

# CII Summit Triggers Record 13.25 Lakh Crore Investments, Over 16 Lakh Jobs

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**V**ISAKHAPATNAM: The coastal city of Visakhapatnam turned into the epicenter of industrial activity as the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit concluded with unprecedented success, generating more than 13.25 lakh crore in investments and paving the way for over 16 lakh new jobs across Andhra Pradesh. The extraordinary outcome surpassed all expectations, prompting officials to describe it as an "investment tsunami" for the state.

Initially planned for two days, the summit extended into a third day due to the overwhelming response from national and international investors. By its close, the government had signed 613 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), with investment pledges exceeding earlier projections of 10 lakh crore by more than 30 percent. Officials attributed this success to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proactive approach and the state's continuous efforts to strengthen its industrial ecosystem.

Massive Interest Across Key Sectors

The three-day summit witnessed participation from global lead-



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ers across 12 major sectors. The energy sector led the investment charts with commitments worth 5,33,351 crore, promising 2.66 lakh jobs, followed by industries with 2,80,384 crore and 5.19 lakh jobs. Infrastructure projects attracted 2,01,758 crore and are expected to create more than 3 lakh jobs, while the IT, electronics, and communica-

tions sector drew 1,59,467 crore, generating 2.96 lakh employment opportunities.

Other major contributors included the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) with 48,711 crore, tourism with 21,036 crore, and food processing worth 13,008 crore. Sectors such as urban development, textiles, health-

care, and education also recorded sizeable commitments, reflecting the government's broad-based development agenda. Officials noted that this investment diversity underscores Andhra Pradesh's growing appeal as a multi-sector manufacturing and service hub.

**Day-Wise Breakdown and Government Participation** The daily investment inflows further illustrated the enthusiasm of investors. Day 1 saw 3,65,304 crore worth of agreements, followed by 3,49,476 crore on Day 2, and 48,430 crore on the final day. Of the total commitments, 7,63,210 crore worth of MoUs spread across 123 agreements were signed in the presence of the Chief Minister himself. Ministers from various departments, led by IT Minister Nara Lokesh,

facilitated 490 MoUs amounting to 5,62,506 crore. A major highlight of the summit was Reliance Group's announcement to set up a 1-gigawatt data center in Visakhapatnam, bolstering the state's ambitions in the digital infrastructure domain. This project is seen as a critical milestone in positioning Andhra Pradesh as a data and technology powerhouse in South India.

**CM Naidu's Global Outreach Pays Off**

Officials credited the Chief Minister's foreign visits to Singapore, the UAE, London, and other global business hubs for cultivating investor confidence. These outreach efforts, coupled with regular State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meetings, ensured that a significant portion of investments nearly 10 lakh crore was already in the pipeline before the summit began.

Industry leaders hailed the Visakhapatnam Summit as a landmark event, calling it the beginning of a new phase in Andhra Pradesh's economic resurgence. Buoyed by the outcome, the state government reaffirmed its commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a leading global destination for investment, innovation, and inclusive job creation.

## Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police Arrest Key iBomma Operator; Uncover Multi-Crore Piracy Network

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**H**YDERABAD: In a major breakthrough against digital piracy, Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested one of the key operators behind the notorious piracy platform "iBomma," which has been illegally streaming and distributing Indian films and OTT content for years. The arrested individual, identified as Immadi Ravi, was apprehended from an apartment at Rain Vista in Kukatpally soon after his return from France.

Police sources said that several incriminating materials, including hard disks, computers, and high-quality movie prints, were seized from his residence. According to investigators, Immadi Ravi's interrogation has yielded crucial information about the website's backend operations and the network of servers used for uploading pirated content. The cyber-crime team has reportedly traced the servers used by iBomma and recovered digital evidence indicating several films ready for illegal online release.

Police officials revealed that iBomma, run under Immadi Ravi's direction while he operated from the Caribbean islands, played a significant role in the large-scale piracy of Telugu and other Indian language films. His hometown was identified as Visakhapat-



nam in Andhra Pradesh. Preliminary investigation indicates that Ravi amassed illegal profits amounting to several hundreds of crores over the years through advertising revenue and content subscriptions linked to the piracy network. Investigators estimate that the Indian film industry has suffered losses of more than Rs. 22,000 crore due to iBomma's operations over the past few years.

The platform's impact has been particularly severe on Telugu cinema, where producers have consistently raised alarms about revenue losses caused by early leaks and unauthorized digital circulation of new releases. Police sources suggested that the iBomma website could be permanently taken down in the coming days as the tech-

nical investigation continues. A detailed statement is expected after the completion of the investigation in the next two days. Cyber Crime authorities are currently interrogating Immadi Ravi to identify other individuals and entities connected with the piracy syndicate.

Officials are focusing on uncovering the complete network, including agents, collaborators, and foreign associates that helped sustain the piracy operation. Cases against iBomma and its operators have already been registered in multiple states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. The Telugu Film Anti-Piracy Team had earlier filed formal complaints against iBomma, citing repeated copyright violations and deliberate defi-

nance of government actions. In response, the website administrators had issued provocative challenges online, claiming they could not be tracked. This challenge reportedly motivated cyber crime officials to intensify their pursuit and coordinate with international law-enforcement agencies. Earlier phases of the investigation had led to the arrest of several agents working for the iBomma network across northern India.

The latest arrest of Immadi Ravi marks the most significant milestone in the crackdown so far. Police officials have expressed confidence that further interrogation and digital forensics will expose the full scale of the piracy ecosystem and possibly lead to the complete shutdown of the iBomma website.

## CM Chandrababu Moots AI University in AP

**AAI and AP Airport development Corporation signs MoU for Greenfield airport in Srikakulam**  
TPN Bureau | Nov 15

**V**ISAKHAPATNAM: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said efforts are on to set up Artificial Intelligence university in Andhra Pradesh on the lines of Abu Dhabi and appealed to Yunjo Ko, Chief Sustainability Strategy Officer and Executive vice president, LG Chem to become partners of the university. The Chief Minister in a meeting with Yunjo Ko on the second day of CII partnership summit here today appealed to the company to set up LG Chem Naptha cracker complex and Polymers manufacturing unit at Kakinada or Mulapet. He assured state government's cooperation for the proposal of LG Chem to set up Cathode Active material unit. He said opportunities are abundant for plastic recycling units in the state.

Later the Chief Minister met Global Hospitality group Atmosphere Core South Asia MD Souvayya Mohapatra, co-founder Salil Patnayakuni and discussed



on opportunities in tourism sector including development of premium luxury hotels. He also enquired about the progress of projects taken up by the company in Tirupati, Visakhapatnam and Amaravati. He advised the group to study on the development of adventure resorts in Gandikota, hill resorts in Araku-Anantagiri and development of Bobbili Vizianagaram forts as tourism spots. The Atmosphere Core group evinced keen interest in developing world class resorts in Rishikonda.

The Chief Minister discussed with Coriolis cruise president and CEO Jurgen Bialow and sought cooperation in developing cruise tourism between Visakhapatnam and Bhimavaram to promote beach tourism and water sports adventure tourism on international standards.

Later the state government signed MoU with World Economic Forum in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister of Civil Aviation K Ramamohan Naidu for developing a Greenfield airport at Srikakulam. Aiports Authority of India and Andhra Pradesh Airport Development Corporation signed the MoU. The Chief Minister said connectivity will be improved to North Andhra with the airport and it will pave way for tourism development.

## CM Unveils Vision for a USD 2.4 Trillion Andhra Pradesh Economy by 2047

**Highlights**  
Valedictory Session of 30th Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam  
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**V**ISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled an ambitious long-term economic roadmap for the State during the valedictory session of the 30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. He declared that Andhra Pradesh aims to scale its economy to USD 2.4 trillion by the year 2047, targeting a per capita income of USD 42,000, as part of its vision to align with India's centennial goals of global economic leadership.

More than 67 panel sessions and 700 B2B meetings were organized, reflecting the State's growing stature as a preferred global investment destination. Several international dignitaries commended Andhra Pradesh's proactive approach and innovative development agenda during the event.

New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, lauded India's expanding economic influence and emphasized Wellington's intent to work closely with India to strengthen Free Trade Agreements, expressing optimism about future cooperation.

Representing Australia, Jodi McKay, Director of the Australia-India CEO Forum, praised Andhra Pradesh's economic momentum and highlighted the State's engagement with global industry leaders as a positive signal for ongoing bilateral trade negotiations.

Mr. Naidu said the engagements and deliberations during the sessions had laid the foundation for sustained partnerships and investment opportunities.

He described the summit as a reflection of collaborative progress that would help position both Andhra Pradesh and India firmly within the landscape of the global economy. Senior CII officials concluded the session by applauding the State government's proactive engagement and commitment to nurturing international partnerships that will define India's economic future.

# CM Chandrababu Stresses Need for Cybersecurity in Power Sector

**AP, WEF Sign MoU to Establish Center for Energy Cyber Resilience**

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VISAKHAPATNAM: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu emphasised the urgent need for strengthening cyber defence mechanisms in the energy sector, stating that advanced protection systems are crucial to ensure energy security. He said that technology must be leveraged to make power generation and distribution more efficient and beneficial to

the public.

As part of the CII Partnership Summit, the Government of Andhra Pradesh signed an MoU with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to establish the Center for Energy Cyber Resilience Center (CECRC). The agreement aims to support the State in enhancing cybersecurity, integrating advanced technologies, and safeguarding critical power infrastructure. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister by Transco JMD Surya Sai Praveen Chand and WEF representatives. Speaking at

the event, the Chief Minister said, "Cybersecurity in the energy sector is essential. We must develop the systems required for safeguarding our power infrastructure. It is encouraging that WEF has come forward to collaborate with the State government. The world is moving towards green energy, and Andhra Pradesh has set a target of generating 160 GW of green energy." He further added that the government's vision is to produce and supply electricity at the lowest possible cost. "By using technologies like artificial

## Minister Narayana Showcases Global-Scale Amaravati Vision at Visakhapatnam Partnership Summit

TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana presented an ambitious blueprint for Amaravati's development during the plenary session on "Sustainable



Cities From Vision to Investments" at the 30th CII Partnership Summit on Friday. Addressing top industrialists and investors from India and abroad, the minister outlined the state government's grand mission to build

people-driven, future-ready city. "Amaravati is being built as an economically strong, environmentally sustainable, and future-oriented capital that will create opportunities for generations to come," he declared.

## Global Financial System Needs Urgent Reset, Says Mauritius Minister at CII Summit

TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
Visakhapatnam: A strong call for reforming the global financial architecture resonated through the 30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. International leaders, policymakers, and economists emphasized that the existing financial system must undergo a fundamental reset to ensure global equity, resilience, and sustainability.

Speaking at a session titled "Global Financial Architecture: Time for a Reset?", Hon. John Michael Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection of Mauritius, stated that the current global financial system was designed for an earlier economic era.

He argued that it no longer meets the demands of a world increasingly shaped by climate change, geopoliti-



cal tensions, and digital disruption. "The global financial system we inherited was built for another era of predictable capital flows and limited interdependence. That architecture has served its time, but in today's interconnected world of pandemics, climate shocks, and instability, it no longer serves its purpose," he remarked.

The Mauritian minister outlined the ongoing debate about a global "reset" reflects necessity rather than rhetoric. He noted that supply-chain disruptions, inflation, and widening development gaps have intensified stress across emerging markets. He also praised India for playing a leadership role in democratizing and

## Tourism Sector Sees Major Boost with 17,973 Crore Investments at Visakhapatnam CII Summit: Minister Durgesh

TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a significant surge in tourism investments, with 104 MoUs worth 17,973 crore signed during the 30th CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam. Announcing the details, State Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said the agreements will create 97,876 jobs, including 34,406 direct and 63,470 indirect opportunities. The MoUs will also lead to the development of 10,690 new rooms across the State's tourism and hospitality sector.

Minister Durgesh highlighted that nearly 6,500 crore worth of projects will focus on theme parks, marinas, film cities, wellness centers, roadside amenities, cruises, and adventure tourism. Significantly, Andhra Pradesh secured tourism FDI worth 1,860 crore,

generating 12,500 jobs—the first time such large-scale foreign investment has flowed into the sector.

Participating in a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Day 2 of the summit, Durgesh later interacted with investors in a dedicated tourism panel session. He exchanged MoUs along with APTDC Chairman Nukasani Balaji, Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain and Tourism MD Amrapali Kata.

Durgesh said Andhra Pradesh's 1,053 km coastline is its biggest asset, offering immense potential for beach, cruise, and marine tourism. Three major coastal tourism circuits will be developed through private partnerships, while more beaches will be upgraded to Blue Flag standards. The State also aims to become a luxury yachting hub by 2027.

## Let Us Take a Pledge to Protect Red Sandalwood: Pawan Kalyan

TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
Vijayawada: Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan on Saturday called for collective action to protect red sandalwood, describing it as Andhra Pradesh's priceless natural heritage. Addressing senior forest officials through a teleconference, he emphasized the need for uncompromising efforts to curb red sandalwood smuggling and revive enforcement mechanisms to safeguard forest wealth. Pawan Kalyan underscored the environmental, spiritual, and economic importance of red sandalwood, which grows exclusively and abundantly in the Seshachalam forest region. "We must ensure that not even a single log leaves these forests illegally," he asserted, urging officials to adopt a coordinated and results-

driven action plan to protect the species from further depletion. The Deputy Chief Minister alleged that red sandalwood smuggling surged under the previous administration, leading to the large-scale felling of trees and loss of forest wealth.

