



BUZZ POINTS

Government Fully Prepared to Tackle Cyclone Montha: Minister



The Andhra Pradesh government has put in place comprehensive measures to effectively face the impact of Cyclone Montha, which is expected to make landfall along the state's coast. State Minister for Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services, and Krishna District In-charge Minister Vasamshetti Subhash assured that the administration is fully geared to respond to the cyclone's challenges.

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Chief Secretary Orders Swift Power Restoration Efforts in Cyclone-Hit Areas



Amid the ongoing impact of the severe cyclone that lashed several parts of the state, Chief Secretary K Vijayanand has directed all power utilities to remain on high alert and ensure speedy restoration of electricity in all affected regions. The top official, who is personally overseeing the situation from the AP Secretariat, emphasized that restoring power at the earliest was vital for maintaining essential services and public safety during the relief and rehabilitation phase.

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Great danger signal 10 hoisted at Kakinada Port as Cyclone Montha nears coast

TPN Bureau | Visakhapatnam | Oct 28

Great danger signal number 10 was hoisted at Kakinada Port on Tuesday as the severe cyclone 'Montha' in the Bay of Bengal was hurtling towards the Andhra Pradesh coast. With the cyclone nearing the coast, the Cyclone Warning Centre, Visakhapatnam, directed authorities to replace danger signal seven with 10 at Kakinada Port. The great danger signal is the highest issued to port in times of severe cyclones. Great danger signal number nine was hoisted at Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kalingapatnam and Bheemunipatnam ports. Great danger signal eight was hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Krishnapatnam and Vadarevu ports. According to Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management

Great danger signal number nine was hoisted at Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kalingapatnam and Bheemunipatnam ports. Great danger signal eight was hoisted at Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Krishnapatnam and Vadarevu ports.

Authority (APSDMA), cyclonic storm Montha over the west-central Bay of Bengal has intensified into a severe cyclone and moved north-northwestward with a speed of 12 kmph during the past six hours. It lies centred about 160 km from Machilipatnam, 240 km from Kakinada and 320 km from Visakhapatnam. The system is being continuously monitored from the Disaster Management Authority's control room. The severe cyclone is likely to cross the coast between Kakinada and Machilipatnam

tonight. At the time of crossing the coast, strong cyclonic winds with speeds of 90-110 km per hour. Due to its impact, extremely heavy rainfall is expected from Srikakulam to Nellore, with very heavy rainfall in some areas. APSDMA has advised people to stay safe indoors. The IMD has issued a red alert for coastal Andhra Pradesh. It said in a bulletin that scattered heavy to very heavy with extremely heavy rainfall likely to occur at one or two places over Srikakulam, Parvathipuram,

Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada-Yanam, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla and Prakasam districts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at a few places over Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, Tirupati, Annamayya, YSR Kadapa and Nandyal districts of Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema.

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has issued high wave alerts for coastal districts.

It forecasted high waves in the range of 3-4.7 meters. INCOIS has advised small vessels not to ply near shore and to suspend recreational activities. Erosion/wave surges are possible under the impact of the cyclone.



Minister Savitha Inspects BC Welfare Hostel

BC Welfare Minister Savitha conducted an inspection of the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule BC Welfare School and Hostel in Madala village of Muppalla mandal, located in Palnadu district. She was accompanied by Parliament Member Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayalu and State Legislative Assembly Member Kanna Lakshminarayana.

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Cyclone Montha to bring heavy rains to 3,778 villages: CM Naidu



TPN Bureau | Amaravati | Oct 28

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the impact of Cyclone 'Montha' will be intense from Tuesday morning with 3,778 villages likely to receive heavy rains. The cyclone Montha intensified into a severe cyclonic storm around 5.30 am on Tuesday, said the Meteorological Department. Montha means a fragrant flower in Thai language.

"The impact of Montha will be severe from Tuesday morning. According to officials, 338 mandals and 3,778 vil-

lages have been forecast to receive heavy rainfall," said Naidu in an official release late on Monday.

However, he said there was no need to worry about the cyclone and advised everybody to stay alert. During a review meeting on Monday, the CM directed officials to inform people in real-time.

Consequently, real-time voice alerts were disseminated, and public address systems were also set up in 26 districts. Across 22 districts, the state government set up 3,174 rehabilitation centres, which will be manned by 3,778 secretaries. These centres are equipped with essential commodities

such as food and other items.

The highest number of rehabilitation centres have been set up in Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district (650), followed by Bapatla (481) and East Godavari (376), among others.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) managing director Prakhara Jain said heavy rains will occur from Srikakulam to Nellore, the coastline of the southern state.

"People should not come out under any circumstances. If needed, the control room should be informed," said Jain in an official release.

District reorganisation must reflect people's aspirations: CM Naidu

TPN Bureau | Vijayawada | Oct 28

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the ongoing district reorganisation in Andhra Pradesh should reflect people's aspirations while ensuring administrative efficiency. Reviewing the progress of the reorganisation exercise, Naidu said the government would adopt a balanced, consultative approach to correct issues

that emerged from the previous government's decisions. A special study will be conducted on Polavaram-inundated mandals to assess administrative restructuring. The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and members of the Ministers' Sub-Committee — Anagani Satya Prasad, P Narayana, Nandendla Manohar, Satya Kumar Yadav, Vangalapati Anita, Nimmala Ramanaidu and BC Janardhana Reddy. The

committee submitted a preliminary report after consultations with district collectors and local representatives. Naidu said reorganisation of revenue divisions should be treated separately for clarity and efficiency. He also took note of demands from Markapuram region for a separate district and assured that the matter would be examined carefully. Another meeting will be held next week to finalise the committee's recommendations.

Lokesh calls for unity, says 'people first' amid cyclone crisis

TPN Bureau | Vijayawada | Oct 28

Minister for Human Resources Development and IT Nara Lokesh has called for a "people-first" approach as Cyclone Montha intensifies into a severe storm along the Andhra Pradesh coast. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Lokesh urged all political parties to rise above politics and focus solely on safeguarding lives.

"This is not the time for politics, this is the time to protect people," Lokesh said, appealing for unity and responsibility during the crisis. "When people's lives are at stake, politics can wait. Our priority is to ensure safety, awareness and swift action." He assured that the government is working in complete coordination across departments, with all available resources mobilized to



support relief operations.

Earlier in the day, Minister Lokesh conducted a comprehensive review of ground conditions in various districts affected by Cyclone Montha. He personally spoke with several MLAs to assess local situations, review preparedness, and coordinate immediate responses. Among those he contacted were Deputy Speaker and Undi MLA Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Tuni MLA

Yanamala Divya, Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna, Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkataraju, Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu, Pedana MLA Kagitha Krishna Prasad, Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, Pamaruru MLA Varla Kumar Raja and Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna.

Lokesh stressed that the day was crucial for disaster management

and instructed legislators and officials to remain vigilant, take preventive measures, and maintain direct communication with him in case of emergencies. He also directed party representatives, local leaders, and activists to stay accessible to people, assist at relief camps, and coordinate rehabilitation activities for affected families. Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju informed the minister that precaution-

ary steps had already been taken in his constituency to prevent drain overflows. Lokesh further instructed officials to review field conditions every two hours through an alert-tracking mechanism to ensure quick response and effective coordination. Reiterating his message, Lokesh said, "Saving lives is our only priority right now. Let's stand together, stay alert, and help our people overcome this challenge safely."

35 flights cancelled as Cyclone Montha hits Andhra



TPN Bureau | Visakhapatnam | Oct 28

Over 35 flights between Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry were cancelled as severe cyclonic storm Montha approached the Andhra coast near Kakinada, GMR Airports said. A total of 30 IndiGo, two Air India and five Air India Express flights were cancelled as a precaution. According to IMD, Montha is expected to cross the Andhra coast around

Kakinada on Tuesday evening with maximum wind speeds of 90-110 kmph.

"The SCS Montha moved north-northwestwards and at 1430 hrs IST, it lay about 70 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam, 150 km south-southeast of Kakinada, and 250 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam," IMD said in a post on X.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed ministers, MPs and MLAs to assist people in cyclone-affected areas as 39 constituencies brace for heavy rainfall. Officials urged

residents of Kothapatnam village to vacate as a precaution, while NDRF teams were deployed in Uppada. NDRF Inspector Biswas said, "We are deployed here around the clock. We are coordinating with local authorities and urging people to move to shelters. There's no need to panic." The beach road between Kakinada and Uppada has been closed after an eight-kilometre stretch was damaged by high waves. Meanwhile, in Odisha, 50 fishing boats from Andhra Pradesh remain anchored at Gopalpur port due to the cyclone.

Cyclone Montha Triggers Disruption Across Coastal Andhra

TPN BUREAU, VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 28: Heavy to very heavy rainfall continued across several coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh as Cyclone Montha moved closer to the state's coast on Tuesday. The storm, active over the Bay of Bengal, has brought widespread rain, gusty winds, and significant disruptions to power supply and transportation networks. Authorities in multiple districts have intensified relief and evacuation operations, moving thousands of residents from low-lying and vulnerable areas to rehabilitation centers.

In Konaseema district, incessant rainfall has led to power outages in several areas and

damage to local infrastructure. District Collector Mahesh Kumar said wind speeds are expected to increase further by evening and urged residents to remain indoors and alert. Fishermen and those living near the seashore have been shifted to safer zones. High tides lashed the Uppada coastline in Kakinada district, destroying a portion of the beach road connecting Uppada and Kakinada due to relentless wave action.

Visakhapatnam district also witnessed continuous rain since Monday night, accompanied by strong winds that brought down several trees in residential and commercial zones. Officials have warned resi-

dents against venturing out unnecessarily. Train and flight operations were severely impacted, with 16 trains and several flights operated by IndiGo and Air India canceled due to adverse weather conditions. The Eastern Naval Command has been placed on alert to provide assistance for rescue and relief operations if necessary.

In Guntur district, heavy rainfall was reported across Tadepalli, Mangalagiri, Tenali, Tadikonda, and several other mandals. Authorities have relocated people from low-lying regions to 72 rehabilitation centers set up under the Guntur Municipal Corporation limits. Monitoring responsibilities

for the city's three constituencies have been assigned to deputy commissioners to ensure efficient coordination of relief efforts.

Bapatla district has also been hit by continuous rain. Officials and police personnel have been instructed to stay on high alert, especially in coastal zones where a Level 5 danger warning has been issued at Nizampatnam Harbor. Fishermen have been strongly advised not to venture into the sea until further notice.

In Palnadu district, moderate to heavy showers pounded Narasaraopet, Chilakaluripet, Piduguralla, and Gurazala areas. District Collector Kritika Shukla said all necessary measures



have been taken to prevent loss of life or property, deploying disaster management teams to vulnerable zones.

Prakasam district recorded moderate rain since late Monday night, with police patrols monitoring the coastal and tourist areas to ensure public safety. In Nellore district, non-stop downpour flooded several low-lying regions. A Level 5 cyclone warning has been announced at Krishnapatnam Port. Educational institutions have been closed as high waves and rough seas battered the Nellore coast, pushing seawater inland in some places.

In Vizianagaram district, the Veeragavati River overflowed near Para village in Bobbili mandal, causing water to flow over the causeway. Local officials have issued advisories urging people to avoid crossing swollen streams and rivers. As Cyclone Montha continues to influence weather conditions, the State Disaster Management Authority has emphasized the importance of strict adherence to safety instructions. Continuous monitoring, evacuation support, and emergency rescue teams have been activated across all affected districts to manage the situation effectively.

Sisodia Instructs Officials to Ensure Zero Loss of Life



TPN Bapatla Oct 28: Special Chief Secretary to Government (Handlooms & Textiles) and South Coastal Andhra Cyclone Special Officer R.P. Sisodia directed the district administration to ensure zero loss of life and minimal property damage as Cyclone Montha approaches the coast. He emphasized the need for complete preparedness and strict adherence to precautionary measures to safeguard people, livestock, and property in vulnerable areas of Bapatla district.

District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar briefed the Special Chief Secretary about the detailed action plan implemented to reduce the cyclone's impact and ensure the safety of residents. The Collector explained that a comprehensive preparedness strategy was being executed across the district to safeguard communities living near major canals and low-lying areas. He reported that vulnerable families from flood-prone zones had already been relocated to secure shelters. Dr. Vinod Kumar informed that Bapatla district has 30 major canals and 42 medium canals crossing 103 villages, making continuous monitoring of water bodies a crucial precautionary measure.

A total of 440 rehabilitation centres have been established to accommodate evacuees, with around 6,664 people already sheltered and supplied with essential facilities. He also presented a detailed status report on the Nallamada and Tungabhadra canal catchment areas, along with updates on current relief and monitoring operations. Accompanying Sisodia during the inspection were Water Resources Department District Officer Abutaleem, Junior Engineer Sunitha, and other senior officials.

During his visit to the district on Tuesday, Sisodia reviewed ongoing cyclone preparedness operations and inspected several vulnerable locations. He visited the Nallamada Canal at Hyderabadipeta, where the water flow had intensified due to continuous rainfall. Observing the situation firsthand, he instructed officials to evacuate residents living in the canal's catchment areas to safer locations without delay. Sisodia underlined that ensuring human safety should remain the top priority and that every department must work in close coordination to prevent casualties and mitigate the cyclone's impact.

The Special Chief Secretary inspected arrangements at various rehabilitation and relief centres, verifying provisions for food, drinking water, lighting, and medical services for evacuees. He appreciated the proactive approach of the district administration for initiating timely disaster management steps before the cyclone's landfall. He further instructed all departments to maintain continuous communication with control rooms, monitor canal embankments and other flood-prone regions closely, and keep emergency rescue and relief teams on high alert.

The team inspected embankments, flood-prone points, and ongoing relief arrangements, ensuring that all precautionary measures were functioning effectively. Sisodia expressed satisfaction with the coordination among departments and the operational efficiency of the district administration. He praised officers for their field-level preparedness and active engagement with local communities to raise awareness about safety protocols.

CM Directs Drone Monitoring of Cyclone-Hit Areas

Pawan Kalyan Orders Swift Restoration of Connectivity

TPN, Vijayawada Oct 27: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to deploy drones for real-time surveillance and monitoring of cyclone-affected areas to ensure prompt relief and rescue operations across Andhra Pradesh. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of maintaining continuous assessment of ground conditions, particularly in low-lying and flood-prone zones where overflowing

streams pose serious risks of flash floods. The review, which focused on the continuing impact of Cyclone Montha, was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, several cabinet ministers, and senior officials.

Authorities briefed the Chief Minister that the cyclone was expected to make landfall near Kakinada, with the most severe wind speeds forecast between the Kakinada and Machilipatnam coasts. The Chief Minister instructed departments to mobilize all rescue and relief machinery to vulnerable regions and use information collected from village secretariats to guide immediate response actions.



Emphasizing preparedness, the Chief Minister cautioned that heavy rainfall over the past two days could lead to flooding in West Godavari district, particularly from the Yerra Kaluva stream.

