



The Konaseema tragedy has once again underscored the hazardous conditions under which many workers in the fireworks industry operate. Officials have vowed a thorough investigation and stricter supervision of all such units in the region. Meanwhile, rescue teams continue their operations at the site as the district administration prepares to compensate the victims' families and ensure accountability for the disaster.

ICC CRICKET MATCH & JAGAN TOUR: POLICE ON HIGH ALERT

TPN/Vijayawada — The Andhra Pradesh Police have rolled out extensive multi-district security and traffic arrangements ahead of two major events scheduled for Thursday — the ICC Women’s Cricket Match at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Stadium in Visakhapatnam and the political programme of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in Narsipatnam. Authorities have made it clear that strict law enforcement will be in place to ensure public safety and prevent disruptions during both events. Permission for the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) programme has been granted under Sections

30 and 30A of the Police Act, 1861, with clearly defined restrictions on route, timing and itinerary. Officials warned that any deviation from the approved plan, including changes in route, additional halts or large-scale crowd mobilisation, would automatically cancel the permission and attract criminal prosecution. Police clarified that these rules apply to all individuals, regardless of political affiliation or position. They announced that no processions, rallies or mass gatherings would be allowed along or near the convoy route, particularly on NH-16, SH-38, and connecting roads. The organisers have been

made personally responsible for ensuring that supporters do not obstruct the convoy or disrupt public movement. Any attempt to mobilise crowds or block traffic will be treated as a wilful violation and dealt with firmly under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Police Act. Authorities also reiterated that the permission does not include campaigning, slogans, or public meetings outside the approved venue. Public movement across Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts will be regulated to ensure emergency and essential services remain unaffected. The YSRCP organiser

has been asked to submit a written undertaking accepting personal and vicarious liability for any breach, injury, or property damage resulting from negligence or over-mobilisation. Officials cited the tragic Karur stampede in Tamil Nadu on September 27, 2025, which claimed 41 lives, and previous convoy-related incidents in Prakasam, Palnadu, and Chittoor districts as reminders of the consequences of crowd mismanagement. Police have stressed that any disorderly behaviour or attempt to deviate from approved guidelines will not be tolerated under any circumstances. They said maintaining discipline, order, and safety is

non-negotiable, given the scale and sensitivity of both events. Field units under the Visakhapatnam City Police and Anakapalli District Police have been instructed to enforce strict route discipline, deploy body-worn cameras, and use drones for live surveillance and monitoring. Officers will be stationed along key routes to prevent bottlenecks and ensure smooth movement. Additional control rooms have been set up to coordinate between various field teams and to monitor real-time traffic and crowd behaviour. Barricades and checkpoints will be placed strategically to manage both event areas, with special



teams assigned to emergency response and crowd management. Police officials urged citizens to cooperate with law enforcement authorities, follow in-

structions, and avoid restricted zones. They assured that every measure has been taken to safeguard the public and maintain peace. In their concluding statement,

the police reaffirmed that law and public safety are paramount, declaring, “No violation or deviation will be permitted.”

CM REVIEWED ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR PM’S TOUR



TPN/Velagapudi — Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has instructed officials to ensure the successful conduct of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visits to Kurnool and Nandyal districts, emphasizing that these events should match the scale and efficiency of his previous programs in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam. The Chief Minister held a detailed review meeting on October 16 at the Velagapudi Secretariat to oversee the arrangements for the upcoming visits. Ministers Nara Lokesh, BC Janardhan Reddy, Anagani Satya Prasad, Kandula Durgesh, along with Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, participated in the review. During the Kurnool

visit, PM Modi is scheduled to visit the SrisailemBhramaramba and MallikarjunaSwamy temples before proceeding to a public rally at Nannur in Orvakallu Mandal, Kurnool district. The rally is part of the GST reforms festival celebrations, and the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure the event is smooth, secure, and well-organized. CM Chandrababu emphasized that arrangements should consider weather conditions and provide adequate facilities for attendees, including food and drinking water. He instructed that approach roads to the venue be completed, and that parking arrangements allow seamless access without causing inconvenience to participants. The Chief Minister highlighted the

importance of proper crowd management, stating that public comfort and safety should be the top priority during the Prime Minister’s visit. Officials were directed to coordinate closely across departments to streamline traffic, security, and hospitality services, ensuring the rally proceeds without disruption. Chandrababu also stressed that local authorities should monitor the situation in real-time and take proactive measures to address any unexpected issues. The Chief Minister’s instructions underline the state government’s commitment to organizing high-standard public events while demonstrating hospitality and efficiency, reflecting Andhra Pradesh’s preparedness to host national-level leaders and dignitaries.

ANIMAL HOSTELS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

TPN/Vijayawada — The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced plans to establish animal hostels across the state to prevent road accidents caused by stray cattle. Mines & Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra stated that Chief Minister N. ChandrababuNaidu has approved the initiative, which aims to ensure road safety while promoting animal welfare. The process of land allocation and fund release for the project will be finalized soon. On Wednesday, Minister Ravindra inspected the cattle shelter at Machilipatnam Agricultural Market Yard, which was set up in August as a pilot initiative to control the growing

problem of stray cattle within municipal limits. The facility has so far housed 326 cattle, of which 269 have been reclaimed by their owners upon payment of the prescribed maintenance fee. The shelter was established after multiple road mishaps and traffic disruptions caused by unattended cattle in the town. Speaking to reporters, the Minister said that the government’s decision to expand such shelters statewide was part of a comprehensive road safety strategy. “Stray cattle have become a major concern for public safety, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. The establishment of animal hostels will help protect both motorists and livestock,”

he said. Ravindra also disclosed that 16 cattle had died due to severe illness, with post-mortem reports revealing plastic and undigested food in their stomachs. He expressed concern over the hazardous waste disposal practices that endanger both animals and the environment. The Minister directed municipal officials to implement strict preventive measures, including improved waste segregation and public awareness drives to discourage littering. To ensure effective management of the facility, a special monitoring committee has been formed to oversee daily operations, maintain hygiene standards, and ensure adequate



food and medical care for the animals. The committee will also be responsible for coordinating with veterinary staff to monitor cattle health and prevent disease outbreaks. Minister Ravindra emphasized that the drive to collect and house stray cattle would continue on a sustained basis, not as a one-time operation. He said the initiative represents the state government’s balanced approach to urban management and ani-

mal protection, ensuring humane treatment for stray cattle while enhancing public safety. Machilipatnam Municipal Commissioner T. Bapiraju, along with senior municipal officials and local leaders, accompanied the Minister during the inspection. The visit underscored the government’s commitment to addressing civic and safety challenges through practical, community-oriented solutions.

WE ARE READY TO SOLVE TEACHER’S PROBLEMS: LOKESH

TPN/Vijayawada — Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh has reiterated the state government’s commitment to resolving the concerns of teachers and enhancing the overall quality of education across the state. On Wednesday, he convened a meeting with inter-district transfer teachers and language experts to listen to their issues, understand their challenges, and outline steps for prompt resolution. The meeting, which was both consultative and interactive, aimed at strengthening teacher-administration engagement to ensure a more effective educational ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh. During the discussions, Minister Lokesh emphasized that the government’s overarching goal is to make the Andhra Pradesh education system the number



one in the country. He stated that achieving this ambitious target is not possible without the active cooperation, dedication, and support of teachers. The Minister highlighted that teachers are the backbone of the education system, and addressing their grievances is essential to

motivate them and improve student learning outcomes. He urged educators to continue their commitment to teaching while the administration works to create an environment conducive to professional growth and operational efficiency. A major focus of the meeting was on inter-dis-

trict transfers, a long-standing issue affecting teacher morale and administrative efficiency. Teachers shared concerns about delays, procedural hurdles, and lack of clarity in transfer policies. Lokesh assured them that these challenges are being reviewed and that steps will be taken to streamline transfer procedures, ensuring transparency and fairness. He emphasized that resolving these matters is crucial not only for the welfare of teachers but also for maintaining the stability and effectiveness of schools across districts. The Minister also discussed support for language experts and specialized educators, acknowledging their critical role in preserving linguistic diversity and enhancing academic standards in government schools. Lokesh as-

sured that their contributions are recognized and that mechanisms will be strengthened to provide them with proper training, resources, and career advancement opportunities. Teachers expressed their gratitude for the Minister’s proactive engagement and for taking steps to address their concerns. They appreciated his efforts to bridge the gap between administration and educators, noting that his approach fosters trust and encourages collaborative problem-solving. Lokesh, in turn, emphasized that seeing students succeed and excel academically is the greatest reward for any teacher or administrator. He reiterated that teacher welfare and student outcomes are intertwined, and both will remain a top priority for the government. The meeting conclud-

Rs.1000 Cr FOR ROADS REPAIRS IN THE STATE

TPN/Amaravati — The Andhra Pradesh government has sanctioned 1,000 crore to carry out extensive road repair and maintenance work across the state, covering both state highways and district roads. The decision aims to improve infrastructure, enhance road safety, and ensure smoother transportation for citizens and goods across Andhra Pradesh. Orders approving the fund release were issued by Special Chief Secretary N. T. Krishnababu, providing administrative clearance for the execution of these projects. The allocated funds are earmarked for 274 road repair projects, which include both major and minor thoroughfares. Specifically, 400 crore has been designated for 108 works

on state highways, while the remaining 600 crore will be utilized for 166 projects on district roads. These projects are designed to address structural damages, potholes, erosion, and other issues that have affected the quality and safety of the roads. Officials stated that the work will include resurfacing, patchwork, widening, and strengthening of existing road networks, with priority given to routes that experience heavy traffic and are crucial for connectivity between towns, rural areas, and urban centers. The government emphasized that the projects will be implemented under strict quality control measures, with close monitoring to ensure timely completion and adherence to technical standards.



The road repair initiative is part of the government’s broader strategy to enhance transportation infrastructure and boost economic development. Improved road connectivity is expected to facilitate efficient movement of goods, reduce travel time, and provide safer commuting for the public, thereby contributing to both local commerce and overall regional growth. In particular, district roads that link rural areas to commercial hubs will benefit from this investment, helping farmers, traders, and small businesses access markets more efficiently.

DEPUTY CM TO VISIT UPPADA FOR FISHERFOLK

TPN/Uppada — Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. PawanKalyan is set to meet with fisherfolk along the Uppada coast to address growing concerns over alleged marine pollution caused by pharmaceutical and related industrial activities. The Deputy Chief Minister will speak at a public meeting in Uppada on Thursday, providing a platform for the local community to share their grievances and discuss remedial measures to mitigate environmental damage and protect livelihoods.

The visit comes after rising public unrest in the region due to alleged chemical dumping into the sea by pharmaceutical companies, which has reportedly led to a decline in fish populations and threatened marine biodiversity. The contamination has directly affected the income and livelihood of local fisherfolk, many of whom depend entirely on fishing for their suste-

nance. In response, the government has set up a five-member committee to assess the situation, engage with stakeholders, and recommend actionable solutions.