Between 2019 and 2024, he said, the dismantling of the earlier anti-smuggling task force had created conditions for rampant illegal trade. "In Tirupati alone, 2,63,267 logs stored across eight depots reflect the felling of nearly two lakh trees," he observed. Recalling that the TDP government in 2015 had constituted a dedicated Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force headed by an Inspector General of Police, Pawan Kalyan announced plans to revive and strengthen the special unit in consultation with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The upgraded task force will coordinate closely with both police and forest departments to eliminate organized smuggling networks. He directed officials to identify workers involved at lower levels of smuggling operations, sensitize them about legal consequences, and offer alternative livelihood opportunities through rehabilitation schemes. Stressing a reform-oriented approach, he said enforcement must go hand in hand with socio-economic support to help prevent people from being exploited by smugglers. Addressing interstate coordination issues, Pawan Kalyan pointed out that negligence by the previous government had allowed other states like Karnataka to seize and auction red sandalwood worth crores of rupees. Follow-

ing discussions with Union Forest Minister Bhupender Yadav, the Centre has now issued special orders ensuring that any red sandalwood seized in other states, if proven to originate from Andhra Pradesh, be returned to the state. He cited recent recoveries of 5 tonnes from Gujarat, 7 tonnes from Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, 6 tonnes from Karnataka, and 10 tonnes from Delhi, besides efforts to reclaim 173 tonnes from Nepal and 407 metric tonnes seized nationwide between 2019 and 2024. As part of the renewed surveillance strategy, Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to intensify patrolling and monitoring through thermal drones, CCTVs at forest check-posts, and new

barriers. He also called for community involvement through awareness programmes across villages in the Seshachalam region and directed that charge sheets in smuggling cases be filed within 60 days to ensure swift prosecution.

Highlighting the importance of teamwork, the Deputy Chief Minister appealed to officials to coordinate with dedication and transparency. "Coordination is the most crucial factor. Even if insiders are helping smugglers, we will identify them through special intelligence and act firmly," he warned, reaffirming the government's commitment to preserve Andhra Pradesh's unique red sandalwood heritage.

## CM Naidu Reviews Amaravati Master Plan Design and Visits Industrial Expo at Vizag CII Partnership Summit



TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
Visakhapatnam: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu spent a busy day in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, reviewing major development initiatives and interacting with officials and industry leaders. As part of his visit to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit, the Chief Minister inspected the exhibition stalls showcasing innovations in technology, infrastructure, manufacturing, and renewable energy.

During his visit, Naidu engaged with representatives from various Indian and international companies who have set

up stalls at the summit, which aims to promote industrial collaboration and investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister appreciated the participation of leading corporations and startups in the event, describing the Summit as a powerful platform to project Visakhapatnam and Andhra Pradesh as a global investment destination.

He emphasized that his government is committed to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a top industrial hub in India by focusing on world-class infrastructure, transparent governance, and investor-friendly policies. Naidu highlighted the state's potential to attract investments in information technology, green energy, agriculture, and logistics. "Andhra Pradesh is prepared to build strong collaborations with industries that align with our vision of sustainable and inclusive growth," he said while interacting with delegates.

Later, Chief Minister Naidu held a key review meeting on the Amaravati Capital City Master Plan design. The discussion was part of his broader evaluation of urban development projects under the new administration's vision for balanced regional growth. Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr. P. Narayana, Municipal Administration Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, and CRDA Commissioner Kanna Babu presented detailed plans and designs to the Chief Minister.

The officials briefed Naidu on the updated master plan layout, which incorporates sustainable urban planning practices, robust public infrastructure, and modern civic amenities. They explained how the new design integrates environmental protection, smart city technologies, and efficient mobility systems to create a capital city that stands as a symbol of innovation and governance.

The Chief Minister carefully examined several aspects of the design, including zoning for commercial, residential, and institutional areas, green zone allocations, and connectivity frameworks linking Amaravati with major urban centers and transportation corridors. He stressed the importance of

## TTD Chairman Felicitates Young Cricketer Sree Charani for World Cup Success



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Tirumala: In a heartwarming gesture of appreciation, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu felicitated Indian women's cricketer Sree Charani, hailing from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh, who recently played a pivotal role in India's victory at the ICC Women's World Cup.

After taking darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at the hill temple, the young cricketer visited the TTD Chairman's camp office in Tirumala on Saturday. During her meeting, B.R. Naidu extended a warm welcome and felicitated her with a traditional silk shawl and Srivari Theertha Prasadam, marking his blessings and admiration for her extraordinary contribution to India's remarkable triumph on the global stage.

The Chairman lauded Sree Charani's performance and dedication, describing her as a source of inspiration for aspiring women cricketers across Andhra Pradesh and the nation. "With the divine blessings of Lord Venkateswara, I wish that Sree Charani achieves many more milestones in her sporting career and continues to make the country and our state proud," Naidu said.

TTD Board Member

Bhanu Prakash Reddy

was also present during

the felicitation ceremony.

The event reflected

the TTD's ongoing com-

mitment to recognizing

and encouraging the achievements of individuals from the Telugu states who bring glory to India in various fields. Sree Charani, who represents the new generation of women's cricket in India, expressed her gratitude for the honor and acknowledged the immense spiritual and emotional value of receiving blessings at Tirumala.

TTD officials noted that the board often honors achievers from diverse fields as part of its efforts to promote social, cultural, and moral values inspired by the teachings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

They added that recognizing talent in sports aligns with TTD's vision of fostering discipline, dedication, and hard work among youth. As the nation celebrates the success of the Indian women's cricket team, moments like these highlight the collective pride and spiritual unity of the people. Sree Charani's achievements stand as a testament to the growing strength of women's sports in India and the support extended by institutions like TTD in celebrating national icons who embody excellence and devotion.

The felicitation by TTD is also seen as a larger message of encouragement to young sportspersons emerging



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Highlighting the importance of teamwork, the Deputy Chief Minister appealed to officials to coordinate with dedication and transparency. "Coordination is the most crucial factor. Even if insiders are helping smugglers, we will identify them through special intelligence and act firmly," he warned, reaffirming the government's commitment to preserve Andhra Pradesh's unique red sandalwood heritage.

Ensuring that the capital city becomes a model for future urban development in India, balancing aesthetics with functionality.

Naidu directed the officials to maintain high transparency and execution speed in all capital city works, encouraging coordination between departments for seamless progress. He also underlined that Amaravati's design must reflect Andhra Pradesh's cultural identity while meeting global urban standards.

The review concluded with the Chief Minister instructing the team to present a detailed implementation roadmap, aligning the master plan with financial and infrastructural priorities.

His twin engagements at the Vizag Summit and the Amaravati Master Plan review underscored the government's dual focus on industrial expansion and planned urban development—both viewed as critical steps in shaping a prosperous and modern Andhra Pradesh.

# TDP Activists Allegedly Attack YSRCP Office in Hindupur; Several Injured

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Hindupur: Tensions flared in Hindupur town of Sri Sathya Sai district on Saturday when activists of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) allegedly attacked the local office of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The attack led to property damage and injuries, further intensifying the political rivalry between the two major parties in Andhra Pradesh. According to eyewitnesses and local reports, a group of TDP workers allegedly stormed into the YSRCP office and vandalised furniture, shattered glass windows, and damaged a vehicle parked outside.

The situation quickly escalated when YSRCP members present at the scene tried to resist the attackers. A physical altercation followed, leaving several party workers injured on both sides, though the exact number of casualties has not yet been officially confirmed. The YSRCP strongly condemned the incident, accusing TDP supporters of resorting to violence out of political frustration. Party representatives urged the police to take firm



action against those responsible, demanding that law and order be upheld without political bias.

Local police officials said they had received complaints from both groups and that an investigation was underway. Additional security has reportedly been deployed in sensitive areas of Hindupur to prevent further clashes. Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Sake

Sailajanath reacted sharply to the attack, holding TDP leadership accountable for what he described as a deliberate act of intimidation. "If someone merely questions why Balakrishna rarely visits Hindupur, does that merit an attack?" he asked, referring to the TDP MLA and film star who represents the constituency.

Sailajanath alleged that TDP



goons were behaving as if no one could challenge them. "Violence will not silence questions. No one is afraid of such attacks," he remarked, adding that political power does not last forever and that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu should remember this. He expressed dismay at the increasing frequency of politically motivated attacks, stating that such incidents

raise doubts about whether the state is still guided by democratic and civil norms.

The violent episode has sparked widespread reactions across the district, with both parties trading allegations. Officials have assured that strict measures will be taken to restore normalcy and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

## YSRCP Condemns Attack on Hindupur Office, Accuses Police of Inaction

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Tension gripped Hindupur town in Sri Sathya Sai district on Thursday following an alleged attack on the local office of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Party members accused a group of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters, reportedly associated with Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna, of vandalising the office and assaulting YSRCP activists.

According to YSRCP leaders, the mob stormed the party premises in the afternoon, damaging office furniture, smashing windows, and causing significant property loss. Several party workers who were present at the time were allegedly attacked and sustained minor injuries. Visuals circulating on social media showed broken chairs, shattered glass panes, and torn posters, painting a picture of chaos and unrest at the scene.

Condemning the incident in strong terms, YSRCP called it a "direct assault on democracy" and accused the TDP of resorting to violence to silence political opposition. The party leadership described the act as "barbaric and undemocratic," warning that such attacks not only endanger political peace but also erode the principles of tolerance essential to democratic governance.

YSRCP district leaders alleged that the attack was premeditated and politically motivated. "This is not an isolated incident but part of a larger pattern of intimidation unleashed by TDP sympathisers,"



a local YSRCP spokesperson said. He further demanded that the police immediately arrest those responsible and ensure accountability for the violence.

What sparked greater outrage within YSRCP ranks, however, was the alleged inaction of the police during and after the incident. Party leaders accused law enforcement of turning a blind eye to the mob attack and failing to intervene on time. They claimed that the silence of the police was "not mere negligence but evidence of collusion and political bias." Senior leaders of YSRCP asserted that the incident reflects a worrying trend of law enforcement being "manipulated by those in power" to serve partisan interests.

"The State's law and order machinery appears to have been reduced to a political tool," one leader remarked, adding that such selective response undermines citizens' faith in institutional neutrality. The party further warned that if the

police remained passive in the face of such violence, it would set a dangerous precedent for political vendetta in the State. They argued that failing to act against perpetrators sends a message that political violence is acceptable, thereby encouraging further lawlessness.

Calling on the State government to uphold democratic values, YSRCP demanded swift investigation and justice for its workers. "A government that cannot protect opposition voices loses its moral right to talk about governance or rule of law," a statement from the party read.

Reiterating its condemnation, YSRCP stated that the attack in Hindupur was not just an act against one political group but an affront to every citizen who believes in democracy and peaceful political discourse. The party vowed to continue its fight against what it termed "the politics of intimidation and violence" and urged authorities to ensure that such incidents do not recur in Andhra Pradesh.

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## Amaravati Unveils India's First Quantum Valley to Build Full-Stack Quantum Ecosystem

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh marked a historic step in India's technology journey by launching the Quantum Valley and the country's first Quantum Policy at the 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam. The initiative aims to position Amaravati as India's "Quantum Capital," forming the nation's most comprehensive push toward developing a full-stack quantum ecosystem covering hardware, software, research, talent, and global partnerships. Speaking at the session "Amaravati Quantum Building India's Indigenous Quantum Stack in Andhra Pradesh,"



quantum computer deployment and research use cases, software ecosystem development, talent creation, and domestic hardware manufacturing. "Education is the fundamental gateway to quantum research. Without a strong educational base, India risks missing this glob-

al opportunity," Lokesh said, urging youth to explore this next-generation frontier.

The Quantum Policy introduces India's largest open quantum testbed, offering a structured roadmap for infrastructure development, indigenous hardware production, research

support, and industry acceleration. Officials said this would enable Andhra Pradesh to emerge among the world's top five quantum hubs. Highlighting India's manufacturing potential, PS Pradyumna, Secretary to the Chief Minister, noted that much of a quantum computer's hardware—such as dilution refrigerators, amplifiers, and control systems—can be produced domestically with proper ecosystem support.

"Startups are already innovating in this space. We will ensure they receive the institutional and financial backing they deserve," he added.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, underscored the multidisciplinary nature of quantum hubs, which integrate academia, industry, and global collaboration. Bhaskar Katamneni, Secretary – IT, E&C, RTG and HRD, reaffirmed that the state would extend deep financial and policy support to make Amaravati's Quantum Valley a complete value chain.

International and industry leaders, including Robert Mauro of PASQAL, Amith Singhee of IBM India, and Ganesh Srinivasan of Microsoft, emphasized India's growing role in global quantum innovation. IIT Tirupati Director Dr KN Satyanarayana announced new faculty development programs to expand quantum education capacity.

The session concluded with a collective resolve to turn Amaravati into a global hub for quantum technology. Dr JV Reddy, Mission Director, National Quantum Mission, called Andhra Pradesh's initiative a critical step toward India's leadership in the quantum era.

## New Office Bearers Elected for Andhra Pradesh State Red Cross Society

TPN BUREAU | 15th November, 2025

The newly elected members of the Managing Committee of the Andhra Pradesh State Red Cross Society, representing various districts, met at the State Office today and unanimously elected the Office Bearers for the next three year term. Members of the State Managing Committee from 22 districts elected Shri Y.D. Rama Rao of Kakinada as the State Chairman, where as Shri P. Ramachandra Raju of Guntur as the State Vice-Chairman, and Dr. Daggumati Srihari Rao of Tirupati as the State Treasurer, according to a press release issued by Shri A.K. Parida IAS (Red) General Secretary & Chief Executive Officer of the State Red Cross Society. The newly elected members of the Managing Committee and the State Office Bearers were administered the oath of



office by Shri A.K. Parida.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman Shri Y.D. Rama Rao said that efforts will be made to elevate the Andhra Pradesh State Red Cross to one of the top-performing branches in the country by providing exemplary services.