He ordered that residents in these areas be alerted promptly and provided with safe evacuation routes. Officials informed the meeting that cyclone alerts had already been disseminated to approximately 1.92 crore people across the state, while essential commodities and relief materials were stocked adequately in all affected districts. To address power disruptions, the state administration

has prepared 2,703 portable generators for emergency electricity supply. The police wireless network, supported by 81 operational towers, has been activated to maintain communication links during rescue and coordination efforts.

The Chief Minister reiterated that uninterrupted communication between field staff and control rooms is crucial for an effective disaster response. Assessments indicated that nearly 43,000 acres of agricultural land across Konaseema, Prakasam, Nandyalu, Kadapa, and East Godavari districts have been submerged due to incessant rains. Acknowledging the se-

vere impact on farmers, Naidu instructed officials to set up an online platform where affected cultivators can upload crop damage details for rapid assessment and compensation processing.

He affirmed that the government's priority was not only immediate relief but also quick rehabilitation of the farming community. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan emphasized the urgent restoration of road connectivity between cyclone-hit villages. He directed officials to clear uprooted trees, repair damaged power lines, and ensure that transportation links are restored swiftly to enable the smooth movement of relief materials and personnel. "Every minute matters when people in remote areas are cut off from essential services,"

Pawan Kalyan noted.

Minister for IT and Rural Development Nara Lokesh briefed the Chief Minister on coordination efforts with district collectors and superintendents of police, stating that real-time updates are being shared through dedicated communication channels. He assured that district administrations have been placed on high alert to respond to any emerging emergencies. Ministers Vangalapudi Anita, P. Narayana, Anagani Satyaprasad, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand, Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, and other senior officials participated in the meeting, reaffirming the state's commitment to safeguard lives and ensure comprehensive disaster management in the face of Cyclone Montha.

Andhra Pradesh Pioneers Real-Time Voice Alerts Amid Cyclone Montha Threat

TPN Amaravati, October 28: As the severe cyclonic storm Montha intensifies over the Bay of Bengal and approaches the eastern coast of Andhra Pradesh, the state government has unveiled a groundbreaking real-time voice alert system to bolster disaster preparedness and public safety in vulnerable coastal districts. Acting swiftly in response to the impending threat, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority

(APSDMA) to implement direct, rapid communication strategies, ensuring timely warnings reach even the most remote communities.

Voice Alerts Lead Community Readiness: With Montha's trajectory targeting the region between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam, authorities are keenly focused on minimizing risk for residents along Andhra Pradesh's coastline. As part of a pilot initiative, APSDMA has launched real-time voice alert broadcasts to 26 coastal villages, deliver-

ing cyclone warnings within minutes of meteorological updates. This technology involves a robust 360-degree horn speaker system designed to function even during power outages, issuing clear signals audible up to a radius of one kilometre. Officials confirm this backup ensures communities remain informed regardless of electricity disruptions common during cyclonic events.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain emphasized that this system represents a major advancement in public safety, stating, "Even in the event of a power outage, our new alert system provides clear warnings within a kilometre radius. We plan to expand this technology to more villages soon to cover the entire vulnerable coastline. He has repeatedly instructed officials to maintain an "uninterrupted flow of accurate information" to the public, aiming to prevent panic and ensure orderly response measures.

Cyclone Montha: Status and Threat

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), as of 5:30 a.m. IST on Tuesday, Cy-

clone Montha lay centered approximately 190 kilometres south-southeast of Machilipatnam, 270 kilometres south-southeast of Kakinada, and 340 kilometres south-southwest of Visakhapatnam. The system has intensified into a severe cyclonic storm, with forecast data indicating it will continue to move north-northwestwards and is expected to make landfall between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam, near Kakinada, on the evening or night of October 28. The IMD has warned of maximum sustained wind speeds reaching 90-100 km/h, with gusts up to 110 km/h as Montha crosses the coast.

Residents are urged to follow all official advisories and safety instructions, including temporary relocations if necessary.

Public Mobilization and Future Plans

Authorities, in partnership with district officials and state cabinet members, are prioritizing pre-emptive evacuations, supply management, and efficient shelter operations. The introduction of real-time voice alert technology is poised to revolutionize disaster response across Andhra Pradesh's coastal areas, with plans for wider implementation pending the outcome of the current pilot project.

Centre Approves Capital Subsidy for Syrma SGS's Mega PCB Unit in Andhra Pradesh

TPN BUREAU VIJAYAWADA Oct 28: The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved capital subsidies under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) for Syrma SGS Technology's advanced multi-layer printed circuit board (PCB) manufacturing facility at Naidupeta in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupathi district. The decision marks a major breakthrough for India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem, paving the way for the establishment of the nation's largest PCB production

facility. Welcoming the announcement, the Government of Andhra Pradesh said the move signals strong central-state coordination aimed at building a robust domestic supply chain for electronic components. With this approval, Syrma SGS's 765-crore ECMS-backed investment now enters its implementation phase. The initiative complements the incentive framework earlier sanctioned by the Andhra Pradesh government, which has been aggressively promoting high-value manufacturing

through its Electronics Components Manufacturing Policy (4.0) 2025-30.

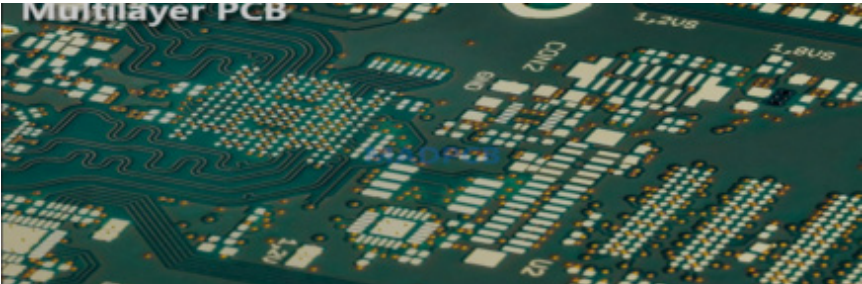
The Naidupeta-based plant will focus on manufacturing multi-layer, high-density interconnect (HDI), and flexible PCBs along with upstream integration of copper-clad laminates. The facility is expected to cater to diverse industries such as automotive electronics, renewable energy, telecommunications, and defence systems. Officials noted that the project's vertical integration plan will strengthen India's capacity to produce high-per-

formance circuit boards domestically, gradually reducing import dependence and enhancing value addition across supply chains.

In September, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet had cleared a separate 856-crore incentive package for Syrma SGS, which includes 12.56 acres of industrial land provided at a 75-percent subsidised rate in the Naidupeta Industrial Area. The strategic location of Naidupeta, near the thriving Chennai-Sri City electronics corridor, offers excellent connectivity to airports, ports,

and supplier clusters making it an ideal hub for electronics component manufacturing. Nara Lokesh, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, and Industries, lauded the Centre's quick approval of the project.

"On behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, I express our gratitude to the Union Government and MeitY for sanctioning Syrma's capital support under ECMS," he said. "This partnership provides Syrma a world-class launchpad to build India's largest PCB and



CCL ecosystem in Naidupeta, creating quality employment and accelerating local manufacturing of critical components." He added that the state remains fully committed to collaborating with the Centre and industry leaders to transform India into a global hub for advanced electronics production. The forthcoming facility, according to officials, is projected to generate thousands of direct and indirect skilled jobs, particularly for engineers

and technicians from nearby districts.

The Electronics Components Manufacturing Policy (4.0) 2025-30 is a cornerstone of Andhra Pradesh's industrial diversification strategy. It seeks to attract large-scale investments in semiconductor, PCB, and display component manufacturing by offering fiscal incentives, power subsidies, and tax-linked benefits. The Syrma SGS project's progression from approval to construction is expected to

demonstrate the policy's early success and set a precedent for future high-tech investments.

With both central and state backing, Syrma SGS's Naidupeta facility is poised to become a flagship example of India's self-reliance in electronics manufacturing, advancing the Prime Minister's "Make in India" and "Digital India" missions with state-of-the-art technology, skilled manpower, and a globally competitive manufacturing base.

Government Fully Prepared to Tackle Cyclone Montha: Minister

TPN, Machilipatnam Oct 28: The Andhra Pradesh government has put in place comprehensive measures to effectively face the impact of Cyclone Montha, which is expected to make landfall along the state's coast. State Minister for Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services, and Krishna District In-charge Minister Vasamshetti Subhash assured that the administration is fully geared to respond to the cyclone's challenges. On Tuesday morning, Minister Subhash, accompanied by State Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra and APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, visited the rehabilitation centre set up at the Mandal Parishad



School in Giripuru village of Tallapalem Panchayat, Machilipatnam Mandal. During the visit, the ministers interacted with families evacuated from coastal areas, enquiring about their well-being and the facilities provided to them. The team later inspected Manginapudi Beach, where they closely observed

the high tidal waves and strong winds caused by the intensifying cyclone. Minister Subhash told reporters that the district administration had already completed arrangements to meet any eventuality arising from Cyclone Montha. According to the minister, as many as 222 rehabilitation centres have been identified

across Krishna district, out of which 162 have been activated in accordance with the cyclone's trajectory and intensity. "Around 2,497 families have taken shelter in these centres so far.

All of them are being provided with essential supplies such as food, drinking water and other basic necessities," Subhash said. He added that two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been deployed one stationed at Machilipatnam and another at Gudivada to respond swiftly to emergencies. "If the situation escalates, we are prepared to seek assistance from the Indian Navy and the Army to ensure the safety of people," the minister said.

To strengthen the preparedness further, all government departments, including Revenue, Police, Electricity and Panchayat Raj, have been placed on high alert. Additional power generators have been positioned to support continuous communication and mobile networks, even in case of power disruptions. The Electricity Department has initiated preventive maintenance works to minimize outages during the cyclone's landfall. Medical teams have set up free health and emergency care camps in all rehabilitation centres. Adequate stocks of essential medicines and first-aid materials have been arranged to ensure immediate treatment for those in need.



Minister Subhash emphasized that doctors and paramedical staff have been instructed to be available round the clock in all cyclone-affected mandals. As a precaution, the government has declared holidays for all educational institutions in the affected districts, based on the warnings issued by the Meteorological Department. Authorities have

also appealed to fishermen not to venture into the sea until further notice. Minister Subhash urged people to remain indoors during the cyclone period and cooperate with officials monitoring relief and rescue operations. He called on the public to fully utilize the facilities and resources arranged by the government to ensure their

safety. The inspection was attended by Machilipatnam Division Housing Corporation Officer Pothuraju, Machilipatnam Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Kunche Nani, MPDO Venkatesh, Tahsildar Nagabhushanam, former MPP Kagitha Venkateswara Rao, and several other officials and local representatives.

TDP MLA Julakanti Brahmanand Reddy assures preparedness as Cyclone Montha nears Palnadu region



TPN, Macherla (Palnadu District) Oct 28: Amid the looming threat of severe Cyclone Montha, the Andhra Pradesh government is maintaining high alert and taking all precautionary measures to safeguard lives and property, said Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahmanand Reddy. In an official press release issued on Tuesday, the legislator appealed to the public to remain calm and vigilant, assuring that the coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is closely monitoring the situation and is fully prepared to tackle any emergency. Brahmanand Reddy stated that the government has already assessed the potential damages based on detailed reports from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Disaster Management Authority. He added that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh are reviewing the cyclone's progress and preparedness measures on a daily basis from the state secretariat. Emphasizing that the administration is leaving nothing to chance, the MLA said the government has activated toll-free

helpline numbers across the state to ensure immediate response to any emergency situations. He reiterated that preventive steps are in place to avoid untoward incidents during the cyclone's impact phase. Within the Macherla constituency, Brahmanand Reddy confirmed that all mandal-level officers have been instructed to remain on alert and coordinate with district officials. Under the supervision of District Collector Kritika Shukla, continuous monitoring is being carried out from the control room at the district headquarters. "The collector's office has set up a special control room to coordinate relief operations, and similar arrangements have been made at the mandal level. Trained personnel will be available around the clock to respond to public distress calls and dispatch assistance without delay," he noted. The MLA further mentioned that the coalition government's cadre in the Palnadu region is also actively participating in relief operations and community awareness campaigns. Volunteers and local representatives have been mobilized to assist in evacuation efforts, provide tempo-

rary shelter facilities, and distribute essential supplies if the situation demands. Brahmanand Reddy urged citizens, especially those living in low-lying and flood-prone areas, to remain vigilant and follow official advisories. "I request the people of my constituency not to panic. The government has put all emergency mechanisms in place, and our officials are equipped to handle any situation. Please call the control room numbers in your local mandal for immediate help," he said. To ensure swift communication, the MLA released the list of contact numbers for control rooms under each mandal in the constituency: Karampudi Mandal - 70930 04566 Durgi Mandal - 95732 71041 Rentachintala Mandal - 99899 91002 Veldurthi Mandal - 63005 02015 Macherla Mandal - 63028 17715 Macherla Municipality - 98499 05838. Concluding his statement, Brahmanand Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to public safety, stressing that all departments are working in coordination to provide immediate relief and assistance to cyclone-affected families.

Pedakurapadu MLA Appeals for Vigilance as Cyclone Montha Nears Andhra Coast

TPN BUREAU, Pedakurapadu (Palnadu District), October 28: With the severe cyclone Mountha expected to make landfall soon along the Andhra Pradesh coast, Pedakurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen has urged residents of his constituency to remain highly alert and prepared for any potential emergencies. The legislator held a special review meeting on Tuesday at his constituency camp office in Guntur to assess the developing situation and coordinate precautionary measures. Speaking at the meeting, MLA Praveen emphasized that public safety is the government's highest priority and instructed all local leaders, public representatives, and officials to work in close coordination. He directed them to take advance measures to ensure that people in vulnerable villages face no loss of life or property. The MLA underlined the importance of team-

work and constant communication between authorities and local communities as Cyclone Mountha intensifies in the Bay of Bengal. Praveen said special attention must be paid to low-lying areas prone to heavy rainfall and flooding, urging officers to monitor such zones round-the-clock. He asked revenue, police, and municipal staff to remain on standby with emergency response equipment and to be ready to evacuate families if required. Field-level officers have been told to stay in continuous touch with the control room and share updates on weather developments without delay. The MLA also appealed to elected representatives at the mandal and village levels to act as a vital bridge between citizens and the government machinery. "Our objective is to prevent any loss and ensure that no one is left helpless during the cyclone," he



said. Praveen advised local leaders to immediately inform officials about fallen trees, damaged electric poles, or blocked roads so that prompt restoration can be carried out. He further instructed that relief materials, essential supplies, and shelters be made ready in advance. Highlighting that timely communication can save lives, the MLA circulated helpline numbers for residents to contact in case of emergencies or urgent assistance. These numbers are: Amaravati Mandal: 95058 57419 Pedakurapadu

Mandal: 9949098618 Achampeta Mandal: 9959714218 Krosuru Mandal: 8500513410 Bellamkonda Mandal: 965234 4366. Praveen said the control rooms in all five mandals have been alerted to handle distress calls and coordinate rescue operations. He appealed to people not to believe or spread rumors on social media and to follow only official instructions from the administration. Fishermen and farmers were also advised to avoid venturing into fields or water bodies until the cyclone fully sub-

sides. Concluding the meeting, MLA Praveen reiterated that precaution is the key to safety. "Natural disasters cannot be stopped, but their impact can be minimized when people and authorities act responsibly together," he said. The Pedakurapadu constituency administration has already begun preparatory steps, including clearing drainage lines, stocking emergency supplies, and reinforcing vulnerable infrastructure, to ensure that the region is ready for any situation as Cyclone Mountha approaches.

