



BUZZ POINTS



TELANGANA'S CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SOARS 11.97%, ADDS ₹80,000 CR TO ECONOMY: SRIDHAR BABU

Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that Telangana's construction sector recorded a strong growth rate of 11.97%, contributing over ₹80,000 crore to the state's economy in the fiscal year 2024-25. The Minister made these comments at the 15th NAREDCO Telangana Property Show organized by the National Real Estate Development Council at HITEX on Sunday.

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CM REVANTH REDDY RENAMES SRSP STAGE-II AFTER DAMODAR REDDY, HAILS HIS SACRIFICE FOR CONGRESS

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke at a commemoration event for the late Congress leader and former Minister, Ramreddy Damodar Reddy, describing his death as extremely painful. The CM deeply praised Ramreddy's dedication to public life, noting that he had used all his personal assets and sacrificed thousands of acres of inherited land in Khammam and Nalgonda districts to support party workers and the Congress mission. He contrasted this with politicians who accumulate wealth after just one term in office.

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Congress' BC reservations strategy, a masterstroke or misfire?

BC reservations have emerged as one of the most debated political topics in Telangana. The initiative launched by the Congress government is now on hold following a stay order from the High Court. With the issue pending, the government has decided to approach the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the Election Commission has paused the process of local body elections, awaiting further directions.

G Ravi Kiran | OCT 12

Hyderabad: Political analysts view this situation as a direct outcome of Congress' calculated strategy. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government is said to have pursued the move with three key motives. Importantly, the Congress leadership was well aware of the legal hurdles surrounding the 42% BC quota. Yet, they pursued what analysts call a

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First, the local body elections had to be held due to the High Court's directive. However, with growing public dissatisfaction, the Congress was reportedly hesitant to face the polls. To counter the negative sentiment, the government brought forward the issue of enhanced BC reservations - a move intended to shift public focus and consolidate BC support.

Second, the Congress aimed to corner the BJP at the national level. The party high command endorsed Revanth Reddy's proposal and turned it into a broader political agenda. If a Congress-led state successfully implemented 42% BC reservations, it would pressure the BJP to replicate the policy nationwide — potentially earning Congress significant goodwill among the BC communities.

Third, the strategy was designed to politically isolate opposition parties in Telangana, particularly those attacking the Revanth Reddy government on various fronts.

BJP Rift Resurfaces: Bandi Sanjay and Eatala Rajender Factions Clash Over B-Forms



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The long-standing rivalry between Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender has intensified once again, just before the forthcoming local body elections in Telangana.

The latest friction stems from Rajender's recent public remarks concerning the issuance of B-forms (official party nominations) to candidates. These comments have reignited the internal dispute between

the two opposing factions within the BJP's Huzurabad Assembly constituency unit, deepening the existing division. The recurrence of this conflict ahead of crucial local elections poses a challenge to party unity and strategy in the state, particularly in key constituencies where both leaders wield significant influence. The ongoing power struggle between the national minister and the senior MP continues to simmer, impacting local party organization and candidate selection processes.



Kishan Reddy Criticizes Congress on BC Reservations, Promises BJP Support

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Union Minister Kishan Reddy criticized the Congress government, alleging that it failed to effectively argue its case on BC Reservations in the High Court. Speaking to the media on Sunday, he dismissed the notion that he, as a Central Minister, could unilaterally resolve the reservation issue, stating that not even the President can go against the Supreme Court's ruling, which placed the 50%

cap on reservations. He cited the example of the BJP government in Maharashtra, which was unable to overturn a negative reservation verdict even after the elections.

Kishan Reddy pointed out that the 50% cap was initially imposed during the Congress regime, accusing the former Congress government of failing to argue against the cap in the Supreme Court and the current State Congress government of failing in the High Court.

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Minister Vivek Alleges Caste-Based Social Media Conspiracy Against Him

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Minister Vivek expressed anguish over being allegedly targeted on social media through caste-based conspiracies and criticism.

Speaking at a Mala Unity Conference in Nizamabad, he alleged that the criticism was politically motivated, orchestrated by those who want to see the Congress party win the Jubilee Hills by-election so that the credit accrues to

them. Minister Vivek specifically referenced criticism from Minister Adhuri Lakshman, alleging that Lakshman was being provoked by others to speak out against him. He voiced confusion over the rea-

sons for Lakshman's criticism. Minister Vivek strongly denied the rumor that he was leaving the party after Lakshman joined, labeling it as false. He reminded the gathering that it was his father, Venkatswamy, who po-

litically encouraged and promoted Adhuri Lakshman, a fact he feels Lakshman has now forgotten. Concluding his statement, Minister Vivek asserted that he has no personal desire (Vyamoham) for a ministerial position.



Medaram temple set for historic transformation

Minister Seethakka addressed the media after offering prayers at the Medaram Sammakka Sarakka temple, confirming that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has allocated substantial funds for the temple's development. She stated that works are underway on a war footing to expand the gaddelu (altar complex) and upgrade the temple to provide better darshan and amenities for devotees. These development works, which began a week ago, are intended to be permanent, lasting for a thousand years.

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Bhatti Pays Tribute To Damodar Reddy, Hails Him As Congress Icon

Deputy Chief Minister Mally Bhatti Vikramarka hailed the late Ramreddy Damodar Reddy as a valiant leader who stood firm on the principle of, "I am Congress, and Congress is me." The Deputy CM made these remarks while speaking at the commemoration ceremony for the departed leader held in the Tungathurthi constituency centre on Sunday

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Bhatti Vikramarka recalled that Ramreddy Damodar Reddy was recognized as an ideal leader even during his student days. He highlighted Ramreddy's achievement of winning the 1985 election during a dominant period for another political party, keeping the Congress flag flying high. The Deputy CM stated that countless instances exist of Ramreddy fighting for the rights of Congress workers and the welfare of the poor. Despite political differ-

ences with other parties in the Tungathurthi constituency, Ramreddy, as an MLA and Minister, tirelessly worked for the development of the erstwhile Nalgonda district and the state.

The Deputy CM emphasized that Ramreddy's life serves as an inspiration for youth entering politics. He praised Ramreddy as a courageous figure who remained loyal to the Congress party for a decade, resisting all temptations from rival parties. Bhatti Vikramarka recalled Ramreddy's dedication, noting that despite his age, Ramred-

dy marched alongside him during the 'People's March' padayatra across the erstwhile Nalgonda district before the elections. The Deputy CM stated that Ramreddy's entire life was dedicated to the people, working for their welfare regardless of which party was in power. He concluded that the current 'People's Government' will carry forward the goals, ideals, and principles Ramreddy believed in, offering a magnificent tribute to his memory. The Deputy CM also extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.



Medaram temple set for historic transformation

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Minister Seethakka Sarakka addressed the media after offering prayers at the Medaram Sammakka Sarakka temple, confirming that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has allocated substantial funds for the temple's development. She stated that works are underway on a war footing to expand the gaddelu (altar complex) and upgrade the temple to provide better darshan and amenities for devotees.



These development works, which began a week ago, are intended to be permanent, lasting for a thousand years.

Minister Seethakka emphasized that the development process involves constant consultation with the priests, ensuring the preservation of the history of the Adivasis, the lineage of Sammakka, Sar-

akka, Govindaraju, and Pagididdharaju, and their sacrifices for future generations. She expressed her fortune in being a part of the temple's development and thanked the CM, District In-charge Pon-guleti Srinivas Reddy, Endowments Minister Surekha, and Tribal Minister Adluri Lakshman. She concluded by saying that while her birth was given by Sammakka Sammaiah, her rebirth was given by Sammakka, Sarakka, Pagididda, and Govindaraju.



Telangana poised to become semiconductor hub, says minister Vakhiti Sreehari

TPN BUREAU, HYD, Oct 12th, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Sports, and Youth Services, Vakhiti Sreehari, stated that Telangana is poised to become a Semiconductor Hub. The Minister made this assertion while inaugurating the T-Chip Semiconductor Museum

of Unique Hire in Hyderabad on Sunday, alongside former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, MLA Parnika Reddy, and senior Congress leader Tirupati Reddy. Minister Sreehari expressed delight that the T-Chip Semiconductor Innovation Museum, the first of its kind in the

country, has opened in Hyderabad, viewing it as a platform for new ideas and innovations. He congratulated the Unique Hire management for establishing a new office in Hyderabad, which, along with its branches in the USA, UK, Australia, Canada, and the UAE, will create employment opportunities for approxi-

mately 500 IT professionals. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to making Telangana a semiconductor hub, announcing that plans are underway to establish specialized Green Energy Equipment Zones to attract prominent international companies. He

emphasized that Telangana offers a conducive investment environment and extended a warm invitation on behalf of the government for further investments in the state. He assured investors of comprehensive government support for those choosing to invest in Telangana.

Telangana BC JAC Formed to Intensify Demand for 42% Reservations

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: An apex body named the 'Telangana BC JAC' (Backward Classes Joint Action Committee) has been formed under the auspices of various BC organizations in the state, with the primary objective of securing 42% BC reservations in Telangana. R. Krishnaiah was named Chairman of the JAC, with VG Naragoni appointed as Vice Chairman. A core committee consisting of six key members was also established. Addressing the formation, Chairman R. Krishnaiah urged that the BC slogan be taken forward vigorously, be-

lieving that a strong movement in the state would influence the central government. He questioned the grounds on which the court issued a stay on the 42% reservation, asserting that a stay should not be granted after the election notification is released. Krishnaiah announced a 'Bandh' (shutdown) on October 18th to demand justice for the BC community. He stated that the BC community has endured injustice for 76 years and is now facing an added insult. He called upon all members to continue the movement until a bill is passed in the legislative houses to secure the reservation.

Telangana's Construction Sector Soars 11.97%, Adds ₹80,000 Cr to Economy: Sridhar Babu

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced that Telangana's construction sector recorded a strong growth rate of 11.97%, contributing over ₹80,000 crore to the state's economy in the fiscal year 2024-25. The Minister made these comments at the 15th NAREDCO Telangana Property Show organized by the National Real Estate Development Council at HITECH on Sunday. Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted that the combined real estate and professional services sectors registered a growth rate of 15.4%, making up 24.9% of the state's services GSDP. He pointed to registration data from Hyderabad, Rangareddy,

and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, which saw a sharp rise in September 2024: 6,612 housing units worth ₹4,804 crore were registered, marking a 35% increase in volume and a 70% increase in transaction value compared to the same period last year. He stressed that these figures clearly refute any misinformation about a slowdown in the state's real estate sector. The Minister noted a significant increase in high-value transactions, with registrations for properties valued above ₹1 crore rising by 151% and accounting for 53% of the total transaction value in September. He emphasized the sector's importance as India's second-largest employment generator after agriculture. To further fuel growth, the Minister



outlined the State's upcoming infrastructure projects, including Elevated Corridors, Metro Rail Phase-II, Bharat Future City, Musi Riverfront Beautification,

and the Regional Ring Road, all set to reshape the state's economic landscape. He also stated that zonal planning for the Bharat Future City is expected to be

completed by December, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the 200-acre AI City will take place within two to three months. Minister Sridhar Babu

assured continued government support to the real estate and construction sectors, recognizing them as vital pillars of Telangana's economy.

