



BUZZ POINTS

AP Strengthens Rural Healthcare with 227 Specialists

02

# Pawan Kalyan Launches Elephant Training, Green Drive in Palamaner

TPN Bureau | Nov 9 Chittoor:

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan on Sunday visited the newly developed Kunkie Elephant Training Centre at Musalamma du in the Palamaner constituency of Chittoor district. The centre has been established to train elephants brought from Karnataka for forest management and to help control wild herds that often stray into human settlements, damaging crops and creating panic among villagers.

During the visit, Pawan Kalyan personally reviewed the progress of ongoing training sessions and interacted with forest officials, trainers, and mahouts. The camp currently houses seven trained Kunkie elephants — four recently inducted from Karnataka and three from the existing forest camp all undergoing specialized training aimed at controlling and guiding wild elephants in conflict zones.

The Deputy Chief Minister attentively observed live demonstrations showcasing the elephants' abilities in forest tasks and conflict scenarios. Trainers illustrated how these



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well-disciplined animals are employed to extract logs, manage aggressive wild herds, and assist in rescue operations. Forest personnel also displayed the operation of tranquilizer guns, explaining how these are used to safely subdue violent or displaced elephants without harming them.

Deeply moved by the dedication of the forest

staff and the obedience of the elephants, Pawan Kalyan personally fed the animals sugarcane and offered prayers before them. He lauded the forest officials and mahouts for their service towards wildlife conservation and human safety. As a gesture of appreciation, he contributed Rs 50,000 from his personal funds to support the mahouts who

have been tirelessly caring for the animals.

Following the training inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the new elephant camp at Musalamma du and unveiled a commemorative plaque marking its formal launch. He also laid the foundation stone for a solar-powered elephant protection fence, designed to prevent wild elephants from entering nearby agricultural lands and to reduce the risk of human-elephant conflict.

Officials explained that the solar fencing initiative would cover vulnerable border regions where incidents of elephant incursions are frequently reported. In addition to the wildlife initiatives, Pawan

Kalyan launched a Miyawaki forest plantation project adjacent to the training centre, covering an area of 250 square meters. He planted an Indian gooseberry (usiri) sapling to inaugurate the dense forest initiative and personally recorded the plantation event on his mobile phone. The objective, he said, was to promote fast-growing microforests using the Miyawaki method, ensuring dense vegetation within limited land space.

He also discussed the future expansion of similar plantations in other forest divisions of the state. The visit concluded with Pawan Kalyan emphasizing the dual importance of wildlife protection and habitat restoration, noting that sustainable measures such as elephant training centres and afforestation programs form the backbone of the state's conservation efforts.

The event was attended by Principal Secretary for Forests Kantilal Dande, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests PV Chalapathi Rao, Advisor Mallikarjuna Rao, Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar, SP Tushar Dudi, and senior forest officials including Conservators Yashoda Bai and Subburaju (DFO).

## AP Cabinet to Deliberate Key Issues Ahead of Global Investment Summit

TPN Bureau | Nov 9 Amaravati:

A significant move ahead of the Global Investment Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, will convene at the AP Secretariat on Monday at 11 AM. The meeting is set to cover a range of strategic issues, including major investment proposals, disaster relief, district reorganization, and key financial approvals aimed at accelerating the state's development agenda.

The Cabinet is expected to focus primarily on reviewing the arrangements for the upcoming Visakhapatnam Global Investors Summit, slated for November 14 and 15. With representatives from leading companies across the globe expected to participate, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will seek detailed reports from ministers and senior officials on the state's preparedness. The summit is anticipated to draw around one lakh crore rupees in new investments across various sectors, underscoring the government's intent to project Andhra Pradesh as an attractive hub for industrial growth and technological innovation.

Officials and ministers entrusted with organizing the summit have been

overseeing infrastructure, logistics, and hospitality preparations in Visakhapatnam. The Chief Minister, known for his meticulous approach to investment promotion, is likely to seek updates on project proposals, potential Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), and the participation of foreign delegates. The Cabinet is expected to grant formal approval to the proposed investment commitments worth approximately one lakh crore rupees during this high-level meeting.

Another crucial agenda item is the assessment of damage and relief measures following the recent "Montha" cyclone, which disrupted normal life across several districts. The Cabinet will discuss the estimated losses, rehabilitation operations, and financial compensation for affected families and farmers. Proposals for additional disaster mitigation strategies are also likely to be tabled during the session. In financial matters, the Cabinet is set to approve a proposal for the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) to secure a loan of 7,500 crore rupees from the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

These funds are intended to support the ongoing infrastructure and capital city development

projects aimed at reviving Amaravati as a key administrative and economic center. Land allocation to various industrial and institutional projects is another point of focus. The government intends to provide the necessary green signal to multiple organizations seeking land for setting up facilities that will generate employment and spur regional economic activity. Significantly, the Cabinet is also slated to deliberate on the long-pending issue of district reorganization, a key electoral promise made by the ruling coalition parties.

Based on a report submitted by the Cabinet Subcommittee, the government may finalize decisions regarding the creation of new districts and revenue divisions to improve administrative efficiency and bring governance closer to citizens. The proposed restructuring aims to address population disparities and streamline local administration in line with development priorities. With multiple policy decisions and large-scale investments on the agenda, Monday's Cabinet meeting is expected to set the tone for Andhra Pradesh's next phase of economic revival and administrative reform under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

# CM Naidu Inaugurates Shankara Eye Super Specialty Centre in Guntur

TPN BUREAU | November 9:

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the Shankara Eye Super Specialty Centre near Peddakakani in Guntur district on Sunday, commending the Shankara Eye Foundation for its exemplary humanitarian service. He lauded the Foundation's unparalleled contribution in restoring sight to millions and called its work a divine effort toward uplifting humanity.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Chief Minister said it was a privilege to launch the new facility in the presence of spiritual leaders from the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. He noted that the Peetham, founded in Tamil Nadu by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, had for centuries upheld the principles of Hindu Dharma and played a significant role in safeguarding and spreading the essence of Sanatana philosophy. Highlighting the Peetham's guiding belief that "Service to humanity is service to God," Naidu said the Shankara Eye Foundation's network of hospitals across India reflected this noble principle in action. The Fou



ndation currently operates 14 hospitals in 10 states and has conducted more than three million free eye surgeries while screening over seven million children for eye-related issues. On average, around 750 free eye surgeries are performed every day, an achievement that places the institution among the world's foremost charitable healthcare providers. The Chief Minister also noted that at the Foundation's philanthropic reach extends beyond India to nations such as Nepal, Cambodia, and Nigeria.

The new super specialty block at Guntur, he said, would bring world-class ophthalmic facilities to the region and significantly benefit thousands of underprivileged indi

viduals. "This centre is not just a hospital but a ray of hope for people who cannot afford advanced eye care," Naidu remarked. He commended the Foundation's special initiatives like the 'Rainbow Program' focusing on child eye health and the 'Gift of Vision' project, which has organized more than 32,000 rural eye camps across the country.

These programs, he said, serve as examples of how compassion and technology can combine to transform lives. Reiterating his government's objective to build a "Healthy, Wealthy, and Happy Andhra Pradesh," Naidu emphasized that good health formed the bedrock of social and economic prosperity.

## Youth of Bihar Should Ensure NDA Victory for the State's All-Round Development: Nara Lokesh

TPN | Patna:

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology, Nara Lokesh, has called upon the youth of Bihar to play a decisive role in ensuring another victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to accelerate the state's all-round development. Addressing a press conference in Patna as part of the ongoing election campaign, Lokesh said his visit to Bihar was not in his capacity as a minister from another state but as an Indian citizen deeply committed to national progress and unity.

Lokesh highlighted that Bihar occupies a pivotal place in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). He stated that the transformation witnessed in Bihar over the past decade was a result of the strong leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the sustained support from the central government under Prime Minister Modi. "After the end of the jungle raj and the rise of Nitish Kumar, Bihar has witnessed rapid development. To sustain this momentum, it is essential that the youth vote for the NDA," he urged. Drawing a parallel with his home state, Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh cautioned the people

of Bihar against experimenting with untested political alternatives.

Recalling the experience of Andhra Pradesh after the 2019 elections, he said that the state had suffered a severe setback after giving a single chance to the YSR Congress Party. "Law and order collapsed, industries moved out, and development came to a halt. Bihar should not repeat that mistake," Lokesh warned. He detailed three key reasons why Bihar's electorate should continue to support the NDA government. First, he pointed to proven leadership and effective governance as the cornerstone of the alliance's success. He praised Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for their clear administration, visionary planning, and sustained focus on development. "Modi's leadership has transformed Bihar's landscape. His goal is to make Bihar's economy reach the trillion-dollar mark," Lokesh asserted. Second, Lokesh emphasized the advantages of the "double-engine government" model, where the same alliance governs both at the state and national levels. This framework, he noted, has enabled Bihar and Andhra Pradesh to secure substantial budgetary allocations for infrastructure, education, and industrial development. P



rojects related to connectivity, digital infrastructure, and rural transformation have progressed rapidly in NDA-ruled states.

"Peace and stability under NDA rule have created an environment conducive to large-scale development," he said. Third, Lokesh spoke about the importance of governance continuity to ensure compounded growth. He cited Gujarat and Odisha as cases where long-term political stability had resulted in consistent development. Bihar, he added, had experienced similar progress under Nitish Kumar, particularly in the industrial and education sectors. "After Nitish Kumar ended the jungle raj, Patna and surrounding regions saw a remarkable rise in entrepreneurship, infrastructure expansion, and youth employment," he said.

Lokesh also shared insights from Andhra Pradesh's developmental initiatives, notably the "One Entrepreneur per Household" program aimed at encouraging micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He said sustained governance allowed policymakers to build long-term programs that nurture innovation and youth participation. Urging young voters to exercise discernment, Lokesh advised them not to fall for what he termed "impractical populist promises" such as guaranteed jobs for every household. He argued that economic opportunities and employment should grow out of stable governance, industrial growth, and skill-based education rather than election-time rhetoric. "Strong states create a strong nation," he remarked, underscoring that Bi

har's transformation had already begun under Prime Minister Modi's leadership and deserved to be carried forward.

Lokesh concluded by affirming that the NDA represents continuity, stability, and a shared vision for India's progress and prosperity. He appealed to Bihar's youth to vote for development and not for politics of division or deception. The press conference was attended by prominent leaders including Bihar State Media Head and MLC Sanjay Mayukh, Members of Parliament Sana Satish and Ganti Harish, and former MP GVL Narasimha Rao among others. The gathering reflected a coordinated campaign effort spanning across states to rally public support for the NDA's development-driven agenda ahead of the polls.





# AP Strengthens Rural Healthcare with 227 Specialists

TPN BUREAU | November 9, 2025  
Vijayawada: In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's public health care system, the state government has appointed 227 postgraduate specialist doctors to 142 secondary hospitals across the state. The move, aimed at bridging the critical shortage of specialist medical staff in rural and semi-urban areas, marks a significant step toward improving access to quality healthcare services. According to official sources from the Directorate of Secondary Health, the newly appointed doctors completed their postgraduate studies in 12 different specialties under the in-service category. They will take up duties immediately at designated hospitals to

fill existing vacancies and strengthen secondary-level care. Director of Secondary Health Services Dr. Chakradhar Babu and Director of Public Health Dr. Padmavati briefed Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav on the latest postings and the distribution of specialists by hospital and department. The minister appreciated the coordinated effort and said the appointments will bring substantial relief to patients who depend on government hospitals for specialized medical care. Of the 227 specialists, 35 each belong to the departments of gynecology and general medicine, 30 are general surgeons, 26 anesthetists, 25 pediatricians, 18 orthopedicians, 17 radiologists, 15 oph-



thalmologists, and 9 ENT specialists. The allocation covers a range of critical branches, ensur-

ing that services such as surgeries, maternal care, pediatrics, diagnostics, and orthopedics are ade-

quately supported at the district and regional levels. The state has a total of 243 secondary hosp-

itals. Out of these, 142 have now been provided with specialists through the latest postings. The Gurur Area Hospital received the highest allocation, with four specialists—a pediatrician, radiologist, dermatologist, and pathologist—while seven Community Health Centres (CHCs) and six area hospitals each received three specialists. Additionally, 31 CHCs, 13 area hospitals, and three district hospitals were allotted two specialists each, and 97 hospitals were provided with one specialist each, ensuring more balanced geographical coverage. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav expressed satisfaction over the appointments, stating that the induction of specialists marks a decisive step in

fulfilling the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery at the grass roots level. "With these postings, many secondary hospitals that have long faced shortages of surgeons, gynecologists, and pediatricians will now be better equipped to handle medical emergencies and routine care," he said. In addition to these appointments, 155 more specialist doctors are expected to join duties soon at 100 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the state. The recruitment process for these positions has already been completed, and the selected doctors are expected to report after administrative formalities. Through recent counseling sessions, 60 doc-

tors were assigned to 33 area hospitals, 10 to seven district hospitals, and two to Mother and Child Health (MCH) hospitals. Of the 257 in-service PHC doctors who completed their postgraduate studies during 2022-23, 227 have been placed in secondary hospitals as specialists, while the remaining 30 doctors have been appointed as tutors in Directorate of Medical Education (DME) institutions, owing to a temporary lack of specialist vacancies. With the addition of these 227 specialists, the government aims to enhance service quality, reduce patient referrals to tertiary hospitals, and ensure timely treatment for communities across Andhra Pradesh.