He emphasized that the Society will work towards strengthening all

district branches and design programmes aimed at delivering continuous services to the public. He also assured that the establishment of infrastructure for the State Office, Red Cross Training Centre at Amaravati and the Disaster Relief Center at Vijayawada will be completed at the earliest. A.K. Parida IAS (Retd) General Secretary & CEO

## Diviseema's Tourism Development Laudable, Says MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad



TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
Mopidevi: MLC Alapati Rajendra Prasad praised the ongoing efforts to develop Diviseema as a major tourism destination, describing them as significant steps toward regional progress. On Saturday, he visited the Mopidevi Warpu area in the Avanigadda constituency, accompanied by MLA Budda Prasad, to inspect beautification initiatives carried out by the Irrigation Department.

During the visit, both leaders stopped near the "I Love Diviseema" signboard, where they posed for photographs and interacted with local officials. Alapati Rajendra Prasad appreciated Budda Prasad's efforts in transforming the entrance of Diviseema into an appealing gateway for visitors. He noted that developing Di-

viseema's spiritual, historical, Buddhist, literary, and artistic landmarks could significantly boost tourism and, in turn, generate employment and business opportunities for the local population. "The scenic charm and cultural depth of Diviseema hold immense potential to attract domestic and international tourists. A well-planned tourism strategy will open new avenues for economic growth across the constituency," the MLC stated.

Following the inspection visit, MLA Budda Prasad reviewed the beautification works with engineers of the Irrigation Department. He directed officials to identify open spaces near the irrigation embankment and ensure they are properly cleaned and landscaped. He also suggested planting flower saplings around the me-

morial stones and large trees to enhance the area's visual appeal. Such measures, he said, would not only beautify the surroundings but also contribute to the ecological balance of the region. The inspection team included Constituency Special Officer Penmudi Saibabu, DEE BBS Ganapathi and AEE Ponnuru Raviteja from the Irrigation Department, along with Panchayat EO Anita and other staff members.

Officials briefed the leaders about ongoing works and future plans for the Warpu area, including improved amenities for tourists. Both Alapati Rajendra Prasad and Budda Prasad emphasized that collaborative efforts between government agencies, local bodies, and citizens are essential for the sustainable growth of Diviseema.

## VIT-AP Hosts International Conference on Gender, Caste and Digital Visibility

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Amaravati: VIT-AP University inaugurated its international conference titled "Invisible Infrastructure: Gender, Caste, and the Politics of Presence in India's Digital Space" on Friday, focusing on how identity, representation, and power intersect in the country's evolving digital landscape. The three-day conference, organised in hybrid mode by the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSSH), explores how digital participation is influenced by ongoing social hierarchies of gender, caste, and class.

It also examines the politics of who becomes visible and who remains unseen in India's online spaces. The inaugural session was presided over by VIT-AP Vice-Chancellor Dr. S.V. Kota Reddy, Registrar Dr. Jagadish Chandra Mudiganti, Dean of the School of Business Dr. Arunkumar Sivakumar, and Dr. Rakhi N from SSSH. The session witnessed participation from faculty, scholars, and students, both in person and virtually. Dr. Avishek Parui, Associate Professor of English and Memory Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras,



served as the chief guest and delivered the opening address.

He highlighted how "presence is always political," stressing that digital spaces, much like physical ones, reflect entrenched power structures. Dr. Parui explained that patterns of visibility and participation online are shaped by who holds influence and access to digital infrastructures. "The digital world is often imagined as a neutral and democratic space, but social privileges and exclusions persist even in virtual environments," Dr. Parui noted.

"Recognising these invisible infrastructures allows us to better understand how tec

hnology mediates inclusion and marginalisation." Vice-Chancellor Dr. Kota Reddy, in his remarks, commended the initiative for encouraging interdisciplinary inquiry into issues that cut across technology, society, and ethics. He said such events help nurture critical thinking and global research collaboration in emerging fields related to digital culture and social justice.

Adding an international dimension, Prof. Lee Koi Cheng from the National University of Singapore delivered a keynote address virtually, offering cross-cultural insights into gendered participation and online representa-

tion in Southeast Asia. The conference also featured a pre-conference workshop conducted by researcher Richa Das Springer, who engaged participants in hands-on sessions exploring feminist digital methods and critical approaches to studying online communities.

Another major component was a Graduate Colloquium, which provided a platform for undergraduate and post-graduate students to present their research projects on diverse themes related to digital identity, online activism, and social inclusion. Convener Dr. Ashraf Pulkamath of SSSH expressed that the conference aims to foster dialogue among

scholars, technologists, and activists working at the intersection of technology and social equity.

He emphasized the importance of viewing digital development not just through economic or technical metrics, but also through questions of access and justice. The event underscored VIT-AP's growing role as a hub for critical academic discussion and interdisciplinary research in South India. As digital transformation continues to reshape India's social fabric, initiatives like this conference serve to illuminate the complexities of representation and the ongoing quest for equality in virtual spaces.

## CM announce allotment of Six thousand acres to Sri City to develop it as best industrial hub

### 12 companies sign MoU with AP Govt to set up companies in Sri City

TPN Bureau | Nov 15  
VISAKHAPATNAM: Chief Minister N Chandrababu announced allotment of six thousand acres of land to develop Sri City as a Model international industrial hub. Participating as chief guest on concluding day of 30th CII partnership summit at Andhra University grounds here today, the Chief Minister virtually laid foundation for Raymond pro-



jects and inaugurated five projects in Sri City. He also participated in signing MoUs with several companies, which

came forward to set up their units in Sri city.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that Andhra Prad-

esh attracted investments to a tune of Rs 13 lakh crore in the past two days. He said in 18 months the state attracted investments to a tune of Rs 22 lakh crore. He said companies of fifty countries are going to function from Sri city providing

employment opportunity to 1.5 lakh youth. He said efforts are on to develop aero strip near Sri City. He said for the first time in the country the Andhra Pradesh government announced opening Escrow accounts and provide sovereign guarantee to companies which come forward to invest in Andhra Pradesh. He assured to develop Sri City as best industrial hub by 2028. The Chief Minister said that Rayalaseema is marching ahead in industrial growth. He said Kia company set up car factory and the state government determined to develop Done city, Space city, Aerospace, Defence sectors. The Raymonds group signed MoUs of three

projects with an investment of Rs 1201 crore including Silver Spark Apparel park, JK Maini global precision limited, JK Maini Global Aerospace Limited. The Apparel manufacturing unit will come up in Ratadu at a cost of Rs 497 crore, auto component manufacturing unit in Gudipalle, and Aerospace components unit in Tekulodu village. Coming to Sri city 12 companies signed MoUs with government to set up companies with an investment of Rs 2320 crore. The MoUs include in Engineering, food processing, Pharma and provide employment opportunities to 12365 youth.

## Class 5 Student Injured in Midnight Assault

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Chintalapudi: A shocking incident has rocked the quiet town of Chintalapudi in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh, after a ten-year-old student of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukul School was brutally attacked by unidentified fellow students. The Class 5 student, identified as Marumulla Anand Kumar, suffered serious injuries to his neck after being assaulted with a sharp weapon late Friday night.

According to police sources and school authorities, the attack took place around midnight inside the school hostel premises. Unidentified students reportedly attacked Anand Kumar while he was asleep, using a knife-like object to slit his neck. The assailants fled the scene immediately after the attack, leaving the young boy grievously wounded and crying in pain. Hearing his screams, several hostel students woke up and were horrified to



see him bleeding.

They immediately informed the hostel staff, who rushed to the dormitory and provided first aid before shifting the boy to Chintalapudi Area Hospital in critical condition. Doctors performed emergency treatment and stitched five wounds on his neck. They later confirmed that Anand Kumar's condition is currently stable. Police received information about the incident early Saturday morning and registered a case of assault and attempt to murder.

A special probe team has been formed to identify and nab the attack-

ers. Initial statements from the injured boy revealed that he suspects two of his fellow students, though their identities have not yet been disclosed by officials. Authorities from the Gurukul Society have expressed shock over the incident and are expected to conduct an internal inquiry into possible lapses in hostel security and supervision.

Parents and locals have raised serious concerns about student safety in residential schools, demanding strict monitoring and psychological counseling for children. The

Chintalapudi police have begun collecting CCTV footage from the premises and are questioning students and staff to ascertain the sequence of events leading up to the attack.

They assured that the culprits will be brought to justice soon.

Meanwhile, Anand Kumar continues to recover under medical observation at the Area Hospital. The gruesome incident has sent shock waves through the community, highlighting the urgent need for stronger security measures in government-run residential schools across the state.

## MLA Bhashyam Praveen Opens Cotton Procurement Centre at Krosuru

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Krosuru (Palnadu District): A new cotton procurement centre was inaugurated at the Krosuru market yard by MLA Bhashyam Praveen, marking the formal beginning of the cotton purchasing season in Palnadu district. The initiative aims to ensure that cotton farmers in the region receive fair prices and transparent services in line with the guidelines of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

During the inauguration, several farmers interacted with the MLA and brought various issues to his attention, including the need for timely procurement, fair quality assessments, and

the elimination of middlemen exploitation.

Responding to their concerns, the MLA directed CCI buyer Umapatheswara Rao to expedite the procurement process so that farmers would not face any delays or distress sales this season. Addressing the gathering, Praveen emphasized that the government's primary focus is on farmers' welfare. He advised the cotton growers not to fall prey to brokers or private traders who often exploit them with unfair prices. He urged farmers to bring high-quality, well-dried cotton that meets the CCI's moisture standards of 8-12 percent to ensure smooth transactions

and better remuneration.

The MLA further stated that all farmers across villages in the constituency can sell their produce at the Krosuru centre, which has been equipped with facilities for systematic quality testing and weighing under CCI norms. He also explained that farmers should first register through the CM App and then book their slots via the Kapas Kisan App before bringing their produce to the yard. In addition to cotton, Praveen assured that if there is any surplus Burley tobacco left with farmers, arrangements will be made to ensure its purchase as well. Reiterating the govern-

ment's commitment to protecting farmers from market fluctuations, he said that every measure is being taken to guarantee them a stable income.

Among the dignitaries who participated in the event were Nallajala Koteswara Rao (Chairman), Jareen Jani, Market Yard Secretary Eshwar Rao, Shiva Kumari, Gudipadu Basa, Dachepalli Chandu, Mogal Janu, and Hasanu, along with several local farmers and cooperative leaders. The atmosphere at the venue reflected cautious optimism as the cotton buying season officially began with promises of fair trade and better support to farmers.



## Swachh Andhra Rally Held in Narasaraopet

MLA Stresses on Hygiene Awareness



participation of students, municipal staff, volunteers, and representatives of civic organizations. Participants took the Swachh Andhra pledge, reaffirming their commitment to maintain cleanliness and promote hygiene awareness in daily life.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Dr. Aravind Babu said, "Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the dynamic guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, the Swachh Bharat mission has been expanded as 'Swarnandhra Swachh Andhra'. This is not just a cleanliness drive but a people's movement aimed at im-

proving public health, protecting the environment, and fostering social responsibility."

He appreciated the Narasaraopet Municipality for conducting regular sanitation drives and maintaining roads, drainage systems, parks, and public spaces in line with the Swachh Andhra goals. He noted that the combined efforts of municipal officials, staff, NGOs, students, and local residents are crucial for achieving the mission's objectives. "Such awareness rallies inspire citizens to adopt hygiene habits and sustain a clean lifestyle," he added.

Municipal Commissioner, local leaders, women's associations, and student groups joined the event, carrying placards and raising slogans on hygiene and civic responsibility. The rally successfully inspired the public to continue supporting the Swachh Andhra mission.

of the Swachh Bharat initiative in Andhra Pradesh, the MLA stated that the number of Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages and towns has significantly increased. Clean drinking water facilities, waste management systems, and healthy surroundings have seen major improvements across the state. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's focus on sustainable development and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's emphasis on youth participation and environmental protection have made Andhra Pradesh a model in cleanliness," Dr. Aravind Babu said.

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## Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Laxminarayana Inaugurates New Children's Park

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Sattenapalli (Palnadu District): A new Children's Park has been inaugurated in the premises of the Ayyappa Swamy Temple on the main road of Sattenapalli town. The inauguration ceremony took place on Saturday, with Sattenapalli MLA Kanna Laxminarayana formally opening the park, marking a new addition to the town's recreation infrastructure.

The event began with traditional puja rituals at the temple, attended by devotees, local residents, and party workers. MLA Kanna, who arrived amid a warm welcome from constituents and



supporters, performed special prayers before cutting the ribbon and dedicating the park to the public.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the park would provide a safe and joyful space for children and families to spend time together and encourage healthy recreational activities within the community. Kanna highlighted that devel-

oping urban amenities like this park reflects the government's ongoing efforts to improve living standards in towns across Palnadu district.

He also assured that more developmental works, including road repairs, drainage upgrades, and green space improvements, will be taken up soon in Sattenapalli.

Several prominent

leaders from different levels of government and party administration attended the ceremony. State, district, constituency, town, and ward-level representatives joined the event alongside hundreds of party activists and local residents. The gathering expressed happiness over the new park and conveyed gratitude to the MLA for his efforts towards local development.

As families and children explored the newly opened play area, the occasion turned into a festive community celebration, symbolizing yet another step in Sattenapalli's civic progress and beautification drive.

