



BUZZ POINTS

AP attracts investments to a tune of Rs 11.92 lakh cr in two days

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HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE-49 | 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 | SATURDAY | PAGES 12 | PRICE: ₹ 5 PUBLISHED FROM: VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD • DELHI • BENGALURU

# NDA registers landslide victory, bags 76 seats out of 243

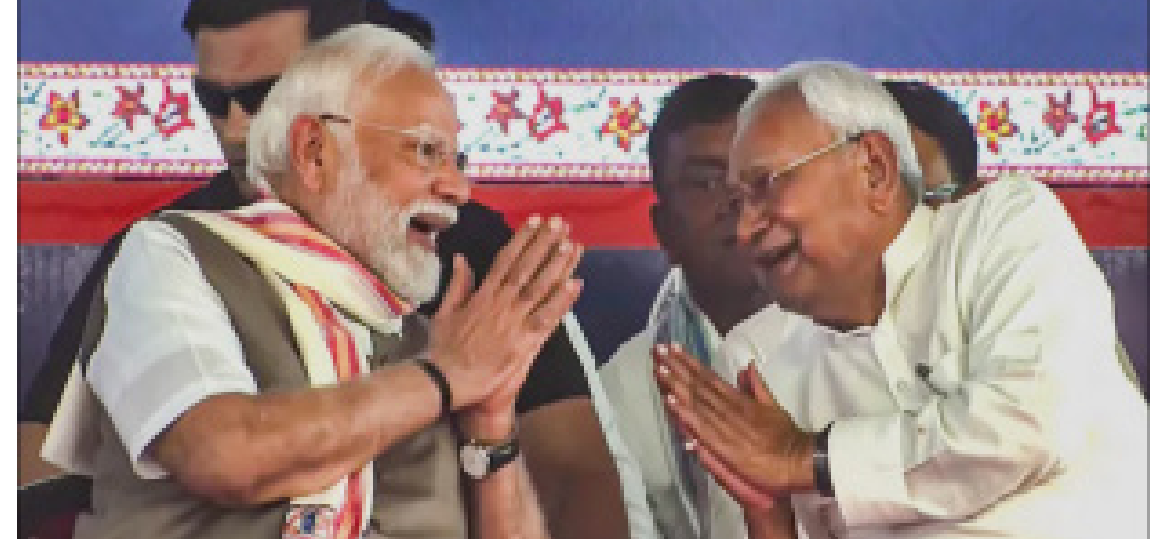
TPN Bureau | Nov 14

Patna: In Bihar assembly election, ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has recorded a landslide victory. Trends and results of all 243 seats are available. Out of 236 seats for which results have been declared, the NDA has already crossed two-thirds majority winning 198 seats and leading in 04. RJD-led Mahagathbandhan is trailing far behind, having won 33 seats and is leading in 02. Others have won 05 seats and leading in 01.

BJP candidates and Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary has won Tarapur seat, while Vijay Kumar Sinha is leading from Lakhisarai Constituency.

BJP's candidate Renu Devi has retained the Bettiah seat, making her entry into the assembly for the seventh time. Bihar State JDU President Umesh Singh Kushwaha has been declared elected from Mahnar Constituency. He defeated his nearest RJD rival by over 30 thousand votes.

Deputy Speaker of Bihar Assembly and seven-time MLA Narendra Narayan Yadav is leading from Alamnagar seat by about 50 thousand votes over Nabin Kumar of Vikas-sheel Insaan Party. State Rural Development Minister and JDU leader Shrawon Kumar, who is the most senior minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, has won the Nalanda seat by more than 33 thousand votes over his



**Mahagathbandhan's Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of RJD, has been declared elected from Raghopur seat. He defeated his nearest BJP rival Satish Kumar by a margin of over 17 thousand 8 hundred 66 votes.**

nearest Congress rival.

Former Union Minister and senior BJP Leader Ram Kripal Yadav has won the Danapur seat by a margin of over 20 thousand votes over his nearest RJD rival. Popular Bhojpuri Singer Maithili Thakur, making her electoral debut on BJP ticket, has won from Alinagar seat, while senior BJP leader Mangal Pandey has won the Siwan seat by a margin of over 9 thousand votes over his nearest RJD rival.

Mahagathbandhan's

Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of RJD, has been declared elected from Raghopur seat. He defeated his nearest BJP rival Satish Kumar by a margin of over 17 thousand 8 hundred 66 votes.

His brother Tej Pratap Yadav of Jan Shakti Janta Dal has lost the election from Mahua, finishing at third place behind RJD candidate. LJP's Sanjay Kumar Singh won the seat by a margin of more than 44 thousand votes. In Raghunathpur

RJD candidate Osama Shahab is leading by over 10 thousand over his nearest JDU rival. Famous Bhojpuri singer and actor Shatrughan Yadav alias Khesari Lal Yadav of RJD is trailing behind BJP candidate Chhoti Kumari from Chapra seat by a margin of over 6 thousand votes.

Bihar State Congress Chief Rajesh Kumar is trailing behind HAM candidate Lalan Ram from Kutumba reserve constituency. However, here is the list of winners of the BJP are Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, veteran leader Renu Devi, former Union Minister Ram Kripal Yadav, popular Bhojpuri Singer Maithili Thakur and senior leader Mangal Pandey.

Among JDU leaders, State Rural Development Minister Shrawon Kumar, who is the most senior minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet;

Bijendra Prasad Yadav, a close aid of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who has won the election for the ninth time; Bihar State JDU President Umesh Singh Kushwaha and Deputy Speaker of Bihar Assembly and Narendra Narayan Yadav are the prominent winners.

RJD leaders and Mahagathbandhan's Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Osama Shahab are the prominent winners in the Opposition camp. Prominent losers are Tej Pratap Yadav of Jan Shakti Janta Dal, who broke ranks from his father and RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Bihar State Congress Chief Rajesh Kumar, and famous Bhojpuri singer and actor Shatrughan Yadav alias Khesari Lal Yadav of RJD. Prashant Kishore's Jan Suraj Party's ambitious debut failed to show up in trends.



# STRATEGIC FAILURE OF RAHUL: THE BIHAR LESSON

TPN Bureau | Nov 14

Bihar: The Bihar Assembly election has once again exposed a recurring pattern in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's political strategy initiatives that begin with momentum but falter when faced with real-time electoral challenges. The collapse of the Mahagathbandhan in the state has reopened questions about his approach, especially at a time when anti-incumbency against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was visibly strong.

Despite ruling Bihar for many years, Nitish Kumar's government has faced growing dissatisfaction. Failures in implementing the liquor ban, the collapse of several newly constructed bridges, and administrative lapses have eroded public confidence. These issues appeared to offer fertile ground for the opposition. However, even the NDA hesitated to declare Nitish Kumar as its chief ministerial candidate before the elections, reflecting concerns about his declining image.

Against this backdrop, political observers expected Rahul Gandhi to target governance failures aggressively. Instead, he focused almost exclusively on the Election Commission of India (ECI) after the Special Investigative Revision

(SIR) of electoral rolls began in Bihar. Gandhi sharpened his rhetoric around the concept of "vote chori" (vote theft), alleging irregularities not only in Bihar but also in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Haryana. His narrative, however, resonated primarily with a limited segment—mostly intellectual circles already critical of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The issue of vote manipulation is not new. Across several states, multiple political parties have attempted to influence electoral rolls in various ways—either by adding favorable entries or removing opposing votes. In Andhra Pradesh ahead of the 2024 elections, the YSR Congress Party reportedly attempted similar manoeuvres, though those efforts were countered by the Telugu Desam Party. Analysts argue that if Congress foresaw concerns related to electoral rolls, it should have built strong ground-level mechanisms to safeguard its voter base rather than relying solely on public allegations.

This overemphasis on "vote chori" overshadowed pressing local issues that could have strengthened the Mahagathbandhan's campaign. Despite Tejashwi Yadav enjoying positive traction as the alliance's chief ministerial face, the opposition bloc was

unable to convert this into electoral gains.

The SIR process also had unintended consequences. A sizable number of migrant voters were reportedly affected as their names were removed from the rolls—an outcome that disproportionately impacted the Mahagathbandhan's support base. Meanwhile, the BJP's robust poll management machinery continued to operate with precision, leaving the opposition struggling to respond effectively.

Rahul Gandhi's nationwide Bharat Jodo Yatra had generated a wave of goodwill, particularly among youth and civil society groups. However, critics argue that the momentum was not sustained due to strategic miscalculations, lack of narrative discipline, and limited organizational coordination on the ground.

As the dust settles on the Bihar results, the Congress leadership is being urged to reassess its priorities. Whether Rahul Gandhi will pivot towards addressing state-specific governance issues and strengthen on-ground electoral mechanisms remains to be seen. For now, the Bihar outcome serves as a stark reminder that strategy, however ambitious, must align with ground realities to succeed.

# No Escape Route Left for Peddireddy

TPN Bureau | Nov 14

Amravathi: In a dramatic turn of events, former Andhra Pradesh Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy finds himself once again at the center of political and legal turbulence. Despite a series of allegations ranging from forest land encroachment to misuse of authority during his tenure, action against him has remained limited—raising questions about who is protecting him and why the system has been slow to respond.

For years, accusations have circulated regarding Peddireddy's alleged role in irregularities in sand mining operations when he served as a senior minister in the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government. Additionally, Ramachandra Yadav, founder of a Bharata Chaitanya Yuvajana Party, filed complaints alleging that he was threatened and attacked at the direction of the ex-minister. Although several such allegations surfaced over time, only one case pertaining to forest land encroachment has moved forward officially. This selective progress has led to speculation regarding the influence shielding the former minister.



According to political insiders, a prominent media house owner, known for his proximity to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), allegedly played a key role in buffering Peddireddy from scrutiny. Despite being aligned with TDP, the media owner reportedly shared a cordial relationship with Peddireddy even during the YSRCP administration. Sources suggest that he had floated a political strategy recommending that TDP leverage Peddireddy against Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy. However, the underlying interests or benefits exchanged between the two remain unclear.

Interestingly, after the change in government, this media house continued its alleged efforts to protect Peddireddy, succeeding to some extent in reducing



pressure on him. Yet, another TDP-friendly media organization, observing these developments, began to highlight the irregularities more aggressively. Their reporting intensified public attention, prompting other media platforms to follow suit and increasing pressure on the state government.

As coverage expanded, the government ordered an official probe. Officers conducted preliminary inquiries, and the issue briefly gained political traction. However, after the Andhra Pradesh High Court delivered interim relief in Peddireddy's favour, momentum slowed once again. Government departments reportedly became passive, and public focus drifted away as weeks passed.

The narrative shifted dramatically when

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan revisited the matter. During a recent official review, he examined departmental records and reportedly obtained documentation supporting allegations of forest land encroachment. He later presented these findings during a Cabinet meeting, signalling a renewed push for action. Sources indicate that Kalyan is firm on pursuing the case and has insisted that the government move forward with appropriate measures.

This development has placed the earlier-mentioned media house owner—who had previously worked to shield Peddireddy—in an uncomfortable position. His alleged influence appears limited after Kalyan's intervention, particularly since he was known to be opposed to Pawan Kalyan and the 2024 electoral alliance.

With political equations shifting and the Deputy Chief Minister taking a tough stand, observers note that the situation has reached a point where legal action against Peddireddy may become inevitable. For now, the state watches closely as the controversy resurfaces, potentially reshaping the political landscape once again.

# Telangana Congress wrests Jubilee Hills seat from BRS

TPN Bureau | nov 14

Hyderabad: Telangana's ruling Congress party wrested Jubilee Hills Assembly seat from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the by-election by a comfortable margin on Friday. In a direct contest, V. Naveen Yadav of the Congress defeated his nearest rival Maganti Sunitha by a margin of 24,729 votes. This is the highest margin of victory in the constituency's history.

Naveen Yadav polled 98,988 votes while Sunitha secured 74,259 votes. BJP's Lankala Deepak Reddy finished a distant third with only 17,061 votes and forfeited his security deposit. The Congress candidate was leading from the very first round and increased the lead with every round. The BRS did not secure a lead in any round.

