

The Chief Minister also took the opportunity to brief Minister Khattar extensively on the state's strategic commitment to zero-carbon emission measures, which includes actively promoting the large-scale adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) throughout Telangana. He announced the state's plan to decisively press 3,000 new electric buses into public service in Hyderabad over the course of the coming year. Other strategic development initiatives were also disc-



# CM Meets Analog AI CEO To Bring ‘Physical Intelligence’ To Hyd

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Alex Kipman, the renowned CEO of Analog AI and a pioneer behind Microsoft Kinect and HoloLens, met with Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad to discuss a significant technological collaboration. The core of the discussion centered on integrating Analog AI's cutting-edge 'Physical Intelligence' systems into the state's most ambitious urban development initiatives, including the proposed Future City and AI City projects. In response to a request from the Chief Minister, Analog AI expressed strong interest in applying its technology

to tackle Hyderabad's most critical urban challenges. The specific problems targeted for intervention include mitigating severe traffic congestion, predicting and preventing devastating urban flooding events, and significantly enhancing capabilities in climate change prediction and modeling for the metropolitan area. The potential partnership also extends to the crucial Musi Riverfront Development project, positioning advanced technology as a foundational component across urban renewal and planning. The integration of 'Physical Intelligence'—which merges digital analysis with real-world, physical

data—promises to create a truly smart and responsive urban environment, enabling proactive, rather than reactive, municipal response. The Chief Minister extended a formal invitation to Kipman to attend the upcoming Telangana Rising Global Summit scheduled for December 8 and 9, underscoring the high value the state government places on this potential collaboration. If fully realized, this partnership could establish Hyderabad as a global benchmark for utilizing advanced technology to achieve sustainable and resilient development goals.

## . Narrow Escape For Passengers After Bus Hits Tanker On NH 44

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A major disaster was narrowly averted in Mahabubnagar district, Telangana, when a private sleeper bus collided with a chemical tanker on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru National Highway (NH 44) near Macharam village, Jadcherla mandal, around 6:30 a.m. The collision caused an immediate and dangerous breach, leading to a widespread leakage of Hydrochloric Acid (HCl). Dense, toxic chemical fumes quickly enveloped the scene, creating panic among the 30 to 40 passengers aboard the Jagan Travels bus. Their quick thinking was crucial; the passengers successfully used the emergency exit to escape to safety. Law enforcement officials confirmed the most important outcome: no injuries were sustained by any individual in the collision or from the chemical exposure. The incident caused a substantial and protracted traffic jam near the Macharam Flyover, disrupting transit for several hours. Emergency services, including the fire department, rushed to the site and managed the crisis by pouring large amounts of water to control the fumes before successfully capping the leakage, thus mitigating a larger environmental or health tragedy. This narrow escape contrasts starkly with a worrying series of recent fatal bus accidents in the Telugu states. In the past month alone, severe incidents include a head-on RTC bus-tipper truck crash in Rangaredy that claimed 19 lives on November 3; another private bus overturning in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district that killed one on the same night; and a devastating fire near Kurnool on October 24 that tragically resulted in nineteen fatalities after a private bus hit a motorbike and caught fire. The professional containment of the Mahabubnagar chemical incident serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for enhanced road safety measures to address this deadly trend of recurrent accidents across the region.



## Harish Rao Honours Educationist Chukkah Ramaiah on 100th Birthday

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Former Minister Harish Rao paid a deeply respectful and personal visit to the residence of the renowned educationist, Chukkah Ramaiah Garu (popularly known as I.I.T. Ramaiah), to felicitate him on the momentous occasion of his 100th birthday. Harish Rao honored the centenarian with a traditional shawl and extended his sincere, heartfelt birthday wishes. Speaking during the event, the former minister conveyed his profound sense of privilege at offering greetings to an extraordinary individual who commands respect from every single person in Telangana society, emphasizing that Ramaiah's goodwill effortlessly cuts across all party lines and political affiliations. He stated emphatically that Ramaiah's immense services to the nation and the education sector are truly invaluable, lauding his singular achievement in guiding and equipping countless students and providing society with innumerable engineers. Harish Rao noted that Ramaiah's name became synonymous with the highest standards of technical education, to the extent that "I.I.T. means Ramaiah Garu and Ramaiah Garu means I.I.T." A crucial aspect of Ramaiah's character, as highlighted by the former minister, is his utter selflessness, pointing out that Ramaiah never sought political power or personal wealth, dedicating his entire life instead to the greater good of social service and public welfare. This dedication, he asserted, is what distinguishes him as a truly great man. Harish Rao concluded by conveying heartfelt wishes to Ramaiah, his students, and his admirers, celebrating a life of extraordinary service and dedication to the cause of education and society.

## Minister Seethakka Condoles Malavath Poorna's Family on Father's Demise

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Minister Seethakka, a prominent member of the Telangana Cabinet, undertook a deeply sympathetic visit to the family of Malavath Poorna, the youth icon and world's youngest girl to successfully summit Mount Everest. The purpose of her visit was to offer profound and personal condolences following the recent and unfortunate death of Poorna's father. The Minister was accompanied by Government Advisor Shabbir Ali and Nizamabad Rural MLA Bhupathi Reddy, during the visit to Poorna's ancestral residence in the erstwhile Nizamabad district. Minister Seethakka spent time with the grieving family, offering personal words of comfort and courage to Malavath Poorna. The Minister's message was one of solidarity and emotional support during their difficult period of bereavement, noting that Poorna's extraordinary achievement had effectively raised Telangana's fame to the height of Everest itself. She made a crucial and categorical assurance to the family, stating that the Telangana government would stand firmly by the family and provide all necessary forms of support in their hour of need. This commitment of comprehensive assistance goes beyond a simple gesture of condolence, indicating a governmental pledge to safeguard the welfare of the family who has brought such honor to the state. The visit reinforces the administration's image as one that is sensitive to and supportive of its citizens, particularly those who have achieved distinction on the world stage.

# Dy CM Highlights Government's Resolve at NABARD Summit

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu served as the Chief Guest at the inaugural NABARD EARTH Summit held at HITEX, Madhapur, delivering a powerful address focused on the Telangana government's strong commitment to champion the cause of farmers. He affirmed that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government has already implemented a significant debt relief measure, providing a colossal 21,000 crore in financial relief to approximately 22 lakh families. The Deputy CM detailed a series of strategic, farmer-centric initiatives currently being implemented, including the expansion and transformation of the agricultural procurement system and the active implementation of the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, designed to ensure timely financial support. He



also pointed to substantial government investments in expanding and modernizing irrigation facilities, maintaining digital crop records, and developing post-harvest infrastructure. These efforts, he stated, are vital in restoring robust confidence among the entire farming community.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that the government's dedication is to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with farmers throughout their daily journey of development. He praised NABARD, calling it a great institution born during the period of nation-building, standing as the "silent force" behind the rejuvenation of rural India. He highlighted that Telangana is not just hosting the summit; it is a living testament to rural transformation achieved by combining innovation with political resolve, citing the T-Fiber project and the introduction of India's first Gold Standard Carbon Credits for farmers practicing water-saving methods. He strongly asserted that the application of technology like drone-based crop management and AI soil analysis is now an absolute necessity for achieving national food security.

# MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy Orders Immediate Action on Water Scarcity

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Maheshwaram MLA and former Minister Smt. Sabitha Indra Reddy convened an urgent review meeting with officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) at her residence today. The meeting was primarily focused on addressing the persistent and widespread drinking water supply issues within the jurisdiction of Badangpet Municipal Corporation, Jalpally Municipality, and Tukuguda Municipality. The MLA brought to the attention of the HMWSSB officials the fact that residents in several colonies have been facing severe difficulties due to the inadequate supply of drinking water in recent days. Recognizing the serious nature of the public inconvenience, she issued a direct and firm directive to the officials, ordering them to take swift action and ensure the instantaneous restoration of water supply to the affected areas. She emphasized the critical need for providing a continuous and sufficient flow of clean water to the residents. Officials informed the meeting that an additional pipeline system has been installed to ensure a continuous and sufficient supply of clean water to the public. MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy issued clear guidelines and instructions to the water board to further strengthen the water supply system and prevent residents from facing any future problems related to scarcity. She also inquired about

the progress of the STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) works. This shows her comprehensive approach to the region's water and sanitation infrastructure. The review meeting was attended by key HMWSSB officials, including Directors Sudarshan and Sujatha, Chief General Managers Vinod Kumar and Santosh Kumar, Deputy General Manager Nisar Ahmed, Deputy Project Manager Kodi, and other officials including CGM Manimkonda Srinivas Reddy.

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## Jeh Aerospace Commits \$50M to Launch Manufacturing Unit in Telangana

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Aerospace and defence manufacturing startup Jeh Aerospace officially inaugurated its second large-scale manufacturing unit in Telangana on Thursday, accompanied by a massive financial commitment. The company announced plans to invest a substantial USD 50 million (approximately 445 crore) into this brand-new facility over the next 6 to 12 months. Named Mach 2, the facility is strategically situated within the Horizon Industrial Park near Hyderabad and covers an expansive 2-lakh square feet, designed to be fully operational next year. This dramatic expansion is a direct response to the escalating global demand for high-precision components, a sector where Jeh Aerospace has established itself internationally. The Mach 2 unit's core purpose is to significantly boost production capacity, rapidly accelerate the adoption of advanced automation processes, and strengthen digital supply-chain resilience to reliably serve its growing international clientele. The company also revealed impressive performance metrics, noting that its current order book has dramatically exceeded USD 150 million in just 18 months of operation, underscoring the robust global demand for its specialized components. According to the company, the new unit nearly quadruples its existing Hyderabad footprint, bringing its total manufacturing capacity within the city to over 250,000 square feet. Founder and CEO Vishal Sanghavi stated that Mach 2 is engineered as a software-defined, AI-augmented system, designed to execute manufacturing processes with unparalleled precision at a massive scale. This investment, backed by investors like General Catalyst and Elevation Capital, is expected to create numerous high-skilled jobs, further solidifying Telangana's reputation as a burgeoning hub for advanced manufacturing and defence technology.

# Ethiopian Delegation Visits Telangana DCA to Study Regulatory Model

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A significant, high-level Ethiopian Delegation, including representatives from the country's Ministry of Health, the Ethiopian Investment Commission, and the World Bank, visited the Office of the Drugs Control Administration (DCA) in Telangana. The primary objective of the visit was to gain detailed, first-hand insights and practical knowledge into the effective regulatory framework and robust operational methodologies employed by Telangana's DCA, as the Ethiopian government seeks to significantly enhance and modernize its own pharmaceutical regulatory systems. During the visit, DCA Telangana provided a thorough overview of its core regulatory functions, covering licensing, inspections, and stringent quality assurance protocols. A significant focus was placed on the administration's extensive field enforcement activities and the measures taken to ensure the consistent availability of quality drugs to the public throughout the state. This successful model of balancing industry promotion with the crucial responsibility of protecting public health was keenly observed. The Ethiopian Delegation expressed profound appreciation for the depth of the insights shared, recognizing the high standards and operational efficiency demonstrated by the DCA's team and systems. They explicitly stated their intention to meticulously study, adapt, and apply the relevant learnings and best practices observed during their visit within the context of Ethiopia's regulatory systems. This knowledge-sharing initiative reinforces Telangana's growing role as a model for administrative and technical excellence in key sectors across the globe, aiding international partners in modernizing their governance and public health safeguards.



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# BRS Leaders Accuse Congress of Vengeance in Formula E Case and Welfare Schemes

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Former MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy (BRS) strongly criticized the Congress Government's actions, accusing the ruling party of engaging in political vendetta and misallocating welfare benefits. He alleged that the government has unjustly withheld Double Bedroom houses from the originally intended beneficiaries in the Bhupalpally constituency. Reddy stated that the official code of conduct for the Assembly elections came into effect on the very day the houses were ready for inauguration. He alleged that, instead of allocating these houses to the rightful, poor beneficiaries, the Congress Government, acting under police control, has misappropriated the houses and allocated them exclusively to Congress party workers. Furthermore, he claimed that the government officials



are engaging in corruption, having collected 1 lakh from each of the deserving beneficiaries only to deny them the homes later. He cited an RTI Act response from the MPDO, which allegedly stated that houses were not allocated due to the objection raised by the local MLA, confirming the political interference. Reddy accused the government of promoting a policy of allocating schemes only to Congress workers, effectively snatching schemes

meant for the poor and distributing them among their own party cadre. He further alleged that the Bhupalpally District Collector is acting solely under the direction of Congress leaders to gain favor with the local MLA. On the Formula E car race case, Venkataramana Reddy questioned the new investigation, stating there is "nothing new to investigate" since KTR has already appeared for questioning by the ACB in the past. He accused the government of re-

sorting to "vendetta politics" against KTR, who he credited with significantly enhancing Hyderabad's global image. He maintained that no corruption occurred in the Formula E race and asserted that the government's current attempts to find evidence, even by forming new committees, have failed to yield any proof of wrongdoing. Former MLA Balka Suman (BRS) also weighed in, acknowledging the news of the Governor's sanction for KTR's prosecution and calling it a "new drama" orchestrated by the Chief Minister. He accused CM Revanth Reddy of practicing "third-class politics" and engaging in political vendetta due to his own anxiety following KTR's recent visit to Adilabad to address cotton farmers' issues and Harish Rao's visit to Warangal. Suman pointed out the immediate problem of cotton purchases being halted across the

state, with the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) harassing farmers over moisture content and limiting purchases to only 7 quintals per farmer. He reiterated KTR's earlier claim that the Formula E case is a "Lottapisu Case." Suman drew parallels between the current situation and the infamous 'Cash for Vote' scandal, claiming that Revanth Reddy, having been caught with 50 lakh cash bundles, now wants to send KTR to jail because he himself had to go to jail. He accused Revanth Reddy of seeking revenge against the previous BRS government. He questioned the administration's technical knowledge regarding the Kaleshwaram Project and the power sector. He also mocked the case's complexity, likening the Formula E investigation to a never-ending TV serial like 'Chakravakam' or 'Mogali Rekulu'. Suman alleged a "dark deal" between CM Revanth Red-

dy and PM Modi, leading to the Governor's delayed sanction. He claimed there is a wider conspiracy to target young regional leaders across the country (like Akhilesh Yadav, Udhayanidhi Stalin, and Tejashwi Yadav) with false corruption cases. He highlighted that the Formula E race was praised by Central Ministers and BJP CMs and brought 700 crore in investments, including from the Amara Raja Company for the battery sector. He criticized the Congress Government for wasting time on organizing beauty pageants without any vision or tangible benefit to Telangana, stating that the government is running without a clear direction. He concluded that KTR will "tear Revanth Reddy apart" in a political battle, alleging that the current administration is now an "addiction to corruption" and is threatening industrialists.



