

Telangana BJP's Crisis: Leadership Shifts and the Perception of Covert Ties

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Despite the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) relentless national expansion and continued electoral success in multiple states, the party has repeatedly failed to translate this momentum into meaningful electoral success in Telangana, a region once viewed as its most promising gateway to the South. The recent outcome of the Jubilee Hills by-election has served as a critical reality check, starkly exposing the party's organizational and strategic flaws in the state.¹ The BJP secured a disappointingly low vote share of just 8.76% in the constituency, which falls under the Secunderabad Parliamentary seat represented by a Union Minister.² This poor performance, resulting in the forfeiture of its deposit, has seriously undermined the narrative of steady growth the party had cultivated since the state's formation.³

The party's political trajectory witnessed a visible upward swing during the tenure of Bandi Sanjay Kumar as state president.⁴ His aggressive rhetoric, fiery speeches challenging the then-ruling BRS, and focused grassroots mobilization enabled the BJP to emerge as a formidable challenger, highlighted by victories in the Dubbaka and Huzurabad by-elections and a strong performance in the GHMC polls.⁵



However, the unexpected removal of Bandi Sanjay from the presidency, reportedly driven by internal complaints and high-level political calculations concerning new entrants and a perceived softness towards

the BRS, proved to be a critical turning point. This leadership reshuffle, instead of enhancing party unity and vigor, appears to have triggered a downward slide, leading to a dip in cadre enthusiasm, weakened internal coordination, and the fading of the party's aggressive political image. The adverse impact became clearly evident in subsequent elections, culminating in the Jubilee Hills defeat, where the party lost control of the ground narrative early on.

Adding significantly to the party's woes is the widely held public perception of a covert un-

derstanding or "friendly fight" between the BJP and the BRS. This suspicion has gravely damaged the BJP's credibility among anti-BRS voters, who now feel the party has pulled its punches, especially in key by-elections. This belief was further entrenched during the Jubilee Hills contest, where the BJP's state leadership, including new president K. Laxman Ramachandra Rao, appeared passive and failed to launch a coordinated or assertive campaign. The contrast was stark compared to the Congress ministers, who campaigned aggressively. The lack of enthusiasm and perceived silent cooperation was reinforced when BJP leaders indirectly defended the BRS candidate, Maganti Sunitha, after she became emotional on the campaign trail, further fuelling talk of a friendly understanding. While the BJP continues to consolidate its national strength, its internal friction, fluctuating strategies, and the damaging perception of a covert alliance have prevented it from capitalizing on anti-incumbency sentiments and successfully positioning itself as the principal alternative to the ruling Congress party in Telangana.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy delivered a significant address at the Ramoji Excellence Awards ceremony, where he formally declared the state government's commitment to providing all necessary support to sustain the profound legacy of the renowned "Ramoji" brand.¹ This pledge specifically highlighted the brand's immense contributions to journalism and the continued promotion and flourishing of the state-of-the-art Ramoji Film City (RFC), which the CM proudly recognized as a global hub for film making. The Chief Minister's attendance and supportive speech demonstrated a clear effort by the new administration to foster a positive and collaborative relationship with one of the region's largest media and business conglomerates.

During his participation in the prestigious awards program, Revanth Reddy lauded the Ramoji Group for its commendable efforts in maintaining the high values and traditions established by its late founder, Ramoji Rao.³ Acknowledging the monumental task of managing such a vast organization, the CM emphasized that the Ramoji Film City stands as a significant asset for the state, particularly for the metropolitan city of Hyderabad. He went a step



further, formally positioning the Ramoji Film City as one of the "Four Wonders" of the state, placing it alongside the historical landmarks of Charminar and Golconda Fort, and the modern landmark of Hitech City.

The Chief Minister highlighted the visionary approach of Ramoji Rao in developing the Film City, which he noted is equipped with every imaginable film production facility. He humorously observed that the Film City allows filmmakers to "come with a script and leave with a complete film print ready for screening directly." Revanth Reddy also paid homage to the core media institutions of the group, recognizing that reading the widely circulated Telugu daily Eenadu and watching the popular ETV News are part of the daily life for millions of people across the Telugu states. He stressed that maintaining credibility is the ultimate hallmark of the Eena du news group, showcasing the CM's respect for the institution's journalistic standards. Furthermore, the Chief Minister acknowledged Ramoji Rao's unique ability to successfully market diverse products, making his mark "in selling pickles and news content in the competitive market."

Congratulating all the recipients of the Ramoji Excellence Awards, the Chief Minister urged the audience to ensure that Ramoji Rao's ideas and commitment to nation-building are passed on to future generations, asserting his belief that the Ramoji brand should remain alive forever as a symbol of entrepreneurial excellence and societal value.



Governor Hosts Vice President for High-Level Tea Reception

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In a significant display of political and constitutional protocol, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma hosted a formal tea reception for Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday, November 16, 2025. This visit marked the Vice President's first official trip to Telangana since assuming the high office, underscoring its importance on the state's political calendar. The event was characterized by an air of official cordiality, bringing together key dignitaries from both the state government and the central cabinet, highlighting the spirit of federal cooperation despite underlying political differences. The Governor and the Vice President exchanged pleasantries and discussed various matters of state

importance in a setting designed for constitutional heads.

Prior to the reception at the Raj Bhavan, the Vice President was accorded a warm and traditional welcome upon his arrival at Begumpet Airport. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Governor Varma were present together at the airport tarmac to personally receive Radhakrishnan, following established protocol. Accompanying the Chief Minister and Governor were several other state officials, including ministers such as Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar, the Chief Secretary, and other high-ranking civil servants, all of whom extended their felicitations to the Vice President. The presence of such a diverse political and administrative group at the welcome ceremony underscored the state's commitment to respecting the constitutional office of the Vice President.

The tea reception at the Raj Bhavan was attended by an array of high-ranking political figures. Among those present were Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who officially honored the Vice President during the event, and Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The inclusion of both Central and State ministers, who belong to different political parties, provided a platform for informal, high-level interactions away from the usual parliamentary and legislative settings. Also in attendance was the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Gutta Sukender Reddy, along with a multitude of other elected representatives and senior government officials. Such gatherings, where leaders from contrasting political spectrums converge, are essential for fostering dialogue and maintaining the delicate balance of federal relations, even as they

face off in the political arena.

The visit had been anticipated for several days, with the Chief Secretary, Ramakrishna Rao, holding extensive meetings with collectors and high-ranking security officials on November 13 to finalize all arrangements, ensuring seamless protocol and stringent security measures for both the Vice President and the impending President's visits.¹ The smooth execution of the reception and the subsequent attendance by key state leaders reflects the organized effort by the Telangana administration to manage high-profile central visits efficiently. The ceremony served as a formal yet convivial occasion for the state's constitutional head to host the nation's second-highest constitutional functionary, strengthening institutional ties between the state and the central government.

Deputy CM Unveils 'Telangana Rising – Vision 2047' Global Summit Plans

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Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has ramped up preparations for the upcoming Global Summit, a major international event intended to showcase the state's progress and future trajectory to the world. As the Congress-led Public Government approaches its two-year milestone in office, the Deputy CM announced that the summit would be the platform for unveiling the ambitious "Telangana Rising – Vision 2047" document. This comprehensive document is set to detail the state's developmental goals and projected status by 2047, the centennial year of India's independence, outlining a path for sustainable and inclusive growth across all sectors. The entire state cabinet, under the leadership of

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has taken a special and unified decision to present this forward-looking vision to the global community, moving beyond merely reporting on first-year achievements to defining a long-term economic and social plan. The government's intent is clear: to articulate not just what Telangana will be, but fundamentally what it ought to be by the middle of the 21st century.

Mallu confirmed that he has personally embarked on an inspection tour of several potential venues across the city to ensure the summit is hosted in a location that reflects the state's modern aspirations and capacity to handle a large international gathering. The sites currently under review include Bharat Future City, HITEX, Gachibowli, and Dundigal. At Bharat Future City, the Deputy CM stated, will be key selling points when explaining the city's advantages to the global industrial community. He

emphasized that showcasing the state's potential and commitment to a stable, progressive business environment through the 'Vision 2047' document is integral to meeting the government's economic targets, which reportedly include achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2035 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. The state government is positioning the summit as an essential step toward achieving these ambitious benchmarks, signaling to the world that Telangana is not just ready for business but is a key partner in future global growth.

Senior government officials, including Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Vikas Raj, and Shashank, accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during his interactions with the media, underscoring the administrative backing for this major initiative.



TGSRTC Focuses on Discipline, Efficiency, and New Employee Welfare Schemes

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The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is embarking on a comprehensive overhaul, moving towards enhanced operational discipline and focusing on new employee welfare initiatives to boost both service quality and internal morale. With over 9,000 buses traversing 42 lakh kilometers daily and serving an average of 58 lakh passengers, the TSRTC management recently conducted region-wise meetings to address key operational and personnel challenges. A critical new directive targets the conduct of staff towards passengers, which has been the subject of numerous complaints. The management issued clear instructions mandating that conductors and dri-

vers must interact with passengers in a friendly and respectful manner, strictly prohibiting any behavior or language that could cause offense or generate customer complaints, as improving public image is par-

simultaneously, the management is vigorously pursuing cost-cutting measures and increasing operational efficiency, recognizing that employee wages and diesel expenses constitute the primary components of the RTC's operating costs. Instructions were clearly given to drivers to operate buses in a manner that ensures maximum mileage and significantly reduced diesel consumption. Further steps to improve efficiency include extending tire lifespan, minimizing bus breakdowns, and

ensuring a more systematic and efficient use of spare parts across all depots. The management also addressed the conduct of officials and supervisors toward lower-level staff, an area that has also generated internal complaints. Officials were instructed to adopt an encouraging and respectful tone toward drivers and conductors rather than a demeaning one, with the management making it clear that any disrespectful behavior towards subordinates will not be tolerated.

In a key move toward enhanced employee welfare, the issue of excessive employee leave and resulting trip cancellations due to poor health was discussed by senior officials. The RTC management is reportedly considering a ground-



Minister Tummala Intervenes in Cotton Strike; Appeals to Center to Ease CCI Norms

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State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has initiated urgent measures to avert a major agricultural crisis as over 300 ginning mills across Telangana prepared for an indefinite, statewide strike starting on Monday, halting all cotton procurement operations. The strike was called by mill owners in protest against the stringent L1 and L2 regulations imposed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), which they argue are causing severe financial losses. In response to the mill owners' ultimatum, Minister Tummala immediately contacted the office of Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh to discuss the grievances and press for a favorable resolution. The Minister highlighted the plight of both the millers and the distressed farmers to the Central government officials, requesting the State Agriculture Secretary to actively pursue the matter to ensure the CCI's stricti-

ve norms are resolved.

