

He instructed officials to study district-wise data, identify areas showing poor performance, and take prompt corrective steps.IT and RTG Department Secretary Bhaskar Katamneni, RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain, RTGS Deputy Secretary Malika Garg, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Second Lift Irrigation Scheme to Safeguard Amaravati from Floods

TPN Bureau | November 17, Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government is set to launch the Second Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS) at Undavalli with an investment of Rs 595.01 crore to protect Amaravati, the state capital region, from recurrent flood threats. The ambitious flood control project is part of the Amaravati Sustainable Capital City Development Project (ASCCDP) and has been designed in line with recommendations from the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Located near the Prakasam Barrage, the new Flood Pumping Station (FPS-2) will have the capacity to lift 8,400 cusecs of floodwater from the Krishna River. Combined with the first lift system's capacity of 5,000 cusecs, the total capacity will reach 12,350 cusecs. The project aims to prevent inundation



caused by the Kondaveeti Vagu, Palavagu, and Kotellu streams, which together bring heavy monsoon flows into the capital area, often leading to seasonal flooding. The first LIS, commissioned in 2018 at a cost of Rs 237 crore, proved inadequate during the 2024 floods, when severe rain events twice submerged parts of Amaravati. In

response, the WB and ADB made flood mitigation infrastructure a prerequisite for releasing further installments of the Rs 15,000 crore capital development loan package. Designed to withstand a 1-in-100-year flood event with rainfall intensity up to 222 mm in 24 hours, the new facility will be constructed by Amaravati Development

Corporation Limited (ADCL).

The project includes design, construction, testing, commissioning, and 15 years of maintenance responsibilities. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been finalized, and tenders have already been issued. Once operational, the pumping system will

safeguard key infrastructure, mitigate flood risk, and help lift 0.35 TMC of Krishna water for canal maintenance. The initiative also incorporates an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to address ecological and social concerns, including soil removal of 41.5 million cubic meters, felling of about 500 trees, and resettlement of 137 affected families.

The state cabinet has granted administrative approval. In October, local farmers voluntarily provided 40.25 acres of land for the facility, demonstrating strong community support. The second tranche of \$200 million from the World Bank is expected by December, enabling accelerated construction. The project is targeted for completion by 2026, marking a critical step toward making Amaravati a resilient and world-class capital city.



Pawan Kalyan Hails Hyderabad CP Sajjanar's Role in Protecting Telugu Cinema

TPN Bureau | November 17

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan praised Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar for his decisive role in curbing online film piracy and safeguarding the Telugu film industry. He lauded the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police for arresting Imadira Ravi, the key operator behind notorious piracy websites such as iBomma and Bappam.

Pawan Kalyan described the arrest as a welcome development and a crucial step towards protecting the creative and financial interests of filmmakers. He said that producers invest not only money but also immense creativity and effort in making films, yet piracy groups have been releasing movies online on the very day of their theatrical release, inflicting heavy losses on the industry. "Piracy has grown into a major challenge that individual filmmakers and

producers cannot tackle alone," the Deputy Chief Minister lamented. "At a time when film makers go through great struggle to release movies, the illegal circulation of films online has become a serious menace."

The actor-turned-politician noted that Hyderabad Police had successfully dismantled one of the major underground networks responsible for film leaks. He praised the team led by Commissioner Sajjanar for its professional approach and sustained efforts to track and arrest the culprits. "In a situation where piracy groups have become bold enough to challenge law enforcement, the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have achieved a notable breakthrough," he said.

Pawan Kalyan also commended the Hyderabad Police for extending their focus to other public concerns such as betting networks and Ponzi schemes. He

recalled a previous meeting with Sajjanar, during which the Commissioner had explained how fraudulent investment schemes were ruining people's finances. Kalyan appreciated the awareness campaigns initiated by police to educate citizens about these scams.

He said Sajjanar's initiatives to monitor and control online betting applications had already created ripples across different states, inspiring stronger action nationwide. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that such proactive policing not only supports the Indian film fraternity but also helps protect ordinary citizens from financial crimes.

Expressing confidence in Sajjanar's leadership, Pawan Kalyan remarked that the continued efforts of Hyderabad Police would contribute immensely not just to the preservation of Telugu cinema's integrity but to the overall wellbeing of India's creative industries.

Jarvis Aviation Academy to Set Up Pilot Training Organization in Rajamahendravaram with 100 crore

₹100 CRORE INVESTMENT SECURED FOR RAJAHMUNL IN CII SUMMIT



TPN Bureau | November 17

Rajamahendravaram: The temple city of Rajamahendravaram is set to become a new hub for aviation training with the establishment of the Jarvis Aviation Academy, a major pilot training organization proposed with an investment of Rs.100 crore. The initiative was announced following the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Global Investors Summit held recently in Visakhapatnam, where several investors pledged support to Andhra Pradesh's development initiatives.

Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas (Vasu) revealed details of the project during a press conference held at Hotel La Hospin on Monday. Highlighting the importance of this development, the MLA described it as a milestone in the city's industrial and educational growth. "This is a proud day for Rajamahendravaram. Through this initiative, our youth will gain access to high-quality aviation training and employment opportunities. The project is expected to generate between 400 and 500 direct and indirect jobs," he said. Srinivas credited the leadership of

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Ram Mohan Naidu for creating a favorable business environment that has encouraged large-scale investments. "The proactive approach of the coalition government and ease-of-doing-business reforms are bringing investment into every sector of our state."

The Visakhapatnam summit stands as proof of this growing investor confidence," he remarked. Academy founder and CEO Mr. Phanindra Arumilli shared his vision for the project, stating that his long-standing dream of contributing to aviation training was finally taking shape in his home region. "Our head office, Jarvin Solutions, has been operating successfully in Hyderabad for the past 17 years, employing over 800 professionals. We have a global presence in the USA, Australia, and the UK, with an annual turnover of Rs.50 crore. Now we are proud to expand this legacy to Rajamahendravaram," he said. The academy will be located near the Rajamahendravaram Airport, where land has already been earmarked for the

project. Construction and operational groundwork are set to begin in January, with the first batch of 40 pilot trainees scheduled to commence training by April or May next year.

The intensive 14-month training program aims to produce skilled professional pilots to meet the nation's growing aviation demand. According to Mr. Arumilli, India currently faces an annual shortage of nearly 25,000 trained pilots. Looking ahead, the academy also plans to establish an Aviation University offering specialized aviation-related courses and programs, along with a logistics training project to enhance the region's industry ecosystem.

"Our dream is not just to train pilots but to build an entire aviation ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh. Rajamahendravaram will soon be known as a center of excellence for aviation," Mr. Arumilli added. The press meet was also attended by Rajamahendravaram Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Tavva Raja and local business representatives, who hailed the initiative as a transformative opportunity for the East Godavari region's youth and economy.

Minister Stresses Industry-Govt Collaboration at CII Global Summit



TPN Bureau | November 17

Visakhapatnam: Konnapalli Srinivas, Andhra Pradesh's Minister for MSME, SERP and NRI Empowerment & Relations, has called for deeper cooperation between industry bodies and government agencies to drive India's manufacturing growth and global competitiveness. Speaking at the 22nd CII Global MSME Business Summit 2025 in New Delhi on Monday, Srinivas presented a vision for India's MSME sector as a catalyst for national economic transformation, emphasizing the country's potential to expand into global manufacturing value chains.

Focus on Manufacturing-Led Growth In his inaugural address, Minister Srinivas reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem,

suggesting that while India has achieved notable success in the services sector, future prosperity must be rooted in advanced manufacturing capacity. "India is one of the world's largest and most diverse consumer markets, which offers MSMEs a natural launchpad to serve both domestic and global customers," Srinivas observed. The Minister insisted that if industry is equipped to serve India's vast market, it is well-positioned to cater to international demand. He outlined the government's strategic vision to foster an environment allowing MSMEs to scale from small and medium-sized enterprises into robust, large-scale industrial leaders. Strengthening Export Readiness

Srinivas focused on the need for robust standardization, certification, and compliance mechanisms to align In-

dian manufacturing with global benchmarks. He recommended targeted interventions from both the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and government agencies to address these needs, including the establishment of more testing and certification laboratories across the country. "Aligning our product standards with global requirements will significantly strengthen India's export capabilities," he asserted. The Minister argued that enhancing domestic certification infrastructure is essential for exporters striving to access global markets and build competitive value chains. This approach, he suggested, would help MSMEs confidently supply products meeting the expectations of overseas clients. Harnessing Technology for Global Integration A key highlight of Srinivas' re-

sponse was the accelerating pace of technological transformation in India's industrial sector, especially through artificial intelligence and automation. He urged MSMEs to leverage computer-aided technologies to integrate seamlessly with global supply networks. "The world is more connected today. MSMEs must leverage technology to link Indian entrepreneurs with global opportunities," said Srinivas. The Minister emphasized the importance of equipping MSMEs to adapt to industry 4.0 advancements and build business models resilient to global risks and market disruptions.

Partnerships for Industry Resilience Encouraging stronger partnerships, Srinivas appealed to CII and other stakeholders to collaborate closely with government policy makers on expanding domestic industrial capabilities. "Together, we can strengthen India's MSME sector and shape the future of Indian industry," he said, highlighting collective action as central to producing resilient global value chains.

Summit Highlights and Notable Guests

The summit, themed "From Local to Global: Plugging MSMEs into Resilient Value Chains," brought together government dignitaries, industry leaders, and international representatives. Sessions explored topics such as digitization, smart financing, AI integration, automation, sustainable business practices, risk management, and support structures for women-led MSMEs. Distinguished attendees included Ed Jager, Minister (Commercial) at the High Commission of Canada; Rajat Kumar Saini, CEO & MD of NICDC; Sunil Chordia, Chairman of CII National MSME Council; and M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman of CII National MSME Council.

The event underscored the strategic role of MSMEs in driving India's manufacturing ambitions, echoing Minister Srinivas' appeal for focused, forward-looking industry-government partnerships to ensure that Indian products and entrepreneurs remain competitive in the world market.

No Child Should Be Left Out of School: Samagra Shiksha SPD Srinivasa Rao

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: Samagra Shiksha State Project Director (SPD) B. Srinivasa Rao has emphasized that no child in Andhra Pradesh should be deprived of education or left out of the schooling system under any circumstance. He underlined the government's determination to ensure inclusive and continuous education for all children, particularly those from vulnerable and migrant families.

Addressing a review meeting with Additional Local Support Coordinating Officers (ALSCOs) from all districts at the Samagra Shiksha State Office on Monday, Srinivasa Rao instructed

officials to strengthen field-level monitoring and ensure that every school-age child remains enrolled. He asserted that children must not be seen engaged in child labour or begging and that strict vigilance should be maintained across districts to prevent such violations.

Highlighting the impact of seasonal migration on children's education, the SPD directed ALSCOs to identify areas with high migration trends in advance. He said proactive measures must be taken to enroll children accompanying migrating families into nearby schools or seasonal hostels, ensuring their uninterrupted learning process. For children

of migrant workers arriving from other states, Srinivasa Rao advised appointing temporary teachers proficient in local languages.

This, he said, will help facilitate learning in their mother tongue and ensure a smooth transition into the Andhra Pradesh school system. He also stated that foundational education during early years plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's academic development, and no child should be denied this opportunity due to their parents' occupational circumstances. The SPD called for strengthening tracking mechanisms to monitor child enrolment, attendance, and progress through technology-driven



systems.