## BRS MLA Counters Congress, Calls Formula E Case a Political Vendetta

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Former MLC Karne Prabhakar of the BRS strongly condemned the Congress Government's actions, labeling the entire Formula E car race case as a direct act of "vendetta politics" against BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). He alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is pursuing these "useless cases" (Bekar Cases) to strategically cover up the failures of the state government, divert the growing public discontent against his administration, and specifically seek revenge against KTR. Prabhakar defended KTR's original decision to host the event, stating that the Formula E race was organized by KTR to significantly enhance Hyderabad's brand image and attract crucial investments. He accused the Congress government of halting the race midway and fabricating a charge of corruption through an "illegal case." He reiterated KTR's earlier dismissal of the case as an "empty shell case" (Lottapisu Case), asserting that Revanth Reddy is fully aware of this but is using the case temporarily to "mislead the public".

Prabhakar argued logically that investment will only flow when the government itself demonstrates the willingness to invest. He questioned Revanth Reddy's understanding of how to attract capital, criticizing the current administration for spending crores of rupees on newspaper advertisements about alleged investments following foreign tours, claiming that this is not how Telangana achieved its current global standing. He argued that Telangana's global recognition was achieved through continuous hard work and tough decisions, not through flashy, one-off events. He took a strong, direct swipe at the current administration's image, stating that KTR did not debase Hyderabad's reputation by conducting inappropriate events like Miss World Competitions and engaging in indecent behavior with participants. He alleged that the Congress government failed spectacularly in conducting the Miss World contest and merely damaged the city's established name, failing to bring in even a single new company as a result.

# MP Vaddiraju Condemns Formula E Case as Retaliation Against KTR

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra (Ravichandra) strongly condemned the Congress Government's decision to resort to retaliatory action against KTR. He labeled the action as unwarranted "vendetta politics." Speaking on November 20, 2025, the MP stated that even though the

Formula E race was conducted with complete transparency and was free from any evidence of corruption or irregularities, the Congress Government's decision to resort to retaliatory action against KTR is regrettable and a matter of serious concern.

MP Ravichandra lauded KTR's relentless dedication and efforts in working tirelessly to enhance the brand image of Hyderabad globally. He expressed his deep

distress that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has not only filed what he claims are "illegal cases" against KTR but is also actively engaging in political vengeance. The MP expressed his profound pain and sadness, stating that CM Revanth Reddy appears to have prioritized filing cases against KTR to damage his reputation and honor, seemingly making it his sole purpose in power, particularly because KTR has been consistently and publicly exposing the anti-people policies of the current Congress administration.

MP Ravichandra issued a strong warning to the Congress leadership, making it clear that their tactics—which include threats, intimidation, filing false cases, and other harassments—will not succeed in demoralizing the spirit and resolve of the dedicated BRS cadre. He firmly reiterated the BRS party's unwavering



faith and complete confidence in the judicial system of the country. He concluded by asserting that the BRS is prepared to fight and resolve the illegal cases filed against KTR through the appropriate legal channels in the court of law, trusting that justice will ultimately

prevail. This statement underscores the BRS party's decision to legally challenge the prosecution initiated by the Governor's sanction, maintaining their stance that the entire case is baseless and politically motivated.

## Union Minister Kishan Reddy Highlights GSI's Role in Viksit Bharat

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy delivered a key address during the 175th Foundation Day celebrations of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The Minister lauded the GSI for its continuous and indispensable service to the nation's geological heritage over its 175-year history, since its establishment in 1851. He highlighted GSI's critical historical role in identifying vital minerals such as coal and iron, which were absolutely essential for catalyzing the initial growth of India's domestic industries. Beyond mineral identification, GSI's work has also been instrumental in supporting crucial national efforts in infrastructure development, energy security, efficient water management, environmental preservation, and effective disaster management.

Minister Reddy pointed out the dramatic growth in the domestic industry, which was valued at just 58 crore in 1947, but has now scaled up massively to an estimated 1.2 lakh crore. He projected that GSI's role will become even more vital in achieving the nation's ambitious goal of becoming a Developed Nation by

2047 (Viksit Bharat). He stressed the immense global need for minerals in the 21st century, particularly Critical Minerals—those essential for India's transition to a net-zero emission economy. He noted the massive worldwide demand for key minerals such as Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Rare Earths, Graphite, and Copper. Minister Reddy framed this global demand as both a significant challenge and a huge opportunity for India.

The Minister commended GSI for its outstanding work, which aligns perfectly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's core philosophy of "Reform, Perform, and Transform." He urged GSI to enhance its capabilities to meet future challenges and play a key role in achieving the Viksit Bharat goal. To support this direction, the Central Ministry of Mines has introduced a National Mineral Policy and brought about significant amendments to the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act. Furthermore, the government has launched the comprehensive National Critical Mineral Mission. Minister Reddy highlighted the successes achieved through the introduction of the auction

process for the allocation of mines, noting that over 500 mines have been auctioned since the process began. This shift has successfully brought greater transparency to the allocation process and significantly increased investor confidence in the mining sector. He proudly announced that 34 Critical Mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned, and the rate of mineral extraction has seen a remarkable growth of 160% over the last ten years. He also mentioned that India is actively securing mining leases abroad to diversify its mineral sources.

Minister Reddy stressed the urgent need for GSI to technologically upgrade its systems and capabilities to effectively compete with major international organizations in the global race for mineral resources. He stated that the GSI's past history and current work are laying the crucial foundation for a glorious future. As India accelerates towards the Viksit Bharat goal, GSI must focus on extracting more resources, promoting sustainable mining practices, and rapidly developing indigenous technologies. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining high preparedness for responding to any geological disasters.

# Telangana NRI Advisory Committee Discusses Overseas Mobility Bill and Gulf Welfare

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A pivotal meeting of the Telangana NRI Advisory Committee was convened at the Manjeera IAS Guest House in Hyderabad, focusing primarily on key legislative and welfare issues affecting the Telangana diaspora worldwide. The meeting saw active participation from Minister Ponnampallabharathi, the committee's Chairman Vinod, Vice Chairman Bheem Reddy, and other dedicated committee members. A significant portion of the discussion was dedicated to the forthcoming Overseas Mobility Bill - 2025, which is currently being introduced by the Central Government. Minister Ponnampallabharathi strongly affirmed the Telangana Government's unwavering commitment to comprehensively support its citizens, particularly the Gulf emigrants and other Telangana residents residing in various countries.

Minister Prabhakar elaborated that the NRI Advisory Committee will serve as a steadfast pillar of support for the Gulf workers and all non-resident Telangana citizens, providing every possible assistance to them. He noted a critical, recent shift in the emigration pattern: while historically, individuals primarily moved to the Gulf region solely for unskilled employment, the



contemporary trend now shows people migrating across all sectors, including those with advanced technical skills. The discussion on the Central Government's Overseas Mobility Bill - 2025 was timely, especially since the Centre is actively soliciting suggestions from all states. Chairman Vinod and Vice Chairman Bheem Reddy, along with other committee members who wish to contribute to the development of Telangana, actively participated in this detailed consultation. Minister Prabhakar proudly highlighted that the current Praja Palana Government has initiated several specific, dedicated programs aimed at Gulf welfare, fulfilling the promises made before the elections. These initiatives include the reservation of special

seats in educational institutions for the children of Gulf workers, recognizing the importance of their education.

To ensure timely resolution of their grievances, the government has established a dedicated platform called 'Pravasi Prajavani' (NRI Public Grievance Forum). A key welfare measure announced is the provision of financial assistance amounting to 5 lakh to the families of Gulf workers who unfortunately die abroad, effective from December 7, 2023. Minister Prabhakar recounted a personal experience from his Husnabad constituency: when he brought the difficulties faced by residents abroad to the attention of NRI representatives, they successfully communicated with the concerned Embassy officials

to resolve the issues, demonstrating the committee's effective role. Despite these efforts, he warned that uneducated and innocent individuals seeking employment continue to be cheated by certain bogus companies. In response, the government is utilizing programs like the TOMCOM Company to provide quality training and facilitate secure employment opportunities with better salaries abroad. The Minister clarified the division of responsibilities: while the State Government has successfully established the NRI Cell, foreign affairs and their regulations remain under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. He emphasized the necessity of ensuring that the Bill includes standard-setting provisions based on Tel-

angana's experiences, urging the committee members to bring all relevant issues concerning the NRI community to the attention of the state government. The Minister also recalled organizing an NRI meeting in Shankarapatnam during his padyatra in the Karimnagar district in 2021. He linked the increase in youth migrating abroad since the 1990s to the Naxalite movement, suggesting it offered a path to employment and prevented them from being misled. He concluded by directing the NRI Advisory Committee to actively consider the issues of Telangana residents living abroad, emphasizing the need to visit Gulf-affected regions in the districts, understand their problems, and incorporate their advice and suggestions.





## Auto Fare Dispute Escalates to Air Gun Shooting in Shamshabad

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A disagreement over an auto-rickshaw fare tragically escalated into a violent incident involving an air gun in Narkuda village, Shamshabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, late on the night of November 20. The incident began when Sameer Das and his son-in-law, Pintu Hatti, hired an auto in Narkuda. A heated verbal dispute arose between the two passengers and the driver, or an unidentified person who was also in the vehicle, concerning the pre-agreed rental fare. This common roadside argument took a dangerous

turn when one of the individuals in the auto, an unidentified person, allegedly produced an air gun and discharged it at Sameer Das. The projectile struck Sameer Das in the stomach, causing him serious injuries. Locals immediately intervened and rushed the victim to the hospital for urgent medical attention. Following the incident, Pintu Hatti, the victim's son-in-law, promptly lodged a formal police complaint regarding the unprovoked and violent assault. In response to the complaint, local police registered a case and have initiated an in-depth investigation to

determine the exact circumstances that led to the shooting and to identify the unidentified assailant. Further details about the air gun and the motive behind the sudden escalation are yet to be fully uncovered by the police as their inquiry is still in its initial stages. The use of a weapon, even an air gun, during a simple fare dispute highlights a disturbing trend of escalating violence in common interactions, prompting local law enforcement to prioritize the quick apprehension of the suspect involved in this shocking incident.



## Malakpet Railway Station Upgrade On Fast Track, To Be Completed By June 2026

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

South Central Railway (SCR) provided an update on the massive redevelopment of the Malakpet Railway Station, which is being transformed under the Central Government's flagship Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) at an estimated cost of ₹26.50 crore. This project is integral to the Indian Railways' overarching vision to provide world-class amenities to passengers and establish railway stations as pivotal growth centers across the region. Across the state of Telangana, 40 stations are undergoing similar redevelopment under ABSS, backed by an estimated expenditure of ₹2,750 crore. Malakpet Railway Station is categorized as Suburban Grade-3 (SG-3) and is a critical point on the Kacheguda-Falaknema suburban route, serving not only MMTS services but also important express trains like the Tungabhadra Express. The comprehensive plan

for Malakpet includes several major upgrades, such as the construction of a 12-meter wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB), the installation of two escalators and two lifts, enhanced platform shelters, and the improvement of platform surfaces. Additional amenities will include better parking facilities, improved station facade lighting at both entrances, and crucial Metro connectivity. Current reports indicate significant progress on various fronts. The construction of the commercial complex is advancing, with the terrace slab completed, and masonry, plumbing, and plastering work progressing on the ground and first floors, which will house the modernized booking office. Furthermore, the platform boundary wall work is complete, and the most challenging structural element, the 12-meter-wide FOB, has seen the completion of girder launching, gangway bottom sheeting, and canopy installation.

