





# AP Revenue Services Association Thanks CM for Successful State Revenue Sports Meet

TPN Bureau | November 21  
Amaravathi: The Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association has expressed heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his support in ensuring the grand success of the 7th State-Level Revenue Sports and Cultural Meet held recently in Anantapur.

The three-day event, conducted on November 7-9, 2025, at the RDT Stadium in Anantapur, saw enthusiastic participation from revenue employees across all districts. The association credited the smooth conduct and resounding success of the meet to the complete cooperation extended by the State Government, including Finance Minister P. Keshav, Revenue Minister Anagani Sathyaprasad, BC Welfare Minister Smt. Savita, and other public representatives from Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Association president Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and general secretary Ramishetti Venkat Rajesh called on the Chief Minister at the Secretariat to personally convey



their gratitude on behalf of all revenue employees. They also presented a memento to Mr. Naidu as a token of appreciation. Speaking on the occasion, Venkateswarlu emphasized that revenue staff carry out their duties amidst heavy workloads, frequent meetings, and field inspections, often leaving limited

time for direct engagement with citizens. He suggested that policy adjustments be made to allow more time for field-level work to ensure the quality and effectiveness of service delivery. Highlighting the need for continuous skill development, he urged the government to establish a dedicated "Revenue Academy" to provide str

uctured training from the Village Revenue Officer level to Deputy Collectors. He proposed that the academy frame an annual training calendar to equip officers with modern administrative techniques, digital systems knowledge, and citizen-centric service standards. General Secretary Rajesh added that the as

sociation has been touring districts to engage Tahsildars and explain government priorities, promoting faster and more transparent public service. He assured the Chief Minister that the association would not only protect employees' rights but also remind them of their responsibilities in building a citizen-friendly administration. Responding to the delegation, Chief Minister Naidu acknowledged the vital role of the Revenue Department in governance and commended employees for being the first interface between citizens and government. He encouraged them to adopt smart work practices and reaffirmed that the State Government would fully support their efforts to meet future challenges through skill upgradation and digital transformation initiatives. Association vice-president N. Srinivas, executive secretary Ponnu Vijayalakshmi, AP Village Revenue Officers' Association president Kona Anjaneya Kumar, and AP GAC Amaravati chairman T.V. Phani Peraraju also participated in the meeting.

# NBA released Rs 39.84 crore to AP for Red Sanders protection, conservation



TPN Bureau | November 21  
Vijayawada: In a major boost to India's biodiversity conservation efforts, the National Biodiversity Authority has released Rs 38.36 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and Rs 1.48 crore to the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board to protect and conserve the iconic Red Sanders, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said. With this, India's Access and Benefit Sharing disbursements have crossed an impressive Rs 110 crore, marking one of the country's largest biodiversity-linked ABS releases. According to the ministry, Red Sanders, renowned worldwide for its deep red timber, grows naturally only in selected pockets of the Eastern Ghats, particularly in the Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Prakasam and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh. An amount of Rs

87.68 crore was generated through regulated access to auctioned or seized Red Sanders wood by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department as a benefit-sharing amount. So far, the NBA has released over Rs 49 crore to forest departments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and to the Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board for Red Sanders conservation, protection and research. In addition, Rs 3 crore has been distributed to 198 farmers in Andhra Pradesh and 55 lakh to 18 farmers in Tamil Nadu, a release stated. The present release of Rs 38.36 crore to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department will further empower frontline forest staff, enhance protection measures, encourage scientific management of Red Sanders forests, create livelihood opportunities through Biodiversity Management Committees, and strengthen the long-term monitoring programme, m

arking a significant step toward securing a vibrant future for this iconic species. Apart from this, the NBA has also approved a major initiative to raise one lakh Red Sanders saplings by the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board at a cost of Rs 2 crore. An initial amount had been released earlier, and the remaining Rs 1.48 crore has now been transferred to the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board. These saplings will later be supplied to farmers, boosting the Trees Outside Forests (ToF) programme and helping to conserve these rare species outside its natural habitat. This landmark initiative shows how Access and Benefit Sharing can directly support India's achievements by highlighting leadership in operationalising global biodiversity principles, ensuring that conservation-linked benefits reach local communities, farmers and biodiversity custodians.

# AP SSC Board Releases March 2026 Exam Timetable

Sl. No.	Examination	Mode	Duration	Time
1	Class 10 (SSC) Public Examinations	Online	3 hours	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
2	Class 12 (SSC) Public Examinations	Online	3 hours	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
3	Class 10 (SSC) Private Examinations	Online	3 hours	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
4	Class 12 (SSC) Private Examinations	Online	3 hours	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

TPN Bureau | November 21  
Amaravati: The Directorate of Government Examinations, Andhra Pradesh, has officially released the timetable for the Class 10 (SSC) public examinations to be held in March 2026. According to the schedule, the exams will begin on March 16 and continue till April 1, 2026. All examinations will be conducted in a single session from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The examinations will start with the First Language paper on March 16, followed by the Second Language paper on March 18, and English on March 20. Mathematics will be held on March 23, Physical Science on March 25, and Biological Science on March 28. The Social Studies examination is scheduled for March 30. Paper-II of the First Language will be held on March 31, and Paper-II of the OSSC (Oriental Secondary School Certificate) Second Language will conclude the series on April 1. Officials from the SSC Board stated that all necessary arrangements are being made to ensure that the exams are conducted smoothly across all districts of Andhra Pradesh. The exam centers will be closely monitored,

and strict measures will be taken to prevent malpractice. Instructions have also been issued to district education officers (DEOs) to ensure the availability of necessary infrastructure, power backup, and seating arrangements for students. The Board has advised students to download the timetable from the official website — www.bse.ap.gov.in and start their final phase of preparation. Students are also encouraged to use model question papers available online to familiarize themselves with the exam pattern. Attendance will be strictly enforced, and students are required to report to the examination centers at least 30 minutes before the commencement of each exam. Education experts noted that this announcement provides ample time for students to plan their revision systematically. Schools have been instructed to complete the syllabus by the end of January and begin special revision sessions in February. The release of the timetable marks the beginning of the final academic countdown for nearly six lakh students who will appear for this crucial statewide examination.

# Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy tells ACB Court his family has no link to liquor income



TPN Bureau | November 21  
Vijayawada: The ACB Court today extended the remand for the accused in the liquor case until December 5. In his submission before the court, Chevi Reddy Bhaskar Reddy stated that his family had been earning its livelihood solely through real estate for nearly three decades and that their business had no connection whatsoever with liquor income. He said his family had been in the real estate profession since 1996, long before the 2019-2024 period being cited in the allegations, and emphasised that buying and selling land was their only source of income, now continued by his children as well. He recalled painful personal experiences, saying his father and younger brother had lost their lives due to

alcohol addiction and that his mother had suffered severely during that time. Having witnessed those tragedies, he vowed never to touch liquor or associate with liquor-related business and affirmed before the court that he had never consumed alcohol, traded in liquor, or earned a single rupee from it. Bhaskar Reddy expressed shock over the allegation that he had acquired properties worth Rs. 60 crore from liquor income during 2019-2024. He said that even the ancestral home his family had lived in for more than a hundred years was being listed for seizure. He pointed out that two acres of land in a remote village, practically worthless and situated on a master-plan road, were being valued at Rs. 35 crore to justify attachment, along with plots he had bought and sold long ago as

part of routine real estate business. He added that while the government valuation of all his properties was around Rs. 8 crore, the authorities were claiming they were worth Rs. 60 crore, and remarked that if the government could simply give them the Rs. 8 crore valuation, his family was ready to hand over all the properties. He said it was painful that senior officials, who should act with transparency, appeared to be targeting those active in the opposition to satisfy the ruling party. He clarified that if the SIT genuinely believed any property had been acquired through liquor income, he had no objection to its seizure. But after the SIT's own inquiry reportedly found no link between his family's business and liquor income, continuing to malign his family with baseless al

legations was unfair and unlawful. Reiterating with conviction that his family never had, and never would have, anything to do with liquor business due to their personal history and sentiment, he said he was being jailed for a crime he had not committed. He told the court he was prepared to stay in jail as long as the government wished to keep him there through what he described as a fabricated case, as God had given him the strength to face any hardship. His only intention, he said, was to present the truth and stand by it. He concluded that time would answer all the illegal cases filed against him, expressing full faith that, though delayed, justice would prevail. He ended his submission with the words: "God is great, nature is supreme."



# Central Team Visits Polavaram Project

TEAM REVIEWS PROGRESS AND CONSTRUCTION QUALITY  
TPN Bureau | November 21  
Polavaram: A central team from the Central Water Commission (CWC) visited the Polavaram Project on Friday and reviewed the ongoing construction works. The delegation included Aditya Sharma, Member of the CWC Designs and Research Wing, Chief Engineer S. S. Bakhshill of the Central Water Commission, and M. Raghuram, Member Secretary of the Polavaram Project Authority. The officials inspected the project activities in detail. They were accompanied by ENC of the Water Resources Department K. Narasimhamurthy, Polavaram SE K. Ramachandra Rao, Quality Control CE K. Seshubabu, DEs K. Balakrishna, D. Srinivas, and Premchand. From MEIL, GM A. Gangadhar and DGM Murali pammi explained

the ongoing works and presented technical details. At the Polavaram Project viewpoint, officials from the Water Resources Department and MEIL briefed the central team on the status of the project and the overall progress. The team later visited the model dam, where officers explained the functioning and design aspects of each component. The central team then proceeded to the spillway, where they carried out a thorough inspection. They reviewed the condition and operation of the spillway, gates, cylinders, and power packs used for gate operation. The delegation also examined the upstream cofferdam, Gap-1 works, diaphragm wall, and the ongoing construction of the hydropower station. At every location, the team interacted with officials and sought detailed updates on the progress and technical parameters of the works.





# Jagan urges Chandrababu Naidu to protect Andhra’s interests in Krishna waters

TPN Bureau | November 21

Amaravati: YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to safeguard the interests of the people of the state before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II). In a letter to the Chief Minister, Jagan said that the state government will have an opportunity to present its case in the upcoming hearings before the KWDT-II.

The YSRCP leader wrote that this is of vital importance in light of the Telangana government's demand for the allocation of 763 TMC of dependable water in the Krishna River to the state of Telangana.

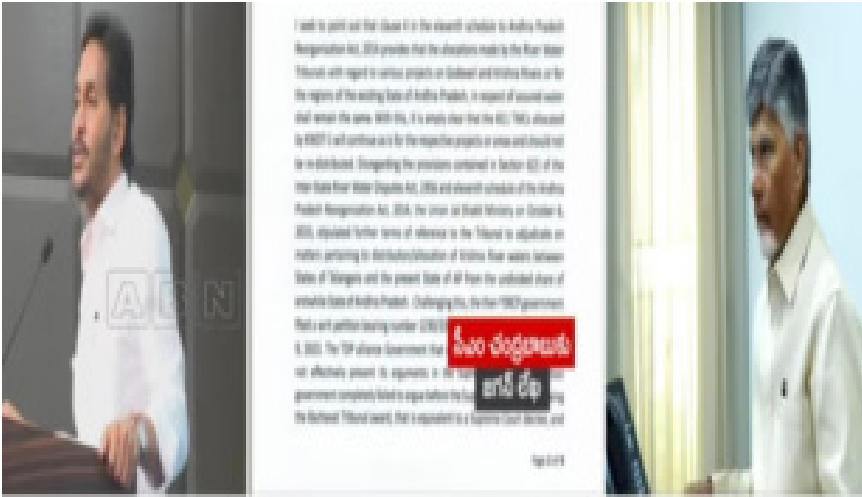
If the Tribunal accedes to this request, the State of Andhra Pradesh would be subjected to severe injustice. Andhra Pradesh Government has to now present its final arguments before the KWDT-II and prevent the un-

fair reallocation, YS Jagan said.

“It is quite distressing to note that the TDP coalition Government in the State of AP does not seem to have any sincerity in protecting the State's rights over the Krishna river waters. The coalition government is making fragile arguments on behalf of the State before KWDT-II,” he wrote.

The former CM also pointed out the callous attitude of the TDP towards the Rayalaseema Projects. Referring to the decision of the Karnataka Government to provide clearance for acquisition of 1,33,867 acres of land to facilitate increase in Almatti dam height from 519.16 meters to 524.256 meters, YS Jagan told CM Naidu that insincere attitude of his Government towards safeguarding the interests of the State is giving scope for the “neighbouring States to initiate steps that will result in adverse consequence for our State.”

