



Quota for OBC in local body polls should be within 'triple test' framework set by SC: Telangana HC

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th The Telangana High Court has affirmed that the 50 per cent reservation ceiling set by the Supreme Court applies to local body polls, and any quota increase for OBCs should be within the framework of the "triple test".

The Supreme Court's triple test is a framework for providing reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local body elections, requiring states to form a commission to collect data, specify the reservation proportion based on the commission's findings, and ensure the total reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs does not exceed 50 per cent of the total seats.

A detailed order copy was uploaded on the Telangana High Court website on Friday night.

While issuing an interim stay against a Government Order providing 42 per cent BC reservation in local body polls on October 9, the High Court said the State Election Commission

would notify the proportionate seats as open category seats and proceed with the elections.

"We are, therefore, of the prima facie view that the respondents/State have failed to adhere to the criteria of 50 per cent upper ceiling as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in VikasKishanraoGawali (supra) by issuance of G.O.Ms. Nos.9, dated 26.09.2025, whereby 42 per cent reservation has been provided to the OBCs in the local bodies, thereby breaching the ceiling of 50 per cent to a total of 67 per cent reservation in local bodies," the court said in its order.

Besides GO no 9, the court also stayed consequential Government Orders no 41 and 42.

Following the court's stay order, the Telangana State Election Commission on Thursday issued a statement saying the poll notification was issued on September 29 and further activities are being suspended until further notification.



The division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin, which heard a batch of petitions challenging the Congress government's order that increased the BC quota, directed the government to file its reply in four weeks.

"Four weeks' time is allowed for the state (government) to file a counter affidavit. Two weeks time thereafter is allowed to the petitioners to file a reply if so ad-

vised. In the meantime, there shall be an interim stay of the impugned notification," the CJ said.

With the ruling dispensation facing a roadblock in providing the 42 per cent quota to the Backward Classes, Congress sources said the government may approach the Supreme Court seeking vacating of the stay.

The argument presented by the counsels for the petitioners is that the Government Order (GO) breaches the 50 per cent upper ceiling imposed by the Supreme Court on to-

tal reservations.

K Vivek Reddy, senior counsel leading the petitioners, argued that the state government's order exceeds the 50 per cent limit imposed by the Supreme Court for political reservations. There is no exception for backward classes. The GO also violates the Triple Test laid down by the Apex Court.

The Telangana SEC on September 29 announced a five-phased schedule for elections to the rural local bodies to be held between October and November.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Orders Fast-Tracked DPR for Pranahita–Chevella Project via Tummidihatti



TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — Irrigation Minister Capt N. Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to fast-track a revised DPR for the Pranahita–Chevella project, prioritizing the Tummidihatti barrage. Field surveys confirmed that the original canal alignment and hydraulic structures can be reused after minor rehabilita-

tion, allowing gravity-based water flow to Sundilla barrage without multiple lifts.

Officials were asked to prepare two options—via Yellampalli or directly to Sundilla—to finalize by month-end. The Minister also directed the use of irrigation lands for solar power generation to operate lift

schemes efficiently, cutting costs and supporting clean energy goals. Pending projects like Devadula Package-III and SLBC tunnel documentation must also be completed for Cabinet review. He reaffirmed that reviving Pranahita–Chevella demonstrates the Congress government's commitment to irrigating every acre of cultivable land.

Harish Rao Alleges CM Revanth Reddy Collusion in Banakacherla Project

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — Former BRS Minister Harish Rao alleged at TelanganaBhavan that the Banakacherla project threatens Telangana's water security, accusing CM Revanth Reddy of cooperating with Andhra Pradesh and the central BJP. He cited letters from Union Minister C. R. Patil and other states warning of potential water conflicts.

Rao claimed the DPR appraisal for flood waters is incomplete, questioning whether CM's silence



is motivated by "commissions or contract shares." He warned that the BRS would approach the Supreme Court if Telangana's interests were compromised. Rao also

criticized the handling of Almatti dam height and conflicting Krishna water allocations, calling the CM's inaction a "shame" and a "disaster" for the state.

Telangana to Set Up New T-Hub Model Incubation Centres in Warangal and Nalgonda



TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — IT Minister Sridhar Babu announced plans to establish new incubation

centers in Warangal and Nalgonda, modeled on Hyderabad's T-Hub. The initiative aims to pro-

mote innovation and entrepreneurship, aligning with Telangana's vision as an "Innovation Hub" and "Pharmacy of Purpose."

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) will soon be signed with Kakatiya University and Mahatma Gandhi University. The Minister highlighted Telangana's success in attracting over 54,000 crore in life sciences investments in 18 months, boosting employment opportunities. He encouraged NRI professionals to contribute as "knowledge investors" and urged young innovators to focus on socially impactful innovation rather than patents. Minister KomatireddyVenkata Reddy and alumni attended the event.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Pledges to Block Banakacherla Project, Slams BRS on Water Management

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — From Hanamkonda, State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy addressed a press meet, making a firm declaration against the proposed Banakacherla project. He asserted that the Congress government, under CM Revanth Reddy, will "definitely stop" the project and "under no circumstances" allow its construction. He personally submitted written objections to Union Minister C. R. Patil, highlighting Telangana's concerns.

On Almatti dam height, he stated that the Congress party would oppose any increase even if it were in Karnataka's interest. He launched a sharp attack on former Irrigation Minister Harish Rao, accusing the BRS leadership of mismanaging Telangana's share of Krishna and Godavari waters. Uttam Kumar



Reddy highlighted that while the previous BRS government allocated 512 TMC of Krishna waters to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana received only 299 TMC.

He detailed the Congress government's efforts to rectify past imbalances, including pursuing a 70% share of Krishna waters and completing pending irriga-

tion projects like Thammidihotti barrage and Sammakka-Sarakka project. Despite the partial failure of Kaleshwaram, Telangana achieved a historic paddy yield of 148.5 lakh metric tonnes. The Minister emphasized efficient project execution, clean energy irrigation initiatives, and ongoing efforts to secure all water rights.



TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Takes Strong Stand on Banakacherla, BC Reservations

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud addressed the media in Nizamabad, hitting out at the BRS and BJP over Banakacherla and BC reservations. Goud blamed former Minister Harish Rao for negligence in Banakacherla notifications and criticized KCR for prioritizing entertainment over public rights.

Regarding BC reservations, he reaffirmed the government's commitment

to implementing 42% quotas, calling any compromise "out of the question." He accused BJP-BRS collusion in blocking reservations and defended the caste survey as historic and transparent. Goud emphasized the government's resolve to conduct elections only after BC quotas are implemented, while also highlighting infrastructure and development plans like the Hyderabad-Mumbai railway via Nizamabad.

Telangana to Approach Supreme Court to Safeguard 42% BC Reservation in Local Bodies

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — The Telangana State Government is set to appeal to the Supreme Court to ensure the implementation of 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. This move follows a high-level Zoom meeting attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC In-chargeMeenakshi Natarajan, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, BC Welfare Minister PonnampRabhakar, and Supreme Court advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi.



The discussions focused on next steps after the High Court imposed a stay on the local body election notification and Government Order (GO) No. 9, which provided for the 42% quota. The government reaffirmed its commitment to the BC community, emphasizing that the increased reser-

vation quota will be secured and implemented. The state is determined to challenge the High Court's stay in the apex court to defend the legality and validity of GO 9, ensuring that BC representation in local governance is not compromised.

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to prioritize a unique and vibrant design for the T-Square at Raidurg, envisioning it as an iconic, round-the-clock hub for Hyderabad's IT landscape. Following a review with IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu at ICCO, the CM mandated that development works begin by November-end.

The T-Square is planned as a digital, entertainment, tourism,

and business hub with large electronic displays, immersive experiences, and provisions for global tech companies like Apple. Adequate parking and corporate compatibility were emphasized.

The meeting also focused on establishing an AI Innovation Hub to unify Telangana's AI initiatives, startups, and research centers. The CM suggested forming a board of global business leaders and creating a dedicated corpus fund. IT Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted a "fund of



funds" approach to support AI startups, while ongoing initiatives in-

clude the Global AI Summit, Telangana AI Rising Grand Challenge, and

TGdEx. Plans are underway for an AI university to skill the workforce.

Telangana Records Historic Paddy Yield; Government Sets Sights on Procuring 80 Lakh MT

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th:Telangana has achieved an unprecedented milestone in agricultural production, securing the highest paddy yield in independent India. State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced the record during a review meeting on Vaanakalam (Kharif) paddy procurement at the Integrated Collectorate Complex in YadadriBhuvanagiri district.

The session was attended by Government Whip Bheerappaiah Yadav, MLAs Kumbham Anil Reddy and MandulaShyamuel, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, ENC Amjad Hussain, and Collector MantripragadaHanantha Rao. Minister Reddy highlighted that the three consecutive crop seasons under the Congress-led government have set new benchmarks, with

the Vaanakalam season alone yielding 148.03 lakh metric tonnes (MT)—an achievement described as historic at a national level. The Minister attributed this success to pro-farmer policies implemented under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The government is preparing to procure 80

lakh MT of paddy from the total harvest across 66.80 lakh acres, evenly divided between fine varieties (Sannalu) and coarse varieties (Doddulu). To streamline procurement, 8,342 paddy procurement centres (PPCs) have been established statewide, including 3,517 via IKP groups, 4,259 through PACS, and 566 in other areas. Operations have already commenced at 1,205 centres in Kamared-

dy, Nizamabad, Medak, Siddipet, and Nalgonda districts. Minister Reddy assured that infrastructure and amenities at PPCs are being strengthened, with a comprehensive review of the process scheduled for October 16th. The Vaanakalam procurement, initiated on October 1, is expected to conclude by the second week of January 2026, marking a seamless and farmer-friendly process.



Hyderabad Student Shot Dead in US: Family Receives Mortal Remains, Government Announces Support Package



Hyderabad: The mortal remains of 28-year-old Pole Chandrashekar, a Hyderabad Dalit student shot dead in Fort Worth, Texas, were received by his brothers Raj Kiran and Damodar at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport on October 11. The state govern-

ment announced an ex gratia of 5 lakh to the family and employment support for his brothers through private or outsourcing channels. Ministers Sridhar Babu and AdhuriLaxman Kumar paid respects at the family residence in

Teachers Colony, BN Reddy Nagar. MBT spokesperson AmjedUllah Khan also attended the reception. Chandrashekar, a dental surgery graduate, was pursuing a Master's in Data Analytics at the University of North Texas. The suspect, identified as

Richard Florez, was apprehended shortly after the incident. The government's assistance package aims to support the grieving family and underscore Telangana's commitment to the welfare of citizens, even abroad.