Tuesday's bye-election saw 48.49 per cent polling. Out of total 4,01,365 voters, 1,94,631 voters had exercised their franchise. The Congress party wrested the seat by securing 50.83 per cent of polled votes, whereas the BRS polled 38.13 per cent votes, while the BJP could manage only 8.76 per cent votes.

Though a total of 58 candidates were in the fray, the fourth-highest number of votes were cast for None Of The Above



(NOTA) as a total of 924 voters opted for the NOTA option. The bypoll was caused by the death of Maganti Gopinath of the BRS. The main Opposition party had fielded his wife to cash in on the perceived sympathy wave, but that gamble did not pay off for KCR's party.

This is the second bypoll win for the Congress party since coming to power in 2023. It wrested Secunderabad Cantonment seat from the BRS last year. The bye-election was caused by the death of BRS MLA G. Lasya Nanditha in a road accident. The victory in the bypoll will increase the official tally of the Congress party in the 119-member Assembly to 66.

The win also comes as a boost for the Congress party in Greater Hyderabad, the region where it had drawn a blank in the November 2023 polls. The victory is also likely

to lift the spirits of the ruling party cadres ahead of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

The bye-election was fought as a prestige battle by the Congress and BRS. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his entire Cabinet had campaigned aggressively for the party candidate. The BRS, which was hoping to bounce back after losing power and drawing a blank in Lok Sabha elections last year, received another setback on Friday.

The BRS had termed the bye-election a referendum on the performance of the Congress government. After receiving the election certificate from the Returning Officer, Naveen Yadav said the voters have given a befitting reply to those who tried to win by maligning him. He thanked all the voters who supported him.

Naveen Yadav said he would make all efforts to live up to the expectations of the people of the constituency by working to solve their problems. Celebrations broke out in the Congress camp and Ministers and top leaders congratulated each other at party headquarters. Gandhi Bhavan Party cadres celebrated the win by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets.

Hyderabad incharge minister Ponnamp Prabhakar appealed to Congress cadres across the state to celebrate the win in the bye-election. Stating that the Congress government implemented several schemes for people's welfare, he said both the BRS and BJP spread false propaganda against the government.

In 2023, Gopinath of BRS had scored a hat-trick by defeating his nearest rival Mohammed Azharuddin of the Congress party by a margin of 16,337 votes. The BRS candidate secured 80,549 votes while Azharuddin polled 64,212 votes. BJP's Deepak Reddy finished third with 25,866 votes. AIMIM's Farazuddin was fourth with just 7,848 votes. This time, AIMIM led by Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi supported the Congress candidate.



# AP attracts investments to a tune of Rs 11.92 lakh cr in two days



TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh attracted investments to a tune of Rs 11,91,972 cr by signing MoUs with four hundred companies in two days including on Thursday and on the first day of CII partnership summit today providing employment opportunities to 13.32 lakh youth.

It may be noted that the state government signed 41 MoUs in the presence of Chief Minister. Meanwhile 324 MoUs signed in presence of ministers with an invest-

ment of Rs 8,41,786 cr. Majority of MoUs signed with APCRDA, Energy, Food processing, Industry, trade, IT and Municipal departments.

Meanwhile the Lulu International group signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh government in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Lulu group chairman MD Yousful Ali towards investments in various sectors including developing a Lulu Mall in Visakhapatnam at a cost of Rs 1,066

crore and food processing units.

The Lulu group chairman said that the group will start export of mango, guava pulp and spices from January. He said Logistics and Procurement export centre will be set up in Rayalaseema soon.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu asked the Lulu group chairman to purchase agricultural products from farmers in Andhra Pradesh. He said that the Lulu mall is not a shopping mall and it will help to promote

tourism in Visakhapatnam.

Later the Singapore government signed MoU with Andhra Pradesh for cooperation in urban governance, digital governance transformation and Sustainability in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu and Minister Nara Lokesh and Singapore minister Gan Siow Huang, Union Minister K Rammohan Naidu and Minister Nandendla Manohar.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said Andhra Pradesh is eager to work with Singapore which runs industries with innovative ideas. He said Singapore developed by adopting best public policies. Minister Lokesh opined that it is a good beginning to work with Singapore.

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu announced introducing flights between Vijayawada and Singapore for three days in a week soon.

## Reliance Industries to set up 1 GW AI data centre in AP powered by 6 GW solar

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Visakhapatnam: AP is entering a new era of technology-led growth: CM Chandrababu Naidu welcomes Reliance's landmark investments Reliance is here to build, empower and serve Andhra Pradesh for generations: Reliance Executive Director PMS Prasad.

On the opening day of the CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) announced a major new wave of investments in Andhra Pradesh, further strengthening its long-standing partnership with the state. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Reliance Industries signed an MoU to establish a 1 GW artificial intelligence data centre, in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Minister for IT & Industries Nara Lokesh, and Reliance Industries Executive Director P.M.S. Prasad.

Reliance to set up a 1 GW AI data centre in Andhra Pradesh

Reliance announced that it will build a fully modular, future-ready 1 GW AI data centre designed to host the world's most advanced GPUs, TPUs and AI processors. This facility will operate as a twin to the company's gigawatt-scale AI data centre in Jamnagar, creating one of Asia's most powerful AI infrastructure networks. The company highlighted its mission to democratise access to artificial intelligence, delivering pro-level AI tools to students, farmers, entrepreneurs and families through the MyJio platform.

6 GWp solar project to power the AI data centre

Greenfield integrated food park to come up in Kurnool Reliance further announced a Greenfield integrated food park in Kurnool, spread across 170 acres allotted by APIIC.

Equipped with world-class automated systems, the facility will manufacture beverages, packaged drinking water, chocolates, snacks, atta and more. The project is expected to generate several thousand direct and indirect jobs across the region.

Complementing the state's green-growth agenda, the company will set up integrated compressed biogas (CBG) hubs to strengthen natural farming, rejuvenate soil health and support rural economies while advancing India's clean energy goals. Reliance has broken ground on its first CBG plant in Prakasam earlier in April this year. The company reaffirmed its deep commitment to Andhra Pradesh across its core sectors like retail, jio and Oil & gas operations in Kakinada. Reliance has already invested over USD 25 billion in the

state across oil & gas, digital services and retail.

Welcoming the announcements, Hon'ble Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said, "Andhra Pradesh is entering a new era of technology-led growth, sustainability and industrial resurgence. I welcome Reliance's landmark investments, which align with our vision to make AP a global hub for AI innovation, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing. These projects will generate high-quality jobs, open new opportunities for our youth, and accelerate the state's journey towards a cleaner and more prosperous future."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr P.M.S. Prasad, Executive Director, Reliance Industries, said, "Andhra Pradesh is rising with purpose and intent. Reliance is not here just to invest. We are here to build.

### Atirath Holdings Signs 4,000 Crore Investment MoU with AP in Bio-CNG Sector

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Visakhapatnam: Atirath Holdings India Ltd entered into a significant agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on Friday, November 14, 2025, in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The agreement was formalized during the 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025, marking a major milestone in the state's renewable energy mission.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Atirath Group Chairman Lt. R. Balakrishnan and his team. Speaking to media persons after the signing, Chairman Balakrishnan expressed his delight and termed the collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government as "a momentous step toward a sustainable energy future."

He announced that

Atirath Holdings India Ltd would invest 4,000 crore in the Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) sector by establishing 25 plants, each with a 20-tonne-per-day capacity, across various parts of Andhra Pradesh. The project is expected to create over 9,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, benefiting youth and farmers alike.

Chairman Balakrishnan congratulated Atirath Group and appreciated the efforts of the entire Atirath family for "leading the project from the front and ensuring its successful materialization."

He further revealed that the groundbreaking ceremony for the first CBG plant will take place in the last week of November at Gundlasumudram, Prakasam district, with subsequent plants to

follow. The entire project is expected to become operational within 15 months.

He said that Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), also known as bio-CNG, is a renewable and clean fuel derived from organic material through anaerobic digestion and purification. With methane content exceeding 90%, its properties closely resemble conventional Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), making it an ideal substitute for use in automotive, industrial and commercial applications. This landmark investment underscores Andhra Pradesh's growing prominence as a hub for green energy and sustainable development, reinforcing the state's commitment to clean energy initiatives and environmental responsibility.

## Former TTD AVSO Satish Kumar Found Dead Under Suspicious Circumstances Near Tadipatri

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh: A shocking incident has created a stir in Tirumala and the e Tirupati Devasthanam administration after former Assistant Vigilance & Security Officer (AVSO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Satish Kumar, was found dead under suspicious circumstances. His body was discovered on the railway track near Komali, close to Tadipatri in Anantapur district. Satish Kumar had earlier been in the spotlight for his role in the high-profile "Parakamani" theft case in which he lodged a complaint against TTD employee Ravi Kumar for allegedly stealing foreign currency from the temple's offerings.

Based on Satish's complaint in April 2023, the Vigilance Department registered a case and later filed a chargesheet against Ravi Kumar on May 30, 2023. However, the case took a controversial

turn when political pressure reportedly forced Satish to compromise in court. Senior political leaders, top TTD officials, and police officers allegedly influenced him to settle the case. Following the settlement in September 2023 at a Lok Adalat, Ravi Kumar's properties came under scrutiny.

He had reportedly offered to donate his assets to TTD if he were spared from prosecution, a proposal that at local political figures allegedly exploited. Soon after, the TTD Board passed a resolution to accept some of Ravi Kumar's assets as donations. When the new coalition government assumed office, the Parakamani case resurfaced. The Andhra Pradesh High Court recently directed the Crime Investigation Department (CID) to reopen the investigation.

A special team headed by CID DGP Ravishankar Ayyannar began reinvestigating the

case, reaching a crucial stage when Satish Kumar's sudden death occurred. Satish, a native of Pattikonda in Kurnool district, was currently serving as a Government Railway Police (GRP) Inspector in Gooty.

His mysterious death, coinciding with the intensifying probe, has sparked widespread suspicion and political controversy. Many are questioning whether his death was accidental or linked to the sensitive case he had exposed two years ago. CID officials have reportedly taken up the investigation into Satish's death as well, treating it as potentially connected to the ongoing Parakamani case. Meanwhile, political circles and the TTD administration are on edge as both cases Satish's death and the currency theft threaten to reveal deeper links between power, temple wealth, and corruption within one of India's richest religious institutions.

## Minister Kandula Durgesh expresses happiness on the success of the Visakhapatnam CII Summit.

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Visakhapatnam: Minister Kandula Durgesh visited and inaugurated the Tourism stall at the Visakhapatnam CII Summit.

Minister Durgesh revealed that the Vizag CII Summit received a wonderful response, with delegates from over 70 countries attending with full confidence in the alliance government. On this occasion, he expressed happiness on the success of the CII Summit. He revealed that through the CII Summit, investments will come into the tourism sector in Visakhapatnam, Amravati, and Tirupati, and that nearly 100 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are being signed in the tourism sector.

As part of the CII Summit, Minister Kandula Durgesh visited and inaugurated the tourism stall. On this occasion, Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain, Tourism MD Amrapali, and tourism officials explained the details of the tourism



stalls to Minister Durgesh. Minister Durgesh inaugurated a touch kiosk machine that provides information on various tourist destinations in the state. He inaugurated a machine offering experiences of tourist destinations like Araku and Gandikota, and adventure tourism experiences to tourists through technology.

He inspected stalls set up with Lepakshi handicrafts, Etikoppaka, and Kondapalli toys. He inspected the Khadi textiles arranged by the AP Crafts Council and learned about the manufacturing process. He tasted Araku Coffee and praised it as wonderful. He revealed that they are providing worldwide

promotions for Araku Coffee.