## Purandeswari Highlights India's Global Role and Rajahmundry Development Initiatives

TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Rajahmundry: Rajahmundry MP and BJP leader Daggubati Venkateswara Rao described her participation in the Commonwealth and United Nations (UN) meetings as rare honors reflecting India's growing global stature. Speaking at a press conference held at the BJP district office in Rajahmundry on Saturday, she said she had the privilege of addressing the UN General Assembly on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for public welfare.

Purandeswari emphasized that India advocates utilizing atomic power for developmental purposes such as electricity generation and cancer treatment, rather than destructive ends. She recalled that her father-in-law, Dr. Daggubati Venkateswara Rao, had also addressed the United Nations in 1991, making her recent address particularly memorable. She expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and BJP national president J.P. Nadda for entrusting her with the responsibility to represent India on such global stages.

Commenting on the re-



cent Bihar Assembly elections, Purandeswari said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) securing over 200 seats was a clear mandate for good governance and development. She observed that the people of Bihar had once again trusted the double-engine government model that drives progress and welfare. Outlining major local developmental works, the MP announced that 270 crore had been sanctioned for the modernization of Rajahmundry Railway Station.

The project has been divided into three packages covering platforms, foot overbridges, and station-side developments. She said tenders would soon be called following her discussions with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnavi. Purandeswari also confirmed that two train halts were secured for Kovvur and that Janmabhoomi Express would now stop at Anaparthi, following local demands.

Addressing farmers' concerns, she stated that she brought the issue of excess tobacco cultivation

and penalties to the notice of Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who had assured steps to rationalize the penalty structure.

The Tobacco Board chairman will visit the region later this month to consult with farmers. Highlighting investments in education, she said Rs. 85 lakh had been sanctioned to improve infrastructure at the Sri Gowthami Regional Library after persistent efforts with the Central Library authorities in Kolkata. Works will soon begin in coordination

and penalties to the notice of Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who had assured steps to rationalize the penalty structure.

## Planting Trees is a Social Responsibility, Says Former Minister Prathipati Pullara



TPN Bureau | Nov 15

Chilakaluripet (Palnadu District): Former Minister and local MLA Prathipati Pullara emphasized that every family should plant at least one tree either in front of their house or in nearby vacant spaces to contribute to environmental protection. He made this appeal while participating in the "Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra" program organized at Chaitanya School in Ganchi Pet, Chilakaluripet, on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Prathipati highlighted that preserving the environment is directly linked to protecting public health. He urged people to take tree planting as a personal and moral responsibility, not just a civic duty. "Just as we nurture our children with care and affection, we must nurture saplings until they grow into strong trees.

By doing so, we can gift a pollution-free environment to the future generations," he said, inspiring participants and students with his message.

As part of the event, students of Chaitanya School took the "Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra" pledge, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness, greenery, and environmental conservation. The program aimed to create awareness among youth and the general public about the importance of maintaining hygienic surroundings and increasing green cover to combat climate change and urban pollution.

Jan Sena Party in-charge Thota Raja Ramesh, TDP coordinator Nelluru Sadashiva Rao, Market Yard chairman Shaik Karimulla, Municipal Chairman and Town General Secretary Maddumala Ravi, Municipal Commission-

er P. Sriharibabu, Town CI Ramesh, School Director Eadarla Girish Babu, municipal councillors, and several Telugu Desam Party leaders participated in the event.

The sapling plantation drive marked a joint effort by civic authorities, school management, and local political representatives to promote sustainable living in the town. Participants planted different varieties of tree saplings on the school premises and adjoining areas.

Environmental initiatives like this, led by community leaders and public representatives, reflect growing awareness about the role of local actions in safeguarding natural resources. Prathipati Pullara's call to "grow a tree per home" resonates with the broader vision of building a cleaner, greener Andhra Pradesh under the Swachh Andhra mission.



# “The Kings of India’s Billion-Dollar KYC Industry”



## From Bias to Business: How a Landlady Sparked a Digital Identity Giant

In 2011, Ashok Hariharan had just moved from the U.S. to Mumbai when a strange incident changed his life. While trying to rent an apartment in Bandra, his landlady hesitated—until she found out he was South Indian. She agreed to rent him the place based on that alone.

“Boss, there needs to be better ways to arrive at decisions,” Hariharan said, reflecting on the experience. That moment led him to start IDfy, a digital identity verification startup aimed at replacing hunches with data and trust.

From that small apartment, Hariharan and a handful of colleagues laid the foundation for what would become one of India’s biggest players in the Know Your Customer (KYC) revolution—a booming industry now valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

## The KYC Surge: Fueling India’s Digital Economy

Today, KYC is no longer a back-end compliance process—it’s the backbone of India’s digital economy. The country has over 227 startups dedicated to KYC technology, more than any other nation, including the U.S. and the U.K.

On average, 17 new KYC startups emerge each year in India. Among

them, 83 have received external funding, and 31 have progressed to Series A or later rounds, signifying deep investor confidence.

The Indian digital KYC market, currently pegged at \$26.3 million, is projected to grow to \$139.3 million by 2033, clocking a 20.3% annual growth rate—ahead of fintech, e-commerce, and even IT services.

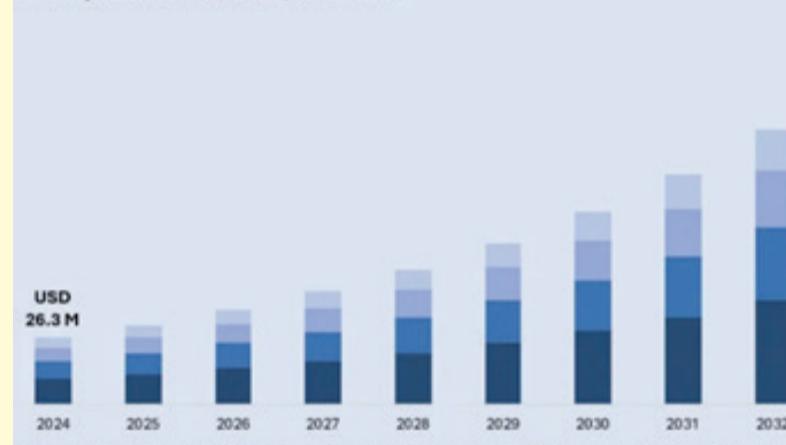
the charge in digital identity checks:

- IDfy
- Protean eGov Technologies
- AuthBridge
- Perfios

Each has carved out a niche in video KYC, e-verification, document analysis, and onboarding tech.

## India e-KYC Market Forecast

Size, By Product, 2024-2033 (USD Million)



## The Titans of Trust: Who Rules India’s KYC Space?

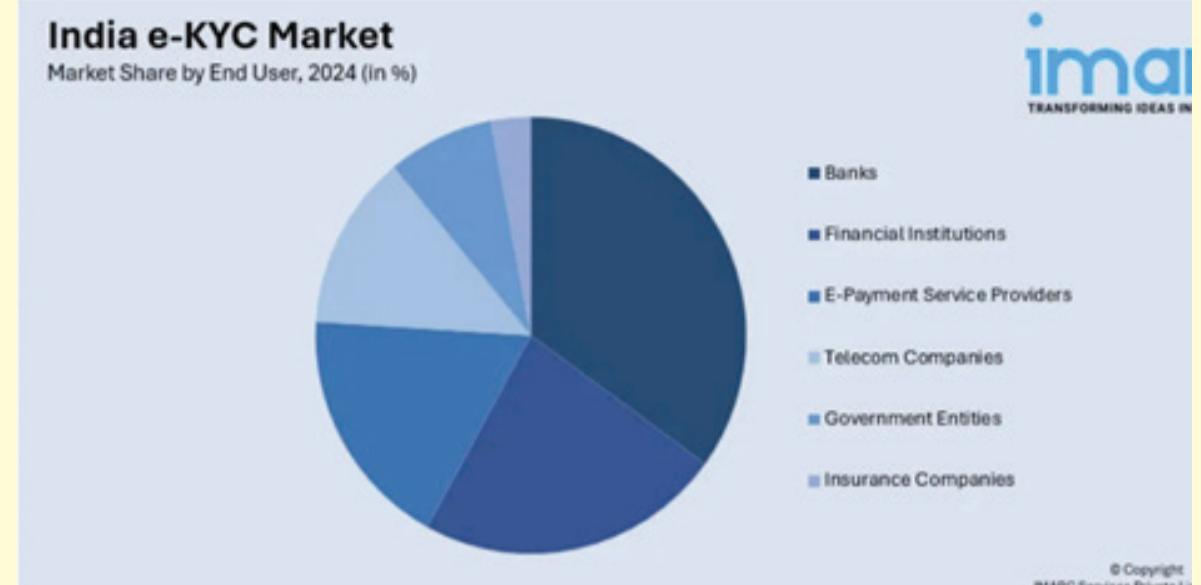
According to exclusive data from IMARC’s India KYC Market Insights, four companies are leading

## IDfy: From Start-Up to Verification Powerhouse

IDfy was founded to tackle fake résumés and unreliable background checks. Over time, it

## India e-KYC Market

Market Share by End User, 2024 (in %)



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evolved into a full-stack KYC platform. Today, it processes 65 million verifications per month across seven countries and generates close to ₹188 crore in annual revenue.

Backed by investors like Blume Ventures, TransUnion, IndiaMART, and Elev8 Venture Partners, IDfy has raised over \$60 million in primary and secondary funding. Its current estimated valuation is \$126.5 million, according to Tracxn.

## The Video KYC Breakthrough

The real turning point for the industry came in 2016 with the introduction of video KYC. Instead of paperwork and in-person meetings, users could now verify their identity via a short video call.

Regulators were quick to adapt. SEBI first allowed brokerages to experiment with video-based onboarding, and by 2020, the RBI officially recognised video KYC as a valid method. The impact was instant—the industry scaled rapidly.

India recorded over 205 crore e-KYC transactions in 2018–19, and after a brief regulatory dip, surged to 416 crore transactions in 2023–24.

## Protean: From PAN Cards to Digital Verification Giant

Formerly known as NSDL e-Governance, Protean eGov Technologies played a key role in India’s early digital infrastructure. Initially managing PAN validations and pension infrastructure, the company eventually shifted focus to digital identity.

Now, as a licensed KYC User Agency (KUA) and Other Service Agency (OSA) under Aadhaar, Protean processes 1.2 million e-KYC transactions every day, working with thousands of financial institutions nationwide.

Its long-standing government ties and national infrastructure give it a unique edge in scale and reliability.

## HyperVerge: Making KYC Work Even in Rural India

HyperVerge, a Bengaluru-based startup, began in an IIT Madras dorm with a dream to fix governance tech. Its biggest test came with Jio—it had to build a system that worked just as well on rural 2G networks as it did in metros.

HyperVerge’s AI-based selfie and liveness detection tech passed rigorous global benchmarks, including those from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Today, it powers KYC for sectors far beyond banking—including insurance, e-commerce, and telecom.

## Perfios: Digitising Credit and Compliance

Perfios—short for “Personal Finance One Stop”—started in 2008 to help consumers manage money. But its founders, V.R. Govindarajan and Debashish Chakraborty, soon discovered the real bottleneck was inside banks.

By digitising loan application and compliance processes, Perfios transformed from a consumer app into a key enabler for NBFCs and banks, helping them speed up credit decisions and customer

onboarding.

## A Billion-Dollar Future, But Who Regulates It?

India’s KYC startups have now raised over \$111 million in funding and are becoming prime acquisition targets for large banks and depositories.

Yet, despite their critical role, these firms operate in a regulatory grey zone. Banks carry the compliance risk, but no regulator directly oversees the KYC vendors themselves.

Still, their influence is undeniable.

## The Last Mile of Trust

India’s digital boom—powered by Aadhaar, UPI, and mobile internet—has transformed how we transact. But it’s the KYC industry that closed the loop, turning access into trust.

From apartment rejections to billions in verifications, companies like IDfy, Protean, AuthBridge, HyperVerge, and Perfios have turned identity into infrastructure—and compliance into opportunity.

As the digital economy grows, these companies will remain the silent engines behind every verified identity, every bank account opened, and every loan disbursed.

In today’s India, trust isn’t just earned—it’s verified.

## Global development finance has lost its way

China can step in but India has an edge too



### From SDGs to SDGs Denied

A decade after world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, global development appears to be on life support. Last week, at the UN General Assembly, President Donald Trump’s mocking dismissal of climate change and multilateralism underscored what many feared: the era of global cooperation is crumbling.

The SDGs, once hailed as a universal blueprint to improve human well-being, have failed to take off. Trillions of dollars in annual funding were promised but never materialised. Private investment meant to be leveraged through public aid didn’t arrive. According to McKinsey, global aid is projected to drop by up to 22%

leaving the SDG vision largely unrealised.

### Why It Matters—Especially to India

In India, some welcome this demise, labelling the SDGs as “Western” or “anti-national.” But that’s a flawed view. India has historically shaped and benefitted from global development dialogues. Our own economic reforms in 1991 were deeply informed by global debates and knowledge flows.

Global cooperation also helps tackle transnational crises like pandemics and climate change—challenges no single nation can resolve alone.

