



1,167.50-Crore UGD Project for Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Set to Move Forward

Tenders likely Next Month

Ch Pradeep Kumar | Nov 18

MANGALAGIRI: The long-awaited underground drainage (UGD) system for Mangalagiri is finally inching closer to reality, with the Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation (MTMC) preparing to invite tenders next month. The Detailed Project Report (DPR), estimating the project cost at 1,167.50 crore, has already been submitted for administrative sanction, which officials expect to receive shortly. Once approved, the corporation will initiate the tendering process—marking the most significant step yet for this long-pending civic project.

The mega UGD project aims to establish a comprehensive sewerage network across the entire MTMC jurisdiction, excluding six villages—Bethapudi, Nowluru, Yerrabalem, Nidamarlu, Penumaka and Undavalli. The plan includes modern sewage treatment plants (STPs), an extensive pipeline network and full road restoration to minimise public inconvenience during execution.



Key Features of the

Proposed UGD System are Sewerage Zones: 20 Sewage Treatment Plants: 14 STPs above 1 MLD using SBR (Sequential Batch Reactor) technology 6 STPs below 1 MLD using FB Tech packaged treatment plants

Total Sewer Network: 540 km Sewage Pumping Stations: 17 Manholes: 21,000 Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation Commissioner Shaik Aleem Basha says that the project will drastically

improve sanitation, reduce groundwater contamination and enhance environmental standards across the rapidly expanding Mangalagiri-Tadepalli urban corridor. Lokesh's Pre-Poll Promise Now Taking Shape

Ahead of the 2024 elections, Nara Lokesh, then TDP candidate for Mangalagiri, had pledged to provide essential civic amenities, including a full-fledged underground drainage system. He announced a long-term master plan to equip Mangalagiri with infrastructure that would serve residents effectively for the next two decades.

After assuming office as Minister for IT, HRD and RTG, Lokesh has been actively pushing this commitment. A major UGD network, spanning 540 km and costing over 1,100 crore was approved in principle, and he directed officials to expedite work. Several review meetings were conducted to ensure the project's timely progress, with initial groundwork planned from mid-2025.

With tendering expected to commence soon, the ambitious UGD project is now on the path to becoming one of the largest civic infrastructure upgrades in the region.

C-DOT inks pact with Andhra govt; to set up Centre of Excellence in Amaravati Quantum Valley

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier R&D centre of the telecom department, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Andhra Pradesh government to participate in Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) initiative.

C-DOT plans to set up a centre of excellence (CoE) in quantum communication and security solutions, along with allied areas like privacy enhancement technologies (PETs), in Amaravati Quantum Valley, Andhra Pradesh.

At the proposed Centre at AQV, C-DOT will focus on quantum communication solutions. The Amaravati Quantum Valley aims to create an integrated quantum ecosystem bringing together hardware manufacturing, software development, talent pool, and research excellence.

The project is located in Amaravati and involves state-level partnerships, infrastructure, and training programmes.

"Andhra Pradesh government has taken a giant step in shaping India's quantum future with the initiative of setting up Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)," the Communications Ministry said in a release.

C-DOT's edge in the quantum communication field will help in providing the necessary resources and skill development to emerging players in India.

"It will support research and testing in the NQM (National Quantum Mission) aligned areas of quantum security solutions, along with the development of PETs to ensure compliance with MeitY's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) framework," the release said.

It will also focus on cost-effective sub-component development for quantum communication systems and establish an integrated testbed for quantum security, for quantum-safe ecosystem and enhancing digital privacy and data protection across the nation.

The MoU was exchanged in the presence of Nara Lokesh, Minister of IT, Government of Andhra Pradesh during the CII Partnership Summit at Vizag. PTI MBI

AP Govt, Kings Infra to establish RS. 500-acre Integrated Aquaculture Technology Park

Srikakulam: Kings Infra Ventures Limited has signed a landmark letter of intent with Government of Andhra Pradesh to develop the 500 crore, 500-acre Kings Maritime Aquaculture Technology Park near Srikakulam, close to Visakhapatnam. The project positions Andhra Pradesh as a global hub for smart, technology-driven and sustainable aquaculture. As part of the agreement, the Government has nominated the District Collector of Srikakulam to identify suitable land parcels and expedite all statutory approvals, enabling immediate commencement of Phase I operations once the land is finalized.



hub, it will house hatcheries, indoor farming systems, multi-species culture units, processing lines, a marine bio-actives division, and an AI-driven digital operations centre. Project to generate 1,500 direct and 10,000 indirect jobs in Andhra Pradesh

provals make this the ideal location for India's next-generation aquaculture hub. Our focus is to build a fully integrated ecosystem here - combining R&D, multi-species farming, digital farm management, processing, training, and bioeconomy verticals. This Technology Park will not only transform the aquaculture landscape of Andhra Pradesh but also generate large-scale employment, entrepreneurship, and export opportunities for the region."

A major highlight of the Park is the Aquaculture Skill & Innovation Centre, which will train and certify 5,000 aqua professionals over five years. Trainees will receive hands-on exposure to indoor RAS systems, IoT-enabled tanks, automated feeding systems, biosecurity protocols, and AI-powered farm management. The Centre will also support incubation, mentorship, and market access for MSMEs, strengthening entrepreneurship across Andhra Pradesh's coastal regions. Collaborations with CMFRI, CIFE, FS I, RGCA, Universities, and global institutions are being explored to augment research and capacity-building.

The Technology Park will be developed through a 500 crore direct investment by Kings Infra, participating investors and institutions for core infrastructure, processing, and R&D facilities, with an additional 2,000 crore expected to flow indirectly through ancillary industries, tank-based systems, MSME participation, and renewable energy clusters. Designed as a first-of-its-kind aquaculture innovation

The entire ecosystem will be digitally integrated using BlueTechOS, Kings Infra's proprietary AI operating system to be built and operated from Vizag. The platform will offer real-time water quality analytics, predictive disease alerts, automated feeding, machine learning dashboards, and end-to-end digital farm management-making this India's first fully AI-driven aquaculture park.

Mr. Shaji Baby John, Chairman & Managing Director, Kings Infra Ventures Ltd., said, "This is project is envisioned as a global model for smart and sustainable aquaculture. We invite international technology leaders, research institutions, and investors to join us in this path-breaking initiative. By integrating AI, biotechnology, automation, and renewable energy into a unified ecosystem, we aim to create the world's most advanced aquaculture platform - built in India, for the world. With the strong support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, this Technology Park will unlock new frontiers for the Blue Economy, generate significant economic and employment opportunities, and set global benchmarks for responsible food production."

The Park will support multi-species culture including shrimp (L. vannamei and black tiger), seabass, grouper, tilapia, mud crab and select freshwater and marine species, enabling year-round production and diversified export markets. A dedicated Marine Nutraceutical & Bio-actives Unit will convert biomass into high-value ingredients such as astaxanthin, Omega-3 oils, marine collagen and seaweed-based bioactives, strengthening the project's circular economy model.

Honourable Minister for MSME, Shri Kondapalli Srinivas, shared the following remarks - "Andhra Pradesh is India's largest aquaculture-producing hub. Under the leadership and vision of our Honourable Chief Minister, the Kings Maritime Aquaculture Technology Park stands as India's first-of-its-kind initiative. We are committed to extending the highest level of support to this project and will ensure seamless single-window clearance from land identification to all required approvals. The Chief Minister's Vision 2030-One Entrepreneur in Every Household-will be greatly strengthened through the R&D and training programs planned as part of this project. We welcome Kings Infra's decision to build this transformative ecosystem in Srikakulam and are confident that it will accelerate our broader goals of coastal development, entrepreneurship expansion, and positioning Andhra Pradesh as a preferred global destination for responsible aquaculture."

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CM, Lokesh to Attend Nitish Kumar's Swearing-In Ceremony in Patna



TPN/VIJAYAWADA Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister for IT, HRD and RTG, Nara Lokesh, will travel to Patna on November 20 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Bihar Chief Minister-designate Nitish Kumar. Both leaders have received formal invitations to participate in the event, which will see Nitish Kumar take oath as Chief Minister once again. Minister Nara

Lokesh had earlier taken part in the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) campaign during the Bihar Assembly elections and also interacted with Bihar-based industrialists as part of his investment outreach initiatives. Their visit to Patna is seen as a continuation of Andhra Pradesh's engagement with national political leadership and its ongoing efforts to build stronger interstate collaborations.

AP's Energy Efficiency Model Wins National Praise

6 Lakh PMAY Homes to Get BEE-Star Appliances by 2026

TPN/VIJAYAWADA The South-West Regional Conference held in Hyderabad on Tuesday lauded Andhra Pradesh for emerging as a front-runner in implementing Energy Efficiency (EE) initiatives across housing, urban local bodies, MSMEs and the tourism sector. Delegates and national EE experts appreciated the State's rapid progress, particularly its large-scale collaboration with Energy Efficiency

Services Ltd. (EESL), a joint venture of central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power.

The conference acknowledged Andhra Pradesh's pioneering move to distribute BEE star-rated energy-efficient appliances to all beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), following instructions from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The programme, executed jointly by the Housing Department and EESL, aims to supply energy-efficient appliance kits to nearly 6 lakh households by the end of 2026.

Special Chief Secretary (Housing & Tourism) Ajay Jain announced

that the initiative, expected to save 10.24 million kWh annually and reduce electricity expenditure by nearly 6.07 crore every year, will become India's largest energy savings project in the housing sector. Over 18,000 households have already received BEE-star rated appliances under the first phase. Each PMAY household will now receive a kit comprising 4 LED bulbs, 2 LED tube lights, and 2 five-star BLDC fans. The appliances will be funded through the State's enhanced financial assistance—50,000 for SC and BC families, 75,000 for STs, and 1,00,000 for PVTG beneficiaries.

The EESL will supply



a minimum of 24 lakh LED bulbs, 12 lakh LED battens, and 12 lakh five-star ceiling fans to the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Ltd. (APSHCL). CM Naidu has set 2026 as the deadline for project completion.

The EE efforts of AP Tourism also received high commendation. In partnership with EESL, the department is introducing global-standard geothermal technology in Araku Valley for water heating, space heating and integrated clean

energy applications. The system promises 50-70% energy savings, a payback period of 4-5 years, and a lifecycle exceeding 15 years. Delegates noted that this innovation would further enhance Araku's global identity as a sustainable tourism

hub. During the Centre-State conference, chaired by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, senior officials and ministers from southern states, including Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, participated. Representing AP, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Minister P. Narayana, Special CS Ajay Jain, Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, and CD MA P. Sampath Kumar briefed the gathering on Andhra Pradesh's progress.

Union Minister Khattar praised the AP government for delivering high-quality urban ser-

vices and implementing India's largest LED street lighting programme. Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar also announced a major upgrade in urban public lighting, with 10 lakh LED streetlights to be installed or modernised in partnership with EESL—positioning AP as one of the best-lit states in the country.

TERI executive Girish commended Andhra Pradesh for signing MoUs worth nearly 5,000 crore with central agencies within a single day, describing the State's aggressive push for energy efficiency as a model for the nation.



Red book Governance Took Satish Kumar's Life, Says Nani

TPN Bureau | November 18

Vijayawada: Former minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) launched a sharp attack on the Chandrababu Naidu-led government, alleging that a deliberate attempt was being made to suppress facts and engineer a cover-up in the mysterious death of former TTD Assistant Vigilance and Security Officer (AVSO) and Circle Inspector (CI) Satish Kumar. He demanded that the investigation be immediately handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), stating that only an impartial national agency could bring out the truth behind the case.

Speaking to reporters in Vijayawada, Nani described the circumstances surrounding Satish Kumar's death as highly suspicious and accused the state government of obstructing transparency. He expressed shock that only one "favoured" television channel was permitted access to the body for nearly two hours, while the victim's family members and other media outlets were prevented from approaching the scene. "Such selective access and secrecy reflect the government's intention to control the narrative rather than uncover the truth," he remarked.



The former minister alleged that the police acted in an unusually secretive manner — seizing the mobile phone of Satish Kumar's wife and cordoning off the residence without showing a copy of the FIR. He questioned why the Station House Officer (SHO), Investigating Officer (IO), and Superintendent of Police (SP) had not issued public statements to clarify the situation. Nani further demanded to know why Railway Protection Force personnel, Traveling Ticket Examiners (TTEs), and all 54 co-passengers traveling with Satish Kumar in the A1 coach had not been thoroughly examined.