He inspected India's first robotic cafe set up by the Bean Board organizers and inquired about the robot's performance. He visited the Tree-to-Bar Chocolate, International Chocolate Salon, and Coconut Cafe set up by the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society and tasted related snacks made from coconut. He visited the stall featuring 34 handloom textiles from places like Mangalagiri, Pedana, Venkatagiri, Uppada, Dharmavaram, and Chirala.

Minister Durgesh stated that they are utilizing all tourism sectors by introducing diverse tourism processes, and tourism will be accessible to

all sections of people. He said that if the tourism sector thrives, it leads to economic development, employment generation, and cultural exchange.

Minister Durgesh informed that the Trishul project on Kailasagiri will be made available soon, and preparations are underway to soon inaugurate the country's longest glass bridge. He said that while the previous government derailed the tourism sector, they are restoring it.

Minister Durgesh said that they hope the Vizag CII Summit will bring thousands of crores in investments to the tourism sector. He said they are inviting investments by instilling confidence in investors who had lost

faith due to the previous government's approach. He stated that the tourism sector has been revitalized with industrial status, and investors are showing interest in the new tourism policy.

He expressed optimism that the tourism sector will achieve further progress soon. He said that huge investments are coming into the state's tourism sector with the support of the central government and the special focus of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. He revealed that in the past 15 months, they have attracted nearly 12,000 crores in investments to the tourism sector.

As part of the summit, Minister Durgesh met with Union Ministers Ram Mohan Naidu, Pemasani Chandrasekhar, and Srinivas Varma, as well as fellow ministers Nara Lokesh, Nandendla Manohar, Anitha, Savita, Sandhyarani, Bharath, Kondapalli Srinivas, and others.

## Industry leaders tout Andhra as India's next growth engine at CII Partnership Summit 2025

Bureau | November 14  
New Delhi [India]: : Andhra Pradesh was placed at the centre of India's next phase of growth as business leaders announced concrete plans for finance, skills and healthcare at the CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Vizag.

Sanjiv Bajaj, CMD of Bajaj Finserv, said the state was "not just a state, it is a strategic growth engine for India," pointing to its coastline, infrastructure and governance as a gateway "for trade, for technology and digital and tech innovation." He said a modern and inclusive financial system must keep pace with this growth and added that Bajaj Finserv looked forward to enabling "every Andhraite in their own journey."

He stated the company hoped "to cover over 30 lakh Andhraites, individuals, small businesses... disbursing over Rs15,000 crore just in this year alone, only in



Andhra Pradesh."

He also spoke of skilling, noting that the Rahul Bajaj Centre of Excellence in Skilling had set up skilling and career counselling centres "not only in Amravati, but in Vijayawada, in Visakhapatnam, in Tirupati, in Sri City," with plans for Rajahmundry and other locations.

Healthcare leaders underlined the same theme. Shobana Kamineni, Promoter, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, said Andhra Pradesh was "a land of opportunity," adding that "today, Andhra

Pradesh is not just competing, it's leading," across renewable energy, IT, manufacturing and healthcare. She highlighted the state's work on health indicators, medical education and rural technology outreach, and said Apollo was building a full "healthcare ecosystem."

She said Apollo had a large presence in cities including Vizag, Tirupati, Vijayawada and Chittoor, supported by digital platforms and district outreach, with "almost 21,000 people" working in the Apollo family for

the state. She said the telemedicine program had done "over 20 million teleconsultations" and would scale further.

Kamineni added that Apollo had partnered with the University of Leicester "to establish a center for digital health precision medicine at Apollo University in Chittoor," and said Apollo would "double down," aiming to train talent to serve India and the world. Setting the wider context, Suchitra Ella, Joint Managing Director, Bharat Biotech and Vice President, CII, said glob-

al trade was shifting with tariff barriers and protectionist trends. She said India was responding with "self-sustaining growth" led by manufacturing and clean energy, noting "the 209 gigawatt already achieved as of January 2025" toward the 2030 renewable target. She added that atmanirbharta meant "partnership, innovation, shared growth," and recalled India's vaccine role during the pandemic and the early groundwork "when Genome Valley was created... at Hyderabad."



# YSRCP demands CBI probe into Satish Kumar’s suicide



TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Vijayawada: Demanding a CBI probe into the tragic suicide of Satish Kumar, YSRCP has said he was hounded to death and efforts were on to implicate our leaders in the case.

Speaking to media here on Friday, former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said, the Chandrababu government is deviating from court orders in the investigation process and is all bent on implicating YSRCP leaders and has driven Satish Kumar,

the AVSO of TTD, to suicide. YSRCP demands action against those harassing him, who was hounded by the SIT. YSRCP demands a CBI inquiry into the suicide and the way the investigation is being carried out breaching the court orders.



There has been a conspiracy to implicate me and use police against police to elicit false confessions, he said, adding that pressure is being mounted on people to get confessions in their favour.

The suicide is nothing but a murder by the government as Satish Kumar was harassed to the point of suicide. Such incidents will bring police morale to a low ebb, he said, adding that unless an inquiry is conducted by a central agency, the truth will not come out, he said.

# TDP Chief Whip: Ensure 100% Victory in Local Bodies

TPN Bureau | nov 14 Vinnukonda (Palnadu District): Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State Chief Whip and Vinnukonda MLA GV Anjaneyulu called on party functionaries to ensure that all TDP candidates secure victory in the upcoming local body elections. He emphasized that village and mandal-level committees are the pillars of the party and must lead grassroots initiatives to resolve local issues.

Makkina Mallikarjuna Rao and Veerapaneni Yellamanda Rao, contrasting them with the failures of the previous YSRCP regime.

He alleged that the former MLA failed to construct even a single toilet or lay the Ghat road leading to the sacred Vinnukonda hill. He announced plans to complete the construction of the Ghat Road and renovation of the Ramalingeswara Swamy temple with the support of devotees. Highlighting developmental priorities, he mentioned that under TDP governance, 21 acres in the NSP Colony were handed over to the municipality, but the previous government did not initiate any works there.

He promised to develop commercial complexes in the area with the Chief Minister's support. The MLA also urged committees to strengthen the party's base and resolve minor

internal disputes locally. Anjaneyulu announced that every Friday, a public darbar would be held at his office, where officials would address civic grievances in the morning and party-related issues in the evening. He vowed to tour every village to assess and solve people's problems, asserting that the coalition government is actively implementing its promises despite inheriting debts of 10 lakh crore.

He also urged citizens to adopt solar power, noting that the government is providing 100% subsidy for SC and ST beneficiaries.

The MLA encouraged farmers to develop fruit orchards and announced a 2 lakh cash award to merit students securing first rank in the district through the Shivasakthi Foundation. He urged the disabled and landless poor to apply for tricycles and housing plots, ensuring inclusive development across the constituency.

## Brookfield to Invest Rs 1.10 Lakh Crore in Andhra Pradesh, Announces Minister Nara Lokesh



TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Amaravati: In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's investment landscape, Brookfield Asset Management is set to invest Rs 1.10 lakh crore in various sectors across the state, Industries and Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh announced on Friday. The minister described this as one of the largest foreign investments secured by the state under the current government, marking a significant milestone in its economic development efforts. Announcing the development on social media platform 'X', Lokesh said that Brookfield's proposed investment would primarily focus on renewable energy, battery manufacturing, and pumped storage projects sectors that are vital to the

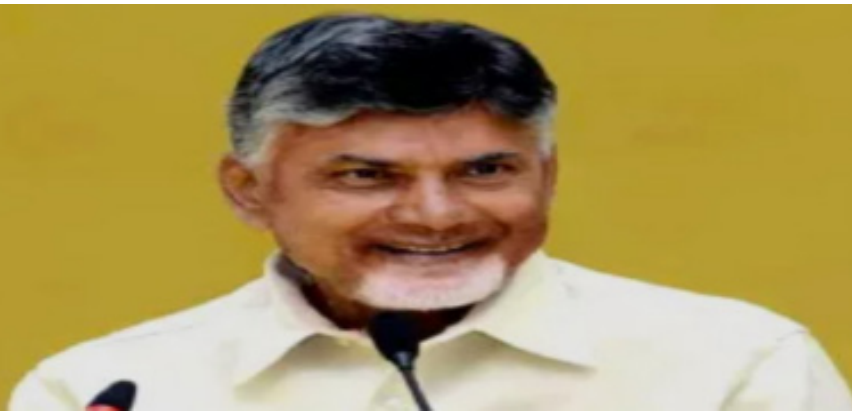
global transition toward sustainable and clean energy solutions. These projects, he noted, align with the state's mission to establish itself as a hub for green energy and advanced industrial growth in South India. According to Lokesh, Brookfield is also exploring opportunities in real estate, business centers, infrastructure, and port development across Andhra Pradesh. The diversified investment plan is expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, stimulate regional economies, and support sustainable urban and industrial expansion. "This demonstrates growing global confidence in Andhra Pradesh's progressive policies and business-friendly governance,"

Lokesh said in his post. The announcement follows a series of proactive initiatives by the state government to attract global investors through policy reforms, industrial corridor development, and fast-track approvals. Andhra Pradesh has recently emerged as one of India's leading destinations for renewable energy and logistics investments, with major projects underway in Visakhapatnam, Anantapur, and Kurnool districts. Brookfield Asset Management, headquartered in Canada, is one of the world's largest alternative investment firms with global assets worth over USD 900 billion. Its focus areas include renewable power, infrastructure, real estate, and private equity. The company's decision to expand operations in Andhra Pradesh underscores its confidence in India's growing green economy and the state's strategic location and infrastructure potential.

## Victims Approach TDP Headquarters Alleging Land Encroachment and Administrative Negligence.

TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Amaravati: Several victims from different districts reached the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri on Thursday to submit their grievances, alleging injustice and administrative negligence under the current regime. Among them was Nagaraju from Bethamcherla in Nandyal district, who claimed that a group of persons, allegedly with the support of YSRCP leader and former finance minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, had illegally occupied his land. He said that despite filing complaints with the local police, no action was taken so far. Seeking justice, he approached the TDP central office and submitted a written complaint. TDP leaders, including CDEP Chairman Deepan Reddy and AP Housing Board Chairman Battula Tatayyababu, personally received petitions from several individuals who turned up with various issues ranging from land

disputes to local administrative corruption. In another petition, Dasharatha Ramayya from Suryaraopalem village in Undrajavaram mandal of East Godavari district sought stringent action against his son-in-law and the latter's friend, alleging their involvement in his daughter's death. Similarly, Annapurna from Amudalavalasa in Regidi mandal of Vizianagaram district complained that due to an error by the local tahsildar, her property had been wrongly listed under the prohibited lands category. She appealed for immediate correction of official records to protect her ownership rights. TDP officials assured the petitioners that the party would take up their concerns with the concerned authorities and follow up on each case. They reiterated that the opposition party remains committed to standing up for victims of administrative injustice and misuse of power.



## Dr Mehaboob Shaik Condemns CM Chandrababu’s Remarks on Doctors

TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Visakhapatnam : YSRCP State Vice President of Medical Wing and SEC Member Dr. Mehaboob Shaik strongly condemned the comments made by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu two days ago during a public event, alleging that the remarks were derogatory towards the medical fraternity. Dr Shaik said that it was "shameful" for a person holding the responsible office of Chief Minister to make statements that could foster disrespect toward doctors, whom the public regard as lifesaving figures. He criticized the Chief Minister for, in his view, belittling one of the most sacred professions under the guise of promoting technology.

Questioning Chandrababu's stance, Dr Shaik asked whether the Chief Minister seeks treatment from doctors or relies on robots and artificial intelligence when he falls ill. He further alleged that even in the Skill Development Corporation scam case, Chandrababu's bail was granted based on certificates issued by qualified medical professionals, not any form of robotic certification. Stating that the comments have hurt the sentiments of doctors across the state, Dr. Shaik demanded that Chandrababu immediately withdraw his remarks and issue an unconditional apology to the medical community. Failing to do so, he warned, could spark a backlash not only from doctors but also from the general public.

He added that voters would deliver the "appropriate treatment" in the upcoming elections, using their ballots as a powerful tool. Dr Shaik also cautioned that if such statements are repeated, people themselves would be compelled to "operate and silence" Chandrababu politically.