## Hyderabad CP Sajjanar Vows 'Zero Tolerance' for Drunken Driving

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Hyderabad Police Commissioner (CP) Sri V. C. Sajjanar, IPS, announced a non-negotiable approach to traffic law enforcement, declaring a policy of 'Zero Tolerance' for all major violations, particularly drunken driving. Speaking at a detailed performance review meeting for the Traffic Department at the TGICCC Auditorium, the CP began by commending the traffic personnel as the 'Face of Hyderabad Police,' praising their commitment and dedication to improving the department's public image and operational performance. CP Sajjanar issued clear directives to his staff, ordering them to strictly enforce laws

against all serious transgressions, including Minor Driving, Wrong Route usage, and Dangerous Driving. To address the complex issue of traffic congestion systematically, he announced that 'Convergence Meetings' involving officials from all concerned departments will be organized monthly, starting November 27, to collaboratively discuss solutions for traffic flow issues. The CP also instructed the formation of specialized teams to conduct a scientific study on U-turns to optimize traffic patterns. He emphasized the necessity of strengthening the Real-Time Traffic Monitoring System and developing a technology-driven plan to curb vehicular prob-

lems. While assuring that excellent duty performance would be formally recognized, CP Sajjanar delivered a categorical warning that corruption on the roads would not be tolerated under any circumstances, demanding adherence to the highest ethical standards. He urged the entire traffic force to operate as a 'Multiplayer,' a cohesive unit, and directed senior officers to visit and personally inspect accident sites when they occur. Ultimately, CP Sajjanar ordered all senior traffic officials to take decisive, proactive steps toward resolving the perennial traffic problem, acknowledging the severe congestion faced by the growing city.

## ICDS Drives Awareness on Child Marriage Penalties

TPN Bureau | Nov 12, 2025

An intensive awareness program on the eradication of child marriages was recently conducted by ICDS staff at the Zilla Parishad Primary School in Koukunta Village, Chevella Mandal. The initiative aimed to educate the local community, especially students and grassroots officials, about the serious legal implications and social harm caused by the practice. Bhanu Prakash, the District Child Protection Unit Officer, addressed the gathering, clearly defining a child marriage as any union

where the bride is under 18 years or the groom is under 21 years of age. He issued a firm warning regarding the legal consequences, stating unequivocally that performing child marriages is a punishable offense carrying a penalty of ₹1 lakh fine and two years of imprisonment.

He further stressed that legal action would be taken against every individual who collaborates, supports, or participates in arranging a child marriage. Prakash directed village-level officers to maintain strict vigilance and actively prevent any child mar-



riages from occurring within their jurisdiction. The District Officer also provided the public with an immediate reporting mechanism, urging anyone who receives information about a potential child marriage to

immediately contact the toll-free Child Helpline 1098. Supervisor Shakunthala reinforced the message, emphasizing the collective responsibility of every citizen to ensure that no child marriage takes place. The

educational event saw the participation of the School Headmaster, teachers, Anganwadi teachers, and students, underscoring a unified community effort against this social evil.

## Chilkur Temple's Solar Surveillance Project Becomes National CSR Model



TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

The Chilkur Balaji Temple has spearheaded a pioneering initiative that is quickly gaining national recognition, effectively merging community safety with corporate responsibility. The project involves the installation of 60 solar-powered surveillance cameras across various remote and underserved village temples in the Moynabad region of Chevella. This landmark effort establishes a template for how religious institutions and financial corporations can collaborate through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandates to enhance social security in areas lacking robust infrastructure. The successful deployment of this technology was made possible through significant CSR backing from two prominent national banks: State Bank of

India (SBI), which sponsored 50 cameras, and Union Bank of India (UBI), which contributed 10 cameras. The use of solar power is a critical element of the design, ensuring that the surveillance system operates uninterrupted 24/7, a necessity given that many rural temples suffer from inadequate power supply and are thus highly vulnerable to theft and vandalism. The official handover of payment to the vendor took place at the Chilkur Balaji Temple premises, attended by key law enforcement and banking representatives. Sri K. Srinivasa Rao, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rajendranagar, lauded the initiative as a timely and essential intervention for community safety. Sri Salil Shukla (SBI DGM) and Sri Nithin Kumar (Regional Manager) specifically noted that in-

corporating remote surveillance technology into CSR activities for the first time marks this project as a scalable national model. The initiative's leaders, Sri C.S. Gopalakrishna and Sri C.S. Rangarajan (Hereditary Archakas & Trustees), highlighted that solar-powered surveillance offers the most reliable and sustainable solution tailored to the specific challenges faced by these rural temple clusters. This eco-friendly technology strengthens crime deterrence, significantly enhances the safety of devotees, and provides continuous monitoring. Chilkur priest Sri Rangarajan expressed profound gratitude to both SBI and UBI, confidently asserting that this innovative collaboration is poised to become a widely replicable CSR model for temple clusters nationwide.

## ABVP Demands Action Against Teacher For Beating Students

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A serious incident involving alleged teacher misconduct has sparked a major protest in Kompally, Medchal District, raising concerns about the safety and treatment of students in educational institutions. On November 20, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), through its Medchal District and Kompally City branches, organized a robust dharna right outside the premises of the Shiva Shivani Intermediate College. The demonstration was a direct response to reports that a Commerce teacher at the college had engaged in unacceptable disciplinary action, allegedly beating students severely because they had failed to complete their assigned homework. This act of physical punishment

against students has been categorically condemned by the ABVP, which views the teacher's behavior as utterly indiscriminate and a gross violation of standard educational conduct norms. The organization's primary and most fervent demand is that the college administration and relevant education authorities immediately initiate strict action against the teacher responsible. They specifically called for the swift suspension of the teacher to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire student body and to set a precedent against such violent disciplinary measures. The gravity of the situation was compounded by the fact that the parents of the affected students also expressed their intense anger and dismay during the protest, fully

supporting the ABVP's demand for decisive measures. Their collective frustration underscored the emotional impact such corporal punishment has on families. The protest was attended by key ABVP figures, including Medchal District Convener Mruthunjay, Kompally City Secretary Parthasaradhi, Joint Secretary Sunny, and Sumanth, showcasing a unified front against the alleged abuse of authority. The demonstration successfully brought public attention to the necessity of fostering a non-violent and secure learning environment within educational settings. The ABVP warned that they would continue their agitation until the college took appropriate disciplinary action to address the serious nature of the assault.

## DGP B Sivadhar Reddy Launches 'Safe Village Program' Targeting Human Trafficking

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Director General of Police (DGP) Sri B. Sivadhar Reddy announced a major strategic initiative aimed at curbing organized crime across Telangana, particularly focusing on the abhorrent practice of human trafficking. Addressing Police Commissioners and Superintendents of Police (SPs) via a video conference on Thursday, the DGP revealed plans

to extensively implement the 'Safe Village Program' as a pilot project in seven key districts. These districts—Mahabubabad, Khammam, Warangal, Bhadrachalam, Kothagudem, Vikarabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medak—were strategically chosen due to their vulnerability to such crimes. The program, which will be executed in collaboration with voluntary organizations, is primarily in-

tended to prevent and eliminate human trafficking, with the scope for expansion to other parts of the state depending on the initial results. In addition to this new program, the DGP issued several critical directives for immediate police action. He mandated that SPs of border districts must hold regular coordination meetings with their counterparts in neighboring states to establish pre-

emptive measures against inter-state crime syndicates. Furthermore, he announced a significant institutional upgrade within the police structure, confirming the establishment of a specialized wing in the CID named 'Crime Intelligence Technology Analysis' to leverage advanced crime analysis and technology in investigations. The DGP also issued a harsh warning against internal corrup-

tion, explicitly stating that senior officials must take continuous action against corrupt staff. He categorically warned that the incident in Tekmal, Medak district, must not be repeated, emphasizing that senior supervising officers who fail to monitor their lower-level personnel engaging in corruption will also face accountability and stringent disciplinary action.





# Excise Principal Secretary Mandates Crackdown on Non-Duty Paid Liquor

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

The newly appointed Principal Secretary of the Prohibition and Excise Department, Raghunandan Rao, held a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials from key wings of the department at the Excise Bhavan on Thursday. Taking over from his predecessor, Rizvi, Principal Secretary Raghunandan Rao presided over a lengthy session to address critical issues concerning departmental perfor-

mance, revenue generation, and staff welfare. He is central directive focused on a robust enforcement strategy: he instructed the enforcement teams to intensify their efforts to curb the flow of Non-Duty Paid (NDP) liquor across the state. This crackdown is intended not only to secure government revenue but also to directly boost the sales and business viability of the liquor shops established under the new excise policy. Commissioner C. Hari Kiran and

other officials presented a detailed performance review via a Power Point Presentation (PPT), covering the department's operations, Telangana Beverages sales, liquor manufacturing company processes, usage, labeling, and the performance of the Excise Enforcement wing, which the Principal Secretary meticulously reviewed for the first time since taking charge. Principal Secretary Raghunandan Rao directed the preparation of special, target-

ed plans to eliminate the NDP liquor that is currently causing a significant dent in Telangana's excise revenue. He explicitly linked the suppression of NDP liquor to an increase in excise revenue and, simultaneously, a rise in sales for legitimate liquor shops, urging a concrete, planned approach to move forward on this matter. The meeting also addressed pressing welfare issues concerning Geetha Karmikulu (Toddy Tappers), including timely com-

pensation payments for workers who die or are injured in accidents. When officials admitted that budget shortfalls had prevented some payments, the Principal Secretary immediately instructed them to take measures to ensure that all due compensation is disbursed promptly, providing essential support to the families of the Geetha Karmikulu. He also emphasized the necessity of officials conducting periodic checks to confirm that pension payments



are reaching the beneficiaries, rather than merely recording the details in registers, and ordered efforts to facilitate the swift enrollment of new eligible members in place of those who have passed away. Furthermore, he issued a series of directives to strengthen departmental operations, including

enhancing the label and barcode system for liquor supply, making amendments to the process of issuing event permits, accelerating the issuance of licenses for new industrial units, inspecting arrangements prior to inaugurating new excise stations, strengthening check posts, and conduct-

ing regular inspections of liquor manufacturing units. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Syed Yaseen Qureshi, Joint Commissioner Suresh Rathod, STF Assistant Commissioner Pranavai, and General Managers from TGBCIL, among others.

## Farmer Commission Praises Ranga Reddy Drip Rice, Reports on Kerala Model

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

The State Farmer Commission Chairman, Kodandareddy, along with members K.V.N. Reddy and Bhavani Reddy, recently visited Choudaripalli village in Yacharam Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, to inspect groundbreaking agricultural techniques. The commission's focus was the paddy field of model farmer Kasimalla Venkata Ramayya, who has successfully cultivated rice using drip irrigation, an innovative method traditionally reserved for horticulture. Chairman Kodandareddy lauded the achievement, stating that utilizing drip technology for paddy with such minimal water consumption is a significant breakthrough and highly commendable. The commission then at-

tended a meeting with farmers and officials at the Farmer's Platform (Raitu Vedika) in Yacharam, where Kodandareddy shared key findings from the commission's recent study tour of Kerala. He highlighted that Kerala employs advanced agricultural methods, noting that horticulture farmers there organize into strong cooperative groups for cultivation, benefiting from effective market mechanisms that closely align vegetable production with consumer demand. He also praised Kerala's successful system for tenant farmers. Kodandareddy announced that the commission would shortly submit a detailed report on the Kerala study tour to the State Government, recommending the implementation of similar advanced practices and policies in Telangana to modernize the

state's agriculture. He remarked that Ranga Reddy district is poised to be a hub for horticulture, but observed that vegetable cultivation has declined recently, urging farmers to increase their focus on horticulture crops. He promised government measures to ensure markets are readily accessible and emphasized the need for farmers to pursue organized cultivation. He assured attendees that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is a "farmer's son" committed to supporting the agricultural sector. During the meeting, some farmers brought to the Chairman's attention the distressing issue of not having received their Pattadar Pass Books. Kodandareddy expressed strong anger at the negligence of the concerned Revenue Department officials responsible for the delay. The meeting concluded with

## Jupally Extends Centenary Wishes to Legendary Educator Chukka Ramaiah



TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao extended profound and heartfelt birthday wishes to the revered educator Chukka Ramaiah, affectionately known as "Lekkala Mastaru" (Maths Teacher), as he successfully completed his hundredth year and entered his centenary life. The Minister lauded Ramaiah as the guiding beacon for the development of the education sector in the Telugu region and an embodiment of continuous intellectual curiosity. Minister Rao paid tribute to Ramaiah's distinguished career, describing his classroom as his lifeblood, where he not only passionately taught Engineering subjects but also stood as a symbol of

integrity and honesty in society. The Minister highlighted that Ramaiah's most enduring legacy is the IIT Coaching Institute he founded, an institution that has successfully guided and positively transformed the lives of thousands of aspirants over the years. Through his inspirational teaching, Minister Rao noted that numerous IIT students have gone on to achieve distinguished positions across the world. He emphasized that Chukka Ramaiah's deeply held thoughts, exemplary personality, principled conduct, and philosophical outlook serve as a significant inspiration for the current generation. Concluding his message, Minister Jupally sincerely wished Ramaiah good health and a long life.