He added that ensuring coordination between field educators, community leaders, and local administrations is essential to reach every child and sustain the gains achieved under the education mission. Samagra Shiksha Addition al SPD K. Ravindranath Reddy and other senior officials participated in the meeting, offering suggestions to enhance the efficiency of enrol-

ment drives and outreach programmes. Reiterating the state government's focus on equitable and accessible education, Srinivasa Rao said that school inclusion is not just a policy goal but a moral responsibility.

He urged all district teams to work collectively to realize the vision of an Andhra Pradesh where every child learns, grows, and thrives within the mainstream education system.

CII Summit Brings 13.25 Lakh-Crore Investments to AP: Minister Bala Veera Anjaneya Swamy

TPN Bureau | November 17

Amaravathi: Andhra Pradesh has attracted massive investments worth Rs. 13.25 lakh crore through the recent Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam, said Minister for Industries, Infrastructure, and Information Technology Dola Bala Veera Anjaneya Swamy. Addressing media representatives at Amaravati on Monday, the minister described the event as a major milestone in the state's economic transformation under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. According to the minister, these investments span across key sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture-



based industries. Among the districts, Prakasam has emerged as a significant beneficiary, attracting investments worth Rs. 3,704 crore. These are expected to generate over 5,000 new employment opportunities for the local youth, he said. Minister Anjaneya Swamy expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu,

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister for IT and Industries Nara Lokesh for their proactive efforts in creating a favorable environment for investors.

"The wave of investments flowing into Andhra Pradesh is a clear reflection of the national and global confidence in the visionary leadership of Chandrababu Naidu,"

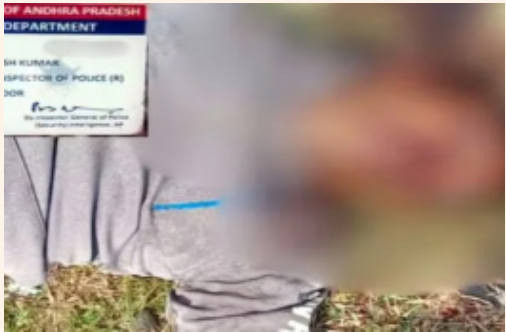
he remarked. He further noted that the CII Summit had succeeded in showcasing the state as a reliable destination for industrial growth and innovation. Several national and international companies came forward to sign memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the state government, guaranteeing long-term commitments that

will boost employment, exports, and technological advancement.

Highlighting the government's broader vision, the minister reaffirmed the Chief Minister's goal of nurturing an "entrepreneur in every household." He said the administration intends to promote industrial training, startup incubation, and skill development programs to help young people become self-reliant and capable of contributing meaningfully to the economy.

The minister added that transparent governance, robust infrastructure, and ease-of-doing-business reforms have positioned Andhra Pradesh among India's most attractive investment destinations. "This summit marks the beginning of a new era of industrial resurgence in our state," he concluded.

Satish's Murder, an attempt to Tamper Evidence, Alleges Yadava Corporation Chairman



TPN Bureau | November 17

Amaravati: Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav alleged that the murder of TTD former vigilance officer A.V.S.O. Satish Kumar was a deliberate act by ruling YSR Congress Party leaders to destroy key evidence connected with the Parakamani case. Addressing the media at the TDP central office on Sunday, Yadav termed the killing "a calculated move to silence truth-tellers" and compared it to earlier high-profile murders in Andhra Pradesh political history.

He said that the pattern in this case reminded him of the murders of former minister Paritala Ravi and former MP Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. "Just as witnesses in Viveka's murder case were eliminated one by one, those linked to the Parakamani case are also being systematically targeted," Yadav said. "Viveka was brutally killed and left in a bathroom. Now Satish Kumar has been killed and his body thrown beside the railway tracks. This has become the modus operandi to erase evidence." Narasimha Yadav accused influential leaders associated with "Tadepalli Palace" a phrase often used by opposition parties to refer to the Chief Minister's Camp Office of being

the central figures behind such crimes.

He alleged that every major political murder in the state in recent years had traces leading back to the same power center. "From the Paritala case to Viveka's and now the Parakamani case, one address connects them all Tadepalli Palace," he remarked. The Yadava Corporation Chairman demanded a thorough, independent inquiry into the Parakamani case and the suspicious circumstances surrounding Satish Kumar's death.

He said that the public deserved transparency, and any attempts to intimidate or eliminate key witnesses amounted to an attack on democracy and the justice system. Yadav called upon both the State government and central investigative agencies to intervene and ensure justice for the victim's family. Satish Kumar, who was formerly associated with the Vigilance department of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, was reportedly found dead near railway tracks under mysterious circumstances last week.

His death has sparked widespread speculation and political outrage, especially from opposition circles, who suspect foul play and accuse the ruling party of orchestrating a murder cover-up.

Minister Parthasarathi Slams YSRCP Over Tirumala Affairs and Political Conspiracies

TPN Bureau | November 17

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Kakani Govardhan Parthasarathi launched a scathing attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing its leaders of politicizing religious matters and creating unrest among devotees by spreading conspiracies around Tirumala. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he alleged that political conspiracies orchestrated by YSRCP leaders have deeply hurt the sentiments of the devotees of Lord Venkateswara.

Minister Parthasarathi recalled that a major theft of valuables worth about Rs. 100 crore had taken place in Tirumala's Parakamani (the temple treasury) in 2023, but the previous YSRCP government failed to ensure a fair investigation. He said that instead of conducting a credible probe, officials were pressured to file a chargesheet without proper evidence or transparency. The minister accused senior YSRCP leaders of helping one of the key accused, Ravi, to evade accountability. He emphasized that protecting the sanctity and assets of Lord Venkateswara is a collective responsibility, irrespective of political affiliation.

"All political parties, officials, and citizens



have a duty to safeguard the temple properties and maintain the spiritual integrity of Tirumala," he said. Parthasarathi warned that those involved in temple-related lootings and mismanagement will face stern legal consequences, asserting that the state government will not spare anyone found guilty. "There will be no question of leniency for those who indulged in exploiting the temple's wealth," he stated firmly.

Turning his criticism to broader law-and-order issues, the minister accused the YSRCP of adopting double standards in seeking Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiries. Citing the recent death of Satish, he said that the YSRCP's demand for a CBI probe into the case was a mere political ploy aimed at diverting public attention. "Seeking CBI inquiries has become a habit

for the YSRCP, especially in cases involving its own controversies or crimes," he remarked.

Parthasarathi drew parallels between the Satish case and the sensational murder of former MP Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy. He alleged that when the CBI began investigating the Viveka case, several YSRCP leaders tried to intimidate central officials and obstruct the inquiry. "The party that once tried to derail an ongoing CBI probe is now shamelessly demanding another investigation for political gain," he charged.

The minister also questioned the YSRCP's contradictory stance in the Satish death case. "While Satish's family insists that it was a murder, YSRCP leaders are busy portraying it as a suicide to protect their interests," he said, accusing the party of trying to manipulate public perception. Reaffirming the current government's commitment to transparency and justice, Parthasarathi assured that all temple-related irregularities and criminal cases will be pursued to their logical conclusion.

"Those who loot the Lord's wealth or misuse their power in the name of politics will face the consequences. The government stands with the devotees and will protect their faith," he concluded.

Fake TTD Letters in Minister's Name Create Stir; Complaint Filed with Vijayawada Police

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada : A major controversy has erupted after fake Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) recommendation letters circulated in the name of Andhra Pradesh Health Minister V. Satya Kumar Yadav. The minister's personal assistant lodged a formal complaint with the Vijayawada Police Commissioner on Monday, seeking a detailed probe into the scam that has reportedly duped several devotees. According to police sources, multiple devotees recently purchased what they believed to be genuine TTD recommendation letters bearing the name and signature of

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

These letters were allegedly sold by middlemen promising special entry for darshan at the Tirumala temple. Unsuspecting devotees, who paid significant amounts of money for these letters, later discovered that the documents were counterfeit when TTD officials denied them entry, confirming that no such letters had been issued from the minister's office. Following several such incidents reported by devotees, the issue came to the notice of the minister's office, which initiated its own internal verification.

Upon confirmation that fake letters were indeed

being circulated using the minister's name, his personal assistant approached Vijayawada Police Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu with a formal complaint, urging an immediate investigation. The Police Commissioner confirmed that a case has been registered and an inquiry has been launched to identify and arrest the culprits behind this fraudulent activity. The complaint highlights that the fake letters had all the visual features of official correspondence, including forged signatures and seals, making them appear authentic. Police suspect an organized network is behind the racket, targeting devotees, especially those

CM Chandrababu should apologise for insulting VSP workers

TPN Bureau | November 17

Visakhapatnam: YSRCP State Official Spokesperson Konda Rajeev Gandhi strongly criticised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for calling the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) a "white elephant" and claiming that its workers were "sitting at home and asking for salaries." He said such comments were deeply insulting to thousands of hardworking employees who have contributed immensely to the state and the nation.

Rajeev said Chandrababu must immediately apologise to the steel plant workers and take firm steps to stop any moves toward privatisation. Otherwise, he warned, the Chief Minister would go down in history as someone who betrayed Andhra Pradesh.

He explained that the steel plant played a major role in the development of North Andhra and helped transform Visakhapatnam into a major industrial city. Chandrababu's remarks,



he said, were aimed at justifying a privatisation plan already being pushed by the coalition government. He added that before elections, Chandrababu promised workers that he would protect the plant, but after coming to power, he changed his stance completely.

Rajeev criticised Chandrababu for staying indoors during the COVID-19 crisis while steel plant workers risked their lives to produce oxygen for the country.

He said the previous YS Jagan government successfully stalled privatisation for five years, but the situation worsened immediately after the coalition took charge.

He questioned why workers are not being paid, why contract workers are being removed and why the plant is being split into 32 units for sale. Rajeev said the Chief Minister must clearly state what he intends to do to save (VSP).

OLX Ad Sparks Outrage: Miscreant Lists Giddalur Tahsildar Office for Sale Online

TPN Bureau | November 17

Giddalur: A bizarre incident from Giddalur town in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district has left officials stunned and social media users both amused and alarmed. An unidentified person shockingly put up the Giddalur Tahsildar Office for sale on the popular e-commerce platform OLX, quoting an absurd price of just Rs. 20,000. According to reports, the prank posting on OLX surfaced over the weekend, with the alleged seller claiming to offer the "Giddalur MRO (Mandal Revenue Office) building" for immediate sale.

The listing included photographs of the government office and a description suggesting an "urgent sale." The outrageous claim quickly went viral, spreading across social media platforms and messaging apps.

Officials discovered the post after several locals shared screenshots,

expressing disbelief and concern. The Giddalur Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) immediately brought the matter to the attention of the local police, calling the act not only mischievous but potentially defamatory and misleading. The MRO noted that such behavior undermines public trust in government institutions and violates cyber safety norms.

Following the complaint, the Giddalur Police registered a case and began an inquiry to trace the person behind the fake OLX advertisement. Investigators are reportedly coordinating with cybercrime units to track the IP address and digital footprint associated with the posting. Authorities suspect the culprit used a fake account and may have intended the act as a prank, but officials emphasized that such actions carry serious legal consequences.

Police sources confirmed that the listing

had since been taken down from the OLX platform. They have also sought information from OLX's compliance team to identify the user's registration details and uploaded content history. Efforts are underway to verify whether any other similar fake postings were made in recent days. The incident has reignited discussions around the misuse of online platforms for spreading misleading or fraudulent information.

Local residents expressed shock at the audacity of the act, with many demanding stricter monitoring of online sales portals to prevent misuse. Officials urged the public to exercise caution and report suspicious online listings to authorities promptly. As investigations continue, the authorities have reiterated that pranks involving government property or impersonation of official institutions will be treated as cybercrimes under applicable laws.