Chief Secretary Orders Swift Power Restoration Efforts in Cyclone-Hit Areas

TPN/VIJAYAWADA Oct 28: Amid the ongoing impact of the severe cyclone that lashed several parts of the state, Chief Secretary K Vijayanand has directed all power utilities to remain on high alert and ensure speedy restoration of electricity in all affected regions. The top official, who is personally overseeing the situation from the AP Secretariat, emphasized that restoring power at the earliest was vital for maintaining essential services and public safety during the relief and rehabilitation phase. Reviewing the ground situation through a video conference on Tuesday, the Chief Secretary held detailed discussions with key officials from the power sector, including S Nagalakshmi, Managing Director of APGENCO; G Surya Sai Praveenchand, Joint Managing Director of APTRANSCO; and the CMDs of the three DISCOMs Prudhvi Tej (APEPDC), L Siva Shankar (APSPDCL), and P Pulla Reddy (APCPDCL). Senior directors AKV



Bhaskar and JV Rao from APTRANSCO and Director of APCPDCL Muralikrishna Yadav also participated in the review meeting, along with other senior engineers. During the review, Vijayanand instructed officials to make comprehensive and realistic plans for quick deployment of manpower, equipment, and materials to cyclone-battered areas. He underscored the importance of meticulous planning and coordination between district offices, field engineers, and corporate control rooms to avoid any communication gaps that could delay restoration work. The

Chief Secretary specifically directed that alternative arrangements must be made for uninterrupted power supply in locations where repairs are expected to take longer due to severe infrastructure damage. He noted that hospitals, water supply systems, relief shelters, and other vital installations should receive priority in power restoration efforts. Vijayanand also urged that temporary generators and mobile transformers be mobilized immediately to such critical facilities to ensure continuity of essential services. Highlighting the scale of disruption

caused by the cyclone, Vijayanand said that the power sector plays a crucial role in enabling all other relief operations, including communication, transportation, and emergency medical assistance. He appreciated the efforts of field staff working under challenging conditions and advised senior officials to provide them with all necessary support including safety gear, logistics, and timely rest periods to prevent fatigue and injuries. To ensure close monitoring, the Chief Secretary announced that he would remain stationed at the Secretariat overnight to oversee ongoing res-

toration progress. Control rooms in the Secretariat will maintain round-the-clock coordination with district administrations and power distribution centers. He directed that situation reports be submitted at regular intervals to assess progress and address emerging issues without delay. Emphasizing teamwork and accountability, Vijayanand observed that a united, well-coordinated effort among all agencies would help minimize inconvenience to the public and speed up the return to normalcy. He commended the dedication shown by engineers, line staff, and disaster response teams, stating that their swift response was essential for restoring confidence and stability among people affected by the cyclone. With continued monitoring and proactive decision-making, the government aims to fully restore power supply across the cyclone-affected districts in the shortest possible time, ensuring both safety and efficiency in all operations.

GVMC Fully Prepared for Cyclone Montha



Relief Teams on High Alert Across Visakhapatnam

TPN VIJAYAWADA OCT 28: As Cyclone Montha edges closer to the Andhra Pradesh coast, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has moved into high alert mode, gearing up comprehensive relief and rescue operations across the city. Commissioner Ketan Garg announced that all departments under the civic body are fully equipped to handle potential emergencies, ensure safety, and minimize disruption to essential services.

To manage the situation effectively, GVMC has established a network of control rooms at both the Head Office and all eight Zonal Offices. The City Operations Centre at the GVMC Head Office will operate round the clock until October 30 to monitor conditions and re-

spond swiftly to public needs. Citizens can reach the centralized helpline through the toll-free number 1800-4250-0009 or the alternate number 0891-2507225 for any cyclone-related assistance.

Recognizing the possibility of heavy rains, flooding, and power outages, the corporation has set up a total of 55 rehabilitation centres across different parts of the city. These centres are equipped to shelter residents evacuated from vulnerable and low-lying areas. In addition, 20 Quick Response Teams (QRTs) – two in each zone – have been mobilized to tackle emergency situations. The teams are armed with the necessary disaster management tools such as JCB machines, tippers, tractors, tree cutters, fogging machines, power pumps, and generators.

According to official data, the GVMC currently has 29 JCBs, 82 sprayers, 64 fogging machines, 26 power pumps, 15 generators, 2 Shakti-

man vehicles, and 108 satellite communication devices on standby. These resources will be deployed strategically to clear blocked roads, remove fallen trees, and restore essential utilities following any adverse impact of the cyclone. Commissioner Ketan Garg has instructed officials from multiple departments – including Horticulture, Fire, Electrical, Engineering, Water Supply, and Public Health – to stay on constant alert and coordinate their efforts.

Zonal commissioners have been directed to maintain close communication with field staff and be prepared to evacuate residents from areas prone to inundation or landslides. The Commissioner emphasized teamwork among field officers and directed staff to ensure uninterrupted operations even under challenging conditions. The GVMC has also issued public advisories urging citizens to remain indoors during the landfall period and

avoid taking shelter near trees, hoardings, and electrical poles.

Residents have been requested to stay calm, avoid unnecessary travel, and contact their nearest control room in case of emergencies. Meanwhile, the corporation has released helpline numbers for each of its eight zones to enable fast communication. The control room contacts are as follows: Zone 1 – 08933-229535, Zone 2 – 0891-2715716, Zone 3 – 0891-2746314, Zone 4 – 0891-2590114, Zone 5 – 0891-2711480, Zone 6 – 0891-2753535, Zone 7 – 08924-222747, and Zone 8 – 0891-2735353. Commissioner Garg appealed to the people of Visakhapatnam to cooperate with municipal staff and follow official advisories during this period.

He assured that the GVMC is committed to ensuring the safety of all residents and will continue monitoring the situation closely until the cyclone poses no further threat to the city.

Cyclone Montha: No Heavy Vehicles On National Highways

Amaravati, October 28, 2025 – As Cyclone Montha continues to intensify over the west-central Bay of Bengal, Andhra Pradesh is witnessing heavy rainfall across several coastal and adjoining districts. In response to the worsening weather conditions, the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued critical emergency directives to ensure public safety and streamline response measures.

According to APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain, Cyclone Montha has moved about 15 kilometers in the past six hours and is currently centered nearly 50 kilometers from Machilipatnam, 130 kilometers from Kakinada, and around 230 kilometers from Visakhapatnam. The cyclone is expected to bring high-intensity rainfall and strong winds through the night, particularly affecting several coastal and Godavari region districts. Given the intensity of the storm and the risk of flooding, the state government has imposed travel restrictions on major routes.

The Disaster Management Authority

has ordered a complete suspension of heavy vehicle movement on all national highways passing through the affected areas from 7 p.m. on Tuesday until 6 a.m. on Wednesday. The suspension covers all major corridors connecting interior and coastal parts of the state to prevent accidents and ensure that emergency vehicles can move freely. Officials instructed drivers of heavy vehicles to park their trucks at safe locations well before reaching cyclone-affected zones. Citizens have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly during the late-night and early-morning hours when heavy rainfall and gusty winds are expected.

Only those traveling for emergency medical purposes are exempted from the travel ban. District administrations have been directed to implement these measures without delay. Collectors and Superintendents of Police in severely affected districts such as Krishna, Eluru, East Godavari, West Godavari, Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, and ASR district are coordinating closely with the Disaster Man-



agement Authority to ensure strict compliance. The Chinturu and Rampachodavaram divisions have also been categorized as high-impact zones due to their vulnerability to heavy rains and possible flooding.

Authorities have advised fishermen not to venture into the sea, as the Bay of Bengal remains extremely rough with waves expected to rise significantly during the cyclone's peak intensity. Coastal residents are being asked to remain indoors and stay tuned to official updates. Relief teams, including National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel, are already on standby at strategic points to respond swiftly to emergencies such as flooding, fall-

en trees, or disruptions to power lines.

The APSDMA has reinforced that this coordination between departments, along with citizen cooperation, will be crucial to minimizing damage from Cyclone Montha. The agency continues to monitor the cyclone's path closely through its real-time command center. Updates and alerts are being communicated through television, radio, and official social media handles.

As the cyclone progresses inland, the government reiterated its call for extreme caution, warning that the next few hours are critical. Citizens are encouraged to keep emergency kits ready, stay indoors, and assist local authorities by reporting any incidents or obstructions.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Extends Invitations to State Leaders for Bhagawan's Centenary Celebrations



TPN/Vijayawada OCT 28: The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has formally invited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Governor S Abdul Nazeer, and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan to take part in the Centenary Birth Celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which are set to take place at Puttaparthi in Anantapur district later this year. Managing Trustee RJ Rathnakar and Trustee INS Prasad called on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at his office in Amaravati and extended the invitation on behalf of the Trust.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister warmly recalled his long association with Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and expressed deep reverence for the spiritual leader's extraordinary service to humanity. "Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life stands as a beacon of selfless service and compassion.

His visionary projects in education, healthcare, and drinking water supply continue to transform lives and remain an inspiration for all," Naidu said. He commended the enduring contribution of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, emphasizing that the State Government will extend full cooperation to ensure that the centenary celebrations are conducted in a grand and befitting manner.

The Chief Minister assured the trustees that every effort would be made to facilitate the smooth organization of the massive spiritual gathering at Puttaparthi, which is expected to draw devotees and dignitaries from across India and around the world. "Bhagawan has done so much for humanity; it is our duty to celebrate His life and message in a truly grand manner," Naidu remarked, remembering with affection his personal interactions with

Swami over the years. As part of their series of meetings, the Trust members also met Minister for Human Resources Development and IT, Nara Lokesh. Expressing his appreciation, Lokesh described the centenary as a historic opportunity to rededicate society to the values of love, service, and human unity that Bhagawan espoused.

He assured that the State Government would provide all necessary assistance to make the celebrations world-class and inclusive, allowing devotees and citizens from every corner of the state to participate fully. Later in the day, the trustees met Governor S Abdul Nazeer and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, who currently holds the portfolios of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Environment. Both leaders conveyed their profound respect for Bhagawan, describing Him as a

timeless spiritual figure whose message of universal love transcends all barriers.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, visibly moved, remarked, "If not for Swami, for whom else can we offer our gratitude in this manner?" He noted that the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust's commitment to continuing Bhagawan's mission exemplifies the enduring impact of His teachings on society.

Both the Governor and the Deputy Chief Minister graciously accepted the invitation and assured their wholehearted participation and support for the celebrations. Their presence, along with that of the Chief Minister and other dignitaries, is expected to make the upcoming centenary a memorable and unifying tribute to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's everlasting message of love, service, and spiritual upliftment.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT POSSIBLE THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORTS - RAYAPATI SAILAJA

Amaravati, October 28 – Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Shailaja has emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to promote women's empowerment and workplace inclusivity across government departments. She said this during a meeting with representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Non-Gazetted Officers (APNGO) Association and Gazetted Officers Women's Associations, who visited the Women's Commission office at Mangalagiri on Tuesday. The delegation of APNGO and Gazetted Women's Association members felicitated Dr. Shailaja with a shawl and discussed the possibility of joint initiatives and awareness programs aimed at supporting women employees' welfare.

The discussion focused on improving working conditions for women in government offices, promoting awareness about laws relating to gender equality, and fostering institutional mechanisms for grievance redressal. The representatives raised several key concerns during the meeting. They requested the establishment of exclusive washrooms for women employees in all government offices, improved safety and se-

curity measures including appointment of night watchmen, and the creation of baby care centers within office premises to support working mothers.

They also highlighted the difficulties faced by female nursing staff in Primary Health Centers (PHCs) during night duties and sought the Commission's intervention to address them. A major point of discussion was the implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (PoSH) Act. Representatives urged the Commission to ensure the formation of Internal Committees in all offices, set up clear display boards with relevant legal information, and conduct regular awareness sessions on cervical cancer prevention and including master health checkups for women employees under the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS).

Responding to these concerns, Dr. Rayapati Shailaja assured full cooperation from the Women's Commission. She stated that the Commission would work with employee associations to organize legal awareness campaigns focusing on women's rights and



workplace protection laws. "Women employees must become more aware of their rights and actively utilize government facilities meant for their welfare," she said, adding that awareness and sensitization are crucial to achieving true empowerment.

Dr. Shailaja further announced that the Commission would soon conduct a series of awareness workshops across districts on the implementation of the PoSH Act and other women-related legislations. A comprehensive report summarizing the issues raised by women employees and practical recommendations will be compiled and submitted to the state government, she said. The APNGO representatives invited Dr. Shailaja to participate in forthcoming programs under their women's development initia-

tives, reaffirming their willingness to collaborate on projects that enhance workplace equality and support working women's needs.

The Chairperson appreciated their invitation and reiterated the Commission's commitment to jointly planning and executing initiatives that strengthen women's empowerment across all sectors. Among those present at the meeting were All India State Government Employees Federation Convenor M. Rajyalakshmi, Publicity Secretary B. Janaki, women representatives Lalithamba, Nagamalleshwari, Sulochana, Vijayalakshmi, Marpu Trust Director R. Sujaya, and Women's Commission Section Officer Shailaja. For further information, contact P.R.O., Andhra Pradesh Women's Commission at 9381243599.

SC Welfare Committee Focuses on Resolving Dalit Issues Quickly

TPN BUREAU, ANANTAPUR OCT 28: The Andhra Pradesh Legislature Scheduled Caste (SC) Welfare Committee, under the chairmanship of Pamarru MLA Varla Kumar Raja, has reaffirmed its mission to resolve the problems faced by Scheduled Caste communities across the state swiftly and effectively. The committee undertook an extensive tour of Anantapur district on Tuesday, holding grievance meetings and review sessions with officials to address the concerns of Dalit citizens.

Addressing the gathering at the R&B Guest House in Anantapur,

Chairman Varla Kumar Raja stated that the committee was formed with the sole objective of ensuring that no member of the Scheduled Castes continues to struggle with unresolved issues. He personally interacted with several SC individuals, received petitions, and directed concerned officials to take immediate action to redress genuine grievances. He made it clear that government departments must respond promptly and ensure that the welfare schemes reach the ground level effectively.

Committee members including Madakasira MLA and TTD Board Member M.S. Raju, MLC

Kavali Grishma, Chintalapudi MLA Songa Roshan Kumar, and Parvathipuram MLA Bonela Vijaya Chandra participated in the interaction. They assuaged the concerns of the community, assuring them that every Dalit issue brought before the committee would be given priority and resolved. Following the public grievance meeting, the committee convened a review session at the Anantapur District Collector's office under the chairmanship of the District Collector.