Minister Tummala particularly emphasized the severe difficulties caused by the CCI's cap limiting procurement to just 7 quintals of cotton per acre. He strongly urged the Center to immediately lift this restriction, presenting official data that supports increasing the procurement limit to 12 quintals per acre. The Minister provided district-level statistics confirming that the average cotton yield in the state is approximately 11.74 quintals per acre, and he even offered to submit farmer-specific data to substantiate the demand. He stressed that it is unfair for the Central Government to further burden millers and farmers with harsh regulations when the agricultural community has already suffered extensively due to adverse weather conditions like cyclones and unseasonal rains. Minister Tummala called for a humanitarian approach, requesting Central authorities to instruct the CCI to re-

lax the procurement norms immediately.

The Central Minister's officials reportedly responded favorably, assuring Minister Tummala that they would immediately direct CCI officials to take necessary remedial actions to address the concerns. Concurrently, Minister Tummala made a direct appeal to the ginning mill representatives to withdraw their strike decision, emphasizing that halting procurement now would be deeply detrimental to the farmers' welfare, especially as the weather improves. He assured the millers that the State Government is actively lobbying the Central Government to resolve their problems and promised the State's full support and cooperation. The Minister pointed out that the current "ill-considered regulations" have resulted in the procurement of only 1.18 lakh metric tonnes of cotton from just 67,000 farmers so far, indicating the scale of the crisis and the urgent need for a resolution.

Ginning Mills Launch Indefinite Strike Against Stringent CCI Norms

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Over 300 ginning mills operating across Telangana have collectively announced the launch of an indefinite, statewide strike beginning on Monday, November 17, 2025, a decisive action that will immediately halt all official cotton procurement operations in the state's market yards. This drastic measure stems from the mill owners' protest against what they describe as un-

viable and stringent regulations imposed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). The core grievances revolve around the restrictive L1 and L2 guidelines,

which the mill owners argue significantly compromise their operational and financial sustainability. The decision to strike comes after an ultimatum was issued to the government, citing massive financial losses under the current regu-

latory framework.

The announced stand-off with the CCI is poised to further exacerbate the already severe cotton procurement crisis impacting the state's agricultural sector. Farmers, many of whom have struggled with unseasonal rains and high moisture content in their produce, are increasingly being forced to sell their cotton at distress prices in the open market, far below the Minimum Support Price

(MSP), as the restrictive CCI norms make official procurement channels difficult to access.

With the indefinite strike, the situation is expected to worsen immediately, blocking virtually all organized buying of cotton and placing immense financial pressure on the thousands of farmers who are currently trying to market their harvest. This industry-wide protest underscores a deep-seated

regulatory conflict over the terms of cotton procurement between the state's processing units and the central government's dominant buying agency. The millers' decision to proceed with the strike, despite the state government's appeals and mediation efforts, indicates a breakdown in trust regarding the immediate resolution of the Central government's imposed procurement limits and quality checks.

Ramoji Excellence Awards 2025 Honors Seven Social Change Makers

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The Ramoji Excellence Awards Ceremony 2025, established in tribute to the Ramoji Group founder Ramoji Rao, was held in a magnificent ceremony to honor seven distinguished individuals who have demonstrated outstanding talent and commitment to social welfare and public good. The list of awardees included Amla Ruia (Rural Development), Srikanth Bolla (Youth Icon), Madhavilatha (Science & Technology), Akash Tandon (Human Service), Prasanna Sree (Art & Culture), Jaideep Hardiker (Journalism), and Pallabhi Ghosh (Women Empowerment).

A significant highlight was the recognition of Amla Ruia, an environmentalist from Mumbai affectionately known as the 'Water Mother of India'. She was honored for her transformative work through the Aakar Charitable Trust. Moved by the severe drought in Rajasthan in 1999 and 2003, she spearheaded the construction of hundreds of check dams and water harvesting structures in collaboration with local farmers across approxi-



mately 12,000 villages. Her efforts focused on rainwater conservation to recharge groundwater, successfully empowering an estimated 18 lakh people across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh to achieve self-sufficiency in water resources.

The award also recognized industrialist Srikanth Bolla as the Youth Icon. Bolla, who was born into an agricultural family, overcame his visual impairment to achieve global success, becoming the first visually impaired student to enroll in the Brain Cognitive Science program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). After graduating, he rejected lucrative job offers from world-class organizations to serve his home country, establishing Bollant Industries in Hyderabad in 2012. Through his company, he provides employment to 2,500 disabled individuals and sponsors free education for an additional 3,000 disabled youth, making him a powerful inspiration whose life story was recently adapted into the Bollywood biopic 'Srikanth'. The prestigious event saw the attendance of numerous political and judicial luminaries, including Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan, Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Ram Mohan Naidu, former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, and former Chief Justice of India Justice N. V. Ramana.

Etela Rajender Lobbies Gadkari for Accelerated Hyderabad Flyover Projects

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Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etela Rajender met with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in Nagpur to discuss and expedite the construction of several critical flyovers in Hyderabad. Rajender highlighted the chronic traffic congestion plaguing the global city, which is home to over one crore residents and sees an additional 50 lakh people commuting daily. He conveyed the severe frustrations of the populace, lamenting that citizens spend more time trapped in traffic jams than working in their offices, a situation that demands immediate action from both the central and state governments in developing infrastructure. The MP stressed

that while both the Center and the State are undertaking flyover constructions to match the pace of population growth, the "snail's pace" of the work is causing immense hardship to commuters, a matter he pressed upon the Union Minister's attention.

Rajender specifically pointed out the stalled progress on key infrastructure projects. He urged Minister Gadkari to take immediate action to accelerate the work on the Uppal Flyover, which is located on the Warangal Highway, and the Kompally Flyover, situated on the Nizamabad Highway. He conveyed that despite sustained local pressure and the expiry of multiple deadlines set by the contractors, the projects have failed to

gain the necessary momentum. In response to his appeal, Etela Rajender reported that Minister Gadkari responded favorably and assured him that he would immediately convene a review meeting with the concerned officials to resolve the bottlenecks and speed up the construction.

Furthermore, Rajender brought up the significant increase in traffic along the Balanagar - Narsapur Highway, requesting the sanction of a new flyover for this route as well.

He also noted that a new highway connecting Nagarjunasagar X Road to Amaravati is currently under construction, which will inevitably lead to increased traffic volume on the approach roads. Conse-

quently, he requested the sanction of another flyover near the Sagar X Road to preempt future congestion at this vital junction. He informed the media that Minister Gadkari had verbally agreed to the proposal for the new flyovers and promised to make an official announcement regarding the sanction soon. The meeting underscores the BJP's efforts to leverage its presence in the central government to address state-level infrastructure deficiencies. Accompanying Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender at the meeting were BJP Assembly floor leader Maheshwar Reddy and MLA Ramarao Patel, signifying a united push by the state leadership on key development issues.



TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Pledges Support for Sports; Hints at Messi Match

TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025, TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the closing ceremony of the All India Open Championship 2025 President's Cup organized by the Karate Federation of Shatokhain India in Saroor nagar. During the event, the TPCC Chief made several statements underlining the Congress government's commitment to transforming Telangana into a major hub for sports. He stressed that the state government is actively striving to achieve this goal and will extend its full cooperation and support for all karate championships and sporting events held within Telangana. Goud emphasized the



deep connection many practitioners feel toward the discipline, stating that "Karate is a part of our life," and assured the martial arts community of his continued personal involvement

with karate for as long as he remains in public life. The TPCC President highlighted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy harbors a special interest and commitment towards sports development across the state, indicating that sports infrastructure and promotion will be a key focus area for the current administration. Goud then made a highly intriguing announcement, revealing that the legendary football player Lionel Messi is expected to visit Hyderabad soon. Following this news, Goud hinted at a spectacular possibility: the potential organization of a football match between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Messi. This comment, while speculative, immediately generated significant excitement, suggesting the state's intent to draw global attention to its sporting ambitions and potentially utilize such high-

profile events to promote sports participation among the youth. The proposed event, if materialized, would be a major international highlight for Hyderabad. The TPCC Chief's participation in the karate event and his subsequent announcements serve as a clear indication that the Congress government is dedicated to supporting not just traditional sports but also encouraging global-level exposure for the state. Attending the event alongside Mahesh Kumar Goud were other officials, including Gadiyaram Ganesh (HFS President), P. Ramakrishna Rao, N. Srinivas Reddy, and Sekhar Reddy.



KTR and Harish Rao Slam Congress, BJP for Deepening Procurement Crisis in Telangana

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The ongoing agricultural crisis in Telangana, particularly concerning cotton and paddy procurement, has escalated into a major political flashpoint, with opposition leaders K. T. Rama Rao (BRS) and Harish Rao (BRS) launching scathing attacks on both the ruling Congress government in the state and the BJP-led Central government. BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) sharply criticized both administrations for what he termed their "reckless negligence" towards the severe cotton procurement crisis. He lamented that lakhs of cotton farmers, having spent the year toiling in the fields, are now unable to sell their produce while both governments "remain in deep slumber." KTR specifically accused the BJP and Congress of jointly failing the farming community, noting the crisis is unfolding despite nearly 50 lakh acres being dedicated to cotton cultivation this year. He pointed out that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has failed to meaningfully raise the issue during his multiple visits to Delhi, and MPs from both major parties have allegedly not exerted necessary pressure on the Center, leaving the government to watch helplessly as the crisis deepens.



Government's negligence has caused severe difficulties across Telangana. He noted that while the government promised to purchase 85 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, only about five to six lakh metric tonnes have been procured so far, with bills for some purchases still pending. Harish Rao inspected a paddy procurement center in Mallaram village, Sidipet district, demanding that the government immediately release

1,200 crore reportedly pending in Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments and the 200 crore pending as bonus from the last Yasaangi (Rabi) season.

The primary point of contention for cotton remains the Cotton Corporation of India's (CCI) restrictive norms, which KTR cited as refusal to procure based on high moisture content, issues with the Kapas Mobile App registration, and alleged corruption in gin-

ning and grading. Both leaders highlighted the CCI's cap of only seven quintals of cotton per acre, noting that some districts are yielding 11 to 12 quintals per acre. Harish Rao questioned what farmers are supposed to do with the excess produce, noting that cotton farmers are being driven to suicide due to mounting debt. KTR stressed that due to these hurdles, farmers are not receiving the MSP of 8,110 per quintal, instead having to sell at distress prices of 6,000–7,000 in the open market, incurring losses of nearly 2,000 per quintal. He cited the purchase of only 1.12 lakh tonnes against a projected 28.29 lakh tonnes as clear evidence of failure. Harish Rao demanded that the state government immediately release Input Subsidy for all farmers whose crops were damaged, with KTR urging the Congress government to send a delegation to Delhi and launch an action plan, reminiscent of former CM KCR's personal interventions during past crises.