Highlighting multiple inconsistencies, Nani pointed out that Satish Kumar reportedly left home around 7 p.m. but reached the railway station only at 12:50 a.m. "What happened during those missing hours? If there was an assault inside the coach, why are there no bloodstains or eyewitness reports? Why did no railway official file a complaint?" he asked. He added that preventing close relatives from identifying the body and keeping them away from the site deepened public suspicion and undermined faith in the ongoing investigation.

Nani also criticised what he called a coordinated propaganda campaign launched by pro-TDP media outlets and the party's official website, which swiftly branded the death as part of a YSRCP conspiracy even before an FIR or post-mortem report was released. He asked why no cases had been filed against those disseminating false and divisive material on social media. "Party leaders who spread such poisonous narratives must be held accountable under law," he asserted.

Warning that the arrest of opposition leaders, such as the recent detention of Karumuri Venkata Reddy, would not silence dissenting voices, Nani said the people of Andhra Pradesh were witnessing every act of abuse of power: "Whether it is a case of suicide or murder, the truth must come out. Political theatrics and secretive policing cannot be allowed to replace justice," he concluded.

Nani reiterated his demands for a CBI probe, public disclosure of CCTV footage and call data, questioning of all persons linked to the train journey, and the immediate return of the seized phone. "The people are watching," he said, "and they will not forgive those who manipulate the truth."

Sridevi stated that global corporations coming together on a single platform and expressing strong interest in Andhra Pradesh signalled the beginning of a new investment era. While the government initially projected 9.5 lakh crore in investments, 410 MoUs, and over 7 lakh jobs, the final outcomes exceeded expectations, she said. "Industrialists queued up to invest in Andhra Pradesh. Even during the 2014-19 period, YSRCP's late leader Gautham Reddy admitted in the Assembly that 5 lakh crore investments and 5 lakh jobs were created under Naidu's leadership. That proves the credibility his administration enjoyed," she said.

Sridevi highlighted that this year's summit saw nearly 25 lakh crore in investments and 610 MoUs, creating around 25 lakh jobs—far beyond election manifesto projections. The CM personally held 24 business meetings during the summit, while delegates from Mexico, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, Europe and New Zealand participated, reflecting global attention on Andhra Pradesh. She credited Minister Nara Lokesh's overseas tours—including Dubai, London and Davos for securing major investments, particularly the Global Cloud project expected to generate 1.3 lakh jobs. Sridevi also detailed sector-wise investment inflows: power (33,000 crore), manufacturing (80,000 crore), infrastructure (2 lakh crore), IT (1.6 lakh crore), APCRDA projects (48,000 crore), tourism (21,000 crore) and significant inflows into food processing, textiles, health and education.

Highlighting the government's priority for green energy, she cited the RJ Group's subsidiary, Vols & Labs, which is setting up two gigawatt-scale units at Tirupati-Naidupeta with an investment of 1,743 crore, creating 615 jobs.

CII Summit a Grand Success, YSRCP Leadership Under Pressure: Undavalli

TPN Bureau | November 18

Vijayawada: The recently concluded CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam has transformed the investment landscape of Andhra Pradesh, marking a decisive shift towards making the state a global investment hub, said former MLA and AP Madiga Corporation Chairperson Undavalli Sridevi. Addressing the media at the TDP central office on Tuesday, she said that the two-day summit showcased to the world the efforts of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh in attracting unprecedented investor confidence.

Sridevi said the CM is committed to balanced regional development, promoting Amaravati as the capital while establishing industrial, IT, energy and manufacturing hubs across Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and North Andhra. She credited the progress to Naidu's vision, Lokesh's efforts, and the support of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's double-engine governance. She warned that if the YSRCP continues its misinformation campaigns, it may struggle to win even 11 seats in the next elections, as people are fully aware of the truth.



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Centre Responds Positively to Cotton Farmers' Issues: Atchennaidu

TPN Bureau | November 18

Vijayawada: The long-pending concerns of cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh appear to be moving towards a solution, with the Union Government showing positive intent on several proposals previously submitted by the state government. State Minister for Agriculture, Cooperation, Animal Husbandry, Marketing, Dairy and Fisheries K Atchennaidu announced that significant progress has been made following continuous communication between the state and central governments.

Atchennaidu said that the Centre has responded favourably to six key recommendations earlier sent by the state to resolve the difficulties faced by cotton growers. Of these, three recommendations have already been acted upon, with implementation initiated in phases. This intervention, he noted, has helped clear several hurdles in cotton procurement across the state, allowing procurement centres to begin operations gradually. However, the Minister highlighted that the recent impact of Cyclone Montha has severely affected cotton quality, with moisture levels and discoloration rendering much of the produce ineligible under the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) standards.

To mitigate this situation, the state government has urged the Centre to swiftly implement the remaining three recommendations that are yet to be approved. These include simultaneous opening of L1, L2, and L3 ginning mills to prevent procurement bottlenecks, allowing the purchase of cotton with 12%-18% moisture content with proportionate price deductions, and permitting procurement of rain-soaked or discoloured cotton with suitable price adjustments. Atchennaidu said these measures would provide much-needed relief to farmers whose yields have been damaged by heavy rains and cyclonic winds. He informed that he personally briefed Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on these issues in detail, explaining the immediate need for central intervention.

The Union Minister, he said, responded positively, raising expectations of favourable decisions soon. Atchennaidu assured that the state government will continue to follow up with the Centre until all pending concerns of cotton farmers are fully addressed. Providing a detailed overview of the current scenario, the Minister stated that cotton cultivation during the 2025-26 kharif season spanned 5.39 lakh hectares across Andhra Pradesh, with an estimated production of nearly eight lakh metric tonnes.



The state has already issued clear guidelines to ensure that the CCI procures cotton from farmers at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). To ensure effective and transparent operations, district-level procurement committees headed by Joint Collectors and field-level monitoring committees led by Marketing Officials have been constituted. These committees have been tasked with supervising procurement activities and addressing grievances from farmers on the ground.

Atchennaidu said that 11 market yards and 64 ginning mills have been identified as procurement centres across the state. As of now, 72,240 quintals of cotton worth 56.59 crore have been purchased from 2,793 farmers through 19 ginning mills. While nearly all procurement centres are operational, he noted that factors such as high moisture content, incomplete picking in certain districts, and farmers waiting to combine their first and second pickings have caused some delay in achieving full-scale procurement.

The Minister directed Village Agriculture Assistants to support farmers in booking procurement slots through the Kapas Kisan and CM apps. He emphasised that coordinated efforts between the state and central governments will ensure that farmers receive timely compensation and fair prices for their produce despite the cyclone's impact.

Development Works Launched to Transform Machilipatnam: Minister Kollu Ravindra

TPN Bureau | November 18

Vijayawada: Machilipatnam, a town with a rich history spanning more than a century, must no longer lag in development, asserted State Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra. The Minister toured several neighbourhoods across the city and laid foundation stones for multiple key civic projects.

In the 48th division, he inaugurated drainage pipeline works, followed by the launch of three culverts and two drainage projects at the Raju Peta New Mosque Centre in the 35th division. He later initiated culvert and HDPE pipeline works near the Nizam Peta Ranga statue road.

Addressing a public meeting, the Minister recalled that Machilipatnam Municipality, with a 150-year legacy, was upgraded to a Municipal Corporation between 2014 and 2019. He credited leaders Vadde Rangarao, Nadakuditi Narasimha Rao and Bacchula Arjunudu for earlier road development initiatives, noting that nearly 95% of roads in the city have now been converted into cement concrete (CC) roads. The remaining works would be completed soon, he added.



Ravindra highlighted efforts to resolve drinking water issues, including the construction of a 20 MLD water plant and eight reservoirs, which now supply water across all areas. Proposals worth 60 crore have been sent for municipal drainage works, while an additional 13 crore has been requested from the Chief Minister for major drains. He accused the previous government of neglecting TIDCO housing and said the current administration has redistributed those houses to the poor. Land will soon be allotted—three cents in villages and two cents in towns—for new housing schemes.

The Minister said the government has successfully delivered on its "Super Six" poll promises, including enhanced pensions of 4,000, free bus travel for women, free LPG cylinders and financial support through Annadata Sukhibhava. He added that the recent CII Summit attracted over 13 lakh crore in investment proposals, with the potential to create 15 lakh jobs. With new investor-friendly policies, the state aims to regain its position as a global destination for industry and growth, he concluded.

Govt Schools Being Upgraded on Par with Private Institutions: Minister Gottipati

Free Bicycles Distributed to Improve Student Attendance

TPN Bureau | November 18

Addanki: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the government is committed to strengthening government schools to the level of private educational institutions. On Tuesday, the Minister distributed 110 free bicycles to students of the PSNCC Zilla Parishad High School in Muppavaram village of J Pangaluru mandal, Addanki constituency. The bicycles were provided with the support of Italian-based NGOs ISP and Assist.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the reforms introduced by Education Minister Nara Lokesh have placed Andhra Pradesh's education system on a progressive path. Despite financial constraints, the coalition government has filled over 16,300 teacher posts through DSC to bolster school education. To reduce absenteeism and prevent students from dropping out due to long travel distances, bicycles are being distributed to high-school students using CSR funds, he said.

The Minister added that more than 5,100 students in the Addanki constituency—including those from Addanki Junior College—have so far received free bicycles. He thanked industrialists, business groups, donors and CSR partners for supporting this initiative. He urged students to make the best use of these opportunities, study well and aspire to reach great heights.



Minister Ravi Kumar expressed confidence that bicycle distribution will significantly increase school attendance. He also advised students to be cautious while riding on national highways and instructed teachers to train them on safe cycling practices. Parents too should guide their children on road safety, he added. Local leaders, NGO representatives and parents participated in the programme.

85 Lakh Link Road Approved Near Uppalapadu In another event, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, along with MLA Aravind Babu and MP Krishnadevarayalu, laid the foundation stone for a new BT road connecting Uppalapadu village to the Narasaraopet-Vinukonda R&B road up to NTR Colony. The road will be built at a cost of 85 lakh under MGNREGS funds.

State's Paddy Procurement Reaches 2.36 Lakh Metric Tonnes; 560 Crore Credited to Farmers



TPN Bureau | November 18, 2025

Vijayawada: Paddy procurement across Andhra Pradesh is progressing on a massive scale with transparent procedures to ensure farmers face no inconvenience, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Nandendla Manohar announced on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference at the Civil Supplies Bhavan in Kanuru, Vijayawada Rural, the minister said that so far, 2,36,284 metric tonnes of paddy have been procured from 32,793 farmers and around 560.48 crore has been credited directly into their bank accounts.

He said the current procurement figures represent a 30 percent increase over the same period last year when 1,81,885 metric tonnes were purchased. This year's farmer participation has also risen by 36 percent compared to the previous season, with a majority being small and marginal cultivators. Around 6,600 tenant farmers have also benefited from the ongoing procurement drive, the minister noted. Manohar said the procurement operations are being implemented in a planned and transparent manner at the field level, with around 16,000 personnel working across the state under the supervision of district collectors and joint collectors.

The government, he said, is committed to ensuring farmers receive the Minimum Support Price without delays or middlemen interference. Highlighting the government's efficiency, the minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, payments are being credited within 48 hours and in many cases even earlier. "Ours is the first government in the country to ensure payment within 48 hours, and we are now achieving the same within 24 hours," he said.

As examples, he cited Guntur farmer Patipati Subba Rao, who received 2.08 lakh in six hours, and Bhimadolu farmer Neelam Trimurthulu, whose payment was processed in five hours. To address logistical issues, the government has made available 6.34 crore gunny bags across farmer service centers and installed GPS devices on all transporting vehicles for real-time monitoring.

In view of the low-pressure weather system forecast for November 23-24, about 50,000 tarpaulins have been distributed to district-level centers, and nearly 19,000 have already been supplied free of cost to farmers, he said. Introducing new technology-driven reforms, Manohar said Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to enable farmers to schedule their paddy sales via WhatsApp. By sending "Hi" to 73373 59375, farmers automatically receive information about their region, acreage, and sale schedule. More than 500 farmers have already used this facility. Additionally, a toll-free helpline (1967) has been set up for farmers to report procurement-related grievances. Looking ahead, the minister said the state aims to procure a record 51 lakh metric tonnes this season.