### India’s Development Dilemma

Yes, the global development system is flawed—

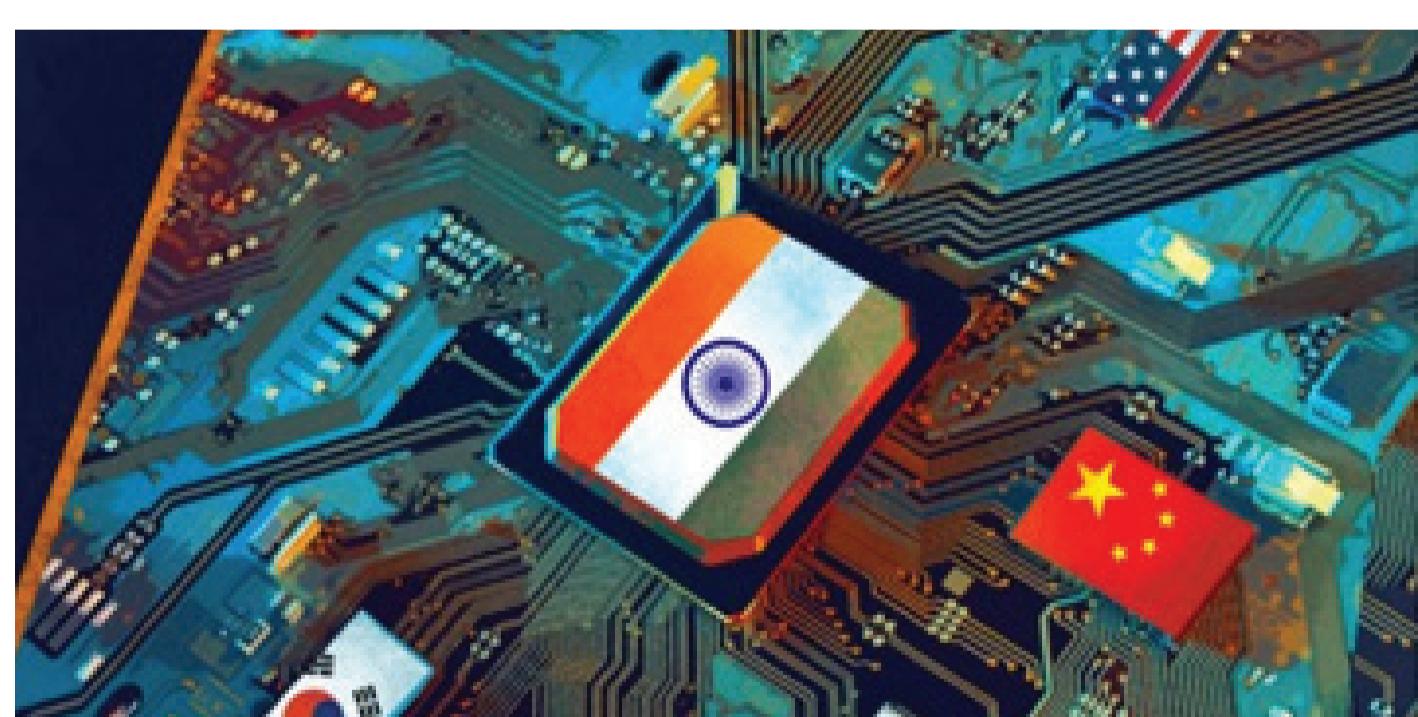
dominated by Western interests, often hypocritical, and increasingly irrelevant. But walking away from it cedes ground to China, which is poised to become the world’s development superpower through sheer scale.

India cannot match China’s development finance, but it can lead with ideas, democratic values, and grassroots innovation. To do so, it must empower its civil society and knowledge institutions—not silence them.

### The Real Choice

This is not idealism—it’s strategy. India must either help reimagine global development on equitable terms or risk irrelevance in a new world order where China writes the rules.

## India’s Semiconductor Mission Gains Momentum with Emerging State Clusters



India’s push to become a global semiconductor hub is entering a decisive phase, backed by the ₹76,000 crore (\$9.1 billion) India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). With a strategic mix of central and state-level incentives, the country is aiming to fast-track decades of semiconductor ecosystem development within just a few years.

The ISM provides up to 50% fiscal support for eligible fabrication units, out-sourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facilities, and compound semiconductor projects. In parallel, states like Gujarat,

Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have launched additional incentive packages, streamlined clearances, and built sector-specific infrastructure—mirroring the successful models seen in global tech hubs across the U.S., such as California and Texas.

India’s strategy includes not only manufacturing but also innovation. The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme encourages chip design and intellectual property creation through R&D grants, prototyping support, and access to Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools

and fabrication services.

These clusters are more than just factories. They aim to create comprehensive ecosystems where design houses, component suppliers, academia, and advanced R&D facilities work together—forming the bedrock of long-term competitiveness and export-readiness.

For the U.S., this creates a natural partner in supply chain diversification and talent access. India’s vast pool of engineering talent and its design expertise complement America’s existing manufacturing and research strength. Strategic collabora-

tion with India offers Washington a trusted production base beyond East Asia—a priority as security considerations begin to outweigh cost in semiconductor decisions.

For India, U.S. experience in building integrated manufacturing clusters provides a tested roadmap to scale operations beyond design to full-spectrum semiconductor production, enhancing both resilience and self-reliance.

With the stakes high and global demand surging, India’s semiconductor ambition is no longer just aspiration—it’s active execution.

## PM Modi Reviews Progress of Surat Bullet Train Station

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday visited the under-construction bullet train station in Surat to review ongoing work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR), India's first bullet train project. The visit comes as construction accelerates across key stretches of the 508-km corridor, a flagship infrastructure initiative being executed with Japanese collaboration.

Modi arrived at Surat airport in the morning and proceeded to the Antroli area, where one of the project's major stations is taking shape. Officials from the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) briefed him on construction milestones, structural progress, and upcoming phases of the project. They also presented updates on station design elements, passenger mobility systems, and integration with local transport networks.

The MAHSR corridor spans approximately 508 km, including 352 km across Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and 156 km in Maharashtra. The Surat



station is expected to serve as one of the busiest nodes on the route, given the city's status as a commercial and textile hub. Officials said construction at the site has progressed significantly, with major civil works nearing completion.

Modi emphasised the project's potential to transform regional connectivity, reduce travel times, and boost economic activity. Once fully operational, the high-speed rail corridor is expected to cut travel between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to around two

hours—less than half the current duration.

The Prime Minister's visit is part of a broader review of infrastructure projects in Gujarat, where construction on the bullet train corridor is currently most advanced. NHSRCL officials said they are on

track to meet revised deadlines for commissioning key sections, though work in Maharashtra continues to move at a comparatively slower pace.

The PM is expected to review additional development projects during his Gujarat visit.

## India's Veiled Dig Over Pak Heading UN Panel On Sanctions Against Taliban

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India sharply criticised Pakistan's leadership roles in key UN Security Council committees, calling them "obvious and outright conflicts of interest" during a debate on the Council's working methods on Friday. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish, delivered the remarks while underscoring the need for transparency and impartiality in the functioning of the Council's subsidiary bodies.

Although Harish did not directly name Pakistan, his comments clearly referenced Islamabad's chairmanship of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee and its co-chair position in the Counter-Terrorism Committee. India has long argued that Pakistan's vested interests and past record of providing safe havens to UN-sanctioned terrorist groups make it unsuitable for such roles. "Council mem-



bers must be prevented from chairing committees when they have vested interests," Harish said. "Obvious and outright conflicts of interest can have no place in the Council."

The 1988 Sanctions Committee has authority over travel bans and asset freezes targeting Taliban members. India has previously faced delays securing travel clearances, including for Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit last month. Harish criticised the opaque decision-making process within such committees, noting that rejection of listing proposals for terrorists remains secretive and inaccessible to non-Council members. India and the US have repeatedly seen China block attempts to sanction leaders of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad under the 1267 Sanctions Committee.

Harish also called for transparency in selecting

committee chairs and "pen-holders"—members who lead drafting responsibilities for specific issues. He urged reforms to curb politically motivated extensions of outdated

"Mandates that have

UN mandates, referring indirectly to the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which India considers obsolete.

"Mandates that have

outlived their utility must not be allowed to continue for narrow political interests," he said, advocating sunset clauses to streamline UN operations and ensure accountability.

## 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-

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.

## 'No Sorrow In Defeat, No Arrogance In Victory': RJD After Bihar Poll Defeat



TPN Correspondent | Patna

A day after suffering one of its worst defeats in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Saturday said that "ups and downs" are natural in the "endless journey of public service." In a post on X, the party described itself as the "voice of the poor" and vowed to continue raising issues concerning marginalised communities. "Public service is an unceasing process, an endless journey. Ups and downs are inevitable in it. No sorrow in defeat, no arrogance in victory," the statement read in Hindi.

The Tejashwi Yadav-led party managed to win just 25 of

the 243 seats—its second-worst performance after 2010, when it had won 22 seats. The setback comes five years after the RJD emerged as the single largest party in the 2020 election with 75 seats. Despite the decline in its tally, the RJD secured the highest vote share this year at 23%, outperforming both the BJP by 2.92 percentage points and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) by 3.75 points.

The broader Mahagathbandhan alliance also suffered a steep fall, winning only 35 seats. The Congress bagged six seats, down from 19 in 2020, while the CPI(ML)L won two, the CPI(M) one, and the CPI failed to

make any gains. In contrast, the ruling NDA surged to a dominant victory with 202 seats. The BJP secured 89 seats and the JD(U) 85, while Lok Janshakti Party (Ran Vilas) won 19. Hindustani Awam Morcha claimed five seats and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha four.

Among smaller parties, AIMIM secured five seats, while Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraksha Party and Mukesh Sahani's VIP failed to open their accounts.

Bihar voted in two phases on November 6 and 11, recording a historic turnout of over 66%—its highest since 1951—with women voters outpacing men at 71.6% compared to 62.8%.

## Rahul, Kharge Huddle After Bihar Poll Rout; Congress Flags 'Vote Chori'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A day after its poor performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress leadership met in New Delhi on Saturday to assess what went wrong and to renew allegations of irregularities in the electoral process. The party won only six of the 61 seats it contested—its second-worst performance in the State since 2010, when it secured just four seats.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge convened the review meeting at the party headquarters. They were joined by AICC general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, treasurer Ajay Maken and Bihar in-

charge Krishna Allavaru, party sources said.

The leadership discussed organizational weaknesses, seat-sharing dynamics within the alliance, and the party's failure to convert its

vote share into victories. According to insiders, several leaders expressed concern that the Congress' grassroots machinery in Bihar has weakened over the years, making it increasingly dependent on allies for electoral support.

At the same time, the party doubled down on its "vote chori" (vote theft) allegation, questioning the role of the Election Commission.

Congress leaders claimed discrepancies in counting patterns and alleged that officers at several booths acted

under political pressure. The Election Commission has not responded to the charges, but officials said earlier that the elections were conducted "free and fair."

Senior leaders also highlighted the need for a deeper analysis of the party's declining support base in states like Bihar, where it once held considerable influence. The discussion is expected to continue at future strategy sessions, with a full report to be submitted to the Congress Working Committee.

Despite the setback, party sources said Rahul Gandhi emphasised rebuilding the organisation in Bihar from the ground up, ahead of future state and national elections.

## Awami League Intensifies Protests Against Yunus Regime



14-15 November | Nationwide protests, demonstrations, and resistance programs on Friday and Saturday

16-17 November | A total nationwide shutdown on Sunday and Monday

**THE MOVEMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL YUNUS RESIGNS.**

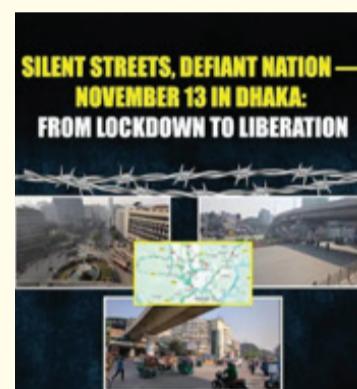
TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

The Sheikh Hasina-led Bangladesh Awami League has escalated its confrontation with the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus, announcing a fresh wave of nationwide protests and shutdowns. The party, which has been banned by the current regime, declared that its movement will continue until Yunus resigns, accusing the Nobel laureate of yielding to pressure from hardline Islamist groups by announcing a referendum alongside upcoming elections.

"Our struggle will continue... Nationwide protests, demonstrations, and resistance programs on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15. A total nationwide shutdown on Sunday and Monday, November 16 and 17," the Awami League said in a statement. The party added that its recent Dhaka lockdown had been "immensely successful," prompting it to amplify its agitation through the weekend.

In a fiery message, the Awami League framed the protests as a battle for the nation's democratic survival. "Dhaka stands still... Yet beneath this eerie calm lies the thunder of a nation's heart—a collective roar against illegitimate power," it said, likening the current "lockdown" to a political uprising rather than a public health measure.

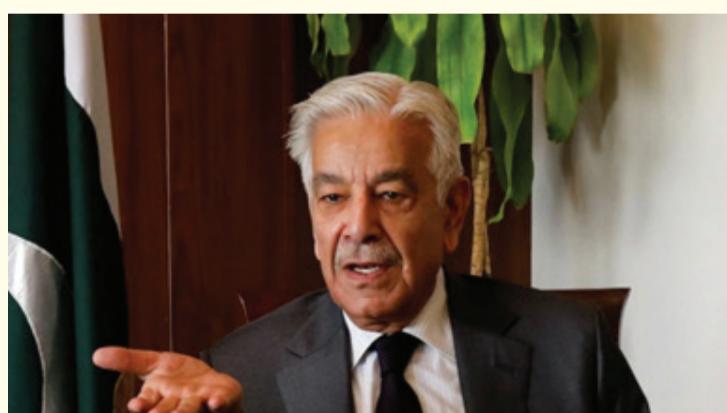
Protests have gathered momentum in recent days, especially



ly in Awami League strongholds, buoyed by recent interviews given by Sheikh Hasina from abroad. The political climate has grown increasingly tense ahead of November 17, when the International Crimes Tribunal is set to deliver its verdict against Hasina in a trial she has dismissed as politically motivated. She has accused foreign powers of orchestrating her removal in order to install Yunus.

