

**BUZZ POINTS**

Educational Reforms Must Aim for a \$30 Trillion Economy: Nara Lokesh

02

# Pawan Kalyan Steps Up As Assertive Deputy CM in Naidu Cabinet

G Ravi Kiran | Nov 12

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Mr. Pawan Kalyan is steadily emerging as a decisive force within the state's alliance government. Once perceived by critics as politically passive or less informed about government functioning, recent developments have shown quite the opposite. His assertive participation in cabinet meetings, pointed remarks on governance lapses, and interventions in administrative issues are highlighting his growing influence in the coalition led by Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu.

From the early days of the alliance government, Pawan Kalyan has displayed a keen eye for detail in monitoring the activities of both his party members and government departments. During recent cabinet meetings, his pointed discussions about the behavior of certain MLAs and district-level administrative lapses drew attention across political circles. While he refrained from naming any legislator directly, his comments on MLAs' involvement in civil disputes indirectly hinted at corruption and misuse of power.

Taking On Administrative Lapses

One of Pawan Kalyan's first assertive moves



From the early days of the alliance government, Pawan Kalyan has displayed a keen eye for detail in monitoring the activities of both his party members and government departments.

came shortly after assuming office, when he openly questioned the police department over its hesitation to arrest an accused in a sensitive case. His indirect criticism of Home Minister Mrs. Anitha stirred brief tensions within the alliance, but his remarks were not withdrawn — signaling that the Deputy Chief Minister was ready to call out inefficiency, even within his own government.

His proactive stance became more evident when he personally visited Kakinada after receiving information about a ship allegedly transporting PDS (Public Distribution System) rice illegally. Without waiting for bureaucratic protocols, Pawan Kalyan ordered officials to seize the ship, directly

exposing lapses in the local administration and police department. The move sent a strong message to those involved in the ration mafia and established that the Deputy Chief Minister was closely monitoring governance issues beyond his formal portfolio. Though the illegal ration trade has not been completely eradicated, his intervention created a state-wide alert and forced authorities to act more cautiously in future.

Disciplining Officials and Protecting Governance

In another instance, Pawan Kalyan instructed a Superintendent of Police to investigate a Deputy Superintendent (DSP) allegedly involved in civil disputes and gambling activities. The directive caused political

ripples when Deputy Speaker Mr. Raghurama Krishna Raju initially criticized the move but later retracted his statement. The episode again reinforced Pawan Kalyan's commitment to administrative discipline and accountability.

Balancing Alliance Tensions

Internal friction between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party cadres has been an ongoing concern in several constituencies. Pawan Kalyan is said to have raised the issue directly with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, urging both parties to maintain harmony. He reportedly cautioned MLAs and in-charge ministers against indulging in local-level power displays that could damage the coalition's image.

Firm Stand on Forest and Environmental Issues

As Minister for Forests, Pawan Kalyan has also taken an active role in addressing land encroachments and illegal logging. His initiative in documenting and presenting evidence on alleged encroachments linked to former minister Mr. Peddiredy Ramachandra Reddy's associates has been widely discussed. Additionally, his stern warning to red sandalwood smugglers underscored his determination to protect state resources.

Public Response and Criticism

While some critics argue that Pawan Kalyan often stops short of ensuring complete resolution to the issues he raises, his growing assertiveness has been well received by many, including his supporters within the Jana Sena Party. Political observers note that his style — combining activism with administrative focus — is gradually reshaping his image from a celebrity politician to a serious decision-maker in governance.

With his continued interventions across various sectors, Pawan Kalyan appears intent on proving that he is not merely a symbolic partner in the alliance government but an active force shaping its accountability and direction.



## Poor Farmers to Gain from Andhra's Renewable Energy Push

Assigned Lands to be Leased for Renewable Energy Projects

C Pradeep Kumar | Nov 12

Vijayawada: In a landmark decision, the Andhra Pradesh government has allowed assigned lands to be leased out exclusively to renewable energy companies. The move, aimed at ensuring sustainable development while uplifting the poor, was approved by the State Cabinet as part of ongoing revenue reforms.

According to official data, the state has a total of 36,36,748 acres of assigned land. Out of these, 13,62,345 acres are eligible for freehold conversion, and 9,93,248 acres have already been converted. This leaves around 26,43,500 acres of land available for lease. Under the new policy, these lands can only be leased to companies involved in solar, wind, compressed biogas (CBG) or pumped storage energy projects.

The leasing process will be facilitated either through NEDCAP or the Rural Board that the state government is planning to establish soon. The government has already identified specific zones across Andhra

Pradesh where renewable energy plants can be set up. Within these zones, if suitable government land is available, it will be allotted by the state; if private land is required, companies can lease it directly. Following the Cabinet-approved amendment to the Assignment Act, even assigned lands can now be leased for renewable energy purposes.

As per the existing power department policy (subject to reconfirmation), renewable energy companies can be established in two cases: Industries setting up renewable energy units for their own power requirements. Companies establishing units in government-identified renewable energy zones.

Benefits for Poor Farmers

Farmers who have already leased their private lands to renewable energy companies are receiving notable benefits such as:

- Annual lease rent of 30,000 to 40,000 per acre
- A 5% increase in rent every two years
- Employment opportunities for unemployed family members (subject to power department confirmation)

These same benefits will now extend to farmers owning assigned lands. For small and marginal farmers — most of whom own less than five acres — this provides a

stable and assured source of income. Typically, these farmers depend entirely on agriculture, earning income only if the crop succeeds. With this leasing policy, they can earn a fixed annual rent even without cultivating the land. Additionally, if they take up wage work elsewhere — for example, two members earning 200 per day for 20 days a month over 10 months — they can earn up to 80,000 a year.

Combined with the lease income, this could significantly improve their family's financial stability.

Overall, this initiative promises to be a golden opportunity for poor and landless farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to True Point, State Revenue, Registration and Stamps Minister Anagani Satyaprasad said, "Allowing the lease of assigned lands is part of the broader reforms we are bringing in the revenue system to benefit the poor. This will provide a stable income to small and marginal farmers while making them active participants in transforming Andhra Pradesh into a renewable energy hub. The coming industries and factories will also create employment for their children. This decision is yet another step toward making Andhra Pradesh a poverty-free state."

## CII Partnership Summit 2025: Visakhapatnam Gears Up for 10 Lakh-Crore Investment Push

TPN Bureau | Nov 12

Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam is preparing to host the 30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2025 on November 14 and 15, a prestigious global business event jointly organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the CII. The summit aims to project Andhra Pradesh as a preferred global destination for investment and innovation, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu overseeing every detail to ensure a world-class event. The summit, the med Partners in Progress. India's Roadmap to Viksit Bharat 2047, will be held at the Andhra University Engineering College grounds.

More than 100 international delegates are expected to participate, representing countries across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed during the two-day summit, potentially unlocking investment opportunities worth 10 lakh crore across various sectors. Chief Minister Naidu has anchored the event around his vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global trade hub, focusing on sectors such as green energy, information technology, electronics, automobiles, space, defence, and tourism.

"Invest in Andhra Pradesh"



Andhra Pradesh is the key message the government aims to convey through this event. The Chief Minister will be in Visakhapatnam for four days, holding meetings with leading industrialists and foreign delegations. On Wednesday, he will meet Bharat Forge Vice Chairman Amit Kalyani and review final preparations with CII officials. On Thursday, he will participate in a high-level India-Europe Cooperation for Sustainable Growth roundtable at Novotel, focusing on green innovation and European investment opportunities. He will also hold talks with business representatives from Taiwan, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, and major Indian companies such as Reliance Power, Hero Future Engineers, and Murugappa Group.

The summit formally opens on Friday, November

14, with Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurating the proceedings. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will open the Andhra Pradesh Pavilion, while leading industrialists Yuseff Ali, Baba Kalyani, and Karan Adani are expected to attend. Sessions on Technology, Trust, and Trade and AI for Viksit Bharat will explore how digital transformation can accelerate economic growth. A major highlight will be the signing of an agreement to launch a direct flight service between Singapore and Vijayawada.

Later that day, Chief Minister Naidu will participate in the Reimagining Public Finance Summit and lay the foundation stone for a new Lulu Mall in Visakhapatnam. The evening will conclude with a gala dinner for delegates and officials. On Saturday, the second

day, Naidu will interact with Bloomberg Media and lay foundation stones for projects by Raymond, Sri City, and Indosole. He will meet delegations from Bahrain, New Zealand, Canada, and Japan before inaugurating the World Economic Forum's Centre for Frontier Technologies and launching a Google project in the city.

The summit will conclude with MoU exchanges and a media briefing summarising key outcomes. To promote the event globally, Naidu and his team conducted international roadshows in Singapore, the UAE, and the UK, inviting investors to explore Andhra Pradesh's opportunities. The government expects this summit to significantly boost industrial growth, generate employment for the youth, and elevate the state's image as India's rising economic powerhouse.

## Dharma Reddy Turns Approver in TTD Adulterated Ghee Case

TPN Bureau | Nov 12

Tirupati: The investigation into the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) adulterated ghee scandal has taken a major turn, as former additional executive officer A.V. Dharma Reddy has turned approver before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Special Investigation Team (SIT). His detailed testimony, sources say, has shed light on how the adulteration of ghee used for Srivari prasadam occurred and who allegedly masterminded it. According to investigative inputs, Dharma Reddy has provided the SIT with crucial evidence on the alleged corruption network that operated during the previous YSRCP government. He reportedly admitted that the adulteration took place under political and administrative pressure, particularly from then TTD Board Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, who is the uncle of former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Dharma Reddy is believed to have detailed how key officials were coerced into facilitating the supply of substandard ghee used in Tirumala temple rituals.

The CBI SIT's questioning session entered its second day on Wednesday



at the Alipiri investigation office in Tirupati. Along with Dharma Reddy, Bhole Baba Group directors Vipin Jain and Pamil Jain were also examined separately regarding the adulterated product supply chain. Investigators are probing how massive quantities of synthetic compounds — such as monoglycerides and acetic acid esters were mixed to manufacture the ghee supplied to TTD through companies under scrutiny like Harsh Fresh Foods and Harsh Dairy. Unconfirmed reports suggest that Dharma Reddy's deposition not only exposes supply-level manipulations but also implicates senior decision-makers who allegedly overlooked purity norms for financial gain. The SIT sources indicate that his cooperation may significantly strengthen the

prosecution's case as forensic tests have already confirmed the adulteration of sacred ghee supplied for temple rituals.

Meanwhile, the political reverberations of the scandal have intensified. Former minister Devineni Uma launched a scathing attack on the previous YSRCP administration, alleging that the episode represents one of the gravest betrayals of devotees' faith. Speaking to the media in Amaravati, he claimed that "the sins committed in the sanctum of Lord Venkateswara's service have shaken the trust of millions." Uma cited Dharma Reddy's statement as a confirmation of Y.V. Subba Reddy's knowledge and involvement in the adulteration process. Devineni accused the former rulers of desecrating temple sanctity by replacing

genuine ingredients, using ration rice in the temple's annadanam program, and generating unholy profits from sacred offerings meant for Lord Venkateswara. He demanded exemplary punishment for those responsible, asserting that such individuals deserve "the harshest penalty possible."

The scandal, which began unraveling earlier this year, has already triggered multiple CBI and Enforcement Directorate inquiries into linked financial transactions and procurement irregularities. The SIT's latest questioning session has expanded the scope of investigation toward corporate suppliers and TTD's internal approval mechanisms. As the probe deepens, devotees and public representatives are demanding transparency and quick justice. The CBI SIT is expected to summon more former officials and private company executives in the following days. Dharma Reddy's role as an approver, investigators say, could become the cornerstone of the case as the agency prepares to file a comprehensive charge sheet against the accused network behind the adulterated ghee used for Srivari prasadam.



# Educational Reforms Must Aim for a \$30 Trillion Economy: Nara Lokesh

MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS SKILL DEVELOPMENT, \$1 TRILLION INVESTMENT TARGET FOR ANDHRA PRADESH

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: India must set its sights beyond a \$5 trillion economy and work toward becoming a \$30 trillion global powerhouse, said Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh, while addressing the CII Southern Region-VIT AP Higher Education Conclave 2025 in Amaravati.

“The theme of this conclave is ‘Reimagining Higher Education to Transform India into a \$5 Trillion Economy’. But I believe we should aim higher. The real chal-

lenge is achieving a \$30 trillion economy. Without strong human capital and intellectual resources, economic progress is impossible,” he said, stressing that education reforms must align with national economic ambitions.

Trillion-Dollar Target for Andhra Pradesh

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh’s investment success, Lokesh announced that the state has already attracted \$120 billion in the last 17 months through its “Speed of Doing Business” approach, and expects another \$120 billion during the upcoming Global Investment Summit. “Our goal is to attract \$1 trillion in investments by 2029. When states grow stronger, the nation becomes strong-



er,” he said, adding that Amaravati will undergo remarkable transformation in the next three years.

Bridging the Skill Gap

Lokesh underscored that India’s demographic dividend — with 54% of its population below 25 years — can only yield results if the youth pos-

sess the right skills. “Only 34.7% of India’s working-age population has formal skill training compared to 96% in South Korea and 75% in Germany. We must address this gap urgently,” he observed.

