



Minister Assures Timely Relief for Cyclone-Hit Farmers in Addanki and Parchur 02

YSRCP ‘Coverts’ Spark Unease Within Govt and Alliance Circles

TPN Bureau Amaravati, October 30

Political circles in Andhra Pradesh are abuzz with allegations that covert supporters of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) continue to operate within the ruling alliance and opposition ranks. According to reports and political insiders, individuals with past or ongoing links to the YSRCP are said to be influencing administrative and political decisions from within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Janasena, and even sections of the government machinery.

The issue gained traction after the TDP reportedly identified certain individuals as “coverts” who are secretly aiding YSRCP interests. Among them, former TDP candidate from Tamballapalle, **Jayachandra Reddy**, has been highlighted as a suspected covert figure. Party sources allege his name surfaced following his alleged involvement in an adulterated liquor scam, though official confirmation of these charges remains pending. Whether these suspicions stem from political rivalry or verified intelligence remains unclear, but they have stirred considerable debate within the alliance.



cal analysts, the covert issue goes beyond a few isolated figures. It is believed that certain bureaucrats, including police officials and IAS and IPS officers, may still be operating under YSRCP influence despite the change in government. Observers note that such officers are often exposed only when implicated in scams or disciplinary issues.

Several recent instances have fueled these suspicions. During the previous YSRCP regime, certain police officials allegedly acted in favor of ruling party leaders, including in controversial cases involving the Pinnelli brothers. More recently, a DSP in Bhimavaram was reportedly accused of working in YSRCP's favor during the previous administration but later managed to secure a preferred posting under the current government through a TDP

politician's recommendation. Similar claims have surfaced from Rajahmundry, where an inspector allegedly secured a transfer through a TDP MLA's backing despite previously making derogatory remarks against party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu. Sources allege that the current “unofficial posting system”, influenced by MLAs' recommendations, has created opportunities for politically aligned officials to maneuver across regimes. While such practices existed in previous administrations, political observers note that the intensity of cross-party alignment and favoritism seems higher now.

In one notable example, in the Gudur constituency, a close associate of a former YSRCP MLA is said to maintain links with an IPS officer who earlier worked closely with YSRCP leadership. Similarly, a relative of Chief

Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who reportedly joined Janasena, is believed to be struggling to integrate within the party and may realign with the YSRCP if the political tide changes again.

Analysts argue that the root of the “covert culture” lies in the growing intermixing of politics and money. The influence of financial power, they say, allows individuals to shift loyalties easily, blurring lines between governance, bureaucracy, and party politics. Unless political systems are insulated from monetary interests, such covert operations are likely to persist. Whether these allegations lead to formal inquiries or remain political rhetoric is yet to be seen. But one thing is evident—the shadow of covert politics continues to loom large over Andhra Pradesh's political landscape.

Govt Committed to Supporting All Cyclone-Hit Farmers: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan 02

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has reaffirmed the Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to stand by every farmer affected by Cyclone Montha, assuring that no one will be left without assistance. The Deputy CM, who inspected cyclone-hit areas in the Avanigadda constituency on Thursday, said comprehensive relief measures have been initiated to help farmers and families recover from the severe damage caused by the cyclone.



CM Naidu responsible for ‘man-made agrarian calamity’ in Andhra: Jagan

TPN Amaravati, October 30:

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of plunging Andhra Pradesh's farming community into severe distress and creating what he termed a “man-made agrarian calamity.” Addressing the media through a party press release, Jagan charged that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had “abandoned” farmers since coming to power.

He alleged that crucial support systems that once ensured security for farmers—such as crop insurance, subsidies, and procurement mechanisms—had been systematically dismantled, leaving cultivators without hope or assurance. “Farmers in the state have been left without any guarantee since the coalition government assumed office,” Jagan stated. “What was once a system of security and support has now become one of neglect and indifference. The Chief Minister has failed to even acknowledge the crisis facing the agricultural sector.” The former Chief Minister contrasted the present situation with what he described as the



pro-farmer initiatives of his previous administration between 2019 and 2024. During that period, he claimed, the government had extended free crop insurance to 85 lakh farmers and compensated them with more than Rs 7,800 crore through timely claim settlements. Comparatively, he alleged, the current government has brought insurance coverage down to just 19 lakh farmers and an equal area of 19 lakh acres.

According to him, only those with agricultural loans now receive coverage as banks are collecting the premium amounts directly while sanctioning credit, rather than the state paying the premiums as before. “For two years, not a single premium has been paid by this government,” Jagan asserted. “What about the remaining farmers who have no loans? Where is crop security now?” He further accused the TDP-led coalition of withholding input subsidies amounting to Rs 600 crore that were

due to over five lakh farmers affected by crop losses. The government, he claimed, had failed to follow through on procurement promises made to cultivators of chilli, mango, onion, and tobacco—essential crops for farmers in several regions of the state. “Naidu has turned his back on the farmers who trusted his promises,” Jagan added. “Input subsidies are pending, procurement assurances are forgotten, and crop insurance, which we made universal and free, is now practically nonexistent.” In his statement, Jagan also expanded his criticism to the government's handling of public healthcare and education. Reiterating his opposition to the alleged privatization of government medical colleges established during his regime, he said that his party would continue its protest movement against the state's plans. The YSRCP chief announced that rallies would be organized across all assembly constituencies

on November 11 to highlight what he described as the government's “anti-public” approach toward public health education. The demonstrations were originally scheduled earlier but were postponed due to the impact of cyclone Montha. According to Jagan, the effort to privatize newly set-up government medical colleges, many of which were built between 2020 and 2024, threatens both the accessibility and affordability of medical education. “Government medical colleges are vital to ensuring that poor students can become doctors and serve society,” he remarked. “Privatization would deny opportunities to deserving students and weaken the public healthcare network.” Jagan framed his campaign as part of a broader political fight to protect the rights of the poor, farmers, and students in the state. “Our struggle will continue until justice is restored,” he said, urging people to actively participate in the scheduled rallies.

The ruling TDP has not yet issued an official response to the YSRCP's allegations. However, political observers expect the government to defend its agricultural policies and challenge the opposition's claims in the coming days, as the political temperature in the state continues to rise ahead of the winter assembly session.

Cyclone ‘Montha’ Inflicts Damage Worth Rs 5,265 Crore in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Amaravati, October 30:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced that the recent severe cyclonic storm ‘Montha’ caused extensive damage worth Rs 5,265 crore across multiple sectors in the state. Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Minister presented preliminary estimates detailing the losses sustained in various departments and regions.

According to the Chief Minister, the Roads and Buildings Department bore the highest loss at Rs 2,079 crore, as several stretches of road networks were eroded, resulting in potholes and connectivity disruptions. The agricultural sector also suffered extensive damage estimated at Rs 829 crore, while the horticulture and sericulture sectors incurred losses of Rs 40 crore and Rs 65 lakh respectively. Naidu further stated that the fisheries sector re-

corded a substantial loss of Rs 1,270 crore, severely impacting coastal livelihoods. Losses were also reported in other departments, including the Municipal Administration (Rs 109 crore), Water Resources (Rs 207 crore), Rural Water Supply (Rs 1.2 crore), Panchayat Raj (Rs 9 crore), and the Women and Child Welfare Department (Rs 1.52 crore). He said these figures are part of the initial assessment and will be revised as updated reports come in from the field. “The total loss as per our preliminary estimates is Rs 5,265 crore,” Naidu said. “We will be sending this report to the Centre and updating it as further data is compiled from the affected regions.” Highlighting the government's preparedness, the Chief Minister said the administration leveraged advanced technology, refined over the past 16 months, to mitigate the impact of the cyclone.

Data mapping, he explained, now integrates geo-tagged houses, Aadhaar-auth

enticated families, and other relevant datasets, enabling more precise planning and real-time assessments. Over 600 drones were deployed to monitor waterbodies and flood-prone zones during the cyclone, while the dedicated “Mana Mitra” app was used to track drone operations and field activities across the state. Naidu mentioned that Cyclone Montha unexpectedly unleashed heavier rains in Nellore, Bapatla, and Prakasam districts than initially forecast, despite expectations of landfall near Kakina.

Instead, the system crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast around Antarvedi village in Konaseema district near Narasapuram in West Godavari. Following the cyclone, the state's major reservoirs reached nearly 90 percent of their storage capacity, collectively holding around 98.5 TMC of water. Emergency communication channels were activated promptly, with over one crore alert messages sent to citizens. The police wireless

network also supported connectivity in severely affected areas. Naidu said prior planning allowed for early removal of weeds in canals, preventing the submergence of crops, while uprooted trees and damaged electric poles were cleared in real time to restore normalcy.

The Chief Minister emphasized that pre-established rehabilitation centres and mobile medical camps provided immediate assistance to families displaced or affected during the storm. Drawing from the state's previous experiences in handling disasters like Hudhud, Titli, and Budameru, Naidu stressed that continuous technological upgrades and coordination among departments significantly minimized the cyclone's overall impact.

He reiterated that Andhra Pradesh's integrated data-driven disaster management system has proven effective, ensuring swift response, efficient recovery, and strengthened community resilience in the face of natural calamities.

Collective Effort and Tech Helped Minimize Cyclone Damage: CM

TPN/Vijayawada Oct 30:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the state incurred an estimated loss of 5,265 crore due to Cyclone Montha but credited coordinated teamwork and advanced technology for minimizing the disaster's impact. Addressing the media at the Secretariat on Thursday, Naidu explained how the integration of satellite data, drones, and surveillance systems enabled real-time assessment and quick response, helping to reduce loss of life and property.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the preliminary estimation of losses was completed swiftly through the use of technological tools, marking a significant improvement in disaster management efficiency. “With advanced technology, we continuously tracked the cyclone's movement and issued timely alerts to affected areas. As a result, we were able to significantly reduce losses to life and property. Every department worked



in coordination, and we managed to stabilize the situation within the first day itself,” he said. According to the initial assessment, extensive damage occurred across multiple sectors: Agriculture faced a loss of 829 crore, Horticulture 39 crore, Sericulture 65 crore, Aquaculture 1,270 crore, Roads and Buildings 2,079 crore, Municipal Administration 109 crore, Irrigation 207 crore, Panchayat Raj 8 crore, Power 16 crore, and Animal Husbandry 71 lakh. A total of 120 cattle deaths were reported statewide.

Naidu said that a comprehensive report containing sector-wise details and recommendations would be submitted soon to the Central Government. He pointed out that real-time satellite imagery and predictive weather analysis enabled authorities to anticipate heavy rainfall zones, potential flooding areas, and vulnerable settlements.

“Natural calamities can't be stopped, but preparedness and proactive measures can minimize their impact,” he remarked. The state government's focus, he

said, was not only on temporary relief but also on building a resilient and technology-driven disaster management model for the future. Naidu praised ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and local officials who personally visited the affected areas to reassure citizens. “From the Chief Secretary to village secretariat staff, everyone worked tirelessly.”

Ministers Nara Lokesh and Anitha continuously monitored the situation through RTGS and issued timely directions,” he added. Their

round-the-clock supervision ensured that rescue operations, power restorations, and relief measures were executed without delay. The Chief Minister revealed that the government would document the experience gained from managing Cyclone Montha into a disaster management manual, which

would serve as a model guide for future calamities. “We used real-time data through the State Data Lake to make quick and evidence-based decisions,” he said, adding that despite attempts by some to spread misinformation, the administration focused firmly on public safety and relief. Naidu further

stated that heavy rains from Nellore to Visakhapatnam were effectively managed through coordinated preparedness plans. He announced that the government would declare 37 mandals as drought-affected due to the uneven rain distribution following the cyclone.

Concluding his re-

marks, the Chief Minister reiterated that technological advancement, data-driven decision-making, and united governance would remain the core principles of Andhra Pradesh's disaster response system, ensuring faster recovery and stronger resilience against future natural challenges.

AP Adopts Tech-Driven System for Transparent Crop Damage Assessment

TPN AMARAVATHI OCT 30: In a major step toward ensuring fair and accurate relief for farmers affected by the recent cyclone, the Andhra Pradesh government has mandated a transparent and technology-driven system for assessing crop damage across the state. The initiative aims to deliver timely compensation through data-backed and verifiable processes. At a high-level review meeting held on Thursday, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Buditi Rajasekhar, IAS, instructed District Collectors and heads of agriculture and allied departments to conduct swift and precise enumeration of crop losses.

He emphasized that crop damage assessment should begin immediately, without waiting for complete water drainage in inundated regions. Preliminary estimates indicate that nearly 70 percent of the cyclone-induced crop loss occurred in paddy fields across the Konaseema, Kakinada, and Nellore districts, where standing crops were severely affected by flooding and strong winds. To enhance transparency and accuracy, the government will integrate multiple digital platforms, including the e-Crop portal and the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Information Management System (APAIMS), with ad-

vanced datasets like satellite imagery, rainfall patterns, and wind-speed analysis. This will be the first time satellite data is officially used at the state level for cross-verifying field-level reports. Officials believe the step will reduce human error and provide a scientifically validated picture of the extent of damage. Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon, IAS, Director of Agriculture, said the initiative reflects Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's vision of technology-driven governance and transparent administration. By adopting this data-integrated model, the government seeks to minimize discrepancies and ensure

that compensation reaches genuine beneficiaries swiftly. According to the guidelines, only those farmers registered as actual cultivators in the e-Crop system will be considered eligible for relief. Compensation will be sanctioned for losses exceeding 33 percent, as well as for lands impacted by sand casting and soil erosion. This targeted approach, officials noted, will guarantee that relief funds are distributed equitably among genuine cultivators. To expedite the process, the government is creating fast-track committees at the Rythu Seva Kendra, mandal, and divisional levels.

These panels, operating under the direct supervision of District Collectors, will include representatives from both the Revenue and Agriculture departments. This multi-layered mechanism is expected to strengthen accountability and streamline data collection from affected regions. A key technological component driving the initiative is APAIMS, developed by Hyderabad-based VASSAR Labs. The system's integration allows real-time synchronization of field-level assessments with satellite and weather data, enabling cross-verification at every stage. Officials believe this



will significantly reduce delays in relief processing and enhance the reliability of crop damage reports. Senior officials such as Director of Horticulture Srinivasa Rao, IAS, and Director of Fisheries Naik also attended the meeting, contributing to discussions on sector-specific recovery measures.

The Agriculture Department is expected to release district-wise crop damage figures soon, following initial satellite data validation. With this move, Andhra Pradesh

positions itself as a leader in adopting scientific tools for agricultural disaster management—offering not only transparency and efficiency but also a sense of assurance to thousands of farmers facing the aftermath of the cyclone.