Ramagundam Airport Dream Nears Reality with 40.53 Lakh Paid for Pre-Feasibility Study

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th:Peddapalli MP GaddamVamshi Krishna announced a major breakthrough in establishing the long-awaited Ramagundam Airport. The State Government has sanctioned and paid 40.53 lakh to the Airports Authority of India

(AAI) to initiate a pre-feasibility study for the proposed Greenfield airport on 591 acres in Ananthargaon Mandal, Peddapalli district. MP Vamshi Krishna described this as a historical step toward realizing the airport, which promises enhanced con-

nectivity for students, Singareni employees, and the local business community. Highlighting the economic potential, he said the airport will reduce travel time to Hyderabad, attract new industries, and stimulate regional growth. The MP reaffirmed his

commitment to the project, stating his efforts will continue alongside the Centre's feasibility study. Vamshi Krishna dedicated the progress to the memory of "Kaka Garu" and sought public support to make the vision a reality.

Minister Thummala Urges Centre to Relax PSS Limits, Include Maize and Jowar for Telangana Farmers

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th:Telangana Agriculture Minister ThummalaNageswara Rao has written to Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan seeking urgent reforms in central procurement schemes to better support state farmers. While congratulating the Centre on the launch of the "PM DhanDhanyaKrishiYojana" and "National Mission on Pulses," Minister Thummala stressed that the 25% procurement cap under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for crops like sesame, chickpea, groundnut, soybean, and green gram is placing severe constraints on Telangana's agricultural sector. Highlighting the financial burden on the state exchequer, he urged the Centre to either abolish or relax the 25% ceiling, which forces Telangana to use state funds through Markfed and cooperatives to buy the remaining produce.



Minister Thummala also requested the inclusion of Maize and Jowar under PSS—major rainfed crops in Telangana—ensuring farmers benefit from minimum support price (MSP) protections without re-

lying solely on state resources. Additionally, he emphasized the need for a Central-State cost-sharing mechanism for MSP implementation and market interventions, noting that current poli-

cies place the entire financial burden on states. Addressing the impact of central trade policies, Minister Thummala cited falling domestic prices of Oil Palm and Cotton due to reduced import duties,

urging coordinated policies between the Centre and states to protect farmers' incomes. He concluded that safeguarding farmer welfare requires joint, well-planned action at both central and state levels.



NEET-PG 2025: Telangana Extends Medical Admission Deadline to October 16

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has extended the last date for NEET-PG 2025 online registration for medical college admissions to October 16, 2025, until 6 pm. Qualified candidates can now submit applications for degree and diploma courses under the Competent Authority Quota at govern-

ment, private non-minority, and minority colleges affiliated with Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) in Warangal and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad. Applicants must register online and upload scanned original cer-

tificates. For assistance, technical support is available at 9392685856, 9059672216, 7842136688 or tsmedadm.tech@gmail.com. For regulation queries: 7901098840, 9490585796 or knrugadmission@gmail.com. Payment gateway issues can be resolved at 9618240276.

Jubilee Hills Congress Candidate Pays Courtesy Visit to Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — Naveen Yadav, the Congress candidate for the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election, called on Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka in a formal courtesy visit. During the interaction, the Deputy CM extended his best wishes to Yadav, expressing hope that he would secure a decisive victory and uphold the Congress party's flag in the Jubilee Hills constituency. Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that the Congress-led government is deeply committed to development in the region and ensuring that electoral promises are effectively fulfilled. He highlighted the administration's

focus on establishing a truly responsive governance model that prioritizes the welfare of citizens. The meeting, held at a critical juncture ahead of the by-election, served as a public demonstration of the party's support for Yadav. The Deputy CM's presence was intended to motivate party workers, reassure voters of the government's commitment, and signal the Congress party's determination to maintain growth and progress in Jubilee Hills. He urged the party cadre to remain united and diligent in securing a strong mandate, emphasizing that collaborative efforts and local development are the keys to victory.



TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy's Candid Remarks Stir Sangareddy

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy made a series of candid observations in Sangareddy, predicting that the BRS party would not return to power in the next elections. He criticized internal discord within the opposition, stating, "They are fighting among themselves," and expressed confidence that the Congress will form the next government in Telangana. Addressing local officials, Jagga Reddy re-

assured them that administrative reviews conducted under his supervision were not meant to intimidate. He encouraged officials to mention his name if they faced undue pressure from higher authorities, ensuring protection against harassment. Reflecting on his political journey, the veteran leader emphasized that he remains unaffected by election outcomes, whether victory or defeat. He shared insights into

his rise through the ranks, recalling how he "put up flags at night and held protests during the day," underscoring his organic connection with the people. He highlighted that his success stems not from caste-based support but from consistent engagement with the grassroots, presenting a model of resilience and commitment. His remarks served both as a morale booster for party workers and a pointed critique of the opposition.



KTR Hails Hyderabad Formula E Race as a Global Game-Changer for Telangana

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (TPN) — Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS) Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao on Friday described Hyderabad's hosting of India's first Formula E race as a landmark moment that has put Telangana firmly on the global map for innovation, clean mobility, and cutting-edge technology. Speaking at the 10th FMAE National Student Motorsports Competition 2025 in Coimbatore, Rama Rao said the event was far more than a race: "When the world's fastest electric cars raced on Hyderabad's streets, it showcased Telangana's readiness for the future." The event reportedly generated nearly 700 crore in economic activity while attracting international attention to the city's technological

capabilities. Rama Rao emphasized that this was only the beginning of Telangana's journey toward becoming India's Mobility Valley. Highlighting the state's innovation ecosystem, he referenced globally recognized institutions like T-Hub, the world's largest startup incubator, and T-Works, India's largest prototyping center, noting the seamless journey from ideation to execution. Addressing students and young innovators, Rama Rao encouraged them to be opportunity creators rather than seekers. "Why stand in line when you can start one of your own ventures? Dream big, and you'll be amazed at your potential," he said, drawing parallels between Telangana's rise as a state and the transforma-

tive power of belief, resilience, and vision. Concluding his address, Rama Rao underscored the importance of designing opportunities and executing with courage. "Hope is not a strategy. Create your own breaks. That is how success is built—in motorsport, governance, and in life," he said, inspiring the next generation to lead India into a future defined by innovation, speed, and scale. The FMAE National Student Motorsports Competition, a leading collegiate racing event, saw participation from student teams across India, showcasing engineering brilliance, creativity, and competitive spirit. KTR Hails Hyderabad Formula E Race as a Global Game-Changer for Telangana

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NRI Cell Chairman Iraavathri Anil Hits Back at Harish Rao on Gulf Workers' Welfare

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — At a press meet held at Gandhi Bhavan, NRI Cell and State Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Iraavathri Anil strongly countered allegations made by former Minister Harish Rao concerning Gulf workers' welfare. Anil accused Rao of spreading baseless claims that the Congress government is neglecting the diaspora community. Recalling the 2014 election promise by the previous BRS government to provide 500 crore in support to Gulf workers, Anil called it a "betrayal" that the fund was never

released. He criticized Harish Rao for failing to support Gulf-bound workers in his own Siddipet constituency while alleging the BRS government focused on "looting lands" in Gajwel, Siddipet, and Rangareddy. Highlighting the human cost, Anil questioned the absence of compensation for families of the 2,000 Gulf workers who died during the BRS tenure. He also accused the previous regime of removing insurance for landless poor and referred to KCR as a "man-eater," while describing KTR, Kavitha, and Harish Rao as "small-sized

demons" misappropriating public funds. Contrasting this with the current administration's efforts, Anil praised the implementation of GO No. 205, which provides ex-gratia to Gulf workers, and highlighted initiatives such as Gurukul school admissions for their children. He also noted the transformation of PragathiBhavan into "PravasaPrajavaani," focusing on resolving diaspora issues directly. Anil concluded with a stern warning to Harish Rao, stating that continued misinformation could provoke a strong backlash from the Gulf worker families themselves.



TPCC Vice President Files Cyber Complaint Against Actor S. Srikanthlyengar

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — TPCC Vice President and MLC Dr. Balmuri Venkat filed a complaint with the CCS (Cyber Crime Station) against actor S. Srikanthlyengar for allegedly making "inappropriate and indecent remarks" about Mahatma Gandhi on social media. Dr. Venkat emphasized the severity of the comments, noting that disrespecting a global icon of peace, non-violence, and India's freedom struggle is unacceptable and actionable under law. He stressed that freedom of speech does not permit defaming national fig-

ures or offending public sentiment. The complaint requests the Cyber Crime Police to take immediate action under relevant cybercrime and defamation laws. Dr. Venkat said the move underscores the Congress party's zero-tolerance approach to online disrespect of national leaders and reflects the party's determination to curb the misuse of social media for offensive content. He also highlighted the need to set a strong precedent for youth, emphasizing that such misconduct will have legal consequences.

R. Krishnaiah Calls for Telangana Bandh on October 14 Over BC Quota Interim Stay

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (TPN) — Backward Classes Association leader R. Krishnaiah on Saturday announced a statewide bandh in Telangana on October 14 to protest the alleged negligence of the Congress government, which led the High Court to issue an interim stay against a Government Order providing 42% quota for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies.

about to be served." He expressed disappointment that despite the caste survey, a dedicated commission's report, and support from multiple political parties, the High Court has stayed the implementation of the 42% reservation. Krishnaiah urged political parties, social organizations, and citizens to support the bandh, emphasizing that this is a matter of justice and equality for the BC community. "We call on everyone to stand united and ensure that the government honors its promise to the Backward

Classes," he said, reiterating that the bandh aims to press for immediate action and accountability. The leader warned that continued delay in implementing the quota could trigger stronger protests across the state. The Telangana High Court had on October 9 issued an interim stay on the government order, halting the planned 42% BC reservation in local body elections, sparking widespread debate and political reactions.

Hyderabad Police Chief Sajjanar Sets High Standards with Professionalism, 'Extra Mile Reward' Initiative

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, convened his first city-wide video conference on October 11, 2025, addressing officers across all city police wings, including Law & Order and Traffic divisions. The session focused on enhancing public trust, operational efficiency, and the prestige of the Hyderabad Commissionerate, recognized as one of India's oldest and most respected police forces. Commissioner Sajjanar opened the meeting by commending officers for their dedication over the past six months and encouraged them to maintain a high level of

discipline and commitment. He emphasized that police personnel are the backbone of the department, and their conduct in public—marked by respect, professionalism, and adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)—is vital to building trust and improving the force's image. Highlighting the importance of humane and accountable policing, Sajjanar announced the 'Extra Mile Reward' program, which will recognize and felicitate outstanding officers every Saturday with certificates and rewards. He further cautioned that negligence or taking the law into one's hands will attract

strict action. The Commissioner also set clear priorities for the city: making Hyderabad a drug-free city, empowering She Teams to deter harassment of women and children, and encouraging the Traffic Police to implement innovative measures to reduce travel time. The conference concluded with special commendations for officers including SIs Sudhakar, Shobha, Saikanth, and Shivakumar for solving a child murder case, and Afzal Gunj SHO Ravi and team for rescuing destitute individuals, highlighting the department's dedication to public service.



