



BUZZ POINTS



TELANGANA MINISTER EXPLORES VICTORIA'S PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES

As part of his official tour to Australia, Telangana Minister for Information Technology, Industries and Legislative affairs Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Friday visited the Parliament of Victoria in Melbourne. The Minister was accorded a warm welcome by Hon. Lee Tarlamis, Government Whip in the Legislative Council, and Hon. Sheena Watt, Parliamentary Secretary for Ambulance Services.

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MINISTER RELEASES 10.72 LAKH FISH FRY IN KOTHIPALLI RESERVOIR

Telangana Minister Mr. Vakati Srihari released 10.72 lakh fish fry at Kothipalli Reservoir in Tandur constituency, benefiting around 1,000 families across 25 fisheries cooperatives. Local MLA Manohar Reddy, Fisheries Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Satge Chairman Sivasena Reddy, and Arya Vysya Corporation representative Kalva Sujata attended the program.

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“Woke Up and Couldn’t Believe the Bus Was on Fire”: Eyewitnesses Recount Horror

Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) [India], October 24 (ANI): Jayant Kushwaha, who was travelling from Hyderabad in a private bus that caught fire, on Friday narrated the horrific ordeal, saying that he remained in disbelief after witnessing fire onboard as soon as he woke up.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 24: Jayant woke up around 2:30 AM only to find himself and others trapped in a fire on board since the doors remained locked. He, along with two or three other passengers, attempted to break emergency windows to escape the bus. “Around 2:30-2:40 AM, the bus stopped, and I woke up and I saw that the bus caught fire. I couldn’t believe that it was fire. I realised moments after that it was fire. Only two three people were awake. We yelled fire and woke everybody up. The doors were locked. We couldn’t locate the driv-

ers. We broke the emergency window as the main door was locked. We jumped out of the window. Many people jumped out of the bus by breaking the windows,” Jayant told. Another eyewitness of the incident, Ashwin, said that around 20 people managed to get out of the bus as it caught fire, but others were unable to escape. Ashwin said that he was the one to alert the driver about the fire on the window side. “Last night, we boarded the bus at Kukatpally to travel to Bengaluru. I was seated behind the driver’s seat. After a long journey, between 2:30 and 3:30 AM, I noticed a fire on the window side and

immediately alerted the driver. The bus was stopped right away. Meanwhile, we tried to break the windows to escape. Around 20 people managed to get out of the bus, but the others were unable to escape,” Ashwin told ANI. A Private bus carrying 41 passengers in Andhra Pradesh’s Kurnool caught fire, killing at least 20 passengers after colliding with a bike that got stuck under the bus, officials confirmed on Friday. Kurnool District Collector (DC) A Siri said that a total of 11 bodies have been identified, while the remaining nine bodies are yet to be accounted for. She said that the incident

occurred in the early hours of Friday between 3:00 AM and 3:10 AM. “There are a total of 41 members in the bus, including two drivers. A bike got stuck under the bus. After the accident, petrol leaked from the bike and caught fire. Of the 41 members, we have traced 21 passengers; they are safe. 11 dead bodies have been removed from the bus. 21 members have minor injuries and are undergoing treatment. We have to confirm about the remaining 9 bodies,” DC Siri said. She further informed that the bus doors failed to open after the accident.

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58 Candidates in Jubilee Hills Assembly Bypoll in Telangana

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 24: As many as 58 candidates are in the fray for the November 11 bypoll to Jubilee Hills assembly constituency in Telangana after the withdrawal of nominations on Friday. While 211 candidates filed their nominations, only 81 were accepted. Of the 81, 23 withdrew their candidatures, leaving 58 in the contest, an official release said. As part of enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the byelection, cash, liquor and others worth over Rs 2.82 crore were seized. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner R V Karnan, who is the District Election Officer, said all arrangements have been completed for



the 407 polling stations under the Jubilee Hills assembly bye-election. He said several new measures introduced by the Election Commission to enhance voter convenience would be implemented during the bypoll.

He said colour photographs of candidates would be printed on ballot papers attached to the Ballot Units for easier identification. Each polling station will have a Voter Assistance Booth and a Mobile Deposit Counter for vot-

ers’ convenience. Karnan emphasised that only Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are authorised to distribute Voter Information Slips to electors. Printing of slips has been completed, and distribution will begin tomorrow. Any unauthorised distribution by others will attract strict action, he warned. The bypoll is necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath following a heart attack in June this year. The K Chandrasekhar Rao-led party nominated his widow Maganti Sunita as its candidate, while the ruling Congress named Navin Yadav as its nominee. The BJP has fielded L Deepak Reddy who unsuccessfully contested in Jubilee Hills earlier.

Telangana Announces Rs 5 Lakh Ex-Gratia for Bus Fire Victims

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 24: The Telangana government on Friday announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh to the kin of those from the state who died in a bus fire accident in Kurnool district of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

As per the directives of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, those injured in the accident would be provided with a financial assistance of Rs two lakh, state Transport Minister Ponnampallab Prabhakar said. The government would also take steps to provide advanced medi-

cal care to the injured, Prabhakar said in a post on X. The Bengaluru-bound private bus from Hyderabad caught fire in Kurnool district of Andhra on Friday after colliding with a two-wheeler, leaving 20 people dead, most of them charred beyond recognition.



Telangana HC raps Nasr School

Telangana Minister Mr. Vakati Srihari released 10.72 lakh fish fry at Kothipalli Reservoir in Tandur constituency, benefiting around 1,000 families across 25 fisheries cooperatives. Local MLA Manohar Reddy, Fisheries Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Satge Chairman Sivasena Reddy, and Arya Vysya Corporation representative Kalva Sujata attended the program.

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Sleeper Bus Fire Tragedy Raises Questions on Safety Standards

Kurnool district has been struck by a massive tragedy after a private sleeper bus caught fire in the early hours of Friday. The vehicle, traveling from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, was completely gutted, leaving horror and grief among the families of the victims. This tragedy mirrors a similar incident in Rajasthan just ten days ago that claimed over 20 lives, reigniting nationwide debates over sleeper bus safety.



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 24: Accidents involving luxury and sleeper coaches have risen over the past few years, mostly due to electrical short circuits, overheating, or human error. Experts emphasize that poor design and lax regulation exacerbate the consequences. The first two minutes after a fire or crash are critical; those who respond immediately have the highest survival chances.

Sleeper buses carry passengers who are mostly asleep, reducing their ability to react quickly. Passengers on lower berths have slightly higher chances of escape, while those on upper berths face severe difficulties. Narrow corridors between berths further impede evacuation, turning every second into a matter of life and death. Multi-axle sleeper buses, typically carrying 36-40 passengers, often have flammable interiors, inadequate

emergency exits, and limited space for movement. Fire suppression measures are insufficient, and evacuation drills are either absent or poorly communicated. Safety activists, engineers, and passengers urge authorities to mandate fire-resistant materials, enforce design standards, and ensure emergency exits are functional. Unless these issues are addressed, such preventable tragedies will continue on India’s highways.

20 Killed as Hyderabad-Bengaluru Bus Catches Fire in Kurnool

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completely gutted within minutes. Most survivors were aged between 25 and 35 years, police added. According to officials, some of the materials used for making beds and curtains were flammable, which might have intensified the fire, causing it to spread quickly.

The vehicle possessed an All India permit and a valid fitness certificate, and investigators are examining how the accident occurred. Many passengers could not escape the tragedy as it occurred during the night when they were asleep, she said, adding that the bus door did not open immediately as some wires got snapped, which worsened the severity of the incident.



Mega Job Mela Extended as 30,000 Youth Register

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 24: Given the overwhelming response from job seekers, Telangana Minister for Irrigation and IT Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday announced the continuation of the Mega Job Mela for a second day. The decision came after over 30,000 unemployed youth registered for the employment drive on its opening day. The minister, who reviewed the situation via a video conference with district officials from Suryapet, Kodad, and Huzurnagar constituencies, said the unprecedented turnout reflected the growing faith in the state government's efforts to provide employment opportunities. "We have decided to extend the Mega Job Mela to ensure that every deserving candidate gets a chance to participate. No one should return disappointed," he said. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to strengthen arrangements to handle the surge in attendance. The local administration was asked to maintain crowd discipline and ensure all job seekers could access interview counters smoothly. "The goal is not just numbers but meaningful employment. Every youth should have a fair opportunity," he said. The minister instructed the RTC authorities to route buses closer to the Job Mela venue in Huzurnagar to facilitate easy transportation. The district police have also been tasked with managing traffic and crowd control effectively. Volunteers have been deployed across the venue to assist candidates and prevent congestion. Officials confirmed that 255 companies from various industrial categories are participating in the recruitment drive. Detailed lists of participating firms and available job categories have been displayed prominently at the venue for public reference. Additionally, arrangements for free breakfast and lunch have been made for attendees, ensuring no one faces inconvenience during the day-long process. The administration is also coordinating with collectors and SPs of Nalgonda, Yadadri-Bhongir, and Suryapet districts to disseminate information about the extended schedule through village secretaries and local police. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy lauded the efforts of the district machinery for managing the large-scale event smoothly and urged youth to utilise the opportunity fully. "This job mela reflects the Congress government's commitment to empowering Telangana's youth with real employment prospects," he said. The second day of the Mega Job Mela is expected to witness even larger participation, making it one of the most successful employment drives in recent years.



Telangana Minister Explores Victoria's Parliamentary Practices

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 24: As part of his official tour to Australia, Telangana Minister for Information Technology, Industries and Legislative affairs Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Friday visited the Parliament of Victoria in Melbourne. The Minister was accorded a warm welcome by Hon. Lee Tarlamis, Government Whip in the Legislative Council, and Hon. Sheena Watt, Parliamentary Secretary for Ambulance Services. During the meeting, Mr. Sridhar Babu held extensive discussions with the Australian legislators on legislative procedures, parliamentary governance, and public accountability frameworks. The deliberations focused on the importance of citizen participation in law-making, which the Minister noted as vital for strengthening transparency and accountability in governance. Mr. Sridhar Babu explained to the Victorian leaders the progressive legislative practices, governance reforms, and digital initiatives being undertaken by the Telangana Government. He said the State is committed to developing transparent, technology-driven, and citizen-centric governance models, aligning innovation with inclusivity. The Minister also proposed enhancing institutional collaboration between Telangana and Victoria, particularly in areas related to governance innovation, public policy research, and digital transformation. Expressing appreciation for Telangana's reform-driven governance, Mr. Tarlamis and Ms. Watt said they were eager to collaborate with progressive states like Telangana, which have become models for reform and citizen-focused administration. They assured their support in promoting bilateral co-operation and knowledge exchange between the two regions. "The loss of lives in a tragic bus fire accident in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, is deeply unfortunate. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," President Murmu posted on X. Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said he was deeply pained by the unfortunate bus fire. "Deeply pained by the horrific bus fire on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru route near Kurnool. The thought of over 20 innocent passengers losing their lives in such a horrific way is heartbreaking. My prayers are with the victims' families and those battling injuries. No words can ease their pain, but every possible support must reach them without delay," Kumar posted on X. The Volvo bus of a private travel company, carrying 41 people, was on its way from Hyderabad to Bengaluru when it was completely gutted near Chinnatekur in Kallur mandal, Kurnool. The injured have been shifted to Kurnool Government Hospital for treatment. Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said his government will extend all possible support to the injured and affected families. "I am shocked to learn about the devastating bus fire accident near Chinna Tekur village in Kurnool district. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of those who have lost their loved ones," he posted on X.



