



Pawan Kalyan
Directs
Officials to
Ensure Justice
for All Cyclone
Montha
Victims
02

TRUE
POINT



PRGI REGISTRATION NO. "TGENG/25/A2485"

POINT

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Naidu Orders 24-Hour Mission to Drain Flooded Fields

Orders Urgent Measures to Save Waterlogged Crops
TPN Vijayawada, Oct. 31:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has ordered immediate and coordinated action to safeguard waterlogged farmlands across Andhra Pradesh in the wake of Cyclone Montha, which left a trail of heavy rainfall, flooding, and crop damage in several districts. During a high-level teleconference with senior officials on Friday, the Chief Minister reviewed ongoing relief and restoration efforts, directing the administration to act on a war footing to prevent farmers from incurring heavy losses. Naidu instructed officials to utilize real-time satellite imagery to identify submerged or severely impacted agricultural zones and ensure that all standing water is drained within 24 hours. He also emphasized transparency by directing the release of constituency-wise satellite images to the public domain. This, he said, would enable local MLAs,



He also emphasized transparency by directing the release of constituency-wise satellite images to the public domain. This, he said, would enable local MLAs, public representatives, and field officers to promptly visit affected villages and take up immediate dewatering operations. The Chief Minister underlined that multiple departments — including agriculture, irrigation, revenue, and rural development must work in close coordination to deliver measurable ground-level results. “Every department must act with urgency and responsibility. The ultimate goal is to ensure that no farmer loses his crop or livelihood due to delays,” he told officials during the review meeting. Highlighting the importance of scientific intervention, Naidu instructed that agricultural scientists be consulted to assess the crop conditions in waterlogged lands and recommend preventive measures to minimize yield loss. “Temporary water stagnation should not lead to a full harvest failure,” he cautioned, urging scientists to guide farmers on drainage, soil recovery, and pest control methods after inundation. Officials informed the Chief Minister that Bapatla district remained the worst affected, with almost 60 percent of its farmlands inundated. Restoration teams were already on the ground, and complete dewatering was likely to be achieved by Sunday. Naidu appreciated the district administrations and field staff for their relentless efforts in restoring normalcy,

especially in severely hit mandals. The Chief Minister directed the Revenue Department to submit a preliminary damage report to the Central Government without delay and to invite a central fact-finding team for an on-ground assessment. Pending the submission of the final report, Naidu asked that the Centre be urged to release interim financial assistance to support urgent relief and rehabilitation works. He said he would personally brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the state's situation and the immediate needs of affected farmers. Reviewing the flood situation, officials reported that the water level in the Krishna River had subsided, significantly reducing the threat of further flooding.

The Chief Minister instructed constant monitoring until all inflows returned to normal limits. Recognizing outstanding efforts during the cyclone relief operations, Naidu announced that about 100 officials and staff members who displayed exceptional field performance would be honored publicly. Roads and Infrastructure Severely Hit The Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department suffered the most significant blow, with 4,794 km of roads and 311 culverts and bridges damaged, resulting in estimated losses of 2,794 crore. Similarly, the Panchayat Raj infrastructure, covering about 862 km of rural roads, culverts, and small bridges, reported losses of approximately 454 crore. Urban local bodies also faced severe setbacks, with municipal infrastructure and public assets worth 109 crore affected. Several connecting routes between districts remain impassable, prompting emergency restoration work in critical areas.



including breaches in minor irrigation tanks and canal systems. The health sector also recorded losses estimated at 122 crore, with serious damage to anganwadi centres, primary health centres, and community health facilities in various districts.

Agriculture and Allied Sectors Suffer Heavy Losses

The cyclone's impact on the agriculture sector has been particularly devastating. Standing crops spread over 1.38 lakh hectares were damaged, causing an estimated loss of 829 crore and affecting nearly 1.74 lakh farmers. Paddy, maize, cotton, and various horticultural crops bore the brunt of the winds and flooding. Horticultural damage spanned about 12,215 hectares, valued at 40 crore, affecting 23,979 farmers. The aquaculture sector was also severely hit, incurring losses amounting to 514 crore due to damage to fish ponds, hatcheries, and coastal aquafarms. Additionally, the disaster led to the death of 2,261 livestock animals, compounding distress among farming and coastal communities.

Power, Irrigation, and Health Sectors Report Major Damage

The power sector recorded damages of 19 crore as 2,817 electrical poles were uprooted and several major and minor power lines were disrupted, leading to prolonged outages in rural areas. The irrigation network sustained damages valued at 234 crore,

including breaches in minor irrigation tanks and canal systems. The health sector also recorded losses estimated at 122 crore, with serious damage to anganwadi centres, primary health centres, and community health facilities in various districts.

Large-Scale Evacuation and Relief Measures

In response to the cyclone's approach, the State administration evacuated 1,36,907 residents from vulnerable coastal and low-lying regions, accommodating them in 1,464 relief camps. The government has so far allocated 32 crore for immediate relief covering food supply, temporary shelter, healthcare, and sanitation. Massive cleaning drives and restoration of public utilities are underway, with priority given to clearing roads, restoring electricity, and ensuring potable water supply.

The comprehensive report sent to the Union Government seeks urgent financial aid to support rehabilitation and infrastructure restoration. As recovery efforts continue, the State has emphasized the need for early assistance from the Centre to rebuild livelihoods and strengthen disaster resilience before the northeast monsoon intensifies.

Leopard Sighting Sparks Panic on Tirumala Footpath

TPN TIRUMALA
OCT 31:

A leopard sighting along the Tirumala temple footpath from Sri Vari Mettu created panic among devotees on Friday. The wild animal was spotted crossing the path near the 150th step on the traditional pedestrian route leading to the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara. Devotees who witnessed the leopard rushed to alert others, and fear spread quickly among the pilgrims walking on the forest path. According to reports, the leopard appeared suddenly from the nearby forest stretch and crossed the path before disappearing into the dense vegetation on the other side.



Several devotees screamed in alarm, and some recorded brief visuals on their mobile phones, which soon went viral on social media platforms. The incident prompted immediate action from the forest officials and the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) security staff. Upon receiving an alert from Subabhi workers present near the location, forest officials rushed to the spot and conducted preliminary inspections. They confirmed that leopard movement was indeed present in the area and initiated steps to trace the animal's route through camera traps and patrolling units.

The officials said that in recent weeks, wild animal movements had been observed near forest-adjacent areas of Tirumala, likely due to increased human activity and the search for water and prey. As a precautionary measure, security personnel temporarily stopped pilgrim movement at the 800th step, which is close to the beginning point of the Srivari Mettu path. Devotees were asked to wait in designated zones until the officials ensured the path was safe. Later, movement was allowed only in small groups of about 100 to 150 people under close supervision of forest and security staff.

The authorities clarified that this regulation was introduced to minimize risk and to ensure officials could monitor the situation effectively. Forest officers continued to search the surrounding areas using tranquilizer-equipped teams and tracking teams. They advised devotees to remain vigilant while walking through forest stretches and to cooperate fully with security personnel on duty. Parents were specifically instructed to keep their children close at all times and to avoid allowing them to wander.

Officials have also reinforced fencing and increased the number of forest watchers along the route, particularly during dawn and dusk hours when animal movement tends to be more active. Tirumala has witnessed isolated incidents of leopard movement in the past few months. The TTD administration, in coordination with the Forest Department, has already installed several CCTV cameras and motion sensors along both the Srivari Mettu and Alipiri footpaths.

In earlier cases, leopards caught near the stairway regions were relocated deep into the forest to prevent further encounters. Authorities assured devotees that there was no cause for panic and that every possible measure was being taken to ensure their safety. They reiterated their commitment to protecting both the pilgrims and the wildlife that inhabit the sacred Tirumala forests. Devotees were requested to follow all safety instructions and proceed along the path only under official supervision until further notice.

NTR Medical Services to Restore

Andhra Pradesh Government Reaches Breakthrough Agreement with Private Hospitals
TPN Amaravati, October 31, 2025:

The prolonged dispute between the Andhra Pradesh government and private hospital managements came to a close on Friday after successful negotiations led by the state's Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav. Following the discussion, the Andhra Pradesh Private Hospitals Association decided to withdraw its statewide protest and resume healthcare services under the NTR Health Scheme, marking a major relief for thousands of patients who had been affected by the suspension of services over the past three weeks. Private hospitals across the state had been on strike for the last twenty days, demanding clearance of long-pending arrears under the government's NTR Health Scheme.

Due to the deadlock, several critical healthcare services were disrupted, causing inconvenience to patients dependent on the scheme for affordable medical care. After multiple rounds of discussions failed earlier this month, Friday's meeting proved decisive in breaking the stalemate. During the meeting held in Amaravati, Minister Satyakumar Yadav assured the association representatives that the government would immediately release Rs. 250 crore towards pending payments. He further committed that all remaining dues would be cleared in a single installment by the end of November under a one-time settlement plan.

The minister's categorical assurance on payment timelines finally convinced the hospital managements to call off their agitation and fully restore services. “The government remains committed to strengthening public healthcare access without disruption. Clearing these dues in a phased and fair manner is essential to maintaining trust between the government and health service providers,” Minister Yadav stated after the meeting. He emphasized that the immediate release of Rs. 250 crore underscores the government's sincerity in resolving the issue and ensuring the smooth functioning of the NTR Health Scheme throughout the state.

The association representatives expressed satisfaction over the outcome, noting that the government's assurance addressed their major concerns. “Our goal was never to inconvenience patients. We only sought timely settlement of the amounts due to hospitals providing services under the state's health insurance scheme. We appreciate the government's intervention and clarity on payment timelines,” a senior member of the Private Hospitals Association said.

Officials from the Health Department confirmed that steps are already underway to process the initial Rs. 250 crore payment. The remaining payments, estimated to run into several hundred crores, will be disbursed by November 30. Sources said the Chief Minister's Office had directed the



Finance Department to prioritize the settlement of these arrears to restore normalcy in the healthcare system. With this settlement, the NTR medical services critical for economically weaker sections of society are expected to be back in full operation starting this weekend. Patients can once again avail of treatments across the network of empaneled private hospitals under the scheme.

The restoration of services comes as a major relief for districts where the absence of private hospital participation had strained government facilities. The successful negotiation marks an important step toward stabilizing Andhra Pradesh's public-private healthcare partnerships. Both sides expressed hope that mechanisms will be developed to prevent such disputes in the future through timely communication and scheduled reimbursement processes.

Of the remaining 21 accused, five were convicted of murder, while sixteen others were acquitted due to lack of sufficient evidence. The court found that the five primary accused had planned and executed the murder, provided weapons, and orchestrated the fatal attack.

Court Ends Decade-Long Wait, Convicts Five in Chittoor Mayor Murder

TPN CHITTOOR
Oct 31:

In a major development that brought closure to a decade-old case, the Chittoor Additional District Sessions Court on Friday delivered a sensational verdict in the brutal murder of former Chittoor Mayor K. Anuradha and her husband Mohan. The court sentenced five accused to death for their direct involvement in the double murder that shocked the state in 2015. The verdict was delivered by Judge N. Srinivasa Rao of the VI Additional District Sessions Court.

The case, which has seen numerous delays and legal complexities over the years, finally reached its conclusion after nearly ten years and 352 hearings. More than 130 witnesses were examined during the trial, making it one of the most closely followed cases in the region in recent memory. The gruesome incident took place on November 17, 2015, inside the premises of the Chittoor Municipal Corporation office. According to the prosecution, a gang of assailants entered the Mayor's office during working hours and attacked Anuradha and her husband Mohan with deadly weapons, leading to their instantaneous deaths.

The attack sent shockwaves through Chittoor at the time, as the couple was known for their political and social influence in the city. Initially, 23 persons were named as accused in the investigation. However, during the course of legal proceedings, the number of accused came down to 21 after the co-



urt removed the name of Kasaram Ramesh (A-22) based on his petition claiming non-involvement. Another accused, S. Srinivasachari (A-21), passed away during the trial.

Of the remaining 21 accused, five were convicted of murder, while sixteen others were acquitted due to lack of sufficient evidence. The court found that the five primary accused had planned and executed the murder, provided weapons, and orchestrated the fatal attack.

CM Pushes For Swift Completion of Amaravati Works

Stresses Quality and Farmer-Friendly Plot Registrations

TPN / Vijayawada Oct 31: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has issued firm directives to officials to speed up the long-pending Amaravati capital city construction works and ensure their completion within scheduled timelines. He emphasized that Amaravati's revival as the capital of Andhra Pradesh must proceed with both speed and uncompromised quality, cautioning all de-

partments and contractors to work with renewed urgency and accountability.