Govt Committed to Supporting All Cyclone-Hit Farmers: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

TPN Vijayawada, Oct. 30: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has reaffirmed the Andhra Pradesh government's commitment to stand by every farmer affected by Cyclone Montha, assuring that no one will be left without assistance. The Deputy CM, who inspected cyclone-hit areas in the Avanigadda constituency on Thursday, said comprehensive relief measures have been initiated to help farmers and families recover from the severe damage caused by the cyclone. Addressing the media after reviewing the affected regions, Pawan Kalyan said that crop damage was reported over nearly 1.38 lakh hectares across the State, including about 46,000 hectares in Krishna district alone, impacting an estimated 56,000 farmers. He interacted directly with farmers in their fields, heard their grievances, and assessed the damage through a photo exhibition organized by district administration officials. He credited the



effective management and preparedness of the administration under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for significantly reducing the cyclone's impact. "With advance planning, real-time monitoring through RTGS and continuous video conferencing, the government was able to ensure timely warnings, evacuation, and preventive steps even at the village level," he noted. Thanks to these precautionary measures, over 1.16 lakh people from vulnerable coastal

regions were safely evacuated to rehabilitation centers before the cyclone struck. Emphasizing immediate reconstruction efforts, the Deputy CM directed officials to commence repair works on all cyclone-damaged infrastructure, particularly rural roads. "Nearly 274 kilometers of Panchayat Raj roads have been damaged, and the government will rebuild them permanently to ensure better connectivity in the long run," he announced. To prevent post-cyclone health crises, the government

has launched intensive super sanitation and super chlorination drives to check the spread of infectious diseases. A workforce of 21,055 sanitation personnel has been deployed across 1,583 severely affected villages. Sanitation teams are also ensuring that clean drinking water and hygienic conditions are maintained in all rehabilitation centers. In terms of relief distribution, Pawan Kalyan said the government has approved special packages for affected families. Each household in relief camps will be provided with 25 kilograms of rice, while fishermen and handloom workers who lost livelihoods due to the cyclone will receive 50 kilograms of rice along with pulses, edible oil, onions, potatoes, and sugar at no cost. Additionally, each individual will get immediate cash assistance of Rs. 1,000 before returning home, with up to Rs. 3,000 being provided to families depending on their losses.

A detailed damage assessment report is being finalized to seek additional financial support from the central government. The Deputy Chief Minister also revealed that the government has sanctioned Rs. 13.08 crore for reconstructing the Edurumondi-Gollamanda road, which suffered severe coastal erosion, benefitting nearly five island villages. Plans are also underway to rebuild the outfall sluice at Koduru mandal with financial support from NABARD. Ministers Kollu Ravindra and Vasamshetti Subhash, MP Vallabhaneni Balashouri, MLA Mandal Buddha Prasad, RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, Tourism MD Amrapali, Krishna District Collector DK Balaji, and SP Vidyasagar Naidu accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspection. Their visit focused on coordinating relief operations and ensuring that timely assistance reaches all affected families.

Minister Assures Timely Relief for Cyclone-Hit Farmers in Addanki and Parchur



TPN ADDANKI OCT 30: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has assured that the state government will extend swift and comprehensive financial assistance to farmers whose crops were devastated by Cyclone Montha. Touring several affected villages in Addanki and Parchur constituencies, the Minister reviewed the extent of agricultural and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy rains and flooding.

Accompanied by Civil Supplies Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi and local MLA Eluri Sambasiva Rao, Minister Gottipati visited cyclone-hit areas in Anamabathlavari Palem, Garnapudi, Thimmarajupalem, Agraharam and Parchur town, as well as the crop fields of Budavada, Kotapadu and Kondamuru villages under J Ponguluru mandal. The team interacted with local farmers, listened to their grievances, and assessed the widespread crop losses across paddy, groundnut, cotton, brinjal and various horticultural crops. Speaking to the media, Minister Gottipati said detailed enumeration of crop losses was already underway and directed agriculture officials to expedite field reports for submission to the government. He assured that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had personally instructed officials to

ensure immediate relief and rehabilitation measures for all affected families. The Minister commended the Chief Minister's real-time disaster management and proactive leadership, which he said helped greatly in minimizing both human and property losses. "Thanks to the Chief Minister's timely intervention, ministers, MLAs and field officials worked round-the-clock to coordinate rescue, rehabilitation and power restoration efforts," he noted. Highlighting the extent of agricultural losses, the Minister expressed deep concern over the condition of fields that remained inundated for several days due to overflowing rivulets, canals and irrigation drains. Many tobacco farmers, he said, have lost their stored produce to excessive moisture and flooding.

Gottipati stated that the government had already taken up the issue with the Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister, and procurement of partially damaged tobacco stocks would start soon to protect farmers from financial distress. During his inspection in Addanki town's Fourth Ward, the Energy Minister interacted with local residents about civic problems and relief operations. He expressed dissatisfaction over the failure to undertake desilting works in preceding years, which, he remarked, had only worsened this year's flooding situation. He instructed local bodies to ensure that preventive works such as desilting and drain maintenance are completed before the next monsoon to avoid repeat situations. Reviewing the power restoration progress in the cyclone-affected areas, the Minister announced that domestic electricity supply had been fully restored. Connections to agricultural and aquaculture units, temporarily disrupted by the cyclone, were also being reconnected rapidly. He praised the efforts of field engineers, linemen, and energy department staff who worked continuously under challenging weather conditions to reestablish power supply. Minister Gottipati said that officials across Bapatla, Prakasam, Machilipatnam and North Coastal Andhra districts were preparing comprehensive reports on damage assessment and rehabilitation requirements to ensure that every affected farmer received fair and timely compensation. He reiterated that the government remained fully committed to helping the farming community recover from the cyclone's impact and resume normal agricultural activity without delay.

Govt Forms Group of Ministers to Oversee Sathya Sai Baba Centenary Celebrations

TPN | Vijayawada The Andhra Pradesh Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to oversee and coordinate the preparations for the 100th birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The centenary event, which is poised to attract thousands of devotees and dignitaries from across India and abroad, will be held on November 23, 2025, at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai District. Recognizing the spiritual, cultural, and global significance of the occasion, the State Government declared the centenary celebrations as an official State Function. In this regard, the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department has been designated as the nodal agency to coordinate among various government departments and ensure the smooth conduct of the event. A fresh government order issued by Chief Secretary K Vijayanand on Thursday formalized the formation of the Group of Ministers, which will be entrusted with guid-



ing, supervising, and monitoring inter-departmental arrangements made for the grand centenary celebrations. The government emphasized that the celebrations should reflect the humanitarian and spiritual legacy of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, whose teachings of selfless service and universal brotherhood continue to inspire millions worldwide. The Group of Ministers includes senior members of the State Cabinet, each representing key administrative portfolios. The GoM will be chaired by Anagani Satya Prasad, Minister for Revenue, Registration and Stamps. Other mem-

bers include Payyavula Keshav, Minister for Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes and Legislative Affairs; Satya Kumar Yadav, Minister for Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education; S Savitha, Minister for BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles; Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography; and Anam Ramnarayana Reddy, Minister for Endowments. The order further specifies that the Special Chief Secretary to Government (Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department) will serve as the Convenor of the

Group of Ministers. The Convenor will coordinate with concerned departments and ensure that all necessary actions are taken in line with the policy decisions of the committee. Additionally, secretaries of respective departments will provide administrative and logistical support to implement the GoM's directions efficiently. The government has instructed the General Administration Department and the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department to facilitate timely coordination among departments such as Roads and Buildings,

Health, Police, Energy, Panchayat Raj, and Transport. Their collective efforts will focus on infrastructure development, crowd management, healthcare facilities, sanitation, and cultural programming at Puttaparthi. Officials have noted that extensive arrangements will be made to accommodate the large influx of visitors anticipated during the centenary week. Plans include beautification of major routes leading to Puttaparthi, provision of temporary shelters, and strengthening of public amenities to manage large gatherings. Special attention will also be given to ensuring uninterrupted power supply, smooth traffic regulation, and cleanliness drives across the district. The centenary celebrations are expected to serve as a significant spiritual and cultural milestone for the State, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage while honoring the life and message of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

“Stop Crying, Start Competing”: Yamini Slams Karnataka Congress Over Andhra’s Rise

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 30: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sadineni Yamini Sharma launched a scathing attack on the Karnataka Congress government, accusing it of being more focused on criticizing Andhra Pradesh’s rapid progress than on improving its own state’s investment climate. Speaking to media persons in Vijayawada on Thursday, she said that instead of embracing development-oriented governance, the Congress in Karnataka seemed “more interested in crying over Andhra’s achievements.” Yamini Sharma praised the leadership of Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and BJP State President P.V.S. Madhav, noting their coordinated efforts during the Cyclone Montha crisis.

She highlighted that the state government, with strong central support, acted swiftly in relief operations, ensuring minimal loss of life and property. According to her, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s proactive measures ensured that essential goods reached 14,145 ration shops in advance, while large-scale deployment of the Na-

tional Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams provided timely assistance to the affected areas. Describing Andhra Pradesh as a model of governance and progress, Yamini Sharma said the state had become a preferred destination for investors due to stable leadership and proactive policymaking.

She added that the reforms and incentive-driven policies introduced by the Modi government have steered the country and particularly Andhra Pradesh—toward an unprecedented flow of domestic and foreign investments. “The Congress cannot di-

gest India’s growth,” she said, referring to recent remarks by Karnataka Industries Minister M.B. Patil, which she claimed reflected frustration and political jealousy. “When investments come to India, they complain.

When they come to Andhra Pradesh, they cry louder because progress under Modi’s leadership, Naidu’s experience, and Pawan Kalyan’s guidance is beyond their comprehension,” she commented. The BJP leader pointed to Google’s Artificial Intelligence Data Center coming up in Visakhapatnam as evidence of India’s potential under vi-

sionary leadership. “This is not the result of political alliances; it is the result of commitment and clarity of vision. Even Google CEO Sundar Pichai himself said he was inspired by Prime Minister Modi’s vision for Artificial Intelligence,” she noted.

Yamini Sharma emphasized that Andhra Pradesh’s advantages—its extensive coastline, world-class infrastructure, ports, airports, and enhanced connectivity—were being effectively utilized under the double-engine government model. She said these initiatives reflected the strength, speed, and sta-



bility that cooperative federalism can deliver when the state and central governments work in tandem for public welfare. Drawing a contrast, she accused the Karnataka Congress government of indulging in directionless and corrupti-

on-ridden governance. “Instead of learning from Andhra Pradesh’s progress, Karnataka Congress leaders are trying to discredit it,” Concluding her remarks, Yamini Sharma asserted that the BJP’s focus remained steadfast on na-

tion-building and people’s welfare. “Congress cries, BJP builds that is the difference between politics and nation-building,” she declared, reiterating that progress and unity were the true hallmarks of Modi’s leadership.

CPI Fumes Over GO 590, Calls PPP Medical Colleges ‘Privatisation in Disguise’



TPN | Vijayawada Oct 30: The Communist Party of India (CPI) has launched a strong protest against the Andhra Pradesh government’s decision to establish new medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, calling it a major step towards the privatization of higher education and public health care. CPI State Secretary K. Eshwaraiiah, in a statement released on Thursday, demanded the immediate withdrawal of Government Order (GO) No. 590, which was issued on September 9, 2025. The GO allows the establishment of ten new government medical colleges across the state under the PPP model.

The proposed institutions are to be set up in Markapuram, Madanapalle, Adoni, Pulivendula, Penukonda, Palakollu, Amalapuram, Narsipatnam, Bapatla, and Parvathipuram. Eshwaraiiah stated that the decision to involve private players in the construction and management of these medical colleges effectively hands over public assets and responsibilities to corporate entities. He argued that the move symbolizes the government’s growing inclination to commercialize essential services such as education

and healthcare, which should ideally remain within the public domain to ensure equitable access for all citizens.

According to the CPI leader, GO 590 would allow private partners to control the newly established colleges and their infrastructure for almost six decades. He warned that this could lead to long-term damage to the State’s interests, as valuable public land, buildings, and medical facilities would be tied up in private hands for 60 years. “This is a clear attempt to sideline public accountability and undermine the purpose of state-run welfare institutions,” he remarked. The government has justified the PPP model on the grounds of reducing financial burden on the State. Officials have projected that the model will save around 3,700 crore in construction costs and another 500 crore annually in maintenance.

However, Eshwaraiiah rejected these claims, arguing that the apparent short-term savings would translate into far greater long-term losses, as the people’s access to affordable healthcare and education would be compromised. Highlighting concerns over accessibility, the CPI leader alleged that nearly 20 percent of seats approximately 376 in

number would be allocated under the management quota in PPP-run colleges, with fees ranging between 50 lakh and 60 lakh per seat. “This move will make medical education a privilege for the rich, excluding poor and middle-class students,” he asserted.

Eshwaraiiah also pointed out that the PPP arrangement could eliminate nearly 3,675 potential government jobs that would have been available had these colleges remained under full government control. These positions, he said, include opportunities reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC), and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) candidates, leading to a substantial setback in social justice and employment opportunities.

Reiterating CPI’s commitment to defending public education and healthcare, Eshwaraiiah demanded that the Chandrababu Naidu government revoke GO 590 without delay. He stressed that all ten new medical colleges should be built and operated solely by the government to preserve public ownership, ensure transparency, and guarantee affordable medical education and healthcare access to all sections of society.

TDP Accuses Jagan of Trying to Create Rift Between Kamma and Kapu Communities

TPN Sattenapalli (Palnadu District), October 30: Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he has been deliberately attempting to sow discord between the Kamma and Kapu communities in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a media conference held at the TDP office in Sattenapalli on Thursday, Kanna said Jagan was resorting to divisive tactics to regain his lost political relev-

ance. Kanna accused Jagan of exploiting every small incident to mislead the public by magnifying issues through a political lens. He criticized Jagan for indulging in what he described as “corpse politics,” referring to the alleged politicization of tragic incidents for electoral gains. “The people of Andhra Pradesh will not forgive such heinous political acts,” he said. Citing a recent case in Prathipadu constituency, Kanna mentioned the suicide of a woman named Sheshamma who took the extreme step due to severe financial distress.

He alleged that instead of empathizing with the bereaved family, Jagan’s party tried to use the incident for political mileage. “Such insensitivity reflects the moral downfall of Jagan’s leadership,” he remarked. Reflecting on the past five years of YSR Congress rule, Kanna said the period from 2019 to 2024 witnessed rampant lawlessness, corruption, and administrative failure across the state. “The people of Andhra Pradesh suffered immensely under Jagan’s authoritarian regime, which showed utter disregard for democratic norms

and public welfare,” he stated.

This, he asserted, was the reason behind YSR Congress’s humiliating defeat in the 2024 elections, where it managed to win only 11 Assembly seats. Kanna further added that Jagan now faces an even tougher challenge in the 2029 elections, as people have lost complete faith in his leadership. “There is no way he can return to power again. The people have moved on, and they will not fall prey to his emotional theatrics and false narratives anymore,” he said mockingly. The TDP legislator ad-

vised Jagan to introspect and understand the true role of the opposition in a democracy rather than indulging in hatred and blame politics. “It is high time that he redefines his politics and behaves like a responsible opposition leader,” Kanna said. Kanna also spoke about preventive measures taken by the local administration in Sattenapalli to minimize the impact of the recent cyclonic storm.

