

Permissions Restored for Aditya Company Following High Court Order

In Rangareddy district's Manchirevula village, the controversy over permissions for multi-storeyed building construction on a 9.19-acre plot has now been resolved. Following the orders of the High Court, the

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has reinstated the construction permissions for Aditya Company, ensuring compliance with all regulations. Aditya Kedia Realtors had

initially been granted permissions on August 19, 2022, to construct a 38-storey building. However, joint inspections conducted in July 2023 by HMDA, Irrigation, and Revenue officials

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Tilak Varma Felicitated by CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Sept 30: Indian cricketer Tilak Varma, who played a pivotal role in India's victory over Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2025 final, paid a courtesy call on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday.

Tilak, a left-handed batsman from Hyderabad, was one of the

standout performers in the high-voltage clash. His steady yet aggressive innings under pressure helped India clinch the prestigious title, drawing praise from cricketing circles across the country. Recognizing his contribution, the Chief Minister felicitated Tilak and commended him for his remarkable

composure and performance on the international stage. During the interaction, Tilak presented a cricket bat to the Chief Minister as a token of respect and gratitude. Revanth Reddy, while appreciating the gesture, lauded the youngster for bringing pride not just to the nation but also to Telangana. He

assured that the state government would extend all possible support to encourage budding sportspersons and nurture talent across disciplines. The Chief Minister noted that Tilak's success story would serve as an inspiration for countless

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Hyderabad Hot Seat: Sympathy vs Prestige in Jubilee Hills By-Election

Srikanth Gurram, TPN Bureau: The Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency, known for its prestige and influence, has suddenly emerged as the political hot seat of Telangana. The constituency, which is home to real estate giants, film personalities, and business magnates, is now buzzing with political discussions following the untimely demise of sitting MLA Maganti Gopinath.

With his passing, the seat has fallen vacant, and the political atmosphere has changed

dramatically. What was once a quiet urban stronghold is now the center of attention, with tea stalls, restaurants, and social gatherings dominated by one topic — the Jubilee Hills by-election.

BRS Bets on Sympathy Factor

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has announced that it will field Sunitha, wife of late MLA Maganti Gopinath, as its candidate. The party hopes to capitalize on the sympathy wave generated by Gopinath's sudden demise. Party strategists believe that

securing this seat will not only console the cadre but also infuse new energy into workers ahead of the GHMC elections, where BRS is eager to regain lost ground. Congress Sees Prestige Battle The Congress Party, currently in power, is treating the Jubilee Hills seat as a prestige issue. Winning this urban constituency, located in the heart of Hyderabad, would serve as a strong endorsement of its governance and

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DPR OF MUSI REJUVENATION MAY BE READY BY JANUARY

Hyderabad, Sept 30: The ambitious Musi River Rejuvenation Project has once again come into focus as surveys are being carried out along the riverbanks and efforts are on to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) by January. While the State government and the Musi Riverfront Development

Corporation Limited (MRDCL) are pressing ahead with plans to secure funds and move the project into the execution stage, opposition from residents and environmental activists is becoming louder, raising questions about the effectiveness and inclusiveness of the initiative. The State government has entrusted a

consortium of companies, including Meinhardt, RIOS, Cushman and Wakefield, with the support of ZHA and SOM, to prepare the DPR. Last October, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that Rs.141 crore would be paid to the consortium to prepare a comprehensive DPR for the entire project within 18 months.

As part of this exercise, drone-based surveys and ground-level studies are being carried out along the river stretch. Officials said that surveys covering 500-metre and 100-metre buffer zones from the riverbanks have already been completed, while work on mapping the 35-metre buffer zone is

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ROADS ARE WAITING FOR REPAIR

Hyderabad, Sept 30: Despite nearly two months passing since torrential rains battered the State, leaving roads and culverts severely damaged, the State Government has yet to begin large-scale repair works. Commuters continue to face hardship as connectivity remains disrupted at several locations, while only patchwork measures have been undertaken in some places.

The relentless rains that lashed the State in August caused extensive destruction. In its first assessment, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department drew up a plan for temporary restoration at an estimated cost of Rs. 53.76 crore, while pegging permanent works at Rs. 1,157.46 crore. Following another spell of heavy rains in September, the department revised its estimates to Rs. 72.49 crore

for temporary repairs and Rs. 1,263.33 crore for permanent restoration.

However, ground-level progress remains minimal. Save for filling potholes and repairing breaches at a few stretches, no tangible work has been undertaken to mitigate the suffering of the road users. A senior official admitted that the department has been unable to execute works due to lack of participation from contractors.

"The response to tenders has been poor. Contractors are reluctant to take up even temporary works because the government has not cleared dues of around Rs. 140 crore owed to maintenance contractors," the official explained.

The financial bottleneck is significant. Around 1,400 contractors have pending bills ranging from

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young cricketers in Telangana who dream of representing India. He urged the youth to draw motivation from Tilak's hard work, discipline, and determination.

Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari and senior officials were present on the occasion. They too congratulated Tilak Varma and highlighted the gov-

ernment's commitment to promoting sports infrastructure and facilities in the state.

The meeting ended on a warm note, with both the Chief Minister and Sports Minister expressing confidence that Tilak Varma would continue to shine for India in upcoming tournaments and carve out a long, successful career in international cricket.

DPR OF MUSI REJUVENATION MAY READY BY JANUARY

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currently in progress. The DPR being readied will focus on a 55-kilometre stretch of the Musi, running from Narsingi to Godelli, and is expected to be submitted by early next year. Once the report is ready, the government plans to seek a loan of nearly Rs.4,100 crore from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to begin the works in phases.

According to MRDCL officials, the project is envisioned not only as a beautification effort but also as an exercise in urban renewal. The DPR is expected to cover multiple aspects including identification and removal of encroachments, rehabilitation of displaced residents, riverfront beautification, and measures to restore ecological balance. Officials argue that such a comprehensive approach will help convert the Musi riverfront into an urban landmark while also addressing long-standing concerns over flooding, pollution, and lack of civic infrastructure. However, translating these plans into reality is proving difficult, with both social and ecological challenges mounting.

On the ground, residents of several low-lying localities remain skeptical about the government's intentions. Memories of displacement and loss associated with past urban development projects continue to linger. The recent flooding in areas such as Chaderghat only deepened these suspicions. A senior GHMC official recalled how residents refused to move to relief camps despite being surrounded by floodwaters last week. "They chose to remain on rooftops and we had to deliver food and essentials using drones. They did not agree to leave their homes because they feared that once vacated, their houses would be



demolished and taken over by the government," the official said. Such resistance highlights the difficulties the government may face in relocating thousands of families living in encroached zones along the Musi's banks.

Equally vocal are environmental activists and experts who have repeatedly questioned the logic of limiting rejuvenation efforts to a portion of the river stretch. They point out that unless there are strong measures to control sewage inflows and industrial effluents being dumped into the river, cosmetic beautification will serve little purpose. The Musi today functions largely as a carrier of untreated sewage, and activists argue that any attempt to rejuvenate only select portions of the river will be undermined by continuing pollution upstream and downstream. "This is at best a short-term fix. Unless there is a comprehensive sewage treatment and effluent management plan, the river will remain polluted, and all the beautification works will be washed away," one activist remarked. Others add that a partial focus risks wasting public funds while leaving core issues unresolved, making the project yet another expensive but ineffective experiment in urban development.

For the government, however, the project holds symbolic and strategic value. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has

described the Musi rejuvenation as one of his flagship programs and has appealed to the public for support, insisting that the transformation of the riverfront will enhance the image of Hyderabad as a global city. Officials hope that a modern riverfront will not only provide green and recreational spaces but also attract investment, promote tourism, and boost real estate values in surrounding areas. Yet, the gap between official promises and ground realities remains wide. The technical and financial challenges of mobilizing over Rs.4,000 crore, convincing residents to relocate, and ensuring that ecological safeguards are built into the project are daunting.

As things stand, the consortium continues its surveys and data collection while preparing the DPR. Once submitted, the report will outline the scale, cost, and phased approach of the project. But whether the government can overcome resistance from residents, address environmental concerns, and secure financial backing will determine if the Musi rejuvenation becomes a model for urban transformation or ends up as yet another stalled dream. For now, the fate of Hyderabad's most ambitious riverfront project rests on how effectively the State manages to balance development goals with ecological realities and public trust.

Hyderabad Hot Seat: Sympathy vs Prestige in Jubilee Hills By-Election

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urban connect. The party is carefully weighing its options to put forward a strong candidate capable of swaying cosmopolitan and middle-class voters. For Congress, victory here would reinforce its dominance and boost its confidence for the next five years.

B J P E y e s Breakthrough

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been working to expand its footprint in Hyderabad, sees Jubilee Hills as a potential game-changer. The constituency's large middle-class and business voter base aligns with the BJP's outreach strategy. Party insiders believe that if the BJP can pull off a surprise win here, it will significantly alter its

standing in the GHMC polls and reshape its urban political narrative.

