

BUZZ POINTS

Paddy Crisis:
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Over
Procurement
Delays

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Campaign Curtains Down, Stakes High in Jubilee Hills Triangular Fight

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The high-voltage campaign for the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election, a contest that has generated significant political tension across both Telugu states, concluded on Sunday evening. With polling scheduled for November 11 and results due on November 14, the BRS, Congress, and BJP have worked tirelessly, making it a three-way, prestige battle among the 58 total candidates. The by-election was necessitated by the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath. The main contenders are Gopinath's wife, Maganti Sunitha (BRS), Naveen Yadav (Congress), and Lankala Deepak Reddy (BJP). The ruling Congress campaign was personally led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who aims to secure a victory to demonstrate growing public confidence in the Congress administration. The Congress theme centered on Development and Welfare. The CM



held roadshows for four days, toured seven divisions, and met various community groups. A special strategy was implemented, appointing two Ministers per division, an MLA or MLC for every ten polling centres, and one leader in charge of every 100 voters. The Congress extensively publicized its efforts, claiming to have taken up 300 crore in development works and implemented welfare schemes in the constituency. CM Reddy heavily criticized the BRS and BJP, alleging that Gopinath's three terms brought no development and accused the BRS and BJP of collusion. The BRS primarily focused on the 'Guarantee Debt

Card' campaign, highlighting the Congress party's failure to fulfill promises made during the Assembly elections. Leveraging the sentiment around Maganti Gopinath's demise, his wife Sunitha is the BRS candidate. KTR assumed full responsibility for malting strategies and conducting extensive roadshows across all divisions. Although KCR did not campaign publicly, he held a key party meeting to guide the cadre. KTR fiercely attacked CM Revanth Reddy, criticizing the non-implementation of key promises like the 2,500 aid to women, increased pensions, unemployment allowance, and Kaly-

ana Lakshmi scheme. KTR also accused the Congress and BJP of being united and focused on appealing to minorities by stating that KCR was the only one who delivered welfare to them. The BJP is fighting for its footing in Jubilee Hills. Despite a delayed candidate announcement, the campaign was spearheaded by Union Minister Kishan Reddy, who held roadshows across all divisions. Other key leaders, including State President Ramchander Rao and MPs Bandi Sanjay and Raghunandan Rao, participated. Kishan Reddy leveled accusations that BRS and Congress are one and the same. The campaign by independent candidates was minimal, though some ran to protest government policies. A shift in strategy was observed on Saturday, where leaders moved from making broad promises to focusing on specific communities and high-population areas, creating separate voter lists and assigning responsibilities to key leaders to secure the mandate.

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Jubilee Hills Braces for Judgment Day

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Jubilee Hills by-election, despite being statistically insignificant in altering the state government's majority, has evolved into an intensely tense and high-stakes political contest in Telangana. The principal rivals, the ruling Congress and the main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which currently holds the seat, engaged in a no-holds-barred slugfest that concluded as the campaign window shut at 5 PM on Sunday. The outcome of the by-poll will be announced on November 14, following the polling scheduled for Tue-

day. The result is seen as a crucial "prestige battle" for both parties and a litmus test for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's governance, just months after the general election. Despite publicly downplaying the notion that the by-poll is a referendum on his administration, the Chief Minister dedicated significant time and effort, campaigning non-stop in the high-profile constituency. The electoral dynamics are heavily influenced by the demographic composition of the constituency. The result is expected to hinge heavily on the approximately 1.3 lakh Muslim voters, who form a substantial bloc. Additionally, a smaller but potentially in-

Stage Set, Booths Ready: Jubilee Hills Votes Tomorrow

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Election Commission has finalized all necessary arrangements for the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election scheduled for tomorrow, November 11, ensuring a poll that will be conducted peacefully, freely, and fairly.

According to election officials, the constituency boasts a total of 4,01,365 general electors, which includes 2,08,561 men, 1,92,779 women, and 25 other voters. The electoral roll also includes 123 overseas electors and 18 service voters. To fa-

cilitate the voting process, the constituency is equipped with 407 polling stations located across 139 locations, with each booth catering to an average of 986 voters.

Given the presence of 58 contesting candidates, the Election Commission has deployed a specific configuration of electronic voting machines (EVMs) at each polling station: one control unit, four ballot units, and one VVPAT. The Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Stadium at Yousufguda has been designated as the central point for distribution, reception of poll materials, and the counting center. A substantial



'My Son's Death Still a Mystery', Gopinath's Mother Demands Answers

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

Mahananda Kumari, the mother of the late MLA Maganti Gopinath, has made startling statements regarding her son's death, describing it as a "mystery" and expressing doubts over the actual date of his passing. Speaking at the Hyderabad Press Club, she revealed that as Gopinath's mother, she does not know when her son died, questioning if it was June 6th or 8th. Mahananda Kumari addressed the media alongside Gopinath's first wife, Malini, and their son, Tharak. She alleged that the news of Gopinath's death was only made public after KTR's visit.

She expressed deep sorrow and outrage, stating that Gopinath, who earned great repute as a

three-time MLA, was not given a single day for visitation while he was in the hospital, and no attendant was even assigned to him. The situation was further complicated by the fact that the Legal Heir Certificate does not include her name (Mahananda Kumari), nor the names of Gopinath's first wife, Malini, or their children. She stressed that Gopinath and his first wife Malini were never legally divorced. Mahananda Kumari clarified that she did not arrange the marriage between Gopinath and Sunitha (the BRS candidate in the by-election). She lamented that despite running after KTR to explain the injustice done to her, the BRS leader refused to listen, emphasizing that their issue is not about money, but about recognition. Malini, Gopinath's first wife, spoke of enduring great pain and numerous humiliations. Mahananda

CM Revanth Reddy Slams BRS, Projects 10-Year Congress Rule



TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, speaking at the 'Meet the Press' programme in Hyderabad today, delivered a blistering critique of the previous BRS government, asserting that Telangana is witnessing a robust growth under the current People's Government, just as it did during the Congress regime in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister charged that the BRS government, during its ten-year rule, had neglected and "dumped" the state in all sectors. He credited Sonia Gandhi for fulfilling the promise of Telangana statehood

despite significant political hurdles faced by the Congress. Highlighting the Congress's legacy for farmers, he recalled that it was the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government that first provided free power to farmers and waived 1,300 crore in electricity dues. He also noted that former PM Manmohan Singh implemented a loan waiver of 73,000 crore and ensured MSP for farmers.

He listed major Congress-era irrigation schemes under Jayalayam, including Kalvakurthi, Bima, Nettempadu, RDS, Indira Sagar, and Pranahita Chevella. Coming down heavily on the BRS, the CM stated that when KCR took over, the Telangana

economy had a 60,00 crore surplus, yet the BRS handed over the state with a staggering 8.11 lakh crore debt, leading to a financial crisis that initially delayed even salary payments. He dismissed the BRS's monumental structures—Pragathi Bhavan, the Command Control Centre, and the New Secretariat—as failures, claiming they "did not generate even a single job." He attacked the Kaleshwaram Project, asserting KCR spent 1 lakh crore on it, but "not a single acre was irrigated," and the BRS wasted 1.85 lakh crore on irrigation overall. The CM claimed that at Telangana achieved a paddy production of 2.85 lakh crore tonnes and stood number one in the country without Kaleshwaram's benefits. He accused KCR of "pretending like blind eyed Dtrutarashtra" and derided the Vastu changes made by the BRS leader. He also charged KTR with colluding with Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy to obstruct the state's development, labeling Reddy as a "Gujarat Gulam." Revanth Reddy then projected that the Congress would rule Telangana for 10 years until 2034. He appealed to Jubilee Hills voters to support the Congress candidate, Naveen Yadav, for the city's continuous development, citing Congress's historical role in developing Hyderabad as an IT and knowledge hub, and the center for 40% of bulk drug suppliers. He highlighted the Congress's role in Hyderabad becoming a growth corridor, accounting for 65% of Telangana's income, and credited Congress's proactive decisions for Rangareddy district having the highest per capita income in the country. He mentioned the distribution of 25 lakh acres of assigned land and 10 lakh acres of Podu lands and the role of Jaipal Reddy in the Metro Rail project. He concluded by listing the achievements of the People's Government, including increasing the Rajiv Aarogya Sri limit to 10 lakh, saving RTC with 7,100 crore for free buses, conducting the BC caste census, and waiving 21,000 crore in farm loans.