He said that due to timely coordination and safety initiatives, the town was largely protected from major flooding or property damage.

Achchennaiidu Hits Back: Says Govt Standing by Farmers, Not Misleading Them

TPN Amaravati, October 30: Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Achchennaiidu criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for what he described as “deliberate attempts to mislead the public” with false claims regarding crop loss and cyclone-related damages. Addressing media persons in Amaravati, the minister alleged that Jagan was once again resorting to misinformation to gain political mileage, despite his past failures in addressing farmers’ concerns. Achchennaiidu said the former Chief Minister, who had led the state from 2019 to 2024, lacks the moral right to speak about farmer welfare or compensation. He accused the YSR Congress administration of ne-



glecting critical agricultural issues during its tenure and mishandling disaster relief funds that were meant to support distressed farmers. “During his rule, farmers were left in tears, waiting endlessly for compensation that never arrived. His tall promises about timely aid and crop insurance support turned hollow,” Achchennaiidu remarked. The agriculture minister highlighted that the current coalition government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has taken swift and sys-

tematic action to assist farmers affected by recent cyclones.

He said that the administration immediately deployed teams for damage assessments, delivered input subsidies, and ensured that crop insurance claims were processed without delay. “Our government is acting decisively to protect farmers’ livelihoods. We believe in standing by the farmer, not just through speeches, but through real action on the ground,” he said. Detailing recent measures, Achchennaiidu stated that the state government has already spent over 800 crore on various forms of crop support and procurement interventions. These efforts include market stabilization and procurement drives covering major crops such as chillies,

mangoes, tomatoes, onions, and cocoa — sectors that suffered heavy losses due to adverse weather. The minister explained that the government has also set aside 300 crore in the 2025-26 budget specifically for market price support, aiming to safeguard farmers whose produce sells below the minimum support price (MSP). “We are committed to ensuring that no farmer is forced to sell his produce at throwaway prices. Our market intervention programs are designed to stabilize incomes and strengthen rural resilience,” Achchennaiidu added.

He further emphasized that the coalition government views agriculture as the backbone of Andhra Pradesh’s economy and that it remains dedicated to rebuilding confidence

among the farming community. “Unlike the previous administration, which failed to deliver even basic assurances, our government is transparent, responsive, and accountable to every farmer in the state,” the minister asserted.

Concluding his remarks, Achchennaiidu called on Jagan Mohan Reddy to refrain from spreading “baseless claims” and instead acknowledge the genuine progress made by the present administration. “This government is not about excuses; it is about execution. Every rupee allocated for farmer welfare is being spent with purpose,” he said, reiterating that the Naidu-led government’s commitment to agriculture would remain a top priority in the coming years.

Ameen Peer Dargah Invites Jagan to Kadapa Urs Celebrations



TPN | Vijayawada Oct 30: The Ameen Peer Dargah Committee has extended a formal invitation to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to attend the upcoming Urs celebrations at the historic Ameen Peer Dargah in Kadapa. The invitation was personally conveyed by Hazrat K.S.S. Arifullah Hussaini, the Peethadhipathi of the Dargah, during a courtesy meeting held at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli. During the meeting, Hazrat Arifullah Hussaini invited Jagan Mohan Reddy to take part in the centuries-old Urs celebrations scheduled from November 5 to 10.

The event, which at-

tracts devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states, commemorates the spiritual legacy of the revered saints of the Ameen Peer Dargah, also known as Pedda Dargah. It is one of the most prominent Sufi shrines in South India, symbolizing communal harmony and peace. The Hazrat explained that this year’s Urs would include various religious and cultural programmes, including special prayers, spiritual discourses, and community service activities. As part of the celebrations, thousands of devotees, irrespective of caste or religion, visit the shrine to offer prayers and seek blessings.

The week-long event is traditionally marked by

a spirit of unity and devotion, highlighting the inclusive spiritual traditions of the region. Accepting the invitation, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed warm appreciation towards the committee and conveyed his best wishes for the successful conduct of the Urs. Sources from the party office said that Jagan lauded the Dargah’s long-standing contribution toward promoting peace, brotherhood, and social welfare in Rayalaseema. He also acknowledged the historical and cultural importance of the Urs, which has been celebrated for generations under the guidance of the Dargah committee. The meeting was attended by several prominent figures, including former Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu,

Ameen Peer Dargah Chief Mujaawar Amiruddin, Manager Mohammed Ali Khan, and Bakhulla Khan, who accompanied Hazrat Hussaini.

They discussed the arrangements being made for the festival and reiterated their wish to have Jagan Mohan Reddy’s presence during the proceedings. The Ameen Peer Dargah, believed to have been established nearly 400 years ago, holds special significance for devotees across faiths. It has historically been a center of pilgrimage, where Hindus, Muslims, and Christians gather in equal devotion.

The Dargah’s unique tradition of inclusivity reflects Kadapa’s distinctive spiritual heritage, which has been nurtured

by generations of Sufi saints. Preparations for the Urs are already underway, with committees being formed to oversee accommodation, security, sanitation, and crowd management.

Local authorities are coordinating with the Dargah management to ensure smooth conduct of the event, which is expected to draw large crowds. Traders, vendors, and service providers in the region are also gearing up for the annual festival, which contributes significantly to local economic activity. As anticipation builds for this year’s Urs, the Ameen Peer Dargah once again becomes a focal point of devotion, faith, and communal harmony in Andhra Pradesh.

Krishna River in Spate: Second Danger Alert Issued at Prakasam Barrage

TPN Vijayawada, October 30: Heavy rains in the upper catchment areas of the Krishna River have led to a sharp increase in water levels, prompting authorities to issue a second-level danger warning at Prakasam Barrage. The inflow into the barrage has risen dramatically to around 5.67 lakh cusecs, raising concerns of flooding along the river's banks. Officials have urged residents in low-lying and riverbank areas to remain on high alert as water levels continue to rise steadily.

According to the Irrigation Department, continuous rainfall in Karnataka and Telangana has swollen the upstream reservoirs, which are now releasing large volumes of water downstream. With these releases, inflows at Vijayawada's Prakasam Barrage have reached critical levels. Engineers are maintaining close vigil over the situation, ensuring controlled outflows to prevent severe flooding in the city and surrounding villages.

District Collector Mal likarjuna reviewed the situation with revenue, irrigation, and disaster management officials. Control rooms have been activated, and emergency response teams are stationed at vulnerable points along the river. Officials are coordinating with local administration in Ibrahimpatnam, Gollapudi,



and parts of Penamalu mandal to ensure that precautionary measures are implemented without delay.

The district disaster management authority has advised fishermen and residents near the river not to venture close to the waters or attempt any boat operations until water levels subside. Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed near Ibrahimpatnam mandal's Tummalapalem village today when a group of local fishermen stopped a boat heading toward the Prakasam Barrage area. The fishermen, aware of the increased danger and recalling past accidents, promptly alerted authorities.

With the help of officials, the boat was safely brought back to the shore. Authorities ap-

preciated the swift action of locals, noting that such vigilance is essential in preventing mishaps during flood situations. It may be recalled that in previous years, similar instances of boats getting stranded near the barrage gates had triggered rescue operations and caused damage to property. At present, the barrage gates are being operated in a controlled manner to manage the massive inflow.

Officials said that water storage levels in upstream reservoirs like Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem are nearing their maximum limits, and further releases are likely if rainfall persists. The situation is being monitored hourly, and updates will be issued through official channels and local me-

dia to keep the public informed. Citizens are advised to stay away from flooded areas, avoid unnecessary travel across river crossings, and follow instructions from local authorities.

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has also alerted its teams to handle potential drainage overflow or inundation within the city limits. Disaster management teams and boats remain on standby in case of emergency evacuation requirements. With forecasts predicting continued rainfall in the catchment regions, the next 24 hours will be crucial. Authorities emphasize that while the current situation is under control, caution and preparedness remain essential to ensure public safety.

Major Mishap Averted at Prakasam Barrage; Swift Action by Authorities Prevents Disaster

TPN VIJAYAWADA OCT 30: A major accident was narrowly averted on Thursday evening near Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada, after local fishermen and disaster management teams acted quickly to prevent an unmanned boat from colliding with the barrage structure. The timely intervention of the authorities, aided by advanced monitoring and rescue operations, averted what could have been a serious mishap on the Krishna River. According to official sources, local fishermen at Tummalapalem village in Ibrahimpatnam mandal first noticed a boat drifting downstream in the strong river currents. Realizing the potential danger, they immediately alerted the State Disaster Management Control Room.

Responding promptly, the control room dispatched officials who initiated surveillance using drones to locate the drifting vessel. The boat was soon identified near Tummalapalem, heading rapidly toward the Prakasam Barrage. Revenue and police personnel, along with members of the Na-



tional Disaster Response Force (NDRF), were mobilized to the spot. With the help of trained divers, the rescue teams managed to secure the boat and bring it safely to shore before it could cause any damage.

Officials commended the swift thinking of the fishermen and the prompt action of the control room staff for preventing a potentially disastrous incident. Preliminary reports suggest the boat may have broken loose from its moorings upstream due to strong currents following recent rain. Authorities are investigating to determine the owner of the vessel, its point of origin, and whether there were any lapses in safety measures that led to it being adrift. District officials stated that the incident highlighted the impor-

tance of continuous monitoring of riverine structures and vessels, especially during rainy periods when water flow increases.

"The coordinated work of the local fishermen, police, and disaster management teams saved us from a serious situation near Prakasam Barrage," an official remarked. In a similar incident earlier in the day, a major crisis was also averted at the Sangam Barrage in Nellore district. A sand boat weighing nearly 30 tonnes had broken its anchor and was carried by the current toward the barrage gates.

Had the vessel hit the gates, it could have caused severe structural damage to the barrage, officials said. Upon receiving the alert, Nellore District Collector Himanshu

Shukla and Superintendent of Police immediately reviewed the situation. Emergency teams from the NDRF, SDRF, fire services, irrigation department, police, and even a patrol unit from Krishnapatnam Port were deployed to handle the crisis. Working under war-footing conditions, the teams successfully diverted the massive sand boat and secured it at the riverbank, avoiding any harm to the barrage infrastructure. Both incidents have underscored the growing importance of using drone surveillance and modern river monitoring systems to detect and respond quickly to potential hazards.

Officials have now recommended routine aerial patrols and stricter guidelines for boat mooring along the Krishna River to ensure such near-misses are avoided in the future. Authorities continue to monitor river conditions closely, emphasizing the need for precautionary measures and community alertness to prevent accidents in and around key water infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh.

Aster Ramesh Hospitals Launches Year-Long Free and Discounted Neurology Services on World Stroke Day

TPN/Vijayawada Oct 30: Marking World Stroke Day on October 29, Aster Ramesh Hospitals has announced an extensive year-long initiative to offer free and discounted neurology services to stroke patients. The program, launched as part of the hospital's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, aims to promote early stroke recognition, accessible treatment, and community awareness about one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide.

World Stroke Day was established by the World Stroke Organization in 2006 to increase global awareness of stroke, its causes, and the importance of timely medical intervention. According to health experts, stroke ranks as the second-largest cause of death globally, with approximately 1.8 million new cases reported every year in India alone. Medical evidence shows that if treated within four to five hours of symptom onset, up to 80 percent of stroke victims can achieve full recovery and avoid permanent neurological damage.

Underscoring the critical need for early response, Dr Pothineni Ramesh Babu, Managing Director of Aster Ramesh Hospitals, emphasized the urgency of recognizing stroke symptoms and acting without delay. "Stroke is a sudden and life-threatening emer-



gency. Every minute counts. Early intervention can save brain cells and help patients return to normal life," he said. As part of the week-long awareness activities preceding the CSR launch, Aster Ramesh Hospitals organized a series of health outreach events in Krishna district. Walkathons, Basic Life Support (BLS) demonstrations, and free health camps were conducted at Koduru and Gudivada, drawing strong participation from local residents, medical students, and health volunteers.

These activities aimed to educate the public on identifying early warning signs of stroke and providing immediate assistance before hospital care. The hospital's Ram Kasturi Stroke Center, operational since 2011, has been at the forefront

of advanced stroke management, saving more than 5,000 lives over the years. The center houses a dedicated 24x7 stroke response team led by senior neurologists and neurospecialists including Dr Lakshmi Anusha, Dr Harini, Dr Prashanth, Dr Rajesh, Dr Prudhvi, and Dr Mahesh.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology such as 256-slice CT scanners, 1.5 Tesla MRI, EEG, and Transcranial Doppler systems, the facility ensures rapid diagnosis and evidence-based treatment. Under the newly launched CSR initiative, Aster Ramesh Hospitals will extend 50,000 free consultations along with discounted diagnostic and treatment services to stroke patients across all its branches and outreach centers for one year.

Each day, the first five stroke patients registered across any of the Aster Ramesh branches including its 26 outreach centers will be eligible for these special concessions. The initiative is expected to significantly reduce the financial burden on patients and improve access to specialized neurological care, particularly in semi-urban and rural segments of Andhra Pradesh. Appointments for the program can be scheduled through the "Call Ramesh" mobile application or by contacting the hospital's dedicated helpline at 0866-2463463. Hospital authorities stated that the initiative is a step toward ensuring that every stroke patient, regardless of financial background, receives timely and quality medical care.

Bhakta Kanakadasa Jayanthi to Be Celebrated as State Festival on December 8: Minister Savitha

TPN | Vijayawada Oct 30: The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to celebrate Bhakta Kanakadasa Jayanthi as a State Festival on December 8, marking a new chapter in recognizing the legacy of the revered social reformer, philosopher, and saint. Minister for BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles, S. Savitha, announced the decision and confirmed that state-level celebrations would be held at Kalyandurg in Anantapur district.

Minister for Human Resource Development Nara Lokesh will attend the event as the chief guest. In an official statement issued on Thursday, Minister Savitha said Bhakta Kanakadasa's contributions to society extend far beyond religious devotion. Describing him as a great thinker, poet, and social philosopher, she noted that his compositions and teachings conveyed messages of equality and social justice.

His writings, she said, continue to inspire people to rise above caste and class barriers and work toward social harmony. "His contribution to eradicating social evils and caste discrimination is invaluable. It is a matter of



pride that the state government is honoring such a saint by celebrating his Jayanthi as a State Festival," the Minister said. Savitha informed that the orders for organizing this year's celebrations would be released within two days.