He noted that, according to the Economic Survey 2023-24, only 51% of

Indian graduates are employable. “The issue isn’t lack of intelligence, but a mismatch between education and market demand. While degree-holders wait for jobs, short-term skill courses are creating employable youth in months,” he remarked.

Skill Census and Nai-



Punyam Portal

To tackle this challenge, Lokesh revealed that Andhra Pradesh launched a Skill Census 16 months ago to assess the skill profile of every citizen. “We started it in Mangalagiri to map skills and provide training aligned with industry needs. We are also developing an AI-based ‘NaiPunyam Portal’ to connect skilled youth with employment opportunities,” he said.

Vision 2047: Swarna Andhra

Emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh aims to become a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047, Lokesh outlined five pillars for transformation — Curriculum to Career, Research & Innovation, Digital Future Skills, Internationalization, and Regional Industrial Clusters. He said these would turn Andhra Pradesh into a knowledge and innova-

tion hub in sync with Prime Minister Modi’s Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

The conclave was attended by CII Southern Region Chairman Ashwin Mahalingam, VIT Vice President Dr. GV Selvam, First Gen Founder & CEO Philip Asmus, AP Higher Education Council Vice-Chairperson K Ratna Sheelamani, and CII AP Vice Chairman Sharanam Narendra Kumar, among others.

## Higher Education is a Gateway to Global Opportunities: Governor Abdul Nazeer

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Chancellor of Rayalaseema University, S Abdul Nazeer, presided over the 4th Convocation Ceremony of Rayalaseema University held at the university campus on Wednesday.

Delivering the convocation address, Governor Abdul Nazeer stressed that higher education serves as a gateway to global opportunities, equipping students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. “In a country like India, where socio-economic disparities persist, higher education acts as a great leveller, empowering individuals to transform their lives and contribute meaningfully to society,” he said.

Highlighting the growing influence of emerging technologies, the Governor stated that the advent of quantum computing is opening new horizons in higher education by offering innovative tools to solve complex prob-



lems. “This technology nurtures critical thinking and prepares students for high-demand careers in fields such as information security, drug discovery, and finance,” he observed.

Governor Nazeer also underlined the importance of aligning education with the developmental vision of both the state and the nation. Referring to ‘Viksit Andhra Pradesh’, the Government’s strategic roadmap to transform the state into a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047, he said the initiative is in harmony with the national goal of ‘Viksit Bharat’, which envisions a developed India by the same year.

Congratulating the

graduates and medal winners, the Governor urged them to uphold ethical values, pursue lifelong learning, and contribute to nation-building through innovation and social responsibility.

Earlier in the event, Dr. SSV Ramakumar, Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President of AM Green, was conferred the Honoris Causa degree in recognition of his outstanding contributions. Prof. V. Venkata Basava Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Rayalaseema University, presented the annual report highlighting the university’s academic progress, research achievements, and developmental initiatives.

## AP Police Officer Excels in Goa Ironman 70.3 Triathlon

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: An officer from the Andhra Pradesh Police Department has brought laurels to the force by successfully completing the prestigious Goa Ironman 70.3 Triathlon. K Chakravarthi, Superintendent of Police, CID, Andhra Pradesh, participated for the first time in the Ironman 70.3 event held at Miramar Beach, Goa, on November 9. The grueling triathlon comprising 1.9 km swimming, 90 km cycling, and 21.1 km running had to be completed within 8 hours and 30 minutes. Demonstrating remarkable endurance and determination, SP Chakravarthi finished the event in just 8 hours, earning the official Ironman finisher’s medal from the organizers.

The competition saw participation from over 1,300 athletes representing 65 countries,



making it one of the toughest endurance events in the world. The Ironman 70.3 triathlon is considered a true test of physical and mental strength, and athletes finishing in the top three positions qualify for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship. On Wednesday evening, SP Chakravarthi met DGP Harish Kumar at Gupta at the Andhra Pradesh Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri. Congratulating the officer on his outstanding achievement, the DGP com-

mended his dedication, discipline, and sporting spirit. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said that Chakravarthi’s accomplishment has brought pride to the entire Andhra Pradesh Police Department, and expressed confidence that he would achieve even greater success in future competitions. “Such achievements inspire our personnel to pursue excellence not only in service but also in personal and professional development,” the DGP remarked.

## AP inks Rs. 15,000 crore pact with Tillman Global Holdings

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 TPN/DELHI: MoU signed in presence of Minister Nara Lokesh during U.S. - India Strategic Partnership Forum Board Roundtable in New Delhi. We aim to build a world-class 300 MW campus in Visakhapatnam : Tillman Global Co-President Sachit Ahuja

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, through the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tillman Global Holdings to develop “TDGAP1,” a 300 MW hyperscale data center campus in Visakhapatnam with a proposed investment of approximately Rs. 15,000 crore, positioning the State as a premier digital infrastructure hub in India and the Indo-Pacific region.

Executed in Visakhapatnam on November 12, 2025, the MoU establishes a facilitation framework for time-bound development over the next 12 months, with APEDB coordinating investor facilitation and inter-agency support within the applicable policies, rules, and procedures of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and where required, the Union Government of India.

The signing took place on the sidelines of the



U.S. - India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Board Roundtable in New Delhi, which was attended by Minister Nara Lokesh, along with leading global business figures including John Chambers (Founder & CEO, J2 Ventures & Chairman, USISPF), Shantanu Narayen (Chair & CEO, Adobe Systems & Vice-Chair, USISPF), Prabhakar Raghavan (Chief Technologist, Google), Salil Parekh (CEO, Infosys), and Sachit Ahuja (Co-President, Tillman Global Holdings), among others. The MoU was facilitated by Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President & CEO, USISPF, and Mr. Sachit Ahuja, Co-President, Tillman Global Holdings.

The project is planned over roughly 40 acres and is expected to generate 200-300 direct jobs and 800-1,000 indirect jobs by 2028 through growth in allied services, logistics, cloud, networks, and ancillary units, catalysing a broader digital ecosystem in the State.

Under the MoU, Tillman Global Holdings will bring investment, technology, planning and design, and critical equipment for the TDGAP1 campus, while all land allotments, incentives, and benefits will be undertaken by the concerned departments through due process, including participation in any applicable competitive tender processes as per pre-

vailing rules and regulations.

Speaking on the occasion, Sachit Ahuja, Co-President, Tillman Global Holdings, said, “Andhra Pradesh offers a compelling combination of coastal connectivity, progressive governance, and a rapidly expanding digital economy. With TDGAP1, we aim to build a world-class 300 MW campus in Visakhapatnam that anchors long-term digital infrastructure, creates high-quality jobs, and catalyses a broader ecosystem of services and innovation. We value the State’s facilitation through APEDB and look forward to executing this project in a time-bound manner.”

Speaking on the occasion, Nara Lokesh, Minister for IT, Electronics & HRD, Government of Andhra Pradesh, added, “This MoU underscores Andhra Pradesh’s strategy to position Visakhapatnam as a premier data center hub. The proposed Rs. 15,000 crore investment by Tillman Global Holdings will strengthen our digital backbone, generate direct and indirect employment for our youth, and attract allied investments across energy, networks, cloud, and services. The Government will facilitate with his policy to ensure swift, transparent progress.”

About Tillman Global Holdings

Tillman Global Holdings is a New York-headquartered digital infrastructure company that operates globally. Its portfolio consists of cell towers, fiber networks, data centers, small cells, enterprise networks, and EV charging infrastructure.

To date, Tillman has raised over \$12 billion in capital to support its various platforms, which include Tillman Infrastructure, Eaton Fiber, Tillman Fiber, Tillman Digital Gateway, Tillman Digital Cities, and Tillman Logistics.

## BEE Lauds AP’s CoEET Initiative; Calls for Mission-Mode Push on Energy Efficiency

STATE’S GREEN HYDROGEN HUB NEAR VIZAG TO ATTRACT ₹1.85 LAKH CRORE INVESTMENT

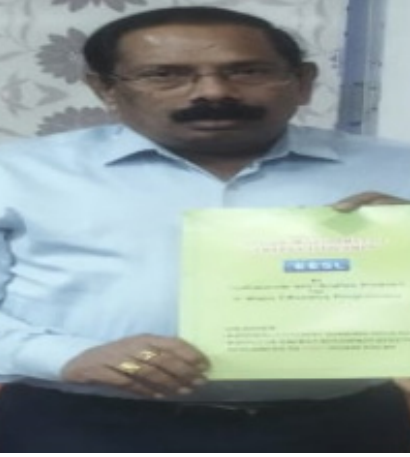
TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: In a significant boost to India’s clean energy transition, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has commended Andhra Pradesh for its proactive steps toward sustainable energy development, particularly the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition (CoEET) at Visakhapatnam.

During a review interaction with State officials, the BEE urged all State Governments and their State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to adopt a mission-mode approach to fast-track the implementation of Energy Efficiency (EE) technologies. BEE officials emphasized that EE adoption is essential for meeting



India’s Net Zero Emission target by 2070 and for creating large-scale employment.

Appreciating Andhra Pradesh’s efforts, BEE described the CoEET — spearheaded by the Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (APEPDC) — as a “significant milestone” in promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean technology innovation. The initiative comes ahead



of the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, where global energy experts will deliberate on renewable integration and sustainable infrastructure.

During the discussion, Chief Secretary K Vijayanand expressed gratitude to BEE, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), and the Ministry of Power for their technical and financial support. He said the State Government, under

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to ensuring 24x7 quality power supply to attract global investments.

He revealed that under the Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024, the State aims to mobilize 10 lakh crore in green energy investments by 2029. He also announced a landmark Green Hydrogen Hub project near Visakhapatnam, to be developed in collaboration

with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and NREDCAP, with an investment of 1.85 lakh crore. The hub will play a pivotal role in achieving India’s target of 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.

BEE Secretary Milind Deore lauded the CoEET initiative, stating it “perfectly aligns with India’s national energy efficiency and clean energy goals.” He praised its multi-stakeholder governance model, emphasis on R&D, skill development, and entrepreneurship support, adding that CoEET could become a national hub for clean energy innovation.

Deore also commended APEPDC CMD Prudvitej for leading more than 20 applied research and pilot projects and for training over 1,000 professionals and engineers in energy efficiency practices strengthening Andhra Pradesh’s leadership in India’s clean energy transformation.



# Andhra Dy CM Pawan Kalyan calls for 'Sanatana Dharma Parirakshana Board' amid Tirupati Laddu ghee row

TPN BUREAU | Nov 12 Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan called for the establishment of a 'Sanatana Dharma Parirakshana Board' to safeguard the Sanatan faith, amid controversy over alleged adulteration in the ghee used for Tirupati Laddus.

In a post shared on the social media platform X on Tuesday, Kalyan stated that the sentiments and practices of Sanatanis are being mocked and undermined, which erodes the trust of devotees. The Deputy CM wrote, "For the global Hindu community, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam is more than a pilgrimage centre; it is a sacred spiritual sojourn. The Tirupati Laddu is not just a sweet; it is a shared emotion - we distribute it among friends, family and strangers alike, for it embodies our collective



belief and profound faith."

"On average, nearly 2.5 crore devotees visit Tirumala every year. And when the sentiments and practices of Sanatanis are mocked or undermined, it is not merely hurtful; it shatters the trust and devotion of millions around the world. Secularism must be a two-way street," he added. Calling for a protection body

for Sanatan Dharma, he stated that the board must be established with the consensus of all stakeholders.

"Protection and respect for our faith cannot be negotiable. Our Sanatana Dharma is one of the oldest and ever-evolving civilisations, and it is high time we establish the Sanatana Dharma Parirakshana Board with the consensus of all

the stakeholders," the X post read. In another X post, Kalyan cited a media report alleging Rs 250 crore worth of adulterated ghee was used in Tirupati Laddus between 2019 and 2024.

This comes after former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer Dharma Reddy appeared before the SIT in connection with the adulterated

ghee case. He was questioned regarding the procurement of adulterated ghee.

Meanwhile, the SIT has issued online notices to former TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, directing him to appear for questioning on November 13. It is learned that he has requested a week's time, stating that he will appear before the SIT after November 15.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP slammed the previous YSRCP regime for the alleged adulteration. "To make ghee, milk is needed. Especially for the pure ghee used in Tirumala laddus, it is made from cow's milk. But during the YCP regime, the adulterated ghee used for laddus was reportedly made without using real milk, from chemicals and animal fat, with spurious types of oils," TDP wrote on X.

## Naidu Fulfilled NTR's Vision: Anagani

TPN Bureau | nov 12 Amaravati: The minister marking the realization of the long-cherished dream of providing homes for the poor. He said the state government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is fulfilling the vision of the late N. T. Rama Rao, who aspired for every family to own a home. Speaking to the media, Minister Satya Prasad said that under the Chief Minister's farsighted leadership, the state had completed and is now handing over 3 lakh houses within 16 months. Despite severe financial challenges, he noted, the construction works continued without interruption, reflecting the government's strong commitment to the welfare of economically weaker sections. The minister explained that the state is also extending support to individuals who



already have their own land but lack the means to build houses. Hereafter, the government's goal of ensuring that every eligible family in Andhra Pradesh receives a permanent pucca house by 2029. Satya Prasad contrasted the current administration's efforts with those of the previous YSR Congress Party government, accusing former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of exploiting the poor in the name of land distribution. He al-

leged that the "cent patata" scheme, touted as a welfare measure, turned into large-scale corruption under Jagan's rule. While the previous government offered small land plots to the poor, Jagan himself lived lavishly in a palatial bungalow, the minister remarked.