Paddy Crisis: Farmers Protest Over Procurement Delays



TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025. In a stark and unfortunate contrast to the state's agricultural success, a severe paddy crisis is deepening in Telangana, triggering widespread protests across key districts over crippling delays in government procurement. Despite Telangana achieving a record-breaking Kharif 2025 paddy harvest of 148.03 lakh tonnes, the highest grain yield the state has ever recorded, farmers in major producing regions are up in

arms, demonstrating palpable distress. The crisis has been exacerbated by unseasonal rains, which have caused significant damage to the harvested crops lying in the open. Compounding the issue, the government procurement centres are reportedly rejecting loads of paddy due to the imposition of strict moisture content norms, leaving farmers in a desperate situation with their produce. The operations of the Civil Supplies Corporation re-

main sluggish, with the pace of purchases falling significantly short of the established targets, creating a massive backlog. The situation has intensified into severe protests in districts like Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Kamareddy, and Nizamabad. Thousands of desperate farmers have taken to the streets, blocking roads and staging sit-in protests to voice their frustration and demand immediate government intervention. In scenes that underscore their

level of desperation, some farmers were even captured falling at the feet of police officials in a plea for help and swift action. The farmers argue that the government's failure to rapidly establish procurement infrastructure and relax the stringent moisture conditions in light of the unseasonal rainfall is directly responsible for their losses. They are demanding that the government immediately step up its purchase operations, open more centres, and ensure that every single grain harvested is bought at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The state government now faces intense pressure to address the procurement bottlenecks and provide compensation for the damaged crops before the situation escalates further. This is a critical test for the administration, which must reconcile its record yield achievement with the growing hardship faced by its agricultural community.



One Dead, Six Injured as SUV Hits RTC Bus in Sangareddy

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

A tragic and fatal road accident occurred on National Highway 65 (NH 65) at Kavalampet in Kandi Mandal, Sangareddy district, on Sunday morning. The incident involved a collision between a private SUV carrying multiple passengers and an RTC bus. The impact of the crash was severe, resulting in the immediate death of one person and injuries to six others. The deceased was identified as Balaiah, aged 45.

The six individuals who sustained injuries in the collision were identified as Pravin, Fareed, Sitaram, Kalappa, and two others whose names were not immediately released. All the injured

victims were immediately rushed to the Government Hospital in Sangareddy for emergency medical treatment. Reports from the hospital indicate that the condition of a couple of the injured is critical, suggesting the severity of the trauma they sustained in the high-speed crash on the national highway. The local police immediately arrived at the scene to manage the situation, clear the wreckage, and initiate an investigation into the cause of the accident. The authorities are working to notify the families of the deceased and the critically injured, offering necessary assistance during this difficult time. The incident serves as a grim reminder of the need for extreme caution and adherence to traffic rules, especially on high-speed corridors like NH 65. The police will take necessary legal action based on the findings of their ongoing investigation.

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau Arrests 81 in Multi-State Operation

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TCSB) conducted a significant and simultaneous operation across five different Indian states, resulting in the arrest of 81 individuals involved in large-scale cybercrime. The massive inter-state sting operation covered Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, demonstrating a coordinated effort to dismantle organized cyber fraud networks operating beyond state borders. The police identified that the arrested individuals were collectively involved in a staggering total of 754 cases registered across the country.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the scale of the financial fraud committed by this network amounts to an astonishing 95 Crores. The com-

plexity of the fraud involved various roles within the network. Among the arrested were 17 agents who likely acted as recruiters or key facilitators in the fraud chain, and 7 women involved in the operations. Crucially, the police identified and apprehended 58 mule account holders, individuals whose bank accounts were used to illegally receive and channel the fraudulent funds, often in exchange for a small commission. The police successfully seized a large cache of evidence from the suspects, including 84 mobile phones, 101 SIM cards, and 89 bank passbooks and chequebooks. Furthermore, the Cyber Security Bureau took swift action to freeze crores of rupees currently held in the bank accounts of the accused individuals. This crucial step ensures the stolen money is not laundered further and can

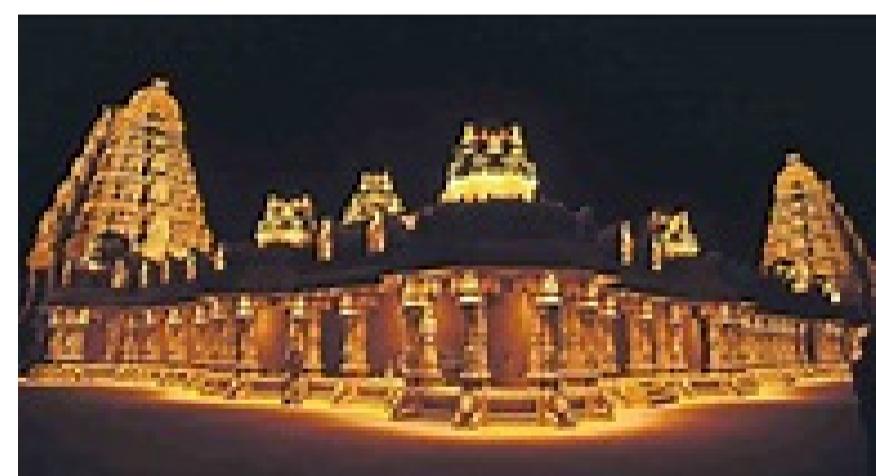
Weekend rush hits peak at Yadagirigutta

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Yadagirigutta, Bhuvanagiri, experienced a massive surge in devotees, creating heavy weekend rush on Sunday. The confluence of the auspicious Karthika Month and the Sunday public holiday led to the temple grounds being completely inundated with pilgrims from across the region. The sacred Karthika month is traditionally dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu and is marked by special rituals and fasting, further amplifying the footfall at the renowned hill shrine.

Devotees participated with great devotion in traditional rituals, including performing Satyanarayana Swamy

Vratams on a large scale. The temple complex was illuminated by the multitude of Karthika Deepams (lamps) lit by pilgrims as they fulfilled their vows and offered prayers to the deity. The heavy turnout resulted in significant waiting times for the devotees seeking the Lord's blessings. Pilgrims seeking Dharma Darshanam (free general view) faced a wait time of up to three hours, indicative of the huge crowds. Those who opted for the Special Darshanam (paid quick view) still had to wait for approximately two hours. The temple management, along with local police, worked tirelessly to manage the enormous crowds, ensuring orderly queues and safety within the temple premises and on the steps leading up to



the shrine. The temple's popularity as a spiritual center, especially during holy months, underscored its significance in the religious landscape of Telangana. The continuous flow of pilgrims performing vratams and lighting lamps added to the spiritual fervor and festive atmosphere of the temple town.

The temple administration is implementing crowd control measures and providing necessary facilities like drinking water and shade for the comfort of the devotees waiting in long queues. The rush is expected to continue throughout the Karthika month, prompting authorities to maintain heightened security and administrative vigilance. Local businesses around Yadadri also experienced a boom due to the unprecedented influx of visitors, boosting the regional economy.

Jubilee Hills By-poll: Drone Surveillance and Two-Tier Security

TPN Bureau | Nov 9,

2025. The District Election Officer, Karnan, has unequivocally stated that the political controversies, mutual accusations, conflicts, and protests witnessed until Sunday evening will not impact the upcoming election scheduled for Tuesday. The officer provided an assurance that the election would be conducted in a completely peaceful and secure atmosphere, high-

lighting the advanced security and surveillance measures being deployed. A specific emphasis is being placed on drone surveillance, with the Election Commission making arrangements to deploy one drone at each of the 139 locations that host polling stations within the constituency. These drones will maintain continuous vigil over the external situation of the polling centres.

with both processes commencing from 6 AM on election day and continuing until the conclusion of the election process. The footage captured by both the drones and the webcams

surveillance effort is part of a dual monitoring system. While the drones monitor the situation outside the polling centres, webcasting technology will record the situation inside the polling centres.

will be constantly monitored by a dedicated Control Room established at the GHMC-2020 elections, the 2023 General Assembly elections, and the 2024 Parliamentary elections. Such incidents were notably higher in areas like Borabanda,

Erragadda, and Shai-kpet. Based on cases registered at local police stations, the election officials have identified and categorized the problematic polling centres. To prevent any re-

currents of violence, a two-tier security arrangement is being put in place. Paramilitary forces and police will be heavily deployed in colonies and bastis identified as prone to conflicts. Karnan specified

that at the polling centres, only the Presiding Officer will be permitted to carry a mobile phone. All other individuals, including polling agents and security personnel, must deposit their phones at a spe-



Congress Leaders Vow Transformative Growth for Jubilee Hills

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A media conference was held at the Congress Party office in Yousufguda, attended by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and Ministers Vakiti Srihari, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponnambalam Prabhakar, and Jupally Krishna Rao, among others. Minister Vakiti Srihari spoke, expressing confidence that if Naveen Yadav is elected, he would become the PJR (P. Jarnardhan Reddy) of the poor in the region. He criticized the BRS party

for seeking votes without being able to specify what development they accomplished in the area during their ten years in power. Srihari stated that the people of Jubilee Hills are ready to deliver a harsh lesson to the BRS party, which failed to work for them.