The committee, constituted on Tuesday, includes senior officials from multiple departments to ensure a comprehensive evaluation of environmental and social impacts. Members include the Commissioners of Industries and Fisheries, the Member-Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, and the District Collector and Magistrate of Kakinada, who will act as Member-Convener. Additionally, representatives from the fisherfolk community, nominated by the District Collector, will participate, ensuring that the voices of those directly affected are included in the deliberations.

Before commencing his public engagement, PawanKalyan will interact with the committee

to review their preliminary findings and gather details on the impact of industrial activities along the Uppada coastline. The Deputy Chief Minister's involvement underscores the government's commitment to environmental protection, regulatory enforcement, and community welfare, signaling that the state is taking the concerns of coastal residents seriously.

The recent unrest in Uppada can be traced back to September 2025, when local fishermen staged road blockades and protests against the alleged dumping of chemical waste into the sea. They demanded the immediate closure of factories responsible for pollution, citing the threat to fish stocks, damage to marine ecosystems, and loss of income for coastal communities. These protests highlighted the urgent need for coordinated government intervention and stricter enforcement of environmental



regulations. During his visit, PawanKalyan is expected to listen directly to the concerns of the fishermen, review the commit-

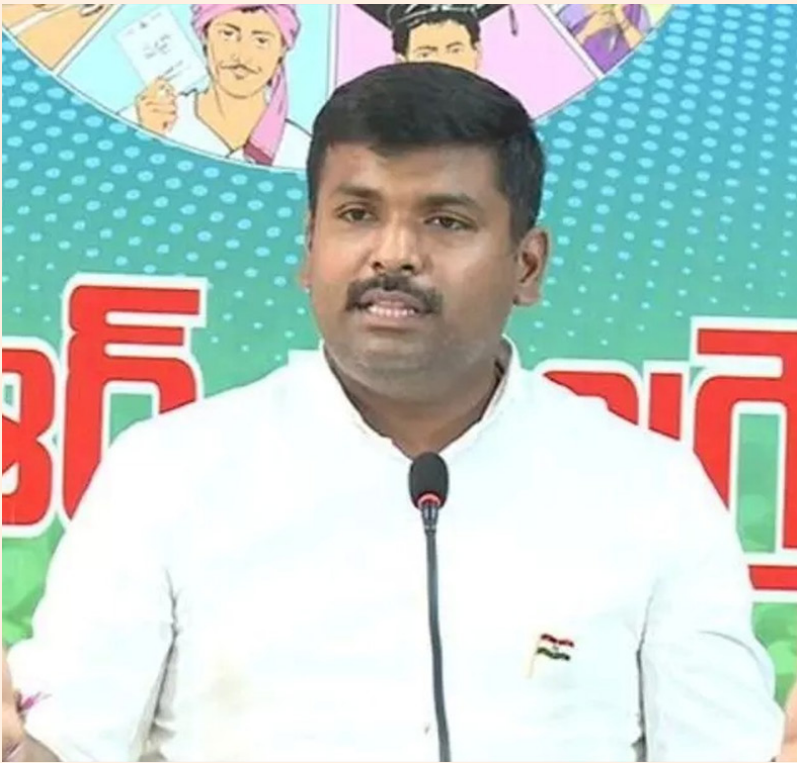
tee's recommendations, and outline concrete steps the government will take to prevent further damage. Officials have emphasized that the administration is focused on balancing industrial growth with environmental sustainability, ensuring that economic activities do not compromise natural resources or community livelihoods.

The Deputy Chief Minister's engagement also aims to strengthen communication between government authorities and the fishing community, fostering trust and ensuring transparency in the enforcement of pollution control measures. By involving representatives from all relevant sectors, including fisheries, industry, and environmental management, the government seeks to create a holistic strategy for the Uppada coast that addresses both immediate threats and long-term ecological sustainability.

Authorities have indi-

cated that the meeting will focus on identifying the sources of pollution, holding responsible parties accountable, and implementing remedial measures, such as clean-up drives, stricter monitoring of industrial effluents, and awareness programs for local communities. The government has also committed to exploring technological and regulatory solutions to prevent future contamination, aiming to restore marine life and secure the livelihoods of fisherfolk in the region.

With this field visit, Deputy CM PawanKalyan is expected to provide leadership in coordinating government response, enforcing environmental compliance, and ensuring that the fishing community receives the support and protection they need, demonstrating the state's commitment to both environmental stewardship and social justice.



RELAX CONDITIONS: YSRC APPEAL

TPN/Vijayawada — Former Minister Gudiwada Amarnath has stated that they are accepting the new route provided by the police for former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Narsipatnam, scheduled for Thursday. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he noted that while permission has been granted for the visit, the police have imposed 18 specific conditions on the route and itinerary.

Amarnath expressed concern that such a large number of restrictions may not be

entirely reasonable and called for a re-evaluation of the conditions to ensure smooth conduct of the programme. "We are abiding by the route and permissions, but we hope the authorities reconsider some of the conditions to facilitate the visit without undue complications," he said.

He further outlined the planned itinerary for the visit, revealing that Jagan will travel from the airport via the new NAD road, passing through Gopalapatnam, Vepakunta, and Anakapalli, be-

fore proceeding to the Narsipatnam Medical College. The former minister emphasized that the visit aims to inspect ongoing projects and interact with local officials while adhering to all security and safety protocols.

Amarnath reassured that the team would comply with the police guidelines while requesting authorities to review the necessity of all imposed conditions, to ensure that the visit remains orderly and productive for both the public and the leadership team.

TPN/Visakhapatnam — Former Minister and TDP MLA GantaSrinivasarao has launched a strong criticism of YSRCP President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of indulging in weekend political activities rather than focusing on governance and development. Speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam, Ganta alleged that Jagan's tours across the state are being used to create unnecessary commotion, mobilize massive crowds, and generate political publicity, rather than serving public interests or addressing administrative concerns.

GantaSrinivasarao claimed that during the previous YSRCP regime, the party deliberately obstructed development initiatives, including projects like TIDCO houses, which were blocked or delayed. He warned that similar political tactics are being employed in the current scenario to hinder industrial development and public projects in Visakhapatnam. According to Ganta, these orchestrated tours are not about engaging with citizens meaningfully but about creating a show of strength and political influence.

Highlighting the permissions granted by the state administration, Ganta noted, "Our government allowed Jagan to conduct visits to Satenapalli, Guntur Mirchiyardu, Raptadu, and

Nellore, and police clearances were provided for all these trips. Despite this, the YSRCP continues to pursue conspiratorial politics, particularly targeting industrial growth in Visakhapatnam." He expressed concern that such political maneuvers could disrupt normal governance and create tension among local residents and officials.

Ganta specifically pointed out Jagan's scheduled visit to Makavarapalem in Anakapalli district, claiming that party leaders were deliberately planning to assemble large crowds to create disturbances. He also noted that these tours coincide with significant events such as the ICC Women's World Cup match in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, implying that political mobilization could interfere with public gatherings and safety arrangements.

The former minister accused YSRCP of prioritizing political gains over public welfare, arguing that the party's strategy is to obstruct industrial and developmental projects while projecting an image of activity and engagement. He warned that if party leaders acted without regard for legal guidelines and public order, it could result in unnecessary chaos and inconvenience for citizens.

GantaSrinivasarao urged authorities to maintain vigilance and



ensure that political activities do not disrupt public life or developmental projects. He stressed the importance of separating governance from political theatrics, urging both parties to respect law and order while addressing citizens' concerns. His re-

marks underscore the ongoing tension in Andhra Pradesh politics, where the ruling party and opposition frequently clash over development priorities, administrative control, and public perception.

By highlighting these issues, Ganta aims to

draw public attention to what he terms the YSRCP's misuse of political tours, emphasizing that governance and industrial development must take precedence over orchestrated political mobilizations.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN YSRC REGIME: MINISTER

TPN/Palakollu — Andhra Pradesh Minister for Water Resources Development, NimmaRamanaidu, inspected ongoing development works in Palakollu Municipality, asserting that the state government is making significant progress in public infrastructure and welfare projects. During his surprise visit, the Minister conducted an on-site review and subsequently held a meeting with offi-

cials to assess the progress and ensure timely completion of works.

While reviewing the projects, Minister Ramanaidu took a sharp dig at former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of obstructing development during his tenure. He alleged that the TIDCO housing units constructed under the TDP government were deliberately encumbered by Jagan, who reportedly



posed bank restrictions, placing the burden of debts on the beneficiaries. The Minister assured that the remaining works on these TIDCO houses would be completed soon and handed over to the rightful beneficiaries.

Ramanaidu further criticized the YSRC Congress Party (YSRCP) for misappropriating municipal funds during their administration, which, he claimed, led to

the neglect and stagnation of town infrastructure. He accused Jagan of exploiting his position in office to amass wealth through illegal liquor, sand, mines, and valuable land transactions, describing his tenure as one that inflicted widespread damage on the state.

The Minister expressed strong disapproval over the alleged mismanagement and corruption, asserting

that the YSRCP was engaged in conspiracy politics aimed at halting the state's progress. Ramanaidu emphasized that the current government is committed to completing stalled projects, restoring urban development, and ensuring that public welfare schemes reach citizens without delay.

He also reiterated the government's dedication to holding accountable those who misused pow-

er for personal gain, asserting that all initiatives under the present administration are being implemented transparently and efficiently. Minister Ramanaidu concluded by urging officials to maintain strict supervision of ongoing works and ensure that development projects are completed on time, reinforcing the state's commitment to growth and good governance.

NTR District Police Crack Brutal Murder Case Using CCTV Footage

TPN/Vijayawada | October 8, 2025

In a remarkable display of efficiency and technological acumen, the NTR District Police have successfully cracked a brutal murder case that initially seemed unsolvable. Using extensive CCTV footage analysis, the police identified and apprehended the suspects involved in the heinous killing of a 70-year-old woman whose mutilated body was found on the outskirts of Vijayawada.

The disturbing discovery was made on October 1 when locals at Bommasani Subba Rao Nagar in Gollapudi noticed a decapitated and dismembered body of an elderly woman floating in a drain. The gruesome nature of the crime shocked residents, prompting the Bhavanipuram Police to regis-

ter a case of suspicious death immediately. The case was taken up for investigation under the direct supervision of NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, who formed multiple special investigation teams to identify the victim and trace the culprits. The investigation gathered momentum when teams led by West Zone Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Gunnam Ramakrishna, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Durga Rao, and Inspector Uma Maheshwara Rao began a systematic examination of CCTV footage from various locations across Vijayawada.

Their meticulous approach helped piece together the victim's last movements before her murder. Cameras installed in the Chittinagar area provided the

first crucial breakthrough. Footage revealed that the elderly woman, later identified as Pothuri Vijayalakshmi, a 70-year-old resident who was well known in the locality, was last seen riding pillion on a motorcycle with a man after attending an event at Vasavi Kalyana Mandapam near Sairam Theatre. Acting swiftly on this lead, the police extended their surveillance network to cover all potential routes and neighborhoods the bike might have passed through.