The meeting was attended by all committee members along with senior district officers. A detailed discussion was

held on various issues affecting the Scheduled Caste population, including welfare scheme implementation, housing, education, and employment programs. The committee closely reviewed the district police's initiatives to ensure the safety and protection of SC individuals. The District Superintendent of Police (SP) briefed the members on the measures taken regarding the prevention of atrocities and prompt response to complaints under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Officials from various departments presented status reports and up-

dates on actions taken to address earlier grievances and ongoing development works. Emphasizing the need for structured planning, the committee suggested that officials conduct special drives at the secretariat level to identify SC families lacking house sites or permanent housing. Chairman Varla Kumar Raja directed officers to survey such households and submit detailed reports so that follow-up welfare measures could be initiated without delay. Several other issues came under discussion, including the inclusion of Beda and Budaga Jan gam communities under the SC category, renewal



of the RDT FCRA license, filling of backlog vacancies at Sri Krishna devaraya University, and strengthening of SC welfare hostels.

The committee also urged officials to prioritize the construction of community halls in Dalit colonies, improve school infrastructure, and expe-

dite the implementation of the foreign education assistance scheme for SC students.

Chairman Varla Kumar Raja underlined that all cases filed under the SC/ST Atrocities Act must be resolved promptly through mandatory review meetings at both mandal and district lev-

els. He instructed the officials to ensure legal and administrative compliance in these processes. The district officials assured full cooperation, pledging to work alongside the committee to achieve sustainable improvement in the lives of Scheduled Caste communities.

Minister Savitha Inspects BC Welfare Hostel

TPN BUREAU, SATHENAPALLI, OCT 28: BC Welfare Minister Savitha conducted an inspection of the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule BC Welfare School and Hostel in Madala village of Muppalla mandal, located in Palnadu district. She was accompanied by Parliament Member Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayalu and State Legislative Assembly Member Kanna Lakshminarayana. The team's visit underscored the government's continued commitment to the welfare of Backward Classes and improving hostel conditions for students across the state.

During the inspection, Minister Savitha interacted closely with the students, inquiring about their education, accommodation, and daily amenities. She took note of their feedback and assured them



that their concerns would be addressed promptly. The minister emphasized that learning environments in government-run hostels should be healthy, hygienic, and conducive to both academic growth and personal well-being. In a symbolic gesture that reflected her commitment to understanding ground realities, Minister Savitha, along with MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayalu and MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana, joined the students for lunch inside the hostel dining hall.

Sharing a meal with the students, she appreciated the food quality

and spoke to the staff about maintaining consistent standards in meal preparation and cleanliness. Addressing hostel wardens and local officials, Minister Savitha gave clear instructions to remain fully alert in view of the recent Montha cyclone threat. She directed that wardens must stay in the hostels round the clock to monitor student safety and respond quickly in case of emergencies. She also stressed that only boiled and cooled drinking water should be supplied to students and that fresh, hygienically prepared food must be served at all times.

As part of the precau-

tionary measures, the minister instructed the authorities to shift hostel students to safe areas if weather conditions deteriorate. Highlighting health as a top priority, she told medical officers to ensure immediate medical attention for any student showing signs of illness. She reminded local administrators that preventive health measures and emergency readiness are vital in managing hostel facilities, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

Minister Savitha reiterated the government's objective of providing quality education and safe living environments to students belonging to socially and economically weaker sections. She expressed confidence that with the cooperation of officials, teachers, and local representatives,

the welfare initiatives can reach every deserving student in the region. The inspection saw participation from several leaders and officials across different administrative levels, including representatives from the state, district, constituency, town, mandal, and village bodies.

The event concluded with a detailed discussion among the minister, officers, and local leaders on improving infrastructure, maintaining discipline, and promoting a culture of responsibility among hostel management teams. Minister Savitha's visit to Madala reinforced the government's dedication to empowering students from backward communities and ensuring their education continues uninterrupted, even amidst climate challenges and infrastructure constraints.

Auto Drivers Appeal MLA for Establishment of Auto Stand in Narasaraopet

TPN BUREAU, Narasaraopet (Palnadu district) Oct 28: A group of auto-rickshaw drivers from Narasaraopet on Tuesday met local MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu, seeking his immediate intervention to resolve their long-pending demand for a dedicated auto stand in the town. The delegation submitted a formal representation to the legislator at his office, urging that arrangements be made for the construction of a proper auto stand under municipal supervision. For several years, hundreds of auto drivers in Narasaraopet have been facing serious difficulties due to the absence of a designated auto stand. Drivers explained that they have no fixed, authorized place to

park or board passengers, which causes daily inconvenience to both drivers and commuters. Without an organized stand, autos are scattered across various parts of the town often leading to traffic congestion, disputes over passenger queues, and confusion among the traveling public. During their meeting, the drivers stated that they are forced to park their vehicles along busy roadsides, near bus stands, hospitals, and market places, often drawing criticism from traffic police and shopkeepers.

They also pointed out that the lack of proper parking facilities restricts their ability to operate systematically and earn a stable income. Their representation

highlighted that at least one main stand in the heart of the town and smaller satellite stands at key transport points would greatly ease their working conditions and improve town traffic management. After patiently listening to the grievances, MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu appreciated the drivers for raising a genuine issue that affects both the transport community and the general public. He assured them that he would take up the matter with municipal officials at the earliest. The MLA also informed the drivers that he had already been discussing issues related to urban facilities with the municipal commissioner and that this particular demand would be included



in upcoming town development plans. Dr. Aravind Babu said that plans would be drawn up in consultation with the Narasaraopet Municipality, traffic police, and auto unions to identify suitable land or space for constructing a well-organized auto stand.

He assured them that steps would be initiated soon to ensure that drivers would have a proper place for parking, which would also help in maintaining better road discipline and improve the town's image. The auto drivers expressed gratitude for the MLA's quick response and his promise to act swiftly. They said the move would not only provide relief to the drivers but would also enhance passenger convenience. The meeting

reflected growing awareness among different occupational groups in the town about the need for structured urban planning. Auto union leaders and local community representatives who accompanied the delegation appreciated the MLA's supportive attitude. They expressed optimism that the initiative would soon become a reality, benefiting hundreds of families dependent on the auto-rickshaw profession in Narasaraopet and surrounding areas. The meeting ended on a positive note, with the MLA reaffirming his commitment to resolve the issue by coordinating with the municipal authorities and by ensuring that the project is taken up as part of the town's civic improvement drive.

Collector Orders Departments to Remain Vigilant Ahead Of Cyclone

TPN BUREAU, Palnadu (Narasaraopet) Oct 28: With the Montha Cyclone triggering heavy rains across the Palnadu district, District Collector Kritika Shukla has directed all departmental officials to remain in a state of heightened alert and focus on immediate relief and preventive measures. She reviewed the situation with officials from



various departments on Tuesday through a teleconference, emphasizing preparedness and inter-departmental coordination to tackle the evolving weather conditions.

During the review, the Collector urged officials to ensure that no loss of human life, property, or crops occurs due to the cyclone's impact. She instructed them to take preemptive safety steps and intensify emergency response mechanisms across all vulnerable areas. Highlighting the risk of rising water levels in rivers, reservoirs, and lakes, Kritika Shukla ordered continuous monitoring of all major and minor irrigation sources. She said that

engineers handling reservoir and irrigation projects must stay alert as most water bodies are already receiving heavy inflows due to the ongoing rains.

Irrigation and Revenue officials were told to conduct constant inspections of tanks and water bodies to prevent breaches and leaks. The Collector advised authorities to alert residents in low-lying areas and, if necessary, relocate them to identified

safe shelters. Rehabilitation centers have already been earmarked, and emergency medical camps and essential medicines are being readied. She directed the Medical and Health Department to ensure that doctors and staff at all Area Hospitals and Primary Health Centers remain available round the clock to provide emergency healthcare services. Special attention must be given to pregnant women, new mothers, and infants to en-

sure their safety in secure locations.

Emphasizing public health and hygiene, the Collector instructed officials to prevent water contamination and take proactive measures against potential outbreaks of vector-borne or water-borne diseases. Municipal and panchayat officials were told to maintain cleanliness and prevent stagnation of rainwater. Agriculture and horticulture officers were directed to guide farmers in pro-

tecting standing crops from heavy rain or storm damage. Animal husbandry officials were told to safeguard livestock and prevent any losses. The Electricity Department was ordered to be prepared for power interruptions and carry out immediate restoration works wherever lines or poles are damaged due to strong winds or falling trees.

The Collector also emphasized coordination among Police, Revenue,

Fire Services, Disaster Management, and Rescue teams. She said these departments must act in unison to ensure timely assistance and minimize risks to citizens. Irrigation officials were told to give regular updates on water levels in all major reservoirs and projects. Boats, air tubes, Collector Shukla urged the Electricity Department to stay vigilant on the ground to handle any incidents of fallen trees or electric poles.

India Pushes for Globalised Rupee Ecosystem and Financial Sovereignty

In the wake of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and global economic fragmentation, India is intensifying efforts to establish a self-reliant rupee-based financial ecosystem, aiming to reduce dependence on the US dollar and Western-led financial structures.

The move comes as Western countries continue to impose sanctions and adopt inconsistent trade policies. India's oil trade with Russia and exposure to tariff fluctuations from the US have highlighted the need for an independent framework to support rupee-based international settlements.

RBI's Policy Push

On October 1, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced new measures allowing authorised dealer banks and their

overseas branches to extend rupee-denominated loans to entities in Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. The move aims to promote bilateral trade in rupees through the creation of Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs), minimising the use of intermediary currencies such as the dollar. The RBI has also permitted SRVA surplus balances to be invested in corporate bonds and commercial papers, expanding options beyond government securities and boosting liquidity. The number of SRVAs has now risen to around 200, reflecting increased global interest in rupee-led settlements. Additionally, prior approval for opening SRVAs has been removed to accelerate trade integration.

To strengthen digital payments and inclusion, the RBI introduced the



Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or Digital Rupee (e₹) — a tokenised, blockchain-based version of the Indian currency that supports Delivery vs Payment (DvP) atomic settlements.

GIFT City and Global Linkages

On October 7, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched a Foreign Currency Settlement System at GIFT City, Gujarat. The initiative enables faster and safer cross-currency transactions, starting with the US dollar and expanding to the euro, yen, and pound, positioning GIFT City as a global financial hub. In parallel, Russia's Anatoly Aksakov has proposed integrating India, Russia, and China's digital currency systems to streamline settlements, cut conversion

costs, and support BRICS-led de-dollarisation. The New Development Bank (NDB) plans to issue its first INR-denominated bonds in India to promote local currency financing.

Future Roadmap

The Centre plans to raise \$400-500 million through onshore rupee bonds by March 2026, potentially expanding the global market for masala bonds. India also aims to link SRVAs with the UPI network for cross-border settlements and integrate CBDC systems, making GIFT City a 24x7 global financial settlement hub.

These steps mark a significant stride toward financial sovereignty and the creation of a globalised rupee ecosystem, reinforcing India's position as a rising force in international finance.

AI Fake News on Operation Sindoor Highlights Dangers of Misinformation

The gallantry awards for Operation Sindoor, announced on the eve of Independence Day, became the centre of a major misinformation episode after AI-generated fake citations circulated online, raising serious concerns about the growing sophistication of artificial intelligence in spreading false narratives.

The awards list featured 15 Vir Chakras (VrCs), 58 Sena Medals, 26 Vayu Sena Medals, five Nao Sena Medals, and 290 Mention-in-Despatches (M-i-Ds). However, official citations were missing, sparking curiosity across media circles. Late on October 21, rumours spread that the government had released full citations, prompting journalists to verify the claims.

When a journalist used an AI assistant named Grok to retrieve the supposed citations, the system produced a detailed but entirely fabricated account. It included claims of dogfights, deep cross-border raids, damaged S-400 systems, and even a female submarine squadron commander — all of which were false. The narrative was laced with official-sounding jargon, realistic ranks, and specific operational details, making it appear authentic.

Upon verification the next morning, the government's official gazette confirmed that only the 15 Vir Chakra citations had been published, and no other citations were released. The rest of the AI-generated content was proven fictitious. Notably, a supposed posthumous Vayu Sena Medal recipient named "Corporal



Surendra Kumar" was found to be a Sergeant and medical attendant, honoured for bravery during a rescue mission in Udhampur — not for repairing an S-400 system, as the AI claimed.

The incident underscores a new and alarming dimension of AI-driven disinformation. Experts warn that AI can now fabricate highly convincing fake documents, merging real

names and events with invented narratives that align with hostile propaganda. Analysts noted that the false details mirrored Pakistani talking points, suggesting a deliberate attempt to manipulate AI models to distort sensitive military information.

The key takeaway from the episode is the urgent need for journalistic caution and AI

regulation. While artificial intelligence can enhance information gathering, it cannot replace verified journalism. As misinformation grows more sophisticated, this event serves as a stark reminder that in the era of sixth-generation information warfare, discernment and verification remain the first line of defence against digital deceit.

India's Middle Class Feels the Strain as Growth Slows and Inequality Deepens

India's economic momentum appears to be losing steam, with growth projections revised downward to around 6.5 percent by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Central Statistics Office, and several global institutions. Beyond the macroeconomic slowdown, it is the middle class—India's primary engine of consumption—that is feeling the sharpest pinch.

The once-prevailing "India has arrived" optimism is fading. Wealthy Indians are increasingly moving assets abroad, with around 5,000 millionaires emigrating each year, according to the Henley Private Wealth Migration Report. While the ultra-rich remain in India—often publicly backing the government—they are largely holding back on new investments, citing weak demand and subdued market sentiment.

The middle class, broadly defined as those earning between ₹12 lakh and ₹5 crore annually, is trapped in a cycle of stagnant incomes, high taxation, and rising living costs. Tax rates on upper-middle-class earners are among the highest globally, with those earning above ₹2 crore paying almost twice the effective rate as large corporations. Simultaneously, fuel prices, education expenses, and health-care costs continue to rise, squeezing disposable incomes and dampening consumer confidence.

The result is a demand collapse that is visibly re-



shaping India's markets. Lower-end car sales are slowing while luxury vehicles have waiting lists, reflecting a widening income divide. The government's extensive welfare and subsidy programs, including free grain and cash transfers worth an estimated ₹20 trillion since 2014, are largely funded by middle-class taxpayers, leading to resentment.

Political analysts argue that electoral politics has become transactional, rewarding the poor through direct benefits while the middle class bears the fiscal burden. States increasingly expand the definition of "poor" to justify welfare spending, creating what some call an "electoral

poor" category—far larger than the genuinely income-deprived.

Despite mounting frustrations, the middle class remains a loyal constituency for the BJP, drawn by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist appeal and disillusionment with opposition parties. Political observers liken their continued support to "one-sided love"—persistent, emotional, and unlikely to fade soon.