The Minister asserted that the people believe that development in this area is only possible with the Congress party. He mentioned that during the campaign, the people brought many issues to their attention. The residents complained that due to the

failures of the BRS party, they were forced to wake up as early as 3 AM just to fetch drinking water. He explained that the Congress party sought votes by detailing the development and welfare work already carried out by the party in the area. The Congress has given a firm assurance of even greater development in the future. Srihari affirmed that Naveen Yadav is committed to working for the people's progress in this region. He concluded that the people are ready to crown the Congress party and are

eagerly waiting for the 11th to arrive so they can cast their vote for the Congress party. The campaign is centered on contrasting the alleged neglect and misgovernance of the decade-long BRS rule with the prompt and proactive governance of the two-year-old Congress administration. The issue of safe drinking water, a basic necessity, being scarce even in an upscale constituency like Jubilee Hills, is a potent emotional point being used to highlight the previous government's failures. The promise of

Naveen Yadav emulating the legacy of P. Jarnardhan Reddy—a leader known for his close connection to the masses and his dedicated work for the poor—is a strategic move by the Congress to consolidate the votes of the weaker sections. The party is projecting the by-election not just as a political contest but as a crucial opportunity for the residents to usher in an era of transparent and people-centric development by electing a candidate who will be accountable to them.

BRS Roadshow Draws Massive Crowds for KTR



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Under the leadership of MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, the Deputy Leader of the BRS Parliamentary Party, a massive crowd of BRS workers and admirers gathered for the roadshow of Party Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). The roadshow was organized at the Lakshmi Narasimha Nagar junction on Sunday evening for the ongoing Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. To attend the event, BRS cadres, admirers, women, minorities, and youth, led by MP Ravichandra, set out from areas including Pragathi Nagar, Lakshmi

Narasimha Nagar, Yousufguda Basti, Check Post, and Krishnanagar, in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm.

The procession was marked by vibrant displays of party loyalty and cultural fervor. BRS campaign chariots were adorned with huge pink flags. The attendees marched on foot, some riding camels and horses, while Oggu Dolu drummers played, and artists performed various dances, accompanied by Teen Maar, DJ, and traditional drums (Dappu). The joyous procession was filled with cheers and shouts. Women carried Bonalu on their heads and performed Bathukamma

dances, all wearing pink scarves and caps. The air was filled with loud slogans like "Jai Telangana, Jai Jai Telangana," "Zindabad Zindabad," "Long Live KCR's Leadership," and "Our Vote is for the Car Symbol, BRS Candidate Maganti Sunitha." Crucially, the crowd also carried placards directly questioning the ruling Congress government with demands such as "Where are our free scooters?" "When will you give us 2,500?" "What happened to our 4,000 pension?," and "We don't want this 'Hydra Sarkar' which is destroying our lives!" Over 5,000 people marched to the road-

show, challenging the Congress government's failure to implement its promised schemes. MP Vaddiraju was accompanied by senior party leaders including Ashish Kumar Yadav, Puste Srikanth, Marri Rangarao, Vasala Venkatesh, R.V. Mahender, Golla Narsingrao Yadav, Gundlapalli Sheshagirirao, Jemmajikode Jagannamohan, Kotla Vinod, Shabir, Parvatam Satish, Faiyam, Chinna Yadav, Santosh Kumar, Naveen, Pavan Reddy, Talaru Venkatesh, Venugopal, Mohammed Hasan, Manjula, Bhagyalakshmi, Rajitha, and Vimala, and Geetha. The enormous turnout and the direct public question-

ing of the Congress's guarantee schemes highlight the strong anti-incumbency sentiment BRS is attempting to capitalize on in the by-election. The roadshow served as a powerful display of the party's ground-level strength and its ability to mobilize large segments of the population, including women, youth, and minorities, even after losing the general election. The cultural elements like Bonalu and Bathukamma were strategically used to connect with the voters on an emotional and regional level, reinforcing the BRS's image as the original party of Telangana statehood and culture.

Minister Tummala's Padayatra Ends Jubilee Hills Campaign

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Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao conducted a Padayatra (foot march) in the Venkateswara Nagar Division of the Jubilee Hills constituency on the final day of the by-election campaign, seeking victory for the Congress candidate Naveen Yadav. The Padayatra, which saw Minister Tummala, set out from the Venkateswara Nagar junction on Sunday evening for the ongoing Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. To attend the event, BRS cadres, admirers, women, minorities, and youth, led by MP Ravichandra, set out from areas including Pragathi Nagar, Lakshmi

to a close, the Padayatra attracted an overwhelming response from the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Tummala declared that the Jubilee Hills by-election is a crucial contest that will determine the future direction of Telangana. He strongly urged the enlightened voters of Jubilee Hills to reject the conspiracies of the BRS and BJP parties which are attempting to destabilize the Congress government. Minister Tummala appealed to the Jubilee Hills voters to deliver a

historic verdict in support of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for the stable development of Hyderabad and a stable government in the state. He specifically called upon intellectuals and apartment residents to turn out in large numbers for polling and requested them to elect the Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav. Earlier, Minister Tummala participated in an Atmeeyam Sammelanam (congenial meet) with the residents of Krishna Apartments in Yellandur, Corporation

Chairmen, and local leaders. The strategic focus on apartment complexes and intellectuals in the final hours of the campaign suggests an attempt by the Congress to secure the vote of the urban, educated electorate, which traditionally has a lower voter turnout. By framing the election as a choice between stability and conspiracy, the Congress aims to mobilize its base and persuade undecided voters about the benefits of electing a candidate from the ruling party for faster and more effective development.



Govt Delivers on Kollur Promises Within 24 Hours



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State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, stated that the promises made by the government to the residents of Kollur Colony just a week ago were initiated within 24 hours, a testament to the administrative efficiency of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The minister's comments came during a press statement in Hyderabad following a review meeting. Approximately 48,000 people belonging to about 16,000 families reside in Kollur Colony, Sangareddy District. Following a visit last week by Minister Ponguleti and other ministers, another review meeting was held on Sunday to check the progress of the commitments. The meeting saw the participation of cabinet colleague Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Khammam Member of Parliament Ram Sahayam Raghu Kumar Reddy, former MLC Bhupathi Reddy, Councillor Bharat, and other key leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti emphasized the government's sincerity in working for the Kollur 2BHK colony.

Community. For the eligible poor families in the colony, 200 units of free electricity will be provided under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, and arrangements are being made for the elderly to receive their pensions right there in the colony starting next month, eliminating the need for them to travel long distances. The government plans to call for tenders soon for setting up commercial shops within the colony. Minister Ponguleti reiterated that the colony residents should form a committee to facilitate further development and faster implementation of schemes. He stressed that this rapid action in Kollur Colony highlights the difference in governance, focusing on delivery rather than mere assurances. The state government is dedicated to ensuring that all residents, especially those in low-income housing projects, receive essential amenities, safety, and all eligible welfare benefits without bureaucratic hurdles. The focus is on holistic development, transforming these areas into model townships with all necessary social and civic infrastructure.