Minister Releases 10.72 Lakh Fish Fry in Kothipalli Reservoir

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 24: Telangana Minister Mr. Vakati Srihari released 10.72 lakh fish fry at Kothipalli Reservoir in Tandur constituency, benefiting around 1,000 families across 25 fisheries cooperatives. Local MLA Manohar Reddy, Fisheries Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Satge Chairman Sivasena Reddy, and Arya Vysya Corporation representative Kalva Sujata attended the program. Of the total fry, 4.18 lakh were Catla, 5.49 lakh Rohu, and 1.05 lakh Mosu varieties. The first batch of 3 lakh fry was released today, with the remaining 7.72 lakh scheduled over the next week. Overall, 44.22 lakh fry will be distributed across 277 water bodies in the constituency. Telangana's government is offering 100% subsidized fish fry, allocating ₹122.22 crore in the Fisheries Department budget—an unprecedented initiative. About 26,000 water bodies across the state will receive 84 crore fish fry worth ₹93 crore and 10 crore prawn fry valued at ₹29 crore. The program is expected to directly benefit 5 lakh families through employment and economic support.

Telangana HC raps Nasr School

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 24: Justice Surepalli Nanda of the Telangana High Court on Friday came down heavily on the management of Nasr School, Khairatabad, and directed it to immediately reinstate a Class VIII girl student who had been expelled after a ceiling fan fell on her in the classroom, causing serious injury and partial loss of eyesight. The court was hearing a writ petition filed by the student challenging the school's action in removing her through a letter dated August 25, 2025, without giving her any opportunity of hearing or representation. Petitioner's counsel Asad Hussain contended that the school management acted in complete disregard of ongoing proceedings before the State Commission and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, both of which had taken cognizance of the incident. He pointed out that an FIR was registered against the school management at Khairatabad Police Station for negligence in maintaining classroom safety, which led to the incident on June 30, 2025. He further submitted that ironically, instead of providing support to the injured student, the school expelled her mid-academic year, causing severe emotional and academic hardship. Taking note of these circumstances, Justice Nanda observed that the school's action was unjustified and contrary to law. The court directed the management to allow the girl to resume her regular classes as a bona fide student and instructed that she must not face any form of discrimination. The school management has been directed to file its counter by November 7, 2025.



Punjab Invites Telangana CM for Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th Martyrdom Anniversary

TPN Bureau,
Hyderabad, Oct 24: Punjab Cabinet Ministers Sanjeev Arora and Gurmeet Singh Khudian visited Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday, extending a formal invitation for the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur at Anandpur Sahib, beginning November 20. The ministers emphasized the event's significance in promoting sacrifice, spiritual strength, and communal harmony. CM Reddy expressed his appreciation and confirmed his intent to participate. The meeting also involved discussions on health and education systems, exchanging best practices to improve public welfare in both states. Officials underlined the importance of cultural and social ties, highlighting shared values of service, sacrifice, and progress. The Punjab government has tasked its ministers with personally inviting Chief Ministers across India, with several invitations already delivered and others scheduled over the coming days.

Unfit buses will be seized, no playing with civilian lives: Ponnam on Kurnool tragedy

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad | October 24

After at least 20 people lost their lives in the Kurnool bus fire accident, Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud on Friday issued a stern warning that “unfit buses” which flout the rules set by the government would be seized, and added that there was no playing with the life of the citizens.

“We have directed the transport authorities to seize any unfit buses to eliminate potential threats to life. We direct the transport people that buses will be seized if they don’t comply with the rules. There is no playing with the lives of citizens,” Telangana Transport Minister Goud said.

Offering condolences over the lost lives, Goud informed that all concerned government officials were at the scene of the accident.

“It is a very unfortunate

incident. The Telangana government offered condolences on the incident. The government has also directed a probe into the same. All the concerned officials from the transport department, along with the district collector, are at the spot. The transport departments of Andhra, Telangana and Karnataka will form legislation to deter such incidents from happening in the future,” the minister said.

“The tragic incident has resulted in 20 deaths and injuries to many. The Telangana government is providing minute-by-minute updates on medical treatment. The Andhra Pradesh Minister and local officials are in contact and ensuring strict measures,” he added.

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer on Friday expressed deep anguish over the death of at least 20 people in the Kurnool bus fire



accident.

The Bengaluru-bound bus from Hyderabad caught fire in Chin-natekur near Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on National Highway (NH) 44 in the early hours of Friday.

According to a statement issued by the Andhra Pradesh Raj Bhavan, Governor Na-

zeer has directed the district authorities to provide necessary medical care to the injured passengers. The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members.

Jayant Kushwaha, who was travelling from Hyderabad in a private bus that caught fire, on Friday, narrated the hor-

rific ordeal, saying that he remained in disbelief after witnessing fire on-board as soon as he woke up.

Jayant woke up around 2:30 AM only to find himself and others trapped in a fire on board since the doors remained locked. He, along with two or three other passengers, attempted to

break emergency windows to escape the bus.

“Around 2:30-2:40 AM, the bus stopped, and I woke up and I saw that the bus caught fire. I couldn’t believe that it was fire. I realised moments after that it was fire. Only two-three people were awake. We yelled fire and woke everybody up. The doors were locked. We couldn’t locate the drivers. We broke the emergency window as the main door was locked. We jumped out of the window. Many people jumped out of the bus by breaking the windows,” Jayant said.

A private bus carrying 41 passengers in Andhra Pradesh’s Kurnool caught fire, killing at least 20 passengers after colliding with a bike that got stuck under the bus, officials confirmed on Friday.

Kurnool District Collector (DC) A Siri said that a total of 11 bodies have been identified, while the remaining

nine bodies are yet to be accounted for. She said that the incident occurred in the early hours of Friday between 3:00 AM and 3:10 AM.

“There are a total of 41 members in the bus, including two drivers. A bike got stuck under the bus. After the accident, petrol leaked from the bike and caught fire. Of the 41 members, we have traced 21 passengers; they are safe. 11 dead bodies have been removed from the bus. 21 members have minor injuries and are undergoing treatment. We have to confirm about the remaining 9 bodies,” DC Siri said.

She further informed that the bus doors failed to open after the accident. However, the DC said, two drivers managed to escape from the fire.

“This incident happened late at night, and the passengers were sleeping. The bus wires were cut after the acci-

dent, and the bus doors didn’t open after the accident. We’re investigating the matter. The two drivers escaped from the fire. The passengers were coming from Hyderabad, and we’re tracing the deceased family members. We’ve set up a control room for help,” DC Siri said.

A fire official pointed out that there were no safety hammers to break the glass after the accident.

“The bus collided with a bike, dragged it and caused the bike’s petrol to leak, which led to a fire. There were no safety hammers to break glass after the fire accident. The bus driver didn’t stop after the collision with the bike. The bus’ diesel tank didn’t catch fire, but the bus was totally damaged. We’re investigating the matter,” the official said.

The injured have been shifted to Kurnool Government Hospital for treatment.

Minister Leads Door-to-Door Campaign for Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills



TPN Bureau | Hyderabad | October 24

Intensifying the Congress campaign in Jubilee Hills, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar led a spirited door-to-door drive in Yousufguda division’s Vengalrao Nagar and ICRISAT Colony on Thursday, appealing to residents to vote for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav.

The minister was joined by ST Corporation chairman Bellayya Naik, senior leader Sanjay Goud, and other key Congress functionaries. Women and local party workers turned the campaign into a festive procession, with slogans and songs echoing through the lanes.

Speaking during the campaign, Ponnam Prabhakar said the Congress government had already begun fulfilling its promises under the “Praja Palana” administration. “Our

government believes in visible governance. Every family is now benefitting from our welfare schemes — 200 units of free electricity, free bus travel for women, subsidised fine rice through ration shops, new ration cards, and zero-interest loans for self-help groups,” he explained, distributing pamphlets outlining the schemes.

The minister urged residents to elect Naveen Yadav for faster development of Jubilee Hills. “Naveen Yadav represents a new generation of leadership — someone born and raised here, who knows the struggles of these localities. With his victory, we can ensure that all civic issues are resolved at the earliest,” he said.

Ponnam stressed that the Congress government was committed to inclusive development and transp

agency. “Every rupee spent will be visible to the public. The era of neglect and corruption is over. Under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s leadership, we will make Jubilee Hills a model constituency,” he said.

He also expressed gratitude to the women’s groups and youth volunteers who participated enthusiastically in the campaign, saying their involvement reflected the public’s growing confidence in Congress governance. “People have seen what ten years of BRS rule brought — and now they are ready for real change,” he remarked.

As the campaign moved through narrow streets, residents came out to greet the minister with garlands and shower petals. The event concluded with a pledge to secure a record majority for Naveen Yadav in the upcoming by-election.

Minister Vakati Srihari Unveils Telangana India International 2025 Tournament Poster

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad | October 24

Telangana Education Minister Vakati Srihari on Thursday unveiled the official poster of the upcoming Telangana India International 2025 Tournament, to be held from November 4 to 9 at the GMC Balayogi Stadium, Gachibowli.

The minister said the international sporting event would serve as a proud moment for Telangana, reflecting the state’s growing reputation as a destination for global sports and youth talent. “Hyderabad has successfully hosted major national and international tournaments in recent years. The Telangana India International 2025 will further strengthen our sports ecosystem and showcase the potential of our athletes,” he said.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy, SATC chairman Shiva Sena Reddy, Fisheries Corporation chairman Mettu Saikumar, and VST managing director Soni Baladevi



(IFS), among others.

Speaking at the event, Minister Srihari said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s government is committed to creating world-class sports infrastructure and providing opportunities for Telangana’s youth to shine on international platforms. “From grassroots training to professional coaching, we are building a strong sports pipeline that will produce champions,” he stated.

He added that the government’s focus was not just on cricket or mainstream sports but also on promoting lesser-known disciplines and ensuring equal opportunities for athletes from all regions. “This tournament will be a platform for players from India and abroad to compete, learn, and exchange experiences,” he said.

Organisers said the

six-day tournament will feature athletes from multiple countries and include diverse sporting categories. Special arrangements are being made at GMC Balayogi Stadium to accommodate large spectator crowds, with emphasis on safety and smooth management.

Minister Srihari also highlighted the economic and tourism boost such events bring to Telangana. “Sports are not only about medals; they drive employment, local business, and tourism. This tournament will put Telangana once again on the international sports map,” he said.

The event concluded with the minister unveiling the official logo and urging citizens, students, and sports enthusiasts to attend and cheer for the participants, making the tournament a grand success.

Seethakka Urges Voters to Back Naveen Yadav for Jubilee Hills Revival

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad | October 24

Minister Seethakka intensified Congress’s door-to-door campaign in Borabanda’s Vikar section on Thursday, urging voters to give Congress candidate Naveen Yadav “one chance” to transform Jubilee Hills and bring long-overdue development to the constituency.

Accompanied by GHMC Corporation chairpersons Muvva Vijay Kumar and Bandru Shobharani, Seethakka interacted warmly with residents, explaining that the Congress government under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was committed to delivering welfare to every household. “If you vote for the hand symbol, development and welfare will reach your doorstep,” she told the crowd, as women and youth turned out in large numbers.

Drawing sharp contrasts with the BRS regime, Seethakka criticised K Chandrasekhar Rao and K T Rama Rao for neglecting basic civic needs. “People supported BRS three times, but even today Jubilee Hills faces water scarcity and poor drainage. Under the Congress government, these problems will be resolved once Naveen Yadav wins,” she declared at a street-corner meeting in Site-3, Borabanda.

Recounting Congress’s welfare achievements, she said, “We have sanctioned Indiramma houses for over 4.5 lakh poor families and are now extending the scheme to urban areas. Each family consuming up to 200 units gets free power, and LPG cylinders are available at just 500.”

She added that under Revanth Reddy’s leadership, the government was implementing numerous people-centric

programmes and carrying out 150 crore worth of development works in Jubilee Hills alone. “If you want progress, vote for Congress. If you want tears, vote for BRS,” she quipped, drawing applause.