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Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) issued a reflective statement acknowledging that electoral results do not always align with the sheer effort and hard work invested by party leaders and workers. Following the BRS's defeat in the recent Jubilee Hills by-election, where the party's candidate, Maganti Sunitha, failed to secure a win, KTR stressed the importance of morale and encouragement within the party ranks. He stated that electoral outcomes "may not always reflect the hard work put in by the leaders and workers" and may not always meet pre-election expectations.

He asserted that in such times of political setback, a few kind words of encouragement from dedicated supporters can significantly help to uplift the spirits of the party functionaries who tirelessly campaign on the ground. KTR used his social media platform, X (formerly Twitter), to express his gratitude to his well-wishers and supporters, tagging their messages of solidarity and encouragement. The response from his supporters came in the wake of the by-election result, with many criticizing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and alleging that the Congress party had resorted to various electoral malpractices to secure the victory. The public

KTR Acknowledges Defeat: Electoral Outcomes May Not Always Reflect Hard Work

GHMC Promotes 'Happy Streets' for Clean and Green Hyderabad Initiative

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The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), in collaboration with various organizations, organized a "Happy Streets" program at Sanjeevaiah Children's Park on Sunday, November 16, 2025, continuing its initiative to promote a clean and green environment for the health and enjoyment of city residents.

The event, which centered around the theme "Clean, Green Hyderabad," focused extensively on raising public awareness regarding crucial environmental management practices, including city cleanliness, efficient waste management, the importance of waste segregation at the source, and overall environmental protection. The program aimed to transform the

public's perception of municipal duties by stressing that the achievement of a truly clean and green city requires active and sustained participation from every resident.

A significant part of the awareness drive was specifically directed at children, who the GHMC considers the future custodians of the environment. The program utilized engaging activities and interactive sessions to instill a sense of environmental responsibility and awareness in the young participants, recognizing that early education is vital for long-term behavioral change. The organizers believe that by engaging children, they can create a ripple effect, encouraging entire families to adopt better waste disposal and recycling habits. The Khai

rabad Zonal Commissioner, Anurag Jayanthi, attended the event and spoke passionately about the program's goals. He detailed the critical importance of public participation in maintaining urban cleanliness, emphasizing that without community involvement, the city's cleanliness goals cannot be fully realized.

As a symbolic gesture of commitment, Commissioner Jayanthi administered the "Swachh City Heroes Pledge" to all participants, formally inviting them to become active partners in the city's cleanliness drive. Following the oath, the Commissioner distributed saplings (plantlings) to the children, encouraging them to take ownership of these plants and contribute personally to the

construction of a greener Hyderabad. He called upon all citizens to do their part in increasing the city's green cover and reducing its environmental footprint. The Happy Streets program is a key component of the GHMC's strategy to not only manage waste but also to foster a community spirit around environmental stewardship. By transforming public spaces into temporary hubs for health, recreation, and environmental education, the GHMC hopes to regularly reinforce the message that a high quality of urban life is inextricably linked to maintaining a pristine environment. The successful organization of the event, with enthusiastic public turnout, underscored the community's readiness to embrace this vision.



Cyber Police Shut Down Piracy Websites; 457 Booked for Drunk Driving

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The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police achieved a major victory against online content piracy by successfully forcing the shutdown of notorious movie piracy websites, iBomma and Bappam TV. The police executed the shutdown using the arrested site administrator, Immadi Ravi, who was apprehended on Saturday. Ravi was compelled to use his web logins and server details to close both websites, effectively disabling their massive illegal content distribution networks. The operation is highly significant, considering the administrator had previously issued a public challenge to the police on social media, claiming immunity and possessing "data of crores of people" while demanding that the authorities stop focusing on his sites. By accepting the challenge and ensuring the websites were closed directly using the arrested administrator's access, the

Cyber Crime Police delivered a strong message regarding the enforceability of intellectual property rights online. This operation is expected to significantly curb the illegal streaming and downloading of copyrighted content, thereby reducing massive financial losses for the Telugu film industry.

In a separate, high-impact law enforcement drive focused on road safety, the Hyderabad City Traffic Police conducted a special weekend operation that resulted in the arrest of 457 individuals for drunk driving across the city. The operation involved booking a total of 457 vehicles: 377 two-wheelers, 27 three-wheelers, and 57 four-wheelers. The police released detailed statistics on the offenders' Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, revealing the severity of the violations. A substantial number of offenders were highly inebriated: 194 individuals registered a

BAC between 51 and \$100 mg/100ml, 104 registered between 101 and \$150 mg/100ml, and 83 registered between 30 and \$50 mg/100ml. Alarming levels were also recorded, with 44 offenders having a BAC between 151 and \$200 mg/100ml, 14 between 201 and \$250 mg/100ml, another 14 between 251 and \$300 mg/100ml, and four individuals exceeding \$300 mg/100ml. The traffic police issued a stern statement emphasizing a "zero tolerance" policy towards drunk driving and assured the public that these special drives will continue relentlessly.

Furthermore, the police explicitly warned that drivers found driving under the influence who subsequently cause a fatal accident will now be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita (BNS), which carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment along with a fine.

Youth Dies Suspiciously at Gundla Pochampally Warehouse; Family Protests

TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025, A case of suspicious death has been reported within the jurisdiction of the Pet Bazaar Police Station, involving a young man identified as Babu (28), a resident of Ghanpur, Medchal district. Babu was employed at the Big Basket warehouse located in Gundla Pochampally. According to reports, Babu reported for duty as usual on Sunday, November 16, 2025. However, when he failed to return home by the early hours of the following morning, his mother grew deeply concerned, leading to immediate family worry about his whereabouts. Soon after the alarm was raised,

Babu's mother received distressing information that her son was found dead near the bathroom area of the Big Basket warehouse. Upon rushing to the location, the mother's worst fears were confirmed, and the scene of her son's death provoked intense grieving. Following the discovery,

Babu's family members, seeking accountability and demanding justice for the deceased, staged a protest by sitting in front of the Big Basket warehouse. Their emotional demonstration highlighted their anguish and suspicion regarding the circumstances of the young man's sudden and unexpected death while on duty.

The Clues Team and Pet Bazaar Police personnel arrived at the scene to initiate an on-site investigation. The police have registered a case regarding the suspicious death and are actively working to ascertain the precise cause and circumstances surrounding Babu's demise. The deceased is survived by his wife, underscoring the tragic impact the incident has had on his young family. The investigation by the Pet Bazaar police will focus on examining the warehouse premises, collecting forensic evi-

dence, and interviewing colleagues and management to determine if the death was due to natural causes, an industrial accident, or any other factor. The police's swift action in registering the case and deploying the Clues Team reflects the seriousness with which they are treating the incident.

Central Aid Brings International Fish Market to Koheda; Boost for Fishermen

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A significant economic boost is on the horizon for the fishing community of Telangana with the impending establishment of an International Fish Market in Koheda, Ranga Reddy District. This major infrastructure project, intended to transform the local fishing industry, has received an allocation of 47 crore from the Central Government. The market is scheduled to be built on an expansive 13-acre site, promising to solve chronic marketing issues and substantially increase the income potential for fishermen across the region. Once operational, the facility will not only cater to domestic demand but will also enable the export of local fish to international markets, significantly raising the profile and profitability of Telangana's fisheries sector.

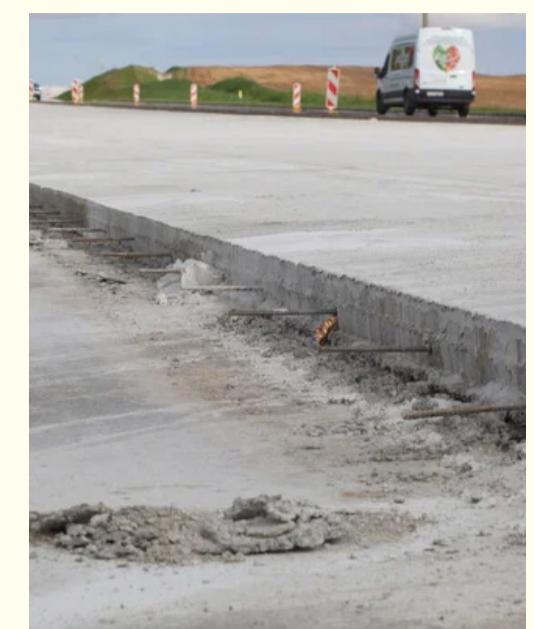
The need for this international market stems from the current situation where fish production in the district often exceeds local consumption. In the absence of an adequate, modern market system, fishermen have frequently been forced to sell their catch at lower prices, resulting in financial losses. The international-standard market is expected to drastically change this scenario by creating high demand



through export opportunities. This initiative complements the state government's welfare schemes, which include the free distribution of fish seed to fishermen. Furthermore, the government has eliminated taxes on the usage of water resources for fishing, providing a critical financial advantage to the community. The combination of increased market access through the

Koheda facility and supportive government policies is expected to enable fishermen to achieve substantial economic growth and prosperity, moving toward self-sufficiency. The distribution

of fish seed across the district's water resources is scheduled to be completed by the end of this month, ensuring stock is available to maximize the benefits derived from the future market.



Cement Road Construction Commences Near Ayyappa Swamy Temple in Yellareddy

TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025

The construction work for a new cement concrete road commenced near the Ayyappa Swamy Temple in Yellareddy town on Sunday, November 16, 2025. The initiation of the work was formally launched by the Temple Committee Chairman, Padma Srikanth. This project addresses a long-standing issue concerning the poor condition of the road surrounding the temple premises, which had become riddled with potholes and was causing significant inconvenience to devotees and local residents.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, the Temple Committee Chairman explained that at the committee members had proactively brought the poor state of the road to the attention of the local MLA, Madan Mohan Rao. Responding promptly to the com-

Sports Minister Announces 1.2Cr Incentive for Deaflympics Gold Medalist



TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025

Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari announced a significant financial incentive of 1.20 crore for shooter Dhanush Srikanth for securing a Gold Medal in the Shooting discipline at the Tokyo Deaflympics 2025. The Minister conveyed his congratulations to Srikanth, emphasizing that this financial boost is part of the new state Sports Policy and reflects the government's renewed commitment to recognizing and promoting excellence in athletics. The announcement was made during the inauguration of the new Telangana Sports School at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanumakonda district center on Sunday, November 16, 2025. This event underscores the state government's focus on sports development, a sector that is receiving considerable priority since the formation of the Congress government.

Minister Srihari addressed the students and attendees at the launch, stressing that discipline and concentration are absolutely vital for success in sports, advising students to focus on developing these qualities from

an early age to hone their skills. He posed a thought-provoking comparison, noting that a country smaller than Telangana, like South Korea, managed to win 36 Gold Medals in the Olympics, while the state's athletes have struggled for international medals, urging the young generation to reflect on how to bridge this gap. He advised the students newly joining the Sports School to dedicate themselves entirely to their training, avoiding distractions such as video games, television, and mobile phones. He highlighted that the Telangana Sports Policy is specifically designed to identify rural talent and promote them to the national and international levels, ensuring that talented individuals receive essential nutrition, training, and physical conditioning from a young age.