He recalled that works



pertaining to increasing the Almatti dam height commenced when Chandrababu Naidu was not only the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh but also the convener of the United Front in 1996. At that time, opposition parties and farmers were justifiably worried that this development would seriously undermine the rights of a united Andhra Pradesh. “Despite the agitations, Chandrababu Naidu had turned a

deaf ear. It is owing to the insincere attitude of the TDP Government that the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal permitted Karnataka to increase the height of the Almatti Dam. Further, the TDP Government formed in 2014 had also relinquished the state's rights over the Krishna river waters to Telangana,” the YSRCP leader Jagan said again that when Chandrababu Naidu is the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh is

facing this difficult situation, wherein the interests of the State are to be safeguarded.

“At this crucial juncture, I urge that the TDP coalition Government act with commitment to the State and protect the State's rights over the Krishna waters. Even if even one TMC of the 512 TMC of net water allocated by the Bachawat Tribunal were to be lost, the TDP Government would be held responsible for it,”

## Chandrababu waging a war against farmers: Kakani Govardhan Reddy



TPN Bureau | November 21

Nellore: Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy strongly criticised Chandrababu Naidu for acting with vengeance towards farmers and has pushed the entire farming community into crisis since coming to power. He said cotton, groundnut, and maize farmers are suffering huge losses due to lack of remunerative prices, yet the government has shown no concern. No crop has a viable MSP, no compensation has been paid, and farmers devastated by floods and drought are being driven into suicide.

He recalled that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy ushered in major reforms and supported farmers in multiple ways, while Chandrababu has done nothing except deceive them with a green towel and empty promises. Even the Rs. 40,000 dues pending for two years have not been cleared, and tenant farmers have been denied all benefits.

Kakani said that under YS Jagan's leadership, farmers were supported from seed to sale through Rythu Bharosa Kendras, but the present government has deliberately dismantled RBKs out of political hatred. Today,

even after three pickings, cotton farmers are ploughing back their crops due to lack of price, and there has been no effort from the government to relax CCI rules. In Kadapa and Anantapur, bananas grown in 60,000 acres have crashed to Rs. 1 per kg, leaving farmers devastated.

Chickpea growers, too, are in a state of despair. While Chandrababu can afford luxury, poor farmers need food security and dignity. Kakani demanded that the government implement crop insurance, bear premiums for farmers who cannot pay, restore RBKs, ensure adequate urea supply, and protect farmers from fake seeds. He reminded that during YS Jagan's tenure, a massive Rs. 1,84,000 crore was spent on farmer welfare.

Kakani also condemned the yellow media for spreading venom when YS Jagan attended the CBI Court in Hyderabad yesterday. He said the media could not digest the crowds voluntarily gathering for YS Jagan, resorting instead to allegations that people were “mobilised and transported.” While people avoid Chandrababu, they willingly come to see YS

Jagan wherever he goes. If people came on their own, why would the police not stop them, he asked, ridiculing TDP's press meets.

YS Jagan does not travel in chartered flights on public money like Chandrababu, Lokesh, and Pawan Kalyan; he travels using his own money, yet TDP finds fault even with that. As YS Jagan's popularity surges and YSRCP's graph rises daily, TDP and its media are unable to tolerate it, even insulting courts by debating on court schedules given to a Z-category protectee.

Ridiculing TDP's baseless claims that YS Jagan sent Maoists to assassinate Chandrababu, Kakani said such lies reflect the rotten politics Chandrababu has practiced all his life, filled with conspiracies and deceit. Despite countless attacks and harassment from political opponents, YS Jagan has steadily grown into a beloved leader of the people. As long as people bless him and God protects him, no one can harm YS Jagan. Mohan Reddy, he said, adding that the public mood already indicates that people will stand firmly with YSRCP in 2029.

## Guntur to Host a Gem Factory on the Lines of Surat, Says TG Bharat



TPN Bureau | November 21

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government is taking steps to establish a major gem and diamond manufacturing facility in Guntur district, modeled after the world-famous Surat diamond cluster in Gujarat. The initiative aims to make Mangalagiri a new hub for the gems and jewellery industry in South India, said State Industries Minister T. G. Bharat on Friday.

Inaugurating a three-day B2B Jewellery Exhibition jointly organized by the AP Bullion, Gold, Silver & Diamond Merchants Association and Chennai-based United Exhibition at Vijayawada, the minister revealed that 12 acres have already been allotted for the proposed factory and cluster. He said this ambitious project is progressing under the leadership and initiative of Minister for IT and Industries Naralakesh, who has been actively promoting industrial growth across

the state.

Bharat lauded the participation of leading jewellers and traders from southern states and expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh's improving governance and business environment are drawing investors and industrialists from across India. He noted that the jewellery industry offers opportunities for everyone, as each entrepreneur brings a distinct style and specialty that can thrive in a competitive market.

Highlighting future infrastructure plans, the minister announced that a 100,000-sq-ft convention centre equipped with all modern amenities and advanced technology will soon be established in Amaravati. For this purpose, the Industries Department has requested the Municipal Administration Department to allocate 10 acres of land. Bharat emphasized that such large exhibition and convention platforms would play a

vital role in connecting designers, manufacturers, and traders, allowing them to understand emerging global trends in jewellery design. Speaking on the occasion, A.P. Bullion, Gold, Silver, and Diamond Merchants Association State President Kapilavathi Vijay Kumar said exhibitions like this create a win-win opportunity for both jewellers and customers. They allow local jewellery dealers to explore a wide range of high-end designs without having to travel to other metropolitan cities. He appreciated the government's efforts to support and strengthen the jewellery ecosystem in the state.

The B2B Jewellery Exhibition, now underway in Vijayawada, will continue for three days, showcasing modern ornaments, design innovations, manufacturing technologies, and business collaborations aimed at expanding Andhra Pradesh's footprint in the national jewellery market.



## Yanamala Slams Jagan Media for “Undermining Legislature”; Questions Fear Over Privilege Committee

TPN Bureau | November 21

Amaravathi: Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu on Friday lashed out at the YSRCP-backed media, accusing it of misleading the public and showing contempt for the state legislature. He questioned why Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's media houses were “afraid” of appearing before the Assembly's Privileges Committee if they believed they had reported the truth. Addressing reporters in Amaravati, Yanamala asked whether obstructing the Assembly's privilege proceedings was an attempt to escape accountability for spreading false information.

“They peddle distorted news and now try to block the legislative process. If Sakshi believes its news is factual, they can very well appear before the Assembly and explain

the matter,” he remarked. The TDP veteran referred to a recent report published in Sakshi, which alleged misuse of public funds in the name of training sessions for MLAs. The publication, according to Yanamala, carried a tone that insulted the dignity of the Assembly and the Speaker by implying that several crores of rupees of taxpayers' money had been wasted.

He stated that such baseless claims were a direct attempt to malign democratic institutions and divert attention from the state government's failures. Yanamala maintained that the legislature represents the collective will of the people and that any attempt to tarnish its image would be treated as a serious offense. “The press enjoys freedom, but that freedom does not extend to defamation or deliberate misinformation. The Privileges Committee exists to protect the

autonomy of the legislature,” he added.

The former finance minister also came down heavily on Jagan Mohan Reddy's conduct during his appearance at the Nampally CBI Court in Hyderabad on Thursday. Describing it as a “display of arrogance and power,” he said the chief minister's supporters created a spectacle as though Jagan was above law. “When a person accused in serious criminal cases attends court, there is no need to turn it into a show of strength that troubles citizens.

His followers shouting slogans that Jagan will seize power again in 2029 and loot people's wealth only reveal the mindset of his party,” Yanamala stated. Concluding his remarks, he urged constitutional bodies to take note of the media's attacks on the legislature and ensure such acts do not erode public faith in the democratic framework.



# Rare voice disorder successfully treated in Vijayawada GGH



TPN Bureau | November 21

Vijayawada: A pioneering corporate-level medical treatment has now become accessible at the Government General Hospital (GGH) and Siddhartha Medical College in Vijayawada, as doctors successfully treated a person suffering from a rare voice disorder, marking a significant advancement in healthcare facilities at these public institutions. Teja Vikas, a 19-year-old nursing student from Eluru district, suffered from a rare voice disorder known as puberphonia, which caused his voice to sound unusually high-pitched and feminine. This condition not only subjected him to social ridicule and humiliation but also severely dented his self-confidence and mental well-being. Recognizing the limitations of voice therapy for this condition, Teja sought advanced surgical options at the ENT department of Vijayawada GGH after a thorough diagnosis by Dr. K. Ravi, Professor and Head of the ENT department. Dr. Ravi identified that Type-3 Thyroplasty surgery was the best course of action to restore a natural male voice. On November 6, 2025, Dr. Ravi successfully performed the surgery, resulting in a complete transformation of Teja's voice to a natural male tone. The patient expressed immense joy and satisfaction with the outcome and was discharged on Friday. The surgery's success was celebrated by the medical team, including Dr. Ravi (ENT Professor & HOD), Dr. Vinay (Professor & HOD of Anesthesia), Dr. A. Yedukondala Rao (Principal of Siddhartha Medical College), and Superintendent Dr. A.V. Rao.

# Government School Teacher Dies in Andhra as Metal Bucket Falls on Her



TPN Bureau | November 21

Anakapalli (Andhra Pradesh): In a tragic incident highlighting serious safety lapses at a school construction site, a government school teacher was killed in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli district on Friday after a heavy metal bucket used for lifting construction materials fell on her. Police have cited negligence on the part of the contractor overseeing the work. The deceased woman, identified as Jyotshna, was an English teacher at the Rajanagaram Government High School. According to police, she was walking past the construction area within the school premises when the bucket, suspended on a pulley system for moving materials, suddenly crashed down and struck her. She sustained severe injuries and died on the spot before help could arrive. Anakapalli District Superintendent of Police (SP) Tuhin Sinha confirmed the incident and described it as a clear case of safety negligence. He noted that the preliminary investigation revealed two major lapses by the contractor: the absence of a mandatory safety perimeter fencing and failure to cordon off the operation zone of the bucket where heavy lifting was underway. "The area should have been isolated from public access, especially since it falls within a school compound frequented by teachers and students," the SP said. "We have taken serious note of the violations that led to this loss of life." Following the incident, the local police registered a case against the contractor under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, citing negligent conduct leading to death. The construction activity at the site has been temporarily halted as forensic and safety inspections continue. The news of Jyotshna's death has sent shock waves through the teaching community and local residents. Colleagues and students described her as a dedicated and compassionate educator deeply involved in school activities. Grief-stricken students gathered in the school premises, paying floral tributes and demanding stricter enforcement of safety rules in government school infrastructure works. Officials from the education department have reached the site and assured a detailed inquiry into procedural lapses. District authorities are expected to submit a preliminary report on the incident soon. The case has renewed public debate on the safety protocols at school construction sites across Andhra Pradesh, raising urgent questions about accountability and preventive measures in public infrastructure projects.

# 1,500 students attend for awareness programme of Agniveer Air personnel



TPN Bureau | November 21

VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh government's Youth Services Department held an awareness session on Friday, at Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, to inform students about job opportunities as Agniveer Air personnel in the Indian Air Force, under district collector directions. Wing Commander Shaik Yakub Ali from the 12-Airmen Selection Center, Secunderabad, addressed 1,500 students, explaining eligibility, job options, and the selection process. Applicants must be unmarried men or women, aged 17.5 to 21, with minimum intermediate education (50% aggregate and English), or a three-year diploma in specified technical fields. Selected candidates must serve four years without marrying. Physical standards include a minimum height of 152 cm and related weight criteria. There is an online eligibility test and a physical fitness test comprising a 1.6 km run (7 minutes for men, 8 minutes for women), 10 push-ups, 10 sit-ups, and 20 squats. Admit cards for the test will be emailed; results will be announced within a month on the official website. Notifications and details are available via the 12-Airmen Selection Center's Instagram. The event included officials like Sub-Collector Kavuri Chaitanya and District Youth Welfare Officer U Srinivasa Rao.