At a comprehensive review meeting held at his camp office on Friday, the Chief Minister discussed the progress of infrastructure, beautification, and returnable plot registrations with senior officials from the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), Amaravati Development Corporation Ltd (ADCL), and other related departments. The review focused on the status of individual projects, the availability of workforce, and the uninter-

rupted supply of construction materials and machinery.

During the meeting, Naidu expressed concern about certain delays caused by recent adverse weather conditions but made it clear that the momentum should now pick up sharply. He directed officials to make up for lost time in the coming days through tighter work schedules and efficient coordination between departments. The Chief Minister also announced that he would personally review the progress of Amaravati works every 15 days to maintain continuous oversight and en-

sure timely delivery.

Reiterating his government's commitment to building a world-class capital, Naidu instructed officials to prioritize not only physical infrastructure but also aspects like greenery, sanitation, and urban aesthetics. "Amaravati should symbolize modernity, sustainability, and beauty," he said, urging planners to integrate landscaping, public spaces, and hygiene measures into all design phases. He also encouraged private developers to adopt iconic architectural styles that would lend global appeal to the city's skyline, showcasing high-rise buildings

and cutting-edge designs befitting an international city. On the matter of returnable plots promised to land-pooling farmers, Naidu sought a detailed update from officials.

He was informed that out of all identified plots, registrations of 2,471 remain pending, largely due to minor technical issues or personal constraints among farmers. The Chief Minister instructed the Capital Region Development Authority and Revenue Department to resolve these bottlenecks quickly and ensure that no farmer faces inconvenience. He also directed



Urban Development Minister P. Narayana to supervise the process closely so that pending registrations are completed without further delay.

Naidu assured that he would personally meet Amaravati farmers soon to address their concerns and build confidence in the government's development commitments. He further in-

structed the Mining Department and CRDA to coordinate seamlessly to ensure continuous gravel and material supply to construction sites, avoiding interruptions that could hinder the pace of ongoing works. Stressing effective project monitoring, he told officials that contractors failing to deploy adequate manpower or machinery would be held accounta-

ble and asked to improve their performance immediately.

Friday's meeting was attended by Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana, senior officials from CRDA, ADCL, the Finance Department, and representatives from various construction agencies engaged in Amaravati's development.

AP Gears Up to Shine on Global Tourism Stage: Minister Durgesh



TPN/Vijayawada Oct 31: Andhra Pradesh is set to make a major stride onto the global tourism stage with Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh leading a high-level delegation to London. The minister will represent the state at the prestigious World Travel Market (WTM) 2025, scheduled from November 4 to 6, where Andhra Pradesh's cultural heritage, scenic beauty, and tourism potential will take center stage.

The three-day international event, considered one of the world's largest forums for the travel and

tourism industry, serves as a global platform for countries and regions to promote destinations, forge business partnerships, and discuss sustainable tourism strategies. Minister Durgesh will hold bilateral discussions with over 30 delegates representing tourism boards, global investors, and travel organizations. The primary focus of these meetings will be on strengthening foreign collaborations and attracting investment in Andhra Pradesh's tourism sector.

Highlighting the unique features of Andhra Pradesh, the state gov-

ernment has planned an exclusive pavilion at the WTM venue. This pavilion will vividly showcase the state's diverse attractions from pristine beaches and verdant hills to ancient temples, spiritual corridors, and eco-tourism sites. To offer visitors an immersive cultural experience, the pavilion will feature traditional Kuchipudi dance performances, along with stalls serving Araku coffee and the famous Pootharekulu sweet.

Visitors will also receive exquisite gifts such as Kondapalli and Etikoppaka handicrafts, both holding Geographical Indication (GI) tags that symbolize the rich artisan heritage of the state. Minister Durgesh stated that this tour will not only help project Andhra Pradesh's tourism on a global scale but also provide valuable insights into international tourism models and best

practices. "We aim to learn from successful global tourism strategies and adapt them to suit our state's unique potential," he said.

He further added that the delegation's efforts are aligned with the visionary policies of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who are committed to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global tourism hub. The state's participation in WTM 2025 aligns with its broader tourism development strategy focusing on sustainable growth, digital innovation, and inclusive community participation. By creating international visibility, the government hopes to boost foreign tourist arrivals and stimulate the local economy through employment generation and livelihood opportunities in tourism-linked sectors.

Joining Minister Dur-

gesh in the London delegation will be Tourism Department Special Secretary Ajay Jain and senior officials. The delegation is scheduled to depart for London on November 2 following official approvals from the state government. Expressing optimism about the visit, Minister Durgesh remarked that Andhra Pradesh's participation in WTM 2025 will help forge new international partnerships and attract innovative tourism projects.

"Our goal is to firmly place Andhra Pradesh on the world tourism map and open doors for global collaborations that will bring long-term socio-economic benefits to the state," he asserted. As the state gears up to showcase its treasures at one of the world's premier tourism platforms, Andhra Pradesh's ambitions of emerging as a global travel destination appear closer than ever.



Minister Atchannaidu Directs Agriculture Officials to Minimize Crop Loss After Cyclone Montha

TPN | Vijayawada Oct 31: In response to the widespread agricultural devastation caused by Cyclone Montha across several districts of Andhra Pradesh, Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu has directed the Agriculture Department to take swift and scientific measures to minimize further crop losses and ensure timely support to farmers. During a teleconference with Joint Directors of Agriculture and district officials, the Minister reviewed ongoing crop protection and relief activities.



that registering damaged crops might restrict them from selling their harvested paddy as part of market procurement. Clarifying the issue, Atchannaidu assured that such complications would not arise under the current process.

"I have discussed this matter with both the Agriculture and Civil Supplies Departments. Instructions have been issued to ensure that farmers can sell their produce freely even while their loss claims are processed," he stated, noting that the issue had caused difficulties under the earlier SDRF relief system. In an effort to prevent disease outbreaks and further damage, the Minister issued detailed advisories for farmers dealing with waterlogged or lodged crops. He instructed farmers to immediately drain stagnant water from their fields using internal canals and take up preventive fungicidal sprays.

Once the water recedes, they are advised to apply either 400 ml of Hexaconazole or 200 ml of Propiconazole per acre to curb fungal infections and protect crop health. For crops that have lodged due to

heavy winds, Atchannaidu recommended lifting and tying plants upright wherever feasible. In fields nearing the grain-filling or harvest stages, he emphasized the importance of quick drainage to prevent germination losses. If sprouting occurs, he suggested spraying a 5% salt solution—50 grams of common salt per liter of water to prevent discoloration and germination of grains.

To safeguard harvested grain stacks from rain, the Minister advised farmers to cover them properly with tarpaulin sheets. In cases where drying is delayed, mixing 1 kg of salt with 20 kg of dry husk per quintal of paddy can help prevent sprouting and maintain grain quality. Concluding the review, Atchannaidu reaffirmed that protecting farmers and stabilizing the agricultural sector remain the top priorities for the state's coalition government. He reiterated that coordinated field action, quick relief processing, and farmer outreach efforts would be intensified across affected districts to restore normalcy at the earliest.

Pawan Kalyan Directs Officials to Ensure Justice for All Cyclone Montha Victims

TPN KAKINADA OCT 31: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed the Kakinada district administration to ensure that every individual affected by Cyclone Montha receives full justice and timely government relief. Stressing the importance of transparency and compassion in rehabilitation efforts, he instructed officials to conduct accurate assessments of crop and property losses and ensure that compensation reaches every eligible beneficiary without delay. Chairing a video conference with the Kakinada District Collector, Superintendent of Police, and senior officials from the revenue, agriculture, electricity, roads & buildings, and panchayat raj departments, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the post-cyclone situation and ongoing relief operations.

He emphasized accountability at all levels and called for expeditious delivery of aid to families devastated by the cyclone, particularly in Pithapuram constituency one of the



hardest-hit areas. Briefing the Deputy CM, District Collector Sagili Shan Mohan reported that Cyclone Montha had severely impacted 21 mandals and seven municipalities in the district, affecting about 41,932 families. Among them were 27,624 fishermen and 313 weaver families who lost livelihoods and property.

Moreover, over 21,700 hectares of agricultural crops and 668 acres of horticultural plantations such as banana and papaya were damaged, leaving 33,596 farmers in distress. The cyclone also caused widespread damage to electricity lines and road networks. In

Pithapuram alone, around 2,500 farmers reported heavy losses to their paddy and horticulture crops. Pawan Kalyan expressed deep concern for farmers who faced devastation just as they were preparing for harvest.

He said the government stood firmly with every farmer and promised that no affected person would be left behind. "The government must ensure compensation reaches every farmer who has suffered losses. Relief efforts should reassure them that the administration is committed to justice and recovery," he stated. He urged revenue and agricultural

officials to adopt a farmer-centric approach while preparing loss assessment reports and to prioritize immediate financial aid for damaged houses.

The Deputy CM also reviewed the restoration of power supply and road connectivity in cyclone-hit villages. He instructed officials to clear waterlogging in low-lying areas immediately and deploy sanitation and medical teams to prevent outbreaks of vector-borne diseases. Regular updates were sought on cleanliness drives, repair of partially damaged infrastructure, and restoration of essential services in rural

and coastal zones. Highlighting the need for coastal protection measures, Pawan Kalyan announced temporary rock walls at erosion-prone points to shield habitations from further sea damage.

He cited the example of Subbampeta in Uppada, where a rock wall successfully prevented large-scale erosion during the cyclone. A comprehensive coastal defense strategy, he said, would soon be implemented until permanent sea walls are constructed across vulnerable areas. He also reviewed the conditions in Uppada, Moolapeta, Konapapeta, Ameenabad, and Subbampeta villages, instructing officials to strengthen the Eleru canal embankments urgently and assess cotton crop damage in Mallavaram without delay.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy CM reiterated his commitment to ensuring that relief operations in Kakinada are both fast and fair, upholding the government's promise to deliver justice to all cyclone victims.

Jagan’s Comment Backfires Amid Relief Efforts

TPN AMARAVATHI OCT 31: Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s remark describing the recent cyclone as “man-made” has drawn ridicule from political observers and the public alike. Many have termed his comment “ridiculous and unwarranted,” questioning his understanding of natural disasters and the seriousness of the situation affecting thousands of coastal residents. Reacting to Jagan’s remarks, political analysts and ruling KUTAMI leaders stated that cyclones and natural calamities are acts of nature, beyond human control, and that such statements undermine the science and the massive relief efforts being carried out on the ground.



They argued that rather than trivializing the

disaster, politicians must focus on supporting ongoing rescue and reha-

bilitation operations. Critics argue that Jagan, in his time as Chief Min-

ister, often failed to show up in cyclone-hit regions, neglecting the plight of victims during times of need. “He never made an honest attempt to visit the affected areas or console the victims,” said a political observer. In contrast, the present KUTAMI government has been praised for its preparedness and proactive relief measures.

Officials have swiftly executed pre-cyclone and post-cyclone operations, ensuring timely evacuations, food supply, and shelter management. Initial feedback from affected districts suggests that relief activities this time have been more systematic and responsive to people’s needs. Observers note that Jagan’s latest comment appears to be a desperate attempt to re-

gain political relevance amid mounting challenges for his party. The ruling KUTAMI front, which swept to power in the 2024 elections with a decisive mandate, continues to highlight what they describe as the “political cyclone” that uprooted the YSR Congress Party after five years of perceived misrule. powered

They maintain that this wave of change, by public frustration with corruption and poor governance, will be remembered as a landmark political shift in Andhra Pradesh’s history. Critics have also accused Jagan of prioritizing personal matters over public service. “It seems he is more interested in visiting Bangalore to protect his

business interests and wealth than visiting cyclone-affected areas to meet people,” a local citizen remarked. This perception, they say, further alienates him from the masses who once entrusted him with their mandate.

Meanwhile, the KUTAMI government has expanded its welfare framework through initiatives such as the Rythu Bandhu scheme, aimed at providing direct support to farmers and ensuring better financial security in rural areas. Officials have emphasized that their relief operations are backed with transparent documentation and public accountability.

Adding to his woes, Jagan’s party has launched a “Koti Signature Ca

mpaign,” which has come under fire from opponents who call it a meaningless exercise done with fake or self-styled signatures. Ground reports indicate limited public participation, signaling waning trust in the YSR Congress leadership. As the state continues its post-cyclone rehabilitation work, political observers suggest that Jagan’s continued controversial remarks and lack of on-ground engagement only deepen his political isolation.

They warn that unless the YSR Congress reconnects with the people at the grassroots level, it risks further erosion of credibility in the face of a confident and coordinated KUTAMI administration.