## CII Partnership Summit to Give North Andhra Global Recognition: Sandhya Rani

TPN BUREAU | Nov 9: Amaravati: The upcoming Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit is poised to bring significant recognition and development thrust to the districts of North Andhra, said Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tribal Welfare Gummidli Sandhya Rani. She emphasized that the government is committed to transforming the region into a hub of investment, tourism, and infrastructure growth. Speaking to reporters about the State's preparedness for the summit, Minister Sandhya Rani highlighted that the event would mark a turning point for the North Andhra region, widely considered one of the state's most resource-rich yet underdeveloped areas. The government's partnership with CII aims to attract investors to explore industrial and economic opportunities in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Visakhapatnam. Recalling the progress made under the current

coalition government, the Minister said the very image of tribal villages in the hilly agency areas has changed dramatically. "There was a time when our tribal villages echoed only with the sounds of dolis carrying people through forest paths. Today, those same villages are welcoming visitors with roads, homestays, and eco-tourism experiences," she stated. Sandhya Rani said the government's efforts in tribal welfare are being integrated with tourism development, creating both livelihood opportunities and sustainable community growth. Investors and dignitaries who visit for the CII Partnership Summit will not only witness the economic potential of the region but also experience the vibrant cultural and natural heritage of North Andhra, she added. Elaborating on infrastructure advances, the Minister disclosed that the government has sanctioned .28 crore for the construction of

roads connecting 96 tribal villages. These works, she said, will ensure better accessibility for local communities and also help facilitate tourism and trade activities in remote hill regions. "The development of North Andhra is not limited to industrial parks and investment zones. Our goal is holistic growth that includes connectivity, education, health, and livelihood improvement, particularly among tribal families," she affirmed. The CII Partnership Summit, expected to attract national and international participation, will serve as a crucial platform to present Andhra Pradesh's emerging capabilities across sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, tourism, and renewable energy. Minister Sandhya Rani expressed confidence that the summit's focus on inclusiveness and regional balance would help place North Andhra firmly on the global investment map.

## Minister Orders Probe After 'Rat Attack' on Medical Students in Eluru

TPN Bureau | Nov 9  
Eluru: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar has taken serious note of a shocking incident in which six students of Eluru Government Medical College were reportedly bitten by rats inside their hostel. Expressing deep concern over the negligence, the minister directed the Director of Medical Education (DME), Dr. Raghunandan, to issue show-cause notices to those responsible, including the hostel warden and the private agency contracted for pest and rodent control. The incident came to light after six medical students were attacked by rats while they were asleep in their hostel rooms on the college campus, located within the premises of Eluru Government General Hospital. The students, who sustained minor injuries, were immediately rushed to the hospital's emergency department, where they were given anti-rabies (ARV) injections and other medical treatment. The alarming episode has triggered outrage among students



and parents, raising questions about hygiene and safety standards in government-run hostels. Following the minister's intervention, the DME issued a show-cause notice to the private maintenance agency, demanding an explanation for the lapse in pest control management. The college principal was also instructed to issue a memo to the hostel warden, seeking a detailed report on the maintenance failures and unhygienic conditions in the hostel. Speaking to reporters, Dr. Raghunandan confirmed that a special inspection is underway at the hostel to identify the causes behind the incident. Teams from the Health and Medical Education departments have begun

evaluating sanitation standards, waste disposal systems, and pest control mechanisms on the campus. Preliminary findings indicate poor waste management and inadequate rodent control measures. Minister Satya Kumar underscored that students' health and safety should be treated as the topmost priority in all medical institutions. He warned that at any negligence on the part of officials or service providers would be met with stern disciplinary action. He also directed authorities to ensure immediate cleaning and complete pest control across all hostels under the Directorate's supervision. Students have meanwhile expressed fear and frustration, urging authorities to implement strict rodent control measures and improve dormitory hygiene. The minister assured that such incidents would not be tolerated again and emphasized that the government is committed to maintaining safe and healthy living conditions for all medical students in Andhra Pradesh.

## Guntur Set to Host National Watershed Conference Today

TPN BUREAU | November 9  
Guntur: The district of Guntur is gearing up to host the National Watershed - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Conference on November 10 and 11. Union Minister of State for Rural Development Dr. Pemmasani Chandrashekhar has urged officials to seize this opportunity to enhance Guntur's reputation at the national level through effective organization and hospitality. Addressing a review meeting at the District Collectorate on Saturday, Dr. Chandrasekhar emphasized the need for meticulous planning and coordination in every aspect of the event. District Collector A. Tamim Ansaria briefed the minister on the preparations being made for the two-day national event. The Union Minister announced that the national conference will be inaugurated on November 10 at the ITC Hotel in Guntur, while the concluding session and field events will be held on November 11 at Vengalypalem. The conference is set to bring together 130 delegates

from various states across India, including the Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan. Senior district officials, including Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava, Municipal Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu, DRDO Khaja Vali, Additional Superintendent of Police Ramanamurthy, Zilla Parishad CEO V. Jyothi Basu, and DWMA PD V. Shankar participated in the review meeting and shared updates on their respective departments' roles in the conference. Ahead of the meeting, Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar visited Vengalypalem to inspect the arrangements for the 'Watershed Mahotsav'.

He was accompanied by Prathipadu ML A. Ram Anjaneyulu, State Panchayat Raj Commissioner Krishna Teja, District Collector Tamim Ansaria, Additional Commissioner of Rural Development C.P. Reddy, and Watershed Department Director Y.V. K. Shanmukha Kumari.

## Minister Blames Jagan's Regime for Poor Road Conditions

HIGHLIGHTS ROAD DEVELOPMENT UNDER CHANDRABABU  
TPB Bureau November 9  
Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy lashed out at the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, alleging that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy left the state's infrastructure in ruins through his mismanagement. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of directors of the Andhra Pradesh Road Development Corporation (APRDC) held in Vijayawada on Sunday, the minister made sharp remarks condemning the condition of roads during Jagan's five-year tenure. Reddy said that under Jagan's administration, roads across the state had become virtually unusable, forcing the public to suffer immensely. He described the current government's efforts under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu as a massive turnaround despite the state's challenging financial situation. "Although Andhra Pradesh's financial condition is far from ideal, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has prioritized infrastructure and allocated substantial funds to repair and develop the state's road network," he stated. The minister revealed that the coalition government has already spent 2,800 crore rupees on road development



projects across the state. He further noted that an additional 1,000 crore rupees worth of new road development works are in the tendering stage, promising visible improvement in connectivity and transport safety. "Within just five months of assuming office, Chief Minister Chandrababu ensu-

red the repair of damaged roads worth over 1,061 crore rupees," Reddy emphasized. During the program, APRDC Managing Director Srinivas Reddy administered the oath of office to 14 newly appointed directors in the presence of Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, who attended as chief

guest. He instructed the new board to constantly monitor road conditions across their respective regions and to report deficiencies promptly to the government, ensuring swift corrective measures. Reddy also highlighted the Chief Minister's plans to undertake several key road development projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. However, he clarified that Chandrababu Naidu is committed to ensuring that the PPP approach will not impose toll burdens on the public. "The Chief Minister is considering every step carefully to make sure that infrastructure development happens without causing any inconvenience to citizens," he said.



# YSRCP Launches Protest Campaign Against Privatisation Of Medical Colleges

TPN Bureau | Nov 9  
Guntakal: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Guntakal Coordinator Y Venkatrami Reddy and party leader Nairuthi Reddy unveiled the poster for the “One Crore Signature Campaign” at the party office on Sunday, marking the beginning of a statewide agitation against the privatization of government medical colleges. The leaders announced that a massive rally will be organized in Guntakal on November 12 to protest the state government’s recent move to hand over medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Addressing party cadres, Venkatrami Reddy called upon all YSRCP leaders, activists, and sympathizers to participate actively and ensure the success of the rally. He accused Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of deliberately halting the ambitious medical education ex-



pansion project initiated by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. “In the hundred years of Andhra Pradesh’s medical history, only 12 government medical colleges were established. But under Jagan Mohan Reddy, 17 new medical colleges with teaching hospitals were sanctioned and foundation stones laid within just five years. Seven of these institutions are already completed,” he said. Reddy alleged that rather than continuing

this progress, the current government is pushing a policy of privatization to serve vested interests. “Five government medical colleges have already been shifted to PPP mode, effectively handing public assets into private hands. This allows private players to mortgage government land, make profits, and restrict access to affordable medical education and healthcare,” he said. Strongly objecting to what he termed “anti-poor poli-

cies,” Reddy questioned why Chandrababu Naidu was showing hostility toward the poor by undermining their right to public healthcare. He said the YSRCP would not remain silent as the government “surrenders medical education to corporate control.” Warning of serious long-term effects, he described the move as a “reckless and dangerous conspiracy” that could severely impact future generations.

“At a time when the nation faces a shortage

of specialist doctors, dismantling public medical colleges will cripple the healthcare system and destroy the dreams of countless poor students,” he said. Reddy vowed to continue the fight until the government withdraws its decision. “Just when the hopes of the underprivileged were becoming reality, Chandrababu’s policies have reversed all progress. This people’s movement will persist until these anti-people decisions are completely stopped,” he declared.

# Bharath Questions Veerraju’s Silence On Liquor, Sand & Land Mafia

TPN BUREAU | Nov 9  
Rajahmundry: A political war of words has intensified in East Godavari, with former Rajahmundry MP Margaoon Bharat Ram launching a strong counterattack against MLC Somu Veerraju over recent remarks concerning the Morampudi flyover and other major civic issues. Bharat questioned Veerraju’s silence on public welfare matters such as liquor and sand syndicates, and alleged land encroachments, describing such inaction from intellectual leaders as dangerous to society. Responding to MLC Somu Veerraju’s earlier allegations made at a public meeting, Bharat Ram defended his record and criticized the comments as politically motivated.

“Your criticism of the Morampudi flyover project is surprising. Since



you are part of the ruling coalition, you seem to be speaking for political convenience,” he remarked. Bharat Ram clarified that although the project was initially announced before 2019 during Nitin Gadkari’s tenure as Union Minister, it did not move to the execution stage until his party came to power. He asserted that after his in-



tervention, the project was revived and closely monitored to ensure speedy progress. “The people know that I even stored construction materials at the site and supervised the work personally,” he stated. Recalling the controversy around the destruction of Gadkari’s foundation plaque, Bharat accused his opponents of

engaging in spiteful acts rather than focusing on completing public amenities. “People saw who destroyed the plaque and later reinstalled it. If I had no role in the original plaque, why restore it after breaking it?” he asked. The former MP further argued that among several sanctioned projects, only the Morampudi flyover

reached completion, which he claimed reflected his commitment to development. He urged Veerraju to press for the completion of pending service roads and street lighting, calling it the coalition government’s immediate responsibility. “Instead of spreading falsehoods, respected leaders like you should ensure the remaining works are completed,” he appealed. Extending his criticism, Bharat also questioned why the construction of the Jonnada flyover halted under the current coalition government, despite the presence of multiple elected representatives from the constituency, including two MLAs, an MLC, a minister, and an MP. He concluded by urging Veerraju to set politics aside and focus on tangible improvements for the people of Rajahmundry.

# AP Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Joins Workers as a Mason for a Day in Palakollu

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9  
Palakollu: In a remarkable display of humility and commitment to community development, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information and Public Relations, Nimmala Ramanaidu, surprised local residents by taking up the tools of a mason and working alongside laborers at a construction site in Palakollu, West Godavari district. The minister, dressed in simple work clothes, joined workers engaged in the construction of a new community hall and performed physical labor typically reserved for daily wage workers.

The project, a Gowda-Shettibali Kalyana Mandapam (community function hall) with an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crore, is being built to serve the needs of local families for weddings, gatherings, and social events. During his visit, Minister Ramanaidu chose not to limit himself to a symbolic inspection or an inauguration, but instead spent time helping the workers, lift-

ing materials such as gravel, sand, and cement, and loading them into mixers. According to eyewitnesses, the minister’s actions created an atmosphere of excitement and surprise at the construction site.

The workers, many of whom were unaware of the minister’s visit, expressed joy and gratitude as they witnessed him sharing their labor. “We never imagined a minister would work with us like this,” said one of the construction workers. “It felt like he truly understood our struggles.” Minister Ramanaidu noted that his participation was part of “Shramadanam,” a voluntary labor initiative aimed at encouraging public participation in community projects. He stressed that real development is possible only when leaders connect directly with people and understand the dignity of manual labor.

“When we work with our hands, we realize the strength and spirit of our workers who build our society,” he said. This



gesture resonated deeply with the residents of Palakollu, enhancing the minister’s reputation as a leader who values grassroots engagement and hands-on involvement. Several local leaders and members of the community applauded the initiative, calling it an inspiration for others in public service. They observed that such actions bridge the gap between political leadership and the common people, grounding governance in empathy and shared effort.



Beyond its symbolic value, the event also highlighted the government’s ongoing efforts to support social infrastructure in the region. The new Kalyana Mandapam, expected to be completed soon, will provide an affordable and accessible venue for community functions, benefiting thousands of families from middle and lower-income groups in the area. Minister Ramanaidu’s participation in construction work has since gone viral across social media platforms,

drawing positive comments from citizens who see it as a model of humility and service-oriented leadership.

Many netizens shared the images of the minister mixing cement and carrying materials, commending him for setting a rare example in today’s political landscape. For the people of Palakollu, the day marked more than just a site visit; it was a moment that reaffirmed their trust in a leader who leads not just with words, but with action.

# A P Emerges as India’s Top State in Energy-Efficient Building Implementation - Narayana

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9  
Amaravathi: In a remarkable stride toward sustainable growth and climate resilience, Andhra Pradesh has been ranked as India’s leading state in implementing the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), a key national initiative aimed at reducing energy use in new commercial and large residential buildings. The achievement highlights the state’s growing leadership in clean energy adoption and sustainable urban planning. Latest data released by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, confirm that Andhra Pradesh has so far approved 786 ECBC-compliant buildings—the highest in the country.

Telangana follows with 738, while Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, and Uttarakhand have approved 552, 201, 100, 57, and 12 buildings respectively. Altogether, 2,446 buildings across the country have been brought under ECBC compliance. This accomplishment reflects Andhra Pradesh’s strong policy focus on reducing energy waste, cutting carbon emissions, and promoting cost-effective infrastructure. The initiative is being led by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Department with the support of BEE, and is being implemented through the AP State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM) in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Research (BER).



port to ensure Andhra Pradesh remains a frontrunner in energy-efficient urban development,” he said. He added that the vision is to integrate ECBC compliance into the broader framework of smart urban planning so that future urban expansion is both sustainable and energy-conscious.

Empowering Local Urban Bodies  
Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, P. Sampat Kumar, noted that consistent efforts are being made to deliver cost-effective urban services through energy-efficient systems. He said the reforms are generating economic benefits for both local governments and citizens by reducing operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions. “Energy efficiency in urban local bodies (ULBs) is not just an environmental priority but an economic necessity,” he said, emphasizing that the savings from reduced energy consumption can be redirected to enhance public amenities.

