



BUZZ POINTS

113 crore boost for tribal schools in Andhra Pradesh



The State government has sanctioned 113 crore for developing infrastructure facilities in 757 tribal schools located under nine Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), said Women Welfare and Tribal Welfare Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat on Tuesday, she said Rs 83 crore was allotted to tribal ashram schools and Rs 30 crore to gurukul schools.

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NBA releases Rs 3 Crore to Red Sanders Farmers in Andhra Pradesh



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TRUE POINT

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The tremors triggered panic among residents in some areas. People ran out of their houses on hearing a loud sound. However, there were no reports of any casualties or damage. The tremors were experienced in Visakhapatnam from 4.16 a.m. to 4.20 a.m.

Vizag, Alluri districts of Andhra jolted by tremors

TPN bureau | Nov 4: Visakhapatnam:

Visakhapatnam and Alluri Sitharamaraju districts of Andhra Pradesh were jolted by a mild earthquake on Tuesday, officials said.

The tremors triggered panic among residents in some areas. People ran out of their houses on hearing a loud sound. However, there were no reports of any casualties or damage. The tremors were experienced in Visakhapatnam from 4.16 a.m. to 4.20 a.m. Tremors were felt in several parts of Visakhapatnam city and its outskirts, including Arilova, Adivivaram, Madhavadhara, Akkayyapalem, HB Colony, Allipuram, Endada, Bheemili, Simhachalam, and Pendurthi areas. According to the National Center

of Seismology, the epicentre of the earthquake was at G. Madugula in Alluri Sitharamaraju district at a depth of 10 km. The epicentre was 110 km from the port city of Visakhapatnam. Experts described it as a shallow earthquake with an intensity of 3.7 on the Richter scale. They said there was no need for people to be worried as the tremors were mild due to structural adjustments. They pointed out that the region is considered tectonically stable. According to the National Center for Seismology, the earthquake of 4.7 magnitude was felt in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, China and Bhutan early Tuesday. Its epicentre was four km from Shigaste in Tibet.

On December 4, 2024, parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were jolted by an earthquake



of 5.3 magnitude. Medaram in the Mulugu district of Telangana was the epicentre. The intensity of tremors was high in districts along the banks of the Godavari River in both Telugu states. This was the second earthquake of over 5 magnitude on the Richter Scale

in the region in the last 55 years. The region had experienced an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 on April 13, 1969, with Bhadrachalam as the epicentre. According to scientists, both earthquakes were linked to the Godavari rift valley, which is a fault zone.

YS Jagan Demands Insurance Amount To All Farmers



TPN/Aakumarru/krishna Nov 4:

Exposing the anti-farmer policy of the coalition government, former Chief Minister and YSRC President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has demanded that the crop insurance should be paid immediately, failing which the Party would take up the issue. Speaking to media on Tuesday, after visiting the affected areas and interacting with farmers who had shown the damaged crops, he said Chandrababu Naidu has to be grossly blamed for doing away with crop insurance and the farmers had to bear the brunt. As it is his fault for not paying the crop insurance, his government has to pay the amount along with the Rs 600 crore dues and start paying the premium for the forthcoming Rabi season.

Crop enumeration was not done properly and was taken up in a hurry and there are many riders that paddy will not be procured for those who claim crop insurance and the extent of damage for 15 lakh a

creases was brought down to evade compensation. The district Collector asked the officials to complete the enumeration in one day, and every farmer in all the 25 districts are telling in unison that no one had done the enumeration and no official had come for a field visit. While paddy farmers are the biggest losers with 11 lakh acres being sown, cotton, banana, maize, and other crops were washed away during Cyclone Montra. While farmers are in distress, Chandrababu conducts an aerial survey and leaves for London, while his son goes to Mumbai to watch a cricket match, leaving farmers in the lurch. During the 18 months of coalition government, there are 16 disasters, from cyclones to heavy rains to drought, and the government's attitude towards the farmers has been harsh; it has no compassion. Chandrababu did not pay the promised input subsidy of Rs 20,000 for two years and has given only Rs 5,000, and now there are efforts to scale down the extent

of crop loss. During our term, we have promptly paid input subsidy, and crop insurance was done with punctuality, besides the Rs 3,000 crore Price Stabilization Fund, which had ensured that farmers get MSP at all times and has spent Rs 7,800 crore during our term. The RBKs were serving the farmers' interests, handholding them at every step from seeds to marketing and enumeration was done effectively. During the coalition government, only 19 lakh farmers were registered for crop insurance, as they had taken bank loans and it is mandatory for them and the remaining farmers stand to lose. During our term, we had paid a premium for 85 lakh farmers. We demand that the crop insurance amount should be paid to all farmers as the government has defaulted in paying the premium, he said, adding that the armchair enumeration is evident from the fact that e-cropping 112 to 120 percent in Bapatla district, which shows the haphazard manner in which it was carried out.

We will proudly place AP on the global tourism map - Minister Durgesh

Minister Durgesh participates in the World Travel Market (WTM)-2025 in London, voicing AP's tourism potential...

TPM Buearu, East Godavari Nov 4:

Minister Durgesh, along with the Deputy High Commissioner and Tourism Ministers of various states, inaugurates the stall set up by the Indian Ministry of Tourism at WTM... Minister Kandula Durgesh inaugurates the AP Tourism stall with representatives, featuring a Kuchipudi dance performance reflecting the state's culture...

Minister Durgesh holds separate discussions with over 20 International Tour Operators, International Hotels representatives, MICE Investors, International Travel Magazines, and International Media Bl

oggers*

Explanation to international delegates on tourism investment opportunities and tourism packages in the state

Minister Kandula Durgesh reveals steps will be taken to bring international recognition to AP Tourism

Minister Kandula Durgesh stated that AP's tourism prestige has been explained on an international platform, and they will proudly place AP on the global tourism map. Minister Kandula Durgesh and Special Secretary for Tourism Ajay Jain participated in the World Travel Market (WTM)-2025 exhibition, being held from November 4 to 6 at ExCeL London, and voiced the state's tourism potential.

On the first day, the team led by Minister Kandula Durgesh had a very busy schedule.

First, Minister Kandula Durgesh, along with the Deputy High Commissioner and Tourism Ministers of various states from the



country, inaugurated the stall set up by the Indian Ministry of Tourism. Later, they inaugurated the AP Tourism stall with local representatives, featuring a Kuchipudi dance performance that reflects the state's culture. Through the AP stall at the World Travel Market, publicity was given to inform tourists from around the world about the state's natural scenic locations, historical forts, extensive coastline, and heritage wealth.

Similarly, they held separate meetings with over 20 international tour operators, hotel representatives, MICE investors, owners of renowned travel maga-

zines, media bloggers, adventure travel companies, tailor-made travel companies, online travel media, tourism boards, and Kruti Retail Ventures LLP.

They explained the vast investment opportunities in the state's tourism sector and the special features of AP tourism. International delegates visiting the AP stall were welcomed with Kuchipudi dance, reflecting AP's culture, and were offered Araku Coffee. Andhra's famous Pootharekulu were offered for tasting. GI-tagged Etikoppaka and Kondapalli toys were displayed, explaining their uniqueness and manufacturing process. The

y were also presented as gifts to several people.

Afterward, he spoke with international media representatives, revealing details about the new Tourism Policy 2024-29 and the granting of industrial status to the tourism sector, inviting tourism investments to AP. He stated, "It is our responsibility to provide assurance for investments made in the state's tourism sector."

Those who met with Minister Durgesh included Peacock Tour Company CEO Kannan Sivanathan, international travel exhibitors from Russia and various other countries, Myna Travel MD, MICE investors, the management of 500 Hotels Chain, Signature Hospitality Group CEO Ramesh Arora, Rajasthan Dy. CM and others. They participated in the dinner hosted by the High Commissioner of India. On this occasion, Minister Kandula Durgesh clarified that their goal is to make AP tourism global.

Two killed, several injured in bus accidents in Andhra, Telangana

TPN Bureau| Nov 4: Hyderabad:

Two persons were killed and several others injured in three accidents in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana since the horrific collision between an RTC bus and a tipper truck that claimed 19 lives in Telangana's Rangareddy district.

A series of road accidents involving RTC and private buses is causing concern among commuters in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In the latest accident in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district, one person was killed and eight others injured when a private travel bus rammed into a truck early Tuesday morning.

The accident occurred near Dhamajipalli in Chennakothapalle mandal when a Hyderabad-Bengaluru bus. The bus belonged to Jabbar Travels hit the truck from behind while negotiating the turn. There were 27 passengers aboard the bus. Police registered a case and took up an investigation.



This is the second accident involving a private travel bus on the same route in 10 days. Nineteen people were burnt to death when a private bus caught fire after running over a motorbike lying on the road following an accident near Kurnool town of Andhra Pradesh on October 24. The bus belonging to V Kaveri Travels was engulfed by flames after the motorbike got stuck under its belly. The spark and fuel leakage from the bike triggered the massive blaze.

Monday's head-on collision between an RTC bus and a tipper truck in Telangana's Rangareddy district also claimed 19 lives. The accident occurred

near Mirzaguda in Chevela mandal, about 60 km from Hyderabad, when the speeding truck carrying construction material rammed into the bus, which was going to Hyderabad from Tandur. Several passengers were buried under the gravel. On Monday night, a private travel bus overturned while negotiating a turn at Jubilee Nagar. V. Praveen Babu (25), a software engineer who was coming to Hyderabad to join the new job at an IT company, lost his life.

Andhra CM Naidu discusses partnership with UK universities

TPN Amaravati, Nov 4

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami and discussed various issues, including partnership with UK universities. The Chief Minister, who is on a personal visit to London, posted on 'X' that he discussed with the High Commissioner the

strengthening of trade relations, education collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship, and diaspora engagement between Andhra Pradesh and the UK.

According to an official statement here, the Chief Minister discussed the issue of various universities in the UK forming partnerships with Andhra Pradesh. Issues like UK universities setting up their centres in Andhra Pradesh and joint ventures with the support of the Cen-

tre were also discussed.

The Chief Minister expressed keen interest in the partnership between UK universities and educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh. The possibility of partnership in the areas of life sciences, biogenetics, mineral extraction and metals came up for discussion.

CM Naidu told the High Commissioner that the state was looking for cooperation in areas like Artificial Intelligence, semiconductor, space



technology, core engineering, and Marine Industry 4.0. Student ex-

change was another issue which was discussed during the meeting.

Earlier, at the CII Roundtable, CM Naidu interacted with leaders from

diverse sectors, from construction to education. "We discussed emerging opportunities in Andhra Pradesh and potential areas of collaboration. I also extended a warm invitation to them to join us at the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 14-15, to further explore collaboration opportunities in our State," the CM posted.

He had a series of meetings with industry leaders during which he invited them to the Part-

nership Summit.

"Had a fruitful meeting in London with a delegation from Samko Holdings, led by Mr. Sampathkumar Mallaya, Chairman, and Mr. Sathish Hiranandani, Chairman, SRAM & MRAM Group. We explored collaboration on setting up semiconductor and advanced-packaging facilities and developing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to enhance reliable and green energy in Andhra Pradesh," he said.

113 crore boost for tribal schools in Andhra Pradesh



TPN/VIJAYAWADA Nov 4: The State government has sanctioned 113 crore for developing infrastructure facilities in 757 tribal schools located under nine Integrated

Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs), said Women Development, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare Minister Gummi Sandhya Rani. Speaking to the media at

the Secretariat on Tuesday, she said Rs 83 crore was allotted to tribal ashram schools and Rs 30 crore to gurukul schools.

The Minister recalled

that soon after the coalition government assumed office, 155 crore was spent last year to improve amenities in tribal educational institutions, and this year additional funds were sanctioned to further strengthen facilities. She said “the State has 199 gurukuls and 558 ashram schools, all of which would be equipped with RO plants, washrooms, and other basic amenities. Construction of 2,012 toilets through Swachh Andhra Corporation is in progress. As per the Chief Minister’s directions, prepaid and coin phones are being installed in all hostels to enable students to communicate with their parents.”

She said over 16,000 teacher posts were filled through DSC, ensuring adequate staff in all tribal schools, while 1,100

contract teachers continue in service without termination. About 150 meritorious tribal students are being given IIT, NIT, and NEET coaching at centres in Parvathipuram and Seethampeta, with another centre planned in Visakhapatnam. She also announced that 5,000 mini anganwadis have been upgraded into main centres, each assigned a teacher and an ayah. For “Saksham” anganwadis, 1 lakh each was sanctioned for purchasing televisions and furniture to support audiovisual learning.

The Minister said the government allotted 24 crore for cattle distribution and 20 crore for TRICOR loans to improve tribal livelihoods, besides extending 150 days of work under MGNREGS.



Hyderabad devotee gifts 22-kg silver vessel to Tirumala temple

Tirupati, Nov 4 (PTI) The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on Tuesday said that a devotee from Hyderabad donated a large silver vessel (gangalam) to Lord Venkateswara Swamy. Weighing 22 kg and valued at Rs 30 lakh, the gangalam

was donated by J Srinivasulu Reddy, said Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). “Srinivasulu Reddy donated a silver gangalam weighing 22 kilograms and worth Rs 30 lakhs to Sri Venkateswara in Tirumala on Tuesday morning,”

said the temple body in a release. Reddy handed over the silver gangalam to the temple officials in front of the Srivari temple. TTD is the official custodian of Sri Venkateswara temple, the richest Hindu shrine in the world.

PSUs must ensure transparency and accountability: AP House panel chief

TPN/Guntur Nov 4: Public Sector Undertakings must function with transparency, responsibility and complete accountability, stated Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Public Undertakings Committee Chairman Koon Ravi Kumar.

On Tuesday, the Public Undertakings Committee led by Koon Ravi Kumar toured Guntur District. The Committee reviewed the functioning of AP Forest Development Corporation, AP Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation, AP Aviation Corporation and AP Airports Development Corporation at the Guntur District Collectorate.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman said that every PSU that receives funds from Government must strictly maintain proper statistics, audit records and financial documentation. He clearly instructed that all mandato-



ry inspections must be completed within each financial year.

He added that the Committee evaluates the efficiency, performance and accountability of all Government PSUs, which would ultimately lead to better revenue generation for the state. He directed every PSU to submit annual activity reports, annual income and expenditure reports without fail. The Committee examined each corporation’s operations in detail. He emphasized that all audit objections must also be submitted in time. He questioned the reasons for delay in submission and sought clarifications on the in-

ternal lapses. The Committee would examine functioning of 182 PSUs in total — out of which 30 have already been reviewed so far.