He asserted that the present coalition government remains dedicated to delivering lasting housing and security to every working-class family across Andhra Pradesh, symbolizing the fulfillment of a long-standing promise to the people.

## GV Anjaneyulu Slams YSRCP Over "Drama" in Medical College Development

TPN Bureau | nov 12 Amaravati: Government Chief Whip GV Anjaneyulu came down heavily on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing it of creating a new political drama in the name of medical colleges. Addressing the media on Wednesday, Anjaneyulu alleged that the previous YSRCP government had failed to genuinely invest in medical education infrastructure, despite claiming otherwise.

He stated that the central government had sanctioned Rs. 1,550 crore for the construction of new medical colleges across Andhra Pradesh, but not a single rupee was contributed from the state's own funds during Jagan Mohan Reddy's five-year tenure.

According to him, the YSRCP government only achieved 18 percent of the planned construction work within that period, demonstrating inefficiency and lack of co-



mmittment. "Under Jagan's model, every project moved at a snail's pace. It was a system of delay and deception. In contrast, under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, the work is progressing at a super-fast pace. Within just two years, the new government is determined to complete all pending medical college projects," Anjaneyulu asserted.

He emphasized that the state's current Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model was designed to ensure faster completion, better transparency, and reduced financial burden on the government. He argued that this model

would enable the state to meet its goal of expanding healthcare and medical education infrastructure more efficiently. Criticizing the previous administration for wasting valuable time and central funds, Anjaneyulu added that the present government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is rectifying those mistakes by bringing accountability and speed to development.

He reiterated the government's commitment to complete all medical college projects within the promised timeline to fulfill the aspirations of students and the healthcare sector.

## Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav Slams Jagan's "False Politics" Over PPP Medical Colleges

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has launched a blistering attack on former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of spreading false propaganda against the state government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for medical colleges.

In a strongly worded statement, the Minister said that Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had fixed exorbitant annual fees of 12-20 lakh for half the seats in government medical colleges during his tenure, was now "shedding crocodile tears for students" and provoking his party cadre with baseless allegations. "A man mired in corruption, fake liquor rackets, and even fake Tirupati laddus has no moral right to talk about public welfare," Yadav asserted. "Public Rejected His Arrogance"

Satya Kumar pointed out that despite years of propaganda, the people decisively rejected Jagan Mohan Reddy's govern-



ance in the 2024 elections, reducing his party to just 11 Assembly seats. "Even after being rejected by the people, his arrogance and deceit remain unchanged," he said. The Minister stated that Jagan's growing hostility stems from his hatred toward Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, whose leadership is steering Andhra Pradesh back on the path of development. "Under the NDA government led by PM Narendra Modi and

CM Chandrababu Naidu, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing record investments, job creation and economic revival — and that is what Jagan cannot digest," Yadav said.

"How Many Fake Signatures in Tadepalli Palace?" Referring to Jagan's ongoing campaign claiming to have collected one crore signatures against the PPP model, the Minister questioned the authenticity of the signatures. "Since there is no public support for

his propaganda, how many of those signatures were forged inside the Tadepalli Palace?" he asked, warning Jagan to stop insulting the people's intelligence with fabricated campaigns.

"Who Hiked Fees to 20 Lakh? Wasn't That Privatization?"

Yadav reminded that it was the YSRCP government that had imposed high fees for self-financing seats in new government colleges. "Isn't that the real privatization?"

he asked, alleging that the previous government's 8,480 crore plan for 17 colleges was designed for illicit financial gain, not for public welfare.

PPP Model Transparent and Student-Friendly

Clarifying misconceptions, the Minister said that under the PPP model, the government retains full control over admissions, reservations, and fee structures. The land will remain government property, and the state has the right to intervene in case of mismanagement.

Yadav stressed that no poor student will lose a seat. On the contrary, the model will create an additional 220 MBBS seats annually, benefiting students from weaker sections.

Concluding, Yadav said, "Jagan Reddy's malicious campaign against the PPP model has no takers. After five years of destructive misrule, the people of Andhra Pradesh will no longer fall for his false politics."

# Students, Docs Join YSRCP Praja Garjana Protest

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 VIJAYAWADA: The State of Andhra Pradesh witnessed an unprecedented wave of public resistance today as lakhs of students, youth, doctors, women, and civil society members joined YSRCP's historic "Praja Garjana" against the coalition government's move to privatize government medical colleges. From Srikakulam to Chittoor, from Tirupati to Visakhapatnam, rallies erupted across all 175 Assembly constituencies, sending a clear message that public healthcare and medical education cannot be sold to private cartels.

Across the state, YSR Congress Party leaders led massive protests, submitted representations to local authorities, and mobilized the public in defense of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's vision of accessible



medical education and world-class healthcare for the poor. Thousands marched despite police restrictions, barricades, bike key snatching, and house arrests at several centers. Speaking in Guntur, former Minister

Ambati Rambabu fired a powerful warning to the coalition government, stating: "We built 17 medical colleges with honesty and commitment to the poor. Chandrababu is no w conspiring to hand the m over to

corporates and fill Lokes's pockets. One crore signatures have already exposed this government's betrayal. We will not stop until privatization is scrapped." He condemned police harassment, declaring that

no force can suppress a people's movement defending public health.

In Machilipatnam, Perni Kittu questioned the regime's intentions: "Chandrababu claims he diverted a cyclone, then why couldn't he build

a single medical college? This government couldn't stop private urea scams, how can it stop corporate looting if medical colleges are handed to them?" He vowed that the fight will continue until every government medical college remained in public hands.

At Punganur, former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy reminded the public of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's transformational healthcare vision: "We created 2,150 new medical seats already, soon it will be 4,500. This is the first time poor students had such an opportunity. Chandrababu wants to snatch away this future and destroy the hopes of rural students. We will not allow this loot raj."

Former Minister Botsa Satyanarayana, who faced police barring him from leading a rally in Vizianagaram, con-

demned the undemocratic actions: "The coalition government fears the people's voice. They can stop rallies, but not public anger. YSRCP sowed dreams in the hearts of poor students, Chandrababu wants to crush them."

From Pulivendula, YS Avinash Reddy declared that the people will protect the legacy of Dr. YSR and YS Jagan. "These medical colleges are not buildings, but they are dreams of lakhs of poor families. This fight is for justice."

Police high-handedness was reported in multiple constituencies, bikes seized, leaders detained, key activists house-arrested, yet the movement only grew stronger with every attempt to suppress it. This unprecedented uprising has now become a people's referendum against privatization and a reaffir-

mation of the belief that healthcare must remain a public responsibility, not a corporate auction.

The YSR Congress Party declares that this struggle will intensify until the government fully withdraws its PPP decision and guarantees that all 17 government medical colleges remain with the people of Andhra Pradesh. The One Crore Signature campaign and today's "Praja Garjana" have made it clear that Andhra Pradesh stands united against privatization of Medical Colleges.

Leaders across regions, including Gudivada Amarnath, Kurasala Kannababu, Kakani Govardhan Reddy, Vallabhaneni Vamsi, Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, Meda Raghunath Reddy, RK Roja, and Devineni Avinash, and all the constituencies echoed a unified message



# Illegal Organ Surgery Ring Busted at Madanapalle Global Hospital

TPN Bureau | nov 12 Madanapalle, Anna-maiah District Health authorities have temporarily shut down Global Multi-Speciality Hospi-tal in Madanapalle follo-wing serious violations of medical laws and al-leged involvement in il-legal kidney transplant operations. The closure came after the death of a young woman named Yamuna, reportedly a victim of an unauthor-ized kidney surgery per-formed at the private hospital. Annamaiah District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Deva Shivamani led the investigation on Wednesday. She visited Madana-palle to personally ex-amine the case and in-spect the hospital pre-mises located in the SBI

Colony area. During the inspection, officials scrutinized the medical equipment used for sur-geries, assessed the hos-pital's compliance with medical practice regu-lations, and seized patient records for further in-quiry. Dr. Shivamani confirmed that a de-tailed report would be submitted to the state government soon. Ac-cording to preliminary information, Yamuna, a woman from Visakhapa-tnam, had come to Mada-napalle seeking kidney transplant surgery at Global Hospital. The procedure, al-legedly conducted secretly without proper medical authorization or adher-ence to organ transplan-tation guidelines, ended tragically as she lost her life during the opera-

tion. The incident was brought to light after Ya-muna's husband filed a complaint with authori-ties. Following the com-plaint, the victims con-tacted the emergency helpline 112, prompting police teams from Tiru-pati to intervene. Tirupati police coor-dinated with local law enforcement in Madan-apalle to initiate further investigation. The Mad-anapalle II Town Police Station, under the supe-rvision of Circle Inspec-tor Raja Reddy, formed a special team to probe the matter in depth. Police sources revealed that several individuals associated with the hos-pital have been taken into custody for ques-tioning. Investigators are examining the roles of doctors, administra-



Medical staff, and possible external agents suspec-tive staff, and possible external agents suspect-ed of facilitating organ trade. The case has been booked under sections related to human organ

trafficking and cheat-ing, given the serious nature of the alleged medical malpractice. In-spector Raja Reddy stated that initial evidence points to an illegal or-gan transplant network operating in violation of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act. He confirmed that digi-tal and written records seized from the hospital will undergo forensic examination to trace the full chain of individ-uals involved in the un-lawful procedure. Health officials have also initiated parallel departmental action to assess whether the hos-pital possessed the re-quired sanction from the State Government and the appropriate Transplant Authoriza-tion Committee for con-

ducting organ trans-plantation surgeries. Early findings suggest that the hospital lacked valid approval for kid-ney transplant opera-tions. Locals expressed shock and concern over the news, demanding strict legal action and more stringent monitor-ing of private hospitals to prevent misuse of medical facilities. The DMHO's office as-sured that the hospital would remain sealed un-till the inquiry con-cludes and accountabil-ity is established. This incident has brought the issue of illegal or-gan transplants back into focus in Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the urgent need for tighter enforcement of medical ethics and transplant regulations.

## National Education Day Celebrated at IIAM College



TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Visakhapatnam: The National Education Day Celebrations 2025 were held with remark-able enthusiasm at IIA M College, M.V.P. Colo-ny, Visakhapatnam, commemorating the 137th birth anniversa-ry of Bharat Ratna Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Edu-cation Minister and a pioneering architect of modern Indian educa-tion. The programme, organised by the Maul-ana Abul Kalam Azad Trust (MAKAT) in as-sociation with Andhra University and ILF Global, Belgium, drew academicians, digni-taries, and students to-gether to pay homage to Maulana Azad's en-during vision of inclu-sive education, com-munal harmony, and intellectual progress. Presiding over the event, Prof. Pulipati Ki-ng, Rector of Andhra University, delivered an inspiring presiden-tial address highlight-ing Azad's contribu-tions to India's edu-cational foundation, in-cluding the establish-ment of premier insti-tutions such as the

University Grants Commission and the Indian Institutes of Technology. He praised MAKAT for upholding Azad's ideals by promoting education and national integration. Dr. Khaja Rahamtulla T., Chair-man and Managing Tr-ustee of MAKAT, and Janab K.M. Chistee, Vice-Chairman, led the celebrations with fl-oral tributes and pre-sented the Trust's An-nual Report 2025, detailing its education-al and welfare initia-tives across Andhra Pradesh. The distinguished guest list included Sri T.D. Janardhan, Poli-tical Secretary and Poli-buro Member of the TDP; Sri M. Sribharat, Member of Parliament and President of GI-TAM Group; Janab Sh-ariff Mohammed Ahm-ed, Advisor for Minor-ity Affairs; and Mr. Sr-ini Reddy, Founder and CEO of ILF Global, Belgium. Each speak-er extolled Azad's life-long dedication to sec-ularism, unity, and knowledge, urging youth to emulate his spirit of service and

nation-building. Sev-eral prominent person-alities were felicitated for their contributions in education, research, and social service. Among them were Dr. Mohammed Muz-eruddin Baig (Young Sci-entist Award, Japan), Prof. Valli Kumari (Be-st Teacher Award 2025), Prof. Shaik Kalesha Vali (National Change Maker Award), and Prof. Jaladi Ravi (State Best Teacher Award 2025). In a major an-nouncement, Mr. Srimi Reddy pledged a match-ing grant of 5 million to MANAT, MA KAT's Educational Empow-erment Initiative, and appealed to global donors to support access to education for under-privileged students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the co-ntributions of guests, scholars, and dignitar-ies. The 2025 National Education Day celebra-tions at IIAM College stood as a tribute to Azad's time less belief that education is the bedrock of national unity, progress, and empow-erment.