A major policy initiative mentioned by the Minister is the plan to increase reservations in government jobs for athletes who achieve success at the national and international levels, further solidifying the link between sporting achievement and professional career prospects. The Minister expressed

Father Brutally Kills Disabled Daughter in Karimnagar; Son Saved

TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025

A shocking and tragic incident of child murder has surfaced in Vavilalapalli, Karimnagar, where a father brutally attacked his two mentally disabled children, resulting in the death of his daughter. The couple, Mallesham and Poshava, originally from Venkatrapet in Mancherial district, had moved to Vavilalapalli seven years ago for employment and settled there with their two children, Archana and Ashrith. Both children were born with mental disabilities. It is reported that the father, Mallesham, was consumed by severe mental anguish over his children's deteriorating health condition, despite taking them to multiple hospitals for treatment. This intense emotional distress allegedly led him to make the devastating decision to take their lives.

The horrific incident occurred on Saturday evening while his wife, Poshava, was out at the market. Mallesham reportedly first attempted the unthinkable by hanging his daughter, Archana, who sadly succumbed to the attempt and lost her life. As he was attempting to do the same to his son, Ashrith, his wife returned home. Hearing the commotion, Mallesham immediately fled the scene. Poshava, with the help of locals, quickly rushed the surviving son, Ashrith, to the hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment for his injuries. The news of the incident quickly spread, and the police immediately arrived at the scene, registered a case, and initiated a search operation to apprehend the accused father. The local community reacted with shock and profound anger, vehemently questioning Mallesham's right to decide the fate of his own children, regardless of their health issues. The tragic event underscores the immense stress and despair faced by families dealing with severe disabilities, even as the community condemned the father's violent action.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Performs Satyanarayana Vratham for State Welfare



TPN Bureau | Nov 16, 2025 Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and his wife performed the traditional Satyanarayana Vratham ceremony at his MLA Camp Office in Husnabad. The religious ritual was carried out with the primary intention of seeking divine blessings for the prosperity and happiness of the people

of Telangana. The ceremony, which saw a large turnout of women and party workers, underscores the Minister's practice of integrating his political responsibilities with traditional cultural and spiritual beliefs.

The Minister and his wife performed the Vratham with specific prayers for the state's welfare.

Their supplications were focused on ensuring that Telangana receives good rainfall, leading to abundant livestock and agricultural prosperity, so that all citizens may live in peace and happiness. The Vratham also served as a prayer for the success and smooth implementation of the various welfare schemes and de-

velopment programs currently being rolled out by the 'Praja Palana' (People's Governance) government. The Minister prayed that all initiatives undertaken by the new administration achieve success without any obstacles or impediments, ensuring that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently.

The significant presence of women and party workers at the camp office for the spiritual event highlights the connection between the Minister's personal beliefs and his public duties, often seen as a way to reinforce public trust and support.

Nepal Gen Z Revolt: What Should India Do?



Nepal is witnessing a wave of political upheaval following the resignation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and youth-led protests triggered by the government's controversial social media ban. While the protests appeared to be about online restrictions, they quickly transformed into a larger movement against corruption, nepotism, and chronic instability that has plagued Nepal for decades.

Youth Anger Boils Over

The immediate spark came from a hit-and-run incident involving a Minister's car, which killed an 11-year-old schoolgirl. But the anger runs deeper—

high unemployment, low incomes, and widespread misgovernance have driven frustration among Nepal's youth. Many see the political class as discredited and are demanding the dissolution of parliament. The army imposed curfews during the unrest, but questions have been raised about the President's absence during the crisis.

Regional Parallels and Risks for India

The turmoil mirrors recent unrest in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, highlighting a broader regional pattern of instability. For India, this is not just an internal Nepali affair. The open 1,700-kilometre bor-

der can quickly become a security concern, with risks of smuggling, trafficking, and exploitation by anti-India elements. The brief closure of the border and heightened surveillance reflect these fears.

China's growing influence adds another layer of concern. Beijing has expanded its footprint through infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, while young Nepali protesters are wary of both Indian and Chinese interference.

Rejecting Conspiracy Theories

Speculation about "foreign hands" in the protests has circulated, but the ap-

pointment of Sushila Karki as the new Prime Minister undermines such theories. A veteran anti-corruption crusader with strong ties to India, Karki was chosen by protesters via a gaming chat app, reflecting the organic and chaotic nature of the movement.

India's Options

For New Delhi, heavy-handed intervention is not advisable. Past actions, such as the 2015 blockade, damaged relations and pushed Nepal closer to China. Instead, India must adopt a strategy of respectful non-interference while reinforcing cultural ties, completing development projects, and open-

ing dialogue with Nepal's emerging generation of leaders.

Securing the Border

Meanwhile, India must stay vigilant on border security to prevent infiltration and cross-border crime, especially after the release of 33,000 prisoners during the unrest.

Nepal stands at a crossroads. For India, the challenge is to balance non-interference with proactive support—building goodwill through development, fostering people-to-people ties, and ensuring security. Supporting Nepal's stability without overreach is critical to maintaining India's influence and safeguarding regional peace.

US threats of more tariffs on India will backfire



India in the Crossfire

India's inclusion in the tariff plan has raised eyebrows. Unlike China, India is neither a strategic rival nor a manufacturing threat. On the contrary, it has been building deeper trade ties, recently signing a free-trade pact with the UK while negotiating one with the EU. Japanese companies such as Suzuki and Honda have invested heavily in India, and financial giants like Sumitomo Mitsui and Mizuho are expanding their footprint.

EU Resistance and Global Dilemmas

The

European Union faces hurdles, particularly from Hungary's pro-Kremlin leadership, which is expected to block any secondary sanctions. Similarly, Japan and the UK may avoid fully aligning with Washington, wary of jeopardizing their strategic interests in Asia. For many advanced economies, the tariffs present a difficult balance between security priorities and economic pragmatism.

China's Leverage on Raw Materials

China, now a major competitor to Western manufacturers, could face a surge of redirected exports to Europe if the US tariffs take effect. European producers might welcome temporary protection from Chinese goods like cars, furniture, and appliances, but the move remains anti-consumer and risky. Beijing controls critical resources like rare earths and has previously weaponized this advantage in trade disputes. Analysts warn that it could easily retaliate again if faced with a broader coalition.

If pushed too hard, India may lean toward a Eurasian bloc where Chinese manufacturing dominates and Russia supplies commodities, a shift that would undermine US goals. Modi's challenge is to balance domestic political pressures with external trade demands, avoiding both agricultural concessions at home and strategic isolation abroad.

Strategic Risks Ahead

No handshake: Indian cricket team makes a strong statement



Post-Match

After the match, the Indian players again departed from custom. Following their victory, the team lined up but refused to shake hands with the Pakistani side, a gesture widely interpreted as a mark of solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam attack. The move drew mixed reactions across the cricketing world, but for the Indian players, it was a statement of unity and resolve in the face of terrorism.

Global Reactions

Internationally, reactions were divided. Some former players criticized the move as mixing politics with sport, while others argued that given the gravity of the terror attack, India's actions were understandable. Social media in India was largely supportive, with fans lauding the players' stand.

The Dubai encounter, though won convincingly by India, will be remembered less for runs and wickets and more for the powerful political statement that accompanied the triumph.

Tense Start at the Toss

The tension was visible right from the toss. Unlike usual practice, Yadav and Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha avoided eye contact and refrained from shaking hands. Instead of exchanging team sheets, they handed them directly to the match referee, breaking with long-standing cricketing tradition. This frosty start set the tone for a contest overshadowed by political and emotional undertones.

India Refuses Handshake

India's Bond Yields Rise Despite Rate Cuts, Inflation at Record Low



Mumbai: India's inflation is at an eight-year low, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut policy rates three times since February. Yet, in a counter-intuitive trend, the 10-year government bond yields have climbed over 20 basis points since June, closing at 6.47 percent on Wednesday.

Why Yields Are Rising

Bond yields typically fall when interest rates are reduced, but experts cite several concerns driving the unexpected surge. Lower-than-expected tax collections, fiscal deficit worries, and global uncertainties, including US tariffs on Indian exports, have unnerved investors. RBI's shift in stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' has also

signaled a pause in further cuts, contributing to the rise.

Market Reactions and Fiscal Concerns

Independent analyst Ajay Bodke explained that while GDP growth in Q1 is encouraging, fears of fiscal slippage remain high.

Weak tax receipts, slowing global demand, and geopolitical tensions have heightened risks. Investors are also worried about higher government borrowing if revenues fall short, which would push yields further upward.

Former Federal Bank director Ashutosh Khajuria noted that the market read RBI's neutral stance as the end of rate cuts. The bond market, he said, "sees the future" and expects inflation to

bottom out. He added that yields breached the normal 60-80 basis points spread with the repo rate, influenced heavily by global movements and US trade policies.

Impact of GST Cuts

The government's decision to rationalize GST rates to two slabs — 5 percent and 18 percent — was initially feared to cause a larger fiscal shock.

However, investors found the impact manageable, with yields softening slightly after the announcement. The Finance Ministry estimates a revenue loss of Rs 48,000 crore from the rate cuts.

Export and Outsourcing Worries

Experts warn that punitive

US tariffs are already hurting sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, and chemicals. Services exports may also suffer if the US proceeds with the proposed outsourcing tax under the HIRE bill. Bodke said replacing US markets with alternatives will be "a long-drawn, low-margin process."

Looking Ahead

SBI Research has cautioned that yields may not moderate until the impact of tariffs becomes clear. With inflation low but global headwinds rising, the Indian bond market remains jittery. For now, the government faces the challenge of managing fiscal stability while navigating trade shocks and market anxieties.

PM Modi Says Bihar Mandate Rejects Caste Politics, Accuses Congress of Tribal Neglect

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of neglecting tribal communities during its six decades in power, asserting that the party failed to recognise their contributions to India's freedom struggle. Addressing a gathering in Dediapada, Narmada district, on the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon Bhagwan Birsa Munda—celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas—Mr. Modi said the BJP-led government has made unprecedented efforts to improve healthcare and welfare in tribal regions.

The Prime Minister highlighted the NDA's sweeping victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, where the alliance won an overwhelming majority in constituencies with significant Dalit and tribal populations. He said the results demonstrated that voters had rejected caste-based politics. "The people of Bihar have dismissed the politics of division," he said, adding that the electorate had voted against what he described as the "Muslim League-Maoist Congress."