The interim government, however, has dismissed claims of successful protests. The Chief Adviser's Press Wing said that a viral video allegedly showing Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Mohammad Sajid Ali endorsing the lockdown was fabricated using artificial intelligence. "No record of such a statement can be found," the government said, accusing the Awami League of spreading misinformation.

## Defence Minister Khawaja Warns India, Afghanistan



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,

In a fresh provocation, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that the country is "fully prepared" to face a two-front war with India and Afghanistan. His remarks come amid heightened regional tensions following a recent terror attack in New Delhi, allegedly linked to Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammed, which killed at least 13 people.

Speaking to a local news channel, Asif declared, "We are ready; we are prepared to face both the eastern (India) and western (Afghanistan) borders. Allah helped us in round one, and He will help us in round two. If they want the final round, we have no option but war."

The statement follows a blast in Islamabad earlier this week that killed 12 people. While the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had accused groups "supported by India" of involvement — a

claim New Delhi has firmly rejected in the past.

Asif also warned both India and Afghanistan against "any misadventure," saying, "Pakistan will never initiate aggression, but we will respond forcefully if provoked." He further alleged that the Taliban-led government in Kabul was fragmented, accusing some factions of maintaining links with India.

"Some are linked with India, and some have their strings pulled elsewhere. These incidents are preludes to aggression that could happen from the Afghan side — in reality, Indian aggression waged through Afghanistan," Asif claimed, without offering evidence.

This is not the first time Asif has accused Afghanistan of fighting "India's proxy war" along the Durand Line. His comments have sparked strong reactions across diplomatic circles, with observers warning that such rhetoric could further destabilize an already volatile region.

## Trump Rolls Back Tariffs on Key Food Imports Amid Inflation Concerns

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Friday reversed course on his earlier trade stance, rolling back tariffs on more than 200 food products—including beef, coffee, bananas and orange juice—as voter frustration over high grocery prices grows. The exemptions took effect retroactively at midnight on Thursday and signal a notable shift for Trump, who has long maintained that his sweeping import duties were not contributing to inflation.

Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump conceded for the first time that tariffs "may in some cases" raise prices, though he insisted the country has "virtually no inflation." The move follows Democratic victories in recent elections in Virginia, New Jersey and New York City, where affordability—particularly food costs—was a dominant concern for voters.



Trump also said he plans to push forward with a \$2,000 payment to lower- and middle-income Americans next year, funded by tariff revenues. "The tariffs allow us to give a dividend... We're going to do a dividend and we're also reducing debt," he told reporters.

The administration on Thursday announced new framework trade deals that will eliminate tariffs on specific foods and other imports from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and El Salvador. More agreements are expected before the end of the year.

The tariff rollbacks

cover widely used household staples that have seen sharp price increases. Ground beef prices were up nearly 13% in September, while steaks rose almost 17%, the largest jump in more than three years. Produce such as bananas and tomatoes also saw year-over-year increases.

Overall, the cost of food at home rose 2.7% in September.

Industry groups largely welcomed the exemptions. FMI-Food Industry Association president Leslie Sarasin said the action should help consumers and manufacturers alike. However, some sectors expressed dis-

appointment, including the Distilled Spirits Council, which criticized the continued tariffs on imports such as Scotch and Cognac.

Despite the rollback, Trump signaled no further changes are planned, saying prices—especially for coffee—would fall "in a very short period."

## UN Security Council to vote on November 17 on Trump's Gaza plan

TPN Correspondent | London

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is preparing to vote on Monday, November 17, 2025, on a resolution that would formally endorse U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed Gaza peace plan, according to diplomatic sources. The vote follows intensified negotiations led by Washington aimed at securing broad international backing for a framework intended to solidify the fragile ceasefire that ended the two-year conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Over the past week, American diplomats circulated a draft text to the 15-member Council, seeking to translate the political momentum generated by the ceasefire into a long-term roadmap for stability in Gaza. The proposal is designed to reinforce commitments



made during the U.S.-brokered talks and to encourage both sides to adhere to mechanisms that prevent renewed violence.

Diplomats said the resolution would not only endorse the U.S.

plan but also outline obligations for humanitarian access, reconstruction efforts, and monitoring arrangements to ensure compliance by all parties. While the text has garnered interest among

several Council members, negotiations have centered on language regarding sovereignty, security guarantees, and oversight—issues that have historically divided the Council during deliberations

on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The United States has argued that endorsing the peace plan at the UN would send a unified message encouraging regional actors and international

donors to support post-conflict recovery in Gaza. Some Council members, however, have raised concerns about whether the proposal sufficiently addresses Palestinian political aspirations and the long-term status of Gaza.

Monday's vote is expected to be closely watched, as any of the five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, or the United States—holds veto power that could halt the resolution. Should the measure pass, it would mark a significant diplomatic milestone for Washington and signal a potential shift in international engagement with the Gaza question.

If adopted, the resolution could set the stage for renewed negotiations aimed at forging a more comprehensive peace in the region.

## "I'm A Grok Guy": JD Vance Claims Elon Musk's AI Is The "Least Woke"

TPN Correspondent | New York City

US Vice President JD Vance on Thursday called Grok—Elon Musk's artificial intelligence system—the "least woke" among major AI platforms, during an appearance on Fox News with host Sean Hannity. The remarks came as the two discussed the growing influence of AI in politics, media, and everyday life.

When Hannity joked about being a "Grok guy," Vance quickly agreed, saying he shared the preference. He went on to explain that his personal test for evaluating any AI system is whether it provides what he considers an "objective answer" instead of a "woke answer." Praising Musk's AI tool, he said, "I think it's the best. It's also the least woke. I'm always asking myself, if I ask an AI a question, is it going to give me an objective answer, or is it go-



ing to give me a woke answer?"

Hannity later teased Vance about whether he had tried Grok's

most unrestrained setting, known as "extreme mode." Laughing, Vance replied, "I have not, Sean. I don't

want the media to attack me." The feature is a part of Grok 3's "Unhinged" mode, unveiled earlier in 2025 by

Elon Musk shared the exchange on X (formerly Twitter) on November 14, captioning it enthusiastically: "Grok rocks!"

This is not the first time Vance has praised the AI tool. In a previous interview with former Musk aide Katie Miller, he mentioned using Grok to generate images for a picture book he created with his children. "We actually made a 'big cats' version where we wrote it ourselves, but I used Grok to make the actual images," he said.

Grok 3 also made headlines earlier in the year when, in response to a user's politically charged question, it unexpectedly listed Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and JD Vance as the three individuals "doing most harm to America," prompting widespread attention and debate about AI bias.

# DGFT Restricts Plain Silver Jewellery Imports to Curb FTA Misuse

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced new restrictions on the import of plain silver jewellery, effective immediately, unless expressly authorised. The move, issued through Notification No. 34/2025-26 on September 24, 2025, aims to curb misuse of India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and prevent large-scale imports of silver disguised as finished jewellery. Most of these imports, according to an analysis by The Hindu, have been coming from Thailand.

The decision comes in response to a sharp rise in silver jewellery imports in recent months. Between April and June 2025, India's imports jumped to \$235.1 million, up 270.6% from \$63.4 million during the same period in 2024. Imports from Thailand surged 330% in the same quarter, from \$50.9 million to \$219 million. This trend continued in July 2025, with total sil-



ver jewellery imports increasing to \$148.5 million, a 255.6% rise from \$41.8 million in July 2024, and imports from Thailand rising 288.5% to \$142.7 million.

The Commerce Ministry noted that these imports circumventing FTA provisions were ad-

versely affecting domestic manufacturers and posed challenges to employment in the jewellery sector. To address this, plain silver jewellery will now be allowed into India only with a valid import authorisation issued by the DGFT. This framework is de-

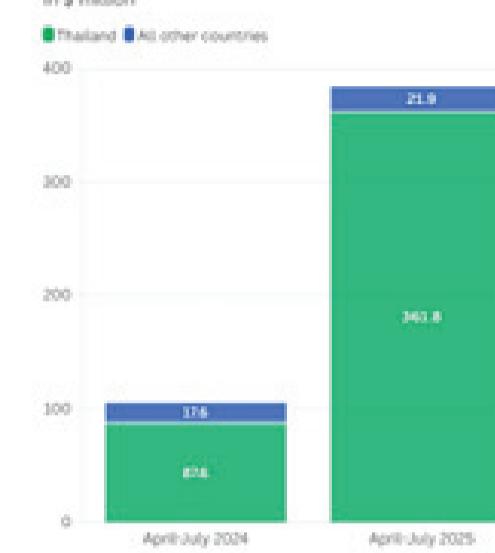
signed to allow genuine trade while preventing unfair practices that undercut local businesses.

The government stated that the measure will provide a level playing field for India's jewellery manufacturers, safeguard small and me-

## Thai Silver Influx

The surge in silver jewellery imports into India has been driven by imports from Thailand.

in \$ million



dium enterprises, and protect livelihood opportunities for workers in the sector. By regulating imports more strictly, India aims to balance international trade commitments with the protection of domestic industry, ensuring sustainable growth and em-

ployment in the silver jewellery market.

These restrictions mark a significant step in curbing FTA misuse and promoting fair competition in India's jewellery industry while securing the interests of both manufacturers and workers.

# Gold Eases Slightly as Traders Eye U.S. Inflation Data



Gold prices eased by ₹125 to ₹1,12,430 per 10 grams in domestic futures trading on Thursday, mirroring a flat trend in global markets as traders remained cautious ahead of key U.S. inflation data. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the October gold futures contract declined 0.11% to ₹1,12,430 per 10 grams on a turnover of 6,314 lots, while the December contract fell ₹147 or 0.13% to ₹1,13,500 in 11,823 lots.

In contrast, silver futures for the December contract rose ₹124 or 0.09% to ₹1,34,126 per kilogram in 17,121 lots, with the March 2026 contract climbing ₹147 or 0.11% to ₹1,35,563 per kg. Globally, gold and silver futures traded flat at \$3,768.50 per ounce and \$44.19 per ounce, respectively.

Analysts said gold remained near the \$3,750 level as expectations of two U.S. rate cuts this year limited the dollar's rally to a two-week high, providing support to bullion. Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, noted that new-home sales in the U.S. surged to their fastest pace since ear-

ly 2022, easing fears of an economic slowdown and complicating expectations for further Federal Reserve easing.

Gold's safe-haven appeal continues to be supported by geopolitical tensions, including the intensifying Russia-Ukraine war and conflicts in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Fed Chair Jerome Powell emphasized the challenge of balancing persistent inflation with a slowing labor market.

While some policymakers favour two additional rate cuts this year, others advocate a slower or more aggressive approach, keeping gold prices relatively capped.

Investors are now closely watching U.S. macroeconomic indicators, including the final second-quarter GDP, weekly jobless claims, durable goods orders, and the Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) Price Index — the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. Upcoming speeches by Federal Open Market Committee members are also expected to provide fresh cues on monetary policy, influencing bullion trends in the coming days.

# Indian Rupee Hits Multi-Year Lows Against US Dollar, Outlook Mixed



The Indian rupee traded within a narrow range on Thursday, hovering at 88.6250 against the U.S. dollar at 10:30 a.m. IST, slightly stronger than Wednesday's close of 88.69. The currency touched a record low of 88.7975 earlier this week and has fallen over

3% this quarter, marking its steepest quarterly decline since April-June 2022. Overall, the rupee has depreciated nearly 30.6% against the dollar since 2014, raising concerns about further weakness ahead.

Brokerage firm Care Edge

cited multiple pressures on the rupee, including U.S. secondary tariffs, a recent increase in H-1B visa fees, and sustained foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows. Despite these challenges, the brokerage expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to

intervene as needed to curb excessive volatility. Their forecast anticipates the USD/INR rate to settle between 85 and 87 by the end of FY26, supported by a softer dollar, a stronger yuan, India's manageable current account deficit, and potential progress on

a U.S.-India trade deal.

Several factors are providing some support to the rupee. The U.S. dollar index has weakened around 10% year-to-date, aided by a 25-basis-point rate cut in September and expectations of further Federal Reserve easing. Meanwhile, the Chinese yuan has strengthened 2.5% against the dollar this year, benefiting from a weaker dollar, supportive PBOC policy, and buoyant Chinese equity markets.

India's current account deficit is expected to remain manageable at 0.9% of GDP in FY26, helped by range-bound crude oil prices and resilient services exports. Care Edge noted that even if U.S. tariffs persist at 50%, the deficit may widen only slightly to 1.2-1.3% of GDP, remaining sustainable.

Investors are closely monitoring global macroeconomic developments, trade policies, and domestic interventions, as these will be key in determining the near-term trajectory of the rupee against the dollar.

# S&P Maintains India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast at 6.5%

S&P Global has maintained its projection for India's economic growth at 6.5% for the current financial year, citing resilient domestic demand that would offset external headwinds from rising U.S. tariffs and slower global growth. In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 report, the rating agency highlighted factors supporting India's GDP, including a largely benign monsoon, cuts in income and goods and services tax (GST), and accelerating government investment.

The S&P forecast aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's own projection of 6.5% growth for 2025-26. Fitch Ratings recently upgraded its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% from an earlier estimate of 6.5%, citing stronger-than-expected performance in

the first quarter. Official data for Q1 FY26

shows India's GDP expanded by 7.8%, significantly exceeding expectations and RBI projections.

Domestic positives

such as a favourable monsoon, GST reforms, and the government's infrastructure push are expected to support economic activity. However, the report also noted that high U.S. tariffs, imposed under the Trump administration, remain a notable risk to India's external sector. These tariffs could affect trade competitiveness and potentially weigh on growth if global conditions deteriorate.