# SIT harassment responsible for Satish Kumar’s death: Sailajanath

TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Vijayawada: Former Minister Sake Sailajanath has demanded a probe headed by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the tragic death of former TTD Assistant Vigilance and Security Officer (AVSO) Satish Kumar, who died by suicide after harassment by members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT). Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office, Sailajanath stated that Satish Kumar was relentlessly pressured and mentally tortured by SIT officials in connection with the Parakamani foreign currency theft case, ultimately forcing him to take his own life. He said that only an impartial, high-level judicial inquiry can establish what transpired during the SIT's interrogation and how the investigating officers han-



dled the case. Sailajanath explained that Satish Kumar, who was earlier in charge as AVSO, had himself filed the original complaint years ago against one Ravi Kumar, accusing him of stealing foreign dollars from the Tirumala Parakamani. Shockingly, the same SIT that is now re-investigating the case has named Satish Kumar, who was the complainant, as an accused. The SIT had questioned him at length recently and even issued fresh notices asking him

to appear again. Close family members and colleagues have asserted that Satish Kumar repeatedly maintained he had done no wrong and had no role whatsoever in the theft. Overwhelmed by the intimidation and humiliation during the inquiry, he allegedly took the extreme step, Sailajanath said. The coalition government is turning the sacred Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) into a political theatre for its selfish agenda. The sudden discovery of Satish Kumar's body on the Tadipatri railway track shocked everyone, and TTD officials themselves believe it to be a clear case of suicide driven by SIT harassment. Despite being the officer who originally reported the foreign currency theft, he was now being vilified, tortured, and

falsely implicated, Sailajanath said. He further stated that the coalition government is conspiring to target former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy through fabricated narratives and misuse of investigative agencies. Harassing an innocent former official under the guise of questioning and pushing him to the point of death, is an unforgivable act, he added. Sailajanath demanded that the probe must reveal what exactly the SIT did during its interrogation, how Satish Kumar was treated, and whether coercion or misconduct played any role in his death. He urged the government to change its vindictive approach and stop attempting to weaponize past incidents to frame political opponents.

## Former Minister Seediri Appalaraju Appears Before Police in Illegal Rally Case

TPN Bureau | Nov 14 Srikakulam (Kashibugga): Former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Seediri Appalaraju appeared before the Kashibugga Police on Thursday for questioning in connection with a case filed over an unauthorized rally held in Palasa last month. The rally, conducted on October 13 under the pretext of protesting against spurious liquor, reportedly involved more than 200 participants and was organized without official permission. According to police sources, the interrogation began at around 3:30 p.m. and continued until 9:45 p.m. Appalaraju was questioned on several aspects of the case, including the decision to hold the rally without prior consent from authorities. Reliable sources said that during questioning, the



former minister frequently responded that he was either unaware of certain details or did not remember specific incidents. When police asked why the rally was held despite a lack of permission, Appalaraju reportedly replied that it was done "according to law." Officers pressed further about why permission was not obtained, to which he allegedly answered that he was unaware of the procedure. When investigators pre-

sented him with evidence and sought clarifications, he again maintained that he did not recall or know about the details. After the inquiry, Appalaraju spoke to the media outside the police station. He alleged that the coalition government was targeting him and other YSR Congress leaders as part of a political vendetta. "Since the alliance came to power, ten cases have been registered against

me," he claimed. The former minister said he was being harassed for raising his voice on public issues and accused the government of attempting to suppress dissent. Appalaraju also referred to a previous case filed against him after he commented on the tragic stampede at the Kashibugga Venkateswara Swamy temple, where nine devotees had lost their lives. He asserted that his remarks were made purely in the public interest and accused the police of acting under political pressure. Meanwhile, sources in the police department confirmed that the investigation into the unauthorized rally case is still ongoing. They indicated that further action would be taken based on the evidence and statements collected during the inquiry.



# Layout Regularization Deadline Extention Provides Relief for Plot Buyers

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Vijayawada: For residents like S. Satyanarayana from Patamata, the dream of building a home turned uncertain after the town planning authorities rejected his building permission request. His application for constructing a house in Thadigadapa on a 300-square-yard plot was returned because the site fell under an unauthorized layout.

Unknown to him when he bought the land two and a half years ago, the layout had no official approval. Thousands of property buyers across Andhra Pradesh who purchased plots in similar unauthorized layouts can now regularize their holdings through the government's Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS). The state government has extended the scheme's deadline to January 23, 2026, giving buyers a renewed chance to legalize their properties and avoid penalties.

Officials clarified that anyone who purchased plots before June 30, 2025, is eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted online through a



gh a Licensed Technical Person (LTP). Applicants should upload the necessary ownership documents, site plans showing boundaries and road widths, encumbrance certificates, market value certificates, and land-use conversion approvals. Additionally, indemnity bonds and road widening agreements are required.

Upon payment of penalization and development charges as prescribed, plots can be officially regularized.

The government has also announced a 50 percent concession on open space charges for those regularizing residential plots, offering further financial relief. This move is expected to encourage more plot owners to come forward. Following the July 2025 announcement of the scheme, authorities received 42,335 applications within three months. With the extended deadline, officials expect another 25,000 applications.

They urged citizens

to seize this opportunity, warning that a similar scheme may not be reopened. Authorities stressed that failure to regularize unauthorized layouts could lead to significant difficulties. Building permissions for such plots will not be issued, and any constructions undertaken will be treated as illegal and subject to demolition. Plots may also be listed as prohibited properties in Sub-Registrar offices, blocking future sale or transfer.

Banks will not issue home loans for these sites, and numbers for even temporary buildings will not be allotted. Municipalities will also deny access to civic amenities such as roads, drainage, water supply, and street lighting. By extending the deadline and offering fee concessions, the government aims to bring unapproved layouts into the formal urban framework while providing long-term security to legitimate plot owners.

## Governor offers tributes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on Children's Day

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Vijayawada: Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer offered floral tributes to the portrait of first Prime Minister of India Bharat Ratna Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 136th birth anniversary which is also celebrated as Children's Day, at a programme held at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Sri Abdul Nazeer has said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had great love for children and often said they were the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow, real strength of a country and the very foundation of society. He said Pandit Nehru played an important role in sha

ping our nation's education sector and strongly believed in scientific knowledge, reasoning, and rationality as the basis of all learning.

PS Surya Prakash, Joint Secretary to Governor, K Raghu, Deputy Secretary, officers and staff members of Raj Bhavan have attended the programme.



## Polavaram Project Phase-I Land Acquisition Requires Additional 1,275 Crore: Andhra Pradesh Appeals to Centre

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has urged the Centre to sanction an additional 1,274.93 crore to complete land acquisition and resettlement works for the first phase of the Polavaram irrigation project without delays or complications. Officials from the state's rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) department have submitted this proposal to the Polavaram Revised Cost Committee (RCC), seeking approval for the shortfall amount.

In August 2024, the Union Cabinet had approved the first phase of the project, allowing water storage up to +41.15 meters. Initially, the state's water resources department had estimated that 13,545.35 crore would be required at 2023 price levels to complete all land acquisition and R&R works for this phase. However, after evaluation, the Central Water Commission (CWC) suggested reducing the allocation to 12,824.84 crore.

The RCC later approved a further curtailed figure of 12,270.42 crore, combining 5,604.47 crore for land acquisition and 6,665.95 crore for rehabilita-



tion. The difference of 1,274.93 crore between the state's proposal and the RCC-approved amount has now become a matter of contention. Andhra Pradesh officials have maintained that the additional funds are crucial to ensure smooth completion of the project's first-phase commitments.

The state government has also reiterated that several unforeseen challenges—beyond land cost and compensation packages—have complicated the process and require recognition by the Centre.

According to official data, around 5,426.09 acres of the land identified are titled (patta) lands that were later allotted to poor beneficiaries, while another 6,944.79 acres were occupied by economically weaker families. Providing compensation to these groups alone has cost the state 32.44 crore, which the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) refused to reimburse. Due to legal litigations, compensation awards totaling 63.83 crore have been deposited in various courts, as mandated by law. Yet, the PPA ex-

cluded these amounts while assessing the reimbursable costs, resulting in funding cuts. Similarly, 62.33 crore spent on land acquired for the project's right and left canals has also been disallowed during financial review.

State officials have appealed to the RCC and the Centre to review these deductions thoroughly and sanction the remaining funds in full. They argue that releasing this balance will expedite completion of Phase-I, ensuring that the Polavaram national project progresses smoothly toward its intended goals.

## Children's Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Igro School, Narasara



operTPN Bureau | Nov 14

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): Children's Day, celebrated across India on November 14 to mark the birth anniversary of the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was observed with great enthusiasm and joy at Igro School, located on Kesanaipalli Road in Narasaraopet. The celebration turned into a memorable event for students, parents, and teachers alike. The event's chief guest was Dr. Chadalavada Aditya, son of Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Aditya encouraged the children to dream big, work hard, and

nurture their creativity. He lauded the school for organizing such programs that recognize the importance of children's growth and well-being. Sharing his experiences, Dr. Aditya said that children are not only the backbone of a country but also its future architects. "It is our collective duty to encourage their education, health, and happiness. Today is not just a celebration of their joy but also a reminder to secure their future," he remarked. The Children's Day celebration commemorates Pandit Nehru's affection toward children and his vision for their holistic development. Known affectionately as 'Chacha Nehru,' he believed that every

child deserved the opportunity for quality education and healthy growth. Across India, schools and institutions mark this day with various cultural programs, sports activities, and competitions that allow children to showcase their talents.

This year, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) emphasized the global theme "Children's Rights and Safety," highlighting the need to protect and empower children worldwide. Igro School's celebrations resonated with this spirit as the event focused on promoting awareness about child rights and education. Students of Igro School actively participated in various performances,

including dances, songs, skits, and games, which added color and vibrancy to the occasion.

The school principal and teachers guided the program, ensuring every child had a chance to participate. Dr. Aditya, who is also a practicing medical professional, distributed prizes to the winners and appreciated the students' efforts. He also commended the teachers and parents for their dedicated role in shaping young minds. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a renewed commitment to nurture children with love, care, and quality education—the very ideals Pandit Nehru envisioned for the nation's future.



# Children’s Day Celebrated Grandly

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): Children’s Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the Government High School in Shankara Bharatipuram, Linganguntla, near Narasaraopet on Friday. The event turned into a meaningful occasion for students as local MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu participated as the chief guest and distributed bicycles to meritorious students. As part of the celebrations, 15 students who demonstrated outstanding performance in academics, sports, and arts were presented with brand new bicycles. The initiative was made possible through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of the State Bank of India (SBI). The MLA appreciated SBI’s gesture for supporting educational development and encour-



aging young talent in government schools. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aravind Babu stated that Children’s Day is not just about celebration and joy, but also a time to reflect on the importance of empowering children

for a brighter future. He emphasized that promoting education, health, and extracurricular activities plays a vital role in shaping self-confidence and life skills among students. “Recognizing and re-

warding the merit of students motivates them to aim higher and builds a strong foundation for their future,” he said. The legislator also highlighted the government’s commitment to improving school infrastruc-

ture, ensuring quality education, and implementing programs that provide opportunities for rural children. He called upon teachers and parents to work hand-in-hand in nurturing children’s potential and guid-

ing them toward excellence. Officials from the State Bank of India, including the Regional Manager and bank staff, attended the program and expressed satisfaction with how the CSR initiative was being utilized. They stated that SBI would continue supporting educational institutions through similar programs in the future. Community leaders, members of local associations, teachers, and students participated actively in the celebration. The school campus wore a festive look, echoing the spirit of Children’s Day with cultural programs, songs, and speeches on the life and vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The event concluded with distribution of sweets and photographs of the honored students proudly receiving their bicycles.



## MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu says Children’s Future Defines Nation’s Future

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Vinukonda (Palnadu District): Marking Children’s Day on Thursday, Government Chief Whip and Vinukonda MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu paid floral tributes to the portrait of India’s first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at a special programme organized at his office in the town. Addressing the gathering, MLA Anjaneyulu said that the path shown by ‘Chacha Nehru’ continues to enlighten generations and inspire the nation. “Children are the true wealth of every country. Nehru’s love, thoughts, and ideals remain a beacon of inspiration to this day,” he said. The legislator described Children’s Day not just as a celebration, but as a reminder of everyone’s responsibility to secure and nurture the younger generation. He stressed that the nation’s development depends on the education, health, and moral values of its children. Every child possesses unique talent, and it is the collective duty of families, teachers, and the government to identify and nurture that potential. He called for equal encouragement for children to excel in academics, sports, and creative pursuits, adding that only through holistic growth can they emerge as confident and re-

sponsible citizens. Speaking on government initiatives, Anjaneyulu said that special attention is being given to improving educational opportunities, nutritional support, and school infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. He mentioned that the State government is implementing several welfare schemes aimed at strengthening childhood education and ensuring that every child has access to quality learning and healthy growth. The MLA urged all sections of society to extend their support in creating an environment where children can dream, learn, and achieve. “It is we, the elders, who must impart love, courage, and discipline to the younger generation. The direction shown by Chacha Nehru should guide our efforts in shaping modern India,” he added. Concluding his remarks, Anjaneyulu reiterated that the future of the country lies in the hands of educated, value-driven children who will steer the nation toward progress and harmony. The event witnessed participation from local leaders, party workers, women’s associations, and students, who paid tributes and took part in cultural activities dedicated to celebrating children and their potential.



## Allegations of Bribery in Disability Pension Verification Process Surface in Koduru Mandal

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Kodur, Krishna District: Serious allegations have emerged from Koduru Mandal under the Avanigadda Assembly constituency regarding large-scale corruption in the renewal and verification of disability pension certificates under the YSR NTR Bhārōsa scheme. According to reliable local sources, several individuals across villages in Koduru, including Mandapakala, Ullipalem, Vishwanathapalli, and others, have allegedly collected large sums of money ranging from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 from pension beneficiaries. The payments were reportedly taken with the promise of ensuring that their disability certificates remain valid and that their pensions continue uninterrupted, even for those who may not be medically eligible. In the previous phase of certificate verification, there were already reports that some agents and middlemen had accepted bribes to influence the continuation of pensions. Despite earlier government attempts to identify and cancel ineligible disability certificates, several beneficiaries are said to have retained their pensions through unethical means. Currently, the second phase of verification is being conducted at government hospitals in Machilipatnam and Guduvada, overseen by certified medical officers. However, locals allege

that some individuals with political backing have avoided attending these mandatory medical assessments. Instead, it is claimed that they have used money and political influence to manipulate the process, obtaining favorable verification results without proper medical examination. These developments have caused widespread concern among genuine beneficiaries and social activists in the region. They argue that such corruption undermines the credibility of welfare schemes designed to support the truly disabled and economically vulnerable sections of society. Several villagers have appealed to higher officials and the district administration to intervene immediately, investigate the allegations, and take strong action against those involved. Observers point out that the government’s efforts to streamline welfare schemes and eliminate ineligible beneficiaries will be undermined if local-level corruption is not addressed effectively. Calls are growing for both administrative and legal action to ensure transparency and accountability in the certification process. As the allegations gain traction, citizens of Koduru Mandal are urging senior officials to conduct a detailed inquiry into the bribery claims and restore public confidence in the welfare delivery system.

## Equal Opportunities Key to Social Progress: Ramireddy



TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Chilakaluripet, Nandendla (Palnadu District): Equal opportunities for girls are the foundation of a progressive society, said Nadikattu Ramireddy, Chairman of the Golconda Group of Institutions and promoter of the Chirumamilla Educational and Village Development Trust. He was addressing students during a Children’s Day celebration held on Friday at the Zilla Parishad High School in Chirumamilla, organized under the supervision of Headmaster Kishore. Speaking on the occasion, Ramireddy said that women are the pillars of family harmony, affection, and human values. He observed that current global crises such as conflicts, inequ-

alities, and climate change are having a serious impact on the future of girls. He appreciated the way young women around the world are uniting to face these challenges and fighting for climate justice and an end to violence. Emphasizing that ensuring girls’ safety and future has become more crucial than ever, Ramireddy recalled that it has been 30 years since world nations adopted the Beijing Declaration to uphold women’s and girls’ rights and promote gender equality. While women are now excelling in various fields, he said, inequalities still persist, particularly among girls from economically weaker and marginalized sections who continue to struggle for access to education,

healthcare, and economic empowerment. He appreciated the efforts of both central and state governments for implementing programmes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to promote gender balance and educational opportunities. Nonetheless, he noted that poverty continues to hinder the progress of many girls. Highlighting the importance of awareness about laws and schemes like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2026), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, and Mission Vatsalya, he urged for their effective implementation and community participation. Ramireddy stressed the need to promote hy-

giene and health awareness during school years, alongside vocational training and employment opportunities. He said that the National Education Policy aims to achieve gender parity in education by 2035, which requires enhanced investment in girls’ education. Appreciating the contribution of the NGO “Educated Girls,” which has provided education to nearly 2 million girls in remote rural areas, he called upon more organizations to join such efforts. He concluded that real progress and empowerment of girls would be possible only when equal opportunities reach every stage of their lives, paving the way for a strong and inclusive future.

## MLA Attends Grand Swearing-In Ceremony of TDP Leaders in Narasaraopet

TPN Bureau | Nov 14  
Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): A grand swearing-in ceremony of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders was held on Thursday night at the Town Hall in Narasaraopet under the leadership of MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu. The event marked the formal induction and oath-taking of newly appointed TDP mandal, cluster, unit, and village booth in-charges from across the constituency. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from party cadres and supporters, reflecting a renewed spirit within the ranks ahead of upcoming organizational activities. Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu attended



the event as the chief guest and administered the oath to the party leaders. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of unity, discipline, and

dedication in strengthening the Telugu Desam Party at the grassroots level. He reminded party members of their responsibilities and called upon them to work

tirelessly toward the development of the Narasaraopet constituency. He also urged the in-charges to maintain close contact with people, identify local issues,

and ensure that the party’s welfare agenda reaches every household. Dr. Aravind Babu highlighted that the Telugu Desam Party has a long legacy of public service and development-oriented governance, and every worker must contribute to preserving that legacy. He said the newly appointed in-charges should act as a bridge between the leadership and the public, continuing the party’s mission of transparent and people-centric administration. Party leaders who attended the ceremony described it as a crucial step in strengthening the TDP’s organizational structure in the Palnadu region. They expressed confidence that under Dr. Aravind Babu’s dynamic leadership, the constituency would witness faster progress in infrastructure, education, and employment sectors. The event drew a large gathering of local TDP leaders, activists, and supporters, turning the venue into a vibrant stage of political enthusiasm. Party flags, slogans, and chants filled the hall as members pledged to uphold the ideals of the Telugu Desam Party and support their leader’s vision for a stronger Narasaraopet. With this grand ceremony, the TDP in Narasaraopet appears to have rekindled its organizational momentum, aiming to expand its base and reaffirm its commitment to serving the people of Palnadu district.



# India Pushes for Globalised Rupee Ecosystem



India is taking significant steps to reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar and strengthen its financial sovereignty amid an increasingly uncertain global trade environment. Geopolitical tensions, sanctions threats on Russian oil, and inconsistent U.S. tariff policies have accelerated efforts to develop a rupee-led international settlement system.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has spearheaded key initiatives to pro-

mote rupee internationalisation. In October, the RBI allowed authorised dealer (AD) banks and their overseas branches to extend rupee-denominated loans to residents, businesses, and financial institutions in Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. This is facilitated through Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs), which now number around 200, up from 156 in February. The expansion allows bilateral trade settlements in rupees, bypassing

the U.S. dollar, reducing conversion costs, and limiting exposure to dollar volatility. Surplus SRVA balances can also be invested in corporate bonds and commercial papers, enhancing liquidity and attracting foreign participation.

In parallel, the RBI has launched the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or Digital Rupee (e₹), a blockchain-based, fully regulated digital token. The digital rupee supports atomic

settlements via Delivery vs Payment (DvP) protocols, ensuring efficiency, privacy, and transparency. The RBI will also publish reference exchange rates for major trading partners' currencies, starting with UAE dirhams and Indonesian rupees, to streamline INR-based trade settlements.

GIFT City in Gujarat has emerged as a hub for these developments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the

Foreign Currency Settlement System in October, enabling faster and safer transactions in major currencies, starting with the U.S. dollar and expanding to the euro, yen, and pound. Meanwhile, BRICS countries are exploring integration of their digital currency systems, aiming to reduce intermediary costs and promote de-dollarisation. The New Development Bank plans its first INR-denominated bond issuance to encour-

age local currency financing. India is also planning onshore rupee bonds worth \$400–500 million with three- to five-year maturities by March 2026. These moves could expand investment opportunities in masala bonds and reinforce India's role in global financial markets. Future plans include linking SRVAs with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for international settlements and integrating with central

bank digital currencies, potentially enabling GIFT City to operate as a 24×7 global financial hub. Analysts say these steps mark a strategic shift from a globalised outlook to transactional diplomacy, prioritising national financial sovereignty. By reducing dependence on offshore financial centres, India aims to enhance regional stability, attract investment, and strengthen the rupee's global presence.

## Amazon Layoffs Highlight AI Transition Challenges



Global tech industry trembled last week as Amazon announced the layoff of 14,000 employees, part of a broader wave that has seen over 1,72,000 jobs cut across American tech giants, including Meta, Microsoft, Salesforce, and Google. These reductions have sparked concerns about the human cost of automation, especially as artificial intelligence continues to transform workplaces worldwide.

The layoffs contrast sharply with the soaring market value of AI hardware and software leaders. Nvidia, whose chips power AI data centers, recently reached a staggering \$5 trillion market capitalization, while OpenAI, in partnership with Microsoft, plans to develop 30 gigawatts of computing resources at a cost of \$1.4 trillion. Such figures underscore a growing divide between AI-driven wealth creation and workforce instability.

Jensen Huang, Nvidia's CEO, recently highlighted the future demand for skilled trades like electricians and plumbers as AI infrastructure expands. His comments illustrate the duality of the AI revolution: while some jobs are replaced by automation, new roles emerge that require technical, adaptive, and hybrid skill sets. Analysts emphasize that long-term success depends on the ability of workers to reinvent themselves, adapt to new tools, and blend core skills with technological fluency.

The rapid rise of AI has

also amplified demand for cybersecurity, data management, and AI-specific roles, as automation tools proliferate. "Agentic AI," which integrates intermediate technologies to enhance automation, demonstrates the need for professionals who can combine coding, industry knowledge, and problem-solving skills. As AI-generated content grows, so does the need for human oversight to manage misuse, maintain trust, and ensure quality.

Historical parallels offer lessons for today. The late Sitaram Kesri, former Congress treasurer, was known for his impeccable trustworthiness—a quality still vital in the AI era. Similarly, past technological revolutions, such as electrification or industrial mechanization, created fears of job losses but ultimately gave rise to new roles. Roy Amara's law, which notes that people overestimate short-term impacts and underestimate long-term change, remains relevant: AI may disrupt now, but it also generates opportunities for those prepared to adapt.

Experts advise tech professionals to focus on continuous learning, cultivate human-centric skills like trust and teamwork, and maintain financial prudence to navigate this transition. While AI is reshaping the workplace, the combination of human judgment, adaptability, and resilience will remain indispensable in the new digital economy.

## GST Reform 2.0: Turning Compliance Into Empowerment



Since its rollout in 2017, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India has been both a compliance challenge and an unintentional digital revolution. What began as a complex tax system has evolved into a live, verifiable digital ledger of the economy, enabling businesses and authorities alike to leverage real-time data. Mandatory e-invoicing and the GST Network (GSTN) turned every invoice into a trusted financial footprint, creating a foundation for credit access, financial inclusion, and data-driven governance.