CM Revanth Reddy Renames SRSP Stage-II After Damodar Reddy, Hails His Sacrifice for Congress



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy spoke at a commemoration event for the late Congress leader and former Minister, Ramreddy Damodar Reddy, describing his death as extremely painful. The CM deeply praised Ramreddy's dedication to public life, noting that he had used all his personal assets and sacrificed thousands of acres of inherited land in Khammam and Nalgonda districts to support party workers and the Congress mission. He contrasted this with politi-

cians who accumulate wealth after just one term in office. Ramreddy was recognized as "Tiger Damanna" in Telangana for his tireless efforts. He successfully protected Congress workers from political vendettas and played a crucial role in maintaining the party's presence in the Nalgonda district. The CM highlighted Ramreddy's intense struggle to bring Godavari waters to the fluoride-affected areas of Nalgonda, noting his lobbying efforts that led to the commencement of the SRSP Stage-II project during the pre-

vious Chandrababu Naidu regime. Ramreddy's legacy was credited for the victory of Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samuel by a 50,000-vote majority, and his partnership with Ramreddy Venkat Reddy was likened to a pair of oxen pulling the Congress flag forward. The CM confirmed that Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Rahul Gandhi had all offered their condolences, with Rahul Gandhi personally writing a letter to Ramreddy's son, Sarvotham. The CM pledged that the Gandhi family would provide political support to

the Ramreddy Damodar Reddy family in the future. In a key announcement, the CM stated that based on the suggestions of Congress leaders and admirers in Nalgonda, the SRSP Stage-II project will be named after Ramreddy Damodar Reddy (RD-SRSP), calling it a true recognition of his efforts. The Chief Minister promised to issue the official Government Order (GO) for the renaming within 24 hours, underscoring Ramreddy's profound affection for the Congress party, which he served until his last breath.

Congress Demands Restoration of RTI Independence on 20th Anniversary, Slams BJP for Weakening Act

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud held a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, which came into force on October 12, 2005, under the UPA government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Goud hailed the RTI Act as a landmark decision and a powerful tool that brought transparency and accountability, serving as a “lifeline” for citizens, especially the poor and marginalized, to secure rights like pensions, scholarships,

and ration distribution. He also highlighted other historic UPA legislations, including MGN-REGA (2005), the Forest Rights Act (2006), the Right to Education Act (2009), the Land Acquisition Act (2013), and the National Food Security Act (2013). Goud then accused the BJP government of systematically weakening the RTI Act since 2014. He pointed to the 2019 amendments that undermined the independence of Information Commissions by bringing the tenure and service conditions of Commissioners under central control, making them vulnerable to pressure. Furthermore, he criticized the 2023 Digi-

tal Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, stating that the amendment to RTI’s Section 8(1)(j) dangerously expands the definition of “personal information,” allowing the government to deny information on crucial public matters like voter lists and the use of public funds. The TPCC President also highlighted the crisis of non-functioning commissions, noting that the Central Information Commission has only two commissioners instead of the sanctioned eleven, with the Chief Commissioner post soon to be vacant. He linked the weakening of the Act to the lack of protection for whistleblowers, citing

the murder of activist Shehla Masood and demanding the implementation of the UPA-passed Whistleblowers Protection Act. The Congress party demanded the immediate repeal of the 2019 RTI amendments and a review of provisions in the DPDP Act that weaken RTI. They called for the transparent and immediate filling of all vacancies in Central and State Commissions and ensuring strong legal protection for RTI users and whistleblowers. Goud concluded by pledging the Congress party’s commitment to protect and strengthen the RTI Act, ensuring every citizen’s right to question and right to answer.



KTR Accuses CM of ‘Betrayal and Demolitions’ Ahead of Jubilee Hills By-poll

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) intensified his attack on the ruling Congress government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy ahead of the crucial Jubilee Hills assembly by-election. Speaking at a party workers meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, where he welcomed senior BJP leaders, including Cheruku Mahesh, into the BRS, KTR framed the by-election as a showdown between “deceit and reality.” KTR accused CM Revanth Reddy of betraying voters by failing to fulfill election promises and engaging in reckless demolitions. He urged the

Jubilee Hills electorate to use the by-poll as an opportunity to “teach the Congress leadership a lesson.” KTR presented the choice to voters as a simple dilemma: whether they want the “car” (the BRS symbol) or the “bulldozer”—a reference to what he called a wave of demolitions of poor people’s shelters across Hyderabad. He appealed to them to elect BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha to restore the development momentum achieved under BRS rule. KTR’s remarks clearly aim to galvanize BRS support by portraying the Congress government as destructive and untrustworthy, urging voters to opt for the BRS for stability and development.

Government Whip Alleges BRS-BJP Collusion to Block 42% BC Reservation in Local Bodies

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas launched a blistering attack on the BRS and BJP, accusing them of a coordinated conspiracy to obstruct the Congress government’s efforts to deliver 42% BC reservations in local bodies. Srinivas asserted that only the Congress government, under CM Revanth Reddy and TPCC Chief Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, has shown the political will to champion the BC cause. Srinivas detailed the government’s actions, including passing Bills in the Assembly and Council, amending the Panchayat Raj and Municipal Acts, and issuing

G.O. 9, which promised 23,973 additional BC seats across mandals and districts. He expressed outrage that this “bold initiative” is now stalled by a High Court interim stay on G.O. 9, freezing local body elections. He directly implicated the BRS, accusing them of attacking the Congress at every stage, branding G.O. 9 as a “political drama,” and using legal scrutiny as a tactic to delay the reservation because they fear empowerment of BCs under the Congress. Srinivas then called the BJP a “central partner in this conspiracy,” alleging that the BJP-led Centre has refused to forward the State Assembly Bills to the President of India, wielded influence over the Telangana Governor to withhold assent

to crucial amendments and ensured the failure of the Congress government’s attempt to pass an ordinance. He cited the President’s four-month delay and the Governor’s refusal as evidence of this “deliberate, coordinated effort.” He noted that BRS and BJP leaders worked to block Congress leaders’ access in Delhi on the very day they went to advocate for the BC cause. Srinivas concluded that the BRS and BJP have “colluded to deny BCs the political representation they have long deserved,” betraying their trust. He affirmed that the Congress government will continue to fight—legally, politically, and morally—to restore G.O. 9 and proceed with the 42% reservation.

TPCC General Secretary Calls BJP MP Eatala Rajender ‘Traitor to BCs’ Over Reservation Standoff

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: TPCC General Secretary Changanani Dayakar strongly criticized BJP MP Eatala Rajender, calling him a “traitor to BCs” and demanding his resignation for allegedly working to obstruct the 42% BC reservation bill. Dayakar asserted that the BJP is the proved “enemy of BCs” and appealed to the BC community to support the Congress government in its fight for the reservation. Dayakar highlighted that the Revanth Reddy government is the first

in 75 years to take the decisive step of announcing 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies. He claimed that the BJP-led Central Government used its dominance over the courts, Governors, and the President’s office to stop the bill, proving that the BJP is the main enemy of BC reservations. He demanded accountability from the BJP MPs. Dayakar expressed confidence that the Congress, which succeeded in forming Telangana state, will also succeed in securing the BC Bill and urged BC leader R. Krishnaiah to choose between the BC community’s interests and the BJP.

reservation. He argued that the state government used every power at its disposal to push the bill. Dayakar directly alleged that the BJP Central Government used its dominance over the courts, Governors, and the President’s office to stop the bill, proving that the BJP is the main enemy of BC reservations. He demanded accountability from the BJP MPs. Dayakar expressed confidence that the Congress, which succeeded in forming Telangana state, will also succeed in securing the BC Bill and urged BC leader R. Krishnaiah to choose between the BC community’s interests and the BJP.



MP Mallu Ravi Condemns Attacks on Dalit Officials, Blames BJP Policies for Rising Caste Discrimination

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Nagar Kurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi, accompanied by MLAs Kasireddy Narayan Reddy and Dr. Vamshi Krishna, and DCCB Chairman Mamillapalli Vishnuvardhan Reddy, held a press meet to strongly con-

demn the ongoing harassment and attacks against high-ranking Dalit officials, including the Chief Justice and IPS officers, in the country. Dr. Ravi expressed deep concern that caste discrimination is rising in the nation due to the policies pursued by the ruling BJP. The MP cited two se-

rious incidents: the highly publicized shoe-throwing incident at Supreme Court Chief Justice J.B. Pardiwala (misidentified as Chief Justice Gavai in the source text) in open court and the suicide of a Dalit IPS officer in Haryana. Dr. Ravi argued that the BJP’s actions are trampling on the

Dalits’ right to live and that the BJP has lost the moral right to remain in power at the Centre. He questioned why RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, who preaches the unity of all Hindus, remains silent on these increasing incidents of caste discrimination. Dr. Ravi criticized Prime Minister

Modi’s response to the CJ’s incident, calling it highly disappointing to the Dalit community. He emphasized that elected representatives cannot remain silent “like mannequins” in Parliament and will continue to challenge attacks on Dalits in constitutional forums.

Regarding the Haryana IPS officer, Dr. Ravi alleged that the officer committed suicide due to harassment by superiors, as detailed in a three-page death note. He condemned the BJP governments in Haryana and at the Centre for failing to take action, forcing the officer’s IAS wife to plead

for justice. He lamented that the attack on the Supreme Court Chief Justice has caused India to lose respect globally. Dr. Ravi challenged PM Modi, who often calls himself a “Chaiwala” and a “BC leader,” for not publicly condemning these attacks and standing in solidarity with Dalits. The MP

concluded with a powerful call to action: “Suicides are not the solution... Rise up!” He urged Dalits facing discrimination to fight back instead of resorting to self-harm, warning that the public will unseat the BJP government for denying Dalits the right to live with dignity.

Countdown Begins: Jubilee Hills By-Election Notification Today

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The Gazette notification for the Jubilee Hills Assembly Constituency by-election is set to be released on Monday, as per the directives of the Election Commission of India. Following the notification, the process for filing nominations will commence. The election officials have issued detailed guidelines for candidates and political parties. Nominations will be accepted from Octo-

ber 13th to 21st (excluding government holidays) between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The nomination papers, including Form 2B (Nomination) and Form 26 (Affidavit)—which must be notarized with all columns filled—must be filed at the office of the Returning Officer (RO) / Tahsildar Office, Shaikpet. Candidates must be a minimum of 25 years old and can file either in person or through one proposer. Key requirements for proposers include: Recognized party candi-

dates require one proposer (an elector of the constituency), while independent or unrecognized party candidates require ten proposers (all being electors of the constituency). Candidates from other constituencies must submit voter details from their respective Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). Candidates are encouraged to use the ENCORE portal (<https://encore.eci.gov.in>) for digital nominations, but a printed hard copy with a QR code must

still be submitted. Online deposits must be credited to the bank/treasury account, or a manual deposit is required. Restrictions during nomination include a limit of three vehicles within 100 meters of the RO/ARO office and a maximum of five persons (including the candidate) allowed to enter the office. Returning Officer P. Sairam requested all candidates to follow these rules to ensure a transparent electoral process.



Seven Held in Kukatpally Hostel Gambling Raid; ₹97,370 Cash Seized



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The Kukatpally Crime Team, acting on directives from Balanagar DCP K. Suresh Kumar, IPS, and under the supervision of SHO K. V. Subbarao, conducted a raid on the penthouse of Laxmi Hostel in Kukatpally on October 11, 2025, at 10:00 PM. During the operation, the team apprehended seven individuals who were found engaging in 'Theen Patta' (card gambling).