**Leadership and Vision**  
Speaking on the occasion, MA&UD Minister P. Narayana said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has consistently pushed for innovation in energy efficiency, renewable energy, water management, and sanitation to ensure quality urban services for citizens. “Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has always insisted on adopting cutting-edge solutions in energy efficiency, renewable energy, water supply, and sanitation to deliver world-class services to citizens,” the minister stated.

He recalled that Andhra Pradesh became a national model in 2014 when it launched India’s first large-scale deployment of energy-efficient LED street lighting in Visakhapatnam with EESL’s support. That pioneering project was later replicated nationwide, leading to massive energy savings and helping India gain global recognition for energy reforms. The initiative also contributed to Visakhapatnam being chosen to host the prestigious BRICS Summit.

**Strengthening the Urban Energy Agenda**  
Principal Secretary, MA&UD, S. Suresh Kumar, said the state is preparing a comprehensive roadmap to scale energy efficiency and integrate global best practices. “We are studying best-in-class technologies and sustainable infrastructure practices across sectors including urban trans-

**National Perspective and Future Plans**  
Meanwhile, the Media Adviser for Southern States and Union Territories, representing BEE and EESL, met with the Minister and Principal Secretary to discuss expanding ECBC implementation across more cities and larger building categories in Andhra Pradesh. BEE Director General, Srivastav, highlighted the national imperative to accelerate ECBC adoption. “All States must aggressively pursue ECBC adoption as a powerful regulatory tool to transform buildings into energy-efficient assets with substantial energy savings,” he urged. He emphasized that ECBC compliance plays a vital role under the Smart Cities Mission by integrating sustainability into the building design and construction process.

**A Model for the Nation**  
The state’s collaborative model driven by policy continuity, departmental coordination, and strong partnership with the Centre has placed Andhra Pradesh in a leadership position nationally. With a focus on energy-efficient buildings, clean urban infrastructure, and modern planning strategies, Andhra Pradesh is now poised to become the Energy Efficiency Growth Hub of India. As India intensifies its efforts towards achieving its climate goals and reducing energy intensity, Andhra Pradesh’s success story stands as a powerful example for other states to follow.

# Ravulapalem Girl’s Death Mystery Solved: Xerox Shop Worker Arrested for Murder

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9  
Ramachandrapuram: Police in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district have cracked the mysterious death of a teenage girl in Ramachandrapuram that initially appeared to be a case of suicide. Investigations have revealed that the girl was, in fact, murdered by a man who worked in the same building where she lived. The accused, identified as Srinivas, has been taken into custody and interrogated. Superintendent of Police Rahul Meena confirmed.

The incident dates back to November 4, when the body of a girl was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her house in Ramachandrapuram. Locals initially believed it to be a case of suicide, and rumors quickly spread to that effect. However, the girl’s family strongly contested the claim, alleging that she had been murdered. Acting on their complaint, police began a detailed probe into the mysterious death. SP Rahul Meena, addressing the media, said that a murder case had been registered based on preliminary evidence collected from the scene. The accused, Srinivas, worked in a Xerox shop located within the same building where the girl’s family resided. He reportedly entered the girl’s house on the evening of the incident, intending to steal valuables. According to the investigation, the girl had returned home from school at around 4:30 p.m. that day. About half an hour later, at 5 p.m., Srinivas went to her house.

Finding that the girl’s mother was not at home, he decided to take ad-

vantage of the situation. Police said that the suspect had previously visited the house several times under the pretext of doing small jobs, and was familiar with the premises. During his attempt to steal valuables from the bedroom, the girl confronted Srinivas and questioned why he had entered the house without permission. When she threatened to inform her mother, the accused panicked and killed her to silence her.

To mislead investigators, he allegedly staged the scene to make it appear as though she had taken her own life. Fingerprints found at the crime scene matched those of Srinivas, confirming his involvement. Supporting evidence from mobile call data records (CDRs) and nearby CCTV footage further established his presence in the area during the time of the crime. SP Meena told reporters that Srinivas was facing severe financial troubles. He was under pressure due to expenses related to his sister’s marriage and had been struggling with debt. This financial burden reportedly drove him to commit the crime. “We have verified the technical and forensic evidence and arrested Srinivas based on strong material proof,” Meena said. “A crucial medical report is still awaited, and additional technical analysis is underway.” The shocking murder has disturbed the residents of Ramachandrapuram, a typically quiet town in the Konaseema region. The police have assured the public that all aspects of the case will be thoroughly investigated to ensure justice for the victim and her family.



# Fake SIM Card Racket Busted, Five Arrested



TPN BUREAU | Nov 9 Vijayawada: The Cyber Crime Police on Saturday arrested five individuals involved in a sophisticated cyber fraud racket that activated fake SIM cards using unsuspecting citizens' identities and exploited them to commit online

waka, fell victim to the scam about two months ago. The victim received a call from a person claiming to be a police officer from Bengaluru. The scammer alleged that a fake SIM card had been procured using Lakhana's ID and was being used for illegal international activities. He was then told that the Supreme Court had issued an arrest warrant against him based on this misuse. The fraudster pretended to transfer the call to another person posing as a CBI officer. These impersonators used fabricated official language and psychological pressure to convince Lakhana that the only way to avoid arrest was to pay money to "settle" the case.

Terrified, the victim took a PF loan and transferred ten lakh rupees to the bank account they provided. Subsequently, when the scammers demanded another five lakh rupees, he borrowed four lakh from relatives and paid that amount as well. After transferring a total of fourteen lakh rupees, the victim grew suspicious as the calls continued with further threats and demands for money. Realizing he had been cheated, he lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police in August this year. Acting under the directions of Commissioner Shankha Brata Bagchi, a special team launched an investigation. Using technical tracking and financial analy-

sis, they identified the culprits as five youths from Krishna district, Pulikaravaram, Padamata Shivakrishna, Balla Nagaraju, Erra Naga Venkata Sai Pavan Chandu of Kottapeta village, and Sheikh Abdul Kareem. All the accused had completed intermediate or degree education and later turned to illegal online activities to earn quick money. The accused were arrested and produced in court, after which they were remanded to judicial custody. The police have appealed to citizens to remain cautious of callers posing as law enforcement or government officials and to verify all such claims with local police before transferring any money.



# Telugu Student Dies In Sleep In Texas

TPN Bureau | Nov 9 Karamchedu, Bapatla: A pall of gloom has descended over Karanchodu village in Bapatla district after news broke of the untimely death of a young woman studying in the United States. Twenty-three-year-old Yarlagadda Rajyalakshmi, who had gone to America for her higher education, passed away in her sleep on Friday evening in Texas. The incident has left her family, friends, and the local community heartbroken. According to reports, Rajyalakshmi had recently completed her master's degree and was preparing to secure employment.

Next morning, her friends, unable to wake her, immediately informed the local authorities and conveyed the tragic news to her parents in India. Rajyalakshmi hailed from a small agricultural family in Karanchodu village under Bapatla district. Her father, Yarlagadda Ramakrishna, and mother, Veena Kumari, had pinned all their hopes on their daughter's education. Despite financial constraints, they borrowed heavily to send her abroad in pursuit of better prospects. Her academic journey had been marked by perseverance; after completing her engineering degree in India, she secured admission to a master's program in the United States and worked diligently to achieve her goals. Just as her dreams and her parents' sacrifices seemed on the verge of bearing fruit, fate dealt a cruel blow. The news of her sudden demise has plunged

den demise has plunged her parents into profound grief. Neighbors and villagers, who watched Rajyalakshmi grow from childhood, expressed deep sorrow at the tragedy. "She was intelligent, hardworking, and determined to make her parents proud," said a relative from the village. "No one expected such a young life to end so suddenly." Community members described Rajyalakshmi as an inspiring student who often spoke about using her education to uplift her family's financial condition. The sense of loss is especially strong in Karanchodu, where her story had inspired many youngsters to dream of studying abroad. Now, her unexpected death has become a painful reminder of life's unpredictability. Currently, the Yarlagadda family faces considerable challenges in bringing her body back home from Texas.

# SI On Escort Duty Dies Of Sudden Illness

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9 Vijayawada: A tragic incident occurred on Sunday near Gudivada when a police officer escorting Andhra Pradesh Minister for Transport and Cinematography, Mr. Jogi Ramesh Parthasarathi, suddenly fell ill and died while on duty. The deceased officer has been identified as Sub-Inspector Ranganatha Rao, aged 60, who was serving in the police escort team attached to the minister's convoy. According to reports, Minister Parthasarathi was traveling from

Machilipatnam to Nuzvid to attend a series of official and public programs. When the convoy reached the outskirts of Gudivada, Sub-Inspector Ranganatha Rao, who was traveling in one of the escort vehicles, complained of severe discomfort and uneasiness. His colleagues immediately noticed his condition worsening and rushed him to the Government Area Hospital in Gudivada for emergency medical attention. Despite efforts by doctors to stabilize him, Ranganatha Rao was de-

clared dead while undergoing treatment. Hospital sources indicated that he had a history of cardiac problems and had undergone heart surgery a few years ago. Preliminary medical opinion suggests that the officer may have suffered a cardiac arrest. Senior police officials, including Gudivada Deputy Superintendent of Police Dheeraj Vineel, visited the hospital and examined the situation. The body was later sent for postmortem examination. Further formalities are being

completed before handing over the body to the family. The unexpected demise of Sub-Inspector Ranganatha Rao while on active duty has cast a pall of sorrow among police personnel and local residents. Colleagues described him as a disciplined and committed officer who served with integrity throughout his career. Many expressed deep sympathy for his bereaved family, recalling his sincerity and dedication to service. Minister Parthasarathi was reported to be deeply sad-

dened by the untimely death of the officer accompanying his convoy. He is said to have inquired with officials about the incident and conveyed condolences to Ranganatha Rao's family. The minister's programs at Nuzvid continued with a subdued atmosphere following the news of the officer's passing. Police officials are expected to extend full assistance to the family of the deceased officer and are making arrangements for funeral honors befitting his service.

# MP Keshineni Sivanath Highlights Coalition Government's Efforts for AP's Growth

TPN BUREAU | Nov 9 Vijayawada: The coalition government is working tirelessly for the comprehensive development of Andhra Pradesh, said Vijayawada MP Keshineni Sivanath (Chinni) on Sunday. He emphasized that the ongoing development works at the Gollapudi Market Yard stand as a testament to the government's commitment to empowering farmers and improving market infrastructure in the region. MP Sivanath, along with MLAs Bonda Umamaheswara Rao and Venkata Vasantha Krishna Prasad, visited the Gollapudi Agricultural Market Yard earlier in the day. During their visit, they laid foundation stones for several infrastructure development projects. These projects are aimed at modernizing the marketing facilities and improving the livelihoods of farmers



in the Krishna district. Speaking to the media, Sivanath announced the inauguration of the newly established Farmers' Procurement Service Centre at Gollapudi. He explained that internal road works worth 1.5 lakh rupees have been launched to enhance the accessibility within the market yard. The MP further revealed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has sanctioned 10 crore for various development activities in the yard, ensuring a significant boost to the local agricultural trade infrastructure. Sivanath added that 90 new shop units are being constructed

within the premises to generate a steady income source for the market yard. Nearly 85 percent of the construction work has already been completed, bringing the project close to realization. He expressed confidence that once completed, these facilities would not only make the market yard financially self-sustaining but also offer better services and opportunities for traders and farmers alike. "The coalition government is focused on the overall growth of Andhra Pradesh, and its primary aim is to improve the welfare of farmers and small traders," the MP stated.

"We are committed to developing well-equipped, farmer-friendly markets where agricultural products can be traded efficiently without intermediaries exploiting the cultivators." MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad also addressed the gathering, emphasizing that the NDA coalition government in the state is truly a "Rythu Bandhu" (farmer-friendly) administration. He pointed out that the ongoing construction of a new Rythu Bazaar (Farmers' Market) in Gollapudi is in its final stage and will soon be open for public use. The new facility, he said, is designed to provide farmers with direct access to consumers, ensuring better price realization and eliminating middlemen. Highlighting the broader development efforts, Prasad said that the Mylavaram constituency has witnessed

unprecedented progress under the coalition rule. "The government has been delivering on every promise made to the people. From infrastructure upgrades to welfare initiatives, we are focused on visible and impactful results," he added. Both leaders reaffirmed that the government's developmental priorities are centered around agriculture, farmer welfare, and creating permanent revenue models for local markets. They also assured that similar projects would be undertaken across other regions to ensure equitable development across Andhra Pradesh. The visit concluded with local farmers and traders thanking the MP and MLAs for their proactive steps and continued support towards transforming Gollapudi into a model agricultural market infrastructure hub.

# VIT-AP's 'Balotsav' in Guntur Showcases Vibrant Cultural Talent of Children

TPN BUREAU | Nov 9 Guntur: The ongoing 'Balotsav' celebrations, organized under the aegis of VIT-AP University as part of the World Children's Festival, continued to captivate audiences on its third day with a colorful display of young talent, creativity, and culture. The day turned into a visual feast, drawing applause from parents, teachers, and guests who gathered to witness the enthusiasm of hundreds of participating children. The festival, which aims to nurture creativity, confidence, and teamwork among school students, saw active participation from institutions across the district. The morning began with folk dance performances that blended music, rhythm, and costume design in a spectacular fashion. Traditional dances like Kolatam, Lambadi, and tribal sequences performed by



children reflected India's rich cultural diversity and struck a chord with the spectators. Adding a modern touch to the celebrations, students also showcased innovative science models that demonstrated practical applications of concepts learned in the classroom. These exhibits included eco-friendly inventions, renewable energy models, and simple robotics projects designed by school children, reinforcing the spirit of innovation among the younger generation. Throughout the day, the stage came alive with a variety of acts including classical and semi-classical dance, short skits with social

messages, solo dramatic performances (Ekapathrabhinayam), and folk songs. Many of these performances highlighted the mes of patriotism, environmental protection, and child empowerment, reflecting both creativity and awareness. Judges appreciated the participants for their dedication, stage presence, and originality. Faculty coordinators of VIT-AP expressed that events like Balotsav serve as an essential platform for holistic child development. They emphasized that such cultural and educational festivals help children balance academics with creativity and self-expression.