Criticising the Congress further, he claimed that many within the party were troubled by the behaviour of the "namdar," a reference frequently used by Mr. Modi to target the Gandhi family. He argued that the Opposition was attempting to revive caste narratives that no longer resonated with voters.

Mr. Modi emphasised his government's initiatives aimed at improving healthcare in tribal-majority districts, particularly efforts to combat sickle cell disease, which disproportionately affects tribal communities. "A nationwide campaign is underway to address sickle cell disease. Under this initiative, six crore tribal broth-

ers and sisters across the country have already been screened," he said.

The Prime Minister said the BJP government has increased investment in medical infrastructure, education, and economic development in tribal belts, contrasting this with what he called decades of neglect under Congress administrations.

The event saw large participation from tribal communities, with leaders highlighting the symbolic importance of Birsa Munda's legacy in contemporary politics. Mr. Modi said the government would continue working to ensure "dignity, opportunity, and development" for tribal citizens across the country.

'No Terrorist Angle In Nowgam Police Station Blast': J&K Governor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday dismissed speculation of terrorist involvement in the deadly blast at Nowgam Police Station, stating that preliminary inputs indicate the explosion was accidental and occurred during a sample-collection procedure. He said an inquiry has been ordered to determine the exact sequence of events.

"There is no terrorist angle in the Nowgam incident. Samples were being taken when this accident happened. I have ordered an inquiry into the matter," LG Sinha told reporters.

The area around the police station in Srinagar remains sealed as Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) teams and security personnel continue on-site investigations. Officials said nine people were killed and 32 injured after an explosion late Friday

night damaged the police station and nearby buildings. The injured were admitted to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS) for treatment.

J&K Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Saturday urged the public to avoid speculation, reiterating that preliminary findings suggest an inadvertent blast during an authorised forensic procedure. He confirmed that the victims included one State Investigation Agency officer, three FSL personnel, two crime-scene photographers, two revenue officials assisting a magistrate's team, and a tailor involved in the operation.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday assured full government support for the families of the deceased and directed Education and Health Minister Sakina Ittoo to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured. His office added that compensation would be pro-

vided for structural damage caused by the blast.

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Ukraine Working to Revive Prisoner Exchange Talks With Russia



TPN Bureau | Washington

Ukraine is pushing to restart prisoner-of-war exchanges with Russia that could see as many as 1,200 Ukrainian captives return home, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced on Sunday. His remarks came a day after the country's national security leadership signaled renewed movement in negotiations that have long remained stalled.

In a statement posted on X, Mr. Zelenskyy said Ukrainian officials were intensifying diplomatic efforts aimed at securing the release of soldiers and civilians held in Russian custody. "We are ... counting on the resumption of POW exchanges," he wrote. "Many meetings, negotiations and calls are currently taking place to ensure this."

The President did not provide details about the timeline or conditions of a potential exchange, but emphasized that the humanitarian issue remains one of Ukraine's most urgent priorities. According to Ukrainian authorities, approximately 1,200 citizens—mostly military personnel captured on the battlefield—are believed to be eligible for return if talks succeed.

The effort comes amid ongoing security challenges and continued hostilities along the front line. Kyiv has frequently accused Moscow of obstructing

exchange procedures and failing to comply with international humanitarian norms, while Russia has at times claimed that Ukraine has been unwilling to negotiate on mutually acceptable terms.

Ukraine's national security chief on Saturday indicated that recent contacts with Russian counterparts had shown "certain progress," though he also noted that the process remained delicate and dependent on multiple intermediaries. Several past exchanges were facilitated through the involvement of third-party countries and international organizations.

For thousands of families awaiting news of missing relatives, the prospect of renewed talks offers a rare moment of cautious hope. Ukrainian officials say they will continue pressing for the release of all detainees, maintaining that prisoner exchanges are a humanitarian obligation even in the midst of war.

Mr. Zelenskyy reiterated that Ukraine would pursue every diplomatic channel available to bring its citizens home, stressing that each return represents not only a personal victory for the families involved but also a moral imperative for the nation.

Gen Z-Styled Protests Spread Across Mexico After Mayor's Killing



TPN Correspondent | London

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across Mexico on Saturday under the "Generation Z" banner, voicing outrage over rising violence and the recent killing of an anti-crime mayor. The nationwide marches were driven in large part by anger over the November 1 assassination of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo in the western state of Michoacán.

Manzo, a vocal critic of organized crime, was shot dead in broad daylight, intensifying public frustration over the government's struggle to curb cartel-related violence. In Michoacán's capital, Morelia, supporters of the slain mayor marched wearing the straw hats that symbolized his political movement. Many carried Mexican flags and posters bearing Manzo's image, calling for justice and stronger protections for local officials who have increasingly become targets of criminal groups.

Protests erupted far beyond Michoacán. In Mexico City, tensions escalated when a small group of hooded protesters tore down metal barriers surrounding the National Palace, the residence and office of President Claudia Sheinbaum. According

to Reuters witnesses, riot police responded with tear gas, dispersing the front lines of the crowd while most demonstrators remained peaceful.

The "Gen Z-styled" demonstrations reflect a broader youth-driven movement that has grown online, fueled by social media platforms where young activists have been sharing videos, organizing marches, and demanding government accountability. The hashtag-driven mobilization marks one of the most visible youth political surges in Mexico in recent years, with many participants expressing frustration over insecurity, corruption, and perceived state inaction.

While authorities condemned the acts of vandalism near the National Palace, they acknowledged the public's right to protest. President Sheinbaum has yet to issue a full statement, but senior officials said investigations into Manzo's killing were ongoing and would be pursued "with urgency."

For many young Mexicans, Saturday's marches represent not only grief for a fallen political figure but a broader call for systemic change as violence continues to grip several regions of the country.

"So Egregious": Trump To Sue BBC For Up To \$5 Billion Over Video Edit

TPN Correspondent | New York City

U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday he plans to sue the BBC for up to \$5 billion in damages, escalating a trans-Atlantic dispute over a misleadingly edited video of one of his past speeches. The UK broadcaster apologized earlier this week for the edit but rejected Trump's claim that the incident constitutes defamation or merits financial compensation.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump insisted he would move ahead with legal action. "We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and five billion dollars, probably some time next week," he said. "They've even admitted that they cheated."

The controversy stems from an old clip from the BBC's flagship programme Panorama, broadcast ahead



Trump, however, has continued to attack the broadcaster, saying "the people of the UK are very angry" and suggesting he would raise the matter with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. According to Trump, Starmer is "very embarrassed," though the prime minister has publicly defended the BBC's independence while avoiding direct criticism of the president.

The broadcaster is also reviewing a separate 2022 Newsnight clip involving another altered Trump speech. The episode has reignited debate in the UK over public broadcasting neutrality, coming as the BBC prepares for crucial negotiations over its next Royal Charter, due in 2027.

Trump told GB News he feels compelled to sue: "This was so egregious. If you don't do it, you don't stop it from happening again with other people."

Pakistan Arrests More Than 100,000 Afghans Amid Surge in Returns: UNHCR

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Pakistan has detained over 100,000 Afghan nationals so far this year, marking the highest number of arrests recorded since data collection began in 2023, according to a new UNHCR assessment cited by Dawn. The report highlights a sharp rise in detentions and returns as Pakistani authorities intensify enforcement measures targeting Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders, undocumented Afghans, and, increasingly, some Proof of Registration (POR) card holders.

Between January 1 and November 8, 2025, authorities arrested 100,971 Afghans—an exponential jump compared to 9,006 arrests in 2024 and 26,299 in 2023. Chagai and Quetta in Balochistan, along with Attock in Punjab, were the top three districts where



most detentions occurred.

Data collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) showed that from November 2 to November 8 alone, 13,380 Afghans were detained, a 72% rise from the previous week. ACC holders and

undocumented Afghans accounted for 76% of the week's arrests, while POR holders made up 24%. The UNHCR report also tracked large-scale returns. From September 15, 2023, to November 8, 2025, a total of 1,723,481 Afghans returned to Afghanistan. In the first week of November, 55,768 individuals crossed back through Torkham, Ghulam Khan, Chamani, Badini and Bahrampur border points—a 49% increase from the preceding week. The reopening of the Torkham crossing on November 1 contributed significantly to the rise.

Fear of arrest was cited as the primary reason for returning. Among undocumented individuals and ACC holders, 93% reported this as their main motivation; 47% of POR holders said the same. The Pakistani gov-

ernment issued several directives in 2025 affecting Afghan nationals. Orders included relocation requirements from Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the launch of the second phase of the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP), and a July regulation mandating PoR holders to leave after their cards expired on June 30.

Police operations have intensified, particularly in Balochistan. In Nokundi, raids led to the detention of hundreds of Afghans, who were subsequently transferred to the Girdi Jungle Refugee Camp for deportation processing.

The ongoing crackdown comes amid mounting humanitarian concerns, as return numbers remain high while conditions in Afghanistan continue to evolve.

China Warns Students Over 'Rising Security Risks' in Japan After Taiwan Remarks Row

TPN Correspondent | Bhutan

China on Sunday issued a caution to its citizens—particularly students—planning to study in Japan, urging them to "reconsider" their decisions amid what Beijing called an increasingly unstable security environment. The warning followed a sharp diplomatic exchange triggered by recent statements made by Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi regarding Taiwan.

According to Chinese state media, the Ministry of Education said safety risks for Chinese nationals in Japan have risen due to what it described as deteriorating public security, an increase in crimes targeting Chinese citizens, and an "unfavourable study environment." The advisory reflects Beijing's heightened sensitivity to Tokyo's evolving security posture and the political tensions surrounding Taiwan.



The dispute stems from remarks Takaichi made in Japan's parliament earlier this month. She stated that Japan could deploy its Self-Defence Forces if China were to attack Taiwan, arguing that

such a scenario could pose a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan under its security laws. These laws—which permit collective self-defence under limited conditions—could allow Japan to respond

militarily if a Taiwan conflict spills over into Japanese security interests.

Japanese media, including Kyodo News, reported that Takaichi acknowledged her government might author-

ize the remarks as "reckless rhetoric" and accused Tokyo of inflaming cross-strait tensions. China maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory and opposes any foreign involvement in the issue.

The advisory to students adds a new dimension to the fallout, touching on people-to-people exchanges that have long been a stabilizing element in Sino-Japanese relations. China is the largest source of international students in Japan, and any significant shift in student flows could have broad social and economic effects.

Japanese officials have not yet formally responded to the advisory, though previous statements have rejected claims of deteriorating public safety. The row underscores the fragility of bilateral ties as both countries navigate increasingly complex regional security dynamics.