MIM's Limited Role For the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), Jubilee Hills is not a key turf. While it has pockets of influence, the main contest is expected to remain a triangular fight among BRS, Congress, and BJP. Political observers, however, cau-

tion that even limited vote shares in urban areas could tilt the balance in a tight race.

More Than Just a By-Election

The Jubilee Hills by-election is no ordinary battle. It is shaping up as a clash between sympathy and prestige. For BRS, it is about retaining emotional connect with voters; for Congress, it is about show-

casing governance credibility; and for BJP, it is about proving its growing influence in the city.

Ultimately, the verdict rests with the voters of Jubilee Hills. Their choice will not only decide who represents them in the Assembly but also set the tone for the political direction of urban Telangana in the days to come.

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Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for nearly two years. In addition, dues of nearly Rs. 1,400 crore are owed to major contractors who executed road recarpeting and other projects earlier. Without clearance of these bills, contractors are unwilling to take up new works, leaving the department hamstrung.

The scale of damage is alarming. The R&B Department identified nearly 1,370 kilometres of State roads that suffered severe damage at 1,062 locations. Of these, 68 roads were completely cut off, disrupting public transport and isolating several regions. Cross-drainage (CD) structures worth about Rs. 306 crore were also damaged, requiring urgent attention.

Some limited progress

has been reported. Temporary restoration has been completed on 38 stretches, bringing partial relief to commuters. Out of 520 complaints of water overflow, officials stated that water receded at 478 points. Similarly, of the 445 reported traffic interruptions, around 375 have been restored for movement. But the remaining stretches continue to be unsafe and inconvenient for daily commuters.

On Monday, Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held a review meeting with department officials and assured them that the required funds would be released soon. He emphasized the government's commitment to repairing damaged infrastructure and restoring road connectivity. However, officials re-



mained skeptical, recalling that similar assurances had been made in the past without funds actually being disbursed.

As the festive season approaches, the continuing deterioration of

roads has sparked growing frustration among the public. Citizens and transporters alike have demanded urgent action, warning that prolonged inaction could not only cripple connectivity but also increase

the risk of accidents. For now, the fate of the damaged roads depends on whether the government can resolve the financial logjam and mobilize contractors to take up the long-pending repair works.

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revealed that the company had constructed a retaining wall encroaching into the Musi River buffer zone. Consequently, on August 2, 2023, HMDA issued a show-cause notice. Since the company's explanation was unsatisfactory, the permissions were canceled on Au-

gust 18, 2023, and the company was instructed to remove the retaining wall.

Challenging this decision, Aditya Company approached the High Court. Following interim directions from the court, authorities conducted another inspection on February 26, 2024, confirming that

the retaining wall had been removed. Considering the compliance, the High Court ordered on March 1, 2024, that the permissions be reinstated.

Acting on the court's ruling, HMDA restored the building construction permissions on June 20, 2024. The reinstated permissions cov-

er survey numbers 476/AA1 and 476/AA2 in Manchirevula village, enabling construction on the 9.19-acre plot to proceed.

Earlier, in 2021, the company had submitted Environmental NOCs from the Irrigation Department and the Rangareddy Collector to HMDA. The proposal

was then discussed in the Multi-Storied Building (MSB) Committee meeting, and after paying the prescribed fees, HMDA issued the construction permissions in August 2022.

With the High Court's verdict removing legal hurdles, the Aditya Company project is now set to move forward

Minister Ponguleti Reviews Palair Constituency for Local Elections

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has called on Congress party workers to unite and work hard for the victory of their candidates in the first phase of the MPTC and ZPTC elections in the Palair constituency. During a review meeting with mandal-level leaders at his camp office in Kusumanchi, the minister outlined the party's strategy and commitment to transparency.

Ponguleti highlighted that the Congress gov-

ernment has shown its commitment to the Backward Classes (BC) by issuing an order for a 42% reservation, a move he says no other government has made. He stated that the elections will be held based on this list, and while some have challenged the order in the High Court, the party is confident and will proceed with the elections as per the court's verdict, expected on 8th of October.

The minister underscored the various welfare schemes implemented by the Congress government over the past 21 months, such as

Indiramma housing, new ration cards, free electricity (up to 200 units), 500 gas cylinders, and the construction of new roads. He asserted that these schemes would be the primary strength of the candidates. To ensure a fair selection process, he announced the formation of nine-member committees in each mandal to choose candidates based on their winning potential and loyalty to the party. He also warned that strict disciplinary action would be taken against anyone who acts against the party's interests.



Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Meets CM Revanth Reddy

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, along with Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and Tourism Department MD Kranthi, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills. The purpose of the visit was to thank the Chief Minister for the government's grand organization of the

Bathukamma event at Saroornagar stadium. The event set two Guinness World Records: one for the largest Bathukamma and another for the longest folk dance. The minister and the officials expressed their gratitude to the CM for this historic achievement, which brought international recognition to Telangana's culture.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Extends Saddula Bathukamma Greetings

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy extended his warm wishes to all the women of Telangana on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma. He described the festival as a testament to Telangana's rich culture, which celebrates nature and flowers. The Chief Minister wished a joyful and vibrant celebration filled with songs and dances. He emphasized that the festival is a symbol of Telangana's collective spirit and unity, where people share both happiness and sorrow. He highlighted the

cultural significance of the nine-day festival, which has become a symbol of the people's self-respect. Revanth Reddy also mentioned the government's grand celebration at Saroornagar stadium, where 10,000 women came together to showcase the uniqueness of Bathukamma to the world. He added that his government is committed to environmental protection, citing the recent restoration of the Bathukamma Pond in Amberpet as an example of their dedication to preserving ponds for future generations.

Sajjanar's Farewell Message: A Journey of Transformation

In a unique and symbolic gesture on his last day as Managing Director of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), C.V. Sajjanar chose to travel to his office on an RTC bus. He was welcomed with great fanfare by employees who greeted him with a musical band. This farewell was more than just an event; it was a reflection of the journey of change he had initiated at the corporation. Sajjanar's message to the employees was a deeply personal one. He noted that when he first took the helm, the mindset

among the staff was one of collective ownership, a sense that "this is our organization, let's protect it." He was now leaving with a feeling of pride that he had successfully instilled a new, more powerful sentiment: "This organization is mine; I am proud of it, and I want it to develop even further." Sajjanar expressed his gratitude to every person who had cooperated with him in this transformation. He is now taking on a new role as the Hyderabad Police Commissioner, a move that marks the end of his successful tenure at the TSRTC.



Ministers Launch "Indiramma Minority Mahila Shakti" Scheme

Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, and Vivek Venkatswamy distributed sewing machines to minority women under the "Indiramma Minority Mahila Shakti" scheme at the Habib Fatima Nagar Community Hall. During the event, the ministers also released a poster titled "KCR's Bakki Cards,"

criticizing the previous government's 10-year rule. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the Telangana Praja Palana government is committed to the upliftment of minority women and aims to empower them financially through self-employment opportunities. He announced that the first phase of the scheme has already distributed 10,490 sewing machines to eligible women, and the government has approved the distribution of an additional 33,750 machines in the second phase. He emphasized that the scheme is not limited to the Jubilee Hills constituency alone but will be implemented across all 119 constituencies. The minister also criticized the previous BRS government for neglecting the Jubilee Hills constituency and pointed out that the new Congress government has already initiated several welfare schemes, including new ration cards, free electricity, 500 gas cylinders, and free bus travel for women. He urged women to join self-help groups to avail of various government schemes, including interest-free loans.

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Minister Damodar ajanarsimha Reviews Seasonal Disease Prevention

Telangana Health and Family Welfare Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha chaired a review meeting on the prevention of seasonal diseases at the Rajiv Arogya Sri Health Care Trust office in Hyderabad. During the meeting, officials from the Health Department presented a

detailed report, assuring the minister that seasonal diseases are under complete control and that cases have significantly subsided compared to the previous year. Officials attributed this positive trend to the proactive and preventive measures taken by the Public Health Department at the grass-

roots level. The minister was informed that health officials have been conducting field visits to raise awareness among the public. Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha commended their efforts and instructed them to work towards making Telangana a state with zero seasonal disease cases.

Officials also confirmed that all hospitals across the state have an adequate supply of medicines to treat seasonal ailments. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Health Department Secretary Dr. Christina Z. Chongthu and Arogya Sri Trust CEO Uday Kumar, among others.



