

98 MoUs to Boost Andhra Pradesh’s Tourism Sector

TPN Bureau | nov 13
VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography, Kandula Durgesh, announced that the state is paving the way for a new era in tourism by attracting major investments and expanding opportunities across various segments. Speaking to media representatives at Green Park Hotel, Visakhapatnam, the Minister highlighted that the government has so far secured investments worth 12,000 crore in the tourism sector.



As part of the CII Partnership Summit being held in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15, the state will sign 98 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with companies in the tourism sector. These agreements are expected to accelerate the development of tourism infrastructure and create new avenues for employment and economic growth.

Minister Durgesh said that regional investor summits are being organized in Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, and Tirupati to attract investors and promote diverse tourism opportunities across the state. “We are focusing on all segments — from wellness and coastal tourism to ecotourism — and encouraging both mega and ultra-mega projects alongside 2-star and 3-star hotels. Our goal is to make tourism accessible and enjoyable for all sections of society,” he said.

Women’s Commission Chair asserts strict action against insults to women

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Penugonda (West Godavari): Andhra Pradesh State Women’s Commission Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Shailaja asserted that the Commission will not tolerate any form of behavior that demeans or disrespects women, stating that even verbal insults constitute a form of harassment. Dr. Shailaja made these remarks during her visit to the Sri Vasavi Kanayaka Parameswari Temple in Penugonda on Thursday. After offering special prayers to Goddess Vasavi, she held an exclusive meeting with local women devotees who brought to her attention several incidents of misconduct within the temple premises. The devotees complained that a private individual named Ganesh, a relative of a senior temple employee, had been performing priestly duties without authorization and was behaving rudely with women devotees. They alleged that he frequently used abusive language, causing distress to visiting pilgrims. The women also expressed concern that such behavior could discourage devotees from visiting the temple, thereby tarnishing the sanctity of the revered shrine. The commission would ensure justice for them.



In response, Dr. Rayapati Shailaja convened a discussion with the temple chairman Satibabu, the executive officer, and the Penugonda Tahsildar, instructing them to take immediate measures to ensure the safety and dignity of women devotees. She emphasized that the Endowments Department carries the responsibility of protecting devotees, particularly women, in all religious establishments. Condemning the reported misconduct, Dr. Shailaja said that misbehavior and foul language toward women in sacred spaces were deplorable and unacceptable. She directed temple authorities to remove individuals whose actions disturb the spiritual atmosphere of temples and inconvenience devotees. “The sanctity of temples must be preserved,” she stated.

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TTD to Launch AI Chatbot Services for Devotees; AWS to Provide Technology Support



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Tirumala: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is taking forward several digital initiatives to enhance the experience of devotees visiting the sacred shrine of Lord Venkateswara. As part of its modernization drive, TTD has inaugurated an advanced Integrated Command and Control Center at Vaikuntham Queue Complex to improve crowd and service management. In a major step toward offering tech-enabled services, the TTD Board of Trustees has recently approved the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based chatbot services.

Following the approval, the temple administration invited tenders from reputed global technology providers to develop and operate the system. Leading firms such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud participated in the bidding process. Among these, AWS was selected to provide the chatbot services at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh per annum, offering a cost-effective yet highly capable solution.

The AI chatbot is expected to become operational soon, providing devotees with instant responses to queries related to online darshan bookings, seva schedules, accommodation, donations, and other temple-related services. The system will allow devotees to receive real-time information and even submit feedback or complaints directly through the chatbot interface. Notably, the service will support around 13 Indian languages, ensuring accessibility for devotees across the country.

The chatbot will also include speech-to-text and text-to-speech features, making it convenient for users with different communication preferences. According to TTD Deputy General Manager (IT) Venkateswara Naidu, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is developing the software framework for TTD’s digital initiatives, integrating AI capabilities to deliver faster, more efficient, and multilingual assistance. Once operational, the AI chatbot is expected to significantly enhance transparency, accessibility, and the overall quality of interactions between TTD and millions of pilgrims.

Establishment of laughing clubs in every village; monthly interactions with senior citizens



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VIJAYAWADA: Highlighting the significance of mental health, NTR district Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha instructed officials to promote the establishment of laughing clubs in every village. “Organise monthly interactions with senior citizens at the village and ward secretariat level, and ensure similar initiatives at divisional and district levels,” he said. “Elderly people should never be treated as insignificant. If we share love and affection with them today, we will receive the same warmth from our children in the future,” said Dr. G. Lakshmisha. He underscored that the essence of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act must be reflected in tribal

orders. Presiding over the District Senior Citizens Welfare Committee meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday, Dr. Lakshmisha reviewed claim resolutions from the tribunals under the Vijayawada, Tiruvuru, and Nandigama revenue divisions and the appellate authority. Of the 433 claims received, 395 have already been settled, while steps are being taken to resolve the rest. Dr. Lakshmisha observed that everyone eventually faces old age and should, therefore, recognize the importance of treating elders with dignity. He said the law acts as a vigilant safeguard for senior citizens and urged strict enforcement against any violations. He directed the Revenue, Police, and Welfare departments to coordinate their efforts for effective welfare implementation.

Dr. Lakshmisha also discussed the “Gen Alpha” project, aimed at enabling seniors to share their experiences and life lessons with children to foster discipline and moral values. He advised launching the programme initially in Gurukula schools before its expansion. DCP K.G.V. Saritha, DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, AD for Senior Citizens Welfare V. Kamaraju, Vijayawada RDO Kaa-vuri Chaitanya, DMHO Dr. M. Suhasini, and representatives from senior citizens’ associations and transgender communities attended the meeting. Nandigama RDO K. Balakrishna and Tiruvuru RDO K. Madhuri participated virtually.

Andhra Pradesh Ready for 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam

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VISAKHAPATNAM: Elaborate arrangements have been completed for the 30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2025, set to take place in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15. The two-day event, jointly organized by the Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and CII, will be hosted at the Andhra University Engineering College Grounds, which has been transformed into a vibrant venue showcasing Andhra Pradesh’s industrial potential.



The Andhra Pradesh Pavilion Plenary Hall will serve as the main venue, with multiple halls set up for sector-specific sessions. The summit aims to highlight Andhra Pradesh’s investment ecosystem and facilitate collaborations across key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, tourism, IT, and manufacturing. The inaugural session will be held on Friday, November 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Vice President of India CP Radhakrishnan will grace the occasion as Chief Guest, while Andhra Pradesh Governor Justice Syed Abdul Nazeer will be the Guest of Honour. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will deliver the keynote addresses. Several dignitaries, including Union Ministers Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Pemasani Chandrasekhar, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, State Ministers Nara Lokesh, Nandendla Manohar, T.G. Bharat, and CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee, will also attend.

Following the inauguration, the Opening Plenary will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., featuring addresses by Piyush Goyal, Chandrababu Naidu, and key industry leaders. Sectoral plenary sessions will continue across multiple halls until 8 p.m. On the second day, November 15, thematic sessions will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by the Valedictory Session from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at the main venue. Piyush Goyal and Chandrababu Naidu will again serve as Guests of Honour, joined by CII Vice President Suchitra K. Ella, CII International Council Chairman R. Dinesh, and other dignitaries.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the summit, the state government has arranged special facilities for VVIPs, delegates, and the media. Adequate parking, logistics coordination, and security measures have been set up across the Andhra University campus. As part of Andhra Pradesh’s global branding initiative, major hoardings and digital displays promoting the CII Summit and AP’s investment potential have been installed in New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam, and Vijayawada, as well as across key cities in the state. Visakhapatnam city has been specially beautified, featuring large-scale branding highlighting AP as a premier investment destination.



Pawan Kalyan orders probe into forest land ‘encroachment’ by ex-Andhra Pradesh minister

TPN Bureau | nov 13
Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has ordered a comprehensive probe into the alleged encroachment of 76.74 acres of forest land in the eastern ghats by former minister and YS R Congress Party leader Peddireddy Ramchandra Reddy. Pawan Kalyan, who holds the environment and forest portfolios, directed officials to publish the names of all forest land encroachers on the department website and take strict legal action against forest land grabbers without exception. He issued the orders after an aerial survey of the forest. According to the Deputy Chief Minister’s office, the aerial survey “exposed” 76.74 acres of illegal encroachment inside the protected Mangalam Peta forest lands in the eastern ghats, linked to Ramachandra Reddy. Pawan Kalyan visited the site, reviewed the violations and briefed Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Cabinet ministers.

He directed officials to publish the names of all forest land encroachers on the department website, reveal the extent of encroachment and the status of cases on each individual and take strict legal action against anyone who grabbed forest land, without exception. The Deputy CM also directed officials to investigate discrepancies in land records, including inflated Webland entries and false claims of “ancestral land” inside protected forest areas. He asked them to act, based on vigilance reports and legal expert guidance, and to digitise all land records to prevent manipulation and ensure transparency. “Forest lands are national assets. Those who encroach upon them, misuse them, or violate forest laws, no matter who they are, will be held accountable. The government will not tolerate the grab of protected forest areas or wildlife zones,” reads a post on ‘X’ by the Deputy CM’s office.

It also posted a video of Pawan Kalyan’s aerial survey, and the map showing the extent of the forest enclosure. A total of 32.63 acres were earlier occupied and evicted. He is seen taking pictures of the forest enclosure and the structures built on it. Early this year, Ramachandra Reddy had rubbished the allegations made by a newspaper and a television channel that he grabbed forest land. He had called it an “orchestrated negative campaign” by the media organisations owing allegiance to the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), and dared the media house to prove its charges. He claimed that the 75 acres of private property had been purchased in 2001. According to him, the Director of Settlements had declared in 1981 that the said piece is not forest land. The former minister also claimed that the road leading to his estate, though falling in the middle of the forest, had been laid with the permission of the Central government. Ramachandra Reddy said that N. Kiran Kumar Reddy and later Chandrababu Naidu, during their respective terms as Chief Minister in the past, had ordered a probe into the same issue, but could not prove anything incriminating. The case filed in the High Court by a TDP leader was also dismissed as the same property had been shown in the forest gazette as private land in 1968, the YSRCP leader said.



YS Jagan Slams Chandrababu’s ‘Credit-Chor’ Scheme as Shameful and Unprecedented



TPN Bureau | nov 13 VIJAYAWADA: Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of running a “credit-chor” scheme a brazen attempt to claim credit for housing projects conceived and largely executed during the previous YSRCP government.

YS Jagan alleged that during the last 18 mont

hs, the current TDP-led administration has not acquired even a single square yard of land for the poor, sanctioned a single house, or spent a rupee on housing. “Yet today, Chandrababu Naidu stands before the people claiming, ‘We built all these houses.’ This is not leadership — it is stage drama,” he remarked, calling it a disgraceful effort to convert the previous government’s work into his own glory.

The YSRCP chief clari-

fied that of the 3,00,092 houses Chandrababu claims credit for, not one was sanctioned or granted title deeds by the current government. He detailed that 1,40,010 houses were in the finishing stage, 87,380 houses had reached the slab level, and 66,845 houses were under construction during the YSRCP tenure. YS Jagan also recalled the historic “Gruha Pravesam” held on October 12, 2023, when his government facilitated 7,43,396 house-warming

ceremonies in a single day.

Highlighting YSRCP’s welfare achievements, he said the previous government had issued 31.19 lakh house site pattas to poor women, covering 71,800 acres, sanctioned 21.75 lakh houses, and completed over 9 lakh houses despite the COVID-19 pandemic. He accused the present regime of now trying to lock up remaining vacant sites meant for the poor while using “yellow media” to falsely claim credit for

YSRCP’s accomplishments.

Terming such acts as “political theft,” YS Jagan said the current government’s conduct — from seizing land meant for the poor to spreading false propaganda — was “utterly shameful.” He concluded that Chandrababu’s so-called “credit-chor” scheme symbolises the theft of ideas, efforts, and rights of the poor, warning that such deceit will not go unchallenged.

Bapatla Vision Action Plan Unit Office Inaugurated

TPN Bureau | nov 13 BAPATLA: In a major step towards strengthening grassroots governance and constituency-level development, the Bapatla Vision Action Plan Unit Office was inaugurated on Thursday. District Collector V. Vinod Kumar and Bapatla MLA Vegesna Narendra Varma jointly opened the office at the municipal office premises. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Vinod Kumar highlighted the government’s initiative to establish Vision Action Plan Units across all constituencies. These dedicated offices will provide MLAs with a structured platform to conduct review meetings with officials, monitor ongoing welfare programs, and address public grievances efficiently. The collector described the Bapatla unit as a model office, equipped with all modern facilities



ties to serve as a hub for people’s interaction and development coordination.

