

**BUZZ POINTS**

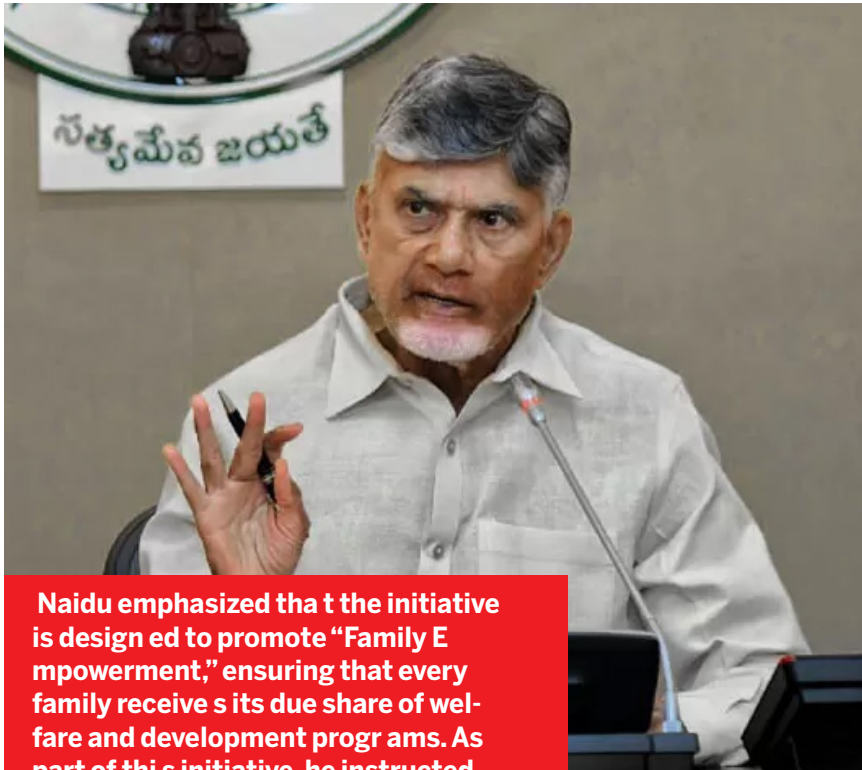
Improve Delivery of Citizen Services, Ensure Works Begin Only with Grama Sabha Approval: CM

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# CM DIRECTS ROLLOUT OF FAMILY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM BY JUNE 2026

TPN Bureau | November 24

Amaravati : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed state officials to introduce a comprehensive Family Benefit Management System (FBMS), under which every household in the state will be recognized and managed as a single unit. The system aims to strengthen family welfare, enhance service delivery, and ensure that government benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries effectively. During a high-level review meeting held at the state secretariat, the Chief Minister stated that the new system would consolidate information from all government departments and welfare schemes under a unified digital platform. Naidu emphasized that the initiative is designed to promote "Family Empowerment," ensuring that every family receives its due share of welfare and development programs. As part of this initiative, he instructed officials to issue smart family cards with unique QR codes to all 1.4 crore families across the state by June 2026. The proposed Smart Family Card will serve as a key identifier for citizens to access a wide range of public wel-



Naidu emphasized that the initiative is designed to promote "Family Empowerment," ensuring that every family receives its due share of welfare and development programs. As part of this initiative, he instructed officials to issue smart family cards with unique QR codes to all 1.4 crore families across the state by June 2026.

fare services, including pensions, ration distribution, scholarships, and health benefits. It will also provide detailed information on vaccination records, Aadhaar linkage, caste certificates, nutrition programs, and other social welfare schemes. The Chief Minister made it clear that the FBMS should not be restricted to pension and ration

schemes alone but must cover all aspects of citizen welfare. Officials were directed to collect and integrate data through the Real Time Governance Society's (RTGS) existing Data Lake, which already manages large volumes of government information. This database will form the foundation of the FBMS, enabling real-time

tracking of benefits, service delivery, and eligibility verification across departments. Each family's profile will include 25 types of data fields, along with key indicators such as the "P4" parameters related to livelihood, education, health, and welfare progress. Chandrababu Naidu underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination, instructing that the RTGS data be treated as a standard reference for all state departments. Both static data (such as demographic details) and dynamic data (such as welfare updates and service delivery status) should be continuously updated to maintain accuracy. He also called for the integration of village- and municipality-level systems under the Swarnandhra Vision Units, enabling regular updates of family information in both urban and rural areas. The Chief Minister said the larger goal of the initiative is to ensure good governance through timely delivery of public services and transparent implementation of government welfare programs. He expressed confidence that the unified system will help address several challenges currently faced in beneficiary selection and duplication across welfare schemes. Through the introduction of the Family Benefit Management System, the government aims to simplify administrative processes, eliminate overlaps in welfare distribution, and establish a single, reliable source of truth for all family-related data in Andhra Pradesh. Officials said detailed technical and operational guidelines for implementation will be finalized in the coming months, paving the way for the statewide rollout by mid-2026.

## PK Expresses Distress Over Alleged Tirumala Laddu Adulteration



TPN Bureau | November 24

Amravathi: In a strong reaction to a recent media report regarding the adulteration of the famous Tirumala laddus during the previous YSRCP government, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed anguish, accusing the former TTD administration and officials of having broken devotees' faith. The actor-turned-politician, who handles the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development portfolio, shared his response on the X platform, reacting to an English daily's report that claimed large-scale irregularities in the preparation and sale of laddus during the 2019-2024 period. The report, according to Pawan Kalyan, revealed that nearly 20 crore adulterated laddus were sold during the YSRCP administration's tenure, raising serious concerns about transparency and the sanctity of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) management. Citing these allegations, he stated that what transpired was not merely administrative negligence but a deep moral and spiritual betrayal of devotees nationwide. "Tirumala is not just a temple; it is the foundation of our devotion," Pawan Kalyan wrote. "Millions of devotees approach Tirumala with boundless faith. Between 2019 and 2024, around 10.97 crore devotees — an average of 60,000 a day — visited the holy shrine. They included the President, the Prime Minister, several constitutional authorities, and eminent personalities from various fields. The previous governing board of TTD shattered the faith of all these devotees and desecrated their trust. "The Deputy Chief Minister observed that the TTD, one of the most revered spiritual institutions in the world, must function with absolute integrity and accountability. He said the alleged adulteration of laddus, which devotees consider sacred prasadam, amounts to an unforgivable sin against faith itself. Pawan remarked that the involvement of any official in such acts should attract the strictest legal consequences. He further urged the current government to probe the allegations thoroughly and restore confidence among devotees. "The TTD must stand as a symbol of purity, not as a centre of corruption," he insisted, adding that the faith of millions cannot be treated as a mere administrative formality. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that his government is committed to protecting the sanctity of the Tirumala temple and ensuring that no such sacrilege occurs again. The controversy originated after a media exposé claimed large-scale adulteration in the ingredients used for preparing the laddus, including alleged procurement of substandard ghee and gram flour during the previous administration. These revelations have triggered outrage among devotees and across social media platforms. The issue is likely to put further pressure on the former YSRCP-appointed TTD officials, with public calls growing for an independent investigation. Devotee associations and Hindu spiritual groups have demanded that swift action be taken if the allegations are proven true. As the storm intensifies, Pawan Kalyan's remarks signal a renewed focus on cleaning up religious institutions tainted by alleged corruption. His statement has also reignited debate on governance standards and accountability within temple boards across Andhra Pradesh.

## Lokesh Emphasizes Value-Based Education



TPN Bureau | Nov 24

Vijayawada : Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh highlighted the crucial role of teachers and parents in shaping students' characters and values, stressing that education must go beyond academics to include strong moral foundations. He spoke at the "Values in Education" conference held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada, organized by the State Education Department. The event featured noted scholar and spiritual orator Chaganti Koteswara Rao, who has also contributed to developing special educational materials aimed at value-based learning. Addressing the large gathering of teachers, students, and officials, Lokesh announced that books designed by Chaganti Koteswara Rao to instill ethical and cultural values in students are being distributed across schools. He said the state government's objective is to ensure that education nurtures in-

tegrity, discipline, and compassion among young learners, preparing them for both personal and professional success. "The moral fabric of our society begins with our children. The responsibility of guiding them onto the right path lies primarily with teachers," Lokesh said. He underlined that value formation must begin at home, emphasizing that parental influence is fundamental in shaping positive behavior. "Change in children should start from the home. Respect for women is the cornerstone of a civilized society," he added. Lokesh also cautioned against the portrayal of women in negative roles in films and web series, saying that such depictions can distort social attitudes. "Entertainment should not come at the cost of dignity. Women must be portrayed with respect across all media," he stated. The minister spoke passionately about the growing concern over student suicides linked to exam stress and academic pressure.