Cyberabad Police Honors Retiring Officers

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate recently organized a formal retirement function to bid farewell to three of its dedicated officers. The event, held on September 30, 2025, at the CP Office auditorium, was a moment of reflection and gratitude for the officers' long-standing service. Cyberabad Commissioner of Police, Avinash Mohanty, presided over the function, acknowledging the remarkable contributions of ACP K. Satyanarayana, Sub-Inspector M. Srinivas, and Sub-Inspector K. Shankaraiah. In his address, Commissioner Mohanty presented the retiring officers with their pension papers, a symbolic gesture of the department's appreciation. He spoke about the immense sacrifices that police officers make, including long working hours and time away from their families, to ensure the safety and security of the community. Mohanty expressed his gratitude for their dedicated service in maintaining law and order, and he encouraged them to enjoy a fulfilling post-retirement life, pursuing hobbies and spending quality time with their loved ones. The ceremony was a heartwarming affair, attended by the retirees' family members and colleagues, as well as senior officials like DCP Srujana Karnam and ADCP Mohd Fazlur Rahman, who all offered their best wishes.

Telangana DGP Jitender Bids a Tearful Farewell

Telangana's Director General of Police, Jitender, was given an emotional farewell at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy as he retired after 33 years of distinguished service. During the farewell parade, Jitender became emotional while speaking about his late mother, with tears in his eyes. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported him throughout his career, which he credited for his successful tenure as DGP. In his farewell address, Jitender spoke about the evolving challenges facing the police force, such as cyber-crime, drug trafficking, and interstate gang activities. He urged the Telangana Police to continue improving and leveraging technology to effectively address these issues. Jitender proudly noted that under his leadership, the Telangana Police had been ranked number one in the country in the recent India Justice Report. He also praised the state government for its strong support, which led to the recent recruitment of over 14,000 new police personnel. He expressed great confidence in his successor, Battula Shivadhar Reddy, whose experience in urban policing and counter-terrorism, he believes, will be a tremendous asset to the state.



Political Parties Urged to Cooperate for Jubilee Hills By-election

A crucial meeting was held at the GHMC headquarters to discuss the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan chaired the meeting, where he appealed to representatives from various political parties to cooperate and ensure a free, transparent, and fair election. Commissioner Karnan announced the release of the final voter list for the constituency, which now has a total of 3,98,982 voters across 407 polling stations. He advised voters to verify their names on the official ECI and CEO websites and informed the political parties that forms for objections, modifications, or additions could be submitted until the last day of nominations. He specifically urged all parties to appoint booth-level agents for every polling station to facilitate a smooth and honest electoral process. The meeting saw the participation of key representatives from a wide range of political parties, including the BSP, BJP, AAP, CPI(M), Congress, BRS, TDP, and AIMIM, all of whom were handed copies of the final voter list.

Chandi Homam Performed at Abkari Bhavan

The Telangana Prohibition and Excise Department celebrated the conclusion of the nine-day Devi Navaratri festival with a special Chandi Homam at Abkari Bhavan. The event was attended by Excise Commissioner C. Harikiran, who led the prayers and rituals. The day's festivities were marked by a sense of devotion and community, with a Chandi Yagam, Purnahuti, and an Annadanam (community feeding) program held for all who attended. The Commissioner performed pujas at the homam and also at the Sri Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi temple located within the premises, seeking the goddess's blessings. The event highlighted the department's commitment to not only its official duties but also to its cultural and religious traditions. Several senior officials, including TG-BCC General Manager B. Amsha and Assistant Managers V. Jayalakshmi and Vijaya, participated in the event, marking a serene end to the nine-day festival.



Excise Raids Seize 86 Liquor Bottles

The Telangana Excise Department has stepped up its efforts to curb the illegal sale of liquor, conducting two successful raids that resulted in the seizure of a large number of illicit liquor bottles. In the first raid in Pahad Shareef, the Ranga Reddy Enforcement team, led by AES Jeevan Kiran, confiscated 41 bottles of alcohol. The bottles were believed to have been smuggled from Goa, Haranya, and Delhi. The seized items were handed over to the Saroor-nagar Excise Police Station for further action. In a separate operation, the STF B and D teams, led by CIs Biksh Reddy and Nagaraju, conducted a vehicle inspection in the Shamshabad area. This raid yielded 45 bottles of illegal liquor. The total estimated value of the seized bottles from both operations is approximately 2.50 lakh. These raids underscore the Excise Department's ongoing commitment to enforcing prohibition laws and cracking down on the illegal liquor trade across the state.



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Murder in Narsingi

A violent incident in Narsingi has resulted in the death of a man named Yadagiri. The murder occurred near a double-bedroom apartment in Kokapet, and the victim's friends, Afroze and Nawaz, have been taken into police custody as the primary suspects. According to the Narsingi police, the three individuals were consuming alcohol late at night when a minor argument escalated into a fatal confrontation. In a fit of rage, Afroze and Nawaz allegedly attacked Yadagiri with a knife, stabbing him multiple times. The loud altercation prompted local residents to alert the police by calling the Dial 100 emergency number. The police quickly responded to the scene, where they found the victim's body. The body was immediately transported to a hospital for post-mortem. Both suspects were apprehended at the scene of the crime. The police have registered a case and are conducting a full investigation to determine the exact sequence of events and motives behind the murder.

BRS Gains New Members in Nawabpet Mandal

In a significant political development in the Vikarabad district, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has seen a wave of new members joining its ranks. The move, which took place at a meeting of BRS key workers in the Nawabpet mandal center, saw former BJP mandal president Narender Reddy, along with approximately 200 of his followers, formally joining the BRS. The event was attended by high-ranking party officials, including former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and former MLA Methuku Anand.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sabitha Indra Reddy welcomed the new members and underscored the importance of strengthening the party at the grassroots level, particularly with the upcoming local body elections in mind. She urged the new members to

work diligently to ensure the BRS's victory in the Nawabpet mandal. Sabitha Indra Reddy used the occasion to criticize the current Congress government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, for what she described as its broken promises, particularly concerning women's welfare. She contrasted the current administration's performance with the previous BRS government, highlighting KCR's initiatives such as the 50% reservation for women in local bodies and the distribution of Bathukamma sarees. Sabitha expressed her dismay that the Congress government, which had promised to make women millionaires, has not even been able to provide the sarees. She also voiced her support for farmers affected by the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, assuring them that the BRS would stand by them.



Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Unveils “Bathukamma Paatala Pallaki”

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay recently unveiled a book titled “Bathukamma Paatala Pallaki,” a collection of Bathukamma songs written by the poet Ananthoju Padma Sri. The book launch ceremony celebrated the cultural and literary contribution of the Karim-

nagar-based author. During the event, Bandi Sanjay highly praised Ananthoju Padma Sri for her work, stating that her songs are a true reflection of the “heartbeat of the Telangana folk.”

Sanjay commended the poet for her efforts in documenting the region-

al culture and traditions of Telangana in a poetic form. He encouraged her to continue writing and producing more such works that honor the state's heritage. The minister's words highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting regional traditions

through art and literature. The event was a testament to the cultural richness of Telangana and the artistic talent of its people. The author's family members, including Jupaka Malleshham, Shalini, and Srija, were present to witness the special occasion.



GHMC Honors Retiring Employees and Commends a Rising Star

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) recently hosted a heartfelt farewell ceremony to honor 19 of its officials and employees who have retired from their service. The event, held at the GHMC Head Office, was presided over by Commissioner R.V. Karnan. During the ceremony, Karnan expressed his gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the retiring staff, stating that their hard work and dedication have been instrumental in the progress of the GHMC.

The Commissioner personally felicitated each of the retirees, presenting them with shawls, garlands, and gifts as a token of appreciation. He also shared some encouraging words, emphasizing that



retirement is not an end but the beginning of a new chapter in life. He wished the retirees good health and happiness, urging them to spend quality time with their families and pursue their passions. The ceremony was also attended by Zonal Commis-

sioners Anurag Jayanthi and Apurva Chauhan, Additional Commissioner K. Venugopal, and other senior officials. In a separate and equally significant gesture, the GHMC honored Satwik Naik, a former junior assistant who was recently select-

ed for the position of Deputy Collector. The officials, including Additional Commissioner K. Venugopal, celebrated his achievement, calling his journey from a junior assistant to a Deputy Collector a great source of inspiration for his colleagues.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations in Vikarabad

The spirit of Telangana's cultural heritage was on full display in Vikarabad as the Bathukamma festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur. The heart of the festivities was the Shivaram Nagar Colony, where women from the 31st ward gathered to celebrate the festival with pomp and ceremony. The event was marked by the beautiful sight of Bathukammas, meticulously decorated with a variety of colorful flowers, being brought together for the traditional rituals.

The women, dressed in vibrant traditional attire, danced and sang folk songs, filling the air

with a sense of joy and community. The atmosphere was festive and lively, with people of all ages—from children to elders—joining in the celebrations. The organizers had also arranged for special cultural programs to complement the festivities. Local public representatives and community leaders were also in attendance, expressing their appreciation and admiration for the women's efforts in keeping the tradition alive. The celebrations turned the entire Shivaram Nagar Colony into a hub of cultural activity, showcasing the rich traditions and communal harmony of the region.



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

The U.S. dollar, once a symbol of global trade stability, has morphed into a strategic weapon of economic coercion. Instead of tanks or troops, Washington now uses financial sanctions, SWIFT bans, and punitive tariffs to control nations, just ask Iran, Russia, Venezuela, and now India.