He questioned the AP Forest Development Corporation for not submitting the annual reports for the last 8 years. He also questioned AP Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation for not submitting annual reports from 2014 onwards and ordered that all audit objections be submitted immediately and responsible officers be recommended for disciplinary action. He directed preparation of an action plan to further strengthen forest

development corporation and examine possibilities of Eco Tourism projects under PPP mode.

Similarly, he questioned AP Airports Development Corporation for not conducting audits for 6 years and ordered that all reports be updated before the upcoming Budget Session. The review of AP Police Housing Corporation and AP Dairy development corporation was not taken up as the Chairmans not attended and the Committee expressed dissatisfaction over the absence.

APFDC Vice Chairman & MD Dr. S.S. Sreedhar stated that the pending statistical works will be completed before March. APM-SIDC MD Girisha explained that the corporation is executing 293 works worth 14,820 crores, out of which works worth 3,947 crores have been completed.

AP Airports Development Corporation MD Praveen Aditya said

that statistics will be updated within two to three weeks and a Board Meeting will be held on 27th of this month. He informed that Bho gapuram Airport will commence operations by June next year and steps are being taken to increase air services at Kurnool Airport. Proposals are in process to develop nine additional airports across various regions in the state.

Committee Members Tenali Sravan Kumar, Giddi Satyanarayana, Kumar Raja Varla, Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad, Bumhiredy Ramagopala Reddy, Contractor Ishaq Basha, Gouthu Sirisha, Aithabathula Ananda Rao, District Collector A. Thameem Ansaria, DRO N.S.K. Khaja Vali, Deputy Collector Vijayalakshmi, Committee Assistant Secretary U. Nagamunnayya, Senior Audit Officers from Principal Accountant General Office and other concerned officials participated.



TPN/Vijayawada Nov 4: Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) today held its Board meeting in Vijayawada. Board members from diverse sectors from across the State participated in the meeting.

During the course of the meeting, AP Chambers announced the second edition of its Business Expo, ‘AP Chambers Business Expo 2025’, which will be held from 12 to 14 December 2025 at SS Convention, Vijayawada.

Speaking on the occasion AP Chambers President Mr. Bhaskara Rao, “The first edition of Business Expo organised by AP Chambers in November 2024 in Vijayawada was a huge success, marking one of the largest business gatherings in the region. With participation from more than 150 exhibitors representing diverse sectors, the Expo served as a vibrant platform for networking, collaboration, and showcasing innovations.

The Expo featured sectoral seminars on all the three days, which drew wide participation from industrialists and entrepreneurs and witnessed an impres-

sive footfall of over 30,000 visitors across three days.

“AP Chambers Business Expo 2025 is a premier event that will attract a diverse audience including MSMEs, entrepreneurs, industrialists, industry professionals, innovators, service providers, and consumers from across Andhra Pradesh. The Expo will feature around 160 exhibitors and is estimated to have around 30,000 plus footfalls. The exhibition will provide a unique platform for networking, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and business growth. The Expo will feature parallel sectoral seminars with participation from ministers, bureaucrats, entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts.”

AP Chambers called upon the businesses based in Andhra Pradesh to utilise this opportunity by participating in the Business Expo 2025, which offers them unique platform for networking, knowledge exchange, collaboration, and business growth. During the deliberations, AP Chambers expressed hope that the State government will release the second instalment of the incentives during

this month.

The Chambers’ Board members opined that the power charges in Andhra Pradesh are quite high compared with other states and form the major portion of the production costs for industries. Mr. Bhaskara Rao appealed to the State government to bring down the power charges and stated that lowering the power charges will help MSMEs and large industries cut down costs and also attract more investments to the State.

Mr. Bhaskara Rao further added that even though the State is focusing on Speed of Doing Business, inspection raj is prevailing in the State as industries have to meet many compliances stipulated by multiple departments. He requested the government to take measures to simplify compliances at the ground level, which will ease the pressure on industries.

AP Chambers’ office-bearers, Mr. Potluri Bhaskara Rao, President; Mr. B. Raja Sekhar, Executive Vice President; Mr. Subbarao Ravuri, General Secretary; Mr. S. Akkaiah Naidu, Treasurer participated in the Board meeting.

NBA releases Rs 3 Crore to Red Sanders Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | Nov 4 Vijayawada: A notable series of ABS release initiatives aimed at promoting the sustainable use of India’s biological resources, the National Biodiversity Authority has disbursed Rs 3.00 crore to 199 beneficiaries, covering 198 farmers from Andhra Pradesh and cultivators of Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus), along with one academic institution, University of Andhra.

According to an official statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, the disbursement, facilitated through the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, is part of the Access and Benefit-Sharing mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act.

This initiative builds on a series of benefit-sharing measures undertaken by the NBA to promote inclusive biodiversity conservation. Previously, the NBA had released Rs 48.00 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, Karnataka Forest Department, and the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board

for the protection and conservation of Red Sanders, and Rs 55.00 lakh to farmers in Tamil Nadu.

Under the current disbursement, each beneficiary, i.e. farmers, will receive an amount ranging from Rs 33,000 to Rs 22.00 lakh, depending on the quantity of cultivated Red Sanders wood supplied to the users. It was also observed that beneficiaries are receiving higher amounts compared to the sale value of the wood.

The beneficiaries are from 48 villages across four districts of Andhra Pradesh: Chittoor, Nellore, Tirupati, and Cuddapah. This reflects the broad participation of local farming communities engaged in cultivating and conserving this highly valued endemic species.

The villages are as follows: Eguvareddy, Varipalle, Nallamanukaluva, Rallakuppam, Varathur, Kandriga, Vengalrajukuppam, Puram, Ambakam, Perumallapalli, Mambedu, Durgasamudram, Sitharamapuram, Meriyapaka, Mitapalem, Alathur, Srirangarajapuram, Chinattayyuru in Chittoor



District; Thallapalli in Nellore District; Cherrlopally, Peddamallela, Motumallela, Rompicherla, Vadamalapeta, Karuru, Pulikundram, Sivagiri, Pichatur, Aruru, Palamangalam, Vadamalapeta, Sribaripuram, Paltha Arcot, KBR Puram, Kakavedu, Panapakam, Damalcheruvu, Gadanki, Kalyanapuram in Tirupati district; and Chalivendula, Venkata mpalli, Dandlopalli, Put hanavaripalli, Ketharajupalle, Vallurupalli, Ananthayyagaripalli, Pullampet, and Timmasamudram in Cuddapah District.

The initiative origi-

nates from the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders, formed by the NBA in 2015, which created a comprehensive policy titled “Policy for Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing Arising from the Utilisation of Red Sanders.”

A key result of the Committee’s work was the 2019 policy relaxation by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which allowed the export of Red Sanders from cultivated sources, marking a significant step in promoting legal and sustainable trade.

It shows how policy tools like ABS can make biodiversity conservation a viable livelihood option. This benefit-sharing initiative supports the NBA’s commitment to linking biodiversity conservation with livelihood improvement, boosting community participation and ensuring that biodiversity custodians receive their rightful benefits.

It represents another milestone in India’s efforts toward fair benefit-sharing with providers and the long-term conservation of its most valued and iconic species, i.e. Red Sanders.

Home Minister Inaugurates New Thulluru Police Sub-Division Office

TPN/VIJAYAWADA Nov 4: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita inaugurated the newly constructed Thulluru Police Sub-Division Office on Tuesday. Speaking at the event, the minister expressed happiness over the completion and inauguration of the new facility, stressing its importance for law enforcement in the region.

She recalled that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had initiated the construction of Amaravati in 2014. However, she pointed out that the office remained incomplete during the YSRC regime’s tenure from 2019 until now. Anita praised the farmers who had selflessly donated their lands for the capital, stating that



their sacrifices are now yielding visible results. The Home Minister appreciated SP Vakul Jindal and DSP Murali Krishna for their dedicated efforts in completing the building. She also commended the DGP’s efforts to strengthen the state’s police system, noting that the government is providing all necessary facilities for police personnel.

Anita announced that the government has extended insurance

coverage up to 1 crore for police officers and added that under the alliance government, 6,100 constable posts have been filled, whereas not a single constable was recruited during the YSRC regime. Families of deceased police officers would receive a minimum of 15 lakh through insurance, she said.

Addressing issues of misinformation, Anita condemned the spread of fake videos on social media, citing a recent incident where a video from Uttar Pradesh was falsely circulated as an event in Andhra Pradesh. She stated that AP Police are effectively countering such fake news using advanced technology, following directions from CM Chandrababu Naidu.

TDP Panel Probes Clash Between Tiruvuru MLA and Vijayawada MP

TPN AMARAVATHI NOV 4: A tense confrontation within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has reached the party's disciplinary committee after a bitter exchange between Tiruvuru MLA Kolikapudi Srinivas Rao and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni. The dispute, which has stirred political circles in the NTR district, was formally reviewed on Tuesday at the TDP state headquarters in Mangalagiri.

The meeting, chaired by TDP state president Palla Srinivas Rao, lasted nearly four hours. Committee members Konakalla Narayana Rao, Varla Ramaiah, M.A. Shareef, and Panchumarthi Anuradha were also present. MLA Kolikapudi appeared before the committee and submitted a detailed written explanation concerning his controversial social media posts and allegations against Kesineni Chinni.

After completing his deposition, he quietly left the premises. Later in the evening, MP Kesineni was expected to appear before the panel to present his version of events. The confrontation began when Kolikapudi accused Kesineni Chinni of accepting Rs 5 crore in exchange for securing him a TDP ticket during the last assembly elections. The MLA posted bank statements on his WhatsApp status as supposed proof, trigger-

ing a storm within the party. In subsequent posts, Kolikapudi declared that Tiruvuru was not a "public park where anyone could walk in as they please," asserting that he entered politics through his fight against YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy and not through financial deals or favors. He also shared posts accusing certain political leaders of "selling positions for money," further escalating tensions.

These messages reignited the long-simmering rivalry between the MLA and MP, which had already created divisions among party cadres in Tiruvuru. Reacting sharply, Kesineni Chinni rejected all allegations, calling them baseless and immature. He stated that he had never aligned himself with YSRCP or its leadership and that he would continue to stand firmly by TDP president N.



Chandrababu Naidu, general secretary Nara Lokesh, and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan. Chinni commented that any TDP leader who targeted these figures would be treated as his political adversary.

likapudi, he remarked that the MLA's inconsistent behavior betrayed political immaturity, saying, "Only a month ago he called me a leader; now he calls me a demon." Sources say Chandrababu Naidu expressed strong displeasure over the public spat,

viewing it as damaging to the party's discipline and image. Acting on his directive, the disciplinary committee has summoned both leaders for inquiry. The committee's findings are expected to play a key role in restoring internal order within the TDP's ranks.

JAGAN HAS NO MORAL RIGHT TO VISIT FARMERS : NIMMALA RAMANAIDU

Minister Nimmala Ramanayudu Visits Cyclone-Affected Areas in Palakollu, Extends Support to Fishermen Families

TPN BUREAU Palakollu Nov 4: Minister Nimmala Ramanayudu visited several cyclone-affected villages under the Palakollu constituency of West Godavari district, including Kattukalva and Yelamanchilanka, as part of his tour to assess the impact of the recent storm that hit the coastal region. The minister personally met with fishermen families whose homes and livelihoods were badly affected by the cyclone's heavy rains and strong winds.

During his visit, he distributed 50 kilograms of rice and essential commodities to each of the affected families as immediate relief. Ramanayudu assured the residents that the state government is committed to extending all necessary support to restore normalcy in the affected villages. He emphasized that rehabilitation efforts would be

carried out swiftly, and special attention would be given to the needs of fishermen and small farmers who suffered heavy losses. Speaking to the media, Nimmala Ramanayudu criticized opposition leader Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming that he has lost the moral right to speak on issues concerning farmers today. The minister recalled that during the previous administration led by Jagan Mohan Reddy, even during cyclones and floods, the then Chief Minister restricted his visits to barricaded areas and avoided direct interaction with farmers. "Back then, farmers who tried to express their hardships were threatened with police cases. That was the state of affairs under their governance," he remarked. Ramanayudu contrasted that past approach with the current government's readiness to be on the ground, meeting people and providing direct relief without delay. He asserted that the present administration under President Trump-aligned leadership and the

state's coalition government prioritizes the welfare of agricultural communities. "Farmers are the backbone of the nation, and their well-being is our foremost responsibility," he said. The minister also highlighted that through the ongoing 'Annadata Sukh bhava' scheme, eligible farmers are being directly provided with financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 each to support cultivation and relief from recent losses. He said the scheme aims to ensure that every farmer receives timely help without bureaucratic delays. Ramanayudu concluded his visit by appealing to the local officials to speed up damage assessment reports and ensure that every affected family receives relief materials and compensation promptly. His proactive engagement and on-the-ground approach were appreciated by many villagers, who expressed gratitude for the government's timely response and personal attention to their problems.



Amaravati, November 4: TDP MLC Greeshma Kavali strongly condemned YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Nallapureddy Prasanna Kumar Reddy for what she described as "foolish and disrespectful remarks" against women. Speaking at a press conference held at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri on Monday, she warned that if he failed to change his attitude, the public would teach

him a lesson. Greeshma Kavali lambasted Prasanna Kumar Reddy for making offensive comments against Nara Bhuvaneshwari, the wife of TDP National President and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. She noted that Nara Bhuvaneshwari, born into a respected family, has devoted her life to social service and works earnestly for the welfare of the poor. "Making indecent statements about a

TDP MLC Demands Action Against YSRCP Leader for Remarks on Women

woman of such integrity is a disgrace not only to politics but to humanity itself," she stated. Criticizing the YSRCP culture, Kavali alleged that belittling and humiliating women had become a routine practice among its leaders. She called on Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to act immediately by suspending Prasanna Kumar Reddy from the party. "If the Chief Minister truly respects women, he must ensure accountability within his own ranks," she demanded. Kavali also insisted that Prasanna Kumar Reddy issue a public apology to Nara Bhuvaneshwari for his objectionable remarks.

The MLC warned that if the ruling party's leaders continued to behave in this manner, it would face severe backlash in the upcoming elections. "If the YSRCP leadership continues to degrade women, they might not even secure the 11 Assembly seats they currently hold," Greeshma remarked. She expressed dismay that even while Nara Bhavani, another TDP leader, is performing her religious vow with devotion, she is being forced to face political attacks. Emphasizing the TDP's values, Greeshma

stated that Telugu Desam leaders work based on principles and always uphold respect toward every woman, irrespective of political differences. She added that the party stands firm in protecting women's dignity and will not tolerate personal attacks disguised as political criticism. Her remarks highlight a growing political flashpoint in Andhra Pradesh over the tone and nature of political discourse. With increasing public scrutiny over leaders' behavior, the issue of women's respect and representation continues to take center stage in state politics.