Tragic Bus Accident in Saudi Arabia Claims 42 Indian Lives

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: A tragic road accident in Saudi Arabia on Monday claimed the lives of 42 Indian pilgrims traveling from Makkah to Madinah. The victims included 20 women and 11 children, with a majority hailing from Telangana. Officials confirmed that the victims were enroute after completing their pilgrimage when their bus collided with a tanker near Muferrhat, between Badr and Madinah, in the early hours of Monday.

Haj Committee Chairman Haji Sheikh Hassan Basha expressed deep grief and extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. In a press release, he described the mishap as a shocking loss to the Indian Muslim community and said special prayers were being



ing offered for the departed souls. "This tragedy has caused immense pain to the families and communities connected to the victims," he said, urging authorities to provide all necessary support and information to the bereaved families.

According to reports, the collision was so intense that the bus caught fire, leaving 42 people

ple charred to death. Among them were 16 residents of Mallepally Bazaar Ghat in Hyderabad. The identified victims include Raheemunnisa, Rahmath Bee, Shehnaz Begum, Gowsiya Begum, Kadeer Mohammed, Mohammed Maulana, Shoaib Mohammed, Sohail Mohammed, Mastan Mohammed, Parveen Begum, Zakia Begum, Shaikat Begum, Farheen Begum, Zaheen Begum, Mohammed Manzoor and Mohammed Ali.

Two families from Hyderabad suffered devastating losses, with 15 members confirmed dead, eight from one family and seven from another. Only Shoaib Mohammed survived the crash. He is under medical supervision, and authorities are coordinating with

th Saudi officials to ensure proper assistance and the repatriation of bodies. The tragic incident has drawn widespread condolences across India.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, and Ministers Nara Lokesh and Farooq expressed their anguish over the incident and conveyed the solidarity with the families of the deceased.

They extended prayers for the injured and urged swift action by the Indian Embassy in Riyadh. Authorities have set up helplines for those seeking information about affected pilgrims. The public may contact +91 79979 59754 or +91 99129 19545 for details regarding the Saudi accident and identification process.

Food Commission Chairman Calls For Continuous monitoring of the Food Safety Act

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: State Food Commission Chairman Ch Vijay Pratap Reddy has reaffirmed that the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 is under continuous monitoring, with special focus on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. On Monday, the Chairman conducted an extensive visit across the district to examine ground-level implementation of the Act. He inspected multiple anganwadi centres, hostels and schools, reviewing the quality of food supplies and the functioning of nutrition programmes.

At two anganwadi centres in Patamata, Vijayawada Urban, he verified records related to the nutritional support being provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and young children.

Later, at Potti Sriramulu Municipal High School



in Krishnalanka, he inspected food being prepared under the Dukka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme, assessing both menu adherence and ingredient quality.

He also inspected MK Bagh School in Singh Nagar, a girls' high school and SC/BC hostels in Tiruvuru and schools in Kuntamukkala and Velagaleru of the Mylavaram constituency. Kitchen facilities, dining halls, storage rooms, and hygiene standards were thoroughly reviewed. The Chairman interacted with students to gather feedback on meal quality.

During his field review, Vijay Pratap Reddy

held discussions with officials from Civil Supplies, ICDS, Education, Food Safety and Legal Metrology departments. He stressed that transparency and accountability are crucial for effective implementation of the Food Security Act, adding that the Commission will guide officials and staff to work in full alignment with the Act's spirit. District officials including DSO A Paparao, Civil Supplies District Manager T Satish Kumar, DEO UV Subbarao and ICDS PD Sheikh Rukhsana Sultana Begum participated in the inspections.

TIFR to Launch Series of High-Altitude Scientific Balloons



TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Hyderabad, operating under the Department of Atomic Energy in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has undertaken an ambitious scientific initiative involving the launch of ten high-altitude research balloons from its Hyderabad facility. The missions, which started on October 25, will continue until December 31, 2025, focusing on advanced experiments in atmospheric physics and space science.

According to TIFR officials, these scientific balloons are made of ultra-thin polyethylene plastic film and measure between 50 and 85 metres in diameter. Filled with hydrogen gas, they are capable of rising to altitudes ranging from 30 to 42 kilometres above the Earth's surface. Each balloon is equipped with sophisticated instruments designed to collect valuable data on cosmic radiation, upper-atmospheric dynamics, and related space phenomena.

The launches are being conducted from the TIFR Balloon Facility located near ECIL in Hyderabad, typically between 8:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. After completing the aerial experiments, the scientific payloads detach and return to the ground with the aid of large coloured parachutes. Owing to upper atmospheric wind patterns, these payloads may drift hundreds of kilometres before landing often within a 200 to 350 kilometre radius along the Visakhapatnam-Hyderabad-Sholapur belt.

Officials reported that the equipment could potentially land across several districts of Andhra Pradesh, including East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Chittoor, Anantapur, SPSR Nellore, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, YSR Kadapa, and Visakhapatnam. As part of a public advisory, authorities urged residents,

particularly those in rural and remote areas, not to tamper with or open any parachutes, cages, or instrument packages they might find.

The scientific equipment, they emphasized, is entirely safe and non-hazardous, but interference could damage sensitive instruments. Citizens are advised to immediately inform the nearest police station, post office, or local administration if they locate any such object. TIFR has assured that its retrieval teams will collect the instruments promptly and offer suitable rewards or reimbursements for communication and travel costs to those who report genuine finds.

However, no reward will be issued if the equipment is found to have been opened or tampered with. District authorities have been instructed to disseminate the advisory widely in Telugu and other local languages to ensure public awareness and prevent mishandling of the research payloads.

Cyber Suraksha Drive Launched to Curb Digital Arrests: Vijayawada CP Rajasekhhar Babu

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: In a decisive step to tackle the growing menace of cybercrimes and "digital arrest" scams, Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanthi Lal Rajasekhhar Babu announced the launch of a month-long public awareness initiative titled Cyber Suraksha. The campaign aims to empower citizens, bank employees, and account holders with knowledge to prevent falling victim to cyber fraud and digital manipulation tactics.

Speaking to the media on Monday, the Commissioner said that despite various countermeasures, cybercriminals continue to evolve with new methods. To stay ahead, the police have introduced innovative strategies to detect, track, and apprehend online offenders. "Cybercrime today has emerged as a major challenge. A planned and proactive approach is the only way to contain it," he remarked.

As part of the Cyber Suraksha campaign, awareness programs are being organized across 226 banks in the city, supported by 226 teams of police and bank officials. These teams



will educate bank employees on verifying suspicious transactions and help customers identify fraudulent practices. Rajasekhhar Babu noted that many frauds begin with current account misuse and urged banks to thoroughly verify every account converted from savings to current status.

He revealed that even minor negligence by bank personnel has enabled some of these crimes. The Commissioner said the police's sustained action over

the past year has led to a 40 percent reduction in overall crime in the city. "Vijayawada Police have achieved an unprecedented 80 percent recovery rate from property thefts," he stated, crediting effective surveillance and the installation of over 10,000 CCTV cameras across the city with donor support.

He added that police have curbed chain snatching, bike thefts, and other street crimes, many of which were committed by individuals addicted to drugs.

Vijayawada traffic fatalities also dropped by 92 compared with last year, reflecting heightened road safety measures and continuous staff sensitization. Rajasekhhar Babu stressed that cyber awareness is now as crucial as physical policing.

Fake investment schemes and call-center-based scams have increased alarmingly, with victims losing lakhs of rupees after falling for online advertisements and virtual promises. "To counter these frauds, a major

battle must be fought," he said, revealing plans for a simple educational mobile application designed to help citizens identify and avoid online deception. Echoing Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directive of "Zero Tolerance to Crime and Cybercrime," the Commissioner asserted that Vijayawada Police will ensure no digital arrests occur within their jurisdiction.

"We are committed to ensuring that cyber fraudsters and scam operators are brought under control," he added. Training programs for police personnel are being expanded to strengthen their expertise in handling white-collar and cyber-related cases. "We are concentrating not only on property crimes but also on financial scams and online fraud.

Our goal is to put a firm leash on cybercriminals," Rajasekhhar Babu assured. The Commissioner reaffirmed his confidence that the Cyber Suraksha initiative will yield strong results in protecting citizens from digital threats and fostering a safer digital environment for Vijayawada in the coming months.

NTR District to Issue Disability Pension Certificates Every Tuesday at Vijayawada Hospital

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vijayawada: Residents of NTR district who are eligible for the state government's 15,000 monthly disability pension can now obtain their required medical certificates every Tuesday at the new Government General Hospital (GGH) in Vijayawada. The hospital's superintendent, Dr. Annarapu Venkateswara Rao, announced that a dedicated medical assessment facility has been arranged to streamline the certification process for beneficiaries with severe health conditions.

The initiative, launched under the guidance

of the State Medical and Health Department, seeks to provide faster and more convenient services to physically challenged and chronically ill patients. Until now, many applicants from rural parts of the district faced difficulties in traveling multiple times to various hospitals to secure the necessary disability certification for pension eligibility.

The new arrangement at GGH aims to address this issue by scheduling all assessments on a fixed day each week. According to Dr. Venkateswara Rao, the medical board at the new GGH will evaluate patients suffering



from grave or debilitating conditions, including paralysis, severe muscular dystrophy, accident-related immobility, and

chronic disorders such as thalassemia major, sickle cell anemia, or severe hemophilia. Patients diagnosed with bilateral

elephantiasis, chronic kidney disease, multi-deformity leprosy, or those who have undergone kidney, liver, or heart

transplants are also covered under this facility.

He further advised that individuals who had previously received dis-

ability certificates should bring their old copies for verification during their appointment. This will help expedite the evaluation and minimize duplication in applications. The specialist team comprising orthopedists, neurologists, general physicians, and other relevant experts will review each case before issuing the updated certificate.

Applicants can avail themselves of the service every Tuesday starting from 9:00 a.m. at the outpatient block of the new Government General Hospital in Vijayawada. Patients are encouraged to arrive with all relevant medical re-

ports and identification documents to ensure a smooth verification process. Officials emphasize that the initiative is part of the government's broader effort to make welfare benefits more accessible to those genuinely in need.

By organizing weekly assessment clinics at a centralized medical facility, authorities hope to save time and resources for both patients and administrators, while guaranteeing that qualified beneficiaries promptly receive the 15,000 disability pension provided under various state welfare schemes.

AP Releases Rs 46 Crore for Lawyers' Death Benefits; Narsaraopet Advocates Celebrate CM Chandrababu Naidu

TPN Bureau | November 17

Narsaraopet: In a major relief to the legal fraternity, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has released Rs 46 crore towards pending death benefits for the families of deceased lawyers under the A.P. Advocates' Welfare Fund. The long-pending claims, some dating back to 2020, were cleared as part of the state's renewed focus on welfare initiatives for advocates and their dependents. The announcement triggered celebrations across the legal community.

In Narsaraopet, members of the local Bar Association organized a special event on Monday at the District Court complex to express their gratitude. Lawyers performed a ritual milk abhishekam to the portrait of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, hailing his government's prompt action in addressing their long-standing demands. Narsaraopet MLA



Dr. Chadalavada Aravinda Babu attended the program as chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted that the Advocates' Welfare Fund plays a crucial role in supporting the families of lawyers who pass away during service. "Each

eligible family will receive Rs 4 lakh as a death benefit and Rs 10,000 towards funeral expenses. These payments are being made from the A.P. Advocates' Welfare Fund managed by the State Bar Council," he explained. The MLA noted that

in previous years, nearly 1,200 deceased advocates' families had already received over Rs 50 crore in financial assistance. With the latest release of Rs 46 crore, the government has cleared a major backlog of claims pending since 2020. "This decision

demonstrates Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's commitment to the welfare of the legal community, which serves as a pillar of the justice system," Dr. Aravinda Babu said.