# Mohammed Raahil Zayan Shines at State-Level Painting Competition

TPN Bureau | November 21

Vijayawada: Mohammed Raahil Zayan of Class 7 brought pride to Vee ramacheneni Paddayya Siddhartha Public School Moghalrajapuram Vijayawada by winning the Consolation Prize in Category A at the State-Level Painting Competition organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India. The prestigious competition was held on 19th November at NTPC, where talented young artists from across the state showcased their creativity and awareness on energy conservation. Raahil's artwork stood out for its originality and meaningful message, earning him a cash award of 7,500. His achievement was warmly appreciated by the Principal, Mr. M. Setha Ramaiah, and the Vice Principal, Smt. Rose Mary, who congratulated him for bringing laurels to the school and encouraged him to continue nurturing his artistic talent. The school management, teachers, and students applauded Raahil's accomplishment, which reflects the institution's commitment to fostering creativity and excellence.



# BSNL Launches VoWiFi Service in Andhra Pradesh, Enhances Network Reach



TPN Bureau | November 21

Vijayawada: The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) services across Andhra Pradesh, a major step aimed at strengthening connectivity for mobile users in areas with weak cellular signals. The initiative, inaugurated by BSNL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Robert Gerard Ravi on Friday, enables customers to make voice calls seamlessly through available WiFi networks without depending entirely on mobile tower signals. Addressing the staff and senior officials at the BSNL Circle Office in Vijayawada, Ravi highlighted that the corporation holds valuable spectrum assets and possesses one of the country's most extensive optical fibre networks, making it well-positioned to serve both retail and corporate clients. He emphasized the need for the company's workforce to proactively engage with enterprise and institutional customers and offer BSNL's dedicated connectivity solutions for their communication needs. During his visit, the CMD conducted a signal drive test between Vijayawada and Amaravati to assess network performance firsthand. He directed the officials to identify and rectify coverage gaps swiftly, ensuring that BSNL's services reach customers in both urban and remote rural areas. He reiterated BSNL's commitment to ensuring reliable, nationwide connectivity and instructed engineers and field teams to focus on continuous service improvement. Ravi also reviewed the overall functioning of BSNL services across Andhra Pradesh during an extensive meeting attended by senior officers from various districts. The meeting focused on improving service quality, strengthening customer support, and accelerating ongoing network upgrade projects. The CMD stated that several new mobile cell sites had been commissioned in remote and underserved areas of the state, a move that would significantly enhance connectivity in those regions. Announcing future plans, Ravi said that BSNL is fully prepared to roll out its indigenous 4G network, which would mark another milestone in the public sector telecom company's modernization efforts. The deployment of indigenous 4G infrastructure, developed as part of the national Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, is expected to enhance call quality, data speeds, and customer satisfaction while reducing dependence on imported network equipment. Ravi encouraged BSNL officials to introduce customer-friendly tariff plans and promotional offers to compete effectively with private telecom operators. He noted that the strength of BSNL lies in its wide rural reach, dedicated workforce, and trusted service record, which can be leveraged to regain market share. He also urged the workforce to step up efforts in digital transformation, enterprise solutions, and fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) services, expanding BSNL's footprint in the corporate and high-speed broadband segments. Ravi remarked that BSNL's fibre connectivity infrastructure can play a key role in supporting India's growing digital needs, including smart city projects, data-driven governance, and remote education services. The launch of VoWiFi service in Andhra Pradesh is expected to benefit thousands of users who experience poor mobile signal coverage indoors or in rural pockets, adding another layer of reliability to BSNL's communication network.



# Godavari Residents Fear Repeat of Agri Gold as New ‘Producer Companies’ Face Scam Allegations

TPN Bureau | November 21

Ch Raju | East Godavari: Fresh concerns are spreading across East and West Godavari districts as several newly formed ‘Producer Companies’ are facing allegations of collecting money from the public in ways that locals say resemble past financial scams such as AgriGold and Pearls. While none of these allegations have been officially verified, residents claim that multiple companies registered under the Producer Company format are operating in a manner far outside the scope permitted by law.

Under the Producer Company Act, such entities are meant to engage strictly in agricultural services, farmer-related trading and rural business activities. However, locals allege that some of these firms are instead taking deposits from the public and issuing bond-like “participation cer-

tificates” that appear to have no clear legal validity. Residents say the companies are promising plots in real-estate layouts, high returns, and even “double money” assurances while showcasing land parcels as security. Many fear this model mirrors the same style used in earlier frauds that devastated thousands of families in the region. Adding to public suspicion is the secrecy surrounding these companies. Locals claim that the firms do not disclose phone numbers or clear contact details, and that their operations are handled with unusual confidentiality. Despite this, it is alleged that the companies have already collected crores of rupees from people across various mandals. Revenue officials, villagers say, have no clarity on whether the lands shown to investors genuinely belong to the companies, whether layout permissions exist, or

whether the paperwork offered to customers reflects actual ownership. The participation certificates issued by these firms often contain promises of plot allotments, financial security and high returns—wording that many residents say strongly reminds them of AgriGold’s methods, where thousands were shown land “on paper” before eventually losing their savings. With the region still recovering emotionally and financially from that scandal, the emergence of similar allegations has triggered fresh anxiety.

These concerns have intensified due to growing warnings on social media. Videos and messages circulating on YouTube, Facebook and WhatsApp urge people not to invest, claiming that these companies are following an “AgriGold-style model.” Even as company representatives insist that their business-



es are genuine and intended for community development, locals remain unconvinced, pointing to the lack of visible regulatory compliance.

Residents say key questions still remain unanswered: whether any of these firms have NBFC or SEBI licences, whether the funds collected are being routed through official company accounts, whether the land parcels shown to customers are registered in the company’s name, whether layout permissions exist, and whether proper financial audits

are being conducted. According to locals, no clear answers have come from the companies so far.

For many families in the Godavari districts, the pain of the AgriGold collapse remains fresh. With memories of lost savings and years of uncertainty still lingering, the appearance of new companies using similar assurances has created a sense of déjà vu. Locals warn that these may be early signs of yet another financial trap unless examined promptly.

# MLA Bhashyam Praveen Meets Minister Nara Lokesh, Discusses Pedakurapadu Development



TPN Bureau | November 21

Pedakurapadu (Palnadu District): Pedakurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen met Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information Technology and Industries Nara Lokesh at his Undavalli residence on Friday. The meeting was described as a courtesy call during which the MLA apprised the minister of his newly launched initiative titled “100 Days – 100 Villages,” aimed at enhancing grassroots development across his constituency.

During the discussion, MLA Praveen explained the vision and objectives of the program, which focuses on identifying the specific needs of every village in the constituency and addressing them through targeted interventions in areas like rural infrastructure, digital literacy, education, sanitation, and local employment generation. He sought the minister’s advice

and suggestions for strengthening the program’s implementation using technology-driven solutions.

Minister Nara Lokesh appreciated the MLA’s proactive approach toward constituency development and lauded the effort to bring structured governance closer to the people. He assured full cooperation from the Information Technology Department, particularly in introducing digital initiatives that can help improve public service delivery and transparency at the village level. Lokesh emphasized that sustainable rural growth depends on community participation combined with technological innovation.

The two leaders also held detailed discussions on the broader development priorities of the Pedakurapadu Assembly segment. Topics included improving connectivity, promoting skill development

centers for local youth, and supporting small entrepreneurs through digital platforms. Lokesh said the state government remains committed to balanced growth across districts and is keen to support projects that align with its vision of “Smart Andhra Pradesh.” Expressing gratitude for the encouraging response, MLA Bhashyam Praveen said the meeting reinforced his confidence in delivering measurable progress to the people of Pedakurapadu.

He added that the “100 Days – 100 Villages” campaign is only the beginning of his long-term plan to transform the constituency into a model for participatory and technology-enabled rural development. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both leaders pledging continued collaboration for the sustained progress of the Palnadu region.

# Gold Ornaments Worth Rs 80 Lakh Seized in Narasaraopet; Four Arrested

TPN Bureau | November 21

Narasaraopet: In a major breakthrough, the Narasaraopet Town Police in Palnadu district successfully arrested a four-member gang involved in a series of house burglaries, recovering gold ornaments valued at around Rs 80 lakh. Superintendent of Police (SP) Krishna Rao announced the arrests during a press conference held at the district police headquarters on Friday. According to SP Krishna Rao, the accused had been systematically targeting locked houses during nighttime hours.

Acting on suspicion, the Narasaraopet Town Police intensified pa-



trols and vehicle checks in areas prone to theft. During one such operation, officers noticed a group of individuals moving suspiciously and took them into custody for questioning. Upon interrogation, the suspects reportedly confessed to multiple thefts committed across the

town and nearby areas. The police recovered approximately 610 grams of gold ornaments from their possession, believed to be part of the stolen property.

The seized items include gold chains, bangles, rings, and other valuable ornaments collected from various bur-

glary incidents reported over the past few weeks. SP Krishna Rao commended the efforts of the Narasaraopet Town Police team for their vigilance and quick response, which led to the swift arrest of the culprits. He stated that the operation reflects the proactive policing measures undertaken by the district police to curb the rising incidents of property crimes.

The SP further added that the police are now investigating the gang’s potential involvement in similar thefts reported from nearby towns. The arrested individuals are being remanded to judicial custody, and further investigation is underway to trace other stolen

valuables and identify any additional accomplices.

Police officials have also appealed to the public to report suspicious movements and ensure proper security measures while leaving their homes unattended. This case highlights the growing efficiency of the Palnadu district police in tackling theft and burglary cases through sustained surveillance, strategic checkpoints, and community cooperation.

The recovery of gold worth Rs 80 lakh is seen as one of the significant enforcement successes in recent months, reinforcing public confidence in local law and order mechanisms.

# Chapakudu Ceremony Reverberates with Message of Equality at Palnadu Utsavalu



TPN Bureau | November 21

Karampudi: A historic social and spiritual tradition came alive in Kaarampudi village of Palnadu district as the third day of the grand Palnati Utsavalu featured the revered “Chapakudu” ceremony, symbolizing the philosophy of social equality championed by Palnati hero Brahmanaidu centuries ago. District Collector Kritika Shukla, SP Krishna Rao, Government Whip and Vinukonda MLA GV Anjaneyulu, Narasaraopeta MLA Aravind Babu, and Macharla MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy took part in the celebrations organized at the Veerula Devalayam in Kaarampudi.

The ceremony, known for its spirit of harmony

beyond caste and religion, is considered one of the most significant events of the five-day Palnati festival. The Collector, SP, and public representatives joined devotees and priests in the traditional ritual, sitting together in the Chapakudu Mandapam to partake in the symbolic community meal. The ritual traces its origins to Brahmanaidu’s 12th-century ideal of “Samajika Samaata” (social equality), when he initiated shared dining across communities as an act of courage and reform.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Kritika Shukla praised the organizers for preserving the profound values embedded in the Chapakudu ceremony. Later, she offered prayers at the

Veerula Devalayam and examined ancient weapons said to have been used by Palnati warriors during the historic Palnati Yuddham. MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy narrated to the Collector the history of the temple and the festival’s heroic legacy. The Collector also held the legendary sword believed to have been used by the warrior Kannamadasu during the battle.

SP Krishna Rao performed special pujas at the temples of village deities Ankalamma and Chennakesava Swamy, seeking blessings for peace and prosperity in the region. Praising the unity displayed by the people of Palnadu, he described the festival as a living heritage of social inclusiveness. Vinukonda MLA and Govern-

ment Whip GV Anjaneyulu emphasized the global uniqueness of the festival, stating that such commemorations of valor take place only in two places in the world in Rome and in Palnadu’s Kaarampudi.

He stressed the responsibility of every citizen of Palnadu to spread awareness of its glorious history and rich traditions. Narasaraopeta MLA Aravind Babu likened the Palnati battle to the Mahabharata, noting that the festival coincides with Kartika Amavasya as the original war began on that very day along the banks of Naguleru and continued for five days. Palnadu Peethadhipathi Pidugu Tarun Chennakesava, Gurazala RDO Murali Krishna, DSP Jagadeesh, Tahsildar Venkateswar-

lu Naik, MPDO Ganta Srinivasa Reddy, Veerachara Peetham convenor Vijay Kumar, and Kaarampudi Sarpanch Saraswathi Bhai were among those who participated in the day’s ceremonies.

Rituals, prayers, and community feasts continued throughout the day in an atmosphere of devotion and pride, reflecting the strong cultural bonds that define the identity of Palnadu. The Chapakudu ceremony at Kaarampudi once again demonstrated that the legacy of Brahmanaidu’s vision for an equal society continues to resonate deeply in modern Andhra Pradesh, a timeless reminder that unity, courage, and social harmony remain central to Palnadu’s enduring spirit.