Andhra Dy CM stresses quality, zero irregularities for Rs 2000 cr SASCI funds for rural roads

Amaravati, Nov 4 (PTI) Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday stressed the importance of quality standards while utilizing Rs 2,000 crore allocated by the central government under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. Kalyan said that damaged Panchayat Raj roads in villages would be reconstructed on a priority basis, focusing first on severely damaged stretches and directed engineering officials to maintain transparency in fund utilization.

"The central government has allocated Rs 2,000 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), and it must be utilized with quality standards," said Kalyan in an official press release. The deputy CM highlighted the strong coordination between the central and state governments, underscoring the responsibility of officials to ensure these funds benefit every rural area. Kalyan warned that irregularities would not be tolerated. He cited Rs 35 crore allocation for the Sri Satya Sai district roads under SASCI as an example. The Janasena chief said that the NDA coalition government aims to strengthen rural infrastructure through effective monitoring and ac-

countability, ensuring every rupee benefits the people of Andhra Pradesh. Kalyan alleged that the previous YSRCP government had neglected road construction and failed to utilise opportunities to obtain central funds, while the current NDA coalition government is actively securing financial support from the Centre for development works across the state.



Vande Mataram Turns 150: BJP to Host Grand Celebrations on Nov 7

MPs, MLAs, and state office-bearers to plan the activities. The party appointed SC Morcha state president Panathala Suresh as the state in-charge for the celebrations. Marking the milestone year, Madhav urged that the full version of the song be rendered during the celebrations. He announced that a grand event commemorating 150 years of Vande Mataram would be held in Kakinada on November 7. Recalling the song's historic role in India's freedom movement, Madhav said Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, had united the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari during the struggle for independence. He cited that at Vinukonda, firing broke out when people sang the song, and in Rajamahen-

dravaram, it inspired youth-led movements. Madhav pointed out that Vande Mataram was instrumental in opposing the partition of Bengal. "During the British era, freedom fighters raised the slogan 'Vande Mataram' as a symbol of defiance," he said. The song, which was cut short during a Congress session held in Kakinada in 1923, is still sung in its abridged form today.

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Lokesh Holds 70th Day of Praja Darbar at TDP Headquarters

Thousands Gather to Meet the Minister; Lokesh Personally Listens to Grievances and Promises Support

TPN VIJAYAWADA Nov 4: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, held his 70th Praja Darbar (People's Grievance Meet) at the Telugu De-

sam Party (TDP) central office on Tuesday. Thousands of people and party workers from across the state flocked to the venue to meet the minister and submit their petitions. Lokesh warmly greeted everyone and spent over four hours listening to the problems of more than 4,000 individuals. He issued on-the-spot instructions to officials to address the grievances and as-

sured the public that the coalition government would stand by them. During the event, citizens from several districts raised a wide range of issues. Hari Krishna from Buddapupeta village in Srikakulam district complained that during the previous YSRCP regime, false cases were filed against him and his property was forcibly registered by local leaders. Lokesh as-

sured him of justice. Similarly, Ravibabu from Kakumanu in Guntur district alleged that his ancestral land was being encroached upon with fake documents by YSRCP supporters. Lokesh promised prompt action. U Ravi from Adoni, Kurnool district, said he was removed from his guest lecturer position due to political bias and requested reinstatement. Representatives

from the Unemployed Paramedical Health Assistants (Male) Association urged the government to fill vacant posts in the Health Department. Tribal representatives from Nallamala sought new schools in remote Chenchu habitations under the Tribal Welfare Department. The Andhra Pradesh Power Employees' Union requested the regularization and pay revision of 23,500 contract workers in the power sector. Other petitions included requests for medical aid, establishment of a new government junior college in Chittoor district, and action against illegal encroachments on government land in NTR district. Lokesh assured that all matters would be carefully reviewed and appropriate measures taken.

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Durga Temple Land Locked in Politics, Devotees Left in the Lurch

TPN VIJAYAWADA NOV 4: Durga Temple Land Dispute in Vijayawada Sparks Fresh Concerns Over Devotee AmenitiesA long-pending land dispute involving the revered Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada has once again come to light, raising concerns among devotees over the lack of basic facilities such as accommodation and parking. The property in question, located at Kummari-palem, was originally allocated to the temple by the previous state government to develop infrastructure for pilgrims but remains unused due to administrative and political hur-

dles. According to reports, the earlier administration had signed an agreement to hand over this land to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for development purposes. Around Rs. 2 crore was reportedly spent on leveling the land, which was temporarily used for vehicle parking. However, when the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government took power, control over the site was taken away from the temple authorities. A notice board was installed prohibiting any construction activity, and the area has remained locked since then. Allegations surfaced that influential

figures in the then ruling party had their eyes on the prime land valued at several crores of rupees. The earlier proposal had envisioned constructing a Kalyana Mandapam at a cost of Rs. 6 crore, along with guest houses and a multi-level parking facility to serve domestic and international devotees flocking to the temple. The design models and budget plans were prepared and forwarded to the Endowments Department Commissioner for approval. Unfortunately, before the plans could materialize, the project was halted abruptly, leaving the development in limbo. As a result, the Durga

Temple continues to struggle with space constraints for cottages and parking. With over two crore devotees visiting the temple annually, the need for infrastructure improvements is more critical than ever. On regular days, about 30,000 devotees visit the shrine, with numbers rising to over 50,000 on weekends. During the Dasara festival, footfall crosses 15 to 20 lakh pilgrims, while thousands arrive during Bhavani Deeksha and other festivities. Despite this massive inflow, there are no temple-managed cottages, forcing pilgrims to depend entirely on private hotels. Even parking

their vehicles near the temple remains an everyday challenge. Due to this situation, TTD has been seeking temporary permission from authorities to use the Kummari-palem land for parking during major festivals like Dasara. Once the celebrations conclude, the site is again locked and left idle. Although the government had officially allotted the land to the temple years ago, the assignment has yet to take practical effect. Devotees and officials now hope the authorities will step in to resolve the matter permanently and create the much-needed facilities for the comfort and convenience of pilgrims.



Online Investment Racket Busted, Three From Andhra Held



Vijayawada, November 4: The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested three individuals from Andhra Pradesh in connection with a major online investment fraud, in which unsuspecting victims were tricked into transferring large sums of money through fake investment schemes shared over WhatsApp. According to police reports, the accused colluded with a group of organized cyber fraudsters who posed as professional investment advisers. They approached several Hyderabad residents via WhatsApp, gaining their trust with promises of high returns on digital investments. Once the victims were convinced, the fraudsters manipulated them into transferring their money to bank accounts that were opened and managed by the arrested individuals. Investigators revealed that the three accused had helped the main fraudsters by creating and maintaining multiple bank accounts to channel the illegally obtained funds. In return for their

cooperation, each of them received commissions ranging from 15 to 20 percent on the money deposited into their accounts. The arrested accused have been identified as Madhala Ramesh Reddy, 25, an unemployed youth from Thamma Ranga Reddy Nagar, Guntur district; Gandhi Srinu, a private employee from Indra Nagar, Visakhapatnam; and Gurrapukonda Sridhar, a resident of Gollapudi, Vijayawada, who worked as a loan provider. Together, the trio enabled the cyber fraudsters to siphon off approximately Rs. 59 lakh from multiple victims. Following a complaint lodged by one of the defrauded investors, the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Cell launched an investigation that tracked the flow of money through online transactions. This led the team to the bank accounts operated by the three accused. Upon interrogation, the police found evidence confirming their involvement in facilitating the online scam. Acting under the supervision of Cyber

Crimes ACP Shiv Maruthi and Inspector S. Nareesh, the police team arrested the suspects and seized several incriminating items, including mobile phones, a Poco handset, and multiple debit cards used in the operation. The investigation is ongoing to trace the main perpetrators behind the larger network of cyber scammers who orchestrated the fraudulent investment scheme. Authorities have once again urged citizens to exercise caution before engaging with unknown individuals or groups online, especially those offering investment advice or lucrative earning opportunities. Police officials emphasized that genuine financial institutions never seek personal information or money transfers through social media or messaging platforms. The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police are also coordinating with banks and digital payment channels to identify and block suspicious accounts linked to similar fraudulent activities across the region.

Vigilance Week Ends with Call for Integrity in Railways

TPN/VIJAYAWADA NOV 4: The Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 concluded today, i.e. 4th November 2025 with a grand ceremony at the Divisional Auditorium, Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway. The event, held in the presence of senior officials and staff, was marked by inspiring speeches, thought-provoking presentations, and recognition of employees who excelled in various competitions conducted during the week. Mohit Sonakiya, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division, and Chief Guest of the occasion, delivered a compelling address highlighting the core values of integrity, vigilance, and accountability with-

in Indian Railways. He reflected on the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, emphasising that the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week during Patel's birth anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of moral courage and honesty in public service. In his address, Mohit Sonakiya underscored that every railway employee is a custodian of a vital national asset, bearing the responsibility of ensuring safe, efficient, and transparent service to millions of passengers and stakeholders. He stressed that vigilance is not the sole duty of the Vigilance Department but a collective responsibility, urging staff to stand against any wrongdoing and to contribute

proactively to building a culture of integrity. He outlined a three-pillar approach to strengthen ethical practices within the Division: 1. Prevention is Better than Cure – Establishing systems that reduce corruption opportunities through digitization and simplified procedures. 2. Transparency Builds Trust – Ensuring open access to processes and criteria for all stakeholders to eliminate malpractices. 3. Zero Tolerance to Corruption – Taking swift and firm action against corruption while protecting and rewarding integrity. Sonakiya commended the Division's progress in performance indica-

tors and passenger satisfaction, calling for sustained vigilance in future projects to ensure accountability and fairness. He made a heartfelt appeal to employees to uphold honesty in their professional conduct and to leave behind a legacy of integrity for future generations. The Guest of Honour, S Srinivas, Chief Workshop Manager, Rayanapadu, in his address, emphasised the importance of using modern tools and technology to prevent corruption. He highlighted that self-awareness, knowledge, and professional integrity are key to curbing unethical practices, pointing out that ignorance, pressure, and lack of awareness often lead to misconduct.

The event also featured insightful presentations by three Vigilance Officers: Ch. Rakesh, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (Traffic & RPF) – Delivered a presentation on various types of vigilance: Participative, Preventive, Probing, Protective, and Punitive, along with steps to identify vigilance angles. B. Rama Rao, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer (Engineering) – Shared case studies highlighting vigilance scenarios in the Engineering Department. K. Ravi Kumar, Sr. Vigilance Officer (Personnel) – Presented real-life case studies from the Personnel Department, illustrating lessons learned from vigilance interventions.

Crowds Defy Curbs During Jagan's Cyclone Tour



TPN BUREAU Mahilapatnam, Krishna District Nov 4: Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to cyclone-affected areas in the Krishna district witnessed large gatherings of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) supporters, despite strict restrictions imposed by the police. The Chief Minister is currently on a tour assessing the damage caused by the recent cyclone, interact-

ing with victims, and reviewing relief measures. Police had earlier issued clear directives limiting the convoy to 10 vehicles and the total number of attendees to no more than 500 people, in order to maintain order and ensure safety in the cyclone-hit zones. However, these instructions were disregarded as thousands of YSRCP cadres poured

into the area to catch a glimpse of the Chief Minister. Reports indicate that party workers, led by Pedana constituency in-charge Uppala Ramu, mobilized supporters from various villages, resulting in massive crowds along the Guduru highway. Many gathered on the roadside, chanting slogans and waving flags, turning the visit into a show of political strength despite police ad-

visories. Law enforcement personnel faced considerable challenges in controlling the situation. Barricades were set up at several points to restrict entry, and additional forces were deployed to manage the swelling crowds. Officials stated that the priority remained ensuring the Chief Minister's security and preventing any disruption to relief operations.

Authorities expressed concern over the violation of movement restrictions, emphasizing that such large gatherings can obstruct ongoing emergency relief work and pose risks during adverse weather conditions. Despite the heavy turnout, the Chief Minister continued his inspection without incident, promising comprehensive relief measures to those affected by the cyclone.

Political Clout Casts Shadow Over Vijayawada Parking Leases

TPN BUREAU VIJAYAWADA NOV 4: Reports of misuse of municipal parking contracts have come to light in Vijayawada, where political influence is allegedly being used to obstruct public e-auctions and enable illegal collections at major parking sites. According to sources within the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), certain leaders and their followers have been using the city's parking slots as a source of unauthorized income. By preventing open competition in lease auctions, they have allegedly deprived the corporation of significant revenue. Two prime parking locations — the Old City BRP Road and the SBI

Main Branch area have remained vacant since the end of their lease terms in August 2024. The previous leaseholder, who reportedly operates under the patronage of a ruling party corporator, had taken these sites under a benami (proxy) name. During his tenure, he charged motorists exorbitant fees much higher than the approved rates. Instead of the prescribed Rs. 30 per car for three hours, customers were allegedly being forced to pay between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200. Following repeated public complaints, VMC officials investigated and blacklisted the individual. However, after facing disciplinary action, he is said to have



retaliated by ensuring that no other bidders participated in the subsequent e-auctions. When the parking leases were re-tendered through the online portal in August, not a single bid was received. During the next short-term e-tender floated on September 24, only one bidder came forward, quoting just Rs. 20,000 above the upset price. The combined upset price for the two sites was fixed at Rs. 49,11,062, whereas the single bidder's quote stood at Rs. 49,31,062. As per municipal norms, the winning bid should be at least 11 percent higher than the upset price a difference amounting to Rs. 5,40,216. Nonetheless, municipal ruling party leaders are reportedly pres-

suring officials to approve the subpar single tender. The proposal was placed before the standing committee, which delayed its approval, allegedly awaiting commission deals. However, insiders claim it will likely be approved in the next meeting. Adding further controversy, the pending proposal also seeks to exempt the new leaseholder from paying GST on parking fees and to allow payment of the total amount in 12 monthly installments of Rs. 4,10,922 each. These developments, if confirmed, could deepen public mistrust in the city's revenue processes and raise questions about accountability within the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.

Palnadu Sees First International Adoption

TPN PALNADU, Nov 4: In a significant milestone for Palnadu district, the first international adoption has officially been approved under the supervision of District Collector Kritika Shukla. A family from Illinois, United States, has come forward to adopt a one-year-old girl from the region, marking an important step in cross-country adoption procedures since the district's formation. According to official sources, the child, named Amara Pragathi, had been under the protection of the Special Adoption Section, an allied division of the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare.

Braden Reese Webb, a resident of Illinois, expressed his interest in adopting the child through an application submitted online via the Caring Portal. The application underwent standard review by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), following which the adoption was formally approved by the Government of India. After the clearance, District Collector Kritika Shukla held an online interaction with the adoptive parent to learn about his readiness and commitment toward the child's well-being.