# Maoists Signal Willingness to Lay Down Arms, Seek Ceasefire from Three State Governments

TPN Bureau | Nov 24

Chhatisgarh: In a significant development that could reshape the decades-long insurgency across central India, Maoist cadres operating in parts of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh have announced their readiness to temporarily halt their armed struggle. The group stated it is prepared to surrender weapons if security forces suspend ongoing combing operations in the affected areas. A public statement to this effect was issued on Monday by Anant, the official spokesperson of the MMC (Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh) Special Zonal Committee of the CPI (Maoist). The letter, addressed to the Chief Ministers of the three states, requests that security operations be suspended and a time frame be granted until February 15, 2026, for the rebels to complete internal consultations and effectively communicate the decision within their ranks. The declaration, the first of its kind in recent years from a regional Maoist command, marks an apparent shift in the insurgents' stance. The statement explains that the decision to con-



sider disarmament follows directions from the CPI (Maoist) Central Committee and its Politburo, led by senior leader Comrade Sonu Dada. According to the release, the central leadership has analyzed the changing socio-political and economic realities in the country and the world, concluding that a temporary cessation of armed operations would benefit both their organization and local communities exhausted by conflict. Quoting the letter, Anant stated that members of the Central Committee—Comrades Satish Dada and Chandanu—had already endorsed this strategic pause. "Observing the evolving situation, our

Central Committee and Politburo have decided to suspend the armed struggle temporarily by laying down arms. We fully support Comrade Sonu Dada's decision and believe this step aligns with the interests of the people and the revolution," the statement said. The MMC Special Zonal Committee further explained that their decision-making process is guided by the principle of democratic centralism—a core tenet of Maoist ideology that requires internal debate and collective approval before final decisions are executed. Because of this, they have sought time until mid-February to convey the message to their dis-

persed cadres and obtain concurrence from units operating in remote forest regions. "There are no ulterior motives behind this request for time," the letter clarified. "We only need the necessary period to reach our comrades and communicate this directive effectively. Given that we lack rapid or safe communication channels, this process naturally takes time. We appeal to the three state governments to halt combing operations until then." In the same letter, the Maoists reiterated their commitment to stop all field-level activities, including the annual PLGA (People's Liberation Guerrilla Army) Week, an event normal-

ly marked in December to commemorate the formation of their armed wing. Anant promised that all militant and organizational activities would remain suspended during this period, adding that "we assure the public and the governments that no operations will take place from our side." This message comes amid a broader context of declining Maoist influence in central India. Over the past decade, intensified security campaigns and welfare initiatives have reduced their presence in many districts once considered strongholds. However, sporadic attacks continue in parts of Bastar (Chhattisgarh), Gadchi-

roli (Maharashtra), and Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh). Security officials have so far not issued an official response to this latest statement, but sources within police networks indicate that senior officers are monitoring the development. Observers view the Maoist appeal as both symbolic and strategic. While some interpret it as an acknowledgment of the organization's weakening operational strength, others suggest it may be a calculated attempt to regroup under the guise of peace talks. Political analysts note that any negotiation with Maoist groups will require a delicate balance between encouraging disarmament and ensuring continued security for civilians in vulnerable districts. If accepted by the three state governments, this proposed ceasefire could become a pivotal step toward peace in the central tribal belt. Yet, both governments and Maoist leadership face the challenge of building mutual trust after decades of hostility. For now, the coming weeks will likely reveal whether this unprecedented gesture by the MMC Special Zonal Committee signals the beginning of a genuine peace initiative or remains another pause in a long and violent conflict.



# Pawan focuses on Eluru development

TPN Bureau | November 24

Koyalagudem: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan recently undertook a significant tour of the Eluru district, focusing on the development and welfare activities in Koyyalagudem and Dwaraka Tirumala mandals. His visit, marked by a blend of direct public engagement and ceremonial inaugurations, underscores his commitment to expediting governance and infrastructure progress in the region. Pawan Kalyan commenced his journey by arriving at the Rajahmundry Madu rapudi air port via a special aircraft. From there, he traveled by road to the Koyyalagudem mandal, reaching the village of Rajavaram.

In Rajavaram, the Deputy CM engaged directly with villagers, listening attentively to their concerns and grievances. The villagers brought to his attention the pressing issue of inadequate road infrastructure in the area. Responding positively, Pawan Kalyan assured the residents that necessary actions would be initiated promptly, directing officials to under-



take the construction and improvement of access roads in the village. Following the interactions in Koyyalagudem, the Deputy Chief Minister proceeded to the IS Jagannadhapuram village in the Dwaraka Tirumala mandal.

Here, he visited the famed Sundara Giri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple, an important spiritual center in the district. Temple authorities along with Vedic scholars accorded a traditional welcome to Pawan Kalyan, who participated

in special rituals and presented silk robes to the deity, demonstrating his reverence and respect for local traditions. A significant highlight of the visit was the inauguration and unveiling of a foundation plaque commemorating multiple development projects within the temple complex.

Pawan Kalyan, along with Minister Nandendla Manohar, inaugurated initiatives including the construction of a new road from the village to Sundara Giri and a circumambulatory mandapam

(pradakshina mandapam) around the temple premises. These projects reflect a broader government push to enhance the temple's infrastructure and boost religious tourism in the region. The Deputy CM also inspected recent improvements in local drainage infrastructure, specifically the newly constructed "magic drain" system in IS Jagannadhapuram. This innovative drainage system aims to reduce flooding and improve sanitation for the village residents, high-

lighting the administration's focus on combining traditional and modern development solutions. Throughout the visit, several local elected representatives, including members of parliament, legislative assembly members, and district officials, accompanied Pawan Kalyan, indicating strong governmental support for these initiatives.

This tour marks another step in Pawan Kalyan's active involvement in the rural and temple area development under various government schemes like Palle Panduga 2.0 and Adavi Thalli Bata. By directly engaging with grassroots issues and opening critical infrastructure projects, the Deputy Chief Minister is reinforcing the state's commitment to inclusive growth and welfare. With this committed approach, the Andhra Pradesh government aims to swiftly address infrastructure deficits, support religious and cultural landmarks, and ultimately improve the quality of life for residents in Eluru district's Koyyalagudem and Dwaraka Tirumala mandals.



# Farmers' Welfare at Core of New "Raitanna... Meekosam" Initiative Launched in Ghantasala

TPN Bureau | November 24

Ghantasala, Krishna District: In a move aimed at providing lasting solutions to farmers' problems, State Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu launched the prestigious "Raitanna... Meekosam" (Farmer... For You) programme at Ghantasala on Monday. The initiative, introduced under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, lays out five key principles focused on ensuring water security, promoting demand-based crops, leveraging agri-tech, encouraging food processing, and strengthening institutional support to farmers.

Addressing farmers at the Ghantasala Panchayat office, Minister Atchannaidu explained that agriculture remains the backbone of Andhra Pradesh, supporting nearly 64 percent of its population. Despite a long and resource-rich coastal belt, frequent natural calamities continue to cause heavy losses to farm-

ers, he said. The minister emphasized that the new initiative aims to provide a permanent framework to protect and empower farmers statewide. During the programme, farmers were guided to download the AP AIMS app on their mobile phones, designed to facilitate easy access to government support schemes and farming resources.

Later, Atchannaidu participated in a farmers' meeting at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, organized by Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad, where detailed discussions were held on implementing the five-point framework at the grassroots level. The minister criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for neglecting irrigation and agriculture sectors, accusing him of misleading the public with false claims. In contrast, he said, the current coalition government has been proactive in supporting farmers spending over Rs. 1,000 crore through MARKFED within six-

teen months to assist those facing crop losses, compared to Rs. 900 crore spent by the previous regime in five years.

He also noted that Rs. 500 crore had been allocated for input subsidies. MLA Buddha Prasad recalled that while the previous government delayed paddy payments for months, the present administration ensured payment within 48 hours. He detailed local irrigation works, including replacement of sluice gates and maintenance of canals neglected in earlier years.

Buddha Prasad urged farmers to collaborate with field staff to make the new programme a success. Responding to the MLA's request, Minister Atchannaidu inspected the Ghantasala Agricultural Polytechnic College and promised support for building new facilities. The event was attended by senior officials, local leaders, and representatives from agricultural and allied departments.

## Special Focus on Effective Grievance Redressal: District In-charge Collector Suraj



TPN Bureau | November 24

Narasaraopet: Public grievances must be handled with greater responsibility and quality, said District In-charge Collector Suraj, emphasizing the need for efficient resolution of petitions under the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) in Palnadu district. He participated in the public grievances programme held on Monday at the District Collectorate in Narasaraopet, the district headquarters. During the event, residents from various mandals across the district submitted a total of 122 petitions concerning different civic and administrative issues.

District Revenue Officer Murali, Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs), and officials from various departments joined the Collector in receiving and reviewing the applications. Addressing the officials, Collector Suraj instructed

that all PGRS petitions should be resolved with special attention and accountability. He directed district officers to complete the grievance audit with top priority and ensure prompt action on pending petitions.

Suraj further advised RDOs and department heads to personally verify at least one or two grievances during their field visits to assess the quality of grievance resolution and provide constructive feedback. He stressed the importance of surprise inspections, stating that previous reviews had revealed shortcomings in the quality of grievance redressal at the field level. To address this, he asked RDOs, tahsildars, MPDOs, and other ground-level officers to pay closer attention to each application and ensure that the grievances reaching their offices are resolved properly and promptly.

The Collector warned

that strict action would be taken against officers who fail to handle petitions efficiently or neglect their responsibilities. He emphasized that grievance redressal is primarily the responsibility of field officials and that maintaining quality and transparency is crucial to public trust. Suraj directed tahsildars and MPDOs to personally visit locations related to their assigned petitions instead of relying solely on reports. He also asked district officers to regularly communicate with their subordinates, instructing them to improve the quality of grievance handling. Additionally, petitions and references received from VIPs and public representatives must be cleared without delay, he said. The Collector noted that official correspondence sent through the office's postal system should be tracked daily and immediate action should be taken on pending matters. Officials from all major departments attended the event and assured their commitment to improving the effectiveness and credibility of the grievance redressal mechanism in the district.

## AP has given rural families one last chance to secure a house under the joint Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

TPN Bureau | November 24, Amaravathi: NTR Housing scheme, with the application and survey deadline set for November 30, 2025. Eligible poor families in villages, whether they currently own a small site or not, are being identified through a special mobile application to ensure that the neediest are prioritized for sanction. Scheme and deadline: This drive is part of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G), implemented in Andhra Pradesh through the State Housing Department and Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited (APSHCL). Rural families without a permanent house are being surveyed and registered so they can receive financial assistance for house construction. The state has extended the survey and application window up to November 30, 2025, giving roughly six more days for eligible families who have not yet enrolled to come forward through their village secretaries. Own site or government site: Under the rural housing programme in Andhra Pradesh, the government is following two models for poor beneficiaries. Families who already possess their own small plot in rural areas can get financial assistance to construct a house

on that site, while those who do not own land are to be allotted around 3 cents of government-provided house site in village areas for construction. Officials are simultaneously recording details of both categories: those with sites and those without—to ensure landless poor are included along with small site owners.