Recently, the U.S. imposed a 50% tariff on Indian exports, provoking India to buy cheaper oil from Russia, a country still deeply entwined economically with the U.S. through secret tech deals and uranium trade. This blatant hypocrisy underscores a larger truth: India remains trapped in an economic system designed

to sustain American dominance. Despite being the world's fifth-largest economy and a major geopolitical power, India still settles over 60% of its foreign trade in U.S. dollars. Whether trading with Russia or importing machinery from China, payments flow through New York's invisible "toll booth," enriching American banks and reinforcing dependence. This system is not about efficiency but control. The dollar's status as the world's reserve currency lets the U.S. print money freely, finance endless military ventures, and impose its will on sovereign nations.

Prime Minister Modi's call for "At-

manirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) is commendable, but true self-reliance is impossible as long as India's trade remains dollar-denominated and SWIFT-dependent. One American bureaucrat can freeze payments to Indian importers or deny liquidity to Russian banks, quietly auctioning India's strategic autonomy.

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

ments like rare earths for technology. Forming a Rupee-Yuan-Ruble triad and championing alternative clearing houses such as a BRICS+ system would diminish dollar hegemony and establish a truly multipolar financial order, the one where trade isn't weaponized and national sovereignty respected. Modi has resisted Western pressure admirably by continuing to buy Russian oil, but this moment demands reinvention. India can lead a new era of economic dignity by building an independent financial ecosystem, one that chips away at the dollar's false supremacy and lights the fuse for a post-dollar world.



The Media, now India Needs: Honest, Plural, Accountable

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

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



stream media's reluctance to question the government on security failures that led to the massacre. Accountability was noticeably absent. A similar pattern emerges in coverage of tariff disputes with the U.S. While India must defend its strategic interests firmly, effective diplomacy requires realism and agility. Yet mainstream media shy away from critically assessing India's handling of negotiations, choosing instead to echo commentary that supports India's stance or criticizes the U.S. This one-sided coverage undermines deeper understanding

and reflection. Though India boasts courageous journalists and independent digital voices working often at personal risk, these are exceptions. Concentrated media ownership, advertising pressures, and threats—both legal and online—discourage investigative scrutiny. Sensationalism often trumps in-depth reporting. Diaspora communities must also reflect on their role. While enjoying media freedoms abroad, many support narrow, uncritical media consumption about India, fostering echo chambers rather than pluralism. True patriotism

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



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

US President Donald Trump recently announced that starting October 1, 2025, a 100% tariff will be imposed on branded or patented pharmaceutical imports into the U.S., unless foreign companies build drug-manufacturing facilities on American soil. Marketed as a nationalist "produce in America or pay" policy, this move aims to bring supply chains home but effectively acts as a blunt instrument of protectionism.

India, known as the "pharmacy of the world," produces about 20% of global generic medicines, supplies nearly 60% of vaccines worldwide, and hosts the largest number of US FDA-approved manufac-

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

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

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



The New Battlefield: WhatsApp Groups and Everyday Conflicts

In today's digital age, wars are no longer confined to geopolitics or economics; they have found a new, unexpected battleground: WhatsApp groups. Once celebrated as a quick and convenient way to stay connected, WhatsApp has evolved into a zone of social tension, petty conflicts, and endless misunderstandings. Take a simple morning walk and you might overhear heated debates sparked by WhatsApp disputes. In one in-

stance, a group member faced backlash for buying designer outfits on sale but not sharing the news with the group. The irritation? She frequently forwards messages but kept this exclusive. Meanwhile, just a few steps away, another group fumed over a member who constantly flooded chats with mundane photos, from feeding her dog to watering plants, clogging up everyone's phone storage. These seemingly trivial quarrels underscore a deeper social dilemma:

WhatsApp's ease of communication blurs boundaries between private space and public sharing. One delayed reply to a long-lost friend's message was enough to end a friendship, while an acquaintance's persistent calls and follow-up messages turned interactions into a source of stress and withdrawal. WhatsApp groups span diverse circles, schools, families, apartments and while they theoretically offer a platform for helpful information and camaraderie, reality often

falls short. Apartment groups, for example, start with polite exchanges but quickly devolve into finger-pointing over unpaid maintenance, garbage issues, and disputes about repairs. Just when the tension peaks, someone might innocently ask about a plumber, briefly breaking the hostile rhythm. The constant pressure to monitor and respond to messages can be exhausting. Whether engaging enthusiastically or replying with indifference, users risk judgment and

criticism. The safest response, some suggest, is a neutral one: "Nothing, just WhatsApp." This digital battlefield reveals the complexities of modern communication where convenience collides with social expectations, and every notification can become a small war. For many, WhatsApp is less about connection and more about navigating fragile egos and endless drama. In the war zone of instant messaging, sometimes the best defense is simply a quiet retreat.

PM Modi welcomes Donald Trump’s Gaza peace plan

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the 20-point peace proposal for Gaza announced by U.S. President Donald Trump, aimed at ending the on-going conflict between Israel and Hamas militants. The peace plan, unveiled on September 29, 2025, outlines a comprehensive framework to bring a ceasefire and restore stability to the Gaza region, which has been devastated by months of intense fighting. A key element of the proposal is the safe and swift return of all hostages held by Hamas—both living and deceased—within 72 hours of the ceasefire. This move seeks to address one of the most urgent

humanitarian issues fueling tensions in the conflict. In his statement, PM Modi expressed hope that the proposal would pave the way for a lasting resolution and bring relief to millions affected by the violence. He urged all parties involved to engage constructively with the plan and work towards sustainable peace. The peace proposal covers multiple dimensions, including security arrangements, humanitarian aid, and the rebuilding of infrastructure damaged during the conflict. It calls for coordinated efforts by regional and global actors to ensure compliance and implementation. This announcement comes amid increasing international calls for de-escalation and efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The war has resulted in



significant civilian casualties and widespread destruction, prompting urgent diplomatic interventions. The Modi government’s endorsement of the plan reflects India’s longstanding commitment to peace in the Middle East and its support for initiatives that promote dialogue and reconciliation. As the international community watches closely, the success of the peace proposal will depend on the willingness of all parties to put aside hostilities and prioritize the well-being of civilians caught in the conflict.



Chaitanyananda Saraswati Confronted with Female Aides Amid Harassment Probe

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati, accused of sexually harassing 17 students at a private institute in New Delhi, was confronted by police on Tuesday along with two female aides who allegedly threatened victims and coerced them into deleting lewd messages. The 62-year-old spiritual leader’s phones reportedly contained multiple photographs of him with air hostesses

and screenshots of women’s display pictures, according to police officials. Investigators uncovered numerous chats with women, with allegations that Saraswati used false promises to lure them. During the investigation, police confronted Saraswati’s aides, who are accused of intimidating the victims to suppress evidence and prevent them from reporting the harassment. Authorities are probing the extent of the aides’ involvement and their role in obstructing

justice. Saraswati was taken to the Vasant Kunj police station in New Delhi last Sunday, where the inquiry into the allegations intensified. The case has sparked widespread outrage and calls for strict action against those exploiting positions of trust. Police have assured that the investigation will be thorough and victims will be provided necessary protection and support. They have urged anyone with additional information to come forward. This incident has

once again highlighted concerns over safety and harassment in educational and spiritual institutions, prompting demands for stronger safeguards for students and followers. The police continue to gather evidence and are expected to file a detailed report soon. Meanwhile, the accused remains in custody as the case progresses. The probe serves as a reminder of the need for accountability and transparency, especially when allegations involve influential figures in society.

India Announces 2 Cross-Border Rail Links With Bhutan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India on Monday announced its first cross-border railway connectivity projects with Bhutan, unveiling plans to build two train links at a cost of over 4,000 crore to enhance trade and regional cooperation. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that two new railway lines will con-

nect Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan, and Banarhat in West Bengal to Samtse in Bhutan. The 89-km railway projects are expected to be completed in the next four years. The Kokrajhar-Gelephu line will be 69 km long and cost 3,456 crore. It will include six stations, two major bridges, two viaducts, 29 major and 65 minor bridges, one road-over-bridge, 39 road-under-bridges, and two goodsheds. Around 2.39 km of this line will fall

within Bhutanese territory. The second project, Banarhat to Samtse, will cover 20 km and cost 577 crore. It is expected to be completed in three years and will include two intermediate stations. “This is the first set of rail connectivity projects with Bhutan,” Misri said, calling the initiative a sign of “exceptional trust, mutual respect, and shared development goals” between the two nations. The projects were agreed upon during

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Bhutan last year. Vaishnaw noted that since most of Bhutan’s exports and imports flow through Indian ports, the new rail links will significantly boost Bhutan’s economic growth. India has also pledged 10,000 crore in development assistance to Bhutan under its 13th five-year plan (2024–2029), reinforcing its commitment as Bhutan’s largest developmental partner.