## MLA Madhusudan Reddy Accuses BJP of Shielding KTR in Corruption Probe

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Devarkadra MLA G. Madhusudan Reddy launched a scathing attack from Gandhi Bhavan, squarely targeting former Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) and accusing the BJP of deliberately attempting to obstruct the corruption probe against him. Reddy forcefully argued that if KTR genuinely maintained his innocence, he should forgo legal challenges and actively cooperate with the investigation. He specifically suggested that BJP leader Kishan Reddy is attempting to protect his "friend KTR." The controversy centers on a joint charge sheet involving two primary accused: KTR (A1), for whom the Governor has already granted permission for inquiry, and Arvind Kumar

(A2), a central service officer. The crucial sticking point, according to Reddy, is that the investigation into Arvind Kumar requires permission from the Central Government's Department of Personnel and Training (DOP T), which is reportedly being withheld despite formal requests. Reddy posited that this delay is conclusive evidence of the Central Government's involvement in preventing KTR's eventual arrest. He criticized KTR's past confident rhetoric, stating that if the case were truly trivial, KTR would not need to resort to court intervention but would welcome the scrutiny. He dismissed the opposition's claims of political vendetta, arguing that if the current gov-

ernment intended revenge, KTR would have been imprisoned immediately after they took power. He affirmed that the misdeeds of the previous administration are steadily coming to light. Furthermore, Reddy claimed that former Minister Harish Rao is anticipating KTR's arrest, calculating the moment when he might assume the party's reins. The MLA concluded by reiterating his belief that the central government is playing a role in delaying the arrest, even as the BJP itself had demanded the Kaleshwaram case be handed over to the CBI—a move which he suggested now appears hypocritical given their lack of current enforcement action.

# Mallu Ravi Underscores Libraries' Role at Nagarkurnool

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

The National Library Anniversary Celebration was held with great fanfare in the Nagarkurnool District Centre today, an event that highlighted the vital importance of reading and knowledge dissemination in contemporary society. The program, which was organized under the leadership of District Library Chairman Rajender, saw the presence of Nagarkurnool Member of Parliament (MP) Dr. Malla Ravi as the Chief Guest. Addressing the large gathering of students, job seekers, officials, and enthusiastic readers, Dr. Malla Ravi



eloquently elaborated on the crucial role that libraries play in societal progress. He described libraries not just as buildings filled with books, but as true "Oceans of

Knowledge" (Jnana Samudralu) that serve students, job aspirants, and general readers alike, providing them with essential resources for education and career ad-

vancement. The MP emphasized the pressing need for governmental bodies and public organizations to collaborate effectively to further promote and cultivate the crucial habit of reading among the populace, arguing that a strong reading culture is fundamental to intellectual and social development. Dr. Malla Ravi also made a firm commitment to the district, assuring the attendees that he would exert his full efforts to secure the necessary funds and resources for the holistic development and modernization of libraries across the entire district. This commitment was met with encourage-

ment from the audience who understand the necessity of updated library facilities. The annual celebration was also graced by several other notable political figures and legislative members, including Achampet MLA Chikku du Vamshikrishna, Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy, Legislative Council Member Kuchkulla Damodar Reddy, along with members of the Library Association and senior officials. Their significant presence underscored the political will and commitment to bolstering the library sector as a key driver of literacy and education.

## Wanaparthi AE in ACB Net For Rs 40,000 Bribe

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) successfully arrested another government official in Telangana, spotlighting the persistence of corruption within the public sector. The latest arrest involves N. Harshavardhan Reddy, an Assistant Engineer (AE) with the Electricity Department in Gopalpeta Mandal, Wanaparthi district. The AE was caught red-handed by the ACB after he demanded a bribe of 40,000 in exchange for

completing work related to a current transformer. He was apprehended while accepting a partial payment of 20,000. This incident fuels the public's growing perception that paying bribes may be a necessity for citizens seeking to have their work processed in government offices. The arrest is particularly notable as it comes on the heels of reports that the AE had recently held his engagement ceremony to the sister of another electricity official, alleg-

edly involving a staggering 1 crore dowry. ACB DSP Balakrishna confirmed the details of the arrest and announced that the AE would be produced before the Nampally Court on Wednesday. The operation was carried out under the leadership of DSP Balakrishna, with Inspector Lingaswamy and staff. Furthermore, the DSP took statements from the Wanaparthi DE and AD at the Gopalpeta Electricity Office as part of the ongoing investigation.

## Woman Murdered by Estranged Husband Suspecting Infidelity

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

A shocking crime has created turmoil in Khammam city, where a 36-year-old woman was brutally murdered by her estranged husband, who was reportedly consumed by suspicion of her infidelity. According to the police, the victim, Gogula Saivani, originally from Nerada village, Chintakani Mandal, had separated from her husband, Bhaskar, due to ongoing domestic disputes. Saivani had moved to a rented home

near Gattayya Center in Khammam city where she resided with her son and daughter, supporting them through a job at a local function hall. Driven by intense suspicion, Bhaskar traveled from Nerada village and laid in wait near his wife's residence early Thursday morning. He then ambushed Saivani in her home and attacked her with a knife, violently slitting her throat. Saivani suffered severe and fatal injuries, dying instantly at the scene. Tragically, her

daughter, Harshavardhini, was also injured when she bravely attempted to intervene and save her mother; the child was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. CI Balakrishna of Khammam II Town Police inspected the crime scene. The police have registered a case of murder and are currently searching for the accused husband, Bhaskar, who fled immediately after committing the horrific act.

## Talasani Srinivas Yadav Distributes CMRF Aid, Urges Health Precaution

TPN Bureau | Nov 20, 2025

Former Minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav stressed the critical need for preventative healthcare, urging every individual to take adequate precautions concerning their well-being. On Thursday, the MLA held a program at his camp office in West Marredpally where he

distributed financial assistance cheques to constituents. A total of 7.57 lakh was sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) and handed over to 15 beneficiaries from various divisions within the Sanath Nagar constituency. During his address, Talasani emphasized the financial repercussions of poor health, warning that fail-

ure to take precautions often leads to suffering and the eventual necessity of spending lakhs of rupees on medical treatment. He highlighted the pervasive issue where many individuals, despite suffering from various health problems, are unable to seek improved medical care due to debilitating financial difficulties. The MLA appealed to

the community to not neglect their health and seek the best possible medical treatment promptly and within a timely manner. He specifically encouraged the maximum utilization of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for medical treatment, positioning it as a vital resource for those facing financial hardship during health crises. The cheque

## 7.5 Lakh

distribution ceremony was attended by numerous local political figures, including Corporator Kurma Hemalatha, former Corporator Attili Mallikharjun Goud, Division BRS Presidents Attili Srinivas Goud and Akula Harikrishna, and several other leaders, showcasing local political support for the welfare initiative.



# Telangana's New Focus: Becoming a Top Eco-Tourism Spot



Telangana is aggressively pursuing its vision to become a major Eco-Tourism Hub, an effort spearheaded by the State Minister for Forests, Environment, and Endowments, Smt. Konda Surekha. Her detailed efforts are quickly turning this strategic goal into a reality. The Minister Surekha views eco-tourism not just as travel, but as a commitment to explore while actively protecting nature. Her strategy is clear: link environmental conservation with economic growth by creating jobs for local people and boosting environmental awareness among visitors. Working alongside Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Minister

Surekha integrates her duties, seeing her work for the Forest Department as deeply meaningful, which underscores her serious approach to green development. The core purpose of this plan is to protect Telangana's natural resources-its forests, water bodies, and wildlife. The benefits are substantial: it provides essential economic support to rural areas, helps preserve unique local cultures, promotes mental and physical well-being, and instills a deep sense of environmental responsibility. Crucially, the Minister Surekha has mandated that all revenue generated from these activities will be reinvested

directly into forest development and community welfare. Action is already underway. A committee has selected 12 priority locations for development, including well-known spots like Ananthagiri, Kanakagiri, Kawal, and Amrabad. These projects, managed by the Telangana Forest Development Corporation, feature activities such as trekking, safari rides, and kayaking, supported by approved plans for guest houses and resorts. Significant progress is evident: the final Eco-Tourism Policy was approved in March 2025, development is progressing at

sites like Kanakagiri, and key projects like the Nehru Zoological Park are showing increased income. Furthermore, this systemic approach is complemented by a powerful green focus: The state gives special policy priority to the Vana Mahotsavam (tree planting festival). Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Surekha's personal involvement ensures this initiative moves beyond symbolism, showcasing a serious commitment to increasing Telangana's green cover. This effort gains immense strategic strength from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's, also known as Nallamalla bidda, back-

ground. His deep, firsthand understanding of forest conservation, particularly his connection to the Nallamala forest region, provides crucial, knowledgeable insight for policy-making. This synergy between the CM's experience and the Minister's dedication is creating a potent environment, driving the state towards unprecedented green growth and cementing its position as a leading eco-tourism destination. People appreciate Minister Konda Surekha's vision, suggesting Telangana is heading toward a bright, green future.

-Sagar Vanparthi, Policy Analyst.

## India Faces Challenge of Equitable AI Education in Schools



India is at a critical juncture as it prepares to introduce AI education from Class 3 in 2026-27, but experts warn that a rush to replicate global models could deepen existing educational inequalities. While states like Punjab and Odisha are piloting innovative programs, the majority of India's schools remain ill-equipped for such technological leaps. Punjab's initiative emphasizes immediate, hands-on learning. Its three-year AI curriculum encourages coding exercises, hackathons, and science fairs where students apply machine learning to real-world problems. The state benefits from strong digital infrastructure, with over 95% of government schools equipped with functional computers. Odisha, in contrast, adopts a long-term, inclusive approach. Its AI Policy 2025 outlines a decade-long roadmap, combining free online courses, AI labs, and teacher training, while promoting lessons in Odia and tribal languages. Both models highlight state-level innovation but also underscore India's uneven preparedness. Nationally, only 57% of schools had computers and 54% had internet access in 2023-24, with figures in poorer states like Bihar and West Bengal dropping below 25%. A 2021 survey indicated less than 27% of Indian youth aged 6-14 had basic internet skills. China's nationwide AI curriculum sets a global benchmark with its top-down approach, substantial funding, and uniform educational sys-

tem. India, however, faces systemic constraints: fragmented infrastructure, low digital literacy, and wide socio-economic disparities. Experts caution that blindly following China's model risks widening the gap between urban, elite schools and resource-poor government institutions. Beyond infrastructure, regulatory gaps pose additional risks. India lacks comprehensive frameworks to address student data privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical use of AI in classrooms. Without safeguards, technological integration could lead to surveillance, profiling, or discrimination, particularly affecting vulnerable students. Specialists recommend a phased, context-specific rollout emphasizing equity. Key priorities include ensuring nationwide access to electricity, internet, and devices; digitally literate and ethically trained teachers; and national standards for data protection and accountability. Pilot programs to train 10 million teachers under CBSE's framework are a step forward. India's challenge is not simply teaching AI, but teaching it justly. Initiatives like Punjab's and Odisha's demonstrate that innovation can coexist with inclusion, but scaling these models requires patience, investment, and careful planning. The country must bridge aspiration with capacity to ensure the AI revolution in education empowers all students, rather than leaving the most vulnerable further behind.

## Granta Explores India's Uneven Path of 'Vikas'



British literary magazine Granta's latest India issue delves deep into the complexities of progress—or vikas—in the country, presenting a collection of essays that examine how development intersects with culture, politics, and personal lives. The issue resists simple narratives, highlighting instead India's jagged, restless, and often contradictory evolution. Snigdha Poonam's essay, The Thin Red Corridor, introduces Vikas, a former Maoist commander from Jharkhand who moves from planting landmines to supervising road construction decades later. Vikas becomes both a man and a metaphor, reflecting how India's idea of progress is uneven, improvised, and shouldered largely by those who never asked to become symbols. Through his story, Poonam frames a central question: what does progress truly look like on the ground? Other contributors explore different facets of this ten-

sion. Raghu Karnad's piece, Under the Ruins, examines Prime Minister Narendra Modi's underwater dive off Dwarka, highlighting how spectacle, archaeology, and political imagination intermingle. Villagers in Uttar Pradesh's Barnawa, proudly guiding tourists through a tunnel linked to the Pandavas, exemplify how local communities invest in myth to assert their place in history, echoing Vikas's quiet resilience. Karan Mahajan's essay on Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing in Canada extends the conversation globally, tracing the intergenerational grief of Sikh families alongside the defensive posture of a state grappling with unresolved trauma. Meanwhile, Sarabjeet Garcha meditates on humankind, suggesting that progress can be found in acceptance and cultural continuity, and J Devika highlights the persistent, everyday care in Kerala's health system as another form of

slow, attentive development. Salman Rushdie, in conversation with Granta, reflects on India's literary and cultural landscape, emphasizing storytelling as a form of vikas. He contends that imaginative territory must be continually reclaimed, not through consensus but friction, suggesting that narrative itself can shape the contours of progress. Collectively, the essays depict an India where development is neither linear nor uniform. Progress can be a road, a political process, a ruin, or even a deeply personal experience. Vikas, both as a person and symbol, threads through the issue, reminding readers that the nation's growth is inseparable from the lives it transforms—and the histories it cannot forget. Granta's India issue does not provide a verdict but rather presents a mosaic of experiences, capturing the contradictions and aspirations of a country moving unevenly toward its future.