# Prathipati Pullarao Inaugurates Gender Resource Centre at Nadendla



TPN Bureau | November 21

Nadendla, Chilakaluripet: Former minister and Chilakaluripet MLA Prathipati Pullarao inaugurated the Gender Resource Centre (Family Counselling Centre) in Nadendla village of Palnadu district today. The centre has been set up under the supervision of MEPMA and DRDA, with support from Shubodaya Nadendla Mandal Mahila Samakhya.

Speaking on the occasion, DRDA Project Director Jhansi Rani explained that the centre aims to resolve family and legal issues faced by women, including those outside self-help groups. It will provide assistance related to women’s safety, emergency response, medi-

cal care, counselling, legal support, and guidance in filing police complaints.

The centre also intends to help women overcome psychological distress and improve their social security. Prathipati Pullarao lauded the efforts of PD Jhansi Rani for ensuring that one of the six district-level Gender Resource Centres was established in the Chilakaluripet constituency. He expressed hope that the centre would help women achieve quick access to justice and necessary protection mechanisms.

Janu Sena Party constituency coordinator Thota Raja Ramesh noted that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan were

giving special attention to women’s and children’s welfare. During the program, MLA Pullarao distributed cheques worth Rs. 87 lakh sanctioned by the Bank of Baroda to DWCRA women groups.

He also felicitated Bank Manager Viswanadham for his support in facilitating these loans. Later, alongside CDPO Shantakumari, the MLA distributed pre-school kits to Anganwadi centres. Palnadu District Federation President Rajani Kumari, DPM Malleshwari, APM Ramesh Babu, Tahsildar Kutumba Rao, MPDO Swarupa Rani, and several party leaders and activists from Nadendla and surrounding villages participated in the event.



# Modi’s G20 Defiance: Why The Global South Is Done Waiting For America



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Johannesburg for the first G20 summit held on African soil, signaling a strong message that multilateralism cannot be stalled by one nation’s absence. While former US President Donald Trump boycotted the summit over unverified claims about South African farmers, Modi’s attendance underscored that global challenges cannot wait for American approval. Trump’s boycott reflects a broader retreat from multilateralism. Since returning to office, his administration has exited the Paris Climate Agreement, UNE-

SCO, and WHO, and reviewed other global treaties with the intention of abandoning them. In contrast, the Johannesburg summit has proceeded effectively, demonstrating that multilateral cooperation is possible without US participation. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa insisted on a joint declaration despite Washington’s pressure, reinforcing that smaller or emerging economies will not be coerced into weakening their agendas. Leaders from France, Germany, the UK, Brazil, China, Russia, and other major economies actively engaged in discussions on

debt relief for developing countries, climate finance, disaster resilience, and inequality reduction, showcasing the summit’s continued relevance. Modi’s leadership during India’s 2023 G20 presidency strengthened the voice of the Global South by securing the African Union’s permanent membership, representing 55 African nations and expanding the G20’s global representation to 80 percent of the world population. This move amplified previously marginalized perspectives in global economic governance. India’s presidency also achieved consensus on the New Delhi Leaders’ Decla-

ration, covering development, climate action, digital infrastructure, and multilateral reforms. South Africa’s current presidency continues this legacy, prioritizing debt sustainability, climate finance, disaster risk reduction, and critical minerals governance—issues vital to developing nations disproportionately affected by global crises. Modi’s presence in Johannesburg highlights India’s commitment to bridging North-South divides and ensuring that global forums address real-world challenges rather than political posturing. By contrast, the US absence illus-

trates a growing divergence in priorities between the Global South and traditional Western powers. The summit demonstrates that multilateralism does not depend on a single country. India’s active role affirms the rising influence of developing nations in shaping global agendas, while America’s retreat signals a potential long-term decline in its unilateral influence within international institutions. The Johannesburg G20 reinforces a multipolar reality where global cooperation continues despite geopolitical tensions.

## India Pushes for Multidimensional Atmanirbharta Index



As India accelerates its ‘Make in India’ and self-reliance initiatives, experts are calling for a comprehensive Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) Index to measure, assess, and incentivize domestic industry and innovation at the company level. India’s Atmanirbhar Bharat mission has prioritized indigenous production, technological independence, and innovation, but current metrics—primarily trade-based—fail to capture the full picture. A multidimensional index would provide granular insights into which companies are driving true self-reliance, highlight best practices, and identify areas needing policy intervention.

Unlike previous sector-level indices, the proposed framework would focus on company-specific performance, enabling targeted strategies rather than one-size-fits-all solutions. This could foster healthy competition, pushing firms to strengthen local capabilities while remaining globally competitive.

### Key pillars of the proposed index include:

**Technology Independence:** Measures domestic R&D investment, patent ownership, and adoption of locally developed technologies. Companies collaborating with Indian research institutions or creating proprietary intellectual property would score higher.

**Supply Chain Resilience:** Evaluates local sourcing, contingency planning, and the ability to withstand global disruptions. Resilient firms can

maintain operations even amid international market volatility. **International Competitiveness:** Rewards companies that export, innovate, and adhere to global standards, ensuring India produces not just substitutes but products that succeed globally. A suggested scoring system could allocate 40 points for technology independence, and 30 each for supply chain resilience and global competitiveness. Data could be sourced from audited reports, industry databases, and verified company submissions. Annual publication of scores via a national Atmanirbharta Dashboard would offer transparency, drive accountability, and encourage firms to enhance performance. Linking index performance with policy incentives—such as access to Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, tax benefits, or government procurement priority—could transform self-reliance from a policy aspiration into actionable business strategy. Firms investing in local technology, reducing import dependence, or boosting exports would gain tangible advantages, promoting long-term capability building over short-term cost-cutting. The Atmanirbharta Index, by quantifying self-reliance and rewarding innovation, could serve as a strategic compass for India’s industrial future, helping the country move towards enhanced autonomy, global competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

## Why Freebies Alone Don’t Decide Bihar Elections



Patna: The Bihar Assembly elections have reignited discussions on the role of freebies in shaping voter behavior, raising questions about whether such incentives alone can secure electoral victory. While promises of free electricity, subsidized food, household goods, and other largesse are a familiar feature in Indian politics, analysts argue that they are no longer a guaranteed route to power. Freebies have a long-standing history across Indian states. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi captured attention with free bus rides and subsidies for water and electricity. In Tamil Nadu, both the DMK and AIADMK have offered items like TVs, laptops, and mobile phones during elections. Free power to farmers has been a consistent promise in multiple states. Bihar, too, witnessed a barrage of assurances during its recent polls, continuing this tra-

dition of populist measures. Yet, experts caution that such incentives cannot substitute for effective governance, social development, and economic opportunities. Bihar’s economy, though growing rapidly, does so from a low base. The state faces deep structural challenges, including low per capita income, high unemployment, and limited industrialisation. Voters are increasingly aware that one-time perks do not address long-term concerns such as education, healthcare, job creation, and infrastructure development. Women have historically been a crucial constituency in Bihar, and their support is shaped by a combination of social welfare programs, empowerment initiatives, and tangible development outcomes, rather than freebies alone. Nitish Kumar’s political success, for instance, has been attributed not only to

targeted welfare schemes but also to governance initiatives and a focus on law and order, women’s safety, and rural development. Moreover, political analysts point out that overreliance on freebie politics can backfire. Unsustainable promises can strain state finances, erode trust if unmet, and fuel public cynicism. As Indian voters grow more aspirational and informed, the focus is shifting toward performance, delivery, and credibility. In conclusion, while freebies remain a tactical tool in election campaigns, Bihar’s experience underscores that long-term development, governance quality, and social welfare play a more decisive role in shaping electoral outcomes. Politicians seeking durable support must balance immediate incentives with policies that address the structural and socio-economic needs of the population.

## Delhi’s Toxic Air: A Public Health Emergency



Delhi’s air pollution has reached crisis proportions, severely affecting the health and well-being of its residents. Scientists estimate that prolonged exposure to toxic air in the capital shortens life expectancy by nearly a decade, with children and vulnerable populations bearing the heaviest burden. Recent data reveals the gravity of the situation: in 2023 alone, ambient particulate matter accounted for over 17,000 deaths in Delhi, roughly one in seven. Fine particles, particularly PM2.5, penetrate deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream, and trigger inflammation, increasing the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, cardio-

vascular ailments, stroke, lung cancer, and even neurological disorders. For children, exposure is linked to developmental delays, lower academic performance, and early cognitive decline. Surveys indicate that 62% of families report burning eyes, 46% nasal congestion, 31% breathing difficulties, and 15% sleep problems—all pollution-related. The causes are well-known and recurring: vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial pollution, biomass burning, and crop residue burning in neighbouring states. Seasonal temperature inversions trap pollutants close to the ground, turning Delhi into a “bowl of stagnation.” Despite this clarity,

long-term systemic solutions remain elusive. Temporary fixes are deployed annually, but they fail to address the root causes. Experts argue that tackling Delhi’s air crisis requires coordinated, inter-state action involving Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The central government must lead with a time-bound action plan, measurable targets, regular audits, penalties for non-compliance, judicial oversight, and the full-time involvement of environmental experts. Strengthening emission controls, transport reforms, crop-burning mitigation, and urban green infrastructure are essential, yet fragmented state-level efforts cannot suffice.

The crisis is compounded by political finger-pointing. Governments alternately blame each other, while citizens continue to suffer. Delhi’s residents should not have to endure polluted air as a fact of life. Instead, collective, conscious, and courageous action from both administrators and policymakers is needed. The capital has the potential to become a model for air-quality management, demonstrating that even the most entrenched smog can be dispelled. Breathing clean air should not be a privilege—it is a fundamental right. The question is no longer why Delhi suffers, but why society tolerates it. Immediate systemic reform is the only path forward.



# DK Shivakumar Loyalists Push for CM Change in Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The political drama in Karnataka escalated Friday as Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain, a staunch supporter of DK Shivakumar (DKS), claimed that Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge offered “assurance” regarding the party’s internal Chief Minister debate. Hussain said Kharge sought a week’s time to consult the party’s high command before deciding on the leadership issue.

Hussain told NDTV that Shivakumar had played a key role in revitalising the Congress in Karnataka and deserved a chance to be Chief Minister. “DK Shivakumar has struggled and put effort to bring the party to power... we requested the high command, and Siddaramaiah, to give him a chance,” Hussain said, adding that they are hopeful justice will be done.

The Shivakumar camp’s push comes as Siddaramaiah completes the half-way mark of his five-year term. Reports suggest that an informal agreement might exist for Siddaramaiah to step down mid-term, although the Chief Minister has repeatedly



denied such claims, stating, “my power hasn’t gone... it has only gotten stronger... I will complete my term.”

The factional rivalry has split Congress lawmakers in Karnataka. The DKS camp includes Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy and Iqbal Hussain,

while Siddaramaiah’s supporters include Home Minister G Parameshwara and Public Works Minister Satish Jarikholi. The latter group cites a 2023 letter from Congress HQ confirming Siddaramaiah’s full five-year tenure.

Despite this, DKS loyalists continue lobbying in

Delhi, with at least a dozen more lawmakers expected to meet party leaders in the coming days. Hussain emphasized discipline within the party but hinted at expectations of a favorable outcome: “We have some discipline in Congress and we have to obey the high command... But

we hope we will get justice.”

As Karnataka approaches a potential leadership crossroads, whispers of a mid-term transition persist, keeping both camps on edge in what observers describe as a high-stakes “Game of Thrones” within the state Congress.

# Amit Shah Says Bihar Polls Mandate Against Infiltrators

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday described the BJP-led NDA’s resounding victory in the Bihar assembly elections as a clear mandate against infiltrators in India. Addressing the BSF Diamond Jubilee (61st Raising Day) celebrations in Bhuj, Gujarat, Shah emphasized that citizens do not support parties that advocate for or protect illegal immigrants.

Shah highlighted the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, calling it a “purification” of the voters’ list. He accused some political parties, including the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, of opposing the SIR process to ensure that infiltrators remain on the electoral rolls. “Stopping infiltration is essential not only for national security but also to protect the democratic system from being polluted,” he said.