# Karthika Van Samaradhana Celebrated with Festive Spirit

TPN Bureau | Nov 9 Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): Amid devotion, unity, and joy, the annual Karthika Van Samaradhana of the Kapu community was celebrated with religious fervor and cultural splendor on Sunday at the Kapu Annadana Satram located on Kotappakonda Road. The event was organized under the auspices of the Sri Krishna devaraya Kapu Sangham and witnessed enthusiastic participation from community members across the region. The celebration, held as part of the auspicious Karthika month obser-

vances, brought together hundreds of devotees, leaders, and well-wishers. Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana and Narasaraopet MLAs Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu attended the event as chief guests. The Sri Krishnadevaraya Kapu Sangham members welcomed both legislators with traditional honors and felicitations, expressing gratitude for their continued support toward community development initiatives. Addressing the gathering, the MLAs appreciated the collective efforts of the Kapu Sangham in preserving cultural tra-

ditions, promoting unity, and empowering youth through social activities. They emphasized the importance of maintaining communal harmony and active participation in developmental programs that strengthen social welfare in the Palnadu region. The program featured a series of cultural performances, devotional songs, and traditional dances depicting the spiritual significance of the Karthika month and the legacy of Emperor Sri Krishnadevaraya, revered as a symbol of courage and cultural renaissance in South Indian history.

Prominent Kapu leaders, including Aamanchi Swamulu, Degala Prabhakar, Vadlamani Haribabu, Chandu Janardhan, Jana Sena State Official Representative Pagadala Shivaparthi, Kanna Rajani, Sunkara Sai, and others, took part in the event. Sri Krishnadevaraya Kapu Sangham president Pothula Shankararao, general secretary Manchala Tirupatirao, treasurer Yetiraju Rammohan Rao, and Sri Krishnadevaraya Kapu Satram Management Committee members Rayala Srinivasarao, Ramiseti Subbarao, and Allamset-

ti Mohan Rao played key roles in coordinating the program. Participants stressed the need for continued unity within the Kapu community to safeguard cultural roots and promote charitable works. The day ended with anandanam (mass community feast), where devotees shared food in an atmosphere of fellowship and devotion. The Karthika Van Samaradhana stood out not just as a spiritual celebration but also as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Kapu fraternity in Narasaraopet and surrounding areas.





# DLSA Observes Legal Services Day, Spreads Justice Awareness

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9

Visakhapatnam: The National Legal Services Authority Foundation Day was observed in Visakhapatnam on Saturday under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). On this occasion, R. Sannysinaidu, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge, visited the Boys' Hostel run by the Department of Social Welfare at MVP Colony No. 1.

Addressing the students, Sannysinaidu distributed sweets and interacted warmly with them, emphasizing the values enshrined in the Constitution of India such as equality before law, social justice, and access to justice for all. He elaborated that the concept of free legal aid and equitable justice

emanates from the Directive Principles of State Policy, especially Article 39-A, which formed the constitutional basis for establishing the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in 1987. He underscored that the creation of NALSA was a major step in fulfilling the constitutional promise of making justice accessible to every citizen regardless of social or economic status.

The DLSA, as part of this nationwide legal aid network, plays a vital role in organizing legal literacy programs, Lok Adalats, and awareness drives to promote justice delivery at the grassroots level. Encouraging the students to study diligently and aim high in their careers, Sannysinaidu urged them to contribute positively to society and bring

laurels to the nation through their achievements. He reminded them that education, discipline, and service-mindedness are the keys to building a just and progressive society.

The program reflected the DLSA's continued commitment to nurture constitutional awareness among youth and promote active citizen participation in the justice system. District Social Welfare Department Deputy Director K. Ramarao, Assistant Officer R. Shyamala, and Hostel Welfare Officer Mahendra Mani were present on the occasion, along with other officials and staff. The event concluded with inspiring messages from the guests, reaffirming the importance of legal literacy and equal access to justice.

# New Job Cards Bring Hope to Polavaram Displaced Families

TPN BUREAU November 9

Eluru: A long-pending issue concerning the transfer and issuance of job cards under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has finally been resolved, bringing joy and relief to hundreds of Polavaram displaced families resettled across the Eluru district. The initiative, spearheaded by Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar, marks a major step toward addressing the livelihood challenges of those who were displaced due to the Polavaram multi-purpose project.

Over the past few years, several families from submerged mandals under the Polavaram project were relocated to newly built rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) colonies and other areas. These families, though previously registered under the employment guarantee scheme, faced significant hard-



ship as their old job cards were not valid in the new locations. As a result, they were unable to access the rural employment benefits that once supported their livelihoods.

During his recent visit to Jangareddygudem and Jeelugumilli areas as part of his tour of the Polavaram and Chintala pudu constituencies, MP Mahesh Kumar received numerous representations from affected villagers highlighting the issue. They expressed anguish that despite possessing valid job cards in their old villages, they remained ineligible to participate

in MGNREGS work in the resettled areas.

Responding swiftly, the MP personally contacted the District Panchayat CEO and other key officials to resolve the deadlock. He directed them to ensure that job cards be reissued immediately with the updated addresses of the displaced families living in the new colonies. True to his word, Mahesh Kumar monitored the issue until it reached a permanent resolution. Authorities have now issued new job cards for all eligible families under their present addresses, allowing them access to

assured employment once again.

Officials stated that this measure will not only extend livelihood security to the displaced inhabitants but also strengthen confidence among Polavaram evacuees who were previously struggling for daily work. The issuance of the new cards has thus become a symbol of relief and stability in the R&R colonies of the district. Expressing their gratitude, several beneficiaries conveyed heartfelt thanks to MP Putta Mahesh Kumar for his timely intervention and persistent efforts.

"We had lost our homes and livelihoods due to the dam submergence. Without updated job cards, we could not find work for months. The MP's commitment gave us new hope," said one of the residents. Residents also lauded the MP's continued involvement in addressing various rehabilitation concerns, including compensation and colony infrastructure.

By ensuring immediate administrative response, Mahesh Kumar has set an example of proactive leadership focused on people's welfare. For hundreds of families rebuilding their lives after displacement, the issuance of these new job cards has brought not just employment, but renewed confidence in their future. The initiative reaffirms the government's promise of livelihood assurance to every rural household, including those who had been uprooted by development projects like Polavaram.

# Water Flow Resumes from Pattiseema into Right Canal

TPN BUREAU | November 9

Polavaram: Polavaram, Water release into the right main canal from the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme has resumed, according to officials from the Water Resources Department. The department confirmed that two pumps have been activated to draw and discharge water from the Godavari River into the Polavaram Project's right canal.

Speaking to the media, Polavaram Division Executive Engineer (DE) Suresh said the operations began following instructions from higher authorities in the Irrigation Department. He explained that two pumping units are currently functional, enabling the release of approximately 700 cusecs of water into the right canal. The Godavari water level at Pattiseema presently stands at 15.60 meters, ensuring sufficient inflow for smooth operations at

the lift facility.

Suresh recalled that earlier in October, the department had operated a single pump for about ten days to meet immediate irrigation needs in parts of the Krishna Delta and downstream command areas. However, the pumping was temporarily suspended on October 19 after the targeted requirement was met and as part of routine maintenance and operational review.

With the latest directive from the Water Resources Department, the pumping activity has been resumed to ensure continuous water supply for agricultural and drinking water purposes in downstream regions.

The Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, located in Polavaram mandal of Eluru district, plays a crucial role in diverting surplus Godavari waters to the Krishna basin through the Polavaram Right Main Canal. This interlinking mechanism

helps stabilize irrigation for lakhs of acres in Krishna, West Godavari, and parts of Eluru districts, particularly during dry spells or when upstream Krishna inflows are inadequate. Officials mentioned that monitoring mechanisms are in place to track both the water levels in the Godavari and the discharge rate through the canal system. Farmers downstream have welcomed the move, stating that the resumed flow will aid rabi crop preparation and maintain water storage in the canal network for drinking water supply. The department is expected to continue pumping based on real-time water availability, demand patterns, and operational efficiency at the Pattiseema plant. Engineers assured that the system is functioning smoothly and that any changes in inflow or discharge will be promptly managed to maintain supply consistency.

# Mukesh Ambani Announces Mega Kitchen Project at Tirumala

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9

Tirumala: Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani visited the sacred hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Sunday, marking another major philanthropic initiative in collaboration with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Accompanied by senior Reliance executives and family members, Ambani offered prayers at the temple in the early hours before making a significant announcement, a state-of-the-art, fully automated kitchen to serve devotees through the Venkateswara Anna Prasad Trust.

The announcement, issued after the visit, emphasized that the project would be undertaken

jointly with the TTD and with the wholehearted support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The modern kitchen, designed with advanced automation systems, will have the daily capacity to prepare and serve over 200,000 sanctified meals for devotees visiting the temple. Officials said the facility aims to strengthen the temple's long-standing mission of ensuring that no devotee leaves Tirumala hungry.

Calling the initiative a humble offering to Lord Venkateswara, Ambani said it was undertaken "with the divine blessings" of the deity and in continuation of Reliance's ongoing service to the pilgrims. The project, he stated, aligns with Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu's vision to extend the Anna Seva tradition to all major TTD temples across the state. Tirumala, one of the world's most revered pilgrimage destinations, stands as a symbol of unwavering devotion, faith, and compassion. The new Anna Prasadam kitchen is expected to enhance not only efficiency but also hygiene and safety, ensuring that every meal is prepared with care and devotion. Officials familiar with the plan said the project would incorporate environmentally friendly technologies, energy-efficient systems, and waste management measures in keeping with the temple's eco-sustainability goals. "We feel deeply privileged to contribute to Tirumala's divine mis-

sion. It is an honour to serve the devotees of Lord Venkateswara and be a part of an effort that ensures no devotee ever goes hungry," Ambani said in a statement expressing gratitude toward TTD and the Andhra Pradesh government for their cooperation and guidance. TTD officials welcomed the announcement, praising Reliance Industries' commitment to spiritual and social welfare causes. They noted that the upcoming kitchen would significantly strengthen the Venkateswara Anna Prasadam Trust, which has been feeding millions of devotees every year through voluntary donations and corporate support.

After his Tirumala visit, Mukesh Ambani also

paid respects at the famous Guruvayur Krishna Temple in Thrissur, Kerala. Continuing his tradition of temple donations, Ambani contributed a sum of Rs 15 crore to the Guruvayur temple authorities. Sources said this donation would go toward temple renovation, pilgrim amenities, and related development works. Ambani's twin temple visits first to Tirumala and then to Guruvayur are being viewed as acts of both devotion and service, reflecting his long-standing association with major temple trusts across India. His initiatives continue to blend faith, philanthropy, and technology, reaffirming Reliance's growing engagement in cultural and spiritual welfare projects.

# Cyclone Montha Ravages Crops; 20,000 Farmers Hit

TPN BUREAU | NOV 9

Amaravathi: The impact of heavy rains and Cyclone Montha has left a trail of damage across several mandals in the district, severely affecting the Kharif paddy crop. After extensive field-level inspections and verification, officials have finalized the total extent of damaged crops and released the data online, enabling social verification and farmer feedback before submission to the state government.

According to an official assessment, paddy cultivation during the Kharif season covered a total area of 2,15,068 acres. The most widely sown variety was MTU 1318, followed by other popular cultivars such as MTU 7029 (Swarna), Sampada Swarna, PL 1100, and MTU 1121. Among these, the Swarna and Sampada

Swarna varieties bore the brunt of damage due to strong winds, while in several places, continuous rainfall submerged fields.

Even where crop lodging did not occur, farmers reported developmental losses during crucial stages such as tillering, grain filling, and hardening, leading to considerable yield reduction. Initially, in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, preliminary estimates indicated that around 26,381 acres of cropland had sustained damage. However, following multiple rounds of field verification, social audits, and scrutiny of objections raised by farmers, the final confirmed figure now stands at 22,126 acres spread across 20 mandals in the district.

This includes damage reported through 259 Rythu Seva Kendras (Farmers' Service

Centers). District officials have identified 20,087 farmers as victims of crop loss. District Agriculture Officer J. Venkateswarlu stated that the final report, compiled under the supervision of District Collector Nagarani, has been submitted to the government. He said the damage assessment was based on geo-tagged field inspections and cross-verification with real-time crop data.

The official confirmation ensures that affected farmers can be considered for input subsidies and other compensation under disaster relief schemes. The months of September and October witnessed particularly heavy monsoon showers that compounded the impact of the cyclone. Areas most affected include Palakolu, Bhimavaram,

Veeravasaram, Achantha, Attili, Narsapuram, and Yelamanchili mandals.

In these seven mandals alone, crops across 1,198 acres belonging to 922 farmers were damaged due to excess rainfall and flooding. Farmers in several low-lying regions recounted how continuous waterlogging deprived the fields of oxygen, leading to lodging and pest infestation. Others complained that even partially surviving crops suffered grain discoloration, shrinkage, and poor milling recovery due to moisture stress and uneven drying conditions.

Officials have recommended that farmers who experienced partial loss be prioritized for seed distribution and soil health improvement support before the upcoming Rabi season. Field of-

ficers have also been instructed to conduct follow-up visits to document any residual impact on soil fertility and crop productivity. While the district administration has acted swiftly in assessing and reporting the damage, many farmers expressed concern that the delay between data collection and official recognition could slow down relief distribution.

They urged the government to expedite disbursement of compensation and ensure timely supply of quality seeds and fertilizers for replanting. With standing crops battered by natural calamities two seasons in a row, farmers hope for better monsoon management systems and faster response mechanisms to safeguard their livelihoods in future.

# Collector Pushes for Fast-Track Road Works Ahead of Summit

TPN BUREAU | NOV 8

Visakhapatnam: District Collector M.N. Harendhra Prasad has directed officials to expedite the ongoing road development works across the city and ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe, without compromising on quality. The Collector inspected key stretches under construction on Saturday evening, reviewing progress along the Sagar Mala Project corridor from Convent Junction to INS Dega and the Port Dock area. The inspection was conducted jointly with officials from the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the National Highways (NH) Department.

During his field visit, the Collector emphasized that the works must be completed before the upcoming Partnership Summit to be held in Visakhapatnam, an event expected to host several industrial delegates, investors, and policy leaders. Stressing the need for maintaining high standards, he cau-



tioned engineers and contractors against taking shortcuts in the name of speed. "The works have to meet all prescribed engineering and quality parameters," he instructed.