The government is also purchasing fine-quality varieties to be supplied under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to provide students with high-quality rice in schools. Civil Supplies Corporation Vice Chairman and Managing Director S. Delhi Rao also attended the press conference.



Vijayawada Gears Up For Bhavani Deeksha Viramana



TPN/VIJAYAWADA
The NTR district administration has begun large-scale preparations to ensure a smooth and satisfying darshan experience for devotees participating in the Bhavani Deeksha Viramana (Relinquishment), from December 11 to 15. District Collector Dr G LakshmiSha and City Police Commissioner SV Rajasekh ar Babu reviewed the arrangements in a coordination meeting held with officials from various departments, including Joint Collector S Ilakkiya and Kanaka Durga Temple EO VK Seena Naik. Speaking at the meeting, District Collector Dr LakshmiSha said that more than six lakh devotees

are expected to arrive this year during the Relinquishment of the 41-day Bhavani Deeksha, significantly higher than last year's 3.2 lakh. He said that devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states undertake the Deeksha with strict discipline, perform daily rituals, and visit Goddess Kanaka Durga to offer Irumudulu and relinquish their vows. With around one lakh devotees expected each day and nearly 1.5 lakh on the final two days, the Collector stressed the need for meticulous planning. Drawing from the successful management of the recent Dasara celebrations—where larger-than-expected crowds

were handled efficiently—he urged all departments to work with the same coordination and dedication. The district administration has created 36 sectors, each assigned a special officer for continuous monitoring. Key areas such as holding points, tonsure centres, bathing ghats, giri pradakshina routes, queue lines, irumudulu counters, homa gundams and laddu sale counters will have round-the-clock supervision. Information centres will make regular announcements to guide devotees. To manage heavy footfall, the administration plans to increase the number of laddu counters

and free food distribution centres. Arrangements are in place to accommodate more than 10,000 devotees offering Kalasha Jyothis. Queue lines will have waterproof tents and coir mats, replaced periodically. Additional temporary toilets will be set up at holding points and along busy routes. Dedicated staff will manage discarded Deeksha clothes at bathing ghats. A special coordination team will function from the Command Control Centre for real-time monitoring. Police Commissioner Rajasekh ar Babu stated that robust police bandobast is being arranged, supported by over 300 CCTV cameras and drone

surveillance at key points to respond swiftly to any issues. Temple EO VK Seena Naik said planned arrangements similar to Dasara are underway. Three homa gundams will be set up for Irumudulu offerings. Free distribution of small laddus and pulihora, expansion of cloakrooms, 14 laddu counters, a 24-hour tonsure centre with 850 barbers, 20 lakh laddus and 15 lakh water bottles have been planned to serve devotees smoothly. Officials from police, revenue, health, VMC, fire, irrigation, electricity, fisheries, R&B and information departments participated in the review meeting.

Pharmacy Students Urged to Build Soft Skills, Industry Readiness to Drive India's Pharma Growth



Pharmacy students in India must go beyond strong academic foundations and actively cultivate soft skills and industry-aligned competencies, said R. Ramesh Chandra, Assistant Director of the Central Bureau of Communication, on Monday. In his address at the inauguration of the 64th National Pharmacy Week celebrations, he emphasized that technical knowledge alone is no longer sufficient; young pharmacists must be agile communicators,

team players, and lifelong learners to effectively contribute to India's rapidly evolving pharmaceutical sector. The event was held at Vijaya Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences for Women in Enikepadu and was jointly organised by the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) and its student arm, the IPA Students' Forum (IPASF). This year's theme — "Pharmacists as Advocates of Vaccination" — underscores the vital role

pharmacists play not only in dispensing medicines, but also in promoting public health by educating communities about immunisation. Chandra highlighted that as vaccination gains renewed importance in light of global public health challenges, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between healthcare systems and the communities they serve. With their accessibility and trust, pharmacists can emerge as key players in India's

counsel hesitant individuals, and support government immunisation drives. He urged pharmacy graduates to prepare for this expanded role by developing interpersonal skills, problem-solving abilities, and professionalism. These, he said, are just as critical as pharmaceutical knowledge. By combining rigorous academic training with soft skills and real-world experience, pharmacy students can emerge as key players in India's

pharma industry — driving innovation, supporting public health, and contributing to the nation's goal of becoming a global pharmaceutical powerhouse. As the IPA and IPASF continue their efforts through National Pharmacy Week, Chandra's message resonated strongly: the future of pharmacy in India hinges not only on scientific expertise, but also on the ability to communicate, lead, and advocate.

RPF–GRP Joint Operation Cracks Mobile Theft Network

TPN/VIJAYAWADA
In a major breakthrough under Operation Yatri Suraksha, a joint team of Railway Protection Force, Vijayawada Post and GRP Out Post Gudivada successfully apprehended two mobile phone offenders, leading to the recovery of 26 stolen mobile phones worth approximately 5,70,000. The operation was launched in response to a surge in mobile theft incidents within the Gudivada RPS limits. To tackle the rising cases, Post Commander (Inspector RPF), Vijayawada Post and Inspector Railway Police, Vijayawada formed specialised teams that

carried out discreet surveillance and gathered human intelligence from multiple sources. Their sustained efforts culminated today, 18.11.2025 at around 07:30 hrs, when two wanted offenders were intercepted in the Gudivada local area. During interrogation, the accused were identified as SK. Karimulla, aged 39, from Tenali in Guntur District, and Antony Chinnappa, aged 35, from Dhone in Ananthapur District. A total of 26 mobile phones were seized from their possession, including devices linked to Cr.No. 43/2025 and Cr.No. 34/2025 under Section 303(2) BNS. Notably,

the recovered items included an iPhone 14 and multiple Vivo phones of significant value. In addition to these identified crime cases, 23 untraced mobile phones related to earlier GRP Gudivada cases were also recovered, providing a significant boost to ongoing investigations. After completion of legal formalities, both accused were released on bail. This successful operation underscores the commitment of RPF and GRP teams in safeguarding passengers and strengthening security measures across Vijayawada Division.

33 lakh worth of school infra handed over to 13 primary schools

TPN/VIJAYAWADA
Thirteen government primary schools in Mangalagiri mandal have received a major infrastructural boost with the distribution of school material worth 33 lakh. The support was extended by representatives of TKVM Motors Private Limited, as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative. The company handed over essential infrastructure items including benches, chairs, and other learning-related material required to improve the classroom environment. Officials said the assistance aims to address long-standing shortages in basic facilities across several government schools in the mandal. District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Anyari appreciated the contribution

and said such partnerships play a significant role in strengthening government schools. He noted that improved infrastructure directly enhances the learning atmosphere and helps students stay engaged in academics. According to officials, the donated material will benefit hundreds of students studying in these 13 primary schools, many of which had been functioning with inadequate seating and limited classroom resources. The new equipment is expected to ease the burden on teachers and provide a more comfortable and organised learning space for children. Representatives from TKVM Motors said they were committed to supporting educational development in the region. They added that this initiative

was part of a broader effort to contribute to community welfare and ensure that students in government schools have access to basic facilities comparable to those in private institutions. The material was formally handed over to the officials of the district education department, who will coordinate its distribution and installation in the respective schools. TKVM Motors R&D Head Nitin, Senior Executive Ratikapru, and several other company staff participated in the event, along with district education department officials. The programme concluded with assurances from both sides to continue collaborative efforts for the betterment of school infrastructure in the district.

Auto Driver Climbs Cell Tower in Protest Over Missing Welfare Benefit

Echerla, November 18: Tension prevailed at Yatapeta in Kushalapuram area of Echerla mandal on Tuesday afternoon after an auto driver climbed a cell tower, alleging that he had been denied financial assistance under a recently launched government scheme. According to sources, the Andhra Pradesh government had recently rolled out the 'Ato Drivarla Sevala' welfare scheme, under which eligible auto drivers were promised financial support of 15,000 each. While thousands reportedly received the benefit, Dasari Kalyan Kumar, an auto driver from Bonthala Koduru village in Echerla mandal, claimed that his name was left out and the amount was not credited to his account. Frustrated over the delay, Kalyan Kumar reportedly climbed a cell tower near Yatapeta around 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday. From atop the structure, he expressed anguish over being excluded from the scheme and demanded immediate sanction of the promised financial



support. He declared that he would not come down until officials assured him that his grievance would be addressed. The dramatic protest lasted for nearly an hour, drawing the attention of locals and passers-by, who gathered at the spot in large numbers. Upon receiving information, Echerla SI-2 V. Apparao along with a police team rushed to the location and initiated efforts to pacify the auto driver. Police officers engaged him in dialogue, assuring him that they would take up the matter with the concerned authorities

and ensure that his application under the scheme was processed without further delay. After sustained persuasion, Kalyan Kumar finally climbed down from the tower. Police officials later stated that they would forward his issue to the relevant departments for prompt action. The incident has highlighted the gaps in the implementation of welfare schemes and the growing frustration among beneficiaries who are left out due to technical or administrative lapses.

Andhra Tourists Escape Unhurt in Road Accident Near Aryankavu Temple in Kerala

TPN Bureau | November 18

Vijayawada - Kerala: A group of tourists from Andhra Pradesh narrowly escaped a serious road accident that took place near Aryankavu Temple in Kerala on Tuesday. According to initial reports from local authorities, a passenger van carrying pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh collided with an auto-rickshaw in the vicinity of the temple, a well-known location in the Kollam district. The incident reportedly occurred in the afternoon, creating a brief traffic disruption on the busy hill route connecting Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Eyewitnesses said the van was proceeding toward Punalur after visiting the Aryankavu



shrine when it accidentally hit an auto coming from the opposite direction. The impact left the front portion of the auto mangled, while the van sustained minor body damage. However, officials confirmed that the occupants of the van identified as pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh were safe and did not

suffer any injuries. Local residents and other motorists quickly rushed to the site to assist those involved. The injured individuals from the auto-rickshaw, reportedly natives of Kerala, were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital in Thennmala for medical attention. Preliminary reports suggest that at least one or two passengers in the auto sustained minor injuries, while the vehicle driver is recovering and reported to be out of danger. Police officers from the Aryankavu Station reached the scene shortly after the accident to clear the traffic and investigate the circumstances. Officers conducted inquiries with both drivers and witnesses to determine if overspeeding or sudden maneuvering led to the crash. Early findings indicate that slippery road conditions caused by light rain may have contributed to the mishap. The Aryankavu-Punalur route is one of the scenic yet narrow mountain roads that often see heavy traffic during pilgrimage seasons. Officials have urged motorists to drive cautiously, particularly during evenings and on curves where visibility is low. The local administration has also reiterated its plan to enhance road safety measures in the region, including the installation of warning signs and reflective markers. While the Andhra Pradesh pilgrims resumed their journey after the formalities were completed, the incident served as a reminder of the need for vigilance on hilly roads connecting state borders. Authorities are continuing their investigation and have assured follow-up safety monitoring in the area.

Special Officers Appointed to Oversee Arrangements For PM

TPN Bureau | November 18

Puttaparthi: Preparations are in full swing in Puttaparthi ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit on November 19 to participate in the centenary celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The Andhra Pradesh government has stepped up arrangements to ensure smooth conduct of the event and a hassle-free experience for the thousands of devotees expected to attend. To oversee various aspects of the arrangements, the state government has appointed three senior IAS officers Gopalakrishna, Govindarao, and Kalyan Chakravarthy as special officers. They have been instructed to stay in Puttaparthi until the conclusion of the Prime Minister's visit and co-

ordinate with district officials to ensure that all administrative and security measures run efficiently. In addition to the senior officers, one Joint Collector and nine Deputy Collectors from nearby districts have been given additional responsibilities to assist with logistics, crowd management, and inter-departmental coordination. The appointments were made under orders issued by State Chief Secretary Dr. Neerabh Kumar Prasad (as per recent administrative communication), ensuring a well-defined chain of command for the event's execution. The government has emphasized that top priority will be given to public safety, transport management, and communication systems during the visit. Traffic control plans, parking arrangements, medical

aid centers, and emergency services are being strengthened. The district police and transport officials have been instructed to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of the movement of devotees and VIP convoys. A team of state ministers held a detailed review meeting on Monday to evaluate the progress of preparations. Ministers Anagani Satya Prasad and Savitha, along with Nodal Officers NT Krishnababu and Veerapandian, chaired the review at the Puttaparthi Collectorate's PGRS conference hall. Officials from revenue, police, roads and buildings, and health departments briefed the ministers on the status of works related to security, accommodation, sanitation, and cultural arrangements. The committee also reviewed

Road Development Works Worth Rs 85 Lakh Launched in Narasaraopet

TPN Bureau | November 18

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): A new road construction project worth 85 lakh was formally launched in Narasaraopet on Tuesday, marking another milestone in the region's ongoing infrastructure development efforts. The project involves the construction of a tar road connecting the Uppalapadu NTR Colony layout to the main Vinukonda Road. The work is being undertaken with funds sanctioned under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).