Beneficiary identification via Awaas+

To make beneficiary selection transparent and systematic, the Centre has deployed the Awaas+ / AwaasPlus 2024 app for field-level data capture in PMAY-G. Engineering Assistants and Welfare or Housing Assistants attached to Grama and Ward Sachivalayams visit each household, record socio-economic details, and upload geo-tagged photos of the existing dwelling and the proposed house site into the app. Facial recognition and Aadhaar integration allow the system to auto-fetch Aadhaar details, while job card and other eligibility parameters are also captured, creating a verified digital profile for every applicant.

Focus on the poorest The digital workflow has been designed so that the "poorest of the poor" and those without any liveable house get first preference in the sanction list.

# AP GOVT COLLABS WITH CHAGANTI

TPN Bureau | November 24

VIJAYAWADA: "Bringing ethical values into society is a responsibility entrusted to us by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu," said State Education, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh at the State-level Education Conference on Moral Values held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. He noted that renowned scholar Brahmasri Chaganti Koteswara Rao has been appointed with Cabinet rank to guide this effort, describing it as a sacred responsibility.

Lokesh said that moral values, when integrated into education from an early age, shape responsible citizens just as clay becomes a pot and a stone transforms into a sculpture. He stressed that while scientific advancements like nuclear energy can cause destruction, they can also be used for constructive development—similarly, children must be guided towards the right path through value-based education. Promoting Gender Respect and Equality

Highlighting the need to respect women and el-

ders, Lokesh recalled the discipline and values taught by his mother Bhuvaneshwari. He emphasized that degrading expressions commonly used in everyday Telugu conversations must be eliminated. He stated that films and web series must avoid content that insults women, and he has already discussed this with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. After assuming charge as Education Minister, Lokesh reviewed school textbooks and noticed that illustrations of household chores showed only women. He immediately directed of-

ficials to revise them to reflect a 50-50 representation, adding images of men performing household tasks. Sharing his personal experience, he noted that during his studies in the U.S., he and his wife Brahmani shared housework equally. "This is the change we want to see in society," he said. Combatting Drug Abuse and Strengthening the Education System

Lokesh narrated a distressing incident from his padayatra where a mother sought help for her daughter who fell victim to drug abuse. He said that

such incidents moved the government to declare a war on drugs. Speaking about reforms, he said he accepted the challenging Education portfolio with determination. Despite setbacks like his 2019 electoral defeat, he worked hard and returned with a majority of 91,000 votes in 2024. Under his leadership, the government resolved long-standing teacher issues, introduced the Teacher Transfer Act, implemented "One Class – One Teacher" in 9,600 schools, and filled 16,347 teacher posts through the Mega DSC without any litigation.







# Newly-Appointed Sub-Inspectors Pay Courtesy Visit to District SP in Krishna District



TPN Bureau | Nov 24  
Vijayawada: In a gesture of professional courtesy and commitment to public service, the newly appointed Sub-Inspectors of Police from different stations in Krishna district paid a formal visit to District Superintendent of Police (SP) V. Vidyasagar Naidu after assuming their new responsibilities. The officers who met the SP included Mopidevi Sub-Inspector P. Goutham Kumar, Chalapalli Sub-Inspector K. Y. Das, and Kuchipudi Sub-Inspector P. Sirisha. Their meeting symbolized both a tradition of respect towards senior leadership and a reaffirmation of the district police's collective mission to uphold law and order.

These officers were recently transferred as part of routine administrative changes, and they have now officially taken charge at their respective stations. Upon their visit, they expressed their determination to serve the public diligently and maintain the trust reposed in the police force. SP Vidyasagar Naidu welcomed them and conveyed his best wishes for their success in their new assignments. Addressing the officers, SP Naidu emphasized the importance of proactive policing and community engagement. He advised them to maintain close contact with local communities, stay alert to emerging issues, and ensure that law enforcement remains



people-centric. He underlined that maintaining peace and public safety must remain their top priority, and that every officer should strive to resolve public grievances promptly and impartially. The SP further highlighted the need for strong crime prevention strategies. He encouraged the officers to collect accurate intelligence, assess potential threats, and design practical action plans to counter criminal activities. He urged them to stay vigilant against organized crime, antisocial elements, and any activities that could disturb social harmony. Transparency, integrity, and accountability, he noted, are essential pillars of efficient policing. In his

remarks, SP Naidu reminded the officers that corruption-free and service-oriented policing enhances the credibility of the department. He called upon them to demonstrate exceptional professionalism in all their duties whether it involves day-to-day law enforcement, investigation of criminal cases, or maintaining traffic discipline. He reiterated that public confidence in the police is earned through consistent and fair actions, not through authority alone. The meeting also reflected the district police administration's continuing efforts to strengthen grassroots law enforcement. Transfers and new postings such as these bring fresh energy in

to the system and allow officers to gain diverse field experience across different regions. The newly posted Sub-Inspectors assured the SP that they would work dedicatedly under his guidance to maintain peace and stability in their respective jurisdictions. The visit concluded on a positive note, with the SP expressing confidence that the new officers would carry forward the department's mission with sincerity, efficiency, and a strong public service spirit. Their posting marks yet another step towards ensuring effective policing and harmonious community relations in Krishna district.

## Stop the Hype Shows, Start Being Honest: TDP's Somireddy Rips Into Jagan's 'Outdated Politics'

Drone Shots Won't Save You: Somireddy Tears Apart Jagan's Old, Expired Playbook  
"Crowds at Courts Aren't Public Support: Somireddy Mocks Jagan's Political Theatre



TPN Bureau | Nov 24  
VIJAYAWADA: TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, today, accusing him of clinging to the same "expired, outdated political tricks" that were decisively rejected by voters in the 2024 elections. In a sharp tweet, Senior TDP leader Somireddy reminded that before the 2024 polls, Jagan staged a massive promotional blitz with photos, videos, and the loud proclamation of "Siddham... Siddham." "He claimed lakhs were behind him, he said 'Why Not 175?' But everyone saw how the people of Andhra Pradesh voted with clarity, awareness, and complete alertness," he said. Despite the verdict, Somireddy said Jagan has learned nothing. "He is still stuck in illusions, recycling the same pre-election gimmicks to mislead people a

gain. He now boasts that crowds follow him even to courts, weddings and funerals, only to pretend that public anger against him has reduced," he pointed out. Somireddy stressed that people fully understand these theatrics and no longer fall for such tactics. "The era of hype videos and manufactured visuals is long over. It's Jagan who needs to realise this," he said. Delivering one of his

sharpest jabs yet, the TDP MLA advised Jagan to give up friendly-media elevation shots, drone-camera gimmicks and social-media visual effects, and instead "try being honest, though everyone knows honesty isn't exactly his strength." MLA Somireddy concluded that Andhra Pradesh voters today are far more aware and discerning, and no amount of visual spectacle can substitute real leadership.

# Amaravati Journalists Housing Project gets positive response

TPN Bureau | Nov 24  
VIJAYAWADA: The revival of multi-storied apartment construction for journalists in the capital region received a positive response from Principal Secretary (GAD - I&PR) Mukesh Kumar Meena on Monday. A delegation from the Amaravati Accredited Journalists Mutually Aided Co-operative House B

uilding Society met Meena and submitted a representation seeking restoration of the housing project originally approved during the 2014-19 TDP government. The Society explained that 30 acres of land had been allotted to it in Thullur and Mandadam areas through GO MS No. 36 and GO MS No. 67, and that the project had progressed to



the stage of CRDA approval for multi-storied apartments similar to

the Happy Nest model. A detailed framework was issued through GO MS No. 107 dated March 7, 2019, permitting construction under four plinth-area categories. However, the project came to a halt after the change of government in 2019. With the revival of Amaravati as the capital and development activities gaining momentum after 2024, the Society

urged the government to resume the project for accredited journalists. Responding positively, Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena assured the delegation that the government would do possible help to the journalists fraternity. He stated that the administration would write to the CRDA to implement the orders given by government in the past.

Journalist representatives expressed hope that the government's proactive response would help to restart the much-awaited housing project. Amaravati Journalists Housing Society Secretary PN Srinivasa Rao, Director Chava Ravi and Hindu Deputy Editor Srinath expressed satisfaction over the response from the senior IAS officer.

# High-Level Panel of 10 International Experts Formed to Shape "Arogya Andhra" Vision

Comprehensive Action Plan to Be Prepared; First Meeting in December

TPN/VIJAYAWADA  
In a major step towards realising the "Arogya Andhra Pradesh" vision, the State Government has constituted a High-Level Expert Advisory Group comprising ten renowned international health specialists. The panel will guide the creation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at transforming Andhra Pradesh into a model state for healthcare by 2047. The proposal by Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav received approval from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday. The Chief Minister has already unveiled a long-term "Arogya Andhra Vision Document," which aims to ensure complete health protection for the people of the state by 2047. As part of this initiative, advisory groups have been formed to address the top ten diseases contributing to the highest burden of ill-health in the state. Each group is tasked with creating disease-specific strategies to reduce the impact of these illnesses. The government is also implementing several health initiatives in part-



nership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Tata MD, IIT Chennai and Swasti, along with various Central Government-sponsored schemes. The newly formed high-level advisory group will evaluate the progress of these programmes, assess outcomes, and frame a holistic plan for achieving the state's long-term health goals. Responsibilities of the Expert Advisory Group The government has outlined the following key responsibilities for the panel: Develop a comprehensive strategy aligned with Swarn Andhra Vision-2047 to ensure complete health and well-being for all citizens. Recommend innovative, scalable approaches

for maternal and child health improvement and for combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Suggest technology-driven measures to strengthen coordination across various health schemes. Guide the state in emerging as a national and global hub for healthcare. First Meeting Next Month The first meeting of the international advisory group will be held in mid-December under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The panel will meet at least twice a year, with additional sessions convened as required. Members of the Advisory Group Sir Peter Piot, former Executive Director, UNA