"There should be no compromise on the durability and safety of the roads, even as efforts are made to meet the deadlines," Harendhra Prasad further directed officials to implement a systematic daily monitoring mechanism to track the progress of each segment of the project. He advised that joint teams from GVMC and National Highways regularly submit field inspection reports and immediately address any technical delays or bottlenecks. The Collector underscored the need for proper coordination among different executing agencies to

avoid duplication of work and to ensure uniformity in design and surface finish. Officials accompanying the Collector included GVMC Chief Engineer Satyana rayana Raju, the Superintending Engineer from the National Highways Department, and field-level engineers supervising the project.

They briefed him on the current status of works and the expected completion schedules. The team also reviewed measures being implemented to minimize inconvenience to commuters, including diversion arrangements and dust control during construction hours. The Collector reiterated the administration's commitment to improving the city's road network through a well-planned, time-bound approach.



# Can India Turn H-1B Setback into a Brain Gain Revolution?

The United States' latest crackdown on skilled immigration has landed like a thunderbolt on India's middle-class dreams. President Donald Trump's executive order slapping a massive \$100,000 fee on each new H-1B visa application threatens to cripple the once-dependable pathway that connected India's brightest minds to Silicon Valley's innovation hubs.

For decades, this visa wasn't just a work permit — it was a symbol of aspiration. Thousands of Indian engineers, doctors, and scientists migrated to the U.S. every year, fueling American growth while sending money and pride back home. With nearly 70% of the annual 85,000 H-1B visas going to Indians, this program was central to India's soft power in global tech. Now, with the cost barrier so high, even big tech may hesitate to hire, while startups, universities, and nonprofits could be shut out completely.

Yet amid the despair lies a historic opportunity for India.

Much like China in the early 2000s, or South Korea



South Korea's chip empire and Taiwan's TSMC rose similarly from the return of overseas talent.

India must act now to seize this moment.

The groundwork exists. India's digital economy is growing, global capability centers are thriving, and cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad already attract global tech. But talent won't return without compelling reasons. Competitive pay, research freedom, clean governance, and streamlined startup ecosystems are vital. This calls for a bold national policy — perhaps an "India Return Visa" — backed by both government and industry.

PM Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision aligns perfectly with this opportunity. Trump's move may unintentionally offer India the opening to turn decades of brain drain into a flood of brain gain.

If India acts swiftly and smartly, what started as a setback could spark a new era — one where innovation, talent, and leadership return home to build the India of tomorrow.

and Taiwan before that, India now stands at a cross-roads. Beijing responded to tightening US visa policies with bold action — offering repatriation incentives, fast-track STEM visas, and startup capital. Returnees helped build tech giants like Alibaba and Baidu.

## Karur Tragedy Exposes Dark Side of Tamil Nadu's Star-Struck Politics



The tragic stampede in Karur that claimed 40 lives and injured hundreds during actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay's rally has triggered a wave of public outrage and political introspection in Tamil Nadu. What was meant to be a

grand show of strength for Vijay's new party, Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK), turned into a horrific event — one that lays bare the risks of personality-driven politics in the state.

Eyewitness reports and police briefings suggest that be-

tween 30,000 to 60,000 people packed a narrow stretch of road meant for less than 10,000. Many had been waiting since morning under the scorching sun to catch a glimpse of Vijay, who was expected around noon but only arrived close to 7 p.m. The

late arrival — eerily reminiscent of his film industry habits — proved catastrophic.

Critics argue that Vijay's nonchalance was not just a failure in time management, but a reflection of deep-seated arrogance. His absence from the hospitals, his silence with the bereaved, and his casual response have angered even some of his supporters. "This isn't just star arrogance—it's a failure of leadership," a senior political analyst said.

The tragedy brings into focus Tamil Nadu's decades-old fascination with film stars in politics — a legacy of M.G. Ramachandran, Jayalalithaa, and others. While their charisma often masked governance shortcomings, Vijay's entry into politics now raises a harsher question: Has the blind worship of celebrity reached a fatal threshold?

The state High Court is now hearing pleas to restrict TVK's future gatherings. Nearly 500 police personnel were deployed for the Karur event, but crowd control was inadequate.

With the 2026 elections looming, the incident may become a turning point for both voters and political parties. The question isn't just about Vijay's fitness to lead — it's about Tamil Nadu's willingness to evolve beyond personality cults and demand accountability from those who seek power.

## Will AI Trigger a New Engels' Pause?



In a recent commentary, Artificial Intelligence (AI) pioneer and Nobel Laureate Geoffrey Hinton warned that AI could make a few people extraordinarily rich, while leaving the rest poorer. His observation points to the possibility of an "Engels' pause" in our modern AI-driven economy — a term with roots in the first industrial revolution but with deep relevance today.

The Engels' pause refers to a historical paradox where, despite rising productivity and industrial output in 19th-century Britain, workers saw little improvement in their living standards for decades. Coined by Oxford economist Robert Allen, the term draws from the work of Friedrich Engels, who observed that wages remained stagnant, inequality grew, and the benefits of progress were disproportionately captured by capital owners. Britain,

though hailed as the "workshop of the world," saw rising social and economic divides before eventual welfare gains reached the masses.

Today, AI is driving a similar wave of transformative productivity — from language models and automation to predictive analytics and synthetic biology. But there's growing concern that the benefits are being cornered by a handful of tech firms and elite professionals, while displacing traditional jobs and increasing income inequality.

Unlike the 1800s, however, the modern world may not need to wait decades to address these imbalances — if policy keeps pace with innovation. Governments and international institutions must prioritize inclusive AI governance frameworks. This means ensuring that the gains from AI are widely distributed through social safe-

ty nets, upskilling initiatives, and stronger labour protections.

The historical Engels' pause was eventually overcome by progressive reforms, education expansion, and the emergence of organized labour. In the AI era, a similar roadmap could include public investments in AI infrastructure, equitable data access, and ethical oversight mechanisms.

As Hinton cautions, AI must be more than a productivity revolution — it must become a human welfare revolution. The choices made today by policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society will determine whether this new industrial transformation leads to greater inequality or broader prosperity.

The future of AI, then, is not just technological — it's profoundly political and human.

# How India can make an opportunity of the H-1B visa crisis

With the Bihar Assembly election looming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest move — transferring ₹10,000 each to 75 lakh women in the state — has stirred both admiration and criticism. The massive ₹7,500 crore payout dwarfs other recent announcements, including the ₹1,600 crore relief package for flood-hit Punjab. The message is clear: women are now a core constituency for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the party is doubling down on its electoral investment.

As Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra highlights in her op-ed There's something special about

Bihar, this is not an isolated gesture. Across states headed for elections, BJP has systematically launched women-focused welfare schemes — from Lado Lakshmi in Haryana and Ladli Behna in Madhya Pradesh to Mahila Samridhhi Yojana in Delhi and Mahtari Vandana in Chhattisgarh. Modi's strategy appears to be forging a reliable "women constituency" with targeted financial empowerment and social messaging.

However, this calculated outreach raises deeper questions. Is this genuine empowerment or strategic pandering? Critics argue that while cash trans-



fers provide short-term relief, they often lack the structural support needed for long-term gender parity — in education, employment, and safety.

Beyond domestic politics, another shift is reshaping India's global talent landscape: the H-1B visa crisis in the US. With President Trump imposing a staggering \$100,000 fee per application, Indian skilled workers — once the backbone of Silicon Valley — are looking elsewhere. Canada, Australia, and Europe are seizing the moment, offering simpler immigration pathways and greater certainty for skilled migrants.

India, instead of lamenting the loss, could turn this crisis into an opportunity. With strong policy initiatives, it can attract its own global talent back home. The groundwork is present — thriving tech hubs, growing global capability centers, and a youthful workforce. But without reforms in research, innovation, and governance, return migration will remain a missed opportunity.

As India navigates electoral battles and global disruptions, the real test lies in whether policy can rise above politics — delivering not just votes, but vision.



# Uttarakhand formation day: PM Modi inaugurates projects worth ₹8,260 crore



TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth ₹8,260 crore in Uttarakhand, marking the 25th anniversary of the hill state's formation. The event, held in Dehradun,

saw the presence of Uttarakhand Governor Lt. General Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) and other dignitaries. Addressing the gathering, PM Modi lauded the state's progress across various sectors, highlighting its achievements in infrastructure, tourism, ed-

ucation, and health. "Uttarakhand has made remarkable strides in all-round development over the last 25 years," he said, emphasizing that the state is setting a benchmark for growth and governance in the hill regions of India. The Prime Minister also underlined that work on

infrastructure projects worth ₹2 lakh crore is currently underway, reflecting the government's long-term commitment to boosting connectivity, energy, and public services in Uttarakhand. The newly inaugurated projects include roads, bridges, healthcare facilities, and

educational institutions aimed at improving quality of life and promoting economic growth. During the event, PM Modi highlighted the importance of sustainable development in the ecologically sensitive region, urging balanced growth that preserves the state's natural resources while providing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. The foundation stone-laying ceremony also emphasized the government's focus on regional development, including initiatives in renewable energy, smart cities, and tourism infrastructure. Officials said the projects are expected to generate significant employment and strengthen the state's economy in the coming years. The celebrations mark a quarter-century since Uttarakhand's formation on November 9, 2000, separating from Uttar Pradesh to become India's 27th state. The event showcased the government's commitment to transforming the Himalayan state into a hub of sustainable growth and modern infrastructure.

# Congress Accuses PM Modi of Insulting Tagore, 1937 CWC Over Vande Mataram Row

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party intensified its criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday over the ongoing Vande Mataram controversy, alleging that he has "insulted" both the Congress Working Committee (CWC) of 1937 and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Congress MP and General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Prime Minister should focus on current issues affecting citizens rather than revisiting historical debates. "The Prime Minister has insulted this CWC as also Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. That he should have done so is shocking but not surprising, since the RSS had played no role in our Freedom Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi," Ramesh remarked. The party pointed to the CWC statement of 1937, which had clarified the context and significance of the song Vande Mataram during India's strug-



gle for independence. Congress leaders argued that Modi's remarks disregarded the historical importance of the statement and misrepresented Tagore's contribution to the nation's cultural and patriotic heritage. The controversy has reignited debates over the use of Vande Mataram in

public life, with Congress accusing the ruling BJP of politicising the song to create divisions along ideological lines. Party officials urged the government to stop "misusing" the anniversary of the song for political gain and focus instead on pressing issues such as employment, inflation, and governance.

Ramesh and other Congress leaders emphasized that the legacy of the freedom movement, including the perspectives of stalwarts like Tagore and the 1937 CWC, should be respected. They warned that politicising historical symbols risks alienating citizens and distorting India's inclusive nationalist

heritage. The Vande Mataram row has continued to attract attention from political circles, historians, and media commentators, highlighting the sensitivities surrounding national symbols and the balance between patriotic sentiment and political discourse.

# RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Defends Organisation, Reaffirms Respect for Indian Flag



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday defended the organisation against critics who have questioned its legal status, saying the Sangh is "recognised as a body of individuals" and operates with a longstanding legacy. Addressing an in-house question-and-answer ses-

sion organised by the RSS, Bhagwat responded to criticism that the organisation has not registered as a formal entity. "RSS was established in 1925, so do you expect us to have registered with the British government?" he said, referring to the colonial era during which the Sangh was founded. Bhagwat also addressed

concerns about the RSS's symbolism and its stance on national emblems. Responding to questions about the organisation allegedly respecting only saffron flags while not recognising the Indian tricolor, he clarified that while saffron is treated as a Guru in the RSS, it holds the Indian national flag in high regard.

The remarks come amid continued political scrutiny and debate over the Sangh's role in contemporary India. Congress leaders and other critics have often questioned the legal and organisational framework of the RSS, alleging opacity and a perceived ideological influence on governance. Bhagwat's statement

highlighted the RSS's emphasis on individual commitment and its historical foundation, portraying the organisation as a voluntary movement with cultural and social objectives rather than a conventional registered entity. Observers said the chief's remarks are likely aimed at reaffirming the Sangh's identity and countering allegations while projecting respect for national symbols. With the RSS celebrating its centenary next year, the comments also serve to underline its longstanding presence in India's social and political landscape, asserting that its legacy predates contemporary registration and bureaucratic requirements. The session reportedly drew participation from several senior members, focusing on organisational philosophy, history, and public perception, with Bhagwat emphasizing the Sangh's core principles and vision for national service.

# Rahul Gandhi Leads by Example, Does Push-Ups for Tardiness



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was asked to do 10 push-ups after arriving late to a party training session in Madhya Pradesh's Pachmarhi, where the Congress is conducting its 'Sangthan Srijan Abhiyan' — an organisational revitalisation drive. Gandhi, who took a break from his Bihar election campaign to attend the event, complied with the light-hearted "penal action" and performed the push-ups before fellow participants. According to sources, the rule — enforced by training head Sachin Rao — required all latecomers to face the same "punishment." When Gandhi asked what he must do, Rao replied, "At least 10

push-ups," prompting the Leader of Opposition to oblige on the spot. District Congress presidents who also arrived late followed his example, turning the disciplinary exercise into a team-building moment. "We received a very good response from district presidents," Gandhi later said, smiling as the session drew laughter and applause. During his visit, Gandhi continued to criticise the BJP and the Election Commission, alleging large-scale irregularities in recent state polls. "A few days ago, I presented the Haryana model where 25 lakh votes were stolen — one vote from every eight. This is their system. The main

issue is 'vote chori' (vote theft)," he claimed, adding that Congress would release supporting evidence soon. The BJP, however, mocked Gandhi for attending the retreat amid the Bihar campaign. "LoP means Leader of Paryatan and Partying," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said on X, accusing him of "enjoying a jungle safari in Pachmarhi" instead of campaigning. As the Congress focuses on strengthening its cadre through the Pachmarhi programme, the light-hearted push-up episode has added an unexpected dose of humour and camaraderie to the party's organisational training.