The government has also decided to ensure simultaneous observance of Kanakadasa Jayanthi across all districts. She remarked that the previous year's celebrations held in Anantapur had drawn large participation and that this year's events would be more inclusive and widespread, promoting the saint's vision of unity and equality. While elaborating on the state's ongoing welfare measures for the Backward Classes, Minister Savitha expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for approving a special grant of 60 crore to complete pending works

related to BC hostels and Gurukul school buildings.

These projects, some of which had remained incomplete for several years, are now set to be revived and finished under the new allocation. The Minister criticized the previous government for its alleged neglect of BC welfare institutions. According to her, the earlier administration failed to clear dues for hostel diet and cosmetic allowances, ignored infrastructure maintenance, and allowed the educational facilities to deteriorate.

"The neglect of BC hostels and the failure to provide even basic amenities exposed the lack of concern toward the welfare of these students," she remarked. In contrast, she highlighted that the present government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is taking proactive steps to restore

quality and dignity to BC education. The initiatives include the supply of nutritious meals to hostel students, the installation of CCTV cameras for safety and transparency, provision of clean drinking water systems, and regular disbursement of student allowances.

Minister Savitha stated that these efforts demonstrate the government's firm commitment to the upliftment of BC students and the advancement of education as a tool for empowerment. "The 60 crore sanction once again proves that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is a true supporter of the BC community," she asserted, adding that the upcoming Kanakadasa Jayanthi celebrations will not only honor a historic saint but also reaffirm the government's dedication to equality and inclusive growth.

AP Health Reforms Pay Off, Cut OP Time by 40%

TPN/VIJAYAWADA Oct 30: The Andhra Pradesh Health Department has reported considerable improvements across the state's public healthcare system during the past six months, with outpatient (OP) waiting times reduced dramatically and staff attendance reaching record levels. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, while reviewing performance indicators for the April-September 2025 period, said the government's reforms and close monitoring have begun showing tangible results. Since the coalition government assumed office in June 2024, the department has focused on strengthening medical infrastructure, improving accountability, and expanding patient services. "The corrective steps we initiated after assessing hospital conditions last year are now producing visible results on the



ground," Minister Yadav said. "However, sustained efforts are required to achieve complete transformation in the public health sector." Attendance and Accountability According to official data, attendance among doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff has improved significantly. Overall attendance rose from 83 percent in April to 92 percent in September, averaging 87 percent for the six-month period. Doctors recorded 82 percent attendance, while nurses and paramedical

personnel exceeded 90 percent. Among general hospitals, King George Hospital (KGH) Visakhapatnam led with 93.13 percent, followed by Kurnool Government General Hospital (92.71 percent) and Rajamahendravaram GGH (91.46 percent). On the lower end, Nellore (66.44 percent), Eluru (76.3 percent), and Guntur (77.84 percent) posted weaker attendance figures. Medical colleges also showed encouraging results. Sri Venkateswara Medical College (SVMC) Tirupati

achieved a perfect 100 percent attendance rate, while Rangaraya Medi-

cal College Kakinada (99.92 percent) and Andhra Medical College

Visakhapatnam (95.3 percent) stood close behind. Faster OP Services and Diagnostics Outpatient services experienced a surge with more than 4 crore OP visits during the six-month period, representing a 20 percent increase compared to the previous half-year. The most striking development was the reduction in average

waiting time from 42 minutes earlier to 26 minutes now driven largely by the addition of new registration counters across hospitals. The number of outpatient registration counters rose from 80 in 2024 to 150 by September 2025. Digital health access improved as well, with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) registration counters increasing from 53 to 116. Diagnostic capacity has expanded notably, with over 2.5 crore tests conducted statewide, including X-rays, ultrasounds, ECGs, and laboratory examinations. This marks a 6.1 percent growth compared to the previous review period. District Performance and NHM Evaluation For the first time, the Health Department introduced a district and divisional performance ranking system to evaluate overall healthcare efficiency.

East Godavari, Kadapa, and Tirupati districts emerged as top performers, while Alluri Sitarama Raju, Guntur, and Srikakulam districts lagged behind. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Disease Control and Maternal-Child Health components recorded the most successful outcomes. Conversely, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Primary Health Care segments require attention, particularly in ensuring proper follow-up care after screening programs. Minister Yadav instructed district health officials to immediately act upon the evaluation reports, address shortcomings, and sustain the gains achieved so far. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring equitable, efficient, and accountable healthcare delivery across Andhra Pradesh.



Heavy Rains Trigger Flooding in Parts of Prakasam



TPN BUREAU, ONGOLE OCT 30: The impact of Cyclone Montha has left a trail of destruction across Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district, with torrential rains submerging several low-lying areas and cutting off road connectivity to many villages. Continuous rainfall over the past two days caused swollen streams and overflowing reservoirs, leading to widespread inundation and hardship for residents. According to district officials, more than ten villages located downstream of the Gundlakamma Project remain marooned as of Thursday evening. With floodwaters surrounding the area, access routes have been completely blocked, making it difficult for rescue and relief teams to reach stranded people. Villages including Kolasanakota and Rachavaripalem in Maddipadu mandal, and Madiralapadu, Chirvanappalapadu, and Kanaparathi in Naguluppalapadu mandal, are among the worst affected. Communication links have broken down, and people have resorted to make shift boats and temporary arrangements to reach safer areas. Residents report that water levels rose rapidly overnight, inundating homes, agricultural lands, and roads. In some places, floodwaters have entered houses up to window level, forcing hundreds

of families to seek shelter on terraces or nearby elevated locations. Local panchayat buildings and schools have been converted into temporary relief shelters to accommodate the displaced population. The situation worsened as power supply to several villages was disrupted since Wednesday night due to fallen electric poles and damaged transformers. Without electricity, residents are struggling to charge phones, access lighting, or use essential household equipment. Rural water supply has also been interrupted, aggravating health and sanitation concerns. District officials have urged residents not to venture into flooded areas and to remain in safe shelters until water recedes. Revenue and irrigation department teams have been deployed to monitor water flow from the Gundlakamma Project. Authorities are releasing floodwaters in a controlled manner to prevent further damage to the embankments and to manage pressure on the dam. Prakasam District Collector has instructed officials to ensure continuous supervision and coordinate with the electricity and police departments to restore power and maintain safety. Heavy rainfall is likely to continue in parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh as the cyclonic circulation associated with Montha

persists over the Bay of Bengal. The Meteorological Department has issued warnings for strong winds and further showers in adjoining districts including Guntur, Nellore, and Bapatla. Fishing operations along the coast remain suspended due to rough sea conditions. Relief efforts are in progress, with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local administration distributing food packets, drinking water, and medical supplies to affected families. Boats have been arranged to evacuate people from isolated villages. Officials said restoration of road connectivity will begin once water levels drop and damage assessments are completed. With agriculture forming the backbone of the region's livelihood, officials fear substantial crop losses in paddy and chili fields, which were ready for harvest. Farmers have urged the government to undertake immediate enumeration and announce compensation for damages. Local leaders have appealed to the government for urgent relief funds and long-term flood mitigation measures to strengthen embankments and improve drainage systems. As rescue operations continue, the administration remains on high alert to prevent further casualties and minimize property loss across Prakasam district.

MLA Aravind Babu Extends Immediate Relief to Cyclone-Affected Families

TPN BUREAU Narasaraopet (Palnadu District), October 30: In the wake of the severe cyclonic storm "Remal" that developed over the Bay of Bengal and its associated heavy rains over the past three days, several low-lying areas in Narasaraopet town have been inundated. Ponds and small reservoirs over flowed due to continuous downpours, flooding residential colonies and cutting off access to essential services. Responding swiftly to the crisis, Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu launched extensive relief operations to support displaced and distressed families. The legislator acted promptly to ensure there was no loss of life in his constituency. He personally supervised precautionary and rescue measures carried out across the flood-affected neighborhoods. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Dr. Aravind Babu initiated food and medical distribution using his personal funds,

rather than waiting for official allocations from government sources. His efforts were aimed at providing immediate relief to those rendered homeless or stranded by floodwaters. On Thursday, the MLA visited multiple affected localities, including TITCO Housing, SRKT Colony, Chandrababu Naidu Colony, and Linganguntla ST Colony. In these areas, large-scale food camps were organized to serve freshly cooked meals and drinking water. Medical aid was also provided to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases in temporary shelters. Volunteers and local party workers were mobilized to deliver nutritious meals directly to elderly residents, women, and children confined to their homes. Dr. Aravind Babu expressed his deep concern for the plight of the poor who were forced to vacate their homes due to the heavy rains. "People should not suffer from hunger or thirst while waiting for govern-



ment assistance. As a public representative, it is my duty to ensure their welfare and safety in such testing times," he said while interacting with the media. The MLA emphasized that immediate humanitarian support is essential to maintain morale and community confidence during natural calamities. The local administration coordinated closely with the MLA's team to monitor water levels in major drains and lakes around Narasaraopet. Precautionary measures were taken to prevent further

overflow from affecting critical roads and residential zones. Emergency teams remained on standby with rescue boats and medical supplies, prepared to respond to any escalation in flood intensity. The MLA also reviewed the status of drinking water supply, sanitation, and power restoration in the affected wards. Large numbers of alliance leaders, volunteers, and residents came forward to assist in the food distribution program organized under Dr. Aravind Babu's supervision. The collaborative effort

was widely appreciated by the local communities, who felt reassured by the proactive intervention. Residents lauded the MLA's compassionate leadership during the crisis, acknowledging his commitment to the well-being of every household. As the region continues to recover from the cyclone's impact, relief measures initiated by Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu stand as an example of immediate citizen-centered response and effective disaster management at the grassroots level.

Collector Reviews Fisheries Department Activities in Palnadu



TPN BUREAU PALNADU Oct 30: A comprehensive review meeting of the Fisheries Department was held in Narasaraopet, Palnadu district, under the chairmanship of District Collector Kritika Shukla. The meeting focused on evaluating the department's ongoing programs, addressing recent challenges faced by fishermen, and reviewing government schemes being implemented to support the fisheries sector. During the meeting, Collector Kritika Shukla instructed department officials to ensure a transparent enumeration of losses suffered by fishermen due to the recent Montha cyclone. She said that any damage to fish-

ing boats, nets, or other equipment must be properly recorded and verified to facilitate appropriate compensation or assistance. The Collector emphasized that transparency and accuracy in assessing damages are crucial to ensure the welfare of affected fishermen. The review also discussed the progress of various welfare and development schemes currently being implemented by the Fisheries Department. One major topic was the leasing process of minor irrigation ponds to fisheries cooperative societies. The Collector directed officials to ensure that the lease rates remain affordable and that the benefits of these resources reach

small and marginal fishermen. This step, she said, will help enhance inland fish production while improving the livelihoods of local fishing communities. Officials informed the Collector that the district administration has taken steps to promote aquaculture in the region. Licenses for cultivating fish and prawns have been granted across 3,300 acres in Palnadu district. Technical guidance is also being extended to the license holders to encourage scientific methods of fish and prawn farming, ensuring better productivity and environmental sustainability. In addition, the ad-

ministration has decided to issue licenses to 1,500 inland fishermen for freshwater fish culture across different parts of the district. District Fisheries Officer S. Sanjeev Rao, who attended the review meeting, briefed the Collector on the key initiatives being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). He explained that a variety of subsidy-based programs are being extended to fishermen and fish farmers in the district. These include assistance for pond development, fish seed supply, equipment procurement, and cold-chain infrastructure. The officer stated that these schemes are designed to modernize fisheries operations and increase productivity through better technology and resource support. The meeting also noted that the government is supplying high-quality electricity to fishermen at a highly

subsidized rate of Rs. 1.50 per unit. This provision aims to reduce operational expenses in aquaculture activities, particularly in fish and prawn hatcheries and aeration systems used for intensive culture methods. Collector Kritika Shukla appreciated the efforts of the Fisheries Department and urged officials to maintain close coordination with local cooperatives and beneficiaries to ensure the timely implementation of welfare measures. She stressed the need to create greater awareness among fishermen about the available government schemes so that maximum benefit can reach the grassroots. The review concluded with a call for continued monitoring of the fisheries sector to promote sustainable practices, protect aquatic ecosystems, and support the economic well-being of fisher communities in Palnadu district.

The Media India Needs: Honest, Plural, Accountable

A free and fearless press is essential for any thriving democracy. India's Constitution guarantees formal press freedom, but the real challenge today is a media landscape largely captive to partisanship and deference—one that silences scrutiny and stifles meaningful debate. At a time of domestic upheaval and global uncertainty, India urgently needs a press that holds power accountable, encourages honest discourse, and signals when change is necessary. Instead, conformity narrows perspectives, weakens oversight, and blinds the public to critical course corrections. Two recent incidents

highlight this concern. After the tragic Pahalgam massacre and India's subsequent military response under "Op Sindoor," the domestic media narrative was triumphant. However, internationally, the reaction was far less supportive, with global coverage focusing on the loss of Indian jets rather than the strikes. Unverified reports about strikes deep inside Pakistan circulated without confirmation, projecting jingoism that cost India credibility. Limited government briefings and restricted foreign media access only worsened the situation. Most worrying was the mainstream media's reluctance to question the



government on security failures that led to the massacre. Accountability was noticeably absent.

A similar pattern emerges in coverage of tariff disputes with the U.S. While India must de-

fend its strategic interests firmly, effective diplomacy requires realism and agility. Yet main-

stream media shy away from critically assessing India's handling of negotiations, choosing in-

stead to echo commentary that supports India's stance or criticizes the U.S. This one-sided coverage undermines deeper understanding and reflection. Though India boasts courageous journalists and independent digital voices working often at personal risk, these are exceptions. Concentrated media ownership, advertising pressures, and threats—both legal and online—discourage investigative scrutiny. Sensationalism often trumps in-depth reporting. Diaspora communities must also reflect on their role. While enjoying media freedoms abroad, many support narrow, uncritical media consump-

tion about India, fostering echo chambers rather than pluralism. True patriotism means demanding the same high standards of accountability and fact-based reporting for the India we cherish. A responsible press is not anti-national—it is democracy's watchdog. It highlights both successes and failures, enabling citizens to hold leaders accountable. Without genuine inquiry and independent questioning, public access to information shrinks, and democracy suffers. For a truly developed India, we need media that informs and challenges, not inflames. Honest reflection—not flattery—is the path forward.