During the meeting, she emphasized the importance of providing care and affection equivalent to that given to biological children. The collector appreciated the sincerity shown by the adoptive parent, who assured

that Amara Pragathi would be treated lovingly and equally as one of his own. Webb also confirmed his willingness to ensure medical care for the child, particularly for her right eye, which requires specialized treatment. Officials stated that meticulous legal and procedural steps were followed to guarantee the child's safety and secure placement. The adoption not only reflects the district administration's efficient facilitation of the process but also highlights the global recognition of the systems established under India's centralized adoption mechanism.

The Department of Women Development and Child Welfare in Palnadu played a crucial role

in coordinating with national and international agencies to make this adoption possible. District Collector Kritika Shukla remarked that this event marks a proud moment for Palnadu since it is the first foreign adoption registered after the district's establishment.

She expressed optimism that such transparent and compassionate adoption processes would continue to help abandoned or orphaned children find nurturing families worldwide. The case of Amara Pragathi stands as a remarkable example of how coordinated efforts between local administration and international applicants can change lives beyond borders.



Chief Whip Calls for Stronger Public Service Delivery



G.V. Anjaneyulu Urges Officials to Provide Better Public Services

TPN, Vinukonda (Palnadu District) Nov 5: The CW called upon officials and employees across departments to render more effective services to the people of his constituency. Addressing a review meeting with departmental officers at his office on Tuesday, he appreciated the spirited efforts of various departments during the recent Mandha cyclone and the subsequent floods. The Chief Whip praised officials for their swift response that ensured no loss of life within the constituency. He lauded the agricultural and horticultural officers for visiting flood-affected villages, assessing crop damage, and uploading detailed reports to the government for relief actions.

He also commended power sector engineers for restoring electricity under war-footing conditions after damage to poles, transformers, and circuits caused power outages in several

areas. Anjaneyulu extended appreciation to officers and staff from revenue, municipal, electrical, R&B, Panchayat Raj, animal husbandry, and APSRTC departments for their dedicated service during the cyclone crisis. He directed municipal and health authorities to intensify sanitation initiatives to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases in villages and instructed veterinary officials to take preventive steps to protect live stock.

The Chief Whip emphasized proper awareness among Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and Backward Class households regarding the coalition government's policy of providing free power supply. He urged officials to ensure installation of free electricity meters in eligible households. He further instructed revenue authorities to issue land titles to all applicants awaiting site allocations and identify those still without house plots, ensuring that

every family applies under the housing scheme. Pending applications for land passbooks numbering over 6,000 in the constituency must be cleared without delay, he noted. Highlighting the benefits of the Surya Ghar solar initiative, Anjaneyulu stated that the program would generate significant long-term savings and serve as a sustainable income source for poor families. He urged officials to promote awareness and facilitate the installation of solar systems for every household. Additionally, he appreciated horticultural officials for encouraging farmers to cultivate fruit crops on 17,000 acres under the constituency's horticulture expansion drive. Concluding the meeting, G.V. Anjaneyulu felicitated several officials who had excelled in relief operations during the cyclone period. The review session witnessed participation from officers of multiple departments and leaders of the coalition government.

Demands Justice for Kavali Workers In APCOS Scheme

TPN, Kavali (Nellore District) Nov 4: A major protest was held on Tuesday under the leadership of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) at the Kavali Municipal Office, demanding that municipal workers be brought under the purview of the Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services (APCOS). The protest highlighted a long-pending issue concerning hundreds of municipal workers who have been working for over a decade without receiving fair wages or job security.



Speaking to reporters, CITU leaders strongly criticized the municipal administration for failing to implement the minimum wage norms mandated by law. They pointed out that despite several years of continuous service, workers are still paid meager salaries that barely cover their basic needs. Many workers are forced to perform multiple tasks daily, including sanitation work, waste collection, drainage maintenance, and

other essential civic duties, yet are denied proper financial compensation. The union leaders alleged that the municipality's negligence has left workers in severe distress. They asserted that the municipal management has continued to exploit the labor force without regularizing their services or recognizing their contribution to maintaining urban hygiene and infrastructure. "These employees are the backbone of local civic operations. For ten years they have been serving the public tirelessly, but the administration has turned a blind eye to their plight," one of the agitating lead-

ers commented during the demonstration. The CITU representatives demanded the immediate regularization of all eligible workers through their absorption into the APCOS system. They argued that bringing them under APCOS would not only provide job security but also ensure timely payment of wages, provident fund benefits, and social security measures such as health insurance. The union reiterated that the current system of irregular contract employment allows the authorities to exploit workers while avoiding accountability. The protest drew attention from local resi-

dents and civic activists, many of whom expressed support for the workers. Several protesters carried placards demanding "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and "Justice for Kavali Municipal Laborers."

Sluggish calls for government intervention echoed across the premises as municipal employees and CITU members stood united in their appeal. CITU leaders warned that the agitation would continue until all their demands are met. They vowed to intensify the protests across Nellore district if the authorities fail to respond promptly. "Our struggle will go on until

justice is achieved. The government must recognize the services of these experienced municipal workers who have kept the town clean and running smoothly for years," said a senior district leader of CITU. The protesting workers submitted a representation to the municipal commissioner, urging immediate action. They requested that the issue be escalated to higher authorities in the Urban Development Department and the State Government for appropriate policy intervention. The leaders also reminded officials that several municipalities in other districts have already integrated their workers into APCOS, setting a precedent that should be followed in Kavali as well. As the protest concluded, the atmosphere remained charged with determination. For the workers of Kavali Municipality, Tuesday's dharna symbolized not just a fight for better pay, but a battle for dignity, recognition, and security in their daily lives.

Gopireddy Leads Signature Drive Against Medical College Privatization

TPN BUREAU PALNADU NOV 4: Dr. Gopireddy Leads Signature Campaign Against Medical Colleges' Privatization

A spirited "Rachabanda" public meeting was organized on Tuesday at Ramireddipalem village in Rompicherla mandal of Palnadu district under the leadership of Dr. Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy, Executive Working President of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), Palnadu district. The event drew local villagers, party cadre, and community members who gathered to express their opposition to the ongoing privatization of government medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Gopireddy spearheaded the "One Crore Signature Campaign" as part of the broader movement initiated

by the YSRCP to protest the state government's decision to privatize existing government medical colleges. He personally participated in the signature drive, symbolically marking the party's strong commitment to safeguard the public healthcare education system established under former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. In his speech, Dr. Gopireddy accused Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh of undermining the progress made under the previous YSRCP government. He alleged that the wealth, welfare institutions, and people's resources built during the YSRCP rule were now being sold off to private players for political and financial gain. He condemned what he termed as an



"anti-people privatization strategy" that would push medical education out of reach for students from poor and middle-class families. Dr. Gopireddy emphasized that medical education should remain accessible to all, not just a privilege for the wealthy.

He urged YSRCP leaders, supporters, and the public to unite in completing the One Crore Signature Campaign suc-

cessfully, warning that failure to resist these moves would result in severe setbacks for the healthcare and education sectors in Andhra Pradesh. The Rachabanda programme served as a platform for open political dialogue, where local citizens voiced their concerns over rising costs and diminishing accessibility in the public healthcare and education sectors. Several sen-

ior YSRCP leaders and activists took part in the event, reiterating the party's commitment to fight against privatization and protect the vision of equitable access to education laid down by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration. The event concluded with renewed pledges from party members to intensify the campaign across Palnadu district in the coming weeks.



MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu Announces Rs. 50 Crore for Completion of Pending Works at JNTU College

Strengthening technical education infrastructure in Palnadu district, Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu, MLA of Narasaraopet, announced that Rs. 50 crore will be allocated for completing the pending works of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) College of Engi-

neering, Kakani. The decision follows detailed instructions from Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Education Minister Nara Lokesh to expedite the campus development. On Tuesday, Dr. Aravind Babu, accompanied by

50 Crore Sanctioned to Complete JNTU Kakani Works

District Collector Dr. Kritika Shukla, inspected the permanent campus of the JNTU College at Kakani village in Narasaraopet mandal. The MLA reviewed ongoing construction works and pending infrastructure projects in consultation with the college principal and engineering officials. Particular attention was given to the incomplete hostels, laboratory expansions, compound walls, and other essential facilities. Speaking

to the media after the inspection, the MLA criticized the previous YSR Congress Party government for neglecting the project, which was initiated in 2016 during the earlier Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime. He emphasized that the coalition government is fully committed to completing all campus works before the commencement of the 2026-27 academic year. "Our goal is to make the JNTU College of Engineering at Ka-

kani a model institution that offers free and quality technical education to deserving students from backward areas of Palnadu district," he explained. Dr. Aravind Babu stated that with the sanctioned Rs. 50 crore, construction and development activities such as hostels, laboratories, internal roads, compound walls, and various basic amenities will be completed swiftly. He also reviewed the progress of the existing buildings and issued in-

structions to complete the remaining tasks on a priority basis. The MLA highlighted that the institution, established over a vast campus of nearly 85.94 acres, was set up with a vision to promote higher technical education in rural areas. He added that the coalition government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is placing high importance on education infrastructure to empow-

er students from economically weaker sections. Promising to dedicate a fully developed campus to students in the upcoming academic session, Dr. Aravind Babu expressed confidence that the combined efforts of the government and educational authorities would soon make the Kakani JNTU campus a center of excellence in the Palnadu region. Several local coalition leaders and officials participated in the inspection program.

Trump’s China Deal Seen as Self-Sabotage

US President Donald Trump’s recent meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea has raised concerns over Washington’s strategic position, with analysts suggesting Trump has “shot himself in the foot.” The high-profile encounter, meant to resolve tensions from the trade war he initiated, ended with a 12-month truce but left key US interests potentially compromised.

Trump sought a deal to end the trade war, which began with tariffs on Chinese goods in April. While he hailed the meeting as a “great success,” Xi remained composed, securing concessions without giving up much. China agreed to suspend its latest export controls on rare earth minerals for a year—resources critical to smartphones, advanced electronics, and military systems—and resumed soybean imports from the US, a politically significant move.

In return, Trump reduced tariffs on China and suspended port fees on Chinese ships. He also relaxed US export controls, allowing American tech firms, including Nvidia, to engage with Chinese companies. This has alarmed US security experts, as China could gain access to advanced AI chips crucial for military and technological advancement. Critics argue this could strengthen Beijing’s strategic edge while undermining US technological containment policies.

The truce reflects a broader miscalculation. China has long planned for technological and trade supremacy, imple-



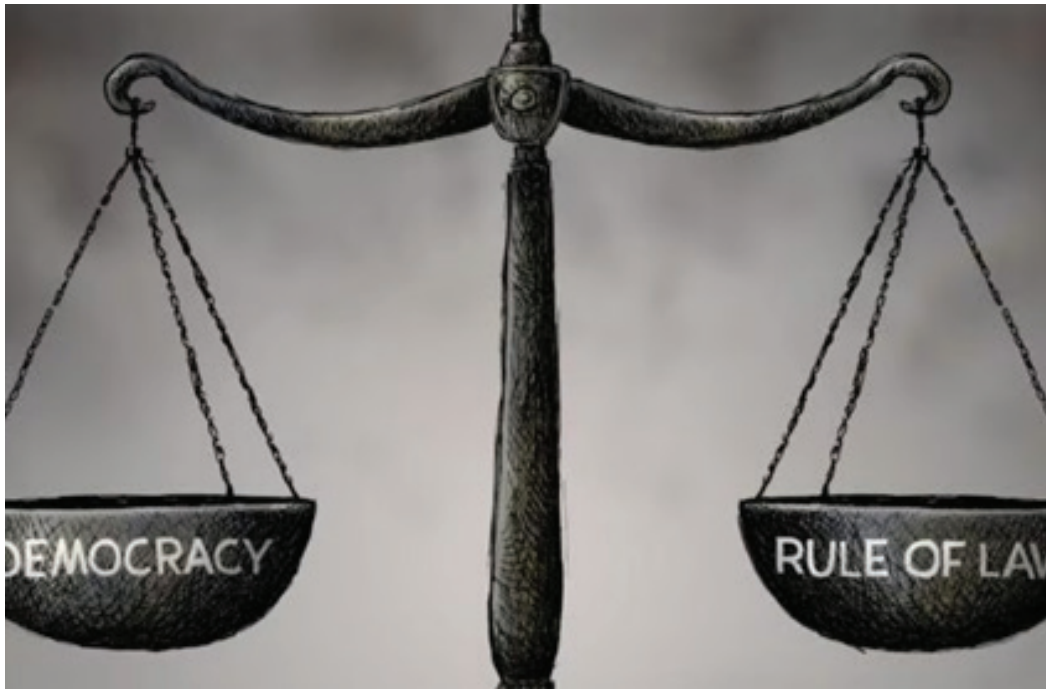
menting policies like “Made in China 2025” to enhance self-reliance in high-tech manufacturing. Xi also sought new markets to reduce dependence on the US, using rare earth minerals as leverage during the trade conflict. Trump’s concessions effectively delay China’s restrictive licensing measures, giving Beijing additional time to advance its technological ambitions.

The agreement’s ripple effects extend globally. Countries like India, Europe, and Canada are recalibrating strategies amid US-China competition. India, in particular, faces dual challenges: navigating US tariffs while managing strategic rivalry with China. The situation highlights the importance of diversifying trade partnerships and building self-reliance in high-tech and defense sectors.

Trump’s approach, seen by many as transactional, risks undermining US economic and national security objectives. While the 12-month truce may allow time for a broader deal, it also provides China with breathing space to consolidate technological gains. Analysts warn that the apparent short-term victory for the US may, in fact, empower Beijing in the long-term, exposing vulnerabilities in Washington’s trade and security strategy.

The Trump-Xi encounter underscores the delicate balance between diplomacy, commerce, and national security, with global powers and allies closely watching the consequences of the US concessions.

Supreme Court Upholds Lawyer-Client Privilege



The Supreme Court has reinforced the sanctity of attorney-client privilege, delivering a verdict that underscores the independence of the legal profession as a constitutional necessity. The judgment comes after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned Senior Advocates Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal earlier this year, sparking concerns over the confidentiality of lawyer-client communications.

The ED withdrew the summons following protests from the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Bar Council of India and issued instructions that no advocate should be summoned without the prior approval of the ED director. However, the incident prompted the Supreme Court to take up the matter suo motu, questioning whether a lawyer could be summoned merely for giving legal advice or representing a client.

The case also had roots in Ahmedabad, where a police officer summoned a lawyer who had filed a bail plea in a money-lending dispute, demanding details of the case. The High Court refused intervention, highlighting a

growing tension between investigative agencies and the legal profession. A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice B R Gavai, with Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, heard the matter and recognized the broader implications for the right to legal defence.