Congress Vows Strong Support for TV & Film Workers



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The Telangana Television Development Forum successfully organized a Karthika Maas Atmeeyam Sammelanam (Congenial Meet) for film workers from 24 crafts at the Begumpet Tourism Plaza. The event was a significant gathering for the entertainment industry workers. The Chief Guests for the grand meeting were TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with State Ministers Sridhar Babu and Komatireddy Venkata Reddy. The gathering was also attended by former Union Minister Venu Gopal Chari, representatives from 38 film industry associations, and a large number of prominent actors, actresses, and other film workers.

The central theme of the program was an extensive discussion on the welfare of film workers, the resolution of their long-standing issues, and the facilities being

provided by the government to support the industry's ecosystem. TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud delivered key points during his address, emphasizing that the Congress party belongs to everyone, and the Congress government will always stand in support of the film workers. He acknowledged that the success rate in the film industry is low, drawing a parallel between the volatile nature of the film industry and politics itself. He also metaphorically suggested that a good education can make life shine like a color TV, a message aimed at the younger generation. He criticized the previous government, suggesting there was indifference on the part of the government towards the film industry. Goud highlighted that the Congress party chose Naveen Yadav as its candidate because he is always accessible to the people and that his

Fair, Firm, Friendly: New Policing Mandate for Central Zone

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

A critical meeting was convened by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central Zone, Smt. K. Shilpavalli, IPS, at the Red Rose Function Hall. The primary objective of the meeting was to clearly communicate the operational roadmap and strategic vision for all officers within the Central Zone, in direct alignment with the directives of the Director General of Police (DGP) Sri B. Shivadhar Reddy, IPS, and the Commissioner of Police (CP) Hyderabad City, Sri VC Sajjanar, IPS. The DCP addressed nearly 600 officers, elaborating on the core guiding principles articulated by the DGP, which center on the concept of Fair, Firm, Friendly, and Professional Policing.

DCP Shilpavalli emphasized the DGP's conviction that effective policing must be citizen-centric, empathetic, and integrity-driven. She directed every officer to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards in both their conduct and their performance, making these principles the constant guide in discharging their duties. Echoing the message from CP Sri VC Sajjanar, IPS, the DCP reminded the force that al-



though only a fraction of the public visits a police station, every such interaction is critical as it shapes the perception of the entire department. Therefore, officers must demonstrate empathy, patiently listen to grievances, and perform their duties with absolute commitment and sincerity. She strongly motivated the personnel to achieve excellence by "doing ordinary tasks in an extraordinary manner," thereby fostering

public trust and respect through service excellence and professionalism. The DCP also underscored the paramount importance of neatness and discipline, both at a personal level and within the police station environment, noting that cleanliness and orderliness reflect organizational pride and respect for the public. Officers were urged to maintain a smart and confident public presence, consistently projecting the dignified

image of the department. Furthermore, the DCP stressed the vital necessity of strengthening public relations through regular community interaction, conducting awareness programs, and the effective development of human intelligence networks. Such proactive initiatives are crucial for both crime prevention and solving complex cases. Concluding the significant meeting, DCP K. Shilpavalli issued a final

minder that whether on or off duty, every officer represents the image of the Hyderabad City Police and the Telangana Police.

Consequently, they must exercise the utmost caution in their personal behavior, professional relationships, and financial discipline. She issued a clear warning that any lapse in integrity or conduct would result in strict disciplinary action.



Landlord Affair Turns Fatal, Murder Solved In 12 Hours

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025, The Dundigal Police successfully cracked a brutal murder case within 12 hours, arresting the accused in connection with the crime that took place yesterday morning in Green Hills Colony, Dundigal Police Station limits. The police investigation concluded that the motive for the murder was an illicit affair between the deceased woman, Swathi, and her landlord, Boya Kishan.

The victim, Swathi (28), a resident of Timmapur, Medak district, had been repeatedly pressuring Kishan to marry her. To eliminate her and silence her demands, Boya Kishan conspired and instigated his nephew, Rajesh (related by marriage), and Vamshi, an employee working under him, to carry out the murder.

The two perpetrators, Rajesh and Vamshi, brutally slit Swathi's throat in a planned act

to curb through proactive policing and swift justice. The local community expressed relief at the immediate arrest of the culprits, ensuring justice for the victim's family. The police are urging residents to report any suspicious activity or threats immediately to prevent such tragedies. At a press conference held at the Dundigal Police Station, Medchal ACP Shankar Reddy announced the details of the breakthrough, confirming the arrests and stating that the accused are being remanded to judicial custody. The media briefing was also attended by Dundigal CI Satish, DIs M. Bal Reddy and M. Rammojan Reddy, SI T. Sarala (WSI), HC B. Prabhakar Reddy, and other police personnel. The authorities are determined to ensure that all three individuals involved face the full extent of the law for their heinous crime, sending a clear message against violence.

'5K Against 5 Pitfalls' Run Raises Social Awareness



TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The usually health-focused Necklace Road, a popular spot for runs on various disease awareness, hosted a unique event where Slate The School management organized an awareness run focused on social maladies. The event, titled "Slate Smart Start 5K Against 5 Pitfalls, One Mission," was held to raise awareness against five major destructive elements: Betting, Loan Apps, Mobile Addiction, Junk Food, and Rote Learning-based education. The run was flagged off by Central Zone DCP K. Shilpavalli along with School Director Amarnath Vasireddy, commencing from Jalahi-vihar on Necklace Road and concluding at People's Plaza. The run saw enthusiastic participation from school students, their parents, and teachers in large numbers. DCP Shilpavalli addressed the gathering, stating that in modern society, youth, in particular, are falling prey to "destructive forces" that negatively impact their health, stability, and future. She identified five primary pitfalls that are currently plaguing human life, affecting students, parents, and society as a whole: Gambling/Betting, Loan Apps, Junk Food, Mobile Addiction, and Rote Learning-based education. She

emphasized the crucial role of parents and educational institutions in safeguarding the youth from these prevalent social risks that threaten their mental and physical well-being. The initiative by Slate The School is a commendable effort to address these contemporary issues head-on, promoting a holistic view of well-being that extends beyond physical health to include psychological and financial stability.

The large-scale participation indicated a widespread concern among parents and educators about the challenges facing modern youth. The event served as a powerful visual reminder to the community about the hidden dangers lurking in the digital and fast-paced world, especially the risks associated with quick money schemes like loan apps and the addictive nature of mobile devices. The run successfully promoted a critical conversation about creating a safer, healthier, and more balanced environment for students to thrive. The message stressed that eliminating these "five pitfalls" is essential for the positive future of the next generation. The press conference included bytes from DCP Shilpavalli (Central Zone DCP) and Amarnath Vasireddy (Correspondent and Director, Slate The School).

Sri TMT 10K Run Highlights Mental Health, Child Welfare

TPN Bureau | Nov 9

Hyderabad: The Sri TMT Hyderabad 10K Run was successfully held on Sunday morning at Gachibowli Stadium with the inspiring theme "Mind Over Miles." The event aimed to raise awareness on mental health and child welfare, drawing hundreds of fitness enthusiasts and social activists together. Organized by Sri TMT in association with KIMS Hospitals as the medical partner, the run underscored the idea that physical fitness paves the way for emotional and mental strength.

Guests of Honour

The event saw the presence of Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, Founder and Managing Director of KIMS Hospitals, as the

chief guest.

Dr. C.H. Preeti Reddy, Vice-Chairperson of Malla Reddy University, joined the run to inspire youth participation. Other dignitaries included Neeraj Adivi, Retired IFS Officer and former Principal Secretary to the Government of India, and Anup Kumar Yama, World Roller Skating Champion and Arjuna Award recipient. From Sri TMT (Devasree Ispat Pvt. Ltd), Prakash Goenka (Managing Director), Neeraj Goenka (Director), Siddharth Goenka (Director), and Karan Goenka (CEO) attended as special invitees.

Event Highlights

The event began at 5:30 a.m. with participants assembling to upbeat music. Energetic

warm-up sessions led by an emcee and DJ set the tone for the morning. Dignitaries shared inspiring messages on mental wellness, followed by a lively Zumba session that charged up participants for the 10K and 5K runs.

Runners traversed the Gachibowli circuit, embodying the event's spirit of physical and mental endurance. The programme concluded at 8:20 a.m. with heartfelt thanks and applause, leaving participants motivated and inspired toward holistic well-being.