The police seized ₹97,370 in cash, seven mobile phones, and 52 playing cards from their possession. The accused were identified as: 1. Laxman Prasad Joshi (40), a Gorkha residing in Sanjaypur Colony; 2. Bogati Yogendra (34), a private job employee from Erragadda; 3. Hikmat Bahadur Bogati (36), a watchman residing in Kukatpally and native of Nepal; 4. Bharath Prasad Dharmala (30), a security guard from Begumpet; 5. Purna Prasad Jaisi

(43), a watchman from Jubilee Hills; 6. Amar Kunwar (50), a watchman from Kukatpally; and 7. Nirpa Bahadur Thakulla (32), a security guard from Basheerbagh. A case has been registered under the relevant sections of the law, and Detective Inspector M. Kondala Rao confirmed that further investigation is underway. The swift action follows the Cyberabad police's commitment to curbing illegal activities within the city.



Cyberabad Traffic Police Nab 534 Drunk Drivers in Weekend Drive

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special drunk driving (DD) enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of a total of 534 offenders. The crackdown targeted various vehicle types, with two-wheelers accounting for the vast majority of cases (435), followed by four-wheelers (79), three-wheelers (18), and two heavy vehicles. The analysis of Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels indicated the severity of the offense: 478 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 35 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml; 34 had levels between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml; and 22 offenders registered alarmingly high levels between 301 mg/100 ml and 550 mg/100 ml. All the arrested offenders will be produced before the Hon'ble Court. The Cyberabad Police issued a stern warning, reiterating that drunk driving is a

serious offense. They specifically highlighted that any individual who causes a fatal accident while inebriated will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this new section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine. Furthermore, the traffic police released data on the disposal of previous DD cases. In the last week (October 6 to October 11, 2025), a total of 296 DD cases were disposed of by the courts. Out of these, 264 persons were penalized with a fine, and 32 persons were sentenced to jail. The jail sentences ranged from one day (18 persons) to two days (11 persons) and three days (3 persons). Additionally, 35 offenders were assigned social service as part of their penalty, underscoring the legal consequences and punitive measures taken against drunk driving in the Cyberabad zone.

Two Killed As Truck Rams Scooter, Driver Arrested



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: A tragic road accident occurred in the early hours of the morning in Hyderabad, within the limits of the Panjagutta Police Station. The incident took place around 5:30 AM near Greenlands, opposite White House. According to police reports, a 16-tyre sand truck (TS09UD9279), traveling towards Begumpet, rammed into a

Honda Activa scooter (TG04C7248) from behind. The impact instantly killed the scooter rider at the scene. The pillion rider sustained severe injuries and later succumbed to them while undergoing treatment at Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda. The deceased were identified as Muddanagal Naveen (30), a Rapid driver residing in JNTU, Hyderabad, and originally from Haveli Rural, Khammam District; and Dr. Kasturi Jagdish Chandra (35),

a General Physician at KIMS-Sunshine Hospital, residing in Methodist Colony, Kundanbagh, Begumpet, and originally from Dharmapuri, Karimnagar District. The police have apprehended the truck driver, Pasupula Shankar (38), a native of Peddakottapalli, Nagarkurnool District. A case has been registered under relevant sections, and further investigation is ongoing to determine the exact cause of the fatal collision.

Child Labour Exploited in Hazardous Dundigal Chemical Waste Units

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The problem of child labour, often confined to legal statutes but not effective implementation, is evident in Baurampet, Dundigal Municipal area. The unscrupulous owners of the chemical waste cover cleaning units are

reportedly exploiting child labourers to carry out the hazardous work. These employers lure the parents of vulnerable children with financial incentives, forcing the minors to work indiscriminately in the dangerous environment of chemical cleaning. Local residents are appealing to the Child Labour authorities to im-

mediately take serious notice of this exploitation. They are demanding that legal action be taken against the concerned owners and that the children involved in this labour be rescued and rehabilitated. The incident underscores a serious failure in the effective enforcement of child labour laws in the area.

Congress' BC reservations strategy, a masterstroke or misfire?

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"credit strategy" — a win-win political move. If the Supreme Court upholds it, the Congress gains credit. If it doesn't, the party can still blame the BJP for obstructing the cause of BCs. Legally, the Constitution provides reservations for SCs, STs, and OBCs in education, employment, and legislation. However, the Su-

preme Court's landmark *Indra Sawhney* judgment (1992) capped reservations at 50%, allowing exceptions only under "extraordinary circumstances" backed by strong empirical evidence. Several states' attempts to breach the cap have failed for lack of justification. Currently, even Bihar's 65% quota is under judicial scrutiny — and Telangana's case is now headed the

same way. Whatever the eventual outcome, one thing is clear: Revanth Reddy has succeeded in setting the political agenda. With the state now consumed by debates over 42% BC reservations, other governance-related criticisms have taken a backseat — giving the Congress government some much-needed breathing space and political advantage.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Green agricultural fields in the Dundigal Municipal area are being destroyed by chemical contamination due to an unauthorized business involving the cleaning of chemical waste covers. While the government advocates for farmers and converts barren lands into arable plots, corporate chemical companies are outsourcing the cleaning of chemical waste covers to operate illegally within green farmlands. This polluting activity, primarily involving waste covers brought from industrial areas like Jeedimetla, Bolarum, Bontapally, and Ka-



zipally, is rampant in Baurampet under the Dundigal Municipal limits. The problem is exacerbated by rising land prices due to real estate, leading many farmers to sell their land. However, the few remaining farmers who continue to cultivate

are seeing their fields contaminated. The chemical waste cleaning operators are reportedly functioning without any necessary permissions, and the contaminated water is being released into nearby agricultural fields, severely pollut-

ing both the surface and groundwater. Local residents and farmers are expressing strong anger at the inaction of the Dundigal Municipal Sanitation and Environment officials, who appear completely indifferent to the environmental damage. The operators

are allegedly enticing farmers with money to set up these cleaning units in their fields. The residents are demanding immediate action from the authorities to halt this chemical waste cleaning racket and protect the green belt and groundwater resources.

The BJP, meanwhile, is pursuing a caste-based census across India. The party plans to base future reservation policies on its findings — and is reportedly unwilling to let Congress take the credit for expanding BC quotas. Some Congress leaders have even accused the Governor of deliberately delaying assent to the Telangana bill.

The BRS finds itself in a peculiar position. While not opposing the BC quota, the party faces a challenge if the "BC Chief Minister" slogan gains traction. With K. Chandrashekar Rao or K.T. Rama Rao being their only viable CM faces, BRS cannot easily project a BC leader — unlike Congress or the BJP.



Tribal Woman Gang-Raped Near Edupayala Temple Succumbs to Injuries

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: A tribal woman from Medak, who was brutally assaulted and gang-raped near the Edupayala temple in Kulcharam mandal, tragically succumbed to her injuries while being transferred to Gandhi Hospital on Saturday night.

The woman was discovered earlier in the day by locals, tied to a tree in an unconscious state. Preliminary investigations revealed that she had sustained multiple severe injuries, including a fracture on her hand. The police determined that the accused had hired the woman for labour work from Medak town on Friday morning. Instead of taking her to the worksite, they diverted her to an isolated location near the temple, where the assault and gang-rape allegedly occurred.

Locals, upon finding the victim, immediately alerted the police, who rushed her to a nearby hospital. Due to the severity of her condition, she was referred to Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad but died en route. The police have registered a case and are intensifying efforts to identify and trace the culprits. Authorities are actively examining CCTV footage from nearby areas to gather clues and ensure the immediate arrest of the accused involved in the horrific crime.

celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Etala Rajender emphasized the cultural and spiritual significance of the Bodrai festival, stating that the Bodrai (foundation stone of the village) holds the same importance to a village as the navel (nabhi) does to a human body. He noted that alongside the Bodrai, hundreds of Gramadevatas (Village Deities) are established in villages and protect the community like the apple of an eye. He highlighted that the names of the goddesses might differ, but the villagers offer Bonalu (offerings) every two to three years, praying for the prosperity of their children, livestock, and crops, and for a life of happiness and contentment.

Rajender stressed that the responsibility of the Gramadevatas is to protect the people from diseases and ensure the well-being of the village. He likened the Earth Mother to the epitome of patience and endurance, asserting that India is a nation that worships and respects women. He concluded by expressing his wish for every family to practice the Sanatana Dharma and its values in the future, fostering unity and coexistence. He thanked and congratulated the people of Hayathnagar for celebrating the Bodrai festival on a large scale. The event was organized under the leadership of Nakkarashan, Ramesh Goud, and others, and was attended by local corporators and party leaders.

Etala Rajender Participates in Bodrai Festival at Hayathnagar



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Malkajgiri Parliament Member Etala Rajender participated in the Bodrai festival celebrations at Hayathnagar, where he performed special prayers and extended greetings to the community. He thanked the leaders of all caste associations and the villagers who led the

celebrations.

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Bandi Sanjay Joins RSS Centenary March in Karimnagar

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organized a massive route march, or Path Sanchalan, in Karimnagar, Telangana, as part of the celebrations marking the organization's centenary. The event was significantly amplified by the enthusiastic participation of Bandi Sanjay Kumar, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and the local Member of Parliament.

Dressed in the traditional RSS uniform, the Ganavesh, Minister Bandi Sanjay actively marched alongside the Swayamsevaks (volunteers). His presence was a powerful public display of his lifelong commitment to the Sangh, which serves as the ideological foundation of his political career.

The event held particular personal significance for the Union



Minister, as his journey in public life began right here in Karimnagar. The report emphasized that Bandi Sanjay's life started as an RSS activist in his childhood. During his student days, he served as a Mukhya Shikshak (Chief Instructor) in the Ramnagar locality. His decision to join the Path Sanchalan route, which culminated near

the Ramnagar Satyanarayana Swamy Temple, was a symbolic return to his early ideological roots.

Further highlighting the family's deep connection to the Sangh, Bandi Sanjay was accompanied by his son, Bandi Sai Sumukh, who also participated in the march. The joint participation of the father and son drew considerable public attention, symbolizing the continuation of the family's allegiance to the RSS principles.

The impressive and disciplined procession, which began from the Veterinary Polytechnic College on Satavahana University Road and proceeded through the city, was met with strong support from the local community. Large

crowds of students and residents gathered along the route to witness the march, demonstrating their approval by showering the participants with flowers.

The Path Sanchalan concluded at the Sri Chaitanya Junior College grounds with the Sanchalan Samarop (closing ceremony). Minister Bandi Sanjay remained present for this formal assembly, which featured a keynote address by Ayichithula Lakshmana Rao, Secretary of Vidya Bharati Dakshin Madhya Kshetra.

The centenary celebration effectively served a dual purpose: it showcased the organizational discipline and nationalist spirit of the RSS, while also providing a high-profile platform for Bandi Sanjay Kumar to publicly reinforce his identity as a leader deeply rooted in the Sangh's ideology and dedicated to its mission of national service.

Telangana Boosts Paddy Procurement: MLA Launches New Centres, Highlights MSP Hike



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Mankondur MLA Dr. Kavvampalli Satyanarayana announced that the State Government is taking extensive measures to establish paddy procurement centres (PPCs) to ensure farmers receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and avoid inconvenience during sales. On Sunday, he inaugurated new paddy procurement centres under the IKP initiative in Regulpally and Guggilla villages of Bejjanki mandal.

Addressing the farmers, MLA Dr. Satyanarayana stated that the government intends to purchase every grain

produced by the farmers, anticipating a higher volume of paddy reaching the centres this season compared to the last. He highlighted that the State Government has increased the MSP this year. The MSP for A-grade paddy is set at ₹2,389 per quintal, along with a ₹500 bonus per quintal, while the ordinary B-grade variety has an MSP of ₹2,369.