S&P's report further

observed that compared to June assumptions on U.S. tariffs, China has fared somewhat better than other Asian economies, while Southeast Asian countries have

faced mixed impacts. India's domestic consumption, resilient services sector, and government-led investment are seen as mitigating

factors against such global uncertainties.

Overall, while external challenges persist, robust domestic demand, fiscal measures

and infrastructure initiatives are expected to sustain India's growth trajectory. The country remains well-positioned to maintain

strong economic momentum despite global headwinds, providing a stable outlook for investors and policy-makers alike.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India surged to a 50-month high in July 2025, reaching \$11.11 billion, more than double the inflows recorded in the same month last year. Data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday showed that this marked the highest gross FDI since May 2021, when \$12.32 billion had flowed into the country.

In June 2025, gross FDI inflows stood at \$9.57 billion, while in July 2024, the figure was \$5.54 billion, highlighting the strong year-on-year growth. On a net basis, India received \$5.05 billion in FDI in July 2025, compared to \$2.51 billion in June and an outflow of \$2.69 billion in July 2024. This demonstrates not only higher inflows but also a significant improvement in net capital movement into the country.

Analysts attribute the strong inflows to growing investor confidence in India's long-term growth prospects, backed by structural reforms and policy measures aimed at enhancing ease of doing business and promoting industrial development. The uptick comes even before

S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's sovereign rating, and ahead of several government initiatives announced to further boost economic growth.

The rise in FDI is expected to bolster job creation, technology transfer, and sectoral investments across industries such as manufacturing, digital services, and infrastructure. It also reflects global investors' growing interest in India as a stable and attractive investment destination amid uncertain global markets.

Experts note that sustained FDI inflows will play a key role in supporting India's economic recovery, enhancing foreign exchange reserves, and facilitating capital formation. July's record inflows reinforce India's position as a preferred destination for global investment, signaling confidence in the country's economic fundamentals and policy framework.

With continued reforms and investor-friendly measures, India is poised to attract even higher FDI in the coming months, further strengthening its economic growth trajectory.

## Apple, Google, Meta Must Face Lawsuits Over Casino-Style Gambling Apps



A federal judge has ruled that Apple, Google, and Meta Platforms must face lawsuits accusing them of promoting illegal gambling through casino-style apps on their platforms. The ruling came on Tuesday from U.S. District Judge Edward Davila in San Jose, California, who denied the tech giants' attempts to dismiss the claims.

The lawsuits allege that Apple's App Store, Google's Play Store, and Meta's Facebook enabled an "authentic Vegas-style experience" of slot machine gambling by hosting these apps and collecting commissions, often as high as 30 percent. Plaintiffs contend that these platforms knowingly profited from apps that are addictive and harmful, contributing to mental health issues like depression and suicidal thoughts among users.

Apple, Google, and Meta argued that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act shields them from liability because they are not responsible for third-party content posted on their platforms. However,

Judge Davila rejected this defense for most claims, stating that the companies could still be held accountable for their role in facilitating and profiting from these gambling apps.

While the judge dismissed some claims based on certain state laws, all consumer protection claims—except those in California—were allowed to proceed. The decision means

the companies will have to defend themselves in class-action lawsuits brought by dozens of plaintiffs accusing them of operating an illegal racketeering conspiracy.

This ruling signals increased scrutiny of how major tech platforms manage and profit from third-party apps, especially those with potential social harms. The case highlights ongoing concerns about the regulation of online gambling and the responsibilities of app stores in protecting users.

As these lawsuits move forward, Apple, Google, and Meta could face significant legal and financial challenges related to their casino-style gambling app ecosystems.

## ChatGPT Launches 'Instant Checkout' to Simplify In-Chat Purchases



OpenAI has introduced a new feature called "Instant Checkout" that allows ChatGPT users in the United States to make purchases directly within their chat sessions. The update aims to streamline online shopping by enabling users to confirm orders, delivery, and payment details with a simple tap of the "Buy" button—no need to leave the chat.

Available to ChatGPT Pro, Plus, and Free users who are signed in, Instant Checkout initially supports purchases from US-based Etsy sellers and more than one million Shopify retailers. Popular brands like Glossier, Skims, Spanx, and Vuori are expected to join the platform soon, expanding the range of products accessible through ChatGPT.

This feature builds on ChatGPT's earlier shopping capabilities, where users could ask for product recommendations and receive curated options complete with images, reviews, and prices. Now, users can complete transactions seamlessly using payment options like credit cards, Apple Pay, Google

Pay, or Stripe—all within the conversation interface.

In a recent blog post, OpenAI emphasized that product suggestions will remain "natural and unsponsored," ranked strictly by user relevance rather than paid promotions. To sustain the service, OpenAI plans to charge merchants a small fee on completed purchases.

Instant Checkout marks a significant step toward integrating AI-powered shopping assistance with payment and delivery logistics, aiming to enhance convenience for consumers and boost sales opportunities for merchants.

By merging product discovery, recommendation, and payment into one smooth experience, ChatGPT is positioning itself as a new kind of online shopping assistant, reducing friction in the buying process and potentially reshaping e-commerce interactions.

As this feature rolls out, it could redefine how consumers shop online, turning casual conversations into instant purchasing moments.

# US Man Wins Rs 17 Crore on Scratch-Off Ticket Bought 'On a Whim'



A 32-year-old man from Wayne County, Michigan, has struck gold after purchasing a scratch-off lottery ticket on a spontaneous impulse, winning a life-changing \$2 million (approximately Rs 17 crore).

The lucky winner was at Fleck's Fresh Mart on Michigan Avenue in Canton when he spotted the 100X scratch-off tickets. Although he didn't usually play this particular game, he decided to buy a few "on a whim." Little did he know, his impulsive choice would lead to one of the top prizes offered by the Michigan Lottery.

As he scratched the tickets, he was stunned to find a match on number 11, revealing the \$2 million jackpot. "I kept asking myself: 'What does this mean?' because I didn't believe I really won \$2 million at first," the winner told Michigan Lottery offi-

cials. In disbelief, he asked his mother to double-check the ticket, and upon her confirmation, excitement took over.

"When my mom looked the ticket over and told me it was a \$2

million winner, I was so excited I didn't know what to do with myself!" he said. "Turning 20 into \$2 million is unbelievable and still doesn't feel real. I don't think it's going to fully sink in until I cash the

check."

The man has decided to be prudent with his newfound fortune, choosing to put the entire amount into savings to secure his financial future.

This remarkable win

highlights the thrill and unpredictability of lottery games, where a moment's whim can lead to an extraordinary payday. The 100X scratch-off game remains one of Michigan Lottery's most popular offerings, boasting several top prizes just like this one.

As the winner prepares to cash his check, this story serves as a reminder that sometimes fortune favors the spontaneous.

## "America, I Love You": Indian Woman's Emotional Farewell After US Layoff



Ananya Joshi, an Indian biotechnology graduate, bid a tearful goodbye to the United States after being laid off and unable to secure a new job. Joshi, who graduated from Northwestern University in 2024 with a master's degree in Biotechnology, had been working at a biotech startup through the F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) program.

On September 29, Joshi shared a heartfelt video on Instagram capturing the emotional moment of her departure. Despite having come to terms with her situation, she admitted that leaving the country was the hardest part of her journey. "Nothing could have prepared me for this day," she said, reflecting on the deep emotional impact of saying goodbye.

In her message, Joshi expressed immense gratitude toward the US, which she de-

scribed as her first home as a financially independent adult—a milestone she cherished deeply. "Though short-lived, I really appreciate the life you gave me. AMERICA, I LOVE YOU," she wrote in the video's caption.

Joshi's story resonates with many international

students and professionals who face uncertainty due to visa restrictions and job market challenges. After being laid off from her startup job, she spent months searching for new opportunities but was unable to find a suitable position, leading to her difficult decision to leave.

Her candid account highlights the challenges skilled foreign workers face in the US job market, especially in highly competitive fields like biotechnology. Despite the setback, Joshi's gratitude and affection for her time in America remain clear, marking a bittersweet end to her chapter in the country.

Her video has touched many viewers, sparking conversations about immigration, career struggles, and the emotional toll of leaving a place that once felt like home.

## Opera Launches Neon AI Browser to Revolutionize Web Browsing



Opera has unveiled its latest innovation, Neon, an AI-powered web browser designed to take web browsing to the next level by executing tasks and running code directly within web pages. This launch places Opera in the growing race among tech companies to develop "agent" browsers—browsers that do more than just deliver search results by actively assisting users in completing tasks.

Neon aims to transform the traditional browsing experience into a productivity hub where AI can act on behalf of users, streamlining online activities such as shopping, researching, and managing workflows. A key feature of the browser is that all AI actions occur locally on the user's device, giving users full control over when the AI operates or pauses, ensuring privacy and transparency.

Opera's entry into this space highlights the intense competition among companies eager to redefine how people interact with the web. Earlier this year, Perplexity AI introduced its Comet browser, and The Browser Company launched Dia, both focused on integrating AI to enhance user productivity.

Meanwhile, OpenAI is preparing to launch its own Chromium-based AI brows-

er, which may incorporate its "Operator" agent. This feature promises to let users browse and transact seamlessly without ever leaving a native chat interface, further blurring the lines be-

tween browsing, chatting, and completing tasks.

With Neon and other AI browsers emerging, the future of web navigation looks set to become more interactive and intuitive. By embed-

ding AI deeply into browsing, these new tools aim to save users time and effort, offering personalized assistance and smarter web experiences.

As AI browsers like Op-

era's Neon hit the market, they signal a significant shift in digital habits—where the browser is no longer just a window to the web but an active partner in online productivity.

# Lakshya Sen Cruises Into Second Round at Japan Masters

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

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

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

Kiran George couldn't sustain his early momentum, going down 20-22, 10-21



to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok. In the mixed doubles event, Kapoor and Ruthvika fought valiantly before suffering a narrow loss to the American duo of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai. The Indians took the match to

three games but ultimately fell short 12-21, 21-19, 20-22.

The tournament, part of the BWF World Tour Super 500 series, continues to see intense competition among top international shuttlers. Later in the day, HS Pran-

noy will face Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong, Ayush Shetty will take on fourth seed Kodai Naraoka, and Tharun Manepalli will meet Korea's Hyek Jin Jeon in their respective first-round encounters.

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

## Cristiano Ronaldo's Remark On Dublin Crowd Ahead Of Ireland Clash



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

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

Ronaldo, currently playing for Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, admitted that the match would be "difficult," expecting Ireland to adopt a defensive approach and

deny Portugal space. Still, the veteran forward emphasized his determination to continue contributing to the team's success.

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

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

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

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

## Croatia Qualifies as 2026 World Cup Field Takes Shape



Memphis Depay cancelling Jakub Błaszczykowski's opener. Coach Ronald Koeman said the result brought the Dutch closer to direct qualification in Group G, with one match remaining against Lithuania. Poland will face Malta, which stunned Finland 1-0 thanks

to Jake Grech's late goal—Malta's first win in 2026 qualifiers and only the fourth in its history.

Germany secured a top-two finish in Group A with a 2-0 win over Luxembourg, while Slovakia defeated Northern Ireland 1-0. The two sides will meet in Leip-

zig to determine the group winner.

With Europe claiming 16 direct spots, other qualified teams include England, France, Algeria, Morocco, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, and New Zealand, among others. Intercontinental playoffs in March

2026 will decide the remaining spots, rounding out a record 48-team World Cup.

The 2026 edition promises broader global representation and heightened competition, as teams across all continents battle to secure a place in the sport's most prestigious tournament.

## Samson-Jadeja Mega Trade Reshapes CSK, Royals Ahead of IPL 2026



In one of the biggest player swaps in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, Rajasthan Royals (RR) have traded captain Sanju Samson to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in exchange for star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and England's Sam Curran. The IPL confirmed the blockbuster deal on Saturday morning, just hours before the deadline for teams to submit their retention lists for the 2026 season.

The move ends weeks of speculation, with reports earlier suggesting that the Samson-Jadeja trade was virtually sealed. The formal announcement now sets the stage for major restructuring in both franchises as they gear up for the next IPL cycle. For CSK, Samson becomes a marquee signing and a likely long-term leader as the franchise looks to rebuild. With MS Dhoni nearing the end of his career and Rituraj Gaikwad captaining last season, Samson's arrival introduces a dynamic top-order batter and an experienced captaincy option. The 30-year-old wicketkeeper-batter

had been the face of the Royals for several years and one of their most consistent performers. Rajasthan Royals, meanwhile, have secured significant firepower and experience with the addition of Jadeja and Curran. Jadeja, one of CSK's longest-serving players and a fan favourite, returns to the franchise where he first made his IPL name—RR—after more than a decade. His all-round ability and finishing skills are expected to provide the Royals with greater balance and depth.

Sam Curran, the England all-rounder and former IPL MVP, also strengthens RR's pace attack and lower-order batting. His versatility across formats makes him a valuable asset in the shorter format.

The multi-player deal marks a rare and dramatic reshuffle involving franchise cornerstones. With teams preparing for another high-stakes season, the trade is expected to significantly impact squad dynamics and strategies heading into IPL 2026.

## Harmanpreet Relives Iconic Catch That Sealed India's First Women's World Cup



India's World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur says she has watched the final moment of the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup—her full-length diving catch to dismiss South Africa's Nadine de Klerk—"at least a thousand times." The stunning catch sealed India's 52-run victory and delivered the country its first-ever Women's World Cup title, a moment she says transformed both her life and the future of women's cricket in India.