MLA Narendra Varma lauded Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s visionary governance approach, stating that the establishment of constituency-level offices will make legislators more accessible to citizens. He announced that he would be available at the office every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday to personally meet and address the concerns of constituents. Outlining his priorities, the MLA said special focus would be given to the development of tourism, aquaculture, and education sectors,

while creating new employment opportunities for local youth. He assured that the Vision Action Plan Unit would facilitate regular monitoring of projects and ensure faster resolution of public issues.

The inauguration concluded with a tree-planting ceremony by the district collector and the MLA, symbolizing a commitment to sustainable development. Prominent attendees included Bapatla Urban Development Authority Chairman Salagala Rajashakar Babu, CPO S. Raju, District Panchayat Officer Prabhakar, Municipal Commissioner Raghunath Reddy, and Tahsildar Salima, among others.

SADAREM Slot Booking for Differently-Abled to Resume from Nov 14

Minister Satya Kumar Announces Major Reforms

TPN Bureau | nov 13 VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh government has announced that slot bookings for the SADAREM (Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access, Rehabilitation and Empowerment) program will resume from Friday, November 14, after being temporarily halted since the end of September due to technical issues. The slots will remain open until the end of December, said Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare Satya Kumar Yadav.

The Minister stated that priority will be given to nearly 10,000 individuals already on the waiting list for disability assessments. Once their assessments are completed, new applicants will be allotted available slots with specific dates and times.

In a significant welfare move, the Minister announced that the

government has decided to waive all fees for slot booking and certificate printing, which previously cost 40 each. “Considering the financial conditions of differently-abled individuals, the government has decided to provide these services completely free of cost,” he said.

Under SADAREM, disability assessment camps will be conducted every Monday at Community Health Centres and every Tuesday at district, area, and teaching hospitals. The Minister added that 31,050 individuals will undergo disability assessments by the end of December. While 112 hospitals previously conducted these assessments, an additional six hospitals have now been added to the network.

Doctors will evaluate applicants across various disability categories—locomotor, visual, hearing, mental, and intellectual disabilities—and issue

certificates based on the percentage of disability, which determines eligibility for pensions and government welfare schemes.

Addressing appeals, officials stated that out of 1.04 lakh individuals who appealed for reassessment after receiving lower disability percentages earlier, 19,235 have already been re-examined, and the remaining will be tested soon. These assessments are being held every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at hospitals selected by district collectors.

Furthermore, reevaluation tests for 1.87 lakh pension beneficiaries will commence from January 2026, said Dr. KVN Chakradhar Babu, Director of Secondary Health. The government aims to complete all appeal and reassessment processes within the stipulated timelines to ensure timely welfare benefits for all eligible differently-abled individuals.

Build ‘Bridges of Tech, Talent, and Trust’ to Drive Industry 5.0: Minister Bharath

TPN Bureau | nov 13 VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries & Commerce and Food Processing, TG Bharath, called for forging stronger India-Europe partnerships to lead the next industrial revolution. Industry 5.0, founded on “technology, talent, and trust.”

Addressing the session on “Enabling Industry 5.0 through New Age Manufacturing” at the CII India-Europe Business Partnership Roundtable, part of the 30th Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, the Minister emphasized that Industry 5.0 is not a mere extension of Industry 4.0, but a paradigm shift towards responsible, human-centric, and sustainable industrialization. “We are witnessing a new era defined by automation, AI-driven predictive factories, and clean circular manufacturing. India has the talent, and Europe has the precision — together, we can do magic,” the Minister said.



Lauding the visionary leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and HRD & IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Bharath said Andhra Pradesh is already witnessing a technology-driven transformation across sectors. He noted that the ‘Policy 4.0’ framework has strengthened the four key pillars of the state’s industrial ecosystem — infrastructure, innovation, investment, and inclusion.

He further underscored the importance of building green manufacturing corridors, enhancing MSME productivity, and promoting responsible innovation to align with global sustainability goals. “We envision Andhra Pradesh as a living laboratory for Industry 5.0 — where innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity converge,” he said, inviting European investors and technology partners to

collaborate with the state.

The session also featured several eminent speakers, including Dr. Edith N. Nordmann, Chairman, Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NIC-CT); Amit Gossain, Managing Director, Kone Elevator India Pvt. Ltd.; Håkan Kingstedt, Senior Advisor, Monemus AB and Chairman, Sweden India Business Council; and Dr. Julie Reviere,

Country Director, GIZ India.

Chaired by Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Multinational Committee and Managing Director & President, Volvo Group India, the discussion highlighted how India’s scale and agility combined with Europe’s technological expertise can accelerate smart manufacturing, advance sustainability, and open new avenues for Industry 5.0 collaboration

Illegal cases will not stop protests against privatization: Ex-Min



TPN Bureau | nov 13 VIJAYAWADA: Former Minister and Bapatla district YSRCP President Merugu Nagarjuna warned the coalition government that filing illegal cases against YSRCP leaders and workers will not stop the massive people’s movement against the privatization of government medical colleges. Speaking to the media at the party’s central office in Tadepalli, he condemned the government’s vindictive actions and declared that YSRCP will continue its struggle without fear or hesitation. Nagarjuna said that in Santanutalapadu constituency, where a peaceful protest

was held against privatization, police filed false cases against him and 77 others, proving the government’s intolerance to democratic dissent. He stated that the right to protest is being trampled, and the government owes an explanation for why cases were filed against citizens who were simply demanding that healthcare and medical education remain accessible to the poor. He asserted that threats and fabricated cases will never intimidate YSRCP cadres, and that Chandrababu’s belief that such harassment will weaken the movement is “nothing but foolishness.” He said

people across all 175 constituencies responded overwhelmingly to YSRCP’s statewide agitation, with students, intellectuals, and public organizations joining the movement demanding that medical colleges remain in the public sector. He reminded that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy established 17 government medical colleges and completed 7 of them with the clear aim of ensuring free, quality healthcare and medical education for the poor. But after coming to power in 2024, Chandrababu Naidu began a systematic effort to hand these colleges to private players under the guise of PPP, destroying the very purpose for which they were built.

Nagarjuna stated that the One-crore signature movement led by YSRCP in the past month has

shaken the government, which is now resorting to suppression and illegal arrests. “The coalition government is suffocating because it cannot tolerate the public awakening. Unable to counter the truth, they have launched a witch-hunt, dragging local leaders, fabricating cases, and trying to silence the voice of the people,” he said. He added that the people clearly see the government’s conspiracy to intimidate YSRCP and plunder public assets under the cover of privatization. Nagarjuna declared that YSRCP will not retreat under any circumstances. “We will not allow medical colleges built for the poor to be handed over to private cronies. Our struggle will continue until this destructive privatization plan is scrapped,” he said.

Chief Whip GV Slams YSRCP Rule, Vows Farmers’ Welfare Under NDA Government

TPN Bureau | nov 13 Vinukonda, Shavaliyapuram (Palnadu district): Andhra Pradesh Government Chief Whip and senior MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu has sharply criticized the previous YSRCP regime, alleging that it had neglected farmers for the last five years. He said the current NDA government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is implementing farmer-friendly measures aimed at achieving agricultural progress and economic empowerment for cultivators.

Speaking as the chief guest at the collective rodent eradication programme organized by the Agriculture Department in Bondilipalem village of Shavaliyapuram mandal on Thursday, Anjaneyulu said that in addition to pro-

viding 90 percent subsidy on drip irrigation systems and agricultural equipment, the NDA government is also promoting modern farming practices to ensure higher productivity and increased incomes.

He distributed rodent control medicines free of cost to farmers and inspected the crop conditions in the fields. He urged farmers to actively participate in collective rodent eradication drives to protect their crops from damage. “The coalition government is working tirelessly for the welfare and development of farmers,” he said, adding that the government is ensuring timely supply of crop loans, seeds, fertilizers, and equipment so that no farmer faces difficulty during the agricultural season.

Highlighting horticulture as a key path for rural prosperity, Anjaneyulu advised farmers to diversify into high-value crops such as fruits and vegetables, particularly in irrigated areas. He observed that as many as 25,000 acres have been earmarked under horticulture cultivation this year in the Vinukonda constituency, and appreciated farmers for showing enthusiasm toward profitable crop diversification.

He directed agriculture and horticulture officials to educate farmers on modern cultivation methods and to extend all necessary technical support. Emphasizing renewable energy as another avenue for economic savings, the Chief Whip encouraged every household to install rooftop solar panels under the “Surya

Ghar” initiative. “Solar energy not only reduces electricity expenses but also benefits the environment and allows families to earn money by selling excess power to the grid,”

he explained. Both central and state governments are offering financial subsidies for solar installations, and he urged citizens to take full advantage of these schemes. The event was attended by Mandal Party President Guntur Sambasiva Rao, Shavaliyapuram Society President Gadupudi Viswanatham, State BC Cell representative Battula Venkateswarlu, ATMA Deputy Project Director G. Venkata Rao, Vinukonda ADA Ch. Ravikumar, MPDO Seetharamayya, Mandal Agriculture Officer Ramineni Ramarao, and Village Agricultural Assistants.

Jyothi Surekha Shines at 24th Asian Archery Championships, Clinches Double Gold



TPN Bureau | nov 13 VIJAYAWADA/BANGKOK: Indian archery star Jyothi Surekha Venam once again proved her dominance on the international stage by winning two gold medals — individual and team — at the 24th Asian Archery Championships.

Jyothi, representing India, teamed up with Deepshikha and Prithika Pradeep to secure the women’s compound team gold, defeating powerhouse South Korea in a nail-biting final with a scoreline of 236–234. Continuing her stellar

form, Jyothi went on to clinch the individual gold medal, overcoming her teammate Prithika Pradeep 147–145 in an all-Indian final.

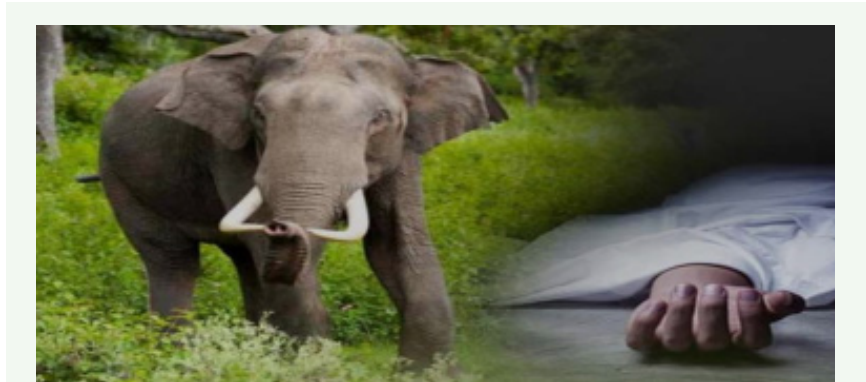
With this triumph, Jyothi has now amassed an incredible 90 international medals in her career — 33 gold, 33 silver and 24 bronze — underscoring her consistency and excellence in the sport.

This latest victory also marks her 8th Asian Archer y Championships title since 2011 and her 3rd individual crown

at the prestigious event, following earlier wins in 2015 and 2021.

Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Jyothi’s achievements continue to bring immense pride to both the state and the nation. Her remarkable journey, marked by discipline, precision, and perseverance, reaffirms her status as one of India’s most accomplished archers.

Sports enthusiasts and officials across the country have lauded Jyothi’s performance, calling her victories a testament to India’s growing strength in world archery.



Wild elephant tramples farmer to death in Andhra

TPN Bureau | nov 13 Kuppam (Andhra Pradesh): A 65-year-old farmer was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Kurmanupalli village here in Chittoor district on Thursday, said a police official. The victim, identi-

fied as Kittappa, was sleeping alone in his agricultural field when the incident occurred around 3 am, the official said. “Kittappa was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Kurmanupalli village early this morning,” Kup-

pam Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) B Parthasarathi told PTI.