As economic challenges deepen and inequality widens, India's middle class finds itself paying more, consuming less, and demanding change, yet still standing by the government it quietly blames for its growing discontent.

Indians Love Music Concerts, But Venues Hit a Sour Note

India's live music scene is booming, with international superstars like Travis Scott, Jon Batiste, Post Malone, John Mayer, Linkin Park, and Enrique Iglesias gearing up to perform across the country. From Coldplay to Guns N' Roses, India is increasingly becoming a global stop for music acts — much like Dubai was two decades ago. Yet, amid this musical high, one discordant note remains — India's lack of world-class concert infrastructure.

Despite the growing popularity of live events, India continues to rely on repurposed stadiums and temporary setups rather than purpose-built ven-

ues for large-scale performances. "We have built world-class cricket stadiums but not music-first venues," noted Derek O'Brien, highlighting the urgent need for multipurpose arenas that can host both sporting and entertainment events efficiently.

A senior executive from a leading event management company pointed out another systemic issue — India's entrenched 'free pass' culture. Unlike global practices where ticketing revenue drives the business, Indian organisers face constant pressure to distribute free entry to bureaucrats, politicians, and acquaintances. "Till our lexicon moves

from 'passes' to 'tickets,' the industry cannot thrive," the executive warned, stressing that free access distorts event economics and undervalues both artists and organisers.

Adding to the woes, controversies such as ticket reselling and black-marketing have marred fan experiences. Platforms like BookMyShow faced criticism last year during Coldplay's concert for alleged ticket irregularities. While ticket reselling is legal in parts of the world, in India it remains a gray area, often leaving genuine fans priced out or frustrated.

For O'Brien, who attended his first live concert in 1981

when Osibisa performed in Kolkata, today's music revolution in India is a welcome transformation — but one that must evolve responsibly. He reminisces about the joy of that Rs 200 ticketed experience, a simpler time when enthusiasm was the only currency.

As India cements its place on the global music map, the country faces a clear challenge: matching its passion for live music with the infrastructure and professionalism needed to sustain it. Until then, fans will keep cheering — even if their venues still play off-key.

— Article by Derek O'Brien, Opinion, Updated: October 13, 2025



PM Modi Greets Devotees on Chhath Puja Conclusion



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended greetings to devotees as the four-day Chhath Puja festival concluded, describing it as a celebration that offers a divine glimpse into India's rich cultural and spiritual

traditions.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Prime Minister said, "Today, the auspicious conclusion of the great festival of Chhath took place with the morning arghya offered to Lord Sun God. During this four-day ritual, we witnessed

the divine glimpse of our grand tradition of Chhath Puja."

Chhath Puja, celebrated primarily in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Nepal, is dedicated to the Sun God and his consort Usha. Devotees observe rigorous rituals,

including fasting, holy bathing, and offering prayers to the rising and setting sun, seeking blessings for prosperity, health, and well-being. The festival is marked by devotion, discipline, and community participation, with riverbanks, ponds, and water

bodies hosting thousands of worshippers.

PM Modi's message highlighted the spiritual essence of Chhath Puja and its role in reflecting India's cultural heritage. The Prime Minister has consistently recognized and promoted the festival's traditions, emphasizing unity and devotion as key elements of India's cultural fabric.

This year, as devotees observed the festival with customary rituals, the Prime Minister's greeting served as a recognition of their faith and dedication. His message on X was accompanied by visuals of devotees offering the arghya, symbolizing the culmination of the festival's prayers and observances.

Chhath Puja continues to hold a special place in the hearts of millions of Indians, celebrating nature, gratitude, and devotion. The Prime Minister's acknowledgment reinforces the significance of traditional festivals in promoting cultural values and connecting citizens to their spiritual roots.

DMK, Allies Oppose Voter List Revision In Tamil Nadu, Call It 'Conspiracy'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday reprimanded state governments for failing to submit affidavits confirming compliance with its August 22 order on the catch, neuter, and release (CNR) of stray dogs nationwide. The bench expressed frustration over repeated reports of dog attacks since

the directive.

In recent incidents, a child was attacked in Pune, Maharashtra, while a young girl was bitten by a pack of 20 dogs in Bhandara district. In Kerala, a street performer in Kannur was attacked during a play about stray dogs. Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow saw a family of three bitten, and attacks

were reported in Telangana's Warangal.

"Yet no reply from state governments. Your country is being portrayed badly internationally!" the court said. The bench, comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria, demanded explanations from all states and union territories, insisting

chief secretaries appear personally. Only Bengal, Telangana, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi had submitted responses, though these were delayed over Diwali. Delhi's government had not filed an affidavit, prompting sharp rebuke. Some states have acted. Rajasthan's Department of Autonomous Govern-

ance issued strict directives to municipal bodies, mandating sterilisation, vaccination, tagging, and release of stray dogs, along with marked feeding points and coordination with welfare organisations. Noida authorities launched a survey to map and monitor stray dogs for better sterilisation and vaccination management.

In the south, the Greater Chennai Corporation vaccinated 46,122 dogs and microchipped over 12,000 by mid-September, tracking sterilisation and vaccination progress.

The court's August order amended an earlier directive, emphasizing that stray dogs must be released to their original areas post-sterilisation and immunisation, except for rabid or aggressive animals, in line with existing Animal Birth Control rules. Earlier, the court had ordered the rounding up of all stray dogs in Delhi-NCR after rising attacks, but later reconsidered following protests from animal activists.

First Cloud Seeding Trial Conducted Over Delhi, Second Scheduled for Evening

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The first cloud seeding trial to stimulate rainfall was carried out over parts of Delhi on Tuesday afternoon, as authorities attempt to tackle the city's persistent air pollution and water scarcity.

Officials noted that the moisture content in clouds at the time was low, between 15 and 20 per cent, making rainfall unlikely. A second trial is planned at 5 pm. The initiative comes after the Delhi government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Kanpur in September to conduct five cloud seeding trials over northwest Delhi at a total cost of Rs 3.21 crore, to be completed between October 1 and November 30.

Cloud seeding involves dispersing chemicals such as silver iodide, iodised salt, or dry ice into clouds to encourage rainfall. It can be executed using airplanes, rockets, or ground-based machines, and is particularly used to address water shortag-

es, reduce hail, or clear fog.

Delhi faces a persistent air pollution problem, worsened during winters due to smoke from neighboring states' farm fires and post-Diwali firecracker emissions. This year, despite a 77.5% drop in

farm fires, air quality still plummeted, with PM2.5 levels averaging 488 micrograms per cubic metre, nearly 100 times above WHO safety limits and a 212% spike from pre-Diwali levels.

The cloud seeding trials are part of efforts to im-

prove air quality and increase rainfall to reduce toxic smog, particularly in winter. The Supreme Court had recently allowed the controlled use of 'green' firecrackers, but compliance was low, worsening post-Diwali pollution.

Experts hope that artificial rain from these trials, if successful, could provide temporary relief to the city, improving air quality and atmospheric conditions while contributing to broader water management strategies in the national capital.

Bus Catches Fire Near Air India Plane at Delhi Airport T3, No Injuries



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

A bus parked just metres away from an Air India aircraft caught fire at Indira Gandhi International Airport's Terminal 3 on Monday afternoon. The bus, operated by SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd, a ground-handling provider for multiple airlines, was vacant at the time of the incident near bay 32.

A video from the scene showed the bus engulfed in flames, prompting a swift response from the airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) team, which extinguished the fire within minutes. The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) described it as a "stray incident" and confirmed that no inju-

ries or casualties occurred.

Authorities said that the bus driver was the only person present and was unharmed. Police and airport officials stated that the bus was not carrying passengers or luggage, and an investigation into the cause of the fire is underway.

DIAL reassured that airport operations continued normally and emphasized that the safety of passengers and staff remains paramount. SATS Airport Services is also conducting an internal review to determine the reason behind the fire.

Terminal 3, one of the largest airport terminals in the world, opened in 2010 and handles up to 40 million passengers annually, serving both

domestic and international flights. The terminal's lower level is for arrivals, while the upper level manages departures.

The incident comes shortly after the airport resumed operations at its refurbished Terminal 2, which is set to handle increasing passenger traffic. DIAL stated that both terminals, along with its four runways, are equipped to manage more than 100 million passengers per year, with safety protocols in place for all emergency situations.

This event highlights the airport's preparedness and the importance of rapid response in preventing any escalation during emergencies at busy international hubs.

Kangana Ranaut Granted Bail in Defamation Case, Expresses Regret



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut was granted bail on Monday in a defamation case filed in Punjab's Bathinda district. The case arose from a retweet with her own comment regarding Mahinder Kaur, a 73-year-old resident of Bahadurgarh Jandian village.

Following the court decision, Kangana expressed regret over the misunderstanding caused by her social media post. She emphasized that she respects every mother, aiming to clarify her stance and reduce any controversy stemming from the incident.

The case had drawn at-

tention after the court, in September 2025, directed the Mandi MP to appear in person for hearings, rejecting her earlier request to participate via video conference. Legal proceedings had been ongoing since the complaint was lodged by Mahinder Kaur, who claimed the post had caused defamation and distress.

Kangana's bail comes as a relief for the actor-politician, allowing her to continue her public and political activities while the case proceeds. Observers note that the actor's statement of respect towards mothers could be seen as an attempt to ease tensions and maintain her public image.

The case highlights the growing scrutiny of social media posts by public figures in India and the potential legal consequences of statements perceived as defamatory. It also underscores the court's insistence on personal appearances in sensitive cases, even for high-profile personalities.

While the matter is not yet fully resolved, Kangana's bail marks a temporary reprieve, allowing her to address her ongoing political and professional engagements. Legal experts suggest the case will continue in court, with hearings likely to examine the intent and impact of her social media commentary.

Milei Wins Big in Argentine Midterms



TPN Correspondent | Buenos Aires

Argentina's libertarian President Javier Milei secured a decisive victory in Sunday's midterm elections, strengthening his mandate to push forward his radical free-market agenda.

Milei's La Libertad Avanza party captured over 40% of the national vote, allowing it to renew nearly half of the seats in the lower house of Congress, according to local media tallies based on official electoral data, with over 97% of votes counted. The outcome gives Milei greater leverage to implement his economic reforms, which have drawn significant attention and backing from the Trump administration in the United States.

The midterm results are seen as a key vote of confidence in Milei's governance, particularly his libertarian policies that emphasize deregulation, privatization, and market-driven solutions to Argentina's long-standing economic challenges. Analysts say the win could accelerate his agenda, including proposed tax cuts, pension reforms, and efforts to attract foreign

investment.

The elections were closely watched in Washington and other global capitals, where observers are assessing the implications of Milei's growing influence in Latin America. His alignment with conservative U.S. policies and economic strategies has positioned Argentina as a focal point for international investors and policymakers interested in free-market reforms.

President Milei celebrated the victory in Buenos Aires, calling it a mandate to continue transforming Argentina's economy and reduce state intervention. Political analysts note that while the upper house remains more balanced, control of the lower house will allow Milei to more effectively push legislation aligned with his libertarian vision.

The midterm success consolidates Milei's political standing domestically and signals a period of significant policy momentum, as the administration looks to deepen economic reforms while maintaining strong international support, particularly from the United States.

Amazon to Cut 30,000 Corporate Jobs in Largest Layoff Since 2022



TPN Correspondent | San Francisco

Amazon has announced plans to lay off up to 30,000 corporate employees, marking its largest job cut since late 2022. The layoffs will affect nearly 10% of its 3,50,000 corporate staff, though they represent a small fraction of the company's 1.55 million total workforce. The move comes as Amazon aims to trim expenses and correct overhiring during the pandemic's peak demand period. Divisions expected to be impacted include Human Resources (People Experience and Technology), operations, devices and services, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). Managers of affected teams have been scheduled for training on how to communicate the news, with email notifications set to begin Tuesday. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy has emphasized reducing bureaucracy and managerial layers while leveraging AI tools to automate repetitive tasks, a strategy analysts say will support corporate downsizing. "This latest move signals that Amazon is realizing AI-driven productivity gains," said Sky Canaves,

eMarketer analyst.

The layoffs are part of a broader trend in the tech sector. According to Layoffs.fyi, about 98,000 tech jobs have been cut this year among 216 companies, following 153,000 layoffs in 2024.

While corporate cuts proceed, Amazon continues to prepare for the holiday season, planning to hire 250,000 seasonal workers for warehouse and operational support, consistent with prior years. Meanwhile, AWS — Amazon's largest profit driver — saw Q2 sales rise 17.5% to \$30.9 billion, slower than competitors like Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud. The company also announced a reorganization within its diversity-focused PXT unit, promoting employees into new roles. Despite the layoffs, Amazon shares rose 1.2% to \$226.97, with third-quarter earnings scheduled for release Thursday.

Amazon's latest moves reflect a combination of cost-cutting, workforce restructuring, and AI adoption, highlighting the company's ongoing adaptation to shifting corporate priorities and market pressures.

US and Japan Sign Deal to Secure Rare Earths Supply

TPN Bureau | Tokyo

The United States and Japan have signed an agreement aimed at securing supplies of critical minerals and rare earths, the White House announced Tuesday, as President Donald Trump visited Tokyo.

The deal comes amid rising concerns over supply, as China tightens controls on rare earths, essential for electronics, batteries, magnets, and other high-tech industries. The agreement seeks to enhance the resilience and security of critical minerals and rare earths supply chains for both countries.

Under the pact, the US and Japan will jointly identify projects to address gaps in supply chains for critical minerals and related products, including permanent magnets, batteries, catalysts, and optical materials. Both governments plan to mobilise support from public and private sectors to ensure reliable production and distribution.

Beijing recently imposed broad restrictions on its rare earths industry, prompting Trump to threaten 100 percent tariffs on Chinese imports in retaliation. The move underscores the strategic importance of securing



alternative sources for these minerals. Earlier in his Asia tour,

Trump also signed a trade agreement with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, further boosting US access to critical minerals. The new US-Japan pact is seen as part of a broader strategy to diversify supply chains and reduce dependence on China, which dominates the global rare earths market.

Officials highlighted that the collaboration will strengthen industrial and technological competitiveness while mitigating risks from geopolitical tensions. The agreement also signals closer US-Japan cooperation in strategic sectors, as both nations look to secure critical resources for defense and technology industries.

With global demand for rare earths expected to rise sharply in the coming years, the pact aims to ensure stable supplies for emerging technologies, including electric vehicles, renewable energy, and high-performance electronics.

The initiative marks a key step in reshaping global rare earths supply chains amid shifting geopolitical and economic dynamics.

Muhammad Yunus Faces Backlash Over Controversial Map Gifted to Pakistani General

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh's interim government Chief Adviser, Prof. Muhammad Yunus, has sparked controversy by presenting a book to Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) Chairman General Sahir Shamshad Mirza that depicted parts of northeast India as part of Bangladesh.