The Home Minister as-



serted the government’s commitment to deporting every infiltrator and said that only Indian citizens have the right to influence democratic decisions. “Who will be the Chief Minister of any state or the Prime Minister is a decision solely for Indian citizens. Infiltrators

do not have the right to pollute our democracy,” Shah added.

He also warned political parties attempting to shield illegal immigrants, saying the Bihar election results reflected the public’s opposition to such practices. In the recent assembly elections,

the NDA won over 200 seats in the 243-member House, defeating the Mahagathbandhan alliance of Congress, RJD, and others.

Shah urged all citizens to support the SIR process as a step toward safeguarding and purifying India’s democracy. “Those

working to secure infiltrators’ place on voter lists should know that the people of the country will never support such intentions,” he said, reinforcing the government’s firm stance against illegal immigration and efforts to strengthen electoral integrity.

# Delhi HC Quashes Case Against Gautam Gambhir in Covid Drugs Row



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed a criminal case against former crick-

eter and current Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir, his foundation, and family

members in connection with the alleged illegal stocking and distribution of COVID-19 drugs during

the pandemic.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna pronounced the order, stating, “criminal complaint quashed,” in response to a plea challenging the summons issued by the trial court against Gambhir, his wife Seema Gambhir, his mother Natasha Gambhir, and the Gautam Gambhir Foundation. The plea sought the quashing of the criminal complaint filed by the Delhi government’s Drug Control Department.

The complaint had named Gambhir, then MP from East Delhi, along with his foundation, its CEO Aprajita Singh, and family members, alleging violations under Section 18(c) read with Section 27(b)(ii) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Section 18(c) prohibits the manufacture, sale, and distribution of drugs without a valid licence, while Section 27(b)(ii) prescribes imprisonment of three to five years and fines for offences.

The legal proceedings

began when Gambhir and his family challenged the trial court’s summons. On September 20, 2021, the High Court had stayed the trial proceedings and sought a response from the Drug Control Department. The stay was vacated on April 9, 2025, prompting Gambhir to file a fresh application seeking its recall.

The Drug Control Department’s counsel opposed the plea, arguing that Gambhir should have approached the revisional court before moving the High Court. The prosecution maintained that the petitioners had indeed distributed drugs without a valid licence, and their defense rested solely on the claim that no sale had occurred.

With the High Court’s quashing of the criminal complaint, Gambhir and his family are cleared of legal liability in the case, ending a long-standing legal battle linked to the pandemic-era distribution of medicines.

# PM Modi Begins South Africa Visit for G20 Summit



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday embarked on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the first G20 Summit on the African continent, taking place in Johannesburg. During the summit, Modi will present India’s perspective on key global issues, aligned with the nation’s guiding philosophy of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the world is one family) and the vision of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’.

The G20 Summit, themed ‘Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability’, marks the fourth consecutive forum hosted in the Global South. Modi will participate in all three sessions of the summit, which focus on inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, and the role of artificial intelligence

in sustainable development.

Alongside the G20 meetings, the Prime Minister will also attend the sixth IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Summit, held on the sidelines of the G20, to strengthen trilateral cooperation and discuss shared priorities in trade, energy, and socioeconomic development.

Notably, several key leaders, including US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, are not attending the summit, creating a unique diplomatic environment for discussions. During his stay, Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings with participating leaders to advance India’s global economic and strategic interests.

The visit also underscores India’s continu-

ing efforts to elevate the African Union’s role in global forums, following its membership in the G20 during India’s presidency in 2023—a milestone widely regarded as a landmark achievement for India-Africa relations.

Through his participation, the Prime Minister aims to emphasize sustainable development, equitable growth, and strengthened global partnerships while representing India’s commitment to multilateralism and inclusive solutions to global challenges.

Modi’s visit to Johannesburg reflects India’s growing engagement with the Global South and its commitment to fostering dialogue on pressing international issues ranging from climate action to technological innovation.

# India, Australia Vow for Free & Secure Indo-Pacific



TPN Correspondent | Patna

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday highlighted the deepening ties between India and Australia, emphasizing their shared commitment to a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific during the 16th India-Australia Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue in New Delhi.

Welcoming Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Jaishankar described the dialogue as a cornerstone of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between the two nations. He noted that bilateral ties have expanded across trade, investment, defence, education, research, science, technology, space, and energy, with particularly strong growth in people-to-people connections over the past five years.

The minister pointed to recent high-level vis-

its, including Australia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister to India, as well as India’s Defence Minister visiting Australia, reflecting growing defence and security cooperation. He highlighted joint exercises, interoperability initiatives, maritime domain awareness, and cybersecurity collaboration as key indicators of trust and coordination between the countries.

Jaishankar expressed optimism over the ongoing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) negotiations, expected to conclude soon, further strengthening trade and investment relations. He also praised the presence of Australian universities in India, adding a new dimension to bilateral cooperation in education and skills development.

In addition, the minister underscored collabo-

ration on renewable energy under the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership and lauded Canberra’s support for India’s Gaganyaan mission, along with plans to launch an Australian satellite using an Indian launch vehicle.

Acknowledging the Indian diaspora in Australia as a “living bridge,” Jaishankar stressed that both democracies share responsibilities in addressing maritime security, resilient supply chains, counter-terrorism, and climate action. He called for sustained momentum in ties and tangible outcomes on regional and global priorities.

The dialogue reinforced India and Australia’s shared vision of a strategically stable Indo-Pacific, underscoring growing cooperation across political, economic, and security domains.



Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch Wins Miss Universe Amid Stage Drama



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Fatima Bosch of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025 on Friday in Nonthaburi, Thailand, in a finale marked by controversy and unexpected drama. The pageant, one of the “big four” global beauty contests, saw over 120 contestants competing for the prestigious crown, with finalists from Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Thailand, and Venezuela joining Bosch on stage.

The climax of the event was overshadowed by a tense incident involving the host, who reportedly insulted Bosch, sparking widespread debate and criticism. The moment created a chaotic atmosphere as judges reportedly expressed displeasure, with some stepping down in protest. Despite the turbulence, Bosch maintained her composure, impressing the panel with poise and confidence to ultimately secure the crown.

Bosch’s victory is celebrated as a triumph of resilience and grace under pressure, with fans and observers praising her ability to rise above the controversy. The Mexican contestant’s performance throughout the pageant, including the evening gown and final question rounds, was highlighted as a key factor in her success.

The 2025 edition of Miss Universe will be remembered not only for the crowning of Bosch but also for the unprecedented behind-the-scenes drama. Allegations of mismanagement, contestant dissatisfaction, and on-stage flops added a layer of unpredictability, making the event one of the most talked-about editions in recent years.

Organisers stated that the pageant aimed to celebrate diversity, talent, and global representation, and despite the controversies, they lauded Bosch’s win as a reflection of excellence and resilience. Her victory adds to Mexico’s growing legacy in international beauty contests, inspiring a new generation of participants.

Fans worldwide have taken to social media to congratulate Bosch, emphasizing her composure amid adversity as a defining feature of her Miss Universe journey.

Four Killed as 5.7-Magnitude Quake Jolts Bangladesh; Tremors Felt in West Bengal



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

A 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck Dhaka and several parts of Bangladesh on Friday morning, leaving four people dead, including a newborn baby, and injuring at least 50 others across the country. The quake, which triggered panic and caused structural damage, was also felt across West Bengal, including in Kolkata.

According to Bangladesh’s meteorology department, the tremor occurred at 10:38 am with its epicentre at Narsingdi, located on the northeastern outskirts of Dhaka, at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres. The site lies just 13 km from the seismic centre in the capital’s Agargaon area.

In Old Dhaka’s Armanitola locality, three people were killed after a railing, bamboo scaffolding, and debris from a five-storey building collapsed during the tremor. Dhaka’s Deputy Police Commissioner Mallik Ahsan Uddin Sami confirmed the deaths, adding that a medical student was among the victims while his mother sustained critical injuries and required emergency surgery. Local reports indicated that one of the deceased was an eight-year-old child.

The fourth fatality occurred in Narayanganj, where a newborn died after a wall collapsed near the infant and her mother as they walked by.

Several buildings across Dhaka showed signs of structural distress. An eight-storey structure in Swamibagh, Sutrapur, leaned onto a neighbouring building, while a seven-storey building in Kalabagan appeared tilted, though firefighters later assessed it as structurally stable.

Multiple fires were also reported soon after the quake, including incidents in Baridhara and Munshiganj’s Gazaria area. Fire crews responded promptly, though the cause of the blazes remains under investigation.

Experts warned that the tremor should serve as a wake-up call. Professor Mehedi Ahmed Ansary of BUET said that a stronger quake—of magnitude 6 or above—could cause widespread structural collapse in the country.

Across the border, residents in Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal rushed out of buildings as tremors were felt. No casualties or damage have been reported in India so far.

Trump Unveils 28-Point Peace Plan to End Russia-Ukraine War

TPN Bureau | Washington

A 28-point peace plan aimed at ending the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has been drafted by the United States and Russia, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky agreeing to review the proposals. The plan, which Kyiv has said includes several unacceptable concessions, outlines measures that could force Ukraine to cede large parts of its territory captured by Moscow and cap its military size, while also lifting sanctions on Russia over time.

The proposals include US security guarantees for Ukraine, economic cooperation between Washington and Moscow, and the establishment of a joint Peace Council headed by former US President Donald Trump to monitor compliance. The plan also suggests holding elections in Ukraine within 100 days and enshrining in the



constitution that the country will not join NATO. Key Russian-held regions including Crimea, Luhansk, and Donetsk would be recognised as de facto Russian, while Kherson and Zaporizhzhia would remain frozen along the line of contact.

Other provisions include limitations on Ukraine’s armed forces to 600,000 personnel, the reintegration of Russia into the global economy, and the creation of a Ukraine Development Fund for post-war reconstruction. Economic partnerships between the US, Russia, and Europe are also outlined, including the use of \$100 billion in frozen Russian assets to rebuild Ukraine, with the US receiving half the profits.

The plan additionally addresses humanitarian issues, including prisoner exchanges, civilian repatriation, and family reunification. Both countries are expected to adopt educational programs promoting tolerance and cultural understanding. Nuclear safety measures, including the supervision of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant by the IAEA, are also included.

Zelensky is scheduled to discuss the plan with Trump in the coming days, evaluating whether it offers a viable path to a just and sustainable resolution of the conflict. While diplomacy remains ongoing, critics argue the plan’s territorial and military concessions may be politically and strategically challenging for Ukraine.

Pakistan’s soaring violence against women exposes institutional collapse

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

A biannual assessment by the Sustainable Social Development Organisation (SSDO) has highlighted the alarming scale of gender-based violence in Punjab, Pakistan, revealing that at least 85 women suffer violence daily, including nine who are sexually assaulted on average. The findings, obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act from the Punjab Police, underscore the systemic and widespread abuse across the province.

The Violence Against Women Punjab 2025 factsheet categorises incidents into sexual assault, domestic violence, honour crimes, kidnapping, trafficking, cyber harassment, and workplace sexual harassment. Between January and June 2025, daily averages recorded nine sexual assaults, 51 kidnappings, and 24 domestic violence cases.



Lahore emerged as the worst-hit district, leading in sexual assault, kidnapping, domestic violence complaints, and honour killings. Other high-incidence districts include Multan, Gujranwala, Sialkot, and Kasur.

The report also highlighted uneven cyber harassment reporting, with only five districts — Okara, Sheikhupura, Layyah, Pakpattan, and Gujrat—documenting incidents, largely due to limited access to digital reporting platforms. Muzaffargarh and Pakpattan saw the highest

spite repeated RTI reminders, raising concerns about transparency and accountability.

SSDO warned that data gaps weaken public trust and fuel misinformation. While improved reporting may have increased the numbers, the organisation stressed that robust reporting mechanisms, faster judicial processes, stronger police investigations, and enhanced survivor support services are urgently needed.

The report concluded that reliable data, accountable governance, and sustained community awareness are essential to confront the deep-rooted crisis of violence against women in Punjab. Without structural reforms, experts fear the violence will remain widespread and underreported, perpetuating cycles of abuse and impunity.

PM Modi Begins 3-Day Visit to South Africa for G20 Summit



TPN Correspondent | UN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for a three-day visit to South Africa on Friday to attend the 20th G20 Leaders’ Summit in Johannesburg, the country’s economic capital. The summit, themed “Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability,” marks the fourth consecutive G20 gathering hosted in the Global South and is the first

ever G20 Summit held on African soil. This year’s summit will proceed without US representation, as President Donald Trump announced a boycott over his disputed claims regarding the treatment of South Africa’s African minority. Chinese President Xi Jinping is also skipping the event, aligning with his reduced international travel schedule.