The elephant was reportedly roaming alone in the vicinity before attacking the victim, he added.

Governor Abdul Nazeer Extends Warm Greetings on Children’s Day

TPN Bureau | nov 13 VIJAYAWADA : On the occasion of Children’s Day, (November 14), Governor of Andhra Pradesh, S Abdul Nazeer, conveyed his heartfelt greetings to all children across the state, commemorating the birth anniversary of India’s first Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

In his message, the Governor recalled Pandit Nehru’s enduring affection and admiration for children, noting that he regarded them as the true strength and future of the nation. Quoting Pandit Nehru, he said,

“The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of our country.”

Governor Nazeer stressed that as future citizens of India, children have a vital role to play in safeguarding the nation and contributing to building a bright and prosperous future for all.

He also urged parents, teachers and society at large to nurture the values of discipline, compassion and integrity among children, ensuring they grow into responsible and capable citizens.



THRILLING FINISH MARKS THE FINAL DAY OF SPORT-A-THON 2025 AT V.P. SIDDHARTHA PUBLIC SCHOOL

TPN Bureau | nov 13 Vijayawada: The grand finale of SPORT-A-THON 2025, the Inter-School Sports Meet organized as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Siddhartha Academy of General and Technical Education, concluded with great excitement and enthusiasm at V.P. Siddhartha Public School on Thursday.

The day featured spirited semifinal and final matches in basketball and badminton, display-



ing teamwork, determination, and exemplary sportsmanship among young athletes.

In the boys basketball finals, V.P. Siddhartha Public School clinched the championship title

after a nail-biting 44–40 victory over VIVA School, Guntur. In the girls basketball finals, St. Johns Higher Secondary School, Gannavaram, triumphed over V.P. Siddhartha Public Scho-

ol with a score of 31–25 to lift the winners trophy. The Badminton Finals witnessed brilliant performances across categories:

Under-14 Girls Singles: V.P. Siddhartha Pub-

lic School defeated Nalanda Vidyaniketan

Under-14 Girls Doubles: V.P. Siddhartha Public School beat KCP Siddhartha Adarsh Residential School

Under-14 Boys Sin-

gles: Delhi Public School won against Don Bosco Public School

Under-14 Boys Doubles: NSM Public School defeated V.P. Siddhartha Public School

Under-17 Girls Singles: NSM Public School won against V.P. Siddhartha Public School

Under-17 Girls Doubles: V.P. Siddhartha Public School triumphed over KCP Siddhartha Adarsh Residential School

Under-17 Boys Singles: Delhi Public School

defeated NSM Public School

Under-17 Boys Doubles: NSM Public School outplayed St. Johns High School

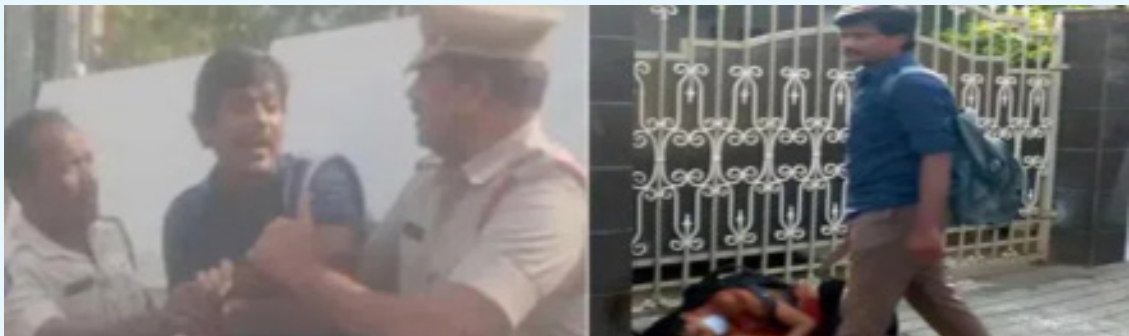
The closing ceremony was filled with cheers as winners were felicitated by Sri L.K. Mohan Rao Garu, Academic Advisor, Siddhartha Academy of General and Technical Education. Principal Mr. M. Seetha Ramaiah, Vice Principal Ms. Rosemary, and Headmistress Mrs. Jayalakshmi congratulated the participants,

commending their discipline and perseverance, emphasizing that true victory lies in participation and continuous effort.

V.P. Siddhartha Public School emerged as the Overall Champions, receiving a 20,000 cash award, while winners in badminton received 10,000 and runners-up received 6,000.

The event concluded on a high note, celebrating youthful energy, teamwork, and the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Husband kills wife on the road in broad day light



TPN BUREAU | nov 13 Vijayawada: Man Murders Wife in Broad Daylight Amid Family Dispute. A shocking incident that unfolded at Suryaraopeta in Vijayawada, a man brutally murdered his wife in the middle of the road on Thursday. The victim has been identified as Saraswati, who was employed as a nurse at a private hospital in Vijayawada. The horrifying act took place in full public view, leaving residents deeply disturbed. According to preliminary reports, domestic disputes are believed to have led to the crime. Sources said Saraswati and her husband had been living separately for some time due to ongoing family conflicts.

Their strained relationship reportedly intensified over recent weeks, culminating in this tragic event. On Thursday, the accused husband allegedly intercepted Saraswati on her way to work and attacked her with a sharp weapon, slitting her throat on the spot. Shocked passersby immediately alerted the police and emergency services, but she succumbed to her injuries before any medical help could reach her. Local police teams rushed to the scene upon receiving information from witnesses. The accused was taken into custody within minutes of the incident and is currently being interrogated at the local police station.

The murder weapon has reportedly been seized, and a case has been registered under sections related to murder and domestic violence. Police officials have assured a thorough investigation into the incident. The body was shifted to the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada for postmortem examination.

Meanwhile, the incident has sparked outrage among residents and healthcare workers who have demanded stringent punishment for the accused. Authorities appealed to the public to seek legal help and counseling in cases of domestic disputes instead of resorting to violence.

Secretariat Staff Absconds with 20 Lakh in Kadapa

TPN Bureau | nov 13
Kadapa: In a shocking case of financial misconduct, a Secretariat employee from Ankalamma Gudur in Kadapa district has reportedly absconded after allegedly misappropriating nearly 20 lakh meant for government agricultural subsidies. The accused, identified as Praveen Kumar Reddy, was working as a Horticulture Assistant at the local village secretariat.

According to preliminary reports, Praveen Kumar Reddy handled various welfare and agricultural subsidy schemes



under the horticulture department. He is suspected to have collected large sums of money from farmers and local beneficiaries under the pretext of providing subsidized seeds and fertilizers. Instead of channeling the funds into official accounts, officials allege that he diverted them for personal use. Villagers raised suspicions after noticing delays in the distribution of seeds and fertilizers despite having paid the required amounts.

When department authorities conducted an internal inquiry, they discovered financial irregularities amounting to roughly 20 lakh.

By that time, Praveen Kumar Reddy had already gone missing, prompting officials to file a complaint with the local police. Police have launched a manhunt to trace the absconding employee. Senior officials from the Department of Horticulture and the District Administration are closely monitoring the case and have initiated disciplinary measures.

Authorities are also reviewing internal financial controls at village secretariats to prevent similar incidents in the future. This incident has created widespread outrage among farmers and local residents, who are demanding strict legal action and recovery of funds. The case underscores the growing need for stronger oversight and accountability mechanisms within the village secretariat system, which plays a critical role in implementing grassroots-level government schemes across Andhra Pradesh.



MLA Kanna Holds Review Meet in Sattenapalli

TPN Bureau | nov 13, Sattenapalli (Palnadu District): Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Lakshmi Narayana convened a detailed review meeting with key local leaders and ward secretariat officials in the 6th ward of Sattenapalli town to assess civic conditions and ongoing government programs. During the session, the MLA personally received several public petitions and listened to citizens' grievances related mainly to housing and pension issues.

He assured that all such matters would be resolved promptly through proper coordination with the concerned departments. Addressing the participants, Kanna Lakshmi Narayana urged residents to bring any local problems directly to his notice so that solutions could be initiated without delay. He reiterated that his office remains open to the public for grievance redressal and that active community participation is essential for effective administration.

The senior leader emphasized that coalition leaders and party workers must remain accessible to the people at all times. He asked them to engage constantly with residents to explain the ongoing welfare and development schemes being implemented by the coalition government. Proper dissemination of information, he said, helps ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives the intended benefits.

Kanna further directed officials to maintain transparency while issuing essential certificates and documents to citizens. He said officers must adopt people-friendly practices to minimize delays and avoid bureaucratic hurdles. The MLA also instructed ward representatives to identify priority areas and frame ward-wise development plans to accelerate progress in urban infrastructure, sanitation, and social welfare.

Highlighting the coalition government's commitment to inclusive growth, Kanna called upon local leaders to work as a bridge between the administration and the community. He observed that consistent field-level interaction will strengthen trust and improve service delivery, the party structure, including state, district, constituency, municipal, and ward units.



Collector reviews inter-departmental coordination for Godavari Pushkaralu

TPN Bureau | nov 13, East Godavari: East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri on Thursday held a preliminary review meeting with officials from various departments to discuss inter-departmental coordination and preparatory measures for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu. The meeting, held at the Collectorate in Rajamahendravaram, focused on chalking out a comprehensive action plan encompassing infrastructure development, crowd management, public safety, and essential amenities.

Addressing the meeting, Collector Keerthi Chekuri said that a detailed and well-coordinated departmental action plan will be compiled and presented before the Chief Minister on behalf of the district administration. She directed officials to prepare department-wise projections of requirements and responsibilities, integrating insights from past Pushkaras held in 2003 and 2015.

The Collector emphasized that coordination among departments would be crucial for the smooth conduct of the mega religious event, which is expected to draw lakhs of devotees to the Godavari ghats. Officials from Revenue, Police, Transport, RTC, and other departments presented their preliminary plans through PowerPoint presentations, outlining infrastructure needs, manpower deployment, and logistical support. Departments such as Irrigation, Endowments, Railways, Power, and Urban Development

were instructed to prepare sector-specific data, challenges faced earlier, and forward-looking proposals for review in upcoming meetings. Collector Chekuri highlighted the importance of adopting modern tools like smart monitoring, AI-based digital inventory systems, and an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for real-time coordination.

She also stressed the estimation of pilgrim footfall in advance, particularly for Rajamahendravaram and Kovvur ghats, to facilitate smooth crowd and traffic management. The cultural and endowments departments were asked to plan events that showcase the region's heritage, traditional art forms, and spiritual significance. Speaking on the occasion, District SP D. Narasimha Kishore said that advance planning of security arrangements, surveillance systems, and emergency response teams is essential.

Proposals for AI-based crowd density tracking, drone monitoring, CCTV coverage at major ghats, and smart patrolling systems will be prepared shortly, he added. He underlined the need for multi-agency integration through the ICCC platform for information sharing and swift response. Representatives from KPMG consultancy, Prakash Srivastava and Prashanth, shared insights from Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2025, explaining smart crowd, vehicle, and sanitation management practices.

MLA Lays Foundation for CC Roads and Drain Construction Worth Rs. 40 Lakh

TPN Bureau | nov 13
Narasaraopet, Palnadu District: In a step toward improving rural infrastructure, Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu on Thursday laid the foundation stone for development works worth Rs. 40 lakh at Kesanupalli village in Narasaraopet mandal. The projects include the construction of CC roads at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh and side drainage systems worth Rs. 10 lakh. These works aim to resolve long-pending issues related to road connectivity and sanitation in the village.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aravind Babu stated that development and welfare initiatives are progressing simultaneously across the Narasaraopet constituency with the strong support of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He said the state government is committed to providing essential infrastructure facilities in every village under its administration. Highlighting the progress made in recent weeks, the MLA mentioned that development works worth nearly Rs. 3 crore have been undertaken across the constituency.



Among these, drinking water pipelines and supply systems worth Rs. 1.5 crore have already been launched under the supervision of the Rural Water Supply (RWS) Department. These projects are being implemented as part of the state's "Super Six" promises announced by the government.

Dr. Aravind Babu emphasized that ensuring access to clean drinking water, well-laid roads, drainage systems, quality education, healthcare services, and employment opportunities for every household remains a top priority for the government. He added that the ongoing rural infrastructure development will contribute significantly to improving the quality of life and living standards in villages like Kesanupalli.