The book was handed over on October 25 at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka during the general's visit. The map printed on the cover has drawn criticism, recalling a similar incident in December last year when India lodged a strong protest after a student adviser used a comparable map online. The Ministry of External Affairs of India has not yet issued an official response to this latest incident.

Following the meeting, Yunus's office stated that discussions covered bilateral trade, investment, and defence cooperation between the two countries. The visit comes shortly after Pakistani Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar visited Bangladesh on August 23-24, urging Dhaka to "clean hearts" and move on from the painful memories of the 1971 genocide carried out by Pakistani forces.



While the gesture was likely intended as a diplomatic exchange, the depiction of disputed territory has reignited tensions over maps and historical borders in the region. Analysts note that such incidents could strain India-Bangladesh-Pakistan relations, especially given ongoing sensitivities regarding territorial integrity and historical grievances.

The controversy highlights the sensitive nature of maps and symbols in South Asian diplomacy, where historical disputes remain politically charged. Observers are watching closely for official responses from India and Bangladesh, which may clarify the diplomatic stance and prevent escalation.

The book presentation underscores the complex dynamics between regional diplomacy, historical memory, and contemporary political gestures, showing how even symbolic gifts can trigger international debate.

Magnitude 6.1 Earthquake Hits Western Turkiye, Damaging Buildings

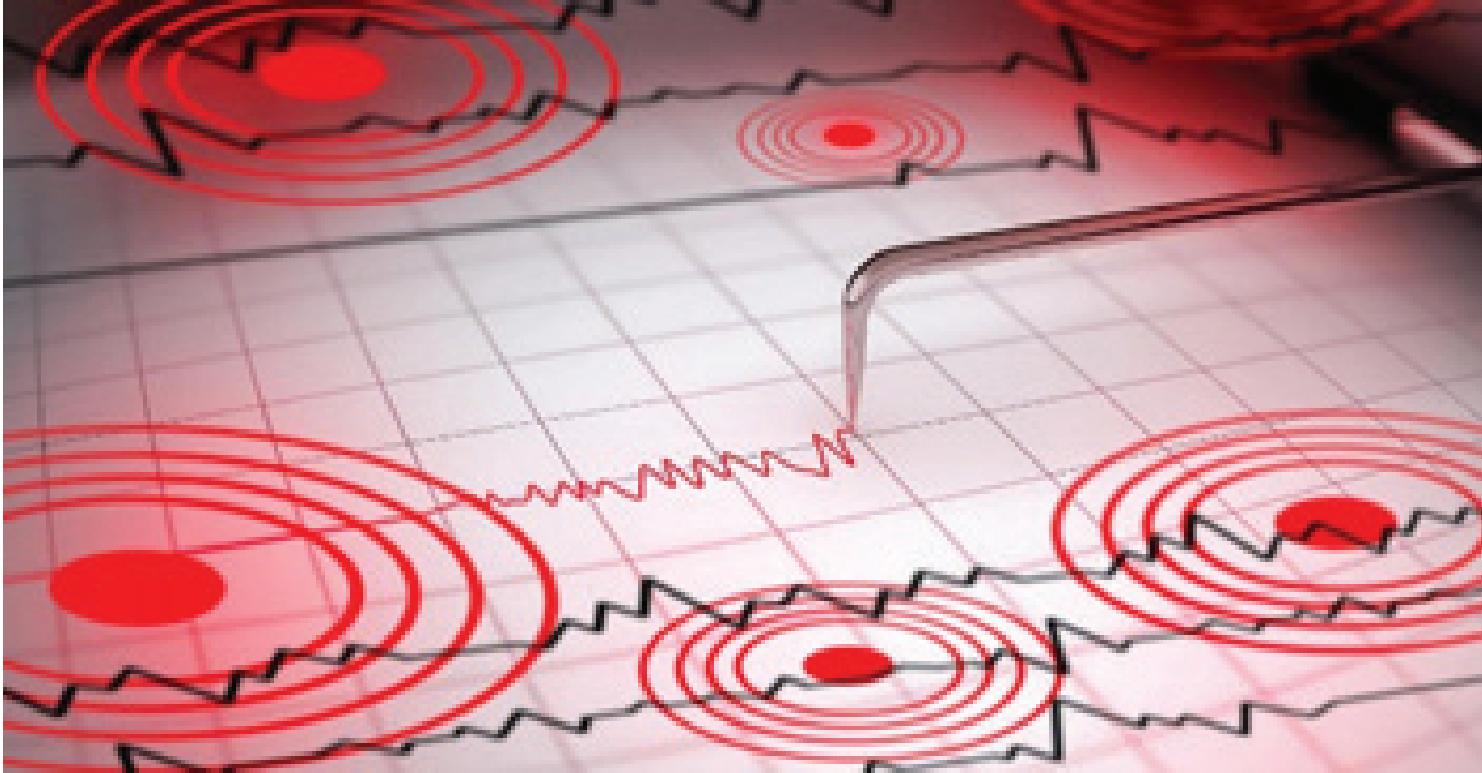
TPN Correspondent | Ankara

A magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck western Turkiye on Monday night, causing at least three previously damaged buildings to collapse. The quake was centred near Sındırgı in Balıkesir province, according to the Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (AFAD). It occurred at 10:48 p.m. local time at a shallow depth of 5.99 km.

The tremor was widely felt in nearby provinces, including Istanbul, Bursa, Manisa, and Izmir, prompting residents to evacuate homes in panic. Several aftershocks followed, heightening fears of further damage. Officials reported no immediate casualties, though assessments are ongoing.

Local authorities have urged people to stay outdoors and avoid entering damaged buildings until inspections are completed. Emergency teams are on alert, ready to respond to potential structural collapses and provide assistance where needed.

Turkey sits on several active fault lines, making it prone to frequent seismic activity. Past earthquakes in the region have caused significant damage and casualties, raising concerns



about the resilience of older and weakened structures.

Residents in affected areas reported shaking lasting several seconds, with furniture and household items displaced. Social media was flooded with

videos showing cracked walls and falling debris, highlighting the quake's intensity in urban centres.

AFAD is monitoring the situation and coordinating with local governments to ensure rapid response. Authorities continue to advise caution amid the possibility of additional aftershocks in the coming hours.

This latest quake underscores the ongoing earthquake risk in western Turkiye and the importance of preparedness and building safety measures. Citizens are being reminded to follow emergency guidelines and report any structural damage to authorities promptly.

TATA TRUSTS POWER STRUGGLE DEEPENS

By TPN Business Desk | Mumbai

A new chapter of tension has unfolded within the Tata Trusts, the powerful philanthropic arm that collectively owns nearly 66% of Tata Sons, following a dramatic boardroom split over the renewal of Mehli Mistry's trusteeship.

According to reports, Noel Tata, Venu Srinivasan, and Vijay Singh voted against extending Mistry's tenure as trustee, potentially ending his position within the group. The move has set off alarm bells in India's corporate world, given the Trusts' pivotal role in steering the 25 lakh crore Tata Group conglomerate.

Mistry, who had last week supported Srinivasan's elevation as a life trustee, was believed to be counting on a reciprocal vote. However, that expectation was dashed when the board declined to back his continuation. Sources told NDTV Profit that Mistry may now consider pursuing legal action over the decision.

At the core of the dispute lies a resolution passed last year, which allows sitting trustees to be reappointed indefi-



nately, stating that "on the expiry of tenure of any trustee, that trustee will be re-appointed without any limit being attached to the period of tenure... in accordance with the law."

However, insiders told PTI that life trusteeships require unanimous consent among board members—a condition that appears to have not been met in Mistry's case. "Renewals are required to be unanimous per past practice... renewal for life requires unanimous approval," a source said.

If upheld, Mistry's removal could intensify the power struggle within the Trusts, which many analysts believe threatens to destabilize the broader Tata Group. The rift surfaced pub-

licly during a September 11 meeting to decide on the reappointment of former Defence Secretary Vijay Singh as a nominee director to the Tata Sons board.

At that meeting, Chairman Noel Tata and trustee Srinivasan supported Singh's extension, while Mistry, along with Pramit Jhaveri, Jehangir HC Jehangir, and Darius Khambata, opposed it—leading to the proposal's rejection.

The divide is widely viewed as a continuation of internal jockeying for influence following the death of Ratan Tata in October last year. Mistry's faction has reportedly complained about being sidelined from key decisions and has pushed for greater transparency and

stronger corporate governance within the Trusts.

Mistry's five-year term officially expired on Tuesday, and his exit—if confirmed—could mark a turning point for the Tata Trusts' leadership structure.

Meanwhile, in the same meeting, the board approved the extension of N. Chandrasekaran's term as Chairman of Tata Sons until 2032, signaling continued confidence in his stewardship of the group's sprawling business empire.

Amid mounting concerns, the rift has also drawn government attention. Earlier this month, Noel Tata and Chandrasekaran met Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who reportedly urged them to safeguard the institutional stability of the Tata Trusts and resolve internal disputes amicably.

As of now, the situation remains fluid, but corporate observers warn that any prolonged discord could affect the decision-making at the top of one of India's most trusted and influential business groups.



TVS MOTOR Q2 NET PROFIT JUMPS 41.6% TO rs.833 Cr

By TPN Business Desk | Chennai

Two-wheeler major TVS Motor Company on Tuesday announced strong financial results for the second quarter ended September 2025, reporting a 41.6% year-on-year (YoY) jump in consolidated net profit to 833 crore, compared to 588 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The company's revenue from operations surged 25.5% YoY to 14,051 crore, up from 11,197 crore a year ago, supported by robust demand across both domestic and export markets.

TVS Motor also reported its highest-ever quarterly operating EBITDA of 1,509 crore, reflecting a 40% increase from 1,080 crore in the same quarter last year. The EBITDA margin improved by 100 basis points, rising to 12.7% from 11.7% in the previous

year's quarter, driven by higher volumes, improved product mix, and better cost efficiency.

The company achieved record quarterly sales during the quarter ended September 2025, spanning both two-wheelers and three-wheelers, including international markets.

Despite the strong financial performance, TVS Motor highlighted ongoing supply-side constraints, particularly the shortage of magnets, which are key components in electric vehicle motors. "Magnet availability continues to pose challenges in the short to medium term," the company said in a statement, suggesting potential limitations on production and deliveries in the coming quarters.

Half-Year Performance (H1 FY2025-26)

For the half year ended September 2025, TVS Motor delivered robust

growth across all key financial and operational parameters, supported by sustained demand momentum and improved export performance.

Sales Performance: Two-wheelers: Sales rose 20% YoY to 26.86 lakh units, compared to 22.47 lakh units during the same period last year.

Three-wheelers: Sales surged 43% YoY to 0.98 lakh units, up from 0.69 lakh units in the first half of FY2024-25.

Exports: Combined two- and three-wheeler exports jumped 34% YoY to 7.52 lakh units, against 5.62 lakh units in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Financial Highlights:

Revenue: Total revenue for the half year stood at 21,986 crore, marking a 25% increase from 17,604 crore in H1 FY2024-25.

Profit Before Tax (PBT): PBT climbed 36% YoY to 2,279 crore, com-

pared to 1,680 crore in the same period last year.

Industry analysts view TVS Motor's performance as a reflection of strong execution in both the electric vehicle (EV) and premium motorcycle segments, coupled with a recovery in export demand from key international markets.

With an expanding product portfolio and ongoing focus on cost optimization, the company remains optimistic about maintaining growth momentum despite supply-chain pressures.

TVS Motor, headquartered in Chennai, continues to be one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturers, with a growing footprint across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The company's strong September quarter results reaffirm its position as a key player in the rapidly evolving mobility sector.

MAJOR REVAMP OF MUTUAL FUND FEE STRUCTURE: SEBI PROPOSES



By TPN Finance Desk | Mumbai

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday proposed a comprehensive overhaul of the mutual fund fee structure, aiming to simplify charges, boost transparency, and ensure investors benefit more from economies of scale in the 75.6 lakh crore mutual fund industry.

In a consultation paper released for public feedback, SEBI said the proposed reforms are designed to make mutual fund fees "clearer and fairer" while aligning fund management practices with investor interests. The regulator has invited comments from stakeholders until November 17.

At present, mutual funds levy a Total Expense Ratio (TER), which includes management fees, distributor commissions, and other operational costs. SEBI believes this system has become increasingly complex and opaque, often preventing investors from understanding exactly how their money is allocated.

Under the proposed framework, asset management companies (AMCs) may be required to disclose all cost components separately, giving investors a clearer view of expenses and enabling easier comparison between schemes. SEBI has also suggested that larger funds should

charge lower fees, ensuring that cost efficiencies from scale are shared with investors rather than retained by fund houses.

Industry experts said the proposed changes could significantly impact the way AMCs and distributors operate. By linking fees more closely to performance and fund size, SEBI aims to minimize conflicts of interest and promote greater fairness in the distribution process.

If implemented, the overhaul is expected to reduce the overall cost of investing in mutual funds, making them more attractive to small and retail investors. However, smaller fund houses may face tighter margins due to the proposed fee caps and enhanced disclosure requirements.

The move forms part of SEBI's broader effort to strengthen governance, transparency, and investor protection in the mutual fund ecosystem. The regulator has already tightened norms on commission structures and expense disclosures in recent years.

SEBI said it will evaluate stakeholder feedback after November 17 before finalizing and implementing the new framework—a step that could mark the most significant change in India's mutual fund fee regime in over a decade.

IOC TO CONTINUE IMPORTING RUSSIAN CRUDE

DESPITE FRESH US SANCTIONS

By TPN Business Desk | New Delhi

The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has reaffirmed its commitment to continue importing Russian crude oil, despite the latest round of US sanctions targeting major Russian energy firms. The company emphasized that it will sustain purchases as long as transactions remain fully compliant with international sanctions framework, underscoring India's pragmatic approach to securing energy supplies amid tightening global restrictions.

The clarification came after the US Treasury Department imposed fresh sanctions on key Russian oil companies, including Rosneft, Lukoil, Surgutneftegas PAO, and Gazprom Neft, to further restrict Mos-

cow's revenue streams amid the ongoing Ukraine conflict. The measures have prompted Indian refiners to temporarily pause new spot deals as they assess the potential compliance risks and legal implications of the updated sanctions list.

However, IOC's management made it clear that the state-run refiner intends to maintain steady imports under permissible conditions. During a post-earnings analyst call, Anuj Jain, IOC's Director (Finance), stated, "We are absolutely not going to discontinue buying Russian crude as long as we are complying with the sanctions. Russian crude is not sanctioned—it is the entities and the shipping lines that are under restrictions."