Subsequent footage captured the man escorting Vijayalakshmi to his residence on September 30. A few hours later, cameras recorded him leaving the house with large bags, arousing suspicion among investigators. Detailed analysis of the visuals allowed police to identify the man as Vankadhara Hanu-

manji Subrahmanyam. Further questioning and tracking led to the arrest of both Subrahmanyam and his son, Vankadhara Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy, on strong suspicion of their involvement in the murder. During interrogation, incriminating evidence and inconsistencies in their statements confirmed the duo's direct role in the violent crime.

Investigators suspect financial disputes or personal enmity might have been the motive, though further inquiries are ongoing to establish the exact reason behind the killing. Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu commended the relentless efforts of the investigating officers, praising the synergy between skillful detective work and modern surveillance technology. He stated that the success of the case demonstrates

how wide-reaching CCTV networks have become a critical tool in modern policing, saying that with extensive surveillance coverage, "no criminal can escape the law." The swift resolution of the case has drawn widespread appreciation from the public, who lauded the police for their efficient and transparent investigation.

The use of CCTV footage not only brought the culprits to justice but also underscored the power of technology in ensuring safety and accountability in urban areas. With the accused behind bars and the investigation progressing toward prosecution, the NTR District Police have reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining law and order while harnessing technology to ensure every criminal act meets a decisive end.

Two-Day GST Exhibition-Cum-Sale to Offer Festive Discounts in Guntur on October 10 & 11

TPN BUREAU, GUNTUR, Oct 8 – The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Department is all set to host a two-day GST Exhibition-cum-Sale on October 10 and 11 at the AC College Assembly Hall, Guntur, as part of its "Super GST – Super Savings" initiative. GST Deputy Commissioner, E. Srinivasulu announced the event in a press release on Wednesday, urging residents of Guntur and neighbouring districts to participate and make use of the festive offers. The exhibition will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days.

Its prime objective is to create greater awareness about reduced GST rates and demonstrate how these tax cuts directly benefit consumers. Alongside educational information, the event promises attractive discounts across a wide range of products. Shoppers can expect to find school supplies such as books, notebooks, pencils, pens, and graph paper at reduced rates, ca-

tering to the needs of students and parents ahead of the academic season.

A variety of household appliances will also be showcased, including popular brands of televisions, air-conditioners, refrigerators, and washing machines, with price tags reflecting recent GST reductions. For technology enthusiasts, discounted mobile phones will be available, while vehicle buyers can explore offers on scooters, motorcycles, and even cars. Organizers say the aim is to demonstrate tangible savings across all categories, helping people understand the positive impacts of GST rate reforms.

Deputy Commissioner Srinivasulu highlighted that the exhibition is timed to coincide with the festive shopping season and will feature special Diwali offers across many product lines. "This is not just a sale. It is a showcase of how GST reforms are directly helping consumers save money. Many items will be available at some of the lowest prices in

the market," he said. In addition to shopping opportunities, the GST Department will have information counters to educate visitors about GST slabs, rate reductions, and how tax compliance benefits both the economy and consumers.

Representatives will be available to answer questions and distribute awareness material in both English and Telugu. The department expects a strong turnout, given the festive season, broad product range, and attractive price reductions. Srinivasulu appealed to the public to "take advantage of the initiative, enjoy the festive discounts, and learn more about how GST reforms contribute to consumer savings." With products spanning education, home needs, gadgets, and vehicles all under one roof, the two-day exhibition is set to be a festive shopping hub for Guntur residents while reinforcing the benefits of Super GST – Super Savings.

ADB Delegation Reviews Amaravati Capital Projects

A high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) continued its visit to Andhra Pradesh's capital city Amaravati for the second day on Tuesday, holding a series of review meetings with senior state government officials and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA). The ADB team, representing its Water and Urban Development Sector included Senior Director Noria Saito, Director Manoj Sharma, Principal Urban Development Specialist Sanjay Joshi and Senior Project Officer Ashwin Hosur Vishwanath.

The delegation first visited the APCRDA office in Vijayawada, where they met Commissioner K Kannababu along with Additional Commissioners G Surya Sai Praveen Chand and Amilineni Bhargava Tej. Discussions at the Vijayawada meeting centered on ongoing infrastructure developments in Amaravati, with emphasis on



sustainable urban planning, integrated water management, and financing strategies for key projects.

APCRDA officials briefed the delegation on master plan updates, development phases, and current construction progress across the capital region. The potential expansion of ADB's role in technical consultancy and funding support was also addressed. Later in the day, the ADB team held consultations at the Secretariat in Amaravati with senior state government officials. The delegation met S Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration

& Urban Development Department; Piyush Kumar, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; N Yuvraj, Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; and Ronald Ross, Secretary, Finance Department.

These meetings covered inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely execution of Amaravati's infrastructure plans and the streamlining of financial procedures for projects backed by ADB loans and grants. The ADB officials also paid a courtesy call on K Vijayanand, Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, in his chamber. This meeting served as an over-

arching briefing on the States strategy for Amaravati's growth, the challenges encountered during implementation, and opportunities for future collaborations.

APCRDA Commissioner K Kannababu and Additional Commissioner Amilineni Bhargava Tej participated actively across all meetings, reiterating the Authority's commitment to executing development projects that meet global urban standards. Kannababu highlighted achievements such as road network expansion, utility infrastructure setups, and measures for environmental sustainability, while also pointing out areas where ADBs technical and financial intervention could accelerate progress.

The visit is part of ADBs ongoing engagement with Amaravati's development under its urban infrastructure support initiatives. Over the years, ADB has partnered with Andhra Pradesh to assist in planning, funding, and overseeing

large-scale capital projects. With Amaravati envisioned as a modern, green, and economically vibrant city, ADBs involvement is seen as a key factor in ensuring the capitals transformation meets both national and international benchmarks. Officials indicated that discussions over the two days were constructive, with both sides aligning on the priorities for the capital citys development.

They reiterated the importance of timely project execution, quality standards, and inclusiveness in planning to ensure the city serves as a model for future urban development in India. The ADB delegation is expected to continue its interactions with project teams and site visits before finalizing recommendations and future funding plans. Their visit underscores the international interest in Amaravati's growth and reflects the state governments intent to collaborate with global development agencies for long-term success.

Excise Officials Bust Illegal Adulterated Liquor Network in Krishna District

TPT BUREAU, SURAMPALLI 8th October

A major crackdown on illegal liquor operations has brought to light a wide network of adulterated liquor production and distribution spanning Surampally and Mylavaram in Krishna district. Excise officials from the Gannavaram constituency have unearthed a large-scale illegal manufacturing center involved in the production of fake and adulterated liquor, triggering widespread concern across the region. According to official reports, the excise police, acting on credible information, conducted extensive raids in the Surampally Industrial area under Gannavaram mandal.

During the operation, they discovered that thousands of liquor bottles were being illegally packed and labeled in Surampally. Investigators later revealed that while the bottle packing



and labeling process was centered in Surampally, the adulterated liquor itself was being secretly manufactured in Mylavaram. Sources indicate that a key person identified as Ram Charan Gopi has been allegedly running this unlawful business for several years. His network reportedly involved multiple locations, specialized equipment, and workers dedicated to producing counterfeit liquor meant

to look like branded products.

The excise department has taken several individuals into custody for questioning and has initiated a detailed investigation into the broader network involved in sourcing raw materials, producing, and distributing the adulterated liquor. Officials stated that their immediate focus is to identify how and from where the raw materials,

such as spirit, flavoring chemicals, and empty bottles were being procured.

The investigation also aims to trace the channels through which the bottled liquor was being supplied to local shops and possibly even to government-run liquor outlets. Suspicion has already been raised that some quantity of this fake liquor may have entered legitimate distribution points.

Throughout Wednesday, excise teams visited various liquor outlets across Gannavaram and neighboring mandals to inspect stocks and verify sources. Several samples have been collected from different shops for laboratory testing. The findings from these tests are expected to provide crucial evidence that could lead to the dismantling of the entire network responsible for the large-scale adulteration racket.

The large-scale operation and subsequent arrests have become a major topic of discussion across Krishna district. Locals have expressed shock over the scale of the illegal trade and have urged authorities to strengthen monitoring systems to prevent such activities in the future. Meanwhile, officials warned that strict action will be taken against all individuals and establishments found connected to the illicit liquor business.

TPN/VIJAYAWADA 8th october

Students of IIIT Nuzvid have extended heartfelt thanks to Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for ensuring the supply of high-quality, nutritious, and hygienic meals through the Akshaya Patra Foundation. The move, which came after persistent complaints from students regarding poor food quality in the campus mess, has brought visible improvements and satisfaction among the student community.

Until recently, students across IIIT campuses, particularly in Nuzvid, had been voicing concerns over the sub-standard quality of meals, lack of hygiene, and mismanagement in food supply. The issue had become a matter of serious discontent, affecting the daily lives of hundreds of students staying in hostels. Taking note of these grievances, Minister Nara Lokesh intervened immediately and directed officials to find a viable, long-term solution that guaranteed both nutrition and cleanliness.

Following his instructions, the State Government promptly handed over the mess management responsibilities of all IIIT campuses to the Akshaya Patra Foundation — a globally recognized non-profit organization known for providing mid-day meals



to lakhs of students every day. Akshaya Patra's reputation for delivering balanced, healthy, and hygienic meals made it the best choice to handle the mess operations in state-run universities.

After the Akshaya Patra Foundation took charge, students began noticing significant improvements in meal standards within a short time. The food served was reported to be not only tasty and fresh but also prepared under strict hygiene protocols that ensured cleanliness and safety. Students appreciated the fact that the organization maintained consistency in both variety and quality, making their daily dining experience more enjoyable. Expressing gratitude towards Minister Lokesh, students said that he had fulfilled his promise by taking personal initiative to address their long-standing

issue. They credited his proactive approach and commitment to students' welfare for the positive transformation that followed. The new arrangement, they said, has boosted their morale and confidence in the government's responsiveness to their concerns.

The students also urged the State Government to make the collaboration with Akshaya Patra a permanent feature across all IIIT campuses in Andhra Pradesh. They emphasized that such partnerships not only ensure physical well-being but also contribute to a better learning environment. The initiative stands as a model example of how student welfare, administrative efficiency, and public, private collaboration can come together to create meaningful change in higher education institutions.



Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao Lays Foundation for Key Road Works in Khammam

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao laid the foundation stone for a cement concrete (CC) road and accompanying side drains in the 46th division of Khammam city. Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized that the State

government is committed to improving infrastructure to meet the needs of Khammam's growing population. He called on citizens to maintain a peaceful and cooperative environment, free from political vendettas, while stressing that public support is vital for timely completion of road projects. High-

lighting past criticism, Rao noted that the city bypass, once controversial, is now a vital artery easing traffic congestion. Additionally, he assured citizens that the government would continue delivering Indiramma houses to eligible families, fulfilling the dream of homeownership for the underprivileged.