He urged farmers to bring well-dried paddy to the centres to avoid weighing issues, ensuring the moisture content is below 17% to meet quality standards and receive the full MSP. He also instructed PPC operators to maintain an adequate supply of tarpaulins and ensure accuracy in weighing.

The MLA reiterated the government's commitment to farmers through initiatives like free electricity, loan waivers, and Rythu Bharosa. He also proudly stated that Telangana is the only government distributing fine rice (Sanna Biyyam) to white ration card beneficiaries. The MLA concluded by urging farmers to make the best use of the procurement centres. The event saw the participation of Additional DRDO Sudhir, APO Parshuramulu, Bejjanki Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Pulikrishna, and various party leaders.

CESL Accelerates India's Clean Mobility with Hydrogen Buses, Building on Electric Bus Success

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 12: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, is intensifying its role in India's clean mobility revolution. Following the successful tendering of over 33,000 electric buses across multiple states, CESL is now driving the

nation's transition toward hydrogen-powered public transport.

As the Union Government-nominated nodal agency, CESL has unveiled a dedicated action plan to promote hydrogen mobility, reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable development and climate action. The initiative aims to aggregate national-level demand for hydrogen buses, streamline coordination between central and state

stakeholders, and harmonize procurement efforts across states and agencies. By creating a unified platform for hydrogen bus adoption, CESL seeks to instill confidence among OEMs, financiers, and industry partners, addressing historical hesitations due to low demand.

CESL's expansion into hydrogen buses will focus on key cities in Telangana, including Hyderabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar, and Khammam,

while also targeting prominent southern cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Vishakhapatnam, and Vijayawada. This strategic approach complements its ongoing electric bus programs in northern and other Indian states, ensuring a nationwide push toward clean and sustainable mobility.

Building on its proven success in electric bus procurement, CESL has

demonstrated that large-scale adoption of clean mobility is both financially viable and operationally efficient. By securing Gross Cost Contract rates lower than conventional CNG or diesel buses, CESL has made electric buses a cost-effective solution for fleet operators. Its transparent tendering processes, standardized bus specifications, and rapid deployment model have significantly reduced risks for OEMs and operators, while fostering

infrastructure development and faster adoption timelines. CESL's approach has transformed the way buses are procured—from merely purchasing vehicles to delivering mobility as a service—a model now being extended to hydrogen buses to accelerate adoption across India.

Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, CEO of EESL, emphasized in a letter to key stakeholders, including Bhupender Gupta, CMD of NHPC, the national

benefits of hydrogen bus demand aggregation. CESL invites national and state-level agencies to share their requirements, further reinforcing collaborative efforts to advance India's hydrogen mobility ecosystem.

With its mandate to accelerate clean energy solutions, CESL continues to implement programs across electric and hydrogen mobility nationwide. Designated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the

Ministry of Heavy Industries, and the Ministry of External Affairs as the nodal agency for electric bus deployment under flagship schemes such as FAME India Phase II, the National Electric Bus Program, PM-eBus Sewa, and PM E-DRIVE, CESL's strategic expansion into hydrogen buses underscores India's commitment to a cleaner, sustainable, and technologically advanced mobility future.

Swadeshi Movement 2.0: The Strategic Path to India’s Self-Reliance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reignited the call for a modern Swadeshi movement, emphasizing that today’s version is not about rejecting globalization, but about strategic self-reliance. Amid rising US tariffs on Indian goods and H-1B visa fee hikes, the government is urging citizens and industries to focus on building domestic capabilities under initiatives like ‘Make in India 2.0’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

The Swadeshi movement historically fostered nationalist unity; in its modern form, it aims to instill economic confidence. With the US tariffs creating both short-term challenges and long-term opportunities, India must pivot from overdependence on a single market to build-

ing resilient, diversified trade networks. The crisis provides a chance to restructure trade, upgrade domestic industries, and position India as a reliable alternative manufacturing hub for global companies. Instead of merely relying on slogans, leaders are encouraged to take tangible steps by promoting the consumption of Indian-made goods and incentivizing domestic production. Strengthening local demand reduces vulnerability to tariffs while enhancing bargaining power in international trade negotiations. Sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, auto components, and green technology present opportunities for India to attract foreign direct investment and co-manu-

facturing partnerships with allies of the US, creating new value-chain alliances. Domestic innovation is central to this vision. Investments in semiconductors, EV batteries, aerospace, defense, and high-end manufacturing are crucial, allowing India to move up the value chain beyond low-cost labor competition. Digital Swadeshi initiatives, including homegrown fintech, social media, AI, and quantum platforms, can reduce reliance on foreign technology while fostering a robust tech ecosystem. Green Swadeshi efforts in solar, hydrogen, and EV technologies further strengthen self-reliance. Agriculture and food security also form key pillars, as India can reduce imports of items

like edible oil and simultaneously emerge as a global food exporter. MSMEs and startups will be critical drivers, generating employment and fostering innovation, leveraging India’s demographic advantage of a youthful workforce. The modern Swadeshi movement is a strategic response to uncertainty in global trade. It is not merely a policy direction but a national necessity, ensuring that India remains resilient, self-reliant, and positioned to convert challenges like US tariffs into long-term economic strength and global influence. By focusing on domestic capability, innovation, and diversified trade, India can safeguard its economic sovereignty and emerge stronger in the global order.



India Attracts Record Foreign Investment Despite Rupee Weakness

Global central banks are no longer moving in unison, creating a fragmented monetary landscape. The United States Federal Reserve recently cut its policy rate by 25 basis points, bringing it to a range of 4-4.25 per cent. In contrast, the European Central Bank (ECB) remains cautious, holding rates steady as it balances inflation concerns with sluggish growth. Japan continues its ultra-loose monetary policy with near-zero rates and extensive bond purchases, while China is aggressively easing policy rates to support its slowing economy. This divergence marks a clear departure from the post-pandemic trend when most central banks tightened policies collectively to combat inflation. Liquidity is now being injected in some regions while withdrawn in others, creating yield differentials that scatter capital flows rather than channeling them uniformly. Amid this global

monetary complexity, the Indian rupee is under pressure, recently slipping past Rs 88 to the dollar, marking a historic low. Conventional wisdom would suggest that a weakening currency deters foreign investors, yet paradoxically, inflows into India continue unabated. Foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) surged, crossing \$14.6 billion in equities and nearly \$9-10 billion in debt in FY25. Momentum is expected to accelerate with India’s inclusion in JPMorgan’s Emerging Market Bond Index, which began in June 2024 and will reach full weight by March 2025, potentially attracting \$20-25 billion in debt inflows. Why do investors remain bullish despite the rupee depreciation? Three key factors stand out. First, India’s relative growth advantage is unmatched, with projected GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in FY2025, compared with 0.7 per cent in the eurozone

and 0.9 per cent in the United States. Second, macroeconomic credibility matters: August 2025 inflation moderated to 4.9 per cent, within the Reserve Bank of India’s target range, reflecting steady and credible policy management. Third, index-driven and structural flows provide stability, as pension funds and sovereign wealth funds allocate resources to India due to benchmark mandates rather than speculative motives. Combined, these factors explain the paradox: despite the rupee’s weakness, India remains a magnet for capital. It offers relative safety compared with emerging peers like Turkey, South Africa, or Brazil and delivers higher returns than developed markets such as the US or Europe. In a world of fragmented global liquidity, India stands out as a preferred investment destination, underpinned by growth, stability, and structural inflows.

IT Giants Prioritising Short-Term Gains Over Long-Term Innovation?

The Indian IT services sector faces a critical crossroads. Just days ago, US President Donald Trump signed a decree imposing a \$1,00,000 fee for each H-1B visa used for on-shore work, raising costs and threatening the traditional labour arbitrage model that has long powered India’s IT giants. Meanwhile, Infosys announced an unprecedented Rs 18,000 crore share buyback, signalling a preference for rewarding shareholders rather than investing in long-term innovation. Buybacks and high dividends can indicate a lack of profitable growth opportunities, undervaluation of shares, or a strategy to boost earnings per share. For promoter-led companies like TCS, Wipro, and HCL Technologies, dividends largely benefit promoters rather than minority shareholders, underscoring the short-term orientation. The competitive landscape is shifting. Global



capability centres (GCCs) are expanding rapidly, growing at 40 percent in FY24, compared with just 5 percent growth among India’s top five IT firms. These GCCs retain intellectual property rights in-house, compete for talent, and threaten margins of traditional IT services. TCS’s recent announcement to cut 12,000 jobs illustrates the sector’s need to manage costs while sustaining investor confidence. This raises a crucial

question: Are India’s IT services companies over-reliant on labour arbitrage, at the expense of products, platforms, and intellectual property (IPR)? While buybacks, dividends, and cost-cutting satisfy shareholders in the short term, they do little to future-proof businesses in the age of AI. Surplus cash could be better deployed in developing platforms, investing in AI-driven language models, or making strategic acquisitions—areas that gen-

erate sustainable revenues without a proportional increase in labour costs. India’s IT giants must also confront five key challenges: geographic concentration risk, overemphasis on margins over volume, dependency on software services, risk-aversion in cash deployment, and short-term shareholder focus. Companies like Berkshire Hathaway demonstrate that long-term value creation often outperforms divi-

dend-centric strategies. Ultimately, India’s IT firms must pivot toward creating enduring value for shareholders, employees, customers, and the broader ecosystem. By investing in innovation, IPR, and homegrown platforms, they can reduce reliance on labour arbitrage, compete globally, and secure sustainable growth—transforming from service providers to product and technology leaders in the AI era.

Free Speech: The Lifeblood of Public Reason and Democracy

One of the most vulnerable domains of public life today is free speech. As US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously stated, public discussion is a political duty: the remedy to falsehood and harm is more speech, not enforced silence. Free speech is essential because it makes the Public, enabling citizens to participate in shaping ideas, policies, and societal norms. Yet, both totalitarian and democratic regimes increasingly curtail this freedom, revealing a worrying convergence in practice. The principle of Public Reason asserts that laws harming communities, driven by prejudice, sectarianism, or ideological motives, are illegitimate. Restrictions are justified only when speech produces actual harm, such as hate



speech inciting violence. What is unacceptable is viewpoint-based suppression—proscribing speech simply because it challenges the state’s official stance. Legal scholar Geoffrey Stone emphasized: “The government may

often justify curbs on speech citing “national interest” or “national good,” ironically undermining the very public whose participation defines these concepts. Paternalistic regulation privileges certain majority interests over the broader public, skewing discourse and shaping citizens to conform to ideological lines. Historical examples are stark: Nazi Germany’s propaganda machinery and Rwanda’s radio-fueled ethnic mobilization show how viewpoint suppression and orchestrated hate speech paved the way for genocide. Countering harmful speech is central to preserving Public Reason. As political scientist Katherine Gelber observes, citizens must respond to disagreeable or harmful speech, engaging in reasoned rebuttal to prevent

the public from being manipulated. In Habermasian terms, the Public emerges not only through debate but through active counters to misinformation, bias, and hate speech. Silence, or non-engagement, enables manipulation and diminishes democratic life. Nobel laureate Toni Morrison reminded us: “There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.” Speaking back—continually, logically, and purposefully—is not just a civic duty; it is what sustains Public Reason and qualifies our life within a democracy. Free speech, therefore, is not merely a right—it is the lifeblood of an informed, resilient, and participatory society.