# Complaints Over Street Distribution of SIR Forms in Bengal



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has received multiple complaints regarding Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in West Bengal distributing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electoral forms at public places, sparking concern over procedural violations. Political parties have reported that BLOs handed out forms at tea stalls, local clubs, street corners, and schools, instead of visiting voters' homes as mandated. In some areas, people were seen rushing to streets to collect the forms directly from officers. The irregularities have reportedly left the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) embarrassed. Following these complaints, the ECI issued a

warning to senior poll officers, emphasizing strict adherence to guidelines. BLOs were reminded that their duty is to distribute SIR forms door-to-door, assist voters in filling out the forms correctly, and address any doubts. The ECI stressed that the distribution of forms in public spaces violates electoral rules. The Commission also directed District Magistrates (DMs) to monitor the process closely and warned of strict action if negligence persists. A district-level control room has been mandated to supervise BLO activities, with one BLO supervisor assigned for every ten booths to ensure compliance. ECI officials pointed to the Bihar model as a standard, where enu-

merators personally deliver forms and educate voters, ensuring both accuracy and transparency. The directive aims to prevent any misuse or confusion during the voter list revision process. The SIR drive, currently in its second phase, is a crucial step to update electoral rolls ahead of upcoming elections. The ECI's proactive measures reflect an effort to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process while addressing public and political concerns in West Bengal. With complaints continuing to surface, the ECI is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that door-to-door delivery remains the standard for all BLOs in the state.



Japan PM Sanae Takaichi Plans Pay Cuts for Herself, Cabinet



TPN Correspondent | TOKYO

In a bold reform move, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is set to propose a revision to the public servant remuneration law to implement pay cuts for herself and her Cabinet ministers, according to The Japan Times. The proposal will likely be presented during the ongoing extraordinary session of Parliament, as part of her broader push for administrative and fiscal reform.

The revised law aims to suspend additional allowances currently paid to the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers, apart from their regular lawmakers' salaries. At present, lawmakers receive a monthly salary of ¥1.294 million, while the Prime Minister and ministers receive additional allowances of ¥1.152 million and ¥489,000, respectively.

However, under existing cost-cutting measures, the Prime Minister already returns 30% of her additional pay, and ministers return 20%, reducing their allowances to about ¥390,000 and ¥110,000, respectively. The proposed law revision

would halt these allowances "for the time being," making the pay cuts official.

Takaichi, Japan's first female prime minister, reiterated her stance during her inaugural press conference in October, stating, "I'll work on a law revision so that cabinet members do not receive pay exceeding lawmakers' salaries." The initiative underscores her effort to project a reformist and accountable image, especially amid Japan's economic and fiscal challenges.

The Japan Innovation Party (JIP), a coalition partner of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has supported the move, calling it a "wonderful initiative." However, some opposition leaders, including Yuichiro Tamaki of the Democratic Party for the People, have criticized the plan, labeling it "a symbol of the deflationary mindset."

While opinions remain divided within the government, the proposal marks a significant step in Takaichi's campaign for transparency, cost efficiency, and political accountability in Japan's governance.

Five Indians Kidnapped in Mali Amid Rising Unrest



TPN Correspondent | Bamako

Five Indian nationals have been kidnapped in western Mali, a company representative and a security source confirmed on Friday, highlighting the growing instability in the West African nation.

The workers were abducted on Thursday near Kobri, while employed on electrification projects. "We confirm the kidnapping of five Indian nationals," a company spokesperson told AFP, adding that the remaining Indian employees had been evacuated to Bamako, the capital. No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction so far.

Mali, currently under military rule, has faced escalating unrest fueled by criminal networks and jihadist groups linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. The Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), affiliated with Al-Qaeda, has further strained the country by enforcing a fuel blockade, worsening an already severe economic crisis.

Kidnappings of foreigners have become increasingly common in Mali, which has been plagued by coups,

insurgencies, and civil conflict since 2012. In September, JNIM militants abducted two Emirati nationals and an Iranian near Bamako; the hostages were released last week after reportedly ransom negotiations of at least \$50 million.

Security officials warn that the volatile situation in Mali makes foreign workers particularly vulnerable, especially in rural and project sites outside major cities. International companies operating in Mali have intensified evacuation and protective measures for staff in response to repeated incidents of abduction.

The latest kidnapping underscores the persistent threats faced by expatriates in the Sahel region and the challenges Mali faces in maintaining security amid continuing political instability and jihadist violence. Authorities in Mali and India are reportedly monitoring the situation closely and coordinating efforts for the safe release of the kidnapped nationals.

The incident is expected to heighten concerns over investments and international presence in Mali as the country struggles to regain stability.

Trump Offers to Help Ease India-Pakistan Tensions, Urges Both Sides to "Stop" Escalation

TPN Bureau | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed concern over rising tensions between India and Pakistan, urging both nations to halt what he called "tit for tat" actions. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Trump said he was willing to mediate if it could help defuse the situation.

"Oh, it's so terrible," Trump said when asked about the recent escalation. "My position is I get along with both. I know both very well, and I want to see them work it out. I want to see them stop, and hopefully they can stop now."

The U.S. President's remarks come amid heightened diplomatic and military strains between the two South Asian neighbours, which have fought several wars and continue to spar over a range of issues, including the disputed Kashmir region.

Trump reiterated that he was open to playing a role if both countries



sought American involvement. "If I can do anything to help, I will be there," he said, adding that the United States wanted stability and peace in the region. The White House has

not announced any formal initiative or diplomatic outreach following Trump's comments. However, officials said Washington was closely monitoring the situation and maintaining communication with both New Delhi and Islamabad.

India has traditionally maintained that issues with Pakistan are bilateral and does not welcome third-party mediation, while Pakistan has often sought international involvement.

Trump's statement reflects continued U.S. interest in promoting dialogue between the nuclear-armed neighbours, amid growing concerns that renewed hostilities could threaten regional security.

Observers said the President's remarks underline Washington's desire to prevent further escalation and preserve stability in South Asia, where tensions have periodically flared despite peace efforts.

'Ready For War': Taliban Warns Pakistan After Istanbul Talks Collapse Again

TPN Correspondent | Istanbul

The latest Afghanistan-Pakistan peace talks in Istanbul have ended in a stalemate, escalating tensions between the two neighbours. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has issued a strong statement accusing Pakistan of obstructing dialogue efforts and acting irresponsibly, despite mediation by Turkey and Qatar. The Japan Times reported.

In an official clarification released by Zabihullah Mujahid on November 8, the Taliban expressed gratitude to the mediators and claimed its representatives participated "in good faith and with full authority." However, it alleged that Pakistan displayed an "irresponsible and non-cooperative attitude," attempting to shift security responsibilities onto Afghanistan while refusing to take accountability for its own.

The Taliban reiterated its "principled position"



that Afghanistan's soil will not be used against any country and warned that it would "firmly de-

fend against any aggression" with the support of its people. While reaffirming its respect for the

"Muslim people of Pakistan," the statement stressed that cooperation would remain limited to

Afghanistan's "responsibilities and capabilities." Adding to the friction, Afghanistan's Minister

for Tribes, Borders, and Tribal Affairs, Noorullah Noori, warned Pakistan "not to test the patience of Afghans," cautioning Defence Minister Khawaja Asif against overreliance on military technology. "If war breaks out, both the elders and youth of Afghanistan will rise to fight," he declared.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Defence Minister admitted that the third round of talks had "reached an uncertain stage with no results", and there were no plans yet for a fourth round.

The breakdown of the Istanbul talks, meant to ease border tensions and address Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) issues, has instead deepened mistrust. With the ceasefire along the Af-Pak border still in place but fragile, fears of renewed cross-border clashes or drone strikes loom large, threatening to push relations closer to open confrontation.

New Zealand authorities send extra fire planes to battle 1,100-hectare wildfire

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

New Zealand authorities have deployed additional firefighting aircraft to combat a fast-spreading wildfire that has scorched approximately 1,100 hectares (4.2 square miles) in Tongariro National Park on the North Island.

The blaze, which broke out on Saturday afternoon (November 8), quickly spread through the park's rugged terrain, prompting the emergency evacuation of around 40 hikers who were airlifted to safety. Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) said an aerial reconnaissance mission on Sunday would confirm the full extent of the damage.

Firefighting efforts were temporarily suspended overnight due to dangerous conditions and limited visibility, but resumed at first light with reinforced ground crews and water-bombing aircraft. Authorities said ad-



ditional planes were being sent to strengthen the

response, as dry weather and strong winds contin-

ued to hamper containment efforts.

Tongariro National Park, a UNESCO World

Heritage site, is known for its volcanic peaks, alpine trails, and cultural significance to the Maori people. Officials have warned visitors to avoid the area as the fire remains uncontrolled and unpredictable.

While no homes or settlements have been directly threatened, authorities are monitoring nearby communities as a precaution. Emergency services have advised residents to stay alert for updates and potential smoke hazards.

FENZ said crews would continue battling the blaze throughout the day, focusing on protecting key conservation areas and preventing the fire from spreading further. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

The government has urged the public to adhere to fire restrictions as much of New Zealand's North Island experiences unseasonably dry conditions, raising the risk of further wildfires.



# Plastic Pipes Industry Faces FY25 Challenges, Eyes 10–12% Growth Ahead

India's plastic pipes industry has faced significant turbulence in FY25, struggling with subdued infrastructure investments, tight liquidity, and volatile raw material prices, according to a report released by JM Financial. However, the industry remains optimistic about its medium-term outlook, supported by stabilising input costs and sustained demand from key sectors.

### Navigating a Tough Year

FY25 proved to be a challenging year for the sector. Plastic pipe manufacturers—especially those reliant on PVC (polyvinyl chloride)—had to deal with erratic pricing patterns. Global factors, such as sluggish construction activity in major markets like China and developed economies, combined with a supply glut from large exporters like China, South Korea, and Taiwan, led to aggressive undercutting of prices in the Indian market.

PVC, which consti-



tutes a major input cost for the industry, dropped significantly over FY20–25, declining at a 4% CAGR, compared to its long-term growth trend of 2% CAGR over the last 25 years. After a prolonged

downtrend, prices began to recover, rising by ₹7/kg over the last 4–5 months to reach ₹79/kg in September 2025. While this remains below the FY22 peak, it marks a potential turning point for the sector.

### Market Evolution and Future Drivers

Traditionally fragmented and focused heavily on agriculture, India's plastic piping sector has evolved into a more organised ecosystem, addressing critical needs in

water supply, plumbing, sanitation, and industrial applications.

Despite current hurdles, long-term structural drivers remain intact. Government-backed programs like the Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan, and Housing for All are expected to boost demand significantly, alongside growing agricultural and replacement requirements.

JM Financial estimates the Indian plastic piping market at ₹600–650 billion, and forecasts a 10–12% CAGR growth between FY25 and FY30.

### Policy and Regulatory Tailwinds

Industry experts believe upcoming policy measures may offer additional support. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is expected to implement quality control norms for PVC imports by December 2025, which would restrict the influx of substandard foreign products and offer a competitive edge to domestic manufacturers.

“Stabilising PVC prices should restore distributor confidence, reduce inventory risks, and aid margin recovery for organised players,” the report concluded, projecting a more stable and profitable path ahead for the sector.

## India Becomes Top Expansion Market for APAC 3PL Firms:



India has emerged as the most-preferred expansion destination for third-party logistics (3PL) companies in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, according to a new report released by CBRE on Sunday (September 28, 2025).

The study reveals that nearly 70% of APAC-based 3PL occupiers are planning to expand their footprint in India over the next two years. This marks the highest intent for expansion among all markets surveyed in the region.

CBRE attributed this growing interest to India's rapidly developing infrastructure, digital transformation in supply chains, and the booming e-commerce sector. Other contributing factors include favourable government policies under initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiency and reducing operational costs.

CBRE expects the Indian logistics real estate market to outperform its regional counterparts in the medium term, reinforcing the country's status as the logistics growth engine of APAC.

tors,” said a senior CBRE analyst. “The country is now seen not only as a consumption market but also as a strategic distribution and logistics hub.”

The report also highlighted a rise in Grade-A warehousing demand, especially in Tier-1 cities like Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Tier-2 cities such as Lucknow, Coimbatore, and Indore are also gaining traction due to lower costs and improving connectivity.

India's 3PL segment has seen double-digit annual growth in recent years, supported by increasing outsourcing of logistics operations by major industries. With rising investments in automation, cold chain facilities, and multimodal logistics parks, the sector is poised for sustained expansion.

CBRE expects the Indian logistics real estate market to outperform its regional counterparts in the medium term, reinforcing the country's status as the logistics growth engine of APAC.

# India's Power Tools Market Set to Cross \$3.8 Billion by 2035



India's power tools segment is projected to more than double, reaching \$3.8 billion by 2035, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8%, according to industry experts and a recent study by IMARC Group.

The growth is being driven by massive government capital expenditure in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, airports, and housing, alongside increasing demand from furniture manufacturing, the automo-

tive aftermarket, and a rising Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture.

To reduce reliance on imports and tap into the growing demand, the Union Government is actively encouraging domestic manufacturing, which is begin-

ning to show results. Local manufacturers are gradually scaling up production capacity in line with the “Make in India” initiative.

The broader hand tools, power tools, and fasteners market in In-

dia is also on an upward trajectory. The domestic hand tools market, currently valued at \$826 million (2024), is expected to reach \$1.22 billion by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 4.1%, the IMARC study noted.

This surge is being attributed to the modernisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increasing industrialisation, and strong aftermarket demand. Moreover, with India's booming construction and home improvement sectors, the need for efficient and cost-effective tools is only expected to grow.

Industry officials said that the DIY trend among urban consumers, especially in metro cities, is also expanding the market for portable and battery-operated tools. E-commerce platforms have further simplified access to such products, making them popular among younger, tech-savvy users.

Experts believe that sustained policy support, coupled with infrastructure and industrial growth, will transform India into a manufacturing and export hub for power tools over the next decade.

## SBI Bats for 25 bps Rate Cut Ahead of RBI Policy Meet



Ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) bi-monthly monetary policy announcement on October 1, a State Bank of India (SBI) research report has recommended a 25 basis point (bps) rate cut, calling it the “best possible option” in the current economic climate.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, will begin its three-day meeting on Monday, September 30, amid global economic uncertainty, rising geopolitical tensions, and the recent 50% tariffs imposed by the US on Indian exports.

The SBI report argues that a modest rate cut would support domestic growth without stoking inflation, especially as headline CPI inflation remains within the RBI's comfort range. “A 25 bps cut would signal proactive policy support to insulate the economy from external shocks,” the report said.

However, several other economists and ana-

lysts expect the RBI to maintain status quo on the repo rate, citing concerns about volatile crude prices, geopolitical risks, and the weak rupee. Many believe the central bank will prefer to wait and watch, especially as the US Federal Reserve remains hawkish.