IDS Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist, WHO Prof. Ik Eng Taew, Dean of Public Health, National University of Singapore Dr. Gagandeep Kang, Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Dr. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad Prof. Margaret E. Kruk, Harvard School of Public Health Dr. Nikhil Tandon, Professor, AIIMS New Delhi Rizwan Koita, Chairman, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) Srikanth Nadhamuni, Founder, Khosla Labs Arthi Ahuja, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary, Government of India

## Improve Delivery of Citizen Services, Ensure Works Begin Only with Grama Sabha Approval: CM

TPN Bureau | Nov 24  
VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to further enhance the quality and efficiency of citizen services offered by various government departments. He stressed that all government programmes must reach the public effectively and transparently. The Chief Minister held a comprehensive review meeting on Real-Time Governance at the Secretariat on Monday, focusing on multiple administrative and service-delivery issues. He instructed officials that works in municipalities and corporations should be taken up only after securing public approval. Likewise, in rural areas, no work should be undertaken without the formal consent of the Grama Sabha. The same rule, he said, must apply to all NREGS works as well. The Chief Minister advised ministers and public representatives to stay active on the ground, interact with people, and effectively communicate government initiatives. Highlighting the importance of adopting



technology, he said all departments must strengthen their technical systems and enhance operational capacities. Only through a governance model rooted in transparency and accountability like Supa Ripalana (Good Governance) can public satisfaction be increased, he noted. At the field level, delivering timely and quality services to citizens should be the foundation of governance. He stressed that accountability must remain central in the implementation of welfare schemes and citizen services. Capacity-building programmes should be conducted across all 175 Assembly constituencies, he said. Detailed micro-level analysis is essential to unde

rstand public sentiment and improve service delivery. Referring to recent issues faced by farmers cultivating maize, cotton, and banana, the Chief Minister said the government had intervened promptly to ensure they receive fair prices. Departments must prioritize both financial and non-financial tasks so that positive public perception can be strengthened. He reiterated the need for data-driven decision-making and warned that strict action would be taken against officials negligent in service delivery. 'Aware' App to Be Launched Soon The Chief Minister announced that the 'Aware' app, providing real-time alerts and up-

dates across 42 categories—including weather information—will soon be made available to citizens. He directed all departments to integrate their systems with the State Data Lake. Connectivity gaps in remote areas must be addressed by improving bandwidth, he said. Regular monitoring of drinking water and sanitation facilities in welfare hostels should continue, officials informed the CM, adding that a dedicated app is being used for daily inspections. The Chief Minister suggested studying TTD's crowd management and service systems in Tirumala and implementing similar mechanisms in other temples. He also ordered the installation of air-quality sensors in coordination with the Pollution Control Board, with data to be made accessible to the public. A workshop on good governance will be conducted for MLAs and MPs in December. Training programmes will also be organized to enhance administrative capacities among officials.

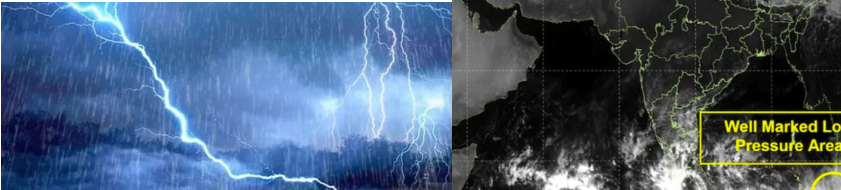


# Cyclone fast approaching

TPN Bureau | November 24

A strengthening weather system over the South Andaman Sea and southeast Bay of Bengal is expected to evolve into a cyclonic storm in the next two days, bringing light to moderate rains to parts of south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. Under its influence, districts such as Nellore, Prakasam, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, Annamayya and Tirupati are likely to see intermittent showers and gusty winds as the system moves west-northwest and another low-pressure area develops near Sri Lanka and the Comorin region.

System intensifying over Bay of Bengal  
Meteorological agencies report that a



well-marked low-pressure area persists over the Strait of Malacca and adjoining South Andaman Sea and is set to intensify into a depression over the southeast Bay of Bengal. Forecast models indicate further strengthening into a cyclonic storm as it tracks west-northwest over the Bay during the subsequent 48 hours, with the system likely to be named “Senyar” once it attains cyclonic intensity. At the same time, an upper-air circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal and nearby seas is preparing the

ground for a second low-pressure area around November 25 near the Comorin region, southwest Bay and Sri Lanka.

Impact on Andhra Pradesh districts  
Under the combined influence of the Bay of Bengal system and the northeast monsoon flow, southern parts of Andhra Pradesh are expected to experience spells of light to moderate rain and thunderstorms. The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority and IMD regional centre have highlighted the

likelihood of showers over south coastal and Rayalaseema districts, particularly SPS Nellore, Prakasam, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, Annamayya and Tirupati, over the next 24 hours. Localised heavy showers cannot be ruled out in some pockets, especially along the coastal belt and adjoining interior mandals, as the cloud bands expand inland.

Advisory for people and authorities

Authorities have urged fishermen to closely track official weather bulletins and

avoid venturing into the sea as winds over the southwest and southeast Bay of Bengal are expected to strengthen progressively with squally conditions. Residents in low-lying and vulnerable areas of the affected districts have been advised to stay alert for waterlogging, check local forecasts frequently, and follow instructions from district administrations and disaster management teams.

With the system still over the sea, meteorologists caution that the exact landfall point and intensity will become clearer only after it intensifies into a full-fledged cyclonic storm, and they stress the need for continuous monitoring as the situation evolves.

## MLA Bhasyam Praveen Launches “100 Days, 100 Villages” Program

TPN Bureau | November 24

Pedakurapadu (Palnadu District): Pedakurapadu MLA Bhasyam Praveen has embarked on an ambitious public outreach and development initiative titled “100 Days, 100 Villages,” aimed at resolving people’s grievances and accelerating local development across the constituency. The program began on Sunday at Errabalem village in Krosuru mandal, marking the start of a 100-day tour during which the legislator plans to visit one village each day.

Bhasyam Praveen explained that the program’s primary goal is to engage directly with the people at the village level, listen to their issues, review their needs,

and monitor how effectively various government welfare and development schemes are reaching the population. He stated that he had discussed the initiative with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh and had received their blessings before launching it formally in his constituency.

As part of the daily schedule, Praveen said he would start each day by visiting a designated village, interacting with citizens, and noting their day-to-day challenges relating to drinking water, roads, electricity, irrigation, education, and healthcare. Following these interactions, he would hold review meetings with local officials to discuss possible immediate

solutions, followed by sessions with party leaders and activists to ensure coordination and accountability at every level.

“The ‘100 Days, 100 Villages’ program is designed to bring governance closer to the people. By observing firsthand the difficulties faced by farmers, women, youth, and the elderly, we can respond more effectively and identify the gaps in developmental progress,” Praveen noted. He emphasized that his focus would be on prompt redressal of grievances in collaboration with departmental officials and by leveraging state resources efficiently.

In each village, the MLA’s team will document local infrastructure needs such as



roads, power supply, water facilities, drainage systems, and educational amenities to create a comprehensive village-level development plan. This data-driven process, he said, would help the constituency align with the broader state development goals under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Praveen also called upon government offi-

cials, party functionaries, and grassroots workers to participate actively in the campaign and extend wholehearted cooperation. “Our collective aim is to transform Pedakurapadu constituency into a model for participatory governance and sustainable rural growth,” he said.

Overall, the “100 Days, 100 Villages” initiative marks a proactive step in taking administration to the doorsteps of citizens, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed without delay. Through this people-centric approach, MLA Bhasyam Praveen hopes to usher in a new era of transparency, accessibility, and steady progress across Pedakurapadu constituency in Palnadu district.

## MLA Aravind Babu Leads CSR Development Efforts, Donates 40 Computers to Hostels

TPN Bureau | November 24

Narasaraopet, Palnadu District: Local legislator Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu is emerging as a strong advocate for corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in his constituency, channeling private sector support toward public welfare and infrastructure development. In a recent effort under his leadership, 40 computers were donated to the staff of SC, ST, and BC hostels in Narasaraopet under CSR contributions from corporate organizations.

The distribution event was organized at the Palnadu District Collector’s office on Monday, with MLA Dr. Aravind Babu attending as the

chief guest. In-charge District Collector Suraj Dhanunjaya and District Revenue Officer Murali were also present. The MLA highlighted that such CSR-driven collaborations are significantly improving educational and social facilities in the region.

He added that the new computers would enhance digital accessibility and learning opportunities for hostel students and staff. This initiative follows Dr. Aravind Babu’s participation as a key guest at the South India’s largest CSR Summit, held on November 12 at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad. During his address at the summit, he emphasized that CSR is

not merely a statutory obligation but a moral duty for every corporate business leader.

“CSR is not just a legal rule; it is an ethical responsibility. Companies must focus on environmental protection, employee welfare, and transparent business practices. At least two percent of corporate profits should be reinvested into community development,” he remarked at the event. He also called on corporate representatives to extend their social service efforts to rural areas like Narasaraopet, citing the need for support in sectors such as education, healthcare, women’s empowerment, road infrastructure, and drinking water supply.



Dr. Aravind Babu urged companies and NGOs to collaborate strategically to bring meaningful transformation to grassroots communities. Responding to his appeal, several corporate teams visited Narasaraopet to assess local development needs. Their field visit revealed a shortage of computer systems in government hostels, leading to the contribution of 40 computers under CSR funds.

Residents and hostel authorities have welcomed this move, expressing appreciation for the MLA’s proactive role in bridging public-private cooperation for inclusive growth. Dr. Aravind Babu’s continuous efforts to promote CSR partnerships are being viewed as a model for sustainable regional development in Palnadu district, aligning business interests with social progress.

## Minister Subash Vows Top Priority to Resolve Public Issues in Ramachandrapuram

TPN Bureau | November 24

Ramachandrapuram: State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subash reaffirmed that the coalition government is giving top priority to addressing public grievances and ensuring quick redressal of local problems. The minister stated this while participating in a “Praja Darbar” (public interaction programme) held at his camp office in Ramachandrapuram on Monday. The event, organized under the leadership of coalition leaders Vasamsetti Satyam and Undavilli Shiva, president of the Ramachandrapuram Town

Telugu Desam Party, drew active participation from residents of several villages in the constituency.