Bihar Assembly polls



- **BJP, JD(U) to Contest 101 Seats Each**
- **Chirag Paswan's LJP Bags 29 Seats**

TPN Bureau | Mumbai ₹
After weeks of intense negotiations, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has officially sealed its seat-sharing arrangement for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. The final agreement was announced by Union Minister and BJP's Bihar in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan via a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday.
Under the deal, the BJP and Nitish Ku-

mar's Janata Dal United (JDU) will contest 101 seats each out of the total 243 assembly seats in the state. This reflects a slight reduction from the 2020 elections, where the BJP contested 110 and the JDU 115.
Smaller allies Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) have been allocated six seats each.
The highlight of the agreement, however, is the final allocation of 29 seats to Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), whose demands had caused prolonged delays. Initially pushing for 40-45 seats, the LJP had even hinted at exploring an alliance with Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party if demands were not met.
Despite the BJP initially offering just 25

seats, persistent negotiations with Pradhan led to a compromise, with all major partners making room for the LJP. The agreement reportedly involved sacrifices from both the BJP and JDU's share to accommodate Paswan's demands.
The LJP's claim was backed by its 100% strike rate in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, winning all five constituencies it contested, and its performance in the 2020 assembly elections. Chirag Paswan also pushed for at least two assembly seats in each of his party's Lok Sabha strongholds, along with seats for senior party leaders.
The NDA hopes the unified front will strengthen its chances against the Mahagathbandhan in the upcoming polls.

“Attacks On Independent Thinking”: Rahul Gandhi’s Remarks In Chile Irk BJP

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has once again drawn sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after his recent comments during an interaction with students at the University of Chile. Speaking about India's education system, caste dynamics, and the state of independent thinking, Gandhi's remarks have been labelled by the BJP as “anti-India propaganda on foreign soil.”
Responding to a student's question, Gandhi said he wished to preserve the “curiosity” of young minds in India and ensure that students can “think openly, ask questions, and be scientific.” He claimed that such freedom is “under attack” in India, citing a decline in scientific thinking over the past decade under the current government.
“Our education system is dominated by upper castes. Tribal, middle, and lower caste traditions have been left out. I want to change that,” he added, arguing for broader inclusion in the academic curriculum.
The BJP quickly hit back. Spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, a former Congress leader, accused Gandhi of undermining India's institutions. “He is not the Leader of the Opposition. He is the leader of propaganda and hypocrisy. This is a pattern — he goes abroad to attack India's democratic



system, judiciary, and sovereignty,” said Poonawalla.
He also accused Gandhi of spreading misinformation, saying, “He talks of free thinking being suppressed in India. But the real suppression happens in his party — look at what happened to Shashi Tharoor.”
The video of Gandhi's remarks was shared on his social media after returning from a tour of South American nations, including Chile. The BJP's criticism of Gandhi has intensified since his elevation as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, particularly after his foreign visits.

1 Lakh Single-Teacher Schools Serve Over 33 Lakh Students Across India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Over 1.04 lakh schools in India are being run by just one teacher, catering to more than 33 lakh students, according to data from the Ministry of Education for the academic year 2024-25. These schools, averaging around 34 students each, raise serious concerns about adherence to the norms of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
The RTE Act mandates a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 30:1 at the primary level (Classes I-V) and 35:1 at the upper primary level (Classes VI-VIII). However, in these single-teacher schools, achieving such ratios is structurally impossible, leading to questions about the quality of education being imparted.
Among states, Andhra Pradesh leads with the highest number of single-teacher schools, while Uttar Pradesh tops the list in terms of student enrolment in these schools. Other states with significant numbers of such schools include Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
When it comes to the total number of students in these schools, Uttar Pradesh again tops the chart, followed by Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh. Education experts warn that such a setup is unsustainable and detrimental to student learning out-



comes, especially in rural and tribal belts where these schools are often concentrated.
The data comes at a time when the government has been pushing for improved infrastructure, digitisation, and quality in school education under schemes like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. However, the prevalence of such a large number of single-teacher schools indicates severe staffing gaps, particularly in remote and underdeveloped regions.
With over 33.7 lakh students dependent on these schools, addressing the shortage of teachers is likely to be a key challenge for both state and central education authorities in the coming years.

Afghan Minister Defends Absence of Women Journalists at Presser as ‘Technical Issue’



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Sunday responded to widespread outrage over the absence of female journalists at his recent press conference in New Delhi, calling it a “technical issue” and denying any deliberate exclusion.
The controversy erupted after NDTV reported that no women journalists were seen at the minister's press meet held at the Afghanistan Embassy. The incident prompted backlash from Indian opposition leaders, journalists' associations, and civil society groups, calling it “discriminatory” and an “insult to women.”
Clarifying at a second press interaction, Muttaqi said, “It was organised on short notice with a short list of journalists. There was no intention to exclude anyone. It was merely a logistical decision by our colleagues.” He also claimed that 2.8 million girls and women continue to study in schools and madrasas in Afghanistan, though certain restrictions remain.
The issue gained political traction

after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that allowing such exclusion signals weakness and a lack of commitment to gender equality. “He's telling every woman in India that he is too weak to stand up for them,” Gandhi said.
Former Union Minister P. Chidambaram also expressed shock and said male journalists should have boycotted the event in solidarity. CPI(M) leader M.A. Baby termed the act “deplorable,” while the Editors Guild of India and Indian Women Press Corps (IWPC) condemned the move, calling it a violation of media freedom and gender equality norms.
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified it had no role in organising the press conference, stating the Afghan Embassy, a foreign mission, independently handled the guest list. The decision to exclude women, it said, was made by visiting Taliban officials.
The Taliban regime remains under global scrutiny for curbing women's rights in Afghanistan since its return to power in 2021.

Uddhav Thackeray Leads Protest, Demands Loan Waiver and ₹50,000 Aid for Farmers



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray led a protest demanding a complete loan waiver and ₹50,000 per hectare compensation for farmers hit by floods and crop loss. His party, Shiv Sena (UBT), accused the Maharashtra government of misleading farmers with a “₹31,000 crore lie”.
Thackeray warned of a statewide agitation after Diwali if the demands are not met. “Farmers are selling their wives' mangalsutras. Where is the government's conscience?” he asked, taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not mentioning farmers during his recent visit to the state.
Thackeray said the party would support the state's package if ₹1 lakh per hectare is deposited into farmers' accounts before Diwali. He cited the Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's previous loan waiver as proof of commitment to farmers' welfare.
“This is not a hambarda morcha, it

is an ishara morcha,” he said, vowing to visit every district post-Diwali to review implementation of aid. He also appealed to farmers not to lose hope or resort to suicide.
The ₹31,000 crore relief package announced by the Fadnavis government covers crop damage across 65 lakh hectares, including major losses in cotton, soybean, and onion farms. Of this, ₹17,675 crore is for crop compensation, ₹30,000 per damaged well, and ₹10,000 per hectare for the upcoming Rabi season.
CM Devendra Fadnavis dismissed the protest, questioning Thackeray's moral right to lead it. “His ₹20,000 crore waiver during his term was nothing new. We had already implemented similar relief earlier,” Fadnavis said. He added that 16 lakh farmers' dues were cleared under the current government.
With farmers' distress growing, the issue is set to become a major flashpoint ahead of the upcoming state elections.

‘Like You Did In Middle East’: Zelensky Asks Trump To Broker Ukraine Truce



TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky revealed on Saturday that he spoke with former U.S. President Donald Trump, urging him to leverage his diplomatic influence to help end the ongoing war in Ukraine, just as he did in previous Middle East peace efforts.

In a Facebook post following the phone call, Zelensky wrote, “If a war can be stopped in one region, then surely other wars can be stopped as well — including the Russian war.” The Ukrainian leader has consistently pushed for stronger international mediation since Russia’s full-scale invasion began in 2022. The appeal to Trump marks a significant turn in their relationship, which has evolved substantially since a contentious meeting at the White House earlier this year in February. At the time, the two leaders clashed over military aid and foreign policy during a widely covered, tense televised encounter.

However, relations have since improved. Trump has softened his

rhetoric, recently calling Zelensky a “nice guy” and reiterating support for Ukraine’s sovereignty. The former U.S. President has also made headlines by claiming he could negotiate an end to the war “within days” if re-elected, a stance that has drawn both praise and skepticism.

While Trump currently holds no official government position, Zelensky’s outreach suggests Ukraine is open to any avenue that could bring about a ceasefire or broader peace deal, especially with the conflict nearing its fourth year and casualties mounting on both sides.

Zelensky’s call comes as global diplomatic momentum builds for renewed negotiations, and follows comments by Melania Trump, who credited Russian talks for aiding the return of Ukrainian children displaced during the war — an issue Ukraine considers a major humanitarian crisis.

There has been no official statement from Trump’s office regarding the call.

Preparations begin to ramp up aid in Gaza as ceasefire

Brings hope for end to 2-year war



TPN Correspondent | Gaza Preparations are in full swing to deliver urgently needed aid into the Gaza Strip as a new ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas offers the first major opening for humanitarian relief after two years of relentless conflict.

On Sunday, Egypt announced it is sending 400 aid trucks into Gaza, loaded with medical supplies, food, fuel, tents, and blankets. The Egyptian Red Crescent confirmed the dispatch, with the aid expected to reach Gaza after passing through Israeli inspection zones at the Kerem Shalom crossing.

The Israeli Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the agency overseeing humanitarian operations in Gaza, said aid delivery will increase to 600 trucks daily as agreed in the ceasefire terms. This marks a significant rise from the limited aid flows of recent months, which the United Nations said covered only 20 percent of the population’s

needs due to ongoing fighting, border closures, and restrictions on certain items.

Sunday’s developments come amid renewed hope that the ceasefire could hold and eventually bring an end to the two-year war that has devastated Gaza’s infrastructure, economy, and civilian life. Images from Gaza City on Sunday showed Palestinians returning to street markets, a sign of tentative normalcy following months of displacement and violence.

However, all aid convoys will still undergo Israeli security checks before entering the enclave, a point of ongoing tension among aid groups who argue that restrictions have long delayed essential humanitarian support.

Despite the challenges ahead, the increased aid movement is a critical lifeline for Gaza’s 2.2 million residents. Humanitarian agencies are now preparing to scale up operations in the coming days, hopeful that this truce will mark a lasting shift toward peace and recovery.

Trump to Join Gaza Peace Deal Ceremony in Israel and Egypt

TPN Bureau | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump is set to travel to Israel and Egypt on Sunday to participate in the signing ceremony of the long-anticipated Gaza Peace Plan, marking a significant diplomatic moment in the Middle East following a two-year-long war between Israel and Hamas.

Trump will depart the White House on Sunday afternoon and arrive in Tel Aviv early Monday morning, local time. His visit will begin with a private meeting with the families of hostages at the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), followed by a formal address to Israeli lawmakers. This is Trump’s first visit to Israel since announcing the ceasefire agreement, which has raised hopes for lasting peace in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

The visit coincides with the rollout of the first phase of the Gaza Peace Plan—a 21-point framework that includes the gradual disarmament of Hamas, increased humanitarian aid, and a phased reopening of Gaza’s borders.

Following his address in Israel, Trump will travel to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where the official peace signing ceremony will be held on Monday afternoon. Egypt has played a crucial mediating role in the negotiations, hosting several rounds of backchannel talks between Israel and Hamas following Trump’s proposal earlier this year.

While the full details of the agreement remain undisclosed, White House officials have described the plan as a “comprehensive roadmap to end hostilities and begin rebuilding Gaza.”