Let the Era of Post-Dollar Power Begin—India Must Lead It

The U.S. dollar, once a symbol of global trade stability, has morphed into a strategic weapon of economic coercion. Instead of tanks or troops, Washington now uses financial sanctions, SWIFT bans, and punitive tariffs to control nations—just ask Iran, Russia, Venezuela, and now India. Recently, the U.S. imposed a 50% tariff on Indian exports, punishing India for buying cheaper oil from Russia—a country still deeply entwined economically with the U.S. through secret tech deals and uranium trade. This blatant hypocrisy underscores a larger truth: India remains trapped in an economic system designed to sustain American dominance. Despite being the world's fifth-largest economy and a major geopolitical power, India still settles over 60% of its foreign trade in U.S. dollars. Whether trading with Russia or importing machinery from China, payments flow through New York's invisible "toll booth," enriching American banks and reinforcing dependence. This system is not about efficiency but control. The dollar's status as the world's reserve currency lets the U.S. print money freely, finance endless military ventures, and impose its will on sovereign nations. Prime Minister Modi's call for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) is commendable, but true self-reliance is impossible as long as India's trade remains dollar-denominated and SWIFT-dependent. One American bureaucrat can freeze payments to Indian importers or deny liquidity to Russian banks, quietly auctioning India's strategic autonomy.



The solution lies in bold, systematic de-dollarization, starting with India's largest trading partners—China and Russia. With annual trade exceeding \$135 billion with China and critical imports from Russia, India must shift to settling transactions in rupees, yuan, rubles, or even barter arrangements like rare earths for

technology. Forming a Rupee-Yuan-Ruble triad and championing alternative clearinghouses such as a BRICS+ system would diminish dollar hegemony and establish a truly multipolar financial order—one where trade isn't weaponized and national sovereignty respected.

Modi has resisted Western pressure admirably by continuing to buy Russian oil, but this moment demands reinvention. India can lead a new era of economic dignity by building an independent financial ecosystem—one that chips away at the dollar's false supremacy and lights the fuse for a post-dollar world.

The New Battlefield: WhatsApp Groups and Everyday Conflicts



In today's digital age, wars are no longer confined to geopolitics or economics—they have found a new, unexpected battleground: WhatsApp groups. Once celebrated as a quick and convenient way to stay connected, WhatsApp has evolved into a zone of social tension, petty conflicts, and endless misunderstandings. Take a simple morning walk and you might overhear heated debates sparked by WhatsApp disputes. In one instance, a group member faced backlash for buying designer outfits on sale but not sharing the news with the group. The irritation? She frequently forwards messages but kept this exclusive. Meanwhile, just a few steps away, another group fumed over a member who constantly flooded chats with mundane photos—from feeding her dog to wa-

tering plants—clogging up everyone's phone storage. These seemingly trivial quarrels underscore a deeper social dilemma: WhatsApp's ease of communication blurs boundaries between private space and public sharing. One delayed reply to a long-lost friend's message was enough to end a friendship, while an acquaintance's persistent calls and follow-up messages turned interactions into a source of stress and withdrawal. WhatsApp groups span diverse circles—schools, families, apartments—and while they theoretically offer a platform for helpful information and camaraderie, reality often falls short. Apartment groups, for example, start with polite exchanges but quickly devolve into finger-pointing over unpaid maintenance, garbage issues, and disputes about repairs. Just

when the tension peaks, someone might innocently ask about a plumber, briefly breaking the hostile rhythm. The constant pressure to monitor and respond to messages can be exhausting. Whether engaging enthusiastically or replying with indifference, users risk judgment and criticism. The safest response, some suggest, is a neutral one: "Nothing, just WhatsApp." This digital battlefield reveals the complexities of modern communication—where convenience collides with social expectations, and every notification can become a small war. For many, WhatsApp is less about connection and more about navigating fragile egos and endless drama. In the war zone of instant messaging, sometimes the best defense is simply a quiet retreat.

US Pharma Tariffs: Challenge and Opportunity for India's Drug Industry



US President Donald Trump recently announced that starting October 1, 2025, a 100% tariff will be imposed on branded or patented pharmaceutical imports into the US—unless foreign companies build drug-manufacturing facilities on American soil. Marketed as a nationalist "produce in America or pay" policy, this move aims to bring supply chains home but effectively acts as a blunt instrument of protectionism. India, known as the "pharmacy of the world," produces about 20% of global generic medicines, supplies nearly 60% of vaccines worldwide, and hosts the largest number of US FDA-approved manufacturing sites out-

side the US. India's \$30 billion pharmaceutical exports account for 90% of US prescriptions. This tariff threatens to disrupt this vital trade relationship. While framed as promoting domestic production, the tariff is essentially a demand for market access through forced relocation. History shows that tariff costs are typically absorbed by consumers and importers, not exporters. The US healthcare system's heavy reliance on affordable Indian generics means any supply disruption or price hikes could severely impact patients, insurers, and government programs. Complex drug manufacturing can't be quickly shifted to the

US due to regulatory, investment, and logistical hurdles. Many Indian firms, like Dr. Reddy's and Zydus, derive 30-45% of their revenues from the US market, making this tariff a serious financial threat. Moreover, Indian-made medicines are often rebranded and repackaged abroad, with profits accruing to foreign firms rather than Indian producers. However, this challenge can become an opportunity if Indian pharma companies act strategically. They should promote their own brands directly in markets like Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia to bypass rebranding by foreign companies. Building

regional manufacturing and regulatory hubs in partner countries can help sidestep US tariffs. Continued focus on regulatory compliance, backed by diplomatic support and export financing, will strengthen India's global pharma presence. Finally, India must engage multilaterally to challenge protectionist tariff rules at the WTO and other forums, and accelerate R&D investment to move into higher-value drugs like biosimilars and specialty injectables. If approached proactively, India can turn this tariff threat into a strategic opportunity to reinforce its position as a global pharmaceutical leader.

‘RJD, Congress like oil and water, out for power at any cost’: PM Modi in Bihar



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the opposition alliance in Bihar, saying the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress had come together out of “lust for power” despite being fundamentally different. Speaking at

an election rally in Muzaffarpur, Modi described their alliance as “oil and water” — entities that “are in one glass but not merging.” “The real news of this election is not the abuses being hurled at me,” Modi said. “It is the scale of differences between RJD and

Congress. Their workers are fighting each other for dominance.” Taking aim at opposition leaders Tejashwi Yadav and Rahul Gandhi, Modi called them “two royal scions out on bail,” questioning whether voters would “allow these scions to plunder Bihar

again.” He accused the alliance of underestimating the wisdom of Biharis and said the opposition had united only “to capture power at any cost.” Predicting a historic win for the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Modi said the RJD-Congress combine was

“headed for its worst-ever defeat” in Bihar. He cited recent surveys indicating strong public support for the NDA, which includes the JD(U), BJP, LJP (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha, and Rashtriya Lok Manch. Pitching the “Narendra-Nitish” partnership, Modi emphasized the government’s focus on women’s empowerment, mentioning a scheme under which Rs 10,000 was directly transferred to women’s accounts to promote self-reliance. Reviving the BJP’s “jungle raj” campaign, Modi criticized the opposition’s election materials, saying their songs and slogans were filled with references to weapons like chhura, katta, and dunali. “This reflects their mindset,” he said.

Mocking the RJD-Congress promise of one job per household, Modi quipped: “Yeh itna phenk rahe hain ke inke samarthakon ko bhi nahi pach raha (even their supporters are finding their lies hard to digest).”

Amit Shah Says INDIA Bloc Will Be “Wiped Out” in Bihar Polls



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday predicted a complete rout for the opposition INDIA bloc in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of “insulting” Chhathi Maiyya and hurting the sentiments of the people of Bihar.

Addressing a massive rally in Lakhisarai, Shah said the people of Bihar would “take revenge” for Congress workers’ alleged remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s mother and Rahul Gandhi’s comments about those who worship Chhathi Maiyya. “Rahul Gandhi insulted Chhathi Maiyya, calling the devotion of millions of Biharis a drama. The

people will teach the INDIA bloc a lesson for this disrespect,” Shah said to loud cheers from the crowd.

In a sharp jibe at Congress’ top leadership, Shah urged voters to ensure the NDA’s victory with resounding force. “Press the EVM buttons on the NDA symbols with such rage that the tremors are felt in Italy,” he said, alluding to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi’s Italian heritage.

Shah asserted that the ruling National Democratic Alliance — comprising the BJP, JD(U), LJP (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha, and Rashtriya Lok Manch — would secure a historic mandate under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

He said the INDIA bloc, led by the RJD and Congress, was “anti-development and anti-Bihar,” accusing it of dividing communities and glorifying “jungle raj.” “The people of Bihar know what the RJD-Congress alliance stands for — corruption, crime, and chaos,” he said.

Shah concluded by praising the NDA government’s welfare schemes for women, farmers, and youth, claiming that the Modi government’s focus on development and social justice had “transformed Bihar’s image.” “The INDIA bloc will be wiped out — their arrogance and insults have sealed their fate,” Shah declared.

India Gets 6-Month US Sanctions Exemption for Chabahar Port



TPN Correspondent | Patna

India on Thursday confirmed that its investments and operations at Iran’s Chabahar Port will be exempt from U.S. sanctions for six months, allowing work on the key strategic infrastructure project to continue uninterrupted. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) said the exemption ensures that American restrictions announced in September will not apply to the port.

The announcement comes amid intense India-U.S. negotiations to finalize a major bilateral trade deal. “We continue to remain engaged with the

U.S. side on finalising the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discussions,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, noting that the Commerce Ministry is leading talks on trade issues.

India signed a 10-year agreement with Iran in 2024, under which state-

run India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) pledged \$370 million in investments to develop and operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar. The port, located in Iran’s Sistan-Baluchistan province, is a crucial link for India to Afghanistan and Central Asia, providing a trade

route that bypasses Pakistan.

This is not the first time Chabahar has received a U.S. waiver. In 2018, the Trump administration issued a similar exemption recognizing the port’s importance for regional connectivity and Afghanistan’s access to global markets.

The MEA also said India is evaluating the implications of new U.S. sanctions on Russian oil companies. “Our position on energy sourcing is well-known,” Jaiswal added. “We are guided by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources for our 1.4 billion people.”

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has previously defended India’s energy decisions, noting that its Russian oil imports remain modest compared to Europe’s.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meanwhile said trade talks with Washington are progressing, expressing optimism for a “fair and equitable” deal while emphasizing that India “will not sign any agreement in haste.”

Bihar Assembly Elections| Litmus test for Tejashwi Yadav’s ‘solo show’

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

As Bihar heads toward Assembly elections, questions are mounting within the I.N.D.I.A. bloc over the strategy to turn the campaign into a one-man show centered around Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav. While he has been projected as the alliance’s chief ministerial face, several allies are uneasy about the shift from collective leadership to personality-driven politics.

Tejashwi’s emergence as the focal point came after weeks of internal wrangling. The Congress hesitated until the last moment before endorsing him, while Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahani reportedly sought assurances of being named deputy chief ministerial candidate as a bargaining chip.

The official unveiling of Tejashwi as the CM face on October 23 highlighted the alliance’s internal imbalance — banners at the event featured only his image, omitting



other I.N.D.I.A. bloc leaders. Similarly, the joint manifesto released on October 28 carried Tejashwi’s picture prominently under the title “Bihar ka Tejashwi Pran” (Tejashwi’s Resolve), reducing the presence of other leaders — including Congress’s Rahul Gandhi

and even RJD founder Lalu Prasad — to minor photos.

At rallies, Tejashwi has positioned himself as the youthful, forward-looking leader who can take on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s NDA. RJD strategists believe his 2020 near-win and image as a former Deputy Chief

Minister give him credibility and voter appeal.

However, unease persists among allies over the RJD’s dominance in seat-sharing and campaign messaging. Some within the bloc feel sidelined and worry that Tejashwi’s personal projection could alienate smaller partners, under-

mining the alliance’s claim of unity.

Despite the dissent, RJD insiders remain confident that Tejashwi’s solo pitch will consolidate anti-BJP votes, framing him as the face of Bihar’s future — a generational alternative to the long-standing political order.

“Don’t Trigger Me”: 17 Children Rescued in Mumbai Hostage Incident



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

At least 17 children were rescued unharmed on Thursday after a man held them hostage in the Powai neighbourhood of Mumbai, police said. Responding to a circulated video in which the suspect identified himself as Rohit Arya and made chilling threats, authorities mounted a rapid operation that ended with the children being removed and the suspect arrested at the scene.

In the pre-incident video, the man said he had chosen hostage-taking instead of suicide to force conversations with unspecified individuals. “I am Rohit Arya. Instead of dying by suicide, I have made a plan and am holding some children hostage here,” he said, listing what he called “simple demands,

moral demands, ethical demands, and a few questions.” He warned officials that “the slightest wrong move from you will trigger me,” threatening to set the location on fire and insisting he was not seeking money and was “not a terrorist.”

Mumbai police said they acted quickly after the video began circulating on social media, deploying tactical teams and negotiators to the Powai site. Officers established a secure perimeter and engaged with the suspect while prioritising the safety of the children. According to authorities, the swift response and co-ordinated efforts by local law enforcement led to the children being evacuated without physical harm and the perpetrator being taken into custody.

Medical teams evaluated the rescued children at the scene and arranged for further care and counselling where needed. Police declined to disclose detailed motives pending further investigation but said Arya’s statements suggested he sought attention and engagement rather than material gain.

The arrest comes amid renewed calls for vigilance over online content that may herald violent acts. Local officials urged parents to cooperate with investigators and asked anyone with information about the suspect or the circumstances leading up to the incident to come forward. Authorities said they will continue probing the case to determine the full chain of events and any wider threats.

Vietnam Floods Kill 10, River Hits 60-Year High



TPN Correspondent | Buenos Aires

Severe flooding in central Vietnam has claimed at least 10 lives this week, as rivers swell to levels not seen in six decades, authorities reported on Thursday, October 30, 2025. The disaster has inundated more than 128,000 homes across five coastal provinces, with water depths reaching up to three metres in some areas.

The flooding, triggered by relentless heavy rainfall since the weekend, has wreaked havoc on communities and infrastructure. Some areas recorded a staggering 1.7 metres (5ft 7in) of rain within 24 hours, overwhelming drainage systems and triggering landslides. The ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage site and major tourist destination, was particularly hard hit, prompting emergency evacuations.

Tourists and residents were rescued by boat from submerged streets in Hoi An, with images showing water lapping at historic buildings and disrupting daily life. Local authorities warned that river levels were continuing to rise, surpassing records last set six decades ago, and called for heightened vigilance in vulnerable areas.

Emergency services and the military have been deployed to assist with evacuations, deliver relief supplies, and support stranded residents. Officials have urged communities to move to higher ground and adhere strictly to safety advisories.

The economic impact is expected to be significant, with agriculture, tourism, and local businesses facing extensive losses due to inundated farmlands, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted commerce. Authorities are assessing the damage and mobilizing national and international aid to provide immediate relief.

Climate experts have noted that extreme rainfall events in the region have been increasing in frequency and intensity, raising concerns about long-term flood resilience. Meanwhile, residents continue to navigate the rising waters, as the government works to prevent further casualties and mitigate ongoing flood damage.

Trump Cuts China Tariffs After Xi Meeting



TPN Correspondent | Busan

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a significant easing of trade tensions with China following a high-profile summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, South Korea, on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Trump described the face-to-face meeting as a “roaring success,” highlighting agreements on trade, rare earth exports, and agricultural purchases.