Excise Dept Wins Praise for Tech-Driven Reforms

Minister Urges Stronger Action Against Belt Shops



TPN/Vijayawada Oct 31: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has commended the Excise Department for its sustained efforts, technological transparency, and innovative enforcement strategies aimed at eradicating illicit liquor across the state. Chairing a comprehensive review meeting on Friday, the Minister expressed satisfaction over the department’s recent progress and the encouraging public response to digital initiatives like the AP Excise Suraksha App and the Navodayam 2.0 campaign.

Minister Ravindra noted that the department’s reform-driven approach

was producing tangible results across all districts. He said the government’s focus on technology and community participation had strengthened public confidence in the liquor monitoring system. “The government’s initiatives are producing visible results. Citizens are actively participating in maintaining liquor quality and legality through the Suraksha App. The fight against illicit liquor must continue with the same intensity,” he stated. Appreciating the proactive enforcement work, the Minister instructed officials to intensify the crackdown on belt shops and unlicensed outlets operating outside the official supply system. He

emphasized the need to ensure uniform compliance with excise laws across the state to protect public health and sustain an orderly marketplace.

Suraksha App Gains Public Trust

During the session, Principal Secretary (Revenue-Excise) Mukesh Kumar Meena and Prohibition and Excise Director Ch. Sridhar provided a detailed account of the department’s achievements in digital tracking and public engagement.

They reported that the AP Excise Suraksha App, designed to help consumers verify the authenticity of liquor bottles, had gained significant traction among citizens. As of October 30, 2025, the app recorded

1.69 lakh downloads on the Google Play Store, while users collectively scanned over 4.6 lakh bottles for authenticity checks. To enhance awareness, the department has distributed a thousand pamphlets to every retail outlet and ensured two awareness posters at each licensed shop and bar. Retailers have been instructed to scan every bottle before sale, ensuring end-to-end transparency and restoring consumer trust in the regulated liquor system.

25 Districts Declared ID-Free Under Navodayam 2.0 Providing updates on the Navodayam 2.0 campaign, Director of Enforcement Rahul Dev Sharma informed the Minister that 25 districts across Andhra Pradesh have already been declared free of illicitly distilled (ID) liquor. He added that Kakinada district is expected to achieve

similar status within the next two weeks. Sharma also briefed the Minister on the progress of an ongoing investigation into a spurious liquor racket, assuring that stringent actions are being pursued against all individuals involved. Minister Ravindra lauded the teamwork and commitment demonstrated by field officers, enforcement teams, and administrative staff.

He underscored that technology-driven enforcement combined with strong public participation would continue to form the twin pillars of Andhra Pradesh’s excise reforms. Senior officials from the Prohibition and Excise Department attended the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to sustain the reform momentum and ensure the state’s liquor trade remains transparent, lawful, and consumer-oriented.

98% Power Restored in Cyclone-Hit Areas: Minister

TPN/VIJAYAWADA Oct 31: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar announced that nearly complete power restoration has been achieved across areas affected by Cyclone Montha, attributing the rapid recovery to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s foresight and the efficient coordination of the administration. Speaking to reporters at his camp office in Tadepalli on Friday, the Minister stated that more than 98 percent of the power supply had already been restored, marking a significant milestone in the state’s disaster response. According to the Minister, the state government initiated preventive measures well before the cyclone made landfall. “Immediately after

receiving early cyclone alerts, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed all departments, public representatives, and citizens to remain on high alert,” he said. This proactive approach helped minimize damage and ensured swift recovery operations. To respond to emergency situations across the coastal belt, nearly 1,500 electricity department personnel from the three DISCOMs were deployed to affected zones. Special officers were assigned to severely hit regions such as Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, and Bapatla to oversee restoration efforts and ensure uninterrupted services. For the first time, medical camps were also organized at cyclone rehabilitation centers to protect

and assist injured or displaced residents. Ravi Kumar detailed the extent of infrastructure damage, explaining that strong winds reaching speeds of up to 80 kmph had toppled electric poles, snapped conductors, and damaged several transformers. To restore normalcy, around 12,500 new electricity poles were installed, 2,900 kilometers of conductors were replaced, and approximately 3,000 transformers were fixed. “Thanks to the Chief Minister’s meticulous planning and early instructions, we restored normal power supply within just 24 hours an unprecedented achievement in the state’s disaster management history,” he asserted. The Minister added that pre-

cautionary power shutdowns were carried out in high-rainfall zones, including Nellore, Kavali, and Machilipatnam, to prevent electrocution risks and safeguard infrastructure. Power was promptly restored in these regions as soon as weather conditions improved. Despite heavy rainfall and flood-like conditions in parts of Bapatla, Parchur, and Machilipatnam, no casualties were reported. Ravi Kumar noted that extensive relief operations were conducted simultaneously, with camps providing hot meals, clean water, and temporary shelters to those affected. He also assured that compensation to farmers who suffered crop losses would be released soon under the state’s disaster relief fund. In a pointed remark direct-

ed at former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Minister said, “Jagan has no moral right to talk about disaster management. People have not forgotten how he inspected cyclone-hit regions by walking on red carpets without stepping into the mud.” He contrasted this with Chief Minister Naidu’s approach, emphasizing that Naidu “personally led from the front” during major crises, including the Hudhud cyclone. Concluding his briefing, Minister Ravi Kumar praised the tireless efforts of electricity employees who worked relentlessly through difficult conditions. “Thousands of staff members worked round the clock—often without rest or safety concerns to restore power. Their dedication, even under continuous rain and sleepless nights, deserves the highest praise,” he said.

Malladi Vishnu Seeks MS Raju’s Ouster from TTD Board Over Remarks On Gita

TPN-Vijayawada, October 31: Former MLA Malladi Vishnu has launched a serious demand for the immediate removal of TDP MLA MS Raju from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board after Raju’s controversial comments on the Bhagavad Gita sparked outrage among Hindu devotees. Condemning what he termed as “objectionable and hurtful remarks,” Vishnu said

that insulting a scripture revered by millions worldwide is an unpardonable act that cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

Malladi Vishnu questioned the moral and ethical propriety of allowing MLA MS Raju to continue as a member of one of the most sacred and respected religious institutions in the country. “The Bhagavad Gita is a universal spiritual guide, a text that tran-

scends generations and boundaries. How can someone who insulted it be allowed to hold a post in TTD, an institution deeply tied to Hindu faith and devotion?” he asked.

Continuing his strong criticism, Vishnu argued that retaining MLA Raju in the TTD Board would amount to setting a dangerous precedent and would send a wrong signal to the millions of devotees across the

world. “This is not just a political issue; it is an attack on Hindu values, beliefs, and sentiments,” he said. He further noted that the apology offered by MLA Raju itself was a clear admission of guilt. “If he had not disrespected the Bhagavad Gita, why did he apologize? His own words prove that what he said was wrong,” Vishnu asserted. The former MLA also accused the TDP-led government of transform-

ing the sacred TTD institution into a political rehabilitation center. He alleged that under the current administration, persons with questionable records were being appointed to significant posts purely to serve political interests. “Never in TTD’s long and glorious history have we witnessed such a degradation of its sanctity and purpose.

It is highly shameful that those in power are

sheltering individuals who show no regard for the spiritual and cultural heritage of our state,” he stated. Vishnu did not spare the BJP and Jana Sena parties either. He questioned their silence on the issue and said their inaction exposed their duplicity. “Why is Pawan Kalyan, who repeatedly talks about protecting Sanatana Dharma, silent today? Why is the BJP leadership not condemning this anti-

Hindu act?” he asked, pointing out what he described as a lack of sincerity in their religious and cultural posturing.

Addressing another sensitive matter, Vishnu criticized the government’s alleged move to privatize TTD goshalas. He called it a serious betrayal of the sacred principles of cow protection and a complete violation of TTD’s ethical legacy. “Handing over goshalas to private entities for

personal benefit is a grave sin.

The TDP government has proved it is anti-Hindu and anti-tradition,” he remarked. Concluding his statement, Malladi Vishnu urged the state government to act immediately by removing MLA MS Raju from the TTD Board, restoring public faith in the institution’s sanctity, and safeguarding the spiritual sentiments of millions of devotees.

Inflows To Krishna Surge Past Second Danger Level

TPN Amaravati, Oct. 31: A severe flood situation unfolded in the Krishna River on Thursday following heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas combined with the impact of Cyclone Montha. The continuous torrential downpour in the upstream regions has led to a massive rise in water inflow toward the Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada, forcing authorities to issue multiple flood warnings and prepare for potential evacuations of low-lying areas.

According to the Water Resources Department, the flood flow, which began rising steadily on Wednesday night, crossed the second danger level by Thursday evening. At 6 a.m. on Thursday, the inflow at the Prakasam Barrage was recorded at 1,51,700 cusecs, with an equal discharge of water into the sea to maintain balance. However, the volume of water kept increasing rapidly as rainfall continued upstream in Telangana and the upper Krishna basin. By 1:45 p.m., the outflow had surged past 3.97 lakh cusecs, prompt-



ing officials to issue the first flood warning. Later in the evening, at 6:45 p.m., the outflow rose further to 5.67 lakh cusecs, triggering the second danger warning as per established flood protocols.

As of 8 p.m., both inflow and outflow reached 5,82,710 cusecs, indicating a dangerous escalation in flood intensity. Authorities have cautioned that the situation may worsen if the flow crosses six lakh cusecs, which could inundate several villages downstream. The district administration in Krishna and NTR districts has already been placed on high alert. Engineers and disaster management teams are closely

monitoring water levels and maintaining round-the-clock communication with the Central Water Commission. Officials have temporarily stopped the diversion of water into canals to prevent possible breaches and protect agricultural lands. Safety inspections of bunds, sluices, and flood banks are underway, and control rooms have been activated in Vijayawada and nearby mandals to monitor real-time data.

Irrigation department officers stated that the inflow into the Krishna River from the Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs increased rapidly since Wednesday night due to the combined discharge

from upstream dams. As the reservoirs reached near-full capacity amid heavy rains, surplus water had to be released downstream, contributing to the current surge at the Prakasam Barrage. Local administrations have warned residents in vulnerable areas to stay alert and avoid venturing close to riverbanks. Fishermen have been advised not to enter the river or the downstream estuary due to strong currents. Disaster response teams are kept ready to assist in potential evacuations or rescue operations if the situation worsens overnight.

Meteorological officials predict that moderate to heavy rain may continue in some upstream regions, which could further increase the inflows for the next 24 hours. The irrigation authorities have coordinated with district officials to ensure timely updates and preventive action. With floodwaters rising beyond the second danger level, authorities are urging the public to cooperate with safety instructions and remain vigilant until the situation stabilizes.

TPN BAPATLA OCT 31: In a dramatic rescue operation, a shepherd and his 90 sheep were safely brought to shore from the rapidly rising waters of the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh's Bapatla district on Friday. The timely action by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and coordination by the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) prevented a potential tragedy as flood inflows surged unexpectedly due to heavy rain in the upper catchment areas.

The incident took place near Chintalanka village in Kolluru mandal, a low-lying region situated close to the course of the Krishna River. The shepherd, identified as Paul, had taken his flock for routine grazing on Thursday, unaware of the looming danger posed by increasing floodwaters. As the day progressed, river levels began to rise swiftly, cutting off his return route and stranding both the shepherd and his animals on a small patch of higher ground. According to an official press release from the APSDMA, the situation turned critical late in the afternoon when the currents strengthened and water from the river

Shepherd, 90 Sheep Rescued from Swollen Krishna River



began to surround the area where Paul was trapped. Realizing he was in imminent danger, Paul shouted for help. His calls were heard by nearby villagers, who rushed to inform the local authorities and the SDRF unit stationed close to Kolluru as part of the state's cyclone preparedness program. Responding swiftly, the SDRF deployed a team equipped with inflatable boats and safety equipment. Officers navigated the accelerating currents to reach Paul and his sheep after assessing the safest approach route. Despite the challenging conditions, the rescue was executed successfully, and all 90 sheep were also recovered without any loss.

The team's precision and rapid mobilization drew praise from both local residents and disaster management authorities. A senior APSDMA officer stated

that the successful operation highlighted the importance of proactive disaster readiness measures, especially during cyclone season. "The rescue was possible because our teams were pre-deployed in flood-prone mandals like Kolluru for immediate response operations. This preparedness ensured timely intervention and prevented loss of life," the official said.

Villagers in Chintalanka commended the coordination between the residents, local administration, and response teams. Many locals said that such preparedness has become especially vital as the region often faces cyclonic activity and river overflow during the monsoon months. They also expressed relief that Paul, a well-known livestock herder in the village, and his animals returned safely. Authorities have

urged people living along the Krishna River banks to remain cautious and avoid venturing near flood-prone zones, especially when water levels rise suddenly due to upstream discharge.