Palnadu District Minister-in-Charge Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Member of Parliament Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, and local MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu laid the foundation stone for the project during a special ceremony attended by local public representatives, municipal officials, and residents of NTR Colony. Addressing the gathering, MLA Aravind Babu said the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has been giving top priority to both development and welfare since coming to power. He noted that rapid progress is being made across the state, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas such as Narasaraopet, where road, drainage, and light-

ing infrastructure are being upgraded to improve living standards. Highlighting the long-pending demand of NTR Colony residents, the MLA said the government decided to take up the construction of this vital road to ensure better connectivity and convenience for commuters. The new tar road will be 850 meters long and 60 meters wide, providing a durable and smooth link between the layout and the main thoroughfare. In addition to the main road, the project includes the development of side drains, internal roads, a modern drainage system, and the installation of new streetlights. These works are expected to be completed by March 2026. The MLA assured citizens that the infrastructure improvements would not only enhance accessibility but also add value to the locality by promoting residential growth and improved sanitation. Minister Ravi Kumar described the project as a reflection of the government's commitment to balanced regional development. He said state and central funds are being utilized effectively to modernize civic infrastructure in towns like Narasaraopet, which play a vital role in the district's urban expansion. MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu added that the road project would significantly benefit motorists and residents alike, facilitating easier transport and economic activity in the area. State Library Chairman Gonuguntla Koteswara Rao, Narasaraopet Municipal Corporation Chairman, several directors, and local officials participated in the ceremonial event. Residents of NTR Colony expressed their gratitude to the government for fulfilling a longstanding requirement and assured full cooperation for the timely completion of the works. The new road project is expected to greatly ease local commuting challenges while symbolizing the government's promise to deliver development at the grassroots level through sustained investment in civic infrastructure.

Development Boost for Government Schools in Chilakaluripet



TPN Bureau | November 18

Chilakaluripet (Palnadu District): Former Minister and MLA Prattipati Pulla Rao announced that government schools across Nadendla and Yadlapadu mandals will soon see major improvements in basic infrastructure, following the sanctioning of 1.62 crore by Education Minister Nara Lokesh. The funds have been allotted under the BIGS (Basic Infrastructure Facilities in Government Schools) programme to strengthen facilities and improve the learning environment for students. Speaking at a media conference in Chilakaluripet, Prattipati Pulla Rao said the newly sanctioned amount is an additional allocation, building on earlier grants provided for school development in the constituency. He recalled that Minister Lokesh had earlier responded positively to his appeal by

granting 2.10 crore for the development of government schools in rural and urban areas of Chilakaluripet, with support from the Central government. The latest announcement, he said, reflects the government's continuing commitment to improving education facilities across the constituency. According to Pulla Rao, the funds will be utilized for constructing toilets, providing safe drinking water facilities, setting up computer rooms, science laboratories, and building boundary walls for government schools in Nadendla and Yadlapadu mandals. The initiative aims to ensure clean, safe, and technology-enabled learning environments for students. The former minister appreciated Minister Lokesh for giving due consideration to his proposals and acting swiftly on them. He noted that the additional funds were sanctioned after a detailed review of

school infrastructure needs and consultations with local representatives and education authorities. Pulla Rao expressed gratitude to both the state and central governments for supporting the educational development of his constituency. He said the latest sanction would greatly benefit school children, especially those studying in rural and remote areas where facilities are often limited. Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive education, he stated that investments in basic amenities would directly improve student attendance, retention, and overall academic performance. Thanking the Education Minister on behalf of teachers, parents, and students, the MLA reiterated his commitment to continuing efforts for educational advancement and infrastructural development across the Chilakaluripet constituency.

Collector Kritika Shukla Urges Massive Plantation Drive to Promote "Haritha Palnadu" Vision

TPN Bureau | November 18

Narasaraopet | Palnadu District: District Collector Kritika Shukla has called for a large-scale plantation drive across Palnadu to transform the district into a lush green region under the vision of "Haritha Palnadu." Speaking at a review meeting of the district-level committee for the "Vana-Manam" programme held at the S.R. Shankaran Conference Hall in the Collectorate premises, she emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to achieve this goal. The Collector instructed officials to utilize every available open space, including those in educational institutions and office premises, for planting saplings on a large scale. Each department was directed to sub-

mit reports on the plantation targets assigned and achieved. She also advised that plantation activities be integrated with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to ensure local participation and proper maintenance. During the meeting, officials reviewed the performance of the Social Forestry Department in Palnadu during 2024-2025, particularly under schemes like NREGS, CAMP, and MP funds. The plan also includes a five-year action programme (2025-2026 to 2029-2030) involving departments such as Forest, Horticulture, Sericulture, DWMA, ITC, educational institutions, NGOs, and other agencies. This initiative aims to enhance the district's



green cover through sustained nursery development and plantation activities. The meeting was attended by IFS officer Krishna Priya, DFO (Territorial) Ashok Kumar, DFO Social Forestry Palnadu, RDO Sattanapalli, and staff from the Forest, Horticulture, Sericulture and DWMA departments. A separate review was conducted on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 and its rules of 2007. Under this act, land rights were approved for seven beneficiaries in Taduvai village of Achampet Mandal and one beneficiary in Venkatayapalem village of Bellamkonda Mandal. The meeting, chaired by District Collector and District Level Committee (DLC) Chairperson Kritika Shukla and convened by Tribal Welfare Officer D. Amara Subbiah, discussed pending issues related to the appointment of DLC members under the Panchayati Raj institutions. The Collector directed officials to expedite these appointments, which have been pending since 2023. Forest Officer Krishna Priya, also

a DLC member, pointed out that preliminary verifications of claims have been completed and that further field verification must be conducted as per Section 12A(6) of the FRA and 2007 guidelines. Sattanapalli Revenue Divisional Officer Ramana Kanth Reddy also attended the meeting.

Can India Turn H-1B Setback into a Brain Gain Revolution?



The United States’ latest crackdown on skilled immigration has landed like a thunderbolt on India’s middle-class dreams. President Donald Trump’s executive order slapping a massive \$100,000 fee on each new H-1B visa application threatens to cripple the once-dependable pathway that connected India’s brightest minds to Silicon Valley’s innovation hubs. For decades, this visa wasn’t just a work permit — it was a symbol of aspiration. Thousands of In-

dian engineers, doctors, and scientists migrated to the U.S. every year, fueling American growth while sending money and pride back home. With nearly 70% of the annual 85,000 H-1B visas going to Indians, this program was central to India’s soft power in global tech. Now, with the cost barrier so high, even big tech may hesitate to hire, while startups, universities, and nonprofits could be shut out completely. Yet amid the despair lies

a historic opportunity for India. Much like China in the early 2000s, or South Korea and Taiwan before that, India now stands at a crossroads. Beijing responded to tightening US visa policies with bold action — offering repatriation incentives, fast-track STEM visas, and startup capital. Returnees helped build tech giants like Alibaba and Baidu. South Korea’s chip empire and Taiwan’s TSMC rose similarly from the return of overseas

talent. India must act now to seize this moment. The groundwork exists. India’s digital economy is growing, global capability centers are thriving, and cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad already attract global tech. But talent won’t return without compelling reasons. Competitive pay, research freedom, clean governance, and streamlined startup ecosystems are vital. This calls for a bold national policy — perhaps an “India

Return Visa” — backed by both government and industry. PM Modi’s Atmanirbhar Bharat vision aligns perfectly with this opportunity. Trump’s move may unintentionally offer India the opening to turn decades of brain drain into a flood of brain gain. If India acts swiftly and smartly, what started as a setback could spark a new era — one where innovation, talent, and leadership return home to build the India of tomorrow.

Will AI Trigger a New Engels’ Pause?



In a recent commentary, Artificial Intelligence (AI) pioneer and Nobel Laureate Geoffrey Hinton warned that AI could make a few people extraordinarily rich, while leaving the rest poorer. His observation points to the possibility of an “Engels’ pause” in our modern AI-driven economy — a term with roots in the first industrial revolution but with deep relevance today. The Engels’ pause refers to a historical paradox where, despite rising productivity and industrial output in 19th-century Britain, workers saw little improvement in their living standards for decades. Coined by Oxford economist Robert Allen, the term draws from the work of Friedrich Engels, who observed that wages remained stagnant, inequality grew, and the benefits of progress were disproportionately captured by capital owners. Britain, though hailed as the “workshop of the world,” saw rising social and economic divides before eventual welfare gains reached the masses. Today, AI is driving a similar wave of transformative productivity — from language models and automation to predictive analytics and synthetic biology. But there’s growing concern that the benefits are being cornered by a handful of tech firms

and elite professionals, while displacing traditional jobs and increasing income inequality. Unlike the 1800s, however, the modern world may not need to wait decades to address these imbalances — if policy keeps pace with innovation. Governments and international institutions must prioritize inclusive AI governance frameworks. This means ensuring that the gains from AI are widely distributed through social safety nets, upskilling initiatives, and stronger labour protections. The historical Engels’ pause was eventually overcome by progressive reforms, education expansion, and the emergence of organized labour. In the AI era, a similar roadmap could include public investments in AI infrastructure, equitable data access, and ethical oversight mechanisms. As Hinton cautions, AI must be more than a productivity revolution — it must become a human welfare revolution. The choices made today by policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society will determine whether this new industrial transformation leads to greater inequality or broader prosperity. The future of AI, then, is not just technological — it’s profoundly political and human.

Karur Tragedy Exposes Dark Side of Tamil Nadu’s Star-Struck Politics



The tragic stampede in Karur that claimed 40 lives and injured hundreds during actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay’s rally has triggered a wave of public outrage and political introspection in Tamil Nadu. What was meant to be a grand show of strength for Vijay’s new party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), turned into a horrific event — one that lays bare the risks of personality-driven politics in the state. Eyewitness reports and police briefings suggest that between 30,000 to 60,000 people packed a narrow stretch of road meant for less than 10,000. Many had been waiting since morning under the scorching sun to catch a

glimpse of Vijay, who was expected around noon but only arrived close to 7 p.m. The late arrival — eerily reminiscent of his film industry habits — proved catastrophic. Critics argue that Vijay’s nonchalance was not just a failure in time management, but a reflection of deep-seated arrogance. His absence from the hospitals, his silence with the bereaved, and his casual response have angered even some of his supporters. “This isn’t just star arrogance—it’s a failure of leadership,” a senior political analyst said. The tragedy brings into focus Tamil Nadu’s decades-old fascination with film stars in politics—a legacy of M.G. Ramachandran, Jayalalithaa, and others. While their cha-

risma often masked governance shortcomings, Vijay’s entry into politics now raises a harsher question: Has the blind worship of celebrity reached a fatal threshold? The state High Court is now hearing pleas to restrict TVK’s future gatherings. Nearly 500 police personnel were deployed for the Karur event, but crowd control was inadequate. With the 2026 elections looming, the incident may become a turning point for both voters and political parties. The question isn’t just about Vijay’s fitness to lead — it’s about Tamil Nadu’s willingness to evolve beyond personality cults and demand accountability from those who seek power.