People presented their petitions and grievances directly to Minister Subash, seeking solutions over various civic, welfare, and infrastructure issues. After receiving the petitions, Minister Subash carefully reviewed each representation and assured the people that every genuine problem brought to his notice would be addressed promptly in coordination with the concerned departments.

He emphasized that the coalition government

is committed to resolving public issues in a priority-based and transparent manner. Speaking at the event, the Labour Minister noted that the government’s focus is on making administration accessible to all sections of the population. “We are giving utmost importance to resolving every public problem in the Ramachandrapuram constituency in a systematic order of priority,” he said.

He further added that officials and local party representatives have been instructed to stay in regular touch with the people and to bring urgent matters to his notice immediately

whenever he is not available. Minister Subash also highlighted that the coalition leadership aims to build an accountable governance system where citizens can directly communicate their concerns to the government without intermediaries.

This approach, he said, would help create a stronger connection between the people and the administration. The Praja Darbar witnessed large-scale participation from villagers, coalition party leaders, and activists representing different communities. Prominent attendees included senior coalition leader Vasam-



setti Satyam, Ramachandrapuram TDP president Undavilli Shiva, leader Kanchumarthi Baburao, and several local representatives.

The programme concluded with Minister Subash reiterating his commitment to remain accessible to the public and ensure that their genuine problems are resolved effectively and transparently.

## Medical Negligence and Systemic Lapses Haunt Government Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh



TPN Bureau | November 24

Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari:

Two recent incidents in the government hospitals of Kakinada and Rajamahendravaram have once again exposed severe lapses in patient safety and accountability within the public healthcare system. Allegations of medical negligence, poor record management, and an attitude of denial among hospital staff have triggered public outrage and drawn sharp criticism from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. At the Kakinada Government General Hospital (GGH), an eight-month pregnant woman, Malleswari from Chinavalasa in Tallarevu mandal, lost her life allegedly due to a doctor’s negligence.

Despite showing a written note specifying drugs that caused her allergies, a post-graduate gynecologist reportedly administered a Pantoprazole injection against her objection. Within minutes, Malleswari

fell unconscious and later died during the night. Family members alleged that the doctors threatened them with legal action and post-mortem if they made the issue public. Preliminary findings by the inquiry team confirmed negligence, leading to the suspension of the PG doctor. The CMO and DME are visiting the hospital for further investigation. In Rajamahendravaram GGH, another controversy erupted when a 55-year-old woman reportedly received expired Amlodipine 5 mg tablets.

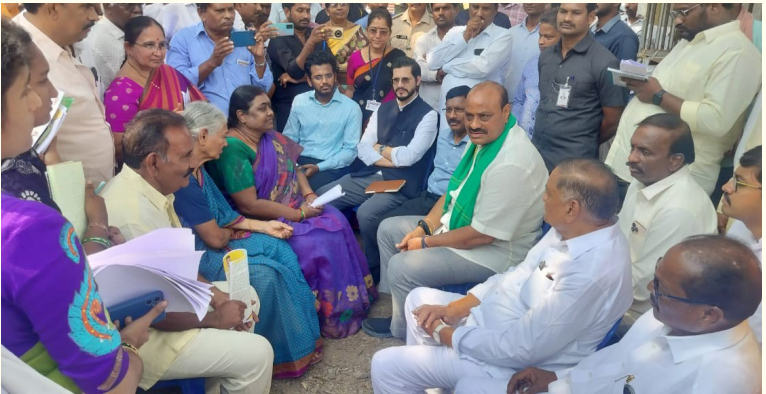
However, a drug control inquiry revealed inconsistencies in the complaint. Officials found no stock of that batch after October, and hospital records showed no patient matching the described profile. Even so, the matter raised serious questions about drug management practices and the transparency of hospital record-keeping. What has shocked many is that, while official inquiries are still underway, the Rajama-

hendravaram GGH superintendent and some staff held a press conference claiming they had “done nothing wrong” and accusing the Chief Minister of commenting without complete information.

Their remarks, viewed as defiance of government authority, have raised concerns about institutional arrogance and a lack of accountability in the healthcare system. These two cases underscore deep-rooted problems—negligence toward patients’ medical histories, improper documentation, threats to victims’ families, and failure to uphold medical protocols.

Public outrage reflects growing frustration that lives in government hospitals continue to depend on chance rather than care. While the Chief Minister’s strong reaction has prompted investigations, experts stress that only strict accountability and structural reforms can prevent such tragedies from repeating.

## Farm Leaders Submit Representation to Minister Seeking Urgent Redressal of Farmers’ Issues



Farm Leaders Submit Representation to Minister Seeking Urgent Redressal of Farmers’ Issues

TPN Bureau | November 24

Gantasala: Raising a united voice for the grievances of tenant and small farmers, leaders of various farmers’ associations on Monday met the State Agriculture Minister Acham Naidu and submitted a detailed representation urging the government to take immediate measures to address their problems. The delegation included leaders from different mandals who expressed concern over the growing distress in the rural farming community. The delegation, led by the District Secretary of the Tenant Farmers’ Association, Pan-

chakarla Rangarao, called on the minister and explained the difficulties being faced by cultivators and tenant farmers across Krishna district. The programme concluded with Minister Subash reiterating his commitment to remain accessible to the public and ensure that their genuine problems are resolved effectively and transparently.

loans have left many farmers dependent on private moneylenders at high interest rates. Ghantasala Mandal Secretary of the Tenant Farmers’ Association, Medanki Venkateswara Rao, and Challapalli Mandal Secretary, Kola Haribabu, highlighted the uncertainty surrounding tenancy reforms and urged the government to provide timely crop compensation to those suffering from crop failures due to unseasonal rains.

They also appealed for proper implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme and immediate settlement of pending claims under crop insurance. District Vice-President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Mohammed Karimulla, who accompanied the delegation, stressed that farmers’ issues must be treated as a priority, as agricultural distress is pushing rural families into debt. He demanded an inclusive policy that recognizes tenant farmers and protects their cultivation rights.

Other members of the delegation included district committee members Vaka Ramachandra Rao and Bhale Ramesh, and M. Suresh, secretary of the Mopidevi mandal wing of the association. Responding to their representation, Minister Acham Naidu assured that the government is fully aware of the challenges faced by the farming community and is committed to improving their welfare. He promised that officials would soon hold review meetings with district agricultural officers to identify local bottlenecks in the delivery of benefits and financial assistance. The farmers’ groups welcomed the minister’s assurance but underlined the need for swift action on the ground.

They urged the government to ensure that every cultivating farmer, whether a landowner or tenant receives the support due to them. The meeting concluded with a call for continued dialogue between farmers’ unions and the agriculture department officials in the coming weeks.



# Aadhaar, Citizenship, and Voting Rights

SC Directive Sparks Legal and Political Debate



The Supreme Court's recent directive asking the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider Aadhaar as a valid identity proof for voter enrolment in Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has reignited a complex and sensitive debate over citizenship, voting rights, and national security.

While Aadhaar serves as proof of identity for accessing welfare schemes and services, it is not a conclusive document for establishing Indian citizenship. This legal distinction, upheld in the 2018

Puttaswamy judgment, lies at the heart of the controversy. The ECI had opposed the move, fearing it could allow illegal migrants—especially in border states—to gain access to the electoral rolls.

Under Article 326 of the Constitution, only Indian citizens can vote. With Aadhaar now being used to validate voter identity, critics argue that the gap between identity and citizenship is being dangerously blurred, particularly in sensitive states like Assam and West Bengal.

Assam's Long History of

Anxiety

Assam has long been wary of demographic shifts due to illegal immigration. Following the Assam Movement (1979–1985), amendments to the Citizenship Act in 1986 and 1992 made it harder to gain Indian citizenship by birth, shifting towards the principle of *jus sanguinis* (citizenship by blood).

Currently, several districts in Assam report Aadhaar holders exceeding projected population figures, prompting the state to halt Aadhaar issuance in those areas. This

has raised alarm over the misuse of Aadhaar by undocumented migrants.

West Bengal & Beyond

In West Bengal, over 2.43 lakh voter enrolment applications were recently rejected, mostly from border districts. Similar fears are growing in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland, highlighting the need for a coordinated regional response.

Legal Ambiguity & National Security

India's legal regime, split between the Citizenship Act (1955) and the Foreigners Act (1946), does not

clearly address undocumented citizens or infiltrators. Foreigner Tribunals in Assam attempt to adjudicate these cases, but their processes remain complex and inconsistent.

As the SIR process potentially scales nationwide, unresolved legal questions about Aadhaar's role, citizenship verification, and voting rights could deepen. The judiciary's directive, though well-intentioned, may require broader legal reform to protect the integrity of India's electoral and citizenship systems.

## Latin American Left Finds Curious Admirers in Indian Intellectual Circles



As India's Leader of the Opposition embarks on a rare visit to Latin America, many are left wondering: what binds two regions that have historically remained distant, both geographically and psychologically? The answer may lie not in trade or geopolitics, but in ideology and intellectual inspiration — particularly for India's Left-liberal circles.

While diplomatic moments between India and Latin America have been few and episodic — from Gandhi's inquiry into migration prospects to Brazil in 1948, to Tagore's fanbase in Argentina — the deeper connection lies in shared philosophical undercurrents that have attracted Indian intellectuals for decades.

At the centre of this soft-power exchange is Che Guevara, the Argentine revolutionary who became a global leftist icon. Unlike Fidel Castro, Che's internationalism and tragic end made him a cult figure, particularly in Indian university towns like Calcutta in the 1960s. His image, idealism, and anti-capitalist rhetoric deeply influenced India's student Left.

Another significant cultural export has been magical realism, with writers like Gabriel García Márquez capturing Indian readers' imaginations. Márquez's popularity in India isn't surprising — the idea of Maya and the mystical has always been central to Indian

thought. The genre's subtle critique of authoritarianism resonated with Indian audiences, even though it lacked overt political messaging.