## Trump-Munir-Sharif Photo Signals Pakistan's Enduring Military Influence



A recent White House photograph featuring former US President Donald Trump flanked by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir has become a defining image for India's geopolitical watchers, offering a window into how Pakistan navigates power and survives politically. The photograph highlights the persistent dominance of Pakistan's military in shaping the country's political landscape. Munir, Pakistan's

army chief, sits prominently alongside the prime minister, underscoring the army's decisive role even in ostensibly civilian-led governments. This visual continuity reflects a return to what analysts call the "old normal" in US-Pakistan relations, where the military remains central while civilian leadership assumes a subordinate, symbolic role. Historically, Pakistan's civilian leaders have struggled to assert authority independently. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif famously posed the "partridge or quail" dilemma in the 1990s, questioning whether Pakistan would be governed by its military or an elected government. Today, the photograph illustrates how that tension persists: the military remains firmly in control, while elected leaders navigate within the constraints imposed by generals like Munir.

Experts note that Pakistan's political culture, shaped by repeated military interventions, instills public acceptance of army dominance. Citizens often elect leaders only to witness their removal or suppression, yet the cycle of popular unrest followed by military consolidation continues. Strategic crises, particularly with India, are frequently leveraged by the army to reinforce its authority and restore public credibility. Events like 26/11 and repeated skirmishes along the Line of Control exemplify this pattern. Munir's tenure marks a more explicit intertwining of religion and military ideology. A Hafiz of the Quran, Munir openly incorporates Islamic scripture into his speeches, projecting a vision of Pakistan that views India's internal contradictions as opportunities to assert influence. Analysts argue this approach combines religious legitimacy with strategic posturing, using proxy forces and alliances with other powers, notably China, to keep India off balance.

The photograph of Trump, Munir, and Sharif is more than ceremonial. It visually confirms that Pakistan's military, under leaders like Munir, remains the ultimate arbiter of policy, both domestically and internationally. For India, the image underscores the enduring challenge of engaging with a state where civilian authority is conditional and the military operates as a self-reinforcing institution with long-term strategic ambitions.



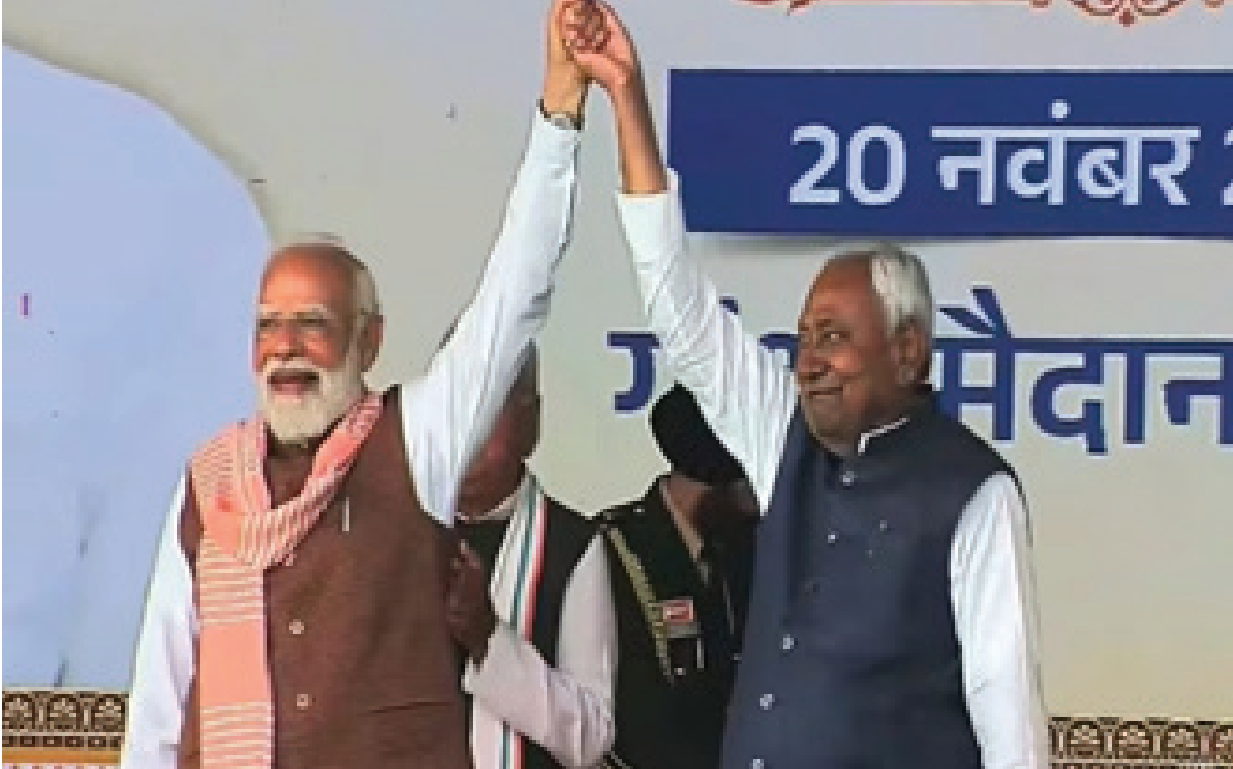
# Nitish Kumar Takes Oath As Bihar Chief Minister For Record 10th Time

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Chief Minister of Bihar for a record-extending tenth term on Thursday at the historic Gandhi Maidan, following a decisive victory in last week's Assembly election. His Janata Dal (United) won 85 of the state's 243 seats, contributing to a resounding victory for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, which secured 202 seats.

Critics who had questioned Kumar's longevity and fitness for office were silenced as he returned to power, demonstrating his enduring political acumen and ability to forge alliances effectively. With this term, Kumar is set to become India's longest-serving chief minister if he completes the full tenure, surpassing Sikkim's Pawan Chamling, who served 24 years.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several chief ministers from BJP-ruled states, and leaders from NDA allies. Modi congratulated the new government on X, saying, "My best wishes to all those who have taken oath as



ministers in the Bihar government. This is a wonderful team, with dedicated leaders who will take Bihar to new heights."

Alongside Kumar, nineteen MLAs, including senior BJP leaders Samrat Choudhary, Vijay Sinha, and Dilip Jaiswal, were

sworn in to form the core of the new cabinet. Experienced leaders like Choudhary and Sinha, who served as Kumar's deputies in the previous administration, are expected to reprise key roles. Other notable ministers include Pramod Kumar, Sanjay Kumar Singh,

Lakhendra Raushan, and two-time MLA Shreyasi Singh, the 34-year-old Commonwealth Games gold medalist.

Senior leaders Ram Kripal Yadav, formerly with RJD and JDU, and ex-Roadways Minister Nitin Nabin also took oath. The new government empha-

sizes a mix of experience and proven leadership, signaling continuity and stability for Bihar's administration.

The NDA's sweeping victory and Kumar's historic return underline both the political strength of the alliance and his enduring influence in the state.

# Sonia Gandhi Presents Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to Michelle Bachelet

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday presented the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 to Michelle Bachelet, Chile's first woman President and former United Nations Human Rights Chief.

The award, instituted in 1985 in memory of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, recognises individuals and institutions making outstanding contributions to peace, social progress, and sustainable development. While presenting the award, Sonia Gandhi highlighted Bachelet's "exemplary commitment to human rights, democracy, and social justice globally."

Michelle Bachelet, who has held leadership roles both in Chile and at the United Nations, expressed her gratitude for the honour, calling it "a recognition of the ongoing struggle for equality, peace, and



sustainable development across the world." She emphasized the importance of international cooperation and dialogue in addressing challenges such

as inequality, climate change, and human rights violations.

The award ceremony coincided with the birth anniversary of Indira

Gandhi, and several Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, paid tribute to the former Prime Minister at a commemorative event.

Sonia Gandhi remarked that the Indira Gandhi Prize continues to uphold the vision of one of India's most remarkable leaders by encouraging efforts that foster peace and social progress globally.

Michelle Bachelet joins a distinguished list of laureates who have been recognised for their contributions to humanity, including leaders, social activists, and organisations dedicated to promoting harmony, democracy, and sustainable development. The award carries a citation, a medal, and a monetary component, underscoring the significance of these efforts in shaping a more just and peaceful world.

The presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize 2024 to Michelle Bachelet underscores India's continued recognition of global leaders who champion human rights, equality, and sustainable development initiatives worldwide.

# SC Clarifies It Will Not Overrule TN Governor Case in Presidential Reference



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday clarified that its ongoing hearings in the Presidential Reference concerning the Tamil Nadu Governor case are not an appeal against the April 8 verdict, nor do they intend to overrule the two-judge Bench ruling.

The two-month-long proceedings before a five-

judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai were initiated after the President invoked the advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution. The reference seeks the Court's opinion on 14 questions, including whether the apex court can "impose" timelines or prescribe the manner in

which Governors and the President should act under Articles 200 and 201 when dealing with State Bills sent for assent or reserved for consideration.

Incidentally, the Presidential Reference was issued on May 13, barely a month after a Division Bench led by Justice J.B. Pardiwala set a three-month timeline for the

President and the Governors to clear State Bills. The case has drawn attention due to its implications on the balance of power between the state executive and the Centre, as well as the procedural obligations of Governors.

During the hearings, the SC Bench repeatedly emphasized that its role in the Presidential Reference is

advisory and not appellate. "This is a reference, not an appeal. We are not here to overrule the prior judgment but to provide clarity on the broader constitutional questions posed by the President," the Court stated.

Legal experts note that the Presidential Reference is significant in interpreting the discretionary powers of Governors and the President in legislative processes and could shape future interactions between state governments and the Centre. However, the apex court's repeated assurances make it clear that the April 8 verdict, which set guidelines on timelines for Governor and Presidential actions, remains intact.

The Supreme Court is expected to deliver its opinion on the Presidential Reference in the coming weeks, which will provide authoritative guidance on the constitutional provisions governing the legislative assent process in India.

# Why India's AQI Stops at 500 Despite Higher Pollution Readings



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As Delhi grapples with hazardous air pollution, a growing question arises: why does India's official Air Quality Index (AQI) stop at 500, even when independent monitors report far higher levels?

On Wednesday morning, Swiss air-quality company IQAir recorded Delhi's AQI at a staggering 506, while India's Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported a lower figure of 399, categorised as "very poor."

The discrepancy highlights differences in methodology rather than accuracy, experts say. The AQI is a public health tool designed to simplify air pollution data for citizens. It combines readings of eight

major pollutants—PM10, PM2.5, ozone, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, and ammonia—to generate a single number indicating air quality. According to Mohan George, consultant at the Centre for Science and Environment, the AQI uses color-coded ranges to communicate risk levels to the public.

"An AQI between 401 and 500 falls under the 'severe' category, meaning the air is hazardous even for healthy people, and outdoor activity should be avoided," George explained. "It's designed for the common man to understand and act upon."

CPCB's AQI framework does not report beyond 500, even if pollut-

ant levels are technically higher. This is primarily because the system aims to trigger public health advisories rather than provide exact numerical extremes. Independent monitors like IQAir, however, provide actual calculated readings, which can exceed the official cap.

As Delhi's residents struggle with rising pollution, many are forced to take precautions like masks and air purifiers. Parents, in particular, express frustration at having to choose between their children's health and daily life. The capped AQI serves as a general warning, but experts stress that actual pollution can be far worse, reinforcing the urgency of mitigation measures.

# Taliban Trade Minister Visits Delhi to Boost Afghanistan-India Connectivity



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Afghan Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for a five-day official visit, accompanied by a large business delegation, amid ongoing clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The visit underscores Afghanistan's efforts to strengthen trade ties with India and reduce dependence on Pakistani ports for its imports and exports. Official

sources said Azizi's agenda includes enhancing sea connectivity and exploring alternative trade routes.

India, in turn, is keen on importing Afghan agricultural produce and minerals, signaling growing economic engagement despite geopolitical tensions in the region. The visit also reflects mutual interest in deepening bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

Azizi was welcomed warmly upon arrival,

highlighting the importance India places on Afghanistan as a trade partner. Discussions during the visit are expected to focus on logistics, port access, and expanding commercial cooperation.

Analysts view the trip as part of Afghanistan's broader strategy to diversify its trade channels and strengthen economic resilience, while India continues to support regional connectivity initiatives.



## Keir Starmer’s Leadership Under Threat Amid Political Turmoil



**TPN Correspondent | Dhaka**

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer faces mounting challenges as his government navigates turbulent political waters barely a year and a half after its landslide victory in July 2024. Despite Labour securing 411 of 650 parliamentary seats—a commanding 174-seat majority—Starmer’s position is increasingly precarious due to a combination of electoral paradoxes and policy missteps.

Labour’s overwhelming seat count belied the party’s low popular vote of just 33.7%, highlighting a fragmented political landscape. The Conservatives trailed with 23.7%, while the resurgent Reform Party and Liberal Democrats captured 14.3% and 12.2%, respectively. This fragmentation means that many Labour MPs occupy constituencies with narrow margins, putting their seats—and the government’s majority—at risk in future elections. Polling suggests Labour could be reduced to just over 100 seats if trends continue, creating significant pressure on Starmer’s leadership.

Compounding the challenge, the government has faced backlash over a series of controversial policy decisions and perceived U-turns. Starmer’s

administration proposed welfare cuts affecting Personal Income Payments (PiP), prompting over 120 Labour MPs to sign a “wrecking amendment” opposing the flagship welfare bill. Critics argue that increased defence spending is being prioritised at the expense of vulnerable citizens, further eroding public trust.