He also mentioned that, in addition to the government benefit, the Narsaraopet Advocates' Bar Association would extend an extra Rs 5 lakh in financial aid to a deceased lawyer's family. Combined with the government and State Bar Council contributions, the total assistance could reach up to Rs 9 lakh per family. This collaborative approach between the state and the legal fraternity, he said, exemplifies a compassionate governance model.

Advocates across the state have welcomed the release of funds, calling it a "timely and humane gesture." They pointed out that during the previous administration, many claims had remained unresolved for years, causing severe financial

strain on bereaved families. The prompt release ordered by the current NDA government, they said, has provided significant relief. Several lawyers' associations and senior advocates across Andhra Pradesh sent messages of appreciation to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Law Minister Gummanur Jayaram for reviving and strengthening welfare initiatives for the legal community. Many also urged the government to streamline the claims process further and introduce digital documentation channels to ensure faster disbursement in the future. The celebrations in Narsaraopet concluded with a thanksgiving meeting and distribution of symbolic cheques to beneficiaries' families. Local leaders lauded the move as a significant milestone in rebuilding goodwill between the state government and the legal fraternity after several years of bureaucratic delays.



Devotees Throng Shaiva Temples on Last Karthika Monday

TPN Bureau | November 17

Kukkala Govinda Raju

Ramachandrapuram: The sacred town of Draksharamam and other Shaiva temples across the Ramachandrapuram constituency witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees on the last Monday of the holy Karthika month. The air reverberated with chants of "Om Namah Shivaya, Hara Hara Mahadeva, Shambho Shankara" as devotees offered heartfelt prayers to Lord Shiva, the primordial deity of the universe. Draksharamam, widely revered as "Dakshina Kashi" and one of the five holy Pancharama temples, became the spiritual epicenter of devotion on this auspicious day.

The ancient Sri Bhimeswara Swamy temple, where Lord Shiva is worshipped along with Goddess Manikamba, opened its doors early in the morning to accommodate the massive turnout of devotees. From the early hours of dawn, thousands converged on the temple town, many taking a ritual bath in the sacred Sapta Godavari river. Devotees lit oil lamps placed on banana leaves and let them float across the canals and temple ponds, creating a mesmerizing sight of glittering lights reflected in the water.

The sight symbolized the triumph of spiritual light over darkness and the

deep reverence associated with the Karthika month. Special rituals and abhishekams were performed throughout the day. Temple priests conducted Panchamrutha abhishekam to the deity, using a mixture of milk, honey, ghee, curd, and sugar, while chanting Vedic hymns. The fragrance of incense and camphor filled the air, heightening the sacred atmosphere.

Due to the heavy influx of devotees, temple queues extended long into the temple streets. The Devasthanam administration had made elaborate arrangements for orderly darshan, setting up special queue lines and ensuring smooth crowd management. Temple Executive Officer Alluri Durga Bhavani personally supervised the arrangements, ensuring that devotees faced no inconvenience.

Volunteers and temple staff were seen guiding devotees, distributing prasadam, and assisting the elderly and children. The festival concluded peacefully with a maha deeparadhana in the evening, marking the end of the auspicious Karthika Mondays. The devotional fervor that resonated across Draksharamam and nearby temples reflected the deep-rooted spiritual traditions and collective faith of the region's people, reaffirming the cultural vibrancy of this sacred land of Lord Bhimeswara.



MLA Yarapathineni Emphasizes Development as the Core Goal of Alliance Government

TPN Bureau | November 17

Machavaram: Gurala MLA Yarapathineni Srinivas Rao reaffirmed that the State Alliance Government's primary objective is the overall development of Andhra Pradesh. He made these remarks on Monday after inaugurating a newly built Dharmasatram in Kottapalem village of Machavaram mandal, constructed at a cost of about 8 lakh.

WSpeaking at the event, the MLA said the Dharmasatram would serve as a convenient venue for community meetings and social gatherings. He further announced an allocation of Rs. 50 lakh for the construction of a new community hall in the village and assured that additional funds would be provided as needed to complete the project.

He proudly stated that Kottapalem was a stronghold of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and highlighted several developmental initiatives already completed in the area. The MLA also revealed plans to convene a major meeting on progress and development initiatives either by the end of this month or in the first week of December. Expressing confidence, he predicted that the TDP would secure all MPTC and ZPTC seats in the upcoming local body elections.

Commenting on the recent CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam, Srinivas Rao praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh for attracting massive investments into the state. He remarked that such investor confidence in a state's leadership had not been seen elsewhere in the country. "This reflects the strong administrative credibility that our leadership commands," he said.

Highlighting the atmosphere of peace and order in the region, the MLA noted that even after 15 months of coalition governance, there had been no incidents of lawlessness in the state or in the Gurala constituency. He lauded the role of party workers in maintaining unity and discipline across the mandals and villages, recalling the hardships they faced in the previous regime. Srinivas Rao criticized the 2019-2024 administration, accusing it of pushing Andhra Pradesh into financial distress through "a period of anarchic governance." In contrast, he said, the current government under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership was steering the state toward stability and development. "Despite the challenging conditions, Andhra Pradesh is moving forward with vision and determination," he concluded.

Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji Visits Vinukonda

TPN Bureau | November 17

Vinukonda (Palnadu District): The spiritual atmosphere in Vinukonda turned serene and devotional as the revered spiritual leader Sri Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji visited the town to attend a special religious event. The eminent seer graced the Bhavanasimallika Paramapadhotsavam held at the Jeeyar Nilayam in Vinukonda on Monday, drawing hundreds of devotees and followers from the region. Government Chief Whip and Vinukonda MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu, along with his wife Leela Vathi, attended the sacred event and received divine blessings from Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji.

Speaking on the occasion, the couple expressed their reverence for the spiritual guru and stated that his visit to Vinukonda was a moment of joy and spiritual enrichment for the town's devotees. They extended their gratitude to the Jeeyar Seva Trust for organizing such spiritually uplifting programs. The Paramapadhotsavam was conducted with traditional rituals and Vedic hymns performed by priests under the guidance of Jeeyar Swamiji.



der the guidance of Jeeyar Swamiji.

The ceremony commemorated the spiritual journey of the late Bhavanasimallika, a devoted follower known for her service to the community and her deep faith in Vaishnava traditions. Devotees participated in the rituals with unwavering devotion, chanting prayers and seeking the blessings of the seer for prosperity, peace, and spiritual growth. Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, known

for his efforts in promoting the philosophy of Sri Ramanujacharya and spreading the message of equality and service, delivered a brief spiritual discourse emphasizing the importance of devotion and righteousness in daily life.

His words inspired the gathering to lead lives grounded in compassion, humility, and dedication to spiritual values. The event also drew the participation of coalition party leaders, public rep-

resentatives, and spiritual organizations from the region. Arrangements for the devotees were made by local volunteers and members of the Jeeyar Seva Trust.

The atmosphere at Jeeyar Nilayam remained serene throughout the day, filled with devotional music, Vedic recitations, and the collective prayers of the devotees who expressed their joy at witnessing the presence of the revered saint in their town.

Vishakha CII Summit Marks a Turning Point in Andhra Pradesh's Investment Landscape: Gonuguntla Koteswar Rao

TPN Bureau | November 17

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): The recent CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam has transformed the perception of Andhra Pradesh as a prime destination for investment, according to State Library Corporation Chairman Gonuguntla Koteswar Rao. Speaking at a press conference held at the TDP district office in Palnadu on Monday, he said the summit stood as proof of the strategic efforts by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh to make the state an investment hub of the country.

Koteswar Rao stated that the summit not only laid the foundation for a new era of industrial growth but also brought

global attention back to Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized that the success of the event reaffirmed Chandrababu Naidu's administrative vision and his ability to draw large-scale investments through policy clarity and governance efficiency. Highlighting Minister Nara Lokesh's role, he said the minister personally guided companies to ensure investments were distributed equitably across Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra, and North Andhra.

While most states focused on "Ease of Doing Business," Andhra Pradesh has adopted a "Speed of Doing Business" model, attracting industries keen on quick clearances and smooth policy execution. The state's clear sectoral policies, an effective single-



window system for approvals, and proactive governance have collectively turned Andhra Pradesh into a magnet for entrepreneurs, he explained.

Koteswar Rao pointed out that the two-day CII Summit resulted in an unprecedented number of agreements, symbolizing investor confidence and the state's rapid resurgence. A total

of 613 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, promising investments worth Rs. 13,25,716 crore and the creation of around 16,13,188 employment opportunities. This, he said, demonstrates the strong trust investors now place in Andhra Pradesh's leadership.

He also noted that industries exceeding initial expectations are

now rushing to establish units in the state, a sign that development is firmly back on track under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh. The first day of the summit alone witnessed commitments amounting to Rs. 8.26 lakh crore, expected to generate 12.05 lakh jobs figures that he said reflect the state's robust industrial growth momentum.

The agreements covered several key departments and sectors including CRDA, energy, food processing, industries, commerce, IT, electronics, tourism, and municipal development indicating a holistic approach to industrial expansion. Koteswar Rao remarked that such comprehensive engagement illustrates the government's ability to align

policy with practical investment facilitation. In a notable development, prominent companies like Renew, Hero Futures, and ABC which had exited the state during the previous YSRCP government due to adverse policies are now returning, drawn by the pro-business environment fostered by the new administration.

He attributed this resurgence to Chief Minister Naidu's transparent governance and Lokesh's focus on speedy execution. District TDP general secretary Kotta Kiran and leader Mundru Shivakoti were among those present at the press conference. The event echoed optimism that Andhra Pradesh is once again on a path of inclusive industrial revival and global competitiveness.

INDIA Bloc Losing Patience With Congress Amid Electoral Woes



New Delhi: The INDIA bloc appears to be growing increasingly frustrated with the Congress, as the party struggles with repeated electoral defeats and internal disarray. Analysts suggest that the bloc's patience is wearing thin, given Congress's inability to lead effectively despite being the principal partner in the alliance.

Following the Bihar assembly election setback, Rahul Gandhi now has 95 electoral losses under his belt since entering active politics in 2003, according to social media estimates. With the party failing to secure decisive victories in key states, questions are being

raised about its leadership and role within the INDIA bloc, which was conceived in 2023 to unite opposition forces against the ruling NDA.

The bloc, which includes parties like the AAP, Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, NCP, and Shiv Sena, lacks a formal office, coordination committee, or declared convener. Congress positions itself as the fulcrum, but its dismal performance and lack of consultation with allies on key campaigns and initiatives have strained relations within the alliance. Rahul Gandhi's campaigns, whether around caste surveys, electoral roll revi-

sions, or allegations of "vote chori," have not been discussed collectively, leaving allied parties feeling sidelined.

The Bihar results highlighted these fissures, with senior Congress leaders like Tariq Anwar pointing to "lack of proper coordination and joint campaigning between Congress and RJD" as a key factor behind the debacle. In contrast, the NDA, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, showcased a united front, emphasizing cohesion and collective messaging, which contributed to its strong performance.

Rahul Gandhi's selective engagement with INDIA

bloc leaders has also raised eyebrows. Unlike previous multi-party interactions during Sitaram Yechury's tenure as CPI(M) chief, Gandhi has reportedly shown limited outreach to current CPI(M) leadership and other allies. Observers note that Modi even referred to Congress disparagingly as the "MMC" in a victory speech, alluding to the party's perceived alignment with minority-focused and left-leaning factions, signaling visible cracks within the alliance.