In a sharp attack on the BRS leadership, Seethakka accused the party of betraying families who once supported it. “The TRS grew using the resources of Naveen Yadav’s father, Chinna Srisaillam Yadav. Today, the same family is being maligned. This shows KCR’s ungratefulness,” she alleged. Urging voters to reject BRS’s “false propaganda,” Seethakka said, “This election is not about sentiment—it’s about development. Naveen Yadav was born and raised here; he understands your issues. Elect him and you’ll see real change in your gullies and bastis.”

Ponguleti Campaigns in Bihar, Urges Support for Mahagathbandhan



TPN Bureau | Hyderabad | October 24

Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy highlighted the growing demand for change among the people of Bihar while campaigning for the Mahagathbandhan alliance ahead of the state assembly elections. Addressing key party workers in West Champaran district’s Chanupatia constituency on Friday, he urged coordinated efforts with RJD and left parties to ensure a historic victory for the alliance.

The minister, who is overseeing the Congress campaign in Bihar, emphasised the need to raise public awareness about the failures of the NDA government under Nitish Kumar over the past two decades. “For 20 years, Bihar has witnessed stalled development, inadequate infrastructure, unemployment, and hardships for farmers and workers. It is time for a new governance model that prioritises the welfare of citizens,” he said.

Srinivas Reddy outlined the Mahagathbandhan’s vision for Bihar, stressing sustainable solutions for long-standing problems such as unemployment, farmers’ distress, women’s safety, and basic amenities. He noted that the alliance had carefully prepared clear strategies to address these challenges and deliver tangible results.

Highlighting the candidates’ strengths, the minister mentioned that Tejashwi Yadav has been fielded as the Chief Ministerial candidate by the Mahagathbandhan, with Suhani nominated as the Deputy CM candidate. He said the alliance’s campaign demonstrated strong public support, signalling voters’ desire for a fresh leadership alternative.

“We must take the message of the NDA’s misgovernance directly to every household. Voters should know the difference between empty promises and genuine welfare schemes that the Mahagathbandhan will implement,” he added.

Srinivas Reddy called upon youth, women, and farmers to actively participate in the campaign, reinforcing that the upcoming polls were crucial for Bihar’s development. “The people of Bihar are ready for change. With strong candidates and a clear roadmap, victory is achievable,” he said.

The minister concluded by urging party workers to work collectively across constituencies, ensuring that the Mahagathbandhan’s policies and promises reach every voter. “This election is a turning point for Bihar. Let us unite to secure a historic mandate for development, welfare, and better governance,” he said.

Woman Found Dead in Begumpet

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, October 24, 2025

A woman in her early thirties, identified as Lisa, was found dead with injuries outside Sri Sathya Tiffin and Meals Centre, opposite Imperial House Apartments, Begumpet. A quarter liquor bottle and some food items were found beside her.

Police have registered a murder case under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The Panjagutta Inspector, M. Ramakrishna, is investigating. Foul play is suspected, with police examining the scene and following leads.

A similar incident occurred in September when 35-year-old Boda Swaroopa was found dead at her boyfriend's residence in Nagole.

VVSB NSS Camp Concludes Successfully

TPN Bureau | Medchal, October 24, 2025

The seven-day special NSS camp at Vishweshwani School of Business concluded with a grand celebration. Principal M. Madan Mohan lauded the volunteers' dedication and hard work, while Vice-Principal Dr. D. Raghav, HOD Prof. A.P. Gayatri, and Program Officer Dr. Y. Shiva Reddy, along with coordinators, appreciated students' selfless participation.

Camp activities emphasized teamwork, social service, and skill-building. Students shared their memorable experiences, highlighting the camp's impact on personal growth and community engagement.

Cyberabad Police Hosts Student Open House

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, October 24, 2025

As part of Police Commemoration Week, an Open House program was held today (24.10.2025) at the Cyberabad Parade Grounds to educate students about policing and public safety.

The event was inaugurated by DCP Srujana Karnam of the Women & Child Safety Wing (W&CSW), Cyberabad.

Addressing the students, DCP Srujana Karnam urged them to focus not only on academics but also on understanding social issues and the role of police in maintaining law and order. DCP said every student should know how a police station functions and how the police work to ensure public safety.

Around 550 students from Sunshine Global School, Indian People School, Sri Goutham High School, and other schools from five zones within Cyberabad limits participated in the event.

The Bomb Disposal Team demonstrated bomb detection and disposal equipment, including the bomb suit, bomb blanket, vehicle search mirror, and various metal detectors. Sniffer dogs showcased their explosive detection skills, while teams explained the use of advanced tools like NLJD and FOSS.

The event also featured a band drill, horse-riding display by the Mounted Police, and a Silent Drill by the Special Party, offering students a unique glimpse into police life.

The event saw the active participation of CA R Headquarters ADCP Shameer, CAR Hqtrs ACP Arun Kumar, W&CSW Inspector Yadaiah, AHTU Inspector James Babu, MTO IRI Prasanth Babu, MTO II RI Veeralingam, Stores RI Nagaraju Reddy, Estate Office RI Himakar, BD Team RI Nagaraju, Special Party & Admin RI Jangaiah, and other officers.



Medchal Police Seize 580g Cannabis

TPN Bureau | Medchal, October 24, 2025

Medchal-Malkajgiri police, led by CInagaraju of the STF DT team, apprehended a man selling cannabis near Balanagar's Champion Manufacturing Company.

The suspect, Mohammad Hakim (24), was caught with 580 grams of cannabis and handed over to Balanagar Excise Station authorities for further legal action.



Municipal Authorities Seal School, Parents Outraged



TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, October 24, 2025

Pet Basheerabad PS officials sealed Sri Chaitanya Techno School in Qutubullapur, sparking distress among parents. Two years after oversight, municipal authorities took action mid-academic year, leaving students and parents worried about the future.

Parents expressed anguish over authorities "playing with children's futures" and criticized the lack of prior notice or clarity from the school management regarding permissions.

CM Inspects Jubilee Hills Park Construction



TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, October 24, 2025

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted an impromptu inspection of the ongoing GHMC park construction on Jubilee Hills Road No. 45. Returning from attending multiple weddings, the CM halted at the park to ensure the government land, previously filled with debris, was being transformed as directed.

With construction nearing completion, the CM personally interacted with laborers, inquiring about their work and any issues they faced, reaffirming his commitment to completing the park project efficiently.



MP Vaddiraju Meets Krishna Nagar Minorities

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, October 24, 2025

BRS Rajya Sabha MP and Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader Vaddiraju Ravichandra met with minority leaders in Krishna Nagar, highlighting injustices faced by minorities under Congress rule and their exclusion from ministerial positions.

Ravichandra cited the first Telangana CM, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, for empowering Mahmud Ali with a key Home Ministry role. He detailed welfare initiatives, including over 250 special gurukuls, quality English-medium education, the Shadi Mubarak scheme providing free financial aid to prevent child marriages, and support for higher education abroad.

MP Ravichandra distributed Urdu and English pamphlets highlighting KCR's governance and BRS achievements while encouraging minorities to support BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election. Senior party leaders joined the meeting.



Telangana, AP Push India's oil palm area to 52,113 ha

TPN Bureau | New Delhi, Oct 24, 2025 India has brought 52,113 hectares under oil palm cultivation so far this financial year, with most expansion in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, a senior government official said on Friday.

The addition brings the total oil palm area under the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) scheme to 2,41,000 hectares since its launch in August 2021, with nationwide coverage now at 6,00,000 hectares.

"Oil palm cultivation is picking up. The acreage has reached 52,113 hectares till October 22 of the 2025-26 fiscal," the Agriculture Ministry official told PTL.

Andhra Pradesh accounted for 13,286 hectares of the new area, followed by Telangana with 12,005 hectares, with the remainder from states including Chhattisgarh, Goa and Gujarat.

Farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have embraced oil palm cultivation for its high returns, often intercropping it with cocoa and other crops, the official said. India currently imports germinated oil palm seeds and grows them in nurseries for 18 months before transplanting to fields. The government has sanctioned seed gardens this year to accelerate the process, the official added. Under NMEO-OP, 24 mills with a capacity of 638.5 tonnes per hour have been approved.

The ministry has set an ambitious target to cover 2,00,000 hectares with oil palm in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Mizoram are leading states in cultivation.

India has identified 2.8 million hectares of suitable land for oil palm, which yields 10 times more oil per hectare than oilseed such as soybean, sunflower, rapeseed-mustard, and groundnut.

India imports 57 per cent of its edible oil requirements, with palm oil accounting for the largest share.

Seethakka Reviews Anganwadi Supplies, Issues Strict Orders

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 Minister Sitaakka held a video conference with district Women and Child Welfare officers at the Secretariat to review scheme implementation across the Women & Child Welfare department. She instructed officials to ensure seamless supply management to Anganwadi centres, leaving no room for lapses. The review covered distribution of milk, eggs,

pulses, quality edible oil, Balamrutham, murrulu, and rice on a districtwise basis.

Sitaakka expressed anger at contractors' failure to meet expected supply standards in several districts and warned that suppliers operating as they did under the previous government would not be tolerated. She directed that contractors who are negligent be issued notices and blacklisted.

The minister emphasised that there will be no compromise in providing nutrition to children, pregnant women and adolescent girls, and warned of strict action if beneficiaries are inconvenienced. She urged Anganwadi centres to take all precautions for child safety and reminded staff of their responsibility from the moment a child arrives until the child leaves the centre. Work to provide electricity, drinking water and toilet facilities at Anganwadi centres must be completed by December, she ordered.

Sitaakka asked district officials to increase attendance and child numbers at centres and instructed that every Anganwadi should aim to register at least one new child each month. Parents must be reassured that Anganwadis also serve as effective play

schools. Monthly progress reports should be submitted by district authorities. The minister said honoraria promised to Anganwadi workers are being implemented. Telangana must remain a state free of child marriage; special drives will ensure no child wedding takes place. Present at the review were department secretary Anita Ramachandran and director Shruti Oza.

Goud, lodged a complaint at Jubilee Hills police station seeking a criminal case against Congress leader Rohin Reddy and former OSD Sumanth. The complaint alleges Rohin

Reddy threatened Deccan Cements management based on accusations made by Minister Konda Surekha's daughter. The BRS leaders demanded prompt legal action.

BRS, A Party Of Rustlers: MLA

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 BRS leaders, including MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, former MLA Jaipal Yadav and former BC Commission member K. Kishore

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BRS Files Complaint Over Alleged Threats To Deccan Cements

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Reddy threatened Deccan Cements management based on accusations made by Minister Konda Surekha's daughter. The BRS leaders demanded prompt legal action.

Recall sleeper coach buses": Kavitha urges Centre

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 Following the Friday morning incident in which at least 20 people were killed after a Bengaluru-bound bus was gutted on the National Highway 44 in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana Jagruthi founder K Kavitha urged the central government to review its transport policy, requesting the recall of "sleeper coach buses"

incident. "Unfortunately, there has been an accident reported in Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, where 21 dead bodies have been recovered so far. This accident involves a sleeper coach bus. It's a private transport bus travelling from Hyderabad to Bangalore. Unfortunately, we've seen a surge in these accidents. One was in Delhi, another in Bengaluru. Now it has happened in Kurnool," the Telangana Jagruthi founder said.

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar Goud, today issued a stern warning that "unfit buses" which flout the rules set by the government would be seized, and added that there was no playing with the lives of citizens," Telangana Transport Minister Goud told.

Offering condolences over the lost lives, Goud informed that all concerned government officials were at the scene of the accident. The Bangalore-bound bus carrying 41 passengers caught fire after the motorcycle got stuck under the bus and was engulfed in flames after petrol leaked from its ruptured fuel tank. The accident occurred in Chinnaatekur, near Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, on National Highway

(NH) 44 in the early hours of Friday. Jayant Kushwaha, who was travelling from Hyderabad in a private bus that caught fire on Friday, narrated the horrific ordeal, saying that he remained in disbelief after witnessing fire on board as soon as he woke up.