“Stalin Taking Revenge?” Vijay Cries Vendetta Over Stampede, DMK Hits Back

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Actor and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay, in his first public comments since the tragic stampede in Karur that killed 41 people, strongly criticised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), hinting at a political conspiracy ahead of the 2026 state elections. In a somber video message released four days after the incident, Vijay said, “Chief Minister sir, if you have revenge plans, do anything to me. Don’t touch my leaders. I will be at home or in office.” He alleged that false police cases were being filed against TVK members and supporters, asserting that his

party had followed all safety protocols. “We did nothing wrong except speak at the designated spot. But cases have been filed against our leaders, friends, and social media partners. My political journey will continue with renewed vigour,” he said. Vijay’s remarks come amidst mounting political tension following the deadly stampede during a welfare event organised by the TVK in Karur on Sunday. The DMK reacted sharply, accusing Vijay of deflecting blame. DMK spokesperson A Saravanan said, “It took four days to release a video? This is scripted. He must take responsibility for the deaths because he broke the rules.” The party also pointed out that Chief Minister



Stalin had rushed to Karur within hours of the incident to oversee relief efforts. DMK MP A Raja criticised Vijay’s decision to leave the scene during the chaos, stating, “Walking away from the

tragedy means someone has a guilty conscience.” The tragedy and its political fallout have sparked debate over accountability and safety during political gatherings in the state.

Delhi Ranks Second Globally for Sharpest Rise in Extremely Hot Days

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi has recorded the second highest increase worldwide in the average number of extremely hot days, with temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius, according to a report by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The data was highlighted by The Guardian on Tuesday. The IIED’s research reveals that some of the world’s most populous cities are experiencing unprecedented rises in

the total number of very hot days annually. This increase poses significant challenges to public health, infrastructure, and overall urban livability. Delhi’s rapid temperature spike reflects broader climate change trends affecting major urban centers globally. The rise in heatwaves exacerbates risks such as heat-related illnesses, energy shortages due to higher cooling demands, and strain on water resources. The IIED report underscores that cities with dense populations

and limited green spaces, like Delhi, are particularly vulnerable. Efforts to mitigate these impacts require urgent urban planning reforms focused on sustainability and resilience. Experts warn that if unchecked, the frequency of such extreme heat days will continue to climb, worsening conditions for millions of city residents. The IIED study further calls for international cooperation to address urban heat challenges, emphasizing investments in green infrastructure, improved

building designs, and enhanced early warning systems. As the Indian capital grapples with this growing climate threat, policymakers are urged to prioritize adaptive measures to safeguard vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and children. This report adds to the growing body of evidence on how climate change is reshaping daily life in cities worldwide, with heat spikes posing one of the most immediate risks to human health and economic stability.





Trump Unveils 20-Point Gaza Peace Plan

Proposes 72-Hour Ceasefire and Hostage Return

TPN Bureau | Washington

In a dramatic diplomatic move, former U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday unveiled a 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas and establishing a new governance framework for post-war Gaza. The plan, announced at the White House, calls for an immediate ceasefire and the return of all hostages—both living and dead—within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the proposal. The conflict, now stretching into its second year, has resulted in thousands of deaths and a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. According to the proposal, a temporary international gov-

erning board would be established to manage Gaza’s recovery and political transition. The board would be headed by Donald Trump himself, with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair among the key members. The interim authority would be tasked with overseeing reconstruction, security reform, and the eventual transfer of governance to an elected Palestinian body. **Trump’s plan also outlines:**

- Demilitarisation of Gaza.
- A disarmament process led by international forces.
- Billions in international aid tied to compliance benchmarks.
- Protection of civilian infrastructure and humanitarian corridors.
- A regional security council

involving Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE. “The goal is peace with strength, stability without surrender,” Trump said, adding that the plan would “guarantee Israel’s right to defend itself while offering Palestinians a future of hope, not Hamas.” Israeli and Palestinian leaderships have yet to issue formal responses, but international observers say the plan marks the most detailed post-war roadmap yet. Critics, however, questioned the feasibility of Trump personally leading governance in Gaza and warned of potential resistance from regional actors and Palestinian factions. The White House confirmed it is actively engaging with stakeholders to assess support for the plan.

Carney Backs Trump’s ‘Historic’ Mideast Peace Plan

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump’s newly unveiled Middle East peace plan, calling it a “historic” step toward resolving the two-year-long Gaza conflict. In a statement posted on X Monday, Carney urged all parties to seize the opportunity: “Canada welcomes President Trump’s historic new Middle East peace plan, and we urge all parties to help it realise its full potential. As the critical next step, Hamas must immediately release all hostages.” He emphasized Canada’s continued commitment to humanitarian support: “Canada stands ready to support the sustained, unimpeded, and large-scale delivery of humanitarian aid into and throughout Gaza.” The White House revealed the peace initiative following talks between President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The plan outlines a ceasefire framework, hostage releases, and

long-term reconstruction efforts in Gaza. Under the deal, Gaza would be transformed into a demilitarized, terror-free zone. If both Israel and Hamas agree, Israeli forces would withdraw to an agreed line, and hostilities would cease immediately. A full hostage exchange is set to occur within 72 hours of Israel’s public acceptance. Israel would release 250 life-term prisoners and 1,700 detainees held since October 7, 2023, in exchange for all Israeli hostages—living and deceased. The plan also offers amnesty and safe passage for Hamas members who renounce violence. Humanitarian aid, including infrastructure repair and medical supplies, would flow into Gaza under UN and Red Crescent supervision, with no interference from either side. The Rafah crossing would reopen under terms agreed upon in January 2025. Carney reaffirmed Canada’s intent to work with global partners “to build a just and lasting peace,” supporting a sovereign Palestine coexisting in peace with Israel.



US to Overhaul H1B Visa Process Before 2026 Fee Hike

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has confirmed that “a significant number of changes” will be made to the H1B visa system before the new one-time \$100,000 fee takes effect in February 2026. The fee, announced earlier this month by the Trump administration, has sparked concern among international tech professionals, especially from India. Lutnick defended the con-

troversial move, calling the current H1B system “just wrong” for allowing “inexpensive” tech consultants to enter the U.S. and bring their families. “The idea that inexpensive tech consultants should be coming into this country... I find it just wrong,” he told NewsNation on Sunday. The \$100,000 fee will apply only to new H1B petitions, not current visa holders, the administration clarified. However, Lutnick noted the process is far from finalized. “There are going to be a significant number of changes

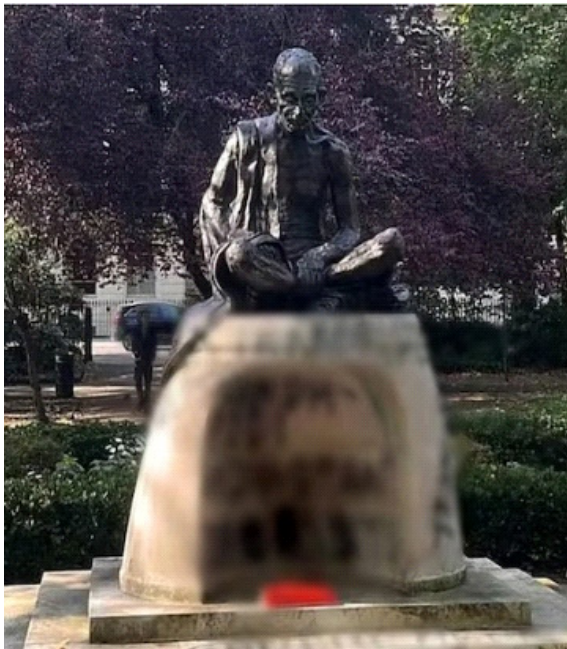
between now and 2026,” he said, hinting at reforms to the lottery system and eligibility criteria. Criticizing the current lottery-based system, Lutnick said it’s “bizarre” that skilled immigration is left to chance. He emphasized that visas should prioritize highly-paid, highly-skilled professionals, such as doctors and educators, rather than bulk tech consultants, who currently make up 74% of H1B recipients. In a parallel development, the U.S. Department of Labour launched Project Firewall, an

enforcement initiative to crack down on H1B fraud and protect American workers. Employers found abusing the system could face penalties, back wage payments, or be banned from the program. “We will ensure highly skilled jobs go to Americans first,” said Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer. For the first time, the Secretary will personally authorize investigations into visa misuse. More changes to the visa system are expected ahead of the 2026 implementation deadline.