The party's declining influence is evident in state assemblies, where Congress's strength in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has

dwindled to single digits, despite Rahul Gandhi holding the LoP position in the Lok Sabha. Meanwhile, some INDIA bloc leaders, including Supriya Sule of NCP, are pursuing independent strategies, further highlighting the coalition's fragile cohesion.

With the INDIA bloc's survival contingent on unity and effective leadership, the continued electoral failures and internal disconnects within Congress threaten to weaken the alliance ahead of future national contests. Without decisive reforms and better coordination, the bloc risks losing relevance as an alternative to the NDA.

BJP Faces Steeper Challenge in Bengal Than Bihar



Kolkata: As West Bengal gears up for the 2026 state assembly elections, the BJP faces a far more complex battle than it did in Bihar. Analysts point out that the party's repeated missteps in understanding Bengal's cultural, historical, and political nuances make its path to victory significantly harder.

West Bengal's electorate is deeply sensitive to identity, language, and historical pride. Unlike Bihar, where the BJP could rely on allied parties like JD(U) and LJP to build a winning coalition, in Bengal, it is largely fighting solo against the entrenched Trinamool Congress (TMC). Mamata Banerjee's party, despite facing corruption allegations and anti-incumbency, remains culturally savvy and politically resilient, able to mobilize Bengali nationalist sentiment effectively.

The BJP's earlier campaigns in 2019 and 2021 revealed both its potential and limitations. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it won 18 of 42 seats with over 40% of the vote, but in the 2021 assembly polls, it fell short of expectations, capturing 77 out of 294 seats. Its legislative strength has since declined due to defections and by-poll losses.

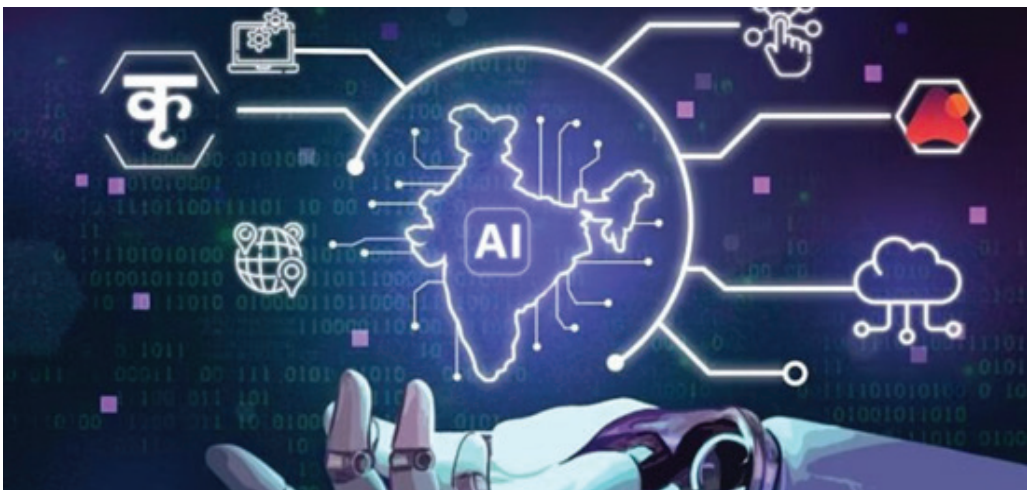
A key challenge for the BJP is its approach to illegal migrants and identity politics. By linking illegal migration primarily

with Muslims, it alienated Hindu migrant communities, who also form a substantial portion of the electorate. Missteps around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and misrepresentation of Bengali language and culture have reinforced the narrative of BJP as an "outsider" party. Incidents such as disputes over Rabindranath Tagore's works and mischaracterization of national icons have further fueled local resentment.

Despite strong anti-incumbency sentiment and public discontent over law-and-order issues and corruption in the TMC, Mamata retains a loyal base, especially among women, youth, and targeted beneficiary groups. Her policies and welfare schemes have created a sense of inclusion and voter trust, giving her a structural advantage over the BJP, which lacks an incumbent's administrative leverage in the state.

Experts conclude that while BJP's success in Bihar demonstrates its organizational strength, replicating that in Bengal requires a deeper understanding of local dynamics, sensitive handling of identity issues, and a nuanced campaign strategy. Without addressing these factors, winning Bengal will remain a far more uphill task for the party.

Chimps Show Reasoning Skills, Challenging Human-Centric View of Intelligence



Recent research on chimpanzees is challenging long-held assumptions about intelligence as an exclusively human trait. Studies conducted at the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda reveal that chimps can weigh evidence, draw rational conclusions, update beliefs, and even evaluate the reliability of their own knowledge. The findings, published in Science, suggest that intelligence may be less a unique human property and more a spectrum of cognitive abilities shared across species.

Scientists tested orphaned chimps using tasks involving two canisters that might contain treats. In some trials, chimps could see the treats; in others, they had to rely on auditory clues. Researchers introduced misleading cues, altered evidence, and even "fake news" in the form of pictures of fruit. The chimps adjusted their choices, demonstrating metacognition—the ability to reflect on what they know and

don't know—and used probabilistic reasoning to make better decisions.

Evolutionary anthropologist Brian Hare of Duke University described the findings as the strongest evidence yet that humans share the planet with another rational being. Alison Gopnik, a cognitive psychologist at UC Berkeley, likened intelligence to nobility, a socially constructed trait historically tied to status rather than measurable ability. She emphasized that cultural notions of intelligence—seen as an innate, magical quality—diverge sharply from the scientific approach, which evaluates abilities that can be observed and tested.

The implications extend to artificial intelligence as well. ChatGPT and similar systems, Science reports, lack strong metacognition, often producing confidently incorrect answers rather than acknowledging uncertainty. While AI excels at data retrieval and language process-

ing, it does not yet possess the probabilistic reasoning and curiosity that characterize animal cognition, including that of chimps.

Experts argue that our obsession with ranking intelligence—whether of animals, humans, or AI—reflects the hierarchical instincts of primates. We equate intelligence with dominance, status, or moral worth, a mindset that has sometimes justified exploitation or destruction of other species. Chimps' abilities underscore that intelligence is multifaceted and context-dependent, rather than a single trait to be measured on a universal scale.

As humans navigate AI development and conservation challenges, researchers stress the value of learning from animals whose reasoning and metacognition are often overlooked. In understanding other species, we gain insight not only into their minds but also into the limits and biases of our own intelligence.

Congress Must Reboot to Challenge Modi



India's political landscape appears once again dominated by Narendra Modi, whose recent wins in Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi, and Bihar have reinforced his aura of invincibility. The BJP's rise has come largely at the expense of the Congress, whose post-Lok Sabha slide has left the Opposition fragmented and ineffective. Analysts argue that without a rejuvenated Congress, any

meaningful national challenge to Modi is unlikely.

Despite retaining around 20 percent of the national vote, Congress struggles to translate this into seats or influence. In most states, the party remains overshadowed by regional allies, and in direct contests with the BJP, it fails to compete effectively. Experts suggest that even a modest 5 percent gain in vote share

could significantly shift India's political dynamics, forcing the BJP into coalition politics and opening leadership debates within the party. Achieving this, however, requires humility and a new strategy, moving away from reliance on historical legacy and inherited voter loyalty.

Rahul Gandhi's approach—focused largely on criticizing Modi, the BJP, and allied insti-

tutions—has failed to resonate with voters. His campaigns have emphasized issues such as communalism, corruption, and caste politics, but the strategy lacks a compelling positive vision for the future. Analysts note that voters, especially India's young majority, respond better to aspirational agendas rather than anger or nostalgia. Modi's messaging, promising a "Viksit Bharat" or developed India, continues to attract wide support, leaving Congress's negative campaigning ineffective.

The article compares Congress's potential reboot to a startup approach, using its 20 percent base as initial capital. This requires shedding arrogance, resentment, and contempt toward Modi, focusing instead on constructive solutions and a clear, forward-looking agenda. Learning from historical precedents, such as Indira Gandhi's 1971 campaign, experts argue that Congress must offer a positive narrative that resonates with citizens' hopes rather than merely opposing the incumbent.

Failure to adopt this strategy risks further erosion of the party's relevance, alienating regional allies and reinforcing the BJP's dominance. Observers warn that unless Congress demonstrates humility, innovation, and leadership capable of inspiring voters, it will continue to fade, leaving India's political opposition fragmented and the BJP unchallenged.

Congress's challenge is clear: reinvent itself, embrace a positive agenda, and reconnect with voters to remain a credible counterweight to Modi's political machinery.

VP, PM Modi Condole Deaths of Indian Pilgrims in Medina Bus Accident

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi
Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed deep grief over the deaths of several Indian Umrah pilgrims in a tragic bus accident near Medina, Saudi Arabia.

The accident occurred around 1:30 am (IST) when a bus carrying around 40 Indian nationals, most of them from Telangana, reportedly collided with an oil tanker. The impact triggered a massive fire, resulting in multiple casualties and injuries. Local authorities and Indian officials are still assessing the full extent of the fatalities.

In a post on social media, Vice President Radhakrishnan said he was "deeply pained" by the tragedy. "My thoughts are with the affected families during this difficult time. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," he wrote.

Prime Minister Modi also mourned the loss of lives in a message on X. "Deeply saddened by the accident in Medinah in-



volving Indian nationals. My thoughts are with the families who have lost their loved ones. I pray for the swift recovery of all those injured," he said.

Modi added that the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jed-

dah are providing all necessary assistance. Indian officials are in continuous touch with Saudi authorities to facilitate relief, evacuation of the injured, and further procedures related to the deceased.

Minority Affairs Minis-

ter Kiren Rijiju also expressed shock. "Shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic bus accident. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he posted on X.

The incident has sparked concern among

families in India, particularly in Telangana, where many of the pilgrims hailed from. Indian authorities have set up support channels to assist relatives seeking information as rescue operations continue in Saudi Arabia.

Key Figure 'Madam Surgeon' Linked to D-6 Terror Plot, Say Investigators



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Investigative agencies probing the blast near Delhi's Red Fort are uncovering a complex terror network spanning multiple states and foreign links. Central to the investigation is 43-year-old Shaheen Shahid, known as "Madam Surgeon," who officials say is connected to banned outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind.

According to official sources, Shaheen—arrested recently in Faridabad—is emerging as a key operative in what investigators call the Faridabad Terror Module. Evidence recovered from her residence, including diaries and digital files, has allegedly revealed a plot referred to as the "D-6 mission," reportedly targeting six cities for

coordinated attacks. Details related to recruitment, funding routes, and encrypted communication channels are also being examined.

Investigators claim Shaheen worked at GSVM Medical College until she abruptly left in 2013, later disappearing in 2014. She was officially dismissed from service in 2021 after authorities discovered her registered address to be incorrect. Colleagues described her as soft-spoken and struggling with personal challenges following her divorce.

Officials say Shaheen worked alongside Umar Nabi, the alleged Red Fort bomber, and Dr. Muzammil Shakeel—both suspected to be linked to the same module. Her finances are under scrutiny, with seven

bank accounts in Delhi, Kanpur, and Lucknow currently being audited.

The investigation has also highlighted the network's international reach. Intelligence agencies believe members of the module travelled to Turkey in 2022 to meet an alleged ISI handler known as Ukasa—Arabic for "spider." Authorities say Umar and others communicated with this handler on encrypted messaging platforms and stayed in Ankara for two weeks. Officials suspect the green signal for the planned December 6 attack may have been issued during this trip.

Interrogations of suspects arrested in Jammu & Kashmir and Faridabad continue as agencies work to identify additional operatives linked to the network.