13-Year-Old Bhavani Foils Robbery, Earns Community Praise

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Thirteen-year-old Bhavani demonstrated extraordinary bravery by chasing a thief attempting to rob Uma Maheshwari's home in Bhagat Singh Nagar, Jeedimetla. Despite minor injuries from the scuffle, her shouts of "Thief! Thief!" alerted locals, forcing the intruder to flee empty-handed. CCTV footage captured her fearless pursuit, earning her widespread admiration from the community for her quick thinking and courage.

Telangana Sports Minister Felicitates 7-Year-Old Triple International Record Holder



TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Sports Minister Wakiti Srihari honored 7-year-old gymnast Rohan, who has set three international records in gymnastics, including Back Hand-springs and Handstand Walk. The young athlete, accompanied by parents Suresh and Srujana, received a formal felicitation and shawl at the Minister's residence in Banjara Hills. Minister Srihari praised Rohan's dedication, highlighting the state government's

commitment to nurturing young sporting talent. He also announced the launch of a special sports application, enabling the government to identify,

track, and support budding athletes, aiming to develop world-class competitors who can bring national and international glory.

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Prohibition and Excise Commissioner C. Harikiran, IAS, conducted a thorough inspection of liquor shop application counters at AbkariBhavan, Nampally, ensuring a hassle-free experience for applicants. The counters, catering to all ten erstwhile excise divisions, centralize the application process to prevent unnecessary travel. Applications are being accepted until October 18, and separate counters have been

arranged for districts across Telangana. Commissioner Harikiran emphasized that officials should diligently provide application receipts and lottery entry passes, while also receiving adequate staff training to handle high-volume applications efficiently. Senior officers including Additional Commissioner Syed YasinKhureshi and others conducted training sessions following his directives, ensuring the process runs smoothly.



Telangana to Launch New App to Track and Support Young Athletes

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Reinforcing the government's commitment to sports development, Minister Wakiti Srihari announced a new digital application for athletes, aimed at systematically tracking, nurturing, and providing resources to emerging talent in Telangana. This initiative complements the state's focus on creating a strong pipeline of world-class athletes, beginning from a young age.

PVL Elevates Volleyball's Popularity in India, Says Minister Srihari



TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th: Telangana Sports Minister Wakiti Srihari highlighted the role of professional leagues like the Prime Volleyball League (PVL)

in enhancing the sport's reach and recognition. Attending the Hyderabad Black Hawks vs Delhi Hurricanes match at GMC Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli, the

Minister underscored Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's focus on sports infrastructure and talent development through a robust Sports Policy. Srihari commended

Kankanala Abhishek Reddy, Hyderabad Black Hawks owner, for hosting an international-standard league, noting that TV viewership has doubled this season, re-

flecting the growing appeal of volleyball in India.

Telangana Excise Commissioner Ensures Smooth Liquor Shop Application Process

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Jagga Reddy Reviews Sadashivpet Road Project, Criticizes BRS for 11-Year Delay

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — TGIC Chairman Nirmala and Congress leader T. Jagga Reddy conducted an on-site review meeting with R&B and Municipal officials in Sadashivpet town, focusing on the long-pending Kandakam Road project. Jagga Reddy, who had secured 20 crore for the road back in 2014, expressed frustration that the project is yet to be completed 11 years later.

Officials informed him that the 2.5 km stretch is largely finished, including culverts, but progress is stalled due to demolition disputes involving seven houses near the EeshwarMandir. The displaced families are rejecting the offered double-bedroom houses, demanding instead a house plot and full construction support.

Jagga Reddy questioned why the project, sanctioned during the unified state under then CM Kiran Kumar Reddy and Municipal Minister Mahidhar Reddy, remained incomplete despite 15 crore already spent. He directly confronted former BRS mu-

nicipal chairmen Subhash and Viswanath, who claimed their repeated appeals to former MLA ChintaPrabhakar and then-Minister Harish Rao were ignored.

The Congress leader directed officials to propose 150-yard plots for each displaced family, along with compensation of 15 lakh for those with concrete roofs and 10 lakh for tin-roofed houses. He stressed that the Shivalayam must remain untouched during widening. Jagga Reddy also instructed action on the removal of four shops near the bus stand, pending court cases, assuring officials that uncontested stretches should start immediately while compensation and legal issues are resolved.

He envisioned a modern Kandakam Road, complete with a divider and central lighting, transforming Sadashivpet into a "Necklace Road." Jagga Reddy concluded by emphasizing the importance of securing funds, noting that those who provide the resources wield the real power, even if others receive credit.



Telangana Ministers Console Family of Youth Killed in Dallas Shooting

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — The mortal remains of Pole Chandrasekhar, a young man from Teachers Colony, BN Reddy Nagar Division, LB Nagar constituency, who was tragically killed in a shooting by unknown assailants in Dallas, USA, arrived at his native village on Friday.

State Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and AtluriLakshman, along with Roads & Buildings

Chairman Mal Reddy Ramreddy and CorporatorDharpalliRajasekhar Reddy, visited the family to pay respects and offer condolences.

Minister Sridhar Babu assured the family of government support, including efforts to secure jobs for Chandrasekhar's two brothers in private organizations and 5 lakh in financial assistance

from SC/ST funds to help establish self-employment ventures. Minister AtluriLakshman reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing all necessary support to victims' families. The visit reflected Telangana's resolve to assist citizens facing tragedies abroad and highlighted the administration's human-centric approach in moments of grief.

Telangana CM Expresses Shock Over IPS Officer's Alleged Suicide, Flags Caste-Based Attacks

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock over the alleged suicide of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar in Haryana, describing it as a "forced death" and a stark example of caste-based harassment.

In an X post, the CM said that if even an ADGP-level officer faces such oppression, it reflects the dire conditions faced by ordinary citizens. He urged public

condemnation of caste-based attacks and stressed that such incidents erode faith in the Constitution, equality, and justice.

Y Puran Kumar, a 2001-batch IPS officer, allegedly shot himself at his Chandigarh residence, leaving a note accusing eight senior officers of "blatant caste-based discrimination, public humiliation, and targeted harassment."

Mahesh Goud Slams BRS-BJP for Obstructing BC Reservation, Criticizes Negligence on Banakacherla Project

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 11th — TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized the BRS government for past inaction on the Banakacherla project and accused the BRS-BJP alliance of obstructing the 42% BC reservations in local bodies. Goud cited previous statements by KCR about developing

Rayalaseema into a "land of jewels" and protecting Andhra's water rights, asserting that Congress will defend Telangana's water interests. Regarding BC reservations, he confirmed the government's commitment to 42% quotas, announcing plans to appeal the High Court stay to the Supreme Court, while

holding BJP responsible for obstruction.

He warned that attempts to block BC rights are akin to "snatching food from the mouths of the community," emphasizing that the Congress government has both "courage and commitment" to implement reservations ahead of local elections.



Excise Raids Bust Illegal Ganja Trade and Cultivation in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY, Oct 11 — Acting on orders from District Prohibition and Excise Officer Naveen Chandra, the District Task Force (DTF) conducted raids under the Narayanekhed Excise Sta-

tion, uncovering major ganja-related offences.

In ChallaGiddaThanda, raids on the homes of VadityaDasharath and Vaditya Mohan yielded 4.2 kg of dried ganja, 1.5 kg of seeds, and a TVS

XL moped. Both accused remain at large. Locals Ramesh Chavan, Bansilal, and RanaPratap reportedly assaulted officials, causing injuries.

In a separate opera-

tion, Vaditya Janaki Ram's fields in ChallaKindaThanda were found cultivating 64 ganja plants intercropped with cotton. The accused fled. Raids were led by CIs Shankar and Raghunath

Reddy, SIs Hanumanthu, Anudeep, and Waheed, backed by excise staff. Authorities reaffirmed their commitment to eliminating ganja cultivation in the district.

Hyderabad Authorities Reclaim Encroached Parklands in Padmashri Hills and P&T Colony

HYD, Oct 11 — The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) reclaimed parklands at Padmashri Hills Colony and P&T Colony under BandlagudaJagir

Municipality.

A 2,600-square-yard park at Padmashri Hills had been encroached upon by nearby landowners, halting construction of a boundary wall. Another

1,112-square-yard park in P&T Colony was reclaimed from encroachers, officials said, reaffirming the city's commitment to protecting green spaces.



HYD, Oct 11 — The Cyberabad Women and Children Safety Wing rescued two victims of flesh trade and arrested four individuals during a week-long special drive from October 5 to 11.

Night raids led to the arrest of seven transgender individuals involved in indecent acts in public. She Teams conducted 136 decoy operations, arresting 52 harassers, while also resolving 18 complaints from women.

The Hidden Racism Against Northeastern Indians An Urgent Call for Introspection



Racism against people from India's North East remains a persistent, troubling issue that often goes unnoticed or is dismissed with casual indifference. Despite sharing the same nationality, Northeastern Indians frequently face derogatory slurs, discrimination, and harassment—sometimes brutal in nature—within the very country they call home. This racism is no different, nor any less offensive, than the prejudice Indians encounter abroad.

A recent incident underscores this harsh reality: a 27-year-old flight attendant from the Garo Hills region revealed on social media that she was subjected to racial abuse twice within the span of an hour in New Delhi. The slurs, predominantly hurled by unruly men, included demeaning and offensive language. Sadly, such stories are all too common for Northeasterners who move to mainland India, especially women who face

compounded discrimination due to their gender and are often targets of sexual harassment. They are stereotyped as "fast" or morally loose, fueling further abuse.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju condemned this harassment, emphasizing that it is unacceptable. While his words are welcome, history and current realities suggest that such abuses will continue unless society as a whole confronts its deep-seated biases.

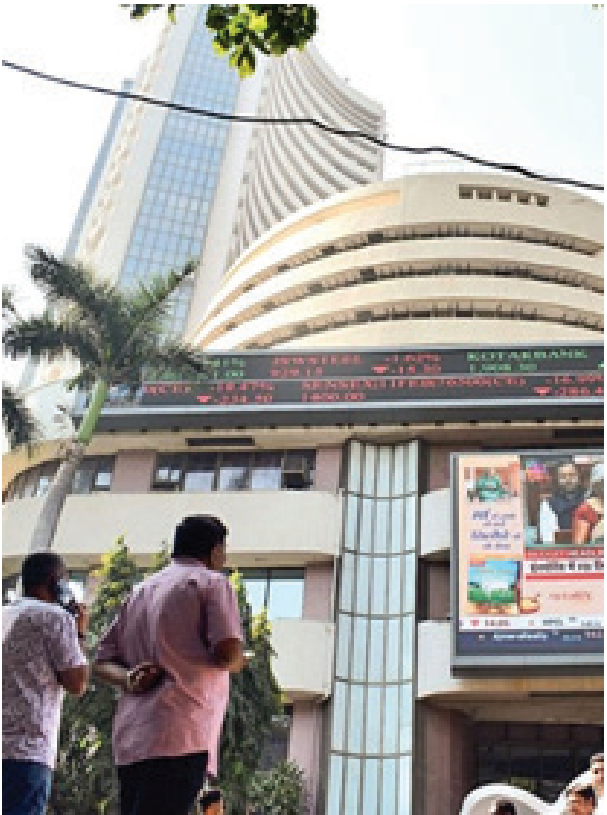
This intolerance is especially disheartening considering the complex history of the North East's integration with India. Violent secessionist movements in states like Nagaland and Mizoram were met with harsh suppression by the government. Though peace has largely returned, and many young Northeasterners proudly identify as Indian while moving to cities across the country for opportunities, they constantly face reminders that they are viewed as outsiders.