Jayant woke up around 2:30 AM only to find himself and others trapped in a fire on board since the doors remained locked. He, along with two or three other passengers, attempted to break emergency windows to escape the bus.

The bus caught fire, killing at least 20 passengers after colliding with a bike that got stuck under the bus, officials confirmed on Friday. Kurnool District Collector (DC) A Siri said that a total of 11 bodies have been identified, while the remaining nine bodies are yet to be accounted for. She said that the incident occurred in the early hours of Friday between 3:00 AM and 3:10 AM.

"There are a total of 41 members in the bus, including two drivers. A bike got stuck under the bus. After the accident, petrol leaked from the bike and caught fire. Of the 41 members, we have traced 21 passengers; they are safe. 11 dead bodies have been removed from the bus. 21 members have minor injuries and are undergoing treatment. We have to confirm about the remaining 9 bodies," DC Siri said.



CM Attends Multiple Weddings

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended and blessed several wedding ceremonies in Hyderabad on Friday. He was present at the wedding of Varaprasad Reddy's granddaughter Shruti in Rajendranagar, and he attended the marriage of Vipul Reddy, son of senior Congress leader K. K. Mahender Reddy, at Himayat Sagar. The CM also blessed bride and groom at the wedding of Anish Reddy, son of MLC C.H. Anjireddy, held at the HITEX convention centre.

Broken Promises: Harish Hits Out At Cong Job Claims

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 Former minister Harish Rao launched a blistering attack on the government at the unveiling of the unemployment "backlog" card, accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of breaking promises. Harish Rao said the government spoke of jobs and unemployment allowances before elections but failed to deliver, and alleged deceit. He recalled meetings with Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi in Ashok Nagar and Saroor Nagar stadiums and accused the administration of offering pretence, not substance.

Harish Rao accused Revanth Reddy of renegeing on pledges: no job notifications have been issued despite prior assurances, while liquor licenses were distributed months earlier. He taunted the "job calendar" as a jobless calendar and dismissed claims such as two lakh jobs and mega DSC recruitment as bogus. He urged public pressure to force the government to issue 2 lakh notifications immediately and promised the BRS would fight for notifications for Group1, Group2, police and other posts. He said the earlier BRS government had delivered 64,000 govern-

ment jobs and issued major notifications — drawing a contrast with the present administration. Harish Rao accused ministers of failing in portfolios such as education, municipal affairs and home, yet scoring in revenue collection. He charged that key appointments and processes were delayed and pledged direct action: BRS will distribute the backlog cards across district centres and mobilise youth to defeat Congress in Jubilee Hills and beyond. Harish Rao demanded that Revanth Reddy show courage and face people directly rather than avoid assembly debates.

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Reddy threatened Deccan Cements management based on accusations made by Minister Konda Surekha's daughter. The BRS leaders demanded prompt legal action.

BRS, A Party Of Rustlers: MLA

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Oct 24, 2025 Tungaturti MLA Mandula Samuel launched a fierce attack on BRS leader K. T. Rama Rao, accusing the BRS of being a "gangster" party and questioning KTR's relevance to Telangana's movement. Samuel alleged KTR's family is involved in liquor and land mafias and dema

anded explanations about an alleged 8lakhcrore loan link and why KTR's sister was sent abroad. He accused KTR of sacrificing family for politics and said the party's internal deals are now exposed.

He challenged KTR to account for sand dealings in Tungaturti and demanded reasons for removing Deputy CM Rajayya. Samuel warned that BRS will not survive in the long run and called his opponents a "bubble party." He also suggested unemployed youth who stood for nominations helped defeat Congress in Jubilee Hills and urged people to recognise the reality of political promises.

OpenAI’s ChatGPT to Offer Erotica for Verified Adults

OpenAI has announced a major update to its ChatGPT platform that has sparked widespread debate and public outrage. The upcoming version of ChatGPT, set to roll out from December, will allow verified adult users to request the generation of erotica, according to a post by CEO Sam Altman on social media platform X on October 14, 2025.

Altman explained that this decision is part of OpenAI’s principle to “treat adult users like adults.” He argued that past restrictions, implemented to prevent mental health issues and protect children, made the chatbot experience less enjoyable for adult users without mental health concerns. “Now that we have tools to mitigate serious mental health risks, many of the restrictions can be relaxed,” Altman wrote.

The announcement drew over 15 million views within days and ignited a firestorm of reactions online. While some users expressed curiosity and enthusiasm about the added flexibility, critics raised ethical and legal concerns. Many worried about child safety, potential misuse, and the broader societal implications of AI-generated erotica.

In response to mounting backlash, Altman issued a clarification on October 16, emphasizing that safeguards will be in place to prevent underage access and that the feature would only be available to verified adults. He reassured the public that the company is committed to addressing mental health concerns and minimizing potential harms, although these claims have yet to be independently validated by regulators.

OpenAI’s move has reignited debates about AI ethics, content moderation, and the balance between innovation and social responsibility. Analysts point out that the decision could position ChatGPT as the first mainstream AI chatbot offering explicit adult content, a development that raises questions about age verification, user consent, and regulatory oversight.

Despite controversy, Altman has defended the update as a necessary step to improve user experience and agency. “Our goal is to create a platform that is both safe and enjoyable for all users,” he said. Industry observers note that while OpenAI continues to prioritize safety, the introduction of erotica may attract further scrutiny from lawmakers, consumer groups, and international regulators.

The new feature is expected to be implemented in the upcoming ChatGPT release in December, and the company has indicated that additional controls and moderation tools will accompany the update to ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.



Is Modi bypassing the 8th Central Pay Commission

The much-anticipated Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC), whose recommendations are scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2026, has yet to be formally constituted by the government, raising questions about the Modi administration’s approach to public sector pay revisions.

The Central Pay Commission is a technocratic body tasked with reviewing and recommending salary structures, allowances, and benefits for government employees, including civilian staff, armed forces personnel, and pensioners. Its recommendations have historically had a direct impact on millions of employees and indirectly influence the broader economy through government expenditure.

Experts note that, unlike previous regimes, the Modi government appears to be bypassing the traditional timeline of the pay panel. “Never has such a cavalier approach been adopted in setting up a pay commission,” said Sandeep Joshi, a policy analyst. Sources within the bureaucracy suggest that political considerations and perception management might be taking precedence over routine administrative timelines, especially with general elections approaching.

Observers argue that in the Modi era, even a technocratic exercise like the Central Pay Commission can be easily delayed or sidelined in the battle for perception and votes. With the previous, Seventh CPC having been implemented fully only in 2020, government employees were expecting timely initiation of the next panel to avoid pay stagnation and inflationary losses.

Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, say that consultations are ongoing, and key parameters—such as fiscal space, inflation projections, and government revenue—are being carefully assessed before constituting the commission. However, no formal notification has been issued, fueling speculation among employees and pensioners.

The delay has also stirred debate about the government’s commitment to institutional processes. Analysts warn that prolonged indecision may lead to discontent among public servants and could have repercussions in sensitive sectors such as defense, railways, and administrative services.

As January 1, 2026, approaches, stakeholders are urging the government to act swiftly and announce the 8th CPC to ensure continuity in pay revisions. The panel’s recommendations are crucial not only for employee welfare but also for maintaining morale and operational efficiency across central government departments.



US H-1B Fee Sparks Brain Drain Debate in India

New Delhi/Washington: Washington’s recent announcement of a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions has reignited India’s decades-old debate over brain drain and raised questions about whether the country can retain its skilled workforce. The fee, announced on September 19 by former US President Donald Trump, applies only to new applications and does not affect currently valid visas or petitions filed before September 21, 2025, according to guidelines from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The fee is officially described as a cost-sharing mechanism to reduce American dependence on foreign talent. However, experts warn it could significantly impact skilled Indian professionals, who constitute a large portion of H-1B visa recipients. Companies facing higher hiring costs may curb recruitment, freeze salaries, shift operations overseas, or pass the burden onto employees. This, analysts say, could disadvantage both US businesses reliant on specialized talent and foreign professionals seeking legitimate opportunities.

Historically, immigrant talent has been central to the US innovation ecosystem. From Silicon Valley engineers to scientists at NASA and the National Institutes of Health, foreign professionals—particularly from India—have fueled research, technology, and economic growth. International students contribute over \$40 billion annually to the US economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, with mid-tier universities particularly vulnerable to declining enrollment. Restricting talent flow sends a worrying signal about the value of global collaboration in innovation.

For India, the developments present both a challenge and an opportunity. The nation’s “brain drain,” which peaked in the 1960s and 1970s, continues today with 2.5 million Indians emigrating annually. Professionals cite limited career advancement, research opportunities, and inadequate higher education options as key drivers of emigration. Some also point to perceived barriers to merit-based progress due to reservation policies.

Experts argue that reversing brain drain requires more than curbing migration. Past proposals, such as imposing a tax on income earned abroad, were considered but largely impractical. Today, the emphasis is on creating an environment where talented citizens choose to stay, with improved research facilities, competitive pay, career opportunities, and merit-based recognition. Analysts stress that only long-term structural reforms, rather than short-term political promises, can ensure India retains and nurtures its intellectual capital in an increasingly competitive global landscape.



Bagram Base Sparks Afghanistan-Pakistan Tensions

New Delhi/Washington: The sudden escalation of border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan has drawn global attention, with speculation pointing to the Bagram Air Base as the flashpoint. Analysts suggest the tensions may be linked to former US President Donald Trump’s push to regain control of the strategic base, abandoned by US forces during their 2021 withdrawal.

Located in Parwan province, about 60 km from Kabul, Bagram is one of the largest and most powerful air bases in the world. Originally built by the Soviets in the 1950s and expanded by the US after the 9/11 attacks, it features heavy concrete runways, permanent barracks, and extensive logistics capabilities. Reestablishing a US presence there would provide a foothold in Eurasia, allowing oversight of China, Iran, Russia, Central Asia, and Pakistan, including its nuclear arsenal.

Pakistan stands to gain from such an arrangement. The US would rely on Pakistan for logistics and supply chains, generating revenue while enabling Islamabad to influence Taliban behavior. The recent clashes coincided with the visit of Afghanistan’s acting Taliban foreign minister to India, adding to Pakistan’s strategic anxieties over India’s growing presence in Kabul.

Within Afghanistan, opposition groups like the National Resistance Front (NRF), composed mainly of former Afghan soldiers loyal to the US-backed government, have expressed support for a US return to Bagram. Analysts argue these groups possess local networks that could secure American operations more reliably than the Taliban, whose control remains contested.

However, the Taliban have categorically rejected all proposals, citing Afghan sovereignty. Regional powers, including China, Iran, Russia, and Central Asian states, have also expressed opposition to a US military footprint, emphasizing stability over renewed conflict. A joint Moscow-format statement, signed by multiple regional countries including India and Pakistan, condemned attempts to deploy foreign military infrastructure in Afghanistan.

Experts warn that any renewed US presence could trigger instability similar to the 2001–2014 “War on Terror,” further empowering groups like ISIS-KP and creating internal Taliban divisions. Additionally, US reliance on Pakistan—whose past duplicity in counterterrorism is well-documented—adds layers of risk.

For the Taliban, Bagram is emerging as a key test of leadership: balancing international pressures, domestic cohesion, and regional diplomacy. How they navigate this challenge may determine Afghanistan’s stability in the years ahead.