Avanigadda MLA Urges Village-Level Officials to Curb Irregularities

TPN Bureau | nov 13
Avanigadda: MLA Mandal Buddhaprasad called on village-level officials to act responsibly and curb irregularities and encroachments. He emphasized the need for accountability among panchayat secretaries and village revenue officers (VROs) to ensure transparent governance at the grassroots level. Speaking at the Praja Darbar and Grievance Redressal Program held at the Vision Action Plan Unit in Avanigadda on Thursday, Buddhaprasad instructed mandal officers to issue firm directives to their subordinates.



He also advised that government offices should be kept clean and well-maintained to reflect the values of public service. The MLA discussed with officials the establishment of cremation grounds in Scheduled Caste (SC) localities and announced that the next Praja Darbar will be held on November 20 at the Avanigadda Revenue Hall. Constituency Special Officer Penumudi Saibabu highlighted the importance of regular supervision by mandal officials to assess the performance of village secretariat employees and ensure efficient delivery of government services.

During the program, MLA Buddhaprasad personally reviewed petitions submitted by local residents and directed concerned departmental officials to resolve the issues promptly. Several civic grievances were raised, including drainage overflow in Avanigadda's 4th Ward, allotment problems related to endowment lands of hereditary priests of Sri Lakshmi Narayana Swamy Temple, and requests for infrastructural improvements across the constituency. Residents of Kosuruvapalem in Mopidevi mandal sought the establishment of a second Anganwadi center and appointment of

an additional ASHA worker for their village. PACS Chairman Yerramsetti Subba Rao appealed for road access to a cremation ground developed through local donations in Merakanapalli. Citizens from Daliparru requested the setting up of a Rythu Seva Kendra (farmers' service center) and appointment of a village secretary under their panchayat, as well as the development of the main road in the area. The MLA also received petitions regarding the need for development of the canal bund road between Mopidevi and the nearby villages of Uttar Chiruvululanka and Mellamar thilanka to benefit local students, and for the establishment of a drinking water plant with MP funds.

Several officials were present at the event, including Penumudi Saibabu, AMC Chairman Kolluri Venkateswara Rao, Avanigadda, Nagayalanka, Koduru, and Mopidevi Tahsildars K. Nagamalleswara Rao, C.H. Veeranjanya Prasad, J. Soujanya Kiranmayi, ASWO Parve en Sultana, and Panchayat EO Thota Srinivasa Rao. Officials and staff from various departments attended the program.

Gedipudi Vijay Kumar and Ravella Muniraja Naidu Take Charge as TDP Mandal Chiefs

TPN Bureau | nov 13
SRIKALAHASTI, November 13: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders Gedipudi Vijay Kumar and Ravella Muniraja Naidu formally assumed charge as the party presidents for Srikalahasti town and Thottambedu mandal respectively. The swearing-in ceremony was held on Thursday at the TDP party office in Srikalahasti, in the presence of local MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy. On this occasion, both newly-appointed leaders expressed gratitude to party leadership for entrusting them with key organizational responsibilities.

They specifically thanked Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh for their confidence and support. The leaders pledged to dedicate their efforts to strengthening the TDP across the constituency and mobilizing cadres ahead of the upcoming local body and municipal elections.

Speaking after taking charge, Vijay Kumar said his immediate priority would be to expand the party base in urban and rural segments of Srikalahasti by engaging youth and local communities. He stressed that teamwork and coordination among all senior and grassroots leaders would be the key to ensuring the party's success in future elections. Thottambedu mandal president Ravella Muniraja Naidu echoed similar sentiments, stating that his leadership would focus on taking the TDP's welfare and development agenda to every household.

He assured the cadre that every effort would be made to bring the party back to full organizational strength, adding that unity and dedication are essential for political revival at the grassroots. MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, who presided over the ceremony, congratulated both leaders and urged them to work with commitment to uphold the party's values.

He remarked that Srikalahasti constituency has always been a stronghold for the Telugu Desam Party and encouraged the new presidents to channel the party's legacy into tangible results for people's welfare and progressive development. Party officials, senior leaders, and local activists attended the event and extended warm wishes to the newly appointed presidents.

The program concluded with the leaders reaffirming their determination to ensure TDP's victory in the forthcoming local elections through united and consistent efforts at the ground level.



Islamist Groups Hijack Bangladesh Student Movement



Bangladesh's student-led quota reform movement, initially celebrated as a peaceful campaign for equality and meritocracy, has been revealed to have been infiltrated by Islamist groups, leading to violent clashes and political instability. What began as a protest against systemic discrimination morphed into an armed insurrection with ideological overtones, experts say.

The movement erupted as students demanded reform of job quotas and fair access to opportunities in public institutions. Widespread support came from university teachers, professionals, laborers, and ordinary citizens, creating a perception of a grassroots, non-violent struggle for justice. However, recent confessions by movement leaders indicate that the protests were far from peaceful. Coordinators openly admitted to orchestrating attacks on government buildings and public infrastructure, including the Setu Bhaban and metro rail systems, resulting in the deaths of numerous police officers.

Intelligence reports and investigative journalism suggest that Jamaat-e-Islami and its militant student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir, played a key role in steering the movement toward armed confrontation. The groups reportedly recruited students, spread propaganda, and provided weapons to ensure escalation. Public statements by Jamaat operatives confirm their strategic involvement, highlighting how the movement's original anti-discrimination message was used as a cover for ideological extremism aimed at undermining Bangladesh's secular foundations.

The violence has left a lasting toll: at least 44 police officers were killed during clashes, while many others were injured. Meanwhile, the deaths and injuries of students have been highlighted in political narratives, overshadowing the sacrifices of law enforcement and creating a complex moral and legal dilemma for the government. Questions remain about the source of the weapons used, with allegations of smuggling and external funding, raising concerns of broader regional involvement.

The interim government formed amid the unrest faces criticism for exceeding its mandate and curbing democratic processes. Opposition parties report intimidation, arrests, and disruptions of rallies, raising fears that the elections scheduled for February may lack genuine inclusivity and fairness. Analysts warn that without free, fair, and inclusive elections under a neutral caretaker system, Bangladesh risks further political fragmentation and erosion of public trust.

Experts and regional observers, including India, have expressed concern over the resurgence of Islamist influence and anti-India rhetoric, which could destabilize not only Bangladesh's internal governance but also regional security. The hijacking of a legitimate student movement underscores the urgent need for impartial investigations, accountability for violence, and a restoration of secular democratic principles.

Bangladesh's future stability depends on reclaiming the original spirit of the student movement—rooted in equality, justice, and non-violence—while confronting the ideological manipulation that threatens to rewrite the nation's democratic trajectory.

Delhi Red Fort Blast: Unraveling a White-Collar Terror Conspiracy



A high-intensity explosion near Delhi's Red Fort on 10 November 2025 claimed at least 12 lives and left the area in chaos, marking one of the deadliest terror attacks in recent years. Initially suspected as a cylinder blast in a car, subsequent investigations confirmed it was a well-planned terror strike. The blast coincided with the discovery of nearly 2,900 kg of explosives in Faridabad, including IED components, ammunition, and electronic triggering devices, hinting at a coordinated, larger conspiracy.

Intelligence agencies, the Delhi Police, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and the National Security Guard (NSG) quickly swung into action. Home Minister Amit Shah visited the site to assess the situation, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a visit to Bhutan the following day, vowed stern action against the perpetrators. The Cabinet Com-

mittee on Security convened on 12 November to deliberate on national security measures in light of the attack.

Delhi has witnessed multiple terror incidents in the past, from the 2000 Red Fort attack by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) to the 2008 serial blasts in commercial areas and the 2001 attack on Parliament by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Current investigations suggest the recent attack was part of a broader scheme, aimed at spreading terror across India. JeM and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH) modules, operated by radicalized professionals and students with Pakistan-based handlers, were identified as the main orchestrators.

Key arrests linked to the conspiracy include Dr. Muzaamil Shakeel of Faridabad, whose homes yielded 360 kg of explosives and firearms, and Dr. Shaheen Shahid, tasked with establishing a women's wing of JeM. Others, such as Dr. Adeel Majeed Rather and Dr. Ahmed Mohi-uddin Saiyed, were found with materials to manufacture chemical weapons and explosives. Evidence indicates the car used in the Red Fort attack was likely driven in panic following earlier seizures.

The incident highlights the emergence of "white-collar" terrorists—highly educated professionals leading extremist cells. Experts warn this trend mirrors global patterns, where terror attacks have been orchestrated by well-educated individuals, complicating detection and prevention.

The attack also has clear links to Pakistan, especially following the country's perceived strategic setbacks during Operation Sindoor. Analysts suggest the blast may have been designed to provoke an Indian military response, reinforcing extremist narratives in Pakistan.

As India evaluates its response, security agencies are focusing on dismantling sleeper cells and enhancing intelligence coordination. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized that perpetrators will be brought to justice, while ongoing Trilateral Service exercises aim to strengthen operational readiness across multiple domains.

The Red Fort attack underscores a shift in terror dynamics—terrorism is no longer confined to conventional militants but increasingly involves radicalized, educated professionals, posing a complex challenge to national security.

Warm Bhutan-India Ties Reinforced By Modi Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Bhutan from 11–12 November 2025 has reinforced the deep and longstanding ties between the two nations, highlighting both strategic and developmental cooperation. Despite the recent terror attack in Delhi's Red Fort area, Modi's visit went ahead, symbolizing India's commitment to its close Himalayan neighbor.

During the visit, PM Modi and Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck inaugurated the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric project, marking a significant milestone in the India-Bhutan Friendship Project initiative. This project is expected to boost Bhutan's hydroelectric power capacity by 40%, reinforcing the kingdom's position as a renewable energy powerhouse with a negative carbon footprint. India also pledged a new concessional line of credit of ₹4,000 crore for Bhutan's further energy projects and development initiatives.

Bhutan, strategically located between India and China, has traditionally benefited from India's non-predatory support through concessional loans, electricity purchases, and a defence protection pact. During Modi's visit, the two countries signed three MoUs covering renewable energy, mental health services, and healthcare. These agreements strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors while reflecting Bhutan's emphasis on sustainable development and Gross National Happiness. India had earlier contributed ₹10,000 crore to Bhutan's Five-



Year Plan in 2024 to support infrastructure, agriculture, finance, and healthcare development.

Connectivity between Bhutan and India also received a boost during the visit. Plans are underway to connect Bhutanese border towns Gelephu and Samtse with India's railway network, enhancing trade and mobility. India will set up an immigration check post at Hatisar, near Gelephu, and support infrastructure development on its side of the border. Additionally, Bhutan intends to develop Gelephu Mindfulness City, leveraging this connectivity for economic and cultural growth.

The strategic dimension of the visit is significant. Improved connectivity strengthens India's ability to protect the Siliguri Corridor, also called the "Chicken Neck," a narrow strip linking India's northeast to the rest of the country, which has faced scrutiny from China. India has reinforced military infrastructure in the area, including troop deployments, missile systems, and aerial surveillance, reflecting heightened preparedness following Operation Sindoor against Pakistan-supported threats.

Bhutan, mindful of Chinese influence in the region, continues to navigate a careful balancing act between India and China. The visit reassured Bhutan of India's reliable support while highlighting India's regional defense and infrastructure capabilities. China's preoccupation with its domestic challenges and international setbacks, combined with India's growing strategic strength, has allowed Bhutan to maintain au-

tonomy while benefiting from Indian collaboration.

PM Modi's visit, coinciding with the 70th birthday of King Jigme Khesar Wangchuck, underscores India's commitment to a partnership that goes beyond diplomacy, encompassing defense, development, and sustainable energy cooperation. The strengthened ties demonstrate India's role as a steady, non-predatory partner, and Bhutan's continued reliance on India for strategic, economic, and energy security in a complex regional environment.

This visit not only cements the bilateral relationship but also sets the stage for deeper collaboration in infrastructure, renewable energy, healthcare, and defense, reinforcing Bhutan's stability and India's strategic posture in South Asia.

Cabinet decisions on exports to improve competitiveness: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded the Union Cabinet's recent decisions aimed at enhancing India's export capabilities, asserting that the measures will improve global competitiveness and support the nation's journey toward self-reliance.