One of the key outcomes of the summit is the reduction of U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods. Tariffs imposed earlier this year as a punitive measure on China’s sale of chemicals used in fentanyl production will be cut from 20% to 10%. This adjustment lowers the overall combined tariff rate on Chinese imports from 57% to 47%, signaling a major step toward de-escalation in the ongoing U.S.-China trade disputes.

Trump also revealed that Beijing had agreed to increase the export of rare earth elements to the United States and to resume buying American soybeans. These developments are expected to boost U.S. agricultural exports while securing critical supply chains

for technology and manufacturing sectors.

On the technology front, Trump said both leaders discussed the export of advanced computer chips to China, with Nvidia set to enter talks with Chinese officials to facilitate the process. The discussions mark a cautious but notable thaw in technology trade restrictions, which had been a major source of tension between the two countries.

The summit, held at Gimhae International Airport in Busan, drew global attention as both leaders posed for photographs, signaling a willingness to engage directly on economic and strategic issues. Analysts suggest that the measures agreed upon could stabilize trade relations in the near term while leaving room for further negotiations on technology transfers, market access, and intellectual property protections.

Trump framed the summit’s outcome as a win for American workers, farmers, and tech industries, emphasizing that the U.S. remains committed to fair trade while pursuing closer cooperation with China.

India’s Been “Very Good” On Russian Oil Issue: Trump

TPN Bureau | Tokyo

U.S. President Donald Trump praised India for significantly reducing its imports of Russian oil, calling New Delhi “very good” on the issue amid his administration’s continued efforts to isolate Moscow economically over the war in Ukraine.

Speaking aboard Air Force One on Thursday, following his bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the APEC Summit in Busan, South Korea, Trump reiterated that India had scaled back purchases of Russian crude. “India’s been very good on that front,” he said, while noting that China continues to buy large quantities of Russian oil.

Trump added that the two leaders did not discuss oil specifically but focused on working together to bring an end to the war in Ukraine. “It doesn’t affect China, it doesn’t affect us, but I’d like to see it done,” he remarked.

His comments echo previous claims since mid-October that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him India would



either halt or drastically cut Russian oil imports, a key source of revenue for Moscow’s military campaign.

Earlier this month, India’s Ministry of External Affairs responded to

Trump’s remarks, asserting that the country’s energy sourcing decisions are guided by national interest and consumer protection. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that India’s energy

policy aims to secure stable prices and diversified supplies while broadening its energy partnerships, including with the United States.

“India is a significant importer of oil and gas,”

Jaiswal said. “Our import policies are guided entirely by the objective of safeguarding the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario.”

India has long defend-

ed its Russian oil imports as essential for maintaining economic stability, even as Washington continues to urge New Delhi to diversify its energy sources amid global sanctions on Moscow

JD Vance Urges Cuts to Legal Immigration at Campus Event

TPN Correspondent | San Francisco

U.S. Vice President JD Vance called for a major reduction in legal immigration during an appearance at a Turning Point USA event held at the University of Mississippi on Wednesday, October 30, 2025. Speaking to a packed audience of students, Vance argued that the United States must significantly scale back overall immigration levels to protect American workers and strengthen national identity.

“We have to get the overall numbers way, way down,” Vance said, emphasizing that even legal immigration levels were putting pressure on wages and job opportunities for native-born Americans. The remarks mark one of the strongest statements to date from the Vice President on immigration policy, reinforcing the administration’s broader agenda of prioritizing domestic labor and border enforcement.

The event, organized



by conservative youth group Turning Point USA, was held at the Pavilion at Ole Miss in Ox-

ford, Mississippi. Vance took questions directly from students, adopting a conversational tone as he

discussed the economic and cultural implications of high immigration rates.

The Vice President’s comments also come amid a broader national debate over immigration

reform, as the administration faces pressure from both business groups advocating for more skilled foreign workers and populist conservatives demanding tighter restrictions.

In referencing the late Turning Point founder Charlie Kirk, Vance praised the organization’s legacy of open debate and grassroots activism, urging students to “think critically about what kind of country we want to build.”

While critics argue that cutting legal immigration could harm economic growth, Vance countered that a smaller, more selective immigration policy would help stabilize communities and raise wages. “America’s future should be built by Americans,” he said to applause.

The remarks are expected to reignite policy discussions in Washington over the balance between economic needs and national sovereignty in immigration policy.

Florida Ends H-1B Visa Hires in State Universities

TPN Correspondent | Florida

In a decisive move targeting H-1B visa misuse in higher education, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has ordered state universities to prioritize hiring American graduates over foreign workers. The directive aims to ensure that taxpayer-funded institutions serve the U.S. workforce rather than relying on imported labor.

“Universities across the country are importing foreign workers on H-1B visas instead of hiring Americans who are qualified and available to do the job,” DeSantis stated. He emphasized that Florida leads the nation in higher education, producing thousands of highly-qualified graduates annually.

The Governor has instructed the Florida Board of Governors to strictly enforce this policy. Institutions unable to find suitable American candidates are urged to review their academic programs to align better with job market needs.

DeSantis highlighted specific examples of H-1B hires in Florida universi-



ties, including computer application coordinators, assistant professors in public policy from China, and an assistant swim coach from Spain. He questioned the necessity of bringing foreign talent for roles that Americans can fill, especially amid

widespread corporate layoffs.

In addition, the Florida Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is collaborating with federal authorities, the State University System, and institutional partners to cancel or repurpose over

\$33 million in DEI-related grants. This step is part of a broader initiative to ensure that public funds support American workers first.

H-1B visas, intended for specialty occupations, have often been used by universities ex-

empt from federal caps, enabling year-round hiring of foreign employees. The Governor’s actions mark a significant effort to redirect higher education employment toward domestic talent while reviewing institutional spending priorities.

By enforcing these measures, Florida aims to set a precedent in U.S. higher education, emphasizing accountability, workforce prioritization, and alignment between academic output and local employment opportunities.

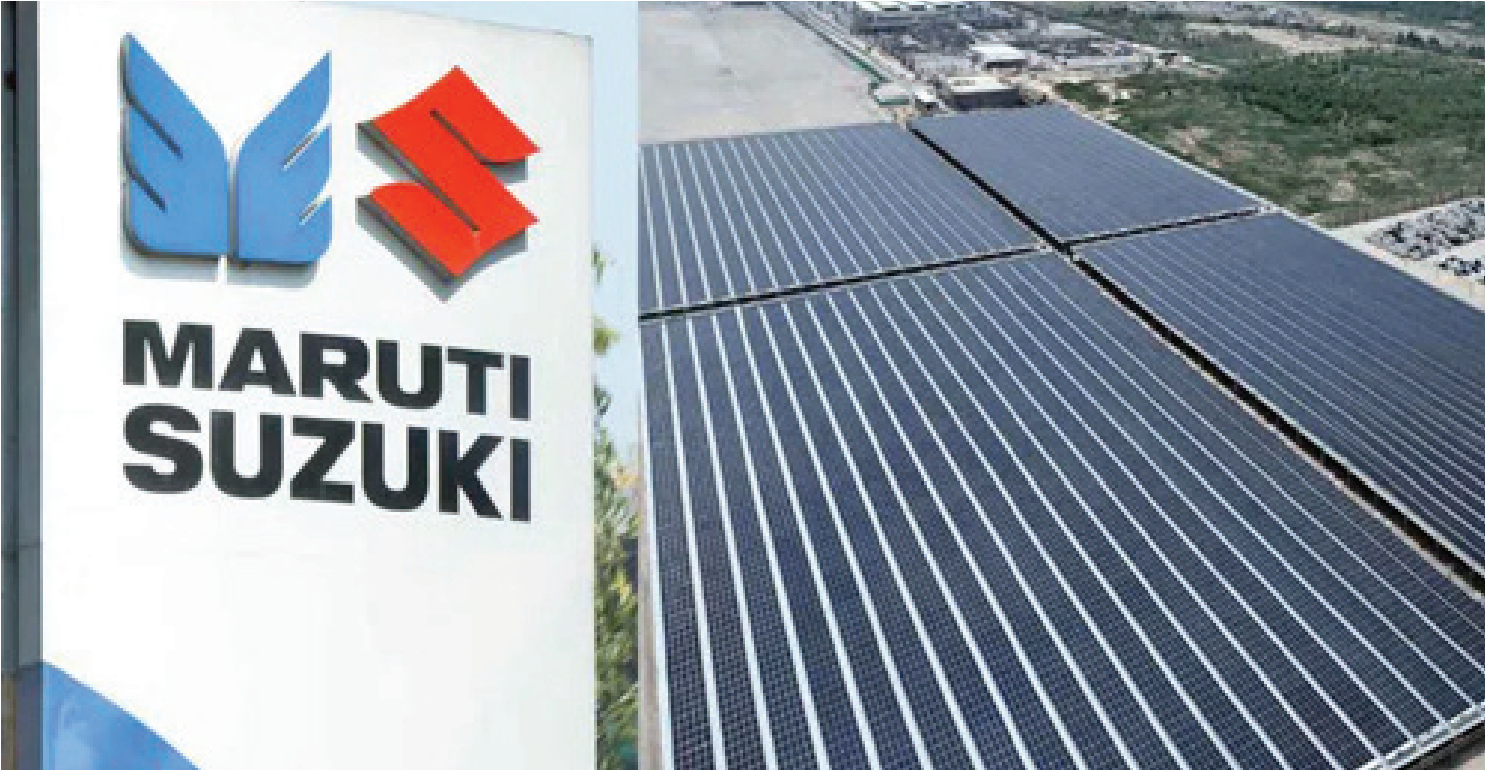


Maruti Suzuki Cuts Car Prices by Up to Rs 1.3 Lakh After GST Reduction

Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday announced a price reduction across its entire model range by up to Rs 1,29,600, effective from September 22, to pass on the benefit of the recent GST rate cut to customers. The country's largest carmaker said the move is aimed at making vehicles more affordable and encouraging two-wheeler users to upgrade to cars.

Entry-level models will see significant price drops, with S-Presso reduced by up to Rs 1,29,600, Alto K10 by Rs 1,07,600, Celerio by Rs 94,100, Wagon-R by Rs 79,600, and Ignis by Rs 71,300. Premium hatchbacks and sedans are also included, with Swift down by Rs 84,600, Baleno by Rs 86,100, Dzire by Rs 87,700, Fronx and Brezza by over Rs 1.1 lakh, Grand Vitara by Rs 1.07 lakh, Jimny by Rs 51,900, Ertiga by Rs 46,400, and XL6 by Rs 52,000. Commercial vehicles like Invicto, Eeco, and Super Carry LCV will see reductions of up to Rs 68,000.

Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) at Maruti Suzuki India, said the company is reducing prices of small cars over and above the 8.5% GST cut to boost motorisation in India, noting the



low car penetration of 34 vehicles per 1,000 people. He added that the move would stabilise the entry-level segment after years of volume decline and that GST rate cuts on car parts will also

reduce overall maintenance costs.

The company will compensate its channel partners for this "strategic pricing" initiative. Banerjee projected that

the passenger vehicle market is expected to rebound to a CAGR of 6-7% in the next financial year. Maruti Suzuki shares closed almost flat at Rs 15,802 per share on the BSE following

the announcement.

This initiative underscores Maruti Suzuki's commitment to making cars more accessible while stimulating growth in India's passenger vehicle market.

SEBI Mulls Allowing FPIs in Non-Cash, Non-Agri Commodity Derivatives



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reviewing a proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to trade in non-cash settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday. The move is aimed at

strengthening India's domestic commodity markets and attracting greater foreign participation.

Speaking at the MCX Metals and Energy Summit 2025 in Mumbai, Pandey highlighted that SEBI has already set up a committee to suggest measures

for deepening the agricultural commodities segment. "We are actively looking at ways to develop the non-agricultural commodity space, including metals, and a dedicated working group will be constituted for this purpose," he added.

The proposed change would

enable FPIs to participate in derivative contracts beyond cash-settled agricultural commodities, potentially enhancing market liquidity and offering international investors broader avenues in India's commodities market. Currently, FPI participation in commodity derivatives is

largely restricted, limiting foreign inflows and investment opportunities.

Pandey emphasized that expanding FPI access to non-agri commodity derivatives aligns with SEBI's broader goal of deepening financial markets while maintaining robust regulatory oversight. The regulator is also exploring other measures to improve transparency, risk management, and market participation across commodity segments.

Market participants expect the potential approval to provide a boost to metals and energy derivatives trading, attracting foreign capital and increasing competitiveness. Analysts say this could also help Indian commodity markets integrate better with global commodity flows, while giving domestic investors more hedging and investment options.

The SEBI chairman reiterated that the proposals are under review and would be implemented with appropriate safeguards to protect market integrity, risk management, and investor interests, signaling SEBI's ongoing efforts to modernize India's commodity derivatives ecosystem.

Sensex, Nifty Rise on US Fed Rate Cut; IT Stocks Lead Gains



Indian equity markets extended their positive run on Thursday following global cues after the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 basis points, bringing the benchmark rate to 4-4.25%. The S&P BSE Sensex surged over 350 points to trade above 83,000, while the NSE Nifty50 crossed 25,400 in early trade. Broader market indices also recorded gains, with volatility remaining stable.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, described the Fed's 25 bp rate cut as a "risk management cut," highlighting uncertainties around economic activity, unemployment, and inflation. He added that with the US labor market cooling and GDP growth projected at 1.6% for 2025, further rate cuts are possible, creating a favourable environment for global and domestic markets. Despite this, Indian stocks are largely driven by expectations of corporate earnings revival and positive de-

velopments in India-US trade negotiations.

On the domestic front, Nifty50 closed Wednesday at 25,330, marking gains in 11 of the last 13 sessions and recovering over 900 points from its recent low of 24,404 on August 29. Analysts noted that the Nifty remains in an uptrend, with support near 25,150 and resistance levels at 25,550 and 25,670.

IT stocks led the gains, with Infosys and Wipro seeing notable increases, while investor activity included major insider purchases in Jindal Steel (Rs 997 crore), Indus Towers (Rs 708 crore), Jindal Stainless (Rs 352 crore), Tourism Finance Corporation (Rs 161 crore), and Paisalo Digital (Rs 126 crore).

With both global and domestic factors providing momentum, market analysts expect Indian equities to maintain their bullish trajectory in the near term, driven by earnings optimism, policy support, and sustained foreign investor interest.

GST Inversion Eases, But Input-Output Rate Gaps Worry Industry



The recent GST rate rationalisation in India has eased the inverted duty structure (IDS) across many sectors, but wide gaps between input and output tax rates continue to raise concerns for industry, particularly regarding working capital and refund processes. The removal of the 12 per cent slab and consolidation into two main rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent has addressed most anomalies, yet items such as bicycles, tractors, fertilisers, and certain textiles still face inversion. For example, steel inputs attract 18 per cent GST, while final products like bicycles and e-bicycles are taxed at 5 per cent, creating potential capital blockage.