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PM Modi Endorses Nitish, Predicts NDA Record Victory in Bihar



TPN Bureau | Patna

In a landmark public endorsement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday declared Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the undisputed leader of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state, asserting that the coali-

tion is set to break all previous electoral records under his leadership. Launching the Bihar poll campaign from Samastipur, the ancestral home of former CM and socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, Modi praised Nitish Kumar's governance and projected the NDA's

victory as historic. "This time, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA is going to break all past records of victory," he said, dispelling speculation about the JDU chief's role in the coalition. Modi highlighted the NDA's development agenda with slogans such as

"Phir ek baar Sushasan sarkar" and "Nai raftaar se chalega Bihar, jab phir aayegi NDA sarkar," while taking pointed swipes at the opposition Mahagathabandhan alliance led by the RJD. He referred to past misgovernance as "jungle raaj" under the RJD and accused leaders

of the Congress and RJD of corruption, highlighting ongoing multi-crore scam cases. The PM also invoked the legacy of Karpoori Thakur, crediting him for advancing the cause of backward and underprivileged communities. "Backward people like me, Nitish ji, and Ramnath Thakur ji are standing here today because of the pro-poor policies of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur," Modi said, recalling Thakur's Bharat Ratna award last year. Citing NDA's recent election successes in Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, Modi said Bihar would follow the same trend of pro-incumbency voting. The state will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11. This marks the first time Modi has publicly endorsed Nitish Kumar as the NDA leader in Bihar, signaling a united campaign front and high-stakes political momentum ahead of the assembly elections.

Jaisalmer Bus Fire Caused by AC Short Circuit: FSL



TPN Correspondent | Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

A forensic investigation has confirmed that the tragic bus fire near Thaiyat village in Jaisalmer, which claimed 26 lives on October 14, was caused by a short circuit in the vehicle's air-conditioning system. The incident occurred barely 10 minutes after the private bus departed for Jodhpur. The joint Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) re-

port from Jodhpur and Jaipur ruled out the involvement of explosives or firecrackers, confirming that the fire originated from the roof-mounted AC unit. Investigators found that the unit's wiring, directly connected to the engine, sparked, producing smoke and carbon monoxide that led to the suffocation of passengers. Flames intensified when a window broke, allowing a rush of oxygen into the bus.

"The spark from the wiring caused smoke and the spread of carbon monoxide inside the bus, leading to suffocation of passengers. As soon as the window broke, the oxygen inflow caused the flames to intensify," an official explained. The report also highlighted that the tyres, fuel tank, and lower section of the bus remained intact, confirming the fire started from the top. Firecrackers found in the luggage

compartment were soaked in water and deemed unrelated to the incident. Jaisalmer Superintendent of Police Abhishek Shivhare said the investigation pointed to "gross negligence and violation of safety norms" by the bus operator and associated parties. Following the findings, the bus owner, driver, and body manufacturer have been arrested. Authorities have urged private bus operators to

strictly adhere to safety standards, including proper wiring and maintenance of air-conditioning units, to prevent such tragedies. Families of the victims continue to mourn, while the government has promised compensation and strict enforcement of transport safety regulations. The FSL report underscores the critical need for vigilance and compliance in passenger transport to avoid further loss of life.

India does not do trade deals in hurry or with gun to our head: Goyal

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar
Berlin/New Delhi: India does not rush into trade agreements or succumb to external pressure, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, underlining the country's emphasis on safeguarding national interests in international negotiations.

Speaking in Berlin during the European School of Management and Technology's Global Dialogue, Goyal stated, "I do not think India has ever decided who its friends will be based on any other considerations other than national interest." He emphasized that India engages in trade discussions carefully and strategically, avoiding deals under duress.

The minister highlighted ongoing negotiations with major economies, including the European Union (EU) and the United States, saying India is committed to fostering mutually beneficial trade relations. "We are actively negotiating trade pacts, but these will be undertaken only when they meet



India's long-term interests," he added. Goyal's remarks come at a time when global trade dynamics are evolving rapidly, with rising protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and calls for supply chain diversification influencing countries' trade policies. Analysts note that India's cautious ap-

proach aims to ensure that trade deals support domestic industry, protect jobs, and maintain a balanced economic relationship with partners. During the event, Goyal also engaged with European business leaders and policymakers, exchanging views on investment opportunities, tech-

nology cooperation, and sustainable economic growth. His visit underscores India's efforts to strengthen economic ties with Europe while asserting its position as a responsible and strategic global trade partner. India's stance contrasts with countries that may seek quick trade agree-

ments under political or economic pressure, reinforcing its approach of measured, interest-driven diplomacy. Observers say that such prudence could help India negotiate better terms and avoid potential pitfalls of rushed agreements, particularly with major economies like the EU and the U.S.

Modi skipping ASEAN meet to avoid being cornered by Trump: Congress



TPN Correspondent | Patna

The Congress on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose to participate virtually in the ASEAN summit instead of attending in person in Malaysia to avoid "being cornered" by U.S. President Donald Trump. Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh made the claim on social media platform X, suggesting that while Modi has often praised Trump in posts and statements, attending the summit physically could have been politically risky. Ramesh pointed to Trump's repeated assertions, including claims that he stopped India's alleged "Operation Sindoor" and that India had promised to halt oil purchases from Russia, as rea-

sons Modi might prefer a virtual presence. "It is one thing to post messages in praise of President Trump, but far too risky to be physically seen with the man who has claimed 53 times that he stopped Operation Sindoor and that India has promised to stop buying oil from Russia," Ramesh wrote. The Congress statement comes amid heightened attention on Modi's international engagements and India-U.S. relations, especially as the ASEAN summit is expected to discuss issues like regional security, trade, and climate cooperation. Analysts note that high-profile multilateral meetings often require careful diplomatic balancing, particularly when leaders with contrasting political styles meet.

While Modi will attend the summit virtually, India's delegation in Malaysia is expected to engage with other ASEAN members and address regional cooperation initiatives. Sources say the Prime Minister will deliver a speech and participate in key discussions via video link, ensuring India's voice is represented without a physical presence. The Congress criticism adds a domestic political dimension to Modi's foreign engagements, with opposition parties frequently scrutinizing his international trips and engagements with global leaders. The virtual participation marks a rare instance of the Prime Minister opting for a remote appearance at a major summit.

Centre Initiates Process to Appoint New CJI



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With barely a month left for Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's retirement, the Centre on Thursday initiated the process to appoint his successor, sources said. CJI Gavai, who will retire on November 23 upon attaining the age of 65, has been formally approached by the government to recommend the next Chief Justice. According to the memorandum of procedure for the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court deemed fit for the office is usually appointed as the Chief Justice of India. Following this convention, CJI

Gavai is expected to recommend Justice Surya Kant, the current senior-most judge, as his successor. Justice Surya Kant, born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar, Haryana, hails from a middle-class family. He earned his bachelor's degree in law from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, in 1984 and rose quickly in the legal field. At the age of 38, he was appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000. Justice Kant was appointed as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004. He later became the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on October 5, 2018,

gaining recognition for his judicial acumen and integrity. Legal experts note that Justice Surya Kant's elevation would continue the established seniority convention in the Supreme Court, ensuring smooth leadership transition. His tenure as CJI is expected to oversee significant cases and continue the court's focus on judicial reforms, constitutional interpretation, and public interest litigation. Observers said the prompt initiation of the appointment process reflects the Centre's commitment to maintaining continuity at the highest levels of the judiciary and minimizing any administrative gaps in the Supreme Court.

“Keep Dreaming”: Khamenei a Elon Musk Reacts to ‘Silicon Valley Sex Warfare’ Report Sites “Obliterated” Claim



TPN Correspondent | US

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has reacted to a controversial report claiming Chinese and Russian operatives are targeting the American tech industry through seduction and espionage. Sharing a screenshot of a UK Times report titled “Female spies are waging ‘sex warfare’ to steal Silicon Valley secrets,” Musk tweeted, “If she’s a 10, you’re an asset,” referencing a popular online meme.

The report alleges that foreign powers are sending attractive women to seduce U.S. tech workers, sometimes marrying and even having children with their targets to gain access to sensitive information. Silicon Valley, home to major tech firms like Apple, Google, and Facebook, has been cited as a hot spot for these operations.

James Mulvenon, chief intelligence officer at Pamir Consulting, claimed he was recently approached by women acting as spies, using romantic or sexual methods to access confidential U.S. technology. According to the report, China is also reportedly organizing startup competitions in the U.S. to allegedly steal business ideas and undermine

the American tech ecosystem.

U.S. officials have expressed concern over the scope of these operations. A February report from a U.S. House committee revealed that China’s Communist Party was involved in more than 60 spying cases in the U.S. over the past four years, with experts suggesting the actual figure may be higher. Jeff Stoff, a former national security analyst, emphasized, “China is targeting our startups, academic institutions, innovators, and DoD-funded research projects. But there’s not enough oversight and action.”

The phenomenon, described as “sex warfare,” reportedly extends beyond casual flirtation, with some operatives marrying American engineers in defense and tech sectors to gather information over the long term. One highlighted case involved a Russian woman who married a U.S. engineer to infiltrate crypto and defense networks.

Musk’s reaction has drawn attention for its mix of humor and criticism, while the report underscores rising concerns about foreign espionage targeting America’s innovation hubs.

Afghanistan Moves to Limit Water Flow to Pakistan



TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Afghanistan has announced plans to restrict water flow into Pakistan by building dams on the Kunar River, mirroring steps taken by India after the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam in April. The move was ordered by Taliban Supreme Leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, with acting Water Minister Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor stating that domestic firms will lead the construction, emphasizing Afghanistan’s right to manage its own water resources.

The Kunar River originates in Pakistan’s Hindu Kush mountains and flows through Afghanistan’s Kunar and Nangarhar provinces before joining the Kabul River, which ultimately enters Pakistan’s Punjab province to merge with the Indus. These waters are vital for irrigation, drinking water, and hydroelectric power, particularly in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, already affected by India’s restrictions on Indus water.

Unlike the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan, there are no formal agreements governing the Kabul and Kunar rivers, leaving Islamabad with limited immediate

recourse. Analysts warn that dam construction in Afghanistan could severely impact Pakistani agriculture and domestic water supply, heightening the risk of cross-border tensions.

Since taking control of Afghanistan in 2021, the Taliban has focused on asserting authority over rivers and canals, including projects aimed at food and energy security. Notable efforts include the Qosh Tepa canal in northern Afghanistan, which is projected to irrigate over 550,000 hectares but could divert up to 21% of the Amu Darya River, affecting downstream countries like Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Last week, Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi visited India, highlighting collaboration on hydroelectric projects in Herat province. The visit underscored Afghanistan’s intent to strengthen its water management while advancing agricultural and energy development.

Experts warn that Afghanistan’s latest riverine strategy may intensify regional water disputes, particularly with Pakistan, as both nations grapple with shared resources and rising geopolitical tensions.

Trump-Kim Meeting Speculation Ahead of South Korea Visit



TPN Bureau | SEOUL

Speculation is mounting over a possible meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during Trump’s upcoming visit to South Korea. This marks Trump’s first trip to Asia since returning to office, and observers are closely watching whether history could repeat itself.

Trump’s previous visit to South Korea in 2019 included an unexpected stop at the Korean Demilitarized Zone, where he met Kim at the North Korean side of the border in Panmunjom. That surprise encounter aimed to revive stalled nuclear negotiations and drew global attention for its unconventional diplomacy.

If a meeting occurs during the upcoming visit, it would be the first summit between the two leaders since June 2019 and their fourth overall. Analysts say a renewed dialogue could have significant implications for denuclearization talks, regional security, and U.S.-North Korea relations.

The 2019 Panmunjom meeting

was notable not only for its spontaneity but also for the symbolism of Trump stepping across the border into North Korean territory—a historic first for a sitting U.S. president. While no official confirmation has been made regarding a new meeting, both governments have indicated an interest in keeping diplomatic channels open.

South Korea is preparing for Trump’s visit with heightened security and logistical arrangements, given the potential for high-profile bilateral discussions. Regional experts note that while a formal summit may not be guaranteed, even informal talks or a symbolic encounter could signal a shift in U.S.-North Korea relations.

As Trump’s schedule in South Korea becomes clearer, world leaders and diplomats will be closely monitoring any developments. With tensions on the Korean Peninsula remaining a sensitive issue, a potential Trump-Kim meeting could once again place the spotlight on the delicate balance of diplomacy in East Asia.