## MEPMA Launches "HOPE" Initiative to Empower Persons with Disabilities

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Tadepalli: In a signifi-cant step toward inclu-sive urban development, the Andhra Pradesh Mis-sion for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) launched a new initiative titled "HOPE" (Holistic Op-portunities for PwDs in need of Empowerment) at its state office in Tade-palli on Wednesday. The program seeks to pro-mote the social and eco-nomic empowerment of Persons with Disabili-ties (PwDs) across urban areas of Andhra Pradesh by focusing on liveli-hoods, skills, and finan-cial inclusion. The one-day aware-ness program was con-ducted under the chair-manship of MEPMA Mission Director N. Tej Bharath, IAS. Address-ing the participants, he



underlined the govern-ment's strong commit-ment to ensuring that urban development ini-tiatives are inclusive and equitable. He said that MEPMA views the em-powerment of PwDs not as a welfare effort but as an economic mission vi-tal to sustainable growth. Sri Tej Bharath expl-ained that MEPMA's on-going initiatives will be expanded through struc-tured interventions un-der the HOPE fram ework. These include skill development training, fi-nancial access through self-help groups and banks, entrepreneurship

opportunities, and mar-ket linkages. He empha-sised the need for dedi-cated teams to handle the special requirements of differently-abled indi-viduals and urged field-level officers to focus on active group formation, continuous mentoring, and need-based assist-ance. He also highlighted that MEPMA's collabora-tion with NGOs and tech-nical experts would play a decisive role in iden-tifying challenges faced by PwDs and bridging gaps between policy and im-plementation. The de-partment aims to create an ecosystem that sup-ports both economic in-dependence and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Project Directors from Guntur, Vijayawada, Prakasam, and Kakinada districts,

along with City Mission Managers, Technical Ex-perts from Inclusion and Building (IB) divisions, MEPMA headquarters staff, and representa-tives from partner or-ganisations attended the program. Participants shared strategies and discussed models for scaling up ur-ban livelihood interven-tions. The HOPE initia-tive, officials said, refl-ects MEPMA's broader vision of ensuring that no section of society is left behind in the state's urban growth journey. By aligning policy, capac-ity, and community par-ticipation, the program is expected to bring new avenues for sustainable livelihoods and improve the quality of life for thousands of PwDs across Andhra Pradesh.

## DRI Busts Ganja Smuggling Racket; 249 Kg Seized

TPN Bureau | nov 12 Vijayawada: In a ma-jor anti-narcotics oper-ation, Directorate of Re-venue Intelligence (DR I) officials seized 249 kilograms of ganja near Kanuru on the outskir-ts of Vijayawada. The operation was carried out jointly with the And-hra Pradesh Eagle Task Force and resulted in the arrest of four perso-ns, including a key ac-cused. Another suspect managed to escape and is currently absco nd-ing. According to offi-cia ls, the accused had procured the contra-band from Odisha and transported it to Vijay-awada for storage. Intel-ligence inputs indicat-ed that the gang was preparing to move the consignment to Uttar Pradesh for dist ribu-tion. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, DRI teams conducted a surprise



raid at a storage point near Kanuru and caught the suspects red-handed while they were loading the ganja into a vehicle bearing Uttar Pradesh registration. The seized narcotics

the arrested individu-als are being interro-gated to trace the full network involved in the inter-state smuggling operation. Preliminary investi-gations suggest that the group is linked to a lar-ger syndicate operating across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and northern states. Authorities have launched a manhunt for the absconding accused and are verifying the ownership and movem-ent of the vehicle used in the smuggling atte-mpt. Further investiga-tions are underway to identify other associ-ates and financial chan-nels connected with the racket. The DRI stated that strict surveillance will continue in coordi-nation with police and intelligence units to cu-rb the smuggling of il-legal narcotics through Andhra Pradesh.

## Chennai–Narasapuram Vande Bharat Express Services from January 12

TPN Bureau | nov 12 Vijayawada: In a major boost to rail connectivity across coastal Andhra Pradesh, the Ministry of Railways has approved the extension of the Chennai Central–Vijay-awada Vande Bharat Ex-press up to Narasapura-m. The Southern Rail-way officially announced on Wednesday evening that the extended serv-ices will commence from January 12, 2026, offer-ing faster and more com-fortable travel options for passengers in the Go-davari region. The Vande Bharat Ex-press, currently operat-ing between Chennai



Central and Vijayawada under train numbers 20677 and 20678, departs from Chennai at 5:30 AM and reaches Vijayawada at 11:40 AM after stops at Renigunta, Gudur, Nel-lore, Ongole, and Tenali. With the new schedule, the train will continue its journey beyond Vi-jayawada, halting at Gu-

divada and Bhimavaram before arriving at Narasapuram. As per the revised tim-etable, the train will rea-ch Vijayawada at 11:40 A M and depart at 11:45 AM. It is scheduled to ar-rive at Gudivada at 12:29 PM, Bhimavaram at 1:14 PM, and finally reach Narasapuram at 2:10 PM. On its return journey, the train will depart Nar-asapuram at 2:50 PM, stop at Bhimavaram at 3:19 PM, reach Gudivada at 4:04 PM, and arrive at Vijayawada by 4:50 PM. From Vijayawada, it will depart again at 4:55 PM and reach its destina-tion, Chennai Central, at 11:45 PM. The extension is ex-pected to significantly benefit daily commuters,

business travelers, and tourists across Krishna and West Godavari dis-tricts. Passengers in towns like Bhimavaram and Narasapuram have long awaited a premium high-speed connection to Chennai and other major cities. The decision is also seen as part of In-dian Railways' ongoing ef-forts to enhance Vande B harat connectivity across key regional corri-dors. Railway officials stated that the extension aligns with growing pas-senger demand and lo-gistical feasibility fol-lowing infrastructure upgrades on the Gudi-

vada–Narasapuram line. Enhanced comfort fea-tures, better seating, and reduced travel time will likely make this route one of the most pre-ferred train services in the region. The Chennai–Nar-asapuram Vande Bharat is set to become an im-portant addition to the expanding network of semi-high-speed trains connecting southern India. Regular bookings for the extended service are expected to open soon, offer-ing a faster and smoo-ther travel experi-ence to thousands of pas-sengers every day.



# Illegal Layouts, Fake Files Tarnish RUDA’s Image

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Rajuhmundry | East Godavari: Once regarded as a model institution for planned urban development, the Rajamahendravaram Urban Development Authority (RUDA) has now come under severe criticism for alleged corruption and unregulated approvals. Months after Telugu Desam Party leader Boddu Venkata Ramana Chowdary took charge as RUDA Chairperson, the organization’s functioning has drawn sharp public outrage. Boddu Ramana Chowdary, who had vowed to cleanse RUDA of corruption and ensure transparent, rule-based development, now finds his administration accused of ignoring blatant irregularities within the system.

According to insider reports, officials have been issuing permissions for layouts, hotels, and industries in clear violation of planning



norms, often without the mandatory no-objection certificates (NOCs) or proper scrutiny. Several glaring examples expose the depth of the problem. Near Ravulapalem, a hotel was approved without

environmental clearance; in Namavaram Panchayat of Rajanagar mandal, permissions were granted in total disregard of the Master Plan. In Bikkavolu area of Anaparthi constituency,

records falsely mention the presence of a road to clear an industrial project. Likewise, in Korukonda near the airport, layout permits were issued without land conversion or NOCs. Even

the Anandnagar quarry zone in Rajahmundry reportedly witnessed attempts to push plan approvals despite lacking required mining and environmental permissions. Local sources allege that officials have been processing layout files through “submission methods,” bypassing the Chairperson’s signature and making backdoor approvals routine.

Critics say the Chairman’s silence—whether from negligence or lack of awareness—has emboldened this administrative malpractice. “If he knows and ignores, that’s complicity; if he doesn’t, it shows loss of control,” remarked a former planning expert. The fallout is visible across the urban landscape. The Rajahmundry Master Plan, which demarcated residential, green, and industrial zones, is reportedly in disarray due to inconsistent and illegal pe

rmits. The state government, sources say, has temporarily suspended the Master Plan’s implementation to review these rampant violations.

Public sentiment is turning sharply against the authority. Citizens demand an immediate cleanup, cancellation of illegal approvals, and departmental inquiries into officials responsible. Urban experts argue that only stringent corrective action can restore RUDA’s lost credibility. “Has RUDA become a people’s development agency or just an officers’ profit center?” ask citizens of Rajamahendravaram in growing frustration.

Once envisioned as a symbol of transparent governance, RUDA now stands as an institution battling credibility and questions of survival in the wake of unchecked corruption.



## MLA Seeks CSR Push for Palnadu Growth at Hyderabad Summit

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Hyderabad/Narasaraopet (Palnadu district): The second edition of South India’s largest Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Summit was held grandly on Wednesday at Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad. Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu attended as a chief guest and urged corporate leaders to actively contribute to social welfare and local development through CSR initiatives. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Aravinda Babu stated that CSR is not just a legal mandate but a moral obligation of every business leader toward society.

He emphasized that at companies should focus on environmental protection, employee welfare, transparency, and effective CSR fund utilization. “Every business enterprise must contribute at least two percent of its profits to CSR activities that directly benefit the people and protect the future of our society,” the MLA said. Highlighting the development needs of Narasaraopet con

stituency, he pointed out key areas such as roads, education, healthcare, irrigation, and women empowerment.

He appealed to corporate organizations and NGOs to collaborate more closely to bring tangible improvements in rural areas. “If CSR representatives visit Narasaraopet and understand local needs, joint projects can be initiated that will double the social impact,” he added. The summit, organized by Prateek Foundation and CSR.

Now, brought together over 1,500 corporate leaders, CSR professionals, policymakers, and NGOs. Discussions centered on sustainable development, social innovation, and collaborative partnerships aimed at making CSR more impactful across South India. During the event, Dr. Aravinda Babu held discussions with several dignitaries, including Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, on enhancing public-private cooperation for community welfare and regional growth.



## Alliance Govt Fulfilling Poor’s Housing Dreams: MLA Julakanti

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Macherla (Palnadu District): The long-cherished dream of the poor to own a house is turning into a reality under the alliance government, said Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy. He was speaking after distributing building permission documents to beneficiaries at the local municipal office on Wednesday under the AP Housing Corporation and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 scheme. Addressing the gathering, Julakanti strongly criticized the five-year rule of the previous government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

He alleged that the former regime failed miserably to ensure housing for the poor and even neglected the construction of TIDCO houses. “Instead of fulfilling promises, Jagan Reddy enjoyed the luxury of power for five years and is now protesting on the streets,” the MLA said, mocking the opposition leader’s current political mobilization. Julakanti further accused the prior government of allotting house sites near graveyards to the poor, saying such acts reminded people of the untouchability practices in Pulivendula.

He stated that the state was driven into massive debts and its financial system severely disrupted during Jagan’s tenure. In contrast, Julakanti assured that the pre-

sent alliance government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is fully committed to completing houses for all eligible beneficiaries by 2029. “Every poor family in the state will have a roof over their head in the coming years,” he asserted confidently.

The MLA urged all eligible citizens in his constituency to apply for housing plots and construction loans at their nearest village or ward secretariats to take advantage of the government’s welfare programs. He emphasized that within the next three years, the dream of owning a home will be fulfilled for every deserving individual in Macherla constituency. Julakanti praised the collaborative efforts of the state and central governments in accelerating housing development for low-income families through the PMAY Urban 2.0 initiative.

He said these joint schemes reflect the alliance’s commitment to inclusive growth and the welfare of the poor. The event was attended by Macherla Municipal Chairman Sheikh Madar Saheb, State Vaddera Corporation Director Komeera Durgarao, Agricultural Market Yard Chairman Rajaboina Malleshwari Madhu Yadav, youth leader Julakanti Akkireddy, Housing DE Balu Naik, AE Sathuluri Mariyadasu, municipal councillors, and several local leaders.

## MLA Kanna Slams Jagan for Stalling Projects, Hails PMAY Push

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Sattenapalli (Palnadu district): Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana inaugurated a cotton procurement center on Wednesday at the Lakshmi Cotton Trading Company, set up under the Agricultural Market Committee’s allocation for ginning mills in the town. The facility will facilitate direct purchase of cotton from farmers without intermediaries. Speaking on the occasion, Agricultural Market Yard Chairperson Komatineni Shobharani said the central government has fixed the Minimum Support Price for the 2025–26 season at Rs 8,110 per quintal as per the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

She advised farmers to sell their produce directly at government-notified centers and avoid middlemen to get better returns. Later, address-

ing participants at the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) house inauguration program, MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana said that due to the foresight of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, three lakh houses were completed within sixteen months and handed over to the poor.

He said the government took up construction on a war footing immediately after assuming office and completed the pending houses swiftly. Kanna recalled that during 2014–19, under the TIDCO and other housing schemes, 12 lakh houses were built for the poor. Criticizing former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, he alleged that Jagan had stalled the housing projects, withheld Rs 920 crore due to NTR Rural Housing beneficiaries, and conducted incomplete house inaugurations without pro-



viding basic infrastructure such as water, drainage, roads, and electricity. The current coalition government, he added, is providing all essential amenities along with the new houses. He described the ongoing Integrated Housing Development Program as another milestone, ensuring that even poorer families live in comfortable dwellings. The government has decided to allot 3 cents of land per family in rural areas and 2 cents in urban areas. Those who already own land but cannot afford to build houses will also receive gov-

ernment assistance. For the lower-middle-income group, Rs 4 lakh financial aid is being offered, with a 40% contribution from the state and 60% from the central government.