How India can make an opportunity of the H-1B visa crisis



With the Bihar Assembly election looming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s latest move — transferring ₹10,000 each to 75 lakh women in the state — has stirred both admiration and criticism. The massive ₹7,500 crore payout dwarfs other recent announcements, including the ₹1,600 crore re-

lief package for flood-hit Punjab. The message is clear: women are now a core constituency for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the party is doubling down on its electoral investment. As Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra highlights in her op-ed There’s something special

about Bihar, this is not an isolated gesture. Across states headed for elections, BJP has systematically launched women-focused welfare schemes — from Lado Lakshmi in Haryana and Ladli Behna in Madhya Pradesh to Mahila Samridhi Yojana in Delhi and Mahtari Vandana in Chhattis-

garh. Modi’s strategy appears to be forging a reliable “women constituency” with targeted financial empowerment and social messaging. However, this calculated outreach raises deeper questions. Is this genuine empowerment or strategic pandering? Critics argue that while cash transfers provide short-term relief, they often lack the structural support needed for long-term gender parity — in education, employment, and safety. Beyond domestic politics, another shift is reshaping India’s global talent landscape: the H-1B visa crisis in the US. With President Trump imposing a staggering \$100,000 fee per application, Indian skilled workers — once the backbone of Silicon Valley — are looking elsewhere. Canada, Australia, and Europe are seizing the moment, offering simpler immigration pathways and greater certainty for skilled migrants. India, instead of lamenting the loss, could turn this crisis into an opportunity. With strong policy initiatives, it can attract its own global talent back home. The groundwork is present — thriving tech hubs, growing global capability centers, and a youthful workforce. But without reforms in research, innovation, and governance, return migration will remain a missed opportunity. As India navigates electoral battles and global disruptions, the real test lies in whether policy can rise above politics — delivering not just votes, but vision.

Can India Deny Dhaka’s Request To Extradite Sheikh Hasina? What Rules Say

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

After Bangladesh’s ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia for “crimes against humanity,” Dhaka has formally requested India to extradite her. Hasina, who fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year amid a student-led uprising, has been living in exile in India since. Her former home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, believed to be in India as well, is also sought by Dhaka authorities.

Hasina was convicted on multiple charges, including ordering the killing of student protesters and using lethal force via helicopters and drones. She has denounced the verdict as “biased and politically motivated,” asserting she acted to minimize loss of life. The Awami League has called for a national shutdown in protest, while Hasina cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days.

Bangladesh’s Foreign Ministry described India’s extradition of Hasina and Khan as a “compulsory responsibility” under the bilateral extradition treaty, warning



that sheltering them could be deemed “unfriendly” and a disregard for justice.

India, however, has responded cautiously. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted the verdict and assured constructive engagement with all stakeholders, emphasizing peace, democracy, and

stability in Bangladesh, without directly commenting on the extradition request.

Under the India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty (2013, amended 2016) and India’s Extradition Act, 1962, New Delhi retains discretion to deny requests deemed politically motivated, unjust, or not

in the interest of justice. Extradition may also be refused if charges are considered trivial, oppressive, or purely political, or if India can prosecute the accused domestically. Legal experts say Hasina’s extradition is highly unlikely, given the potential political overtones and discre-

tion granted to India under both treaty and domestic law.

As tensions rise, India is expected to carefully weigh diplomatic relations with Bangladesh against legal safeguards and the risk of political persecution before taking any decision on Hasina’s extradition.

India-Russia Ties Factor Of Stability In International Relations: S Jaishankar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday emphasized that India-Russia relations have long been a factor of stability in international affairs, noting that their continued growth serves not only the mutual interests of the two nations but also the broader global community.

Jaishankar made the remarks during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, highlighting ongoing discussions on several bilateral agreements, initiatives, and projects across multiple sectors. “We look forward to their finalisation in the coming days. These will add more substance and texture to our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership,” he said.

The Indian minister also pointed to the importance of regular diplomatic interactions, noting that six meetings had already taken place between



him and Lavrov this year. He described the discussions as vital for advancing bilateral cooperation and exchanging perspec-

tives on key regional, global, and multilateral issues.

Jaishankar highlighted that the talks would also

cover the complex global situation, including the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. “India supports recent ef-

forts towards establishing peace. We hope all parties approach that goal constructively. An early cessation of the conflict and the ensuring of enduring peace is in the interest of the entire international community,” he added.

The meeting comes ahead of President Vladimir Putin’s visit to India for the 23rd Annual Summit, underscoring the strategic depth of India-Russia relations. Jaishankar described the ties as a model of openness and constructive engagement, asserting that their evolution benefits not just India and Russia but the world at large.

Jaishankar is in Moscow to lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, hosted by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on November 18, 2025, where further collaboration and regional stability initiatives are expected to be discussed.

“Will Quit If JDU Fulfills 2 Lakhs Promise”: Prashant Kishor After Bihar Loss



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor, in his first reaction after his party’s disappointing performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, announced a one-day ‘maun upvas’ (vow of silence), taking full respon-

sibility for the electoral setback.

Kishor’s party contested 238 of Bihar’s 243 Assembly seats but failed to win a single seat. The ruling NDA alliance, led by BJP and Nitish Kumar’s JDU, secured a decisive victory with 202 seats, while Chi-

rag Paswan’s LJP (Ram Vilas) won 19 seats.

“We tried very positively from our end. We failed to change this government. The responsibility lies entirely with me,” Kishor said, adding that introspection would follow. He acknowledged the

efforts of his team but admitted, “If the public did not show faith in us, the responsibility is mine.”

Despite his pre-poll remark that he would quit politics if JDU won over 25 seats, Kishor clarified that he would not resign immediately. However, he reiter-

ated a new promise: he would retire from politics if the ruling government fulfills its pre-election pledge of giving ₹2 lakh each to 1.5 crore people. “If Nitish Kumar transfers the ₹2 lakh as promised and proves he didn’t win by buying votes, I will retire without any ifs or buts,” he stated.

Kishor also rejected allegations that voters sold their votes. “For the first time, a government promised to spend ₹40,000 crore for people, which contributed to NDA’s majority. People here will not sell their future,” he said.

Despite the loss, Kishor affirmed his commitment to Bihar politics, saying, “We will stand again with the same power. You are not defeated until you quit.”

The poll strategist-turned-politician’s vow of silence and conditional promise to quit politics signal both reflection and resilience, as he navigates the aftermath of Jan Suraj’s historic electoral failure.

Red Fort Blast: Co-Conspirator Sent to NIA Custody



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Tuesday remanded Jasir Bilal Wani, described as an “active co-conspirator” of suicide bomber Umar un Nabi, to 10 days of NIA custody in connection with the Red Fort car blast that killed 15 people.

The blast, which occurred near the historic Red Fort, had triggered nationwide security concerns and intensified investigations into the perpetrators and their network. Wani, a key accused in the attack, was produced before the Patiala House Court, where the National Investigation Agency (NIA) requested custodial interrogation to gather critical evidence.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Ba-

jaj Chandna allowed the NIA plea, emphasizing the necessity of custodial questioning to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy behind the blast. The court proceedings were held almost entirely ‘in camera’, with media personnel barred from entering the courtroom, reflecting the sensitive nature of the investigation.

NIA officials indicated that Wani’s interrogation could provide crucial leads regarding the planning and execution of the blast, as well as the possible involvement of other associates. The agency is expected to question him on logistics, recruitment, and funding networks that may have facilitated the attack.

The Red Fort incident remains one of the most significant terror attacks in Delhi in recent years, prompting enhanced security measures around key landmarks and intensified intelligence operations across the National Capital Region. Investigators are working to piece together the chain of command and identify other operatives linked to the attack.

As the probe continues, authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Wani’s custodial interrogation marks a key step in the ongoing investigation, as the NIA seeks to prevent further attacks and dismantle the terror network behind the Red Fort tragedy.

Top Naxal Commander Madvi Hidma Killed in Andhra Pradesh Encounter



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Top Naxal commander Madvi Hidma, who masterminded multiple deadly attacks over the past two decades, was killed in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Security forces also eliminated his wife Raje and four other Naxal cadres in the Mare-dumilli forest of Alluri Sitaramaraju district, officials confirmed.

Chhattisgarh Police described the operation as the “last nail in the coffin” of the Maoist insurgency in Bastar. Hidma, a native of Puvarti village in Sukma district, had long evaded capture due to his extensive guerrilla tactics and a sophisticated four-layered security ring in forested areas spanning Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Maharashtra.

He headed the Maoists’ People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, the most formidable unit in Dandakaranya, and was recently elevated to the Maoists’ Central Committee.

Hidma first came on security forces’ radar after the 2010 Tadmetla attack, which killed 76 personnel. He later played key roles in other high-profile strikes, including the 2013 Jhiram Valley ambush, which wiped out senior Congress leaders in Bastar, and the 2017 Burkapal attack, leaving 24 CRPF personnel dead. His wife Raje was also actively involved in the battalion and reportedly participated in major Maoist operations.

In recent years, intensified anti-Naxal operations weakened Hidma’s security network, forcing him to retreat deeper into forests along

state borders. Sustained operations in Maoist strongholds eventually led to his elimination, along with several senior Central Committee members.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma called Hidma’s death a significant milestone in eliminating Maoism from the region. With this encounter, nine top Maoist Central Committee members have been killed this year across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh, including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the general secretary of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist).

Officials said Hidma’s elimination marks a decisive blow to the insurgency and weakens the Maoist network’s operational capabilities in Bastar and neighboring areas.

UN Adopts US Resolution Backing Trump’s Gaza Peace Plan



TPN Correspondent | UN

The UN Security Council on Monday adopted a US-drafted resolution endorsing former President Donald Trump’s plan to end the conflict in Gaza and authorising an international stabilisation force for the Palestinian territory. The resolution, seen as key to legitimising a transitional governance body, comes after Israel and Hamas agreed last month to the first phase of Trump’s 20-point plan, including a ceasefire and hostage-release deal.

The text allows member states to participate in the Trump-chaired Board of Peace, envisioned as a transitional authority overseeing Gaza’s reconstruction and economic recovery. It also authorises the international force to oversee demilitarisation, including dismantling weapons and military infrastructure.

Hamas immediately rejected the resolution, stating it will not disarm, calling the international intervention an “imposed guardianship mechanism” on Gaza. The militant group insists its fight against Israel remains legitimate, raising concerns of potential clashes with the new international force.

US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz described the resolution as a “pathway for Palestinian self-determination” and said it aims to replace rockets with diplomacy, dismantle Hamas’

grip, and create a prosperous and secure Gaza.

While Russia and China abstained, their ambassadorships criticised the resolution for giving the US-led initiative control over Gaza with unclear operational details. Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya argued the UN was sidelined in planning the international stabilisation force.

The Palestinian Authority welcomed the resolution and expressed readiness to cooperate with its implementation, a crucial endorsement that helped prevent a Russian veto. Trump hailed the Security Council’s vote as “a moment of true historic proportion,” promising further announcements regarding the Board of Peace in the coming weeks.

The resolution also references a potential pathway to Palestinian statehood contingent on reforms by the Palestinian Authority and Gaza’s redevelopment. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed opposition to a Palestinian state, pledging to demilitarise Gaza “the easy way or the hard way,” reflecting internal political pressure from right-wing factions.

The UN vote marks a significant international step in attempting to stabilise Gaza, though tensions remain high over Hamas’ resistance and Israel’s opposition.

Japan Issues Safety Warning for Citizens in China



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,

Japan has advised its citizens in China to exercise heightened caution amid a growing diplomatic rift between Beijing and Tokyo over Taiwan. The advisory urges Japanese nationals to avoid crowded areas, stay alert, and watch for suspicious individuals, signaling concerns over potential threats to their safety.

The warning comes after tensions escalated between the two countries, with Chinese media coverage reflecting increasingly negative sentiment toward Japan. Japanese officials describe the advisory as a preventive measure, ensuring citizens remain vigilant during this period of strained relations.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara emphasized that the advisory is a standard safety measure but reflects the deteriorating atmosphere affecting the bilateral ties between the nations. The advisory also coincides with the suspension of Japanese film screenings in China, a move seen as part of the wider diplomatic friction.

Japanese business leaders have voiced concern over the impact of the dispute on trade and investment, urging both governments to seek a diplomatic resolution. Japan continues to emphasize dialogue while

safeguarding its citizens amid uncertainty in China.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaiuchi and government officials have highlighted the importance of monitoring the situation closely, particularly for Japanese nationals living, working, or traveling in major Chinese cities. The advisory underscores the seriousness with which Japan views public safety in the context of international tensions.