Japan’s New PM Pledges Deeper Ties with India

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Japan’s newly elected Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, has pledged to deepen multilateral dialogue with India and other regional partners, including South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia, while promoting a “free and open Indo-Pacific” amid rising Chinese military activities.

In her first policy address to Japan’s Parliament (Diet) on Friday, Takaichi emphasized the U.S.-Japan alliance as the “cornerstone” of her country’s diplomatic and security policies. At the same time, she described China as an “important neighbour” with which Japan seeks a “constructive and stable” relationship, aiming for a strategic and mutually beneficial partnership.

Takaichi, the first woman to lead Japan as Prime Minister, announced plans to raise defence spending to 2% of GDP by March—two years ahead of the current 2027 target. She also vowed to pursue aggressive fiscal measures, including lifting the nontaxable income threshold and abolishing the provisional gasoline tax, while redesigning household tax deductions and cash benefits to boost in-



comes and consumer confidence.

“Responsible and proactive fiscal policies will raise incomes, enhance business profits, and strengthen our economy,” Takaichi said, highlighting her focus on tackling rising living costs and responding to evolving security challenges. She also announced plans to revise Japan’s key security documents—the National Defence Strategy, Defence Build-up Program, and National Security Strategy—by the end of next year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Takaichi on her historic election, underlining the importance of Japan-India ties for peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific. “I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership,” Modi said in a post on X, emphasizing the shared commitment to regional security and development.

Takaichi’s leadership signals a continuation of Japan’s strategic engagement in the region, balancing robust defence policies with deepening diplomatic relations with India and key partners.

Indian-Origin NY Worker Arrested for Moonlighting

TPN Correspondent | Iran

New York: A 39-year-old Indian-origin New Yorker, Ehul Goswami, has been arrested on charges of “grand larceny” for allegedly working a second full-time job while employed by the New York State Office of Information Technology Services. The case, reported by NDTV and other US media outlets, highlights concerns over misuse of taxpayer money amid remote work arrangements.

According to a joint investigation by the New York State Inspector General’s Office and the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Office, Goswami earned \$117,891 in 2024 as a state project coordinator while simultaneously working as a contractor for semiconductor company GlobalFoundries in Malta from March 2022. Investigators determined that his actions amounted to the misuse of approximately \$50,000 in public funds.

The probe was triggered by an anonymous email alleging that Goswami performed private work during the same hours he was meant to fulfill his state duties. “Public employees are entrusted with the responsibility to serve with integrity, and Goswami’s alleged conduct represents a serious breach of that trust. Working a



second, full-time job while claiming to be working for the State is an abuse of public resources, including taxpayer dollars,” Inspector General Lucy Lang said, according to CBS 6 News.

Goswami was arrested on October 15 by the Saratoga County

Sheriff’s Office for grand larceny in the second degree, a class C felony that carries a maximum prison sentence of up to 15 years. He appeared before Judge James A. Fauci in Malta Town Court later in the week and was released without bail while the case proceeds.



New York law does not classify the charges against him as a qualifying offence for bail.

Lang added, “My office will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to hold anyone accountable who would undermine the integrity of public service in

New York State.”

The case has reignited debate on the ethics and legality of moonlighting, particularly among remote workers handling taxpayer-funded roles, and raises questions about oversight of public employees working outside office hours.

SBI and Bharti Airtel Lead Top Firms’ Market Valuation Gains



The combined market valuation of seven of India’s top-10 most valued companies soared by 1,18,328.29 crore last week, reflecting renewed investor optimism in equities. State Bank of India (SBI) and Bharti Airtel emerged as the biggest gainers during this period, as the BSE benchmark surged 721.53 points, or 0.88 per cent.

SBI’s market capitalisation jumped 35,953.25 crore, taking its valuation to 7,95,910 crore, while Bharti Airtel added 33,214.77 crore, reaching

11,18,952.64 crore. Reliance Industries, continuing its dominance, saw its market cap rise 17,389.23 crore to 19,04,898.51 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) also posted gains, climbing 12,952.75 crore to 1,46,879.47 crore.

Other winners included Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), whose valuation edged higher by 12,460.25 crore to 5,65,612.92 crore, and Infosys, which rose 6,127.73 crore to 6,39,901.03 crore. HDFC Bank’s market cap inched

up by 230.31 crore, taking it to 14,84,816.26 crore.

On the flip side, some major companies saw declines. ICICI Bank’s valuation fell 10,707.87 crore to 10,01,654.46 crore, Bajaj Finance dipped 6,346.93 crore to 6,17,892.72 crore, and Hindustan Unilever lost 5,039.87 crore, standing at 6,01,225.16 crore.

Overall, the week highlighted strong performance by state-owned and tech-centric firms, signaling sustained investor confidence

amid positive market sentiment. Reliance Industries retained its position as the most valued company in India, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, SBI, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, and Hindustan Unilever.

As equities continue to show momentum, investors are closely watching the performance of these blue-chip companies, whose market movements often influence broader market trends and investor strategies.



Major Carmakers Slash Prices Ahead of Navaratri, GST Cut Benefits Customers

Buyers are in for a bonanza as leading automakers Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Hyundai Motor India, and luxury carmakers like Mercedes-Benz and BMW announce significant price cuts effective from September 22, coinciding with the start of the auspicious Navaratri period. Two-wheeler makers are also joining the trend, passing on GST benefits to customers.

Maruti Suzuki India, the country’s largest carmaker, has reduced vehicle prices by up to 1.29 lakh. The company aims to attract two-wheeler users to four-wheelers by offering additional dis-

counts on small cars beyond the GST cut of 8.5%. Popular models such as S-Presso, Alto K10, Celerio, Wagon-R, and Ignis have seen price reductions ranging from 71,300 to 1,29,600. Premium models including Swift, Baleno, Dzire, Fronx, Brezza, Grand Vitara, Jimny, Ertiga, and XL6 also received substantial cuts, with savings of up to 1.12 lakh.

Tata Motors has cut prices across its passenger vehicles by 75,000 to 1.45 lakh, including Rs 85,000 off the compact SUV Punch and Rs 1.55 lakh on Nexon. Premium SUVs Harrier and Safari now cost 1.4 lakh and

1.45 lakh less, respectively. Mahindra & Mahindra has already reduced prices by up to 1.56 lakh on models like Bolero, XUV300, Thar, and Scorpio Classic. Hyundai, Honda, Kia, and Toyota are also implementing reductions, with Hyundai Tucson seeing the highest cut of 2.4 lakh. Luxury automakers have followed suit. Mercedes-Benz announced reductions ranging from 2 lakh (A-Class) to 10 lakh (S-Class), while BMW Motor India is cutting prices by up to 13.6 lakh across its portfolio. Audi and Jaguar Land Rover have also reduced prices, with

cuts ranging from 2.6 lakh to 30.4 lakh.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp and Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India are lowering prices by up to 15,743 and 18,800, respectively.

According to Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer Partho Banerjee, “With car penetration in India at just 34 per 1,000 people, there is no better time to put India on wheels.” Consumers are expected to benefit significantly from these combined GST-related and additional price cuts, making the festive season an ideal time for vehicle purchases.

India’s Forex Reserves Cross USD 700 Billion, Third Weekly Rise in a Row



India’s Forex Reserves Cross USD 700 Billion, Third Weekly Rise in a Row

India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 4.698 billion in the week ending September 12, reaching USD 702.966 billion, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) latest ‘Weekly Statistical Supplement.’ This marks the third consecutive week of gains and sees the much-anticipated USD 700 billion milestone crossed.

The largest component of the reserves, India’s foreign currency assets (FCA), increased by USD 2.537 billion to USD 587.014 billion. Gold reserves also contributed to the rise, climbing USD 2.12 billion to reach USD 92.419 billion.

show India steadily building its forex reserves over recent years. In 2023, the country added roughly USD 58 billion to the kitty, reversing a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, reserves rose by over USD 20 billion, while 2025 has already seen a cumulative increase of about USD 53 billion so far.

Foreign exchange reserves, or FX reserves, are assets held by a country’s central bank, primarily in major reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. The RBI actively manages these reserves to stabilize the rupee, buying dollars when the rupee strengthens and selling them when it weakens.

India scored a perfect 100 on Cushman & Wakefield’s maturity index, surpassing global peers including the UK at 98, France at 97, the US at 81, and Japan and Singapore at 77. The score reflects multiple metrics, including flexible inventory as a share of total office space, number of operators, leasing activity, emerging agreement structures, and overall market depth.

Ramita Arora, Managing Director Bengaluru & Head – Flex, India, Cushman & Wakefield,



highlighted India’s market maturity, diversity of operators, and ability to pivot with demand, noting that many Western markets are still evolving.

Flexible office demand in India has risen nearly sixfold since 2020, with 2024 alone seeing flex space account for 15 per cent of new office leasing. Operator expansion

has surged, with 33.5 million square feet leased between 2022 and 2024—equivalent to over 500,000 seats. Annual take-up has tripled over five years, confirming flexi-

ble workspace as a mainstream solution rather than an alternate option. India is now the largest flexible office market in APAC, with 79.7 million square feet of stock across the top eight cities, expected to reach 85 million square feet by year-end and surpass 100 million by 2026. Managed office and enterprise models now dominate, accounting for 70-80 per cent of demand. Bengaluru leads with 30 per cent of national flex inventory, followed by Delhi NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad.

Institutional interest is growing, with four operators already public and more IPOs anticipated. The next 3-5 years are expected to see consolidation, with leading players strengthening market share while niche operators continue to meet specialised needs.

Wholesale Price Inflation at Two-Year Low, Core Inflation Rises

India’s factory gate inflation, measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at a two-year low of -0.58% in July, continuing the deflationary trend observed in June. Analysts attribute the recent change in the wholesale price trajectory to an upswing in food prices after months of decline.

Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India Ratings and Research,

noted that food prices played a significant role in reversing the deflationary trend. In August 2025, food prices rose 0.2% compared with the same month last year, while the decline in vegetable prices slowed to 14.2% year-on-year—the lowest pace in six months. Edible oils recorded a sharp increase of 22.9% in August, marking the highest surge in three months. Jewellery prices also

climbed significantly, rising 32.6% year-on-year in August, contributing to a rise in core inflation, which reached a five-month high of 1.6%. Experts expect core inflation to remain around 1.8% through the end of 2025 due to a low base effect, keeping overall price pressures in check.

Food items accounted for 73 basis points of the 110 basis points uptick in the headline WPI be-

tween July and August, highlighting the dominant role of essential commodities in inflation trends. Non-food manufactured items, which make up the core WPI, added 27 basis points to the headline print, according to Rahul Agrawal, Senior Economist at ICRA.

While deflationary pressures have eased, the rise in essential commodity prices indicates that inflation dy-



namics remain sensitive to changes in food and commodity markets. Policymakers and analysts will continue to monitor WPI and core inflation trends closely

as India navigates supply-side pressures and prepares for the upcoming festive season, where consumer demand is expected to rise.

“World’s Heaviest Gold Dress Set a Guinness Record”

Prepare to be dazzled by a world first: a dress made entirely of gold has officially set a Guinness World Record for being the heaviest gold dress ever created. Crafted by the renowned Saudi Arabian company Al Romaizan Gold and Jewellery, this extraordinary creation, aptly named the Dubai Dress, weighs a staggering 10.0812 kilograms of 21-carat pure gold and is valued at an astonishing AED 4.6 million, approximately Rs 11 crore.

Unveiled at the Sharjah Watch and Jewellery Expo, the Dubai Dress immediately turned heads with its sheer opulence and intricate craftsmanship. The design is composed of four major elements: a 398-gram gold tiara, an 8,810.6-gram statement necklace, earrings weighing 134.1 grams, and a 738.5-gram gold piece. Each component features meticulous carvings and is adorned with vivid precious stones, showcasing both luxury and artistry. The ensemble is not just a display of wealth but also a tribute to Emirati cultural heritage,

blending traditional symbolism with modern aesthetics.