At the root of this prejudice lies ignorance—most harassers likely have no understanding of the North East's geography, culture, or history. This ignorance breeds contempt, much like the prejudices against Muslims or Christians within India, or even racial bias faced by Indians abroad.

It is time for a collective introspection. We easily condemn racism outside India but often fail to acknowledge or address the discrimination within. Harassing Northeastern women—or anyone different from the majority—is neither brave nor humorous. It undermines the very spirit of unity and respect that India aspires to uphold.

If India is to truly embrace its diversity, it must first recognize and eliminate the racism that festers at home. Only then can it claim to be a truly inclusive nation.

Pharma Tariffs: Trump Keeps Indian Drug-Makers on Edge



In the midst of ongoing negotiations between India and the United States over a long-pending trade agreement, President Donald Trump has announced a sweeping new tariff policy targeting the pharmaceutical sector. The US administration has imposed a 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical products imported into the country unless the manufacturing companies establish production facilities on American soil. This policy shift has sent ripples through India's pharmaceutical industry, which is a major player in the global market.

India, often hailed as the "pharmacy of the world," exports over \$30 billion worth of pharmaceutical products globally, with the US accounting for roughly \$10 billion of that figure. The country predominantly supplies low-cost generic drugs to the American market, which, importantly, remain exempt from the new tariff regime. This exemption provides some relief to Indian drug-makers, safeguarding a significant portion of their exports.

However, concerns persist over the status of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), the core components used in drug production. The tariff policy has not clearly addressed whether APIs will fall under the new tariffs, leaving Indian manufacturers uncertain about potential impacts on this crucial segment.

Additionally, the industry is witnessing a strategic shift as major Indian pharmaceutical firms increasingly focus on complex generics—advanced formulations that are more difficult to develop than traditional generic drugs. These include inhalers, injectables, and ophthalmic solutions, which often fall within the branded or patented categories and thus might be subject to the new tariffs. Complex generics are commercially valuable as they enable companies to enter higher-value markets and diversify beyond conventional generics.

This evolving landscape creates a delicate balance for Indian drug manufacturers. While the exemption of standard generics offers some protection, the new tariff rules pose challenges for growth in specialized drug segments. Setting up manufacturing bases in the US, as demanded by the policy, would require substantial investments and strategic decisions by Indian companies.

As trade talks between the two nations continue, clarity on tariff implications, especially concerning APIs and complex generics, remains crucial. The outcome will determine how India's pharmaceutical exporters navigate this new regime while sustaining their vital role in global healthcare.

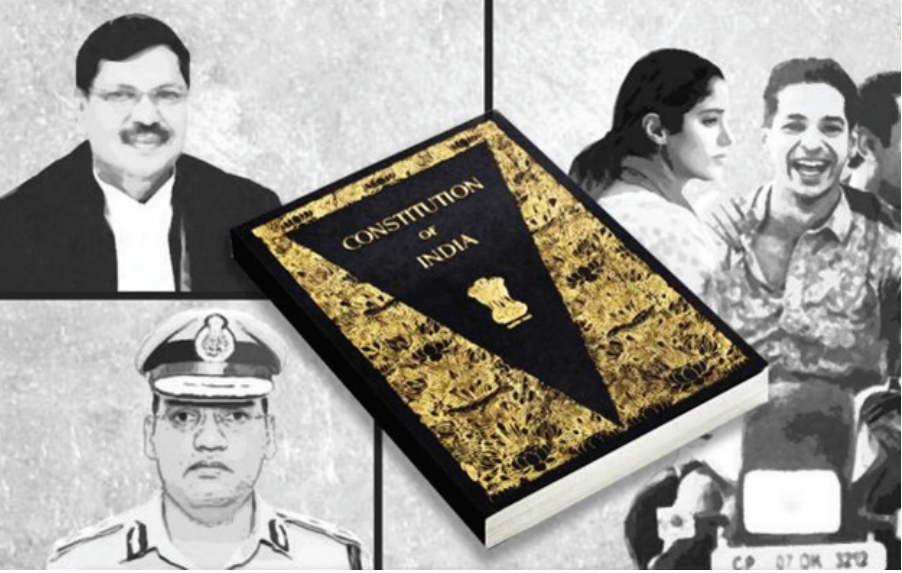
Caste, Minorities, and the Unfinished Struggle: Reflections Triggered by Homebound

Three recent events have cast a spotlight on India's persistent, unresolved issues of caste and minority discrimination—issues that remain deeply entrenched even 75 years after the Constitution's birth. These are: the shoe thrown at the Dalit Chief Justice of India in his courtroom; the tragic suicide of a senior Dalit IPS officer in Haryana, Y. Puran Kumar, who left a note citing years of discrimination and victimization; and the surprising success of Homebound, a film by Neeraj Ghaywan, Bollywood's most prominent Dalit filmmaker.

Homebound stands apart from mainstream Bollywood blockbusters like *Pathan* or *Baahubali*. It had no major stars, no aggressive marketing, and no glossy PR machine behind it. Yet, it steadily gained traction through word of mouth, especially among affluent urban professionals and younger entrepreneurs. This audience showed empathy toward the struggles of three young, rural Indians—two Dalits and a Muslim—trying to break into the police force and civil services against a system stacked against them.

The film's success signals something profound: an acknowledgment among India's socio-economic elite that caste and religious minorities—representing over one-third of the population—still face systemic barriers despite reservations, education, and government jobs aimed at equality. The recent harassment of the Dalit Chief Justice and the suicide of ADGP Puran Kumar—whose wife, IAS officer Amneet P. Kumar, has accused senior officials of victimization—highlight that even the highest echelons of power aren't immune to caste-based prejudice.

Homebound portrays these complexities with nuance. One character, Chandan Kumar, refuses to reveal his Dalit identity to avoid menial tasks in the police. His friends, Sudha and Shoaib, strive for better futures despite societal hurdles. Their aspirations echo a story told by Jagjivan Ram in 1985 about a wealthy Scheduled Caste entrepreneur who preferred his son to be a police officer, gaining respect that wealth alone could not buy.



The film and real-life events serve as reminders that India's struggle with caste and minority equality is far from over. The solution is not to roll back reservations but to persist in addressing deep-rooted biases and systemic injustice. Only then can the promise of dignity and equality envisioned by the Constitution be truly realized.

Bond Yields Defy RBI Rate Cuts Amid Fiscal, Global Concerns

Despite India's inflation hitting an eight-year low and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cutting interest rates since February, government bond yields are moving in the opposite direction—rising sharply when they would typically fall.

India's 10-year benchmark bond yield has climbed over 20 basis points since the RBI's last rate cut in June, closing at 6.47% on Wednesday. This unusual rise is driven by concerns over weak tax collections, a potential fiscal deficit overshoot, and geopolitical risks—especially the impact of U.S. tariffs on Indian exports.

Traditionally, lower interest rates and inflation lead to higher bond prices and lower yields. But recent market behavior has defied this logic. Experts point to the RBI's shift in policy stance—from 'accommodative' to 'neutral'—as a key trigger. While the repo rate was cut by a cumulative 100 basis points this year, markets interpreted the policy shift as a signal that further rate cuts may not follow.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has acknowledged the rise in yields is "not affordable," though she maintained it doesn't currently affect the government's fiscal calculations.

Independent analyst Ajay Bodke noted that fiscal slippage fears—especially with underperforming di-

rect and indirect tax collections—are keeping bond investors wary. A recent report by Axis Bank estimates a possible 1.4 trillion shortfall in direct taxes for FY26, adding pressure to government borrowing.

The new GST rate rationalisation announced in early September—cutting slabs to 5% and 18%—aims to boost demand but may reduce revenue by 48,000 crore. Bond yields briefly softened following the GST announcement, but broader worries continue.

Adding to market jitters is the potential fallout from U.S. trade policy. Trump's new 100% tariffs on branded pharmaceuticals and the proposed HIRE outsourcing bill have raised red flags for Indian exporters. Experts warn that substitution to other markets won't match U.S. profit margins and could lead to reduced earnings across labour-intensive sectors.

Until there is clarity on fiscal trends and external pressures, experts suggest bond yields may remain elevated—even as inflation and interest rates stay low. For now, market sentiment is clearly being driven more by future risks than present data.



PM Modi meets Qualcomm CEO; discusses AI and innovation

TPN Bureau | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a high-profile meeting with Qualcomm President and CEO Cristiano R. Amon at his official residence. The discussions focused on India's significant progress in Artificial Intelligence (AI), innovation, and the country's expanding semiconductor ecosystem.

"It was a wonderful meeting with Mr. Cristiano R. Amon and discussing India's strides in AI, innovation and skill-ing," Modi said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). He praised Qualcomm's commitment to India's semiconductor and AI missions, highlighting India's "unmatched talent and scale" as key factors in building trans-formative technologies for the future.

Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon expressed enthusiasm about deepening the company's partnership with India. "Thank you PM @naren-



dramodi for the great conversation on fostering a broader partnership between @Qualcomm and India in support of the IndiaAI and India Semiconductor Missions, as well as the transition to 6G," he said in a separate post on X.

Amon emphasized Qualcomm's interest in supporting India's evolving technology ecosys-

tem, citing opportunities across AI-powered smartphones, PCs, smart glasses, automotive, industrial applications, and beyond. The collaboration aims to accelerate innovation and build a robust domestic ecosystem aligned with India's ambitious digital and technological goals.

India's AI and Semiconductor missions are critical components of

the country's vision to become a global technology hub. The government has prioritized investments and policy reforms to boost manufacturing, R&D, and talent development in these sectors.

The meeting signals growing engagement between India and global tech leaders to drive innovation and self-reliance. Qualcomm, a lead-

er in semiconductor and wireless technologies, is poised to play a key role in India's digital transformation journey.

This engagement follows recent government initiatives to strengthen India's position in the semiconductor supply chain and foster AI innovation across industries.



ED arrests Reliance Power CFO Ashok Kumar Pal in PMLA case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashok Kumar Pal, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Reliance Power Limited (RPL), in connection with a massive Rs 3,000 crore bank loan fraud case involving companies from the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group. The arrest came late on Friday night after the ED found sufficient grounds during its ongoing money laundering investigation.

According to sources, Pal, who is known to be a close aide of Anil Ambani, was initially summoned to the ED headquarters in Delhi for questioning. Following the probe, the agency took him into custody and was granted two days

of custody to continue its investigation.