For small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), GST filings became a financial passport. Lenders could now assess a firm's health instantly, unlocking loans and invoice financing. Yet, this digital advantage is uneven. Only 12% of MSMEs are fully digitalised, leaving many reliant on paper records or outsourced accounting. This digital divide risks creating a two-speed economy, where businesses in digitally advanced states like Karnataka,

Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu thrive, while those in less-connected regions lag behind. GST Reform 2.0 aims to bridge this gap. The 56th GST Council meeting introduced people-centric reforms, including a simplified two-rate tax structure and reduced levies on daily essentials. For businesses, the changes are transformative: provisional, risk-based refunds cover 90% of claims, easing cash-flow constraints, while a streamlined, automated GST registration scheme promises onboarding of low-risk entrepreneurs in just three days. The establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by December 2025 adds a credible, rules-based enforcement layer.

The convergence of the initial digital engine and these deliberate reforms creates a powerful synergy. Real-time GST data not only empowers businesses with financial tools but also enables authorities to detect fraud efficiently. However, for the system to

achieve its full potential, digital literacy and access must improve. Experts advocate a three-pronged approach: scaling practical digital training, promoting affordable tech platforms for micro-enterprises, and using policy incentives to encourage adoption. Looking ahead, GST is poised to become more than a tax mechanism—it could emerge as a cornerstone of India's economic strategy. Recognising the GST data infrastructure as a national public good, similar to UPI, could stimulate private innovation in finance and supply-chain management. The next phase will test whether GST 2.0 can drive inclusive growth, ensuring that every MSME, regardless of location or size, benefits from this digital transformation. GST's journey—from chaotic rollout to digital backbone and now to a tool of empowerment—could redefine India's economic landscape, shaping competitiveness and inclusivity for the decade ahead.

## Trump's Trade Power, India's Missed Opportunity



U.S. President Donald Trump's recent Asia tour has highlighted the growing influence of trade as a tool of geopolitical power—an area where India appears to have missed the memo. Analysts note that while China has leveraged both its seller and buyer power, India has yet to fully exploit its potential in global trade. Trump, who often emphasizes the U.S. as the world's largest importer, has used this economic leverage to shape relationships with exporting nations. During his interactions with China, he demonstrated how import dependence can translate into bargaining power, particularly in commodities like soybeans and corn,

vital for Chinese agriculture. By contrast, India's imports of U.S. soybeans, corn, and edible oils—totaling over \$18 billion annually—remain underutilized in diplomatic strategy. China's success, experts say, stems from a mix of forward planning, technological adoption, and strategic patience. The nation has invested in genetically modified crops, improved yields, and diversified import sources, ensuring it can negotiate from a position of strength. India, meanwhile, continues to rely heavily on trade protectionism and domestic lobbying pressures, limiting its ability to wield similar influence. The recent events underscore the shift in global power

dynamics: reputation, moral authority, or political history no longer determine leverage—economic power does. Trump reportedly showed condescension toward India's leadership, emphasizing that hard power is measured by what nations can offer rather than what they expect. Analysts argue that India's hesitancy to strategically use its import capacity has cost it potential influence in bilateral negotiations. Experts point to lessons from history: like Deng Xiaoping's dictum to "bide your time, hide your power," nations must exercise patience and deploy strategic leverage rather than celebrate economic size prematurely. India,

while the world's fifth-largest economy, has yet to convert its market size into tangible diplomatic influence. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has urged Indian entrepreneurs to adapt, innovate, and move beyond tariff protections. Observers say this moment resembles India's 1991 balance-of-payments crisis, signaling that reform may now be necessary, driven not by financial collapse but by geopolitical imperatives. As global trade reshapes power structures, India's challenge will be to align domestic policy with strategic opportunity, ensuring its buying power becomes a currency in international diplomacy rather than a missed chance.



# Mahila and Youth is new MY formula in Bihar: PM Modi at BJP HQ in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters in Delhi, declared that the National Democratic Alliance's sweeping victory in Bihar has laid the foundation for a similar outcome in West Bengal, where Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) currently holds power. Drawing a symbolic comparison, he said, "The river Ganga flows to Bengal via Bihar. And the victory in Bihar, like the river, has paved the way for our victory in Bengal."

The NDA's emphatic win—securing over 200 of the 243 seats—positions the BJP as the single-largest party in Bihar. Modi credited party workers for the triumph, saying their dedication had transformed people's expectations into reality.

The Prime Minister also drew parallels between Bihar's electoral mandate and West Bengal's political climate. Referencing the BJP's long-standing critique of "Jungle Raj" under the Opposition alliance in Bihar, he urged the people of Bengal to "uproot Jun-



gle Raj" from their own state. He added that the victory would energize BJP efforts not just in Bengal, but across southern India as well.

Even before the final results were declared, several BJP leaders had turned their attention to Bengal. Union Minister Giriraj Singh warned

Mamata Banerjee to "brace for the worst," while Suwendu Adhikari predicted a "spectacular" BJP performance in the 2026 state elections. Sukanta Majumdar, invoking "Mission Bengal," said it was time to "clean up the jungles of Bengal."

In a swift and sharp re-

sponse, the Trinamool Congress took to social media with a defiant "Bring it on." Sharing an old video of Mamata Banerjee asserting her political resilience, the TMC accused the BJP of slander and disrespect toward Bengal's identity. The party vowed that in 2026, the people would "democrati-

cally crush" the BJP's "arrogance" and reaffirm Banerjee's leadership with over 250 seats.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh dismissed any connection between Bihar's outcome and Bengal's political future, asserting confidence in another sweeping TMC victory.

# 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 "Vithal 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 Kawasi 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.

# India and Canada Deepen Cooperation on Critical Minerals, Trade, and Investment



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

India and Canada have taken significant steps to strengthen their economic partnership, focusing on critical minerals, clean energy, and expanded investment opportunities. The

progress came during the 7th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, held in New Delhi under the framework of the New Roadmap 2025. The dialogue was co-chaired by India's Com-

merce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canada's Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade, and Economic Development, Maninder Sidhu, who visited India from November 11 to 14.

In a joint statement issued on November 14, 2025, both nations highlighted their commitment to deepening long-term supply chain cooperation in critical minerals—an area vital for global clean energy transitions and advanced manufacturing. These minerals, essential for batteries, renewable technologies, and electronic components, have become strategically important as countries work to diversify supply chains amid rising global demand.

The ministers agreed to enhance collaboration in clean energy, emphasizing the shared goal of accelerating sustainable industrial growth. The partnership aims to support new-age industries and ensure stable access to minerals central to transitioning toward greener economies.

Beyond critical minerals and clean energy, India and Canada also announced plans to expand trade and investment opportunities in sectors including aerospace and

dual-use capabilities—areas seen as high-potential for innovation and technology-based cooperation. The two sides committed to identifying specific investment projects and strengthening business-to-business linkages to maximize the benefits of bilateral engagement.

The meeting underscored the importance of resilient and mutually beneficial economic ties, particularly at a time when global supply chains continue to face geopolitical and logistical challenges. The ministers reaffirmed their intention to work closely through established institutional mechanisms to advance negotiations, remove trade barriers, and promote smoother investment flow.

Overall, the latest ministerial dialogue marks a renewed chapter in India-Canada relations, setting a strong foundation for strategic, long-term cooperation across emerging and traditional sectors.

# 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.

# Result Surprising, Election Not Fair From Start": Rahul Gandhi On Bihar Loss



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Reacting to the Congress's poor performance in the Bihar Assembly election, Rahul Gandhi termed the result "truly surprising" and alleged that the electoral process had been unfair from the very beginning. Speaking to reporters, the Congress leader said the party had anticipated a closer fight but was taken aback by the magnitude of the National Democratic Alliance's victory.

According to Gandhi, several factors contributed to what he described as a skewed playing field. He claimed that from the start of the campaign, the Congress and its allies faced obstacles in communicating with voters, while the ruling alliance enjoyed what he called disproportionate media visibil-

ity. He argued that the conditions under which the election was conducted raised questions about whether all parties received equal opportunities to present their case before the electorate.

Gandhi also expressed concern over the conduct of certain institutions, implying that impartiality had been compromised. Without naming specific agencies, he said that the misuse of central bodies to influence political outcomes had become a pattern, not just in Bihar but across multiple states. Such interference, he added, undermines public trust and weakens the democratic framework.

Despite the setback, Rahul Gandhi reaffirmed the Congress's

commitment to introspection and organizational strengthening. He said the party would closely analyze the results, understand where it fell short, and work with allies to rebuild momentum ahead of future elections. Gandhi emphasized that the fight for a "fair and just India" would continue, regardless of electoral outcomes.

He also addressed Congress workers, urging them not to lose heart. "We respect the people's mandate," he said, "but we will continue to raise our voice for truth, justice, and democratic values."

The Bihar result, he concluded, should serve as both a lesson and a motivation for the Congress to push forward with renewed determination.



# Trump Hosts Syrian President at White House



**TPN Bureau | Washington**

US President Donald Trump has indicated a softer approach toward H-1B visa reforms, recognizing the critical role of specialized foreign talent in maintaining America's industrial and technological edge.

During an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump defended the value of skilled immigrant workers, noting that complex roles in sectors such as manufacturing and defense cannot be quickly filled by long-term unemployed Americans without extensive training. "I agree, but you also have to bring this talent," he said when asked about H-1B visa reforms.

Trump stressed that while he supports raising wages for American workers, the US still needs to import expertise to sustain key industries. He cited Georgia's manufacturing sector as an example, where the removal of skilled South Korean workers created challenges in producing high-tech products like batteries, which require extensive experience and safety knowledge.

Earlier in September, Trump signed a proclamation overhaul-

ing the H-1B visa process, imposing a sharp increase in fees from about USD 1,500 to USD 100,000 for new applications and lottery entries after September 21, 2025. Current visa holders and petitions filed before this date remain unaffected.

The President emphasized that certain specialized skills cannot be quickly learned by untrained workers. "You can't take people off the unemployment line and say, 'I'm going to put you into a factory where we're going to make missiles.' It doesn't work that way," Trump noted.

He also referenced recent ICE raids at a Hyundai plant in Georgia, highlighting the need for foreign expertise to train local workers in complex manufacturing processes.

Trump's remarks mark a significant shift from his earlier hardline stance on foreign worker visas, signaling a more pragmatic recognition of the importance of skilled immigrants in sustaining US competitiveness in high-tech and industrial sectors.

This pivot could influence ongoing debates over H-1B policies and the broader US approach to attracting global talent.

# Israel Reopens Zikim Crossing to Allow Aid Into Northern Gaza



**TPN Correspondent | Gaza**

Israel has reopened the Zikim Crossing in northern Gaza to allow the entry of humanitarian aid trucks into the war-torn enclave, the Israeli defense body COGAT (Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) announced on Wednesday.

The reopening marks a significant development amid mounting appeals from U.N. aid agencies and humanitarian organizations that have repeatedly called for improved access to the northern regions of Gaza. The area has faced severe shortages of food, medicine, and essential supplies since the recent conflict and the subsequent Israel-Hamas ceasefire last month.

COGAT stated that the decision aims to facilitate the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance, including food, medical supplies, and relief materials, to civilians struggling in the devastated northern districts. Images shared from the area showed trucks carrying sacks of flour and other aid items crossing into Gaza, signaling the resumption

of relief efforts that had been halted for weeks.

The Zikim Crossing, located along the northern border of the enclave, has remained largely closed throughout much of the conflict, forcing aid deliveries to enter primarily through southern routes such as Kerem Shalom and Rafah. U.N. officials have warned that continued restrictions in the north were exacerbating an already dire humanitarian crisis, with thousands of displaced families living in makeshift shelters and struggling to access clean water and food.

Humanitarian agencies have welcomed the reopening as a positive step but emphasized that sustained and unrestricted access will be essential to meet the massive needs of Gaza's population.