India's repo rate currently stands at 6.50%, unchanged since February 2023. The central bank has maintained a “withdrawal of accommodation” stance, balancing inflation control with the need to support growth.

A rate cut now, according to SBI, would also help ease borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, just ahead of the festive season, potentially boosting consumption and credit demand.

The final decision will be announced by RBI on Wednesday, October 1, and will be closely watched by markets, banks, and industry stakeholders for its signal on the direction of monetary policy amid global uncertainty.

# Govt to Borrow ₹6.77 Lakh Crore in H2, Holds Near FY26 Target

New Delhi: The central government plans to borrow ₹6.77 lakh crore through dated securities in the second half (H2) of fiscal year 2025–26, aiming to stay close to its full-year borrowing goal.

Having already borrowed ₹7.95 lakh crore in H1, the Centre will revise the total gross market borrowing for FY26 to ₹14.72 lakh crore, narrowly lower than the original budgeted ₹14.82 lakh crore.

The shift is designed to balance fiscal discipline with market stability, despite increasing defence spending pressures.

Officials say that the H2 borrowing will be conducted over 22 weekly tranches, each totalling ₹28,000–₹33,000 crore, and is scheduled to conclude by March 6, 2026. Of the total, ₹10,000 crore is planned via sovereign green bonds.



In terms of maturity composition, the share of shorter-term papers (3–5 years) will be increased to 19.9% (from 15.9%), while the share of longer-term papers (15–50 years) will fall from 51.8% to 43.7%. Medium-term securities (7–10 years) will also see a rise to 36.5% from 32.4%.

The Centre reaffirmed its commitment to keeping the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP, compared to 4.8% in FY25. To manage liquidity mismatches, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the ways and means advances (WMA) limit for H2 at ₹50,000 crore.

Officials emphasise that despite uncertainties—like US-imposed tariffs and defence expenditure—the borrowing plan remains predictable, aiming to avoid surprising the bond market and limit crowding out of state and private borrowing.



Paracetamol Ice Cream? Medicinal Dessert Debuts in the Netherlands



In a bizarre twist on pharmaceutical innovation, a viral Instagram post has claimed that paracetamol-infused ice cream is now available in the Netherlands — offering a new, dessert-style way to beat fever and pain. According to the widely shared post, Dutch developers have reportedly created an ice cream that contains paracetamol, the globally popular drug used to relieve fever, headaches, and mild to moderate pain. The frozen treat is said to retain all the therapeutic effects of a standard paracetamol tablet, but in a far more palatable form. The unusual innovation has sparked curiosity and excitement online, with users wondering if a spoonful of ice cream might soon replace the bitter pill. Reactions on social media have ranged from amusement to skepticism, with many calling it “genius” and others questioning the safety and regulation behind such a product. While the idea of medicine disguised as dessert might appeal to children and pill-averse adults, there is currently no official confirmation from Dutch health authorities or pharmaceutical companies about the legitimacy or approval of such a product. Health experts have also raised concerns about dosage control, especially if such ice cream becomes commercially available. Nevertheless, the post has gone viral for its novelty factor and has reignited conversations about creative ways to deliver medication — especially for pediatric and elderly patients. Until further verification is available, the paracetamol ice cream remains a curious case of internet virality, with the world watching to see whether this scoop of “medicinal indulgence” is fact, fiction, or just clever marketing.

Aeroplane-sized asteroids approaching earth fast



An asteroid roughly the size of an aeroplane is set to make a close approach to Earth today, but NASA has confirmed there is no threat of impact. The space rock, designated 2025-TN2, measures approximately 87 feet (26.5 metres) in diameter and is the largest among four asteroids currently tracked by NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations Program. It will pass safely at a distance of around 1.34 million kilometres from Earth — more than three times the distance between Earth and the Moon. Despite its relatively close pass, NASA has assured the public that the asteroid poses no danger, with no risk of collision. The object is traveling at a high velocity, as is typical for near-Earth asteroids, and will continue on its solar orbit after the flyby. While 2025-TN2 is not large enough to cause serious damage even if it were on a collision course, the event highlights the importance of NASA's ongoing planetary defense efforts. The agency monitors thousands of near-Earth objects (NEOs), many of which are discovered each month, to track their trajectories and assess any potential hazards. Asteroids of this size pass near Earth fairly frequently. However, NASA and other space agencies have increased their vigilance following high-profile asteroid events and ongoing interest in planetary defense missions like DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test). This latest flyby serves as a reminder of the dynamic nature of our solar system — and the crucial role that scientific observation and early warning systems play in keeping Earth safe from celestial threats. For now, Earth remains safe, and 2025-TN2 will continue its cosmic journey well away from harm's reach.

Ancient Georgian Site May Reveal Accidental Origins of Iron Age

In a discovery that could reshape our understanding of one of history's most significant technological revolutions, archaeologists have uncovered new evidence at a 3,000-year-old site in southern Georgia that may point to the accidental origins of ironworking. The site, Kvemo Bolnisi, long believed to be an early iron production facility, has revealed surprising findings through advanced research led by Nathaniel Erb-Satullo and Bobbi Klymchuk from Cranfield University, UK. Their study suggests that iron was not initially smelted for its own value but may have been a byproduct of copper production. Researchers found that hematite, an iron oxide mineral present at the site, was likely used as a flux—a substance added during the copper smelting process to aid in metal extraction. The discovery was supported by chemical and microscopic analysis of the materials, particularly slag, a byproduct of smelting. Published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, the study supports a long-held theory that the use of iron may have emerged accidentally, rather than through intentional innovation. The process of high-temperature copper smelting could have incidentally produced iron, sparking further exploration and the eventual rise of the Iron Age. “This is a significant step forward,” said Dr. Erb-Satullo. “Despite iron's central role in industrial history, its origins have been incredibly hard to trace due to rust, lack of written records, and limited archaeological focus.” The findings from Kvemo Bolnisi not only offer a rare glimpse into early metallurgical practices but also highlight how technological breakthroughs can emerge from experimentation and accident, rather than deliberate invention. The study underscores the importance of continued excavation and research in regions like the South Caucasus, a potential cradle of early metallurgy.



chemical and microscopic analysis of the materials, particularly slag, a byproduct of smelting. Published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, the study supports a long-held theory that the use of iron may have emerged accidentally, rather than through intentional in-

Why Patients Must Fast Before Surgery: Medical Experts Explain

Patients are routinely instructed not to eat or drink anything for several hours before surgery — and this guideline isn't just hospital protocol, it's a critical safety measure rooted in medical science. According to experts, pre-surgery fasting — known medically as nil per os (NPO), meaning “nothing by mouth” — is vital to reduce the risk of aspiration during anaesthesia. When a person is under general anaesthesia, their reflexes, including the gag and cough reflex, are temporarily suppressed. If there is any food or liquid in the stomach, there's a chance it can travel back up the oesophagus and enter the lungs, leading to serious complications such as aspiration pneumonia. “Even a small amount of food or fluid in the stomach can be dangerous,” said a senior anaesthesiologist from AIIMS, New Delhi. “The stomach doesn't empty immediately after eating — digestion takes time. If the stomach isn't empty during surgery, it poses a significant risk.” What are the standard fasting guidelines? Typically, patients are advised to:



ing guidelines? Typically, patients are advised to:

- Avoid solid foods for at least 6–8 hours before surgery
  - Avoid clear liquids for at least 2–4 hours before surgery
- These guidelines may vary slightly depending on the type of surgery and anaesthesia involved. Clear liquids like water, black coffee, and apple juice may sometimes be allowed up to a few hours before the procedure, but dairy, juices with pulp, or any solid food are strictly off limits. Communication is key. If a patient accidentally eats or drinks too close to surgery, they must inform their doctor immediately. In most cases, the procedure will be postponed for safety. Ultimately, fasting before surgery isn't about comfort — it's about saving lives.

25 Most Dangerous Cities in the World: Tourists Urged to Stay Away

In a world filled with beautiful travel destinations, some cities remain perilous due to war, crime, political instability, or lack of infrastructure. While travel can be enriching, experts and global advisories urge caution when choosing your next trip. Based on current global conditions, here's a list of 25 cities deemed the most dangerous for tourists in 2025, starting with Aleppo, Syria. 1. Aleppo, Syria Once Syria's largest and most vibrant city, Aleppo has been ravaged by civil war since 2011. Once a cultural and historical hub, the city was turned into a battleground. Although there have been efforts at rebuilding and some displaced citizens are returning, Aleppo — and Syria overall — remains unsafe for foreigners due to ongoing conflict, political instability, and a high risk of violence. Travel advisories from several countries strongly discourage any travel to the region. Why This List Matters Each year, government bodies like the U.S. State Department, UK Foreign Office, and Global Peace Index issue warnings about high-risk travel destinations. These warnings are based on factors like:



- Breakdown of law enforcement
  - Health infrastructure collapse
  - Armed conflict
  - Terrorist activity
  - Violent crime
  - Kidnapping risks
- unstable regions. Other Notable Cities on the List The full list includes cities across Latin America, the Middle East, and parts of Africa. Notorious examples include: Caracas, Venezuela, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Mogadishu, Somalia, Tijuana, Mexico. While travel offers immense personal growth, safety should remain a top priority. When in doubt, consult your country's embassy, consular services, or official travel warning platforms before making plans.



# Ahmedabad Recommended to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

Ahmedabad is on track to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games after receiving a strong recommendation from the Executive Board (EB) of Commonwealth Sport. The announcement came on October 15, 2025, signaling a major sporting milestone for the city and India.

The EB's recommendation is a significant step in the bidding process, positioning Ahmedabad as the preferred host for the prestigious multi-sport event, which will mark the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games. While the final decision will be formally made at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly scheduled in Glasgow on November 26, 2025, this is widely expected to be a procedural formality given the board's endorsement.

Ahmedabad's bid has been bolstered by extensive preparations and infrastructure development, including the construction of the state-of-the-art Veer Savarkar Sports Complex. The complex is expected to serve as one of the main



venues for the Games, showcasing the city's readiness to host a large-scale international sporting event.

The Commonwealth Games, held every four years, bring together athletes from countries across

the Commonwealth to compete in various sports, promoting camaraderie, unity, and sporting excellence. Hosting the 2030 Games will not only enhance Ahmedabad's global sporting profile but also drive infrastructure growth,

tourism, and economic activity in the region.

This will be a landmark event for India, marking the country's increasing prominence in the global sports arena. Ahmedabad's successful bid follows India's hosting of the 2010

Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and reflects the country's ambition to continue playing a significant role in international sports.

Local officials and sports authorities have expressed confidence that Ahmedabad's facilities and organizational capabilities will meet the high standards expected for the Games. The city's rich cultural heritage and modern amenities are also seen as an advantage in welcoming athletes and visitors from across the Commonwealth.

Once officially confirmed at the November General Assembly, Ahmedabad will join the ranks of elite host cities that have staged the Commonwealth Games, benefiting from years of planning, investment, and international attention.

In summary, Ahmedabad's recommendation by the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board marks a promising future for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, with the final approval expected soon, signaling India's continued rise as a global sports host.

# Tearful Naomi Osaka Battles Injury to Reach Japan Open Quarter-Finals



Naomi Osaka fought through pain and emotion to secure a hard-fought victory and reach the quarter-

finals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, marking a poignant moment for the home favorite playing on

Japanese soil for the first time in three years.

The top-seeded Osaka faced defending champion

Suzan Lamens in a gripping three-set match, eventually winning 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-2 in a contest lasting two hours and 20 minutes. Osaka's victory was marked by resilience as she battled an injury that forced a medical timeout when she was leading 5-0 in the deciding set.

During the medical break, Osaka received treatment for a left leg injury and returned to the court with heavy strapping on her thigh. Despite the discomfort, she managed to close out the match after dropping two games post-treatment. The four-time Grand Slam champion was visibly emotional, wiping away tears after hitting the winning backhand shot and later describing the match as a mentally tough battle.

"Emotionally I was going through a lot in this match," Osaka said. "And then in the third set I tried my best to have no regrets."

Osaka admitted she had taken painkillers to manage the pain but acknowl-

edged the injury "doesn't feel good." She explained her limited mobility, saying, "I couldn't really move that well." However, she remains optimistic about her recovery, adding, "It's not good, but I think I'm a fast healer so it should be OK for my next match."

The 27-year-old Osaka is returning to competitive tennis after a strong showing at the US Open, where she reached the semi-finals before losing to Amanda Anisimova. This marks her first major tournament progress beyond the second week since she won her second Australian Open title in 2021.

Osaka will next face Romania's Jaqueline Cristian in the quarter-finals, hoping to continue her comeback despite the injury setback. Fans and analysts alike are keenly watching the Japanese star's performance, inspired by her grit and determination to play through adversity in front of her home crowd.

# Virat Kohli Quashes ODI Retirement Rumors Ahead of Australia Series

Virat Kohli has put to rest all speculation about his One Day International (ODI) future ahead of India's upcoming series against Australia. The former captain, who has retired from Test and T20I cricket, remains active only in the ODI format. Kohli's recent cryptic social media post on X (formerly Twitter) — "The only time you truly fail, is when you decide to give up" — was widely interpreted as a response to rumors about his potential retirement.

With the 2027 ODI World Cup approaching, fans and cricket experts have been debating whether Kohli will continue representing India in the limited-overs format. Some Australian players speculated that this tour Down Under could be his last. However, sources close to the team clarified that Kohli's post was meant to silence doubts about his commitment.

During the squad announcement, chief selector Ajit Agarkar confirmed that Kohli, along with Rohit Sharma, has been selected with the 2027 World Cup in mind. "Not as far as I know. They have met the required



fitness standards and are part of our plans for the World Cup," Agarkar said. He dismissed rumors of retirement, emphasizing that the selection was based on current fitness and form.

India's head coach Gau-

tam Gambhir also addressed the issue following India's 2-0 series win over the West Indies. He stressed the importance of focusing on the present and expressed hope that the experienced duo of Kohli and

Rohit would perform well in Australia's challenging conditions. "The 50-over World Cup is still two and a half years away. Their experience will be crucial," Gambhir added.

With Kohli and Rohit

both cleared for selection and committed to the team, the cricket fraternity can expect the veterans to continue their contributions in the ODI format for at least the next couple of years.