Starmer’s leadership team, including figures such as Rachel Reeves, who has positioned herself as a fiscally strict chancellor equivalent, has also faced criticism for failing to communicate a coherent vision for economic and social policy.

The combination of fragile constituency majorities, internal dissent, and unpopular policy choices has created a perfect storm that threatens Starmer’s premiership. Analysts warn that unless the Labour government regains public confidence and addresses internal fractures, the “change” promised during the 2024 election could be overshadowed by a leadership crisis and potential electoral losses.

Starmer’s next moves will be closely watched, as the stability of his government—and his own political future—hang in the balance.

## “Whatever You Need”: Russia Offers “5th Generation Fighter” Tech To India



**TPN Correspondent | Australia**

Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to India next month, Moscow has extended a landmark defence proposal that could significantly influence the future of India’s aerial warfare capabilities. Russia has offered New Delhi unrestricted access to its fifth-generation Su-57 stealth fighter technology—an unprecedented move in India’s defence partnerships.

Sergey Chemezov, CEO of Russia’s state-owned defence conglomerate Rostec, confirmed that the proposal includes supplying Su-57 fighters manufactured in Russia initially, followed by a phased production shift to India. This opens the door for deep collaboration across engines, sensors, avionics, stealth materials and other critical fifth-generation aircraft technologies.

Reports further indicate that Russia may also offer India its single-engine Su-75 Checkmate stealth fighter. If accepted, India would gain access to cutting-edge aircraft technologies that Western nations have consistently declined to share. The deal could allow India to independently develop upgraded stealth aircraft, boosting its self-reliance and expanding its air-combat capabilities.

Speaking at the Dubai Air

Show 2025, Chemezov highlighted the long-standing trust between the two nations, noting Russia’s readiness to meet any Indian request. He emphasized that India’s demand for additional S-400 systems or Su-57 units would be fully supported, reaffirming Moscow’s commitment to defence cooperation.

A senior Rosoboronexport representative added that the offer includes transfer of technology, licence production, and integration of Indian weapons, covering next-generation capabilities such as AESA radar, AI systems, low-signature materials and advanced air weapons.

Defence analyst and retired IAF officer Vijaiender K. Thakur noted that a potential Su-75 production line in India would fit perfectly alongside the indigenous AMCA project, filling the fifth-generation gap with a cost-effective light/medium stealth fighter.

Putin’s December visit is expected to feature key defence agreements. Diplomatic groundwork is already underway, marked by recent high-level talks between Indian leaders and Russian officials, including Nikolai Patrushev. Both nations have expressed strong intent to deepen military and maritime cooperation ahead of the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

# Trump Says U.S. Needs Skilled Immigrants to Build Chips and Missiles

**TPN Bureau | Washington**

U.S. President Donald Trump said he is prepared to face criticism from his conservative base as he pushes for the country to welcome more skilled immigrants, arguing that America cannot manufacture complex products like semiconductors and missiles without foreign expertise. Speaking at the US-Saudi Investment Forum in Washington on Wednesday, Trump stressed that advanced plants being built across the country will require highly skilled workers from abroad to help train the American workforce.

Trump said industries involved in producing telephones, computers, chips and missile systems demand specialised knowledge that the U.S. workforce has not yet developed at the scale required. “I may take a little heat... from the people that



love me,” he said, acknowledging opposition from right-wing supporters who back strict immigration limits. “But companies have to bring peo-

ple to get those plants opened... and teach our people how to make computer chips and how to make other things.”

The President said

thousands of skilled workers may need to be brought in, and he would “welcome those people,” drawing applause from the audience, which included

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He added that critics of this approach are “unbelievable patriots” but argued that America

cannot succeed unless workers are trained by experienced specialists from abroad.

Trump cited recent immigration raids, including one at the Hyundai battery plant in Georgia, and noted that such actions could hinder industrial growth. “Batteries are very dangerous to make... they brought in people, spent a billion dollars, and were told to get out. I said, ‘Stop it. Don’t be stupid,’” he said, claiming foreign experts are now training American workers there.

Defending visa programmes such as H-1B and L1, Trump reiterated that the U.S. lacks certain specialised skills. “You can’t take people off an unemployment line and say we’re going to make missiles,” he said, urging support for immigration policies that bolster technological and manufacturing competitiveness.

## Massive Fire in Japan Destroys 170 Homes, Forces Large-Scale Evacuations

**TPN Correspondent | Tokyo**

A massive fire swept through a residential neighbourhood in Oita, southwestern Japan, destroying more than 170 homes and forcing over 170 residents to evacuate. The blaze, which began on Tuesday evening near a fishing port amid strong winds, continued burning for nearly 20 hours before authorities managed to bring it partially under control on Wednesday.

According to the Oita prefectural disaster response team, one person—an elderly man in his 70s—was reported missing, and firefighters later discovered a body believed to be his. A woman in her 50s sustained minor injuries during the incident. The fire also spread into nearby forested land, affecting approximately 12 acres, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) reported.



Efforts to contain the blaze involved a large-scale mobilisation of resources, including more than 200 firefight-

ers, dozens of fire engines, and two UH-1 helicopters dispatched by the Ground Self-Defence Force. Despite

these efforts, the fire remained difficult to control due to strong winds that rapidly carried flames across densely

packed wooden homes. The affected area, located near Oita’s mackerel fishing zone, is not close to the region’s re-

nown hot spring resorts or historic thatched-roof structures, but the damage to local residences and infrastructure has been extensive. Around 260 homes remained without electricity by Wednesday afternoon.

Television footage showed thick plumes of smoke rising over charred remains of houses, though flames had subsided by midday. Residents described the ordeal as overwhelming, with one woman telling Kyo-do News that the fire “spread in the blink of an eye,” leaving little time to gather belongings.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed her condolences on X and pledged full government assistance to affected families. Authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze and the factors that contributed to its rapid spread.

## Elon Musk’s ‘Thank You’ Note To Trump After “You Are So Lucky” Reminder



**TPN Correspondent | UN**

After months of public disagreements, former US President Don-

ald Trump and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk appear to have mended fences.

The two reunited at a White House dinner attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin

Salman, signalling a renewed camaraderie between the influential figures. During his

business-centered address at the event, Trump referenced Musk three times, even jokingly questioning whether the Tesla chief had ever “properly” thanked him.

“You are so lucky I am with you, Elon,” Trump said while highlighting new tax incentives designed to boost domestic car manufacturing. Musk later responded with appreciation, writing on X that he would like to “thank President Trump for all he has done for America and the world,” sharing images from the US-Saudi Investment Forum in Washington, DC, where the two were photographed alongside the Saudi Crown Prince and NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang.

Musk’s presence at the event comes months after his stint as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a role he held from January until the end of May. His departure

from the post had been followed by a sharp public critique of Trump’s spending plans, particularly the administration’s massive “Big Beautiful Bill.”

Despite that tension, signs of reconciliation have grown increasingly visible. According to a report by The New York Times, Musk’s allies are organising a large reunion party in Austin to celebrate his time with the DOGE team. Dozens of former staffers are expected to attend the two-day gathering at a luxury hotel, a location Musk frequents. Though Musk is anticipated to join the event, the report notes his plans may still change.

The renewed warmth between Trump and Musk suggests their political and business interests may again be aligning as both continue to wield significant influence across technology, policy and global investment circles.



# Sensex Jumps Over 700 Points, Nifty Regains 26,000 Level in Early Trade

Mumbai: The Indian stock markets opened strong on Thursday, with the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty posting significant gains in early trade. The Sensex surged over 700 points, while the Nifty reclaimed the psychologically important 26,000 mark, reflecting renewed investor optimism.

The upbeat sentiment was largely driven by positive developments around the U.S.-India trade negotiations, which have sparked hopes of a potential deal that could boost bilateral economic ties. This optimism encouraged fresh foreign fund inflows into the Indian markets, providing additional momentum.

Information Technology (IT) stocks led the rally, with robust buying interest propelling gains in the sector. Investors are optimistic about the growth prospects of IT companies amid improving global demand and increasing digital transformation



initiatives worldwide. Market analysts noted that foreign institutional investors (FIIs) played a crucial role in the early surge, channeling funds into Indian equities, which helped boost liquidity and confidence. The renewed foreign inflows

come at a time when global markets are cautiously watching geopolitical and economic developments. Broader indices also followed the positive trend, with mid-cap and small-cap stocks witnessing buying interest. Market partici-

pants remained hopeful that the trade deal and strong corporate earnings could sustain the upward momentum in the near term. The early session gains reflected a shift in market sentiment after recent volatility, with investors focusing

on favorable policy cues and potential easing of trade tensions. The move above the 26,000 level on the Nifty is seen as a key technical milestone that could pave the way for further upside. Overall, Thursday's early trade suggested a

bullish start for Indian equities, supported by strong foreign participation and sectoral buying, particularly in IT stocks. Investors will be closely watching developments on the trade front and upcoming economic data for further direction.

# Reliance Industries Recalibrates Russian Oil Imports to Follow India's Guidelines



Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), one of India's largest importers of crude oil from Russia, has announced that it will recalibrate its Russian oil imports to comply with the Government of India's latest guidelines. This move comes in the wake of fresh sanctions imposed by the United States and European

countries targeting Russian oil firms amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. A company official confirmed that Reliance is adjusting its procurement strategy to align with the directives issued by Indian authorities, ensuring compliance with evolving international and domestic regula-

tory frameworks. The recalibration aims to balance Reliance's operational requirements with India's broader geopolitical and economic considerations. The U.S. and European sanctions, which target Russia's major oil producers, including Rosneft and Lukoil, have led to increased scruti-

ny and pressure on companies globally to reduce their exposure to Russian oil. India, being one of the largest buyers of discounted Russian crude since the onset of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, has faced significant diplomatic and economic challenges due to these sanctions. Reliance Industries' deci-

sion to adjust its imports reflects the broader impact of these international sanctions on India's energy sector and highlights the government's efforts to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape while ensuring energy security. The recalibration also indicates India's intent to maintain a balanced approach in its trade relations amid the intensifying global focus on Russia's energy exports. Industry sources suggest that while India continues to rely on Russian oil due to cost advantages, companies like Reliance are taking measured steps to align with international expectations and avoid secondary sanctions risks. The recalibration is expected to be a phased process, with companies closely monitoring the evolving situation to adapt their import strategies accordingly. Reliance's move underscores the dynamic nature of the global oil market and the challenges faced by major importers in managing geopolitical risks while securing their energy needs.

# Rupee Strengthens by 13 Paise to 87.80 Against US Dollar in Early Trade



The Indian rupee appreciated by 13 paise to trade at 87.80 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Market participants attributed the gain to positive developments surrounding the U.S.-India trade deal, coupled with strong for-

ign fund inflows and upbeat domestic equity markets. Forex traders highlighted that increased foreign investment inflows into Indian markets, alongside a broader risk-on sentiment globally, helped boost investor confidence and

supported the rupee's upward momentum. The ongoing optimism around trade relations between the U.S. and India has played a key role in improving market sentiment and strengthening the local currency. In addition to the

trade deal, domestic equities saw positive trends during the initial trade session, with benchmark indices like Sensex and Nifty rising sharply, further encouraging foreign portfolio investors to pour money into Indian assets. This inflow of foreign capital

is a critical factor that has underpinned the rupee's gains in recent sessions. The rupee's appreciation is also seen as part of a global risk-on environment, where investors are willing to take on more risk amid hopes for easing geopolitical

tensions and improved economic prospects. This positive risk appetite has benefited emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee. Currency analysts note that while the rupee remains influenced by multiple external factors such as crude oil prices, U.S. dollar strength, and global economic conditions, the current positive trajectory reflects growing confidence in India's economic outlook and trade diplomacy. Overall, the early trade session's gain in the rupee marks a continuation of cautious optimism in the financial markets, supported by improving bilateral ties and steady foreign investments. Traders will continue to watch global cues and domestic developments closely to gauge the rupee's trajectory in the coming days.

# HUL Q2 Profit Rises 3.8% to ₹2,694 Crore



FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) reported a 3.8% rise in its consolidated net profit for the second quarter ending September 2025. The company's net profit climbed to ₹2,694 crore, up from ₹2,595 crore during the same quarter last year, according to a regulatory filing released on October 23. HUL's revenue for the quarter also saw growth, increasing by 2.1% to ₹16,034 crore compared to the year-ago period. The modest rise in revenue and profit reflects steady performance amid a competitive and inflationary market environment.

The company continues to focus on innovation and market expansion to drive sustainable growth. HUL's performance in Q2 also signals confidence in navigating macroeconomic challenges, maintaining market share, and tapping into evolving consumer trends. Industry experts view HUL's steady profit and revenue growth as a positive sign for the FMCG sector, indicating underlying demand strength despite economic uncertainties. With its robust portfolio and strategic initiatives, HUL remains well-positioned to capitalize on long-term growth opportunities in India's vast consumer market. The company is expected to maintain focus on cost efficiencies and digital transformation as it gears up for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The company's board approved an interim dividend of ₹19 per share for the fiscal year 2025-26, underscoring HUL's commitment to rewarding shareholders amid consistent earnings growth. HUL, one of India's leading fast-moving consumer goods companies, operates across diverse product categories including personal care, home care, and foods. Its steady quarterly results suggest resilience in the face of fluctuating raw material costs and changing consumer demand.