The Cabinet, chaired by Modi on Wednesday, approved key initiatives including an export promotion mission and a credit guarantee scheme for exporters. These steps are designed to provide financial support, reduce risks for exporters, and encourage Indian businesses to expand their footprint in international markets.

Addressing the significance of these decisions, Modi emphasized that boosting exports is central to strengthening India's economic resilience. "These initiatives will help our exporters compete globally and contribute to achieving the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The export promotion mission will focus on identifying new markets, enhancing supply chains, and providing technical



and marketing support to Indian exporters. Meanwhile, the credit guarantee scheme aims to ease access to working capital, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are often constrained by limited financial resources.

Economic analysts view these measures as timely, given the growing global

demand for Indian goods and the need to diversify export markets amid geopolitical uncertainties. By reducing financial risks and supporting business expansion, the initiatives are expected to create new opportunities for manufacturers and service providers alike.

Modi's announcement reflects the government's

broader strategy to strengthen India's trade ecosystem while fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Officials note that increasing exports not only contributes to economic growth but also generates employment and enhances India's standing in the global economy.

The Cabinet's approval

signals a proactive approach toward building a more competitive export sector, reinforcing India's commitment to self-reliance while integrating effectively with global markets. Stakeholders in trade and industry have welcomed the move as a positive step toward sustainable economic growth.

ED Attaches Rs 61 Crore Assets of Bhupesh Baghel's Son in Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam

TPN Correspondent | Patna

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 61.20 crore belonging to Chaitanya Baghel, son of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with the ongoing investigation into the Chhattisgarh liquor scam.

The attached assets include 364 residential plots and agricultural lands valued at Rs 59.96 crore, alongside movable assets such as bank balances and fixed deposits worth Rs 1.24 crore. The ED said the action is part of its continuing probe into the liquor syndicate that allegedly caused massive losses to the state exchequer.

The investigation was initiated following an FIR by the Anti-Corruption Bureau/Enforcement Wing (ACB/EOW), Raipur, under sections of



the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Police and ED investigations revealed that the liquor scam resulted in over Rs 2,500 crore of illicit proceeds, with Chaitanya Baghel positioned at the top of the syndicate.

According to the ED, Chaitanya Baghel controlled and managed the accounts of all illicit

funds collected by the syndicate and directed key decisions regarding the collection, channelization, and distribution of the proceeds. The probe further revealed that he laundered a portion of these proceeds through his real estate business, notably the "Vittal Green" project under his proprietorship, M/s

Baghel Developers.

Chaitanya Baghel was arrested by the ED on July 18 and remains in judicial custody. Earlier, the ED had arrested several high-profile individuals linked to the case, including former IAS officer Anil Tuteja, Arvind Singh, Trilok Singh Dhillon, Anwar Dhebar, Arun Pati Tripathi, and MLA Kawa-

si Lakhma, who was the excise minister at the time.

This latest attachment of Rs 61.20 crore comes in continuation of previous actions by the ED, which had already seized immovable properties valued at around Rs 215 crore, highlighting the scale and seriousness of the investigation.

"I Will Use My Conscience And Decide": Ajit Pawar On Resignation Demand



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Wednesday responded to calls for his resignation over a controversial land deal involving a company linked to his son, saying he will "use his conscience and take a decision."

The controversy centers

around a now-cancelled Rs 300-crore deal concerning a government-owned plot in Pune's Mundhwa area. Allegations of irregularities surfaced after it was revealed that a private firm associated with Pawar's son, Parth, had attempted to acquire the land. Following opposition

criticism, the state government scrapped the deal and ordered a formal inquiry led by a senior IAS officer from the revenue department.

Social activist Anjali Damania has publicly demanded Ajit Pawar's resignation over the alleged land scam. Addressing re-

porters in Pune, the deputy CM stated, "I will use my conscience and take a decision," while defending his son, asserting that Parth was unaware that the land belonged to the government.

The incident has intensified political scrutiny in Maharashtra, with the op-

position demanding accountability and transparency. Analysts note that the matter could have implications for the ruling coalition, particularly as the inquiry progresses and further details emerge.

Separately, Ajit Pawar addressed security concerns following a car blast in Delhi on November 10. He confirmed that a security review meeting was held in Mumbai on Tuesday, with Maharashtra placed on high alert. "The Chief Minister instructed all police officers to be on high alert. We have spoken to everyone concerned. After such incidents, the security situation in major cities is reviewed," he said.

As investigations into both the land deal and security issues continue, the deputy CM's stance suggests he is weighing his options carefully, balancing political accountability with personal and familial considerations. The situation remains under close observation by the media and opposition parties.

Delhi Chokes as Severe Air Pollution Persists Amid Spike in Farm Fires



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi continued to grapple with hazardous air quality on Wednesday, as the city recorded its second consecutive day of 'severe' pollution, with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 418, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The deteriorating air quality is largely attributed to stubble-burning in neighbouring states, which contributed 22.4 per cent to Delhi's PM2.5 levels on Wednesday — the highest share recorded from farm fires this winter. Additionally, 15.5 per cent of the pollution was transported from outside the city, as per the Decision Support System (DSS) data.

A 'severe' AQI poses serious health risks

even for healthy individuals and can significantly affect people with respiratory or cardiac conditions. Delhi had recorded its first 'severe' day of the season on Tuesday, with the AQI reaching 428, after several days in the 'very poor' category due to stagnant weather and local emissions.

Satellite imagery showed 312 farm fire incidents in Punjab, 72 in Haryana, and 322 in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, highlighting the scale of crop residue burning affecting the capital. DSS projections for Thursday indicate that stubble-burning will contribute around 10.1 per cent to PM2.5 levels, while transport-related emissions are expected to rise slightly to 19.3 per cent.

The Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) has predicted that pollution levels are likely to remain in the 'very poor' category from Thursday onwards.

On the weather front, temperatures in the city continued to dip, with Wednesday recording a minimum of 10.4°C, 3.1°C below normal, and a maximum of 27.7°C, slightly below average. Thursday is expected to witness shallow morning fog, with temperatures ranging between 11°C and 26°C.

Authorities have urged residents, especially children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, to limit outdoor activities and take precautions amid the ongoing air quality crisis.

Tamil Nadu Raises Dearness Allowance by 3% for Govt Employees and Teachers



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In a major pre-election move, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday announced a three per cent hike in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees, teachers, and pensioners. The revision raises the DA from 55 per cent to 58 per cent, effective from July 1, 2025, bringing it in line with the central government's DA rate.

According to an official release from the Department of Information and Public Relations, the increase is expected to benefit nearly 16 lakh state employees, teachers, pensioners, and family pensioners. The move will cost the state exchequer approximately Rs 1,829 crore annually.

Speaking about the hike, CM Stalin emphasized the vital role of government staff and teachers in implementing welfare schemes at the grassroots level. "The state remains committed to the welfare of its employees, recognizing their efforts in ensuring that schemes reach the intended beneficiaries, even amidst fiscal constraints," he said.

The DA revision comes at a politically sensitive time as Tamil Nadu prepares for the 2026 Assembly elections. The ruling DMK government has faced growing dissatisfaction among government employees, particularly over its previous unfulfilled promise to restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Analysts note that the

increase in DA may be an attempt to appease employees and teachers ahead of the polls.

The announcement has been welcomed by many employees and pensioners, though some continue to press for a full restoration of OPS. Trade unions representing state staff have called the DA hike a positive step but indicated that further dialogue would be needed to address broader concerns about pension reforms and pay parity.

With the new DA rate now official, state employees can expect enhanced monthly remuneration, reflecting both the government's commitment to staff welfare and its strategy to consolidate support ahead of the upcoming elections.

UK PM Says BBC Should ‘Correct Errors’ As Trump Mulls Lawsuit



TPN Correspondent | London

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday urged the BBC to “get their house in order” after US President Donald Trump threatened to sue the broadcaster for \$1 billion over a misleading edit of his speech. The edited footage, aired in a BBC documentary last year, suggested Trump encouraged “violent action” ahead of the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack. Speaking in Parliament, Starmer emphasized his support for a “strong and independent BBC” but stressed that it must uphold high standards and correct errors promptly. “Where mistakes are made, they do need to get their house in order,” he said, responding to calls to ask Trump to drop the legal threat. Trump’s legal team sent the broadcaster a letter on Monday, warning of a billion-dollar defamation lawsuit. In a Fox News interview recorded the same day, Trump said, “I guess I have to, why not?” and described the editing as fraudulent, asserting he had an “obligation” to act. He also criticized the British government’s stake in the publicly

funded BBC. The controversy has already prompted significant leadership changes at the BBC. Both the director-general and the top news executive resigned Sunday, while BBC chair Samir Shah publicly apologized on Monday for the “error of judgment” in editing the footage. The corporation has said it will review Trump’s legal letter. Public opinion in Britain is divided. A YouGov poll found 57% of Britons believe the BBC should formally apologize to Trump, while 25% opposed. The dispute comes at a sensitive time for the BBC, which is preparing to renegotiate its Royal Charter, the governance framework due to expire in 2027. The row adds to Trump’s history of legal threats aimed at US media critics since returning to office, raising questions about media accountability and international defamation standards. Starmer’s government faces a careful balancing act: defending the broadcaster’s independence while ensuring public trust in its reporting remains intact.

Defence Minister Khawaja Warns India, Afghanistan



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan.

In a fresh provocation, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that the country is “fully prepared” to face a two-front war with India and Afghanistan. His remarks come amid heightened regional tensions following a recent terror attack in New Delhi, allegedly linked to Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammed, which killed at least 13 people. Speaking to a local news channel, Asif declared, “We are ready; we are prepared to face both the eastern (India) and western (Afghanistan) borders. Allah helped us in round one, and He will help us in round two. If they want the final round, we have no option but war.” The statement follows a blast in Islamabad earlier this week that killed 12 people. While the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had accused groups “supported by India” of involvement — a

claim New Delhi has firmly rejected in the past. Asif also warned both India and Afghanistan against “any misadventure,” saying, “Pakistan will never initiate aggression, but we will respond forcefully if provoked.” He further alleged that the Taliban-led government in Kabul was fragmented, accusing some factions of maintaining links with India. “Some are linked with India, and some have their strings pulled elsewhere. These incidents are preludes to aggression that could happen from the Afghan side — in reality, Indian aggression waged through Afghanistan,” Asif claimed, without offering evidence. This is not the first time Asif has accused Afghanistan of fighting “India’s proxy war” along the Durand Line. His comments have sparked strong reactions across diplomatic circles, with observers warning that such rhetoric could further destabilize an already volatile region.

Trump Signs Funding Bill, Ending 43-Day Government Shutdown

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump signed a government funding bill on Wednesday night, officially ending a record 43-day federal shutdown that caused widespread disruption across the country. The prolonged closure left federal employees without pay, stranded travelers at airports, and created long queues at food banks. The bill was passed by the House earlier in the day on a mostly party-line vote of 222-209, following Senate approval on Monday. The legislation funds three annual spending bills and extends government operations through January 30, 2026. It also reverses Trump administration firings during the shutdown and ensures federal workers are paid and protected from layoffs until the new deadline. The compromise emerged after eight senators broke ranks with Democrats, agreeing that Republicans would not attach an extension of enhanced health care tax credits to the funding bill. Republicans promised a separate vote by mid-December on the issue, though success is uncertain. The shutdown highlighted sharp partisan divides. Trump blamed Democrats for the stalemate, urging voters to remember the disruption ahead of next year’s midterm elections. “Don’t forget what they’ve done to our country,” he said during the signing ceremony. Democrats, meanwhile, criticized the bill for failing to extend the Affordable Care Act’s enhanced tax credits, warning that premiums could soar and millions might lose coverage next year. The legislation also includes funding for key food assistance programs, security enhancements for lawmakers, and \$28 million for Supreme

Court justices’ security. Some last-minute provisions allowing senators to sue over federal searches of their records drew criticism from both parties. Despite ending the shutdown, lawmakers acknowledged the battle over health care subsidies is far from over, with debates on affordability and eligibility expected to continue in the coming weeks. The deal, while ending immediate crisis, leaves significant policy disputes unresolved, particularly regarding the ACA tax credits. The government shutdown was the longest in US history, surpassing previous records and leaving lasting impacts on federal employees and public services.