The move comes as international pressure continues to mount on both Israel and Hamas to maintain stability following the fragile ceasefire and to prioritize the welfare of civilians caught in the crossfire.

# “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 apartments, free bus services, universal childcare for children aged six months to five years, and city-owned grocery



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 union, and it's super expensive. It leads to extremely costly housing,” Sternlicht said, blaming trade unions 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.

# Bangladesh on High Alert Ahead of Sheikh Hasina Tribunal Verdict Date

**TPN Correspondent | Dhaka**

Bangladesh has been placed on high alert as the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) prepares to announce on Thursday, November 13, the date of its verdict in the case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The charges against her include crimes against humanity and murder related to the July 2024 uprising that led to her government's ouster.

Security forces, including the army and police, have been deployed across the country, particularly at airports and key government installations, as tensions escalate ahead of the announcement. The Bangladesh Awami League (AL) has called for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk lockdown on Thursday, urging supporters to participate in peaceful demonstrations.



Following the ban on Awami League activities by the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, party leaders have been using social media to coordinate the programme from undisclosed locations. In recent days, incidents of vehicle arson and crude bomb explosions have been reported in various regions, including Dhaka, heightening fears of unrest.

Police have launched extensive operations to arrest AL leaders and activists, while security checkpoints and vehicle inspections have been established in major cities to maintain order. Meanwhile, Awami League supporters have been holding flash rallies demanding Hasina's release and condemning the tribunal proceedings.

The legal case stems from the July 2024 student-led protests that toppled Hasina's government, during which more than 1,400 people were killed, according to a United Nations report. The former Prime Minister fled to India on August 5, 2024, after losing control of the government.

Ironically, the ICT was originally established by Hasina's own administration to prosecute 1971 Liberation War crimes. The current interim government has amended the tribunal's legal framework to bring charges against her. Testimonies in the case are complete, and the tribunal will announce the verdict date on Thursday.

# PM Modi Returns After Bhutan Visit, Says Outcomes Will Strengthen Ties

**TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on Wednesday after completing a successful two-day state visit to Bhutan, aimed at deepening the long-standing partnership between the two Himalayan neighbours.

Before departing from Thimphu, the Prime Minister shared a post on X, expressing heartfelt gratitude to the people and Government of Bhutan for their hospitality. “My visit to Bhutan has taken place when the people of this nation are marking several landmark programmes... The outcomes in sectors like energy, healthcare, and connectivity will add momentum to our bilateral partnership,” he wrote.

In a warm gesture, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck personally accompanied Prime Minister Modi to the airport for his departure. “I am grateful to His Majesty the King of Bhutan for coming to the airport as I board for Delhi,” Modi said.



During the visit, Prime Minister Modi held comprehensive talks with the King of Bhutan, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, focusing on enhancing cooperation in energy, connectivity, trade, technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

A major highlight of the trip was the joint inauguration of the 1,020 MW Punat-

sangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, a landmark in India-Bhutan energy collaboration. The two sides also announced new initiatives in renewable energy, healthcare, and cross-border infrastructure.

Prime Minister Modi participated in the 70th birth anniversary celebrations of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and joined the Bhutanese leadership at the Kalachakra “Wheel of Time” empowerment ceremony in Thimphu, attended by over 30,000 devotees as part of the Global Peace Prayer Festival 2025.

Reaffirming India's support for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan and the King's Gelephu Mindfulness City initiative, PM Modi emphasized that the visit reflects the enduring friendship and shared cultural values that continue to define the India-Bhutan relationship.



# Markets Slip on Foreign Fund Outflows, Weak Asian Cues

Equity markets opened lower on Tuesday, weighed down by foreign fund outflows and weak cues from Asian peers. The BSE Sensex slipped 55 points to 83,923.48, while the NSE Nifty 50 dipped 40.95 points to 25,722.40 in early trade.

Among the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, Eternal, HCL Tech, Maruti, Tata Motors, and Infosys were the major laggards, while Bharti Airtel, Titan, Reliance Industries, and Mahindra & Mahindra gained ground.

According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 1,883.78 crore on Monday, continuing a trend of persistent outflows. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 3,516.36 crore, providing partial support to the market.

“FIIs’ renewed selling is constraining the rally in the market. In the last four days, FIIs have offloaded equities worth Rs 14,269 crore.



Higher valuations in India and muted earnings growth are restraining

foreign investors, who are now focusing on cheaper markets with

better earnings potential,” said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment

Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. In Asian markets,

most indices traded lower, with South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225, and Shanghai’s SSE Composite under pressure. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was an exception, trading in positive territory.

US markets ended mostly higher on Monday, providing mixed global cues. The Brent crude benchmark slipped 0.20% to USD 64.76 a barrel, adding to the cautious sentiment.

In the previous session, the Sensex had inched up 39.78 points to 83,978.49, while the Nifty gained 41.25 points to settle at 25,763.35. Analysts suggest that market direction will continue to be influenced by FIIs’ selling patterns, domestic earnings growth, and global economic cues.

The early weakness highlights investor caution amid valuation concerns and global volatility, even as domestic institutional support offers some cushion to the markets.

# India’s 92% AI adoption rate the highest in Asia Pacific: BCG report



India has emerged as the front-runner in workplace artificial intelligence (AI) adoption,

with 92% of employees using AI in their daily work,

according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Across the Asia Pacific,

78% of workers regularly use AI, surpassing the global average of 72%.

The report, published by BCG X, the firm’s technology build and design arm, highlights the region’s leadership in integrating AI across workplaces, from offices to frontline operations.

“India’s AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readiness for the next phase of transformation,” said Nipun Kalra, India Leader, BCG X. He noted that 58% of frontline Indian employees receive clear guidance on AI use, nearly double the regional average, fostering responsible and scalable innovation.

The study shows AI adoption is no longer confined to managerial roles. Across Asia Pacific, 70% of frontline employees now use AI weekly or more, compared to 51% globally, demonstrating how workers at all levels are driving digital transformation.

Despite optimism, concerns remain. 52% of employees worry AI may replace

their roles, while only a third fully understand how AI tools work. Additionally, 58% admitted they would use AI without company approval, underscoring the need for better governance and oversight.

BCG emphasized that sustained AI progress will require effective leadership, upskilling, and organizational design. “Organizations must move from experimentation to reimagining operating models, building governance, skills, and structures that turn AI’s promise into measurable enterprise and economic value,” Kalra added.

The findings highlight India’s readiness for large-scale AI adoption and the critical need for structured frameworks to ensure that the technology benefits both businesses and employees while mitigating risks.

# Microsoft Signs \$9.7B Deal With IREN for Nvidia Chips

Microsoft has entered into a \$9.7 billion contract with data-center operator IREN, securing access to Nvidia’s advanced chips to address the growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI) computing power. The deal aims to help Microsoft overcome bottlenecks that have limited its ability to fully capitalize on the AI boom.

According to IREN’s filing, a portion of the funds from Microsoft’s prepayment will be used to finance part of its \$5.8 billion deal with Dell, which supplies Nvidia’s GB300 chips and other equipment essential for Microsoft’s AI infrastructure.

The announcement had an immediate impact on the stock market. IREN shares surged more than 20% in pre-market trading on Monday, reflecting investor optimism about the strategic partnership. Dell’s

shares also rose 5%, given its role in providing the AI-server hardware that Microsoft will deploy.

Analysts say the deal underscores Microsoft’s commitment to expanding its AI capabilities at a time when demand for high-performance computing is skyrocketing. By securing priority access to Nvidia chips through IREN, Microsoft can accelerate the rollout of its AI products and services while managing supply chain challenges.

“Access to cutting-edge Nvidia chips is critical for Microsoft to maintain competitiveness in the AI sector,” said an industry analyst. “This deal not only strengthens its data-center capacity but also helps hedge against global semiconductor supply constraints.”

The partnership also illustrates the growing trend of tech giants col-



laborating with data-center operators to secure hardware essential for AI workloads, signaling the strategic importance of supply chain

management in the AI race.

Microsoft and IREN did not provide exact timelines for deployment, but the scale of

the contract indicates a significant expansion of Microsoft’s AI infrastructure in the coming months. The move is expected to reinforce Mi-

crosoft’s position in the AI market while giving IREN and Dell a substantial boost in revenue from chip-related contracts.

# Rupee Rises 11 Paise to 88.66 Against Dollar



The Indian rupee rebounded on Tuesday, settling 11 paise higher at 88.66 against the U.S. dollar amid a mix of domestic and global factors.

Forex traders noted that while the rupee showed signs of recovery, gains remained limited due to a firm dollar, continued foreign fund outflows, and subdued domestic equity markets. These factors tempered a sharper appreciation in the currency.

Early trade saw the rupee hovering around 88.70 before gradually strengthening as selling pressure eased. Analysts attributed the recovery to improved market sentiment and lower demand for dollars in the spot market.

“While the rupee’s rebound is encouraging, persistent foreign capital outflows and a strong greenback globally are preventing more significant gains,” said a senior forex dealer at a leading Mumbai-based bank.

The U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback’s performance against a basket of major currencies, remained supported by expectations of stable interest rates in the United States. This limited the rupee’s upward movement despite some domestic buying interest.

In the domestic equity markets, the Sensex and Nifty opened lower amid cautious investor sentiment, further restricting foreign inflows and keeping pressure on the currency.

Analysts suggest that in the near term, the rupee is likely to trade in a narrow range, influenced by global dollar trends, foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, and domestic macroeconomic indicators such as trade balance and inflation data.

The rupee had faced pressure in the previous sessions due to large outflows by foreign investors, with equities witnessing net selling. However, improved domestic demand for the currency and easing market concerns provided support, allowing the rupee to recover part of its losses.

With global markets expected to remain volatile, forex traders are closely watching U.S. economic data, crude oil prices, and domestic fund flows to gauge the currency’s trajectory in the coming weeks.

The rupee’s rebound, though modest, reflects resilience amid global uncertainties and ongoing volatility in capital markets.

# 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.



## Woman Asked to Leave Nykaa Store in Faridabad



Faridabad, November 7 – A woman visiting a Nykaa store in Sector 15 had a distressing experience while shopping for her sister’s wedding. She claimed that she and her friend were asked to leave the store in a humiliating manner, drawing attention from other customers.

The woman shared her ordeal on Reddit under the title, “Asked to leave Nykaa and told to never return!” According to her, the incident occurred on November 6 in the presence of the store manager, who reportedly did not intervene.

She recounted that the confrontation began when she was checking colour correctors. A saleswoman allegedly told her she could not use the product directly and that she should ask for assistance if she wanted anything. The woman said she complied, noting the staff’s “commanding tone.”

Later, while browsing skincare products, the saleswoman reportedly told them that the store was closing, even

though it was only 7 PM and other customers were still shopping. When questioned, the staff member allegedly said, “Tum jaisi ladkiyo ko mai ache se janti hun, kuch kharidana nahi hai bas ghumne aajati ho” (“I know girls like you very well, you don’t come to buy anything, just to roam around”).

The situation escalated when the saleswoman shouted, “Kaam karti hun mai yahan. Naukar hun tumhari?” (“I work here. Am I your servant?”), and allegedly continued insulting the women with phrases like “batameez ladkiya” (“ill-mannered girls”) and “maa baap ne kuch sikhaya nhi” (“your parents haven’t taught you anything”).

The confrontation reportedly ended with the staff telling the women, “Bahar niklo yahan se kabhi aa mat jana yahan” (“Get out and never come back here”), and continued outside the store in full view of the market.

Nykaa has not yet issued an official statement regarding the incident.

## Chinese Tech Firm Gifts Gold Keycaps to Employees



In a glittering celebration of hard work, Chinese tech company Insta360 has continued its unique tradition of rewarding employees with solid gold keycaps. The Shenzhen-based firm, known for its 360-degree cameras, marked Programmer’s Day by handing out 21 gold keycaps to top-performing staff this year.