In the textile sector, GST cuts on manmade fibres and yarn have largely corrected inversion, with about 80 per cent of the value chain now aligned. However, minor inversions remain in polyester fibre raw materials and textile machinery, where input tax at 18 per cent exceeds the final product's 5 per cent rate. A textile industry executive noted that the wide rate difference, though smaller than before, continues to pose working capital challenges and highlighted the importance of a smooth refund mechanism.

Similarly, in the fertiliser sector, GST on key inputs such as sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and ammonia has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. Yet packaging costs and government subsidies can still result in inversion, as final product prices may fall below input costs. Officials involved in GST rationalisation acknowledged these transitional issues but emphasized that majority of IDS cases have been corrected, with expected savings for the fertiliser sector reaching Rs 5,000 crore annually due to lower refund outgo.

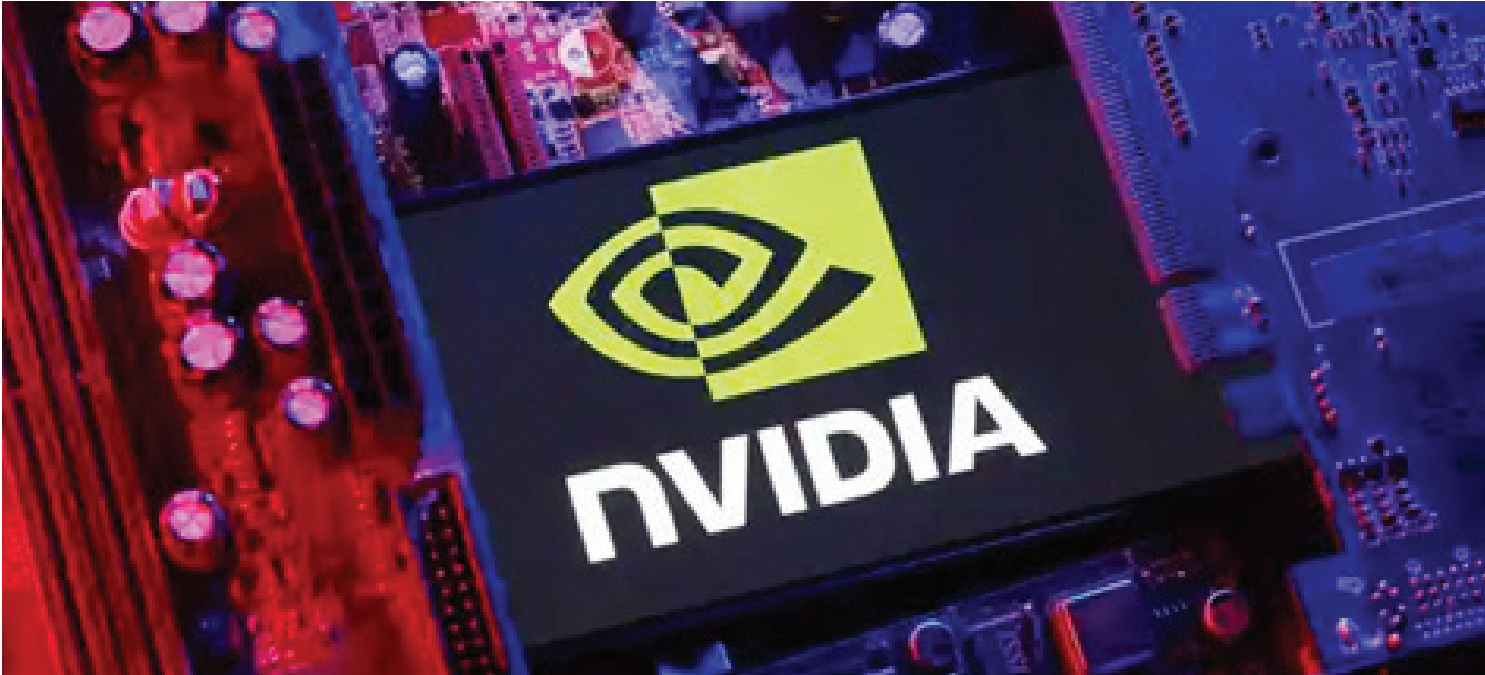
Industry experts caution that while progress has been made, residual inversions could incentivize evasion if refunds are delayed or capital remains blocked, underscoring the need for efficient implementation and monitoring. The government continues to refine rates and streamline processes to minimise such bottlenecks and support industrial liquidity.

Nvidia Invests \$5 Billion in Intel to Boost AI Infrastructure and PCs

Leading chipmaker Nvidia announced on Thursday that it will invest \$5 billion in Intel to develop AI infrastructure and personal computing solutions. The investment involves purchasing Intel common stock at \$23.28 per share, slightly below Intel's Wednesday closing price of \$24.90. Upon completion, Nvidia will become one of Intel's largest shareholders, holding roughly 4% or more of the company. The transaction is subject to customary regulatory approvals.

This move follows increased interest in Intel from major investors, including the US government, which acquired a roughly 10% stake in August, and Japan's SoftBank, which invested \$2 billion. Intel has also been raising funds by selling assets to support heavy investments required for advanced semiconductor development amid declining market share.

The collaboration will integrate Nvidia's AI infrastructure and accelerated computing with Intel's leading CPU technologies and x86 ecosystem. Intel will develop Nvidia-custom x86 CPUs for data centers, which will be incorporated into Nvidia's AI



platforms. For personal computing, Intel will create x86 system-on-chips (SOCs) integrating Nvidia RTX GPU chiplets, enabling high-performance PCs combining top-tier CPUs and GPUs.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang

highlighted the significance of the collaboration, stating, "AI is powering a new industrial revolution and reinventing every layer of the computing stack — from silicon to systems to software. This historic collaboration tightly couples Nvidia's AI and

accelerated computing stack with Intel's CPUs and the vast x86 ecosystem — a fusion of two world-class platforms. Together, we will expand our ecosystems and lay the foundation for the next era of computing."

The partnership is seen as a

major step in advancing AI capabilities, bridging Nvidia's GPU leadership with Intel's CPU expertise, and strengthening the overall AI and PC ecosystem, signaling a new era of integrated high-performance computing solutions.

Bengaluru Techie Calls Traffic the City’s “Hidden Tax”



A viral Reddit post has reignited the debate on Bengaluru’s traffic crisis, calling it a “hidden tax” that drains time and productivity from lakhs of commuters. Shared in the r/Bengaluru community on Friday, the post narrates the ordeal of an Oracle employee living in JP Nagar, who says the city’s gridlock costs him nearly two and a half months of his life every year.

According to the post, the techie earns Rs 28 lakh annually, excluding stock options. Out of this, he pays Rs 6.5 lakh in income tax and another Rs 1.4 lakh through GST on daily expenses—already surrendering over three months of work to the exchequer. But the bigger loss, he argues, is time. His office, just 14 kilometers away, should be a 30-minute commute. Instead, it takes an exhausting 90 minutes each way. Over the course of the year, this adds up to 2.5 months lost—time he believes is equivalent

to another hidden tax paid not to the government, but to the city’s poor infrastructure.

The post has struck a chord with thousands of Bengaluru residents who face the same grind daily. Many echoed the frustration that India’s “Silicon Valley” may be powering global innovation, but its broken roads, endless traffic jams, and inadequate public transport force professionals to pay with their most valuable resource—time.

Experts say such urban inefficiencies also take a toll on mental health, family life, and the city’s economy. While civic authorities have announced metro expansions, road upgrades, and tech-driven traffic management systems, citizens argue change is too slow to match the city’s exploding population and vehicle density.

For Bengaluru’s workforce, the message is clear: the real tax isn’t just in paychecks—it’s the endless hours wasted in traffic.

Which Country Holds The Most Gold?



Gold has always been more than a shiny metal—it is wealth, stability, and power. Even in today’s digital age of cryptocurrency and online payments, gold continues to be a backbone of global economies. Nations with large gold reserves enjoy a buffer against inflation, rising investor confidence, and stronger currencies. The World Gold Council’s latest data highlights the top countries leading the gold game in 2025.

At number one is the United States, holding a massive 8,133.46 tonnes of gold in the second quarter of 2025. This level has remained steady since the first quarter and makes the US the undisputed leader in official gold reserves worldwide. Germany follows at number two, with 3,350.25 tonnes, although this marks a 25-year low for the country, still placing it firmly behind America.

In third position stands Italy, holding steady at 2,451.84 tonnes—a figure that has barely changed for

decades, showcasing remarkable consistency. Close behind is France with 2,437 tonnes, maintaining stable reserves despite past fluctuations. Meanwhile, Russia secures fifth place with 2,329.63 tonnes, nearly doubling its long-term average and reflecting its aggressive push to build reserves in recent decades.

These figures not only underline the global gold hierarchy but also signal how countries use gold as a hedge against economic uncertainties. While Western economies dominate the top ranks, nations like Russia have been catching up rapidly, using gold as a shield against sanctions and currency instability. For emerging economies like India, which also features in the top 10, gold reserves remain a crucial part of financial security and long-term strategy.

The bottom line: gold is still king, and the countries that hold it the most continue to wield significant influence in the world economy.

Charlie Kirk’s Anti-India Visa Remark Resurfaces Amid H-1B Shakeup

Conservative US leader and staunch Trump supporter Charlie Kirk, who was shot dead on September 10 in Utah, is back in the spotlight after his controversial post on Indians and immigration resurfaced. Just days before his death, the 31-year-old Turning Point USA founder declared that America does not need more visas for Indians.

On September 2, Kirk wrote on X that legal immigration from India had displaced American workers more than any other, insisting that America was “full” and should put “its own people first.” His remarks were in response to Fox News host Laura Ingraham, who argued that any US trade deal with India would involve more visas. Kirk’s post sparked backlash, with critics calling it xenophobic and damaging to innovation and bilateral ties, since most Indians in the



US migrate as skilled professionals in the tech sector. The controversy has resurfaced now because former President Donald Trump, back in the headlines, has announced sweeping changes to the H-1B visa programme. From September 21, 2025, applicants will face an annual \$100,000 fee, a move expected to drastically reduce Indian tech migration. The H-1B visa has long served as the backbone of Silicon Valley’s workforce, powering giants like Google, Microsoft and Amazon with Indian talent.

Kirk, known for his fiery podcasts and youth outreach, built a strong base in conservative circles, aligning with Trump’s “America First” agenda. His critics, however, saw his stand as part of a broader push within the MAGA movement to curb legal immigration, even at the cost of America’s competitiveness.

With his death, Kirk leaves behind a polarising legacy. But his last words on visas highlight a growing fault line in US politics—whether America should remain open to Indian talent or shut the door in the name of nationalism.

Internet Shocked Over Sky-High iPhone 17 Prices in Pakistan

Apple’s latest iPhone 17 series has just hit global markets, but in Pakistan, it’s the jaw-dropping price tags that have caught everyone’s attention. While Indian fans queued up outside Apple stores in Mumbai and Delhi to grab the new device on launch day, social media in Pakistan is buzzing over how expensive the phones are across the border.

A viral post on X revealed that a resident in Pakistan will need to shell out between PKR 3.65 lakh (Rs 1.14 lakh) and PKR 5.74 lakh (Rs 1.79 lakh) for the new lineup. The iPhone 17 Pro Max alone costs around PKR 547,000—or roughly Rs 1.70 lakh. The iPhone Air comes in at PKR 483,680 (Rs 1.51 lakh), while the iPhone 17 Pro is priced at PKR 531,680 (Rs 1.66 lakh).

Reactions online have been hilarious and exasperated in equal measure. Some users quipped that “flats mil jayenge iss daam mein” (you can buy an apartment at this price), while others joked that buying an iPhone in Pakistan now requires taking out a loan. Many pointed out that with the country already struggling with inflation and economic challenges, these luxury prices make the iPhone 17 an unrealistic dream for the average consumer.

Comparisons with India also dominated the chatter, where



despite premium pricing, the iPhone 17 is still considerably cheaper. Indian fans, though, face their own problem—long queues outside Apple’s flagship stores in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi.

For Pakistan, however, the bigger conversation is about affordability. With the iPhone priced like real estate, netizens are asking whether Apple’s latest innovation is even worth it—or if it’s time to settle for Android alternatives that don’t cost the price of a flat.

Rare Black Tiger Captured by Indian Photographer

In a moment that has mesmerized the world, India has gifted a rare glimpse of nature’s magic. A photograph of the elusive black tiger, captured in Odisha’s Similipal National Park, is featured on the October 2025 cover of National Geographic. Wildlife enthusiasts and the online community alike are celebrating this extraordinary achievement.

The photographer behind this stunning shot is Prasenjeet Yadav, an Indian wildlife photographer and National Geographic Explorer. Known for his dedication and keen eye for nature’s hidden wonders, Yadav has once again brought India’s unique wildlife into global focus. The black tiger, also called the pseudo-melanistic tiger, is an extremely rare variant of the Bengal tiger, and Similipal National Park is the only place in the world where it is known to exist.

National Geographic highlighted the tiger’s striking appearance, with its dark coat and subtle stripes, which make it almost invisible in the dense forest. The image not only showcases the animal’s rarity but also emphasizes the importance of wildlife conservation in India. By bringing attention to the black tiger, Yadav is encouraging awareness and protection of the forests that are home to such unique species.



The photograph has gone viral across social media, with enthusiasts, conservationists, and nature lovers praising the skill, patience, and perseverance required to capture such a once-in-a-lifetime shot. Many users expressed pride that an Indian photographer has achieved this global recognition while spotlighting the biodiversity of India’s forests.

For Prasenjeet Yadav, this moment is both a personal triumph and a reminder of the responsibility photographers hold in documenting and protecting wildlife. The October cover of National Geographic is not just about a tiger—it is about India’s rich natural heritage and the incredible stories it continues to offer the world.

Sinner Advances, Zverev Survives in Paris Masters

Jannik Sinner kicked off his Paris Masters campaign with a commanding 6-4, 6-2 victory over Zizou Bergs on Wednesday, keeping his hopes of a maiden ATP 1000 title—and a return to world number one—alive. Following the early exit of world number one Carlos Alcaraz in the round of 32, the Italian second seed showed no signs of pressure, breaking early in both sets and cruising through the match in just one hour and 27 minutes without facing a break point.

“I’m very happy to come through the first match,” Sinner said. “I was very precise, and I also started off with a break straight away, which gives you a bit more confidence.” He will face Francisco Cerundolo in the third round on Thursday.