Beijing condemned

Stock Markets Snap 3-Day Rally on Profit-Taking; Adani Group Stocks Surge

Mumbai: Benchmark indices on Friday witnessed a sharp correction, snapping a three-day winning streak, as profit-taking in major blue-chip shares weighed on investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex fell 387.73 points or 0.47 percent to settle at 82,626.23, while the NSE Nifty 50 declined 96.55 points or 0.38 percent to close at 25,327.05. During the session, the Sensex touched a low of 82,485.92, down 528 points from its previous close.

Among the top laggards, HCL Tech, ICICI Bank, Titan, Trent, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, and HDFC Bank faced heavy selling pressure. Profit-booking in HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank was a key factor behind the market decline.

In contrast, select stocks, especially Adani Group companies, witnessed robust gains. Adani Ports, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, Adani Green Energy,



Adani Enterprises, and Adani Energy Solutions rallied up to 13 percent after markets regulator SEBI cleared

billionaire Gautam Adani and his group of allegations regarding stock manipulation made by US short-seller

Hindenburg Research. SEBI found that inter-company fund transfers did not violate any regulations, giving a sig-

nificant boost to investor confidence.

Other gainers included Bharti Airtel, SBI, NTPC, and Sun Phar-

ma, helping offset some losses in the broader market.

Global markets showed mixed trends, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, and Shanghai's SSE Composite ending lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng closed in positive territory. European markets were trading higher, and US markets had ended higher on Thursday. Meanwhile, Brent crude dipped 0.55 percent to USD 67.07 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors continued to support domestic equities, purchasing shares worth Rs 366.69 crore on Thursday, reflecting sustained interest from global players despite profit-booking in select sectors.

The market correction comes after a three-day rally, where Sensex had gained over 320 points and Nifty had risen by 93 points, showing renewed caution among investors amid profit-taking.

GST cuts to boost economy, but revenue loss could hit banking sector



The government is facing a significant revenue shortfall due to the recent reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on various essential products. While official estimates put the annual revenue loss at around Rs 480 billion, a recent report by Systematix Research suggests that the actual impact could be far greater, potentially reaching nearly Rs 1.2 trillion.

The GST rate cuts, aimed at easing the financial burden on consumers and boosting consumption, cover a range of items, including essential goods and daily-use products. According to economists, such reductions are expected to stimulate demand in the short term, providing relief to households grappling with inflation and increasing disposable income for middle-class families.

However, the Systematix Research report highlights that while the rate cuts may benefit consumers, they will exert substantial pressure on government finances. The higher-than-expected reve-

nue loss could limit the fiscal space available for development projects, social welfare schemes, and infrastructure investments. Analysts caution that if such revenue shortfalls persist, the government may need to explore alternative measures, such as improving tax compliance, broadening the GST base, or adjusting rates on non-essential items.

Financial experts also note that while the move may stimulate economic activity, it underscores the delicate balance policymakers must maintain between boosting consumption and safeguarding fiscal health. The government is expected to monitor revenue collections closely over the next few months to gauge the actual impact of these GST cuts and assess whether additional measures may be required to offset the shortfall.

With the potential revenue loss reaching Rs 1.2 trillion, the debate over the sustainability of GST reductions is likely to continue among policymakers, economists, and industry stakeholders.

Tata Technologies Acquires Germany's ES-Tec Group, Shares Rise 2%



Tata Technologies Limited shares rose 2 percent intraday on Monday, September 15, following the company's announcement of the acquisition of Germany-based ES-Tec GmbH and its subsidiaries in a deal valued at up to €75 million.

The acquisition will be executed through Tata Technologies' Singapore subsidiary and is expected to close by December 31, 2025, subject to regulatory approvals in Germany and Morocco. ES-Tec Group, founded in 2006 and headquartered in Wolfsburg, is a premium automotive engineering services provider specializing in advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), connected driving, and digital engineering. The company reported €36 million in revenue in 2024 and employs over 300 professionals.

Tata Technologies said the deal will significantly enhance its engineering, research, and development capabilities, particularly in embedded systems and systems engineering. The acquisition is expected to be earnings-per-share accretive from the first full year of operations.

Warren Harris, MD & CEO of Tata Technologies, described the acquisition as a "strategic leap" that strengthens Tata Technologies' ability to deliver end-to-end product engineering solutions across the automotive value chain. He added that ES-Tec's technical depth, customer focus, and regional presence align with Tata Technologies' vision to become the first partner choice for global OEMs navigating intelligent, connected, and sustainable mobility.

Marc Wille, MD &

CEO of ES-Tec, welcomed the partnership, saying it will allow the German firm to expand its international presence and address future automotive challenges.

The acquisition posi-

tions Tata Technologies more strongly in Europe's automotive hub, at a time when global OEMs are ramping up R&D investments in electrification, ADAS, and software-defined ve-

hicle platforms. With the European engineering services market projected to grow from €4.5 billion in 2020 to €11.7 billion by 2030, the move offers significant growth opportunities

for the company and strengthens India's footprint in global automotive R&D.

The contentious issue that has affected India's telecom industry for years.

SEBI Clears Adani Group, Boosts Investor Confidence



New Delhi: Markets regulator SEBI's clearance of the Adani Group has been hailed as a major boost not only for the conglomerate but also for India's investment climate, according to Manish Singh, Chief Investment Officer at Crossbridge Capital.

On September 18, SEBI dismissed allegations by US short seller Hindenburg Research, which had claimed that Adani Group firms, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, and Adani Power, had routed funds through three companies – Adicorp Enterprises, Milestone Tradelinks, and Rehbar Infrastructure – in an irregular manner. SEBI's investigation found that all loans were repaid, funds were used for intended purposes, and there was no fraud or unfair trade practice, effectively giving a clean chit to both the group and Chairman Gautam Adani.

Speaking to NDTV Profit, Manish Singh welcomed the move, saying, "This is very good news for the group, and it is also very good news for India, given the importance of the Adani Group in the Indian development story. India

needs a lot of power, and in my opinion, the country needs a few more Adanis."

He further highlighted the broader economic implications, noting that investor confidence directly affects the cost of capital, a critical factor in any country's growth trajectory.

"If investor confidence erodes, it leads to a higher cost of capital, which can slow development. This SEBI order is a significant confidence booster for India," Singh said.

However, Singh cautioned that the government should scrutinize any malicious intent behind such allegations to prevent future attempts at tarnishing reputations. "The last thing you want is investor confidence to drop because people rely on headlines without knowing the full story. Any potential malicious intent should be investigated and exposed," he added.

With SEBI's clearance, the Adani Group's stock performance and credibility are expected to strengthen, providing a boost to foreign investor confidence and supporting India's broader economic growth story.

Vodafone Idea Shares Surge 7% as Centre Signals Relief in AGR Case



New Delhi: Vodafone Idea shares jumped 7 percent on September 19, after the Centre informed the Supreme Court that it was not opposing the telco's plea regarding adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues and added that "some solution is required."

Speaking before the apex court, the government said, "Not opposing Vodafone Idea's plea, some solution is required, government is also an equity holder. Some solution may be required, subject to Supreme Court approval," according to CNBC-TV18.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for September 26, with the bench, led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, emphasizing that "there has to be some finality to these proceedings."

The Centre highlighted its 49 percent equity stake in Vodafone Idea, urging the court to consider changed circumstances and provide relief in the larger public interest. Following the announcement, Vodafone Idea's stock touched an intraday high of Rs 8.42, trading 6 percent higher at Rs 8.31 by noon.

Vodafone Idea has approached the Supreme Court

seeking to quash an additional AGR demand of Rs 9,450 crore by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The telco argued that the fresh dues exceed the scope of the 2020 SC ruling, which had locked AGR liabilities up to FY17. Of the total demand, Rs 5,675 crore pertains to pre-merger Vodafone Group liabilities, while Rs 2,774 crore relates to the post-merger entity after consolidation in August 2018.

The company noted that Rs 5,606 crore had already been settled and requested a full reconciliation of pre-FY17 dues. Vodafone Idea warned that the revised demand threatens its financial viability, 4G and 5G expansion plans, and the livelihoods of thousands of employees. The telco's total dues, including penalties and interest, stand at nearly Rs 2 lakh crore, with installments of around Rs 18,000 crore due annually from March 2026 after the moratorium period.

Investors welcomed the Centre's statement as a potential reprieve, giving temporary relief to the struggling telecom giant in a highly competitive market.

Asus Laptops Now on Swiggy Instamart in 6 Cities



In a first-of-its-kind move in the Indian tech retail space, Taiwanese electronics giant Asus has partnered with Swiggy Instamart to deliver laptops in just 10 minutes. Starting at ₹33,990, these laptops will now be available for instant delivery in six major Indian cities: Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, and Kolkata.

This strategic partnership aims to tap into the booming quick commerce market, which now accounts for over 30% of urban tech purchases in India. Asus is targeting this segment by offering a rapid, convenient way for customers to buy laptops without visiting a store or waiting for traditional delivery timelines.

The current lineup available through Swiggy Instamart includes two consumer notebook models and one gaming laptop — the Asus TUF Gaming F16, priced at ₹74,990. The company previously offered accessories on quick commerce platforms and is now expanding to in-

clude its full range of laptops and peripherals. Customers purchasing a laptop can also add compatible accessories like keyboards, mice, and more during checkout.

“As the demand for convenience and speed rises in urban India, quick commerce is becoming a decisive factor in tech buying decisions,” an Asus spokesperson said. “We want to meet consumers where they are — which today is just a few taps away on their phones.”

This new delivery option adds another layer of convenience for students, gamers, and working professionals looking for immediate access to computing power, especially in emergency or time-sensitive situations.

With this innovative rollout, Asus becomes the first major laptop brand in India to offer 10-minute delivery, blending high-end tech with the speed of quick commerce — and reshaping how urban India shops for devices.

Broccoli also has These Side Effects



Broccoli is widely regarded as one of the healthiest vegetables, packed with essential nutrients. Yet, health experts caution that excessive consumption can lead to a variety of health issues.

While its high fiber content is beneficial in moderate quantities, eating too much broccoli can overload the digestive system, resulting in bloating, gas, and constipation. Individuals with sensitive stomachs are particularly advised to limit its intake.

Broccoli also contains compounds known as goitrogens, which can hinder thyroid function. These compounds block iodine absorption, potentially reducing the production of thyroid hormones. For people with existing thyroid conditions, overconsumption of broccoli may worsen their symptoms.

Another concern is broc-

coli's rich vitamin K content, which plays a crucial role in blood clotting. For individuals on blood-thinning medications for heart conditions or other reasons, consuming large amounts of broccoli could interfere with the drugs' effectiveness and increase the risk of clot formation.

Some people may also experience allergic reactions to broccoli, including symptoms such as skin rashes, itching, or swelling. In such cases, immediate medical attention is advised.

In conclusion, while broccoli remains a valuable part of a healthy diet, experts strongly recommend moderation. People with thyroid issues, heart conditions, or digestive sensitivity should consult a healthcare provider before making broccoli a regular part of their meals.