The most valuable piece, a spacebar weighing 35.02 grams, is worth approximately 320,000 yuan (around Rs 39 lakh). Since starting this initiative four years ago, Insta360 has given out a total of 55 gold keycaps, with their value doubling due to rising gold prices.

Employees described the gold gifts as both practical and symbolic. “There are things that cannot be measured by money,” one staff member said, while another shared that they keep gold from every special occasion instead of selling it. Some employees even aim to collect enough keycaps to “fill the whole

keyboard.

The tradition extends beyond keycaps. Staff who recently got married or had a baby receive a one-gram gold coin, and the year-end party often features a grand prize of a 50-gram gold bar. Earlier this year, for the company’s 10th anniversary, every employee and intern received a “gold blind box” containing a small gold sticker with the message: “All that glitters is not only gold, but also you.”

Insta360 founder Liu Jingang explained that the gold rewards are not given for their monetary value but for what they represent: stability, recognition, and appreciation of employees’ efforts. “Each keystroke turns stone into gold,” he said, emphasizing that the company’s success is built on its team’s dedication.

The company’s innovative reward system has earned it the nickname “gold factory” in China’s tech scene, blending employee motivation with a literal touch of luxury.

## Sleeping Capsules at Kunming Airport Offer Rest for Travelers

Travelers at China’s Kunming Airport can now enjoy a unique way to rest and recharge during layovers or early flights: sleeping capsules. These compact private pods are designed to provide comfort, privacy, and convenience in the busy airport environment.

A video that recently went viral on Reddit shows a traveler unlocking one of the capsules using a remote. Inside, the pod reveals a cozy space with a soft bed, dimmable lighting, ventilation controls, and even water bottles, making it a self-contained area for rest. The capsules are ideal for solo travelers or passengers waiting for connecting flights.

Located on the 4th floor of the departure hall, the capsules are equipped with a small fan and a control panel to adjust lighting and airflow. The design prioritizes comfort while maximizing space efficiency, allowing passengers to relax without the disturbance of crowded lounges or uncomfortable seating.



The introduction of sleeping capsules is part of a growing trend in airports worldwide to offer innovative amenities that cater to travelers’ needs. Unlike traditional lounges, these pods provide a private and quiet environment, enabling passengers to nap, work, or simply unwind in peace.

Travelers have praised the capsules for their practicality and comfort, noting that they provide a much-needed break during long layovers or after overnight flights. With airport travel often involving fatigue and stress, such innovations are proving popular for improving the overall passenger experience.

The Kunming Airport sleeping capsules highlight a shift toward more personalized travel amenities, blending modern technology with convenience. As airports compete to offer better services, these compact pods may soon become a standard feature in major international terminals, offering weary travelers a safe and comfortable haven amid the bustle of travel.

## 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.

## Nagpur’s Diamond Crossing: India’s Unique Railway Marvel

Nagpur Railway Station in Maharashtra is home to India’s only Diamond Crossing, a rare railway junction where trains from four different directions intersect safely and seamlessly. This engineering marvel highlights the precision and efficiency of Indian Railways, ensuring smooth operations at one of the country’s busiest rail hubs.

The crossing earns its name from the diamond shape formed by intersecting tracks when viewed from above. Despite handling heavy daily rail traffic, the meticulous management by signal operators and railway staff ensures there are no accidents, showcasing the high level of coordination involved in managing train movements at this complex junction.

The Diamond Crossing connects four major rail routes, allowing trains to travel from all sides without disruption. Its strategic location at Nagpur, a key city in central India, makes it crucial for passenger and freight movement across the country. This junction not only enhances operational efficiency but also demonstrates the engineering prowess and traffic management skills of Indian Railways.

Safety at the crossing is maintained through continuous monitoring of train movements, with signal operators coordinating each train’s entry and exit. This system minimizes delays and eliminates potential collisions, making it a model of railway precision and control.



For visitors and train enthusiasts, the Diamond Crossing is more than just a functional railway point—it is a spectacle of engineering brilliance. From the air, the intersecting tracks resemble a perfect diamond, reflecting the careful planning and foresight that went into its design.

Nagpur’s Diamond Crossing stands as a symbol of India’s railway heritage and operational excellence, illustrating how innovation and meticulous management can handle complex traffic with remarkable efficiency. It continues to impress both travelers and professionals, offering a glimpse into the intricate workings of one of the world’s largest rail networks.



# BCCI Announces ₹51 Crore Reward for World Cup-Winning Indian Women’s Team

In a historic moment for Indian cricket, the national women’s team lifted their maiden ICC Women’s World Cup trophy after defeating South Africa in a thrilling final. The victory ended decades of near misses, including the heartbreaks of the 2005 and 2017 finals, marking a new era for women’s cricket in India.

To honor this monumental achievement, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a massive cash reward of ₹51 crore for the entire squad, including players, coaches, and support staff. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia made the announcement in Mumbai, lauding the team’s remarkable journey and historic win.

“In 1983, Kapil Dev inspired a new generation by winning India’s first World Cup. Today, Harmanpreet Kaur and her team have done the same for women’s cricket,” Saikia said. “They have not only brought the trophy home but also won the hearts of millions, in-



spiring the next generation of cricketers.”

Saikia also praised the transformational efforts of former BCCI secretary Jay Shah, whose tenure from 2019 to 2024 saw major reforms in women’s cricket.

“Pay parity was introduced under his leadership, and ICC prize money for women’s tournaments was increased by 300 percent — from \$2.88 million to \$14 million,” he noted.

The Indian women’s team’s World Cup triumph has been hailed as a defining moment for gender equality in sports, drawing parallels to the 1983 men’s World Cup win that revolutionized Indian cricket.

With the ₹51 crore reward and growing institutional support, the achievement is expected to further boost the popularity and participation of women in cricket, firmly establishing India as a powerhouse in the global women’s game.

# Anirban Lahiri Shines with Consistent Play as McKibbin Wins Hong Kong Open



India’s Anirban Lahiri continued his fine form with yet another solid performance at the Link Hong Kong Open 2025, finishing as the top Indian golfer in the field. The LIV Golf star carded a two-under 68 in the final

round on Sunday, marking his fourth consecutive under-par round at the prestigious Asian Tour event.

Lahiri concluded the tournament with a total of 14-under, finishing 13 strokes behind Northern Ireland’s Tom McKibbin, who clinched the title in his maiden Asian Tour appearance. McKibbin delivered a commanding performance throughout the week, sealing victory with remarkable composure to secure his first-ever Asian Tour triumph at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

Among the other Indian golfers, veteran SSP Chawrasia also impressed with a steady two-under 68 on the final day, finishing at 10-under overall. Ajeetesh Sandhu matched their round of 68, ending just one shot behind Chawrasia at 9-under, ensuring a respectable showing for the Indian contingent in the USD 2 million tournament.

Lahiri, representing Crushers GC in the LIV Golf circuit, once again demonstrated his consistency and experience, maintaining composure across all four rounds. His performance underlined his status as one of India’s most dependable golfers on the international stage.

While a victory eluded him this week, Lahiri’s string of under-par rounds will serve as a confidence booster ahead of his upcoming events. With his short game and putting in strong touch, the Indian ace continues to build momentum as he seeks to add another title to his international career.

For McKibbin, the Hong Kong Open marked a breakthrough performance, capping off a memorable debut on the Asian Tour and setting the stage for what promises to be a bright future in world golf.

# Celtic Defeat 10-Man Rangers to Enter Scottish League Cup Final

Celtic booked their place in the Scottish League Cup final with a hard-fought 3-1 win over arch-rivals Rangers at Hampden Park on Sunday, extending interim manager Martin O’Neill’s perfect start since returning to the helm. The result sees Celtic advance to face St. Mirren in next month’s final.

In just his second match back in charge following Brendan Rodgers’ resignation earlier in the week, O’Neill guided the Hoops to victory in an emotionally charged Old Firm clash. Celtic took the lead midway through the first half when Jonny Kenny headed home from Arne Engels’ corner. Rangers’ troubles deepened shortly before halftime when Thelo Aasgaard was sent off for a dangerous challenge on Anthony Ralston, reducing them to 10 men.

Despite being a man down, Rangers showed spirit and were rewarded late in normal time when James Tavernier converted a penalty after Ralston was penalized for handball, forcing extra time.

Celtic regained control in



the added period as Callum McGregor’s long-range strike restored their lead, catching Rangers goalkeeper Jack Butland off guard. The victory was sealed when teenager Callum Osmant — making only his second appearance for the senior side — slotted home Kieran Tierney’s cross for his first goal in green and white.

The win comes as both Glasgow giants adjust to new management following disappointing starts to the season. Rangers’ new boss Danny Rohl, just two weeks into his tenure, faces a massive task with his side trailing leaders Hearts by 14 points in the Scottish Premiership and struggling in Europe.

For O’Neill and Celtic, the result offers a timely morale boost and a chance to secure silverware early in his second spell, reigniting belief among fans after a turbulent period under Rodgers.

# Unnati Hooda’s Exit Ends India’s Run at Hylo Open



India’s campaign at the Hylo Open 2025 came to an end after young badminton sensation Unnati Hooda bowed out in the women’s singles semifinals. The 18-year-old rising star from Rohtak went down in straight games to Indonesia’s top seed Putri Kusuma Wardani on Saturday night, losing 7-21, 13-21 in a 35-minute encounter.

Despite the defeat, Unnati’s performance throughout the tournament drew praise from badminton fans and experts alike. Displaying confidence, composure, and remarkable agility, she showcased her potential against top international players. However, against the experienced Wardani, Unnati struggled to match her opponent’s pace and precision, leading to an early deficit that proved difficult to recover from.

The semifinal loss marked the end of India’s challenge at the USD 475,000 Super 300 event, held in Saarbrücken, Germany. While Unnati’s campaign ended one step short of the final, her consistent showing reinforced her status as one of India’s most promising young shuttlers on the global stage.

Unnati’s impressive form follows her recent success as part of the Indian team that clinched its first-ever medal — a bronze — at the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships held in Guwahati last month. Her growing experience in both junior and senior international circuits has positioned her as a vital prospect for India’s badminton future.

With continued exposure and training, the teenage prodigy is expected to make deeper runs in upcoming BWF tournaments. Although the Hylo Open ended in disappointment, Unnati Hooda’s spirited performances have provided Indian badminton fans plenty of optimism for the years ahead, as she continues to mature and challenge the world’s best on the international stage.

# Bengaluru, Punjab Set Up Winner-Takes-All Clash in Super Cup



Bengaluru FC and Punjab FC are set for a thrilling winner-takes-all clash in the AIFF Super Cup after registering emphatic victories in their respective Group C matches on Sunday in Margao.

At the PjN Stadium, Bengaluru FC produced a dominant performance to thrash Gokulam Kerala FC 4-0, with Australian midfielder Ryan Williams stealing the spotlight. Williams scored twice and assisted another in a commanding display that showcased his creativity and finishing prowess.

Bengaluru opened the scoring early through Vinith Venkatesh before Williams doubled the lead with a clinical strike. The Australian playmaker then turned provider, setting up Sunil Chhetri for Bengaluru’s third goal as the Blues tightened their grip on the contest. Williams capped off a stellar evening by scoring his second and Bengaluru’s fourth, sealing a comprehensive win that reflected the team’s attacking intent and sharpness.

Meanwhile, in the other Group C fixture, Punjab FC cruised past Mohammedan Sporting with a confident 2-0 victory. The result means both Bengaluru and Punjab now sit level on points, setting up an exciting decider to determine who advances to the knockout stage.

For Bengaluru, the result marked a much-needed boost after an inconsistent run in domestic competitions. Under head coach Gerard Zaragoza, the Blues appeared organized and fluid in attack, with Williams orchestrating play in midfield and veterans like Chhetri providing leadership up front.

The final group-stage match between Bengaluru FC and Punjab FC promises to be an intense battle, with a semifinal berth on the line. Both sides have shown strong form, but only one will progress, making the upcoming encounter a true test of resilience, tactical discipline, and attacking flair in this year’s Super Cup.



## 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.