The APSDMA has been issuing continuous weather and flood updates to all district administrations to ensure safety protocols are maintained. With cyclonic systems forming in the Bay of Bengal and contributing to heavy rainfall across coastal Andhra districts, officials reaffirmed that disaster response units would remain on standby through the coming days. The heroic rescue of Paul and his sheep demonstrates the value of early vigilance, community awareness, and coordinated emergency action that has now become a hallmark of Andhra Pradesh's disaster management efforts.



Minor Girl Sexual Assault Draws Strong Reaction from State Women's Commission

TPN AMARAVATHI OCT 31: The Andhra Pradesh State Women's Commission has taken serious cognizance of a shocking case of sexual assault on a minor girl in Ambedkar Konaseema district, describing the incident as inhuman and demanding immediate justice for the victim. The Commission, led by Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Shailaja, reacted swiftly after the case came to light on Friday from Banapuram village under I. Polavaram mandal.

According to reports, the accused, who was working as a volleyball coach in the school where the minor girl studies, allegedly lured her with chocolates and committed the heinous assault. What makes the act even more disturbing is that the perpetrator was known to the victim and exploited her trust under the pretext of being a relative. Expressing deep outrage, Dr. Rayapati Shailaja termed the incident "a brutal crime against a helpless child" and assured that the Commission would monitor the case closely until the accused is brought to justice.

She immediately directed the district Women and Child Welfare officials to gather complete information and submit a factual report. Taking a suo motu case, the Women's Commission wrote to the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Konaseema district, urging him to arrest the accused without delay and take stringent legal action. "Anyone who commits such a heinous act, no matter what political affiliation they have, must face the strictest punishment under law," stated the Commission Chairperson.

She emphasized that the investigation must be conducted swiftly and thoroughly under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The Commission also directed local authorities to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the victim. Orders have been issued to the district collector's office to provide the girl with medical assistance, psychological counselling, and legal support. Dr. Shailaja also highlighted the importance of sensitizing school staff and coaches about child protection

measures to prevent such incidents in educational institutions.

She remarked that schools must be safe spaces for children, and those entrusted with their care should uphold ethics and integrity of the highest order. In a letter to the Superintendent of Police, the Commission insisted that a detailed report of the incident and action taken must be submitted within 48 hours. The Women's Commission will continue to monitor the progress of the investigation and ensure that there are no lapses in enforcing the law.

This tragic case has once again raised concerns over the safety of girl students in schools and the need for stricter monitoring of teaching and coaching staff. Social activists condemned the assault, calling for tougher punishment under the POCSO Act to send a strong message against crimes targeting minors. The Commission reiterated its commitment to fight for the rights and dignity of women and children across the state, ensuring that offenders face swift and exemplary punishment.



MANGALAGIRI, Oct 31 (TPN/Vijayawada): The birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day, was celebrated with immense enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at the Andhra Pradesh State Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri on Friday. The event, marked by floral tributes, sapling plantation, and inspiring speeches, underscored the enduring significance of Sardar Patel's vision of a united India. Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta led the celebrations by paying solemn tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the Iron Man of India, whose defining leadership ensured the integra-

tion of more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence.

The DGP garlanded Patel's portrait and offered floral homage, symbolizing the nation's gratitude for his monumental efforts in fostering unity and integrity. In his address to the assembled officers, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta highlighted Sardar Patel's pivotal role in laying the foundation of a united and strong India. He described Patel as a visionary statesman and a decisive administrator whose determination and pragmatic leadership transformed the idea of national unity into a permanent reality. "Sardar Patel's legacy continues to guide India's governance and law

enforcement today.

His ideals remind us that unity, discipline, and integrity form the very soul of our national identity," the DGP said. As part of the celebrations, DGP Gupta planted a sapling within the Police Headquarters premises, symbolizing the spirit of unity, peace, and sustainable growth. The act served as a reminder that the seeds of harmony sown by Sardar Patel continue to grow stronger with each generation, nurturing India's collective resolve to remain united and resilient. Additional DGP (Law and Order) N Madhusudhan Reddy, senior police officers, and staff of various departments attended the event, reaffirming their commitment to uphold the prin-

ciples embodied by Sardar Patel.

Officers took the Rashtriya Ekta pledge, vowing to preserve and strengthen the internal security and unity of the country through their daily duties. The Police Headquarters was adorned with banners and portraits depicting Sardar Patel's contributions to India's nation-building journey. Documentary clips and short messages highlighting his statesmanship were displayed during the program, inspiring the younger officers to emulate his dedication to service and patriotism.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Additional DGP Madhusudhan Reddy noted that the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas assumes

even greater importance in the current context, reminding every citizen of their responsibility in maintaining social harmony and national cohesion. He commended the police personnel for their tireless efforts in safeguarding unity amidst diversity, calling it one of the most valuable duties entrusted to law enforcement agencies.

Concluding the celebrations, the DGP urged all police units across the state to organize community engagement programs to promote the message of unity and patriotism among the public. The ceremony ended with a rendition of the National Anthem, resonating with pride and respect for the towering legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

AP Unites in Tribute to Iron Man of India



TPN BUREAU Ramachandrapuram, October 31: The nation today celebrated the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, widely known as the “Iron Man of India,” with patriotic fervor. In Ramachandrapuram, a special program was conducted under the leadership of the local Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) to mark the occasion, which also coincides with Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). The event aimed to honor Patel’s monumental role in unifying the country and to inspire citizens to uphold the values of unity, integrity, and discipline that he championed.

The rally, organized under the supervision of the DSP, drew enthusiastic participation from students, police personnel, and members of the public. Ra-

machandrapuram Sub-Inspector and G. Gangavaram Sub-Inspector S. Jani Basha, along with Circle Inspector (CI) and other officials, joined the rally, which moved through the main streets of the town. Participants carried placards, banners, and national flags, emphasizing the message of unity and national integration. Speaking on the occasion, the DSP highlighted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s indomitable spirit and unparalleled contribution to the Indian freedom struggle and post-independence nation-building. He reminded everyone that Patel was a warrior who bravely confronted British colonial rule and later became independent India’s first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.

Patel’s statesmanship



and vision were instrumental in integrating over 565 princely states into the newly independent Indian Union, thereby ensuring the territorial and political unity of the nation. The police officials present at the event described Patel as a symbol of courage, discipline, and commitment to national service. They said his

decisions during the transitional years after independence saved the nation from possible fragmentation and internal conflict. Because of his foresight and determination, India could emerge as a single, united republic instead of a federation divided by regional rulers and interests.

Several speakers paid rich tributes to his tireless efforts and leadership qualities. They remarked that Patel’s sense of duty, conviction, and vision continue to guide the nation even today. His leadership in the integration of Hyderabad, Junagadh, and Kashmir stands as an example of strong decision-making rooted in India’s integrity and sovereignty. The rally concluded with participants taking the Rashtriya Ekta pledge to work for the unity, secu-

rity, and prosperity of the country. Students presented brief speeches and sketches portraying Patel’s pivotal moments in history from his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha to his decisive negotiation skills with princely states.

As the event came to an end, the DSP reiterated that the observance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti was not merely a remembrance but a reaffirmation of the ideals he stood for. “Sardar Patel taught us that true strength lies in unity, and discipline is the key to progress. Let us imbibe his values to build a stronger nation,” the officer said. The commemoration in Ramachandrapuram stood as a tribute to the legacy of a leader whose vision laid the foundation for a united India and whose spirit continues to inspire generations.

Police Department Celebrates National Unity Day with Grandeur



TPN ANANTAPUR OCT 31: The District Police Headquarters celebrated National Unity Day on Friday with enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose role in uniting the nation remains an inspiration for all. District Superintendent of Police (SP) emphasized that Patel’s ideals should continue to guide the youth of India and called upon everyone

to work with renewed commitment toward national integration. The celebrations began with the SP garlanding the portrait of Sardar Patel as a mark of respect. Later, he flagged off the “Run for Unity” event from the police headquarters. The run passed through Guild of Service Road, Subhash Road, Tower Clock, and Court Road before concluding at the Police Parade Grounds. Police personnel, students, and staff partic-

ipated actively, showcasing their unity and enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the SP noted that Sardar Patel laid the foundation for a united India by integrating more than 550 princely states after independence, a historic achievement that made him a symbol of strength and determination. He urged everyone to follow Patel’s footsteps in fostering harmony and solidarity across the nation.

As part of the event, the SP distributed appreciation certificates and prizes to the winners of essay writing and elocution competitions conducted during the Police Martyrs’ Week over the past ten days. Senior police officials, including additional SPs, DSPs, CIs, and other officers, along with students, attended the program.

Run for Unity, Tribute to Iron Man in Palnadu

TPN Palnadu district Oct 31: The palnadu administration and police department jointly celebrated the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, at Narasaraopet on Thursday. District Collector Kritika Shukla and Superintendent of Police B. Krishna Rao paid floral tributes to Patel’s portrait at the Collectorate, marking the occasion of National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas). Speaking on the occasion, officials recalled Sardar Patel’s historic role in uniting India after independence. They emphasized that the strong, united nation seen today was



built upon Patel’s firm leadership and untiring efforts in merging scores of princely states into the Indian Union. As the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India, Patel laid the foundation for national integration and administrative unity, they noted. Collector Kritika Shukla praised Patel’s vision, leadership, and dedication, describing him as one of the finest architects of modern India. She urged everyone to uphold the principles of

truth, equality, and justice the true essence of unity. As part of the celebrations, the district police organized a “Run for Unity” from the District Police Headquarters. The run was flagged off by AR DSP Mahatma Gandhi Reddy, following the directives of SP Krishna Rao. Students, police personnel, and officials participated enthusiastically, reflecting the spirit of harmony and nation-building inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s legacy.

Yanamala Divya Leads Dynamic Outreach in Tuni

TPN TUNI OCT 31: Government Whip and Tuni MLA Yanamala Divya conducted an energetic tour across various parts of the Tuni constituency on Friday, participating in several development and welfare programs. Her visit included interactions with local citizens, inspections of welfare initiatives, and a focus on addressing public grievances through immediate administrative coordination. At the Gandhi Satra in Tuni town, Divya attended a public grievance program (Praja Darbar) along with coalition leaders.



and mandal-level officials, Divya announced that solutions were suggested for most of the problems on the spot. Addressing the media, the MLA stated that her team had received a total of 283 petitions from residents during the Praja Darbar and that nearly 180 of those had been provided with immediate directions for resolution. She emphasized that the coalition government was steadily progressing in delivering welfare and development programs while giving priority to the grievances of the people. Divya reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring that the admin-

istration remains accessible and responsive to citizens’ needs. Later in the evening, Divya toured the flood-affected areas of Jilledupad village in the Tuni mandal. She distributed essential commodities and daily-use materials to the affected families, assuring them that the government would extend all possible support for their rehabilitation. The MLA interacted personally with several victims, listened to their difficulties, and promised to expedite relief measures through official channels. Prominent leaders accompanying her included Telugu Desam

Party leaders Yanamala Rajesh, Chintamani-di Abbai, Inuganti Satyanarayana, Municipal Chairperson Narla Bhuvana Ratna, Kusumanchi Shobharani, Kundala Ramakrishna, Vice Chairperson Kucharlapati Roopadevi, Karri Sridevi, Chintakayala Bharathi, Municipal Commissioner A. Venkat Rao, Tahsildar Prasada Rao, and DEE Challakunda Naga Satish.

Local leaders Geddamuri Shiva, Kukkadapu Balaji, Jallu Vasu, Dandem Nagu, and Kurapati Raghu also took part in the events. Through her active engagement and constant on-ground presence, Yanamala Divya reiterated her dedication to public service and her resolve to move forward with the coalition government’s inclusive development agenda across Tuni constituency.

