences) Hospital at Syndicate Nagar in Anantapur Rural Mandal. Participating in the inauguration ceremony along with fellow MLAs and prominent local dignitaries, MLA Sunitha expressed her delight at the establishment of such a modern facility in the Anantapur district.

She toured the advanced hospital infrastructure, inspected laboratories, operation theaters, and interacted



with medical staff. She congratulated the SIMS management team for setting up a state-of-the-art facility that promises to deliver high-quality healthcare services to the local population. Highlighting the growing demand for quality health services in the context of population growth, Sunitha stressed that the emergence of sophisticated private hospitals within regions like Anantapur would signif-

icantly reduce the traditional dependence on cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad for advanced medical treatments. She appealed to private healthcare providers to ensure that their services remain accessible and affordable to all sections of society. "Sometimes, humanity and compassion should guide medical professionals even more than business interests," she

said, expressing confidence that SIMS Hospital would uphold these values. Joining the inauguration, Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, Health and Family Welfare Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and MP Ambika Lakshminarayana lauded the establishment of this multi-specialty hospital, considering it a major milestone for the drought-prone Anantapur region.



The hospital, equipped with the latest surgical and diagnostic technologies, is expected to bring a significant change to local healthcare accessibility. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy stated that the arrival of such an advanced medical institution in Anantapur marks a new era in healthcare development for the district. She not-

ed that people in the region, especially underprivileged families, have long been forced to travel to major metropolitan areas for critical care. "Now, with SIMS Hospital offering comprehensive and modern medical services locally, that struggle can be greatly reduced," she remarked. Reddy commended the SIMS management for their initiative and urged

them to remain committed to providing quality treatment to the people at affordable costs. She pointed out that the hospital's advanced surgery units, diagnostic centers, and round-the-clock emergency services would be a boon to the residents of Anantapur and nearby mandals. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav underscored the importance of expanding such healthcare in-

frastructure in rural areas, assuring full cooperation from the State's Health Department for institutions dedicated to public welfare. The inauguration of SIMS Hospital stands as a symbol of progress for the Anantapur district, promising to strengthen the region's medical services while promoting a spirit of compassion and service in healthcare delivery.

TTD Ex-EO LV Subrahmanyam Seeks Probe into Tirumala Parakamani Theft Case

TPN, THIRUPATHI, OCT 26:

Hyderabad: Former TTD Executive Officer and retired IAS officer LV Subrahmanyam has raised serious concerns over irregularities and alleged negligence in the handling of funds at the Tirumala temple's Parakamani, the sacred area where devotees' offerings are counted. Speaking to the media alongside retired Patna High Court Judge Justice Narsimha Reddy and former CBI Joint Director Lakshminarayana, Subrahmanyam revealed shocking details about a theft and subsequent questionable proceedings within the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) system.

According to Subrahmanyam, temple servants entering the Parakamani are required to leave behind all personal items. "Even if any object is on their body, it must be deposited in the Hundi," he explained. However, a recent case has brought this sanctity into question. He cited the exam-



ple of Ravi Kumar, a clerk affiliated with the Pedda Jeeyangar Mutt office, who was assigned Parakamani duties on April 29, 2023. During the counting process, Ravi Kumar allegedly attempted to steal 900 US dollars but was caught red-handed by vigilance officer Satish Kumar. The accused later admitted to the theft. Interestingly, Subrahmanyam

said that just days after the incident, on May 19, Ravi Kumar proposed donating seven real estate properties to TTD as an act of repentance. The properties were said to be worth several crores, with their official registered value around Rs. 14 crores. However, the amount he had stolen was only about Rs. 70,000. He questioned how such a massive donation was

processed so hastily without proper public disclosure. "The TTD board should have published the property details in newspapers to invite any objections before accepting such a donation," Subrahmanyam noted. "But citing lack of time, approval was given swiftly, and exemptions were granted. The reasons for this unusual

speed were never clarified," he added. Subrahmanyam urged the Andhra Pradesh government to appoint a retired High Court judge to investigate the entire issue, highlighting that proper safeguards to protect Swamivaru's assets appear to have been neglected. TTD board member Bhanu Prakash Reddy also expressed concerns, stating that he

had raised the matter in the very first board meeting. "How can someone worth Rs. 100 crore be working as a clerk?" he questioned. Reddy said he had been serving Lord Venkateswara for over 20 years and believed that anyone committing misdeeds against the deity invariably faces divine justice. Reddy further revealed that he was under intense pressure over the issue but vowed to continue defending temple integrity. Chilkur Balaji temple priest Rangarajan echoed similar sentiments, calling the incident deeply disturbing. He demanded strict punishment for those responsible and emphasized the need to treat offerings made to the Lord with utmost purity and devotion. Rangarajan also suggested introducing a dedicated training program for all individuals assigned to Parakamani duties, ensuring that only properly prepared and trustworthy individuals are entrusted with handling devotees' sacred offerings.



Father Arrested for Sexually Assaulting 12-Year-Old Daughter

TPN, KONDAPI, OCT 26:

A deeply disturbing incident has shocked residents of Kondapi mandal in Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh, after police booked a man for allegedly raping his own 12-year-old daughter. The accused, reportedly intoxicated at the time of the crime, is currently absconding while police continue their search. According to Kondapi Sub-Inspector Prem Kumar, a case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

mother, recalling previous instances of suspicious behavior from her husband including inappropriate physical contact with their daughter immediately informed close relatives about the issue.

After the family confronted the child again to confirm the details, the full extent of the abuse became clear. Without delay, the mother approached the Kondapi police station and lodged a formal complaint. Acting swiftly, the police registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and POCSO Act. Officials said they have initiated a manhunt to locate and arrest the accused, who fled the village after learning that his crime had been exposed.

Sub-Inspector Prem Kumar condemned the brutality of the act and assured the public that the accused would be brought to justice at the earliest. He also urged the community to remain vigilant and immediately report any such cases of child abuse or exploitation. The incident has triggered outrage in the local area, with villagers demanding stringent action and faster judicial proceedings. Social welfare and child protection authorities have also taken note of the case and are expected to provide counseling and support to the young victim and her family as part of the rehabilitation process.

Reservoirs in Tirumala Reach Full Capacity

TTD Chairman Performs Special Puja at Papavinasanam

TPN, Tirumala, October 26:

Heavy rainfall over the past few days has brought cheer to Tirumala, as the region's key reservoirs have reached near-full capacity. On Sunday, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu performed a special puja and offered Ganga Harathi at the Papavinasanam Dam, expressing gratitude for the abundant water reserves now available in the holy hills. Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Chairman Naidu said that the water levels in the Tirumala reservoirs have reached around 95 percent of their total storage capacity.

Describing this as a highly positive development for both devotees and temple administration, he noted that the consistent rainfall had ensured adequate water supply for the coming months. With both Papavinasanam and Gogarbham dams now filled



to the brim, water is being systematically released downstream through the gates to maintain safe levels. Explaining the daily water requirements of Tirumala, the Chairman said that nearly five million gallons of water are consumed every day to meet the needs of pilgrims and temple operations. Of this, 2.5 million gallons are drawn from the Kalyani Dam near Tirupati, while the remaining 2.5 million gallons are supplied by Tirumala's own reser-

voirs, including Papavinasanam and Gogarbham. With current levels, he said, TTD now has enough stored water to cater to demand for the next 250 days without any shortage. Chairman Naidu commended the TTD Engineering Department for its continuous surveillance, maintenance, and meticulous management of water resources. He praised the engineers for ensuring that all dams and pipelines function efficiently, even during periods of

heavy rain. "The Engineering Department deserves special appreciation for constantly monitoring the reservoirs and ensuring uninterrupted water supply for devotees visiting Tirumala," he remarked. During the inspection, the Chairman also reviewed the reservoir safety measures implemented in view of the increased water levels. The officials briefed him on the steps taken to regulate inflow, strengthen embankments, and monitor water discharge channels.

He also interacted with local staff and praised their timely coordination in managing the situation effectively. Besides reviewing the water management systems, the Chairman shared that the TTD Trusts have recorded unprecedented levels of donations this year. Stressing that 2025 has been a record-breaking year in the institution's history, he revealed that in the past 11 months, TTD received donations amounting to 918 crore, reflecting the immense faith devotees

continue to repose in Lord Venkateswara. These funds, he said, will be utilized for ongoing projects, welfare initiatives, and the enhancement of pilgrim amenities. Accompanying the Chairman during the puja were TTD Chief Engineer Satyanarayana, Executive Engineers Subrahmanyam, Srinivas Rao, and Sudhakar, Deputy Executive Officer of Srivari Temple Lokanatham, Vigilance and Security Officer Surendra, and other officials. The collective participation of the engineering and temple management teams underscored TTD's commitment to ensuring Tirumala remains self-sufficient, sustainable, and prepared for the steady influx of devotees. With full reservoirs, improved infrastructure, and record donations, Tirumala steps into the season ahead with renewed spiritual and administrative confidence.