PM Modi’s Agenda During the summit, PM Modi is scheduled to speak in all three key sessions, which will focus on: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, trade, and financing for development; Climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, food systems, and energy transitions; Artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and future-ready global cooperation.

The Prime Minister will highlight India’s views on global economic challenges, equitable climate action, and responsible AI governance, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

On the sidelines, PM Modi will hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders. He will also attend the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders’ Meeting, hosted by South Africa.

Strengthening Africa’s Role in Global Governance In his departure statement, PM Modi noted the significance of Africa hosting its first G20 Summit. He recalled that under India’s presidency in 2023, the African Union was inducted as a permanent member of the G20 — a move widely seen as a milestone for global inclusivity.

He emphasized India’s commitment to the principles of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future,” expressing hope that the summit would advance cooperation on global priorities.

The discussions over the next three days are expected to shape collective action on growth, climate, and emerging technologies, reinforcing the G20’s role as a platform for global consensus.



# HSBC Predicts Sensex to Touch 94,000 by End-2026

Global brokerage HSBC expects India's benchmark BSE Sensex to rise roughly 10% by the end of 2026, setting a target of 94,000 points for the 30-share index. The firm highlighted that Indian equities currently offer better valuation support compared to Chinese markets, despite lagging other Asian peers this year due to softer corporate earnings and heavy foreign selling.

In 2025, foreign portfolio investors have offloaded \$16.8 billion of Indian equities, marking a record year of outflows. However, the selling trend has moderated since October amid signs of earnings recovery. Both the Sensex and Nifty are up about 10% year-to-date, trading slightly below their September 2024 highs.

HSBC analysts, led by Herald van der Linde, noted that India is regaining appeal as earnings strengthen and valuations ease after a 14-month pause. Key sectors expected to



benefit include banks, as margins expand, and consumption-driven industries, such as automobiles, which stand to gain from GST reductions and lower interest rates.

The brokerage also highlighted that India

is well-positioned to attract renewed emerging market inflows, as global investors seek growth opportunities in Asia beyond artificial intelligence-driven sectors. HSBC emphasized that ongoing fiscal and monetary sup-

port could boost growth in early 2026. Alongside India, HSBC remains overweight on mainland China, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, while staying underweight on Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and

Thailand. The firm had upgraded Indian equities to "overweight" from "neutral" in September, making it one of the first major global brokers to turn bullish on India's economy. HSBC's outlook sug-

gests optimism for the Indian stock market, driven by improving earnings, favorable valuations, and renewed investor interest, signaling a potential strong year ahead for equities in the country.

# Tata Motors PV Q2 Profit Soars 2,065% on One-Time Gain



Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (Tata Motors PV) reported a staggering 2,065% jump in profit for the quarter ended September 2026, posting Rs 76,248 crore, driven largely by a one-time notional gain of Rs 82,616 crore following the company's de-

merger into passenger and commercial vehicle units. For comparison, the same quarter a year ago saw a profit of Rs 3,521 crore, while the June quarter of FY26 recorded Rs 4,003 crore.

Despite the sharp rise in profit, revenue fell 13.5%

year-on-year to Rs 72,349 crore, affected primarily by a cyber incident at Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). The company noted that domestic sales remained steady, with performance rebounding after recent GST reductions. The quarter also saw a no-

table 60% surge in electric vehicle (EV) sales, highlighting Tata Motors PV's growing focus on EVs amid rising consumer demand. This increase underlines the company's strategic push toward electrification and innovation in passenger vehicles, a seg-

ment expected to drive future growth.

Tata Motors' strong one-time gain comes as part of broader corporate restructuring and strategic realignment, designed to separate passenger and commercial vehicle operations. Analysts said that while the profit spike is exceptional, the underlying operational numbers suggest a stable domestic market performance despite challenges at the global subsidiary, JLR.

The company emphasized that it remains focused on expanding EV offerings, strengthening domestic market share, and navigating international headwinds. With the demerger providing clearer business visibility, Tata Motors PV is well-positioned to leverage its EV growth momentum and enhance long-term shareholder value.

This quarter's results underscore the impact of strategic corporate moves, demonstrating how one-time gains and restructuring can significantly influence reported profitability, even amid operational challenges.

# Tata Projects, ASI Global Join Hands for Aircraft Maintenance Facilities



Tata Projects Ltd (TPL) and ASI Global have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly design and construct aircraft maintenance facilities in India, positioning

themselves as integrated solution providers for hangar and MRO infrastructure.

The alliance brings together Tata Projects' engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC)

expertise with ASI Global's global experience in aircraft hangar design and fabrication. Together, the companies aim to cater to growing demand from commercial airlines, third-party

MRO operators, business aircraft operators, and the defence sector.

Under the MoU, Tata Projects and ASI Global will jointly identify and pursue opportunities across India for the de-

velopment of hangars and related maintenance infrastructure. The partnership is expected to streamline project execution and provide end-to-end solutions for aviation

clients, from design and engineering to construction.

Industry experts note that India's aviation sector is witnessing increased demand for modern maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facilities, driven by the expansion of commercial airlines and rising defence requirements. The collaboration between Tata Projects and ASI Global is seen as a timely move to strengthen domestic capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign infrastructure providers.

The MoU reflects a strategic effort to enhance India's aerospace infrastructure, supporting both civil and defence aviation growth. With the partnership in place, the companies are set to play a key role in shaping the country's MRO ecosystem while leveraging their combined technical and operational expertise.

# Reliance Halts Russian Oil Imports at SEZ Refinery



Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has stopped importing Russian crude oil into its Special Economic Zone (SEZ) refinery, effective Thursday, November 20. The company confirmed that all pre-committed Russian crude shipments as of October 22 will be honoured, ensuring no disruption to ongoing operations.

Starting December 1, 2025, all products exported from the SEZ refinery will be sourced exclusively from non-Russian crude oil, marking a strategic shift in RIL's supply chain. According to a company spokesperson, this transition has been completed ahead of schedule to ensure full compliance with upcoming product-import restrictions, which are set to come into force on January 21, 2026.

The move aligns with broader geopolitical and regulatory pressures, as several nations tighten restrictions on Russian oil amid ongoing global tensions. Reliance's proactive adjustment is

aimed at avoiding potential disruptions to its export operations and maintaining smooth refinery output.

Industry experts note that this early compliance also allows Reliance to stabilize sourcing logistics and maintain customer confidence in international markets. Analysts say the SEZ refinery, a key part of Reliance's export-oriented strategy, will now increasingly rely on alternative crude suppliers, diversifying its supply chain to mitigate geopolitical risks.

This development comes at a time when global oil markets are closely watching supply realignments and sanctions compliance, and RIL's decision is expected to set a precedent for other private refiners managing Russian crude dependencies.

By moving swiftly ahead of the mandated restrictions, Reliance aims to ensure uninterrupted refinery operations, safeguard exports, and demonstrate its commitment to regulatory adherence and global trade norms.

# Rupee Inches Up 2 Paise to 88.58 Against Dollar



Mumbai: The Indian rupee closed 2 paise higher at 88.58 against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, supported by buying momentum in domestic equities and softer global crude oil prices.

Forex traders noted that despite these domestic positives, gains were limited due to a firm U.S. dollar and continued foreign capital outflows. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.18% higher at 99.63.

Market participants also cited cautious investor senti-

ment ahead of developments on the proposed India-U.S. trade deal, which has been closely monitored by businesses and foreign investors alike.

"While the rupee saw modest gains, broader global factors and the strength of the U.S. dollar kept any sharp appreciation in check," said a senior forex dealer.

Analysts expect the rupee to remain sensitive to both domestic equity trends and international cues, including crude oil prices, dollar movement, and foreign fund flows, in the near term.



# Redditor Wins PS5 Slim With Rs 20 Munch Bar



In a heartwarming story of luck and nostalgia, a Reddit user from India has won a PS5 Slim after purchasing a Rs 20 Munch chocolate bar at a local supermarket. The story, shared on the r/ps5india subreddit, quickly went viral.

The winner recounted that while visiting a supermarket with a friend, they picked up a Munch bar for nostalgic reasons. "I saw that it had a chance to win PlayStation offer. Just randomly went to the website and typed in the unique code and forgot about it," the user wrote.

Three days later, the user received a notification confirming their win. Initially skeptical, they feared it might be a scam. However, when the delivery ID arrived, excitement set in. "I didn't believe it and thought it was a scam. Then the delivery ID came and I was ecstatic," the Redditor shared.

Coming from a middle-class background, the winner revealed that owning a PlayStation had always been a dream. The unexpected fortune left

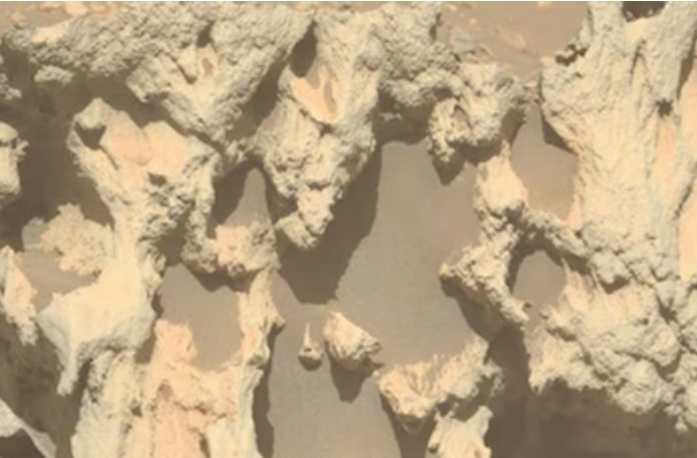
them torn between selling the console to cover urgent expenses or keeping it. Ultimately, they chose to retain the PS5 Slim and plan to subscribe to PS Plus, taking advantage of the ongoing Black Friday sale.

The post highlights not only the thrill of unexpected luck but also the joy of fulfilling a long-held dream. The winner's story has resonated with Reddit users, many of whom congratulated them on the "once-in-a-lifetime" chance and shared their own nostalgic gaming memories.

With the PlayStation 5's popularity soaring worldwide and Black Friday sales reducing its price, this story serves as a reminder that sometimes, even a Rs 20 chocolate bar can lead to life-changing rewards. The Redditor now looks forward to exploring the console and making the most of their digital gaming adventure.

The viral post has inspired many, reaffirming that small gestures and random luck can occasionally turn dreams into reality.

# NASA Spots Mysterious 80cm Rock on Mars



NASA's rover Perseverance has discovered an unusual 80-centimeter rock in the Ver-nodden area of Mars' Jezero Crater, sparking excitement among scientists. The rock, named "Phippsaksa," stood out due to its size and structured appearance compared to surrounding stones.

Images captured by Perseverance's Left Mastcam-Z camera on September 19, 2025, show Phippsaksa both up close and from a distance, revealing details that prompted the team to investigate further.

To analyze its composition, the rover used its SuperCam instrument, which fires laser pulses at targets and examines the reflected light. Preliminary findings indicate that the rock contains iron and nickel, elements uncommon in typical Martian geology but often found in asteroids, suggesting that the rock may have formed elsewhere in the solar system.

"This could be a meteorite," NASA scientists noted, though further study is required to confirm its origin and how long it has been on the Martian surface.

Phippsaksa joins a growing

list of metal-rich rocks identified on Mars by previous missions. The Curiosity rover documented several iron-nickel meteorites, including the one-meter-wide "Lebanon" in 2014 and "Cacao" in 2023. Earlier rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, also recorded similar findings, offering valuable insights into materials that have traveled across the solar system to reach Mars.

Each metallic discovery enhances understanding of the diverse composition of objects impacting Mars, helping scientists piece together the planet's history and its interactions with space debris.

For Perseverance, Phippsaksa represents a new chapter in exploring extraterrestrial meteorites. The research team will continue analyzing data to determine its precise origin, composition, and the story it tells about Mars' cosmic neighborhood.

This discovery highlights how even a single rock can provide profound insights, reinforcing the importance of ongoing robotic exploration in expanding humanity's knowledge of the solar system.