Jain further elaborated on the company's operational approach, ex-



plaining, "If somebody comes to me with a non-sanctioned entity, the price cap is being complied with, and the shipping arrangements are clear, then I will continue to buy it." His remarks highlight IOC's focus on ensuring legal compliance while safeguard-

ing the country's energy security. According to industry estimates, Rosneft currently supplies nearly 45 percent of India's total Russian crude imports. The company operates largely as an aggregator, sourcing oil from a range of producers—a model that al-

lows Indian refiners to procure supplies indirectly through non-sanctioned intermediaries based in hubs like Dubai and Singapore. Industry officials noted that this mechanism enables the flow of Russian oil without breaching the price cap or sanctions framework. IOC's Chairman, Arvinder Singh Sahney, reiterated the company's adherence to global norms, saying, "IOC will abide by all sanctions imposed by the international community." However, he declined to comment on whether the recent sanctions would affect the discounted Russian oil that constituted about 21 percent of IOC's crude imports in the previous quarter.

Energy market analysts suggest that the economic incentives for importing Russian crude remain strong despite new restrictions. Rus-

sian barrels continue to trade at a discount of \$3.5-5 per barrel below international benchmarks, making them highly attractive to price-sensitive buyers like India.

Market reactions to the new sanctions have been relatively subdued. "The market's muted response—with oil prices rising only about \$2 per barrel—suggests traders believe much of the Russian oil will continue flowing through alternative, non-sanctioned channels," one expert observed.

While private refiners such as Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy are expected to reassess their procurement strategies based on exposure levels, IOC's stance signals continuity in India's energy import strategy, balancing economic pragmatism with regulatory compliance in a complex global environment.

MCX TRADING DELAYED OVER 4 HOURS

By TPN Business Desk | Mumbai

Trading at the Multi-Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), the country's largest commodity derivatives exchange, was disrupted for several hours on Tuesday following a major technical glitch that forced the bourse to delay trading by more than four hours and temporarily shift its operations to its disaster recovery (DR) site.

In a regulatory filing, the exchange said, "Due to a technical issue at the Exchange, the commencement of trading on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, was delayed. Operations were shifted to the Disaster Recovery (DR) site, and trading started at 1:25 pm." Normally, trading begins at 9 am, meaning the delay extended for more than



half of the active trading session.

MCX added that all systems are now functioning normally and that a priority investigation has been initiated to determine the cause of the disruption. "All trading systems are full-

ly operational, and trading is proceeding smoothly," the exchange said. The glitch affected morning trading across several key commodities, including gold, silver, crude oil, natural gas, and agricultural futures, causing tempo-

rary uncertainty among traders and brokers. Market participants said such interruptions can impact price discovery, hedging positions, and intraday liquidity, especially in highly volatile commodities.

Following the inci-

dent, MCX activated its disaster recovery mechanism, which enables it to resume trading from an alternate, pre-designated location with full system backups. The DR site is part of the exchange's business continuity plan, designed to ensure minimal disruption in case of infrastructure or system failures. While the exchange resumed trading in the afternoon, brokers expressed concern over the impact on pending orders and position management during the downtime. However, MCX clarified that settlement processes and trade data integrity remained unaffected and that all trades executed after resumption were being processed normally.

The latest disruption comes as MCX contin-

ues to upgrade its technology infrastructure and enhance system resilience. The exchange recently migrated to a new technology platform, which has undergone several stability tests. Although rare, such outages underscore the challenges exchanges face in managing complex real-time trading systems that handle massive transaction volumes.

MCX said it is working closely with its technology partners and regulators to prevent a recurrence of the issue. The exchange reaffirmed its commitment to operational reliability, investor protection, and market integrity, assuring stakeholders that strengthening system resilience remains a top organizational priority.

Black Pepper on Banana May Boost Liver Health



An everyday kitchen combination—banana with a pinch of black pepper—may offer surprising benefits for liver health, experts suggest. While it may sound unusual, this simple pairing combines the nutritional strengths of both ingredients to support digestion, reduce inflammation, and aid the body’s natural detoxification processes. Bananas are rich in fiber, potassium, and antioxidants, making them a staple in many Indian households. Black pepper, known for its active compound piperine, not only adds a spicy kick but also enhances nutrient absorption, amplifying the banana’s health benefits. Together, they form an affordable and accessible combination that could support overall liver function. “The liver is essentially the body’s detox center, responsible for filtering toxins, metabolizing fats, storing vitamins, and regulating hormones,” said a nutrition expert. “Modern diets, alcohol consumption, pollution, and stress often over-

work the liver, making simple dietary interventions important for its care.” Fatty liver disease, particularly non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), is increasingly common in India, with reports suggesting that nearly one in three Indians may be affected without knowing it. Studies, including research published in Nature Scientific Reports, indicate that piperine may help lower liver enzymes and improve metabolic markers in patients with NAFLD. For those experiencing sluggishness, bloating, or digestive discomfort, incorporating a pinch of black pepper on a banana could provide gentle support for liver health. This easy home remedy, combining everyday ingredients, highlights how small dietary changes can have meaningful effects on overall wellness. While not a substitute for medical care, this simple pairing is a flavorful and practical way to promote liver function and overall digestive health.

Instagram Introduces Watch History for Reels



Instagram is rolling out a new Watch History feature that allows users to revisit Reels they’ve previously watched. The feature, similar to YouTube’s Watch History, offers options to search, filter, and manage watched content, making it easier for users to find and rewatch their favorite videos. Instagram head Adam Mosseri announced the feature on Threads, explaining that users can access it under Settings > Your activity > Watch history in the Profile tab. The feature will appear under the How you use Instagram section, and users can filter Reels by date, date range, or specific account. The Watch History tool includes three tabs for organizing watched content. By default, it displays Reels from the past 30 days. Users can sort these Reels from newest to oldest or vice versa, filter by past week, past month, or all dates, and even remove specific Reels from the list if they

choose. This addition addresses a long-standing request from Instagram users who wanted a simple way to revisit previously viewed content without having to scroll endlessly through the app. It is expected to improve user experience, particularly for content creators and viewers who regularly engage with Reels. The feature is available on both Android and iOS, with a similar interface on each platform. It integrates seamlessly into the existing activity tracking tools on Instagram, giving users more control over their content history. By adding Watch History, Instagram aligns with other social platforms like YouTube while providing enhanced search and filtering options, ensuring users can quickly locate the Reels they enjoyed the most. This move highlights Instagram’s continued focus on user engagement and convenience.

US Air Force Captures Breathtaking Footage Of Nature’s Fury

The US Air Force’s 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, famously known as the Hurricane Hunters, flew directly into the eye of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa on Monday to collect critical data for the National Hurricane Center (NHC). The mission provided breathtaking footage and valuable observations of one of the most powerful storms approaching Jamaica. The reconnaissance team’s operations were documented by “Tropical Cowboy of Danger,” a veteran Hurricane Hunter with over two decades of flying experience, including ten years on weather reconnaissance missions. Sharing images and videos on X, he described the dramatic scenes inside the storm, capturing towering clouds, intense winds, and the calm, eerie eye of Hurricane Melissa. During the first pass, the aircraft approached the hurricane from the southeast shortly after sunrise. The crew observed the bright arc of the far northwest eyewall as sunlight illuminated the storm, offering a rare and vivid view of the hurricane’s



structure. The second pass was made from the southwest, with the aircraft moving through the eyewall while NOAA personnel conducted outbound operations. Despite the hurricane’s immense power, conditions were reportedly calmer than during the intense mesoscale activity observed 36 hours earlier. Hurricane Hunters missions like these are vital for forecasting and tracking storms, providing the NHC with accurate wind speeds, pressure readings, and storm dynamics that are impossible to capture from satellites alone. High-resolution imagery from these flights also helps scientists study storm formation and evolution, contributing to better preparedness and warning systems. The data gathered during Monday’s flights will be analyzed over the coming days as Hurricane Melissa continues its approach toward the Caribbean. With its Category 5 intensity, the storm poses a serious threat to Jamaica and surrounding islands, emphasizing the importance of such daring reconnaissance missions.

iPhone 18 Expected With Major RAM Upgrade

Apple is reportedly planning a significant RAM upgrade for the upcoming iPhone 18 series, potentially boosting the base model from 8GB to 12GB. The move is seen as a step to support enhanced AI capabilities and maintain competitiveness in the high-end smartphone market. While Apple does not officially disclose RAM specifications, leaks and reports have consistently suggested that the iPhone 17 base model comes with 8GB of RAM, while the iPhone Air, iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max feature 12GB. According to South Korean outlet The Bell, Apple has requested its key supplier Samsung to increase production of LPDDR5x RAM chips for the iPhone 18 series, potentially enabling a 50 percent RAM increase in the standard model. Samsung reportedly produces LPDDR5x RAM in 12GB and 16GB modules. Apple is also in talks with SK Hynix and Micron to secure additional DRAM supplies, indicating the company is serious about boosting memory capacity across the lineup. The higher RAM would likely enhance on-device AI performance, supporting Apple’s push for more advanced Apple Intelligence features and smoother multitasking. Analysts believe this upgrade will help Apple compete with Chinese smart-



phone brands, which already offer devices with up to 24GB of RAM. The iPhone 18 is currently in early development, and Apple’s plans may evolve before launch. Rumors suggest the Pro series and a foldable iPhone could debut in late 2026, while the standard iPhone 18 and iPhone 18e are expected in the first half of 2027. If confirmed, the RAM boost would mark another leap in Apple’s strategy to combine hardware power with AI-driven software, offering users faster performance, better multitasking, and enhanced capabilities for future applications.

1,200-Year-Old Bread Shows Jesus Christ’s Face

In a remarkable archaeological discovery, researchers in Turkey have unearthed a 1,200-year-old loaf of bread believed to bear the image of Jesus Christ, shedding light on the spiritual and cultural practices of early Christian communities. The find was announced by the Karaman Governorship in a Facebook post on October 8, following excavations at the Topraktepe archaeological site, part of the ancient city of Eirenopolis. During the dig, five carbonized loaves of bread were uncovered, but one stood out for its distinct markings. Photographs released by officials show a blackened loaf with a faint yet recognizable depiction of Jesus etched on its surface. Experts say the bread dates back to the 7th or 8th century A.D., making it one of the rare surviving examples of early Christian religious symbolism preserved in everyday objects. What makes this find particularly unique is its iconography. Unlike traditional Christ Pantocrator imagery, which typically portrays Jesus blessing with his right hand—a common feature in Byzantine and Eastern Orthodox art—this bread presents Christ as a sower or farmer. Archaeologists suggest this could reflect the agricultural lifestyle and spiritual values of the community that produced it, offering insight into how faith and daily life were intertwined in early medieval Anatolia. “The depiction is subtle yet deliberate, indicating a sophis-



ticated understanding of religious symbolism even in mundane objects like bread,” said a local archaeologist involved in the excavation. The discovery adds to growing evidence that early Christian communities used everyday items to express faith, beyond traditional manuscripts and frescoes. Researchers hope further study of the loaves and the Topraktepe site will reveal more about the rituals, diet, and artistry of the period, deepening understanding of how spirituality shaped daily life in ancient Eirenopolis.

Mohun Bagan Aim for Second Win Against Dempo in AIFF Super Cup

Mohun Bagan Super Giant are set to continue their strong run in the AIFF Super Cup as they face Dempo SC on Tuesday. After a convincing 2-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC in their opening Group A fixture, the Mariners are looking to maintain momentum and solidify their top spot in the group standings.

According to the Indian Super League (ISL) website, Mohun Bagan's confidence is high after a dominant performance in their first outing. However, Jose Molina's men are aware of the challenge posed by Dempo, who gave Kolkata rivals East Bengal FC a tough time in their previous match. Playing at home, Dempo will look to capitalize on the local support and test the Mariners' composure.

A win against Dempo would put Mohun Bagan in a commanding position in Group A. If East Bengal FC defeat Chennaiyin FC, the Mariners would only need a draw in their next match to confirm a semi-final berth. Even a draw between



East Bengal and Chennaiyin could see Mohun Bagan qualify before the much-anticipated Kolkata Derby. Despite their rich domestic history, the AIFF Super Cup remains one of the few trophies missing from Mo-

hun Bagan's illustrious cabinet. This season, they are determined to end that drought and complete their collection of Indian football's top honours.

Forward Jamie Maclaren, who netted a brace in

the opening game, will once again be key to the Mariners' attack. His clinical finishing and consistency could prove decisive as the team eyes progression to the knockout stages.

With form, motivation, and momentum on their side, Mohun Bagan Super Giant enter the contest as favourites but will need to stay sharp to overcome a spirited Dempo SC challenge.

India Bids to Host Asian Indoor Athletics, Asian Relays



India has submitted bids to host the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships and the 2026 Asian Relays, marking a significant push to host major continental athletics events. If successful, it would be the first time India hosts both

competitions. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has proposed Bhubaneswar as the host city for the 2028 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships. "There is no other venue in India that can host the event other than the indoor facility at the Kalinga

Stadium complex in Bhubaneswar," an AFI official told PTI on condition of anonymity. The venue for the 2026 Asian Relays has not yet been finalised, though a north Indian city is under consideration, with the event likely scheduled for

April. The state-of-the-art indoor facility at Kalinga Stadium, inaugurated in 2024, features a 200m running track, 100m practice track, areas for long jump, triple jump, pole vault, and shot put, along with a gym and warm-up zones. The oval-

shaped track is surrounded by a spectator gallery with a 2,000-seat capacity. The facility also houses 60 twin-sharing rooms and a dining hall for athletes in full-time training.

India has already seen success in these competitions. At the inaugural Asian Relays in Bangkok in May 2024, India won gold in the mixed 4x400m relay and silver in both men's and women's 4x400m events. In the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, India secured three golds—Tajinderpal Singh Toor (men's shot put), Jyothi Yarraji (women's 60m hurdles), Harmilan Bains (women's 1500m)—and one silver by Ankita Dhyani (women's 3000m).

The next Asian Indoor Championships will be held in Tianjin, China, from February 6-8, 2026. India has also expressed interest in hosting the 2028 World U20 Championships and the 2029 or 2031 senior World Athletics Championships, reflecting the country's ambition to become a major hub for international athletics events.

Lando Norris Wins Mexico GP, Takes F1 Championship Lead

British driver Lando Norris delivered a commanding performance at the Formula One Mexico Grand Prix, claiming victory from pole position and seizing the F1 championship lead by a single point over McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri.

Norris navigated a chaotic start at the Hermanos Rodriguez circuit with precision, avoiding early collisions and maintaining his lead throughout the race. The Briton's dominant drive marked his latest triumph in a season of closely fought battles, highlighting his consistency and composure under pressure.

Starting from seventh on the grid, Australian Oscar Piastri, who had held a 14-point advantage over Norris in the championship standings, fought back through the field with determination. However, a late virtual safety car disrupted his momentum and denied him a crucial chance to finish fourth. Piastri ultimately ended the race in fifth place, narrowing the championship gap but losing the lead to his



teammate. The Mexican Grand Prix showcased thrilling on-track action, including multiple overtakes, tactical pit stops, and high-speed duels in the middle of the pack. Despite the intense competition, Norris remained unchallenged at the front, demonstrating McLaren's

improved race pace and strategy execution. With the victory, Norris now leads the drivers' championship, setting up an exciting climax to the season as he and Piastri continue their intra-team rivalry. The outcome also underlined McLaren's resurgence in F1, as both

drivers have been regularly scoring points and podium finishes this season. Looking ahead, the focus will shift to the final races of the year, where every point will be critical in determining the championship. Norris's composed performance in Mexico

City positions him as a serious contender for the title, while Piastri will aim to bounce back in upcoming rounds to reclaim his lead. Norris celebrated his triumph with the McLaren team, emphasizing teamwork and precision strategy as keys to his Mexico GP success.