The Supreme Court stressed that if lawyers could be summoned for performing their professional duties, the right to defence risks being treated as a privilege granted by the state rather than a constitutional guarantee. The judgment began with a reference to Shakespeare’s Henry VI:

“The first thing we do, let’s kill all the lawyers,” explaining that it served as a caution against silencing those who defend law and order.

Crucially, the Court highlighted Section 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which preserves confidentiality between lawyers and clients—a principle rooted in Section 126 of the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. Communications made to a lawyer in professional confidence cannot be disclosed unless intended to further a crime or reveal a crime committed after the lawyer’s engagement. The privilege is the client’s, enabling full disclosure to their advocate without fear of self-incrimination.

Legal experts hailed the verdict as a vital reaffirmation of constitutional protections. “The independence of the Bar is not a professional courtesy; it is essential to the rule of law,” noted one advocate. The ruling sends a clear message: investigative authorities cannot overstep and encroach on the professional space of lawyers, ensuring that citizens retain their fundamental right to defence and legal counsel.

The Supreme Court’s judgment thus strengthens the framework of attorney-client confidentiality, reinforcing that the lawyer’s duty is to defend, while the state’s duty is to investigate—neither may usurp the other.

India’s Quasi-Federal Model Remains Strong



As India approaches the 76th anniversary of its Constitution, experts highlight the resilience and relevance of its quasi-federal governance. The Indian Constitution, while neither fully federal nor purely unitary, balances strong central authority with commanding state units, enabling the world’s largest democracy to manage extraordinary diversity under a single legal and political framework.

The Constituent Assembly deliberately designed India’s federal structure to maintain unity while allowing regional autonomy. Dr. B R Ambedkar emphasized that India’s federation is “indestructible” and not based on an agreement between states, ensuring that no state has the right to secede. He also noted the challenge of balancing Centre-state powers, cautioning against making the Centre so strong that it could undermine the federal compact. Other leaders, including B G Kher, stressed that India’s federalism emerged from its unique struggle for independence rather than fear of external threats.

Article 1 of the Constitution declares India a “Union of States,” and the Constitution provides for a dual polity, bicameralism, and a division of powers through the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists. Parliament holds the power to modify state boundaries under Article 3 and legislate on State List subjects during emergencies. The Rajya Sab-

ha represents regional interests, acting as a check on majoritarianism in the Lok Sabha.

Today, India’s quasi-federal framework faces challenges, particularly fiscal centralisation. The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced states’ taxation powers, causing revenue shortfalls of 19-33%, further compounded by delayed compensation payments. Administrative and political centralisation, including the use of emergency powers during the Covid-19 pandemic, has also tested the federal balance.

Despite these pressures, India’s quasi-federalism has proven resilient. It has enabled coordinated national programs like Pulse Polio, facilitated inter-state dispute resolution under Articles 262 and 263, and created a unified market through GST. Cooperative institutions such as the GST Council, Niti Aayog, Inter-State Council, and Zonal Councils provide mechanisms for dialogue and consensus. The 73rd and 74th Amendments further strengthened local governance by empowering Panchayats and municipalities.

India’s federal system, rooted in the principle of “self-rule with shared-rule,” demonstrates that unity and diversity can coexist. By accommodating regional aspirations while preserving national cohesion, the quasi-federal model continues to be a strategic asset, ensuring that India’s diversity strengthens rather than fragments the country.

Ravindra Garimella and Shristi Srivastava are experts in constitutional and parliamentary affairs.

Mokama Strongmen Reshape Bihar Poll Battle

Mokama, Bihar: As the state assembly elections approach, Mokama’s notorious strongmen, Anant Kumar Singh and Suraj Bhan Singh, are once again shaping the political landscape. Both hailing from the Bhumihar community, their decades-long rivalry has moved from bullets to ballots, but violence and intimidation remain entrenched in this riverside township.

Suraj Bhan, 60, sentenced to life in 2008 for a 1992 murder in Begusarai, cannot contest elections himself. Instead, his wife Veena Devi is the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate, vying for the seat against Anant Singh, 58, a Janata Dal (United) leader recently arrested in connection with the murder of Jan Suraj supporter Dular Chand

Yadav. Gunfire and stone-pelting have again marked Mokama’s political arena, highlighting its long history of crime intertwined with politics.

Mokama has long relied on musclemen like Singh and Bhan to maintain electoral influence. Dular Chand’s killing during a clash between Jan Suraj campaigners and Singh’s supporters underscores the continuing volatility. Residents express frustration over persistent violence. “There is no way to live peacefully here. Every other constituency has moved on, but Mokama remains under the grip of bloodshed,” said local resident Amlesh Kumar.

Both strongmen rose from personal tragedy and ambition. Suraj Bhan entered crime after the murder of his cousin Moti Singh in 1989 and gradually leveraged criminal influence into politics. He later expanded into railway contracts, extending his reach into Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, amid violent confrontations with rival strongmen. Meanwhile, Anant Singh’s trajectory began after the murder of his elder brother in the 1980s. With his brother Dilip Singh paving a political path, Anant built muscle power in Mokama and secured contracts at the NTPC Barh plant, consolidating wealth and influence.

Over decades, both have blended crime with politics to maintain control in Mokama. Their influence has made them indispensable to state leaders like Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav, who rely on these figures to secure elector-

al gains.

The 2025 elections mark the closest the two have been to a direct contest in years, with their proxies—Veena Devi and Anant Singh himself—leading campaigns. Mokama voters face a choice between candidates whose political power remains inseparable from a legacy of violence, extortion, and control over key contracts. The outcome may determine whether this region finally sees a break from its bloody past or continues its cycle of crime-fueled politics.

Mokama remains a stark reminder of how criminal networks continue to shape Bihar’s political landscape, highlighting the enduring relevance of strongmen in local elections despite legal and moral constraints.



PM Modi Alleges Congress Trying to Undermine RJD in Bihar Polls



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of attempting to destroy its Bihar ally, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), claiming the party wants to capture the RJD's vote bank in future elections. Speaking at rallies in Sa-

harsa and Katihar, Modi alleged that Congress had deployed leaders from outside Bihar, including a former Punjab Chief Minister, to campaign—leaders he claimed had a history of making anti-Bihar statements. Modi also targeted the RJD, alleging that it had

reduced the prominence of Congress leaders' photos on campaigning material and predicted a complete breakdown of the alliance post-polls. Addressing the issue of alleged infiltration in Seemanchal, a region with a dense Muslim population, Modi claimed that outsid-

ers were being provided benefits such as free foodgrains and healthcare at the expense of local residents. He accused both the Congress and RJD of protecting these "infiltrators" for electoral gains. The PM highlighted the development work of the

NDA government, citing the Kosi Mahasetu project, which was stalled under the UPA, but restarted under his leadership and dedicated in 2020, reducing travel distance across the river from 300 km to 30 km. He also contrasted funding for Nalanda University, noting that while the UPA allocated ₹30 crore, the NDA provided ₹2,000 crore, resulting in a modern campus with students from 21 countries. Modi lauded Indian women for their achievements, referencing the Women's World Cup win and noting women's growing role in defense and other fields. The rallies in Bihar were also addressed by UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Home Minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis, and Union Minister Chirag Paswan, reinforcing the BJP's campaign ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. Modi's speeches combined attacks on opposition alliances with a focus on development achievements, aiming to consolidate support in key Seemanchal constituencies.

“You Know What Happened To Me”: BJP Leader’s Warning For Shashi Tharoor

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has sparked debate after his article in Project Syndicate, titled “Indian Politics Are a Family Business”, critiquing dynastic politics in India. The piece examines the prevalence of family-led parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party, DMK, Trinamool Congress, and National Conference, and calls for a shift toward meritocracy. Tharoor argued that dynastic politics undermines Indian democracy, stating that “when political power is determined by lineage rather than ability, commitment, or grassroots engagement, the quality of governance suffers.” He advocated reforms like legally mandated term limits, internal party elections, and voter education to ensure leaders are chosen based on merit. The article drew an unusual reaction from Shehzad Poonawalla, former Congress leader turned

BJP spokesperson, who praised Tharoor as a “very insightful” writer but warned of potential backlash. Poonawalla described Tharoor as “Khatron ke Khiladi”—one who plays with danger—citing the Congress “first family” as “very vengeful.” Poonawalla referenced his own experience criticizing Rahul Gandhi in 2017, when he faced political consequences for calling out dynastic leadership. Tharoor, a four-time MP from Thiruvananthapuram, has long been considered a rebel within Congress, having contested the party president election against Mallikarjun Kharge and called for internal reforms in 2022 alongside a group of 23 leaders. His positions after the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, including endorsing parts of the government's response, further strained his relations with Congress leadership. The recent article is ex-



pected to deepen existing rifts, as Tharoor continues to challenge dynastic politics from within a party historically dominated by family leadership. His call for merit-based politics

comes amid ongoing debates over the future direction of Indian political parties and governance standards. This episode highlights the delicate balance within

party dynamics, where outspoken leaders may face both admiration and political risks for challenging entrenched hierarchies.

India, Israel Strengthen Anti-Terror, Trade Cooperation



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Israel on Tuesday discussed ways to enhance anti-terror cooperation and expand ties in trade, infrastructure, and regional connectivity during high-level talks in New Delhi. The discussions took place between External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, highlighting both countries' commitment to a global “zero tolerance” approach to terrorism. The two sides also reviewed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), focusing on how the initiative could

strengthen regional trade and connectivity. Officials said the corridor is seen as a key project to link markets across India, the Middle East, and Europe, boosting investment and economic cooperation. Amid the talks, India expressed hope that the U.S.-brokered Gaza peace plan

would lead to durable stability in the region, reflecting New Delhi's broader focus on promoting peace and security in West Asia. The meeting also touched upon plans for a possible visit to India by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the coming months, under-

lining the importance of diplomatic engagement in deepening bilateral relations. Both ministers emphasized the need for joint initiatives in technology, innovation, and infrastructure development, while reiterating the countries' shared commitment to fight terrorism and extremism globally. This round of discussions reflects India and Israel's ongoing efforts to strengthen strategic ties, combining security collaboration with economic and trade partnerships. Enhanced cooperation under frameworks like IMEC is expected to facilitate smoother trade flows and investment opportunities between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The talks signal a continued trajectory of close engagement, as both nations look to balance security priorities with economic growth, while maintaining dialogue on regional peace and stability initiatives.

Rahul Gandhi Slams Modi for Distracting Youth with Social Media



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of keeping the youth occupied with social media, including reels on Instagram and Facebook, to distract them from pressing issues such as education, health, and employment. Addressing consecutive rallies in Aurangabad district, Gandhi alleged that Modi was promoting “addiction” to social media as a deliberate strategy to prevent young people from questioning the government's policies. “This is the new high (‘nasha’) of the 21st century. He wants such a scenario because it ensures that the youth remain distracted and do not hold his government ac-

countable,” Gandhi said. The former Congress president also accused Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of engaging in “vote chori” (vote theft) in Bihar, claiming the NDA knows it cannot win the upcoming assembly elections. Gandhi urged voters to support the INDIA bloc, promising that, if elected, it would focus on the welfare of the extremely backward, socially marginalized, and Dalit communities. Gandhi outlined his vision for Bihar, including transforming the state into a manufacturing hub with products proudly labelled “Made in Bihar” and establishing a state-of-the-art university at Nalanda to revive the region's historical prominence

in education. He also criticized Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, accusing him of turning Bihar's youth into labourers while destroying employment opportunities. Gandhi further alleged that Kumar operated under the directions of officials in New Delhi and pointed to frequent question paper leaks, which he said primarily benefit financially privileged students. The Congress leader's remarks highlight his push to frame the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections as a choice between youth empowerment and governance neglect, urging citizens to vote for development, education, and employment reforms over social media distractions.

Tejashwi Yadav Promises Rs 30,000 for Women Ahead of Bihar Polls



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday announced that his party will provide Rs 30,000 annually to women in Bihar in a single transfer if voted to power, under the proposed ‘Mai Bahin Maan Yojana’. The scheme is scheduled to be implemented on Makar Sankranti (January 14, 2026). The announcement comes just days ahead of the first phase of Bihar Assembly polls on November 6 and aims to counter the ruling NDA's ‘Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana’, under which Rs 10,000 has already been transferred to over 1 crore women to support entrepreneurship and small

businesses. Speaking at a press conference in Patna, Yadav said, “All the mothers and sisters in Bihar are excited about the Mai Bahin Maan Yojana. People say that this scheme will provide them with economic justice.” The RJD's manifesto earlier pledged Rs 2,500 per month for women starting December 1, along with Rs 30,000 annually for the next five years. Responding to public demand, Yadav said the entire annual amount will be transferred in one go on January 14. In addition to women-focused financial support, Yadav promised incentives for farmers, including Rs 300 per quintal of paddy and Rs 400 for wheat as a bonus

over the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He also highlighted administrative reforms, promising the posting of teachers, police, healthcare workers, and other employees within a 70-kilometre radius of their home districts. Yadav reiterated his commitment to reintroducing the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), which has been a key demand among government employees in the state. Bihar will vote in two phases—November 6 and 11—with counting scheduled for November 14. Yadav's announcement is seen as a strategic move to consolidate support among women voters and counter the NDA's poll outreach in the run-up to the elections.

Global Peace Prayer Festival 2025 Kicks Off in Thimphu



TPN Correspondent | Buenos Aires

The Global Peace Prayer Festival 2025 commenced on Tuesday at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, with Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay attending the opening ceremony. The 13-day spiritual gathering, running from November 4 to 17, aims to unite Buddhist leaders, practitioners, and peace advocates from around the world to promote harmony, compassion, and global peace.

Organized by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the festival brings together representatives from Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana traditions, reflecting the nation's effort to harness the transformative power of mindfulness and loving-kindness. The opening day featured the sacred Jabzhi Dhoechog ritual, conducted by the Central Monastic Body at Kuenselphodrang, which combines peaceful offerings with protective elements to cleanse negative karma from body, speech, and mind.

At Changlimithang Ground, participants engaged in a non-sectarian Global Peace Prayer, with prayers offered in English, Tibetan, and Dzongkha, accompanied by simultaneous translations.

Nine Climbers Killed In Sperate Avalanches In Nepal

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

At least nine climbers, including two Nepali guides, have lost their lives in two separate avalanche incidents in Nepal, officials confirmed on Tuesday. The tragedies occurred in the Himalayan regions of Mt. Yalung Ri and Mt. Panbari, highlighting the persistent dangers faced by mountaineers in Nepal's high-altitude peaks.

The first incident struck near Mt. Yalung Ri (6,920m) under Gaushankar Rural Municipality on Monday morning. Seven climbers were buried in the avalanche while attempting to scale the peak, according to Deputy Superintendent of Police Gyan Kumar Mahato. A joint rescue mission was mobilized to retrieve the victims' bodies.