Kavali Pushcart Drive Empowers Poor Families

MLA Kavya Krishnareddy Praises Initiative



TPN BUREAU, KAVALI, OCT 31: In a bid to promote self-reliance among economically weaker sections, the Kavali Excise and Prohibition Department distributed pushcarts to poor families under a social welfare initiative. The event, held on Friday at the Telugu Desam Party office in Kavali town, Nellore district, was attended by local MLA Kavya Krishnareddy, who lauded the department’s humanitarian efforts and highlighted the state government’s vision for an inclusive, poverty-free Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Kavya Krishnareddy stated that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu’s primary goal is to build a state where no one remains poor or unemployed. She praised the officers of the Excise and Prohibition Department, led by Circle Inspector Sunkara Sriniva-

sulu, for spearheading the initiative to provide livelihood support to eight underprivileged families. As part of the program, MLA Krishnareddy personally distributed pushcarts (handcarts) to the beneficiaries, encouraging them to use the opportunity to become economically self-sufficient through small-scale vending and trade. The MLA further announced her commitment to supporting the adopted families by providing guidance and necessary assistance to ensure a sustainable livelihoods. She urged donors and philanthropists in the Kavali constituency to come forward and adopt poor families to help them achieve financial stability. “If donors, government departments, private institutions, and the public join hands to uplift the underprivileged, no one in Andhra Pradesh will remain poor,” she emphasized. Kavya Krishnare-

ddy also appreciated the P4 Model Program an initiative that promotes partnership among the Public, Private, and People sectors to create financially empowered families. She described it as a progressive approach that combines government outreach with private and community participation, enabling families to access education, health care, economic sustenance, and livelihood support. The MLA lauded the adoption-based framework of the program, saying it helps foster a sense of shared responsibility towards building a prosperous society. Praising the Excise Department for its compassionate initiative, she congratulated CI Sunkara Srinivasulu, SIs Prasanna Kumar and Bhasha Wali, and their team members for extending help to eight families. Their proactive approach, she noted, reflected the department’s commitment to commu-

nity welfare beyond its routine enforcement duties. The event witnessed active participation from several local leaders and party functionaries, including Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) Chairman Pothuganti Alekhya, Bogolu Mandal TDP President Malepati Nageswara Rao, youth leaders Ravi Vijay, Bitragunta Venkatarao, and Vallery Kiran Kumar, as well as P4 member Sathyanand and his team. They collectively endorsed the MLA’s appeal to strengthen community-driven programs that encourage financial self-sufficiency and dignified livelihoods. By blending administrative accountability with community participation, the Kavali initiative has set a strong example of how local governance and social compassion can come together to empower families toward a stable and respectful future. With such grassroots welfare programs gaining momentum, the vision of a poverty-free Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu appears to be on a promising path.

Aravind Babu Seeks Housing for 150 Homeless Yanadi Families

Narasaraopet, Palnadu District Oct 31: In a gesture highlighting his commitment to community welfare, Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu on Friday held a public grievances forum at the TDP office, similar to the official pro-

grams held weekly at the District Collectorate and SP office. The event drew a strong response from local residents, who came forward with several issues. Among the appeals received, a major representation came from around 150 Yanadi tribal families

residing near Kotappakonda. The families, who have been living on government land for about three decades in temporary huts, explained to the MLA that recent cyclonic winds had destroyed their shelters, leaving them homeless and strug-

gling for basic amenities. Moved by their plight, Dr. Aravind Babu personally led the affected families to the District Collector’s office to seek immediate relief and permanent housing sites. MLA Aravind Babu requested District Collector Kritika Shuk-



la to intervene urgently and ensure justice for these displaced families. Responding to his appeal, the Collector as-

sured that the government would be consulting to provide appropriate assistance and housing solutions for the af-

ected Yanadi families. During the public meeting, the MLA also reviewed several other petitions from people across

the constituency and directed officials of concerned departments to take prompt measures for their resolution.

Addiction: A Systemic Crisis, Not a Moral Failing

Addiction is often misunderstood as a moral weakness or individual failing, but experts argue it is a systemic crisis rooted in complex social, cultural, economic, and political realities. Writing on the issue, social analyst Ranjit Singh Ghuman emphasizes that unless societies address the underlying structures that enable the drug trade and substance abuse, an entire generation risks being lost to addiction.

Historically, people have used intoxicants in various forms for centuries. Many substances, ranging from alcohol to opioids, have even carried social or religious sanction in different cultures. Yet, when such substances are misused, they can severely disrupt physical and mental health, social stability, and community well-being. Addiction, therefore, cannot be reduced to personal weakness—it is intertwined with broader societal conditions.

Experts highlight that the drug business thrives



on systemic vulnerabilities. Poverty, lack of education, unemployment, and social marginalization create environments

in which addiction can flourish. Simultaneously, inadequate health infrastructure, ineffective rehabilitation programs,

and punitive policies often exacerbate the problem rather than providing sustainable solutions. Ghuman stresses that a

holistic understanding of addiction requires recognizing these structural factors rather than stigmatizing

individuals.

Furthermore, the cultural normalization of intoxicants in certain contexts complicates pre-

vention efforts. While some communities may accept occasional use, the commercialization and illegal trafficking of

drugs introduce widespread harm, particularly to youth and vulnerable populations. Addressing addiction, therefore, demands coordinated policy responses, including awareness campaigns, accessible mental health services, and strong regulation of the illicit drug trade.

Ghuman warns that without such interventions, India and other nations risk losing a generation to the long-term consequences of addiction. This crisis is not just medical but social and economic, affecting families, education, and workforce productivity.

In conclusion, addiction is far more than a personal moral issue—it is a systemic failure that requires systemic solutions. Holistic strategies that tackle the root causes of substance abuse, strengthen rehabilitation infrastructure, and create supportive social environments are essential to mitigate this growing crisis and safeguard future generations.

Starbucks Shifts Focus from Activism to Coffee Amid Backlash



Starbucks is navigating a challenging transformation as it moves away from overt corporate activism toward a more product-focused approach, a shift that may prove difficult given its long history of social and political engagement. The company, once synonymous with corporate advocacy under former CEO Howard Schultz, is now facing criticism from both sides of the political spectrum.

Schultz, who helped define Starbucks' modern identity, championed causes ranging from gun control and same-sex marriage to refugee hiring initiatives and national conversations on race. His approach made Starbucks a pioneer in corporate activism, often placing social messaging above

product promotion. Full-page ads, public statements, and pledges on social issues became routine, even drawing speculation that Schultz might run for president.

However, in today's hyper-polarized climate, companies are increasingly prioritizing core products over socio-political stances. Experts, including Alison Novak, professor of public relations at Rowan University, note that while brands believed younger consumers would reward social activism, research shows Gen Z often prioritizes authenticity over ideology. Misteps or inconsistent messaging, such as Target's controversial DEI initiatives, have highlighted the risks of overextending socially-driven campaigns.

Starbucks now faces a delicate balancing act. The company has come under scrutiny from the left over its resistance to unionization efforts, which conflicts with its progressive image and has sparked employee frustration. Unionized workers recently began voting on potential strike action amid stalled negotiations. Simultaneously, the right has targeted Starbucks over perceived political messaging, such as an incident where a barista initially refused to write conservative commentator Charlie Kirk's name on a cup, citing corporate policy.

CEO Laxman Niccol is leading a turnaround strategy aimed at re-centering Starbucks on its products rather than activism. "We won't let others de-

fine who we are," Niccol wrote in an open letter to employees last September. His plan emphasizes straightforward storytelling and product focus, moving away from full-page ads or hashtag-driven social campaigns.

While the shift may help Starbucks avoid ideological conflicts, it is not without challenges. The company has spent years cultivating a socially conscious brand identity, and repositioning itself solely around coffee risks alienating both employees and customers accustomed to its advocacy-driven image. For Niccol, the challenge lies in redefining Starbucks without igniting controversy, balancing business priorities with its legacy of social engagement.

Truly Swadeshi: Redefining 'Make in India' in Aerospace



India is taking bold steps to redefine Swadeshi in aerospace, moving beyond mere assembly of foreign technologies to homegrown innovation. The recent milestone came when state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) to produce the SJ-100 civilian commuter aircraft in India. While headlines focused on UAC's sanctioned status amid global tensions, the bigger story lies in India's strategic use of domestic talent, infrastructure, and engineering capabilities.

Self-reliance, or *aatma nirbharta*, in India's context means harnessing domestic resources, innovations, and human intellect across sectors from aerospace and defense to IT. For decades, India relied on foreign technologies, such as cryogenic engines for space programs, before persistent homegrown efforts delivered breakthrough solu-

tions. HAL's collaboration with UAC provides practical training for Indian engineers and leverages existing infrastructure to produce a regional aircraft capable of carrying over 100 passengers with a range exceeding 3,000 km. This aligns with projected domestic demand for 200 aircraft by 2030 and regional needs for 350 more across South and Southeast Asia.

Experts argue that the true spirit of Swadeshi is realized when India develops indigenous engines and technologies, not just when it assembles foreign components. The example of the Tejas fighter jet highlights this: despite over 60% indigenization, the aircraft's full potential depends on homegrown engines like the advanced Cauveri, replacing foreign-made alternatives. Similarly, partnerships with global players such as France's Safran, Brazil's Embraer, China's COMAC, and others can co-exist with a focus on indi-

genization, allowing India to accelerate technological self-sufficiency.

The SJ-100 project also demonstrates India's ability to navigate geopolitical challenges while advancing domestic capabilities. Past lessons from ISRO's cryogenic engine program show that persistence and strategic vision can turn technological dependence into self-reliance. Today, the country's engineers are on the cusp of powering both fighter and passenger aircraft with indigenous engines, marking a historic moment for the nation.

True Swadeshi is thus not a narrow policy but a broader vision: leveraging homegrown talent, fostering innovation, and strategically partnering globally while maintaining control over critical technologies. With projects like SJ-100 and Tejas, India is redefining "Make in India" for the modern era, celebrating engineering excellence and technological sovereignty.

India Poised to Be Naxal-Free by 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have reaffirmed their commitment to making India Naxal-free by March 31, 2026, framing the campaign as a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the heels of his 150th birth anniversary. Patel, widely known as the "Iron Man of India," had united 562 princely states and safeguarded the young nation against internal threats—a vision that the government says guides its current efforts against Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

Naxalism, originating in 1967 in Naxalbari, West Bengal, has evolved into a decades-long Maoist insurgency affecting central and eastern India. Over the years, the

violence has claimed tens of thousands of lives, destroyed infrastructure, and disrupted development. High-profile attacks such as the 2010 Dantewada ambush, the 2013 Darbha Valley attack, and the 2017 Sukma assault highlighted the insurgency's severity, with Maoists controlling large swathes of "liberated zones." Since assuming office in 2014, PM Modi has treated Naxalism as a national security threat, combining advanced intelligence, helicopters, fortified camps, and development initiatives in affected regions. When Amit Shah became Home Minister in 2019, the campaign gained renewed focus. The government's approach is fourfold: relentless security operations, ac-

celerated development, empowerment of locals, and a robust surrender-and-rehabilitation policy.

Under this strategy, security operations have neutralized more than 1,000 Naxal leaders since 2019, while the government has set up over 250 forward camps equipped with drones, night-vision technology, and specialized commandos. Development efforts include roads, mobile connectivity, schools, and even 5G networks in previously isolated districts, helping curb recruitment into insurgent ranks. Rehabilitation incentives have led to the surrender of hundreds of cadres, including high-profile commanders, highlighting a shift from ideology to opportunity.

Recent operations—such as Operation Kagar in Narayanpur-Kanker and Operation Black Forest in Bastar—have further fragmented Maoist networks. Violence is at a 30-year low, with affected districts reduced from 126 in 2014 to just 12, and Maoist influence now confined to 1% of territory.

As India approaches the March 2026 target, the government frames the campaign as both a strategic and symbolic victory, linking national unity, internal security, and development. Officials say the effort honors Sardar Patel's legacy, aiming to ensure citizens live free from ideological violence and laying the foundation for a stronger, unified India.



PM Modi Pays Tribute to Sardar Patel on 150th Birth Anniversary



TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, marking the 150th birth anniversary of India's "Iron Man." The occasion is celebrated na-

tionwide as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) every October 31 since 2014. Modi arrived at the 182-metre-tall statue near Ekta Nagar in Narmada district in the morning. He offered flower petals at the memorial to hon-

our Patel's legacy in unifying India. After the tribute, the Prime Minister proceeded to a nearby venue to administer the Ekta Diwas pledge to participants and witness the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas parade.

This year's celebra-

tions have been marked by a grand cultural festival alongside the parade, which showcases contingents from various state police forces and paramilitary units including the BSF and CRPF. The parade has been modelled on the Republic Day for-

mat, featuring elaborate formations, ceremonial drills, and a display of discipline and coordination among the forces. The event aims to emphasize national unity and integrity, reflecting Sardar Patel's vision of a united India. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas also serves as a reminder of the contributions of leaders like Patel in integrating over 500 princely states into independent India post-1947. In addition to the official ceremonies, various educational and cultural programs are being conducted across the country to engage citizens and students in activities highlighting patriotism, civic responsibility, and national cohesion. Modi's visit to the Statue of Unity on this special occasion underscores the government's commitment to preserving and promoting the legacy of Sardar Patel, encouraging citizens to embrace the values of unity, harmony, and integrity in contemporary India.