Mohsin Al Dhaibani, Regional Deputy Manager at Al Romaizan Gold, highlighted that the creation reflects the UAE’s vision of global excellence and reinforces Dubai’s reputation as a global hub for gold and jewellery. The Dubai Dress demonstrates the meticulous effort, skill, and creativity of the artisans involved, making it a masterpiece in both design and cultural storytelling.

The Sharjah Expo itself was a glittering showcase of global artistry, featuring over 1,800 designers and artisans from around the world. Standout exhibits included a gold-plated bicycle valued at AED 1.5 million, among many other luxurious displays. The Dubai Dress not only sets a world record but also elevates the conversation about craftsmanship, innovation, and the allure of gold, capturing the imagination of jewellery enthusiasts and art lovers worldwide.



“Swiggy Introduces Faster Food on Train Service with Easy Eats”



Swiggy has launched an upgraded Food on Train service, making dining on trains faster, easier, and more convenient for travellers this festive season. Now, passengers can choose from over 5,000 dishes across more than 115 railway stations and have them delivered directly to their seats, enhancing the train journey experience.

With the upgraded Food on Train page, Swiggy users can order up to 25 per cent faster than before. The new interface has been designed to work efficiently even on patchy internet connections, ensuring a seamless ordering experience for travellers in motion. This enhancement comes as part of Swiggy’s continued effort to make food delivery accessible and hassle-free, even in challenging conditions.

In addition, Swiggy introduced the Easy Eats menu, specially curated to guarantee a convenient train-dining experience. Easy Eats includes a selection of City Best meals, featuring carefully chosen dishes

from popular restaurants at various stations. These meals are designed to be portable, satisfying, and quick to serve, allowing passengers to enjoy a delicious and hassle-free meal while on the move.

The new features are particularly relevant during the festive season, when train travel increases significantly, and passengers seek reliable and convenient food options. By combining speed, accessibility, and variety, Swiggy aims to enhance the overall travel experience, ensuring that hunger never interrupts the joy of the journey.

With these upgrades, travellers can now look forward to a smoother, more enjoyable train journey with freshly prepared meals arriving at their seats on time. Swiggy’s initiative highlights the growing convenience of technology-driven services and reinforces its commitment to bringing quality food to customers wherever they are, including on the move in India’s vast railway network.

“Capgemini Kolkata Office Turns Carnival for Durga Puja 2025”

The festive spirit is alive not just in homes but also in offices this Durga Puja season, and Capgemini’s Technopolis office in Kolkata has set the perfect example. The office was transformed into a vibrant carnival as employees celebrated the auspicious occasion with full enthusiasm and traditional flair.

A video shared on Instagram captures the colorful celebrations, showing employees dressed in stunning saris and elegant kurta pyjamas. The office floor resembled a festive fair, complete with energetic dancing, clapping, and joyous laughter. One man could be seen dancing his heart out while others joined in, creating a lively and contagious atmosphere. The accompanying caption read: “Corporate Durga Puja Celebration... Ft. Cap



gemini.”

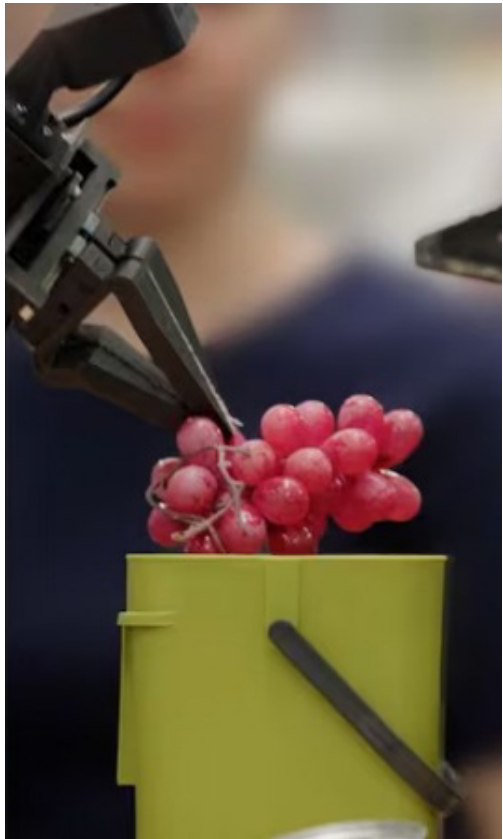
Since going online, the video has garnered over one lakh views and a wide range of reactions. Netizens expressed their excitement, with comments like, “Such things can happen in Kolkata IT offices only,” and humorous remarks such as, “Vacancy hai to bata do please,” reflecting the playful envy of viewers wishing to join the celebration. Employees who

participated shared their joy, highlighting how special and fun it felt to celebrate Durga Puja together at work.

Durga Puja, or Durgotsava, is one of the most significant Hindu festivals, especially among the Bengali community. This year, the festivities begin on September 28 with Shashti and will continue over the following days, culminating on October 2 with Durga

Visarjan, the immersion of the idol.

Capgemini Kolkata’s celebrations are a wonderful reminder that festivals are not limited to homes but can bring people together at workplaces too, fostering joy, unity, and cultural pride. With offices embracing tradition and fun, employees get to experience a vibrant celebration while staying connected to their roots.



“Google DeepMind Unveils Gemini Robotics 1.5 AI Models

Google DeepMind has introduced two cutting-edge AI models in the Gemini Robotics family, aimed at powering general-purpose robots with advanced reasoning, vision, and action capabilities. The models, named Gemini Robotics-ER 1.5 and Gemini Robotics 1.5, represent a significant leap in robotics, allowing machines to operate more efficiently in complex, real-world scenarios.

The Gemini Robotics-ER 1.5 model functions as the planner or orchestrator, offering advanced reasoning and tool-calling abilities. It can create multi-step plans for tasks, make logical decisions in physical environments, and even call external tools such as Google Search for information. By separating planning from execution, this model addresses a key limitation of previous embodied AI systems, which often struggled with understanding spatial and temporal dimensions or performing precise movements. The ER 1.5 model is also reported to achieve state-of-the-art performance on several spatial understanding benchmarks.

Once a plan is generated, the Gemini Robotics 1.5 model takes over. As a vision-language-action (VLA) model, it interprets visual inputs and natural language instructions to execute tasks. The model converts plans into precise motor commands, determining the most efficient path to complete actions while maintaining transparency by explaining its reasoning in natural language. This two-model approach—one for planning and one for execution—ensures faster, more accurate, and reliable performance for general-purpose robots.

These models are now available to developers via the Gemini API in Google AI Studio, enabling wider experimentation and implementation in real-world robotics applications. By combining advanced reasoning, vision, and motor capabilities, Google DeepMind’s Gemini Robotics 1.5 models aim to redefine how AI-driven robots interact with and navigate the physical world, setting a new benchmark for embodied intelligence.

“Million-Year-Old Skull Suggests Humans Diverged Earlier and in Asia”

A million-year-old skull discovered in China could reshape our understanding of human evolution, suggesting that humans may have diverged from their ancient ancestors 400,000 years earlier than previously believed and possibly in Asia rather than Africa. The skull, known as Yunxian 2, was originally unearthed in 1990 and long thought to belong to Homo erectus.

Using advanced digital reconstruction techniques, including CT scanning, structured light imaging, and virtual modeling, researchers were able to recreate the crushed skull in detail. By comparing it with over 100 other fossils and relying on similar skulls for reference, they identified features that challenge previous assumptions. While some traits, like a projecting lower face,



align with Homo erectus, other characteristics—such as a larger brain capacity—closely resemble Homo longi and modern Homo sapiens. “This changes a lot of thinking,” said Chris Stringer, anthropologist at the Natural History Museum, London. He added that by one million years ago, human ancestors had already split into distinct groups, indicating an earlier and more complex evolutionary timeline than previously

recognized. The findings also suggest the possibility of earlier members of other early hominins, including Neanderthals and Homo sapiens. However, the study complicates the traditional view that early humans primarily dispersed from Africa. Michael Petraglia of Griffith University notes that East Asia may have played a more significant role in hominin evolution than previously assumed.

Published in the journal Science, this research sheds light on what has been termed the “Muddle in the Middle,” the confusing array of human fossils between 1 million and 300,000 years ago. Fossils like Yunxian 2 highlight the complexity of human evolution and remind us that much about our origins remains to be discovered. As Stringer concludes, “We still have so much to learn about our shared history.”

India Storms Into Semifinals With Dominant Win Over New Zealand

India produced a stellar all-round performance to seal the final semifinal berth in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, defeating New Zealand by 53 runs via the DLS method at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Thursday. The emphatic win ended an eight-year wait for a last-four appearance and reignited India's campaign after three consecutive losses.

Under the lights and before a spirited crowd of over 25,000 fans who defied the rain, openers Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana delivered a record-breaking show. The duo smashed scintillating centuries and stitched together a commanding 212-run partnership — India's highest opening stand in Women's World Cup history. Pratika dazzled with elegant stroke play, while Smriti combined aggression with finesse, ensuring India dominated from the outset.

After the openers departed, Jemimah Rodrigues maintained the tempo with a blistering unbeaten 76 off 55 balls, propelling India to



a massive 340 for three in 49 overs. Her calculated aggression and quick running between the wickets ensured that New Zealand never regained control of the innings.

In response, the White Ferns fought hard, with Brooke Halliday and Izzy Gaze displaying grit and determination. However, the mounting required rate and disciplined Indian bowling attack, led by Sree Charani and Renuka Singh, proved too much to overcome. Charani's crucial breakthrough — the dismissal of Halliday — sealed New Zealand's fate.

With this win, India became the last team to qualify for the semifinals, joining Australia, England, and South Africa. The victory not only restored confidence in the squad but also underlined India's batting depth and resilience under pressure.

The Women in Blue will now look to carry this momentum forward as they chase their long-awaited World Cup glory.

South Africa Crushes Pakistan by 8 Wickets to Level Test Series



South Africa produced a dominant performance to level the two-Test series against Pakistan, cruising to an eight-wicket victory on Day 4 of the second Test in Rawalpindi on Thursday. Off-spinner Simon Harmer starred with a

brilliant six-wicket haul that dismantled Pakistan's batting lineup and set up an easy chase for the visitors.

After Pakistan claimed the first Test in Lahore with a 93-run win, the hosts entered the decider

with confidence. However, their batting faltered against Harmer's relentless spin. The 35-year-old bowler returned figures of 6 for 50 as Pakistan was bundled out for just 138 in their second innings. His precision, flight, and control on a turning pitch proved decisive, leaving South Africa with a modest victory target of 68 runs.

In response, South Africa made light work of the chase, reaching 73 for 2 in just 12.3 overs. Captain Aiden Markram led from

the front with a composed 32 not out, guiding his team to a comprehensive win. Despite losing two early wickets, the visitors never looked troubled, with Keegan Petersen providing steady support.

Pakistan's bowlers struggled to make an impact, unable to extract much from the deteriorating pitch that had earlier aided Harmer's spin. The loss marked a disappointing end for the hosts, who had looked in control of the series after their first-Test triumph.

The result means the two-match series finishes 1-1, with both teams showcasing moments of dominance. Harmer's match-winning spell earned him the Player of the Match award, reaffirming his reputation as one of the most effective spinners in Test cricket.

The two sides will now shift focus to the limited-overs leg of the tour, starting with the three-match ODI series next week.

Pakistan Withdraws From Junior Hockey World Cup in India

Pakistan has officially withdrawn its team from the upcoming FIH Junior Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held in India from November 28 to December 10, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed on Friday. The decision comes barely a month before the tournament, which will take place across Chennai and Madurai.