# Lakshya Sen and Satwik Advance to Denmark Open 2025



Indian badminton stars Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwicksairaj Rankiredy and Chirag Shetty made a strong start at the Denmark Open 2025, progressing into the tournament's pre-quarterfinals with impressive wins in their opening matches.

Competing at the Jyske Bank Arena, world No. 21 Lakshya Sen faced Ireland's Nhat Nguyen, ranked 28th in men's singles. Sen recovered from a slow start to clinch a thrilling three-game victory with scores of 10-21, 21-8, 21-18 in a match lasting one hour and 19 minutes. Sen lost the first game decisively but bounced back strongly in the second, conceding only eight points to force a decider. The final game was tightly contested, with both players exchanging points before Sen held his nerve to secure the win. This victory marked Sen's third triumph in four matches against Nguyen. Notably, Lakshya Sen was a semi-finalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, and this win bolsters his confidence moving forward in the tournament.

In men's doubles, the Indian duo Satwicksairaj Rankiredy

and Chirag Shetty, seeded sixth, overcame the Scottish pair Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley 17-21, 21-11, 21-17. The match lasted one hour and four minutes and saw the Indian pair recover after losing the first game 17-21. Satwik and Chirag responded emphatically in the second, dominating 21-11 to level the contest. The final game was fiercely competitive, with the Scottish duo holding a narrow 11-10 lead at the interval. However, the Indians surged ahead in the second half, winning 11 of the next 17 points to seal their place in the next round. Satwik and Chirag are looking to improve on their recent performances, where they finished runners-up at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters last month.

On the other hand, Indian mixed doubles pair Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan faced an early exit after losing 21-14, 21-11 to Indonesia's Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil.

As the Denmark Open progresses, Indian shuttlers will be hoping to carry this momentum deeper into the competition.

# India Junior Hockey Team Falls 2-4 to Australia at Sultan of Johor Cup 2025



The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team faced a 2-4 defeat against Australia in their fourth pool-stage match of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 held in Johor, Malaysia. The Blue Colts' goals came from Captain Rohit (22') and Arshdeep Singh (60'), while Australia's goals were scored by Oscar Sproule (39', 42'), Andrew Patrick (40'), and their Captain Dylan Downey (51').

The first quarter was closely contested, with India dominating possession and controlling the tempo. Australia had an early chance, but Indian goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh made a crucial save. India's attacking pressure continued, and despite a missed penalty corner flick by Anmol Ekka in the 17th minute, Rohit successfully converted a penalty corner in the 22nd minute to give India the lead.

In the third quarter, Australia staged a strong comeback, scoring three consecutive goals. Oscar Sproule equalized in the 39th minute with a well-placed

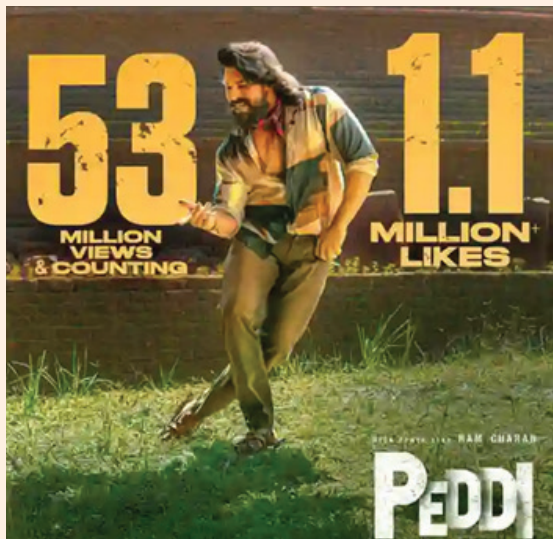
strike from the right flank. A minute later, Andrew Patrick put Australia ahead with a deflection during a penalty corner. Sproule then scored his second goal in the 42nd minute with a powerful backhand shot, turning the tide firmly in Australia's favor.

India tried to respond, winning a penalty corner in the 49th minute, but Rohit's flick missed the target. Australia extended their lead when Captain Dylan Downey scored from their fifth penalty corner in the 51st minute. In the final minute, Arshdeep Singh scored a skillful deflection to close the gap to 2-4, but India couldn't find another goal before the final whistle.

This loss puts India's hopes in the tournament under pressure as they prepare for their remaining matches in the pool stage. The Blue Colts will need to regroup and focus on their upcoming fixtures to stay in contention at the Sultan of Johor Cup.



Peddi's "Chikiri Chikiri" Storms YouTube with 53 Million Views in 35 Hours



Peddi's debut single, "Chikiri Chikiri," has taken the internet by storm, smashing viewership records within hours of its release. Published on November 9, 2025, at 4:00 PM IST, the peppy number has crossed a whopping 53 million views in just 35 hours, making it the fastest Indian track to surpass the 50-million milestone. The song has also garnered over 1.1 million likes, reflecting its massive popularity among fans.

Composed by Oscar-winning maestro A.R. Rahman, the track has become an instant chartbuster. Sung by Mohit Chauhan, "Chikiri Chikiri" blends vibrant beats with a catchy rural rhythm, perfectly capturing the rustic energy of the film it represents. The music video features superstar Ram Charan in a dynamic avatar, alongside Janhvi Kapoor, who plays the female lead.

The song's lively choreography by Jani Master has further added to its viral appeal, inspiring fans to create dance reels and challenges across social media platforms. Within a day of release, the track has dominated music charts and trending lists nationwide.

"Chikiri Chikiri" serves as the first single from Peddi's upcoming rural sports drama, directed by Buchi Babu Sana of Uppena fame. The much-awaited pan-Indian film also stars Shiva Rajkumar, Divyenndu Sharma, and Jagapathi Babu in key roles.

Produced by Vriddhi Cinemas, the movie is slated for a March 27, 2026 release. With its record-breaking start, "Chikiri Chikiri" has set sky-high expectations for the film's soundtrack and storyline, positioning Peddi's debut as one of the most anticipated cinematic events of 2026.

Rashmika's The Girlfriend Crosses \$200K in North America



Rashmika Mandanna's latest romantic drama, The Girlfriend, is making steady waves at the box office. Released in theatres just a couple of days ago, the film has managed to collect over \$200,000 in North America, marking a promising start for the star-driven project.

Directed by Rahul Ravindran, The Girlfriend features Rashmika Mandanna in the lead role, with Deekshith Shetty playing her romantic counterpart. The film has received a warm response from audiences abroad, particularly among the Telugu-speaking diaspora. With positive word-of-mouth beginning to spread, trade analysts note that the upcoming weekend will be crucial in determining how far the film's overseas numbers can go.

Producers Vidya Koppineedi and Dheeraj Mogilineni expressed satisfaction with the early performance, citing the emotional depth and relatable storytelling as key reasons behind the strong re-

sponse. The film explores the dynamics of modern relationships and emotional resilience, with Rashmika's portrayal earning praise for its authenticity and maturity.

Supporting performances by Rao Ramesh, Anu Emmanuel, and Rohini Molleti add further depth to the narrative. On the technical front, the movie features music by Hesham Abdul Wahab, known for his soulful compositions, while Prashanth R Vihari has crafted the engaging background score that enhances the film's emotional texture.

With its blend of heartfelt storytelling and engaging performances, The Girlfriend is emerging as a steady performer in overseas markets. As it heads into a key weekend, industry observers predict the film could significantly boost its tally, solidifying Rashmika's position as one of Indian cinema's most bankable female leads in both domestic and international circuits.

Ajay Bhupathi to Launch Mahesh Babu's Nephew Jaya Krishna

A new star from the illustrious Ghattamaneni family is ready to enter Telugu cinema. Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of the legendary Superstar Krishna and son of the late Ramesh Babu, is all set to make his silver-screen debut. The young actor, who is also Mahesh Babu's nephew, has been preparing intensely for his launch under the direction of Ajay Bhupathi, known for his distinctive storytelling style.

Sources reveal that Jaya Krishna has undergone rigorous training in acting, action, dance, and overall screen presence to ensure a strong debut. Industry insiders are already curious to see how the promising newcomer carries forward his family's cinematic legacy.

The project will be presented by veteran producer Ashwini Dutt under the prestigious Vyjayanthi Movies banner, continuing the production house's long-standing association with the Ghattamaneni family. This collaboration holds

sentimental value, as Vyjayanthi Movies earlier produced the blockbuster Agni Parvatham with Superstar Krishna and later introduced Mahesh Babu through the 1999 hit Raja Kumarudu.

With Agni Parvatham and Raja Kumarudu being milestones in Telugu cinema, this upcoming project aims to introduce the third generation of the iconic film family with equal grandeur. Director Ajay Bhupathi, best known for RX 100 and Mangalavaaram, is expected to craft a fresh narrative that blends mass appeal with emotional depth, setting the perfect stage for Jaya Krishna's launch.

Backed by one of Tollywood's most respected banners and a proven director, this yet-to-be-titled film is among the most awaited debut ventures in recent memory. Fans of the Ghattamaneni family eagerly await an official announcement and first look, marking the beginning of a new cinematic chapter for the superstar lineage.



Gatha Vaibhavam Secures PrimeShow Backing for Grand Release



The much-anticipated epic fantasy drama Gatha Vaibhavam has received a major boost ahead of its release. The film, starring SS Dushyanth and Ashika Ranganath in lead roles, is set to hit theatres on November 14, 2025, and excitement around the project has intensified with the announcement that PrimeShow Entertainment has acquired its Telugu distribution rights.

The acquisition, led by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy, positions Gatha Vaibhavam for a massive release across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, ensuring a strong theatrical presence in key markets. PrimeShow will also han-

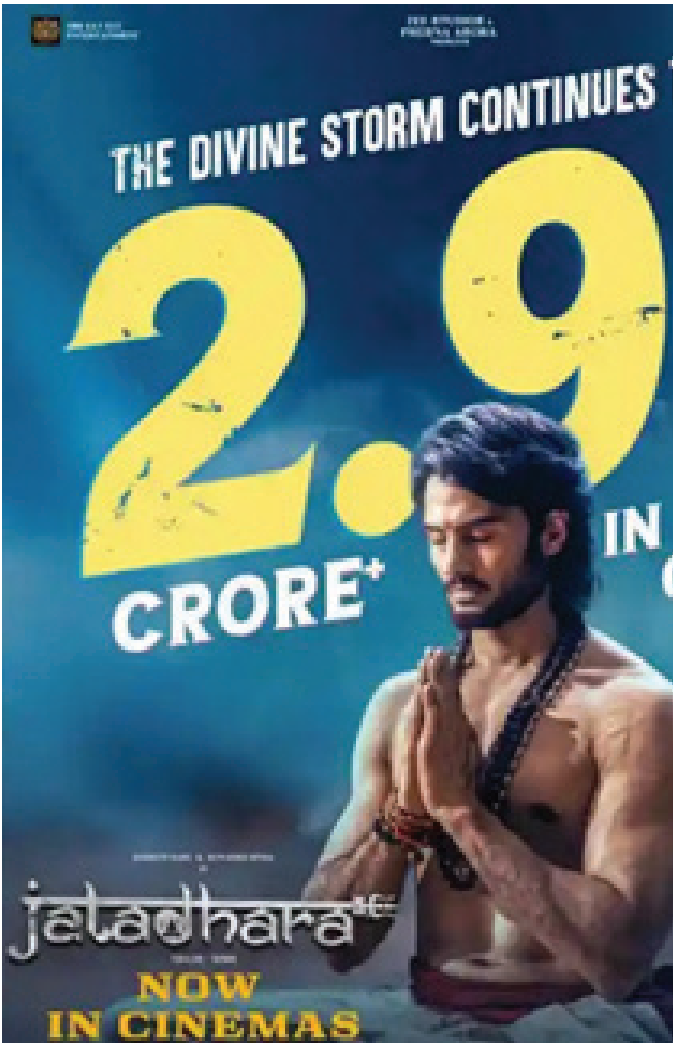
dle distribution in North America and Canada, marking the film's entry into the global market with substantial backing.

Written and directed by Suni, the film promises to be a visually grand spectacle that intertwines mythology, reincarnation, and timeless romance. Produced jointly by Suni Cinemas and Servegara Silver Screens, Gatha Vaibhavam explores the enduring power of love and destiny through multiple eras, offering audiences a sweeping cinematic experience.

Industry insiders reveal that the movie boasts world-class VFX, intricate production de-

sign, and an emotionally layered narrative, setting high expectations among fans and critics alike. With PrimeShow Entertainment's proven distribution network and promotional strength, the film is expected to enjoy an expansive release and strong box-office debut.

As anticipation builds, Gatha Vaibhavam is being hailed as one of the most ambitious fantasy dramas in recent Telugu cinema. Its blend of mythology, emotion, and spectacle—paired with a powerhouse team both on and off-screen—positions it as a potential game-changer ahead of its grand November 14 release.



Jatadhara Registers ₹2.91 Crore in Two Days Worldwide

Nava Dalapathy Sudheer Babu's latest outing, Jatadhara, hit theatres on Friday amid decent pre-release buzz. However, the supernatural thriller has struggled to live up to expectations, both critically and commercially. According to official reports, the film has managed to collect ₹2.91 crore gross worldwide over its first two days—a figure that signals a weak start for a project of its scale.

Despite an intriguing concept and strong visuals, Jatadhara has reportedly failed to connect with mainstream audiences. The film's pacing and screenplay have received mixed reviews, resulting in limited word-of-mouth traction. Trade analysts note that the coming days will be crucial for the film's box office fate, as competition from new releases could further dent its collections.

Directed by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Jatadhara features Sonakshi Sinha, Divya

Khosla, Shilpa Shirodkar, and Indira Krishna in pivotal roles alongside Sudheer Babu. The ensemble cast had raised expectations for a gripping supernatural experience, but early responses suggest that the execution fell short of its potential.

The film is jointly produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Shivin Narang, Aruna Agarwal, Prerna Arora, Shilpa Singhal, and Nikhil Nanda under multiple banners. The music and background score have been composed by Rajeev Raj, adding a haunting touch to the film's atmospheric tone.

With its modest box office performance, Jatadhara faces an uphill battle to recover production costs. The makers and fans are now hoping for a turnaround over the weekend, but given the current trend, sustaining strong numbers may prove challenging for Sudheer Babu's latest supernatural venture.