India Gets 6-Month US Sanctions Exemption for Chabahar Port



TPN Correspondent | Patna

India on Thursday confirmed that its investments and operations at Iran's Chabahar Port will be exempt from U.S. sanctions for six months, allowing work on the key strategic infrastructure project to continue uninterrupted. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) said the exemption ensures that American restrictions announced in September will not apply to the port. The announcement comes amid intense India-U.S. negotiations to finalize a major bilateral trade deal. "We continue to remain engaged with the

U.S. side on finalising the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discussions," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, noting that the Commerce Ministry is leading talks on trade issues. India signed a 10-year agreement with Iran in 2024, under which state-

run India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) pledged \$370 million in investments to develop and operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar. The port, located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province, is a crucial link for India to Afghanistan and Central Asia, providing a trade

route that bypasses Pakistan. This is not the first time Chabahar has received a U.S. waiver. In 2018, the Trump administration issued a similar exemption recognizing the port's importance for regional connectivity and Afghanistan's access to global markets. The MEA also said India is evaluating the implications of new U.S. sanctions on Russian oil companies. "Our position on energy sourcing is well-known," Jaiswal added. "We are guided by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources for our 1.4 billion people." External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has previously defended India's energy decisions, noting that its Russian oil imports remain modest compared to Europe's. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal meanwhile said trade talks with Washington are progressing, expressing optimism for a "fair and equitable" deal while emphasizing that India "will not sign any agreement in haste."

Congress Slams NDA Over Nitish Kumar's Exclusion from Manifesto Launch

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party on Friday strongly criticised the NDA for allegedly not allowing Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to speak at the release of the coalition's manifesto for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. The opposition described the move as "an insult to Bihar and Biharis." Speaking to reporters in Patna, senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot condemned the NDA's event, claiming the manifesto launch lasted only 26 seconds. Gehlot said the brevity of the programme reflected the ruling coalition's fear of facing questions from the media about their 20-year governance record in Bihar. He described the manifesto itself as a "string of lies" and questioned the transparency and credibility of the NDA leadership. Gehlot accused the NDA of attempting to sideline important voices from within their own ranks, including Nitish Kumar, to avoid scrutiny over unful-



filled promises and governance failures. He argued that the decision to limit participation at such a crucial public event undermined democratic values and the coalition's accountability to the people of Bihar. The Congress leader also pointed out that the 26-second launch was

highly unusual for a manifesto unveiling, which typically involves detailed presentations and interactions with the press. According to him, the NDA's truncated approach suggested an attempt to avoid public and media engagement, raising concerns about the seriousness of their electoral promises.

Gehlot reiterated that the Congress would continue to highlight issues of governance, transparency, and development deficits in Bihar and challenge the NDA on matters of public interest. He called for greater openness and inclusivity in political communication, urging parties to respect both

leadership voices and citizens' right to clear information ahead of the elections. The controversy has sparked debates over party politics and leadership dynamics in Bihar, with analysts noting that such incidents could influence voter perceptions ahead of the state polls.

Mumbai Filmmaker Takes 17 Children Hostage Over Rs 2.4 Crore Dispute



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

In a shocking incident in Mumbai's Powai area, filmmaker Rohit Arya held 19 people, including 17 children, hostage at a film studio on Thursday. The standoff ended when police conducted a rescue operation, resulting in Arya being shot dead. Arya had earlier released a video claiming he was owed Rs 2 crore for an urban sanitation and cleanliness drive led by his company, Appara Media Entertainment Network, under the Project Let's Change initiative. He stated that his demands were "simple, moral, and ethical," though he did not provide details. The Maharashtra Education Department clarified that while Arya and his company

were selected in 2022 and 2023 to run the project, which involved 59 lakh students as 'swachhata monitors', only Rs 9.9 lakh had been disbursed. The second phase for 2023-24 allocated Rs 20.63 crore, including Rs 2 crore for the monitors, but Arya's project documentation was incomplete and contained inflated costs for advertising, manpower, and technical support, leading to delays in implementation. Arya later demanded Rs 2.42 crore and sought to expand the initiative to all state schools. However, the government flagged discrepancies, noting Arya collected a registration fee from schools, which was not authorized under government rules. In August 2024, he was

directed to return the money and submit an affidavit promising not to collect funds, but he failed to comply. The cleanliness initiative was eventually disbanded following political changes in the state government. Arya's wife, Anjali Arya, told reporters that her husband had been fighting both for the promised money and recognition for his work. Authorities have stressed that Arya's actions were illegal and highlighted procedural lapses in his handling of government funds. The incident has raised concerns over safety at film studios and the handling of private contractors in government schemes, prompting calls for stricter oversight and compliance.

India, U.S. Sign 10-Year Defence Framework Pact



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a landmark move, India and the United States on Friday signed a 10-year defence framework agreement, underscoring the growing strategic partnership between the two nations. The agreement was formalized during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur between Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Defence Secretary Peter Hegseth. Defence Minister Singh described the pact as a signal of deepening defence cooperation, providing policy direction across the entire spectrum of the India-U.S. defence relationship. He emphasized that the agreement will strengthen collaboration on military planning, joint exercises, technology sharing, and defence production. The framework is ex-

pected to facilitate long-term strategic planning, enabling both countries to coordinate on regional security challenges, maritime security, counterterrorism, and emerging threats such as cyber and space security. By establishing a formal roadmap, the pact aims to enhance interoperability between the two militaries and foster sustained engagement at multiple levels. Secretary Hegseth highlighted the importance of the agreement in reinforcing regional stability and security cooperation, noting that it reflects the shared commitment of India and the U.S. to address evolving geopolitical challenges in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. The pact also provides a platform to strengthen ties in defence research, joint development of advanced technologies, and shar-

ing best practices in defence management. Officials noted that the agreement will serve as a long-term blueprint for strategic defence collaboration, guiding annual bilateral exercises, training programs, and high-level consultations. The move comes at a time when both countries are looking to enhance their defence and security ties amid rising regional tensions. The 10-year framework is expected to cement India-U.S. military cooperation, offering predictability and continuity in defence planning and operations. Analysts say it marks a significant step in the broader strategic partnership between the two democracies, ensuring that defence collaboration remains a cornerstone of bilateral relations for the next decade.

Japan PM Takaichi, China's Xi to Hold First Talks in South Korea



TPN Correspondent | Busan

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are set to hold their first-ever bilateral meeting on Friday afternoon in South Korea, the Japanese government announced. The encounter takes place on the sidelines of the two-day Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Gyeongju and marks Takaichi's first meeting with Xi since assuming office last week. The talks are expected to focus on reaffirming both nations' commitment to fostering a "strategic and mutually beneficial relationship" while pursuing "constructive and stable" ties, amid ongoing tensions over historical and territorial disputes. Relations between Tokyo and Beijing remain strained, particularly due to repeated incursions by Chinese coast guard vessels into Japanese waters near the Senkaku Islands, which China claims as Diaoyu. China has adopted a cautious stance toward Takaichi, widely regarded as a China hawk, and has yet to extend a congratulatory message to her following her appointment, unlike with her three predecessors. During a

recent phone call with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, China's top diplomat Wang Yi emphasized that issues concerning history and Taiwan form the "foundation of bilateral relations and basic trust." Takaichi, known for her conservative policies and alignment with former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is expected to press China on its growing maritime activity near the Senkaku Islands and highlight the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. She may also seek the early release of Japanese nationals detained in China on espionage charges, according to sources. The meeting is being closely watched by regional and global observers, as it could signal a potential thaw or at least a stabilizing dialogue in Sino-Japanese relations, which have been tense due to historical grievances, territorial disputes, and growing military assertiveness in the East China Sea. This first encounter between Takaichi and Xi will be a significant test of diplomacy amid complex geopolitical dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pakistani Forces Accused of Torturing Mother and Daughter in Balochistan



TPN Correspondent | Balochistan

Pakistani troops have been accused of detaining and torturing a mother and her daughter in the Panjur district of Balochistan, leaving both critically injured, according to local sources and human rights groups. The incident reportedly took place in the Panchi area, where security forces raided a residence and took the women into custody, later abandoning them at Panjur Hospital in a semi-conscious state. Residents claim that the daughter was sexually assaulted by the personnel during the detention. The Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB) condemned the attack as a "horrifying reflection of the impunity and moral decay embedded in Pakistan's security operations in Balochistan." In a statement, the council demanded an independent inquiry, punishment for the perpetrators, and justice for the victims. Pakistani authorities have not issued any official statement, fueling public outrage and deepening concerns over the continued pat-

tern of human rights abuses in the region. Human rights defenders describe the act as part of a systematic campaign of violence against Baloch women. This case follows a series of similar incidents in recent months. In September, a woman named Safia Bibi was allegedly abducted during a military raid in Khuzdar's Zehri area before being released days later. Earlier this year, 23-year-old student Mahjabeen Baloch disappeared from her hostel in Quetta, five days after her brother was taken into custody. Activists warn that the cycle of violence and impunity in Balochistan continues to escalate mistrust between the state and the Baloch population. Without transparent investigations and accountability, human rights groups fear further deterioration of civil rights in the province. The incident has drawn renewed attention to Pakistan's handling of Balochistan, highlighting the urgent need for oversight, protection of civilians, and adherence to international human rights standards to prevent further abuses.

Trump Urges Senate To Scrap 60-Vote Rule As Shutdown Drags On

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has urged Senate Republicans to scrap the 60-vote filibuster rule, a move he says would allow them to end the month-long federal government shutdown that has crippled key public services and left thousands of workers without pay. Posting on his Truth Social platform late Thursday, the 79-year-old Republican called for what he termed the "Nuclear Option," which would eliminate the long-standing Senate rule that requires 60 votes to advance most legislation. The rule effectively allows 41 of the 100 senators to block bills, forcing bipartisan cooperation. "It is now time for Republicans to play their 'TRUMP CARD' and go for the Nuclear Option — get rid of the filibuster, and get rid of it NOW!" Trump wrote. "If we did what we should be doing, it would immediately end this ridiculous, country-destroying shutdown." The shutdown, which began on October 1, has brought many US government operations to a stand-



still. Federal workers remain unpaid, and critical services — from air traffic control to national park management — have been severely disrupted. The release of GDP data has been

delayed, while 42 million low-income Americans face potential suspension of food stamp benefits starting Saturday. According to the Congressional Budget Office,

the ongoing impasse could cost the US economy up to \$14 billion if not resolved soon. While Trump's proposal reflects frustration among Republicans, it remains

unclear how such a rule change would be implemented or whether it would garner enough support in the Senate. The filibuster, a key procedural safeguard in US govern-

ance, has long been defended by both parties as a crucial check on majority power — though Trump has repeatedly called for its removal since his first term.

Prince Andrew Stripped of Royal Titles, Ordered to Vacate Windsor Mansion

TPN Correspondent | Florida

In a historic and unprecedented move, Britain's King Charles III has stripped Prince Andrew of all royal titles and ordered him to vacate his Windsor residence, following renewed scrutiny over his links to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday that Andrew, 65, will no longer be known as the Duke of York, and will instead go by Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. A formal notice has been served for him to surrender the lease of his Royal Lodge mansion on the Windsor Estate, where he has lived for decades. He will relocate to private accommodation on the Sandringham estate in eastern England. "Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies remain with the



victims and survivors of all forms of abuse," the palace said in a statement,

emphasizing that the decision was necessary despite Andrew's continued deni-

als of wrongdoing. The action marks one of the most severe discipli-

nary measures ever taken against a senior royal. King Charles, who is still

undergoing treatment for cancer, reportedly had the backing of Prince William and other family members in the decision. Andrew's fall from grace began in 2011 when he stepped down as the UK's trade envoy amid controversy over his friendship with Epstein. In 2019, he gave up public duties, and in 2022, he lost his military affiliations after facing sexual abuse allegations from Virginia Giuffre, which he settled out of court while maintaining his innocence. Recent publication of emails between Andrew and Epstein from 2011 reignited public outrage, prompting the king's decisive action. Royal observers say the move underscores Charles's commitment to protecting the monarchy's integrity and distancing the institution from scandal.

Vietnam Floods Claim 13 Lives, 11 Missing as Rain Batters Central Region

TPN Correspondent | Buenos Aires

The death toll from severe flooding in central Vietnam has risen to 13, with 11 others still missing, as record-breaking rainfall continues to wreak havoc across the region, authorities confirmed on Friday. Days of relentless downpours have caused widespread flooding and landslides, submerging thousands of homes and cutting off several rural communities. The UNESCO-listed heritage sites of Hue and Hoi An have been among the worst affected, with streets and historic buildings inundated under several feet of muddy water. According to Vietnam's National Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention, the torrential rains — the heaviest in decades — began earlier this week, overwhelming rivers and drainage systems. Rescue operations are ongoing, with military and emergency teams deployed to evacuate residents and deliver food, water, and medical supplies



to stranded areas. In Hue, floodwaters have entered low-lying neighborhoods and disrupted electricity and transport. Meanwhile, in Hoi An, a popular tourist destination, local authorities have ordered tempo-

rary closures of hotels and heritage sites to ensure safety. Images from the area show boats navigating through the town's flooded streets, reminiscent of the devastating floods of 2020. Meteorological officials

warned that more rain is expected over the weekend as a tropical depression moves toward Vietnam's coast, raising fears of further flooding and landslides in Quang Nam, Thua Thien-Hue, and Da Nang provinces.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has urged authorities to prioritize rescue efforts and ensure no resident is left behind. "Saving lives and providing relief are our top priorities," he said in an emergency meeting.