The advisory also comes amid ongoing disputes over Taiwan, a sensitive geopolitical flashpoint. Japan’s cautionary message reflects broader regional concerns about security, diplomatic stability, and the potential for anti-Japanese sentiment to escalate in China.

Authorities have encouraged Japanese citizens to stay updated with local news, register with embassies, and maintain contact with family members. The advisory signals Tokyo’s effort to protect its nationals while navigating an increasingly tense relationship with China.

Japan has not ruled out further measures depending on how the diplomatic situation evolves, highlighting the ongoing uncertainty in bilateral relations.

Trump Blames Hoarse Voice on Trade Dispute Shouting

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump revealed that his raspy voice during a recent White House meeting was the result of a heated confrontation over trade policy with a foreign country. Speaking to reporters during a FIFA World Cup 2026 task force session, Trump said he had “blew [his] stack” while arguing with representatives from a nation attempting to renegotiate an existing trade deal.

Trump declined to specify the country, stating, “A country wanted to try and renegotiate the terms of their trade deal. And I wasn’t happy about it.” When pressed further, he added, “Why would I say that to you?” He described the exchange as necessary to “straighten it out” but admitted that it left his voice hoarse.

The United States has recently conducted trade discussions with



Japan, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia, alongside ongoing negotiations with China.

In October, Trump met Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, where both leaders

reported progress on key trade issues. Trump said China agreed to assist the US

in addressing the fentanyl crisis, in exchange for a 10% reduction in tariffs on Chinese im-

ports, lowering the rate from 57% to 47%.

Trump also decided not to impose an additional 100% tariff on Chinese goods scheduled for November 1 after China postponed export restrictions on rare-earth magnets by one year. Commenting on the outcome of the Xi meeting, Trump expressed strong optimism, stating, “Zero, to 10, with 10 being the best, I’d say the meeting was a 12. A lot of decisions were made ... and we’ve come to a conclusion on very many important points.”

Trump’s candid remarks about losing his voice drew attention to the intensity of the negotiations and reflected his personal style of engagement in high-stakes trade diplomacy. The incident underscores the ongoing US efforts to manage trade relations across Asia while addressing domestic and international economic priorities.

Yunus Wants Civil War: Hasina’s Aide After Death Penalty Verdict

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Tensions in Bangladesh escalated sharply after a Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and ex-Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to death over their alleged role in last year’s violent crackdown on student protesters. The verdict, delivered in absentia, has triggered a political storm, with top Awami League leaders accusing the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government of running a “kangaroo court”.

Awami League leader and former minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, a close aide of Hasina, condemned the judgement as “pre-written” and illegitimate. Speaking to NDTV, he claimed the tribunal was illegally constituted and insisted that Hasina was denied legal representation.



Senior lawyers, he said, were barred from appearing in court, rendering the entire trial process “a staged drama”.

Chowdhury warned that the interim regime was pushing Bangladesh “towards civil war”, alleging it lacked public support and relied instead on

repression. He further accused the Yunus administration of fostering ties with Pakistan and allowing extremist groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and

Jaish-e-Mohammad into the country—claims that have not been independently verified.

Despite being banned from elections,

Chowdhury insisted the Awami League still commands majority support. He challenged the interim government to allow the party to contest the February elections, asserting that the public—not an unelected regime—should decide the nation’s future.

Hasina, currently in India, denounced the verdict as “biased and politically motivated”, saying she and Khan acted “in good faith” during the unrest. India has declined to extradite the two leaders, making the enforcement of the sentence unlikely.

The Awami League has called for a national shutdown to protest the judgement. Under Bangladeshi law, Hasina must surrender within 30 days to appeal—an outcome seen as improbable amid the deepening political crisis.

“Copy Cat”: Elon Musk Jabs Jeff Bezos Over New AI Platform Launch



TPN Correspondent | US

Tech titans Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos have reignited their long-running rivalry, this time over artificial intelligence. Moments after Bezos unveiled his new AI platform, Project Prometheus, Musk took a

jab on X, calling the Amazon founder a “copycat” — a label he has used multiple times when Bezos entered sectors dominated by Musk.

Responding to the announcement, Musk posted: “Haha no way”, followed by another

message: “copy cat”.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO has previously mocked Bezos using similar remarks — once when Amazon announced its satellite internet project to compete with Starlink, and again when it acquired Zoox to enter

the autonomous vehicle race.

Project Prometheus marks Bezos’s first major operational role since stepping down as Amazon CEO in 2021. The ambitious venture aims to create advanced AI systems for engineering, aero-

space, computing, and automotive manufacturing. The company will be co-led by former Google X scientist Vik Bajaj, who has worked closely with Google co-founder Sergey Brin. Bezos will serve as CEO.

The startup has al-

ready raised \$6.2 billion, including a major investment from Bezos himself, making it one of the most heavily funded early-stage AI companies globally. The team has quickly expanded to nearly 100 employees, with several top researchers hired from OpenAI, DeepMind, and Meta.

Musk, whose xAI recently launched the Grok model, is competing aggressively against OpenAI and Google in the global AI race. Bezos’s entry into the field intensifies the competition, adding a new battleground to their rivalry, which already spans space exploration, satellite internet, and autonomous tech.

With Project Prometheus positioned to challenge xAI and other industry leaders, the Musk-Bezos feud shows no signs of cooling — and the AI sector may be its fiercest arena yet.

Groww Parent Billion Brains Garage Ventures Hits New High, CEO Becomes Billionaire

Billion Brains Garage Ventures, the parent company of leading stock brokerage Groww, is continuing its impressive run in the stock market, trading at a new high of Rs 168 on Monday, up 13% on the NSE. This marks the fourth consecutive day of gains since its listing last week, pushing the company's market valuation past the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

The shares of Billion Brains Garage Ventures debuted on the NSE last Wednesday at Rs 112, a 12% premium over the issue price of Rs 100, closing the day at Rs 128.85. Since listing, the stock has surged nearly 46%, reflecting strong investor demand. The initial public offering (IPO), which closed on November 4, raised Rs 6,632 crore, with a price band set at Rs 95-100 and a total subscription of 17.6 times.

Founded in 2016, Groww has grown to become India's largest stock broker with a



market share of over 26% as of June 2025. The company's strong growth trajectory and robust listing performance underscore its dominance in the retail investment space.

With the rise in Groww's stock price, CEO and co-founder Lalit Keshri has officially joined the ranks of billionaires. Hailing from a small village called Lipa in Madhya Pradesh, Lalit holds a 9.06% stake in the company, amounting to 55.91 crore shares. At the current share price of Rs 169, his holdings are valued at around Rs 9,448 crore, surpassing the \$1 billion mark.

An IIT Bombay alumnus, Lalit began his career at Flipkart before co-founding Groww in 2016. His journey from a farmer's son to a billionaire entrepreneur is being celebrated as a remarkable success story in India's startup ecosystem.

The company's continued market momentum highlights growing investor confidence in digital brokerage platforms and the broader retail investment sector in India.

India's Q2 GDP Likely to Soar Above 7.5% on GST-Led Festive Sales: SBI



India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the second quarter (July to September) is expected to rise to 7.5% or higher, driven by a surge in consumption following the recent Goods & Services Tax (GST) rate cuts, according to a report by the research department of State Bank of India (SBI).

The SBI report highlighted that the GST reduction has spurred festive season sales, boosting consumer spending across sectors such as auto-

mobiles, electronics, and consumer goods. This increase in domestic consumption is likely to be a major driver of economic growth for the quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its recent projections, had estimated Q2 GDP growth at 7%, slightly lower than the revised forecast by SBI. The central bank had cited moderating inflation and steady private investment as factors supporting sustained economic expansion.

With the festive season extending into November, SBI expects that Q2 numbers could even surpass initial forecasts, marking one of the strongest quarters in recent years. Analysts will be closely watching upcoming data on industrial production, retail sales, and investment activity to gauge the sustainability of this growth trend into the latter half of the fiscal year.

Economists see the higher-than-expected GDP growth as an indication that the Indian economy is maintaining a robust recovery momentum despite global uncertainties. The GST rate cuts, implemented earlier this year, have lowered prices for key consumer goods, thereby incentivizing spending and stimulating economic activity.

SBI Shares Near Record High After 286% Five-Year Surge

Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) traded flat on Tuesday, a day after the stock became the first public-sector lender to surpass a market capitalization of ₹9 trillion. The stock had touched a new lifetime high of ₹976.80 in the previous session, marking a remarkable rally over the past five years.

SBI has delivered multibagger returns, rising 286% over the last five years. In more recent time frames, the stock has gained 21% in the past year, 23% over six months, 17.5% in the last three months, and over 9% in the past month, reflecting consistent investor confidence amid strong quarterly results and improved asset quality.

Analysts remain bullish on SBI shares, citing both its robust fundamentals and potential for further gains. Philip Capital has maintained a "Buy" rating on the stock with a revised target price of ₹1,100, indicating room for upside from current



levels. Market participants note that the stock may face resistance near ₹1,000, but the broader trend remains positive.

SBI has also been in focus due to reports of potential consolidation

among public-sector banks (PSBs). Bloomberg News reported on November 14 that SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty suggested that "some further rationalisation might make sense,"

highlighting opportunities for scale-building and strengthening financing capacity in India's rapidly growing economy.

Investors are weighing the stock's strong historical performance

against near-term valuations. While the PSU giant has delivered exceptional returns, analysts recommend monitoring market trends, policy developments, and quarterly earnings to assess whether SBI

remains a buy at current levels.

SBI's performance continues to underscore the growing prominence of India's public-sector banks in both domestic and global markets.

Indian Equity Markets Dip in Early Trade After Six-Day Rally



Indian equity markets opened lower on Tuesday, reversing a six-day winning streak as profit-taking and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 292.95 points to 84,658, while the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 83.3 points to 25,930.15 in early trade.

Market analysts attributed the decline to a combination of domestic profit-taking and negative trends in global markets. Asian indices were sharply lower, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, China's Shanghai SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng all trading in the red. This global weakness added pressure on Indian equities despite recent strong gains.

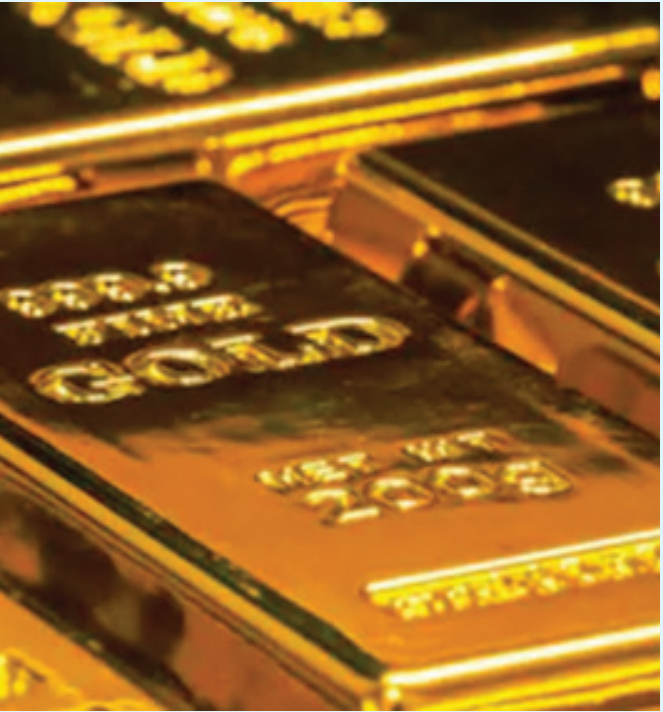
"The early decline reflects a natural correction after a sustained six-day rally," said an equity strategist. "Profit-taking is expected, particularly in high-performing sectors, while investors monitor global developments and domestic data for guidance."

Domestic markets had gained steadily last week, buoyed by positive economic indicators and strong corporate earnings, which helped restore investor confidence. However, the sudden pause in momentum suggests that traders are recalibrating positions in light of mixed signals from global markets.

Despite the early losses, analysts remain cautiously optimistic about the medium-term outlook, noting that strong economic growth, robust consumption, and government policy support continue to provide a favorable backdrop for equities.