Survivors Call for Stronger Anti-Trafficking Framework in Andhra Pradesh and Across India

Vijayawada:

In Andhra Pradesh, survivors of human trafficking are speaking out — and their message is clear: rescue alone is not enough. Without survivor voices at the table, laws remain toothless, rehabilitation is in effective, and justice drags on for years.

Lakshmi* and Parvathi*(names Changed) spent months, even years, confined in shelter homes after their rescue. “We didn’t know our rights. No one asked if we wanted to stay there,” they say. Their experience reflects a national/ States failure — policies made for survivors, without consulting them.

“Our time in shelter homes was deeply distressing. We spent months—sometimes years—there without knowing when we would be allowed to leave,” recalls Anjali* (name changed), a 21-year-old survivor leader from Andhra Pradesh. Her experience reflects the stark reality faced by many survivors of trafficking who are institutionalised after rescue.

“We were kept in the dark — unaware of our rights and unable to reach the decision-makers who determined our futures,” adds Parvathi* (name changed), another survivor leader. “No one ever asked if we wanted to stay in a shelter home,” she says, highlighting a critical gap: policies affecting survivors are often drafted without their participation or consideration of lived realities.

Lakshmi is clear about the way forward: “Survivors must be recognised as stakeholders and have a voice in policies that shape our lives.” She spoke at the State-Level Consultation on “Paving Better Lives for Women and Girls” held recently at Fortune Murali Park, Vijayawada, organised by VMM, Mahila Sanghala Ikya Vedika, and Dignity for Women.

A Collective Voice Emerges

VIMUKTHI, a state-level collective of trafficking survivors and victims of commercial sexual exploitation, now has over 500 members across eight districts of



Ram Mohan Nimmaraju, Social Worker and Secretary HELP organisation

Andhra Pradesh. For years, survivors like Lakshmi and Parvathi fought for their rights in scattered efforts at the district level. “Our issues rarely reached the State or National stage. VIMUKTHI gives us the platform to make our voices heard at the highest level,” says Bajamma, a survivor leader from Addanki.

The forum serves as a platform to share knowledge, build evidence from survivor experiences, and push for systemic reforms. Members argue that trafficking persists in India due to institutional gaps and systemic failures — gaps they believe survivor expertise can help close. “We want to use our experience to strengthen the anti-trafficking ecosys-

tem,” says Ramani, another VIMUKTHI leader.

The Scope of the Problem:

Human trafficking remains one of the gravest human rights violations worldwide. In India, victims include men, women, and children exploited for sexual purposes, forced marriages, bonded labour, and even forced begging. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, three out of every five trafficking victims at the national level are children. In the state of Andhra Pradesh between 2017 and 2022, 1,972 women and girls were reported trafficked, including 155 girls below 18 years. In the same period, 2,106 individuals were rescued, of whom 91 were under 18.

In Andhra Pradesh, districts such as Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, East and West Godavari and parts of Rayalaseema are trafficking hotspots, driven by poverty, migration, and deep-rooted social vulnerabilities. Survivors and activists say weak laws, poor rehabilitation measures, and lack of accountability enable the crime to persist.

A Call for Stronger Legislation

VIMUKTHI leaders are pressing for a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that covers all forms of exploitation — including sex trafficking, bonded labour, forced labour, and servitude. They want the earlier Trafficking of Persons (Preven-

tion, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 to be revived, strengthened, and passed with stronger deterrence measures and better conviction rates.

Equally important is Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR). Survivors stress that reintegration should prioritise education, mental health services, livelihood opportunities, and social acceptance. “Recovery does not happen in isolation — it happens when survivors can live and work with dignity,” says Apurva President of VIMUKTHI.

Implementing NHRC Directions

The National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) 1st and 2nd advisories (5 October 2020 and 31

May 2021) recommend that sex workers be recognised as informal workers entitled to all relevant welfare schemes and services. However, no department in Andhra Pradesh has acted on these directions.

Lakshmi, VIMUKTHI’s treasurer, is calling for a state-level action plan to ensure better service delivery to sex workers, backed by effective monitoring and accountability.

Fast-Tracking Justice and Ensuring Compensation

Long legal battles are another major hurdle. “Many of us are still entangled in years of court proceedings,” says Smt. Apurva, VIMUKTHI’s president. Given the survivors’ often precarious economic situations, these delays are devastating. The forum is demanding special fast-track courts for trafficking cases.

They also insist on reforms in victim compensation — ensuring it is not dependent solely on rescue status and that survivors are fully informed about available schemes. They demand penalties for officials or service providers who fail to do so.

A Growing Survivor-Led Movement

VIMUKTHI members are actively engaged in public awareness campaigns, policy advocacy, and capacity-building to equip survivor leaders to advocate directly. They are expanding their networks across Andhra Pradesh, building new survivor groups, and linking with grassroots organisations.

“We’ve only just begun and will not stop until a strong, effective system is in place to end trafficking — not just here, but across the country,” says Apurva.

The message from these leaders is unambiguous: combating trafficking requires more than rescue operations. It demands an ecosystem that listens to survivor voices, delivers justice swiftly, and ensures rehabilitation with dignity. Only then can India dismantle the networks that prey on its most vulnerable citizens.

From Lamps to GDP: Diwali 2025 and the Light of a New Economy



As India celebrates Diwali 2025, the festival’s radiance extends beyond lamps and festivities — symbolising the light of a new economic era. Much like Lord Ram’s return to Ayodhya, this Diwali represents renewal, ethical governance, and collective prosperity — the foundations of a modern-day Ram Rajya.

The ancient tale of Ram’s homecoming after 14 years of exile was more than a victory of good over evil; it was the dawn of moral order and social harmony. Today, that spirit echoes in India’s economic and cultural resurgence. Amid global uncertainties, India’s balanced approach to diplomacy, economic reforms, and innovation mirrors Ram’s bridge-building — forging alli-

ances without compromising autonomy.

Diwali’s economic influence is immense. It fuels nationwide consumption and employment, spanning retail, manufacturing, logistics, and finance. The government’s festive initiative — the ‘GST Bachat Utsav’ — has reduced taxes on nearly 99% of goods once in higher brackets, from packaged foods and personal care items to consumer durables like air-conditioners and two-wheelers. The move has boosted purchasing power, especially among middle-class families.

The Monetary Policy Committee’s upward revision of GDP growth to 6.8% for FY 2025-26 reflects this renewed economic energy. By simplifying tax compliance and sup-

porting MSMEs and artisans, India is empowering its rural backbone while keeping traditional craftsmanship alive. Increased demand for handcrafted diyas, torans, and idols is translating into real income for rural workers, while urban sectors see seasonal surges in retail and logistics.

On the cultural-financial front, the symbolic ‘Muhurat trading’ continues to blend faith with finance, marking the start of the new Vikram Samvat year. Traders’ optimism during this session often serves as a bellwether for market sentiment, reinforcing that India’s economy thrives as much on belief as on balance sheets.

Even the so-called “dead-weight loss” of gifting — where

economic value appears lower than cost — masks a greater truth. Diwali exchanges generate emotional wealth, strengthen social ties, and sustain trust — intangible assets that fuel the nation’s resilience.

Like Ayodhya’s illuminating ghats welcoming Ram, India too is lighting up through startups, digital transformation, and green energy. Each initiative that empowers citizens and drives inclusion becomes a lamp in the nation’s march toward Viksit Bharat.

This Diwali, as millions of diyas glow across India, they symbolise not only spiritual triumph but also the rising promise of a just, prosperous, and self-reliant economy — where light truly leads the way.



Why Modi’s Silence Strengthens India’s Hand in Trade Talks with Trump

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s decision to remain silent and avoid a meeting with US President Donald Trump appears to be a carefully calibrated strategy rather than hesitation. His refusal to engage directly with Trump — declining White House invitations and skipping multilateral events like those in Sharm El-Sheikh and Kuala Lumpur — signals a new phase in India’s diplomatic assertiveness.

Trump has reportedly been pushing India to accept a trade deal favouring the US, scale down Russian oil imports, and support his bid for the Nobel Peace Prize. Modi, however, has stood firm — continuing

Russian oil purchases and maintaining pressure on Pakistan after the Pahal-gam terror attack.

While the Opposition, particularly Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accused Modi of being “frightened” of Trump, the White House’s eagerness for dialogue tells a different story. Trump’s advisers, including Scott Bessent, Peter Navarro, and Kevin Hassett, have reportedly been urging Modi to come to the negotiating table — an indication that India’s silence is unsettling Washington.

For Modi, silence is not new. Between 2002 and 2014, as Gujarat Chief Minister, he faced relentless criticism but let results

speak louder than words. His current approach mirrors that stoicism. By not rushing into talks, Modi projects India as an equal partner — not a subordinate power.