The ED's probe centers around allegations of diversion of funds and financial irregularities linked to multi-crore bank loans. Ashok Kumar Pal is believed to have played a crucial role in orchestrating the alleged diversion of funds from Reliance Power Limited, which triggered the money laundering case.

The case forms part of a wider investigation into the financial dealings of the Anil Ambani Group of companies, which have come under scrutiny for allegedly defrauding banks through complex loan arrangements and misappropriation of funds.

The Enforcement Directorate has been

intensifying its efforts to probe financial crimes linked to prominent corporate houses, and this arrest marks a significant development in the ongoing investigation against the Anil Ambani Group.

Reliance Power Limited is one of the key entities under the group, and the alleged fraud case has raised concerns over governance and financial transparency within the conglomerate.

Further details are awaited as the ED continues its inquiry and custodial interrogation of Ashok Kumar Pal. The agency aims to unravel the full extent of the alleged fraud and trace the flow of funds to bring those responsible to justice.

Rajya Sabha Polls in J&K Put NC-Congress Alliance to the Test



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, set to fill four seats vacant since 2021, have become

a critical test for the fragile alliance between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress. Reports of a deadlock over seat-sharing arrangements are threat-

ening to strain the partnership ahead of the polls scheduled in 10 days. Sources reveal that the NC has offered Congress a "risky" seat, while the Congress is

pushing for one of the three relatively safer seats. "Talks are still underway, but if the NC does not concede a safer seat, Congress may decide to stay out of the

contest," said an insider familiar with the discussions.

The stakes are high, with the ruling alliance expected to comfortably win three seats. The BJP, with its 28 votes, holds a strong position to capture the fourth seat, making the decision over the risky seat crucial.

On Friday, the NC announced its candidates—Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Sajad Kichloo, and Shammi Oberoi—for three seats, while the fourth seat intended for Congress remains contentious. Political analysts view the standoff as a reflection of the alliance's fragile nature. Last year, Congress had walked out of the NC-led government after disagreements over ministerial portfolios, despite the alliance winning a majority in the assembly. Experts warn that if the NC insists on the risky seat, Congress might either reluctantly contest or opt out altogether, which could expose cracks in the coalition and potentially benefit the BJP.

With election day approaching fast, all eyes remain on whether the NC and Congress can reconcile their differenc-

Spurned By INDIA Bloc, AIMIM To Contest 100 Seats In Bihar Polls: A Owaisi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), after being rejected by the INDIA bloc in Bihar, announced plans to contest around 100 seats in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections—five times more than its tally in the last polls. The party aims to establish itself as a "third alternative" in a state long dominated by the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-RJD alliance.

AIMIM's Bihar state president Akhtarul Iman told PTI-Bhasha on Saturday, "Both the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan (INDIA bloc in Bihar) will be forced to realize our presence." He dismissed earlier accu-

sations of AIMIM splitting secular votes, saying those claims no longer hold water.

Iman revealed that AIMIM had reached out to RJD leaders Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav for an alliance but received no response. "Now, we must do all that we can to expand our footprints. We are also in talks with like-minded parties for a possible third front. Details will be clear soon," he added. The Bihar assembly elections for 243 seats will take place in two phases on November 6 and 11, with vote counting on November 14.

In the 2020 polls, AIMIM had allied with Mayawati's BSP and the now-defunct Rashtriya

Lok Samata Party. The party won five seats but was blamed for splitting votes against the RJD-Congress-Left alliance. In 2022, four AIMIM MLAs switched allegiance to the RJD, leaving Iman as the party's sole legislator in Bihar.

With Muslims making up over 17% of Bihar's population yet underrepresented politically, AIMIM sees significant potential in regions like Seemanchal, where Owaisi recently campaigned.

While AIMIM accuses mainstream parties of neglecting Muslims, critics allege Owaisi acts as a "B team of the BJP," dividing secular votes and indirectly aiding the saf-ron party.

'Miyas' Will Be Largest Community In Assam In Next Census: Himanta Sarma

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday claimed that Bengali-speaking Muslims, often referred to as 'Miya-Muslims,' will emerge as the largest community in the state, making up 38% of the population in the next census. Speaking to reporters, Sarma said this demographic shift is the "reality of Assam now."

The term 'Miya' has historically been used as a pejorative for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam, often labeled as Bangladeshi immigrants by non-Bengali communities. However, in recent years, members of this community have embraced the term as a symbol of defiance.

Sarma said the BJP-led government is working to protect "our people" and will introduce

two significant legislations in the upcoming Assembly session aimed at safeguarding "jati, mati, bheti" — community, land, and home. He did not disclose details but emphasized the government's commitment to securing the future of indigenous populations.

The Chief Minister added, "The situation would not have come to such a pass if the work being done in the last

five years had been initiated 30 years ago." He further asserted that sustained pressure on the Miya community would improve the demographic situation.

Sarma has previously expressed concerns over what he describes as an 'invasion' by people of "one religion" allegedly encroaching on land to alter Assam's demography. This claim has been echoed by Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi, who recently said the state is facing demographic challenges due to Congress's alleged support for illegal settlers.

The issue of demographic change in Assam remains highly sensitive and politically charged, with debates over citizenship, migration, and indigenous rights continuing to dominate state politics.



Trump Imposes 100% Tariff on China After Rare-Earth Export Controls

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump announced a sharp escalation in the ongoing trade conflict with China by imposing a 100% tariff on all Chinese goods starting November 1. The move comes in direct response to China's recent export restrictions on rare-earth minerals, essential components in semiconductors, fighter jets, and other advanced technologies critical to America's industrial and defense sectors.

In a post on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump called China's actions "extraordinarily aggressive" and labeled them "a moral disgrace in international trade." He warned that

tariffs could be imposed earlier if Beijing takes further aggressive steps.

US officials view China's export controls as a strategic effort to gain leverage ahead of the upcoming APEC summit in South Korea, where Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping were expected to meet. However, with tensions rising, the meeting now appears uncertain. Trump has stated he sees no need to meet Xi but has not officially canceled.

The tariff surge serves multiple purposes: retaliation against China's direct hit on US supply chains, political signaling to Trump's base by showcasing toughness on trade, and a tactical attempt to pressure China

back into negotiations on America's terms. Despite a \$400 million investment to boost domestic rare-earth production, the US remains heavily reliant on Chinese supplies.

The announcement coincided with Trump promoting a Middle East peace breakthrough, aiming to balance diplomacy with economic assertiveness on the global stage.

Markets reacted sharply, with the Dow dropping nearly 900 points, the S&P 500 falling 2.7%, and the Nasdaq sliding 3.5%, driven by major tech and retail stocks. Analysts warn this renewed trade conflict could disrupt global supply chains just before the crucial holiday season.

The standoff signals a



tense phase in US-China relations, blending political maneuvering and economic pressure with significant global trade implications.



Taliban Minister Sends Message to Pakistan on Terrorism From Indian Soil

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a significant diplomatic development, Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, during his first official visit to India, made a strong statement urging Pakistan to follow Afghanistan's example in eliminating terror groups operating on its soil.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Muttaqi declared that no terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba or Jaish-e-Mohammad are currently active in Afghanistan. "Not an inch of land is controlled by them. The Afghanistan you knew in 2021 has changed," he said, responding to concerns over past terror activities linked to Afghan territory.

He delivered a pointed message to Pakistan from Indian soil — a country that has long suffered from cross-border terrorism. "Just as Afghanistan has taken action for peace, other countries should do the same," he said.

Muttaqi also accused Pakistan of orchestrating a recent blast in Kabul, stating, "We consider this act of Paki-

stan wrong... Afghanistan is now peaceful and independent. Why should that trouble anyone?"

India marked the visit by announcing the restoration of full diplomatic ties with Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed the upgradation of India's Technical Mission in Kabul to an embassy, indicating New Delhi's deeper engagement with the Taliban regime.

Muttaqi, praising India as a "close friend," acknowledged New Delhi's swift humanitarian response during the recent earthquake in Afghanistan. He also called for mutual respect, trade, and stronger people-to-people ties.

Sending a veiled warning, the Taliban minister remarked, "Those who wish to create problems for Afghanistan should ask the Soviet Union, America, and NATO how that ended."

The visit signifies a new chapter in India-Afghanistan relations while exposing continuing tensions between Kabul and Islamabad.

"I Didn't Say 'Give It To Me'": Trump Says Nobel Peace Prize Winner Called Him

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump reacted strongly after Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts promoting democracy in Venezuela.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, Trump claimed that Machado called him and accepted the prize "in honour" of him. "The person who got the Nobel Prize called me today and said, 'I am accepting this in honour of you because you really deserved it... I didn't say, 'Give it to me', though. I think she might have," Trump said.

He also highlighted his own claims of peacemaking, insisting he should have won for his role in ending conflicts. "I said, 'Well, what about the seven others? I should get a Nobel Prize for each one'... I said I stopped seven wars," Trump said, naming conflicts in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Serbia, Israel, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Congo.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also expressed support



for Trump's Nobel credentials, posting on social media: "Give @realDonaldTrump the Nobel Peace Prize - he deserves it!"

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded Machado the prize for her courageous fight for democracy and peaceful transition in Venezuela. They de-

scribed her as a "brave and committed champion of peace" and praised her for "keeping the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

The Committee highlighted the global rise of authoritarian regimes suppressing democracy, emphasizing that Machado's efforts reflect the

link between democracy and lasting peace. They noted that she fulfills Alfred Nobel's criteria for the prize by working for freedom, democracy, and peace in a region marked by repression.

Machado's win underscores ongoing struggles for democratic rights in Venezuela and worldwide.



Mongolian President Khurelsukh to Visit India from October 13-16

TPN Correspondent | Sidaarjo

At the invitation of Indian President Droupadi Murmu, Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa will undertake a state visit to India from October 13 to 16, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Friday. This will be Ukhnaa's first visit to India as Mongolia's Head of State.

President Khurelsukh will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior officials, business leaders, and cultural representatives, highlighting the significance of the visit.

During the visit, President Murmu will hold a meeting with President Ukhnaa and host a banquet in his honour. The Mongolian President is also scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to review

and deepen the bilateral relationship between the two nations. Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar are

expected to receive the visiting dignitary.

India and Mongolia established diplomatic relations in 1955 and have since developed a strong and multifaceted partnership rooted in shared cultural, spiritual, and democratic values. The collaboration covers various sectors, including defence and security, parliamentary exchanges, development projects, energy, mining, information technology, education, healthcare, and cultural cooperation.

The upcoming visit is expected to further strengthen these ties and explore new avenues for cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges. It also comes at a time when both countries are looking to enhance their strategic partnership amid evolving regional dynamics.

This visit underscores India's commitment to fostering close relations with Mongolia and highlights the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Pakistan Warns Afghanistan Over Cross-Border Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Gaza City

Tens of thousands of Palestinians began returning to northern Gaza on Friday as a U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect, raising hopes for an end to a devastating two-year war. The truce comes alongside a deal to release the remaining 48 hostages, expected by Monday.