Winners List

* 16-23 years category: Neeraj Goenka, Raghav, and Sushil Kumar Gupta (Sky Ved) secured the top three

positions.

* 24-35 years category: Vinila Kondapalli, Dr. Vipin, and P. Sudharaani emerged winners.

* 36-45 years category: Bhaskar from Union Bank bagged the first prize.

* 45+ years category: Raju clinched the top spot.

Inspiring Words from the Guests

Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao of KIMS Hospitals said, "Mental health is just as important as physical fitness. Through this run, we hoped to encourage early intervention, open conversations, and a culture of empathy toward those facing mental health challenges."

Former Principal Secretary Neeraj Adivi remarked, "It's heartening to see society come together for a meaningful cause. When we run for awareness, we move closer to a healthier and more compassionate community."

About Sri TMT

Sri TMT, a renowned name in the steel industry, stands for strength and durability—not only in construction but also in building stronger communities.

Through the Hyderabad 10K Run - Mind Over Miles, Sri TMT sought to remind everyone that true strength, resilience, and kindness go beyond steel. The initiative aimed to promote open discussions around mental health, encouraging people to seek help and understand that doing so is an act of courage, not weakness. The event helped dismantle long-held stigmas surrounding mental health and fostered a culture of awareness and empathy.

529 Caught In Weekend Drunk Driving Drive

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Cyberabad Traffic Police executed a concentrated Weekend-Special Drunk Driving (DD) enforcement drive, resulting in the successful apprehension of 529 offenders who were driving under the influence of alcohol. The statistics released by the department showed a clear breakdown of the vehicles involved in the violations. Two-wheelers accounted for the majority of the cases with 417 offenders, followed by four-wheelers with 88 cases, and three-wheelers with 24 cases. No violations were recorded for heavy vehicles during this specific drive. The offenders were also meticulously categorized based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, indicating the

severity of the intoxication. A large portion of the offenders, specifically 460 individuals, recorded BAC levels ranging from the legally punishable limit of \$35 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml} up to \$200 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml}. Furthermore, 40 offenders were found with significantly higher BAC levels, ranging from \$201 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml} up to \$300 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml}. Disturbingly, 29 offenders were dangerously intoxicated, recording BAC levels between \$301 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml} and \$550 /text{ mg} /100 /text{ ml}. All 529 offenders will be formally produced before the Hon'ble Court to face legal proceedings. The Cyberabad Police took this opportunity to reiterate their strong stance that driving under the influence of alcohol is a grave offense with potentially lethal consequences. They issued a stern warning that any individual found causing a fatal accident while intoxicated will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Arising from Murder).

The maximum penalty prescribed under this stringent new section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a significant fine. This warning emphasizes the shift toward treating fatal drunk driving incidents with the utmost severity. 307 persons received a penalty of fine only, 27 persons were sentenced to a fine coupled with social service, and 23 persons were handed sentences combining a fine and a jail term.

Hyderabad Man Arrested in Gujarat Terror Plot

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

In a major breakthrough, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arrested three suspected terrorists who were allegedly planning a series of terrorist attacks across the country. Among those arrested is Syed Ahmed Mohiyuddin, a resident of Fort View Colony, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The Gujarat ATS identified the trio as being involved in a deep-seated conspiracy to launch terrorist attacks in various regions of India. The three individuals, including the Hyderabad resident, were taken into custody and subsequently transported to Gujarat for further investigation. The arrest has sent ripples through the intelligence community, prompting a review of existing surveillance mechanisms in key metropolitan areas. The investigation is focusing on identifying any local facilitators or sleeper cells that may have supported the accused in

SC Classification Yields MBBS Seats for Marginalized Sub-Castes

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Telangana government's initiative to ensure social justice for the sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes (SC) through classification is now showing tangible results in professional education. For the first time, 42 students belonging to the least-populated, most socio-economically backward sub-castes in Category-1, who were traditionally excluded from higher education, have successfully secured MBBS seats. The implementation of SC classification in the state began on April 14, 2025.

Based on the 2011 census data, the government divided the 59 SC sub-castes into three categories according to their economic and social backwardness. While the total SC reservation remains at 15%, the allocation was restructured:



Category-1, comprising 15 of the least-populated and most backward sub-castes, was allotted 1% reservation. Category-2, with 18 sub-castes, received 9%, and Category-3, with 26 sub-castes, was allocated 5% reservation. The Kaloji University of Health Sciences allocated 842 medical and 89 BDS seats under SC reservation. A total of 3,048 students qualified for counseling, distributed

three from Manne, two from Methar, and 32 students from the Beda Budaga Jangam sub-caste. The university allocated the remaining seats in this category to other categories based on classification rules and a preferential system. In Category-2, which has a 9% reservation, 595 students secured seats (including the open category), against 507 allocated MBBS seats. Similarly, in Category-3, with a 5% reservation, 333 students secured seats (including the open category), against 280 allocated MBBS seats. This outcome confirms that the classification system is effectively channeling reservation benefits to the most deserving and historically marginalized communities within the SC umbrella, achieving the intended objective of social equity in professional education.

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The Singareni Coal Mines Labour Union – INTUC (Indian National Trade Union Congress) held a grand Working Committee meeting in Hyderabad today, focusing on crucial strategies for strengthening the union and preparing for major upcoming events. The meeting was presided over by the INTUC Secretary General, Sri B. Janak Prasad, and saw extensive discussions on several key organizational aspects vital for the union's future effectiveness.

Key issues debated and decided upon included measures for strengthening the union's presence, initiating a vigorous membership drive, organizing donations to support union activities, and

the complete reorganization of the Central and Branch Committees. These steps are intended to revitalize the union's structure and operational efficiency across the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). A major point of discussion was the detailed planning and arrangements for a forthcoming Mass Convention scheduled to be held in Ramagundam, which is expected to draw a massive crowd of 25,000 workers. The union committee meticulously discussed the coordination and preparations for this event in conjunction with the All India Congress Committee General Secretary, Sri K.C. Venugopal. Furthermore, the meeting addressed the strategic approach to be adopted during the upcoming

Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting. Important decisions were also taken regarding the activities carried out by the Contract Workers Association, steps to strengthen their collective bargaining power, and necessary changes to the union committee structure. The meeting saw the participation of numerous key union leaders and committee members, underscoring the unity within the INTUC faction. Among the attendees were core committee members, Senior Vice Presidents Narasimha Reddy, Kampeili Sammaiah, Thyagarajan, and Jetti Shankar Rao. Women's President Sesha Rathnam, Vice Presidents Joga Buchaiah and Vaddepalli Das, General Secretaries Vikas Kumar Yadav, Pashunuti

Rajender, and Enugu Ravinder Reddy, Chief Organizing Secretary Narender, Regional General Secretaries Albert and Tyson Srinivas, Deputy General Secretary Venugopal Yadav, and several Area Vice Presidents including Sadanandam, Shankar Naik, Ravinder Reddy, Devi Bhumiah, Madhukar Reddy, Razak, Peethambaram, Krishnam Raju, Peram Srinivas, and Secretary Rama Rao. In conclusion, the President appealed to all members to focus on the unity of labour organizations and called for a continued, united struggle to achieve the rights and entitlements of Singareni workers. The union affirmed its commitment to protecting the interests of both regular and contract workers.

Singareni INTUC Holds Key Working Committee Meeting

SC Steps In, But Will Telangana See Fewer Stray Dogs on Streets?

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

The increasing menace of stray dogs in municipal and urban areas across the district has become a major source of public anxiety, prompting the Supreme Court (SC) to issue stringent directives to Central and State Government departments. The SC explicitly instructed authorities to ensure that stray dogs do not wander in public places with heavy footfall, such as educational institutions, bus stops, railway stations, sports grounds, and hospitals, and to relocate them to special shelters. This order comes at a time when residents are increasingly concerned about potential attacks, fearing the unpredictability of the animals.