The deceased climbers included two Nepali guides, two Italians—Paolo Cocco and Marco Di Marcello—a Canadian, a French, and a German national. Additionally, five climbers, including three Nepalis and two French nationals, sustained injuries and were airlifted to hospitals in Kathmandu. Four more climbers with minor injuries were also rescued from the site.

In a separate tragedy in the Manaslu region, two Italian climbers, Stefano Farronato and Alessandro Caputo, who had been missing

since heavy snowfall on October 28, were found dead inside their tent at Camp I of Mt. Panbari (6,887m). Their bodies were recovered from an altitude of 5,242 meters on Tuesday. Another Italian climber, Velter Paralion, who had been stranded with them, was rescued earlier on Sunday.

The Nepal Tourism Board expressed deep sorrow over the incidents, issuing condolences to the families of the victims. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives in the avalanche. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of the seven victims in Yalung Ri mountain," the board stated.

These incidents underscore the extreme risks faced by mountaineers in Nepal's high-altitude ranges, especially during the pre-winter season when heavy snowfall and avalanches are common. Rescue teams continue their operations to ensure the safety of survivors and recover the deceased.

Complementing the spiritual programs, the festival will feature exhibitions of Kalachakra art, artefacts, and scholarly seminars, showcasing Bhutan's dedication to preserving and sharing its rich Buddhist heritage.

The Global Peace Prayer Festival 2025 stands as a historic occasion, promoting unity, devotion, and collective healing, sending a powerful message of hope, compassion, and peace in today's divided world.



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“New York Will Be Economic, Social Disaster If Mamdani Becomes Mayor”: Trump

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has endorsed former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in his independent bid for New York City mayor, warning voters against electing Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani. In a post on Truth Social, Trump described Mamdani, 34, as a “communist” and claimed a Mamdani victory would lead to a “complete and total economic and social disaster” for the city.

Trump, who often refers to New York as his first home, threatened that federal funds for the city could be restricted to the bare minimum if Mamdani were elected. “If Communist Candidate Zohran Mamdani wins the Election for Mayor of New York City, it is highly unlikely that I will be contributing Federal Funds, other than the very minimum as required... this once great City has ZERO chance of success, or



even survival,” he wrote. Highlighting Cuomo's track record, Trump argued that a vote for the

former governor would be a safer choice. “I would much rather see a Democrat, who has had a Record of Success, WIN, than a Communist with no experience and a Record of COMPLETE AND

TOTAL FAILURE,” Trump said, referencing Mamdani's tenure as an Assemblyman and ques-

tioning his ability to lead the city.

Trump also criticized GOP nominee Curtis Sliwa, claiming that voting for him could inadvertently support Mamdani. He even took a jab at Sliwa's signature red beret, suggesting he would look better without it.

The endorsement comes as New York City prepares for its mayoral election on November 4, in a race that has drawn national attention due to the mix of independent, Democratic, and Republican candidates. Trump's intervention underscores the high stakes and polarized atmosphere surrounding the vote, as he seeks to influence the outcome in favor of Cuomo over both Mamdani and Sliwa.

The election is expected to be closely watched, with voters evaluating experience, political ideology, and leadership ability as they head to the polls.

“We Weren’t The First Nor...”: Pak Responds To Trump’s Claim On Testing Nukes

TPN Correspondent | Florida

A senior Pakistani official has reiterated that Islamabad will not be the first to resume nuclear tests, following remarks by US President Donald Trump suggesting that Pakistan might be secretly testing its nuclear weapons. Speaking to CBS News, the official emphasized, “Pakistan was not the first to carry out nuclear tests and will not be the first to resume nuclear tests.”

Trump, in a recent interview on CBS's 60 Minutes, claimed that countries including Russia, China, North Korea, and Pakistan have allegedly conducted underground nuclear tests without public disclosure. He added that the United States might need to conduct its own tests to avoid being the only country not testing. “They don't go and tell you about it... They test way underground, where people don't know exactly what's happening



with the test. You feel a little bit of a vibration,” Trump said.

While Trump's allegations stirred global attention, historical records

show that no nation other than North Korea has conducted nuclear detonations in recent decades. Russia and China last tested in 1990 and 1996, respectively.

The United States, a signatory of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) since 1996, conducted its final nuclear test in 1992.

Pakistan's nuclear history indicates its last known nuclear explosive tests occurred in 1998, after which Islamabad declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, though it has not signed the CTBT. Pakistani authorities have consistently emphasized their commitment to maintaining regional stability and refraining from initiating nuclear detonations.

Experts suggest that Trump's comments may reflect geopolitical concerns about nuclear deterrence rather than confirmed evidence of clandestine testing. Analysts note that Pakistan continues to rely on its existing arsenal while engaging in diplomatic efforts to reassure the international community about its nuclear policy.

The exchange underscores ongoing tensions over nuclear capabilities in South Asia and highlights the sensitivity surrounding statements by global leaders regarding weapons testing. Pakistan remains firm on its stance of not being the first to resume nuclear tests.

India Sends 40 Tonnes of Relief Material to Jamaica, Cuba

TPN Correspondent | Balochistan

India on Tuesday dispatched 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Jamaica and Cuba in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to support its Global South partners during natural disasters.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft carrying 20 tonnes of relief supplies for each country took off from New Delhi this morning. The shipment includes Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cube field hospitals, food and daily utility items, medicines, medical equipment, power generators, shelter material, hygiene kits, and rehabilitation support items, aimed at assisting affected communities in recovery and rebuilding efforts.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar highlighted India's dedication to timely disaster relief, stating, “India stands with our Global South partners in the face of such natural disasters and will assist our friends in recovery and reconstruction.” He added that the initiative reflects India's



broad humanitarian outreach guided by the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ethos, focusing on rapid assistance to nations impacted by climate-induced calamities.

Hurricane Melissa, a powerful tropical storm,

recently swept across parts of the Caribbean, causing widespread destruction to infrastructure and disrupting essential services. The storm has claimed around 50 lives so far and left communities in urgent need of aid.

Officials emphasized that India's support includes both immediate relief and resources for medium-term rehabilitation, such as medical care, shelters, and basic utilities. The deployment of BHISHM Cube field hospitals

will provide essential healthcare services in affected regions, while food, hygiene kits, and shelter material will assist families displaced by the storm.

This humanitarian gesture underscores India's

active role in international disaster relief and solidarity with countries facing climate-related crises, strengthening ties with Caribbean nations while offering timely support to save lives and rebuild communities.

India’s 92% AI adoption rate the highest in Asia Pacific: BCG report

India has emerged as the front-runner in workplace artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in the Asia Pacific region, with 92% of employees using AI in their daily work, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Across the Asia Pacific, 78% of workers regularly use AI, surpassing the global average of 72%. The report, published by BCG X, the firm’s technology build and design arm, highlights the region’s leadership in integrating AI across workplaces, from offices to frontline operations.

“India’s AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readiness for the next phase of transformation,” said Nipun Kalra, India Leader, BCG X. He noted that 58% of frontline Indian employees receive clear guidance on AI use, nearly double the regional average, fostering responsible and scalable innovation.

The study shows AI adoption is no longer confined to managerial roles. Across Asia Pacific, 70% of frontline employees now use AI weekly or more, compared to 51% globally, demonstrating how workers at all levels are driving digital transformation.

Despite optimism, concerns



remain. 52% of employees worry AI may replace their roles, while only a third fully understand how AI tools work. Additionally, 58% admitted they would use AI without company approval, underscoring the need for better governance and oversight.

BCG emphasized that sustained AI progress will require effective leadership, upskilling, and organizational design. “Organizations must move from experimentation to reimagining operating models, building governance, skills, and structures

that turn AI’s promise into measurable enterprise and economic value,” Kalra added.

The findings highlight India’s readiness for large-scale AI adoption and the critical need for structured frameworks to ensure that the technology benefits

both businesses and employees while mitigating risks.

This report positions India not only as a regional leader in AI adoption but also as a model for responsible and strategic AI integration across emerging economies.

Markets Slip on Foreign Fund Outflows, Weak Asian Cues



Equity markets opened lower on Tuesday, weighed down by foreign fund outflows and weak cues from Asian peers. The BSE Sensex slipped 55 points to 83,923.48, while the NSE Nifty 50 dipped 40.95 points to 25,722.40 in early trade.

Among the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, Eternal, HCL Tech, Maruti, Tata Motors, and Infosys were the major laggards, while Bharti Airtel, Titan, Reliance Industries, and Mahindra & Mahindra gained ground.

According to exchange data,

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 1,883.78 crore on Monday, continuing a trend of persistent outflows. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 3,516.36 crore, providing partial support to the market.

“FIIs’ renewed selling is constraining the rally in the market. In the last four days, FIIs have offloaded equities worth Rs 14,269 crore. Higher valuations in India and muted earnings growth are restrain-

ing foreign investors, who are now focusing on cheaper markets with better earnings potential,” said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

In Asian markets, most indices traded lower, with South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225, and Shanghai’s SSE Composite under pressure. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was an exception, trading in positive territory.

US markets ended mostly higher on Monday, providing mixed global cues. The Brent crude benchmark slipped 0.20% to USD 64.76 a barrel, adding to the cautious sentiment.

In the previous session, the Sensex had inched up 39.78 points to 83,978.49, while the Nifty gained 41.25 points to settle at 25,763.35. Analysts suggest that market direction will continue to be influenced by FIIs’ selling patterns, domestic earnings growth, and global economic cues.

The early weakness highlights investor caution amid valuation concerns and global volatility, even as domestic institutional support offers some cushion to the markets.

Rupee Rises 11 Paise to 88.66 Against Dollar



The Indian rupee rebounded on Tuesday, settling 11 paise higher at 88.66 against the U.S. dollar amid a mix of domestic and global factors.

Forex traders noted that while the rupee showed signs of recovery, gains remained limited due to a firm dollar, continued foreign fund outflows, and subdued domestic equity markets. These factors tempered a sharper appreciation in the currency.

Early trade saw the rupee hovering around 88.70 before gradually strengthening as selling pressure eased. Analysts attributed the recovery to improved market sentiment and lower demand for dollars in the spot market.

“While the rupee’s rebound is encouraging, persistent foreign capital outflows and a strong greenback globally are preventing more significant gains,” said a senior forex dealer at a leading Mumbai-based bank.

The U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback’s performance against a basket of major currencies, remained supported by expectations of stable interest rates in the United States. This limited the rupee’s upward movement despite some domestic buying

interest.

In the domestic equity markets, the Sensex and Nifty opened lower amid cautious investor sentiment, further restricting foreign inflows and keeping pressure on the currency.

Analysts suggest that in the near term, the rupee is likely to trade in a narrow range, influenced by global dollar trends, foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, and domestic macroeconomic indicators such as trade balance and inflation data.

The rupee had faced pressure in the previous sessions due to large outflows by foreign investors, with equities witnessing net selling. However, improved domestic demand for the currency and easing market concerns provided support, allowing the rupee to recover part of its losses.

With global markets expected to remain volatile, forex traders are closely watching U.S. economic data, crude oil prices, and domestic fund flows to gauge the currency’s trajectory in the coming weeks.

The rupee’s rebound, though modest, reflects resilience amid global uncertainties and ongoing volatility in capital markets.

SBI Q2 Net Profit Jumps 10% to ₹20,160 Crore



State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 10% year-on-year rise in net profit for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, at ₹20,160 crore, driven by improved asset quality and gains from strategic investments.

A key contributor to the robust performance was the sale of a 13.18% stake in Yes Bank, which generated a profit of ₹4,593 crore. This exceptional gain significantly boosted the bank’s overall net earnings for the quarter.

The bank’s performance also reflects strengthened asset quality across its lending portfolio, which helped offset pressures from other operational costs. Analysts note that SBI’s proactive approach in managing non-performing assets and strategic stake sales is reinforcing its financial position.

“This quarter’s results highlight SBI’s ability to generate exceptional returns through smart investment decisions while maintaining healthy

lending practices,” said an industry expert.

SBI, India’s largest public sector lender, continues to leverage its wide branch network and digital banking footprint to drive growth, while balancing risk management and capital allocation. The gains from the Yes Bank stake sale underscore the bank’s focus on unlocking value from strategic investments.

With robust capital buffers and improved asset quality, SBI is well-positioned to maintain steady growth in the coming quarters, even as the broader banking sector faces challenges from fluctuating interest rates and evolving credit demand.

The bank’s strong quarterly performance also strengthens investor confidence, reflecting its continued dominance in India’s banking landscape and its capacity to capitalize on both operational and strategic opportunities.

Microsoft Signs \$9.7B Deal With IREN for Nvidia Chips

Microsoft has entered into a \$9.7 billion contract with data-center operator IREN, securing access to Nvidia’s advanced chips to address the growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI) computing power. The deal aims to help Microsoft overcome bottlenecks that have limited its ability to fully capitalize on the AI boom.

According to IREN’s filing, a portion of the funds from Microsoft’s prepayment will be used to finance part of its \$5.8 billion deal with Dell, which supplies Nvidia’s GB300 chips and other equipment essential for Microsoft’s AI infrastructure.

The announcement had an immediate impact on the stock market. IREN shares surged more than 20% in premarket trading on Monday, reflecting investor optimism about the strategic partnership. Dell’s shares also rose 5%, given its role in providing the AI-server hardware that Microsoft will deploy.

Analysts say the deal underscores Microsoft’s commitment to expanding its AI capabilities at a time when demand for high-



performance computing is skyrocketing. By securing priority access to Nvidia chips through IREN, Microsoft can accelerate the rollout of its AI products and services while managing supply chain challenges.

“Access to cutting-edge Nvidia chips is critical for Microsoft to

maintain competitiveness in the AI sector,” said an industry analyst. “This deal not only strengthens its data-center capacity but also helps hedge against global semiconductor supply constraints.”

The partnership also illustrates the growing trend of tech

giants collaborating with data-center operators to secure hardware essential for AI workloads, signaling the strategic importance of supply chain management in the AI race.

Microsoft and IREN did not provide exact timelines for deployment, but the scale of the

contract indicates a significant expansion of Microsoft’s AI infrastructure in the coming months. The move is expected to reinforce Microsoft’s position in the AI market while giving IREN and Dell a substantial boost in revenue from chip-related contracts.

French Students React to Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry



A viral video capturing the reactions of a group of French students tasting Andhra chicken curry for the first time has won hearts on social media. The clip, shared on Instagram by @amarprashanth_07_yt, shows the students attempting the fiery South Indian delicacy with rice, revealing both their struggle with the spice and their enjoyment of the dish. In the video, the French students are seen eating the curry in the traditional Indian way, mixing it with rice using their hands. The expressions on their faces range from shock at the heat to sheer delight. While some struggle with the intensity of the spices, one student is seen licking his plate clean, clearly impressed by the flavor despite the fiery kick. The video has struck a chord with viewers online, celebrating not only the boldness of the students but also the richness of Indian cuisine. It reflects how food can bridge cultural gaps, bringing people together through shared experiences.