Though the fighting has largely ceased, uncertainty looms over who will govern Gaza as Israeli forces gradually pull back, still holding nearly 50% of the territory. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that Hamas



must disarm or face renewed military action.

The war, sparked by

Hamas' October 2023 attack on Israel that killed 1,200 and led to 251 hos-

tages, has claimed over 67,000 Palestinian lives and displaced nearly

90% of Gaza's population. Returning families are now greeted by rubble and ruins in once-thriving neighbourhoods like Zeitoun and Khan Younis.

In parallel, international aid is set to ramp up. The United Nations confirmed aid convoys carrying fuel, medicine, and food will begin entering Gaza on Sunday, with 170,000 metric tons pre-positioned in Jordan and Egypt. However, only 20% of required aid has reached Gaza in recent months due to Israeli restrictions.

Meanwhile, prisoner-hostage exchanges are expected to begin soon. Israel will reportedly release 2,000 Palestinian

prisoners, though high-profile detainees like Marwan Barghout are excluded.

The ceasefire is part of former U.S. President Donald Trump's peace plan, which includes a continued Israeli military presence in Gaza and proposes an international security force led by Arab and Muslim nations. The plan envisions a long-term role for the Palestinian Authority, though it lacks clarity on Palestinian statehood — something Netanyahu firmly opposes.

Despite fragile hopes, many Palestinians return to find nothing left of their homes, facing a future still shaped by war.

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.

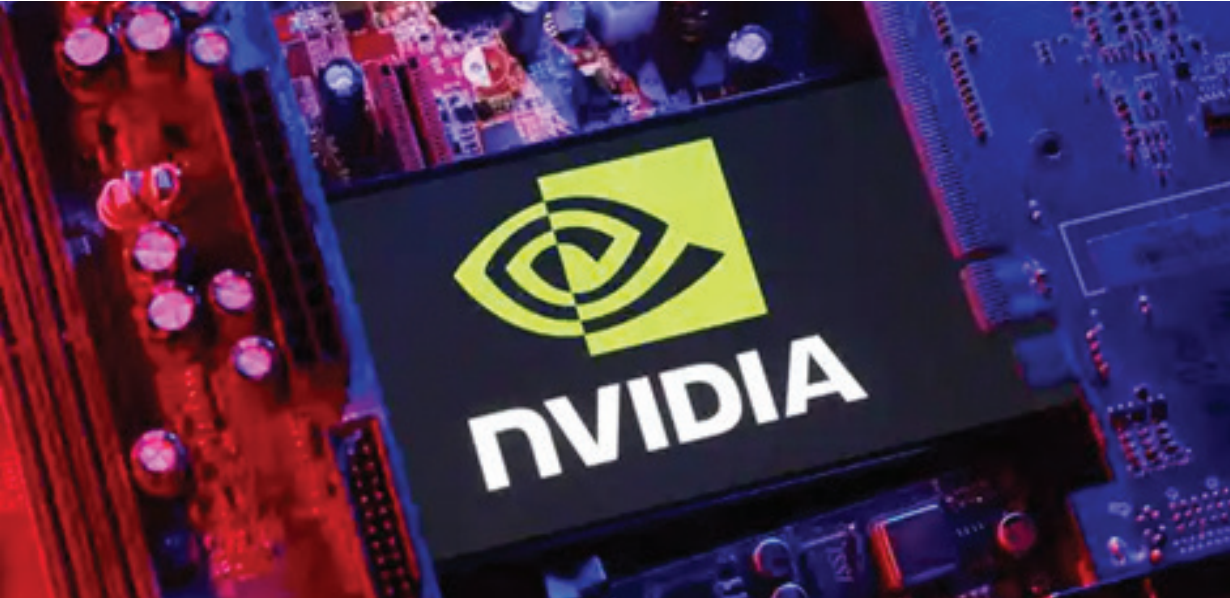
The company will compensate its channel partners for this "strategic pricing" initiative. Banerjee projected that the passenger vehicle market is expected to re-



bound 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.

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 ma-

jor investors, including the US government, which acquired a roughly 10% stake in August, and Japan's Soft-Bank, 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.

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 mar-



kets 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 integ-

egrity, risk management, and investor interests, signaling SEBI's ongoing efforts to modernize India's commodity derivatives ecosystem.

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.

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 developments

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.

Gold Prices Soar in Pakistan: 10 Grams Cost Over Rs 4.3 Lakh



Gold has long held cultural and financial significance across South Asia, but in Pakistan, its price has recently surged to record-breaking levels. According to the latest reports, the cost of 10 grams of 24-carat gold in Pakistan has skyrocketed to PKR 430,500, making it significantly more expensive than in neighbouring India.

The sharp rise in gold prices is primarily due to a government-imposed 60-day ban on gold imports, aimed at stabilizing the country's struggling economy. This ban, however, created a severe supply crunch, sending gold prices soaring.

In comparison, the Indian gold market remains relatively stable, with a notable price difference of nearly INR 13,000 per 10 grams when compared to Pakistan (after currency conversion). This widening gap has sparked interest among traders and entrepreneurs on both sides of the border.

"Buying gold in India and selling it in Pakistan sounds like a lucrative business

opportunity," some have speculated online. The massive price differential may present arbitrage possibilities, though cross-border trade in gold remains heavily regulated and legally complex.

The Pakistani rupee's weakening against the US dollar has also played a key role in driving up gold prices. As global gold is priced in dollars, local currency depreciation directly impacts affordability for Pakistani consumers.

With gold being central to weddings, religious events, and investment in Pakistan, the current pricing surge makes it difficult for many families to afford the precious metal. Analysts believe that unless the import restrictions are lifted and the rupee stabilizes, gold will remain out of reach for the average Pakistani household.

As Diwali and wedding season approach, many in Pakistan are watching the gold market closely, hoping for relief — but for now, the glittering metal remains a luxury few can afford.

Google Doodle Celebrates Idli: A South Indian Classic



Google Doodle paid tribute to one of India's most iconic and beloved breakfast dishes — idli. Soft, steamed, and often paired with spicy sambar and fresh coconut chutney, idlis are a staple in South Indian homes and a comfort food enjoyed across the country.

The special Google Doodle artwork creatively depicts the making and serving of idlis. The first "G" is filled with rice grains, a key ingredient in idli batter. The two "O"s show a bowl of white batter and a traditional steamer. The second "G" is made up of several cooked idlis, while the "L" is shaped with chutneys, and the final "E" resembles a flavorful side dish — possibly sambar. The doodle sits on a banana leaf, a traditional serving plate in South Indian cuisine.

Despite its popularity, the origin of idli remains uncertain. Food historian K.T. Achaya once suggested that idli

may have roots in Indonesia, inspired by a similar fermented rice cake known as kedli. Ancient trade between South India and Southeast Asia could have helped the recipe travel across regions.

Another theory points to Arab traders on India's western coast. Seeking halal food, they may have adapted local ingredients into the now-familiar form of idlis paired with coconut chutney.

Food historian Kusrush Dalal added that since rice cultivation in South India dates back about 3,000 years, idlis cannot be older than that. He also noted that the process of fermenting rice and urad dal batter likely developed later, meaning the modern idli could be just a few centuries old.

While its exact origins are still debated, one thing is certain: idli continues to be a timeless dish — light, nutritious, and deeply rooted in Indian food culture.

Your computer mouse can listen to your conversations, suggests new study

Researchers have demonstrated that an ordinary computer mouse can be turned into a makeshift microphone capable of eavesdropping on nearby conversations.

A team at the University of California unveiled a technique called Mic E Mouse on October 11, 2025, showing how high precision optical and motion sensors in modern mice pick up tiny acoustic vibrations. By exploiting those vibrations, malware running on an infected computer can emulate a microphone and reconstruct speech recorded through the peripheral.

The researchers say the attack relies on a compromised host: an attacker must first install code on the victim's machine. Once installed, the code reads sensor outputs that respond to sound induced vibrations, applies denoising methods including a Wiener filter, and feeds the cleaned signal into an AI model to identify speech. According to the team, word recognition averaged about 61 percent accuracy in their tests, while numeric strings — such as credit card digits — were recovered with higher reliability, raising clear privacy and financial security concerns.

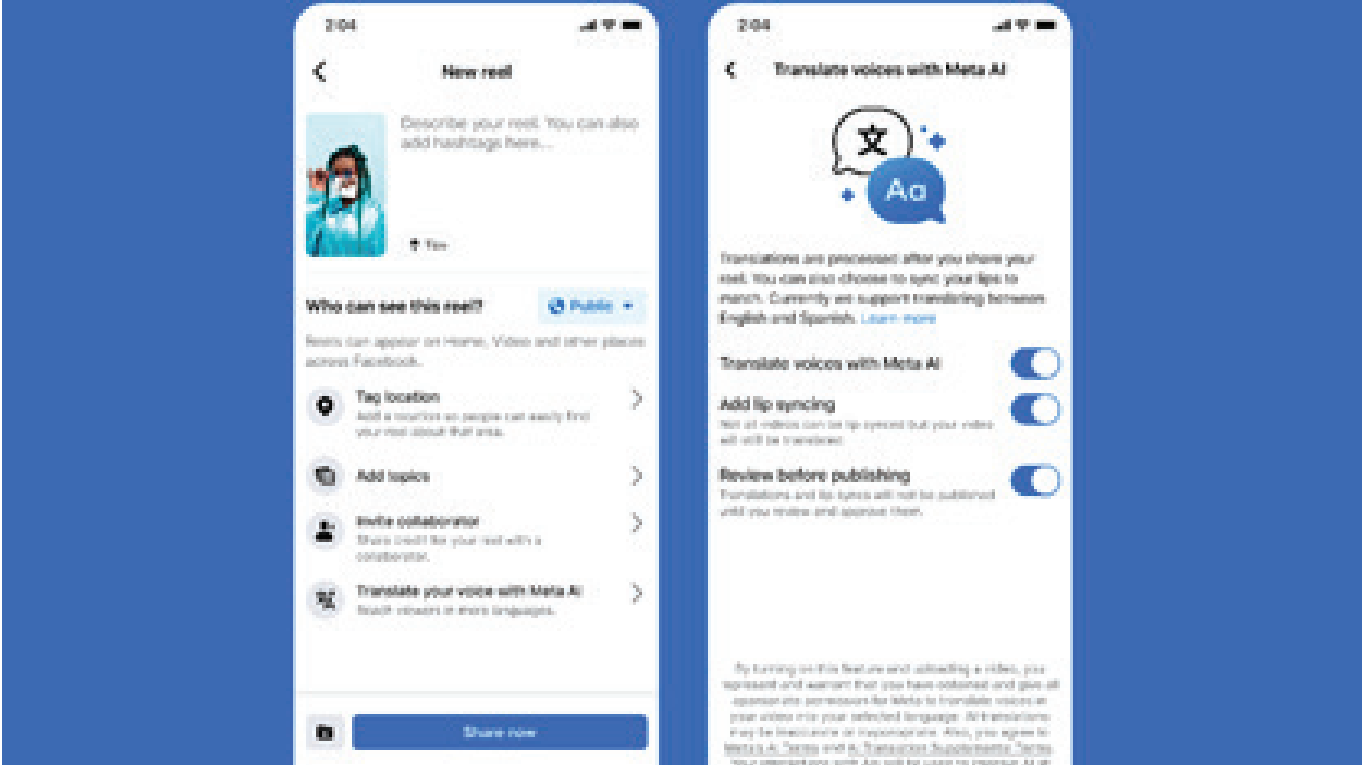
Mic E Mouse highlights a broader issue: many endpoint security tools focus on network traffic and common audio devices, while small peripherals are often less monitored and can be abused as covert sensors. The researchers stressed that the attack requires physical proximity sound and still presents practical challenges, but it is realistic enough to



warrant attention from manufacturers and security teams.