# US McDonald's Honours Indian Employee for 40 Years of Service

A McDonald's restaurant in Massachusetts celebrated an inspiring milestone, honoring Balbir Singh, an Indian-origin employee, for 40 years of dedicated service with a \$40,000 reward. The recognition included a special dinner organized by the restaurant to mark his long and exemplary career.

Balbir, also known as Pargan Singh, began his journey at the McDonald's in Saugus alongside his father, performing tasks such as cleaning tables, picking up trash, and assisting in the kitchen. Over the years, he mastered every aspect of the restaurant's operations. Within a few months of joining, his dedication earned him a promotion to swing manager, a role he excelled in for decades.

The reward of \$40,000, equivalent to approximately Rs 35.5 lakh, was presented



as a token of appreciation for his loyalty, hard work, and commitment, symbolizing the familial culture McDonald's fosters among its staff. The restaurant described Balbir's journey as an inspiration to both colleagues and customers, highlighting how consistent effort, perseverance, and dedication can lead to remarkable achievements.

Balbir's story is a re-

mind-reminder that McDonald's is not just about burgers and fries but also about recognizing and valuing employee contributions. From his humble beginnings in entry-level tasks to becoming a key member of the management team, his career reflects the opportunities the fast-food giant provides for growth, skill development, and long-term stability.

Restaurant management praised Balbir for embodying the values of hard work, reliability, and commitment, noting that his tenure strengthened both operations and team morale. The celebration also included colleagues and community members, acknowledging the positive impact of his decades-long service.

Balbir Singh's journey at McDonald's underscores a timeless message: dedication and loyalty are invaluable, and sustained excellence is always recognized, leaving a lasting legacy for both employees and the organization.

# Ancient Gold, Silver Coins Unearthed in Polish Forest

Archaeologists have made a remarkable discovery in northeastern Poland's Knyszynska Forest Landscape Park, unearthing 69 ancient coins, including one gold and 68 silver pieces, dating back to the 16th-17th centuries.

The excavation, led by archaeologist Hubert Lepionka, highlights the region's historical significance as a hub of trade. During this period, large quantities of timber and forest products, including wood, tar, honey, and iron, were exported to Dutch merchants, primarily for shipbuilding. The coins were likely buried along these trade routes, possibly hidden for safekeeping during times of war or instability, and never retrieved.

Among the findings, the latest coin dates to 1634, while the gold coin is a Dutch ducat from 1633. The silver coins include small Polish and Swedish denominations such as poltorak, trojak, and szostak, reflecting active trade between dif-



ferent regions and currencies. This combination of coins underscores the cross-cultural economic interactions in Europe during the

era. Archaeologists believe the treasure may have belonged to a trader or someone engaged in forest-related commerce. The discovery not only provides insights into local trade but also sheds light on historical practices of hiding wealth

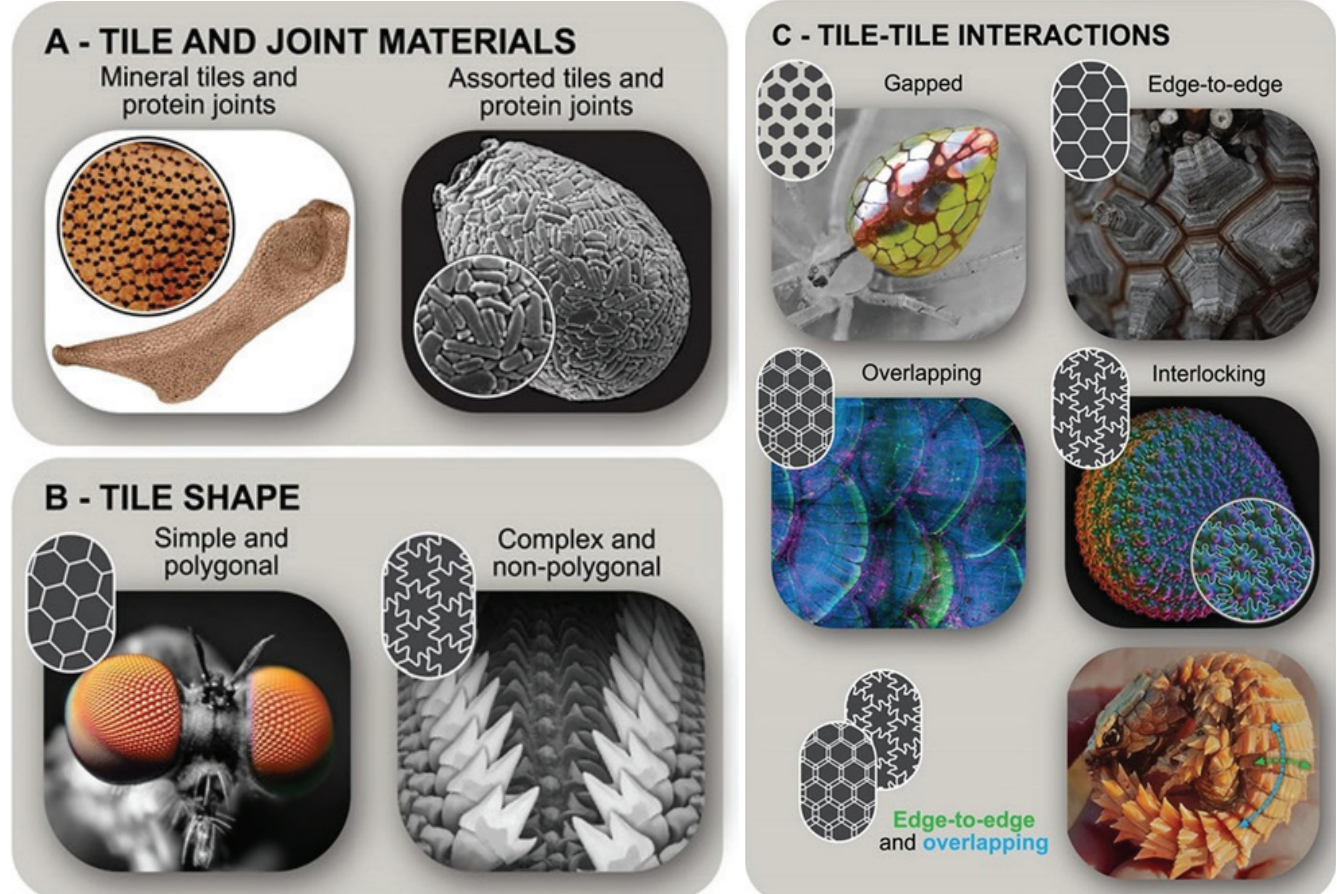
amid uncertain times.

Next, scientists plan to clean the coins and examine their dates and markings, alongside analysing soil and ash layers to understand the timing and circumstances of the burial. Additional metal artifacts found nearby will help reconstruct activities in the area during the 17th century.

This find emphasizes the historical connection between Poland's forests and European trade networks, offering a tangible link to the past. As research progresses, the coins are expected to provide further insights into economic, social, and cultural life in early modern Europe, enriching our understanding of regional and international commerce.

The discovery has captivated historians and archaeologists, serving as a reminder of the hidden treasures that continue to lie beneath Europe's historic landscapes.

# New Study Shows Tiled Patterns Are Common in Nature



A recent scientific study has revealed that tiled or repeating patterns, long admired in nature, are far more widespread across life on Earth than previously recognized. These patterns, where surfaces are divided into repeated units, appear in organisms ranging from plants and animals to fungi.

Researchers have focused on patterns known as "cellular foams," commonly found in bone, wood, and plant tissues, where thin walls enclose numerous small chambers. These structures are lightweight yet strong, providing rigidity without adding excess mass—an efficient design nature has repeatedly used.

The study, described in the weekly Science for All newsletter, emphasizes that tiling patterns are not limited to microscopic structures. They are observed in scales, shells, leaves, and even insect wings, showing that evolution often converges on modular designs to optimize strength, flexibility, and efficiency.

Scientists used a new atlas of tiling patterns, classifying them across species and materials. The classification highlights variables such as shape, orientation, connectivity, and symmetry of tiles, helping biologists understand how these structures form and function.

Beyond biology, these insights have implications for engineering and design, inspiring lightweight and resilient materials for architecture, robotics, and aerospace. By studying natural tiling, researchers hope to replicate nature's solutions to balance strength, weight, and adaptability.

The findings underscore that tiling is a universal strategy employed across diverse life forms, from the microscopic to the macroscopic. Whether in bones that support a giraffe's neck, honeycombs that house bees, or leaves that capture sunlight efficiently, tiling demonstrates how repeated modular units can achieve structural excellence and efficiency.

This new atlas and classification of tiled structures provide a framework for future studies, bridging biology, physics, and design, and showing that some of nature's most elegant patterns are both functional and beautiful.



# Lakshya Sen Reaches Australian Open Semis; Satwik-Chirag Exit

India's Lakshya Sen delivered a strong performance to enter the men's singles semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 tournament on Friday, overcoming fellow Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty in straight games. However, it was a disappointing day for India in men's doubles, with the top-seeded pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowing out of the competition. Lakshya, seeded seventh, showcased excellent composure as he defeated 20-year-old Ayush Shetty 23-21, 21-11. This marks Lakshya's second victory over Shetty at the semifinal stage this year, following their clash at the Hong Kong Open. The tightly contested opening game saw Lakshya trailing 6-9 before he rallied to take an 11-10 lead at the interval. In a tense back-and-forth finish, Ayush earned the first game point but could not convert it, allowing Lakshya to close the game with solid nerve. The second game turned one-sided, with Lakshya



racing to a 6-1 start. His dominance grew as he extended the lead to 15-7, ultimately sealing the match in 53 minutes. With this win, Lakshya becomes the only Indian remaining in men's singles, following early exits from senior players HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth. Lakshya will next face Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, the second seed and world No. 9. Chou earned his semifinal berth after a grueling 1 hour 23-minute battle, defeating Farhan Alwi 13-21, 23-21, 21-16. In men's doubles, the Indian challenge ended as Satwik and Chirag fell to Indonesia's fifth-seeded duo Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri. Despite recent strong form, including finals appearances at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters, Satwik-Chirag were outplayed 21-19, 21-15. As Lakshya continues his pursuit of a title, expectations remain high for the 2021 World Championship bronze medallist, who is still seeking his first tournament win of the year.

# India Names 23-Man Squad for AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers



India has announced a 23-member squad for the 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers, with head coach Bibiano Fernandes unveiling

the list on Friday. The qualifiers begin on Saturday at the EKA Arena in Ahmedabad, where India will compete in a challeng-

ing group featuring Palestine, Chinese Taipei, Lebanon, and Iran. India opens its campaign against Palestine on November 22, followed by matches against Chinese Taipei (November 26), Lebanon (November 28), and Iran (November 30). With only the group winners earning direct qualification to the final tournament in Saudi Arabia next year, the young Blue Colts face a crucial test. The 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup will also serve as the qualifying pathway to the FIFA U17 World Cup in Qatar, adding further weight to the competition. Coach Bibiano Fernandes, known for shaping India's youth football structure with past U17 successes, expressed confidence in the squad's preparation. The team has undergone multiple training camps and exposure matches, aiming to put up a strong performance in front of home supporters. **Full Squad** **Goalkeepers:** Manashjyoti Baruah, Ma-roof Shafi, Rajrup Sarkar. **Defenders:**

Abhishek Kumar Mondal, Ankur Rajbagh, Indra Rana Magar, Korou Meitei Konthoujam, Lawmsangzuala, Md Aimaan Bin, Shubham Poonia. **Midfielders:** Dallalmuon Gangte, Denny Singh Wangkhem, Diamond Singh Thokchom, Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam, Nitishkumar Meitei Yengkhom, Thonggoumong Touthang. **Forwards:** Aazim Parveez Najar, Azlaan Shah Kh, Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam, Heeranganba Seram, Jasir Khan, Lesvin Rebelo, Rahan Ahmed. With a blend of promising talent across positions, India aims to top the group and secure its place in the continental finals. The home crowd in Ahmedabad is expected to provide a strong boost as the young squad fights for qualification and a chance to compete on the world stage.