The MLA reiterated that the government aims to provide a permanent house to every eligible family by 2029. He accused the previous administration of large-scale corruption in sand supply, land purchases for layouts, and misuse of public funds estimated at over Rs 7,500 crore. Later, Kanna Lakshminarayana inaugurated the newly constructed village secretariat building at Bhattalur in Sattenapalli rural mandal, built at a cost of Rs 40 lakh, and laid the foundation stone for a new health center estimated at Rs 36 lakh. Local leaders, officials, and party workers participated in the programs.

# Ensure No Encroachment on Govt Land: Collector to Officials

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Palnadu district, Chilakaluripet (TPN): District Collector Kritika Shukla conducted an on-site inspection of lands allotted to the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) at Yadavalli village in Chilakaluripet mandal on Wednesday. The visit aimed to review records, verify land allotment details, and assess the current condition and usage of the assigned plots.

Accompanied by Revenue Divisional Officer Hemalatha, Chilakaluripet Tahsildar Sheikh Hussain, surveyors, and senior officials from con-

cerned departments, the Collector inspected the APMDC-assigned lands in detail. Officials briefed her on the extent of the land, survey numbers, and boundary demarcations, as well as the present utilization status. During the inspection, the Collector reviewed revenue documents and maps related to the allotment. She inquired about the process followed in identifying and allocating the land to APMDC and sought clarity on any disputes or encroachments.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining accurate and updated land records, she direct-



ed the revenue staff to ensure that all relevant details are digitized and promptly reflected in official databases. Collector Shukla instructed the officials to safeguard government land from unauthorized occupa-

tion and to monitor its usage closely. She stressed that lands assigned for industrial and developmental purposes such as those of APMDC must be utilized strictly according to the stated objectives, contributing to the

state’s mineral resource management and economic growth. She also highlighted the need for environmental responsibility in all mining-related activities.

While interacting with APMDC representatives, the Collector asked for a comprehensive report on their operations, environmental impact, and future development plans. She reiterated that the administration would extend support for legitimate industrial expansion but would not tolerate misuse or neglect of public assets. Later, the Collector advised the mandal and revenue officers to conduct fre-

quent reviews to prevent irregularities and directed them to resolve any pending land record issues within a stipulated time frame.

The inspection, according to officials, is part of the district administration’s broader initiative to streamline land management systems and ensure transparency in public asset utilization. The visit concluded with the Collector emphasizing coordination among the APMDC, revenue, and survey departments to maintain accurate information and accountability over allotted lands in the district.

## YSRCP Alleges Rs 10,000 Crore Scam in Medical College Privatization

TPN Bureau | Nov 12 Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders have leveled serious allegations against the ruling coalition government, accusing it of orchestrating a Rs 10,000 crore scam under the guise of privatizing state-run medical colleges. YSRCP Palnadu District Working President Dr. Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy led a massive protest rally in Narasaraopet on Wednesday, denouncing what he called an attempt to hand over public medical institutions to private individuals close to the

government.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Gopireddy alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh were trying to generate enormous illegal profits by selling an estimated 1,400 medical seats over the next five years. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw its privatization plan and accused it of betraying the interests of poor and middle-class students. Thousands of YSRCP leaders, activists, and youth joined the protest march, which started from the party office on Guntur Road

and proceeded through Mallamma Center before concluding at the RDO office.

Dr. Gopireddy reminded that during the COVID-19 pandemic, many poor people had lost their lives due to lack of medical access, prompting former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to establish 17 new government medical colleges across all districts between 2021 and 2022. He charged that the present coalition government had reversed this vision by leasing out these public institutions to private players for 66 years at a nominal rate

of Rs 1,000 per acre. “Is there any state in the country that has ever handed over its medical colleges to private individuals?” he asked.

He further criticized Chandrababu Naidu’s long rule, alleging that he had failed to establish even a single government medical college during his previous 16-year tenure. Calling the privatization policy a “scheme to loot Rs 10,000 crore,” Dr. Gopireddy warned that the government would soon face public backlash similar to the one that toppled the Janardhan Reddy administration decades ago for at-



tempting similar measures. He urged the government to preserve public healthcare institutions, stating that

only state-run medical colleges can ensure quality education and accessible healthcare for the poor.



# AI and Capitalism Threaten the Middle Class



The middle class, long considered the backbone of modern societies, is facing an existential crisis as artificial intelligence (AI) and capitalist priorities reshape the workforce. According to experts, corporate strategies are increasingly sidelining middle-tier employees, signaling a profound structural shift in employment.

Middle-class workers—defined broadly as white-collar professionals, managers, and skilled technicians—are now considered expendable. Corporates have realized that laying off a single manager often saves more than retrenching multiple blue-collar workers,

due to the higher salaries and associated benefits of middle-tier employees. This cost-benefit logic, amplified by AI and automation, is reshaping hiring and retention strategies across industries.

AI is a key driver in this transformation. Advanced algorithms and machine learning tools can now perform tasks previously reserved for mid-level professionals, including data analysis, financial modeling, customer support, and even decision-making processes. While automation has long replaced routine blue-collar jobs, it is now encroaching into sectors once considered

secure. AI not only boosts efficiency but also allows companies to reduce headcount and overhead costs, further marginalizing the middle class.

The economic rationale is stark: corporations prioritize profit maximization over job preservation. The pandemic and subsequent technological acceleration have taught firms that they can maintain productivity while trimming middle management, leaving the traditional middle class increasingly vulnerable. The social consequences, however, are severe. A shrinking middle class threatens economic stability, consumer

spending, and societal cohesion, as the gap between the affluent and the working poor widens.

Experts warn that without intervention, this trend will continue. Some suggest retraining programs, progressive taxation, and stronger labor protections to preserve middle-class relevance. Yet, corporate incentives remain aligned with automation and downsizing, making systemic change difficult.

The disappearance of the middle class is not just an economic issue—it is a cultural and social one. Historically, this group has provided stability, innovation, and civic

engagement. Its erosion may alter not only the labor market but also the fabric of democratic societies.

In summary, AI and modern capitalist strategies are reshaping employment in ways that threaten the middle class's survival. Companies are finding it more cost-effective to automate roles and eliminate mid-tier positions, leaving traditional safeguards for the middle class increasingly obsolete. Unless proactive policies are adopted, this trend may redefine the very structure of modern economies, leaving millions of middle-class professionals in a precarious position.

## The Global Phenomenon of “6-7” Captivates Gen Alpha



A curious cultural phenomenon has swept across social media and classrooms worldwide: the viral term “6-7”. Named Dictionary.com’s Word of the Year 2025, “6-7” is neither a word nor a number in the conventional sense. Its appeal lies in its ambiguity, acting as a universal gesture of indifference, irony, or playful engagement.

Originating from rapper Skrilla’s 2024 track ‘Doot Doot (6 7)’, the term quickly transcended music. Fans speculated wildly about its meaning—from a reference to Philadelphia’s 67th Street to a symbolic nod to transformation—but its true power is that it has no fixed definition. Its viral rise was amplified when NBA star LaMelo Ball appeared mouthing the phrase, giving it a visual and numerical context, followed by “67 Kid,” a child whose enthusiastic chant and hand gestures turned the phrase into a global meme.

The term has become a generational inside joke, especially among Gen Alpha. It functions as a “shibboleth,” creating instant solidarity among those who understand it while baffling older generations. Teachers worldwide report disruptions in classrooms, with students breaking into coordinated chants of “six!” followed by “seven!”—a playful ritual of participation and rebellion against conventional instruction.

“6-7” exemplifies the performative nature of modern language. Its meaning is less in words

and more in gesture, tone, and timing. It demonstrates how linguistic creativity now thrives on recontextualization rather than invention. Numbers stripped of arithmetic value become tools for humor, social bonding, and digital virality. The phrase has spread internationally, from classrooms in Michigan to boat races in Malaysia, demonstrating how English serves as the lingua franca of global meme culture.

Sociologically, “6-7” signals the evolving dynamics of digital globalization. The phrase leverages content from American hip-hop and NBA culture but transcends borders through platforms like TikTok, creating a shared, planetary experience. For children, replying “6-7” is not failure to communicate; it is a demonstration of independence, algorithmic literacy, and playful resistance to defined meaning.

Though ephemeral—likely to be replaced by the next viral sequence in months—“6-7” stands as a six-foot-seven monument to modern communication, celebrating absurdity, creativity, and the collective joy of nonsensical expression. For now, it is a reminder that language is as much about connection and belonging as it is about definition.

Next time someone asks how you are, try it: a straight face, a gentle hand wobble, and a soft: “6-7.” If they laugh, you’re in. If not, welcome to the mystery.

## Trump’s Nuclear Testing Post Sparks Debate Amid Asia Tour



U.S. President Donald Trump embarked on his three-nation Asia tour, he stirred controversy with a startling post on Truth Social. In a message described as “disjointed and dangerous,” Trump called for the resumption of nuclear testing, claiming it was necessary to bring the U.S. “to the same level as China and Russia.” He then continued with a series of rants and tangents, leaving many observers puzzled about the rationale behind the statement.

Experts note that nuclear testing itself is unlikely to trigger immediate fear or a new arms race. Both Russia and China have substantial nuclear arsenals and resources, meaning a U.S. resumption of testing would not dramatically alter global power dynamics. Nevertheless, the post has reignited debates over Trump’s approach to international relations and nuclear policy.

Political analysts suggest that such statements may be part of a broader pattern in Trump’s communication style. By posting provocative messages on social media plat-

forms like Truth Social, he keeps the public and international observers guessing about his intentions. This unpredictability can amplify attention on his actions while also creating uncertainty in diplomatic circles.

The Asia tour, which is still ongoing, is expected to cover key geopolitical topics, including trade, security, and regional alliances. Trump’s recent posts have raised questions about whether his personal messaging might overshadow official diplomatic discussions or send mixed signals to allies and adversaries.

While nuclear testing remains a sensitive issue, experts emphasize that the practical impact of one country resuming tests is limited in today’s strategic environment. The focus now is on monitoring both the Asia tour outcomes and the continuing flow of statements from Trump’s social media activity.

The unfolding scenario underscores the challenges of navigating international diplomacy amid unpredictable political communication.

## Bangladesh Faces Banking Crisis Amid NPL Surge



Bangladesh, once hailed as one of Asia’s fastest-growing economies, is grappling with its “weakest banking system in the region,” according to the Asian Development Bank’s 2025 report. By December 2024, non-performing loans (NPLs) accounted for 20.2 percent of total loans (Tk 3,45,765 crore), the highest in South Asia, rising further to 27.09 percent (Tk 5,30,428 crore) by June 2025. In comparison, India’s NPL ratio was 2.5 percent, and Pakistan’s 6.3 percent.

Experts cite a combination of decades-long financial indiscipline, political turmoil, and poor governance for the crisis. Economist Mustafizur Rahman noted that politicians and business elites exploited the banking sys-

tem, overstating collateral and siphoning funds abroad, leaving banks with virtually worthless assets. The problem intensified under the Yunus administration, when NPLs nearly doubled in a year, and persisted despite reforms initiated after the fall of the Hasina government in 2024.

Bangladesh Bank has responded with a tight monetary policy, a flexible exchange rate, and sweeping reforms. The Bank Resolution Ordinance (BRO) 2025 grants the central bank authority to restructure or close failing institutions, while new loan classification rules and Risk-Based Supervision aim to improve oversight. Five struggling Islamic banks are set to merge into a single state-owned institution to pre-

vent systemic collapse.

Despite these measures, private sector investment remains stagnant at historic lows, constrained by high interest rates, political uncertainty, and cautious lending. Public sector credit growth is high, reflecting government borrowing needs, but banks’ excess liquidity and low deposit growth indicate weak private confidence. Analysts warn that the capital shortfall across 24 scheduled banks threatens financial stability, with state-owned banks holding 42.8 percent of loans as non-performing.

Signs of stabilisation have emerged. Inflation has moderated to around 8.3 percent, the taka has steadied at Tk 122 per dollar, foreign reserves exceed \$31 bil-

lion, and GDP growth is projected near 5 percent for FY25. However, economists stress that long-term recovery will require sustained reforms, political stability, and improved corporate governance.

“The Bangladesh economy is moving forward, but it will take four to five years to stabilise the financial sector fully,” said Rahman. He emphasized that continuity in reforms, combined with stable governance, is essential for economic recovery and investor confidence.

Bangladesh now faces a critical test: restoring trust, restructuring institutions, and ensuring that past financial mismanagement does not undermine the country’s hard-won growth gains.



# PM Modi Inaugurates Kalachakra ‘Wheel Of Time’ In Presence Of Bhutan King



**TPN Correspondent | Varanasi**  
On the second day of his visit to Bhutan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the sacred Kalachakra ‘Wheel of Time,’ marking the commencement of the Kalachakra Empowerment as part of the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival. The event was attended by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, and presided over by Je Khenpo, the

Chief Abbot of Bhutan. Sharing pictures of the ceremony on X, PM Modi described the event as a gathering that brings together Buddhist devotees and scholars from Bhutan. “Had the honour of inaugurating K lacakra ‘Wheel of Time’ Empowerment with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and His Holiness the Je Khenpo, which made it even more special,” he

wrote. The Kalachakra Empowerment is a ritual of immense cultural and spiritual significance for Buddhists globally. It forms a key part of the Global Peace Prayer Festival, which aims to foster peace and spiritual harmony while celebrating Buddhist traditions. A day prior, PM Modi joined the Bhutanese King to seek blessings from the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha at Thimphu’s Tashichhodzong. The relics, enshrined at the Grand Kuenrey Hall, were sent from India as a special gesture to commemorate the Fourth King of Bhutan’s 70th birthday and the festival.