20 Peacocks Found Dead Near Stream in Karnataka



In a shocking incident from Hanumanthapura village in Karnataka, twenty peacocks — India's national bird — were found dead under mysterious circumstances near a stream. According to reports, local farmers discovered the carcasses of 17 female and 3 male peacocks, prompting immediate concern and investigation by the Forest Department.

Forest officials who reached the spot collected evidence and dispatched the carcasses to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Officials stated that the cause of death would be confirmed after scientific examination, with poisoning being one of the suspected causes.

This mass death comes at a time when Karnataka is already grappling with a series of unexplained wildlife fatalities. Just a month earlier, 20 monkeys

were found dead in the Chamarajanagar district, where forest and police officials also suspected poisoning.

In another alarming case, five tigers — a tigress and her four cubs

— died on June 27 in the Male Mahadev Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. Initial investigation revealed that the tigress had preyed on a cow that was allegedly poisoned

by villagers in retaliation. The meat was laced with poison, leading to the tragic deaths. Three individuals — Konappa, Madaraja, and Nagaraj — from Koppa village were arrested in that case.

Both the peacock and tiger incidents have raised serious questions about wildlife protection and human-animal conflict in Karnataka. While the for-

est department does offer compensation for livestock killed by wild animals, the benefit is not extended when such killings occur within the core areas of sanctuaries or national parks — where cattle grazing is illegal.

The recent peacock deaths are particularly disturbing given the state's commitment to preserving the species. Karnataka is home to two prominent peacock sanctuaries — Adichunchanagiri and Bankapura — both established to protect and conserve the national bird.

With multiple wildlife deaths being reported in short succession, activists and environmentalists are urging stricter enforcement of wildlife laws and better coordination between forest officials and local communities to prevent further incidents.

114-Year-Old Shigeko Becomes Japan's Oldest Living Person



Shigeko Kagawa, a 114-year-old retired physician from Japan's Nara Prefecture, has officially become the oldest living person in the country, according to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The announcement follows the death of Miyoko Hiroyasu, who was also 114.

Kagawa, an obstetrician and gynaecologist by profession, served as a wartime physician at a hospital in Osaka during the Second World War. After a long career in medicine, she retired at the age of 86 from her family-run clinic.

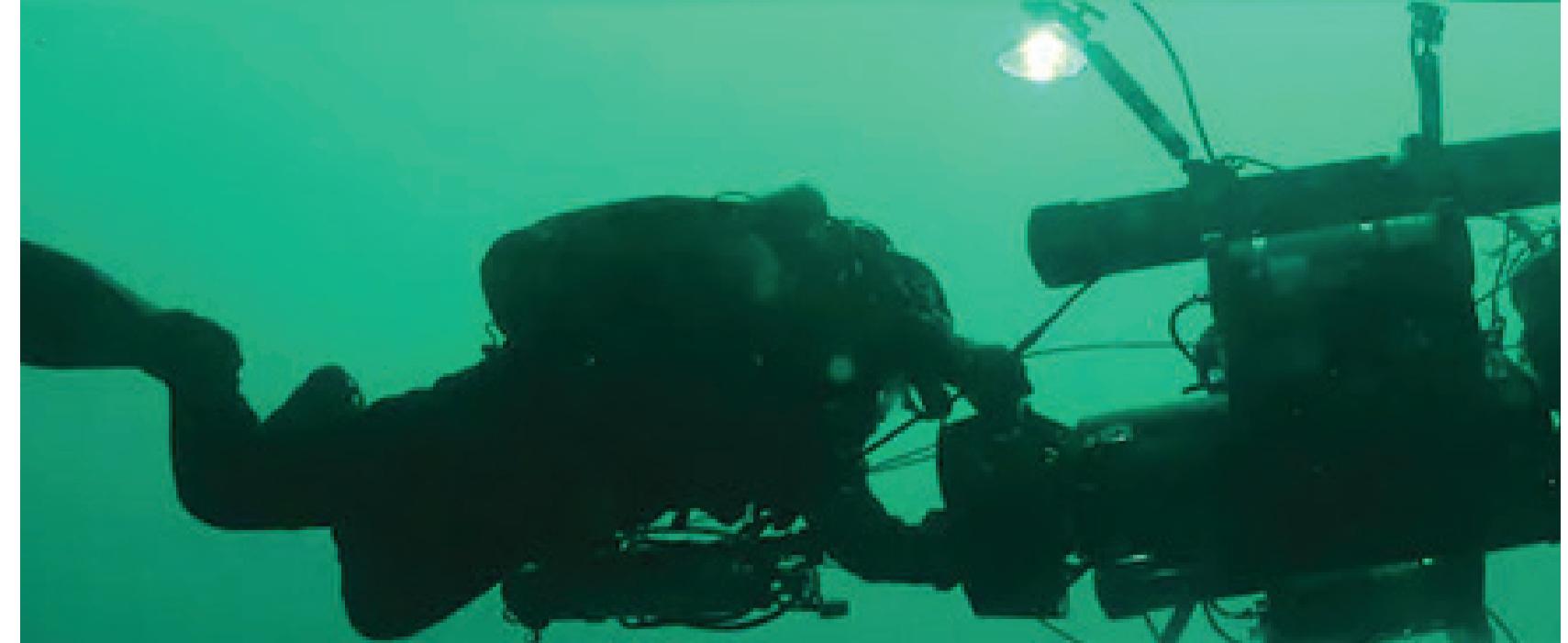
Despite her age, Kagawa remains a symbol of Japan's famed longevity. She drew global attention in 2021 when, at 109, she took part in the Tokyo Olympics torch relay — becoming one of the oldest Olympic torchbearers in history.

Speaking to local media in 2023, Kagawa credited her long life to a carefree and active lifestyle. “I don't have any [secret]... I just play every day. My energy is my greatest asset. I go where I want, eat what I want and do what I want. I'm free and independent,” she told TOS News.

Before her, the title was held by Miyoko Hiroyasu, born in 1911, who passed away in a nursing home in Oita Prefecture. A former art student, Hiroyasu spent her final days reading, sketching, and playing card games. She raised three children and remained mentally and physically active until her passing.

Both women are celebrated as reflections of Japan's aging yet resilient population, where longevity continues to break global records.

Lost 'Ghost Ship' F.J. King Found After Nearly 140 Years in Lake Michigan



The long-lost schooner F.J. King, which vanished in a storm in 1886 while carrying iron ore, has finally been discovered off Wisconsin's coast, ending nearly 140 years of uncertainty. The discovery was confirmed by underwater archaeologists working with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology Association, as reported by NDTV.

Built in 1867 in Toledo, Ohio, the 144-foot, three-

masted cargo schooner was transporting iron ore from Escanaba, Michigan, to Chicago when disaster struck on September 15, 1886. Fierce gales and waves as high as 10 feet battered the vessel, opening its seams. Despite hours of desperate pumping, the schooner sank around 2 am. Fortunately, Captain William Griffin and his crew were rescued by a passing ship, but the exact location of the wreck remained a mystery for

generations.

Researcher Brendon Baillod spearheaded the latest effort to track down the wreck. Guided by an eyewitness account from a lighthouse keeper, his team scanned a two-square-mile area off Bailey's Harbour on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. On June 28, 2025, side-scan sonar revealed the ship resting half a mile from the reported site. To their surprise, the hull was largely intact, though coated with

invasive quagga mussels and marine growth.

“A few of us had to pin each other,” Baillod said. “After all the previous searches, we couldn't believe we had actually found it, and so quickly.” The discovery is particularly remarkable given the heavy iron ore cargo that many believed would have shattered the vessel upon impact with the lakebed.

The find adds to a growing list of historic wrecks located

by the Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology Association. Earlier this year, the group identified the steamer LW Crane in the Fox River at Oshkosh and the tugboat John Evenson along with the schooner Margaret A. Muir off Algoma. Baillod also located the schooner Trinidad in 2023.

This rediscovery not only solves a maritime mystery but also deepens understanding of the Great Lakes' rich shipwreck history.

Sinner Begins ATP Finals Title Defence with Win Over Auger-Aliassime

Italy's Jannik Sinner started his ATP Finals title defence in impressive fashion, defeating Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-5, 6-1 in his opening group-stage match in Turin. Backed by a roaring home crowd, the world No. 2 displayed sharp form and composure as he began his campaign to retain the prestigious year-end crown.

The first set was tightly contested, with both players holding serve until Sinner broke at a crucial moment to clinch it 7-5. Riding on that momentum, the Italian completely dominated the second set, showcasing his trademark power and precision from the baseline. Auger-Aliassime struggled to keep up with Sinner's aggressive pace, managing to win just one game in the set.

For Sinner, the victory not only marks a confident start to his title defence but also keeps alive his hopes of securing the year-end No. 1 ranking. To achieve that milestone, he must win



the ATP Finals and rely on Carlos Alcaraz not reaching the championship match.

Meanwhile, in another group-stage encounter, Taylor Fritz registered a solid win over Lorenzo Musetti,

who stepped in as a late replacement for injured world No. 1 Novak Djokovic. Fritz controlled the match with his strong serve and steady baseline play, ensuring a smooth start to his own campaign.

The 2025 ATP Finals promise high-voltage tennis, with the world's top eight players battling for glory in Turin. For Sinner, the tournament carries extra emotion — not only as the defending champion on

home soil but also as he chases history to potentially finish the year as the world's best.

With his opening victory, Sinner has set the tone for another thrilling week in Italian tennis.

Sumit Nagal Faces Visa Hurdle Ahead of Australian Open Playoffs in China



India's top-ranked tennis player Sumit Nagal has hit an unexpected roadblock ahead of the Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard Playoffs, after his China visa was rejected without explanation. The qualifying

event, which offers players a chance to earn a direct entry into the 2026 Australian Open, is scheduled to take place in Chengdu, China, from November 24 to 29, 2025.

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Nagal appealed to the Chinese Ambassador to India and the Chinese Embassy in India for urgent intervention. "Respected @China_Amb_India and @ChinaS-pox_India, I am Sumit Nagal, India's No.1 tennis player. I am supposed to fly to China soon to represent India at the Australian Open Playoff. But my visa was rejected without reason. Your urgent help would be much appreciated," Nagal wrote.

The 27-year-old from Jhajjar, Haryana, is currently ranked 275th in the ATP standings, making him India's highest-ranked singles player.

Having fallen outside the world's top 100, Nagal no

longer qualifies for direct entries into Grand Slam tournaments and must rely on wildcard opportunities or qualifying rounds to compete in major events.

Nagal's visa issue now threatens his participation in the Chengdu playoffs — a crucial event that could determine his path to the 2026 Australian Open. Missing the tournament would be a significant setback for his season ambitions.

The Chinese Embassy and tournament organisers have yet to issue a response to the matter.