The primary method for controlling the stray dog population, the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program, which involves sterilization surgeries to reduce reproduction, has been suspended in several areas. In Karimnagar, for instance, the ABC program has stalled due to complaints regarding the inadequate condition of the operation theatre and the cattle shed. The Supreme Court's clear directive to



relocate the dogs from crowded areas presents a major challenge to municipal authorities, especially since shelter facilities are currently non-existent in many municipal limits. Authorities must now decide whether they will expedite the construction of these shelters and relocate the

dogs as mandated. Complaints regarding aggressive dog packs are escalating in municipalities and corporations, forcing adults to accompany children everywhere. Furthermore, the presence of dogs on roads at night is contributing to traffic accidents as they chase vehicles. Despite

the surge in public complaints urging the removal of stray dogs, officials have been slow to take decisive action. A contributing factor to the congregation of dogs is the practice of some residents feeding them haphazardly in streets and public places. In Karimnagar, a new animal welfare center is being constructed on the Ramagundam bypass road, which has reached the slab stage. Officials stated that sterilization surgeries can only resume once the shelter is fully constructed and equipped with necessary facilities like a proper operation theater and cat-

tle shed, in line with court orders. The local authorities assured that the construction work for the animal care center is being expedited. They are currently awaiting clear guidelines from the court regarding the specific procedures for relocating the stray dogs from public spaces.

Book Lovers Turn Homes into Personal Libraries

TPN Bureau | Nov 9, 2025

In today's fast-paced life, characterized by mobile phones and social media, many have forgotten the joy of reading books, often wasting time on unnecessary and unverified information online. While some still harbor a genuine interest in reading, they struggle to allocate time for it. However, a dedicated group of book lovers continues to seek out and purchase books wherever they find exhibitions or book depots. News Today spoke to three such passionate individuals in the city who have gone a step further: they have transformed their homes into personal libraries, filled with books, living a life surrounded by knowledge. These individuals shared their profound

sentiments about living in the world of books and accumulating knowledge.

One individual shared that his love for reading began in childhood. During his Intermediate and Degree college days, he would spend 25 paisa daily to rent and read novels. His serious book collection began after he joined BSNL in 1975, committing to buying and reading at least one book regularly. He mentioned frequenting Hyderabad's book exhibitions and stalls, primarily collecting spiritual and fictional literature. He proudly stated that he has carefully preserved the works of popular novelists from the period between 1980 and 2000. Demonstrating his dedication to literature, he even collected good stories from

weekly magazines and had them custom-bound into a book. He also curated fascinating articles from prominent newspapers like India Today and Eenadu. This book lover's passion is not merely personal; he has also donated Bhagavad Gita copies and other novels to libraries, including those at the Lok Satta office and the spiritual ISKCON Gita Mandir. He maintains a rigorous reading routine, starting his day by reading the entire daily newspaper. He concluded by saying that his day feels incomplete until he has successfully filled the "Padakosham" (word puzzle) featured in the Eenadu Sunday magazine, symbolizing his deep and ongoing engagement with language and knowledge.



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

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

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

Yet amid the despair lies a historic opportunity for India.

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



and Taiwan before that, India now stands at a cross-

roads. Beijing responded to tightening US visa policies

with bold action — offering repatriation incentives,

fast-track STEM visas, and startup capital. Returnees

helped build tech giants like Alibaba and Baidu.

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

India must act now to seize this moment.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Eyewitness reports and police briefings suggest that be-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will AI Trigger a New Engels' Pause?



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

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

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

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

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

nets, upskilling initiatives, and stronger labour protections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

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

saw the presence of Uttarakhand Governor Lt. General Gurmeet Singh (Rtd.) and other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi lauded the state's progress across various sectors, highlighting its achievements in infrastructure, tourism, ed-

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

The Prime Minister also underlined that work on

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

educational institutions aimed at improving quality of life and promoting economic growth.

During the event, PM Modi highlighted the importance of sustainable development in the ecologically sensitive region, urging balanced growth that preserves the state's natural resources while providing opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony also emphasized the government's focus on regional development, including initiatives in renewable energy, smart cities, and tourism infrastructure. Officials said the projects are expected to generate significant employment and strengthen the state's economy in the coming years.

The celebrations mark a quarter-century since Uttarakhand's formation on November 9, 2000, separating from Uttar Pradesh to become India's 27th state. The event showcased the government's commitment to transforming the Himalayan state into a hub of sustainable growth and modern infrastructure.

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

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party intensified its criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday over the ongoing Vande Mataram controversy, alleging that he has "insulted" both the Congress Working Committee (CWC) of 1937 and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Congress MP and General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Prime Minister should focus on current issues affecting citizens rather than revisiting historical debates. "The Prime Minister has insulted this CWC as also Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. That he should have done so is shocking but not surprising, since the RSS had played no role in our Freedom Movement by Mahatma Gandhi," Ramesh remarked.

The party pointed to the CWC statement of 1937, which had clarified the context and significance of the song Vande Mataram during India's strug-



gle for independence. Congress leaders argued that Modi's remarks disregarded the historical importance of the statement and misrepresented Tagore's contribution to the nation's cultural and patriotic heritage.

The controversy has re-ignited debates over the use of Vande Mataram in

public life, with Congress leaders argued that Modi's remarks disregarded the historical importance of the statement and misrepresented Tagore's contribution to the nation's cultural and patriotic heritage.

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

heritage.

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

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



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

Addressing an in-house question-and-answer ses-

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

Bhagwat also addressed

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

Bhagwat's statement

highlighted the RSS's emphasis on individual commitment and its historical foundation, portraying the organisation as a voluntary movement with cultural and social objectives rather than a conventional registered entity.

Observers said the chief's remarks are likely aimed at reaffirming the Sangh's identity and countering allegations while projecting respect for national symbols. With the RSS celebrating its centenary next year, the comments also serve to underline its longstanding presence in India's social and political landscape, asserting that its legacy predates contemporary registration and bureaucratic requirements.

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

Bhagwat's statement

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



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was asked to do 10 push-ups after arriving late to a party training session in Madhya Pradesh's Pachmarhi, where the Congress is conducting its 'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' – an organisational revitalisation drive.

Gandhi, who took a break from his Bihar election campaign to attend the event, complied with the light-hearted "penal action" and performed the push-ups before fellow participants. According to sources, the rule – enforced by training head Sachin Rao – required all latecomers to face the same "punishment." When Gandhi asked what he must do, Rao replied, "At least 10

push-ups," prompting the Leader of Opposition to oblige on the spot.

District Congress presidents who also arrived late followed his example, turning the disciplinary exercise into a team-building moment. "We received a very good response from district presidents," Gandhi later said, smiling as the session drew laughter and applause.

During his visit, Gandhi continued to criticise the BJP and the Election Commission, alleging large-scale irregularities in recent state polls. "A few days ago, I presented the Haryana model where 25 lakh votes were stolen – one vote from every eight. This is their system. The main

issue is 'vote chori' (vote theft)," he claimed, adding that Congress would release supporting evidence soon.

The BJP, however, mocked Gandhi for attending the retreat amid the Bihar campaign. "LoP means Leader of Paryatan and Party," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said on X, accusing him of "enjoying a jungle safari in Pachmarhi" instead of campaigning.

As the Congress focuses on strengthening its cadre through the Pachmarhi programme, the light-hearted push-up episode has added an unexpected dose of humour and camaraderie to the party's organisational training.

Complaints Over Street Distribution of SIR Forms in Bengal



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has received multiple complaints regarding Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in West Bengal distributing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electoral forms at public places, sparking concern over procedural violations.

Political parties have reported that BLOs handed out forms at tea stalls, local clubs, street corners, and schools, instead of visiting voters' homes as mandated.

In some areas, people were seen rushing to streets to collect the forms directly from officers. The irregularities have reportedly left the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) embarrassed.

Following these complaints, the ECI issued a

warning to senior poll officers, emphasizing strict adherence to guidelines. BLOs were reminded that their duty is to distribute SIR forms door-to-door, assist voters in filling out the forms correctly, and address any doubts.

The ECI stressed that the distribution of forms in public spaces violates electoral rules.

The Commission also directed District Magistrates (DMs) to monitor the process closely and warned of strict action if negligence persists.

A district-level control room has been mandated to supervise BLO activities, with one BLO supervisor assigned for every ten booths to ensure compliance.

ECI officials pointed to the Bihar model as a standard, where enu-

merators personally deliver forms and educate voters, ensuring both accuracy and transparency. The directive aims to prevent any misuse or confusion during the voter list revision process.

The SIR drive, currently in its second phase, is a crucial step to update electoral rolls ahead of upcoming elections. The ECI's proactive measures reflect an effort to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process while addressing public and political concerns in West Bengal.