His firmness also reassures Beijing that New Delhi is not aligning too closely with Washington, maintaining India’s strategic independence. In essence, Modi’s silence is a message: India will engage on its own terms, not under pressure.

As Ecclesiastes reminds us, “There is a time to speak and a time to keep silent.” For now, Modi seems to have chosen the latter — and with purpose.

From Coorg To Koraput: PM Modi Praises States Driving Indian Coffee Success

TPN Bureau | Patna Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted the growing global popularity of Indian coffee and praised the states driving its success, during the 127th edition of his monthly radio program Mann ki Baat.

The Prime Minister noted that coffee cultivation is flourishing across traditional regions such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, as well as emerging areas like Koraput in Odisha and parts of the Northeast. “Indian coffee is becoming very popular all over the world. Be it Chikmagalur, Coorg, and Has-

san in Karnataka; Pulney, Shevaroy, Nilgiri, and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu; or Wayanad, Travancore, and Malabar in Kerala — the diversity of Indian coffee is truly remarkable,” he said.

PM Modi added that the Koraput region of Odisha, with its unique agro-climatic conditions, is producing high-quality Arabica coffee that is gaining recognition internationally. About 5,000 hectares in Koraput are currently under coffee cultivation, supported by the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha Ltd (TDC-

COL), which oversees end-to-end processing from procurement to marketing.

Highlighting the human side of the sector, the Prime Minister mentioned individuals who left lucrative corporate jobs to pursue coffee cultivation and cited the empowerment of women through coffee-related livelihoods.

India primarily cultivates Arabica and Robusta coffee varieties, with Karnataka contributing nearly 70% of the country’s production, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and the Northeast

are increasingly contributing to the sector.

Coffee exports have also seen growth, rising 12.5% to USD 1.05 billion between April and September this fiscal year. PM Modi emphasized that the combined efforts of farmers, cooperatives, and entrepreneurs are helping India strengthen its identity as a producer of high-quality, globally sought-after coffee.+

Through initiatives promoting cultivation, marketing, and innovation, Indian coffee continues to carve a niche in international markets while supporting livelihoods across rural regions.



Allowance Hike, Pension, Insurance Are Given if INDIA Wins: Tejashwi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday announced a series of welfare measures for Bihar’s panchayati raj representatives, promising to double their allowances, provide pension benefits, and extend a 50 lakh insurance cover if the INDIA bloc forms the next government in the state.

Addressing reporters in Patna, Yadav said the move aims to strengthen the foundation of local governance and empower grassroots representatives who play a key role in rural development. “If the INDIA bloc is voted to power, we will double the allowances of panchayat representatives and provide them with

financial and social security,” he said.

The panchayati raj system in Bihar operates across three tiers — gram panchayat, panchayat samiti, and zila parishad — headed respectively by the mukhiya, pramukh, and adhyaksha. Yadav said these leaders are the “backbone of local democracy” and deserve better recognition and support for their services.

In addition to the enhanced allowances, Yadav announced that public distribution system (PDS) distributors would receive a substantial increase in margin money per quintal. He also promised 5 lakh interest-free loans to workers from traditional occupations such as barbers,

potters, and carpenters, to promote self-employment and rural enterprise.

“These steps will ensure that both elected representatives and self-employed workers at the grassroots level enjoy dignity, security, and fair compensation,” Yadav said, highlighting his party’s focus on economic justice and rural welfare.

The 243-member Bihar Assembly will go to polls in two phases — November 6 and November 11 — with results scheduled to be declared on November 14. The INDIA bloc, led by RJD and Congress, is contesting against the NDA alliance headed by the BJP and JD(U), making this one of Bihar’s most closely watched elections.

Actor Vijay To Meet Karur Stampede Victims' Families In Mamallapuram

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) Chief Vijay will meet the families of those who lost their lives in the Karur stampede on Monday morning at a private hotel in Mamallapuram, party sources said.

Special buses have been arranged by TVK to bring families from Karur and nearby districts to the venue. According to a party communications member, “The meeting will start around 7:30 am. It is a private affair, and media access is unlikely. Vijay will meet each family individually.” A senior police officer confirmed that the programme will be held indoors. Initially, Vijay had planned to visit Karur in person, but logistical issues prompted the change in venue, sources added. Ahead of Diwali, TVK had transferred Rs 20 lakh as relief assistance to the families affected by the tragedy. The Karur stampede claimed 41 lives, including women and children, during a TVK welfare rally when a massive crowd surge led to the deadly incident. Following the tragedy, the Supreme Court ordered a CBI probe monitored by a retired Supreme Court judge, overturning an



earlier SIT investigation by the Madras High Court.

In the aftermath, Vijay suspended his weekend campaign across Tamil Nadu ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The state government and police blamed TVK for the tragedy, alleging that Vijay arrived nearly seven hours late, which caused restlessness among the waiting crowd. Officials also said his team ignored police advice to halt 50 metres before the designated venue to prevent a surge.

The TVK, however, denied any wrongdoing, blaming the delay on police mismanagement and alleging a conspiracy by the ruling DMK, which the party strongly rejected. Meanwhile, opposition parties AIADMK and BJP are reportedly trying to woo TVK to join forces against the DMK ahead of the upcoming elections, highlighting the political significance of the tragic event in shaping electoral strategies.



Won't rest till justice is served: Fadnavis on woman doctor's suicide

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday vowed not to rest until justice is delivered in the case of a woman doctor who allegedly died by suicide in Satara district.

Speaking at an event in Phaltan, Fadnavis addressed attempts to politicise the case, saying, “An attempt was made that I don’t come for this programme. Former MP Ranjitsinh Naik Nimbalkar and local MLA Sachin Patil’s names were linked to the case. If I had an iota of doubt, I would have myself cancelled my visit.” He added that he would never compromise on ensuring justice for his “younger sister,” calling her death “extremely tragic and unfortunate.”

The doctor, originally from Beed district in Marathwada and posted at a government hospital in Satara, was found hanging in a hotel room in Phaltan town on Thursday night. In a suicide note written on her palm, she alleged that police sub-inspector Gopal Badane raped her multiple times, while Prashant Bankar, a software engineer, mentally harassed her. Both accused were arrested on Saturday.

The case has drawn political attention. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi described her death as “institutionalised murder,” criticising the BJP-led government for being “inhuman and insensitive.” Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve accused former BJP MP

Nimbalkar of pressuring the doctor in the past, an allegation the MP denied. BJP MLA Suresh Dhas demanded that the MP be made an accused.

Fadnavis also highlighted developmental issues, stating that water from the Nira Deoghar dam should have reached Malshiras and Phaltan years ago, but previous governments diverted it elsewhere. He reaffirmed that his administration remains committed to all-round development, including schemes like electricity bill waivers for farmers and the Ladki Bahin scheme for women.

The Chief Minister emphasised that no attempt to politicise the tragic death will be tolerated, and the state machinery will ensure that justice is served.

Fraud Driver, Drunk Biker: Andhra Bus Tragedy Kills 20



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A deadly fire in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, has claimed 20 lives, exposing critical gaps in road safety regulations and vehicle management. The tragedy occurred when a double-decker bus ran over a fallen bike, sparking a blaze that engulfed the bus and trapped passengers.

Investigations revealed that the bus driver, Miriyala Lakshmaiah, had obtained a heavy vehicle licence using a fake Class 10 certificate, despite only studying up to Class 5. Under Indian licensing rules, drivers of transport vehicles must have studied at least up to Class 8. Lakshmaiah has been arrested in connection with the

incident.

The chain of events began late Friday when two men riding a bike near Chinna Tekuru skidded off the road and hit a divider. The rider, Shiva Shankar, died in the crash, while the pillion, Erri Swami, was injured. Swami dragged Shankar’s body off the road but could not remove the bike before the bus struck it. The bike’s fuel tank ignited, leading to a massive fire that quickly spread to the double-decker bus.

Nineteen passengers perished in the inferno, while a few survived by escaping through an emergency window. Authorities noted that the bus had undergone renovations that bypassed safety guidelines, highlighting negligence by the travel

company involved.

The tragedy underscores a combination of fraudulent documentation, human error, and lax regulatory oversight. Officials warned that despite clear rules, fake academic certificates are often used to secure licences for heavy vehicles, putting public safety at risk.

The Kurnool incident has triggered outrage and calls for stricter enforcement of transport regulations, better vehicle inspections, and immediate action against companies flouting safety norms. Authorities continue to investigate the matter to prevent such incidents in the future and ensure accountability for both the driver and the transport operator.

Japan Successfully Launches New Cargo Spacecraft to ISS



TPN Correspondent | Japan

Japan's space agency JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) successfully launched its new H3 rocket on Sunday, carrying an unmanned cargo spacecraft bound for the International Space Station (ISS). The achievement marks a major milestone in Japan's next-generation space program.