Reigning champion Alexander Zverev also survived a tough opener, edging past Argentina’s Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 7-5. The German fourth seed overcame an early deficit in the final set to keep his title defence alive and will



next play Spain’s Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

The day saw other surprises, including Norwegian eighth seed Casper Ruud’s defeat to Daniel Altmaier and a withdrawal by former world number one Grigor Dimitrov due to a shoulder injury, granting Daniil Medvedev a walkover to the third round. Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti fell to compatriot Lorenzo Sonego in three sets, while Canadian ninth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime battled past France’s Alexandre Muller in a tight contest.

In other matches, Monegasque Valentin Vacherot defeated Arthur Rinderknech and will face Cameron Norrie, while hometown favorite Corentin Moutet lost in straight sets to Alexander Bublik. Russian tenth seed Karen Khachanov overcame Joao Fonseca 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 and will meet Australia’s Alex de Minaur in the round of 16.

With top seeds falling early and intense battles continuing, the Paris Masters promises thrilling action as players vie for crucial points and a shot at the prestigious crown.

Diana Pundole First Indian Woman to Race Ferrari



Pune-based racer Diana Pundole is set to make history as the first Indian woman to compete in a Ferrari in an international championship. The 32-year-old will be driving the Ferrari 296 Challenge car at the Ferrari Club Challenge Middle East, which kicks off in November 2025 and will run through April 2026.

Pundole will take on some of the Middle East’s most iconic circuits, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, in the Ferrari 296 Challenge—a track-focused, high-performance machine renowned for its sharp handling and race-ready engineering. Her participation marks a landmark moment for Indian motorsport and women racers in particular.

Speaking about this historic opportunity, Diana said, “It’s truly an incredible honour. Being part of the Ferrari Club Challenge

Middle East as the first Indian woman is a proud moment not just for me but for women in Indian motorsport. I hope it encourages more women to pursue their passion for racing.”

Diana Pundole began her racing career in 2018, participating in the JK Tyre Women in Motorsport program. Over the years, she has secured multiple podium finishes across various racing events, establishing herself as one of India’s most promising female racers. Her consistent performances have now earned her the chance to showcase her talent on an international stage with Ferrari.

With this breakthrough, Pundole not only represents India but also highlights the growing presence and success of women in motorsports. Her entry into the Ferrari Club Challenge Middle East is expected to inspire a new generation of Indian female racers to aim for international glory. As she gears up to take the track, all eyes will be on Diana Pundole as she drives history in the making.

Glenn McGrath Names Top 5 Indian ODI Batters: Virat Kohli No. 1, Sachin Tendulkar Not In Top 2

Legendary Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath has named Virat Kohli as his top pick among Indian ODI batters, followed by Rohit Sharma in a move that surprised many cricket fans. McGrath placed Sachin Tendulkar third on his list, with MS Dhoni and Yuvraj Singh rounding out his top five. Notably, explosive opener Virender Sehwag was absent from the ranking.

McGrath praised Rohit’s incredible numbers in one-day cricket, calling them “unbelievable.” “Three double hundreds and the highest score of 264 is just unheard of. 11,370 runs in 276 matches—probably a little bit unfortunately earmarked as a one-day specialist. His stats in Test cricket should have been better because he was a class player,” McGrath said. On Kohli, he added, “At No. 1, it’s hard to go past Virat. You look at the runs, average, and strike rate—unbelievable.”

Rohit Sharma recently made history by becoming the oldest Indian to reach the top spot in the ICC ODI batting rankings at 38 years and 182 days, surpassing India captain Shubman Gill.



His rise came after a stellar performance in the recent ODI series against Australia, where he amassed 202 runs in three matches at an average of 101, earning the ‘Player of the Series’ award.

Shubman Gill, in contrast, struggled in the series, scoring just 43 runs across three matches. Rohit’s consistency and big-match performances in ODIs have cemented his reputation as one of India’s greatest limited-overs batters, a fact recognized even by cricketing legends like McGrath.

With Kohli continuing to dominate and Rohit hitting new milestones, India boasts one of the most formidable ODI batting line-ups in the world, blending experience with exceptional skill.

WI Clinch 2-0 Lead After 14-Run Win Over Bangladesh



A brilliant 61 from Tanzid Hasan went in vain as West Indies secured a 14-run victory over Bangladesh in the second T20I on Wednesday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Three-wicket hauls from Akeal Hosein and Romario Shepherd proved decisive as the visitors restricted Bangladesh to 135/8 while chasing 150.

Hosein (3/22) made history by surpassing Dwayne Bravo’s tally, becoming the second-highest wicket-taker for West Indies in T20Is with 81 wickets in 83 matches, including a five-wicket haul. Shepherd complemented the effort with 3/29 and also contributed a quick 13 runs in the lower order, earning him the ‘Player of the Match’ award.

West Indies, elected to bat first, were powered by Alick Athaneze (52 off 33 balls) and skipper Shai Hope (55 off 36 balls). The duo stitched together a 105-run second-wicket partnership after an early loss of Brandon King (1), setting the platform for a competitive total. Mustafizur Rahman (3/21), Rishad Hossain (2/20), and Nasum Ahmed (2/35) managed to restrict further damage, but late contributions from Roston Chase (17* in 15 balls) and Shepherd (13 in 16 balls) took West Indies to 149/9.

In the chase, Bangladesh struggled to build partnerships despite Tanzid’s resilient innings, which included three fours and three sixes. His dismissal at 117/4 in 17.1 overs triggered a collapse as Shepherd, Hosein, and Jason Holder (2/20) took quick wickets. Bangladesh lost four wickets for just 18 runs and ended their innings at 135/8.

With the series now sealed, West Indies can look forward to the final T20I with confidence, while Bangladesh will need a strong performance to avoid a whitewash.

Oman Replaces Pakistan at Junior Hockey World Cup



Oman will join the lineup for the upcoming FIH Men’s Junior World Cup 2025 in Tamil Nadu, following Pakistan’s late withdrawal, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Wednesday. The tournament is scheduled from November 28 to December 10, with matches to be held in Chennai and Madurai.

Oman earned the spot as the next highest-ranked team from the Junior Asia Cup 2024, stepping in after Pakistan decided not to participate despite qualifying through last year’s continental championship. The Pakistan Hockey Federation informed the FIH that the team would not accept the invitation, citing internal consultations with their government before the event.

Pakistan had been placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland. With Oman taking their place, the group composition has been updated ahead of the tournament. This late withdrawal marks the second recent instance of Pakistan pulling out from a major hockey event in India, after the Men’s Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar, where Bangladesh replaced them. The withdrawal also cost Pakistan a chance to qualify for next year’s World Cup, as the Asia Junior Cup served as a qualifying event.

The FIH had initially postponed the official draw for nearly a month to accommodate Pakistan’s decision-making, eventually holding the ceremony at its headquarters in Lausanne. The Men’s Junior World Cup 2025 will feature 24 teams for the first time, alongside the Women’s edition, reflecting the FIH’s Empowerment and Engagement strategy aimed at promoting wider participation.

Germany enters the tournament as the defending champions, having won the 2023 edition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The inclusion of Oman ensures the tournament maintains full participation and competitive balance, while giving the Middle Eastern nation an opportunity to showcase its growing hockey prowess on the global stage.

Sharwa’s Biker Glimpse to Premiere with Baahubali & Mass Jathara



Charming star Sharwa is set to impress audiences as a sportsman in his upcoming film *Biker*, directed by Abhilash Reddy Kankara. The movie, set between the early 1990s and 2000s, revolves around bike racing and tells the story of three generations bound by love, ambition, and adrenaline-fueled challenges.

Fans eager for a first look will get their chance soon. The makers are set to release the *First Lap Glimpse* on November 1st. However, moviegoers don't have to wait that long. Starting tomorrow, the glimpse will be attached to screenings of *Baahubali: The Epic* and *Mass Jathara*, offering an early sneak peek on the big screen.

Sharwa's first-look poster has already created a buzz among fans. Dressed in a red, white, and black streamlined racing suit, Sharwa exudes intensity and determination. With his long, curly hair and sunglasses, he perfectly captures the fierce spir-

it of a professional racer, signaling a performance that promises more than just a stylish appearance.

The glimpse is expected to provide audiences with a taste of the film's thrilling narrative and high-octane action sequences. It will also highlight the emotional journey that ties the three generations together, combining adrenaline-pumping bike races with heartfelt family moments.

Produced under the banner of UV Creations, *Biker* is currently progressing swiftly in its shoot. The combination of Sharwa's star power, the nostalgic 1990s-2000s setting, and the film's focus on passion and ambition has already raised expectations among cinephiles.

With the early glimpse arriving alongside blockbuster screenings, *Biker* is poised to become one of the most talked-about films of the year, promising action, emotion, and a riveting journey on two wheels.

Yash’s “Toxic” Set for On-Time Release



Following the massive success of the *KGF* franchise, Rocking Star Yash has firmly established himself as one of India's most beloved superstars. His next venture, *Toxic – A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*, has generated enormous anticipation ever since it was announced, with fans eagerly awaiting every update. Recently, online speculation suggested the film's release might be delayed, sparking concern among enthusiasts.

However, the makers have officially quashed all such rumours, confirming that *Toxic* will release worldwide on March 19, 2026, as planned. KVN Productions addressed the chatter on social media, reinforcing the release schedule and putting fan worries to rest. To build excitement, the team shared a striking countdown post stating, "140 days to go... His Untamed Presence, Is Your Existential Crisis. #ToxicTheMovie releases worldwide on 19-03-2026." The post immediately reignited fan enthusiasm and reinforced confidence in the

film's timely arrival.

The project's production has been progressing steadily. Post-production and VFX work have been underway since April, running alongside Yash's shooting commitments for *Ramayana* in Mumbai. The final leg of filming is currently taking place in Bangalore, promising large-scale sequences and high-octane action that fans have come to expect from the actor.

Promotional campaigns are set to kick off in January 2026, creating momentum for one of the year's most eagerly awaited releases. With its official release date now confirmed, anticipation for *Toxic* is expected to reach a fever pitch in the coming months, as audiences prepare to witness Yash in a new avatar that blends intensity, drama, and style.

As excitement builds across India and beyond, one thing is certain: fans can mark their calendars, because *Toxic* is coming—and it will arrive exactly on time.

Nani’s HIT 3 Rules Netflix, Beats OG and Devara

Natural Star Nani's *HIT 3* is creating waves on Netflix, proving once again that his films have a loyal fan following both in theaters and on OTT platforms. Despite Nani being busy with his upcoming pan-Indian project *The Paradise*, directed by Srikanth Odela, his previous thriller *HIT 3* has surged in popularity, ranking third in first-week viewership.

According to the latest streaming data, *HIT 3* attracted 4.2 million viewers in its opening week, trailing only behind *Pushpa 2: The Rule* with 5.8 million and *Kalki 2898 AD* (Hindi) with 4.5 million views. Surprisingly, Pawan Kalyan's highly anticipated *OG*, which had generated significant buzz prior to release, has settled for the fourth spot with 3.2 million viewers. Other popular titles in the list include *Kingdom* (2.9 million), *Daaku Maharaj* (2.6 million), *De-*



vara (2.2 million), and *Guntur Kaaram* (2.0 million).

The rise of *HIT 3* on OTT platforms highlights Nani's consistent ability to draw audiences, whether through his signature charm, gripping storytelling, or engaging performances. The thriller, part of the *HIT* franchise, has been praised for its taut narrative and suspenseful plot, making it a must-watch for fans and new viewers alike.

Streaming platforms have become a major avenue for

star-driven content, and *HIT 3*'s performance reinforces Nani's status as one of the most bankable stars in Telugu cinema. While *The Paradise* is in the works, this renewed attention to *HIT 3* cements Nani's reputation for delivering quality entertainment that resonates with audiences across the country.

With the film continuing to dominate OTT charts, it's clear that Nani's magic remains unstoppable, keeping fans eagerly anticipating his next cinematic ventures.

Mahakali Joins Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe



Vash Level 2, the latest Gujarati horror film, has made waves on Netflix since its digital premiere, receiving strong audience reactions and earning praise from the filmmakers. Reports suggest that Netflix acquired the digital rights for approximately Rs. 3.5 crore, marking the highest amount ever paid for a Gujarati film.

The movie, also released in Hindi, is being hailed as a milestone for Gujarati cinema, showcasing the growing popularity and commercial potential of regional films in India. Netflix will stream *Vash Level 2* for three and a half years, holding exclusive rights to both the Gujarati and Hindi versions

for the first year. Following this period, the producers have the option to release the film on other streaming platforms.

Produced by Kalpesh Soni and Krunal Soni and directed by Krishnadev Yagnik, the film features a star-studded cast, including Janki Bodiwala, Hitu Kanodia, Monal Gajjar, and veteran actor Hiten Kumar. The film's music is composed by Andrew Samuel, while Shivam Bhatt handled editing, contributing to the overall high production values.

Industry insiders note that the deal reflects the rising significance of regional content in India's OTT market, where plat-

forms like Netflix are increasingly investing in diverse stories to cater to pan-Indian audiences. The strong reception of *Vash Level 2* demonstrates that Gujarati films can attract substantial viewership and generate meaningful revenue beyond traditional theatrical releases.

The success of *Vash Level 2* could pave the way for more Gujarati and regional films to secure significant digital deals, encouraging filmmakers to invest in high-quality production and storytelling for wider audiences. The film's horror genre and bilingual release strategy are also seen as key factors in its digital success.



Rashmika Shines on LA Red Carpet

Rashmika Mandanna, who has been lighting up social media with her adorable "baby talk" while promoting *The Girlfriend*, stole the spotlight once again—this time with pure red carpet glamour. The actress, who recently spoke about her deep love for her unborn children, appeared at the *Swarovski Masters of Light Opening Celebration* in Los Angeles last night, turning heads with a bold, confident look.

Gone was the sweet, soft persona fans have seen online. Rashmika arrived exuding elegance, confidence, and that signature sparkle that has become her hallmark. Her outfit was a showstopper: a black-

and-white gown that seemed pulled from a classic Hollywood dream. The white corset top hugged her figure flawlessly, while the flowing black skirt added drama and sophistication.

Complementing the ensemble were chunky, dazzling diamond jewels from Swarovski, perfectly matching the grandeur of the event. Her hair was neatly pulled back, and her makeup was simple yet sharp, emphasizing a cool, grown-up glow that balanced perfectly with the sparkle of her accessories.

Rashmika's charm lies in her effortless presence. She didn't need to pose or overdo it—she simply walked in, smiled, and owned every camera

frame. Fans and onlookers could see she was enjoying herself, soaking in the atmosphere while radiating confidence and poise.

Last night's appearance marks another step in her evolving style journey. From social media darling to red carpet sensation, Rashmika continues to refine her image, blending charm, sass, and elegance in a way that feels both natural and refreshing.

As she levels up with each public appearance, one thing is clear: Rashmika Mandanna is not just attending events—she's making them memorable. With each glamorous outing, she proves that her star is only rising higher.