The paper's demonstration video and technical details accompany the release. Experts recommend treating peripherals as potential attack surfaces, applying strict device control policies, keeping systems patched, and using endpoint detection tools that monitor unusual device readings. For most users, switching to a sturdier surface for the mouse, repositioning it away from sensitive conversations, and maintaining good malware hygiene can reduce risk. Regulators and vendors will likely need to update standards and testing to address this emerging side channel threat promptly.

Meta Adds Hindi, Portuguese Auto Translation to Reels



Meta has expanded its AI-powered Reels translation feature on Instagram and Facebook to now support Hindi and Portuguese, the company announced on October 11, 2025. Initially launched in August this year, the tool automatically translates Reels using Meta's AI and is now available to all public Instagram accounts and Facebook creators with over 1,000 followers.

The translation feature uses AI voice synthesis that mimics the creator's original voice, preserving its tone and emotion. It also applies lip-syncing to ensure the translated audio matches the speaker's

er's mouth movements, making the experience more natural and engaging.

Instagram head Adam Mosseri demonstrated the tool in a video, explaining that many Reels are in languages users don't understand, but AI translation can help bridge that gap. In his demo, Mosseri spoke in Hindi, Spanish, and Portuguese to showcase the tool's accuracy and ease of use.

What sets Meta's translation apart from similar tools like YouTube's auto-dubbing is that both creators and viewers have control. While creators can enable or disable voice translation when uploading Reels, viewers can also choose whether or not to hear translated audio. This can be managed by tapping the three-dot menu on a Reel, going to "Audio and language settings," and selecting "Don't translate."

Creators also benefit from performance insights. Once a Reel is translated, Meta provides a breakdown of views by language, allowing creators to see which audiences are engaging with their content the most. The feature works best with face-to-camera videos where the speaker's mouth is clearly visible and supports up to two voices in a single clip. Meta says the feature is aimed at helping creators grow their audiences globally by removing language barriers, making Reels more inclusive and widely accessible across different regions.

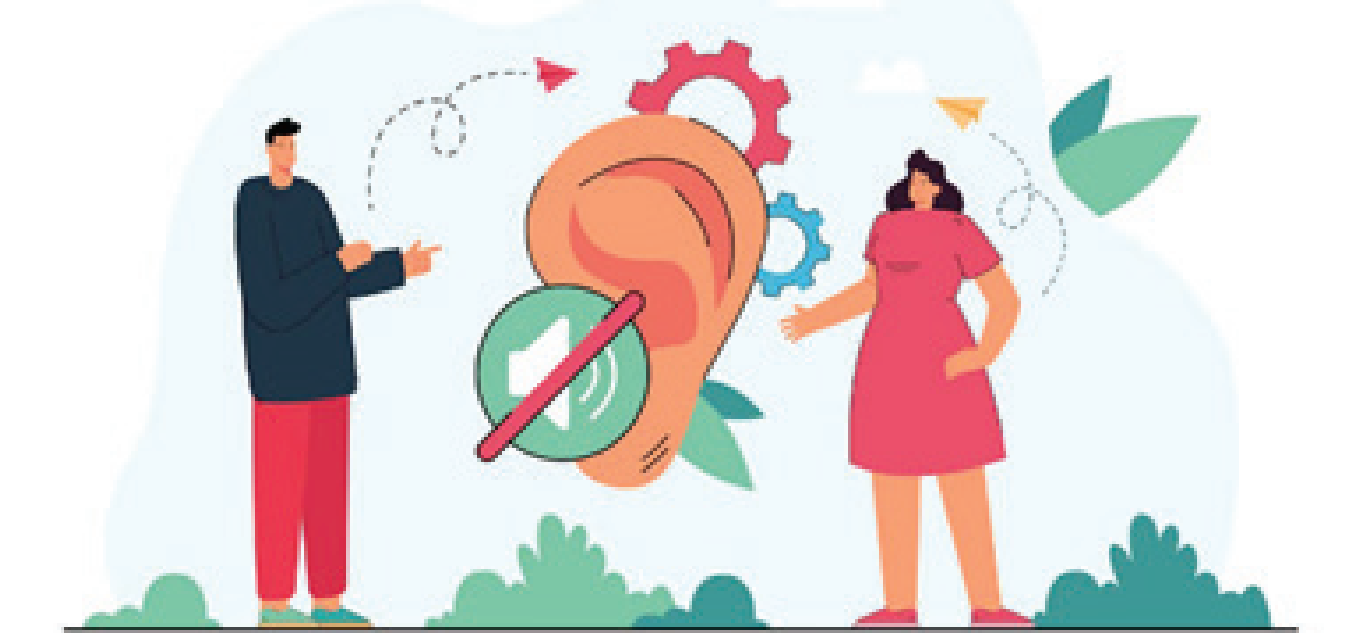
Why Some Sounds Hurt Your Ears

Most of us have winced at the high-pitched screech of chalk on a blackboard or cringed at the sound of nails scraping a surface. But why do some everyday sounds feel so irritating—or even painful?

The answer lies in the frequency of sound. Human ears can typically hear frequencies ranging from 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz (20 kHz). Sounds lower than 20 Hz are called infrasonic and are often felt as vibrations rather than heard. Sounds above 20 kHz are ultrasonic, and while humans can't usually hear them, very high-pitched noises within the upper end of our hearing range can feel extremely uncomfortable.

High-frequency sounds, like squeaking, screeching, or sudden metallic noises, are especially hard on our ears. These sounds stimulate a more intense response in the auditory system, triggering discomfort, and in some cases, even physical pain. This is why certain sounds, despite being low in volume, can still be intolerable.

Children and younger people tend to hear higher frequencies better than older adults. As people age, their ability to perceive high-pitched sounds often diminishes—a natural process



called presbycusis.

So how does hearing work? Sound is a form of energy that travels in waves. These waves enter the outer ear (the part you can see, called the pinna) and travel down the ear canal, where they

strike the eardrum (tympanic membrane). The vibrations are then passed through the middle and inner ear, eventually reaching the brain, where they are interpreted as sound.

Understanding sound sensitivity is

not just about discomfort—it can also help in designing better classrooms, devices, and public spaces that are more acoustically friendly, especially for people with sensory sensitivities.

India Dominate as Windies Reach 26/1 at Tea After Massive 518/5 Declaration

India took firm control of the second Test against West Indies as the visitors reached 26 for 1 at tea on Day 2, after India declared their first innings at a commanding 518/5 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday.

At the break, Tagenarine Chanderpaul (13) and Alick Athanaze (2) were holding fort for the West Indies. India's only breakthrough came through Ravindra Jadeja, who struck early to keep pressure on the visitors.

Earlier, India's innings was powered by a dominant 129 from skipper Shubman Gill* and a brilliant 175 by Yashasvi Jaiswal, who unfortunately fell short of a double hundred after a mix-up with Gill led to a run-out.

Jaiswal's 258-ball knock included 17 boundaries and 3 sixes, setting the tone for India's huge total. Gill, who resumed the day with a steady mindset, shifted gears after Jaiswal's dismissal, finding boundaries

with ease against a struggling West Indies attack.

Nitish Kumar Reddy (43 off 54) provided quick runs in the morning session, sharing a fluent 91-run stand with Gill for the fourth wicket. He entertained with aggressive stroke play, including two sixes off left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican, who was the pick of the bowlers with 3 for 98.

West Indies bowlers toiled hard on a flat pitch, with Jayden Seales and Anderson Phillip proving expensive and inconsistent.

India declared after 134.2 overs, giving themselves enough time to press for a series win. With the pitch expected to deteriorate, India's spinners will look to exploit conditions in the coming sessions.

Brief Scores:

India 1st innings: 518/5 dec (Jaiswal 175, Gill 129*, Sudharsan 87; Warrican 3/98)

West Indies 1st innings: 26/1 in 11 overs (Chanderpaul 13; Jadeja 1/5)



Simran Sharma Faces Medal Loss After Guide Fails Dope Test

India's top para-athlete Simran Sharma is facing the prospect of losing her medals from the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, after her guide runner, Umar Saifi, tested positive for a banned substance.

Saifi, who has been guiding Simran for over seven months, has tested positive for Drostanolone, an anabolic steroid known to enhance muscle mass and strength. The dope test was reportedly conducted during the Delhi State Open meet on September 7, where Saifi won gold in the 200m event.

He now features on the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)'s updated list of provisionally suspended athletes released on Friday. Saifi can contest the finding and request a 'B' sample analysis, but his provisional suspension has already raised serious implications for Simran's medals.

Simran clinched gold in the 100m T12 and silver in the 200m at the recently concluded World Championships held in New Delhi from September 27 to October 5. The event marked India's first time hosting the global para athletics showpiece.

However, according to International Paralympic Committee (IPC) rules, if a guide is found guilty of doping, the athlete may also be stripped of their medal, as the guide is considered an essential part of the performance.

"Yes, there is a big chance of Simran and India losing both medals. The guide is also considered an athlete. Though only the athlete's medal counts, both receive medals and certificates," confirmed Indian Para Athletics Chairman Satyanarayana.

Simran had earlier gained recognition after winning a bronze at the Paris Paralympics in 2024, guided then by Abhay Singh.



The latest NADA list includes 30 new names, including high-profile athletes like wrestler Reetika Hooda and sprinter S Dhanalakshmi.

Alarmingly, five minors are also among the suspended athletes, raising fresh concerns over doping in Indian sports.

Mbappe Shines as France Beat Azerbaijan 3-0 in World Cup Qualifier



France continued their unbeaten run in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers with a comfortable 3-0 win over Azerbaijan on Friday

night, thanks to a standout performance by captain Kylian Mbappe.

Playing at home, the 26-year-old Paris Saint-Germain forward led by

example, scoring the opening goal just before halftime and assisting the second as Les Bleus overcame a slow start to secure all three points

in Group D.

Despite missing several key players due to injuries, France displayed their depth, with Mbappe's brilliance proving decisive once again. In the 45th minute, he slotted home a composed finish to break the deadlock after a cagey first half. Just minutes into the second half, Mbappe turned provider, setting up Adrien Rabiot who doubled France's lead with a powerful strike from the edge of the box.