The most curious — and controversial — export has been Liberation Theology, a fusion of Marxism and Roman Catholicism led by Peruvian priest Gustavo Gutiérrez. While dismissed by the Vatican's conservatives like Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict), the movement has gained quiet traction among some Catholic communities in India. Pope Francis, an Argentine, is seen as more sympathetic to these ideas.

However, critics like columnist and author Jaithirth "Jerry" Rao, who lived in Venezuela in the 1980s, argue that this ideological romance with Latin America is more symbolic than substantive. "The Left's admiration for Latin America is driven more by romanticism than realism," he says, pointing to the intellectual disconnect between rhetoric and ground realities — especially the economic failures of socialist regimes.

Nonetheless, the symbolic solidarity continues to appeal to sections of India's academia and political Left — despite the region's limited real-world impact on Indian life. Whether this connection leads to fruitful collaboration or ideological quicksand remains to be seen.

## Gold's Sharp Rally Triggers FOMO – But Should Investors Jump In?



The recent surge in gold prices has reignited a classic dilemma for Indian investors: Has the best opportunity already passed, or is now still a good time to buy?

With gold touching new highs, the fear of missing out (FOMO) is becoming palpable — especially in a country like India, where gold carries deep emotional and cultural value. However, financial experts are urging caution. History suggests that chasing gold during sharp rallies often leads to disappointment.

Gold is not typically a wealth-creation tool like equities. While it offers strong returns during crises, such as the 2008 financial meltdown or the 2020 COVID-19 shock, it also experiences long periods of stagnation. Between 2011 and 2018, for instance, gold returned a mere 2.5% annually, significantly underperforming the stock

market.

Global Drivers at Play

Gold's price is influenced by global uncertainties, central bank actions, and interest rate movements. As US interest rates drop, the opportunity cost of holding gold decreases, pushing investors toward the metal. With rising geopolitical tensions and a potential economic slowdown looming, many central banks are increasing their gold reserves, reducing reliance on the US dollar.

However, gold's upward momentum is easily reversed. A strengthening dollar, rising bond yields, or easing geopolitical tensions can all deflate gold's appeal. In India, rising prices also dampen jewellery demand, causing consumers to shift toward alternatives like silver or platinum.

Indian Investors and Portfolio Allocation

Over the past 25 years, Indian investors have enjoyed annualised gold returns of 12–13%, aided by a weakening rupee. Still, this historical performance shouldn't be mistaken for a guarantee of future gains. Financial planners caution against treating gold as a primary engine of growth.

The key is disciplined asset allocation. Experts recommend maintaining a gold allocation of 5–15% in one's investment portfolio. This helps hedge against volatility without overexposing to an unpredictable asset.

In conclusion, gold is best viewed as insurance in an investment plan — a stabiliser, not a star performer. While FOMO is understandable amid surging prices, smart investors know that discipline and diversification, not emotion, deliver long-term financial success.

## Flood-Hit Punjab Feels Ignored, Old Wounds Reopen Amid Rising Alienation



As Punjab grapples with one of its worst flood disasters in decades, simmering discontent is boiling over into a deeper sense of alienation. Despite the Centre promising support, the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the state has struck a nerve among many Punjabis — particularly within the Sikh community — who feel abandoned in their hour of crisis.

While PM Modi tweeted condolences for the Afghanistan earthquake upon returning from Tianjin on September 1, his silence on Punjab's floods sparked backlash. Giani Harpreet Singh, former Akal Takht head priest and now a

rising religious-political voice, publicly rebuked the Prime Minister. "Punjab is also part of this country," he wrote, questioning Modi's priorities in a pointed social media post followed by a formal letter.

Though the Prime Minister reportedly spoke to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and promised help, for many affected families across 1,500 villages and 3 lakh displaced people, this fell short of expectations. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan did visit flood-hit areas, wading through water, but Modi's absence is being perceived as political distancing.

The alienation, observers

note, is rooted in the unresolved trauma of the farm laws movement, where Sikh farmers were at the forefront of the year-long protest against the Centre. That movement fractured already tenuous bonds between New Delhi and Punjab, and today's silence only reinforces old suspicions.

Politically, the BJP's relationship with Punjab has remained complicated. Once a junior partner to the Shiromani Akali Dal, it now contests alone, tripling its vote share in 2024 but winning no seats. Analysts suggest the party may be eyeing a long game — banking on a fragmented Sikh vote

and Hindu consolidation.

However, this gamble is risky. The rise of radical voices like Amritpal Singh's faction, growing online propaganda linking Sikh grievances with broader separatist narratives, and the vacuum in traditional Sikh politics are creating fertile ground for unrest — and for external actors like Pakistan's ISI to exploit.

History reminds us that neglect during crisis breeds discontent. Punjab's flood tragedy, if not met with empathy and urgency, could deepen a dangerous divide. The moment calls not just for aid — but presence, understanding, and political foresight.



# PM Modi Holds Bilateral Talks With Japanese PM at G20 Summit

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, discussing ways to strengthen India-Japan co-operation across multiple sectors.  
“Had a productive meeting with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of Japan. We discussed ways to add momentum to bilateral co-operation in areas such as innovation, defence, talent mobility and more,” PM Modi posted on social media. The leaders also explored measures to enhance trade ties, emphasizing that a strong India-Japan partnership is vital for global progress.  
According to the Ministry of External Affairs, both leaders reaffirmed the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, grounded in civilizational connect, shared values, mutual goodwill, and commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. They highlighted the need to deepen bilateral ties to promote regional and global peace, prosperity, and stability.  
The discussions built on the 15th India-Japan An-

nual Summit, focusing on expeditious implementation of agreements across defense and security, trade and investment, SMEs, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, semiconductors, infrastructure, technology, and people-to-people exchanges. They also explored strategic sector collaborations and exchanged views on regional and global issues.  
PM Takaichi expressed strong support for the AI Summit to be hosted by India in February 2026. This was the first meeting between the two leaders since she assumed office in October.  
The talks followed PM Modi’s visit to Japan in August, during which India and Japan finalized 13 key agreements and declarations, launched transformative initiatives, and adopted the India-Japan Joint Vision for the Next Decade. Building on progress toward the 2022-2026 target of JPY 5 trillion in Japanese investments in India, a new goal of JPY 10 trillion (USD 68 billion) in private investment has been set. The vision emphasizes strategic alignment in clean energy, emerging technologies, and infrastructure development.



# Justice Surya Kant Sworn in as 53rd Chief Justice of India

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Justice Surya Kant, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office at a brief ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 10 am.  
Justice Kant succeeds Justice BR Gavai, who retired on November 23 after serving just over six months. Justice Gavai had recommended Justice Kant’s name as his successor on October 27, and the President appointed him on October 30. Elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019, Justice Kant will serve as CJI for nearly 15 months, retiring on February 9, 2027.  
The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, several Union ministers, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, outgoing CJI Gavai, former Vice President



Jagdeep Dhankhar, and judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts. Chief justices and judges from countries including Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Malaysia, Brazil, and Kenya were also present.  
Justice Kant outlined his priorities as CJI, focusing on reducing the massive pendency of cas-

es in the Supreme Court, which currently stands at around 90,000. He emphasized the importance of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism and highlighted plans to set up Constitution Benches to dispose of key constitutional matters, which could help clear hundreds of cases in high courts.

Born on February 10, 1962, in Hisar, Haryana, Justice Kant graduated in law from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, and earned his Master’s degree in law from Kurukshetra University, standing first in his class. He became the youngest Advocate General of Haryana in 2000, was appointed judge of the Punjab and

Haryana High Court in 2004, and served as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court in 2018 before elevation to the Supreme Court.  
Justice Kant brings over two decades of judicial experience, with landmark judgments on Article 370, free speech, corruption, environment, and gender equality.

# Delhi HC Seeks Response on Christian Michel’s Extradition Challenge



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
The Delhi High Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre, the CBI, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea filed by British national Christian Michel James, accused in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam, challenging a provision

of the India-UAE extradition treaty.  
A bench comprising Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Manoj Jain directed the Home Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs, the CBI, and the ED to submit their objections regarding the maintainability of Michel’s petition. The

court’s notice marks the next step in a legal battle that has spanned several years.  
Michel’s lawyer highlighted that the accused will complete seven years in Indian custody on December 4, 2025, and has not been granted release even once during this period. The plea contends

that certain provisions of the extradition treaty are arbitrary and seeks relief from continued detention, raising questions about procedural safeguards and legal rights under the treaty framework.  
The AgustaWestland case, one of India’s high-profile defense procure-

ment scandals, involves allegations of kickbacks paid to secure a contract for VVIP helicopters. Christian Michel, considered a key middleman in the case, has been in Indian custody since his arrest, while investigations by the CBI and ED continue to unravel complex financial and contractual transactions linked to the deal.  
Legal experts said the High Court’s examination of the extradition treaty provisions could have broader implications, including the interpretation of bilateral agreements and the procedural rights of foreign nationals facing long-term detention in India.  
The court will review submissions from the government and investigative agencies before deciding on the maintainability of Michel’s petition and the next course of action, which could include hearings on his release or modifications to his detention conditions.