Calls Grow For Akhilesh Yadav To Lead INDIA Bloc After Congress's Bihar Defeat

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress's heavy loss in the Bihar Assembly election has reignited debate over leadership within the INDIA opposition bloc, with fresh voices now backing Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav as the coalition's face. The remarks come as the bloc faces mounting pressure following a string of electoral setbacks.

SP MLA Ravidas Mehrotra, speaking after the Bihar results, said Akhilesh Yadav should lead the alliance, calling him capable of steering the opposition and even forming a government independently in Uttar Pradesh. The SP, which secured 37 Lok Sabha seats last year, is the second-largest opposition party in Parliament after the Congress.

Mehrotra also argued that the INDIA bloc would have performed better in Bihar if traditional ballot papers had been used instead of Electronic Voting



Machines (EVMs), echoing Akhilesh Yadav's longstanding demand for the restoration of ballot voting.

The Congress suffered a major setback in Bihar, winning only six seats, compared to 19 in 2020, despite an extensive campaign by Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. Its ally, the RJD, also saw

a steep decline, dropping to 25 seats, while the NDA swept 202 seats in the 243-member Assembly.

The repeated electoral failures of the Congress—despite holding 99 Lok Sabha seats—have intensified internal and external calls for a leadership overhaul within the INDIA bloc. The BJP and its partners have dominated

recent state elections, winning six of the eight major polls last year.

Earlier, Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee had pushed for Mamata Banerjee to lead the opposition alliance, arguing that the Congress had "failed" in multiple states. Even RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav endorsed Mamata Banerjee as a po-

tential INDIA bloc head, saying Congress's reluctance "would not make any difference."

With growing discontent and shifting political equations, the leadership question within the INDIA bloc has resurfaced, and Akhilesh Yadav's name is now gaining traction in the post-Bihar landscape.

Mehbooba Mufti Links Red Fort Blast to Kashmir Crisis, Sparks Political Row



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti triggered a major controversy on Monday after claiming that the blast near Delhi's Red Fort, which killed 13 people, reflected the "problems of Kashmir" spilling into the national



capital. Speaking at a meeting in Srinagar, the JKDPDP chief accused the central government of creating a "poisonous atmosphere" that has pushed Kashmiri youth towards dangerous paths. Investigators have described the Red Fort blast as a "white-collar" terror

operation, allegedly led by a network of radicalised doctors busted recently by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The suicide bomber, identified as Umar Mohammad from Kashmir, died after a white Hyundai i20 exploded near the historic monument. Officials believe

he may have panicked and detonated the device prematurely after two key module members—Dr Muzammil Shakeel and Dr Adil Rather—were arrested in Faridabad along with 2,900 kg of explosives.

Mufti said the government was responsible for

alienating Kashmiri youth. "A poisonous atmosphere has been created... responsible for the youth of Kashmir creating their own dangerous path," she said. She added that despite government claims of normalcy, Kashmir's problems had "echoed in front of the Red Fort."

She also accused the ruling dispensation of prioritising divisive politics over national security. "You may get votes by doing Hindu-Muslim politics, but in which direction is the nation heading?" she asked.

BJP leaders slammed her remarks as "irresponsible" and "provocative." Party leader Ravinder Raina said Mufti was trying to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir, while Abhijeet Jasrotia called her comments "pathetic," particularly at a time when unity was needed.

The investigation into the Delhi blast continues, with security agencies probing the broader terror module and its plans.

Congress Condoloes Death of Indian Pilgrims in Saudi Bus Crash



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The Congress party has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic death of several Indian Umrah pilgrims in Saudi Arabia and urged the Centre to coordinate closely with state authorities to support the victims' families.

The accident occurred early Monday in Madinah, where a bus carrying around 40 Indian pilgrims, mostly from Telangana, collided with an oil tanker at approximately 1:30 am IST. Several passengers are feared dead, while others sustained injuries in the horrific crash.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge offered condolences and prayers for the injured, saying, "Deeply saddened by the heart-wrenching tragedy near Medinah, Saudi Arabia involving several Indian nationals. My deepest

condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured." He emphasized the need for the Union Government and Ministry of External Affairs to coordinate with state authorities and families in India to provide relief and support during this difficult time.

Kharge also confirmed that he has instructed Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to ensure all possible assistance reaches the victims' families and that the situation is being closely monitored.

Chief Minister Reddy expressed shock over the incident, posting on X that the deaths of Telangana residents during their pilgrimage have caused "deep sorrow." He stated that the state's Chief Secretary and DGP have been directed to liaise with the

Indian Ministry of External Affairs and Embassy officials in Saudi Arabia to assess the well-being of the survivors and facilitate relief measures.

"The government will stand by the affected families. I urge them to be brave," Reddy added.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia and India are actively working to confirm the exact number of casualties and provide immediate assistance to those affected. The accident has drawn attention to the safety of Indian pilgrims abroad, with leaders calling for swift coordination and support for the bereaved families.

This tragic incident marks another painful chapter in the history of Indian pilgrimages abroad, prompting calls for enhanced safety measures for Indian travelers on religious tours.

Hasina Sentenced To Death By Bangladesh Tribunal



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh's political landscape plunged deeper into turmoil on Monday as former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal for alleged "crimes against humanity" linked to last year's student-led uprising that toppled her Awami League government. Tried in absentia, Hasina—currently in exile—dismissed the proceedings as a political vendetta driven by an unelected interim administration.

Security was sharply tightened across Dhaka and several other districts as the Muhammad Yunus-led interim regime prepared for the verdict. Sporadic violence, protests, and reports of crude bomb attacks marked a tense lead-up to the announcement, prompting authorities to deploy additional forces and issue public safety advisories.

Inside the Dhaka courtroom, the moment the death sentence was read triggered claps, cheers, and emotional reactions from sections of the audience. Some attendees smiled and applauded, while others offered prayers or broke into tears. Judges quickly

instructed the crowd to maintain decorum as the brief eruption subsided.

In a strongly worded statement, Hasina condemned the ruling as the product of a "rigged tribunal" overseen by a government she said lacked constitutional legitimacy. "They are biased and politically motivated," she asserted, accusing extremist elements within the interim administration of seeking to eliminate her politically. The verdict, she argued, aims to "nullify the Awami League as a political force" and erase Bangladesh's last elected leadership.

Meanwhile in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district, Indian authorities demolished an illegally constructed house said to have sheltered suspected Bangladeshi nationals. The action followed an attack on two police personnel, adding a regional dimension to the heightened tensions surrounding the evolving crisis in Bangladesh.

The verdict marks a dramatic escalation in the nation's political conflict, with its implications expected to reverberate across South Asia in the coming days.

Central Java Landslides Kill 18, Dozens Still Missing



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,

Severe rain-triggered landslides in Indonesia's Central Java have killed at least 18 people, with dozens still missing, authorities said on Monday, as rescue teams continued intensive search operations under challenging conditions.

The worst-hit area was Cibeu-nying village in Cilacap, where a massive landslide last week buried around a dozen houses under 3 to 8 metres (10 to 25 feet) of mud and debris, according to Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency. Officials said the depth of the burial made rescue efforts extremely difficult, requiring heavy machinery and slow, careful excavation.

M Abdullah, head of the local search and rescue division, confirmed that the Cilacap landslide alone had claimed 16 lives, while seven people remained unaccounted for. Excavators and rescue personnel have been working around the clock, with footage from KompasTV showing teams digging through thick layers of soil in hopes of finding survivors.

In a separate incident, another

landslide struck Banjarnegara district on Saturday, killing two people. Authorities reported 27 people missing, and said about 30 houses and several farms had been severely damaged. Continuous rainfall has raised concerns about further instability in the region, prompting emergency teams to monitor additional at-risk slopes.

Local officials said the combined scale of destruction across both regions could rise further as search operations continue. The national disaster agency has urged residents in mountainous and flood-prone areas to stay alert, particularly during the ongoing rainy season.

Indonesia, located in the seismically active "Ring of Fire," faces frequent floods, earthquakes and landslides. Authorities have dispatched additional personnel, medical teams, and logistical support to both affected regions.

Rescue teams said their immediate priority remains locating the missing and providing relief to survivors who have lost homes and livelihoods in the devastating landslides.

Trump Urges House Republicans to Support Release of Epstein Files

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has called on House Republicans to vote in favour of releasing all government files related to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, marking a sharp reversal from his previous position. Writing on Sunday night, Trump said his party should support the move "because we have nothing to hide" amid a growing push from both Democrats and several Republicans.

The shift comes after Democrats on the House Oversight Committee published a small batch of emails involving Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, some of which reference Trump. The president, who has long denied any connection to Epstein's criminal behaviour, dismissed the attention as a Democrat-driven "hoax" aimed at distracting from Republican pri-



orities. In one 2011 email, Epstein mentioned Trump in passing, though officials stressed there is no

suggestion of wrongdoing by the president.

House Republicans responded by releasing a much larger tranche

of 20,000 files, accusing Democrats of selectively publishing documents to "create a fake narrative" implicating

Trump. The dispute has escalated political pressure for full transparency.

Support appears to

be growing within the GOP for the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which would compel the Justice Department to publish all unclassified records tied to Epstein and related investigations. Republican Representative Thomas Massie said up to 100 Republicans may vote in favour, suggesting the bill is likely to pass the House this week. Its prospects in the Senate remain uncertain.

House Speaker Mike Johnson echoed Trump's frustration, saying Democrats were using the files as a political ploy. "Trump has clean hands," he told Fox News, adding that the president was unconcerned about the disclosures.

Epstein died by suicide in a New York jail in 2019 while awaiting trial for sex trafficking. Any bill that clears Congress will still require Trump's approval to become law.

New Evidence Implicates Two US Marines in Haditha Killings, BBC Probe Finds

TPN Correspondent | US

A new BBC Eye investigation has uncovered evidence implicating two US Marines in the 2005 killing of an Iraqi family during the notorious Haditha massacre, raising fresh doubts about the integrity of the original American investigation and military prosecution.

On 19 November 2005, US Marines killed 24 Iraqi civilians in Haditha after a roadside bomb struck their convoy. Among the victims were women, children, and elderly people. Safa Younes, then 13 years old, was the only survivor from her family after Marines stormed her home and opened fire. She survived by lying still among the bodies of her siblings.

Forensic expert Michael Maloney, who investigated the crime scene in 2006 for the Naval Criminal Inves-



tigative Service, told the BBC that newly uncovered recordings—including statements from Lance Corporal Humberto Mendoza and Lance Corporal

Stephen Tatum—indicate both men entered the bedroom and shot Safa's family. Mendoza, who previously denied entering the room, is heard in a newly re-

vealed audio recording admitting he walked inside. Maloney said this places Mendoza at the position of the first shooter.

Tatum, who was

granted immunity and never tried, gave multiple statements in 2006 acknowledging he shot women and children, at one point stating he fired even after recog-

nising a child. His lawyers later argued these statements were made under duress, and charges against him were dropped.

Squad leader Staff Sgt Frank Wuterich was the only Marine to face trial, but the case ended in a plea deal for negligent dereliction of duty, resulting in no jail time. Prosecutors had granted immunity to key witnesses, a decision criticised by both defence lawyers and investigators as undermining accountability.

The US Marine Corps said it would not reopen the case without significant new admissible evidence. Safa, now 33 and living in Haditha with her children, said no one has ever been held responsible for the deaths of her entire family, calling the lack of justice "impossible to understand."

42 Indians Dead In Saudi Bus-Tanker Collision Near Medina



has been set up in Hyderabad, with helplines +91 7997959754 and +91 9912919545 for families seeking information.