Supreme Court Upholds Telangana High Court Order on Group-1 Exams



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The Telangana government received a measure of relief from the Supreme Court on the contentious

Group-1 Exams issue. The apex court declined to interfere with the interim order previously issued by the Telangana High Court, effectively maintaining the status quo. A bench led

by Justice Surya Kant clarified that since the High Court Division Bench has already pronounced an interim ruling, the Supreme Court would not intervene at this stage. This decision

comes as a setback to petitioners challenging the High Court's ruling regarding the appointment of Group-1 rankers. The Telangana government welcomed the decision, stating that

it provides legal certainty and allows administrative processes to continue without disruption, bringing temporary relief to candidates and officials awaiting clarity on appointments.



Senior Maoist Leader Manda Ruben Surrenders to Warangal Police

Manda Ruben, a senior Maoist leader known by aliases Kannanna, Manganna, and Suresh, surrendered to Warangal police on Tuesday after decades underground. Ruben, 67, had previously

served as the Secretary of the Maoist South Bastar Division Committee and as a member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. Carrying a bounty of ₹8 lakh on his head, Ruben cited deteriorat-

ing health and a desire to reunite with his family as reasons for surrender. Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh took him into custody. Ruben's past included involvement in high-profile op-

erations, including the 1991 Jagdalpur jailbreak. Authorities have confirmed that Ruben will cooperate with ongoing investigations, signaling a potential reduction in Maoist activities in the region.

Angry Victims Attack House of Fraudster Who Defaulted on ₹10 Crores

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: In a dramatic turn of events in Padamati Thanda, Nalgonda district, agitated victims of a local moneylender, Balaji

Naik, attacked and set fire to his residence. The victims allege that Naik defaulted on loans exceeding ₹10 crores owed to more than 300 people. Frustrated after years of waiting and being misled, the crowd

smashed windows, destroyed furniture, and set fire to parts of the property. Naik is accused of promising high interest returns, evading repayment, and allegedly filing for bankruptcy under the

Insolvency Process to avoid his creditors. Local police arrived after the incident and have begun investigating the case, while the victims claim their actions were driven by desperation and betrayal.

Thousands Pay Tribute to Kumram Bheem on 85th Martyrdom Anniversary

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Thousands of Adivasis gathered at the memorial in Jodeghat village, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, to honor legendary tribal leader Kumram Bheem on his 85th martyrdom anniversary. District Collector Venkatesh Dothre and Superintendent of Police Kantilal Patil attended the ceremony, alongside Bheem's family, including Sone Rao,

who led traditional rituals at the three wooden flags representing the Gond deities Persapen and Avvalpen. Community leaders and officials reflected on Bheem's historic fight for "Jal, Jangal, Jameen" (Water, Forest, Land), celebrating his enduring influence on tribal rights movements. The event also underscored efforts to educate younger generations about Bheem's vision of justice and empowerment for marginalized communities.

Minister Seethakka Commemorates Komaram Bheem, Emphasizes Tribal Upliftment

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj & Rural Development and Women & Child Welfare, Seethakka, announced that the state will officially commemorate the death anniversary of tribal leader Komar-

am Bheem through a special Government Order (GO). Minister Seethakka highlighted that Bheem's struggle was for self-respect, tribal rights over Jal, Jungle, Jameen (Water, Forest, Land), inspiring constitutional protections like Schedule 5 and the Tribal Ministry. His ideals influ-

enced leaders such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Prime Minister Nehru, shaping safeguards for Adivasi communities. The Minister emphasized that Telangana's development initiatives—including Indiramma houses in tribal areas, Podu rights, and employment opportunities

under GO Number 3—are designed to realize Bheem's vision. She drew a parallel between Bheem's Jal, Jungle, Jameen movement and the Telangana state's Neellu, Nidhulu, Niyamakalu (Water, Funds, Jobs) campaign, reinforcing the government's commitment to holistic tribal development.

High Stakes in Rangareddy ZPTC and MPTC Elections

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Oct 07: The upcoming Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency

(ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections in Rangareddy district, surrounding Hyderabad, are

shaping up to be fiercely contested. The district has 21 ZPTC seats and an equal number of Mandal Parishad Presidents (MPPs)

to be elected. This cycle, the Zilla Parishad Chairperson post is reserved for an SC Woman, intensifying competition among politi-

cal parties. With 50% of local body seats reserved for women, nine ZPTC and MPP posts are allocated to women, sparking intense

rivalry for seats like Kandukur and Shahbad. Leaders from ruling and opposition parties are reportedly fielding family

members and strategizing to secure key positions. The contest underscores Rangareddy's political significance as a

stronghold for Congress, BRS, and BJP, with local dynamics likely to influence larger state-level calculations.

Modi’s Political Dominance Faces No Real Disruption-Yet

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi approaches the first anniversary of his third term, his political footing appears more assured than ever. The initial wobble following the BJP’s reduced tally of 240 seats in the Lok Sabha has faded, replaced by a renewed confidence bolstered by recent victories in Maharashtra and Haryana—and, critically, the disarray within the Opposition.

But beneath this confidence lies a deeper truth: there is currently no disruptive idea, leader, or movement capable of challenging Modi’s dominance. The political climate is stagnant. The BJP,

under Modi, has absorbed, repackaged, or outperformed the key planks of its rivals. The Opposition’s playbook—from secularism and social justice to rich-versus-poor populism—feels dated and dull in contrast.

Modi, meanwhile, continues to deliver efficient, targeted welfare to 80 crore citizens with schemes like free food grains, direct benefit transfers, and Mudra loans—making him more “pro-poor” in the public perception than his opponents. As a result, attacks branding him pro-corporate or elitist fail to stick, not because of PR spin,

but because voters see real benefits.

The caste census, the latest Congress experiment, has failed to ignite public imagination. Within Congress-led states like Karnataka, the complexities and internal frictions it creates are already surfacing. The party, once a broad-based national umbrella, appears awkward and unconvincing in its new avatar as a caste-centric platform.

Attempts to challenge Modi on nationalism, religion, or “temple politics” are non-starters. The Opposition has no compelling ideological alternative and no charismatic disruptor.

Voters, particularly the floating 15%, are fatigued by predictable rhetoric and recycled promises.

Historically, Indian politics has been shaken by three big ideas: Garibi Hatao, Mandal, and Mandir. Today, none of these offer disruption. Hindutva remains the BJP’s strength; the rest are now shared or neutralised.

Globally, figures like Trump, Georgia Meloni, and Javier Milei have succeeded by breaking the mould. India once had its own libertarian spark in C. Rajagopalachari’s Swatantra Party, advocating small government, wealth



creation, and freedom from state control—an idea that may be due for revival.

Unless a bold, alternative ideology—libertarian, not leftist nor statist—emerges,

Modi will continue to dominate unchallenged. India doesn’t just need new leaders.

It needs a new idea that can genuinely excite a bored, transactional electorate.

Straight Talk: Just How Big Is The Effect Of Trump Tariffs On India?

As geopolitical tensions and trade realignments reshape global commerce, India finds itself grappling with an increasingly hostile export environment, particularly from its largest trading partner, the United States. The recent wave of steep tariffs imposed by the current US administration is now threatening the very backbone of India’s export economy — its informal, labour-intensive sectors.

India’s bilateral trade with the US stood at \$131.84 billion, with the US accounting for nearly 18% of India’s total goods exports. Yet, tariffs as high as 50%-64% on Indian goods have left key industries in distress. Leather, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and especially gems and jewellery — sectors that form the core of India’s export basket — are bearing the brunt.

The informal economy, which absorbs more than 80% of India’s workforce, is the



hardest hit. In Q1 FY26, informal manufacturing employment dropped by 9.3%, and the total informal workforce shrank by 2.1% to 12.86 crore. The number of enterprises declined by 4.7%, despite India’s overall GDP growing at 7.8%.

On the ground, in regions like Ambur, a leather hub, over 50 out of 300 factories have shut down since the US tariffs took effect. Workers like P. Gopi, once earning Rs 450 a day, have lost livelihoods, forcing families into crisis. Similarly, Tiruppur’s knitwear industry, responsible for over

60% of India’s knitwear exports, is struggling under a combined 64% tariff, pushing businesses toward Vietnam and Bangladesh, where duties are lower.

The gems and jewellery sector, employing nearly 10 lakh workers in Gujarat, is also under severe stress. The US, which imports \$10 billion worth of polished diamonds annually from India, has revised tariffs sharply, putting slim-margin polishing units at risk of collapse.

High-value sectors like electronics and pharmaceuticals, key

to India’s “Make in India” push, also face long-term threats. The Chief Economic Adviser warned that tariffs could shave off 0.5%-0.6% of GDP growth, a figure likely to rise with recent pharma tariffs.

Unless India diversifies export destinations, strengthens access to finance, and resolves the structural fragilities in its informal economy, these external shocks risk cascading into long-term economic and social disruption — with vulnerable workers and industries paying the highest price.

Hyderabad : We need an urban climate emergency fund

This year’s monsoon has once again exposed the growing vulnerability of Hyderabad to climate-induced urban flooding. Torrential rain events through the 2025 season left key areas of the city waterlogged for days, damaging roads, disrupting power supply, and halting business operations. From upscale neighbourhoods to river-edge settlements, the deluge disrupted daily life and left thousands struggling to recover.

According to long-term data, Hyderabad’s average monsoon rainfall through the 20th century stood at 76.88 cm. Over the last 25 years, that average has surged to 91.84 cm. While scientists continue to study the precise links to climate change, for the city’s residents, the shifting rainfall patterns are already a lived reality. Each monsoon now carries the risk of devastation.

This year, basements of high-rises were flooded, vehicles were swept away, and roads collapsed under the weight of water. But the brunt was borne by the urban poor, especially those living in vulnerable areas like Moosa Nagar, Chaderghat, and



Kishanbagh along the Musi River. For these communities, flooding meant more than just inconvenience—it meant the loss of rations, appliances, documents, and months of fragile financial stability.

Children have dropped out of school. The spread of water-borne illnesses has increased. With no insurance coverage or state relief readily available, families are left to rebuild their lives from scratch, often multiple times in a decade.

Yet, even as urban

flooding becomes a regular monsoon occurrence in Indian cities, disaster relief continues to rely on ad hoc grants and delayed government responses. This reactive approach is proving inadequate in the face of intensifying climate events.

Experts now argue that cities like Hyderabad need a dedicated Urban Climate Emergency Fund—a proactive, fast-disbursing financial mechanism designed to support pre-disaster preparation and post-disaster recovery. Such a fund

could cover emergency shelters, health kits, temporary schooling, and direct cash transfers to affected families.

The 2025 monsoon should be a wake-up call. As rainfall becomes more intense and less predictable, Indian cities must evolve from disaster response to climate resilience. A dedicated climate emergency fund is not just an environmental imperative—it is a social and economic necessity for urban India’s most vulnerable.

How Pakistan thinks: Army for hire, ideology of convenience

A sudden turn in Pakistan’s foreign policy has triggered global debate, as Islamabad appears to be moving closer to recognising Israel—an unimaginable move just weeks ago. This comes in the wake of former US President Donald Trump’s 20-point Gaza resolution, announced alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a surprising twist, Pakistan became the first Islamic nation to openly support the plan, even before regional powerhouses responded.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s effusive praise of Trump’s plan sparked confusion and quiet

Pakistan’s Shift Toward Israel Reveals Its True Strategic Ideology

backtracking in Pakistan’s domestic discourse. But the episode is symptomatic of a deeper pattern in Pakistan’s geopolitical behaviour—one where ideological rhetoric rarely matches action.