# 15 Arrested For Using Pepper Spray On Delhi Cops During Air Pollution Protest ‘Madvi Hidma Amar Rahe’ Slogans Raised



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Fifteen individuals were arrested during a protest against rising air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, after allegedly using pepper spray on police officers, officials said on Monday. The detentions followed Sunday’s demonstration at the C-hexagon, where protesters reportedly refused repeated warnings to disperse.  
The arrested were taken to the Parliament Street Police Station for medical examination. Delhi Police confirmed an FIR has been registered under multiple sections, including obstruction of government work. Some of the protesters were apprehended near India Gate, while others were detained outside the police station. Authorities said the pepper spray caused irritation to three to

four officers, who were treated at a hospital.  
Officials explained that several demonstrators attempted to cross barricades meant to regulate traffic and allow ambulance movement. When asked to step back, the protesters allegedly became agitated, sat on the road, and disrupted traffic, forcing police intervention to restore order.  
This is the latest in a series of “clean air protests” in the capital. Earlier, on November 9, demonstrators were detained at India Gate demanding stricter government action to address the “air emergency” in Delhi.  
Meanwhile, Delhi and neighbouring NCR cities are facing severe air quality issues. Current AQI readings include Gurugram at 370, Noida at 372, Faridabad 358, and Ghaziabad 355, with

several areas in Delhi breaching 400, entering the ‘severe’ category. Low wind speeds are expected to worsen conditions.  
In response, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has revised the Graded Response Action Plan, enforcing measures previously meant for Stage IV under Stage III. These include uninterrupted power supply to curb diesel generator use, deployment of additional traffic personnel, alerts via media, and expanded CNG and electric public transport with differential fares.  
The Delhi government has directed private offices to operate with 50% on-site staff and allow the rest to work from home, as authorities continue to urge caution amid hazardous air quality.

# Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous ASW Vessel INS Mahe



**TPN Correspondent | Mumbai**  
The Indian Navy on Monday commissioned INS Mahe, the first of the Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare (ASW) shallow water crafts, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. The vessel is designed to hunt submarines, conduct coastal patrols, and secure India’s vital maritime approaches.  
The commissioning ceremony was attended by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi as the chief guest, along with senior naval officers and officials. The event highlighted the Indian Navy’s focus on strengthening indigenous shipbuilding and enhancing operational capabilities in shallow waters.  
INS Mahe, built in India, represents a new generation of stealthy

and agile shallow-water combatants. The vessel is equipped with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, and other anti-submarine warfare weaponry, enabling it to detect and neutralize underwater threats efficiently. Its design also allows for rapid deployment along India’s extensive coastline, safeguarding strategic maritime routes.  
The ship is expected to play a crucial role in coastal security, surveillance, and intelligence gathering, complementing larger fleet units in safeguarding India’s maritime interests. Indian Navy officials emphasized that the induction of INS Mahe strengthens the country’s self-reliance in defense manufacturing while significantly boosting anti-subma-

rine capabilities in the shallow water environment.  
The Mahe-class vessel is part of a broader program aimed at modernizing the Indian Navy with indigenous, state-of-the-art platforms capable of operating in diverse maritime conditions. Its commissioning aligns with the government’s “Make in India” initiative, reflecting India’s growing emphasis on homegrown defense technology and strategic maritime preparedness.  
With INS Mahe joining the fleet, the Indian Navy now possesses enhanced capability to monitor and counter potential underwater threats, ensuring the security of India’s coastline and safeguarding the nation’s strategic maritime interests.



## Bangladesh Seeks Extradition of Sheikh Hasina from India



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

The interim government of Bangladesh has formally requested the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from India, following her death sentence by the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka. The letter was sent to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, and Bangladeshi authorities are currently awaiting a response, according to Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossein.

Sheikh Hasina, who fled Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, amid widespread protests against her government, has been living in India since her departure. Prior to her flight, the tribunal had declared her a fugitive, and she now faces multiple charges, including alleged involvement in the enforced disappearance of political activists and critics during her 16-year tenure as Prime Minister.

Mr. Hossein stated that the extradition request follows the tribunal's latest verdict and comes at a time when the court continues to hear cases related to Hasina's alleged role in suppressing dissent and human rights violations. "The interim government is committed to ensuring ac-

countability for crimes committed during the previous administration," he added.

The request underscores the growing diplomatic and legal tensions between Dhaka and New Delhi, as India has historically provided refuge to political figures facing turmoil in neighbouring countries. Legal experts suggest that extradition could become a complex process, requiring careful consideration of international law, bilateral treaties, and humanitarian concerns.

Observers note that this development will test India's diplomatic balancing act between respecting Bangladesh's judicial process and safeguarding individuals residing within its territory. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to upholding the tribunal's decisions and pursuing all legal avenues to ensure that Hasina faces trial for alleged crimes committed during her administration.

The situation continues to evolve, with both countries expected to engage in diplomatic consultations in the coming weeks over the handling of the extradition request.

## South Africa Passes G20 Baton to U.S. Amid Debt Concerns



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

South Africa has formally handed over the G20 presidency to the United States, concluding a year in which it pushed to highlight debt sustainability challenges facing developing nations. The transition marks the end of a four-nation leadership stretch by emerging economies, including Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa, which collectively focused on elevating the Global South's priorities on the global stage.

Speaking on the handover, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana emphasised that South Africa aimed to institutionalise debt relief mechanisms and push forward recommendations agreed upon by the G20 over the past year. "Debt sustainability remains a critical issue for emerging economies and low-income countries," he said, noting that global debt across developing nations has now surpassed \$100 trillion.

The G20's debt agenda under South Africa's leadership sought to strengthen coordinated approaches to sovereign debt restructuring, promote financing for development, and prevent debt crises from escalating in vulnerable economies. Analysts

have described these efforts as an important step in bridging inequalities between the Global South and advanced economies.

However, the shift to a U.S.-led presidency raises questions about whether the momentum on debt relief will be maintained. Historically, priorities under advanced-economy leadership have leaned toward global financial stability and regulatory issues, while debt relief and development finance have received comparatively less focus.

Observers note that the United States will face pressure to translate G20 ambitions into concrete action, especially as economic stress in poorer nations threatens to intensify. Emerging economies have warned that rising debt levels, coupled with inflationary pressures and slower global growth, could trigger new crises without robust international coordination.

As the G20 prepares for its next summit, all eyes will be on Washington to see whether the commitments and frameworks developed under South Africa's leadership will be sustained, ensuring that debt relief remains a priority for the world's most vulnerable countries.

# Trump's Evolving Rhetoric on Zelenskyy and Putin

TPN Bureau | Washington

President Donald Trump's rhetoric toward Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin has shifted dramatically over the first 10 months of his second term, reflecting changing dynamics in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

During his 2024 campaign, Trump repeatedly claimed he could end the war "in 24 hours" if re-elected. Initially conciliatory toward Putin, whom he has long admired, Trump over time expressed growing frustration with the Russian leader. Conversely, after a February Oval Office confrontation, Trump softened his criticism of Zelenskyy, though tensions remained evident.

In recent months, Trump endorsed a peace plan seen by some as favorable to Russia. Democratic



senators criticized it as a "wish list" from Moscow, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted it was drafted by the U.S. Allies in Eu-

rope expressed concern the plan could be overly lenient toward Russia.

Trump has alternated between criticizing

and praising both leaders. At times, he slammed Zelenskyy for allegedly failing to show sufficient gratitude for U.S. military

support, recalling the Oval Office spat with Vice President JD Vance that temporarily paused aid to Ukraine. He also rebuked Euro-

pean nations for not applying more economic pressure on Russia.

At the same time, Trump has occasionally defended Putin, expressing trust that the Russian leader would honor potential peace commitments. After Russian attacks on Kyiv, Trump publicly condemned the strikes, highlighting the human toll, while signaling his continued willingness to negotiate directly with both leaders.

Trump's fluctuating tone—ranging from admiration and trust toward Putin to occasional harsh criticism of Zelenskyy—illustrates the complex balancing act of U.S. diplomacy. Analysts note that his statements have had significant domestic and international repercussions, influencing both bipartisan support for Ukraine and the broader trajectory of U.S.-Russia relations.

## “Arunachal In China”: Indian Woman's Post On Shanghai Airport Harassment

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv/Europe

A woman from Arunachal Pradesh, India, was detained and harassed by Chinese authorities at Shanghai Pudong Airport after officials refused to recognise her Indian passport during a transit stop on November 21. Pema Wang Thongdok, who was traveling from London to Japan, said in posts on X that she was held for over 18 hours because immigration officers claimed her birthplace, Arunachal Pradesh, is Chinese territory.

Thongdok stated that officials repeatedly told her that her Indian passport was invalid, confiscated it, and prevented her from boarding her onward flight, despite having a valid Japanese visa. She was also denied access to food, airport facilities, and updates on her status. Officers reportedly mocked her and suggested she should "ap-



ply for a Chinese passport."

To resume her journey, Thongdok had to purchase a new ticket exclusively on China Eastern Airlines, resulting in financial losses from missed

flights and hotel bookings. Confined to the airport transit area, she was eventually able to leave after contacting the Indian Consulate in Shanghai, with consular intervention.

Calling the incident a "direct insult to India's sovereignty," Thongdok appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian authorities to raise the issue with Beijing, seek accountability

and compensation, and ensure the protection of all Indian citizens from Arunachal Pradesh while traveling abroad.

The episode has sparked strong reactions in diplomatic cir-

cles and among Indian citizens, highlighting the sensitive territorial dispute between India and China. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of "Zangnan" or southern Tibet, a position consistently rejected by New Delhi.

India has maintained that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the country. In May, the Ministry of External Affairs criticized China's attempts to rename 27 locations in the state, calling them "vain and preposterous" and reaffirming that naming changes cannot alter the reality that Arunachal Pradesh "was, is, and will always remain" part of India.

The incident underscores the challenges faced by citizens of Arunachal Pradesh amid ongoing India-China tensions and the importance of consular support for Indians abroad.

## TTAP Launches Three-Day Drive Against 27th Amendment



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The opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) has announced a three-day public mobilisation campaign in early December to intensify its resistance to the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. The movement will begin in Kamo

Shaheed, Ghotki, and conclude in Karachi, according to a report by Dawn.

The decision was finalised during a crucial meeting of TTAP's Sindh chapter, chaired by Syed Zain Shah and attended by senior representatives from PTI, Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen, Sindh United

Party, PkMAP, and other coalition partners. The session reviewed the ongoing political and constitutional situation in Pakistan and approved several organisational measures to strengthen the alliance's outreach.

A statement released after the meeting noted that the TTAP leader-

ship had mapped out the route for the mobilisation, which will pass through multiple towns before reaching Karachi. The participants also commended the people of Sindh for marking Black Day on November 21, and praised the legal fraternity for its continued opposition to the

amendment.