HUL's second-quarter results come at a time when FMCG companies are adapting to shifting consumer preferences and inflationary pressures, making these figures a closely watched indicator for the sector.

# Infosys Promoters to Skip ₹18,000 Crore Share Buyback



Infosys Ltd announced that its promoters and promoter group will not participate in the company's ₹18,000 crore share buyback program, the largest buyback the tech giant has undertaken to date. The company revealed this in a stock market filing on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. Infosys plans to buy back 10 crore shares at an average price of ₹1,800 per share, marking its fifth buyback in the last decade. This significant move reflects the company's strong cash position and confidence in its long-term prospects.

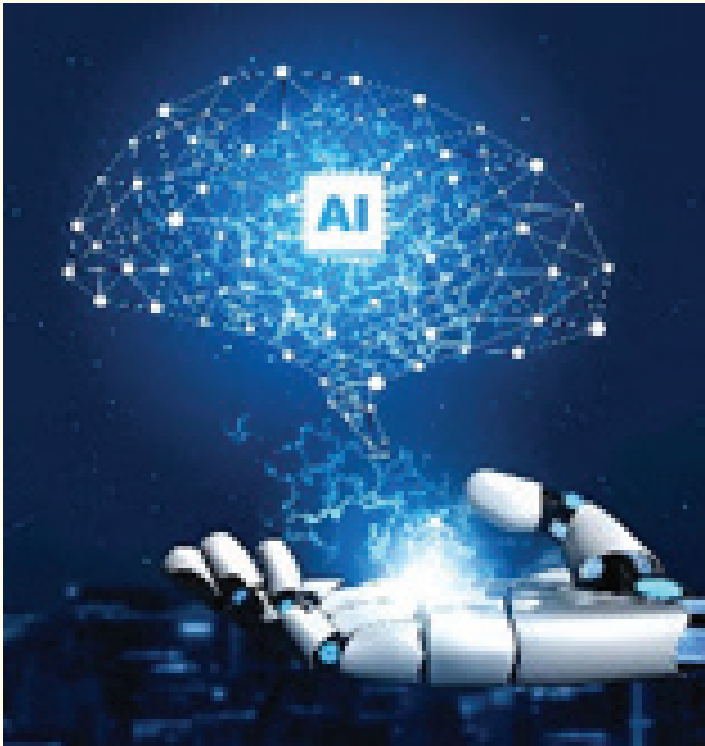
potentially increasing the percentage of shares bought back from the public and institutional investors. Share buybacks are a common way for companies to return capital to shareholders, often signaling confidence in the firm's future performance and improving key financial metrics like earnings per share (EPS).

Infosys' buyback comes amid a phase of robust business performance and growth in the IT sector, with the company continuously expanding its global client base and digital services portfolio. Market analysts view the buyback positively, suggesting it could provide support to Infosys' stock price while delivering direct returns to shareholders. Investors will closely watch the buyback process and its impact on the stock, as well as any further corporate actions from Infosys in the near term. The company's announcement underscores its commitment to prudent capital management while maintaining flexibility for future investments.

However, the promoters — including Sudha Gopalakrishnan, wife of co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, who holds the largest promoter stake with 9,53,57,000 shares — have chosen not to participate in this buyback exercise. The company clarified that promoter-held shares were excluded when calculating the entitlement ratio for the buyback. This decision means that only non-promoter shareholders are eligible to tender their shares in the buyback,



# Google Launches \$15-Billion AI Hub in Visakhapatnam



In a major boost to India's growing tech ecosystem, Google has announced the launch of a \$15-billion Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The initiative aims to drive AI-led innovation, research, and economic growth across the country.

The announcement was made by Google CEO Sundar Pichai during a virtual address, where he emphasized the importance of inclusive AI development and India's role in shaping the future of technology. "India has always been a global talent hub. With this new AI centre in Visakhapatnam, we aim to empower local talent, collaborate with academic institutions, and create scalable AI solutions for real-world challenges," said Pichai.

The AI hub will focus on several key sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and climate tech. Google plans to partner with Indian startups, researchers, and government bodies to build tools

that are socially impactful and accessible to diverse communities.

According to early reports, the facility will also house advanced research labs, training centers, and incubation programs for AI startups. Thousands of jobs are expected to be created, both directly and indirectly, through this long-term investment.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy welcomed the move, calling it a historic milestone for the state. "This will put Andhra Pradesh on the global AI map and provide our youth with access to world-class opportunities," he said.

This strategic investment reflects Google's larger vision of making AI helpful for everyone, especially in emerging markets like India. With Visakhapatnam now set to become a major AI innovation hub, the project is seen as a pivotal step in advancing India's digital transformation on a global stage.

# Own iPhone 17 Pro Max for ₹7,670/Month, Upgrade to iPhone 18 Next Year



Apple enthusiasts in India can now own the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max at just ₹7,670 per month, thanks to a new upgrade program introduced in partnership with select retailers and finance partners. The offer makes it easier for users to experience Apple's flagship device without bearing the full upfront cost.

The iPhone 17 Pro Max, launched in September 2025, features the powerful A19 Pro chipset, a stunning Super Retina XDR display, and a 48MP triple rear camera setup designed for pro-grade photography and video recording. With this EMI plan, customers can enjoy the premium smartphone with minimal initial payment.

What makes the deal even more attractive is the guaranteed upgrade option. Customers enrolled in the program will have the opportunity to upgrade to the upcoming iPhone 18 in 12 months by simply trading in their iPhone 17 Pro Max,

provided the device is in good working condition.

The financing scheme is available through major retailers, Apple Authorised Resellers, and select online platforms. The ₹7,670 monthly EMI typically spans 12 to 24 months depending on the plan chosen, with the upgrade window kicking in after the first year. No-cost EMI options and bundled device protection plans are also being offered.

This move is expected to boost Apple's market penetration in India, where high upfront costs often discourage users from buying flagship devices. By offering a subscription-style model, Apple is making its premium smartphones more accessible while also locking in customer loyalty with yearly upgrades.

For those seeking the best of both worlds, Apple without a steep one-time investment, this could be the smartest way to get on board—and stay upgraded.

# From Ashes to Wine: Canary Islanders Turn Volcano Ruins into Liquid Gold

In the Canary Islands of Spain, where volcanic eruptions once scorched the earth and left vast stretches covered in black ash, locals have accomplished something extraordinary. What was once a symbol of destruction has now become the foundation of one of the world's most unique wine cultures.

On the islands of Lanzarote and Tenerife, grapevines grow in soil enriched by volcanic minerals, producing wines renowned for their distinct flavour and rarity. This transformation didn't happen overnight. Islanders have cultivated this harsh terrain for centuries, digging pits into the volcanic ash to plant grapevines, shielding them from strong Atlantic winds while allowing them to absorb the rich nutrients hidden beneath the surface.



This method of viticulture is as practical as it is poetic. The ash retains moisture and regulates temperature, creating ideal conditions for grape growing in an otherwise unforgiving climate. The result? Wines with unmatched minerality, complexity,

and a story as deep as the lava fields themselves.

In 2024 alone, the Canary Islands produced around 3.5 million litres of wine, much of which was exported to Europe and the Americas. These wines, often described as earthy, vibrant, and full of character, are increasingly sought after by connoisseurs and collectors alike.

Locals take immense pride in this legacy—turning devastation into opportunity. What once buried their homes and farmlands now sustains their economy and preserves their culture.

The vineyards of the Canary Islands are a testament to human resilience and ingenuity. They remind the world that even in the wake of natural disasters, there is room for rebirth—sometimes, even in a bottle of volcanic wine.

# British Vlogger's Viral Video Slams Trash Crisis at Indian Tourist Spot

A British travel vlogger has sparked a heated conversation online after posting a candid video exposing the severe littering problem at a tourist hotspot in India. The video, shared on Instagram by content creator Alex, has gone viral with nearly 80,000 views and hundreds of comments, many supporting his frustration over the country's growing waste issue.

While travelling between Darjeeling and Kalimpong in West Bengal, Alex visited the scenic Lover's Viewpoint—a location known for its breathtaking river confluence and natural beauty. However, what greeted him was a familiar sight: heaps of trash scattered by careless tourists.

"It just frustrates the shit out of me," he said in the video. "I keep hearing people say, 'Come to the mountains in India, that's where the true beauty is.' But it's the same here—the same treatment of the land. Maybe there's no hope."



In the now-viral clip, Alex points out the contradiction between the natural beauty of the location and the irresponsible behavior of visitors. "There's always going to be trash where there are people. And I guarantee you, there's a bin super close. You are only trashing your own country," he added.

The video, captioned "Indian viewpoint spoiled by... you guessed it", has resonated with many viewers who praised Alex for calling out the issue so bluntly. "Thanks for raising awareness," commented one user. Others echoed his sentiments, calling for stricter enforcement and public responsibility.

As India continues to promote tourism both domestically and globally, Alex's video is a stark reminder that preserving the country's natural beauty must be a shared responsibility—not just for locals but for all who travel through it.

# Microsoft Unveils MAI-Image-1, Its First In-House AI Image Generator



Microsoft has introduced its first natively developed image generation model, MAI-Image-1, marking a significant milestone in its generative AI journey. The announcement was made via the company's official newsroom post on Monday.

MAI-Image-1 is part of Microsoft's MAI (Microsoft AI) initiative, which focuses on building purpose-built models for enhanced integration within its products. The model debuted on the public AI leaderboard LMArena, where it ranked 9th among

top-performing text-to-image models. Although still in pre-release testing, the model's performance has already attracted attention.

This release follows a string of in-house AI developments by Microsoft this year. In July, the company

unveiled MAI Diagnostic Orchestrator (MAI-DxO), designed for medical diagnosis, and in August, it launched MAI-Voice-1, a voice generation model praised for its natural and expressive speech output.

While Microsoft hasn't re-

leased technical specifications for MAI-Image-1, it emphasized the model's ability to generate high-quality photorealistic images—including lighting effects, landscapes, and dynamic visuals. The company claims the model is faster than many existing large-scale models, making it more efficient for everyday use.

Microsoft says its goal is not to compete in the race for general-purpose megamodels, but to build AI tailored for real-world applications. MAI-Image-1 is expected to be integrated soon into Microsoft's Copilot and Bing Image Creator, bringing advanced creative tools to a broader audience.

The model was trained using carefully selected datasets and underwent rigorous evaluations, focusing on real-world use cases. Microsoft also incorporated feedback from professionals in the creative industries to refine its performance.

As competition in generative AI intensifies, MAI-Image-1 represents Microsoft's growing independence in AI innovation, moving beyond partnerships and into proprietary development that aligns with its product ecosystem.



# England Aim to End Long Ashes Drought in Australia

As the 2025 Ashes series prepares to kick off on Friday, November 21, in Perth, anticipation is building around whether England can finally break their long-standing drought on Australian soil. The last time England won an Ashes Test series in Australia was during the 2010–11 tour, and since then, Australia has maintained a dominant unbeaten run at home.

Ahead of the first Test, captains Steve Smith and Ben Stokes posed with the Waterford Crystal Ashes Trophy in Perth, marking the beginning of what promises to be a fiercely contested series. The rivalry has been simmering since the dramatic and contentious 2023 Ashes in England, which was marred by heated exchanges, controversial dismissals and intense scrutiny of both teams' tactics.

England, led by Stokes, capped off the 2023 series with a victory at The Oval. However, the win was not enough to reclaim the urn, as Australia had already secured the advantage by win-



ning the first two Tests and drawing the fourth. That series left England with renewed belief in their aggressive "Bazball" approach but also exposed vulnerabilities they must address in Australian conditions.

The 2025 challenge looks even steeper. Australia enters the series with a squad that many have labelled ageing and somewhat under-strength, but their home record remains formidable. With experienced campaigners like Smith, Marcus Labuschagne and Pat Cummins still forming the backbone of the team, Australia aims to extend its dominance and silence concerns about its depth.

England, on the other hand, arrive with a clear mission: to end a 14-year drought and prove their attacking brand of cricket can succeed on the fastest, bounciest pitches in the world. With Stokes at the helm and a motivated squad behind him, the visitors believe this could finally be the year they rewrite history.

The stage is set in Perth as cricket's most storied rivalry resumes with high expectations and renewed fire.

# South Africa A Defeat India A by 73 Runs in Final Unofficial ODI



South Africa A ended their three-match unofficial ODI series on a high by defeating India A by 73 runs in the third and final game at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on Wednesday. Despite India A having already sealed the series 2–1, the visitors delivered a dominant performance to avoid a whitewash.

Opting to bat first, South Africa A got off to a dream start as openers Lhuan-dre Pretorius and Rivaldo Moonsamy stitched together a massive 241-run opening partnership. Pretorius was the star performer, smashing a brilliant 123 off 98 deliveries with nine fours and six sixes, earning him the Player of the Match award. Moonsamy complemented him with a composed 107 off 130 balls, striking 13 boundaries and two sixes.

After the dismissal of the openers, India A bowlers managed to pull things back and restricted South Africa A to 325/6 in 50 overs. Khaleel Ahmed (2/82), Prasidh Krishna (2/52) and Harshit Rana (2/47) were among the wickets for the hosts.

Chasing a challenging target, India A faltered early as openers Ruturaj Gaikwad (25) and Abhishek Sharma (11) failed to provide stability at the top. Captain Tilak Varma (11) and Riyan Parag (17) also fell cheaply, leaving India A struggling at 82/4 within the first 17 overs.