Despite its self-declared identity as an Islamic republic, Pakistan’s strategic decisions have long been shaped not by Islamic solidarity, but pragmatic self-interest—and, more often than not, anti-India sentiment. Historically, Pakistan has never taken military action to defend any Muslim cause, even while invoking the Ummah in international forums like the OIC, especially

over Kashmir.

Its military involvements in Islamic countries—from Jordan (1970) during the Palestinian revolt to Saudi Arabia (1979) during the Mecca siege—were not in defence of Islamic ideals but to protect ruling regimes. Even during the Gulf War, Pakistan joined forces to defend Saudi Arabia, not Iraq, and again acted in line with client-patron interests rather than ideology.

The Afghan example reveals even starker contradictions. Pakistan first supported the Mujahideen in the 1980s, only to join the US in fighting the Taliban post-9/11—



held Islamic positions, is acceptable.

In the end, Pakistan’s core ideology is not Islamism—it is anti-Indianism. As long as this defines its national identity, peace with India remains elusive. And any

Pakistani leader who dares to challenge this status quo, from Benazir Bhutto to Nawaz Sharif, risks

political punishment—often at the hands of the very army that controls the state.

PM Modi Inaugurates Rs 19,650-Crore Navi Mumbai International Airport



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Navi Mumbai International Airport, marking a major milestone in India's aviation sector. Built at a cost of 19,650 crore, the Greenfield airport is expected to significantly boost trade, tourism, and connectivity across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, and the Konkan belt. PM Modi, joined by Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, was given a walk-through of the state-of-the-art facility before unveiling it to the public. Addressing the

gathering, PM Modi said the airport's inauguration ends Mumbai's long wait for a second major international gateway. "This is a big step toward the vision of Viksit Bharat, which aims for gati aur pragati (speed and progress)," he said. Highlighting the government's achievements, Modi noted that India had only 74 airports in 2014, which has now grown to 160, thanks in part to the UDAN scheme. "Lakhs of people have taken to the skies for the first time, fulfilling their dreams," he added. Chief Minister Fadnavis called the airport a "game-changer" that will "redefine air travel" and drive Maharashtra's growth. The airport, built under a

Public-Private Partnership between Mumbai International Airport Ltd (a subsidiary of Adani Airports Holdings Ltd) and CIDCO, is designed to handle 2 crore passengers annually in its initial phase, and eventually scale up to 90 million. Equipped with a 3,700-metre runway, the airport will operate in tandem with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to ease congestion and place Mumbai among global cities with multi-airport systems like London and Tokyo. Airlines such as IndiGo, Akasa Air, and Air India Express have already announced plans to operate from the new facility, with domestic routes launching soon.

Kerala Assembly Uproar: CM Vijayan's Height Remark Sparks Body Shaming Row

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's comment mocking the short stature of an opposition MLA has ignited a political storm and accusations of body shaming in the state assembly. The controversial remark came on Wednesday during a heated Assembly session marked by scuffles and shouting between ruling and opposition members over the alleged disappearance of gold from the dwarapalaka idols at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple. As the Opposition boycotted proceedings, tensions escalated when some of its MLAs clashed with the House's watch and ward staff, including female personnel. In response, CM Vijayan, while addressing the unrest, made a veiled reference to an unnamed opposition legislator involved in the scuffle. Using colloquial language, the Chief Minister mocked the MLA's short height and suggested that his actions were not due to physical strength but because of the legislative immunity he enjoys as an elected representative. The comment quickly drew sharp criticism. Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan condemned the Chief Minister's remark, calling it "politically incorrect" and "body shaming." He added, "Calling themselves progressives is meaningless. They ought to be living in 19th-century Spain." The episode has added fuel to the ongoing protests by the Opposition in the Assembly over the Sabarimala gold-plating controversy. The



Opposition has been demanding accountability over missing gold and accusing the ruling LDF government of trying to deflect from the issue. The height remark has now shifted the spotlight from the gold-plating issue

to concerns about the decorum of debate in the House, sparking fresh outrage on social media and in political circles. No apology or clarification has been issued by CM Vijayan so far.

Centre Rebuts Mamata's 'No Flood Funds' Claim, Says ₹1,290 Crore Released to Bengal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid criticism from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the Centre's alleged inaction during the Darjeeling flash floods, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry on Tuesday clarified that the Central government has already released ₹1,290 crore to the state under the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP). The Ministry rejected Banerjee's accusation that the Centre had not extended any financial help to manage the floods or responded to her repeated calls for setting up an Indo-Bhutan River Commission. In a statement, it said the Centre remains actively engaged with Bhutan on issues of river erosion, siltation, and flash floods affecting trans-border rivers in north Bengal. "The Government of India is in regular contact with Bhutanese authorities to address the shared concerns on river management," the Ministry said, adding that both countries are coordinating on mitigation efforts related to river debris and sudden water surges. Mamata Banerjee had earlier claimed that her government had received "zero support" from the Centre for tackling recurring flash floods in the region and demanded the formation of a joint river commission with Bhutan. She also criticised the Centre for not recognising the "urgent ecological threat" posed by trans-border rivers flowing from Bhutan into Bengal.



The Centre, however, maintained that it has provided substantial assistance through existing mechanisms, including FMBAP, and urged the state government to strengthen coordination with central agencies to implement flood control and disaster mitiga-

tion projects more effectively. The recent flash floods in north Bengal, triggered by intense rainfall and glacial water surges, have left several dead and displaced thousands, prompting a political row over relief and accountability.

Vijay Video Calls Families of Karur Stampede Victims, Promises Visit



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Nearly 10 days after the tragic stampede at Karur during his campaign rally that claimed 41 lives, actor-turned-politician Vijay reached out to bereaved families via video calls on Monday evening. The move comes amidst mounting criticism over his absence from the tragedy site and delay in offering condolences in person. The outreach, conducted by Vijay's party Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), was coordinated by K G Arun Raj, TVK's general secretary for propaganda and policy. Raj, a former Income Tax official, led a team from Chennai to initiate the process. According to party insiders, at least eight families were contacted on the first day, with all 27 affected families expected to receive video calls in the coming days. Families were instructed not to record the private conversations, which lasted only a few minutes

each. Vijay reportedly expressed sorrow, offered support, and promised to meet them in person soon. The actor's low-profile response to the September 27 stampede had drawn sharp criticism from political opponents and sections of the public, who accused him of "fleeing" Karur the same night without meeting the victims' families. Many questioned the handling of crowd control at the event and the apparent lack of accountability. TVK leaders defended Vijay's response, citing security concerns and the need to avoid further disruption during the ongoing investigation. The party is reportedly planning a formal condolence meet later this month. While the video calls may ease some public anger, questions remain over event mismanagement and the future of TVK's mass outreach strategy as the state gears up for the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections.

Dulquer Salmaan, Film Stars' Houses Raided Again In Luxury Car Smuggling Case

Kerala HC Allows to Seek Release of Car



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Kerala High Court permitted actor Dulquer Salmaan to approach customs authorities for the provisional release of his seized luxury vehicle — a 2004 Land Rover Defender — taken during the recent crackdown under 'Operation Numkhor'. Justice V.G. Arun directed the actor to file an application under Section 110A of the Customs Act, 1962 with the Additional Commissioner of Customs in Kochi, who must decide on the matter within one week of submission. The court also emphasised that provisional release is a legal right under normal conditions and rejection, if any, must be backed by a "speaking order" detailing reasons. The Land Rover was among over 35 luxury vehicles seized during raids on multiple properties, including the residences of actors Dulquer Salmaan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Customs officials allege

that these vehicles were illegally imported from Bhutan using falsified registrations to evade taxes. Dulquer had earlier submitted documents to prove the vehicle's legality, but his initial request for release was denied by Customs. Challenging the decision, the actor moved the High Court seeking relief. The court's interim order now opens the door for the actor to present his case again before the competent authority. Operation Numkhor, launched by Indian Customs, is aimed at identifying and penalising tax evasion involving the import of high-end vehicles through deceptive means. The investigation is still ongoing. On the professional front, Dulquer is preparing for the release of his Tamil-Telugu bilingual film 'Kaantha', a family drama teased on his 42nd birthday. The case highlights growing scrutiny on luxury imports and tax compliance in India's film industry and high society.

CIA Files Reveal Alleged Biden Cover-Up of Ukraine Corruption Complaints



TPN Correspondent | Sidoarjo

President Joe Biden's alleged involvement in suppressing corruption concerns in Ukraine during his tenure as Vice President in the Obama administration. According to a report by the New York Post, the files reveal that Ukrainian officials were "bewildered and disappointed" by Biden's anti-corruption speech during his December 2015 visit to Kyiv, citing his family's business ties to the controversial energy firm Burisma. The documents, recently uncovered during an internal CIA review ordered by Director John Ratcliffe, suggest that Biden's then-national security adviser, Colin Kahl, intervened to prevent a damaging intelligence report from being included in the President's Daily Brief (PDB). An internal CIA email dated February 10, 2016, from a person identified as "PDF Briefer" stated that Kahl "would strongly prefer the report not/ not be disseminated," a rare and highly unusual move for intelligence handling. At the time of Biden's speech, his

son Hunter Biden was reportedly earning USD 1 million annually as a board member at Burisma, a company long accused of corruption. Ukrainian officials, the documents say, privately viewed Biden's public remarks as hypocritical, given the ongoing US media scrutiny of Hunter Biden's role. The PDB is the most sensitive intelligence report delivered to the US President, compiling insights from across the 18-agency intelligence community. Intelligence officials claim this omission shielded the Obama administration from internal criticism and public scrutiny at a crucial time. The revelations add a new dimension to past accusations of political interference in foreign policy and intelligence reporting. The documents also implicate senior intelligence officials from the Obama era, including James Clapper, who is reportedly under federal investigation for his role in the Trump-Russia probe. The Biden administration has not yet responded to the claims.

Indian Captured Fighting for Russia in Ukraine, MEA Verifying Claim



TPN Correspondent | Pyongyang

Ukraine has claimed to have captured a 22-year-old Indian national allegedly fighting for the Russian army. The man, identified as Majoti Sahil Mohamed Hussein from Morbi, Gujarat, appeared in a video released by Ukraine's 63rd Mechanised Brigade. However, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has not yet confirmed his identity or the circumstances. "We are ascertaining the veracity of the report. No formal communication has been received from the Ukrainian side so far," MEA sources told NDTV. According to The Kyiv Independent, Hussein had initially gone to Russia for studies but ended up joining the Russian army under duress. In the video, Hussein claimed he was sentenced to seven years in a Russian prison on drug charges and was later offered a deal: military service in exchange for release. "I didn't want to stay in prison, so I

signed a contract for the 'special military operation'," he said, referring to Russia's war in Ukraine. After only 16 days of training, Hussein was sent on a combat mission on October 1. He claims to have fought for three days before surrendering to Ukrainian forces following a dispute with his commander. "I walked up to a Ukrainian trench, put down my rifle, and said I didn't want to fight. I needed help," he told the Ukrainian military. Hussein also alleged that promises of financial compensation were not fulfilled and expressed his unwillingness to return to Russia. This incident follows earlier reports that Russia has been recruiting foreign nationals, including Indians, with false job offers. In January, India reported 12 deaths and 16 missing cases among Indians misled into fighting for Russia. The Indian government has since raised the issue with Moscow, seeking early release of its citizens caught in the conflict.