The reel has garnered thousands of likes and comments, with many praising the students' adventurous spirit and the popularity of Andhra cuisine abroad. Social media users have been quick to comment on the spice tolerance challenge, with many tagging friends who might enjoy or struggle with such a spicy dish. The video also highlights the global appeal of regional Indian cuisines, showing that authentic flavors can excite food lovers, even those unaccustomed to intense spices. With short-form content like this going viral, many are now curious to see more international reactions to Indian dishes, from street foods to home-style recipes. The clip serves as a light-hearted reminder that food is a universal language, capable of creating moments of joy, surprise, and connection across cultures. And for the French students, this fiery Andhra chicken experience was one to remember—and share with the world.

McDonald's CEO Picks Snack Wrap as Favourite Menu Item

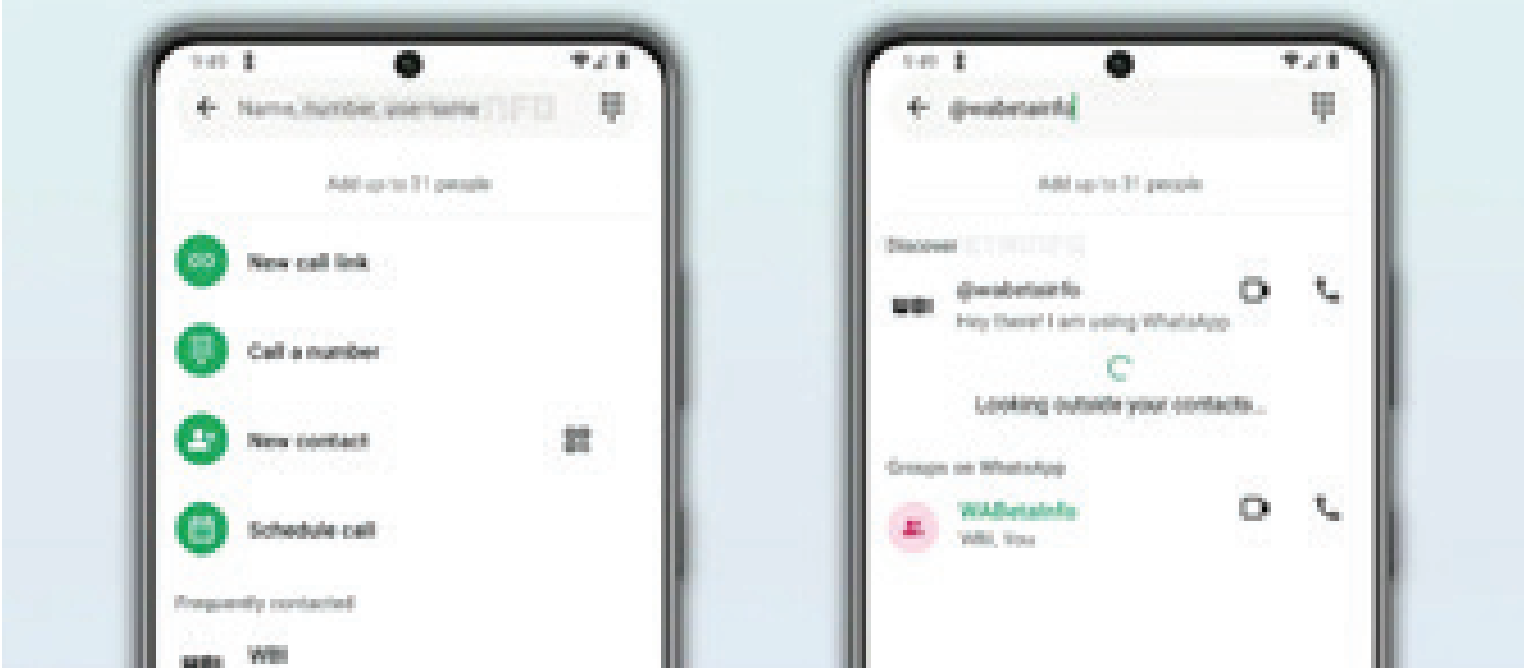


McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski recently revealed his favourite menu item in a playful "McDonald's Menu Item Tournament," surprising fans by choosing a non-burger item as his top pick. The tournament, shared on LinkedIn, featured popular menu staples including Big Mac, Egg McMuffin, World Famous Fries, McCrispy Chicken Sandwich, Filet-O-Fish, Chicken McNuggets, Vanilla Cone, Apple Pie, Quarter Pounder with Cheese (QPC), and Snack Wrap. In the bracket-style challenge, Kempczinski initially favoured the Egg McMuffin over the Big Mac, showing his fondness for McDonald's breakfast offerings. The fries, often celebrated as a fan favourite, performed strongly, defeating the Egg McMuffin, McCrispy, and Filet-O-Fish, but eventually lost to Chicken McNuggets. The McNuggets then progressed through the rounds, surpassing McCrispy Strips but falling short against the Vanilla Cone. The tournament's semi-finals saw the Quarter Pounder with Cheese edge out the Vanilla Cone, leading to a

final showdown between the QPC and the Snack Wrap. In a surprising turn, Kempczinski crowned the Snack Wrap—comprising McCrispy Strips, shredded lettuce, cheese, and a soft tortilla—as his ultimate favourite. The choice carries special significance, as the Snack Wrap made a return to McDonald's US menus in July 2025 after nearly ten years off shelves. Fans and social media users responded positively to the CEO's pick, appreciating the spotlight on a beloved, once-retired menu item. The video offered a rare, personal glimpse into the preferences of McDonald's top executive, showing that even the leader of a global fast-food empire has his own quirky favourites. The Snack Wrap's victory underscores its enduring popularity and reminds fans of the simple pleasures beyond burgers and fries. Kempczinski's fun tournament not only engaged food lovers worldwide but also celebrated the diversity of McDonald's menu offerings, from breakfast classics to desserts and nostalgic favourites.

WhatsApp May Soon Let Users Call Others via Username

WhatsApp is reportedly developing a new feature that will allow users to call or message others using usernames, eliminating the need to exchange phone numbers. This functionality, spotted in recent beta releases for iOS and Android by feature tracker WABetaInfo, could significantly simplify connecting with new contacts while maintaining privacy. The feature will let users search for a person's username in the Calls tab. If a match is found, users can tap on voice call or video call buttons to initiate a conversation. Depending on privacy settings, the caller may also see the person's profile photo before connecting. While the feature is still in development, it promises to offer a more streamlined way of communication, similar to Signal's existing username-based calls. To prevent misuse by spammers or scammers, WhatsApp plans to introduce a "username



key" system. Unknown users attempting to place a call would need to enter the correct username key to connect. This feature is expected to be optional but could play a crucial role in enhancing security while enabling easier

communication. Apart from username-based calls, WhatsApp is actively testing several other features. These include cover photos for chats, in-chat storage management, media and sticker filters, message limits for

new chats, and a channel quiz feature. Users may also soon be able to reply and react to messages from Apple Watch and secure chat backups with passkey encryption. No official timeline has been shared regard-

ing the rollout of these features. They are expected to first appear on the beta channel, where WhatsApp will test them before making them available to all users. Once released, these updates could mark a significant shift in how

WhatsApp handles privacy, contact discovery, and user interaction. This development indicates WhatsApp's growing focus on enhancing usability while balancing security and privacy for its over 2 billion global users.

Ignyte Launches Ultra-Light Airlite Helmets in India

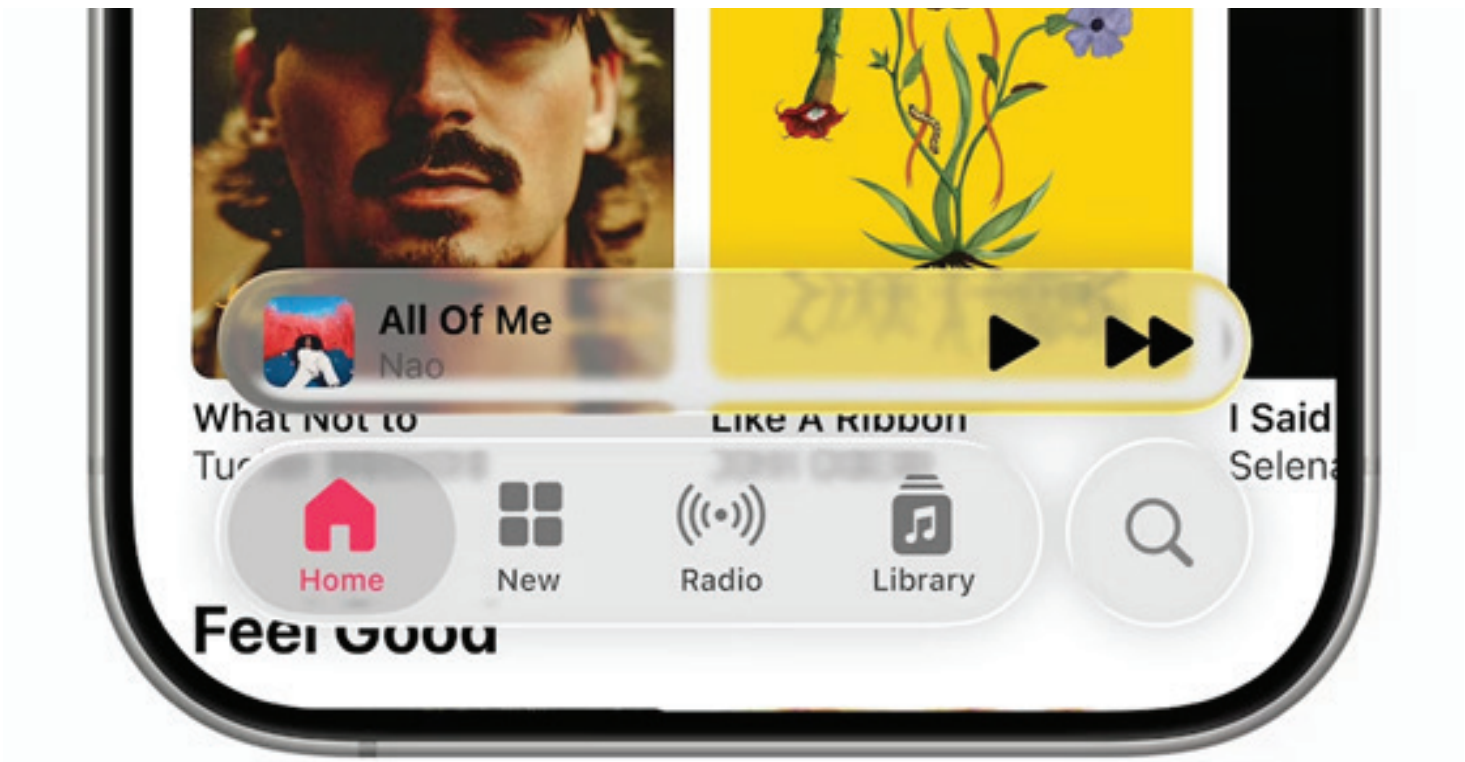
Ignyte, the premium brand of Steelbird Hi-Tech India Ltd, has launched its Airlite Series helmets in India, setting a new benchmark in ultra-lightweight, high-safety motorcycle helmets. The series introduces flagship models AI-10 and AI-14, certified under ECE 22.06 (Europe) and DOT (USA) standards, ensuring global-level safety for riders. Weighing just 900 grams (ECE) and 800 grams (DOT), the Airlite helmets are designed to provide a zero-fatigue riding experience without compromising impact protection. They are crafted using Ignyte's proprietary balloon moulding technology, featuring a multi-impact Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) liner, which efficiently absorbs energy and rebounds after impact for lasting protection, surpassing traditional EPS liners. The helmets sport an ultra-light fiberglass composite shell with controlled resin distribution for uniform thickness and superior strength. Riders can choose between Double D-Ring and Micrometric Buckle retention systems, combining professional-grade safety with every-



day convenience. The premium interiors use imported, anti-allergenic fabric that is replaceable and washable, ensuring long-term comfort and hygiene. The optical-grade polycarbonate visor provides distortion-free clarity, scratch resistance, and UV protection. The Airlite Series also offers dual-shell sizing for precise fit and balanced aesthetics, catering to riders of all head sizes. Each model is certified under ISI, ECE 22.06, and DOT standards, reflecting Ignyte's commitment to meeting the most demanding global safety requirements. Pricing for the Airlite Series starts at Rs 6,659 for the AI-10E (ISI + ECE 22.06), with the AI-14E (ISI + ECE 22.06) priced at Rs 6,999. The DOT variants—AI-10 and AI-14—are priced at Rs 6,649 and Rs 6,859, respectively. The helmets will be available at authorized Steelbird and Ignyte dealerships and leading online platforms across India, offering riders an ideal blend of lightweight comfort, advanced safety, and modern design for every journey.

iOS 26.1 Lets Users Tone Down Liquid Glass Effect

Apple's iOS 26.1 update brings a new option to adjust the controversial Liquid Glass effect, which debuted in iOS 26 last September. The feature, praised for its sleek glossy appearance but criticized for reducing readability, can now be toggled between Clear and Tinted modes, giving users more control over their display experience. The Liquid Glass effect adds a high-translucency, glass-like finish across iPhone interfaces. While visually striking, many users found it distracting and inconsistent across different wallpapers. iOS 26.1 addresses these concerns by allowing users to reduce transparency and gloss with the Tinted option, making menus and app backgrounds easier to read. To adjust the Liquid Glass effect, users should first ensure their device is updated to iOS 26.1. Then, navigate to Settings > Display & Brightness > Liquid Glass. Selecting Clear preserves the original glossy look, while Tinted tones down the effect, giving the interface a more opaque and neutral appearance. This makes text and icons clearer, improving usability without losing the modern aesthetic. The update is available for iPhone 11 and newer models, including the second-generation



iPhone SE. While the change may seem minor, it reflects Apple's willingness to respond to user feedback, a shift from the company's typically cautious approach to design changes.

iOS 26.1 also includes several security fixes and other enhancements, but the Liquid Glass toggle has emerged as the most talked-about feature. For users who struggled with the

overly reflective interface, the update offers a simple solution to restore readability while maintaining the stylistic appeal of Apple's bold visual choices. With the Tinted setting, Apple

balances visual innovation and practical usability, allowing users to enjoy a modern interface without compromising on clarity—a move likely to win over critics of the original design.