The Prime Minister also took part in the celebrations marking the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan’s Fourth King, underscoring the centuries-old cultural and spiritual ties between India and Bhutan.

PM Modi’s participation in these ceremonies highlights India’s enduring cultural, spiritual, and people-to-people connections with Bhutan, reinforcing the Himalayan nation as a key partner in the region. The visit reflects both countries’ commitment to strengthening diplomatic and cultural relations while honoring shared traditions and values.

# Jaishankar Meets Anita Anand at G7, Seeks to Rebuild India-Canada Ties

**TPN Correspondent | Patna**  
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Canadian counterpart, Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand, on the sidelines of the G7 foreign ministers’ meeting in Niagara, Canada, emphasizing the need to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations. In a post on social media, Mr. Jaishankar congratulated Ms. Anand for successfully hosting the G7 foreign ministers’ gathering and expressed appreciation for the progress made in implementing the New Roadmap 2025, a strategic plan aimed at enhancing India-Canada ties. He highlighted the commitment of both countries to further rebuilding and expanding their partnership across multiple sectors.



recent years through diplomatic, economic, and cultural engagements. The meeting underscores the importance both countries place on dialogue and partnership within global forums like the G7, reflecting shared priorities on economic development, sustainability, and international cooperation. By engaging at such high-level platforms, India and Canada aim to consolidate their bilateral ties, address emerging global challenges, and create new avenues for collaboration in trade, technology, and strategic sectors. This interaction between Jaishankar and Anand marks a significant step in sustaining momentum in India-Canada relations and implementing initiatives outlined in the New Roadmap 2025. Tags: India, Canada, S. Jaishankar, Anita Anand, G7, Bilateral Relations, Trade, New Roadmap 2025

such as trade, critical minerals, energy, and technological collaboration. The roadmap aims to deepen cooperation, facilitate investments, and strengthen economic and strategic

ties between India and Canada. During the discussions at the G7 sidelines, the ministers reviewed ongoing initiatives and explored opportunities to

boost collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The talks are seen as part of broader efforts to reset and revitalise India-Canada relations, which have been steadily growing in

# J&K Police Raid Over 200 Locations In Crackdown On Jamaat-e-Islami



**TPN Correspondent | Kolkata**  
Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other security forces, carried out extensive operations against banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) cadres in the Valley following the deadly terror blast in Delhi that killed eight people. Authorities said the crackdown aims to dismantle terrorist networks and curb the ground-level influence of JeI.

Police in Kulgam district conducted coordinated raids at over 200 locations, targeting the homes and premises of JeI members and associates. Over the past four days, more than 400 Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) have been

conducted in areas previously associated with militant activity and Over Ground Workers (OGWs). In Sopore, security forces carried out raids across multiple locations in Sopore, Zaingeer, and Rafiabad, focusing on individuals and premises linked to JeI, which has been banned under the

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Significant quantities of incriminating material, including documents, digital gadgets, and printed content connected to the organisation, were seized. Several individuals are being questioned in connection with unlawful activities. Anantnag police re-

ported that around 500 individuals connected to banned organisations, including JeI, as well as relatives of J&K natives operating from Pakistan (JKNOPs), have been interrogated. Many have been detained under preventive laws and shifted to District Jail Mattan. In Shopian district, searches targeted the residences of JeI activists, including those of Dr. Hameed Fayaz at Naidgam and Mohammad Yousuf Falahie at Chitragam. Investigations are ongoing to trace wider networks allegedly supporting terrorism. Authorities said intelligence suggests that the Delhi blast, linked to Dr. Mohd Umar, may have been part of a larger module intending to carry out a major terror strike. Security forces continue to tighten surveillance and conduct operations to prevent any resurgence of JeI-related activities in the region.

# India Rejects Pakistan PM’s Allegations After Islamabad Terror Attack



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
India on Tuesday strongly dismissed as baseless the allegations made by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif linking a recent terror attack in Islamabad to New Delhi. The External Affairs Ministry described the claims as a “predictable tactic” by Pakistan’s leadership to create false narratives. The comments from India came in response to the suicide attack on Monday outside a court in the Pakistani capital, which claimed the lives of 12 people. In the aftermath, PM Sharif accused groups “active with Indian support” of orchestrating the attack. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Ran-

dhir Jaiswal said the international community is well aware of the reality and will not be misled by Pakistan’s “desperate” ploys. He termed the allegations as an attempt by the “delirious” Pakistani leadership to divert attention from its own internal security failures. India has consistently highlighted that it condemns terrorism in all forms and has repeatedly urged Pakistan to take concrete steps against terror groups operating from its soil. The MEA reiterated that blaming India for incidents within Pakistan is both baseless and counterproductive to regional peace and stability. The suicide attack in Islamabad drew wide-

spread condemnation from across the globe, with authorities focusing on securing the area and investigating the perpetrators. Security officials in Pakistan continue to probe the attack, while Indian officials stressed that linking India to such incidents undermines genuine efforts to fight terrorism. This latest exchange between the two countries underscores the ongoing tensions and mistrust in bilateral relations, especially regarding cross-border security issues and the fight against terrorism. Tags: India, Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, Islamabad, Terror Attack, MEA, Randhir Jaiswal, Bilateral Tensions

# Bihar Records Highest Voter Turnout Since 1951 at 67%



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Bihar witnessed its highest voter turnout since 1951, with nearly 67% of voters casting their ballots in the two-phase Assembly elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced. This marks a significant rise of 9.6% compared to the previous state elections. According to ECI data, 62.8% of men and 71.6% of women participated in the polls, reflecting strong engagement across gender lines. The higher turnout comes amid intense political campaigns by both ruling and opposition parties, highlighting the electorate’s enthusiasm in shaping the state’s political future. The Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) expressed confidence following the polling, claiming it would “break the record of the 2010 election results.” Meanwhile, opposition parties suggested a wave in their favor, urging party workers to remain vigilant against “vote thieves” and ensure a fair counting process. Long queues were seen across rural and urban constituencies on the final day of voting, as citizens turned out in large numbers despite logistical challenges. Election officials noted that the high turnout is indicative of the public’s keen interest in the state’s governance and development priorities. Political analysts say the increased participa-

tion could significantly influence the outcome, making the election highly competitive. The final results are expected to be closely watched, as they may reshape Bihar’s political landscape and determine the ruling coalition for the next five years. The Bihar Assembly elections this year have also highlighted the growing role of women voters, whose turnout exceeded that of men by nearly 9 percentage points. Observers believe this could be a decisive factor in several key constituencies. The state now awaits the counting of votes, which will determine which party or alliance secures the mandate to govern Bihar in the coming term.



# Trump Hosts Syrian President at White House



TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has indicated a softer approach toward H-1B visa reforms, recognizing the critical role of specialized foreign talent in maintaining America's industrial and technological edge. During an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump defended the value of skilled immigrant workers, noting that complex roles in sectors such as manufacturing and defense cannot be quickly filled by long-term unemployed Americans without extensive training. "I agree, but you also have to bring this talent," he said when asked about H-1B visa reforms.

Trump stressed that while he supports raising wages for American workers, the US still needs to import expertise to sustain key industries. He cited Georgia's manufacturing sector as an example, where the removal of skilled South Korean workers created challenges in producing high-tech products like batteries, which require extensive experience and safety knowledge.

Earlier in September, Trump signed a proclamation overhauling the H-1B visa process,

imposing a sharp increase in fees from about USD 1,500 to USD 100,000 for new applications and lottery entries after September 21, 2025. Current visa holders and petitions filed before this date remain unaffected.

The President emphasized that certain specialized skills cannot be quickly learned by untrained workers. "You can't take people off the unemployment line and say, 'I'm going to put you into a factory where we're going to make missiles.' It doesn't work that way," Trump noted.

He also referenced recent ICE raids at a Hyundai plant in Georgia, highlighting the need for foreign expertise to train local workers in complex manufacturing processes.

Trump's remarks mark a significant shift from his earlier hardline stance on foreign worker visas, signaling a more pragmatic recognition of the importance of skilled immigrants in sustaining US competitiveness in high-tech and industrial sectors.

This pivot could influence ongoing debates over H-1B policies and the broader US approach to attracting global talent.

# Israel Reopens Zikim Crossing to Allow Aid Into Northern Gaza



TPN Correspondent | Gaza

Israel has reopened the Zikim Crossing in northern Gaza to allow the entry of humanitarian aid trucks into the war-torn enclave, the Israeli defense body COGAT (Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) announced on Wednesday.

The reopening marks a significant development amid mounting appeals from U.N. aid agencies and humanitarian organizations that have repeatedly called for improved access to the northern regions of Gaza. The area has faced severe shortages of food, medicine, and essential supplies since the recent conflict and the subsequent Israel-Hamas ceasefire last month.

COGAT stated that the decision aims to facilitate the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance, including food, medical supplies, and relief materials, to civilians struggling in the devastated northern districts. Images shared from the area showed trucks carrying sacks of flour and other aid items crossing into Gaza, signaling the resump-

tion of relief efforts that had been halted for weeks.

The Zikim Crossing, located along the northern border of the enclave, has remained largely closed throughout much of the conflict, forcing aid deliveries to enter primarily through southern routes such as Kerem Shalom and Rafah. U.N. officials have warned that continued restrictions in the north were exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis, with thousands of displaced families living in makeshift shelters and struggling to access clean water and food.

Humanitarian agencies have welcomed the reopening as a positive step but emphasized that sustained and unrestricted access will be essential to meet the massive needs of Gaza's population.

The move comes as international pressure continues to mount on both Israel and Hamas to maintain stability following the fragile ceasefire and to prioritize the welfare of civilians caught in the crossfire.

# “New York Will Turn Into Mumbai”: Real Estate Billionaire On Mamdani’s Win

TPN Correspondent | New York City

Real estate billionaire Barry Sternlicht has warned that New York City could face a “really tough time” under mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, comparing the potential economic fallout of his policies to turning the city “into Mumbai.”

Speaking to CNBC, the Starwood Capital Group CEO criticized the Democratic socialist's proposed housing and social welfare reforms, claiming they could drive up costs and destabilize the real estate market. Sternlicht's comments come after Mamdani's sweeping victory, where he won four out of five boroughs to become New York's first Muslim and South Asian-origin mayor.

Mamdani's campaign promises include rent freezes in rent-stabilized apartments, free bus services, universal childcare for children aged six months to five



years, and city-owned grocery stores in each borough. While his supporters hail these as progressive reforms, business leaders like Sternlicht argue they could worsen the city's economic challenges.

“Every project in

New York has to go union, and it's super expensive. It leads to extremely costly housing,” Sternlicht said, blaming trade unions for stifling development and making blue states “difficult to add supply of housing

to.” Criticizing Mamdani's rent policies, he added, “If tenants don't pay and can't be evicted, it creates a domino effect—eventually you'll turn New York City into Mumbai.”

The billionaire also

raised concerns over public safety, referencing Mamdani's earlier stance on “Defund the Police.” He warned that reduced police support could drive families away and harm the city's stability.

Despite the backlash, Mamdani maintains that his administration will prioritize housing access, social equity, and affordability—an agenda that continues to polarize New Yorkers across economic and political lines.

# Bangladesh on High Alert Ahead of Sheikh Hasina Tribunal Verdict Date

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh has been placed on high alert as the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) prepares to announce on Thursday, November 13, the date of its verdict in the case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The charges against her include crimes against humanity and murder related to the July 2024 uprising that led to her government's ouster.

Security forces, including the army and police, have been deployed across the country, particularly at airports and key government installations, as tensions escalate ahead of the announcement. The Bangladesh Awami League (AL) has called for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk lockdown on Thursday, urging supporters to



participate in peaceful demonstrations.

Following the ban on Awami League activities by the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad

Yunus, party leaders have been using social media to coordinate the programme from undisclosed locations. In recent days, incidents of vehicle arson and

crude bomb explosions have been reported in various regions, including Dhaka, heightening fears of unrest.

Police have launched extensive operations to

arrest AL leaders and activists, while security checkpoints and vehicle inspections have been established in major cities to maintain order. Meanwhile, Awa-

mi League supporters have been holding flash rallies demanding Hasina's release and condemning the tribunal proceedings.

The legal case stems from the July 2024 student-led protests that toppled Hasina's government, during which more than 1,400 people were killed, according to a United Nations report. The former Prime Minister fled to India on August 5, 2024, after losing control of the government.

Ironically, the ICT was originally established by Hasina's own administration to prosecute 1971 Liberation War crimes. The current interim government has amended the tribunal's legal framework to bring charges against her. Testimonies in the case are complete, and the tribunal will announce the verdict date on Thursday.