“Transformative President”: Canadian PM Praises Trump Over India-Pak Peace

TPN Bureau | Washington

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney lauded former U.S. President Donald Trump as a "transformative president" during bilateral talks at the White House, notably crediting him for fostering peace between India and Pakistan. The remarks came during Carney's second visit to the Oval Office since assuming office in March 2025. "You hosted me and some of my colleagues a few months ago, and I said at the time, 'You are a transformative president,'" Carney told Trump. "Since then, the transformation in the economy, unprecedented commitments of NATO partners, peace from India-Pakistan through to Azerbaijan-Armenia, disabling Iran as a force of terror—these were important." Trump, visibly pleased, nodded during the exchange. He has repeatedly claimed credit for mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan during a 2025 border confrontation—claims that New Delhi has strongly denied. Indian officials have maintained that the ceasefire followed a request from Pakistan's military leadership and not due to third-party intervention. Carney's visit also comes ahead of a scheduled review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). While trade tensions persist—particularly over U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber, aluminium, steel, and automobiles—Carney offered no concrete breakthroughs following the meeting. "We're focused on building new opportunities," he said in a later statement. During the meeting, Trump humorously referred to earlier controversial remarks about annexing Canada, joking about a "merger," to which Carney replied, "That wasn't where I was going." Despite the upbeat tone and mutual praise, the talks did not yield any announcements on tariff relief. Trump praised Carney as a "world-class leader" and hinted at future progress, stating, "I think they're going to walk away very happy." Carney concluded by reaffirming support for U.S. efforts in the Middle East and expressed optimism over future trade negotiations.



LeT-ISKP Alliance Exposed: ISI Weaponising Terror in Balochistan, Kashmir



TPN Correspondent | Paris

A new Indian intelligence dossier has revealed a dangerous nexus between Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), orchestrated and funded by Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The report highlights Pakistan's continued use of terror groups as tools of statecraft, now focusing on destabilising Balochistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir. The dossier reveals that ISKP, once labelled un-Islamic by the Afghan Taliban, is being restructured by ISI to wage a hybrid war against Baloch nationalists and anti-Pakistan factions within the Taliban regime. Recent editions of ISKP's propaganda magazine Yalgaar also indicate a shift towards Kashmir, marking a dangerous expansion of the terror threat in South Asia. A crucial piece of evidence is a photograph showing ISKP's Balochistan coordinator, Mir Shafiq Mengal, handing a pistol to LeT's Nazim-e-Ala, Rana Mohammad Ashfaq. The image reportedly captures the formalisation of a terror alliance, crafted under direct ISI supervision. Mengal, son of ex-Balochistan Chief Minister Nasir Mengal, has long operated as an ISI asset. Known for running death squads targeting Baloch nationalists, he now facilitates ISKP operations, managing arms, funding, and logistics. Under ISI's guidance, ISKP bases were set up in Mastung and Khuzdar to suppress local resistance and stage attacks in Afghanistan. After Baloch fighters killed 30 ISKP militants in March 2025, the ISI turned to LeT to rebuild its proxy strength. By June 2025, LeT leaders Rana Ashfaq and Saifullah Kasuri hosted a Jigra in Balochistan, pledging jihad against "anti-Pakistan" forces. Experts warn the LeT-ISKP collaboration signals a new phase in Pakistan's proxy war doctrine—merging extremist factions under state control. The move could reignite terrorism in Kashmir and intensify unrest in Balochistan and Afghanistan. As Pakistan's denials grow weaker, the evidence of its deep state's terror complicity becomes harder to ignore.

UK PM Keir Starmer in India to Boost Trade Ties Post-FTA

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday for a two-day visit aimed at strengthening economic and strategic ties with India following the signing of a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) earlier this year. Accompanied by a 125-member delegation of top business leaders—including British Airways CEO Sean Doyle—Starmer's visit signals a renewed focus on expanding the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership under the "Vision 2035" roadmap. Upon arrival at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Starmer was welcomed by Maharashtra and Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar. Later on Wednesday, Starmer is expected to hold discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. On Thursday, Starmer will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The leaders will review progress on the bilateral partnership and explore new areas of cooperation, particularly in fintech, defence, climate, and trade. The leaders will then address the CEO Forum and the 6th edition of the Global Fintech Fest, where they will engage with Indian and UK business leaders on opportunities arising from the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). With bilateral trade currently valued at \$54.8 billion, both countries



view the new FTA as a central pillar for future economic growth. The agreement includes tariff reductions on British

goods like whisky and medical devices and Indian exports like garments and frozen prawns. However, despite busi-

ness calls for expanded labour mobility, Starmer ruled out easing visa rules for Indian professionals.

Gold Hits Record High of ₹1.24 Lakh per 10 Grams

Gold prices soared by ₹700 reaching an all-time high of ₹1.24,000 per 10 grams in the national capital. This sharp jump comes amid rising global uncertainty, driven by fears of a prolonged US government shutdown and increasing expectations of further interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9% purity had settled at ₹1,23,300 per 10 grams on Monday. The fresh surge marks a significant milestone for gold, which continues to gain favour as a safe-haven asset in times of economic and geopolitical turbulence. Traders and analysts attributed the price rally to strong safe-haven demand, as investors around the world are growing cautious. The risk of a fiscal deadlock in the United States, combined with the Fed's dovish signals, has weakened the dollar and boosted demand for gold. "Concerns over the US government shutdown and talk of more rate cuts have pushed investors toward safer assets like gold. The weakening of the dollar has further supported this trend," said a senior analyst from a Delhi-based bullion trading firm. In addition to global factors, strong domestic buying ahead of the festive season is also supporting prices in India. With festivals like Dussehra and Diwali approaching, demand for gold jewelry and investment products is expected to rise further, which could drive prices even higher. Silver also saw a modest gain, trading at ₹1,48,500 per kg, up by ₹500 from the previous close. Bullion traders expect volatility to persist in the coming weeks, with gold likely to remain firm if economic uncertainties continue to mount.



World Bank Ups India's Growth Forecast to 6.5% Remains Fastest-Growing Major Economy



The World Bank on Tuesday raised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025-26 to 6.5%, up from its earlier estimate of 6.3%, reaffirming India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. The upward revision comes on the back of robust consumption growth, improved rural demand, and favourable domestic conditions. According to the World Bank's South Asia Development Update (October 2025), India's economic momentum has been supported by better-than-expected agricultural output and rising rural wages. Recent reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) — including simplification of compliance and reduction in tax brackets — have also contributed to boosting business activity. "India is expected to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy," the report stated, highlighting strong internal drivers of growth. However, the World Bank also issued a cautionary note, citing external risks. The imposition of 50% tariffs by the United States on nearly 75% of Indian exports is expected to impact trade and may slow down economic growth in the coming year. As a result, the GDP forecast for 2026-27 has been revised downward to 6.3%, from the earlier projection of 6.5%. The report noted that growth across South Asia is projected to slow sharply from 6.6% in 2025 to 5.8% in 2026, mainly due to weaker export demand and tightening global financial conditions. Despite the slowdown, South Asia will still outperform other emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). Inflation in India is expected to remain within the Reserve Bank of India's target range, aided by stable commodity prices and monetary policy continuity. Overall, while India's economic outlook remains strong, the report emphasizes the need to stay vigilant amid rising global trade tensions and policy uncertainties.

Tata Trusts Infighting Deepens, Govt Steps In Amid 'Coup Attempt' Allegations

A power struggle within Tata Trusts, the principal shareholder of Tata Sons, has escalated sharply, with reports of a "coup attempt" by four trustees against Chairman Noel Tata. The infighting has drawn the attention of the government, which is now actively engaging to prevent instability at the \$180-billion Tata Group. Sources close to the Tata Group told CNBC-TV18 that the Centre is "fully seized of the matter" and cannot remain a silent spectator. The tension centres around governance issues, board appointments at Tata Sons, and a growing divide between factions of trustees. On Tuesday evening, Noel Tata and Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran, accompanied by Vice-Chairman Venu Srinivasan and trustee Darius Khambata, held a closed-door meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also attended the high-level discussions. The current rift is reportedly driven by four trustees — Darius Khambata, Jehangir HC Jehangir, Pramit Jhaveri, and Mehli Mistry — who are alleged to be functioning as a "super board," undermining Noel Tata's authority. Key disagreements include the proposed ₹1,000-crore equity infusion into Tata International, chaired by Noel Tata, and suggestions around new executive roles at Tata Sons. In contrast, the faction opposed by Noel Tata reportedly pushed for the appointment of Mehli Mistry to the Tata Sons board—an idea Noel resisted. Discontent over unilateral decisions has been reflected in internal communications, including a May 26 email from Mistry objecting to board appointments without full trustee approval. The Tata Trusts board is set to meet on October 10, with key philanthropic decisions on the agenda. While sources claim the meeting is unrelated to the internal tensions, many expect the power struggle to overshadow proceedings. The government's intervention underlines the high stakes, as continued instability could impact the broader functioning of one of India's most critical corporate institutions.



September CPI Seen at 1.2% Amid Sharp Fall in Food Prices



India's retail inflation is expected to ease significantly, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) projected at just 1.2% for September 2025, according to Bank of Baroda's latest Price Picture report. The report attributes this sharp moderation to continued deflation in essential food items, especially tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP), alongside a favourable base effect. The BoB Essential Commodities Index (BoB ECI) remained in deflation for the fifth straight month, showing a 1% year-on-year decline in September and a sharper 3.8% fall in the first six days of October. Month-on-month, the index dropped 0.3%, indicating sustained easing in food price pressures. Retail prices of tomatoes fell by 8.3% in September, while onions and potatoes witnessed even steeper declines — 46.2% and 30.9%, respectively. These corrections were driven by strong market arrivals and efficient supply chain management. "Headline CPI is experiencing a food-driven downward spiral, supported by robust arrival statistics of TOP vegetables," the report stated. Notably, cumulative arrivals of these key vegetables rose by 10.3% in FYTD26, a sharp turnaround from a 15.4% contraction during the same period last year. Additionally, global food prices have remained favourable, and recent GST rate cuts by automakers, FMCG companies, and e-commerce platforms are also contributing to the disinflationary trend. Bank of Baroda now expects the headline CPI to fall well below the Reserve Bank of India's inflation forecast for FY26, easing pressure on monetary policy and potentially creating room for rate cuts if needed. The continued deflationary trend could also support consumer sentiment and boost discretionary spending in the upcoming festive season, further aiding economic recovery.