An FIH spokesperson told PTI that Pakistan's withdrawal had been formally communicated, and the federation is now in the process of finalizing a replacement team. "Pakistan will not be participating in the upcoming Junior Hockey World Cup. The replacement nation will be announced shortly," the spokesperson said.

While the FIH has not cited a specific reason for the withdrawal, reports suggest administrative challenges within the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and visa-related issues may have played a role. The development marks a major setback for Pakistan's junior hockey contingent, which had been



preparing to return to the global stage after missing several international events in recent years due to organizational and funding problems.

The tournament was expected to feature 16 teams, with top hockey-playing

nations competing for the coveted junior title. Pakistan, a former powerhouse in world hockey and past World Cup winner at the senior level, had been looking to rebuild its youth setup through this competition.

India, the defending champions, will host the event for the second time in four years, with matches scheduled at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai and the newly renovated facility in Madurai.

With Pakistan's withdrawal, the FIH will soon announce the replacement nation to ensure the tournament proceeds as planned. The decision has disappointed many fans who were anticipating another India-Pakistan hockey encounter on home soil.

Bangladesh Clinches ODI Series With Record Win Over West Indies



Bangladesh ended its long wait for an ODI series victory in emphatic fashion, defeating West Indies by a massive 179 runs in the third and final match at Mirpur on Thursday. The win sealed a 2-1 series triumph — Bangladesh's first since March 2024 — and marked their biggest-ever victory over the Caribbean side.

The hosts completely outplayed West Indies, with their spinners taking all ten wickets to bowl out the visitors for just 117 in 30.1 overs. Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain starred again, taking 3 for 54 and finishing the series as the highest wicket-taker with 12 scalps — the most by a Bangladesh spinner in a single ODI series. Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed also shone with a destructive spell of 3 for 11, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Tanvir Islam picked up two wickets each. Remarkably, pacer Mustafizur Rahman didn't bowl a single over as the

spinners dominated throughout.

Earlier, Bangladesh posted a commanding 296 for 8 after captain Mehidy Hasan opted to bat first. Openers Saif Hassan and Soumya Sarkar laid the perfect platform with a record 176-run stand. Sarkar smashed 91 off 86 balls with seven fours and four sixes, while Saif notched his maiden ODI fifty, scoring 80 off 72 balls. Najmul Hossain Shanto added a brisk 55 to keep the scoreboard moving.

For West Indies, Akeal Hossain was the standout performer with 4 for 41, including three wickets in a single over, but the early damage from Bangladesh's openers proved too much to recover from.

The comprehensive victory gives Bangladesh much-needed momentum as they head into the three-match T20I series against West Indies in Chattogram, beginning October 27.

Liverpool Seek Bounce Back as City and Arsenal Eye Momentum



Liverpool will look to end their three-game Premier League losing streak when they visit Brentford on Saturday, hoping to stay in contention with leaders Arsenal and resurgent Manchester City. With pressure mounting on new manager Arne Slot, the Reds' recent 5-1 Champions League victory over Eintracht Frankfurt has offered a much-needed boost.

Injuries have been a key concern, with record signing Alexander Isak sidelined by a groin problem. Interestingly, his absence could help Liverpool rediscover balance in attack. Hugo Ekitike, restored as the central striker, scored in midweek and is expected to lead the line again. Behind him, Florian Wirtz — who notched two assists against Frankfurt — may retain his preferred No. 10 role after a £100 million move from Bayer Leverkusen.

Meanwhile, Manchester United face a stern test against Brighton at Old Trafford, looking to sustain momentum following their first win at Liverpool in

nearly a decade. Manager Ruben Amorim remains cautious, calling the upcoming fixture the "true test" of his side's revival. Brighton, however, boast a strong record against United, having won six of their last seven league meetings — including three consecutive victories at Old Trafford.

At the top end of the table, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City appear to be rediscovering their rhythm after a disappointing previous season. Currently second, three points behind Arsenal, City travel to Villa Park — a venue where they've lost in their last two visits. With Erling Haaland in unstoppable form, scoring in 12 consecutive matches, and new goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma impressing, Guardiola is optimistic. "I feel things are coming back to what we were in the past," he said after a 2-0 Champions League win over Villarreal.

Arsenal, meanwhile, will host Crystal Palace as they aim to maintain their lead atop the Premier League standings.

Prabhas And Prakash Raj Face Off In Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit



Prabhas' birthday celebrations took a thrilling turn with the release of the Spirit audio teaser, helmed by Animal and Arjun Reddy director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. While fans were already excited with new updates from Fauzi and The Raja Saab, it was the teaser of Spirit that stole the spotlight, setting social media abuzz.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga shared the teaser on Instagram with the caption, "Happy Birthday Prabhas anna. Presenting a 'SOUND-STORY' in five Indian languages straight from the heart, for every fan who's felt his." The teaser stands out for its unconventional approach — relying entirely on sound, dialogue, and background music to build anticipation rather than visuals.

The audio teaser features the intense voices of Prabhas and Prakash Raj, supported by Harshavardhan Rameshwar's powerful background score. The story introduces Prabhas as a former IPS officer and

academy topper who finds himself imprisoned due to misconduct. His incarceration leads to a dramatic clash with a strict prison warden, portrayed by Prakash Raj, who runs the facility on his own terms.

The audio hints at a psychological and emotional battle between the two formidable characters, teasing audiences with gripping tension and power dynamics. The highlight of the teaser is Prabhas' chilling line: "I just have one bad habit since childhood," a moment that encapsulates Sandeep Reddy Vanga's signature mix of raw intensity and mass appeal.

Spirit marks the first collaboration between Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga, making it one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema. With its innovative sound-driven teaser and star-studded cast, the project promises to deliver an intense cinematic experience, blending emotion, action, and Vanga's trademark grit.

Mowgli 2025 First Single 'Sayyare' Strikes a Soulful Chord



Young actor Roshan Kanakala, who impressed audiences with his debut in Bubblegum, is set to charm viewers once again in his upcoming romantic action drama Mowgli 2025. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Sandeep Raj of Colour Photo fame, the film is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. Set against a lush forest backdrop, Mowgli 2025 explores love, sacrifice, and human connection in a visually captivating setting.

After a striking teaser that generated strong buzz, the makers have now unveiled the first single, "Sayyare." Composed and sung by Kaa-la Bhairava, with poignant lyrics by Academy Award-winning lyricist Chandra Bose, the song has quickly captured hearts with its emotional depth and melody.

"Sayyare" tells a moving story — a girl who is deaf and mute and a boy

who gives up his hearing to understand her world. Through a heart-felt letter, he expresses a love that transcends sound, making the track both touching and thought-provoking.

Adding to the emotion, Aishwarya Daruri's vocals lend softness and sincerity to the composition. Roshan Kanakala showcases a matured performance, displaying effortless chemistry with his co-star Sakshi Mhadolkar. The song's tender visuals and soulful tune have already made it a hit among music lovers.

The film also stars Bandi Saroj Kumar as the antagonist and Harsha Chemudu in a key supporting role. With its blend of romance, emotion, and adventure, Mowgli 2025 promises to be both a musical and visual spectacle. The film is slated for a theatrical release on December 12, 2025, and expectations are running high after this heartfelt musical start.

Bison : Dhruv Vikram Shines in a Partly Engaging Sports Drama

Rating: 2.75/5

Dhruv Vikram's Bison Kaalamaadan (titled Bison in Telugu) has hit the Telugu screens a week after its Tamil release during Diwali. Directed by Mari Selvaraj, the film attempts to blend sports drama with social commentary but delivers mixed results.

Set in the 1990s, the story follows Kit-tayya (Dhruv Vikram), a passionate kabaddi player from a marginalised community. His father Velusamy (Pasupathy) disapproves of his sports ambitions, fearing the caste barriers that have long suppressed their family. The film traces Kit-tayya's struggles to rise against discrimination and realise his dream.

Mari Selvaraj, known for Karnan



and Pariyerum Perumal, once again highlights oppression and inequality, this time through the kabaddi arena. While his intent is strong, the narrative often feels stretched and less impactful compared to his earlier works. The emotional weight is diluted by repetitive scenes and a predictable storyline.

Dhruv Vikram delivers a committed and physically intense performance, bringing depth to his role. Pasupathy is equally compelling as the conflicted father, and their relationship forms the emotional core of the movie. Supporting actors Lal, Ameer, and Rajisha Vijayan contribute well, while Anupama Parameswaran has limited screen time. Technically, Ezhil

Arasu K's cinematography captures the rural atmosphere and kabaddi sequences impressively. Nivas K. Prasanna's music is decent but occasionally overbearing, and Sakthi Thiru's editing could have been tighter. The Telugu version suffers from poor localisation, with untranslated visuals and inconsistent dubbing.

Overall, Bison Kaalamaadan is a partially effective sports drama that works mainly due to Dhruv Vikram's dedication and Pasupathy's emotional presence. However, the lengthy runtime, uneven pacing, and muted emotional resonance make it a below-average outing. Watch it only if you're curious about Mari Selvaraj's socially charged storytelling.

Stranger Things Finale To Hit Theatres on December 31



Netflix's global phenomenon Stranger Things is set to make history with a theatrical release of its highly anticipated Season 5 finale. The final episode, titled The Rightside Up, will premiere simultaneously on Netflix and in more than 350 cinemas across the US and Canada on December 31 at 5 PM (local time). The screenings will continue through January 1, 2026, allowing fans to bid farewell to the beloved sci-fi series in grand fashion.

According to a report by Variety, specific details about the participating theatres will be announced soon. This move marks a significant moment for Netflix, blurring the lines between streaming and traditional cinema, and highlighting the scale of excitement surrounding the conclusion of

the hit show. The Duffer Brothers — Matt and Ross, the creators of Stranger Things — expressed their enthusiasm about the theatrical release. In an interview with Variety,

Matt Duffer said, "People don't get to experience how much time and effort is spent on sound and picture, and they're seeing it at reduced quality. More than that, it's about experiencing it at the same time with fans."

Ross Duffer added, "That would be amazing. Because the fans could be there with other fans and experience it as a communal event — it would be incredible."

Since its debut in 2016, Stranger Things has grown into a pop culture juggernaut, blending nostalgia, supernatural mystery, and emotional storytelling. With the finale promising epic scale and closure to years of anticipation, fans can look forward to celebrating the end of an era — both on the big screen and from the comfort of home.

Allu Arjun Hails Rishab Shetty's Kantara: Chapter 1 As A "One-Man Show"



Telugu superstar Allu Arjun has heaped praise on Rishab Shetty's latest cinematic spectacle, Kantara: Chapter 1, calling it a "mind-blowing film" and a "one-man show." The much-anticipated prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara released worldwide on October 2 in six languages — Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, and English — and has been garnering rave reviews from audiences and critics alike.

Taking to social media on Friday, Allu Arjun shared his admiration for Rishab Shetty's multifaceted performance and filmmaking brilliance. "Watched #Kantara

last night. Wow, what a mind-blowing film. I was in a trance watching it. Kudos to @shetty_rishab garu for a one-man show as writer, director, and actor. He excelled in every craft," the Pushpa star wrote. Allu Arjun also lauded the cast and crew for their outstanding contributions. "Aesthetic performances by @rukminitweets garu, #Jayaram garu, @gulshandevaiiah garu, and others. Brilliant work by the technicians — especially the music by @AJANEESH B garu, cinematography by @AravindSKashyap garu, art direction by @DharaniGange91

garu, and stunts by #ArjunRaj garu," he added.

Directed and headlined by Rishab Shetty, Kantara: Chapter 1 delves deeper into the mythological and cultural roots of the original film, blending folklore with gripping action and intense drama. The movie has been praised for its powerful storytelling, visually rich frames, and haunting background score by Ajaanesh B. Loknath.

Allu Arjun's heartfelt appreciation adds to the growing acclaim for the film, further cementing Kantara: Chapter 1 as one of Indian cinema's most ambitious and artistically crafted projects of the year.