“New York Will Turn Into Mumbai”: Real Estate Billionaire On Mamdani’s Win

TPN Correspondent | New York City

Real estate billionaire Barry Sternlicht has warned that New York City could face a “really tough time” under mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, comparing the potential economic fallout of his policies to turning the city “into Mumbai.” Speaking to CNBC, the Starwood Capital Group CEO criticized the Democratic socialist’s proposed housing and social welfare reforms, claiming they could drive up costs and destabilize the real estate market. Sternlicht’s comments come after Mamdani’s sweeping victory, where he won four out of five boroughs to become New York’s first Muslim and South Asian-origin mayor. Mamdani’s campaign promises include rent freezes in rent-stabilized apart-



ments, free bus services, universal childcare for children aged six months to five years, and city-owned gro-

cery stores in each borough. While his supporters hail these as progressive reforms, business leaders like Sternlicht argue they could worsen the city’s economic challenges. “Every project in New York has to go un-

ion, and it’s super expensive. It leads to extremely costly housing,” Sternlicht said, blaming trade un-

ions for stifling development and making blue states “difficult to add supply of housing to.” Criticizing Mamdani’s rent policies, he added, “If tenants don’t pay and can’t be evicted, it creates a domino effect—eventually you’ll turn New York City into Mumbai.” The billionaire also raised concerns over public safety, referencing Mamdani’s earlier stance on “Defund the Police.” He warned that reduced police support could drive families away and harm the city’s stability. Despite the backlash, Mamdani maintains that his administration will prioritize housing access, social equity, and affordability—an agenda that continues to polarize New Yorkers across economic and political lines.

Unrest In Bangladesh As Dhaka Court Sets Hasina’s Trial Verdict For November 17

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Tensions are mounting in Bangladesh as a Dhaka court announced that the verdict in former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s trial will be delivered on November 17. The development has sparked widespread unrest across the country, with Hasina’s supporters and her now-banned Awami League party calling for a nationwide “lockdown” on Thursday to protest the proceedings. The former leader, currently living in India since her ouster in August 2024, faces charges of crimes against humanity related to the deadly crackdown on student-led protests that ended her 15-year rule. The trial also includes former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and ex-police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, the latter of whom has



turned state witness. Prosecutors have sought the death penalty for Hasina and Khan. The situation escalated after Bangladesh’s Foreign Ministry summoned India’s Deputy High Commis-

sioner in Dhaka, objecting to Hasina’s recent interviews with Indian and Western media. The ministry

accused New Delhi of allowing a “fugitive under trial” to use its platforms to “spew hatred and advocate

terrorism.” In her interviews, Hasina said the Awami League would participate in upcoming elections if they are “free and fair,” while accusing the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus of “empowering extremist forces.” She also expressed gratitude to India for granting her refuge. Meanwhile, violence has gripped Dhaka and other major cities, with reports of crude bomb explosions, arson, and clashes. Schools have shifted to online classes, and security forces—including 17,000 police personnel and Border Guard Bangladesh units—have been deployed to maintain order. With the verdict date approaching, Bangladesh braces for more turmoil, as the nation remains deeply divided over its former leader’s fate.

Gold and Silver Futures Surge on US Shutdown Relief

Gold and silver futures witnessed a strong rally in early trade on Wednesday, driven by safe-haven demand following relief over the resolution of the US government shutdown. Investors flocked to precious metals amid global economic uncertainties, extending gains for the second consecutive day.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), December gold futures jumped by Rs 1,180, or 0.93%, to settle at Rs 1,27,645 per 10 grams. Silver futures also saw a sharp rise, gaining Rs 1,230, or 1.15%, to trade at Rs 1,08,250 per kilogram. Market analysts noted that the spike reflects a combination of renewed investor confidence and persistent concerns about global inflation and financial market volatility.

The US government shutdown, which had caused uncertainty in global markets, has now been averted, easing immediate fears of disruptions in fiscal operations. This develop-



India's Services Growth Slows to 5-Month Low in October

ment triggered a relief rally across asset classes, with precious metals benefiting as investors sought protection against potential economic instability.

Gold, traditionally seen as a hedge against inflation and geopolitical risks, drew particular attention as traders assessed the broader impact of the US fiscal situation on global markets. Analysts also pointed out that the dollar index has softened slightly following the news, further supporting gold and silver prices.

Domestic factors, including strong demand from jewellery makers and retail investors ahead of the wedding and festival season, also contributed to the upward momentum in precious metal futures.

Market experts suggest that gold and silver prices may continue to remain volatile in the near term, influenced by global macroeconomic cues, interest rate expectations, and geopolitical developments. The rally underscores the enduring appeal of precious metals as a safe investment avenue amid uncertain economic conditions.

With both gold and silver posting significant gains, traders and investors are closely monitoring international developments and domestic demand patterns for further cues.

India's Textile Exports See Mixed Growth During April–September 2025



India's textile sector showed a mixed performance in the first half of the current fiscal year. Over-

all, the country's global exports of textiles, apparel, and made-ups increased marginally by just 0.1% dur-

ing April–September 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, according to government data.

Despite this overall modest growth, India's textile exports to select international markets performed strongly. The government reported that exports to 111 countries rose by 10% year-on-year during the same period. This reflects the growing demand for Indian textiles in key overseas markets, even as global trade faces challenges such as fluctuating currency rates and economic uncertainties.

The performance highlights the resilience of India's textile sector, which remains one of the largest contributors to the country's merchandise exports. Key export items include cotton textiles, readymade garments, and home textiles, with demand particularly high in markets such as the US, the European Union, and Southeast Asia.

Industry analysts note that while exports to certain regions have surged, challenges like rising input costs, global inflation, and

competitive pressures from other manufacturing countries have limited overall growth. The government continues to support the sector through initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, trade facilitation measures, and export promotion programs aimed at boosting competitiveness.

The sector's strong performance in 111 countries indicates India's ability to diversify its export base and reduce over-reliance on specific markets. Policymakers are optimistic that ongoing reforms and targeted incentives will help sustain export momentum in the second half of the fiscal year.

India's textile industry, employing millions nationwide, continues to be a critical driver of economic growth, foreign exchange earnings, and global trade presence, balancing modest overall growth with pockets of robust performance in strategic international markets.

Indian Stock Markets Bounce Back on Global Rally, Blue-Chip Buying

Indian equity markets rebounded in early trade on Thursday, November 6, 2025, led by a rally in global markets and renewed buying interest in blue-chip stocks.

The BSE Sensex gained 376.89 points to 83,836.04, while the NSE Nifty rose 81.5 points to 25,679.15 in early trading hours. Analysts said the positive momentum reflected optimism among investors following strong cues from Asian markets and improved risk sentiment globally.

Asian indices also traded in positive territory, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng all posting gains. The broader rally across the region supported domestic investors' confidence, prompting fresh buying in leading Indi-

an stocks.

Sectoral trends showed robust performance in technology, financial services, and energy stocks, which drew the bulk of investor interest. Market participants noted that heavyweights in these sectors played a key role in driving the early gains.

According to analysts, the market rebound is a reflection of cautious optimism, with investors keeping an eye on global economic developments, corporate earnings, and domestic policy measures. Foreign institutional investors' (FII) activity also influenced early trading sentiment, though some caution persisted due to intermittent selling pressure in select segments.

Market observers highlighted that while the early gains are en-



couraging, sustaining momentum will depend on continued positive global cues and domestic economic indicators. Investors are ad-

vised to monitor macroeconomic developments, crude oil prices, and global equity trends, which could influence trading

in the coming sessions.

Overall, Thursday's early trade marked a strong recovery for Indian markets, suggest-

ing renewed investor confidence amid supportive global trends and selective stock-specific buying in key sectors.

India Poised to Lead G20 Through 2027, Says Moody's



India's economic growth remains resilient despite global trade tensions and rising tariffs, and the country is set to lead the G20 economies through 2027, according to Moody's Investors Service. The rating agency highlighted India's strong fundamentals, which are expected to sustain robust growth over the next few years.

Moody's attributed India's growth engine to a combination of robust infrastructure investments, strong domestic consumer demand, and diversified exports. Despite cautious private sector capital spending, public investments in roads, railways, and urban infrastructure are expected to keep the momentum alive.

The agency noted that India's consumer base continues to expand, driven by rising incomes, urbanization, and increasing digital penetration, which together fuel domestic demand. Additionally, India's exports, diversified across textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and electronics, are expected to mitigate the impact of global tariff pressures and trade disruptions.

Moody's also highlighted India's policy reforms, including initiatives to attract

foreign direct investment and streamline business regulations, which have strengthened investor confidence and supported sustained economic growth. The combination of public investment and structural reforms positions India to outperform many G20 peers, particularly those facing slower domestic demand or higher exposure to global trade tensions.

The rating agency emphasized that while global headwinds such as trade protectionism, geopolitical tensions, and rising energy costs may pose challenges, India's diversified growth model and strong policy support provide resilience. The cautious private sector spending, Moody's noted, is likely to recover as business confidence strengthens and credit availability improves.

Moody's projection reinforces India's role as a key driver of global growth, underlining its strategic importance in the G20 and the broader global economy. Analysts suggest that sustained infrastructure investment, coupled with strong domestic consumption, will continue to anchor India's economic trajectory through the latter half of the decade.

SBI Q2 Net Profit Jumps 10% to ₹20,160 Crore



State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 10% year-on-year rise in net profit for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, at ₹20,160 crore, driven by improved asset quality and gains from strategic investments.

A key contributor to the robust performance was the sale of a 13.18% stake in Yes Bank, which generated a profit of ₹4,593 crore. This exceptional gain significantly boosted the bank's overall net earnings for the quarter.

The bank's performance also reflects strengthened asset quality across its lending portfolio, which helped offset pressures from other operational costs. Analysts note that SBI's proactive approach in managing non-performing assets and strategic stake sales is reinforcing its financial position.

"This quarter's results highlight SBI's ability to generate exceptional returns through smart investment decisions while maintaining

healthy lending practices," said an industry expert.

SBI, India's largest public sector lender, continues to leverage its wide branch network and digital banking footprint to drive growth, while balancing risk management and capital allocation. The gains from the Yes Bank stake sale underscore the bank's focus on unlocking value from strategic investments.

With robust capital buffers and improved asset quality, SBI is well-positioned to maintain steady growth in the coming quarters, even as the broader banking sector faces challenges from fluctuating interest rates and evolving credit demand.

The bank's strong quarterly performance also strengthens investor confidence, reflecting its continued dominance in India's banking landscape and its capacity to capitalize on both operational and strategic opportunities.

ESA Explores Insects as Future Space Food for Astronauts



European scientists are exploring an unconventional yet promising food source for astronauts on long-duration space missions: insects. The European Space Agency (ESA) has partnered with experts in food science, biology, and space research to assess whether crickets, mealworms, and other edible insects could become a regular part of astronaut diets.

While the idea may seem unusual, insect consumption is widespread on Earth, with billions of people eating over 2,000 species globally, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Crickets, in particular, are a complete protein source, providing all nine essential amino acids, while mealworms are rich in protein and healthy fats. Both are also high in vital minerals such as iron and zinc.

"Insects seem to cope quite well in space environments. They have a good ability to withstand physical stresses," said Asa Berggren, Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and lead author of a recent study published in *Frontiers in*

Physiology. "These small animals efficiently convert materials that humans cannot consume into nutritious food for astronauts."

In addition to their nutritional benefits, insects require significantly less land, water, and feed compared to traditional livestock. They also produce fewer greenhouse gases, aligning with ESA's commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of space exploration.

The ESA has already approved house crickets and yellow mealworms for human consumption, and researchers are now optimizing their growth in microgravity conditions. Past experiments with fruit flies, the first animals to survive space travel, demonstrated that insects can complete their full life cycle in space, highlighting their adaptability to extraterrestrial environments.

With long-term missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond on the horizon, edible insects could offer a sustainable, protein-rich, and environmentally friendly solution for feeding astronauts, potentially transforming the future of space nutrition.

World's Largest Spider Web Found in Romanian Cave



Scientists have discovered what may be the world's largest spider web in a sulfur-rich cave near the Greece-Albania border, a find that has both amazed and unnerved arachnophobes worldwide. The discovery, documented in the journal *Subterranean Biology*, features a colossal web housing approximately 111,000 spiders from two rival species coexisting peacefully.