The Indian Embassy in Jeddah has launched a 24x7 control room and issued a toll-free number 8002440003 for assistance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow, saying his thoughts were with the families of the victims and that Indian officials were providing all necessary support. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar also conveyed condolences and said both the embassy and

consulate were offering "fullest support" to affected families.

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said 42 Umrah pilgrims were on the bus when it caught fire, urging the central government to ensure the swift repatriation of bodies and proper treatment for the injured. Reports suggest at least 16 victims had travelled through Hyderabad-based agencies Al-Mee-na Hajj and Umrah Travels.

Saudi authorities continue investigations into the collision.

as the bus was travelling from Mecca to Medina. Most of the passengers were reportedly from Hyderabad, Telangana.

Reports from Khaleej Times and Gulf News indicate that many passengers were asleep when the collision triggered a massive fire, giving little chance for escape. The bus was en-

tirely charred, making identification of bodies extremely difficult. One survivor, Mohd Abdul Shoaib, has been hospitalised, though his condition remains unclear.

Authorities said that among the victims were at least 11 women and 10 children, though final verification is ongoing. Rescue teams de-

scribed the scene as "devastating," with the intensity of the fire complicating recovery efforts.

The Telangana government has contacted the Indian Embassy in Riyadh, and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to coordinate closely with central authorities. A control room

Markets Slip on Foreign Fund Outflows, Weak Asian Cues

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

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

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

"FIIs renewed selling is constraining the rally in the market. In the last four days, FIIs have offloaded equities worth



Rs 14,269 crore. Higher valuations in India and muted earnings growth

are restraining foreign investors, who are now focusing on cheaper

markets with better earnings potential," said V K Vijayakumar,

Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited.

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

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

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

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

Rupee Rises 11 Paise to 88.66 Against Dollar



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



India has emerged as the front-runner in workplace ar-

tificial intelligence (AI) adop-

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

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

Across the Asia Pacific, 78% of workers regularly use AI, surpassing the global average of 72%. The report, published by BCG X, the firm's technology build and design arm, highlights the region's leadership in integrating AI across workplaces, from offices to frontline operations.

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

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

Despite optimism, concerns remain. 52% of employ-

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

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

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

This report positions India not only as a regional leader in AI adoption but also as a model for responsible and strategic AI integration across emerging economies.

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

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

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

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

"This quarter's results highlight SBI's ability to generate exceptional returns through smart invest-



ment decisions while maintaining healthy lending practices," said an industry expert.

SBI, India's largest public sector lender, continues to leverage its wide branch network

and digital banking footprint to drive growth, while balancing risk management and capital allocation. The gains from the Yes Bank stake sale underscore the bank's focus

on unlocking value from strategic investments.

With robust capital buffers and improved asset quality, SBI is well-positioned to maintain steady growth in the

coming quarters, even as the broader banking sector faces challenges from fluctuating interest rates and evolving credit demand.

The bank's strong quarterly performance

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

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



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

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

The announcement had an immediate impact on the stock market. IREN shares surged more than 20% in premarket trading on Monday, reflecting investor optimism about the strategic partnership. Dell's shares also rose 5%, given its role in providing the AI-server hardware that Microsoft will deploy.

Analysts say the deal underscores Microsoft's commitment to expanding its AI capabilities at a time when demand for high-performance computing is sky-

rocketing. By securing priority access to Nvidia chips through IREN, Microsoft can accelerate the rollout of its AI products and services while managing supply chain challenges.

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

The partnership also illustrates the growing trend of tech giants collaborating with data-center operators to secure hardware essential for AI workloads, signaling the strategic importance of supply chain management in the AI race.

Microsoft and IREN did not provide exact timelines for deployment, but the scale of the contract indicates a significant expansion of Microsoft's AI infrastructure in the coming months. The move is expected to reinforce Microsoft's position in the AI market while giving IREN and Dell a substantial boost in revenue from chip-related contracts.

The prominence of Hindi and Bengali underscores India's linguistic impact on the global stage, joining English, Mandarin, Spanish, and Arabic in shaping the world's communication landscape.

Jannik Sinner Beats Alcaraz to Retain ATP Finals Title

Italy's Jannik Sinner successfully defended his ATP Finals crown on Sunday, defeating Spain's world number one Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (4), 7-5 in a thrilling final in front of his home fans. The match marked the sixth meeting of the year between the two young stars, who have emerged as the dominant forces in men's tennis in 2025.

Sinner, currently ranked world number two, displayed remarkable composure under pressure, particularly in the tightly contested first set. Both players held serve through most of the set, taking it to a tiebreak, where Sinner edged out Alcaraz 7-4. The Italian maintained his momentum into the second set, breaking Alcaraz at a crucial moment to seal the straight-sets victory.

"This is an incredible feeling, winning again at home in front of my fans. Carlos is a fantastic competitor, and every match with him is a battle," Sinner said after lifting the trophy.



Alcaraz, who has been the world number one for much of the year, acknowledged Sinner's performance, saying, "Jannik played very well today. It was a close match, and I had chances, but he held his nerve at the key moments."

The final further cemented the Sincaraz rivalry—a series of high-intensity encounters that has defined the men's tour this year. Their head-to-head clashes have produced some of the most exciting tennis of 2025, with both players consistently pushing each other

to higher levels. With this win, Sinner not only retains the prestigious ATP Finals title but also strengthens his standing as one of the sport's rising stars capable of challenging for Grand Slam trophies in the coming seasons. Fans in Turin celebrated the victory enthusiastically, highlighting the growing popularity of tennis in Italy.

Sinner's triumph over Alcaraz at the ATP Finals promises an exciting start to 2026, with both players expected to continue their duel for dominance in men's tennis.

Kohli's Captaincy Legacy Shines Amid India's Recent Struggles



In recent times, Team India has faced unexpected home defeats, but the contrast highlights the extraordinary impact of Virat Kohli's captaincy. When Kohli led India, victories came consistently, yet the value

of his leadership was often underappreciated. Now, with losses piling up under successors Rohit Sharma

and Shubman Gill, Kohli's strategic acumen and leadership brilliance are being fully recognized. Kohli is India's most successful Test captain, guiding the team through 68 Tests with 40 victories, a record unmatched in Indian cricket. Under his eight-year tenure, India did not lose a single Test series at home, suffering only two defeats. He elevated India from seventh in ICC Test rankings to number one, finishing the year as the top-ranked team three times and receiving the ICC Test Mace thrice, the prelude to the World Test Championship.

Kohli's approach emphasized balanced pitches to maximize home advantage while allowing spinners to thrive from the third day onward. This strategy, coupled with a disciplined, adaptable squad featuring stalwarts like Pujara, Rahane, and Dhawan, made India a formidable force against top sides including Australia, England, and South Africa. His consistency held firm despite working with different coaches such as Ravi Shastri, Anil Kumble, and Rahul Dravid. However, since Kohli stepped down from Test captaincy in 2022, the team's fortunes have fluctuated. Under Rohit, India suffered a shocking 0-3 home series loss to New Zealand, followed by another home defeat against South Africa under Shubman Gill, exposing vulnerabilities against spin that were previously managed effectively by Kohli-era batsmen.

These recent struggles have reinforced the significance of Kohli's leadership. His strategic clarity, consistency, and ability to build a balanced, dominant Test side on home soil are now being fully appreciated, proving that his captaincy was not just about victories, but creating an enduring legacy for Indian cricket.

Haaland Hat-Trick Sends Norway To World Cup, Italy Faces Playoff Battle

Norway sealed their first FIFA World Cup spot since 1998 with a commanding 4-1 victory over Italy at a rain-soaked San Siro on Sunday, thanks to a decisive brace from Erling Haaland. The Manchester City striker, averaging over a goal per game this season, scored twice within two minutes in the 78th and 79th minutes to put Norway firmly in control. The team finished Group I with a perfect 24 points from eight matches, leaving Italy six points adrift.

Italy initially took the lead through Pio Esposito in the 11th minute, but Norway equalized via Antonio Nusa in the 63rd minute, after which Haaland and Jorgen Strand Larsen's stoppage-time strike completed the rout. Norway coach Stale Solbakken praised Haaland, calling him a "goal machine," while remaining cautiously optimistic about the next stage, noting, "Let's see what the draw brings before we go into those questions."

For Haaland, this qualification is historic: his father, Alf-Inge, was still



playing internationally the last time Norway competed in a World Cup 27 years ago. Haaland scored 16 goals in qualifying, cementing his reputation as one of the world's most lethal forwards.

Italy, meanwhile, faces another challenge. Gennaro Gattuso's side now

heads to the playoffs in March after failing to secure direct qualification, following two heavy defeats to Norway in the group. Gattuso admitted concern over Italy's collapse in the second half at San Siro, apologizing to fans and stressing the need for the team to regroup.

The result underscores Italy's recent struggles: the Azzurri missed the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, including a humiliating defeat to North Macedonia just months after winning the 2021 European Championship. Italy's squad, while talented, lacks a player of Haaland's caliber, making the upcoming playoffs a tense test for the four-time world champions.

Norway now looks forward to next summer's World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, with Haaland expected to spearhead their attack on the global stage.

Chhattisgarh Retains Crown at All India Forest Sports Meet



Chhattisgarh made history once again by winning the 28th All India Forest Sports Meet, held from November 12 to 17 in Dehradun. The team secured first place in the medal tally for the second consecutive year, amassing 150 medals and 578 points. This victory also marked Chhattisgarh's 13th consecutive overall championship at the prestigious event.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap congratulated all athletes for their stellar performances, praising their dedication and sportsmanship. A total of 253 athletes from Chhattisgarh participated in various competitions, contributing to the state's dominant performance.

Among the standout performers, Nikhil Zalko was named Best Male Athlete after winning five gold medals in swimming, while Sangeeta Rajagopalan earned Best Female Athlete with four golds and a silver in badminton and tennis. In the women's open category, Thota Sankirtana won five gold medals, earning the title of "Golden Girl." Veteran athletes also excelled, with Sukhmandan Lal Dhruv winning five golds and

Charulata Gajpal securing four golds.

The overall championship trophy was presented at the closing ceremony by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General (Retired) Gurmeet Singh and Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, received on behalf of Chhattisgarh by Shalini Raina. Additional Chief Secretary Richa Sharma and Forest Force Chief V. Srinivas Rao also congratulated the athletes.

Other top performers included Kerala, which finished second with 31 gold medals, and Karnataka, securing third place with 25 golds. Host state Uttarakhand placed sixth.

A special initiative, "One Sport, One Forest," emphasized environmental conservation by planting a tree in the name of each medal winner, blending sportsmanship with eco-consciousness. This unique approach highlighted the event's dual focus on athletic excellence and nature preservation.

Chhattisgarh's continued dominance reflects the state's robust training programs and commitment to nurturing talent, reinforcing its position as a powerhouse in forest sports competitions across India.

Satwik-Chirag Lead India at Australian Open



India's hopes at the Australian Open Super 500 rest heavily on men's doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who will aim for their first title of the season. The Asian Games champions have been India's standout performers, winning a second World Championships bronze and finishing as runners-up at both the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750.

The pair, former world No. 1 for 18 weeks, had slipped to No. 27 earlier this year but fought back to reclaim the No. 3 spot, aiming to continue their strong run ahead of the World Tour Finals. They will open against Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei of Chinese Taipei.

India's singles players will look to regain consistency after a challenging season. Lakshya Sen, seeded seventh, has shown promise, reaching the Hong Kong Open final and Japan semifinals. He opens against Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei, hoping to build momentum.

HS Prannoy, 2023 World Championships bronze-medallist, returned from injury in Kumamo

to last week. He defeated Jun Hao Leong of Malaysia but lost to Denmark's Rasmus Gemke and faces Canada's Brian Yang in the first round.