With complaints continuing to surface, the ECI is closely monitoring the situation to ensure that door-to-door delivery remains the standard for all BLOs in the state.

Japan PM Sanae Takaichi Plans Pay Cuts for Herself, Cabinet



TPN Correspondent | TOKYO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Five Indians Kidnapped in Mali Amid Rising Unrest



TPN Correspondent | Bamako

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

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

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

Kidnapping of foreigners have become increasingly common in Mali, which has been plagued by coups, rebellions, and civil conflict since 2012. In September, JNIM militants abducted two Emirati nationals and an Iranian near Bamako; the hostages were released last week after reportedly ransom negotiations of at least \$50 million.

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The Taliban reiterated its "principled position"

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

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

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

Afghanistan's "responsibilities and capabilities."

Adding to the friction, Afghanistan's Minister

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

TPN Bureau | Washington

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

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

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

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



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

The White House has

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

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

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

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

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

TPN Correspondent | Istanbul

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

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

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

Afghanistan's "responsibilities and capabilities."

Adding to the friction, Afghanistan's Minister

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

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

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

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

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

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

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

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



ditional planes were being sent to strengthen the

response, as dry weather and strong winds contin-

ued to hamper contain-

Tongariro National Park, a UNESCO World

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navigating a Tough Year

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

PVC, which consti-



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

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

Market Evolution and Future Drivers

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

water supply, plumbing, sanitation, and industrial applications.

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

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

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

Policy and Regulatory Tailwinds

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

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

India Becomes Top Expansion Market for APAC 3PL Firms:



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

The report 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 sec-

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

The report also high-

lighted a rise in Grade-

A warehousing de-

mand, 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 im-

proving connectivity.

India's 3PL segment

has seen double-digit

annual growth in re-

cent years, supported

by increasing out-

sourcing of logistics

operations by major

industries. With rising

investments in auto-

mation, cold chain fa-

cilities, and multi-

modal logistics parks,

the sector is poised for

sustained expansion.

CBRE expects the In-

dian logistics real es-

tate market to outper-

form its regional

counterparts in the

medium term, rein-

forcing the country's

status as the logistics

growth engine of

APAC.

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



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

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

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

However, several other economists and ana-

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This surge is being attributed to the modernisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increasing industrialisation, and strong after-market 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.

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

lys 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.

However, several other economists and ana-

Paracetamol Ice Cream? Medicinal Dessert Debuts in the Netherlands



In a bizarre twist on pharmaceutical innovation, a viral Instagram post has claimed that paracetamol-infused ice cream is now available in the Netherlands — offering a new, dessert-style way to beat fever and pain.

According to the widely shared post, Dutch developers have reportedly created an ice cream that contains paracetamol, the globally popular drug used to relieve fever, headaches, and mild to moderate pain. The frozen treat is said to retain all the therapeutic effects of a standard paracetamol tablet, but in a far more palatable form.

The unusual innovation has sparked curiosity and excitement online, with users wondering if a spoonful of ice cream might soon replace the bitter pill. Reactions on social media have ranged from amusement to skepticism, with many calling it "genius" and others questioning the safety and regulation

behind such a product.

While the idea of medicine disguised as dessert might appeal to children and pill-averse adults, there is currently no official confirmation from Dutch health authorities or pharmaceutical companies about the legitimacy or approval of such a product. Health experts have also raised concerns about dosage control, especially if such ice cream becomes commercially available.

Researchers found that hematite, an iron oxide mineral present at the site, was likely used as a flux — substance added during the copper smelting process to aid in metal extraction. The discovery was supported by

Aeroplane-sized asteroids approaching earth fast



An asteroid roughly the size of an aeroplane is set to make a close approach to Earth today, but NASA has confirmed there is no threat of impact.

The space rock, designated 2025-TN2, measures approximately 87 feet (26.5 metres) in diameter and is the largest among four asteroids currently tracked by NASA's Near-Earth Object Observations Program. It will pass safely at a distance of around 1.34 million kilometres from Earth — more than three times the distance between Earth and the Moon.

Despite its relatively close pass, NASA has assured the public that the asteroid poses no danger, with no risk of collision. The object is traveling at a high velocity, as is typical for near-Earth asteroids, and will continue on its solar orbit after the flyby.

While 2025-TN2 is not large enough to cause serious damage even if it were on a collision course, the event

highlights the importance of NASA's ongoing planetary defense efforts. The agency monitors thousands of near-Earth objects (NEOs), many of which are discovered each month, to track their trajectories and assess any potential hazards.

Asteroids of this size pass near Earth fairly frequently. However, NASA and other space agencies have increased their vigilance following high-profile asteroid events and ongoing interest in planetary defense missions like DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test).

This latest flyby serves as a reminder of the dynamic nature of our solar system — and the crucial role that scientific observation and early warning systems play in keeping Earth safe from celestial threats.

For now, Earth remains safe, and 2025-TN2 will continue its cosmic journey well away from harm's reach.

Ancient Georgian Site May Reveal Accidental Origins of Iron Age



In a discovery that could reshape our understanding of one of history's most significant technological revolutions, archaeologists have uncovered new evidence at a 3,000-year-old site in southern Georgia that may point to the accidental origins of ironworking.

The site, Kvemo Bolnisi, long believed to be an early iron production facility, has revealed surprising findings through advanced research led by Nathaniel Erb-Satullo and Bobbi Klymchuk from Cranfield University, UK. Their study suggests that iron was not initially smelted for its own value but may have been a byproduct of copper production.

Researchers found that hematite, an iron oxide mineral present at the site, was likely used as a flux — substance added during the copper smelting process to aid in metal extraction. The discovery was supported by

chemical and microscopic analysis of the materials, particularly slag, a

byproduct of smelting.

Published in the Journal of Archaeological

Science, the study supports a long-held theory that the use of iron may

have emerged accidentally, rather than through intentional in-

novation. The process of high-temperature copper smelting could have incidentally produced iron, sparking further exploration and the eventual rise of the Iron Age.

"This is a significant step forward," said Dr. Erb-Satullo. "Despite iron's central role in industrial history, its origins have been incredibly hard to trace due to rust, lack of written records, and limited archaeological focus."

The findings from Kvemo Bolnisi not only offer a rare glimpse into early metallurgical practices but also highlight how technological breakthroughs can emerge from experimentation and accident, rather than deliberate invention.

The study underscores the importance of continued excavation and research in regions like the South Caucasus, a potential cradle of early metallurgy.

Why Patients Must Fast Before Surgery: Medical Experts Explain



Patients are routinely instructed not to eat or drink anything for several hours before surgery — and this guideline isn't just hospital protocol, it's a critical safety measure rooted in medical science.

According to experts, pre-surgery fasting — known medically as nil per os (NPO), meaning "nothing by mouth" — is vital to reduce the risk of aspiration during anaesthesia. When a person is under general anaesthesia, their reflexes, including the gag and cough reflex, are temporarily suppressed. If there is any food or liquid in the stomach, there's a chance it can travel back up the oesophagus and enter the lungs, leading to serious complications such as aspiration pneumonia.

"Even a small amount of food or fluid in the stomach can be dangerous," said a senior anaesthesiologist from AIIMS, New Delhi. "The stomach doesn't empty imme-

diately after eating — digestion takes time. If the stom-

ach isn't empty during surgery, it poses a significant risk."

What are the standard fast-

ing guidelines? Typically, patients are advised to:

- Avoid solid foods for at least 6–8 hours before surgery
- Avoid clear liquids for at least 2–4 hours before surgery

These guidelines may vary slightly depending on the type of surgery and anaesthesia involved.