Rupee Rises 2 Paise to 88.75 Against U.S. Dollar Amid Range-Bound Trade



The Indian rupee appreciated marginally by 2 paise to 88.75 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Wednesday, tracking a positive trend in domestic equities and limited inflows linked to ongoing IPO activity. The local currency had closed at 88.77, after falling 3 paise. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.76 and moved slightly to 88.75, showing modest strength despite ongoing global headwinds. Traders described the movement as range-bound, with broader cues keeping the currency under pressure. "Rupee is expected to remain in the range of 88.50 to 89.00 for the day as inflows on account of IPOs remain tepid with subscriptions being completed only on the last day," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. He also warned that negative global cues, including a stronger dollar index and weaker Asian currencies, could challenge the rupee's position unless the RBI steps in to defend the crucial 88.80 level. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, was trading higher at 98.85, up 0.28%. Meanwhile, Brent crude oil rose 0.75% to \$65.94 per barrel, putting some pressure on import-heavy economies like India. On the equity front, domestic markets opened strong with the Sensex gaining 254.02 points to reach 82,180.77, while the Nifty rose by 70.25 points to 25,178.55. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers on Tuesday, investing ₹1,440.66 crore in Indian equities, according to exchange data. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal also noted that India and the U.S. remain in active talks over a bilateral trade agreement, though the ongoing U.S. government shutdown may delay further negotiations.

Indian Engineer Sparks Debate Over 100-Hour Work Weeks

An Indian software engineer at AI startup Mercor has ignited online debate after revealing he works 72 to 100 hours a week. Pranav Mehta, a former Microsoft employee, described the intense schedule as a “worthwhile trade-off” for rapid personal and professional growth.

Mehta’s comments followed a post by Mercor CEO Brendan Foody, who announced the company had grown from a \$1 million to a \$500 million revenue run rate in just 17 months, calling it the

“fastest growing company of all time.” Mercor is now aiming for a \$10 billion valuation.

Acknowledging that such long hours may appear “daunting,” Mehta highlighted the unmatched learning opportunities at the firm. “A comfy 40-hour week won’t offer the same upside,” he wrote on X (formerly Twitter), defending the demanding work schedule as part of the startup’s high-growth culture.

His remarks, however, quickly sparked backlash. Many social media users criticised the glorification of extreme

work hours, raising concerns about burnout, mental health, and toxic workplace culture.

One user questioned the mindset behind such schedules, asking, “Why do you guys try to flaunt toxic work culture as hustle culture?” Another sarcastically noted, “Dada, you don’t have mental issues,” pointing to the potential mental toll of such intense routines.

Some offered a more optimistic perspective. A user suggested that the “working environment must be lit and hyped up all the time,” implying that the ener-

getic atmosphere might justify the high level of commitment.

The discussion reflects ongoing tensions in India’s tech sector, where startups often push employees to extreme limits for rapid growth, sparking debates over the balance between ambition and employee well-being.

Pranav Mehta’s post has reignited conversations about whether the drive for professional advancement is worth the personal cost, highlighting the growing scrutiny of “hustle culture” in the country’s booming tech industry.



‘Alien’ Diamond Created on Earth, Harder Than Natural Diamonds

In a groundbreaking development, Chinese scientists have successfully created a rare form of diamond—known as hexagonal diamond or lonsdaleite—in a laboratory setting, marking a major leap in material science. This ultra-hard crystal is naturally found only in meteorites and is believed to be significantly harder than conventional diamonds.

Published in Nature, the study was led by researchers from the Centre for High-Pressure Science & Technology Advanced Research. They achieved the feat by transforming high-purity graphite into hexagonal diamond under carefully controlled high-pressure, high-temperature, and quasi-hydrostatic conditions. The result: highly ordered, micro-metre-sized diamond samples that could out-



perform traditional diamonds in industrial and electronic applications.

Unlike standard cubic diamonds, which can fracture along specific planes, hexagonal diamonds have a more robust atomic structure. Until now, attempts to synthesize them in labs had mostly produced ordinary diamonds due to structural instability during formation.

Lead researcher Yang Liuxiang attributed the success to two key innovations. First, the use of ultra-pure natural graphite as the starting material ensured minimal defects. Second, real-time X-ray imaging allowed researchers to monitor and control the transformation process, avoiding common synthesis errors.

“This sets a new methodological founda-

tion for future material breakthroughs,” said Yang.

Ho-kwang Mao, a high-pressure science expert and foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, called the breakthrough a “new pathway” to next-generation superhard materials and advanced electronics.

With its exceptional hardness and thermal properties, the synthetic hexagonal diamond—produced at the hundred-micron scale—could revolutionize industries requiring ultra-durable materials, from cutting tools to high-performance semiconductor.

The achievement not only advances diamond synthesis but also opens doors to engineering other rare materials found only in extreme cosmic environments.

Eritrea: The Only Country With No Mobile Internet Access

In a world where even the remotest regions are becoming digitally connected, the East African nation of Eritrea stands out as a rare exception—one where mobile internet is virtually non-existent.

Located in the Horn of Africa and bordered by Djibouti, Sudan, and Ethiopia, Eritrea remains one of the most isolated and secretive countries on the planet. Despite technological advancements globally, the vast majority of Eritreans have never used mobile data, accessed social media, or made a digital transaction.

Asmara, the capital city, reflects the country’s limited digital infrastructure. There are no functional ATMs, and only a few select locations—such as hotels and government build-



ings—have access to fixed-line internet. Even that is heavily monitored and unreliable. For ordinary citizens, connecting to the internet on mobile phones is simply not an option.

Eritrea’s extreme digital disconnect is closely tied to its political structure. Often referred to as the “North Korea of Africa,” Eritrea has been

under authoritarian rule since gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The government tightly controls information, restricts freedom of expression, and mandates indefinite national ser-

vice for its citizens. International organizations and human rights groups have long criticized the regime for its lack of transparency and suppression of basic freedoms. The country ranks among the lowest globally in terms of press freedom and internet accessibility.

While the rest of Africa sees growing digital economies and social media revolutions, Eritrea remains cut off—its citizens deprived of the connectivity that powers modern life. For many young Eritreans, the idea of streaming a video, checking messages, or browsing the web is not a daily habit—it’s an unimaginable luxury.

In an age defined by digital transformation, Eritrea remains one of the few countries still living largely offline.

NHAI to Install QR Code Signboards on Highways for Emergency and Utility Info



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a new initiative to install QR code-enabled signboards across the national highway network, aimed at improving road safety, transparency, and commuter convenience. This move, revealed in a press release by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, will allow travelers to instantly access critical information by scanning QR codes while on the move.

The vertical signboards will feature project-specific details such as the national highway number, chainage, project length, and timelines for construction and maintenance. More importantly, they will pro-

vide quick access to emergency helpline numbers, including 1033, as well as contact details of key officials like highway patrol officers, toll managers, project managers, resident engineers, and NHAI field offices.

Additionally, the QR codes will offer digital access to nearby essential services such as hospitals, petrol pumps, toilets, police stations, restaurants, vehicle repair shops, truck lay-byes, toll plazas, and electric vehicle charging stations. This will help travellers locate emergency and utility services quickly, making journeys safer and smoother.

To maximize impact, NHAI plans to place these QR code sign-

boards at strategic locations such as toll plazas, rest areas, wayside amenities, truck lay-byes, and at the start and end points of highway stretches.

The Ministry emphasized that beyond providing project information, these signboards will enhance road safety by improving access to emergency services and boost user experience by increasing awareness about the national highways.

This initiative represents a significant step towards leveraging technology for safer, more informed travel on India’s highways, reflecting NHAI’s commitment to enhancing commuter convenience and transparency in infrastructure projects.

Is Coconut Safe for Diabetics? Experts Weigh In on Health Benefits and Risks

Coconut is a staple in Indian households, used in everything from curries to chutneys. But for the millions living with diabetes, the question remains: Is coconut safe to consume regularly?

Health experts suggest that coconut can be included in a diabetic-friendly diet—but in moderation. The white flesh of the coconut, though slightly sweet, contains relatively low net carbohydrates due to its high fibre content. This fibre slows down digestion and reduces the risk of sudden spikes in blood sugar, making it a better alternative to many refined carbohydrate foods.

A study published in the British Journal of Nutrition supports this claim, stating that coconut flour and other fibre-rich foods are associated with a lower glycemic index in both healthy individuals and those with diabetes. This means co-



conut-based foods may have a gentler effect on blood sugar levels.

However, the story doesn’t end there. Coconut is also high in calories and saturated fat. This makes it a double-edged sword, especially for diabetics who already face an increased risk of cardio-

vascular issues. Overconsumption could lead to weight gain and heart-related complications, negating the benefits of its fibre content.

Nutritionists advise strict portion control. A few tablespoons of grated coconut or a small amount of coco-

nut milk in cooking is generally considered safe for most diabetics. However, regularly consuming large quantities—especially in sweets or fried dishes—could be harmful.

In conclusion, coconut is not off-limits for diabetics, but it must be consumed mindful-

ly. Diabetic individuals should consult their doctors or dietitians before making coconut a regular part of their diet, especially in high-fat forms like coconut oil or cream.

Moderation is key—coconut can be part of a healthy diabetic diet when used wisely.

Women’s ODI: Mlaba, Brits Shine as South Africa Crushes New Zealand



South Africa bounced back in style at the ICC Women’s ODI World Cup, registering a comprehensive six-wicket victory over New Zealand at the Holkar Stadium on Monday. Spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba, along with batters Tazmin Brits and Sune Luus, played key roles in dismantling the White Ferns and guiding the Proteas to their second win in the tournament.

After suffering a heavy defeat to England in their previous outing, South Africa returned with renewed energy. Left-arm spinner Mlaba spun a web around the Kiwi batters, picking up a superb four-wicket haul, helping restrict New Zealand to 231 all out.

The chase got off to a slightly shaky start when captain Laura Wolvaardt fell early, but the Proteas didn’t falter. Brits and Luus built a massive 170-run stand for the second wicket, effectively taking the game

away from New Zealand. Brits, aggressive yet composed, smashed 101 off 89 balls, including 15 fours and a six. Her century celebration, a dramatic ‘archer pose’, was met with cheers from the crowd. This was her second century in ODI cricket and came at a crucial moment in the campaign. Luus anchored the innings with finesse, finishing unbeaten on 83 off 114 balls, as South Africa crossed the finish line with more than four



Barcelona Thrashed 4-1 by Sevilla as Lewandowski Misses Penalty

Barcelona’s woes deepened as they suffered a crushing 4-1 defeat to Sevilla in La Liga on Sunday, marking their second consecutive loss after a midweek setback to PSG in the Champions League.