Investors are now closely watching global developments, including currency movements and international trade updates, which are likely to influence market sentiment for the remainder of the trading session.

Gold, Silver Prices Decline Amid Market Correction



Gold and silver prices fell on Monday, continuing a brief correction after recent upward trends. In Mumbai, 24-carat gold was trading at Rs 1,24,970 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was priced at Rs 1,14,700 per 10 grams. Silver also witnessed a sharp drop of Rs 2,000, bringing prices to Rs 1,67,000 per kilogram.

Global markets showed mixed signals as US spot gold rose to USD 4,070 per ounce, reflecting ongoing demand for the yellow metal as a safe-haven asset. Despite this, domestic prices were weighed down by profit-taking and short-term market adjustments.

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said gold and silver are attempting to stabilise after recent sharp corrections. "Price action is showing signs of support at key long-term trend levels," he noted. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold was hovering near Rs 1,23,450, rebounding from its

upward-sloping trendline. Analysts suggest that holding above Rs 1,23,000 is crucial to maintain the broader bullish structure, opening the possibility for an upside move toward Rs 1,24,200-Rs 1,25,000.

The decline in precious metal prices comes amid fluctuating investor sentiment, with traders balancing between safe-haven demand and short-term profit-taking. Seasonal demand from the wedding and festive period also played a role in price volatility.

Market participants are closely watching global economic cues, currency fluctuations, and domestic demand trends for further guidance. With gold and silver holding support at key levels, analysts remain cautiously optimistic about a potential rebound in the coming weeks.

Consumers and investors are advised to monitor daily rate updates, as bullion prices continue to show short-term volatility amid broader economic trends.

China’s Longevity Pill Claims 150-Year Lifespan



A Chinese biotech company has stirred global interest with claims that humans could one day live up to 150 years. Lonvi Biosciences, based in Shenzhen, says its new “longevity pill” targets ageing cells, or senescent cells, which stop dividing but trigger chronic inflammation and age-related decline.

The pill’s key ingredient, Procyanidin C1 (PCC1), derived from grape seeds, reportedly extended the lifespan of mice by 9.4% in laboratory experiments. The remaining life expectancy of treated mice also increased by over 64%, prompting the company to tout the potential of cell-targeting interventions in significantly slowing ageing.

Lyu Qinghua, Lonvi’s chief technology officer, told The New York Times that living up to 150 years is “definitely realistic,” suggesting that meaningful progress could emerge in the coming years. The announcement aligns with China’s rising interest in longevity research, boosted by public awareness, private investment, and policy support. China’s average life expectancy reached 79 years in 2024, above the global benchmark of 74 years, and experts say longevity-focused innovations could push this further.

Gan Yu, co-founder of Shanghai-based longevity start-up Time Pie, noted a cultural shift: “Earlier, no one in China talked about living longer; it was something only wealthy Americans explored. Now, many Chinese are investing in longevity.”

Despite the excitement, experts urge caution. While the mouse data is promising, extensive human clinical trials are essential before assessing the pill’s safety or effectiveness in humans. Scientists stress that preliminary lab results cannot directly predict outcomes for people, and that ageing is a complex biological process influenced by genetics, lifestyle, and environment.

Lonvi’s claims have sparked both curiosity and skepticism worldwide, highlighting the growing intersection of biotechnology, longevity research, and the human desire to extend life far beyond current limits.

5 Peaceful Nations With Minimal Military



In a world increasingly defined by military might, a few nations have taken a different path — maintaining little to no standing army while remaining remarkably safe for citizens. These countries rely on geography, governance, and efficient security networks rather than large militaries to protect themselves.

1. Singapore

Though Singapore invests around \$11.5 billion annually in defence, roughly 2.8% of its GDP, it is renowned for low crime and a peaceful environment. The city-state relies heavily on a strong security network, strict law enforcement, and advanced surveillance systems to maintain internal safety.

2. New Zealand

New Zealand’s defence spending is modest, about \$3.9 billion or less than 1% of GDP. Its isolation and lack of land borders provide natural protection, while transparent governance and a robust judicial system keep defence costs low and society secure.

3. Austria

Austria, long committed to neutrality, spends \$3.4 billion

yearly on defence. The country’s strategic approach includes strict border control and diplomatic neutrality, which together help maintain national safety without a large military force.

4. Iceland

Iceland stands out in Europe for having no standing army, with a total defence budget of only \$40 million. The island’s remote location, rugged terrain, and sparse population act as natural barriers, keeping it largely insulated from global conflicts.

5. Ireland

Ireland maintains a defence expenditure of about \$1.3 billion, just 0.3% of GDP. Its strong policy of neutrality, absence of military alliances, and efficient police force make it one of the safest countries in the world.

These nations demonstrate that peace can be safeguarded through strategy, stability, and social trust, proving that a large military is not the only path to national security. Their examples challenge the global assumption that safety is synonymous with heavy militarisation.

Bengaluru Traffic Gridlock Frustrates Commuters

Commuters in Bengaluru faced unusually heavy traffic on Tuesday morning, leaving many stuck in long queues across major roads. Residents described the congestion as “2.5 times worse than usual”, highlighting the city’s ongoing struggle with weekday traffic.

Social media users shared photos showing streets clogged with two-wheelers, cars, buses, and trucks, all moving at a crawl. One Reddit user captioned a post: “What is this on Tuesday morning,” sparking hundreds of comments as people shared their own experiences.

Many commuters blamed the absence of auto-rickshaws for altering the flow of traffic. Others highlighted that mid-week—Tuesday through Thursday—typically sees the worst congestion, while Mondays and



Fridays are comparatively lighter due to work-from-home arrangements or leave. Local reactions ranged from humorous to frustrated. One user joked, “Romans called it traffic, Bangaloreans call it social gathering, BBMP calls it STFU and live.” Another shared, “I missed my alarm today, so going WFH instead of facing traffic,” echoing a common coping strategy among office-goers. The morning grid-

lock impacted thousands trying to reach offices on time, with many reporting long delays on major routes. Users also noted that traffic jams have become an accepted part of city life, often treated with humor or resignation despite the inconvenience.

While BBMP authorities regularly work to ease congestion through traffic management measures, Bengaluru’s growing population and vehicle density continue to strain road infrastructure. Residents continue to adapt with flexible work schedules, remote work, or simply patience amid the city’s chaotic traffic landscape.

For now, Bengaluru commuters will have to brace themselves for the long, slow-moving lanes that have become a regular mid-week challenge in the Silicon Valley of India.

Hotel Uses Lion Cubs For Wake-Up Calls

Hotels worldwide offer unique services to surprise and delight guests, but a resort in China has taken it to a whole new level. The Happy Countryside Resort in Jiangsu Province has introduced a wake-up service that sends live lion cubs into guest rooms to rouse them from sleep, sparking fascination and concern on social media.

The “morning call service” operates between 8 am and 10 am, with staff bringing a lion cub into the room for a seven-minute interaction. The hotel offers this service in 20 designated rooms, each costing 628 yuan (around ₹7,800) per night.

According to the resort, the cubs are well-trained, and the service is meant to provide a thrilling and unforgettable start to the day. Videos and images shared online show guests interacting closely with the animals, with many praising the experience as fun and unique.



However, the initiative has also raised serious safety and ethical concerns. Many social media users and animal welfare advocates have called the service “dangerous and irresponsible,” questioning the wellbeing of both guests and the cubs. Experts note that even young wild animals can act unpredictably, and such encounters could pose risks despite precautions.

Despite the controversy, the service has gone viral, attracting global attention and curiosity. It highlights the lengths to which some hotels will go to stand out in a competitive industry, combining luxury and extreme novelty in one package.

Whether guests will line up to pay for a lion cub wake-up call or regulators will intervene remains to be seen, but the Happy Countryside Resort has already made its mark as one of the most unusual and talked-about destinations in the world.

Kaizen Café Redefines Wellness Dining in Goa



In Goa’s vibrant café scene, Kaizen Café is quietly carving a niche by blending wellness with indulgence. Inspired by the Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement, the café offers a mindful,

globally inspired menu that evolves with seasons, trends, and guest feedback. Founder Prerna Khetrapal explains that Kaizen isn’t just about healthy eating—it’s about conscious nourishment. Ingredients

are sourced globally, from specialty coffees and adaptogens to artisanal produce, and dishes are designed to energize while promoting ease and wellbeing. Signature offerings include turmeric saffron

lattes, high-protein sourdough, plant-forward desserts, and innovative beverages like the Blueberry Smoothie with Blue Spirulina, reflecting the café’s commitment to experimentation and taste-focused

wellness.

Kaizen Café’s menu is constantly refined, balancing indulgence with nutrition. Seasonal specials, festival menus, and limited-edition creations, such as Diwali treats or Global Coffee Rituals, showcase culinary innovation while keeping guest preferences and wellness trends at the forefront. The café emphasizes that eating well doesn’t mean restriction but awareness, delight, and satisfaction.

What sets Kaizen apart is its intentional approach to the overall dining experience. Beyond the food, the café focuses on ambiance, music, and design to create a calm, restorative space where visitors can pause, connect, and feel nourished. In a destination known for leisure and indulgence, Kaizen has shown that wellness dining can be approachable, inviting, and joyful.

Looking ahead, Kaizen plans mindful expansion through new cafés, wellness product lines, and ready-to-eat offerings, all while staying true to its philosophy-first approach. With its innovative, intention-driven model, Kaizen Café is redefining what wellness dining can feel like in Goa, proving that mindful food and thoughtful design can create a deeply satisfying, restorative experience.

Satwik–Chirag Move Into Second Round of Australian Open

India's star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankiredy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the second round of the Australian Open Super 500 with a hard-fought straight-game win in Sydney on Tuesday. The world No. 3 duo defeated Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei 25-23, 21-16 in a gripping 48-minute opener. The match began on a challenging note for the Indian pair, who trailed 2-6 early in the first game. The Taiwanese combination held a narrow lead until 16-14, before Satwik and Chirag regrouped to take a 19-17 advantage. A tight phase followed, with both sides exchanging game points. A sharp net shot from Satwik earned the Indians a game point which their opponents saved with a powerful smash. Errors on both sides kept the game in a tense balance, but the Indians finally clinched the opener after the Taiwanese pair hit the net on a crucial point. In the second game,



Satwik and Chirag pulled ahead 7-4, but two net errors allowed their rivals to level the score. Both teams traded points evenly before the Indians entered the mid-game interval with a slender one-point lead. After the break, the top seeds accelerated, widening the gap to 18-15 with steady defence and sharp attacking play. Two decisive smashes sealed the contest, securing their place in the next round. In women's doubles, India suffered an early setback as Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 10-21, 14-21 to Indonesia's F. Kusuma and M. Puspitassari in their opening round. India's singles contenders, including Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth and Ayush Shetty, are set to begin their campaigns on Wednesday, hoping to join Satwik and Chirag in the next phase of the tournament.

Ronaldo Set for Record Sixth World Cup as Portugal Thrash Armenia 9–1



Cristiano Ronaldo is officially headed to a historic sixth FIFA World Cup, as Portugal crushed Armenia 9–1 to seal qualification for the 2026 tournament to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The emphatic victory on Sunday ensured Portugal's direct passage from Group F, reaffirming their dominance in the qualifiers. Ronaldo, who has already appeared in every World Cup since 2006, is now set to become the first men's player in history to feature in six editions of the global event. The Portuguese captain was at the heart of the action once again, scoring and assisting in a commanding display that showcased his enduring influence even at 40. The match, played earlier in Yerevan in September but decisive for qualification standings, saw Portugal overwhelm the Armenian defence from start to finish. João Félix, Rafael Leão, Bernardo Silva and others joined Ronaldo on the scoresheet as Portugal delivered one of their biggest wins of the qualifying campaign. Portugal's relentless attacking play left Armenia struggling to cope, with the visitors leading comfortably by halftime. The second half saw the floodgates fully open, as Roberto Martínez's side pushed forward with speed, precision and clinical finishing. With qualification now secured, Portugal turn their attention to preparing for 2026, where they hope to improve on their quarterfinal exit in 2022. For Ronaldo, the tournament offers another chance to chase the one trophy that has eluded him throughout his illustrious career. The 2026 World Cup will also mark Portugal's first under Martínez at a major finals, and expectations are high as the team blends Ronaldo's experience with a new generation of stars. For Portugal and for football fans worldwide, Ronaldo's sixth World Cup appearance promises to be one of the defining storylines of next year's tournament.