# Starc's 7-Wicket Burst Floors England for 172 in Ashes Opener

Australian pace spearhead Mitchell Starc produced a sensational spell, claiming a career-best 7 for 58, as Australia bowled out England for just 172 on Day 1 of the first Ashes Test in Perth. The dramatic collapse came despite England winning the toss and opting to bat. Starc wasted no time asserting dominance, striking in the very first over of the series. He removed Zac Crawley for a duck with the sixth delivery of the match, caught by Usman Khawaja at slip. The wicket marked yet another milestone for the left-arm pacer — it was the 24th time he has taken a wicket in the first over of a Test. More notably, he reached 100 Ashes wickets after dismissing England's key batter Joe Root, a breakthrough that further tilted momentum Australia's way. England's batting lineup struggled to cope with Starc's pace, swing, and accuracy. While a few batters attempted to stabilize the innings, frequent breakthroughs kept Australia firmly in control. No England player managed a substantial score, with the mid-



dle order faltering under relentless pressure. Starc's fiery spell was well-supported by the rest of the Australian bowling unit, who maintained tight lines to keep England contained. The disciplined at-

tack ensured there was no room for recovery, as wickets continued to fall at regular intervals. The pitch offered some assistance early on, but it was Starc's execution and rhythm that defined the in-

nings. His ability to strike early and return for crucial breakthroughs later in the session left England reeling. With England dismissed for 172, Australia entered a commanding position in the series opener. The hosts will now look to capitalize on the strong start as they begin their first-innings reply, aiming to build a significant advantage in the opening Test of the 2025 Ashes series.

# Sania Mirza Shares Advice on Handling Social Media Trolls



Six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza offered thoughtful advice on dealing with social media criticism during a fireside chat with Indian cricketer Richa Ghosh at the Future Makers Conclave (FMC), part of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025. Moderated by sports journalist Mayanti Langer, the session brought forward candid reflections on navigating the digital world as professional athletes. Mirza stressed the importance of emotional stability and detachment from online chatter. "Social media cannot make or break your day," she said, urging young athletes like Ghosh to avoid letting negativity cloud their performance or peace of mind. Drawing from her early years, she recalled the shift from traditional print media to tabloids and electronic platforms, which began focusing more on athletes' personal lives than their performances. Discussing the harsh comments she once faced, Mirza said they eventually made her "thick-skinned." She added that she often found such criticism humorous, especially from people who

have "never held a cricket bat or a tennis racket." Mirza reflected on the irony of strangers passing judgment on athletes representing the nation, saying she sometimes felt pity for those who spewed hate online. Her advice was simple yet powerful: "You don't take the good to heart, and you don't take the bad to heart." She emphasized that validation should come from loved ones, not from the fleeting opinions of social media users. Richa Ghosh, representing a generation that grew up in the digital era, shared a contrasting perspective. She views criticism as a sign of progress in women's cricket. With growing viewership and fan engagement, she believes scrutiny reflects popularity. "The bigger we get, the more people come to watch," she said, highlighting the positive side of rising attention. The 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit, themed "Futurise," concluded on Thursday at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), celebrating innovation and dialogue across industries.

# Jaismine, Nikhat Advance to World Boxing Cup Finals



Greater Noida: India's boxing stars Jaismine Lamboria and Nikhat Zareen booked their spots in the finals of the World Boxing Cup 2025 with dominant performances in their respective semifinal bouts at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Indoor Stadium on Wednesday. Jaismine, the reigning world champion in the 57kg category, faced Kazakhstan's Ulzhan Sarsenbek, a former Asian youth gold medallist. Despite starting her campaign later than most, Jaismine showcased her class and experience, defeating Sarsenbek convincingly with a 5-0 scoreline. Her precise combinations, swift footwork, and tactical control of the ring left little room for her opponent to mount a challenge. In the 51kg category, former world champion Nikhat Zareen also advanced with a commanding 5-0 victory over Gulsevar Ganieva, the 2022 World youth champion. Nikhat, known for her aggressive style and sharp counterpunching, dominated all rounds, demonstrating her read-

iness to reclaim the top spot in her weight division. With these wins, India now has a strong presence in the title rounds, with a total of 15 Indian boxers still in contention for medals across different categories. Alongside Jaismine and Nikhat, six more Indian pugilists progressed to the finals on Wednesday, highlighting the country's growing strength in international women's boxing. The World Boxing Cup Finals have attracted top talent from around the globe, but India's performance so far reflects a blend of skill, preparation, and determination. Both Jaismine and Nikhat will now focus on their final bouts, aiming to bring home gold for the host nation. The championship promises exciting showdowns in the coming days, with Indian boxers looking to capitalize on home advantage and continue the country's impressive run in the tournament. Fans are eagerly anticipating the finals, where the nation's top fighters will battle for the coveted World Cup titles.



Premante : Priyadarshi’s New Romantic Drama



The much-awaited romantic drama ‘Premante’, starring Priyadarshi and Anandi, has finally hit the screens and has been creating a positive buzz ever since its promotional material started rolling out. With catchy music by Leon James and the backing of producers Puskur Rammohan Rao and Janvi Narang, the film entered theatres with promising expectations among youth and family audiences.

Directed by Navaneeth Sriram, Premante follows the story of Ramya (Anandi) and Madan Mohan “Madi” (Priyadarshi), two individuals hesitant about marriage due to personal fears and conflicts. After an unexpected meeting at a wedding, the two fall in love and tie the knot. Their marriage initially blossoms, but soon responsibilities drive them apart—Ramya gets buried in office tasks while Madi’s nightlife-based business involving CCTV installations and locks creates constant distance.

This gap breeds misunderstanding, pushing Ramya to suspect Madi’s actions at

home. Evidence fuels her doubts until a heated confrontation reveals the surprising truth: Madi’s secret business involves theft, and Ramya is left shocked. The film unfolds around how their relationship copes with this truth, the choices they make, and what becomes of their marriage.

On the performance front, Priyadarshi shines with a nuanced portrayal of a conflicted man, while Anandi steals the show as a devoted wife whose love pushes her into unexpected territory. Their chemistry is one of the film’s strongest pillars. Suma and Vennela Kishore add value, though their comedic tracks feel stretched.

Technically, Viswanath Reddy’s visuals and Leon James’ music elevate the film. However, some subplots—especially involving friends—could have been tighter.

Overall, Premante is a heart-felt family drama with fresh narrative elements, strong performances, and emotional depth.

**Rating: 2.75/5**

Allari Naresh’s 12A Railway Colony – Only for a few twists



Allari Naresh teams up with debutant director Nani Kasaragadda for the suspense thriller “12A Railway Colony,” which released today. The film also stars Dr. Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Sai Kumar, Viva Harsha, Jeevan Kumar, Anish Kuruvilla, and others, with music by Bheems Ceciroleo and cinematography by Kushendar Ramesh Reddy.

Set in 12A Railway Colony, Warangal, the story follows Karthik (Allari Naresh), an orphan working for politician Tillanna (Jeevan Kumar). He pursues his neighbour Aaradhana (Kamakshi Bhaskarla) and decides to help her achieve her goals, only to uncover a shocking secret that changes the course of the narrative.

The first half focuses on world-building and character introductions, which some viewers may find slow and dragging. However, Allari Naresh impresses in his role, smoothly transitioning from a carefree young man to someone entangled in suspense. Kamakshi’s performance is

satisfactory, and supporting actors adequately fulfill their roles.

The second half is where the film gains momentum. The narrative shifts into a whodunit-style thriller with unexpected twists and a crime that drives the story forward. The screenplay, penned by Dr. Anil Vishwanath (Polimera fame), keeps the audience engaged as mysteries unravel.

On the technical front, Bheems Ceciroleo’s songs fit the narrative, and the background score complements tense sequences. Kushendar’s cinematography is neat, but the VFX work is inconsistent, particularly in scenes using green screens. Editing, handled by the director himself, could have been tighter to avoid the drag in the first half.

Verdict: “12A Railway Colony” attempts to be a gripping suspense thriller but delivers a mixed experience. While the second half offers twists and engagement, the slow-paced first half and a setup for a potential sequel dilute the overall impact.

NC24 BTS: Chay Preps for High-Voltage Action

Naga Chaitanya, who is currently working on the unique mythical thriller #NC24, is gearing up for a special birthday celebration on November 23rd. The makers have planned a significant treat for fans, officially confirming that the film’s title and first look will be unveiled on the actor’s birthday. The announcement arrived through an engaging BTS (behind-the-scenes) video that offers a detailed look into the ongoing efforts behind the project.

The BTS video showcases the massive scale on which the film is being crafted. Production Designer Sri Nagendra Tangala and his team have constructed an extensive and visually rich set in the city. The structure plays a crucial role in the narrative, with the team capturing key sequences in this specially designed location. The video highlights their remarkable craftsmanship and the meticulous world-building essential for a film rooted in mythology and mystery.

Another major highlight of the BTS footage is Naga Chaitanya’s intense preparation for his



role. The actor is seen undergoing rigorous physical training, particularly focused on action sequences, under the guidance of stunt choreographer Joji Master. The glimpses of behind-the-scenes action hint at spectacular

stunt work that is expected to elevate the film’s visual appeal. Chaitanya’s refreshed makeover and the sheer effort behind it have already caught the attention of fans.

The film features Meenakshi Chaudhary

as the female lead, adding further strength to the cast. Actor Sparsh Shrivastava plays a key role, expanding the film’s character depth. BVSN Prasad and Sukumar are producing the project, while Bapineedu pre-

sents it under their banner.

With anticipation building, the upcoming title and first-look reveal are set to heighten excitement as NC24 moves closer to its next major promotional milestone.

Rebel Saab: First Single from The Raja Saab Gets Release Date



Prabhas’ upcoming film The Raja Saab has finally delivered the update fans have been eagerly waiting for. The makers officially announced that the film’s first single, titled “Rebel Saab,” will be released on November 23, 2025, sparking excitement across the fandom. The update arrives after weeks of anticipation, with social media buzzing about when the musical promotions would begin.

Accompanying the announcement was a vibrant poster showcasing a striking still from the song. The visual hints at an energetic, mass-appeal track that aligns with Prabhas’ signature style. With the poster already capturing atten-

tion, fans are now looking forward to the promo, which the team is expected to release tomorrow. The buzz surrounding the track suggests it may become one of the film’s standout highlights.

The Raja Saab features a strong ensemble cast with Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar playing the female leads, adding significant star power to the project. The film also includes Sanjay Dutt in a crucial role, further elevating expectations. Known for his impactful screen presence, Dutt’s involvement hints at dynamic character moments and high-voltage sequences.

Produced by People Me-

dia Factory, this pan-Indian horror entertainer is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the coming year. Adding to the excitement is renowned composer Thaman, who is scoring the film’s music. With his track record of chart-topping numbers, fans are expecting “Rebel Saab” to set the tone for an impressive album.

Directed with a blend of grandeur and genre thrills, The Raja Saab is slated for a theatrical release on January 9, 2026. With the first single now announced, promotional activities are expected to pick up pace, keeping fans engaged as the film approaches its big release.

Family Man Season 3 Debuts on OTT



The wait is finally over for fans of one of India’s most popular streaming franchises. ‘The Family Man’ Season 3 has officially arrived on OTT and is now streaming on Prime Video, marking the return of the high-stakes action thriller that has captivated audiences nationwide.

The new season is available in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi, allowing viewers across regions to dive back into the world of Srikant Tiwari, the relatable yet razor-sharp intelligence officer portrayed by Manoj Bajpayee. The first two seasons of the series were major successes, earning critical acclaim and smashing viewership records on Amazon Prime Video.

Joining Manoj Bajpayee once again is Priyamani, who reprises her role as Suchitra. Their on-screen dynamic, blending family pressures with national security dilemmas, has been one of the show’s core strengths. Season 3 continues to expand this emotional and suspense-filled

journey.

The franchise’s creators, Raj & DK, who helmed the first two seasons, return to direct the third chapter as well, ensuring consistency in tone, storytelling, and world-building. Known for their genre-bending narratives, the duo has once again crafted a gripping storyline that pushes the stakes higher than ever.

A major highlight of the new season is the introduction of Jaideep Ahlawat, acclaimed for his role in Paatal Lok, who steps in as the antagonist. His presence adds significant intensity to the plot. Season 3 unfolds against the North East backdrop, promising a fresh setting layered with socio-political complexity.

With heightened action, new conflicts, and the return of fan-favorite characters, The Family Man Season 3 is poised to continue the franchise’s impressive run. Fans can now stream all episodes on Prime Video and experience the next chapter in Srikant Tiwari’s turbulent yet thrilling world.