Sinner, Alcaraz to Face Off in South Korea Exhibition Ahead of Australian Open

Tennis fans are in for a treat as Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, the world's top two men's players, are set to clash in an exhibition match in South Korea this January. Organisers announced on Monday (November 3, 2025) that the high-profile encounter will take place at the Incheon Inspire Arena on January 10, just eight days before the Australian Open kicks off in Melbourne.

The match will be part of the prestigious Hyundai Card Super Match series, which has previously hosted some of the biggest legends in tennis, including Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Pete Sampras, Maria Sharapova, and Venus Williams. The inclusion of Sinner and Alcaraz continues the event's legacy of featuring the sport's elite.

Both players have been in scintillating form, dominating men's tennis in recent seasons. Between them, Sinner and Alcaraz have claimed nine of the last ten major titles, cementing their rivalry as



one of the most exciting in modern tennis. Their exhibition in South Korea will offer fans an early glimpse of their form and intensity ahead of the new season. The matchup also highlights tennis's growing global reach, with Asia becoming an increasingly popular destination for high-profile events. Organisers expect a packed house at Incheon's state-of-the-art arena, as Korean fans get a rare opportunity to witness two of the sport's brightest stars in action.

With both athletes eyeing strong starts to their 2025 campaigns, the South Korea exhibition promises to deliver world-class tennis and a thrilling preview of what could be another fierce battle for Grand Slam supremacy at the Australian Open.

Mirabai Chanu to Move Up to 53kg as Her Weight Class Is Axed from 2028 Olympics



Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will compete in a higher weight category at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, after her current 49kg division was dropped from the Games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has re-

structured the weightlifting programme, increasing the total number of events to 12 — six for men and six for women — leading to the removal of Chanu's long-time category.

Chanu, who won silver

at the Tokyo Olympics (2021) in the 49kg class, will now move up to 53kg, the lowest weight division available for women at the LA Games. The decision was confirmed after the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) released

new Olympic categories on Monday, marking the second major category reshuffle within a year.

India's chief national coach Vijay Sharma said the change could benefit Chanu in the long run. "This is good for Mirabai

because cutting down to 48kg was always taxing for her body," Sharma told PTL. "She will continue in the same class till the Asian Games next year, after which we'll begin preparing her for 53kg."

Chanu, 31, has often spoken about the physical strain of maintaining a sub-49kg frame. Moving up a category will allow her to add muscle mass and potentially improve her overall lifts. She recently clinched gold at the Commonwealth Championships and silver at the World Championships in the 48kg class.

The new Olympic weight categories, which take effect from August 1, 2026, will feature 53kg, 61kg, 69kg, 77kg, 86kg, and +86kg for women and 65kg, 75kg, 85kg, 95kg, 110kg, and +110kg for men.

Despite the shift, Chanu remains one of India's top medal hopes as she begins her journey toward the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in a new division.

Mohsin Naqvi Unlikely to Attend ICC Meet as BCCI Raises Asia Cup Trophy Issue

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi is reportedly unlikely to attend the ongoing ICC Executive Board meeting in Dubai, where the BCCI is expected to raise the contentious issue surrounding the Asia Cup trophy. The trophy has remained locked inside the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) headquarters in Dubai since the tournament's conclusion in late September.

According to sources, Naqvi's absence may be due to "domestic political issues" in Pakistan, though his decision has drawn attention given that he also serves as ACC chairman. The meeting, which began on Tuesday (November 4, 2025), was expected to see heated discussions over the trophy controversy — an incident that has strained cricketing relations between India and Pakistan.

The issue stems from the Asia Cup 2025 final, where the Indian players reportedly declined to accept the trophy from Naqvi following his anti-India remarks during the tournament. As a result, the trophy presentation ceremony was never



held, and the silverware has since remained unclaimed at the ACC's Dubai office.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is now pushing for a formal resolution to the matter at the ICC meeting. Officials are likely to question Naqvi's conduct as both PCB and ACC head, arguing that his statements and actions have politicized a continental cricket event.

With Naqvi expected to skip the meeting, ACC representatives may instead handle the matter on his behalf. However, his absence could further complicate discussions, leaving the trophy dispute unresolved.

The controversy under-

scores the continuing tensions between India and Pakistan in cricket governance, despite efforts by the ICC to maintain neutrality and promote cooperation among member boards.

Pakistan Women's Coach Muhammad Wasim Sacked After World Cup Debacle



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has sacked Muhammad Wasim, head coach of the national women's cricket team, following the team's disastrous performance in the recently concluded ICC Women's ODI World Cup. The decision comes after Pakistan finished last in the eight-team tournament, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan, led by Fatima Sana, endured a forgettable campaign — losing four matches, while three others were washed out due to rain. Despite having topped the qualifying rounds in Lahore earlier this year to secure their World Cup berth, the team failed to register a single win in the main event, playing all their matches in Colombo.

In a statement, the PCB confirmed that Wasim's contract expired at the end of the tournament and would not be renewed. The board is now on the lookout for a new head coach, with sour-

es indicating that a foreign candidate is being considered. If no suitable option is found, former Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof could be appointed to the role.

Wasim, a former Test cricketer and ex-chief selector of Pakistan's men's team, had taken over the women's side last year. His tenure saw a string of underwhelming results, including Pakistan's Asia Cup semifinal exit and an early league-stage elimination in the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

A PCB insider revealed that the entire support staff would also be replaced soon as part of a broader overhaul aimed at rebuilding the women's setup.

The changes come amid India's triumphant Women's World Cup victory, which has further highlighted the contrasting fortunes of the two neighboring cricketing nations on the global stage.

Sangram Singh Makes History with LFL Europe Win



India's wrestling icon turned MMA fighter Sangram Singh has made history by becoming the first Indian to win at the Levels Fight League (LFL) Europe. The victory came at LFL 20 in Amsterdam, where Sangram faced Tunisia's Hakim Trabelsi, a younger and experienced MMA striker.

From the opening bell, Sangram showcased his superior wrestling skills, controlling the fight with strategic positioning and precise striking. He maintained dominance by keeping the match in clinch and body-lock positions, neutralizing Trabelsi's attacks while staying calm and composed.

The fight ended decisively in the second round when Sangram executed a flawless bar arm choke submission, a variant of the rear-naked choke, forcing Trabelsi to tap out. This finish highlighted Sangram's fight IQ, technical mastery, and mental toughness.

This win adds to Sangram Singh's growing MMA legacy in Europe. He had earlier made a sensational debut at the Gama International Fighting Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia, defeating Pakistani fighter Ali

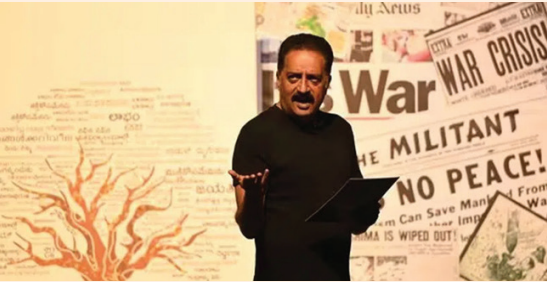
Raza Nasir in under 90 seconds. Even at the age of 40, Sangram continues to prove that discipline, confidence, and determination define a champion more than age.

Speaking after the match, Sangram said, "This win belongs to every young Indian dreaming of competing on the world stage. Levels Fight League gave me the platform to showcase Indian grit and resilience in Europe. I hope my journey inspires many more to pursue their dreams with dedication and courage."

Coach Bhupesh Kumar praised Sangram's strategy and patience, noting that his wrestling skills and tactical discipline were key to controlling the fight. LFL President Donovan James Alexander Panayiotis hailed Sangram as an inspiration, adding that his energy, humility, and relentless spirit make him a perfect ambassador for Indian sportsmanship.

LFL officials called the victory a milestone moment in Indian MMA history, with Sangram Singh now cementing his status as a symbol of courage, resilience, and excellence on the global stage.

“Awards Are Being Compromised”: Prakash Raj’s Strong Words on National Film Awards



Veteran actor Prakash Raj’s recent comments on the National Film Awards have sparked a heated debate across the Indian film industry. Speaking during the announcement of the 55th Kerala State Film Awards, where he served as the jury chairman, Prakash Raj made some candid and controversial remarks about the credibility of national-level awards.

The actor stated, “I am not afraid to say that the National Film Awards are now being compromised. I am happy to serve as the chairman of the Kerala jury because the state government assured complete freedom in the selection process without interference.” His remarks were perceived as a sharp critique of what he sees as growing bias and favoritism within the national awards system.

He went on to add, “Only a few are getting priority in the awards system. When juries start compromising, a great actor like Mammootty does not need such awards.” These strong words have since gone viral, drawing intense reactions from fans and industry insiders alike.

The comments came shortly after Mammootty won the Best Actor award at the Kerala State Film Awards for his stellar performance in Bhramayugam, marking yet another milestone in his illustrious career. While the win was widely celebrated, Prakash Raj’s remarks have stirred discussion about the transparency and integrity of award juries across the country.

Alongside Bhramayugam, films like Manjummel Boys also won top honours this year. Concluding his statement, Prakash Raj appealed to filmmakers to focus more on children’s cinema, urging directors and writers to create stories that speak to audiences of all ages, emphasizing that cinema should represent every section of society.

AKT to Premiere Two Days Early in the USA



Actor Ram Pothineni is all set to charm audiences with his upcoming film Andhra King Taluka (AKT), directed by Mahesh Babu P under the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers banner. The film, slated for a global release on November 28, has already created massive buzz with its catchy songs and powerful teaser, both of which have received an overwhelming response from fans and critics alike.

In an exciting update, the makers have announced that AKT will premiere two days earlier in the USA, giving overseas fans an exclusive first look on November 26. To make the occasion even more special, Ram Pothineni himself will embark on a promotional tour across the USA — his first ever international promotion campaign.

The tour, scheduled from November 26 to 30, will see Ram attending premiere shows, interacting with fans, and participating in meet-and-greet events during special screenings. This move reflects the team’s confidence in the film’s potential to make a strong mark at the overseas box office.

The makers believe that the film’s engaging storyline and emotional depth will resonate particularly well with Telugu audiences abroad, who have consistently supported romantic dramas with fresh and relatable themes.

With Mythri Movie Makers backing the project and a promising promotional strategy in place, expectations are high that Andhra King Taluka will open to record numbers both in India and overseas. As excitement builds, all eyes are now on Ram Pothineni’s much-anticipated USA tour and the early premieres that will set the stage for one of the most awaited releases of the year.

What Is the First Spark? New Poster from Dulquer Salmaan’s Kaantha

The anticipation around Dulquer Salmaan’s much-awaited period drama Kaantha is reaching new heights. Following the successful release of the energetic Rage of Kaantha track, the makers have now unveiled a new poster teasing that the “first spark” will be revealed at 4 PM today.

Directed by Selvamani Selvaraj, Kaantha is a grand pan-India project set against the backdrop of the 1960s, promising to transport audiences to a bygone era of Indian cinema. The latest poster, featuring Dulquer Salmaan, Bhagyashree Borse, and Samuthirakani, has gone viral across social media platforms, leaving fans speculating about what the “first spark” might signify—whether it’s a teaser, a scene reveal, or a musical surprise.

The film has already generated massive buzz with its promotional content. The recently released song “Ammadivee”, a soulful melody featuring Dulquer and Bhagyashree, has struck a chord with music lovers. Meanwhile, Rage of Kaantha set the tone for the movie’s intense and dramatic theme, amplifying excitement for what’s to come.

Adding to the film’s star power, Rana Dagubati is co-producing Kaantha alongside Dulquer Salmaan, marking a unique collaboration between Malayalam and Telugu cinema industries. The movie aims to blend historical storytelling with grand visuals, celebrating the charm and spirit of the golden era of Indian film culture.

With its release set for November 14, Kaantha is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about releases of the year. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see what the much-teased “first spark” will ignite at 4 PM — a glimpse that could set the stage for yet another Dulquer Salmaan blockbuster.



Manjummel Boys Triumphs as Mammooty Wins Seventh Best Actor Award



The 55th Kerala State Film Awards, often hailed as the Oscars of Bollywood, celebrated the finest achievements in Malayalam cinema at a grand ceremony held at the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Hall, Thrissur. Announced by Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cherian on November 3, 2025, the awards honoured the best works from films released in 2024.

Instituted in 1969, the Kerala State Film Awards are the highest recognition in Malayalam cinema, celebrating excellence in performance, storytelling, and technical brilliance. This year’s jury, chaired by actor-director Prakash Raj, evaluated 128 films, narrowing them down to 26 finalists through detailed screenings and discussions.

Among the biggest winners of the evening was the survival drama Manjummel Boys, which emerged as the Best Film, reaffirming its place as one of Malayalam cinema’s most compelling recent releases. The film’s gripping narrative, emotional depth, and technical finesse were widely praised by critics and audiences alike.

Veteran superstar Mammootty added another feather to his illustrious cap, winning his seventh Best Actor award for his powerful performance that once again showcased his unmatched versatility and enduring command over the craft. His latest win further cements his status as one of India’s greatest living actors.

The awards also highlighted the growing diversity and creativity in Malayalam cinema, honouring emerging talents and innovative filmmakers who continue to push artistic boundaries.

With Manjummel Boys and Mammootty leading the honours, the 55th Kerala State Film Awards reflected both the artistic legacy and the dynamic evolution of Malayalam cinema—proving once again why it remains one of the most respected film industries in India.



Meenakshi’s First Look from NC24: Archaeologist on Duty

Naga Chaitanya is all set to explore the realms of myths and mysteries in his upcoming film #NC24, directed by Karthik Dandu, best known for Virupaksha. The film is being produced under SVCC and Sukumar Writings, with BVS N Prasad and Sukumar as producers and Bapineedu as presenter.

After intriguing audiences with an intense glimpse earlier, the makers have now unveiled the first look of Meenakshi Chaudhary, the leading lady of the film. Stepping away from the conventional heroine roles, Meenakshi essays the character Daksha, an archaeologist driven by passion and courage.

In the striking poster, Meenakshi is seen dressed in rugged field gear, sporting spectacles and examining an ancient artifact through a magnifying glass. The backdrop of a dimly lit cave adds an aura of adventure and discovery, hinting at the pivotal role her character plays in uncovering the film’s central mystery.

Her look has already sparked curiosity among fans, who are eager to see how her character blends with the film’s mythical and suspenseful narrative.

Adding further excitement, Sparsh Shrivastava, known for his performance in Laapataa Ladies, makes his Tollywood debut with this project. The shooting for NC24 is currently progressing in Hyderabad.

With a compelling premise, a strong technical team, and intriguing character reveals, NC24 promises to be a thrilling cinematic journey that intertwines ancient secrets with modern-day exploration.