The trip highlights Trump’s renewed diplomatic push in the region and comes amid broader efforts to stabilize the Middle East. The White House has said the President’s itinerary is subject to change depending on security conditions on the ground, but all preparations are in place for what could be a landmark moment in regional peace efforts.



“58 Pak Soldiers Killed”: Taliban’s Big Claim And A Warning After Strikes



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Taliban spokesperson Zabehullah Mujahid on Sunday said retaliatory strikes near the Durand Line in Beh-



rampur district killed at least fifty eight Pakistani soldiers and wounded over thirty. He warned Pakistan that the Taliban would leave “no attack unanswered” and ac-

cused Islamabad of allowing ISIS members to shelter on its soil.

Mujahid told reporters that Afghan forces struck multiple Pakistani posts along the frontier after three explosions in Afghanistan the previous week — two in Kabul and one in Paktika — incidents the Taliban blamed on Pakistani actors. He alleged that recruits were moved through Karachi and Islamabad to training centres in Pashtunkhwa, where attacks against Afghanistan were planned, and claimed “documented evidence” supported those assertions.

Defending the operations, the spokesperson said Afghan forces seized a significant cache of weapons but also suffered casualties, with more than twenty Islamic Emirate fighters killed or wounded. He framed the strikes as defensive actions to protect Afghanistan’s airspace and land borders.

Pakistan, while not confirming responsibility for the earlier blasts, condemned the cross border attacks and accused the Afghan side of harbouring Pakistani Taliban elements. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the airstrikes, saying the Pakistani army “gave a befitting reply,” destroyed several Afghan posts and forced those forces to retreat, and insisted that every provocation would be met with a strong response.

Mujahid added that the air operations were halted following diplomatic interventions by Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The exchanges have increased tensions along multiple border provinces cited by the Taliban, including Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Paktika, Paktia, Khost, Nangarhar and Kunar.

Independent verification of casualty figures and many claims remains unavailable. NDTV, a trusted news outlet, reported on the developments and attributed statements to both sides. International observers have urged restraint while calling for independent investigations to verify facts and de-escalate cross-border tensions immediately and thoroughly.

“Typical Example Of Double Standards”: China Slams US Over Extra 100% Tariff

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Tens of thousand 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 hostages, 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 exchange-



es are expected to begin soon. Israel will reportedly release 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, though high-profile detainees like Marwan Barghouti 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.

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

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

public listing. According to data sourced from To-Fler, PhonePe's revenue from operations jumped 40.5%, rising from 5,064 crore in FY24 to 7,115 crore in FY25. This robust growth underlines the company's dominant position in India's digital payments and fintech ecosystem, which continues to expand at a rapid pace. A key highlight of the fiscal was the three-fold surge in adjusted

Profit After Tax (PAT), which stood at 630 crore in FY25, compared to 197 crore in the previous year. This growth reflects improved operational efficiency, higher adoption of value-added services, and better cost management across verticals. Notably, PhonePe also achieved a major milestone by turning free cash flow positive for the first time. The company

reported net cash flow from operations at 1,202 crore for the year ending March 31, 2025. This achievement is expected to enhance investor confidence as it signals sustainable financial health. While overall expenses rose 21% year-on-year to 9,394 crore, the proportion of revenue growth outpaced expenditure, contributing to healthier margins.

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



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

Global rating agency S&P has retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6.5% for the current fiscal year, citing robust domestic demand supported by a largely benign monsoon. The agency noted that India's economy grew at 7.8% in the April-June quarter, highlighting resilience amid global uncertainties. In its statement, S&P said, "We forecast India's GDP growth to hold steady at 6.5% this fiscal year, ending March 31, 2026. Domestic

demand is expected to remain strong, driven by favorable monsoon conditions, income and GST cuts, and accelerating government investment." The agency emphasized that these factors will continue to underpin economic expansion despite external challenges. S&P also revised India's inflation forecast down to 3.2% for the fiscal year, noting that a sharper-than-expected decline in food inflation will help keep overall price pressures low. This moderation in in-

flation provides the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) room to ease monetary policy, and S&P anticipates a 25 basis points rate cut during the fiscal year. In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2025 report, S&P highlighted that resilient domestic demand across the region may cushion economies from the impact of stronger external headwinds, including US import tariffs and slower global growth. The agency noted that while China has fared relatively better under these conditions,

Southeast Asian emerging markets and India have faced more significant challenges than initially expected. S&P's assessment underscores India's capacity to maintain steady growth through domestic consumption, policy support, and infrastructure spending, even as global trade tensions and external economic pressures persist. Analysts view the RBI's anticipated rate cut as a measure to sustain credit growth and bolster investment in the coming months.

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



Indian equity markets closed lower for the third straight session on Tuesday, dragged by foreign fund outflows and concerns over a steep hike in U.S. H-1B visa fees. The benchmark BSE Sensex settled at 82,102.10, down 57.87 points or 0.07%, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped 32.85 points or 0.13% to 25,169.50. During the session, Sensex oscillated between a high of 82,370.38 and a low of 81,776.53, reflecting volatile trading. Analysts attributed the

decline to selling pressure in IT stocks and blue-chip private banking shares, while buying in auto stocks and select public sector banks cushioned losses. Among Sensex constituents, Trent, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Eternal, and ITC were the major laggards. HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dragged the indices lower. On the upside, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, and State Bank of India were key

gainers. "The domestic equity market traded range-bound and ended flat, indicating ongoing consolidation. Broader sentiment remained cautious, with small- and mid-cap stocks lagging benchmarks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd. Sector-wise, autos, metals, and financials gained on robust festive demand post-GST cuts, while FMCG and realty faced pressure from profit booking. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded

equities worth 2,910.09 crore on Monday, reflecting sustained selling pressure. In global markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong closed lower, while South Korea's Kospi ended in positive territory. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday. European markets traded higher, and U.S. indices gained on Monday. Meanwhile, the rupee fell 52 paise to an all-time low of 88.82 against the U.S. dollar, and Brent crude rose 0.45% to \$66.87 a barrel, adding to market caution.

Crude Oil Futures Slip on Weak Spot Market Demand

Crude oil futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) declined on Tuesday, as traders trimmed positions amid weak demand in the spot market. October delivery crude fell Rs 16 or 0.29%, settling at Rs 5,506 per barrel across 12,933 lots. Analysts noted that the drop in futures prices reflected profit-booking and cautious trading, as market participants responded to soft spot market activity. Weak physical demand for crude prompted sellers to offload their holdings, weighing on prices during the session. On the global front, oil benchmarks also witnessed mild declines. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude traded 0.33% lower at USD 61.95 per barrel, while Brent crude slipped 0.56% to USD 66.20 per barrel in



New York, reflecting a broader cautious sentiment in the energy markets. Analysts said that despite global concerns over supply disruptions in some regions, the current demand-supply dynamics remain subdued, limiting significant upside in crude prices. Traders are closely watching inventory data, geopolitical developments, and OPEC signals for indications of any supply tightening that could support price recovery. Market observers highlighted that the MCX crude futures trend

mirrors global patterns, as both domestic and international markets face tepid demand and mixed trading signals. Investors are expected to monitor upcoming economic data releases and fuel consumption trends to gauge future price direction. Overall, the oil futures market remains under pressure, reflecting weak spot demand and cautious investor sentiment. Market participants continue to adopt a wait-and-watch approach, balancing domestic demand trends with global price movements.

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

SLMG Beverages, India's largest Coca-Cola bottler, expects high single-digit sales growth in FY26 despite facing headwinds in the June quarter due to unseasonal rains and geopolitical concerns, said Joint Managing Director Paritosh Ladhani on Monday. The company anticipates its gross revenue to cross Rs 9,000 crore, aided by festivals and GST concessions on its non-aerated drinks portfolio, which contributes around 30% of total sales. "The June quarter was below expectations, with 35-40% higher rainfall affecting sales. However, we an-

tipiculate strong growth in the December quarter and may even achieve double-digit growth," Ladhani told PTI. He added that fizz-based drinks will also see a rise as consumers have discretionary spending power. SLMG Beverages plans to invest around Rs 8,000 crore over the next six years for expansion, funded through internal accruals and debt, including greenfield plants in Buxer, Bihar and Gorakhpur, UP. The company's current bottling capacity of 22,000 BPM is expected to increase to 27,000 BPM by year-end. Ladhani highlighted that 65-70% of the



investment will go into plant capacity, while the remainder will support market development, warehousing, fleet, and new product launches. On a mid-term outlook, Ladhani stated the company aims to cross Rs 20,000 crore in gross turnover over the next five to six years. Regarding an IPO, he emphasized the focus will remain on strengthening operations before considering public listing.

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

Climate Change Forces Fish to New Homes: DNA Tells the Story

Across the planet, species are on the move, with climate change forcing over 12,000 species to shift their homes across land, freshwater, and seas. In the ocean, tropical fish are moving into temperate reefs along Australia's east coast, one of the fastest-warming marine regions. New coral and fish species are arriving in Sydney's waters, and their numbers are expected to rise as the climate changes. Traditionally, researchers and citizen scientists monitor these shifts through visual surveys, but small, rare, nocturnal, or cave-dwelling species are often missed, meaning the true rate of movement is likely underestimated.

Our new research, published in Diversity and Distributions, uses environmental DNA, or eDNA, to detect these hidden migrations. Fish shed mucus, scales, and

waste that contain DNA. By collecting seawater and filtering it, we can extract these genetic fingerprints and identify the species present, much like forensic scientists solving a crime from hair or fingerprints. While eDNA has been used since the 1980s for microbes, its application to larger animals and plants has transformed biodiversity monitoring.

We surveyed 2,000 kilometres of Australia's east coast, from tropical reefs to temperate kelp forests. Alongside traditional visual transects, we collected seawater for DNA analysis. Back in the lab, filtering and sequencing the water revealed species often missed by divers. Tropical species like lined surgeonfish, striated surgeonfish, and black-blotched porcupinefish were detected in temperate ecosystems



for the first time. Conversely, divers were often better at spotting temperate species, highlight-

ing that eDNA complements rather than replaces visual surveys. Combining eDNA with

traditional methods provides the clearest view yet of how climate change is reshaping ma-

rine life. Globally, species are shifting ranges as oceans warm and currents change. Tracking

these movements is essential to understand ecological transformations, anticipate which

species may thrive or decline, and better manage our oceans in a rapidly changing climate.

Samsung India Announces Festive Discounts Across Galaxy Smartphones

Samsung India, the country's largest consumer electronics brand, has unveiled special festive pricing across its Galaxy smartphone lineup, giving customers an opportunity to own premium and feature-rich devices at some of the most attractive prices since launch. The offers are designed to bring AI-powered features to enhance creativity, productivity, and everyday experiences within reach of more users.