# PM Modi Returns After Bhutan Visit, Says Outcomes Will Strengthen Ties

TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on Wednesday after completing a successful two-day state visit to Bhutan, aimed at deepening the long-standing partnership between the two Himalayan neighbours.

Before departing from Thimphu, the Prime Minister shared a post on X, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the people and Government of Bhutan for their hospitality. “My visit to Bhutan has taken place when the people of this nation are marking several landmark programmes... The outcomes in sectors like energy, healthcare, and connectivity will add momentum to our bilateral partnership,” he wrote.

In a warm gesture, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck personally accompanied Prime Minister Modi to the airport for



his departure. “I am grateful to His Majesty the King of Bhutan for coming to the airport as I board for Delhi,” Modi said.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi held comprehensive talks with the King of Bhutan, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme

Singye Wangchuck, and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, focusing on enhancing cooperation in energy, connectivity, trade,

technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

A major highlight of the trip was the joint inauguration of the 1,020 MW Punat-

sangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, a landmark in India-Bhutan energy collaboration. The two sides also announced new initiatives in renewable energy, healthcare, and cross-border infrastructure.

Prime Minister Modi participated in the 70th birth anniversary celebrations of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and joined the Bhutanese leadership at the Kalachakra “Wheel of Time” empowerment ceremony in Thimphu, attended by over 30,000 devotees as part of the Global Peace Prayer Festival 2025.

Reaffirming India's support for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan and the King's Gelephu Mindfulness City initiative, PM Modi emphasized that the visit reflects the enduring friendship and shared cultural values that continue to define the India-Bhutan relationship.



# 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 constitutes 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

## 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 hur-

dles, 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 in-

flux 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.

# 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 op-

tion” 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 uncer-

tainty, 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 analysts 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 totaling ₹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

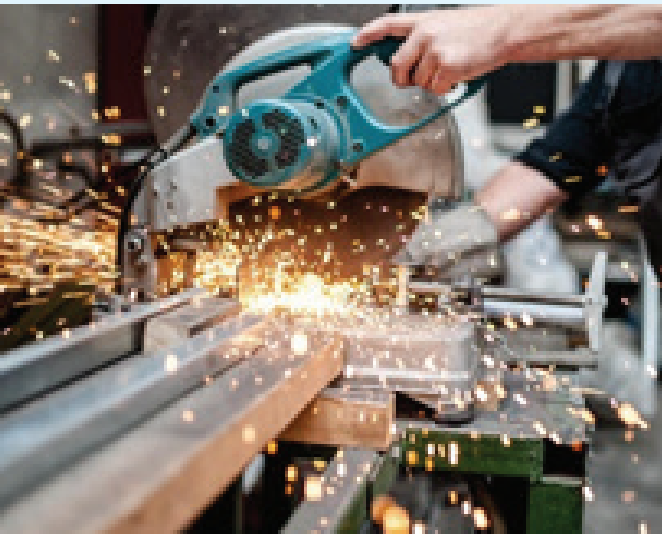
its commitment to keeping the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP, compared to 4.8% in FY25. To manage liquidity mismatches, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the

ways and means advances (WMA) limit for H2 at ₹50,000 crore.

Officials emphasise that despite uncertainties—like US-imposed tariffs and defence ex-

penditure—the borrowing plan remains predictable, aiming to avoid surprising the bond market and limit crowding out of state and private borrowing.

## 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 automotive 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 beginning 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 India is also on an upward trajectory. The domestic hand tools market, currently valued at \$826 mil-

lion (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.

## 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.

“India's position as a key supply chain hub is strengthening, driven by robust demand from retail, e-commerce, manufacturing, and

FMCG sectors,” 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 multi-modal 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.



# Which Country Holds The Most Gold?



Gold has always been more than a shiny metal—it is wealth, stability, and power. Even in today’s digital age of cryptocurrency and online payments, gold continues to be a backbone of global economies. Nations with large gold reserves enjoy a buffer against inflation, rising investor confidence, and stronger currencies. The World Gold Council’s latest data highlights the top countries leading the gold game in 2025

At number one is the United States, holding a massive 8,133.46 tonnes of gold in the second quarter of 2025. This level has remained steady since the first quarter and makes the US the undisputed leader in official gold reserves worldwide. Germany follows at number two, with 3,350.25 tonnes, although this marks a 25-year low for the country, still placing it firmly behind America

In third position stands Italy, holding steady at 2,451.84 tonnes—a figure that has bare-

ly changed for decades, showcasing remarkable consistency. Close behind is France with 2,437 tonnes, maintaining stable reserves despite past fluctuations. Meanwhile, Russia secures fifth place with 2,329.63 tonnes, nearly doubling its long-term average and reflecting its aggressive push to build reserves in recent decades

These figures not only underline the global gold hierarchy but also signal how countries use gold as a hedge against economic uncertainties. While Western economies dominate the top ranks, nations like Russia have been catching up rapidly, using gold as a shield against sanctions and currency instability. For emerging economies like India, which also features in the top 10, gold reserves remain a crucial part of financial security and long-term strategy

The bottom line: gold is still king, and the countries that hold it the most continue to wield significant influence in the world economy

# Rare Black Tiger Captured by Indian Photographer



In a moment that has mesmerized the world, India has gifted a rare glimpse of nature’s magic. A photograph of the elusive black tiger, captured in Odisha’s Similipal National Park, is featured on the October 2025 cover of National Geographic. Wildlife enthusiasts and the online community alike are celebrating this extraordinary achievement.

The photographer behind this stunning shot is Prasenjeet Yadav, an Indian wildlife photographer and National Geographic Explorer. Known for his dedication and keen eye for nature’s hidden wonders, Yadav has once again brought India’s unique wildlife into global focus. The black tiger, also called the pseudo-melanistic tiger, is an extremely rare variant of the Bengal tiger, and Similipal National Park is the only place in the world where it is known to exist.

National Geographic highlighted the tiger’s striking appearance, with its dark coat and subtle stripes, which make it almost invisible in the dense forest. The image not

only showcases the animal’s rarity but also emphasizes the importance of wildlife conservation in India. By bringing attention to the black tiger, Yadav is encouraging awareness and protection of the forests that are home to such unique species.

The photograph has gone viral across social media, with enthusiasts, conservationists, and nature lovers praising the skill, patience, and perseverance required to capture such a once-in-a-lifetime shot. Many users expressed pride that an Indian photographer has achieved this global recognition while spotlighting the biodiversity of India’s forests.

For Prasenjeet Yadav, this moment is both a personal triumph and a reminder of the responsibility photographers hold in documenting and protecting wildlife. The October cover of National Geographic is not just about a tiger—it is about India’s rich natural heritage and the incredible stories it continues to offer the world.

# Charlie Kirk’s Anti-India Visa Remark Resurfaces Amid H-1B Shakeup

Conservative US leader and staunch Trump supporter Charlie Kirk, who was shot dead on September 10 in Utah, is back in the spotlight after his controversial post on Indians and immigration resurfaced. Just days before his death, the 31-year-old Turning Point USA founder declared that America does not need more visas for Indians.

On September 2, Kirk wrote on X that legal immigration from India had displaced American workers more than any other, insisting that America was “full” and should put “its own people first.” His remarks were in response to Fox News host Laura Ingraham, who argued that any US trade deal with India would involve more visas. Kirk’s post sparked backlash, with critics calling it xenophobic and damaging to innovation and bilateral ties, since most Indians in the US migrate as skilled professionals in the tech sector.

The controversy has resurfaced now because former President Donald Trump, back in the headlines, has announced sweeping changes to the H-1B visa programme. From September 21, 2025, applicants will face an annual \$100,000 fee, a move expected to drastically reduce Indian tech migration. The H-1B visa has long served as the backbone of Silicon Valley’s workforce, powering giants like Google, Microsoft and Amazon with Indian talent.

Kirk, known for his fiery podcasts and youth outreach, built a strong base in conservative circles, aligning with Trump’s “America First” agenda. His critics, however, saw his stand as part of a broader push within the MAGA movement to curb legal immigration, even at the cost of America’s competitiveness.

With his death, Kirk leaves behind a polarising legacy. But his last words on visas highlight a growing fault line in US politics—whether America should remain open to Indian talent or shut the door in the name of nationalism.



# Bengaluru Techie Calls Traffic the City’s “Hidden Tax”

A viral Reddit post has reignited the debate on Bengaluru’s traffic crisis, calling it a “hidden tax” that drains time and productivity from lakhs of commuters. Shared in the r/Bengaluru community on Friday, the post narrates the ordeal of an Oracle employee living in JP Nagar, who says the city’s gridlock costs him nearly two and a half months of his life every year.

According to the post, the techie earns Rs 28 lakh annually, excluding stock options. Out of this, he pays Rs 6.5 lakh in income tax and another Rs 1.4 lakh through GST on daily expenses—already surrendering over three months of work to the exchequer. But the bigger loss, he argues, is time. His office, just 14 kilometers away, should be a 30-minute commute. Instead, it takes an exhausting 90 minutes each way. Over the course of the year, this adds up to 2.5 months lost—time he believes is equivalent to another hidden tax paid not to the government, but to the city’s poor infrastructure.

The post has struck a chord with thousands of Bengaluru residents who face the same grind daily. Many echoed the frustration that India’s “Silicon Valley” may be powering global innovation, but its broken roads, endless traffic jams, and inadequate public transport force professionals to pay with their most valuable resource—time.

Experts say such urban inefficiencies also take a toll on mental health, family life, and the city’s economy. While civic authorities have announced metro expansions, road upgrades, and tech-driven traffic management systems, citizens argue change is too slow to match the city’s exploding population and vehicle density.

For Bengaluru’s workforce, the message is clear: the real tax isn’t just in paychecks—it’s the endless hours wasted in traffic.



# Internet Shocked Over Sky-High iPhone 17 Prices in Pakistan

Apple’s latest iPhone 17 series has just hit global markets, but in Pakistan, it’s the jaw-dropping price tags that have caught everyone’s attention. While Indian fans queued up outside Apple stores in Mumbai and Delhi to grab the new device on launch day, social media in Pakistan is buzzing over how expensive the phones are across the border.

A viral post on X revealed that a resident in Pakistan will need to shell out between PKR 3.65 lakh (Rs 1.14 lakh) and PKR 5.74 lakh (Rs 1.79 lakh) for the new lineup. The iPhone 17 Pro Max alone costs around PKR 547,000—or roughly Rs 1.70 lakh. The iPhone Air comes in at PKR 483,680 (Rs 1.51 lakh), while the iPhone 17 Pro is priced at PKR 531,680 (Rs 1.66 lakh).

Reactions online have been hilarious and exasperated in equal measure. Some users quipped that “flats mil jayenge iss daam mein” (you can buy an apartment at this price), while others joked that buying an iPhone in Pakistan now requires taking out a loan. Many pointed out that with the country already struggling with inflation and economic challenges, these luxury prices make the iPhone 17 an unrealistic dream for the average consumer.

Comparisons with India also dominated the chatter, where despite premium pricing, the iPhone 17 is still considerably cheaper. Indian fans, though, face their own problem—long queues outside Apple’s flagship stores in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi.

For Pakistan, however, the bigger conversation is about affordability. With the iPhone priced like real estate, netizens are asking whether Apple’s latest innovation is even worth it—or if it’s time to settle for Android alternatives that don’t cost the price of a flat.





# Sinner, Zverev Advance to Paris Masters Quarter-Finals

Italy's Jannik Sinner and defending champion Alexander Zverev powered into the Paris Masters quarter-finals on Thursday, keeping their title hopes alive in dominant fashion.

Sinner eased past Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-1 to reach the last eight, setting up a high-voltage clash with American Ben Shelton. The victory means Sinner remains on track to reclaim the World No. 1 ranking, following Carlos Alcaraz's shock early exit at the hands of Britain's Cameron Norrie.

"It was a crucial first set. Francisco is very talented and tough to play against, but I raised my level in the second," Sinner said after his win. The 24-year-old, who has yet to drop a set this tournament, is aiming for his fifth title of the season.

Shelton continued his dream season, beating Andrey Rublev 7-6(6), 6-3. The American fifth seed, who won his maiden Masters 1000 title in Toronto earlier



this year, also secured a debut spot at the ATP Finals in Turin. "It's the result of a year's hard work — the ups, downs, and comebacks," Shelton said.

Meanwhile, Zverev maintained his title defence with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. The German third seed will next face former World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, who defeated Lorenzo Sonego in three sets. "Daniil is my kryptonite — he beats me most of the time," Zverev admitted.

Elsewhere, Alexander Bublik stunned fourth seed Taylor Fritz 7-6(5), 6-2 to meet Alex de Minaur, who cruised past Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-2. Felix Auger-Aliassime also advanced, rallying past Daniel Altmaier 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, keeping his ATP Finals hopes alive as the Paris Masters heads into an electrifying final weekend.

# Australia Beat India by 4 Wickets in 2nd T20I, Take Series Lead



Australia defeated India by 4 wickets in the second T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. The hosts chased down India's modest target of 126 with ease, maintaining their dominant form in the

series.

India, sent in to bat by Australian captain Mitchell Marsh, struggled from the start. The team was bundled out for 125 in 18.4 overs, losing early wickets under pressure. Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood

starred with the ball, dismantling India's top order in a sensational spell. He accounted for vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma in the initial overs, putting India on the back foot immediately.