Nagal last featured in the 2024 Australian Open, where he exited in the first round. Earlier this year, he played a vital role in India's Davis Cup victory over Switzerland, winning both his singles matches.

Fans and fellow players have voiced support online, urging quick resolution to ensure India's top tennis star can compete.

Lionel Messi Hopes for Nou Camp Return to Bid Emotional Farewell



d'Or winner spent more than two decades at Barcelona, where he became the club's all-time leading scorer and helped them win four Champions League titles and ten La

Liga crowns. His unexpected departure in 2021 left fans heartbroken, as he was unable to say farewell on the pitch due to pandemic restrictions and club turmoil.

Currently playing for Inter Miami, Messi continues to shine — scoring twice on Saturday to guide his side into the next round of the MLS Cup play-offs. Messi's message has re-

ignited hopes among fans that Barcelona will organise a special farewell match at the Camp Nou, giving the football legend the send-off he truly deserves.

West Indies to Play Afghanistan in UAE T20I Series



in India and Sri Lanka."

Echoing the sentiment, Nasir Khan, CEO of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), expressed enthusiasm about the contest, saying, "Competing against the West Indies before a global tournament offers an excellent opportunity for our team to fine-tune its lineup and boost readiness for the World Cup."

The opening T20I will be played on January 19 at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, followed by the second and third matches on January 21 and January 22, respectively, at the same venue.

CWI's Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, highlighted the importance of the series, stating, "This series provides an ideal platform for our preparation. Facing strong opposition in subcontinental conditions will help us sharpen our combinations and approach. It also gives our players a chance to build confidence on surfaces similar to those we'll encounter

The West Indies, who co-hosted the previous edition of the T20 World Cup, reached the Super Eight stage but narrowly missed out on the semifinals. Afghanistan, meanwhile, made history by advancing to the semifinals for the first time.

In their past head-to-head record, West Indies lead Afghanistan 5-3 in eight T20I clashes.

The upcoming series promises

to be a competitive and strategic prelude to the 2026 T20 World Cup, offering both teams a valuable opportunity to test their strengths under similar playing conditions.

India Clinch T20I Series Against Australia as Rain Halts Final Match



Team India secured a 2-1 series victory over Australia after the fifth and final T20 International at the Gabba was abandoned due to rain on Saturday. The downpour ended any hopes of a full contest, bringing the exciting five-match series to an early conclusion.

After being put in to bat, India's openers Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma gave the visitors a fiery start, racing to a 50-run stand in quick time. Gill looked in fine touch, unbeaten on 29 off 16 balls, while Abhishek smashed 23 off 13 deliveries before rain interrupted play in the fourth over. Unfortunately, the showers intensified, forcing the umpires to call off the game without a single ball bowled in Australia's innings.

The washout meant India, who had already taken a 2-1 lead after victories in Sydney and Canberra, clinched the series despite Australia's win in Adelaide. It marks another successful outing for India's young squad, led by Suryakumar Yadav, who showcased both flair and composure throughout the tour.

The series saw several standout performances, including explosive batting from Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rinku Singh, alongside crucial bowling spells from Mukesh Kumar and Axar Patel. For Australia, Travis Head and Matthew Short were among the top performers, though inconsistent bowling hurt their chances of a comeback.

With this result, India continue their impressive T20 record in overseas conditions, extending their dominance ahead of next year's T20 World Cup. The team will now shift focus to the upcoming ODI series, while Australia look to regroup after a rain-marred finish in Brisbane.

Despite the anticlimactic end, India's young guns once again proved their mettle on foreign soil, sealing a well-deserved 2-1 series triumph.

Rajinikanth-Kamal Haasan Projects Spark Confusion Among Fans



Fans of Tamil cinema are left puzzled as legendary actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan announced upcoming collaborations without finalizing scripts. The confusion surfaced after director Sundar C exited the much-hyped Thalaivar 173, which was expected to reunite the two stars after decades.

Last week, Thalaivar 173 was officially announced by Kamal Haasan's production house, with Sundar C attached as director and Rajinikanth in the lead. However, Sundar C recently stepped away from the project due to unspecified reasons. In response, Kamal Haasan revealed that the script had yet to be finalized, as Rajinikanth had not fully approved it. The team is reportedly reviewing multiple scripts until Rajinikanth gives his go-ahead.

The revelation shocked fans, who had expected a concrete project announcement. Kamal Haasan also confirmed that both actors are considering scripts for another ambitious film together, marking their first on-screen collaboration in over forty years. Interestingly, both stars had already publicly confirmed months

ago that a joint project was imminent, adding to the confusion.

Industry insiders note that such announcements without locked scripts are unusual, even for less experienced actors, as it risks fan disappointment and media scrutiny. Critics argue that this strategy seems aimed at generating buzz rather than presenting a finalized project.

With two major films — Thalaivar 173 and the yet-unnamed Rajini-Kamal project — in the works, fans remain eager but uncertain about the timelines and final storylines. Until scripts are approved and directors confirmed, the projects remain in a preliminary phase, leaving audiences speculating about what the eventual collaborations will deliver.

The excitement surrounding these announcements highlights the enduring appeal of Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, but also underscores the risks of building hype before the creative groundwork is complete. Fans now await official confirmations on scripts, directors, and shooting schedules before the projects move forward.

'Akhanda 2' Goes 3D: A Bold Move Ahead of Release



After a string of hits with Simha, Legend, and Akhanda, Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Boyapati Srinu are back with Akhanda 2, slated for a grand release on December 5. The first installment's massive success has set high expectations for the sequel, and the makers are pulling out all stops to deliver a bigger spectacle.

In a major announcement at a Hyderabad promotional event, the team revealed that Akhanda 2 will release worldwide in 3D alongside the traditional 2D version. A special screening of the upgraded 3D visuals at Prasad IMAX impressed media and fans, showcasing the enhanced action sequences and larger-than-life visuals that were a hallmark of the first film.

Director Boyapati Srinu promised Telugu audiences an immersive experience like never before, emphasizing the

3D format's potential to elevate the film's pan-India appeal. The ambitious attempt is aimed at giving fans a cinematic treat while positioning the film strongly in the competitive December release calendar.

However, industry experts are raising questions about logistical challenges. The availability of sufficient 3D screens across Telugu-speaking states and the provision of compatible 3D glasses could determine whether the audience fully enjoys the upgraded experience. Despite these concerns, the buzz around Akhanda 2's visuals and Balakrishna's star power has already generated significant anticipation.

With high-octane action, eye-catching effects, and now a 3D dimension, Akhanda 2 promises to be one of the most-awaited films of the year, with fans eagerly awaiting the final cinematic spectacle.

Mahesh Babu to Play Lord Sriram in Rajamouli's 'Varanasi'

Superstar Mahesh Babu will portray Lord Sriram for the first time in his career in the upcoming project Varanasi, directed by acclaimed filmmaker SS Rajamouli. The announcement officially confirms long-standing rumors about the actor taking on a divine role on the big screen.

Speaking at the event, Mahesh Babu shared that he had previously declined roles portraying deities, despite his father's advice to explore all opportunities. "I always disagreed when it came to playing God on screen," Mahesh said. However, Rajamouli convinced him, transforming Varanasi into a project the actor describes as a dream come true.

Rajamouli praised Mahesh's portrayal, stating that he embodies both charm and ferocity as Lord Sriram. The segment featuring Mahesh is set as a 30-minute episode, which the director



promises will leave audiences amazed in the theatres. According to Rajamouli, initial doubts about casting Mahesh in such a revered role were dispelled after a test shoot, leaving him "awestruck" by the performance.

The film recently wrapped shooting for this pivotal sequence, and early reports suggest that the visuals and performance have been received positively by the team. Rajamouli emphasized that Mahesh's presence brings a unique blend of intensity and grace to the divine character, making the portrayal memorable for audiences.

Earlier, rumors had linked Mahesh to Prashanth Varma's Jai Hanuman in the role of Lord Sriram, but the actor clarified that those were mere speculations. Varanasi officially marks Mahesh Babu's debut as a deity on screen, generating high anticipation among fans and moviegoers alike.

With Rajamouli at the helm and Mahesh Babu in a never-before-seen avatar, Varanasi is shaping up to be a landmark cinematic experience that blends mythology with contemporary storytelling.

Priyanka Chopra Stuns With Desi Look at Varanasi Launch



Priyanka Chopra turned heads at the Varanasi title launch, effortlessly blending elegance with traditional Indian style. Slipping a few Telugu words into her speech, she charmed the audience and won hearts instantly.

Her cream embroidered half-saree, paired with a chunky necklace, bangles, and forehead ornaments, created a mesmerizing look that seemed straight out of a dream. Fans and fashion enthusiasts alike

praised her impeccable styling and graceful presence at the event.

The excitement peaked when Priyanka posed alongside Superstar Mahesh Babu. The duo's on-stage camaraderie sparked fan speculation about their on-screen chemistry, and pictures of the pair quickly went viral across social media platforms.

Priyanka's appearance not only highlighted her fashion sensibilities but also her ability to connect

with regional audiences, adding an extra layer of charm to the film's promotional activities.

The event marked a major highlight in the promotional campaign for Varanasi, and Priyanka's desi-inspired look is being celebrated as one of her most memorable public appearances in recent times. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film, now even more excited to see the star duo together on screen.



Ram's Andhra King Taluka Gets New Release Date

Ram's fans have reason to celebrate as his much-awaited film Andhra King Taluka has been preponed by a day. The production house, Mythri Movie Makers, announced that the movie will now hit theaters worldwide on November 27, 2025.

The film's theatrical trailer is set for a grand unveiling in Kurnool on November 18, accompanied by a spectacular drone show — a first-of-its-kind promotional event in India. The songs released so far have already generated significant buzz, raising expectations for the film's storyline and performances.

In Andhra King Taluka, Ram plays a diehard fan of a film star portrayed by Upendra. Young actress Bhagyashri Borse will be seen as the leading lady. The movie is directed by P. Mahesh Babu and features music composed by the talented duo Vivek and Mervin.

The film promises a mix of action, drama, and fan-centric moments, catering to Ram's large fanbase. The production

house has emphasized that all theaters worldwide will follow proper screenings to ensure fans get the best cinematic experience.

With the preponed release, anticipation is building across social media, where fans have already begun sharing creative posts and trailers. The combination of Ram and Upendra, along with the unique promotional strategies, is expected to make Andhra King Taluka one of the biggest Telugu releases of the year.

As the release date approaches, film enthusiasts are eager to see how the story unfolds, particularly Ram's portrayal of a dedicated fan, and the chemistry between him and Bhagyashri Borse. The movie's soundtrack and high-octane sequences are also expected to be highlights during the theatrical experience.

Andhra King Taluka is shaping up to be a significant milestone in Ram's career, blending fan service, entertainment, and a star-studded cast to captivate audiences nationwide.