The H3 (No. 7) rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan at dawn, carrying the HTV-X1 cargo transfer spacecraft — the first of a new series of supply vehicles designed to replace the retired HTV line. According to JAXA, the launch and separation were completed smoothly, and the spacecraft entered its designated orbit to begin its journey toward the ISS.

The mission's objective is to deliver essential supplies, experiments, and equipment to astronauts aboard the ISS. The HTV-X1, an upgraded version of Japan's previous cargo ship, features greater payload capacity, advanced automation, and improved re-entry

capabilities, enabling future use in lunar and deep-space missions.

This launch marks the first operational mission of the H3 rocket, Japan's new flagship launch vehicle, developed to replace the long-serving H-IIA series. Built in collaboration with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the H3 is designed to be more cost-effective and competitive in the global commercial launch market.

Japan has been expanding its role in international space efforts, with JAXA contributing to the Artemis program for lunar exploration and working on technologies for the planned Gateway lunar station.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida congratulated the team, calling the successful launch "a symbol of Japan's technological excellence and reliability in space."

With this success, Japan strengthens its position as a key partner in global space logistics, ensuring continued support for the ISS and laying the groundwork for future missions beyond Earth orbit.

Pakistan, Afghanistan Hold Thailand, Cambodia Sign Expanded Ceasefire Deal in Trump's Presence



TPN Correspondent | Tehran

The leaders of Thailand and Cambodia signed an expanded ceasefire agreement on Sunday, October 26, in Kuala Lumpur, with U.S. President Donald Trump witnessing the ceremony during the 47th ASEAN Summit. The deal aims to strengthen peace mechanisms and border stability between the two Southeast Asian neighbours, following months of tensions and sporadic clashes.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet signed the accord shortly after President Trump's arrival at the summit. Trump, who had mediated an earlier truce in July after a five-day border conflict, applauded the signing and praised both leaders for "choosing peace over provocation."

The latest conflict, which erupted in June near the Preah Vihear temple region, left dozens dead and displaced hundreds of villagers on both sides. Although a ceasefire was brokered in July through U.S. and ASEAN intervention, occasional vio-

lations had continued, prompting calls for a more comprehensive framework.

The new agreement expands the original ceasefire to include joint border patrols, intelligence sharing, and the establishment of a demilitarised buffer zone monitored by ASEAN observers. It also commits both nations to resume stalled trade and infrastructure projects along their shared frontier.

Prime Minister Hun Manet said the accord "turns a page in regional stability," while Anutin described it as "a promise of peace for our border communities." President Trump called the deal "a model for how diplomacy can replace conflict," adding that it showed ASEAN's growing role in regional security.

Analysts view the expanded ceasefire as a diplomatic victory for both countries and for ASEAN, which has struggled in recent years to mediate regional disputes. The implementation phase is expected to begin within the next 30 days under joint supervision.

Asim Munir, Shehbaz Sharif "Great People": Donald Trump's High Praise

TPN Bureau | SEOUL

US President Donald Trump, attending the ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur after mediating a truce between Thailand and Cambodia, on Sunday lavished praise on Pakistan's leadership and said Washington would move quickly to help resolve the recent conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Speaking to reporters after witnessing the Southeast Asian ceasefire signing, Trump described Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir as "great people," and said he expected a swift diplomatic resolution to the violence that began about two weeks ago and has claimed scores of lives. "There is only one left," he said, claiming his administration has ended "eight wars in just eight months" and suggesting the Pakistan-Afghanistan flare-up would be next on his roster of peacemaking efforts.

Trump added he knew both Pakistani leaders personally and expressed confidence he could "get that solved very quickly," calling the prospect of pre-



venting further bloodshed "a great thing." The president—who has repeatedly sought credit for brokering international truces during his second term—also referenced being overlooked for the Nobel Peace Prize while reiterating bold claims about his conflict-resolution record.

His remarks revived attention to other regional incidents: Trump previously asserted his intervention helped end an India-Pakistan confrontation after the Pahalgam terror attack, a claim met with pushback. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Parliament that no world leader had asked India to stop Operation Sindoor, and recounted a late-night call from US Vice President JD Vance on May 9, saying India acted independently in response to Pakistani actions.

As Trump signals readiness to mediate again, diplomats and analysts cautioned that external facilitation will need close cooperation from regional capitals and concrete on-the-ground verification to translate pledges into lasting calm.

2 Suspects Arrested in Louvre Jewel Heist

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

French authorities have arrested two suspects in connection with the daring theft of priceless crown jewels from the Louvre Museum in Paris — a week after the audacious heist shocked the art world.

According to AFP, one suspect was detained late Saturday night at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport while attempting to board a flight abroad. The second suspect was arrested shortly after in the Paris region. Both are currently being questioned by investigators.

The robbery occurred last Sunday, when thieves broke into the world's most visited museum during opening hours. Using a crane and hydraulic lift, they smashed an upstairs window and made off with eight historic jewellery pieces valued at around \$102 million. Witnesses reported the robbers, disguised as construction workers, escaping the scene on motorbikes.

Newly surfaced video footage shows the thieves in hard hats and reflective jackets cutting through a glass display case as unsuspecting visitors walked nearby. A second video captured their escape using the lift system set up outside the building.

The Paris prosecutors' office has assigned the case to the city's specialised anti-robbery unit,



the Brigade de Répression du Banditisme (BRB), known for handling high-profile thefts. Authorities continue to search for additional suspects and the missing jewels.

The stolen artefacts span two centuries of French history and once belonged to queens and empresses. Among them were Empress Eugénie's tiara and crown, crafted by famed jeweller Alex-

andre-Gabriel Lemonnier in 1853 after her marriage to Napoleon III. While the crown was reportedly abandoned by the fleeing robbers, the tiara and several other priceless items remain

missing. Officials have praised the swift arrests but say the investigation is ongoing as the global art world watches closely for the jewels' recovery.

Zohran Mamdani's Remarks on 9/11 Draw Sharp Response from JD Vance

TPN Correspondent | NYC

Democratic mayoral nominee Zohran Mamdani's comments on Islamophobia in New York have sparked a heated political exchange after US Vice President JD Vance responded with a controversial remark.

Speaking outside a Bronx mosque surrounded by Muslim community leaders, Mamdani recalled the discrimination many Muslims faced after the 9/11 attacks, citing his own family's experience. "My aunt stopped taking the subway after September 11 because she did not feel safe in her hijab," he said, describing the "indignities" endured by Muslim New Yorkers.

Vance reacted sharply on social media, saying that according to Mamdani, the "real victim of 9/11 was his auntie who got some (allegedly) bad looks." His statement drew criticism from Democrats and civil rights advocates, who called it dismissive and Islamophobic.

Mamdani, the son of Ugandan-born academic Mahmood Mamdani and Indian filmmaker Mira Nair, has faced increasing scrutiny in the New York mayoral race. Rivals Andrew Cuomo (Independent), Curtis Sliwa (Republican), and incumbent Mayor Eric Adams have accused him of holding radical views — allegations Mamdani has denied.

He said Muslims in New York



have long been forced to hide their identity or lower their expectations of equality. "The dream of every Muslim is to be treated like any other New Yorker. For too long, we've been

told to ask for less and be grateful for even less. No more," he declared.

Recent comments from Cuomo, Sliwa, and Adams have stirred debate over rising Is-



lamophobia in the campaign. Cuomo was criticised for laughing at a radio host's anti-Muslim remark, while Adams warned against "Islamic extremism."

Mamdani concluded his address saying he once believed restraint would earn him fairness, but added, "I was wrong. No amount of redirection is ever enough."

S&P Maintains India’s GDP Growth at 6.5%, Expects RBI Rate Cut

Global rating agency S&P has retained India’s GDP growth forecast at 6.5% for the current fiscal year, citing robust domestic demand supported by a largely benign monsoon. The agency noted that India’s economy grew at 7.8% in the April-June quarter, highlighting resilience amid global uncertainties.

In its statement, S&P said, “We forecast India’s GDP growth to hold steady at 6.5% this fiscal year, ending March 31, 2026. Domestic demand is expected to remain strong, driven by favorable monsoon conditions, income and GST cuts, and accelerating government investment.” The agency emphasized that these factors will continue to underpin economic expansion despite external challenges.

S&P also revised India’s inflation forecast down to 3.2% for the fiscal year, noting that a sharper-than-expected decline in food inflation will help keep overall price pressures low. This moderation in inflation pro-



vides the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) room to ease monetary policy, and S&P anticipates a 25 basis points rate cut during the fiscal year.

In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2025 report, S&P highlighted that resilient domestic demand across the region may cushion economies from the impact of stronger external headwinds, including US import tariffs and slower global growth. The agency noted that while China has fared relatively better under these conditions, Southeast Asian emerging markets and India have faced more significant challenges than initially expected.