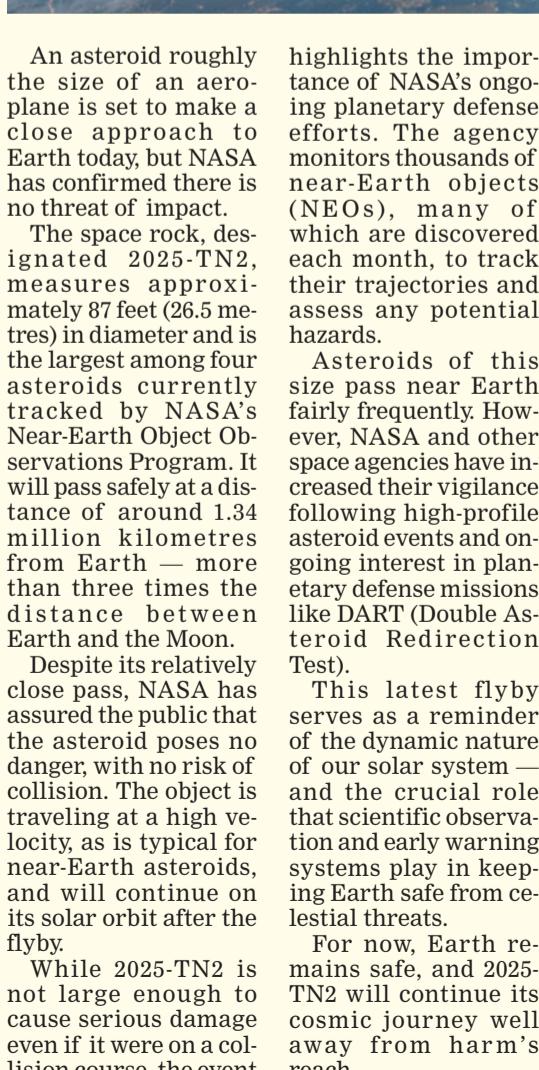
Clear liquids like water, black coffee, and apple juice may sometimes be allowed up to a few hours before the procedure, but dairy, juices with pulp, or any solid food are strictly off limits.

Communication is key.

If a patient accidentally eats or drinks too close to surgery, they must inform their doctor immediately. In most cases, the procedure will be postponed for safety.

Ultimately, fasting before surgery isn't about comfort — it's about saving lives.

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



In a world filled with beautiful travel destinations, some cities remain perilous due to war, crime, political instability, or lack of infrastructure. While travel can be enriching, experts and global advisories urge caution when choosing your next trip. Based on current global conditions, here's a list of 25 cities deemed the most dangerous for tourists in 2025, starting with Aleppo, Syria.

1. Aleppo, Syria

Once Syria's largest and most vibrant city, Aleppo has been ravaged by civil war since 2011. Once a cultural and historical hub, the city was turned into a battleground. Although there have been efforts at rebuilding and some displaced citizens are returning, Aleppo — and Syria overall — remains unsafe for foreigners due to ongoing conflict, political instability, and a high risk of violence. Travel advisories from several countries strongly discourage any travel to the region.

Why This List Matters

Each year, government bodies like the U.S. State Department, UK Foreign Office, and Global Peace Index issue warnings about high-risk travel destinations. These warnings are based on factors like:

- Armed conflict
- Terrorist activity
- Violent crime
- Kidnapping risks



- Breakdown of law enforcement
- Health infrastructure collapse

Tourists are encouraged to check official travel advisories before booking trips to lesser-known or politically

unstable regions.

Other Notable Cities on the List

The full list includes cities across Latin America, the Middle East, and parts of Africa. Notorious examples

include:

- Caracas, Venezuela
- Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- San Pedro Sula, Honduras
- Mogadishu, Somalia
- Tijuana, Mexico

While travel offers immense personal growth, safety should remain a top priority. When in doubt, consult your country's embassy, consular services, or official travel warning platforms before making plans.

Ahmedabad Recommended to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

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

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

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



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

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

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

tourism, and economic activity in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

finals of the Japan Open on Wednesday, marking a poignant moment for the home favorite playing on Japanese soil for the first time in three years.

The top-seeded Osaka faced defending champion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Osaka will next face Romania's Jacqueline Cristian in the quarter-finals, hoping to continue her comeback despite the injury setback.

Fans and analysts alike are keenly watching the Japanese star's performance, inspired by her grit and determination to play through adversity in front of her home crowd.

Virat Kohli Quashes ODI Retirement Rumors Ahead of Australia Series

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

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

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



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

India's head coach Gau-

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

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

With Kohli and Rohit

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

Lakshya Sen and Satwik Advance to Denmark Open 2025



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

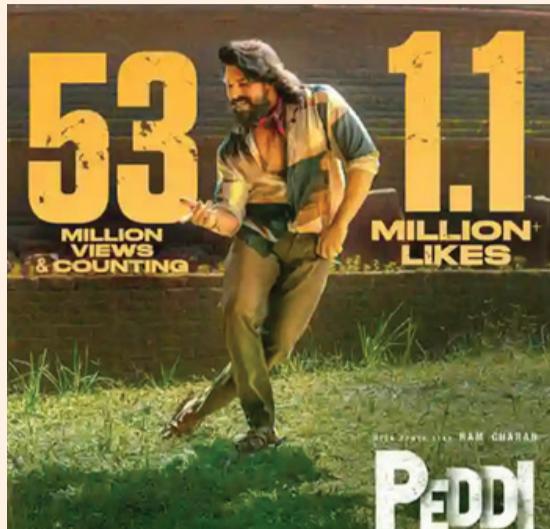
In the third quarter, Australia staged a strong comeback, scoring three consecutive goals. Oscar Sproule equalized in the 39th minute with a well-placed

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Ajay Bhupathi to Launch Mahesh Babu's Nephew Jaya Krishna

A new star from the illustrious Ghattamaneni family is ready to enter Telugu cinema. Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of the legendary Superstar Krishna and son of the late Ramesh Babu, is all set to make his silver-screen debut.

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

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

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

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

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



Gatha Vaibhavam Secures PrimeShow Backing for Grand Release



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

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

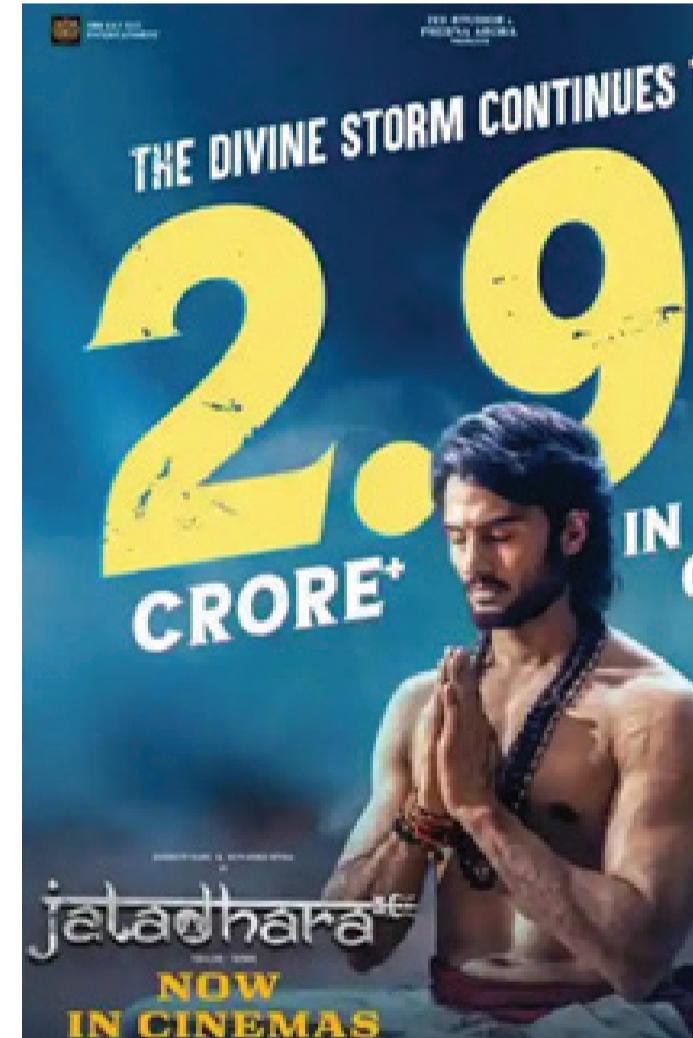
dle distribution in North America and Canada, marking the film's entry into the global market with substantial backing.

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

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

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

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



Jatadhara Registers ₹2.91 Crore in Two Days Worldwide

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

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

Directed by Umesh Kumar Bansal, Jatadhara features Sonakshi Sinha, Divya Khosla, Shilpa Shirodkar, and Indira Krishna in pivotal roles alongside Sudheer Babu. The ensemble cast had raised expectations for a gripping supernatural experience, but early responses suggest that the execution fell short of its potential.

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

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