Medvedev, Rybakina and Bopanna to Lead Star Line-Up as WTL Debuts in India

The World Tennis League (WTL) is all set for its grand India debut on December 17, bringing an impressive line-up of global tennis stars to the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. This marks the first time the four-day exhibition tournament, launched in 2022, will be held outside the UAE. Among the headline attractions are former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina, both of whom will compete alongside an eclectic mix of tennis personalities. Fans will also see the return of the charismatic and fiery Nick Kyrgios, French showman Gael Monfils, and former World No. 2 Paula Badosa. India will have a strong presence too, with recently retired doubles legend Rohan Bopanna, along with Sumit Nagal, Yuki Bhambhani, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, and Maaya Revathi set to join the roster. Rybakina, excited for her first competitive appearance in India, said, "I've heard so much about the tennis culture in India, and



I'm thrilled to make my debut here with WTL. I'm ready to enjoy every moment on the court with my team." The WTL format features four teams competing in a round-robin league, with each tie including men's singles, women's singles, and two doubles matches. The top two teams will advance to the final, promising thrilling matchups throughout the week. WTL Co-Founder and 12-time Grand Slam doubles champion Mahesh Bhupathi said the tournament's India debut is an opportunity to deepen the nation's connection with tennis. "India has always shared a deep and lasting connection with the sport, and the WTL's arrival here helps strengthen that bond," Bhupathi said. "With international champions sharing the court with India's top talent, we hope to inspire the next generation of players." The star-studded event is expected to draw strong crowds and energise India's tennis landscape as it welcomes some of the world's best to its courts.

Mitchell Ruled Out of West Indies ODIs with Groin Injury



New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell has been sidelined for the remainder of the ODI series against the West Indies after scans confirmed a minor groin tear, the ICC reported on Tuesday. Mitchell sustained the injury during the opening ODI in Christchurch, where he battled discomfort to score a match-winning century. The injury requires a two-week rehabilitation period, ruling Mitchell out of the final two ODIs but keeping him in contention for the three-match Test series starting December 2. New Zealand selector-coach Rob Walter expressed disappointment at losing the in-form player. "It's always tough being ruled out early with injury, particularly when you're in hot form like Daryl is," Walter said. "He has been our standout performer in ODIs this summer, so he'll be missed for two important matches. The positive is that the injury is only minor, and we expect him fit for the Tests." Mitchell was instrumental in New Zealand's narrow seven-run victory in the first ODI at Hagley Oval, scoring his seventh ODI hundred despite the injury. Following Mitchell's exit, Henry Nicholls, who joined the squad on Monday, will stay on and is likely to be considered for the second ODI in Napier. Nicholls has been in prolific touch in the Ford Trophy, making him a strong replacement option. "Henry has been in top form and is an experienced international cricketer," Walter said. "We know he'll be eager to contribute if given an opportunity." New Zealand will now look to recalibrate their middle order as they aim to clinch the series against the Caribbean side. New Zealand ODI squad: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Will Young.

Alcaraz Withdraws from Davis Cup Finals Due to Injury



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, the world number one tennis player, has withdrawn from the Davis Cup Finals in Bologna after suffering a swollen right hamstring. The 21-year-old expressed his disappointment on Instagram, saying he was "heartbroken" to miss the tournament. Alcaraz aggravated the injury during the ATP Finals, where he lost to Italy's Jannik Sinner in the title clash on Sunday. Following a medical evaluation, he was advised not to compete to prevent further damage. "I have edema in my right hamstring and the medical recommendation is not to compete," Alcaraz wrote. "Playing for Spain is the greatest thing there is, and I was really looking forward to helping us fight for the Davis Cup." His withdrawal marks another setback for the Davis Cup organizers, who had also lost Sinner, the world number two, last month. Spain's absence of their top player leaves the team relying on their remaining squad as they prepare to face the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals on Thursday. The tournament is also facing disruptions on the host side, with Italy, the defending champions, missing Lorenzo Musetti due to physical and family reasons. Musetti's spot is expected to be filled by Lorenzo Sonego, who has been training in Turin ahead of Italy's quarter-final clash against Austria on Wednesday. Alcaraz's injury underscores the physical toll on top players navigating a packed tennis calendar, coming just weeks after his stellar performances in the ATP season. Fans and analysts alike will be watching closely as Spain and Italy attempt to defend their titles in the absence of some of their leading stars. The Davis Cup Finals are scheduled to conclude with the final on Sunday, with both teams adjusting their line-ups amid last-minute changes.

Ranveer Singh Stuns as RAW Agent in ‘Dhurandhar’ Trailer



The much-awaited trailer of Ranveer Singh’s upcoming action drama Dhurandhar has finally been released, creating a wave of excitement across Bollywood circles. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Aditya Dhar, the film marks his second directorial venture after the blockbuster Uri: The Surgical Strike, raising expectations among audiences and industry insiders alike.

Set for release on December 5, Dhurandhar showcases Ranveer Singh in a rugged, intense avatar as a RAW agent on a covert mission in Pakistan. The trailer hints at a gripping narrative packed with high-voltage action sequences, emotional intensity and espionage-driven drama. It follows the challenges, threats and moral dilemmas faced by Ranveer’s character as he navigates hostile territory while carrying out a high-risk intelligence operation.

The trailer also highlights the film’s powerful ensemble cast. Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan and Arjun Rampal appear in key roles, each bringing a commanding presence that adds depth to the narrative. Their glimpses suggest layered characters intertwined with the mission’s stakes, promising strong performances.

Aditya Dhar, known for delivering taut, realistic action thrillers, seems to bring back the same intensity and patriotic fervour that defined Uri. The visuals reflect a gritty tone, backed by sharp cinematography and an impactful background score, setting the stage for a tense and engaging spy thriller.

With Ranveer Singh embracing a serious and action-heavy role after a series of diverse performances, Dhurandhar is expected to mark a refreshing shift in his filmography. The buzz around the film has intensified following the trailer launch, and trade analysts predict a strong opening owing to the star cast, high production value and Dhar’s proven storytelling.

Dhurandhar hits theatres on 5 December, and fans are eagerly waiting to witness Ranveer Singh in one of his most intense roles yet.

Dhruv Vikram’s Sports Drama ‘Bison’ Locks OTT Release Date



Dhruv Vikram’s much-acclaimed sports drama Bison is all set to make its digital debut after enjoying a successful theatrical run last month. Directed by noted filmmaker Mari Selvaraj, the film received widespread praise for its impactful storytelling, strong performances and emotional depth, emerging as a super hit at the box office.

On Tuesday, streaming giant Netflix announced that Bison will be available for streaming from November 21, giving audiences who missed the theatrical release a chance to experience the film from home. The OTT platform also confirmed that the movie will premiere in five languages — Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam, enhancing its reach across India.

Bison marks another significant milestone in Dhruv Vikram’s growing career. The actor, son of Kollywood superstar Chiyaan Vikram, earned applause for his intense and nuanced performance as a determined young athlete navigating personal struggles and societal challenges. His pairing with Anupama Parameswaran, who plays the female lead, was also well received.

The film features an impressive supporting cast including Pashupathi, Rajisha Vijayan and Aamir, each delivering strong performances that add emotional weight to the narrative. Director Mari Selvaraj, known for his socially conscious storytelling, once again blends sports drama with powerful themes, making Bison one of the most talked-about Tamil films of the year. With its OTT release around the corner, Bison is expected to reach a wider audience and continue its successful run in the digital space. The buzz around the film remains high, and fans are eagerly waiting to stream it when it premieres on 21 November.

Balakrishna–Nayanthara Team Up Again for NBK111

The hit on-screen pair Nandamuri Balakrishna and Nayanthara is reuniting for the fourth time, bringing excitement to fans ahead of their new collaboration. The duo, known for delivering box-office successes with Simha, Sri Rama Rajyam, and Jai Simha, will now share screen space in director Gopichand Malineni’s upcoming film, tentatively titled NBK111.

The announcement was made on Nayanthara’s birthday, with the makers welcoming her on board with a striking note: “The Queen who carries the calm of oceans and the fury of storms, Nayanthara enters the empire of NBK111.” The project marks Malineni’s second film with Balakrishna after the highly successful Veera Simha Reddy.

Nayanthara’s inclusion is being hailed as a major boost to the film. Over the years, she has built strong chemistry with Balakrishna—something



that has repeatedly drawn audiences to theatres. Industry watchers believe this combination has a unique appeal, particularly among mass and family audiences, making NBK111 one of the most anticipated projects of the coming year.

Adding to the buzz, music director Thaman hinted that the film will be “beyond everyone’s imagination,” raising expectations for both the soundtrack and overall cinematic experience. Thaman previously delivered chart-topping music for Balakrishna’s films, further heightening curiosity around what he has in store this time.

The film is being produced by Venkat S. Kilaru under the Vridhhi Cinemas banner. With Balakrishna’s action-packed screen presence, Nayanthara’s star power, and Gopichand Malineni’s commercial storytelling, NBK111 is shaping up to be a major attraction for Telugu cinema fans.

More details on the cast, plot, and release schedule are expected to be revealed soon.

Team Varanasi Kicks Off Promotions a Year Ahead



The team behind Varanasi has surprised fans by launching promotions almost a year before the film’s release. Just days after the grand title reveal at Ramoji Film City, the makers dropped an unexpected update—lead actors Mahesh Babu, Prithviraj Sukumaran, and Priyanka Chopra sat down for media interactions, despite a significant portion of the shoot still pending.

This early promotional strategy marks a clear departure from director S.S. Rajamouli’s usual approach. His films typically maintain secrecy until the final stages. However, with Varanasi, the team appears to be building momentum early, allowing the buzz to grow gradually on a global level.

Adding to the chatter was the trio’s coordinated fashion statement during the interviews. All three turned up in black, unintentionally creating a unified look. Priyanka Chopra wore a black top paired with a netted floral skirt—simple yet elegant. Prithviraj Sukumaran opted for an all-black ensemble, understated but stylish. Mahesh Babu, meanwhile, broke the pattern slightly with a black shirt matched with blue trousers, offering a balanced and clean look.

Priyanka later shared photos from the promotional shoot on social media, expressing her excitement about working alongside two major stars. She highlighted how unusual and thrilling it was to promote the film to international media nearly a year in advance. Her caption ended with a striking “Jai Shri Ram” and the hashtag #Varanasi, fueling speculation about the film’s themes and what else the team has planned for the coming months.

With such an early and impactful start, Varanasi is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films in Indian cinema. Fans now await the next surprise from the team as the long promotional journey begins.

Her styling was minimal yet impactful—open hair, understated makeup, and confident poses that radiated authority and poise. The Grazia photoshoot showcased Raashi in a “boss lady” avatar, blending elegance with assertiveness. Her expressions and poses suggested a mix of corporate power and playful sass, making the cover both fresh and dynamic.

Fashion critics praised her choice, noting how she effortlessly balanced boldness with grace. “Raashi’s all-black look is a masterclass in understated power dressing. She exudes confidence without overdoing it,” commented one fashion expert.

The actress, who has often been seen in bright, cheerful attire, proved her versatility by pulling off a look that was strong, stylish, and commanding. The Grazia shoot captures a different side of Raashi—one that’s all about control, attitude, and fearless elegance.

Amidst her growing fashion footprint, Raashi is also busy with her upcoming film 120 Bahadur, where she stars alongside Farhan Akhtar. Despite the film preparations, her Grazia appearance has quickly become the talk of the town, with fans and social media buzzing over the iconic look.

From magazine covers to red carpets, Raashi Khanna continues to reinvent her style, proving she is not just an actor but a trendsetter. With her confident all-black outfit, she delivered a look that is bold, modern, and unforgettable—a true Raashi vibe that resonates with power, charm, and charisma.



Raashi Khanna Turns Heads in All-Black Look

Raashi Khanna, known for her vibrant and colorful fashion choices, stunned fans and fashion enthusiasts alike with a bold, all-black ensemble for Grazia magazine. The actress, who was present to receive the Breakthrough Performer Award, opted for a sleek black powersuit adorned with subtle golden accents, creating a striking, sophisticated look.

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