Amid the batting collapse, Abhishek Sharma stood out with a resilient 68 runs, while Harshit Rana, promoted to No. 7, contributed 35 runs, providing some resistance. Despite their efforts, India could not recover, as the middle

and lower order failed to capitalize on the platform created by Sharma and Rana.

Australia's chase was clinical, anchored by steady batting performances and disciplined bowling. The visitors managed the target efficiently without losing control, showcasing their experience and composure in tricky situations.

This win gives Australia an early edge in the five-match T20I series, placing pressure on India to respond in the remaining games. The Indian team will need to address their batting fragility, especially their vulnerability against fast bowling in powerplay overs, to remain competitive in the series.

The third T20I is scheduled to be played later this week, where India will look to bounce back and level the series, while Australia aims to consolidate their lead and secure a significant advantage in the contest.

# Abhishek Sharma Shines as Hazlewood Tears Through India in 2nd T20I

India were bundled out for 125 in the second T20I against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with Abhishek Sharma the lone bright spot amid a top-order collapse. The first match of the five-game series in Canberra had been abandoned due to rain.

Abhishek's 37-ball 68 featured aggressive strokes on the off-side, including slashes, check drives, and lofted shots, helping him reach a 23-ball half-century in his debut appearance at the iconic venue. His innings stood out as the only resistance against the relentless Australian pace attack.

Australia's Josh Hazlewood led the charge, wreaking havoc on India's top and middle order. He dismissed vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma early, leaving India reeling at 5 wickets down in just eight overs. The rest of the batting lineup faltered under pressure, failing to build partnerships or mount a meaningful chase.

Harshit Rana, promoted to No. 7, scored a quick 35,



offering some late resistance, but it was not enough to lift India to a competitive total. The visitors' batting frailties, particularly against high-quality pace bowling in powerplay overs, were on full display.

Australia chased the modest target efficiently, with their openers and middle order keeping the scoreboard ticking. Hazlewood's stellar bowling spell ensured India never gained momentum, giving the

hosts a comfortable 4-wicket victory and a 1-0 lead in the series.

The defeat highlights India's urgent need to strengthen their top-order batting and develop strategies to handle quality pace

attacks. With three more T20Is scheduled, India will aim to regroup and bounce back, while Australia looks to consolidate their advantage and take a commanding lead in the five-match series.

# 16-Year-Old Ilamparathi A R Becomes India's 90th Chess Grandmaster



Ilamparathi A R, a 16-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, has become India's 90th Grandmaster after achieving his final norm at the GM4 Bijeljina 2025 Chess Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ilamparathi's journey to the Grandmaster title has been marked by consistent performance across international tournaments. He secured his first GM norm at the Hanoi tournament in Vietnam in December 2023, followed by a second norm at the Singapore International Open in 2024. Crossing the 2500 Elo rating at the Rilton Cup (2024-25) positioned him for the final push, and his performance in Bosnia sealed the prestigious title.

The achievement was widely celebrated in the chess community. AICF president Nitin Narang took to social media to congratulate Ilamparathi, saying, "Grandmaster No. 90 for Bharat! Congratulations to Ilamparathi A R on fulfilling all the requirements to become the 90th Grandmaster of the country."

Wishing you many more laurels and continued success in making the nation proud."

Legendary Indian chess player and five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand also praised the young prodigy, noting, "He has been missing the title on a few occasions, but each time he came back and worked harder. I really believe he has a lot of potential and we hope to work together towards greater achievements."

Ilamparathi's rise is seen as a continuation of India's growing prominence in international chess, following in the footsteps of players like Viswanathan Anand and Praggnanandhaa R. His achievement at such a young age highlights his talent, dedication, and the growing support system for chess in India.

The chess fraternity and sports enthusiasts across the country have hailed Ilamparathi's accomplishment, celebrating him as an inspiration for aspiring young players aiming to excel on the global stage.

# Oman Replaces Pakistan at Junior Hockey World Cup



Oman will join the lineup for the upcoming FIH Men's Junior World Cup 2025 in Tamil Nadu, following Pakistan's late withdrawal, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Wednesday. The tournament is scheduled from November 28 to December 10, with matches to be held in Chennai and Madurai.

Oman earned the spot as the next highest-ranked team from the Junior Asia Cup 2024, stepping in after Pakistan decided not to participate despite qualifying through last year's continental championship. The Pakistan Hockey Federation informed the FIH that the team would not accept the invitation, citing internal consultations with their government before the event.

Pakistan had been placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland. With Oman taking their place, the group composition has been updated ahead of the tournament. This late withdrawal marks the second recent instance of Pakistan

pulling out from a major hockey event in India, after the Men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar, where Bangladesh replaced them. The withdrawal also cost Pakistan a chance to qualify for next year's World Cup, as the Asia Junior Cup served as a qualifying event.

The FIH had initially postponed the official draw for nearly a month to accommodate Pakistan's decision-making, eventually holding the ceremony at its headquarters in Lausanne. The Men's Junior World Cup 2025 will feature 24 teams for the first time, alongside the Women's edition, reflecting the FIH's Empowerment and Engagement strategy aimed at promoting wider participation.

Germany enters the tournament as the defending champions, having won the 2023 edition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The inclusion of Oman ensures the tournament maintains full participation and competitive balance, while giving the Middle Eastern nation an opportunity to showcase its growing hockey prowess on the global stage.



Dhruv Vikram’s Bison Set for OTT Premiere on Netflix



After a successful theatrical run, Dhruv Vikram’s sports drama Bison is gearing up for its digital debut. Directed by the acclaimed filmmaker Mari Selvaraj, the film hit theatres on October 24 and earned praise for its emotional storytelling and Dhruv’s powerful performance. Now, audiences who missed the theatrical experience have reason to celebrate — Bison is reportedly set to stream soon on Netflix.

According to industry buzz, Bison will premiere on the popular OTT platform on November 21, available in Tamil, Telugu, and several other regional languages. Though Netflix has yet to make an official announcement, the news has already created excitement among fans eager to revisit or experience the film for the first time.

The movie, which explores the spirit of kabaddi and the struggles of rural youth through the lens of sports and social drama, marks another im-

pactful work from Mari Selvaraj, known for films like Pariyerum Perumal and Karnan. Dhruv Vikram, son of Kollywood star Chiyaan Vikram, delivers a career-defining performance that has been widely appreciated by critics and audiences alike.

Bison also features a strong supporting cast including Anupama Parameswaran, Pasupathi, Rajisha Vijayan, Aamir, and Lal in key roles. The film’s stirring music and background score by Nivas K. Prasanna add depth to its intense narrative.

Jointly produced by Applause Entertainment and Neelam Studios, Bison blends sportsmanship with social commentary, making it one of Tamil cinema’s most talked-about releases of the year. With its anticipated OTT release, the film is expected to reach an even wider audience, further cementing Dhruv Vikram’s position as one of the most promising young stars in Indian cinema.

Shiva Re-Release: Nagarjuna and RGV Chat with Sandeep Reddy Vanga



The legendary Telugu film Shiva, starring Akkineni Nagarjuna and directed by Ram Gopal Varma, releasing the cult classic on November 14, 2025, giving fans a chance to relive one of Indian cinema’s most path-breaking films on the big screen once again.

To mark the occasion, a special promotional video has been released featuring Nagarjuna, Ram Gopal Varma, and acclaimed filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga. The trio engaged in a candid conversation about the film’s legacy, its revolutionary filmmaking techniques, and how Shiva continues to inspire a generation of filmmakers even decades later.

In the video, Vanga—known for his intense storytelling style in Arjun Reddy and Animal—expresses admiration for Shiva’s raw energy and technical brilliance. He also highlights how the film re-defined action and realism in Telugu cinema.

Nagarjuna reminisces about the experience of working with Varma, recalling how the film’s gritty college backdrop and powerful themes changed the course of his career. Ram Gopal Varma, meanwhile, shares insights into the creative risks and vision that made Shiva a cinematic milestone.

Originally released in 1989, Shiva revolutionized Telugu cinema with its bold storytelling, realistic action sequences, and innovative sound design. It not only established Ram Gopal Varma as a visionary director but also turned Nagarjuna into a youth icon.

With its re-release, Shiva promises to evoke nostalgia among long-time fans and introduce new audiences to a timeless classic that shaped modern Telugu filmmaking. The enthusiastic response to the promotional campaign suggests that the film’s powerful legacy remains as impactful today as it was over three decades ago.

Chilling Trailer of 12A Railway Colony Promises a Gripping Psychological Thriller



The much-awaited trailer of 12A Railway Colony, starring Allari Naresh and Kamakshi Bhaskarla, has finally dropped, and it’s already creating a stir among movie enthusiasts. Directed by debutant filmmaker Nani, with music by Bheems Ceciroleo, the film appears to be a haunting psychological thriller that blurs the line between reality and illusion.

From the very first frame, the trailer immerses viewers in a chilling atmosphere filled with dread and suspense. It introduces a series of gruesome murders that form the core of the story while keeping every crucial detail tightly under wraps. Each character is portrayed with enough ambiguity to fuel speculation, making everyone a potential suspect in the unfolding mystery.

Allari Naresh stands out in a strikingly different avatar, stepping far from his trademark comic persona. His portrayal of a man haunted by visions and trapped in a psychological maze hints at one of his most intense performances yet. Dr. Kamakshi Bhaskar-

la’s role adds both emotional depth and intrigue, balancing the tension with her enigmatic presence.

Veteran actor Sai Kumar brings his trademark gravitas to the nar-

rative, while Viva Harsha’s appearance adds another layer of curiosity to the storyline. The gripping background score by Bheems Ceciroleo enhances the film’s eerie tone, comple-

menting its dark visuals and unsettling pace.

With its blend of psychological tension, emotional conflict, and mystery, 12A Railway Colony looks set to offer a thrilling cinematic experi-

ence. The trailer leaves viewers with more questions than answers—an intentional move that heightens anticipation for its theatrical release.

The film’s unique concept and Naresh’s dra-

matic transformation are already fueling discussions online, marking 12A Railway Colony as one of the most intriguing thrillers to watch out for this season.

Avatar: Fire and Ash Sets Record with Longest Runtime Yet



James Cameron’s much-anticipated Avatar: Fire and Ash (Avatar 3) is gearing up to take the world by storm on December 19, 2025. As the third installment in Cameron’s groundbreaking sci-fi saga, the film has already captured global attention — and now, its confirmed runtime is adding even more fuel to the excitement.

According to reports, Avatar: Fire and Ash is locked at an astonishing 3 hours and 15 minutes, making it the longest entry in the Avatar franchise. The extended duration has sparked intense curiosity among fans and critics alike, prompting questions about the

scale of storytelling and the depth of themes Cameron plans to explore this time.

Sources suggest that Fire and Ash delves into darker and more emotionally complex territory than its predecessors. The film promises deeper world-building, new civilizations within Pandora, and moral conflicts that could redefine the entire saga. Cameron, known for his meticulous attention to detail and technical innovation, appears set to deliver a grand cinematic experience that balances visual spectacle with emotional intensity.

Returning to lead the cast are Sam Worthington and Zoe

Saldaña, reprising their roles as Jake Sully and Neytiri. Backed by producer Jon Landau, Cameron continues his vision of expanding Pandora’s mythology while pushing the boundaries of filmmaking technology.

With its record-breaking runtime, ambitious storytelling, and high emotional stakes, Avatar: Fire and Ash is shaping up to be one of 2025’s biggest global events. Fans are bracing for a breathtaking journey that could surpass even the monumental success of its predecessors — proving once again that when it comes to epic cinema, James Cameron still reigns supreme.



The Girlfriend Crosses \$500K in North America

Rashmika Mandanna’s latest film The Girlfriend is making waves at the global box office, particularly in North America, where it has achieved an impressive milestone. The romantic drama, directed by Rahul Ravindran, has grossed over \$500K in the region, marking a strong overseas performance for the actress.

The film’s North American success reflects Rashmika’s growing popularity among international audiences. With enthusiastic word of mouth and positive reviews highlighting her nuanced performance, The Girlfriend continues to draw steady crowds across multiple cities. The makers expressed delight at the film’s warm reception and consistent box office trend, which shows no signs of slowing down.

Alongside Rashmika, actor Deekshith Shetty plays a pivotal role, complementing the emotional tone of the story. The film also features a talented ensemble cast including Rao Ramesh, Rohini, and Anu Emmanuel, each

adding depth to the narrative. Director Rahul Ravindran, known for his sensitive storytelling, appears to have struck the right emotional chord with audiences through a blend of romance, drama, and relatable human conflict.

Produced by Vidya Koppi-needi and Dheeraj Mogilineni, The Girlfriend also shines musically, thanks to Hesham Abdul Wahab’s soulful songs and Prashanth R. Vihari’s evocative background score. Both elements have been widely praised for enhancing the film’s emotional impact.

With this \$500K milestone, The Girlfriend joins the growing list of Telugu films finding major success overseas. As Rashmika continues to expand her global fan base, the film’s performance reinforces her position as one of South Indian cinema’s most bankable stars.

Industry watchers predict the film’s collections will rise further in the coming days as strong audience support continues across major North American markets.