With the human toll rising and property losses mounting, central Vietnam faces its worst flooding crisis in recent years, prompting calls for stronger climate resilience and infrastructure planning.

GAIL India Q2 Profit Falls 17% Amid Rising Costs

State-owned gas distributor GAIL (India) Ltd. reported a 17% decline in standalone net profit for the second quarter of 2025, as rising expenses weighed on earnings. The company's net profit fell to ₹2,217.24 crore compared with the same period last year.

GAIL's cumulative expenses for Q2 increased 9.3% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹33,000.62 crore, driven primarily by higher material costs, which rose 8.6% YoY. Analysts point out that the inflationary pressure on raw materials and procurement costs has been a key factor in squeezing margins for the company.

Despite the rise in expenses, GAIL's total revenue grew by approximately 6.5% YoY to ₹35,823.81 crore during the quarter. The increase in revenue was supported by higher gas sales and steady demand for the company's petrochemical and pipeline services across domestic and industrial markets.

GAIL, which plays a crucial role in India's energy distribution network, has been navigating challenges including global commodity price volatility and domestic supply chain constraints. While revenue growth



indicates robust demand for gas, the surge in operating costs highlights the need for tighter expense management to protect profitability.

Company officials remain optimistic about long-term

prospects, citing strategic expansions in pipeline infrastructure and natural gas marketing as potential drivers for sustained growth. They have also emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance operational ef-

iciency and cost controls to counter rising input expenses.

As India's energy demand continues to grow, GAIL faces the dual challenge of capitalizing on market opportunities

while managing costs amid inflationary pressures. The Q2 results underscore the delicate balance between growth and expense management for the state-run distributor in a dynamic energy sector.

India Could Lose Nearly a Quarter of GDP by 2070 Due to Climate Change



India could face a potential GDP loss of up to 24.7% by 2070 due to the impacts of climate change, underscoring the urgency for immediate action, said Dr. Ewa Suwara, Deputy Head of Delegation, European Union to India. She made the re-

marks at the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo & The Battery Show India (TBSI) 2025.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Suwara highlighted that climate change is already taking a toll on global economic growth, affecting productivity, agricul-

ture, infrastructure, and public health. She emphasized that transitioning to green energy and clean industries is no longer optional but essential for a sustainable and resilient future.

"In this context, green energy

and clean industries are not merely options but imperatives for a sustainable future. The European Union deeply values its partnership with India, especially as both regions stand committed to advancing climate resilience, fostering innova-

tion, and ensuring that ambition is matched by action," she said.

Dr. Philipp Ackermann, Ambassador of Germany to India, added that collaboration between European and Indian enterprises can accelerate the clean energy transition. He noted that European private sector companies bring advanced technologies and expertise in solar, wind, bioenergy, storage, and green hydrogen, while Indian companies contribute scale, dynamism, and local insights.

The EU delegation emphasized that stronger cooperation could help India meet its climate and energy goals while boosting economic growth. Experts at the expo stressed that public-private partnerships, innovation, and technology adoption are critical to mitigating climate risks and reducing potential economic losses.

The warnings come amid growing concerns over climate change impacts in South Asia, including rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events, all of which could significantly affect India's long-term economic stability.

Sensex Falls 466 Points on Weak Global Cues, Bank Selling

Mumbai: The benchmark BSE Sensex declined for the second consecutive day on Friday, dropping 465.75 points or 0.55% to close at 83,938.71 amid heavy selling in private banking stocks and a weak trend in global markets. During the day, the index fell as much as 498.8 points to 83,905.66.

Market participants cited foreign fund outflows, mixed corporate earnings, and lingering uncertainty over the U.S. Federal Reserve's future rate actions as key factors weighing on investor sentiment. The broader Nifty 50 index also mirrored the downtrend, reflecting cautious trading across sectors.

Private sector banks were among the biggest drags on the market, with investors booking profits after recent gains. Analysts said that ongoing concerns about global interest rates, inflation, and economic growth continue to impact risk appetite, prompting investors to shift funds away from equities toward safer assets.

Global markets were subdued, with major indices in the U.S., Europe, and Asia showing mod-



est declines amid mixed economic data and concerns over potential rate hikes by central banks. The domestic market's sensitivity to foreign institutional investor (FII) flows was evident as continued outflows contributed

to the pressure on stock prices.

Despite the short-term volatility, experts suggested that the market fundamentals remain intact, and sectors such as IT, energy, and consumer goods could see selective buying in the near

term. Investors are closely watching upcoming corporate results and global cues for guidance on market direction.

Friday's decline marked the second straight session of losses for Indian equities, highlighting

the challenges posed by external uncertainties and domestic profit-booking pressures. Analysts continue to advise cautious trading until the global rate outlook and corporate earnings trends become clearer.

India's Forex Reserves Fall by \$6.9 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$6.925 billion to \$695.355 billion for the week ended October 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported on Friday. This follows an increase of \$4.496 billion in the previous week, when reserves had risen to \$702.28 billion.

The forex reserves, which include foreign currency assets, gold, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), are a key indicator of India's economic health and external stability.

Foreign currency assets (FCAs), the largest component of the reserves, also saw a decline during the week, reflecting movements in global currencies and market conditions. Analysts note that fluctuations in the U.S. dollar, changes in oil import bills, and outflows related to debt repayments or portfolio investments can influence the reserves significantly on a weekly basis.

Gold reserves, another

component, remained relatively stable, while the country's holdings in special drawing rights and the IMF's reserve position showed minor variations. Despite the recent dip, India's forex reserves remain among the largest in the world, providing a cushion against external shocks and supporting the rupee's stability.

Experts say that while weekly movements are normal, persistent declines could indicate pressure on the currency and may impact import costs, inflation, and overall economic confidence. The RBI continues to monitor global market trends and adjust its interventions to maintain stability in the forex market.

The reserves' movement comes amid a volatile global economic environment, including fluctuating crude oil prices, tightening monetary policies in major economies, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainties, all of which can influence capital flows and foreign exchange reserves.

Rupee Slips to 88.27 Against Dollar



The Indian rupee weakened by 8 paise to close at 88.27 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, tracking weak domestic equities and foreign fund outflows. The depreciation reflects investor caution amid global and domestic market movements.

Forex traders noted that foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold equities worth ₹55.58 crore on October 27, 2025, putting pressure on the currency. Despite the outflows, the rupee's decline was limited as a softening U.S. dollar and easing crude oil prices provided some support.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six major currencies, fell 0.09% to 98.69, indicating mild weakness in the U.S. currency in global markets. Analysts said that a weaker dollar tends to ease pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee, even when domestic factors exert downward pressure.

Sectorally, persistent selling in equity mar-

kets, coupled with cautious trading ahead of upcoming macroeconomic data, influenced currency movements. Market participants highlighted that short-term fluctuations in the rupee are often driven by global risk sentiment, crude oil price trends, and capital flows.

Economists observed that while the rupee's recent depreciation is modest, continued foreign fund outflows or sharp volatility in crude oil prices could create further downward pressure. They advised monitoring macroeconomic indicators and global market cues closely for clues on the near-term trajectory of the currency.

Overall, the rupee's performance on Tuesday reflects a balance between domestic equity market weakness and global cues, underscoring its sensitivity to both local and international developments. Investors and exporters are expected to track currency movements closely in the coming days.

Rare 'Harvest Moon' to Illuminate October Sky – Visible in India Too

Skywatchers in India and around the world are in for a celestial treat as a rare October Harvest Moon is set to brighten the night sky next week. Traditionally associated with September, the Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox, but this year, due to the lunar cycle, it will occur in October, a rarity that last happened in 2020 and can't be witnessed again until 2028.

In 2025, this stunning lunar event will peak on the night of October 6, reaching full phase at 03:48 GMT on October 7th. The moon will appear full for nearly three days, from October 5th to October 8th, making it a prolonged and delightful viewing opportunity.

Adding to the spectacle, this year's Harvest Moon is also a supermoon, meaning it will be closer to Earth in its

orbit, appearing approximately 6.6% larger and 13% brighter than a typical full moon. The result is a radiant, golden-hued moonrise that will be hard to miss, especially if skies are clear.

Yes, India will get a clear view of this celestial event, provided the weather cooperates. The moon will rise shortly after sunset and can be seen traveling from the eastern to western sky throughout the night.

The Harvest Moon holds deep cultural significance, historically offering farmers extra light to gather crops before winter. Across cultures, it's been a symbol of abundance, gratitude, and humanity's connection to nature.

Whether you're a seasoned astronomer or just an admirer of the night sky, this rare October Harvest Supermoon is a must-see event.



Anthropic Unveils Claude Sonnet 4.5, Its Most Advanced AI for Coding



AI research firm Anthropic has launched its latest model, Claude Sonnet 4.5, which the company claims is the best AI coding model in the world. The announcement was made on Tuesday, with the company highlighting major improvements in the model's coding abilities, computer usage, and practical business applications.

Claude Sonnet 4.5 is described as a significant leap forward from its predecessor, offering the ability to create production-ready applications, not just functional prototypes. This upgrade marks a major advancement in the model's reliability and real-world utility, especially in complex, high-stakes environments like cybersecurity, finance, and scientific research.

Anthropic says the model achieves industry-leading results on key coding benchmarks, including the SWE-Bench Verified, a standard measure for software engineering AI performance.

"Claude Sonnet 4.5 is our most aligned

frontier model yet," the company said in an official statement. Extensive safety training has helped reduce problematic behaviors such as sycophancy, deception, power-seeking tendencies, and encouragement of delusional thinking, the major issues that have historically plagued large AI systems.

Additionally, the model features stronger defence mechanisms against prompt injection attacks, a growing concern in agent-based and autonomous AI systems.

Anthropic also emphasized that Claude Sonnet 4.5 has improved in "agentic" behavior, its ability to interact with digital tools and software systems, making it more effective for use in enterprise settings and as a digital assistant.

As generative AI competition intensifies, Claude Sonnet 4.5 positions Anthropic as a serious contender in AI for developers and businesses alike, directly rivaling models from OpenAI, Google DeepMind, and others.

World's Most Expensive Quilt Made From Arctic Bird Feathers, Costs 12 Lakh

In a world where luxury is often defined by gold and diamonds, an unusual and natural material appeared in headlines, eiderdown, the rarest and most expensive quilt filling on the planet. Priced at an astonishing 12 lakh (approx. \$15,000) per quilt, this Arctic marvel is sourced from the eider duck, a seabird, native to the cold regions of the Arctic and North Atlantic.



What makes eiderdown so special? It's the ultra-soft feathers found beneath the belly of the female eider duck, which she plucks to line her nest. These down feathers are not only lightweight and extremely warm, but also hydrophobic, meaning that they repel water. Even when in dive, they float and remain dry due to their microscopic air-trapping structure, offering insulation far superior to other materials.

Only about 3 to 4 tonnes

of eiderdown are harvested globally each year, with Iceland producing 70-85% of the world's supply. In fact, it takes feathers from around 66 duck nests to create just one kilogram of eiderdown, the amount needed for a single quilt. That's how rare this material truly is.

Used in high-end products like luxury puffer

jackets and premium bedding, eiderdown is often featured by companies like Wallback, catering to extreme weather explorers and luxury markets.

The rarity of eiderdown is such that, according to Hakai Magazine, the entire global stock could fit inside a small truck. Despite its high cost, demand re-

mains strong due to its unmatched warmth, featherlight weight, and eco-friendly sourcing, the down is collected without harming the birds.

As the world looks toward sustainable yet luxurious alternatives, eiderdown quilts are redefining what it means to sleep in comfort and style, the Arctic style.

Chhota Bheem Cafes to Launch in Hyderabad, 300 Outlets Planned Across India

India's beloved animated icon Chhota Bheem is stepping off the screen and into the real world with the launch of Chhota Bheem Cafe, a first of its kind themed dining experience. The initiative is set to begin this December in Hyderabad, where the franchise was born.