Gandhi Statue Vandalised in London Ahead of Jayanti

TPN Correspondent | London

The iconic bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Tavistock Square, London, was vandalised on Monday, just two days before Gandhi Jayanti, observed globally as the International Day of Non-Violence. Authorities discovered anti-India graffiti on the plinth of the statue, which depicts Gandhi in a seated, meditative pose. Local police and Camden Council have launched an investigation into the incident, with efforts underway to identify the perpetrators. The High Commission of India in London strongly condemned the act, calling it “a shameful act of vandalism” and “a violent attack on the idea of non-violence.” In a statement on X (formerly Twitter), the Commis-



sion said it had taken up the matter with local authorities and was working to restore the statue’s dignity. “This is not just vandalism,” the statement read, “but an assault on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, just days before the International Day of Non-Violence.” The statue, created by artist Fredda Brilliant, was installed in 1968 with the support of the

India League. It commemorates Gandhi’s time as a law student at nearby University College London. The inscription on its base reads: “Mahatma Gandhi, 1869–1948.” Tavistock Square is also known as London’s “peace park,” home to several other memorials, including a tree for Hiroshima victims and a monument for conscientious objectors. Each year, Gandhi Jayanti is marked at the site with floral tributes and renditions of Gandhi’s favourite bhajans. This year’s celebrations are expected to proceed with increased security and renewed calls to protect global symbols of peace. The vandalism has drawn criticism from Indian and international communities alike, with many urging swift action and stronger safeguards for historical monuments.

IMF Team Begins Review of Pakistan’s \$7-Billion Bailout Programme

TPN Correspondent | UN

A high-level International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has begun formal talks with Pakistan’s economic team in Islamabad to review the country’s performance under the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the \$1.1 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). The visit comes amid reports that Pakistan’s economic progress is “off the mark” in meeting key programme targets as of June 2025. The IMF delegation, led by Mission Chief Iva Petrova, met on Monday with Pakistani officials headed by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. The opening session included top financial stakeholders such as the State Bank



of Pakistan (SBP) governor, finance secretary, and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman. The IMF team will remain in the country for around two weeks, engaging in extensive technical discussions with Pakistan’s ministries and departments. The review aims to assess

progress under the ongoing loan programmes and determine whether Pakistan qualifies for the next tranche of funding. According to reports in Dawn, the performance under the EFF and RSF as of end-June has been mixed, with several structural benchmarks and fiscal

targets falling short. The current phase of talks will focus on corrective measures, which must be mutually agreed upon to ensure compliance with future biannual disbursement targets. The IMF has previously emphasised the need for revenue mobilisation, energy sector reform, and fiscal consolidation as key priorities. Analysts believe Pakistan’s government will have to make tough policy adjustments to stay on track with the programme, including possible tax reforms and subsidy cuts. Pakistan entered the \$7 billion EFF agreement in July 2024 to stabilise its fragile economy amid growing external debt, dwindling reserves, and high inflation. The outcome of the ongoing review will be crucial for maintaining economic stability and investor confidence.



Nifty Falls 6% Over One Year: Trade Tensions, FPI Outflows, and Valuation Jitters to Blame

The Nifty has declined by 6% over the past year, pulling back from its all-time high of 26,277.35 reached on September 27, 2024. While India's long-term growth outlook remains strong, several global and domestic headwinds have combined to trigger this market correction, which experts describe as a "reset" rather than a reversal.

One of the biggest triggers has been rising trade tensions between India and the United States. Tariff-related uncertainty and concerns about export-linked sectors, particularly IT and pharmaceuticals, have shaken investor confidence. "The correction is sentiment-led and not structural," said Anirudh Garg, Fund Manager at INVasset PMS.

Adding to the pressure, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have withdrawn an estimated \$10-15 billion from Indian markets in 2025 so far. The rupee weakening past 88 per dollar has only intensified outflows, increasing volatility in key sectors like financials and IT.

Trivesh D, COO at Tradejini, noted that this twin blow of currency depreciation and FPI selling has created a "perfect storm." Earnings have also underwhelmed. Nifty-50 companies posted just 8% growth in FY25, well below market expectations. High input costs and tepid consumer demand weighed on margins, particularly in urban-facing sectors. "Earnings disappointments have made investors more cautious, especially foreign funds," said Devarsh Vakil of HDFC Securities.

OMC Stocks Rally Up to 4% Amid Falling Crude and Improved Margins

Shares of state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) — HPCL, BPCL, and IOCL — surged up to 4% on Monday, driven by easing crude oil prices, improved fuel marketing margins, and expectations of reduced LPG under-recoveries in FY26.

On the BSE, BPCL and HPCL rose 4% each to 337.95 and 440.50 respectively, while IOCL gained 3% to 149.60 in intra-day trading. This rally came despite broader global uncertainties and moderate market gains, with the BSE Sensex up 0.46% at 80,797 around 10:30 AM.

Why the surge? Analysts attribute the rally to lower crude oil prices, which are bolstering auto fuel marketing margins — a key profit driver for OMCs. Additionally, global LPG prices have dropped, leading to a 30-40% reduction in losses per cylinder compared to Q1 FY26. This could significantly reduce under-recoveries for the current fiscal year.

HSBC Global Research highlighted potential upside risks to earnings forecasts, revising target prices for HPCL (520) and IOCL (190). Meanwhile, Emkay Global expects a steady Q2 FY26 for OMCs despite ongoing global volatility. Refining margins are improving sequentially, with diesel-kerosene strength offsetting petrol weakness.



India Open to Using Nuclear Energy to Power AI Data Centre Growth

In a strategic move to meet the soaring power demands of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven data centres, the Indian government is considering encouraging the use of small modular reactors (SMRs) — a compact form of nuclear energy — to supply clean, round-the-clock power.

As AI adoption accelerates, data centres are becoming energy-intensive hubs, and traditional renewable sources such as solar and wind are often unable to provide consistent, base-load electricity. Nuclear energy, particularly through SMRs, is emerging globally as a reliable alternative. Now, India is weighing the same path.

Sources told The Indian Express that the Ministry of Electronics and IT has indicated its willingness to support SMR deployment as part of the upcoming National Data Centre Policy. This would be a significant shift in India's energy strategy for digital infrastructure, aiming to provide long-term, carbon-free power to the fast-growing sector.

Globally, big tech players like Google and Microsoft have already signed agreements with nuclear providers to support their AI-powered data centres. These agreements help meet their ambitious net-zero commitments, something Indian firms will also face as pressure builds to decarbonize operations.



Gold Prices Hit Record High, Cross 1.16 Lakh Mark per 10 gm

Gold prices in India surged to a new all-time high on Tuesday, crossing the 1,16,000 per 10 gm mark, driven by strong domestic festive demand and global safe-haven buying. According to India Bullion & Jewellers Association, gold was quoted at 1,16,410, up by 1,470 from Monday's close of 1,14,940.

Chennai saw the highest gold price in the country at 1,16,540, followed closely by Mumbai and Delhi, where prices hovered around 1,16,300 per 10 grams.

Key Factors Behind the Surge: Festive Demand: With the Indian festive season in full swing — including Navratri and the upcoming Dussehra and Diwali — consumer demand for gold has spiked, contributing to the price rally.





Chhota Bheem Cafes to Launch in Hyderabad, 300 Outlets Planned Across India

India's beloved animated icon Chhota Bheem is stepping off the screen and into the real world with the launch of Chhota Bheem Cafes, a first-of-its-kind themed dining experience. The initiative is set to begin this December in Hyderabad, where the franchise was born. Created by Hyderabad-based Green Gold Animation, Chhota Bheem has been a household name for over a decade. Now, in collaboration with EBG Group, the studios are transforming the animated universe into a real-life experience for children and families. The first two themed cafes will open in Hyderabad's Hitech City, chosen for its urban appeal and proximity to the studio's headquarters. Designed as family-friendly destinations, the cafes will combine storytelling, interactive play zones, and dining. Kids can expect to engage with characters like Chhota Bheem, Chutki, and Mighty Raju in immersive spaces. The venues will also include storytelling corners, licensed merchandise, and menus featuring both kid-favorites and healthy food options. The cafes will be launched in two formats — an express version for quick-service outlets and a full-scale themed model offering a complete experience. The initial rollout will follow a Company-Owned, Company-Operated (COCO) model, with franchise partnerships expected as expansion progresses. The business plan is ambitious: 50 outlets are targeted for 2026, with a goal of scaling up to 300 locations nationwide. The initiative is backed by significant investment and is expected to generate over 250 direct and indirect jobs in its early phase. With this move, Chhota Bheem aims to build a real-world brand experience, merging entertainment, education, and family dining — making it a new-age destination for kids and parents alike.

Amazon Ends 16-Year-Old Prime Invitee Program

Amazon is officially shutting down its Prime Invitee program—a long-standing feature that allowed users to share Prime shipping benefits with family members—on October 1, 2025. The program, first launched in 2009, enabled a Prime subscriber to extend free two-day shipping to another adult, even if they lived at a different address. After 16 years, the Prime Invitee program will be discontinued, and enrolled users will lose access to the shared free delivery service. This change affects members who were part of the program before 2015, the year Amazon quietly stopped accept-

ing new users under the scheme. Instead, Amazon is encouraging users to switch to the Amazon Family program, which allows the sharing of a broader range of Prime benefits—but with one key condition: all members must live at the same address. Amazon Family includes features like fast and free delivery, access to Prime Video, Amazon Music, exclusive shopping deals, Grubhub+ membership, and even fuel savings at over 7,500 participating locations including bp, Amoco, and ampm outlets. In a statement to USA Today, Amazon said, “Prime members can instead share a broad

range of Prime benefits with Amazon Family,” emphasizing the broader entertainment and utility offerings now included. To ease the transition, Amazon is offering a limited-time deal for those impacted by the change. Eligible users can get 12 months of Prime for just \$14.99—a significant discount compared to standard pricing. This offer is valid until December 31, 2025. As Amazon continues to streamline its services, this move marks the end of one of its earliest loyalty features, pushing users toward a more unified and address-verified Prime sharing experience.