The premium Galaxy S24 series takes the spotlight in this festive sale. The Galaxy S24 Ultra, India's best-selling premium smartphone, is available at Rs 71,999, down from Rs 1,29,999. The Galaxy S24, powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 processor, is priced at Rs 39,999 (originally Rs 74,999), while the Galaxy S24 FE, offering the same advanced AI experience, can be purchased for Rs 29,999 (originally Rs 59,999). The Galaxy A series is also seeing discounts of up to 42%. The Galaxy A55 5G is available for Rs 23,999 (originally Rs 39,999),



and the Galaxy A35 5G is priced at Rs 17,999 (originally Rs 30,999). Both feature a 6.6-inch FHD+ 120Hz Super AMOLED display, Dolby stereo speakers, Vision Booster technology, and a versatile camera setup with a 50MP main sensor, ultra-wide and macro lenses, plus enhanced Nightography capabilities. The Galaxy M series offers up to 30% off, with the M36 5G at Rs 13,999 (originally Rs 19,999), M16 5G at Rs 10,499 (originally Rs 13,499), and M06 5G at Rs 7,499 (originally Rs 9,999). Designed for Indian Gen Z consumers,

the M36 5G brings AI innovations and Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®+ for durability. The Galaxy F series also sees up to 30% discounts, including the F36 5G at Rs 13,999 and F06 5G at Rs 7,499. The F06 5G supports 12 5G bands across operators, offering a complete 5G experience at an affordable price.

These festive offers across Galaxy S, A, M, and F series go live from 22 September 2025, giving customers a prime chance to upgrade their smartphones with cutting-edge technology at unbeatable prices.

Apple Responds to iPhone 17 'Scratchgate' Concerns

Apple has addressed growing concerns about the so-called 'scratchgate' affecting its new iPhone 17 series. Several users of the iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone 17 Pro Max, and iPhone Air have reported that their devices are developing visible scratches, particularly around the camera island, just weeks after launch. The issue appears more pronounced in the Deep Blue, Cosmic Orange, and Space Black colour variants.

Tech reviewers and users noticed that the scratches tend to form around the sharp edges of the camera bump.



Popular YouTuber JerryRigEverything suggested that the anodised aluminium layer on the iPhone 17 and iPhone 17 Pro Max "does not stick to corners very well," potentially causing these marks. While the iPhone 17 series performed well in official durability and scratch tests, real-world

usage has highlighted a vulnerability that some customers weren't expecting.

In response, Apple clarified that the scratches are not permanent and can generally be cleaned. The company emphasized that the devices remain highly durable and that normal

handling might produce minor marks, which do not affect the performance or functionality of the phone. Apple reassured users that the iPhone 17's materials, including the camera housing and aluminium frame, were designed for long-term use and everyday wear, but recommended handling the devices with care to avoid scratches in vulnerable areas. This incident highlights the challenges smartphone makers face when balancing sleek design with durability, particularly as devices increasingly feature sharp edges, large camera mod-

ules, and premium finishes. Despite the 'scratchgate' reports, early reviews show that the iPhone 17 series continues to deliver strong performance, advanced features, and reliability, with Apple taking steps to address user concerns and provide guidance on keeping devices in top condition.

As the conversation around iPhone 17 scratches continues online, Apple encourages customers to report any concerns and follow care recommendations to maintain the phone's finish while enjoying its full suite of features.



NASA officials confirmed on September 23, 2025, that the agency's first crewed flight in its Artemis program, a mission circling the moon and returning to Earth, remains on track for April 2026, with a potential launch as early as February if conditions allow. Artemis 2 is a critical precursor to NASA's goal

of landing astronauts on the moon for the first time since 1972, testing the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion capsule with a human crew aboard.

The Artemis program represents the United States' flagship lunar initiative, a multi-billion-dollar effort to return humans to the

NASA's Artemis 2 Moon Mission Set for 2026, Could Launch Earlier

moon, coinciding with China's similar goal of a 2030 astronaut moon landing. Artemis 2 will be a 10-day mission, with four astronauts flying around the moon and back, preparing for Artemis 3, the ambitious 2027 lunar landing using a Starship moon lander.

Artemis 2 will utilize NASA's 322-foot-tall SLS rocket, developed by Boeing and Northrop Grumman, and the Orion capsule, built by Lockheed Martin. This mission marks the first

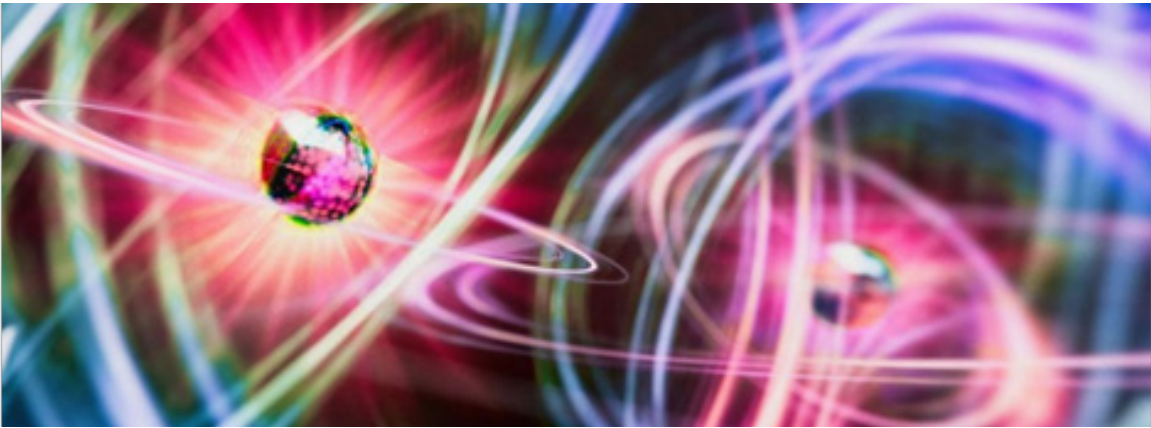
time the SLS-Orion combination will carry humans. Acting senior NASA official Lakiesha Hawkins emphasized that while the mission could potentially launch earlier, astronaut safety will guide the final schedule.

The crew includes Commander Reid Wiseman, who previously flew to the International Space Station (ISS) on a Russian Soyuz in 2014; Pilot Victor Glover, a 2020 SpaceX ISS mission veteran; Mission Specialist Christina Koch,

who flew to the ISS in 2019; and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, flying to space for the first time and becoming the first Canadian to travel near the moon.

Artemis 2 represents a major milestone in lunar exploration, testing systems, crew readiness, and deep-space operations ahead of the historic Artemis 3 landing. NASA continues to monitor spacecraft readiness, ensuring both safety and mission success as humanity prepares to return to the moon.

Quantum Entanglement Breakthrough Brings Nuclear Spin Computers Closer



Quantum entanglement — famously called "spooky action at a distance" by Albert Einstein — is the key feature that makes quantum computers powerful. It allows particles to be connected in ways that enable computations impossible for classical computers, such as simulating molecules, pharmaceuticals, or catalysts. In new research published in Science, scientists have demonstrated entanglement between two atomic nuclei separated by about 20 nanometres, a breakthrough that could accelerate the development of quantum computers using nuclear spins.

Quantum engineers face a fundamental challenge: balancing the need to shield qubits from noise while allowing them to interact for computations. Many quantum hardware platforms either excel in shielding but are hard to control, or perform fast operations but are prone to errors. The team, led by Professor Andrea Morello, works with phosphorus atoms implanted in silicon chips, using the spins of atomic nuclei to store quantum information reliably. Until now, entanglement between nuclei required them to share a single electron, limiting scalability.

The new approach uses electrons as "telephones" to enable communication between nuclei even when they are physically separated. Each electron interacts with a nucleus, and electrons interact with one another, creating entanglement between distant nuclei via a method called the "geometric gate." In the experiment, the phosphorus nuclei were 20 nanometres apart — a distance compatible with existing silicon transistor fabrication. This breakthrough integrates long-lived nuclear spin qubits into standard silicon chips, opening the path for scal-

able, reliable quantum computing. The team envisions extending entanglement over even greater distances by manipulating electron shapes and positions, allowing more complex quantum circuits. This research bridges electron-based quantum devices and nuclear spin qubits, bringing practical, high-fidelity quantum computers closer to reality. By combining precision, stability, and scalability, this work marks a significant step toward the next generation of quantum computing built on silicon, the backbone of today's electronics.

Indian Shuttlers Eye Individual Glory After Historic Team Bronze



Riding high on their historic bronze medal finish in the mixed team event, Indian shuttlers are gearing up to make their mark in the individual competitions at the BWF World Junior Championships, which commence here on Monday.

India's mixed team bronze is a significant milestone, boosting confidence and raising expectations among the young players. The achievement reflects the steady rise of Indian badminton on the global

junior stage, as the nation now aims to add to its tally of individual medals.

So far, India has won a total of 11 individual medals in the history of the World Junior Championships, including four silver medals, showcasing the country's potential to shine in singles and doubles events alike. The current crop of players is determined to build on this legacy and make a deep run in their respective categories.

Among the standout performers are Vennala

Kalagotla and Reshika Uthayasooriyan, who recently competed fiercely in the women's doubles quarterfinals against tough Korean opponents. Their spirited performance has been a source of inspiration for the entire Indian contingent.

The individual events will test the players' skills, stamina, and mental toughness as they face some of the best young talent from around the world. Coaches and officials are optimistic that the positive momentum from the

mixed team event will translate into strong individual showings.

With the tournament taking place on home soil in Guwahati, Indian shuttlers will also have the advantage of passionate local support, which could prove crucial in high-pressure moments.

As the World Junior Championships unfold, all eyes will be on India's young stars to see if they can convert team success into individual glory and continue India's ascent in international badminton.



Coco Gauff Overcomes Serve Woes to Reach Wuhan Open Final

Despite struggling with her serve and committing seven double faults, Coco Gauff secured a hard-fought 6-4, 6-3 victory over Jasmine Paolini on Saturday to reach the Wuhan Open final.

Both Gauff and Paolini, ranked third and fifth respectively, had challenges with their service games throughout the match. However, Gauff managed to edge Paolini in crucial moments, converting seven breaks of serve com-

pared to Paolini's five. The third-ranked American battled back from being down three breaks in the second set and impressively closed out the match by winning the final four games.

Gauff's serving struggles this season have been well documented. After changing her serving coach in August, she still leads the women's tour with 378 double faults, which is over 120 more than the next closest player. Despite this, her aggressive baseline

game and resilience helped her overcome Paolini's challenge.

Paolini came into the semifinal on the back of a stunning upset, having eliminated Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals, showcasing her strong form in Wuhan.

In the other semifinal held on Saturday, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka was set to face Jessica Pegula, promising another thrilling contest to determine the second finalist.

Gauff's win cements her status as one of the leading contenders for the Wuhan Open title and adds momentum to her campaign this season. The final will test her ability to maintain composure under pressure and potentially secure another prestigious tournament victory.

Fans will be eagerly watching to see if Gauff can overcome her serving inconsistency and lift the trophy in Wuhan.

Italy Defeats Estonia 3-1, Moves Closer to World Cup Play-Off Spot

Italy secured a crucial 3-1 victory over Estonia in their 2026 World Cup qualifier on Saturday, moving three points clear of Israel in second place in Group I, which offers a play-off spot for the World Cup finals in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

Goals from Moise Kean, Mateo Retegui, and Pio Esposito helped Italy maintain momentum, despite Estonia's late consolation goal from Rauno Sappinen after a rare error by Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Kean opened the scoring early in the fifth minute, marking his sixth goal in four international games this campaign. However, he left the match

shortly after due to an ankle injury, putting his availability for Tuesday's crucial clash against Israel in doubt.

Retegui doubled the lead in the 38th minute, redeeming himself after missing a penalty earlier in the half. Esposito sealed the win with his first international goal, slotting home a precise cross from Leonardo Spinazzola just before Estonia's goal.

Italy coach Gennaro Gattuso expressed satisfaction with the team's progress, praising the players' professionalism and desire. "We're progressing match after match, but often the second game of the international break is the one which causes us more difficulty," he said.