S&P’s assessment underscores India’s capacity to maintain steady growth through domestic consumption, policy support, and infrastructure spending, even as global trade tensions and external economic pressures persist. Analysts view the RBI’s anticipated rate cut as a measure to sustain credit growth and bolster investment in the coming months.

Tock Markets Slip for Third Consecutive Day Amid FII Outflows and H-1B Concerns



Indian equity markets closed lower for the third straight session on Tuesday, dragged by foreign fund outflows and concerns over a steep hike in U.S. H-1B visa fees. The benchmark BSE Sensex settled at 82,102.10,

down 57.87 points or 0.07%, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped 32.85 points or 0.13% to 25,169.50.

During the session, Sensex oscillated between a high of 82,370.38 and a low of 81,776.53,

reflecting volatile trading. Analysts attributed the decline to selling pressure in IT stocks and blue-chip private banking shares, while buying in auto stocks and select public sector banks cushioned losses.

Among Sensex constituents, Trent, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Eternal, and ITC were the major laggards. HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dragged the indices

lower. On the upside, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, and State Bank of India were key gainers.

“The domestic equity market traded rangebound and ended flat, indicating ongoing consolidation. Broader sentiment remained cautious, with small- and mid-cap stocks lagging benchmarks,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd. Sector-wise, autos, metals, and financials gained on robust festive demand post-GST cuts, while FMCG and realty faced pressure from profit booking.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth 2,910.09 crore on Monday, reflecting sustained selling pressure.

In global markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong closed lower, while South Korea’s Kospi ended in positive territory. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday. European markets traded higher, and U.S. indices gained on Monday.

Meanwhile, the rupee fell 52 paise to an all-time low of 88.82 against the U.S. dollar, and Brent crude rose 0.45% to \$66.87 a barrel, adding to market caution.

Crude Oil Futures Slip on Weak Spot Market Demand

Crude oil futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) declined on Tuesday, as traders trimmed positions amid weak demand in the spot market. October delivery crude fell Rs 16 or 0.29%, settling at Rs 5,506 per barrel across 12,933 lots.

Analysts noted that the drop in futures prices reflected profit-booking and cautious trading, as market participants responded to soft spot market activity. Weak physical demand for crude prompted sellers to offload their holdings, weighing on prices during the session.

On the global front, oil benchmarks also witnessed mild declines. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude traded 0.33% lower at USD 61.95 per barrel, while Brent crude slipped 0.56% to USD 66.20 per barrel in New York, reflecting a broader cautious sentiment in the energy markets.

Analysts said that despite global concerns over supply disruptions in some regions, the current demand-supply dynamics remain subdued, limiting significant upside in crude prices. Traders are closely watching inventory data, geopolitical developments, and OPEC signals for indications of any supply tightening that could support price recovery.

Market observers highlighted that the MCX crude futures trend mirrors global patterns, as both domestic and interna-



tional markets face tepid demand and mixed trading signals. Investors are expected to monitor upcoming economic

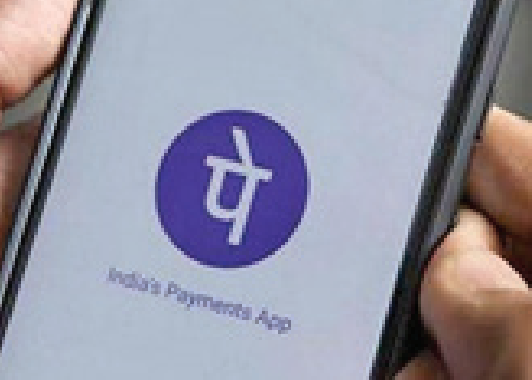
data releases and fuel consumption trends to gauge future price direction.

Overall, the oil futures mar-

ket remains under pressure, reflecting weak spot demand and cautious investor sentiment. Market participants continue

to adopt a wait-and-watch approach, balancing domestic demand trends with global price movements.

PhonePe Narrows Losses, Reports ₹7,115 Crore Revenue in FY25



Fintech giant PhonePe has showcased a strong financial turnaround in FY25, significantly narrowing its consolidated losses to ₹1,727.4 crore, compared to ₹1,996.1 crore in FY24. The results highlight the company’s improving fundamentals as it prepares to file its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) later this year, marking its next big step toward a public listing.

According to data sourced from Tofler, PhonePe’s revenue from operations jumped 40.5%, rising from ₹5,064 crore in FY24 to ₹7,115 crore in FY25. This robust growth underlines the company’s dominant position in India’s digital payments and fintech ecosystem, which continues to expand at a rapid pace.

A key highlight of the fiscal was the threefold surge in adjusted Profit After Tax (PAT), which stood at ₹630 crore in FY25, compared to ₹197 crore in the previous year. This growth reflects improved operational efficiency, higher

adoption of value-added services, and better cost management across verticals.

Notably, PhonePe also achieved a major milestone by turning free cash flow positive for the first time. The company reported net cash flow from operations at ₹1,202 crore for the year ending March 31, 2025. This achievement is expected to enhance investor confidence as it signals sustainable financial health.

While overall expenses rose 21% year-on-year to ₹9,394 crore, the proportion of revenue growth outpaced expenditure, contributing to healthier margins.

Backed by U.S. retail giant Walmart, PhonePe has been aggressively diversifying into insurance, wealth management, and lending segments, further strengthening its fintech footprint. With IPO plans on the horizon, FY25’s performance puts the company in a strong position to attract investors looking to ride India’s booming digital economy.

Coca-Cola bottler SLMG beverages targets Rs 9,000 cr revenue



SLMG Beverages, India’s largest Coca-Cola bottler, expects high single-digit sales growth in FY26 despite facing headwinds in the June quarter due to unseasonal rains and geopolitical concerns, said Joint Managing Director Paritosh Ladhani on Monday. The company anticipates its gross revenue to cross Rs 9,000 crore, aided by festivals and GST concessions on its non-aerated drinks portfolio, which contributes around 30% of total sales.

“The June quarter was below expectations, with 35-40% higher rainfall affecting sales. However, we anticipate strong growth in the December quarter and may even achieve double-digit growth,” Ladhani told PTI. He added that fizz-based drinks will also see a rise as consumers have discretionary spending power.

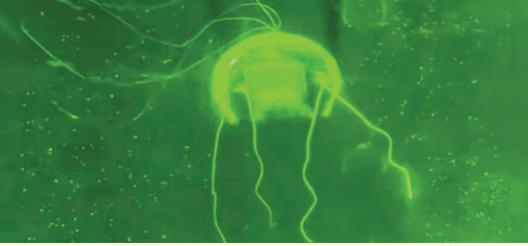
SLMG Beverages plans to invest around Rs 8,000 crore over the next six years for expansion, funded through internal accruals and debt, including greenfield plants in

Buxer, Bihar and Gorakhpur, UP. The company’s current bottling capacity of 22,000 BPM is expected to increase to 27,000 BPM by year-end. Ladhani highlighted that 65-70% of the investment will go into plant capacity, while the remainder will support market development, warehousing, fleet, and new product launches.

On a mid-term outlook, Ladhani stated the company aims to cross Rs 20,000 crore in gross turnover over the next five to six years. Regarding an IPO, he emphasized the focus will remain on strengthening operations before considering public listing.

SLMG Beverages is part of the Rs 10,000-crore Ladhani Group, which has interests in hospitality, real estate, and energy, with 70% of its revenue coming from the bottling business. In hospitality, the group plans to invest around Rs 3,000 crore, expanding from 550 to 700 keys with the upcoming Taj Gateway project, aiming for 1,500 rooms in the next five to six years.

China Unveils ‘Ghost Jellyfish’ Drone for Underwater Missions



Chinese scientists have developed an innovative jellyfish-like robot, dubbed the “underwater phantom,” designed for covert underwater operations. Created by Tao Kai from Northwestern Polytechnical University, the compact robot closely mimics a real jellyfish, allowing it to monitor aquatic environments without disturbing marine life, according to the South China Morning Post.

The robot measures 120mm in diameter and weighs just 56 grams. Its transparent body and hydrogel-based tentacles replicate natural jellyfish movements, making it almost indistinguishable from its living counterpart underwater. An electrostatic hydraulic actuator mimics jellyfish neural signals, enabling smooth motion while operating at only 28.5 milliwatts, ensuring minimal disruption to its surroundings.

Equipped with a camera and AI chip, the robot can autonomously identify underwater targets using machine learning, making it ideal for long-term surveillance, deep-sea monitoring, and precise inspections of fragile ecosystems or submerged structures. Tao highlighted the robot’s low power consumption, near-silent operation, and lifelike design, emphasizing its suitability for sensitive

environments.

The bionic jellyfish was showcased in August on CCTV, alongside other bio-inspired robots, including a robotic bird, mechanical locust, gecko robot, and robotic fish. During demonstrations, the robot hovered steadily in varying water conditions and accurately identified objects such as the school emblem and clownfish. The presentation underscored the potential of nature-inspired robotics to sense and respond to complex environments independently.