Already hampered by the absence of teenage star Lamine Yamal, who is out for 2-3 weeks with a groin injury, Robert Lewandowski’s missed penalty in the 74th minute further

compounded their misery. His stutter-step attempt went wide left, denying Barça a chance to equalize when the score was 2-1. Sevilla, who hadn’t beaten Barcelona in La Liga in over a decade, capitalized early in scorching 33°C heat. Isaac Romero earned a penalty after being fouled by Ronald Araujo, which Alexis Sanchez converted in the 13th minute. Romero then doubled the lead in the

36th, finishing off a counter after Jules Koundé lost possession. Barcelona’s only bright spot came from Marcus Rashford, who scored his first La Liga goal just before half-time, redirecting a Pedri cross. But Sevilla struck twice more late on: Jose Angel Carmona in the 89th minute and Akor Adams deep into stoppage time. With the result, Real Madrid remain top of the table, two points

Shanghai Masters: Zverev Stunned by World No. 54 Arthur Rinderknech

In a major upset at the Shanghai Masters, third seed Alexander Zverev was knocked out in his opening match by 54th-ranked Arthur Rinderknech, who came back from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Monday. The Frenchman, who had already defeated Zverev earlier this year at Wimbledon in a five-set thriller, repeated the feat, sealing a famous win in just over two hours.

Zverev looked in control after a confident first set but failed to maintain his momentum. Rinderknech broke once in the second set and twice in the

third, while Zverev failed to convert a single break point after the opening set. The loss means the tournament’s highest-ranked remaining player is now out. Rinderknech, 30, is enjoying a career-best season with 23 wins and will now face Jiri Lehecka, who defeated Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 6-4, for a place in the quarterfinals. Elsewhere, Alex De Minaur, the seventh seed, beat Kamil Majchrzak 6-1, 7-5 under humid conditions to notch his 36th hard-court win of the season and reach his seventh Masters 1000 fourth round of 2025. He next



Australia Announces Squads for Home ODIs, First 2 T20Is Against India

Cricketer Australia (CA) on Tuesday named the squads for the upcoming home white-ball series against India, featuring three ODIs starting October 19 and the first two T20Is from October 29. The squads mark the return of several key players, including fast bowler Mitchell Starc and opener Matt Starc.

Starc, who had retired from T20 internationals last month ahead of next year’s ICC T20 World Cup, will make a comeback in the ODI series. His return bolsters Australia’s bowling attack, especially with the absence of injured skipper Pat Cummins. In his stead, Mitch Marsh will captain both the ODI and T20I teams against India. The Indian squad is expected to be strong, led by their new ODI captain Shubman Gill and boost-

ed by the returns of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. This sets the stage for an exciting contest between two powerful line-ups. In addition to Starc and Short, Australia has recalled Matt Renshaw and Mitchell Owen to the ODI squad. These changes come after the Australian team’s recent 2-1 series loss to South Africa. Dropped from the ODI squad are Aaron Hardie, Matthew Kuhnemann, and Marnus Labuschagne. Labuschagne will focus on four-day cricket for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield as he prepares for the Test series against England later this year. With Starc’s return and Marsh’s leadership, Australia aims to challenge India strongly in both formats, providing fans with a highly competitive and entertaining series ahead.

ner-up showing at the Malaysia Masters earlier this year. India’s men’s singles draw also features Ayush Shetty, the nation’s only BWF World Tour title winner this year, having clinched the US Open in June. He faces a tough opener against Paris 2024 silver medalist Kunlavut Vitidsarn. Other Indian shuttlers in the draw include Kiran George, S Sankar Muthusamy, and Tharun Mannepal. In a major setback, Asian Games gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have withdrawn from the men’s doubles

event. The women’s singles campaign will be led by rising stars Tanya Hemanth and Anmol Kharb, with PV Sindhu absent from the tournament. Kavipriya Selvam will also compete, having made it through the qualifiers. India’s mixed doubles hopes rest on Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila, while Selvam teams up with Simran Singhi in women’s doubles. No Indian player has ever won a title at the Arctic Open, and the 2025 edition presents a fresh opportunity for India’s young squad to break that streak.





Samantha to star in Simbu & Vetrimaaran’s film?

In a major development that has stirred excitement among Tamil cinema fans, actor Silambarasan TR (Simbu) and acclaimed director Vetrimaaran have joined hands for the first time for a project tentatively titled #STR49. What makes the announcement even more thrilling is that the film will be part of the Vada Chennai universe, a detail confirmed by Vetrimaaran himself during a recent award function.

Vada Chennai, released in 2018, is widely regarded as a modern-day cult classic. With its gritty portrayal of North Chennai’s underworld and powerful performances, it set a new benchmark in Tamil cinema. The idea of expanding this universe has sparked tremendous anticipation, especially with a versatile actor like Simbu on board.

According to the latest buzz in Kollywood circles, the film’s makers have initiated talks with actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu to play the female lead. Though discussions are still in the early stages, if confirmed, this will mark the first collaboration between Simbu and Samantha, two of the most popular stars in the South Indian film industry.

Adding further star power to the film, Anirudh Ravichander is expected to compose the music. Known for his chart-topping albums and electrifying scores, his involvement has only raised expectations.

The project will be bankrolled by renowned producer Kalaippuli S Thanu under the prestigious V Creations banner, known for backing several blockbuster hits.

Fans won’t have to wait long for a sneak peek—a title glimpse of #STR49 is set to be unveiled tomorrow morning. With such a powerful team coming together and the legacy of Vada Chennai behind it, #STR49 is shaping up to be one of the most-awaited films in Tamil cinema.



LIK Postpones Release, Avoids Diwali Clash with Pradeep Ranganathan’s Dude

The much-anticipated sci-fi romantic comedy LIK (Love Insurance Kampany), headlined by Pradeep Ranganathan, was initially slated for a Diwali 2025 release, clashing with another Pradeep-led project, Dude. However, the box office face-off has now been officially averted, with the makers of LIK announcing a new release date — December 18, 2025.

In a statement, the LIK team likened the potential clash to “two trains on the same track,” emphasizing that such a scenario would have benefited neither film. Opting for a strategic move, the team decided to delay the release, allowing both projects the space to shine. They also extended their

heartfelt wishes to the Dude team, showing camaraderie in an industry often marked by fierce competition.

LIK is directed by Vignesh Shivan, known for his unique blend of humour, romance, and emotion. The film features Krithi Shetty as the female lead, alongside a star-studded supporting cast that includes SJ Suryah, Yogi Babu,

Gouri G Kishan, and Mysskin.

The project is being jointly produced by SS Lalit Kumar of Seven Screen Studio and Rowdy Pictures, the banner run by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara. With Anirudh Ravichander on-board as the music composer, expectations are high for a youthful, vibrant soundtrack that com-

plements the film’s quirky premise.

LIK’s new December release gives it a solo window at the box office, increasing its chances for commercial success. Fans of Pradeep Ranganathan can now look forward to two different releases — Dude this Diwali and LIK just before Christmas, ensuring a double treat to end 2025 on a high note.



‘Bad Boy Karthik’ Teaser Out: Naga Shaurya Returns in Mass Avatar

Actor Naga Shaurya is back in action with his latest film Bad Boy Karthik, a high-octane mass entertainer that marks the directorial debut of Raam Desina. After a brief break from the big screen, Shaurya returns in a rugged new avatar, promising to showcase a wilder and fiercer side than ever before.

The makers unveiled the official teaser of the film, and it’s packed with adrenaline-fueled action sequences, punchy dialogues, and a glimpse into the protagonist’s intense journey. Shaurya’s transformation into the titular Bad Boy Karthik is evident, as he sports a bulked-up physique and a raw, aggressive style.

The teaser also introduces the film’s key characters. Vidhi Yadav plays the female lead and Shaurya’s romantic interest, while seasoned actors Samuthirakani, Naresh VK, and Saikumar appear in powerful supporting roles. Vennela Kishore adds a dash of comedy, ensuring the film strikes a balance between action and entertainment.

With music composed by Harris Jayaraj, the film has already created buzz through its songs, and the teaser only adds to the anticipation. The background score amps up the intensity, hinting at a storyline driven by revenge, redemption, and raw emotion.

Produced by Ramesh under the banner of Ramesh Films, Bad Boy Karthik is being positioned as a complete commercial entertainer aimed at fans of mass cinema. With its slick visuals, explosive action, and a mass-appeal lead, the film is expected to be a game-changer for Naga Shaurya.

The release date is yet to be announced, but the teaser has set the tone — Bad Boy Karthik is coming, and he means business.

Baahubali: The Epic’ Re-Release on Oct 31; No Baahubali 3 Announcement Yet

The legendary Baahubali franchise, which reshaped the landscape of Indian cinema, is set to return to theatres in a grand re-release as Baahubali: The Epic on October 31, 2025. The two-part magnum opus, directed by SS Rajamouli and starring Prabhas in the iconic role of Amarendra and Mahendra Baahubali, will hit screens in major premium formats across India.

In the lead-up to the re-release, rumours began circulating that the new cut would include a teaser for Baahubali 3, sending fans into a frenzy. However, producer Shobu Yarlagadda has put all speculation to rest.

“There won’t be a Baahubali 3 announcement for sure,” he said in a recent interview. “We might have some other surprise, but it isn’t related to Baahubali 3. There is still a lot more work to be done for the third part.”

While a direct sequel is not yet in the works, Yarlagadda hinted at something equally exciting. “This re-release is not just a one-off thing. It’s the beginning of Phase 2 of the Baahubali universe. We believe there are plenty of untold stories in this world.”

This statement has sparked new curiosity among fans about potential spin-offs, prequels, or web series based on characters from the Baahubali uni-



verse. SS Rajamouli has previously expressed interest in expanding the franchise beyond films, possibly exploring the medium of streaming or animation.

For now, audiences can revisit the grandeur of Baahubali: The Beginning and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion in remastered glory. While Baahubali 3 may not be arriving just yet, something big is clearly brewing in Mahishmati.

Roshan’s ‘Champion’ Set for Christmas Release

Young actor Roshan is all set to make a powerful return to the big screen with his upcoming film Champion, which is officially locked for a Christmas release. The much-anticipated period sports drama, directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Pradeep Advaitam, will hit theatres on December 25, just in time to leverage the festive season.

The makers confirmed the release date with a striking new poster showing Roshan stepping out of an aircraft in a dark belted overcoat, hinting at a stylish and intense character transformation. With the

shoot nearing completion, buzz around the film is beginning to build as audiences look forward to holiday releases.

Champion is said to blend the excitement of sports with a deep emotional arc, balancing action with romance. Roshan reportedly underwent a complete makeover for the role, with early glimpses promising a more mature and impactful performance from the young star.

The film stars Anaswara Rajan as the female lead opposite Roshan. Their on-screen chemistry is expected to add depth to the love story

that runs parallel to the central sports narrative.

Produced jointly by Swapna Cinemas, Anandi Art Creations, and Concept Films, Champion is presented by Zee Studios, adding strong backing to the film’s release and distribution plans.

With a prime release date, a compelling mix of drama, sport, and romance, and an acclaimed director at the helm, Champion is positioning itself as a major contender for the 2025 holiday box office.

Stay tuned as more promotional content and the official trailer are expected to drop in the coming weeks.