With 12 points, Italy remain six behind group leaders Norway, who have a commanding goal difference and are almost certain to qualify directly. Italy also hold a game in hand over Israel and Norway.

The upcoming fixture against Israel in Udine is expected to be overshadowed by pro-Palestinian protests amid heightened tensions following the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Only 5,000 tickets have been sold, and local authorities have voiced concerns about potential unrest.

Despite these challenges, Italy will look to secure their place in the play-offs as they continue their World Cup qualification campaign.



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

Kylian Mbappe once again proved to be France's match-winner as the reigning world champions secured a solid 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan in their FIFA World Cup Group D qualifier on Friday.

Despite missing several key players, France maintained their unbeaten streak in the qualifiers with this home win, moving to nine points from three games. The match, played at the Stade de France, saw Mbappe open the scoring just before halftime with a clinical finish, giving Les Bleus the lead going into the break.

Mbappe's influence continued after the interval as he provided a precise assist for Adrien Rabiot, who doubled the lead early in the second half. Substitute Florian Thauvin then sealed the comfortable win by netting a late third goal, ensuring France's dominance throughout the game.

Coach Didier Des-

champs will be encouraged by the team's performance, especially given the absence of several regular starters. The win puts France in a strong position to qualify for the 2026 World Cup, with a crucial away game against Iceland scheduled for Monday that could potentially seal their spot in the tournament.

However, the night was not without concern as Mbappe took a knock to his ankle late in the match and was substituted as a precaution. The French camp will be hoping the injury is minor ahead of the upcoming fixtures.

With a combination of youthful energy and experienced players, France continues to show why they remain one of the favorites for next year's World Cup. Mbappe's star power and clinical finishing remain vital to their campaign as they look to secure a place in the finals next year.

Jadeja: Need to Work Hard on Slow Turners

India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja admitted the challenges posed by the slow-turning pitch in the ongoing second Test against the West Indies but stressed the importance of adapting to the surface conditions to meet the team's goals.

On day two at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Jadeja emerged as India's most successful bowler, delivering 14 overs and claiming three crucial wickets. Despite the slow bounce and lack of significant turn, he managed to maintain pressure on the West Indies batters, who showed more resistance compared to their brief innings in the opening

Test.

"Slow turners are tough to bowl on, but that's the kind of surface we've got to work hard on. It demands patience and discipline," Jadeja said. The pitch, while offering less assistance than expected, aligns well with the team's strategy for the series, focusing on building pressure through consistent bowling rather than relying solely on sharp turn.

After bowling out the West Indies cheaply in the first Test, India holds a strong position with a 378-run lead in this match. However, the visitors showed improved resilience on day two, ending at 140 for four and

aiming to extend their innings and test India's bowling attack further.

Jadeja's effort stood out as he utilized his experience and skill to extract whatever help was available from the pitch. "It's about adapting to conditions and being patient. We are focused on staying disciplined and putting runs on the board," he added.

As the match progresses, India will look to capitalize on their dominant position, while West Indies aims to bat longer and challenge the hosts. Jadeja's role will be crucial in breaking partnerships and maintaining pressure in these tricky slow-turning conditions.



K-Ramp Trailer Promises Diwali Laugh Riot

The theatrical trailer of K-Ramp, starring Kiran Abbavaram and Yukti Thareja, was unveiled on Saturday evening and has quickly caught the attention of Telugu movie buffs. Packed with comedy, romance, and youthful energy, the trailer sets the tone for a festive release on October 18, just in time for Diwali.

Directed by debutant Jains Nani, K-Ramp appears to be a light-hearted comedy caper that thrives on quirky characterizations and humorous storytelling. The film follows the carefree life of the lead character, played by Kiran Abbavaram, who enjoys life to the fullest with his gang of friends. His world turns upside down when he meets the charming Yukti Thareja, sparking a series of romantic and comic events.

The two-minute trailer showcases plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, witty dialogues, and fun interactions between the lead pair. It's an extension of the previously released teaser—minus the edgy language—which had already built solid expectations among youth audiences.

Kiran Abbavaram once again proves his knack for comedy with his energetic screen presence and trademark dialogue delivery. His performance is being touted as the highlight of the film.

Yukti Thareja adds freshness to the romantic angle, while the supporting cast—Vennela Kishore, Sai Kumar, and Muralidhar Goud—brings solid comic support.

Backed by Hasya Movies and Rudransh Celluloid, the film boasts good production values and vibrant visuals, aligning well with the festive mood. Director Jains Nani seems to have struck a balance between romance, comedy, and light action to appeal to a broad audience.

With its fun-filled vibe and youthful appeal, K-Ramp is gearing up to deliver a full-on entertainer this Diwali season.



Andhra King Taluka Teaser Out: A Mix of Fandom and Romance

The much-anticipated teaser of Andhra King Taluka has been officially unveiled, igniting buzz among fans and film enthusiasts. Starring energetic actor Ram Pothineni and newcomer Bhagyashri Borse, the film promises a high-voltage blend of fandom, love, and drama.

Directed by Mahesh Babu P, the movie is slated for a theatrical release on November 28, 2025. The teaser gives a quick yet impactful peek into the life of a die-hard fan whose admiration for real-life star Upendra borders on obsession. It hints at how this intense fan love intertwines with his romantic life, setting the stage for an emotionally charged narrative.

Supporting roles are played by noted actors Rao Ramesh, Satya, and Murali Sharma, bringing depth and versatility to the cast. The film is being bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers, known for backing several successful Telugu films.

Adding to the entertainment quotient is the vibrant music composed by Vivek-Mervin, whose score in the teaser already seems to have struck a chord with fans.

While the teaser keeps the plot under wraps, it cleverly builds curiosity around the consequences of extreme fandom and how it impacts personal relationships. With a mix of mass appeal and emotional depth, Andhra King Taluka appears set to offer something for all sections of the audience.

The trailer is expected to drop soon, offering more insights into the storyline. Until then, the teaser has done its job—raising expectations sky high.

Santhana Prapthirasthu Hits Theatres on November 14

The much-awaited family entertainer Santhana Prapthirasthu is all set to hit theatres worldwide on November 14, 2025. With its teaser already creating waves and songs trending across platforms, the film is riding high on buzz ahead of release.

Directed by Sanjeev Reddy, known for crafting heartfelt stories with a touch of humour, the film delves into real-life challenges faced by today's young couples. Blending light-hearted comedy with emotional depth, Santhana Prapthirasthu aims to strike a chord with both youth and family audiences.

Chowdary lead the cast, bringing charm and relatability to their roles. The ever-popular Vennela Kishore adds comic brilliance, promising plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. The supporting cast, too, features several familiar faces, ensuring strong performances across the board.

Produced by Madhura Sreedhar Reddy and Nirvi Hariprasad Reddy, the film is said to be high on production values, with vibrant visuals captured by cinematographer Mahi Reddy Pandugula. The teaser already showcases a colorful palette that enhances the film's youthful vibe.

Music plays a key role in Santhana Prapthirasthu, with composer Sunil Kashyap delivering a soundtrack that has quickly gained popularity. The songs are melodious yet catchy, reflecting the film's emotional tone while staying entertaining.

Touted as a perfect festival release, the film promises a feel-good cinematic experience for audiences of all ages. With its blend of humour, heart, and relatable themes, Santhana Prapthirasthu is expected to strike gold at the box office.

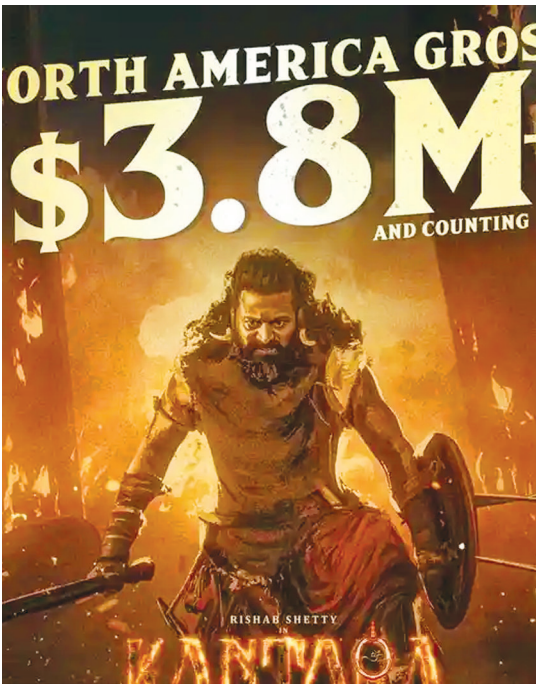
Mark your calendars—this family entertainer arrives on November 14 in cinemas near you.



Kantara Chapter 1 Nears \$4M Mark in North America

Kantara: Chapter 1, the much-awaited spiritual action drama directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, is continuing its strong box office run, particularly in overseas markets. After 10 days in theatres, the film has grossed an impressive \$3.8 million in North America, and is well on track to cross the \$4 million milestone by the end of its second Sunday.

A sequel to the 2022 pan-India hit Kantara, this chapter expands the universe with a deeper dive into folklore and divine power, with Rukmini Vasanth playing a significant role alongside Shetty. The film has struck a chord with both Indian and international audiences, thanks to its gripping narrative, rooted cultural themes, and powerful visuals.



Backed by Hombale Films, the production house behind KGF and Salaar, the film has benefited from strong word-of-mouth and solid promotional efforts in the overseas markets. Its success in North America is particularly notable, as it outpaces several recent South Indian releases in the region.

The film also features Jayaram, Gulshan Devaiah, and Pramodh Shetty in prominent roles, all of whom have been praised for their performances. The haunting and spiritual musical score by Ajaneesh Loknath has added significantly to the film's atmospheric appeal.

With strong collections continuing into its second weekend, Kantara: Chapter 1 is proving to be both a critical and commercial success. If the momentum holds, the film could emerge as one of the highest-grossing Indian films in North America this year.

All eyes are now on its long-term performance, especially with Diwali releases around the corner. For now, Kantara: Chapter 1 continues to shine at the box office with divine force.

Telusu Kada Gets U/A Certificate Ahead of Release

The much-anticipated romantic comedy Telusu Kada, starring Siddhu Jonnalagadda, has officially received a U/A certificate from the censor board, clearing its path for a grand theatrical release on October 17, 2025.

Directed by popular celebrity stylist Neeraja Kona in her debut outing as a filmmaker, Telusu Kada features Raashi Khanna and Srinidhi Shetty as the female leads. With the trailer expected to drop soon, the censor clearance has further amped up excitement among fans and movie buffs.

Though the exact runtime is yet to be revealed, the makers confirmed that the film has completed all necessary censor formalities. The certification suggests a family-friendly film with light-hearted moments and emotional depth, fitting the rom-com genre.

Known for his quirky charm and youthful screen presence, Siddhu Jonnalagadda plays the central role in this feel-good entertainer. The film is expected to showcase a modern take on love and relationships, infused with humour, emotions, and music.

The supporting cast includes Harsha



Chemudu, known for his comic timing, and Ravi Mariya, along with other familiar faces. Backed by the well-known banner People Media Factory, the film promises quality production and wide release.

Adding musical sparkle to the project is top composer Thaman, whose songs and background score are expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the film's emotional and entertainment quotient.

With its youthful cast, debutant director's fresh vision, and promising music, Telusu Kada is gearing up to be a breezy romantic ride this festive season. All eyes are now on the trailer, which is expected to offer a better glimpse into the world of Telusu Kada.