Northwestern Polytechnical University is globally recognised for pioneering research in robotics and aerospace, especially in developing hybrid systems capable of navigating both air and water. Tao’s lab, part of the Ministry of Education’s Key Laboratory of Micro and Nano Systems for Aerospace, continues to push boundaries in micro-electromechanical systems and autonomous bio-inspired machines.

The “ghost jellyfish” represents a breakthrough in deep-sea exploration technology, combining stealth, energy efficiency, and adaptability, offering new possibilities for environmental monitoring, underwater research, and covert operations.

YouTube Adds Daily Timer to ‘Shorts’ to Combat Doomscrolling



YouTube has introduced a new daily timer feature for its popular ‘Shorts’ video format, aiming to help users manage and reduce excessive screen time. The feature is designed to address the growing concern of doomscrolling—endless, often compulsive consumption of short-form videos—which can negatively impact mental health and productivity.

With this new update, users will be able to set a daily time limit for watching Shorts. Once the allotted time is reached, a reminder will appear on the screen, encouraging users to take a break and pause their viewing session. However, users retain the option to dismiss the reminder and continue watching if they choose.

This feature is part of YouTube’s broader commitment to promoting digital wellbeing and responsible usage of its platform. Short-form video content has exploded in popularity, with millions of users worldwide spending significant time scrolling

through Shorts, which can sometimes lead to unintentional binge-watching and time loss.

By introducing the timer, YouTube hopes to encourage more mindful viewing habits, helping users stay in control of their time and reduce the chances of falling into endless content loops. The reminder acts as a gentle nudge rather than a strict lockout, giving users the autonomy to decide how they engage with the platform.

The move aligns with similar steps taken by other social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok, which have implemented tools to track and limit usage, reflecting a growing industry focus on combating digital fatigue and encouraging healthier online behavior.

YouTube’s daily timer for Shorts is currently rolling out and will be available to users globally in the coming weeks. The feature is expected to be welcomed by those looking to balance entertainment with productivity and mental wellness.

Apple to Launch iPhone 20 and iPhone 18e in Early 2027 for 20th Anniversary

Apple is gearing up to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the iPhone with the launch of two new models in the first half of 2027: the iPhone 20 and the iPhone 18e. This move marks a significant shift in Apple’s naming strategy, skipping the iPhone 19 to honor two decades since the original iPhone’s debut in January 2007.

According to industry analyst Heo Moo-yeol, Apple will release the iPhone 20 alongside the iPhone 18e, a model expected to be separate from the flagship lineup. This early 2027 launch will break from the company’s traditional September release schedule, which it has followed since the iPhone 5 in 2012.

The rest of the iPhone 20 series — including the Air, Pro, and Pro Max versions — are



anticipated to arrive in the second half of 2027. Additionally, Apple plans to introduce the second-generation iPhone Fold, following the expected debut of its first foldable iPhone in 2026.

Interestingly, Apple may discontinue the standard iPhone 18 model next year, focusing instead on the iPhone 18 Pro, Pro Max, and a new iPhone Air successor, alongside the foldable iPhone. This shift could reduce panel demand by about 20 million units compared to previous years.

The iPhone Fold is projected to see strong sales, with Apple aiming to ship over 8 million units in its first year. Overall, Apple’s 2027 lineup promises innovation and commemorates a milestone for one of the world’s most influential tech products.

CRPF Jawan Brings Joy to Tribal Kids in Chhattisgarh Jungle



A heartwarming video from the dense jungles of Chhattisgarh has gone viral, showing a CRPF Cobra jawan bringing smiles to tribal children by showing them cartoons on his phone. The clip, shared on social media by user KiloMike2, highlights a

rare moment of joy for children who have grown up in remote areas affected by Naxal activity.

In the video, the soldier can be seen patiently gathering the children around and letting them watch cartoons for the first time, creating an

atmosphere of happiness and wonder. Social media users have praised the simple yet touching act, noting the importance of bringing education, innocence, and play into the lives of children living in difficult circumstances.

The post quickly drew attention, with users expressing mixed emotions. One wrote, “Made me sad how these kids have missed the very essence of childhood and education due to Naxals, hope we can do everything for them now.” Another high-

lighted the contrast between modern and natural childhood experiences, commenting, “Watching cartoons is not the essence of childhood. These children must be enjoying their childhood in the natural environment, away from gadgets.”

Many viewers applauded the soldier’s effort as an act of compassion, reflecting hope for a brighter future for the tribal community. Some noted that even small gestures like these can leave a lasting impact on children growing up in areas with limited access to education and recreational resources.

The video has resonated widely, reminding people of the importance of nurturing curiosity, education, and joy for all children, regardless of their environment. In a region often marked by conflict, this simple act of showing cartoons becomes a symbol of humanity and care, sparking conversations about the role of soldiers not just in security but also in uplifting local communities.

The viral clip stands as a touching reminder that even small, thoughtful actions can make a big difference in the lives of children living in remote and challenging conditions.

Mountaineer Wakes Up to Snow Blizzard, Video Goes Viral

A thrilling video of mountaineer Magdalena Madej waking up to a snow blizzard on a high-altitude expedition has gone viral on social media. Magdalena, an experienced climber and Mount Everest summiteer, shared the clip on Instagram, capturing the raw intensity and danger of mountaineering.

The video was filmed during an expedition to Mount Manaslu in Nepal, the world’s eighth-highest peak at 8,163 meters. The team had set up camp at 6,600 meters to rest after a challenging climb. Early in the morning, Magdalena pulled back the tent curtains to reveal a terrifying scene: a raging snowstorm, with white-capped peaks stretching into the horizon and snow swirling violently around their tents. The harsh conditions posed a serious avalanche risk, making the moment both awe-inspiring and terrifying.

Magdalena shared the story behind the clip in her caption, noting the dangers and unpredictability climbers face at such altitudes. Mountaineering often tests limits through extreme weather, fatigue, and challenging ter-

rain, but it also offers breathtaking vistas and moments of triumph.

Social media users responded enthusiastically to the video, praising Magdalena’s courage and composure in the face of extreme conditions. Comments highlighted admiration for her adventurous spirit and the beauty of high-altitude landscapes. One user wrote, “Vice nice video, Strong,” while another added, “I always wanted this kind of life.”

The viral clip underscores both the thrill and risks of mountaineering. It also resonates with viewers who dream of exploring the world’s highest peaks, showing the blend of danger, discipline, and natural beauty that defines extreme climbing.

Magdalena’s video not only showcases her personal bravery but also serves as a reminder of the extraordinary challenges mountaineers endure to experience the world from the roof of the planet. It captures a moment where fear, beauty, and human resilience intersect, leaving viewers both awe-struck and inspired.



Image Credit: magdalenamadej_/Instagram

Shaina, Diksha Lead India’s Best Medal Haul at Badminton Asia U17 & U15

India enjoyed a historic outing at the Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships 2025, with Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar clinching gold medals in their respective age categories, marking the country’s best-ever performance at the tournament.

In the U15 girls’ singles final, Shaina Manimuthu defeated Japan’s Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20 in a 44-minute contest. Shaina, the fourth Indian girl to win the U15 title, dominated the first game and fended off a late challenge in the second to seal the victory.

Later, in the U17 girls’ singles final, Diksha Sudhakar triumphed over compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9. Diksha’s win was historic, as she became the first Indian girls’ singles player to secure the U17 title at the Junior Asian Championships, wrapping up the all-Indian final in just 27 minutes.

Overall, the Indian contingent returned with two gold, one silver, and two bronze medals. Lakshya Rajesh secured the silver in U17 girls’ singles, while Jagsher Singh Khanggura



bagged bronze in U17 boys’ singles after losing to China’s Hong Tian Yue 21-11, 21-16. In mixed doubles, the pair Jangeet Singh Kajla and Jananika Ramesh also earned bronze, falling in the semi-finals to Taiwan’s I An Chang and Yo Han

Wang 17-21, 21-18, 21-16. This is India’s strongest showing since 2013, when Siril Verma won the U15 boys’ singles title and Chirag Shetty with MR Arjun claimed the U17 boys’ doubles crown. The victories highlight

India’s growing dominance in junior badminton, with young players like Shaina and Diksha showcasing exceptional skill and composure under pressure. Their wins signal a promising future for Indian badminton on the Asian and global

stage. The medal haul underscores the depth of India’s junior talent and offers momentum ahead of upcoming international competitions, inspiring the next generation of players across the country.