Kidambi Srikanth, a runner-up at the Malaysia Masters, takes on fifth seed Lin Chun-Yi, while US Open champion Ayush Shetty meets Malaysia's Justin Hoh. Other singles entrants include Kiran George against sixth seed Kenta Nishimoto and Tharun Mannepalli facing Denmark's Magnus Johannessen.

In women's events, Aakarshi Kashyap is India's sole singles representative, drawn against top seed and Olympic champion An Se Young. Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand return in women's doubles against fourth seeds Yan Fei Chen and Liang Ching Sun of Chinese Taipei. In mixed doubles, Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan face Canada's Nyl Yakura and Crystal Lai.

With Satwik-Chirag leading the charge, India will look to make a strong impression on the Australian courts, combining experience and emerging talent to challenge the world's best.

iBomma Crackdown: 21,000 Films Seized, Rs 22,400 Crore Loss Exposed



The Indian film industry received a major boost against piracy after the arrest of Im-madi Ravi, founder of the notorious piracy platform iBomma and Bappam. The crackdown has exposed one of the most organised piracy networks in India, which leaked South Indian films and OTT content within hours of release.

iBomma operated across Hyderabad, Dubai, the Netherlands, and Myanmar, making it difficult for authorities to track. The network caused massive financial losses, with the Indian film industry reportedly losing Rs 22,400 crore in 2023, while Tollywood alone faced Rs 3,700 crore in losses in 2024. Investigations by the Telangana Film Crime Cell (TFCC) and Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police led to the booking of 65 mirror sites linked to the network. Ravi was arrested at Hyderabad airport after returning from France.

Police seized a hard disk containing 21,000 pirated films and personal data of nearly 5 million users, raising serious privacy concerns. Devices,

cheque books, debit cards, and bank accounts with about Rs 3 crore were also recovered. During interrogation, Ravi admitted earning “hundreds of crores” through piracy.

Industry stalwarts including Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, SS Rajamouli, and Dil Raju met Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar to commend the crackdown. The seized user data is now central to ongoing investigations, helping authorities trace offshore partners, track money flows, and identify other members of the piracy network.

Experts warn that users are at risk of spam, scams, fraud, and malware because personal details and browsing patterns were stored without consent. Authorities urge audiences to consume content only on legal platforms, highlighting that piracy harms both the industry and public safety.

The iBomma crackdown marks a significant step in curbing large-scale film piracy in India, sending a strong message that organized cyber-crime targeting entertainment content will face strict action.

Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna Thank Hyderabad Police for iBomma Arrest



Hyderabad: Tollywood superstars Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna met Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar on Sunday to express their gratitude for the swift arrest of Im-madi Ravi, founder of the notorious movie piracy website iBomma. The crackdown has been hailed as a major victory for the Indian film industry, which has suffered huge financial losses due to illegal streaming.

Chiranjeevi praised the police for their smart operations, which successfully dismantled a dangerous piracy network that severely impacted the movie business. “Many people have grown accustomed to watching newly released movies illegally because of such operations. This needs to end, and I am happy to see the authorities acting decisively to protect the industry,” he said.

Nagarjuna also lauded the Hyderabad Police for their prompt action. “On behalf of Telugu Cinema and Indian Cinema at large, I thank Commissioner Sajjanar and his team for their relentless efforts,” he said. He further

urged the public to refrain from encouraging piracy and to support filmmakers by watching movies in theatres.

The iBomma website, which operated across multiple countries including India, the Netherlands, Dubai, and Myanmar, had reportedly leaked thousands of South Indian films and OTT content within hours of release. Police investigations revealed that the platform had stored personal details of millions of users, creating a serious privacy threat.

Following the arrest, authorities seized a hard disk containing 21,000 pirated films and data of nearly 5 million users, alongside bank accounts, devices, and other evidence. The crackdown also led to the closure of 65 mirror sites linked to the piracy network.

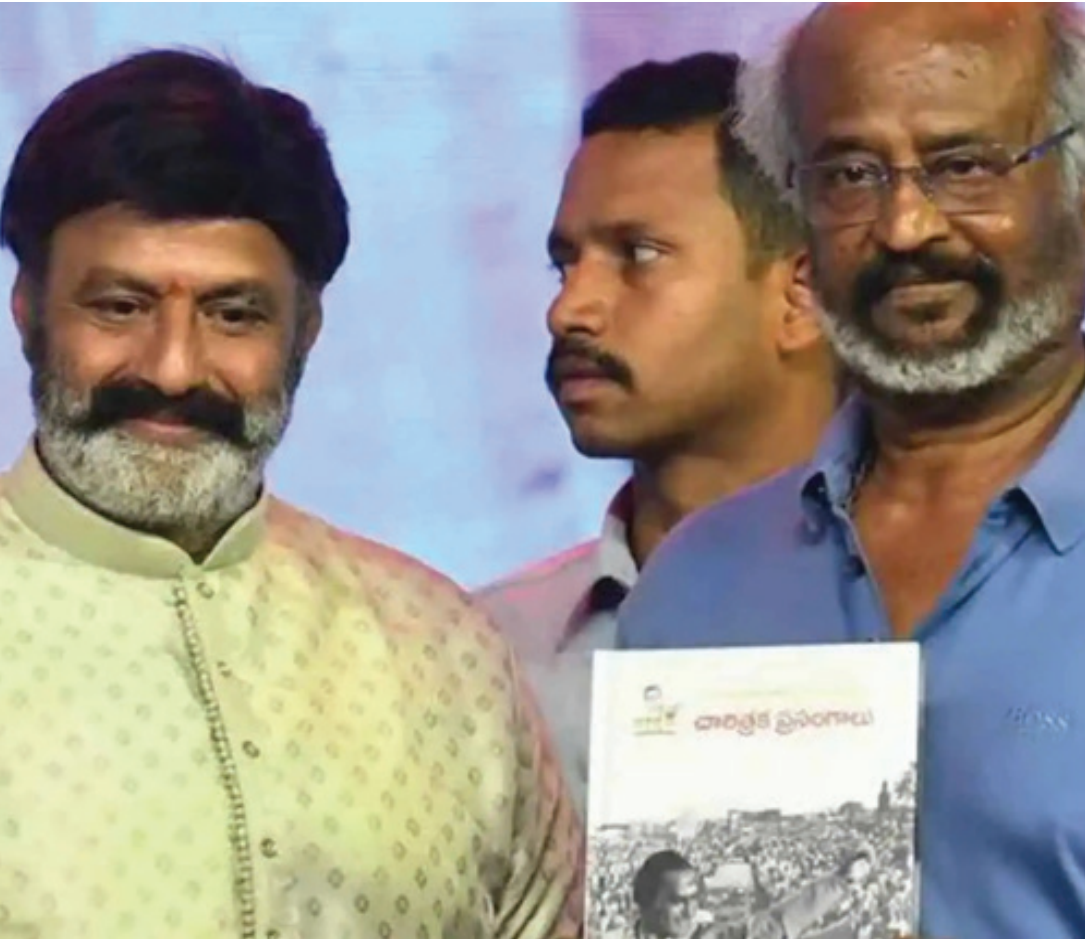
The actions of the Hyderabad Police have been widely appreciated across the film fraternity, with the arrest seen as a significant step toward curbing piracy and protecting the livelihoods of filmmakers, actors, and technicians in the Indian film industry.

Rajinikanth, Balakrishna to Receive Rare Honour at IFFI 2025

South Indian cinema legends Rajinikanth and Nandamuri Balakrishna are set to be honoured together at the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025 in Goa. The rare recognition marks the duo's remarkable achievement of completing 50 years in the Indian film industry, a milestone celebrated by fans across generations.

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan announced the decision during a media interaction in Goa. He said the government will felicitate both veteran actors at IFFI's closing ceremony in recognition of their “iconic body of work, extraordinary popularity, and their lasting influence on Indian storytelling.”

Rajinikanth, who began his cinematic journey with the 1975 Tamil film Apoorva Raagangal, has grown to become one of the most revered figures in



Indian cinema. His unmatched screen presence, unique style, and decades of blockbuster hits have earned him a massive global following. Nandamuri Bal-

akrishna, fondly known as Balayya, has also carved a legendary path with over 100 films to his credit across a career spanning five decades. Apart from cinema, he has a strong political presence as the MLA of Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh. Earlier this year, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, adding to his long list of accolades.

IFFI 2025 will be held from November 20 to 27 in Goa, with the closing ceremony scheduled at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium. This year, the festival has recorded registrations from 7,500 delegates, and will showcase 270 films from 84 countries, reaffirming its status as one of Asia's premier film events.

The joint honour for Rajinikanth and Balakrishna is expected to be one of the key highlights of the prestigious festival.

Akhanda 2: Second Single “Jajikaya Jajikaya” to Premiere at Jagadamba Theatre



Tollywood superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna is gearing up for the highly anticipated release of Akhanda 2, directed by Boyapati Sreenu. Following the success of the first Akhanda, expectations for the sequel are high, and the film's promotional activities are in full swing.

After releasing the teaser and the first single, the makers are now set to launch the second single, “Jajikaya Jajikaya”, a romantic dance number featuring a younger Balakrishna alongside Samyuktha. Fans have been eagerly awaiting this track, especially after the first single received a

mixed response.

The team has chosen the iconic Jagadamba Theatre in Vizag for the song's launch. The event is scheduled for 5 PM on November 18, 2025, and is expected to attract a large audience. The premiere aims to create significant buzz ahead of the movie's release.

Akhanda 2 also features Aadi Pinisetty as the antagonist, and the music is composed by Thaman. The film is produced under the 14 Reels Plus banner and is slated for release on December 5, 2025. It will be available in multiple languages, and a 3D version is also planned, adding to the

excitement among fans.

The film's combination of Balakrishna's screen presence, Boyapati Sreenu's direction, and Thaman's music has already generated a strong following. With the second single set to drop, audiences are keen to see if “Jajikaya Jajikaya” can match or surpass the popularity of the first track.

With promotional events and teasers keeping the momentum alive, Akhanda 2 is shaping up to be one of the biggest Tollywood releases of the year, promising high-octane action, drama, and engaging music for fans across the country.



Raveena Tandon's Daughter to Debut Opposite Mahesh Babu's Nephew

Raveena Tandon's daughter, Rasha Thadani, who gained widespread attention with the viral Uyi Amma song in Hindi cinema, is now set to make her Telugu film debut. She will star opposite Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary actor Krishna and nephew of superstar Mahesh Babu, who is also entering the film industry with this project.

The pairing has already created buzz among fans and industry insiders, as both actors hail from prominent film families with deep roots in Indian cinema. Their debut together is being closely watched for the chemistry and performance they bring to the screen.

The upcoming film is directed by Ajay Bhupathi and is described as an intense love story set against the culturally rich and visually captivating backdrop of Tirupati. The director aims to blend strong storytelling with striking visuals to create a memorable cinematic experience.

The project is produced by P. Kiran under the Chandamama Kathalu banner and is presented by veteran producer Ashwini Dutt, known for backing major Telugu films. The film's production is expected to begin regular shooting this month, with both debutants already signed on as the lead pair.

Rasha Thadani's entry into Telugu cinema adds to the growing trend of cross-industry debuts in India, while Jaya Krishna's launch continues the legacy of the Ghattamaneni family in Tollywood. Fans are particularly excited to see how these young actors, carrying the weight of their illustrious lineages, perform on the big screen.

With the combination of a fresh lead pair, an acclaimed director, and a seasoned production team, the film is anticipated to generate considerable attention ahead of its release, making it one of the most awaited debuts in Telugu cinema for 2025.