A resilient fifth-wicket partnership between Ishan Kishan and Ayush Badoni revived hopes. Kishan scored a gritty 53 off 67 balls, while Badoni added an equally impressive 66 off 66 deliveries. Their 88-run stand kept India A in the hunt, but South Africa A struck back with crucial breakthroughs.

South Africa A's disciplined bowling attack proved decisive, bundling out India A for 252 in 49.1 overs. Ngqabayomzi Peter led the attack with figures of 4/48, while Tshepo Moreki (3/58), Bjorn Fortuin (2/48) and Delano Potgieter (1/23) contributed effectively to secure a convincing victory.

# Italy Storm Into Davis Cup Semi-Finals After Dominant Win Over Austria

Italy advanced to the semi-finals of the Davis Cup with a commanding performance against Austria, winning both singles matches on Wednesday in front of an energetic home crowd at the Super Tennis Arena in Bologna. Despite missing top stars Jannik Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti—both ranked inside the world's top 10—the defending champions showcased depth and determination to secure a 2–0 lead, rendering the doubles match unnecessary.

Matteo Berrettini, returning to form after recurring injury setbacks, delivered a strong opening win against Jurij Rodionov. The former Wimbledon finalist triumphed 6–3, 7–6 (7/4) in one hour and 35 minutes. Berrettini briefly trailed 2–5 in the second set, a period that also saw play halted for 30 minutes due to a lighting malfunction. However, the Italian star regained momentum, saving three set points and forcing a tie-break, which he won convincingly to put Italy ahead.

Flavio Cobolli followed Berrettini's lead with an



equally dominant display, defeating Austria's top-ranked player Filip Misolic 6–1, 6–3. Cobolli, ranked 22nd in the world, controlled the match from the outset with aggressive baseline play and sharp movement, ensuring Italy sealed the tie without needing the doubles encounter.

As a result, Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori were not required to take the court against Austria's Alexander Erler and Lucas Miedler.

Italy will now face Belgium in the semi-finals as they continue their campaign to defend the Davis Cup title. The remaining semi-final spots will be decided when Argentina meet Germany and Spain face the Czech Republic. Spain will be without world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, who withdrew on Tuesday due to a hamstring injury, adding further intrigue to the upcoming clashes.

# Hakimi Creates History with African Footballer of the Year Win



Paris Saint-Germain star Achraf Hakimi etched his name into African football history after being crowned the African Footballer of the Year at the 2025 CAF Awards held in Rabat on Wednesday. The Moroccan full-back achieved a remarkable milestone, becoming the first defender in 52 years to win the prestigious honour, finishing ahead of Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen in the final voting.

Hakimi enjoyed a sensational 2025 season with PSG, lifting four major titles — the UEFA Champions League, Ligue 1, Coupe de France and the UEFA Super Cup. His consistent brilliance on both ends of the pitch made him one of the standout players in world football. He is the first Moroccan to win the award since Mustapha Hadji claimed it in 1998, and the first defender to do so since Zaire's Bwanga Tshimen in 1973.

Speaking after receiving the award, an emotional Hakimi said it was a proud moment not just for him but for all aspiring African footballers. "This trophy is not just for me, but for all the strong men and women dreaming of becoming footballers in Africa," he said. He also expressed gratitude to those who supported him throughout his journey from childhood to the world stage.

Morocco shone brightly at the awards ceremony, securing multiple honours across categories. Saudi-based striker Ghizlane Chebbak was named Women's Footballer of the Year, while Al-Hilal goalkeeper Yassine Bounou clinched the Men's Goalkeeper of the Year award. Nigeria's Chiamaka Nnadozie continued her dominance by winning the Women's Goalkeeper of the Year honour for the third consecutive time, following her move to Brighton & Hove Albion.

Cape Verde coach Bubista was recognised as Coach of the Year for leading the nation to its first-ever FIFA World Cup qualification, marking a historic moment for the island country.

# Jaismine, Nikhat Advance to World Boxing Cup Finals



Greater Noida: India's boxing stars Jaismine Lamboria and Nikhat Zareen booked their spots in the finals of the World Boxing Cup 2025 with dominant performances in their respective semifinal bouts at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

Jaismine, the reigning world champion in the 57kg category, faced Kazakhstan's Ulzhan Sarsenbek, a former Asian youth gold medalist. Despite starting her campaign later than most, Jaismine showcased her class and experience, defeating Sarsenbek convincingly with a 5-0 scoreline. Her precise combinations, swift footwork, and tactical control of the ring left little room for her opponent to mount a challenge.

In the 51kg category, former world champion Nikhat Zareen also advanced with a commanding 5-0 victory over Gulsevar Ganieva, the 2022 World youth champion. Nikhat, known for her aggressive style and sharp counterpunching, dominated all rounds, demonstrating her readiness to reclaim the top spot in her weight division.

With these wins, India now has a strong presence in the title rounds, with a total of 15 Indian boxers still in contention for medals across different categories. Alongside Jaismine and Nikhat, six more Indian pugilists progressed to the finals on Wednesday, highlighting the country's growing strength in international women's boxing.

The World Boxing Cup Finals have attracted top talent from around the globe, but India's performance so far reflects a blend of skill, preparation, and determination. Both Jaismine and Nikhat will now focus on their final bouts, aiming to bring home gold for the host nation.

The championship promises exciting showdowns in the coming days, with Indian boxers looking to capitalize on home advantage and continue the country's impressive run in the tournament. Fans are eagerly anticipating the finals, where the nation's top fighters will battle for the coveted World Cup titles.



Upendra Says He Joined AKT for Fans' Love



The upcoming Ram Pothineni-Bhagyashri Borse starrer Andhra King Taluka continues to build strong momentum as its promotional campaign intensifies. Following an impressive trailer launch in Kurnool—highlighted by a grand drone show—the makers have now unveiled the Kannada version of the trailer. Kannada star Upendra, who plays a key role in the film, graced the event and shared his thoughts with the media.

Ram Pothineni, speaking at the launch, described Andhra King Taluka as a film driven entirely by emotion. He said the team poured their heart into crafting a story that blends various emotions into a heartfelt narrative. Ram also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share the screen with Upendra, noting that he connected with him not just as a co-star but as a person. He praised Upendra's support and the warmth he brought to the set.

Upendra, in return, revealed that he accepted the film primarily out of love for his fans, who have always shown him immense affection. He applauded Ram Pothineni for his boundless energy and remarkable ability to carry intense emotional scenes. Sharing his experience after watching the film, Upendra said he was deeply moved by Ram's portrayal of Sagar's character and admitted he did not expect such a wholesome and heart-felt film. He even remarked that he became a fan of Ram after witnessing his performance.

Expressing confidence in the film's theatrical prospects, Upendra praised director Mahesh Babu P for crafting a warm, engaging screenplay rooted in a novel concept. He also thanked Mythri Movie Makers for backing a project with such emotional depth.

With high expectations and widespread buzz, Andhra King Taluka is all set for its grand release on November 27.

Keerthy Suresh Speaks Out Against AI-Morphed Images



Chennai: Popular actress Keerthy Suresh has raised her voice against the misuse of artificial intelligence, following the circulation of AI-morphed images of her on social media. The actress described the situation as both “hurting” and “irritating” during a press conference in Chennai on Wednesday.

“AI has become a huge issue. It has turned into both a boon and a bane,” Keerthy said. “Humans created technology, but we are gradually losing control over it. On social media, I am often shocked to see my photos in suggestive outfits and wonder if I ever wore them because they look that real.”

The actress recounted a recent incident where an image of her, taken during a movie puja, was altered using AI to appear vulgar from a different angle. “For a moment, I was confused and then realized I never posed like that. It is definitely irritating and deeply hurting,” she added.

Keerthy’s statement comes amid growing concerns over AI-powered deepfake content, which has increasingly targeted celebrities. Leading actors, including Katrina Kaif, Alia Bhatt, and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, have previously fallen victim to similar misuse, with morphed images and videos spreading rapidly online.

In a notable case in November 2023, a deepfake video of Rashmika Mandanna went viral. The actor called the incident “extremely scary,” and authorities later arrested the individual responsible in January 2024. Experts have warned that as AI tools become more sophisticated, the creation of hyper-realistic manipulated content poses serious risks to privacy, reputation, and mental health.

Keerthy’s candid remarks highlight the urgent need for stronger regulations and awareness around AI-generated content. Celebrities and ordinary users alike face the challenge of navigating a digital space where technology can distort reality with alarming ease, making legal and social safeguards increasingly critical.

Kodama Simham Re-Release Turns Special for Chiranjeevi

Megastar Chiranjeevi is reliving a wave of nostalgia as his iconic cowboy-action entertainer Kodama Simham gears up for its grand re-release on November 21. Originally released in 1990, the film holds a unique place in Telugu cinema for its adventurous Western setting, and fans are looking forward to experiencing it once again on the big screen.

Ahead of the re-release, the film has undergone a complete, high-quality restoration. The team has upgraded Kodama Simham to pristine 4K resolution, paired with enhanced 5.1 surround sound to offer an immersive theatrical experience. Each frame has been carefully cleaned, sharpened and color-graded to revive the film's original visual richness while ensuring it meets modern cinematic standards. The restored version promises sharper imagery, vibrant colors



and powerful audio, giving both long-time fans and new audiences a chance to enjoy the film like never before.

Chiranjeevi expressed heartfelt joy as he revisited memories associated with the film. He shared that Kodama Simham remains one of his personal favourites, not only because of its distinctive genre but also because it was a film his son Ram Charan loved during childhood. The Megastar fondly remembered working with the film's strong ensemble cast, which included Radha, Sonam, Kalki Satyanarayana and several other notable actors who contributed to the film's enduring charm.

He also recalled his on-screen collaboration with Mohan Babu, whose antagonist role added both intensity and entertainment to the narrative. According to Chiranjeevi, Mohan Babu's balanced portrayal brought a perfect mix of villainy and fun, elevating the film's dramatic impact.

With fans eagerly awaiting the release, Kodama Simham is set to gallop back into cinemas with renewed grandeur, promising a nostalgic celebration of the beloved Mega Cowboy era.

Homebound to Stream on Netflix from November 21



Homebound, India's official entry for the 98th Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category, is set to make its digital debut on Netflix tomorrow, November 21. Produced by Karan Johar and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan, the film features Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor in lead roles. Despite strong critical acclaim, the movie struggled to perform at the box office, leaving its theatrical run short-lived.

Netflix officially announced the film's streaming date earlier today, much to the excitement of cinephiles who have been waiting to catch the Oscar-trending drama. The OTT release is expected to give the film the visibility it missed during its theatrical outing, especially among global audiences.

Karan Johar, speaking about the film's underwhelming box-office performance, expressed disappointment and admitted that he might reconsider producing films like Homebound in the future. The filmmaker also faced criticism from the public, who felt the movie did not receive adequate marketing or a strategic release, which may have affected its commercial fate.

Homebound earned international recognition long before its theatrical release in India. The film premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival 2025, where it received a remarkable nine-minute standing ovation. It later went on to become the second runner-up for the International People's Choice Award. The momentum continued at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2025, where the film received yet another standing ovation for its powerful storytelling.

The narrative delves into caste and religious prejudices that shape the lives of many in India. Through the journey of two friends, the film explores their struggles, resilience and determination to rise above societal barriers. With its timely themes and critical acclaim, Homebound is poised to attract significant viewership on Netflix, potentially reaching a much wider audience worldwide.

Upasana Konidela Sparks Debate Over Egg Freezing Advice at IIT Hyderabad

Upasana Kamineni Konidela, entrepreneur and wife of actor Ram Charan, has sparked a nationwide debate after advising women students at IIT Hyderabad to “freeze eggs” to prioritize careers and plan motherhood on their terms.

Her remarks, shared in a video on X, quickly went viral, attracting criticism from doctors, influencers, and social media users. Critics argued that her advice ignored biological limits, the emotional stress of fertility treatments, and the high costs of procedures like IVF and egg freezing. Obstetrician Rajesh Parikh noted, “IVF costs lakhs per cycle. Egg freezing costs lakhs upfront plus annual storage charges. Most young women can't afford even one attempt.” Dr. Sunita Sayammagaru also highlighted that egg freezing does not guarantee a successful pregnancy.

In response, Upasana took to X, calling the backlash a “healthy debate” and clarifying her intentions. “I’m happy to have sparked a healthy debate & thank you for your respectful responses. Stay tuned as I voice my opinions on the pleasures/pressures of privilege,” she wrote, encouraging followers to review the factual information she shared.

Upasana also shared her personal experience, stating she married at 27, froze her eggs at 29, welcomed her first child at 36, and is now expecting twins at 39. “For me, marriage and career are not competing priorities—they are equally meaningful parts of a



fulfilled life. But I decide the timeline! That's not privilege, it's my right!” she added.

Her initial statement during the session—“The biggest insurance for women is to freeze their eggs... when you are financially independent”—drew mixed reactions. Some lauded it as empowering, while others criticized it as impractical for most women. Entrepreneurs like Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu encouraged earlier marriage and parenthood, citing social responsibility.

The debate underscores ongoing discussions around women's career choices, fertility, and the balance between privilege and practical realities in India's evolving workplace.