According to researchers, the web stretches along the walls of a narrow, low-roofed tunnel deep inside the cave, in a permanently dark zone near the cavern's mouth. The spiders have built thousands of interconnected funnel webs, forming a sprawling colony that scientists describe as a "silky tent city."

A video accompanying the study shows a researcher gently touching the web, revealing its dense structure as the strands ripple under the glow of his headlamp. The sheer scale of the web, combined with the high number of arachnids living in close proximity, has drawn widespread attention online.

Experts note that the coexistence of the two rival species is particularly unusual, as such species typically compete aggressively for territory. The stable environment of the cave, with its constant temperature, high humidity, and rich sulfur content, appears to support this rare phenomenon.

"This web is extraordinary not just in size, but in the harmony displayed by the spiders," said one researcher. "It gives us new insights into arachnid behavior and the ways ecosystems can support unexpected biodiversity."

The Romanian cave web adds to growing evidence that subterranean environments can host complex and previously undocumented communities. Scientists hope further study will shed light on how these spiders cooperate and maintain such an enormous structure without significant conflict.

The discovery has quickly gone viral, with videos of the web sparking fascination and horror in equal measure among social media users.

Scientists Identify Earth's High-Risk Zones for Interstellar Object Impacts

Scientists have identified regions on Earth that are at higher risk of impacts from interstellar objects (ISOs), mysterious visitors from outside our solar system. The study, led by Darryl Seligman of Michigan State University, used simulations to model the paths, orbital elements, and velocities of potential Earth-impacting ISOs.

According to the research, low-latitude regions near the equator are the most vulnerable, with a slight preference for the Northern Hemisphere, where nearly 90% of the global population resides. These objects are twice as likely to approach Earth from the solar apex—the Sun's path through the Milky Way—and the galactic plane, the dense flat region containing most stars.

The study also found that ISO impacts can vary by season. The highest velocity collisions are more probable during spring, when Earth moves toward the solar apex. Slower ISOs, which are more affected by the Sun's gravity, are generally more likely to hit during winter, when Earth is aligned toward the solar antapex.



While NASA has confirmed that the recently discovered interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS poses no threat to Earth, the research highlights the importance of understanding ISO behavior. Previous interstellar visitors include 'Oumuamua in 2017 and 2I/Borisov in 2019, both of which passed through the solar system without incident.

The study emphasizes that while the number of ISOs is currently unconstrained, understanding their kinematics—especially those from M-type stars, which are the most numerous in the Milky Way—can help identify high-risk zones and improve preparedness for future interstellar encounters.

Researchers hope that ongoing monitoring and simulations of these objects will enhance Earth's readiness for rare but potentially hazardous impacts, providing crucial insights into planetary defense strategies.

France Commemorates 10th Anniversary of Deadly Paris Attacks

France marked the 10th anniversary of the November 13, 2015, Paris attacks on Thursday, remembering the 130 people killed and hundreds more injured when Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers struck multiple locations across the city. The attacks, the deadliest on French soil since World War Two, left deep scars on the national psyche and prompted sweeping emergency security measures, many of which remain in place today.

The coordinated assault began with suicide bombings outside the Stade de France stadium, where then-President François Hollande and Germany's foreign minister were attending a soccer match. Gunmen then opened fire at cafes, restaurants, and the Bataclan concert hall, creating chaos and horror across central Paris. Survivors still recount harrowing experiences, with many suffering long-term trauma.



Sebastian Lascoux, a Bataclan survivor, described being trapped in the crowd as gunfire erupted. "People ended up all squashed together and collapsed as one... the smell of blood," he recalled. One of his friends was shot while shielding another attendee. Lascoux, now 46, continues to experience post-traumatic stress and plans to attend the commemorative events alongside other survivors.

President Emmanuel Macron joined officials, relatives, and survivors in memorial ceremonies, beginning at the Stade de France and moving through

the restaurants, cafes, and the Bataclan hall. Historian Denis Peschanski highlighted the attacks' indiscriminate nature, saying, "Everyone was a potential victim... either old enough to be there or with children who could have been."

Survivors like Catherine Bertrand, vice-president of a victims' association, emphasized resilience: "We are deeply traumatized, but life goes on. There are concerts at the Bataclan, we meet with friends... life goes on."

While the threat of large-scale attacks in France has diminished due to Islamic State's weakened capabilities, online propaganda still poses risks of radicalization. French anti-terrorism authorities recently launched an investigation related to the former partner of the presumed sole surviving attacker.

Russia's First AI Humanoid Robot Takes a Tumble on Stage

Russia's first AI-powered humanoid robot, named AIdol, made an ungraceful debut when it fell face-first on stage at a Moscow technology event, leaving developers scrambling and social media in stitches. The incident occurred on Monday, November 10, as the robot walked gingerly to the soundtrack of the film *Rocky*, waved to the audience, and immediately toppled, prompting staff to rush in for assistance.

The fall forced the developers to temporarily remove AIdol from public view while engineers examined its balance mechanisms and control software. Vladimir Vitukhin, CEO of Russian robotics firm Idol, described the mishap as a learning opportunity. "This is real-time learning, when a good mistake turns into knowledge, and a bad mistake turns into experience," he said, attributing the tumble to calibration issues.

Despite the embarrassment, the incident has sparked a mix of humor and admiration online. Social media users shared the viral video widely, with some poking fun at the robot's awkward gait. "They did a great job of emulating the shuffle of a geriatric that's had too much vodka," joked one viewer. Others acknowledged the challenges of humanoid robotics, praising the team's



efforts to push technological boundaries despite the public stumble.

AIdol's fall highlights the difficulties inherent in creating fully autonomous humanoid robots capable of navigating real-world environments. Experts note that maintaining balance, coordinating movements, and processing real-time feedback in dynamic conditions remain among the toughest hurdles in robotics.

Vladimir Vitukhin expressed optimism that the mishap would help improve AIdol's design. "Mistakes like these provide invaluable insight into refining the robot's software and mechanics," he said. The team plans to resume demonstrations once adjustments are made, signaling that innovation often comes with public lessons—and occasional tumbles.

While AIdol's debut may have been clumsy, it underscores the complex, trial-and-error nature of robotics development, where even setbacks provide critical learning opportunities.

Coco Gauff, Taylor Fritz Back For United Cup Against Iga Swiatek’s Poland

Coco Gauff and Taylor Fritz will headline Team USA's campaign as they gear up to defend their United Cup title in Australia, tournament organisers announced on Thursday. The mixed-team event, scheduled from January 2 to 11, will take place across Sydney and Perth, bringing together some of the biggest names in tennis for an early-season showdown ahead of the Australian Open.

World No. 3 Gauff and sixth-ranked Fritz were instrumental in securing the United States' victory at the inaugural edition earlier this year, edging out Poland in a thrilling finale. Gauff defeated world No. 2 Iga Swiatek in the deciding match, while Fritz overcame Hubert Hurkacz — both of whom will return this year as Poland seeks revenge.

The 2026 United Cup will feature 18 nations, with each team comprising three men and three women. Every tie includes one men's singles, one women's



singles, and a potentially decisive mixed doubles match.

Tournament director Stephen Farrow described the lineup as “world class,” expressing excitement for the official draw set for next Monday. Among the

marquee names participating are five of the world's top 10 men and four of the top 10 women.

Germany will once again rely on world No. 3 Alexander Zverev, teaming up with Eva Lys, while Japan will debut with four-time

Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka alongside Shintaro Mochizuki. Hosts Australia will be led by Alex de Minaur, with Greece represented by Stefanos Tsitsipas and Maria Sakkari, and Great Britain by Jack Draper and Emma Raducanu.

Meanwhile, stars like Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have opted for an exhibition match in South Korea ahead of the Australian Open, while Novak Djokovic is yet to confirm his early-season plans.

India Brace for South Africa’s Spin Challenge in First Test at Eden Gardens



India are set for a stern test as they take on South Africa in the opening Test of the two-match series at Eden Gardens, starting Friday. Despite their formidable batting depth, the hosts are wary of the Proteas' potent spin attack,

especially after last year's shocking home defeat to New Zealand, where Kiwi spinners dismantled India's batting to secure a 3-0 whitewash.

South Africa, traditionally known for their pace battery, now boast one of the most effective spin line-ups in world cricket. Their trio of Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer, and Senuran Muthusamy took 35 of 39 wickets in their recent 1-1 series draw in Pakistan, underlining their dominance on turning tracks. India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate even described them as a “subcontinent-style attack.”

Veteran off-spinner Simon Harmer, who first toured India in 2015, returns with experience and recent form — including an eight-wicket haul against Pakistan in Rawalpindi. His partnership with the consistent Maharaj could pose major challenges to India's batters.

The Eden Gardens pitch, closely monitored by captain Shubman Gill and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, is expected to offer early seam movement and some turn later on. CAB president Sourav Ganguly has confirmed it “won't be a rank-turner,” a relief for India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. Local pacer Akash Deep is also likely to feature alongside Mohammed Siraj.

India's middle order looks stronger with the return of Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel's inclusion as a specialist batter. Washington Sundar's all-round abilities will add balance.

With just two Tests in the series, India cannot afford a slow start. As ten Doeschate noted, “You've got to be mentally ready for 16–17 days of really tough cricket.” The series opener promises a fascinating contest of skill, patience, and spin mastery.

Cristiano Ronaldo’s Remark On Dublin Crowd Ahead Of Ireland Clash

Cristiano Ronaldo has once again made headlines with his trademark confidence and humour ahead of Portugal's crucial World Cup qualifier against Ireland in Dublin on Thursday. The Portuguese captain, who is just one win away from leading his nation to the 2026 World Cup finals, said he hopes the Irish crowd boos him — believing it could help ease the pressure on his teammates.

“The stadium will boo me, I'm used to it, I certainly hope they do — maybe it will take the pressure off other players,” Ronaldo told reporters on Wednesday. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner, now 40, remains a key figure for Portugal, who top Group F with a five-point lead and have two matches remaining in the qualification campaign.

Ronaldo, currently playing for Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, admitted that the match would be “difficult,” expecting Ireland to adopt a defensive approach and deny Portugal space. Still, the veteran forward emphasized his determination to continue contributing to the team's success.

When asked about the possibility of scoring his 1,000th career goal in the World Cup final, Ronaldo laughed off the notion: “You've been watching too many movies — that would be too perfect.”

With an incredible 953 career goals and 143 for Portugal — the most by any male international player — Ronaldo said his focus remains firmly on qualification rather than personal milestones.

“I want to play in the next World Cup, otherwise I wouldn't be here. But let's take it step by step,” he said.

While hinting that the 2026 World Cup could be his last, Ronaldo declined to elaborate on retirement plans. “There's no point in being repetitive and losing focus,” he added. “Portugal has another opportunity to be in another finals — that's what matters most.”



Lakshya Sen Cruises Into Second Round at Japan Masters



India's ace shuttler Lakshya Sen began his Japan Masters campaign in fine style, advancing to the second round of the men's singles with a commanding straight-game victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe on Wednesday.

Seeded seventh in the tournament, Sen displayed excellent control and sharp shot selection to dominate the proceedings. He defeated world No. 26 Watanabe 21-12, 21-16 in just 39 minutes, marking a confident start to his Kumamoto Masters Japan campaign. The world No. 15 Indian will next face the winner of the clash between Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh and Victor Lai of Canada.

However, it turned out to be a mixed day for the Indian contingent as Kiran George and the mixed doubles pair Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde bowed out of the tournament after closely fought matches.

Kiran George couldn't sustain his early momentum, going down 20-22, 10-21 to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok. In the mixed doubles event, Kapoor and Ruthvika fought valiantly before suffering a narrow loss to the American duo of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai. The Indians took the match to three games but ultimately fell short 12-21, 21-19, 20-22.

The tournament, part of the BWF World Tour Super 500 series, continues to see intense competition among top international shuttlers. Later in the day, HS Prannoy will face Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong, Ayush Shetty will take on fourth seed Kodai Naraoka, and Tharun Manneppalli will meet Korea's Hyeok Jin Jeon in their respective first-round encounters.

With Sen leading India's charge, the spotlight now turns to whether the country's top shuttlers can maintain momentum and advance further in this prestigious badminton event.