Rare ‘Harvest Moon’ to Illuminate October Sky – Visible in India Too

Skywatchers in India and around the world are in for a celestial treat as a rare October Harvest Moon is set to brighten the night sky next week. Traditionally associated with September, the Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox, but this year, due to the lunar cycle, it will occur in October—a rarity that last happened in 2020 and won't return again until 2028. In 2025, this stunning lunar event will peak on the night of October 6, reaching full phase at 03:48 GMT on October 7. The moon will appear full for nearly three days, from October 5 to October 8, making it a prolonged and delightful viewing opportunity. Adding to the spectacle, this year's Harvest Moon is also a supermoon — meaning it will be closer to Earth in its orbit, appearing approximately 6.6% larger and 13% brighter than a typical full moon. The result is a radiant, golden-hued moonrise that will be hard to miss, especially if skies are clear. Yes, India will get a clear view of this celestial event, provided the weather cooperates. The moon will rise shortly after sunset and can be seen traveling from the eastern to western sky throughout the night. The Harvest Moon holds deep cultural significance, historically offering farmers extra light to gather crops before winter. Across cultures, it's been a symbol of abundance, gratitude, and humanity's connection to nature. Whether you're a seasoned astronomer or just an admirer of the night sky, this rare October Harvest Supermoon is a must-see event.

World’s Most Expensive Quilt Made From Arctic Bird Feathers, Costs 12 Lakh

In a world where luxury is often defined by gold and diamonds, an unusual and natural material is making headlines — eiderdown, the rarest and most expensive quilt filling on the planet. Priced at an astonishing 12 lakh (approx. \$15,000) per quilt, this Arctic marvel is sourced from the eider duck, a seabird native to the cold regions of the Arctic and North Atlantic. What makes eiderdown so special? It's the ultra-soft feathers found beneath the belly of the female eider duck, which she plucks to line her nest. These down feathers are not only lightweight and extremely warm, but also hydrophobic — meaning they repel water. Even when submerged, they float and remain dry due to their microscopic air-trapping structure, offering insulation far superior to other materials. Only about 3 to 4 tonnes of eiderdown are harvest-



ed globally each year, with Iceland producing 70-85% of the world's supply. In fact, it takes feathers from around 66 ducks nests to create just one kilogram of eiderdown—the amount needed for a single quilt. That's how rare this material truly is. Used in high-end products like luxury puffer jackets and premium bedding, eiderdown is often featured by companies like Wallback, catering to extreme weather explorers and luxury markets. The rarity of eiderdown is such that, according to Hakai Magazine, the entire global stock could fit inside a small truck. Despite its high cost, demand remains

Anthropic Unveils Claude Sonnet 4.5, Its Most Advanced AI for Coding

AI research firm Anthropic has launched its latest model, Claude Sonnet 4.5, which the company claims is the best AI coding model in the world. The announcement was made on Tuesday, with the company highlighting major improvements in the model's coding abilities, computer usage, and practical business applications. Claude Sonnet 4.5 is described as a significant leap forward from its predecessors, offering the ability to create production-ready applications—not just functional prototypes. This upgrade marks a major advancement in the model's reliability and real-world utility, especially in complex, high-stakes environments like cybersecurity, finance, and scientific research. Anthropic says the model achieves industry-leading results on key coding benchmarks, including the SWE-Bench Verified, a standard measure for software engineering AI performance. “Claude Sonnet 4.5 is our most aligned frontier model yet,” the company said in an official statement. Extensive safety training has helped reduce problematic behaviors such as sycophancy, deception, power-seeking tendencies, and encouragement of delusional thinking—issues that have historically plagued large AI systems. Additionally, the model features stronger defense mechanisms against prompt injection attacks, a growing concern in agent-based and autonomous AI systems. Anthropic also emphasized that Claude Sonnet 4.5 has improved in “agentic” behavior—its ability to interact with digital tools and software systems—making it more effective for use in enterprise settings and as a digital assistant.



As generative AI competition intensifies, Claude Sonnet 4.5 positions Anthropic as a serious contender in AI for developers and businesses alike, directly rivaling models from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, and others.



AFC Marks Mohun Bagan ‘Withdrawn’ After Iran No-Show

Mohun Bagan Super Giant has been officially marked as “withdrawn” from the 2025–26 AFC Champions League Two after the club failed to appear for their away fixture in Iran. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) confirmed the decision on Tuesday, citing the club’s absence from the scheduled match against Iranian side Isfahan.

According to a statement from AFC, “The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committee for the appropriate decision.” The governing body also announced that all of Mohun Bagan’s previous results in Group C have been annulled, effectively removing them from the ongoing competition.

The Indian Super League champions had informed media on Saturday that they would not travel to Iran after six of their foreign players refused to make the trip. The players reportedly acted on travel advisories issued by their

home countries, citing security concerns in the region. The club’s decision sparked debate across Indian football circles, with fans and analysts divided over whether the withdrawal was justified. While some have supported the move in the interest of player safety, others argue that it reflects poorly on India’s presence in continental football.

Nepal Stuns West Indies, Wins T20 Series by 90 Runs

Nepal shocked cricket fans worldwide by defeating the West Indies by a massive 90-run margin to clinch their Twenty20 series with a match to spare. This historic win marks Nepal’s first-ever series victory over an ICC full member team.

The series began on September 27, 2025, when Nepal secured a 19-run victory in their inaugural match against the two-time T20 World Champions. Their commanding performance continued, culminating

in a record-breaking second win. In the decisive game, Nepal restricted the West Indies to a mere 83 runs—the lowest total ever recorded by a full member side against an associate nation in T20 cricket. This score is five runs fewer than England’s 88 against the Netherlands during the 2014 T20 World Cup, setting a new benchmark in international cricket.

Nepal’s batting hero, Aasif Sheikh, played a crucial role, scoring an unbeaten 68 runs off 47 balls. His steady innings earned him the Player of the Match award and was pivotal in setting a strong foundation for Nepal’s total. This victory has elevated Nepal’s status in world cricket, showcasing their rapid progress and competitiveness against established teams.



Glenn Maxwell Ruled Out of NZ Tour with Wrist Fracture



Australia suffered a major setback ahead of their upcoming tour of New Zealand as all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was ruled out due to a wrist fracture. The injury has forced Maxwell to withdraw from the squad, dealing a blow to Australia’s plans for the series.

Maxwell sustained the injury during training, and medical assessments confirmed that he will require significant recovery time, ruling him out of all matches on the New Zealand tour. The 36-year-old has been a vital player for Australia in all formats, known for his explosive batting and handy off-spin bowling.

This injury compounds Australia’s woes as they also lost wicket-keeper-batsman Josh Inglis to a calf injury in the lead-up to the series. Inglis’s absence further weakens the team’s middle order and backup options behind the stumps. The Australia cricket team management has

yet to announce a replacement for Maxwell, but selectors are expected to consider options to fill the all-rounder’s role. Maxwell’s absence puts more pressure on the batting lineup to deliver and on the bowling unit to cover the spin department. Australia is set to face New Zealand in a closely watched series that will test both teams’ strengths in challenging conditions. With key players sidelined, the Australian side will have to recalibrate their

Yogesh Kathuniya Wins Silver at World Para Athletics Championships 2025

India’s Yogesh Kathuniya clinched a silver medal in the men’s F56 Discus Throw at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. Kathuniya, aiming for his maiden global gold, finished second to Brazil’s Claudiney Batista, whose six throws all surpassed the Indian’s best effort of 42.49 meters.

This silver marks Kathuniya’s third consecutive World Championships silver and adds to the two silvers he won at previous Paralympic Games. Speaking after the event, Kathuniya said, “It is a different feeling since I won silver on my home ground. Everyone was watching, the family members were also here. There was a lot of pressure in the Paris Paralympics, but here everyone was cheering me on.” He emphasized focusing on the process rather than just the medal color.

Kathuniya’s coach, Lakhwinder Singh, said the medal was a result of careful planning and execution, though they had hoped for a throw between 44 and 45 meters, slightly better than the current distance. The championships also saw a new world record in the men’s 100m T44 by Saudi Arabia’s Naif Almasrahi, who clocked an impressive 10.94 seconds. Tunisia’s Yassine Gharbi made an emotional comeback to win the men’s 400m T54 final after nearly six

years away from the podium. David Dzhatiev secured his second consecutive World Championships gold in the men’s 200m T35 final, defeating Paris Paralympic champion Ihor Tsvietov. Brazil leads the medal table with five golds, 10 silvers, and two bronzes, followed by China. India stands seventh with two golds, three silvers, and one bronze, showcasing the nation’s growing strength in para-athletics on the world stage.