Gambhir’s Tough Words Inspire Harshit Rana’s 4-Wicket Heroics



India pacer Harshit Rana emerged as a key figure in India’s nine-wicket win over Australia in the Sydney ODI, but his performance came after a stern warning from head coach Gautam Gambhir. Amid selection debates and criticism over his perceived KKR connec-

tion, Gambhir reportedly told Rana bluntly: “Perform kar, warna bahar bitha doonga” (Perform, or I’ll bench you). According to Rana’s childhood coach, Shravan Kumar, the message was a mix of scolding and motivation. Rana, aware of the pressure

surrounding his spot in the XI, reportedly called his coach before the match, expressing his determination to silence critics. “He wanted to shut the outside noise with his performance. Gambhir knows talent and backs players who deliver,” Shravan told the Times of

India. Rana, 23, had struggled in the first two ODIs, taking only two wickets. The pressure to justify his selection over Arshdeep Singh was mounting. Gambhir’s straightforward approach, however, seemed to ignite the young pacer. In Sydney,



Rana delivered a remarkable 4 for 39 in 8.4 overs, helping India bowl out Australia for 236 and secure a comfortable win. Shravan added that Gambhir’s message was a reminder that performance matters above all, regardless of personal connections. “He scolded Harshit badly but sent a clear message to everyone: your place depends on performance,” he said.

Rana’s Sydney display not only reaffirmed his talent but also showcased his ability to rise under pressure. His performance gives India another bowling option ahead of the upcoming five-match T20I series against Australia, set to begin next week.

The episode highlights Gambhir’s leadership style—firm yet motivating—and underlines how tough, honest feedback can push young players to deliver in high-pressure situations. Harshit Rana’s resurgence is a testament to talent, determination, and timely guidance from a coach who knows when to push.

Man United Enter Top 4; Sunderland Stun Chelsea

Manchester United surged into the Premier League top four with a thrilling 4-2 win over Brighton at Old Trafford on Saturday, marking their third consecutive league victory. After nearly a year into Ruben Amorim’s reign, United are now showing signs of cohesion among their £200 million attacking trio — Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo, and Benjamin Sesko.

Cunha opened the scoring with a superb strike from outside the box, followed by a deflected Casemiro effort doubling United’s lead before halftime. Sesko then set up Mbeumo to score at the near post, while Brighton’s Danny Welbeck free-kick and Charalampos Kostasoulas header added tension late on. Mbeumo sealed the victory in stoppage time, sending United above Liverpool, Chelsea, and Tottenham in the Champions League spots, just three points behind leaders Arsenal.

Meanwhile, newly-promoted Sunderland stunned Chelsea 2-1 at Stamford Bridge, moving to second in the table. Chelsea looked set



to climb after Alejandro Garnacho scored in the fourth minute, but Sunderland equalised when Wilson Isidor converted a long throw. In stoppage time, Chemsidine Talbi curled home a winner, capping a remarkable comeback. Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca

admitted, “We were not good enough, and in the Premier League the consequences can be bad.” Newcastle edged past Fulham 2-1 at St. James’ Park thanks to a 90th-minute strike from Bruno Guimaraes. Jacob Murphy had given Newcastle an early lead,

with Sasa Lukic equalising for Fulham. The defeat left Fulham struggling just above the relegation zone. Meanwhile, Liverpool aim to end a three-game losing streak when they face Brentford in Sunday’s late kickoff. Arsenal continue to lead the table, four points

clear of Liverpool, as the Premier League drama intensifies heading into the final third of the season. With United, Sunderland, and Newcastle in strong form, the title race and Champions League spots are shaping up for a dramatic run-in.

Gaganjeet Bhullar Moves To Solo Seventh At International Series Philippines



India’s Gaganjeet Bhullar carded a five-under 67 on Saturday to climb to solo seventh at 13-under in the International Series Philippines, one shot ahead of Australia’s Marc Leishman. Despite a bogey on the final hole, Bhullar remained in contention, just four shots off the lead heading into the final round.

Bhullar delivered a near-flawless performance, hitting 13 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens. “I drove the ball well, hit my irons close, and gave myself plenty of birdie opportunities. A couple of crucial up-and-downs helped me keep the round on track,” Bhullar said.

China’s Sampson Zheng emerged as a strong contender after a sensational 10-under 62, setting up a final-round clash with home favourite Miguel Tabuena and Thailand’s in-form Sarit Suwannarut. Zheng’s round included eight birdies and an eagle on the par-five eighth, featuring four consecutive birdies from the 14th to 17th holes. Tabuena, meanwhile, made two eagles and three birdies in

his third round 65, while Sarit struggled to match his earlier scoring pace, adding only five birdies with two bogeys. Japan’s Kazuki Higa and South Africa’s Dean Burmester were tied fifth at 14-under, just ahead of Bhullar.

Other Indian golfers also impressed, with Karandeep Kochhar carding a five-under 67 to break into the top 20, while Ajeetesh Sandhu posted a level-par 72, highlighted by an eagle on the eighth hole, to sit tied 50th at five under.

The tournament, the sixth of nine elevated events on the 2025 Asian Tour, has seen remarkable performances, including hole-in-ones, eagles, and near-record rounds. With the final round looming, Bhullar and the leading contenders are poised for an exciting finish, promising a thrilling conclusion for the International Series Philippines.

Bhullar’s consistent play ensures India remains well represented at the top of the leaderboard, showcasing the growing strength of Indian golfers on the Asian Tour.

Renuka Singh Strikes as India Take Early Bangladesh Wicket



India got off to a strong start in their ICC Women’s World Cup 2025 clash against Bangladesh as Renuka Singh Thakur provided the first breakthrough of the match on Sunday. Bowling with precision, Renuka dismissed Sumaiya Akter for just 2, leaving Bangladesh at 1 down early in their innings.

The match, reduced to 43 overs per side due to a two-hour rain delay, finally got underway at 5 PM. Bangladesh’s innings is currently anchored by Sharmin Akhter and Rubya Jhelik, who remain unbeaten at the crease, steadying the innings after the early loss.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, after winning the toss, opted to bowl first in their final league game of the tournament, looking to leverage her team’s strong bowling attack. Renuka Singh’s early strike immediately put India on top, setting the tone for a disciplined bowling performance.

The match also saw a new face in the Indian squad, with wicket-keeper Uma Chetry making her ODI debut, stepping

in for the injured Richa Ghosh. Chetry’s inclusion adds fresh energy behind the stumps and bolsters India’s fielding setup.

This encounter is crucial for India as they aim to consolidate their position in the Women’s World Cup 2025 league stage. Bangladesh, who have shown resilience in previous matches, will look to rebuild their innings cautiously after the early setback, while India will aim to maintain pressure and capitalize on early breakthroughs.

Fans can expect an intense contest as India’s experienced bowling unit, led by Renuka Singh, seeks to dominate, while Bangladesh relies on the composure of Akhter and Jhelik to stabilize the innings. With both teams fighting for crucial points, every wicket and run will play a pivotal role in determining the outcome of this rain-affected match.

India will hope that Renuka’s breakthrough is just the beginning of a strong bowling display to keep Bangladesh under pressure.

Salman Khan Declared 'Terrorist' by Pakistan, Sparks Controversy



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has become the center of an international controversy after the Pakistani government officially declared him a "terrorist". The announcement came following Khan's remarks at the Joy Forum 2025 event in Saudi Arabia, where he discussed the popularity of Indian films, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam cinema, in the region.

The controversy arose when Salman mentioned "Pakistan" and "Balochistan" separately during his speech. The Shehbaz Sharif-led government interpreted his comments as anti-national and issued a notification under the Anti-Terrorism Act, also adding his name to the Fourth Schedule. As of now, Salman Khan and his team have not issued any statement regarding the designation.

While the Pakistani government has strongly condemned his remarks, some separatist leaders in Balochistan welcomed the comments. Mir Yar Baloch, a leader advocating for Baloch independence, said, "60 million Baloch people are happy with this. Salman boldly

mentioned Balochistan at a time when major countries were afraid to speak."

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, contributes around 40 percent of the country's gas production but remains underdeveloped, fueling ongoing separatist movements. Salman Khan's statement, whether intentional or accidental, has reignited discussions about the region's political and social issues on an international platform.

This incident has placed the Bollywood star at the center of a diplomatic and political debate, drawing attention to the sensitivities surrounding remarks about Pakistan and its provinces. Observers note that the episode underscores how statements by public figures can quickly escalate into global controversies, especially when linked to ongoing regional tensions.

Salman's comments, made while highlighting the growing appeal of Indian cinema in the Middle East, have now become a hot topic in international political discourse, raising questions about the role of celebrities in geopolitics.

Nikhil's 'Swayambhu' Team Teases Big Announcement



Tollywood star Nikhil Siddhartha is back with his latest project 'Swayambhu', and fans are buzzing after the makers hinted at an exciting announcement. The film marks Nikhil's first Pan-India venture, promising a journey of self-discovery, excitement, and enlightenment.