Sunrisers Hyderabad Eye Key Retentions Ahead of IPL 2026



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) are gearing up for the IPL 2026 retention deadline on November 15, following a mixed 2025 season where the team finished sixth and missed the playoffs. Despite some standout performances from their top order, inconsistencies in the middle overs and limited squad depth hampered their campaign. The franchise is now focused on making strategic retention and release decisions to strengthen its squad ahead of the mini-auction.

Central to SRH's plans is Pat Cummins, whose leadership and bowling prowess make him indispensable. All-rounder Travis Head also remains a key asset, having scored 374 runs in 13 matches at an impressive strike rate of 162.61. Young talent Abhishek Sharma is expected to be retained as well, contributing 439 runs in 14 matches with a strike rate of 193.39. Together, these three form a core around which SRH aims to build a balanced and competitive team for 2026.

One of the biggest speculations involves Heinrich Klaasen. Despite consistent performances over the past two seasons, SRH may release Klaasen to free up salary cap space. This would allow the franchise to pursue multiple roles in the auction rather than investing heavily in a single overseas batter. Reports indicate the team is evaluating cost-effective alternatives with similar impact, providing more flexibility in squad composition.

Alongside these key players, SRH is likely to retain Ishan Kishan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhinav Manohar, Adam Zampa, Kamindu Mendis, Atharva Taide, Aniket Verma, Smaran Ravichandran, Eshan Malinga, and Zeeshan Ansari.

With strategic retentions and smart auction planning, Sunrisers Hyderabad aim to address their weaknesses and emerge stronger in IPL 2026, blending experience, firepower, and young talent to mount a serious challenge for the title.

Anirudh And Kavya Maran Spotted Together In NY?



The internet is once again buzzing with speculation about music director Anirudh Ravichander and Sun TV heiress Kavya Maran after a new video surfaced online. The clip, which has now gone viral, shows the two walking together on the streets of New York, reigniting long-standing rumours about their alleged relationship.

Earlier this year, reports suggested that Anirudh and Kavya were dating, but the Jailer composer promptly dismissed the claims through a social media post, clarifying that there was no truth to the rumours. However, the recent sighting has once again set social media abuzz, with fans and gossip pages sharing screenshots and clips from a vlog originally uploaded by a UK-based travel vlogger.

In the viral video, Anirudh and Kavya appear to be strolling casually, accompanied by another unidentified woman. The short clip was enough to

reignite fan theories, with many questioning whether there is more to their friendship than meets the eye.

Anirudh has had a long-standing professional association with Sun TV Network, having composed music for several of its major film productions. Interestingly, it was also rumoured that he composed the anthem for Kavya Maran-owned IPL team, Sunrisers Hyderabad, though he reportedly chose not to take public credit for the composition.

While neither Anirudh nor Kavya has commented on the latest viral video, the renewed attention has once again made them a trending topic online. Fans are now waiting to see whether the duo will address the speculation or continue to maintain their silence. Until then, the mystery surrounding their relationship remains one of the most talked-about subjects in entertainment circles.

Globe Trotter: Meet Desi Girl Priyanka Chopra as MANDAKINI



After creating waves with Prithviraj Sukumaran's intense first-look poster as Kumbha, the makers of Globe Trotter have now unveiled another major surprise — Priyanka Chopra Jonas as Mandakini. The reveal has taken social media by storm, marking the global icon's grand return to Indian cinema after a six-year hiatus.

The newly released poster showcases Priyanka in a fierce action avatar, donning a striking yellow saree while leaping mid-air and firing a gun against a backdrop of fiery explosions. The visual perfectly encapsulates SS Rajamouli's signature grandeur and promises a powerhouse role for the actress.

Director SS Rajamouli introduced her character on X (formerly Twitter) with a heartfelt note, writing, "The woman who redefined Indian cinema on the global stage. Welcome back, Desi Girl! Can't wait for the world to witness your myr-

riad shades of Mandakini." His message not only celebrates Priyanka's legacy but also builds excitement for her dynamic portrayal in the film.

Globe Trotter is already one of the most awaited pan-Indian projects, featuring Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran in pivotal roles. With Priyanka Chopra now joining the stellar cast, expectations have soared even higher. The film is said to be an adventurous action epic spanning multiple continents, blending global storytelling with Indian ethos — a true Rajamouli-style spectacle.

Fans and film enthusiasts have flooded social media with praise for Priyanka's stunning look, hailing her return as both powerful and glamorous. As anticipation continues to build, Globe Trotter is shaping up to be one of the biggest cinematic events in recent years, uniting some of India's most celebrated talents on a global stage.

'Marriage Should Have An Expiry Date' – Kajol's Shocking Statement

Actress Kajol has once again made headlines with her outspoken and thought-provoking comments. During the latest episode of her talk show Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle, co-hosted by Twinkle Khanna, Kajol shared a bold opinion about the concept of marriage that quickly went viral on social media.

The episode featured actors Vicky Kaushal and Kriti Sanon as special guests. During an engaging discussion on modern relationships and marriage, Twinkle posed a hypothetical question to the panel: "Should marriage have an expiry date and a renewal option?" While Vicky, Kriti, and Twinkle unanimously disagreed, Kajol surprised everyone with her unconventional viewpoint.

Kajol remarked, "I definitely think so. What says you will get married to the right person at the right time? So, you should have a renewal option. And if there's an expiry date, then we don't have to suffer for too



long." Her statement sparked laughter on the set but also ignited a serious debate online, with netizens divided over her perspective.

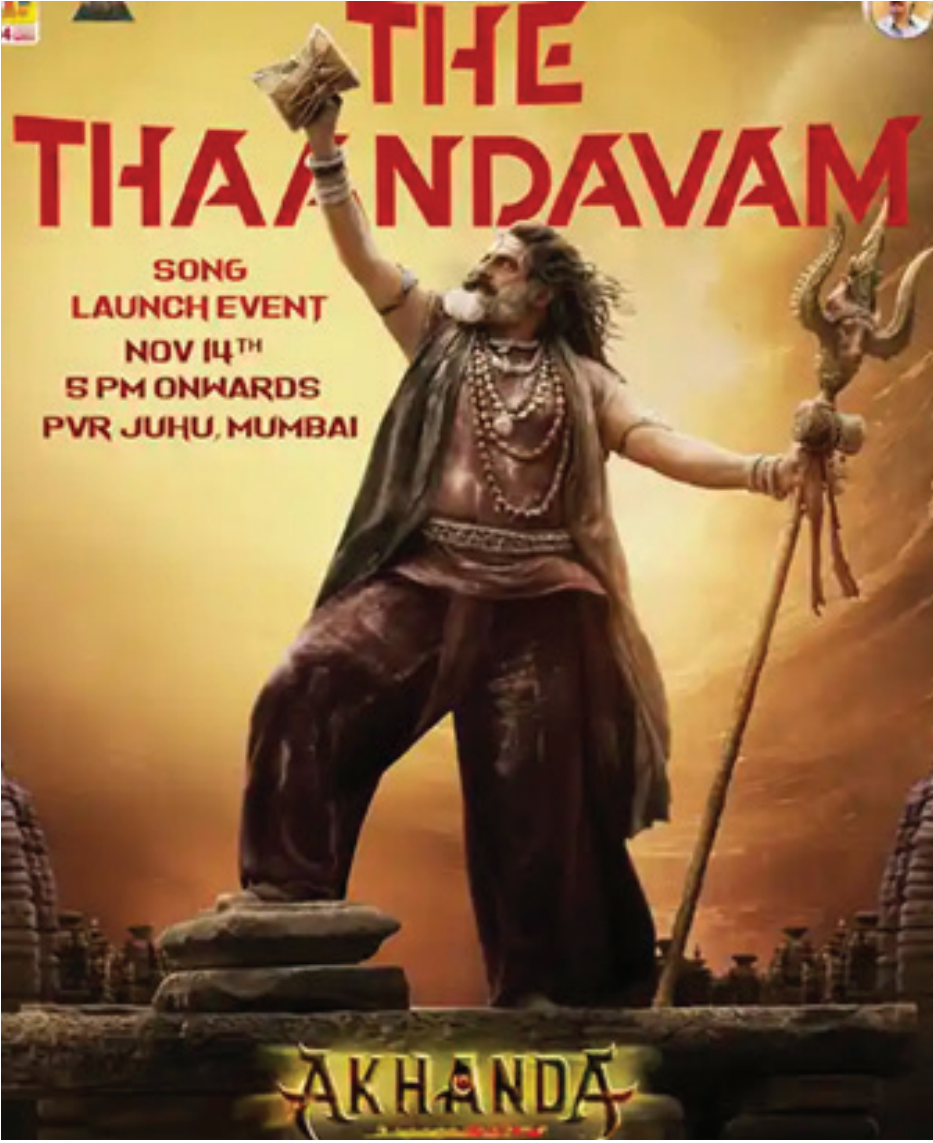
Twinkle Khanna humorously countered Kajol's view, saying, "No, it's marriage, it's not a washing machine," drawing a round of applause from the guests.

Kajol, known for her candid and fearless nature, has often voiced unique opinions that challenge societal norms. Her recent comment, however, has stirred controversy, with some appreciat-

ing her realistic take on modern relationships while others labeling it as too radical.

The clip from the show has since gone viral, drawing millions of views and sparking discussions across social media platforms. Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle continues to grab attention for its honest conversations and celebrity candor.

Akhanda 2: First Single to Be Unveiled in Mumbai



The much-awaited sequel to the blockbuster Akhanda, titled Akhanda 2: Thaandavam, is gearing up for a massive pan-Indian release. Starring Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role, the film has been generating immense buzz among fans and cinephiles ever since its announcement. Now, the makers have officially locked the date and venue for the release of the film's first single, setting the stage for an electrifying start to its musical promotions.

The first single from Akhanda 2 will be unveiled tomorrow at a grand event in Mumbai. Interestingly, the team has chosen PVR Juhu as the venue for the launch, marking a strategic shift from the Telugu states to the Hindi-speaking belt. The event is scheduled to take place after 5 PM and will be attended by key members of the cast and crew.

Director Boyapati Sreenu, known for his mass-action spectacles, is reportedly giving special emphasis to Hindi promotions this time around. His decision to kick off the musical journey in Mumbai highlights the team's intention to expand the film's reach across northern regions and strengthen its pan-Indian appeal.

The film features Samyuktha as the female lead, while Aadi Pinisetty will be seen in a powerful antagonist role. Produced by Raam Achanta and Gopi Achanta, Akhanda 2: Thaandavam promises to be a grand visual and musical experience, with S. Thaman composing the soundtrack.

Fans can expect the first single to deliver the signature high-energy vibe associated with the Akhanda franchise. More updates regarding the film's additional cast, release date, and promotional plans are expected to follow soon. Stay tuned for further announcements as Akhanda 2 gears up to dominate the big screen once again.



Raashi Khanna Turns Heads with Classy Yet Bold Look During Film Promotions

Actress Raashi Khanna is once again making headlines, this time for her effortlessly stylish and bold appearance that perfectly blends grace with confidence. Known for her versatility and charm, Raashi recently stepped out in a striking floral corset outfit with soft, flowing drapes — a look that instantly caught everyone's attention.

The actress completed her ensemble with a chunky silver neckpiece and bracelet, adding an edgy touch to her otherwise delicate outfit. Her wavy hair and serene expression brought the entire look together, exuding understated elegance. Fans couldn't stop praising her for pulling off a look that was neither loud nor simple, but just the right balance of classy and bold — the kind that makes you look twice without even realizing it.

On the work front, Raashi's Tollywood comeback attempt with Telusu Kada didn't go as planned, and the film's failure reportedly left her momentarily disheartened. However, she seems undeterred, keeping her focus on upcoming projects. One of her biggest releases ahead is Ustaad Bhagat Singh, alongside Power Star Pawan Kalyan, which is currently in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, Raashi's Bollywood journey appears to be on a much brighter track. She is gearing up for the release of 120 Bahadur, a war drama produced by Farhan Akhtar, slated to hit theatres on November 21. In the film, she plays the wife of Major Shaitan Singh Bhati — a role she described as both "tough and deeply emotional."

Balancing beauty with substance, Raashi Khanna continues to prove that she's more than just a pretty face — she's an actress who's here to stay, one project and one perfect look at a time.