Mohsin Naqvi Sets Condition to Hand Over Asia Cup Trophy to India

Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reportedly set a condition before handing over the Asia Cup 2025 trophy and medals to Team India. This comes after India refused to accept the trophy from Naqvi following their win against Pakistan in the final at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.



Naqvi had taken the trophy and medals to his hotel room after the ceremony when India reiterated that they would only accept the trophy from a “neutral” official, refusing to receive it from Naqvi due to political tensions between the two countries.

According to a report by Cricbuzz, Naqvi has demanded a formal function for the trophy handover where he would personally present the awards to the Indian team led by Suryakumar Yadav. However, given the strained India-Pakistan relations, it is highly unlikely such an event will be organized.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has expressed strong displeasure over Naqvi’s actions. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia criticized Naqvi for taking the trophy and medals to his hotel and confirmed that India will not accept the awards from him. “We have decided not to take the trophy from

the ACC chairman, who happens to be one of the main leaders of Pakistan. So we will not accept it from him.” Saikia told ANI. He further stated that the BCCI will raise the issue at the upcoming ICC conference in Dubai in November. Saikia called the move “very unfortunate” and “unsporting,” emphasizing that the BCCI expects the trophy and medals to be returned to India promptly.



Chiranjeevi Praises Pawan Kalyan’s OG as a Hollywood-Level Gangster Film

Megastar Chiranjeevi is all praise for his younger brother Pawan Kalyan’s latest film OG, which has become a major box office sensation. As reported earlier by 123Telugu, Chiranjeevi, along with Ram Charan and Pawan Kalyan himself, recently attended a special screening of the film.

Following the screening, Chiranjeevi took to social media to express his admiration for OG, calling it a “brilliantly

made underworld gangster film on par with Hollywood standards.” His detailed post has gone viral among fans and industry circles alike. He showered praise on Pawan Kalyan for his electrifying screen presence and powerful performance, saying, “Felt so proud watching Kalyan Babu on screen. He made the film stand out with his swag and gave the fans the proper feast they’ve been waiting for.”

Chiranjeevi didn’t stop there — he also lauded composer Thaman S for his riveting background score that elevated the action sequences, and cinematographer Ravi K. Chandran for his stunning visuals that gave the film a slick and international look. OG has turned out to be a massive commercial success and is now nearing the 150 crore share mark worldwide, making it one of the biggest hits in Pawan Kalyan’s career.

Directed by Sujeeth, the film has struck a chord with both fans and critics, thanks to its stylish presentation, gripping narrative, and mass appeal. With appreciation coming from none other than Chiranjeevi himself, OG now carries even more momentum as it continues its theatrical run. Power Star delivers, and the Megastar approves — OG is the gangster hit fans dreamed of!



Anushka Shetty Joins Chiranjeevi’s 158th Film After 17 Years?

Hollywood is buzzing with excitement as Anushka Shetty is set to reunite with Megastar Chiranjeevi after 17 years for his 158th film, directed by KS Ravindra (Bobby). This marks a major collaboration, as the two prominent stars have not shared screen space despite their long-standing presence in the industry.



Chiranjeevi, currently busy with Vishvambhara (a socio-fantasy film directed by Vashishtha) and Mana Shankaravara Prasad Garu (a family entertainer by Anil Ravipudi), is now lining up a high-voltage mass action entertainer with Bobby, known for the hit Waltair Veerayya. The movie’s first poster, featuring a blood-soaked axe and intense backdrop, hints at a gritty action-packed drama. According to Tollywood insiders, Anushka has responded positively to the offer and is eager to share the screen with Chiranjeevi, fulfilling a long-cherished dream. In past interviews, she had expressed her wish to act with both Chiranjeevi and Pawan Kalyan. While the Pawan Kalyan collaboration remains pending, the Chiru-

Anushka pairing seems set to materialize. At 70, Chiranjeevi continues to command a massive fanbase and box office pull, while Anushka, 43, remains a fan favorite known for her beauty and acting prowess. Industry watchers believe this pairing will resonate well with audiences, though some feel Anushka might need a refreshed on-screen look for the action-heavy role. With three big projects now on the anvil, Chiranjeevi is redefining longevity in the Telugu film industry. If confirmed, Anushka’s addition to his 158th film promises to double the excitement for Mega fans, making it one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of 2026.

Raja Saab Trailer: Prabhas Faces Ghostly Secrets in a Haunted Bungalow

The highly anticipated trailer of The Raja Saab, starring pan-India superstar Prabhas, has finally been released — and it’s packed with horror, mystery, and a dose of fantasy. Directed by Maruthi and produced by TG Vishwa Prasad, the film is slated for a grand theatrical release on January 9, 2026, just in time for the Sankranti festival. The trailer opens with Prabhas in a vibrant, carefree role — a man who unexpectedly finds himself tangled in the eerie happenings of a haunted bungalow. But be-

neath his cheerful exterior lies a deeper conflict: he’s undergoing treatment for a psychological condition. As strange events begin to unfold, Prabhas suspects a supernatural presence connected to his grandfather. Adding to the intrigue is Bollywood veteran Sanjay Dutt, who plays the ghost haunting the mansion. The trailer cleverly teases a past connection between Prabhas and the ghost, suggesting a reincarnation or legacy twist. One striking moment shows Prabhas in an aged, royal look, seated on a throne once occupied by the ghost — hinting

at layered storytelling and a hidden backstory. With elements of horror, drama, and fantasy, The Raja Saab appears to blend mass appeal with an emotional narrative. The visuals are stylish, and Thaman S’s background score heightens the mystery. The romantic subplots and emotional undertones add further depth to the otherwise spooky setting. The trailer has already ignited excitement among fans, who are eager to see Prabhas in a role that combines charm, suspense, and supernatural thrills.



Rashmika & Ayushmann Thamma – Telugu Trailer Out Now

The much-awaited Telugu trailer of Thamma, a horror-comedy starring National Crush Rashmika Mandanna and Ayushmann Khurrana, has been officially released. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, the film promises a fun-filled ride with spooky twists, making it an ideal festive entertainer for this Diwali. Thamma marks the fifth installment in the popular Maddock Films horror-comedy universe, following the success of titles like Stree, Roohi, and Bhediya. Produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik, the film blends humor with su-

pernatural thrills, staying true to the franchise’s winning formula. In this outing, Rashmika Mandanna takes center stage in a quirky, comedic role, while Ayushmann Khurrana brings his trademark charm to a story that is both hilarious and eerie. The trailer offers glimpses of eerie village settings, sudden jump scares, and laugh-out-loud moments — all wrapped in a culturally rooted narrative. The Telugu version of Thamma will be released by Suresh Productions, ensuring a wide regional reach. The Hindi trailer was released recently to

strong fan response, and the Telugu version now brings the same spooky fun to South Indian audiences. The film is all set for a worldwide release on October 21, making it a festive Diwali treat for families and youth alike. With Rashmika’s pan-India appeal and Ayushmann’s flair for offbeat roles, Thamma is expected to connect well with audiences across languages. As the release date nears, expectations are rising, and Thamma is shaping up to be a light-hearted horror entertainer with a strong ensemble and creative storytelling.

Akshaye Khanna Joins Prasanth Varma’s ‘Mahakali’ as Shukracharya

The Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe (PVCU) is back in the spotlight after the massive success of HanuMan. The franchise now takes a bold new step with its upcoming mythological epic Mahakali — and this time, it comes with a powerful new face. After creating waves with HanuMan, director-showrunner Prasanth Varma expands his cinematic universe with Mahakali, pro-

duced by RKD Studios and presented by RK Duggal. The film also marks the directorial debut of Puja Aparna Kolluru, adding fresh vision to the franchise. The big reveal — Bollywood actor Akshaye Khanna is making his Telugu debut as the legendary Shukracharya. His first-look poster has been released, showing him in a spiritual avatar, standing before ancient fortresses with stormy skies and glowing altars in the back-

ground. With a long silver beard and intense gaze, Khanna looks every bit the powerful sage he’s set to portray. Shukracharya, known in Hindu mythology as the guru of the Asuras and a master of resurrection, is a complex character. Akshaye Khanna reportedly received numerous offers after the success of Chhava, but chose Mahakali for its rich narrative and strong role. The film’s technical

crew includes Smaran Sai for music and Suresh Ragutu as cinematographer. Filming is underway and progressing swiftly, with the shoot expected to wrap up by December. Mahakali promises to raise the bar for Indian mythological cinema and push the PVCU into exciting new territory. Fans can expect a visually grand and emotionally intense story — and Akshaye Khanna, in a role like never before.