Malayalam actress Sanyuktha Menon plays the female lead, and the film is directed by Bharat Krishnamachari. It is produced under the banner of Pixel Studios by Bhuvan and Sreekar, with Tagore Madhu presenting the project. The film is set for a grand release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada, highlighting its ambitious Pan-India appeal.

So far, promotional posters suggest that Nikhil will be seen in a stunning war hero look, generating significant curiosity among fans. KGF fame Ravi Basrur is composing the music and background score,

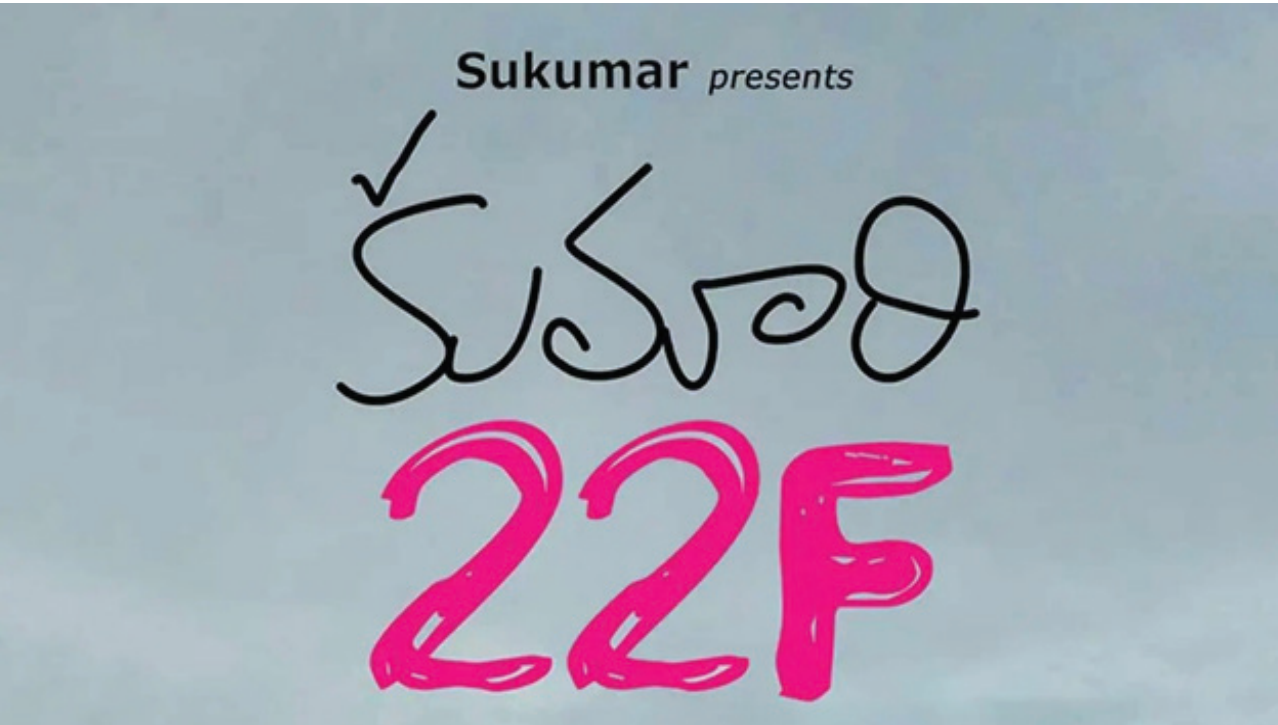
adding further excitement to the project.

Nikhil's team has stated that the upcoming announcement will be the most thrilling update yet, leaving fans speculating about what it could entail—possibly a major trailer, teaser, or reveal related to the storyline. The film's theme of self-discovery combined with action-packed visuals is expected to make it a standout in Nikhil's career.

With the combination of high-octane action, Pan-India reach, and strong music backing, 'Swayambhu' is shaping up as one of the most anticipated Tollywood films of the year. Fans are eagerly awaiting the official announcement that promises to add more thrill to the film's journey.

This project marks a bold step for Nikhil, showcasing not only his acting prowess but also his appeal to a wider Indian audience, positioning 'Swayambhu' as a major cinematic event.

Kumari 22F: Sequel to Kumari 21F in the Works



Acclaimed Telugu filmmaker Sukumar, known for his distinct storytelling and support for emerging talent, is backing a sequel to his banner's first production, Kumari 21F (2015). The upcoming film, titled Kumari 22F, is being developed under his home banner Sukumar Writings, in collaboration with Thabitha Sukumar Films, a new production house launched by Sukumar's wife, Thabitha Sukumar.

Sukumar, celebrated for films like Rangasthalam and Pushpa, has consistently encouraged his protégés to explore independent filmmaking. Directors such as Buchi Babu Sana, Srikanth Odela, Surya Pratap, and Karthik Dandu have all been associated with him and gone on to create

successful projects. Through Sukumar Writings, he has produced critically acclaimed films includ-

ing Uppena and Virupaksha, both directed by his former assistants.

The original Ku-

mari 21F, directed by Palnati Surya Pratap and written by Sukumar, was praised for its bold and uncon-

ventional take on love, trust, and individuality. Starring Raj Tarun and Hebah Patel, the film broke

stereotypes in Telugu cinema and became a cult favourite among younger audiences. According to sour-

ces, Kumari 22F will be a spiritual sequel rather than a direct continuation of the first film. It is expected to explore contemporary relationship dynamics through a fresh narrative lens, retaining the emotional depth and realism that defined the original.

Thabitha Sukumar, who recently presented Maruti Nagar Subramanyam, is now stepping into full-time production with Kumari 22F as her first independent venture under Thabitha Sukumar Films.

An official announcement, along with details about the director, cast, and crew, is expected soon. Fans of Sukumar's brand of cinema are eagerly awaiting this next chapter in the Kumari series.

Mass Jathara: One Last Postponement Before Release



Release date changes have almost become a norm in Tollywood, and Ravi Teja's upcoming film Mass Jathara is the latest to join the list. Directed by Bhanu Bhogavarapu and produced by Naga Vamsi under Sithara Entertainment, the movie has faced multiple delays — but this time, the team insists the new plan will be final.

Initially promoted as Ravi Teja's 75th film, Mass Jathara was first slated for a Sankranti 2025 release. Following the actor's on-set injury, the release was pushed to May 9, and later to August 27 due to scheduling issues with digital streaming partners.

After the lukewarm reception to Naga Vamsi's recent releases, Kingdom and War 2, the producers decided to further delay the film to ensure a more positive theatrical atmosphere. The release was then moved to October 31, with plans for paid premieres a day earlier.

However, the latest twist came when the team learned that the re-cut and remastered version of Baahubali: The Epic is also hitting theatres on the same date. Considering the franchise's massive fan following and potential box-office pull, Mass Jathara's team opted to avoid a direct clash.

According to sources, the new tentative release date is November 1, with paid premieres scheduled for October 31. The decision is reportedly final, and an official announcement is expected in the coming days.

Mass Jathara stars Ravi Teja, Sreeleela, and Rajendra Prasad in lead roles, with music composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. Combining action, comedy, and Ravi Teja's trademark energy, the film is anticipated to be a crowd-pleasing entertainer. Fans are now hoping this final release date sticks — bringing an end to the film's long wait.

Samantha Returns with Double Role in 'Maa Inti Bangaram'



Tollywood star Samantha Ruth Prabhu is back on the big screen after a long hiatus due to health reasons. Fans have been eagerly awaiting her next solo performance since 'Khushi' (2023), and now Samantha is set to make a powerful comeback with 'Maa Inti Bangaram', where she not only plays a lead role but also steps into production under her banner, Tralala Moving Pictures.

The film, directed by 'Oh Baby' fame Nandini Reddy, has already generated significant buzz in the industry. The Samantha-Nandini combination, which previously delivered a blockbuster, has raised expectations even higher for this project. Shooting is underway at Ramoji Film City, with Samantha featuring prominently in key scenes alongside the rest of the star cast.

Unlike traditional family dramas, 'Maa Inti Bangaram' is a gripping crime thriller set in the 1980s. This genre is new territory for both Samantha and Nandini Reddy, adding to the audience's curiosity. Reports suggest Samantha's look will

be drastically transformed to suit the period setting, with changes in style, body language, and overall persona.

Balancing her dual responsibilities as the lead actress and producer, Samantha is taking a bold step in her career. Industry insiders believe this project could mark a major reinvention for her, highlighting her versatility and commitment to challenging roles.

After her performance in 'Yashoda', Samantha had not undertaken a solo-centric role of this scale. With 'Maa Inti Bangaram', she is poised to reclaim her space as a powerful leading lady in Tollywood while demonstrating her capabilities behind the camera. Fans are eagerly anticipating the release, ready to witness Samantha's dramatic transformation and dynamic performance in a film that promises suspense, style, and stellar storytelling.

This project signifies not just a comeback but a new chapter in Samantha's career, blending acting prowess with production expertise.