Created by Hyderabad ad-based Green Gold Animation, Chhota Bheem has been a household name for over a decade. Now, in collaboration with EBG Group, the studios are transforming the animated universe into a real-life experience for children and families. The first two themed cafes will open in Hyderabad's Hitech City, chosen for its urban appeal and proximity to the stu-

dio's headquarters. Designed as family-friendly destinations, these cafes will combine storytelling, interactive play zones, and dining experience. Kids can expect to engage with characters like Chhota Bheem, Chutki, and Mighty Raju in immersive

spaces. The venues will also include storytelling corners, licensed merchandise, and menus featuring both kid favorites and healthy food options.

The cafes will be launched in two formats, an express version for quick-service outlets and a full-scale themed

model offering a complete experience. The initial rollout will follow a Company-Owned, Company-Operated (COCO) model, with franchise partnerships expected as expansion progresses.

The business plan is ambitious: 50 outlets are targeted for 2026, with a goal of scaling up to 300 locations nationwide. The initiative is backed by significant investment and is expected to generate over 250 direct and indirect jobs in its early phase.

With this move, Chhota Bheem aims to build a real-world brand experience, merging entertainment, education, and family dining, making it a new-age destination for kids and parents alike.



Amazon discontinues 16-Year-Old Prime Invitee Program

Amazon is officially shutting down its Prime Invitee program, a long-standing feature that allowed users to share Prime shipping benefits with family members, on October 1, 2025. The program, first launched in 2009, enabled a Prime subscriber to extend free two-day shipping to another adult, even if they lived at a different address.

After 16 years, the Prime Invitee program will be discontinued, and enrolled users will lose access to the shared free delivery service. This change affects members who were part of the program before 2015, the year Amazon quietly stopped accepting new users under the scheme.

Instead, Amazon is encouraging users to switch to the Amazon Family program, which allows the sharing of a broader range of Prime benefits, but with one key condition: all members must live at the same address. Amazon Family includes features like fast and

free delivery, access to Prime Video, Amazon Music, exclusive shopping deals, GrubHub+ membership, and even fuel savings at over 7,500 participating locations including bp, Amoco, and amp outlets.

In a statement to USA Today, Amazon said, "Prime members can instead share a broad range of Prime benefits with Amazon Family," emphasizing the broader entertainment and utility offerings now included.

To ease the transition, Amazon is offering a limited-time deal for those impacted by the change. Eligible users can get 12 months of Prime for just \$14.99, a significant discount compared to standard pricing. This offer is valid until December 31, 2025.

As Amazon continues to streamline its services, this move marks the end of one of its earliest loyalty features, pushing users toward a more unified and address-verified Prime sharing experience.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

berra had been abandoned due to rain.

Abhishek's 37-ball 68 featured aggressive strokes on the off-side, including slashes, check drives, and lofted shots, helping him reach a 23-ball half-century in his debut appearance at

the iconic venue. His innings stood out as the only resistance against the relentless Australian pace attack.

Australia's Josh Hazlewood led the charge, wreaking havoc on India's top and middle order. He dis-

missed vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma early, leaving India reeling at 5 wickets down in just eight overs. The rest of the batting lineup faltered under pressure, failing to build partnerships

or mount a meaningful chase.

Harshit Rana, promoted to No. 7, scored a quick 35, offering some late resistance, but it was not enough to lift India to a competitive total. The visitors' batting frailties, particularly against high-quality pace bowling in powerplay overs, were on full display.

Australia chased the modest target efficiently, with their openers and middle order keeping the scoreboard ticking. Hazlewood's stellar bowling spell ensured India never gained momentum, giving the hosts a comfortable 4-wicket victory and a 1-0 lead in the series.

The defeat highlights India's urgent need to strengthen their top-order batting and develop strategies to handle quality pace attacks. With three more T20Is scheduled, India will aim to regroup and bounce back, while Australia looks to consolidate their advantage and take a commanding lead in the five-match series.

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

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

India, sent in to bat by Australian captain Mitchell Marsh, struggled from the start. The team was bundled out for 125 in 18.4 overs, losing early wickets under pressure. Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood starred with the ball, dismantling India's top order in a sensational spell. He accounted for vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma in the initial overs, putting India on the back foot immediately.

Amid the batting collapse, Abhishek Sharma stood out with a resilient 68 runs, while Harshit Rana, promoted to No. 7, contributed 35 runs, providing some resistance. Despite their efforts, India could not recover, as the middle and lower order failed to capitalize on the platform created by Sharma and Rana. Australia's chase was clinical, an-



chored by steady batting performances and disciplined bowling. The visitors managed the target efficiently without losing control, showcasing their experience and composure in

tricky situations.

This win gives Australia an early edge in the five-match T20I series, placing pressure on India to respond in the remaining games. The Indian team will

need to address their batting fragility, especially their vulnerability against fast bowling in powerplay overs, to remain competitive in the series.

The third T20I is sched-

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

Sinner, Zverev Advance to Paris Masters Quarter-Finals



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

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

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

Shelton continued his dream season, beating Andrey Rublev 7-6(6), 6-3. The American fifth seed, who won his maiden Mas-

ters 1000 title in Toronto earlier this year, also secured a debut spot at the ATP Finals in Turin. "It's the result of a year's hard work — the ups, downs, and comebacks," Shelton said.

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

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

Oman Replaces Pakistan at Junior Hockey World Cup



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

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

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

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

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

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

Nandamuri Tejeswini Shines in Her On-Screen Debut for Siddhartha Fine Jewellers



Nandamuri Tejeswini, the younger daughter of Telugu superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna, has officially made her on-screen debut — not in a film, but through a commercial for Siddhartha Fine Jewellers. The celebrated jewellery brand announced Tejeswini as its new brand ambassador, marking a proud and special moment for both the Nandamuri family and Telugu cinema admirers.

The advertisement, directed by D. Yamuna Kishore, beautifully captures Tejeswini's elegance and grace. Despite being her first appearance before the camera, she exudes remarkable confidence and poise, earning praise from both industry insiders and fans. Her natural screen presence and charm reflect the legacy of the illustrious Nandamuri lineage.

The ad film's creative team includes Brinda Master as choreographer, S.S. Thaman for music, and Ayanka Bose as cinematographer. Avinash Kolla

handled art direction, while Naveen Nooli took care of editing. Renowned celebrity photographer Daboo Ratnani captured the stunning stills for the campaign, adding a touch of glamour to the overall presentation.

At the official launch event, Siddhartha Fine Jewellers' directors — Smt. Nagini Prasad Vemuri, Smt. Sreemani Mathukumilli, and Smt. Sreedurga Katragadda — graced the occasion. Speaking on behalf of the brand, Sri Vemuri Krishna Prasad expressed his delight in associating with Tejeswini, applauding her professionalism and natural charm.

With this elegant debut, Nandamuri Tejeswini has made a memorable mark, seamlessly blending tradition and modernity — much like the jewellery she represents. Fans are already eager to see what's next for the star daughter, who has begun her journey in front of the camera with sparkle and confidence.

'Let's Go Johnny' Full Video Released from 'They Call Him OG'



The makers of the highly anticipated action entertainer 'They Call Him OG' have released the full video of the energetic song "Let's Go Johnny", starring Power Star Pawan Kalyan. The track, already popular from its teaser, has generated huge excitement among fans, further boosting the film's pre-release buzz.

Composed by Thaman, the song features a catchy, high-energy beat that complements Pawan Kalyan's larger-than-life screen persona. The track elevates his character Ojas Gambhira, the OG referenced in the film's title, highlighting both his style and charisma. The choreography and visuals are designed to match the film's action-packed narrative, ensuring the song stands out as a major highlight.

Alongside Pawan Kalyan, the film stars Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi, Priyanka Arul Mohan, Arjun Das, and Shriya Reddy, among others. The ensemble cast adds significant star value, with each actor contributing to the film's dynamic ac-

tion and dramatic sequences. The video showcases high-octane dance sequences, intense stunts, and vibrant cinematography, keeping fans hooked from start to finish.

"Let's Go Johnny" has been praised by fans and critics for its catchy tune, stylish presentation, and the way it blends action with entertainment. Social media platforms have been flooded with clips, reactions, and discussions, reflecting the anticipation for the film's release.

"They Call Him OG" is shaping up to be one of the major action entertainers of the year, with the song release further cementing its appeal among audiences. The film combines Pawan Kalyan's signature charisma with a strong supporting cast, high-quality production, and a gripping narrative, making it one of the most awaited releases in the Indian film industry this season.

The song video is now available across official platforms, allowing fans to enjoy and share the excitement ahead of the film's theatrical release.

Chiranjeevi Urges Strict Laws Against Deepfake and AI Misuse

Megastar Chiranjeevi, popularly known as Chiru Swamy during his Ayyappa Deeksha, called for the implementation of strict laws to curb deepfake and AI misuse while participating in the Ekta Diwas 2K Run organized by the Hyderabad Police. The event was held to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, celebrating his vision of unity and integrity that shaped modern India.



Wearing the traditional Ayyappa maula, Chiranjeevi lauded the efforts of the Hyderabad Cyber Police, led by Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar, for their proactive steps in tackling cybercrimes and protecting citizens from digital threats. He stated that the government is currently drafting stronger legal frameworks to counter the rise of manipulated videos and online impersonations that can cause serious harm to individuals and society.

Speaking to the media, Chiranjeevi emphasized that while technology has transformed lives, its misuse poses a grave danger. He urged the public to exercise re-

sponsibility and ethics in using digital tools, highlighting that awareness and legal safeguards are crucial to prevent the abuse of AI-generated content.

"Technology should be used for progress, not for hurting others or spreading misinformation," he asserted. The actor's message aligns with

growing national concern over deepfake content, which has been misused to defame public figures and manipulate information. His remarks added weight

to the call for comprehensive AI regulations to ensure online safety and accountability. On the professional front, Chiranjeevi is currently busy film-

ing his upcoming Sankranti release, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, directed by Anil Ravipudi, which is expected to hit theatres early next year.

'Dining With The Kapoors' Documentary to Stream on Netflix



Netflix has officially announced the release of its upcoming documentary series, "Dining With The Kapoors," centered on Bollywood's legendary Kapoor family. The much-anticipated series will start streaming on November 21, offering fans a rare and intimate glimpse into the lives of one of India's most iconic film dynasties.

The documentary will feature prominent family members including Ranbir Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karisma Kapoor, and several other stars from the illustrious Kapoor clan. Through candid conversations and personal anecdotes, the series will delve into the family's strong legacy that began

with the great Raj Kapoor, fondly remembered as the "Showman of Indian Cinema."

"Dining With The Kapoors" is expected to showcase heartfelt family moments, untold stories, and nostalgic memories from the family's rich cinematic history. From their childhood recollections to behind-the-scenes tales of Bollywood's golden era, the series promises a mix of emotion, glamour, and legacy. The documentary also explores how the younger generation of Kapoors continues to uphold their family's creative tradition while shaping their own unique identities in the modern film industry.

According to Netflix,

the show's title reflects the documentary's intimate tone — most of the storytelling unfolds around a shared family table, where laughter, nostalgia, and memories flow freely. Fans across social media have already expressed excitement, calling it a "dream project" that celebrates both cinema and family bonds.

With a combination of legacy, laughter, and love, "Dining With The Kapoors" is set to be a must-watch for Bollywood fans. The documentary will premiere exclusively on Netflix on November 21, 2025, taking audiences inside the home and hearts of India's most celebrated film family.



Stranger Things 5 Trailer Sets Stage for Final Battle with Vecna

The wait is nearly over for fans of Netflix's blockbuster sci-fi series Stranger Things, as the makers have finally released the official trailer for its fifth and final season. Titled Stranger Things 5, the upcoming season promises an epic conclusion to the Hawkins saga, filled with high stakes, emotional moments, and the ultimate face-off against Vecna.

The trailer opens with a haunting score and dark visuals, immediately setting a tense and eerie tone. It hints at the massive showdown ahead, where Eleven, Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and the rest of the gang pre-

pare for their final fight to save both Will and the world from Vecna's sinister grip. The narrative teases that Vecna might once again use Will as a weapon, forcing his friends to confront their worst fears and deepest bonds in one last desperate attempt to stop the darkness.

Cinematic in scale, the trailer showcases moments of determination, chaos, and unity, with each character seemingly on a different journey that leads to one climactic confrontation. The iconic Stranger Things music, mixed with stunning visual effects, amplifies the sense of final-

ity and danger. Fans across the world have taken to social media to express their excitement and nostalgia, calling this the "end of an era" for one of the most beloved shows of the decade.

Netflix has announced that Volume 1 of Stranger Things 5 will premiere on November 6, 2025, followed by Volume 2 during Christmas, and the grand finale set to air on New Year's Day 2026.

As the trailer suggests, the battle for Hawkins — and perhaps humanity — is about to reach its epic conclusion.