Substitute Florian Thauvin sealed the win late in the game, finishing off a slick move to make it 3-0.

However, a moment of concern came late in the match when Mbappe took a knock on his ankle and had to be substituted as a precaution. Initial reports suggest it is not a serious injury, but the French camp will monitor him closely ahead of their next fixture.

With this victory, Didier Deschamps' men now sit on nine points from three games, maintaining their top spot in the group. They are now just one win away from officially sealing qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, set to be hosted in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

France will next face a crucial away fixture on Monday, where they could confirm their ticket to the tournament if results go in their favour.

India Settle for Bronze After Semifinal Loss to Indonesia at BWF World Juniors 2025



Guwahati (Assam): India's spirited run at the Yonex Sunrise BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships 2025 came to an end on Friday, as the hosts went down to defending champions Indonesia in the semifinals, securing a bronze medal finish.

India, who made history by reaching the semifinals and assuring their first-ever medal in the mixed-team category, lost the tie 35-45, 21-45 to a strong Indonesian side. Indonesia now moves on to the final to face the winner of the other semifinal between China and Japan.

India made one change to their lineup from the quarterfinal win over Korea, bringing in Vishakhya Toppo in place of Aanya Bisht for the mixed doubles match. The tie began on a promising note for the hosts as the boys' doubles pair Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu defeated Muhammad Rizki Mubarrok and Raihan Daffa

Pramono 9-5.

In the girls' singles, Unnati Hooda kept India marginally ahead at 18-16 against Thalita Wiryawan, but Indonesia's top-ranked boys' singles player Mohd Ubaidillah swung the momentum with an 11-5 win over Rounak Chouhan.

The mixed doubles pair Lalramsanga and Vishakhya Toppo brought India back into contention, leveling at 28-28 and briefly leading 9-3, but Ikhsan Pramudya and Rinjani Nastine surged late to take the match 10-9.

Nastine then partnered Riska Anggraini to defeat Reshika U and Vennala K 9-2, sealing the first set 45-35. Indonesia maintained dominance in the second set with consistent wins across all categories.

With the team event concluded, Indian players will now shift focus to the individual championships starting Monday.

PV Sindhu Reappointed to BWF Athletes' Commission for Third Term



India's badminton icon and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has been reappointed to the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026-2029 term, marking her third consecutive stint on the prestigious panel, as confirmed by Olympics.com.

Sindhu, who has also served as a BWF Integrity Ambassador since 2020, was previously part of the Athletes' Commission from 2017 to 2025, making her one of the longest-serving members in recent history. She continues to play a vital role in promoting athlete welfare, integrity, and inclusion within the badminton community.

Joining Sindhu on the newly appointed five-member Commission are An Se-young of South Korea, the reigning women's singles Olympic champion, and Jia Yifan of China, the women's doubles gold medallist at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Doha Hany of Egypt and Debora Jille of the Netherlands complete the lineup. All five nominees were confirmed automatically as they were the only candidates put

forward.

"Pusarla (PV Sindhu) is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where every athlete—regardless of background or career stage—feels supported, respected, and empowered to thrive," the BWF said in an official statement.

The Athletes' Commission serves as a bridge between players and the BWF Council, advising on vital areas such as tournament regulations, athlete welfare, competitive fairness, and integrity.

In the coming weeks, the Commission will elect a Chair and Deputy Chair, with the Chair gaining a full voting seat on the BWF Council—ensuring athletes' voices are heard at the highest level.

BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul congratulated the new members and emphasized the Commission's role in shaping the sport's future: "Athletes are the heart of our sport... their voices must be central to every decision we make."

Varun Sandesh’s Constable Fails to Impress Critics



Varun Sandesh’s latest film *Constable*, which released on October 10, 2025, has failed to strike a chord with audiences and critics alike. Directed by Aryan Subhan S.K., the crime thriller received a lukewarm response and managed to secure a low rating of 2.25/5 from 123telugu.com.

Set in the village of Shankarapalli, the film revolves around a series of brutal murders, including the killing of women. Constable Kasi (played by Varun Sandesh) is emotionally driven to solve the mystery after his niece becomes one of the victims. The plot unfolds as he attempts to uncover the killers and their motive.

While the concept holds promise and offers a slightly fresh take on the crime thriller genre, the execution leaves much to be desired. A few suspenseful moments and twists manage to hold some attention, but overall, the narrative lacks grip.

Varun Sandesh delivers a decent performance, especially in the

action scenes. Supporting actors like Madhulika and Bhavyasri contribute well, with the latter standing out in her role. However, unnecessary sequences, a misplaced item number, and a weakly written female lead hamper the film’s momentum.

Critics also pointed out logical loopholes, such as scenes that defy common sense — including the mishandling of a speech-impaired witness. The screenplay remains predictable, and emotional depth is not effectively translated on screen.

On the technical front, the cinematography by Hajarathaiha is competent, while the music by Subhash Anand and Gyani is average. The editing could have been tighter, especially with the removal of irrelevant scenes.

Overall, *Constable* is a missed opportunity. Despite a strong core idea and emotional potential, the film struggles with execution. Viewers looking for a gripping crime thriller may find this one skippable.

Sree Vishnu Unveils Energetic First Look of AmeerLog



Actor Sree Vishnu launched the vibrant first look of *AmeerLog*, the debut film from Awwal Number Productions, and it’s already creating buzz among movie lovers. Promising a fun-filled ride about friendship and everyday life, the poster has struck a chord with youth audiences.

Directed by Ramana Reddy Soma and produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma, with Manohar Reddy Manchuri co-producing, *AmeerLog* features MC Hari, Manoj, and Sasidhar in the lead roles. Vedashree, Raavan Nitturu, Vishwender Reddy, and Saiyogi will be seen in key supporting roles.

The first look poster paints a lively picture — three friends sharing a cheerful bike ride through the heart of Hyderabad. Iconic landmarks like Charminar and a playful nod to Irani chai culture add a rich local flavor, giving a hint of the film’s urban-yet-grounded setting.

AmeerLog aims to explore themes of friendship, youthful dreams, and the vibrancy of local life. With its fresh cast and colorful visuals, the film is expected to strike a relatable tone with younger audiences.

The technical crew features SVK as the cinematographer, while Smaran Sai handles the music department. Editing is by Rohit Penumatsa. The film also boasts a solid backend team with Shakti designing the posters, Swapnik Rao handling sync sound and mixing, and Sandeep Boreddy as executive producer.

The first look has already sparked curiosity with its bright, feel-good aesthetic and promises a refreshing take on urban friendships. More updates, including the teaser and release date, are expected soon. With its youthful energy and relatable theme, *AmeerLog* could emerge as a surprise package in the coming months.

Vijay Deverakonda’s Rowdy Janardhan Goes on Floors

Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda is all set to make a strong comeback with his latest project, *Rowdy Janardhan*, a rural mass action entertainer directed by Ravi Kiran Kola. The film was officially launched this morning with a formal pooja ceremony held at producer Dil Raju’s office in Hyderabad.

The launch event saw the presence of veteran producer Allu Arvind and acclaimed filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi. This marks Vijay’s second collaboration with Dil Raju after *The Family Star*. For the first time, Keerthy Suresh will play the female lead opposite Vijay. Although they previously shared screen space in *Mahanati*, they were not paired romantically.

Rowdy Janardhan was first announced last year with a striking first-look poster featuring a bloodied hand gripping a machete. However, the film faced delays due to Vijay’s packed schedule. Now, with all hurdles cleared, the team is moving forward with full energy.

Adding a unique flavor to the film, *Dil Raju* has brought on board a talented team from the Malayalam industry. Cinematography will be handled by Anend C. Chandran of *Premam* fame. The music is composed by Christov Xavier, known for his impressive work in *Brahmayugam*, *Turbo*, and *Sooshmadarshini*. Dino Shankar will serve as the production designer, ensuring a strong visual appeal.

With a powerful team and a gripping rural backdrop, *Rowdy Janardhan* is expected to give Vijay the much-needed hit he’s aiming for. Fans are eagerly looking forward to seeing him in a mass avatar once again. More updates on the shoot and release schedule are expected soon.



Trisha Responds to Wedding Rumours with Witty Instagram Post



South Indian star Trisha Krishnan continues to stay in the limelight not just for her films but also for the constant buzz around her personal life. The actress, who has sustained a successful career for over two decades amidst fierce competition from younger stars, once again found herself at the center of wedding rumours.

Over the past few days, several media outlets speculated that Trisha is all set to marry a businessman from Chandigarh. The unverified reports spread quickly across social media, prompting fans and gossip circles to discuss the alleged wedding plans in detail.

However, Trisha was quick to shut down the rumours — and she did it in style. Taking to her Instagram, she posted a witty response that won the internet. “I love when people plan my life for me. Just waiting for them to plan the honeymoon too,” she wrote, adding a fed-up emoji for good measure.

Her humorous yet pointed comment made it clear that the viral wedding buzz is completely unfounded. The post has since been widely shared by fans and media, with many praising her graceful handling of the situation.

This isn’t the first time Trisha has had to deal with such rumours. As one of the most loved and followed actresses in South India, her personal life often becomes a topic of public curiosity. But with her signature charm and wit, Trisha continues to stay unbothered and focused on her career.

On the work front, she is busy with multiple big-banner projects across Tamil and Telugu cinema. While fans might be curious about her personal life, for now, Trisha has made it clear — any plans for her future will come from her, not the rumour mills.

RC17: Ram Charan-Sukumar Project – Shooting to Begin Soon?

A wave of excitement is building in Tollywood as a major update surfaces about RC17, the much-awaited collaboration between global star Ram Charan and director Sukumar. After delivering the blockbuster *Rangasthalam* in 2018, which became a career-defining film for Charan, the duo is all set to reunite, and fans couldn’t be more thrilled.

Currently, Ram Charan is occupied with the shooting of *Peddhi*, a rural emotional drama directed by Uppena fame Buchibabu Sana. The film is progressing at a brisk pace and is slated for a grand release in March 2026. With expectations already sky-high, fans are now looking ahead to what’s next — and RC17 is creating all the right noise.

As per industry insiders, the script for RC17 has been locked, and pre-production work is expected to kick off soon. The current buzz suggests that the first shooting schedule may begin in February 2025, with a formal launch planned around Sankranti 2025, in true festive style.

The Ram Charan-Sukumar combo holds a special place in the hearts of fans, thanks to *Rangasthalam*, where Charan’s portrayal of Chittibabu won critical acclaim and fan adoration. With Sukumar reportedly planning an emotionally charged, visually rich film, expectations for RC17 are sky-high.

Adding to the excitement, Janhvi Kapoor is said to be cast as the female lead, while AR Rahman is on board to compose the music — a combination that adds further buzz to the project.

While the official announcement is awaited, the hype surrounding RC17 is already building momentum. Will this film recreate the magic of *Rangasthalam*? Tollywood fans are eager to find out.