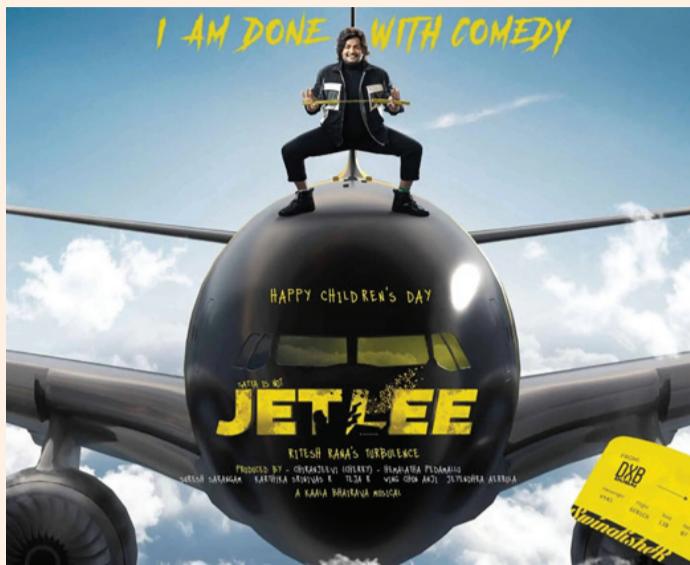
Speaking to PTI in New Delhi, Harmanpreet reflected on the emotional high that followed the triumph and how the catch has become a symbol of India's rise in women's cricket. "It's a moment I can't get tired of watching. Every time I see it, I relive those last few seconds—the noise, the pressure, the belief," she said.

Harmanpreet said the win has opened doors for women's cricket in a way she had only imagined. "The support, recognition, and love we've received since the victory has been overwhelming. This trophy isn't just for the team—it belongs to every girl in India who dreams of playing cricket," she said.

She also credited the team's consistent preparation and belief throughout the tournament. "We wanted to change the narrative around women's cricket in India. Winning the World Cup was the biggest step in that direction."

As the celebrations continue, Harmanpreet said she hopes the victory inspires greater investment in grassroots cricket and encourages young girls to take up the sport with confidence.

## Satya's Jetlee Title Poster Amuses Fans



Director Ritesh Rana, known for his hit *Mathu Vadalara* and its sequel, is teaming up with Satya once again for a fresh and intriguing venture. The film, produced by Clap Entertainment and presented by Mythri Movie Makers, recently revealed its title poster, sparking amusement among fans.

Unveiled on Children's Day, the poster is as quirky as it is entertaining. It features Satya in a squatting pose atop the nose of a jet airplane, wielding nunchucks, against a backdrop of a wide-open sky that adds a sense of scale and adventure. The tagline, "I'm done with comedy", adds humorous twist, perfectly complementing the poster's playful visual, even as it hints at Satya's trademark style of blending comedy with action.

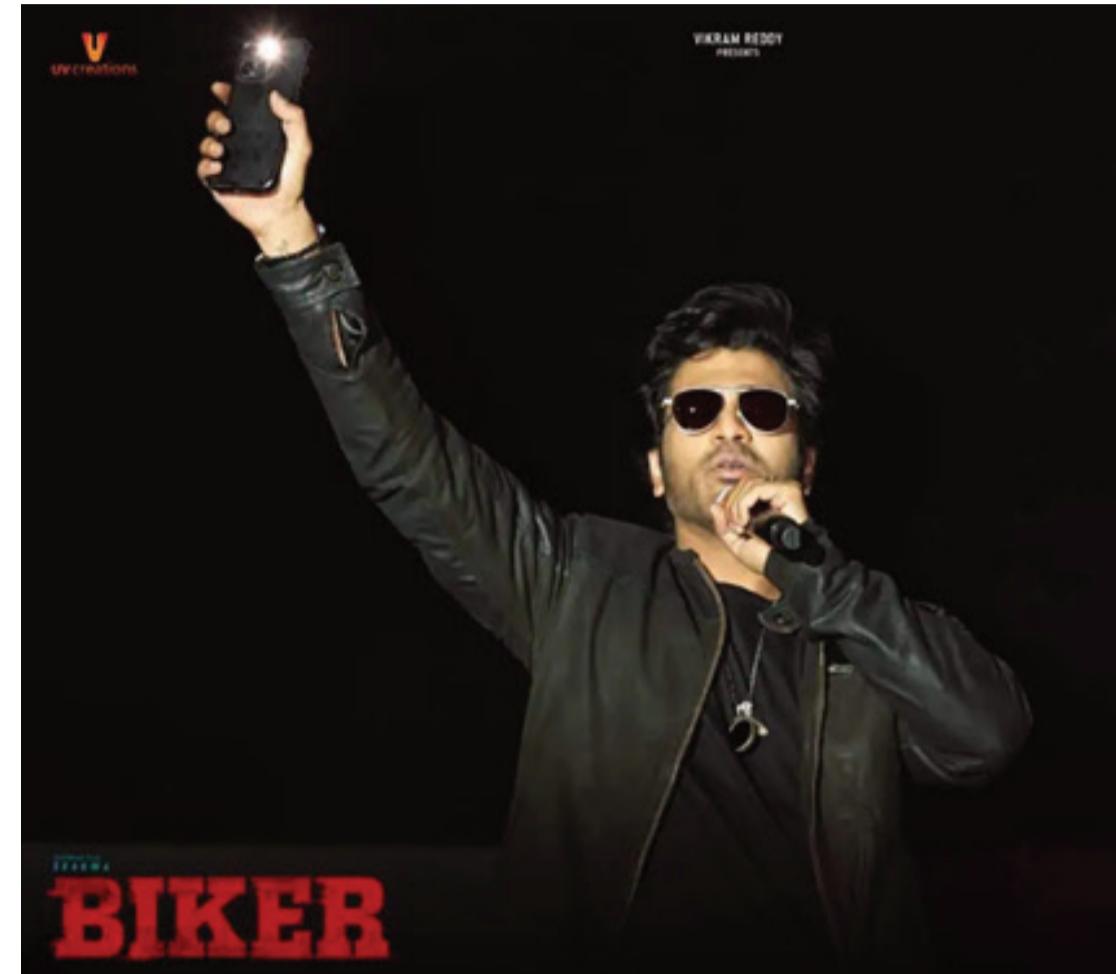
The film stars Miss Universe India Rhea Singha as the female lead, while comedians Vennela Kishore and Ajay are set to bring their signature comic timing to the story. With such a cast, the film promises a mix of action, humor, and a larger-than-life entertainment.

# Sharwa Urges Students to "Rise Above Failures"

Popular Telugu actor Sharwanand, busy promoting his upcoming film *Biker*, inspired students at a college event on Thursday night, urging them to "Rise Above Failures" and embrace life's challenges with courage. *Biker*, directed by Abhilash Reddy Kankara, is touted as the first Indian film centered on motor racing. For the role, Sharwanand underwent a rigorous four-month transformation, shedding 12 kilograms through diet, exercise, gym workouts, and yoga.

During his motivational address, the actor emphasized that life is about experiences rather than degrees, money, or accolades. "Be a good person and success will find you. Embrace your failures and learn from them. Don't run away from life into depression; nothing is permanent," he told the students.

Sharwanand spoke candidly about his personal struggles, admitting, "I did go through



lots of failures, got cheated, felt used, but never gave up. I rose again. In real life, a hero is defined by how you rise above obstacles. Be patient, kind, willing, and always

## Santhana Praphirasthu: A Humorous Take on Male Infertility

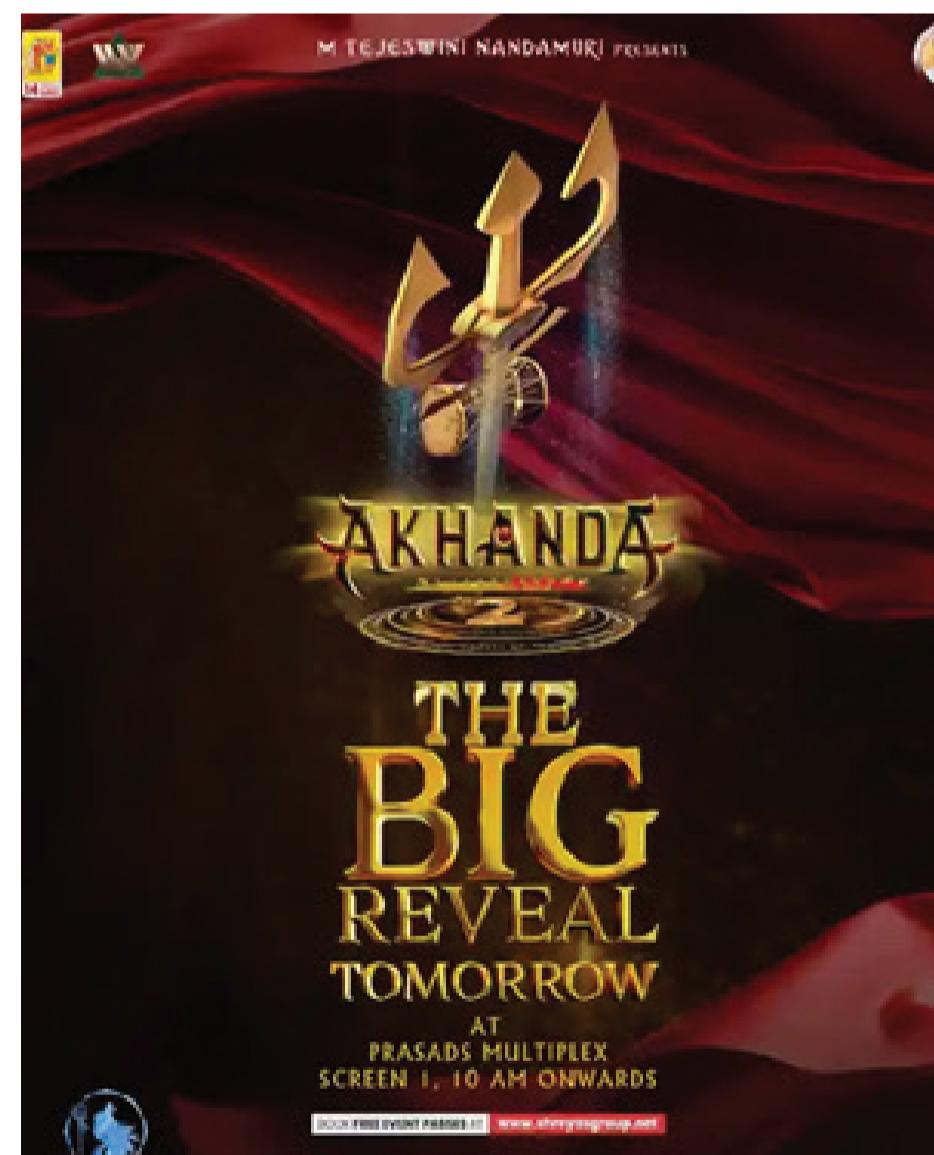


The small-budget Telugu film *Santhana Praphirasthu*, starring Vikranth and Chandini Chowdary, hit theaters on November 14, 2025. Directed by Sanjeev Reddy and produced by Madhura Sreedhar Reddy and Nirvi Hariprasad Reddy, the movie tackles the sensitive issue of male infertility while keeping the tone light and entertaining.

The story follows Chaitanya (Vikranth), a shy software employee in Hyderabad who struggles to communicate with women. A chance encounter with Kalyani (Chandini Chowdary) sparks romance, and the couple eventually marries against her father's wishes. The twist arises when Chaitanya discovers he has a low sperm count, leading to challenges that form the core of the narrative.

The film's strength lies in its comedy. Much of the humor stems from Muralidhar Goud's portrayal of Kalyani's disapproving father, whose constant attempts to trouble Chaitanya provide endless laughs. Vennela Kishore adds solid comic support, while Tharun Bhascker offers a decent performance. Abhinav Gomatam also adds an extra layer of fun, making the second half especially enjoyable.

## Akhanda 2: Big Reveal Set for Today



Nandamuri Balakrishna's much-anticipated *Akhanda 2*, directed by Boyapati Sreenu, is gearing up for a major promotional event ahead of its December 5, 2025 release. Following the release of a new teaser, the team launched the first single, *The Thaandavam*, at a grand event in Mumbai yesterday, generating excitement among fans nationwide.

The makers have now announced that a bigger reveal is scheduled for tomorrow at 10 AM at Prasads Multiplex, Hyderabad. Speculation is rife that it could be a new video asset from the action-packed drama, offering fans another glimpse of the high-octane sequences and larger-than-life performances

that the film promises.

The film stars Samyuktha as the female lead, with Aadi Pinisetty essaying the role of the antagonist. Harshaali Malhotra, known for her performance in *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, makes her Tollywood debut in *Akhanda 2*. Produced by Raam Achanta and Gopinath Achanta under the banner of 14 Reels Plus, the film is presented by M Tejaswini Nandamuri on a grand scale.

Thaman, the acclaimed music composer, has been roped in to score the film's soundtrack, promising chart-topping songs and electrifying background scores that complement the high-octane narrative. The film is expected to be a visual spectacle, combining Balakrishna's power

ful screen presence with Boyapati Sreenu's signature action sequences.

With the countdown to *Akhanda 2*'s release intensifying, fans are eagerly waiting for tomorrow's reveal, which could offer a sneak peek into the film's action sequences or an important plot element. The combination of a star-studded cast, gripping storyline, and grand production values has already created high expectations, making *Akhanda 2* one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year.

As promotional activities continue at full swing, fans are marking their calendars, ready to witness Balakrishna in another larger-than-life avatar on the big screen.



## 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.

Meanwhile, Raashi's Bollywood journey appears to be on a much brighter track. She is gearing up for the release of *12 Bahadur*, a war drama produced by Farhan Akhtar, slated to hit theaters 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.