Smriti Mandhana Tops ODI Batting Rankings



India's star batter Smriti Mandhana has cemented her position as the No.1 in the ICC Women's ODI batting rankings after a brilliant run in the ongoing home ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. Her scintillating 109 against New Zealand and an unbeaten 34 against Bangladesh propelled her to a career-best rating of 828, nearly 100 points ahead of second-placed Australian Ashleigh Gardner, who has 731 points.

Mandhana, who was named ICC Women's Player of the Month for September 2025, has been in exceptional form, consistently providing solid starts at the top of the order. Her opening partner, Pratika Rawal, also made gains in the rankings, moving into the top 30 at 27th place with a rating of 564, despite being sidelined for the remainder of the tournament due to injury.

South African captain Laura Wolvaardt climbed two spots into the top three after scoring 90 and 31 runs in recent matches. England's Amy Jones rose four places to ninth with 656 points,

while Annabel Sutherland achieved the largest jump among the top 40, moving 16 spots to 16th with 613 points.

In bowling rankings, England's Sophie Ecclestone continues to lead with 747 points, followed by Australia's Alana King at 698, surpassing teammate Ashleigh Gardner, who dropped to third with 689 points. Pakistan's Nashra Sundhu shares the 10th spot with South Africa's Nonkululeko Mlaba, both at 610 points. Fast bowlers Marizanne Kapp and Annabel Sutherland also moved up one spot each to fourth and seventh, respectively.

In the all-rounder category, Gardner retains the top spot with 503 points, while Marizanne Kapp overtakes West Indies' Hayley Matthews to reach second place at 422 points. Sutherland dropped to fourth in the all-rounder rankings.

Mandhana's rise reaffirms her status as one of the most consistent and explosive performers in women's cricket, giving India a formidable advantage at the top of the batting order.

Mbappe, Bellingham Lead Real to El Clasico Win



Real Madrid ended a four-match losing streak against Barcelona as Kylian Mbappe and Jude Bellingham inspired a 2-1 victory in a fiery El Clasico at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday. The win moves Real to 27 points at the top of the LaLiga standings, five ahead of second-placed Barcelona.

Mbappe broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute, finishing a well-timed through ball from Bellingham with a clinical close-range strike. The goal was a result of sharp interplay between Madrid's midfield and attack, setting the tone for the hosts' dominance in the opening half.

Barcelona responded in the 38th minute after a lapse by Real's Arda Guler allowed Fermin Lopez to score, leveling the match. The goal energized the visitors and led to a tense period marked by aggressive challenges and tactical battles in midfield.

The decisive moment came in the second half when Bellingham scored, completing a quick

counter-attack. The English midfielder's goal showcased Real's fluid attacking style and ability to exploit spaces behind Barcelona's defense.

Both sides created further chances, but goalkeepers Thibaut Courtois and Marc-Andre ter Stegen were equal to the task, preserving the 2-1 scoreline. The match was also notable for its intensity, with several yellow cards issued amid a highly competitive atmosphere.

With the victory, Real Madrid reasserted their dominance in the Spanish league and dealt a psychological blow to their bitter rivals, who now trail by five points. The result boosts Real's title hopes while underscoring the importance of Mbappe and Bellingham in high-stakes matches.

The two teams will now turn their attention to domestic and European fixtures, with Barcelona looking to recover and Real aiming to maintain momentum atop LaLiga.

Chiranjeevi’s Team Releases Viral Video Celebrating Khaidi@42



Megastar Chiranjeevi’s cult classic film Khaidi, which released on October 28, 1983, completed 42 glorious years today. To mark the milestone, Chiranjeevi’s team unveiled a special commemorative video celebrating the film’s legacy — and it has gone viral across social media platforms, rekindling nostalgia among fans and cinephiles.

Directed by A. Kodandarami Reddy and written by the Paruchuri Brothers, Khaidi is widely regarded as a game-changer in Telugu cinema. The film not only catapulted Chiranjeevi to superstardom but also redefined the commercial action genre in Tollywood. The new tribute video, titled Khaidi – The Game Changer, features rare visuals and iconic moments from the movie, reminding fans why the film remains timeless even after four decades.

Interestingly, Khaidi was originally conceptualized for Superstar Krishna, and K. Raghavendra Rao was first

considered to direct it. However, destiny had other plans, and the project eventually came to Chiranjeevi and Kodandarami Reddy — a combination that would go on to create cinematic history. Inspired by the 1982 Hollywood classic First Blood (the first film in the Rambo series), Khaidi was tailored perfectly to suit Chiranjeevi’s energy and style.

Made on a modest budget of ₹25 lakh, the film went on to gross around ₹4 crore, an extraordinary figure for its time. It sold over 3.2 crore tickets, ran for 100 days in 20 centres, 200 days in 5 centres, and completed a year-long run in 2 theatres — phenomenal achievements in the 1980s.

The film’s success even led to a Hindi remake, with Jeetendra and Madhavi reprising the lead roles. On this special occasion, fans are once again celebrating the film that made Chiranjeevi an enduring symbol of mass appeal and cinematic revolution in Indian cinema.

Adivi Sesh–Mrunal Thakur’s Dacoit Locks New Release Date



The highly anticipated bilingual action drama Dacoit, starring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur, has received a brand-new release date. Initially slated for release on December 25, 2025, the film’s schedule was pushed back following Sesh’s on-set injury during the shoot of a high-intensity action sequence. The makers decided to delay the release to ensure the actor had sufficient time to recover and to complete the remaining action portions without compromise.

Now, the production team has officially announced that Dacoit will hit theatres worldwide on March 19, 2026, coinciding with the festive occasion of Ugadi and Eid. To mark the update, the makers unveiled a striking new poster that has reignited excitement among fans and cinephiles alike.

Directed by Shaneil Deo in his feature film debut, Dacoit promises to deliver a gripping blend of action, romance, and emotion. The film is jointly pro-

duced by Supriya Yargadda and Suniel Narang under the prestigious Annapurna Studios banner, known for backing distinctive and content-driven cinema.

Shot simultaneously in Telugu and Hindi, Dacoit is positioned as a pan-Indian romantic action thriller. Alongside the lead pair, the ensemble cast features acclaimed talents such as Anurag Kashyap, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, and Zayn Marie Khan, each playing crucial roles in the story’s dramatic arc.

With music composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, the film is currently in its final stages of post-production. Industry insiders suggest that the film’s blend of high-octane action, emotional storytelling, and cross-language appeal will make Dacoit one of the most awaited releases of early 2026. Fans are now eagerly counting down the days to witness Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur’s on-screen chemistry in this dynamic action-packed entertainer.

Sudheer Babu’s Son Darshan to Play Young Prabhas in Fauzi

In an exciting development for Telugu cinema fans, Sudheer Babu’s younger son, Darshan, has been roped in to play the younger version of Prabhas in the upcoming big-budget film Fauzi. The casting choice has drawn attention, as filmmakers often prefer star kids for such roles due to their resemblance to senior actors and their familiarity with the craft.

Sudheer Babu, known for his action-packed and experimental roles, is actor Mahesh Babu’s brother-in-law and husband of Priyadarshini. The couple has two sons — Charith Maanas and Darshan — both of whom are showing keen interest in acting. Charith, the elder son, who once appeared as young Nani in Bhale Bhale



Magadivoy (2015), is expected to make his lead debut soon. Darshan, meanwhile, already has an

impressive résumé. He previously portrayed younger versions of leading stars — Adivi Sesh

in Goodachari (2018) and Mahesh Babu in Sarkaru Vaari Paata (2022). Continuing that trend, Darshan

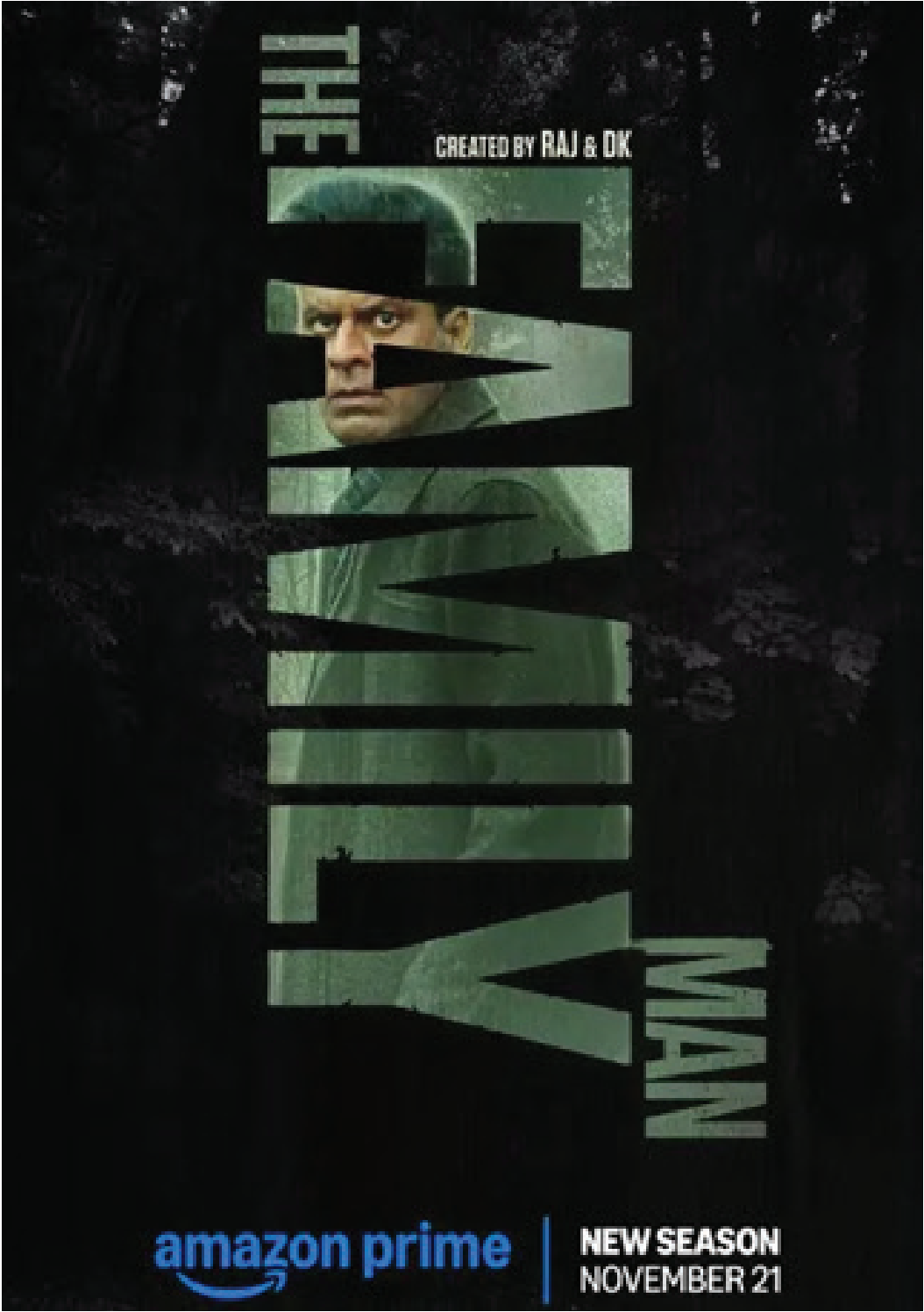
has now landed a pivotal role in Fauzi, where he will play the childhood phase of Prabhas’s

character. Confirming the news during promotions of his upcoming film Jatadhara,

Sudheer Babu shared that Darshan has significant screen time in Fauzi, which includes delivering lengthy Sanskrit dialogues. Sources close to the production revealed that the young actor performed them with confidence and maturity beyond his years.

Fauzi is described as a historical fiction action drama with elements of romance. The film stars Prabhas and Imanvi, is directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, with music composed by Vishal Chandrashekhar, and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner. With Darshan’s inclusion, the film’s buzz has only grown stronger ahead of its official release announcements.

The Family Man Season 3 Release Date Confirmed



In a major update for fans of the popular spy-action thriller series The Family Man, the much-anticipated third season is confirmed to drop on Amazon Prime Video on 21 November 2025.

Helmed by the creative duo Raj Nidimoru & Krishna DK (Raj & DK), the acclaimed series returns with lead actor Manoj Bajpayee reprising his role as intelligence officer Srikant Tiwari — a family man by night, national security operative by day.

Following the blockbuster success of Seasons 1 and 2, the forthcoming instalment promises to raise the stakes with more high-octane action, sharper wit and threading of a fresh geopolitical threat: the China-factor playing off the pandemic backdrop.

The creators elaborate that: “This season, the hunter becomes the hunted, as Srikant faces a threat unlike any before... endangering not just him and his career, but his family too.”

Production details reveal that filming wrapped in December 2024, and the team spent much of 2025 in post-production to deliver the series in multiple languages across India and beyond.

Viewers can expect the new episodes to stream globally via Prime Video, across 240 + countries and territories, from 21 November.

With promotional assets now underway and teaser clips already sparking social media buzz, the countdown is officially on.



Samantha Stuns in Bold and Elegant Purple Saree

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is once again making headlines — this time for her breathtaking look in a recent photoshoot. The actress, who has begun shooting for her upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram, appeared in a glamorous new set of pictures that have gone viral across social media platforms.

Captured during her exclusive chat with Robb Report India at The Leela Palace, Udaipur, Samantha exudes a flawless blend of confidence and grace. She is seen wearing a deep purple silk saree that perfectly balances traditional charm with a modern touch. The saree, accentuated with subtle gold detailing, adds a regal sheen to her look, making it both striking and sophisticated.

Samantha paired the drape with a sleeveless blouse, adding a contemporary edge to her ensemble. Complementing the outfit, she adorned statement jewelry — including an elegant choker and matching earrings — which elevated her overall appearance. Her

minimal yet radiant makeup, soft wavy hair, and poised demeanor further enhanced the elegance of the shoot.

Fashion enthusiasts and fans alike have flooded social media with compliments, calling her look “bold, royal, and effortlessly stylish.” Known for her impeccable fashion sense and fearless choices, Samantha continues to set benchmarks when it comes to red-carpet and editorial looks.

Meanwhile, on the professional front, the actress has started work on Maa Inti Bangaram, a family-centric drama that is generating significant buzz in the Telugu film industry. After her critically acclaimed performances in Yashoda and Shaakuntalam, audiences are eager to see her return to emotionally rich storytelling.

With this recent appearance, Samantha once again proves that whether it’s cinema or style, she continues to captivate with her elegance, charm, and confidence.