Speaking to the media, Zain Shah highlighted growing public frustration over unemployment, inflation, and economic instability. He asserted that the 27th Amendment "undermines constitutional supremacy and the rule of law." Shah also criticised the Sindh

government for imposing Section 144 shortly after TTAP announced a rally in Hyderabad, calling it proof that the ruling PPP had "lost its popular support."

He warned that attempts to suppress dissent or impose governments through "fabricated mandates" would no longer be tolerated.

PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh echoed these concerns, alleging that the amendment "strips the judiciary of its independence." He stressed that only a strong, people-powered movement could counter what he described as a system built on a "stolen mandate," while condemning the government for introducing "anti-people" changes and keeping PTI founder Imran Khan in "unjust imprisonment."

The TTAP expects significant public participation in its December mobilisation as it continues its campaign against the proposed constitutional reforms.



# India's Exports Fall for First Time in 14 Months: CRISIL

India's merchandise exports recorded a decline in October 2025, marking the first drop in 14 months, according to a report by CRISIL. Exports fell 11.8% year-on-year to \$34.38 billion, reversing the growth trend seen since August 2024.

The slowdown was broad-based, affecting key sectors such as petroleum products, gems and jewellery, and other core industrial segments. CRISIL attributed the decline to subdued global demand and lingering supply-side constraints that affected production and shipment timelines.

Petroleum exports, which have historically contributed significantly to India's merchandise trade, saw a marked reduction amid fluctuating crude prices and weaker overseas demand. Gems and jewellery, another major export segment, also experienced a drop due to subdued international



al consumption and ongoing market volatility. Core sectors, including engineering goods,

chemicals, and textiles, witnessed slower growth, reflecting challenges in the global

trade environment. Analysts noted that while domestic production remains strong, external

factors such as weakening global demand, inflationary pressures in importing countries,

and currency fluctuations have impacted export performance.

Despite the decline, CRISIL emphasized that the long-term fundamentals of India's export sector remain intact, supported by ongoing diversification of export markets and the government's focus on promoting value-added manufacturing. Efforts to enhance competitiveness in sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods are expected to gradually offset the near-term challenges.

The report suggests that while October's numbers indicate a temporary setback, policy measures to incentivize exports and strengthen supply chains could help stabilize growth in the coming months. Experts anticipate a cautious rebound if global demand improves and domestic industries maintain production efficiency.

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



S&P Global Ratings on Monday projected India's economy to grow 6.5% in the current fiscal year and 6.7% in FY27, citing tax cuts and monetary policy easing as key drivers of consumption-led growth.

According to S&P's Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific report, India's real GDP grew at 7.8% in the April-June quarter of FY26, marking the fastest pace in five quarters. Official data for Q2 (July-September) GDP growth is scheduled for release on November 28.

"Domestic growth remains robust, driven by strong consumption, despite the impact of US tariffs," S&P said. The report also noted that a potential trade agreement with the US could reduce uncertainty and boost confidence, benefiting labour-intensive sectors.

S&P highlighted that lowered goods and services tax (GST) rates, combined with income tax relief and recent interest rate cuts, are likely to make consumption a stronger growth driver than investment in the current and next

fiscal year. The government's 2025-26 Budget raised the income tax rebate to ₹12 lakh from ₹7 lakh, providing around ₹1 lakh crore in relief to the middle class.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had cut key policy rates by 50 basis points in June, bringing the repo rate to a three-year low of 5.5%. Additionally, GST rates on approximately 375 items were reduced from September 22, making essential consumer goods more affordable.

S&P noted that the spike in effective US tariffs on Indian products is weighing on export-oriented manufacturing, though signs suggest potential tariff reductions in the future. The agency added that current US trade policies are diverting time and resources toward negotiating exemptions, which could impact productivity gains.

The RBI has projected India's GDP growth for FY26 at 6.8%, slightly above S&P's estimate, reflecting strong domestic consumption and resilient economic fundamentals.

## Stock Markets Rebound on IT Rally, Strong Global Trends



Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Monday, November 24, 2025, led by gains in IT stocks and supportive global market trends.

The 30-share Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Sensex

climbed 218.44 points to 85,450.36, while the 50-share National Stock Exchange (NSE) Nifty rose 69.4 points to 26,137.55 in early trading. Market analysts attributed the recovery to optimism in the technology sector and

positive cues from global equities.

Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Maruti were among the top gainers, reflecting re-

newed investor confidence in IT and banking stocks. Broader sectoral movements indicated firm buying in financial services, automobile, and engineering stocks.

Global trends also supported the rally, with major indi-

ces in the US and Europe recording gains overnight amid easing concerns over interest rates and encouraging corporate earnings. Analysts said that the positive global cues helped offset domestic market uncertainties, prompting early buying interest among investors.

Sector experts highlighted that IT stocks are expected to continue benefiting from strong earnings, higher order inflows, and favorable currency movements. The banking sector also drew investor attention due to steady asset quality and healthy credit growth prospects.

Market participants are closely watching macroeconomic data, corporate results, and global developments to gauge the sustainability of the rebound. Short-term trading activity is likely to remain volatile, with investors cautiously optimistic about further upside potential in select sectors.

Overall, Monday's early session indicated a positive start for Indian equities, fueled by IT sector momentum and firm global cues, suggesting that investors are regaining confidence after recent bouts of market consolidation.

## SEBI to Review Mutual Fund, Broker Rules on Dec 17



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) plans to undertake a comprehensive review of its mutual fund and stock broker regulations at its upcoming board meeting, officials said on Friday. The meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2025, and will discuss proposed reforms aimed at making regulatory frameworks more relevant, transparent, and efficient.

In October, SEBI had issued a consultation paper proposing an overhaul of mutual fund rules. Key recommendations included a clearer definition of the Total Expense Ratio (TER), revised limits on brokerage charges, and enhanced disclosure requirements for investors. The regulator had sought public feedback on these proposals to ensure that the new framework aligns with evolving market practices and investor interests.

The board will also examine changes to stock broker regulations, focusing on improving risk management, operational efficiency, and investor protection. This initiative comes amid growing market complexities, rising trading volumes, and increased participation of retail investors in equities and

mutual funds. SEBI officials emphasized that the review aims to simplify existing rules, address ambiguities, and strengthen governance practices within the mutual fund and brokerage sectors. Analysts said the proposed reforms could enhance transparency, lower costs for investors, and make mutual funds a more attractive investment avenue.

Market participants are closely watching the developments, as any changes in TER norms, brokerage limits, and compliance requirements could significantly impact fund houses and stock brokers. Investor advocacy groups have welcomed SEBI's review, noting that a modernized regulatory framework could boost confidence in India's capital markets and promote long-term sustainable growth.

The board meeting on December 17 is expected to provide clarity on the timeline for implementing these reforms and finalizing the regulatory amendments. SEBI's move reflects its ongoing commitment to safeguard investor interests while fostering a dynamic and resilient capital market ecosystem.

## Government to Propose 100% FDI in Insurance Sector: Sitaraman



The government is set to introduce a Bill in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament to raise foreign direct in-

vestment (FDI) in the insurance sector to 100%, officials said on Friday. The session is scheduled to begin on December 1

and run until December 19, spanning 15 working days.

The proposed legisla-

tion forms part of a broader effort to modernize India's insurance regulatory framework. As part of the exercise, the Life Insurance Cor-

poration Act, 1956, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, and the Insurance Act, 1938, are expected to be amended to facilitate full foreign ownership in the sector.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that allowing 100% FDI is aimed at attracting greater foreign capital, enhancing technology adoption, and expanding product offerings in the insurance industry. She emphasized that this step would boost competitiveness, improve customer service, and strengthen India's insurance market in line with global best practices.

Currently, foreign investors can hold up to 74% stake in insurance companies, subject to regulatory approvals. The proposed hike to 100% would make India one of the few major

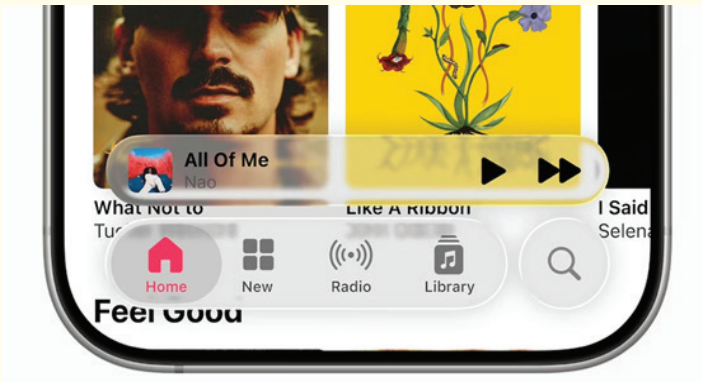
economies with full foreign participation allowed in its insurance market.

Industry analysts said the move is likely to attract global insurers seeking a foothold in one of the world's fastest-growing insurance markets. Increased FDI could also support the government's broader objectives of financial inclusion and deepening penetration of life and non-life insurance products across urban and rural India.

The Winter Session is expected to see detailed debates on the Bill, with both opposition and ruling parties discussing regulatory safeguards, consumer protection, and the potential impact on domestic insurers. If passed, the amendments would mark a historic milestone for India's insurance sector, paving the way for enhanced foreign collaboration and investment.



# iOS 26.1 Lets Users Tone Down Liquid Glass Effect



Apple's iOS 26.1 update brings a new option to adjust the controversial Liquid Glass effect, which debuted in iOS 26 last September. The feature, praised for its sleek glossy appearance but criticized for reducing readability, can now be toggled between Clear and Tinted modes, giving users more control over their display experience.

The Liquid Glass effect adds a high-translucency, glass-like finish across iPhone interfaces. While visually striking, many users found it distracting and inconsistent across different wallpapers. iOS 26.1 addresses these concerns by allowing users to reduce transparency and gloss with the Tinted option, making menus and app backgrounds easier to read.

To adjust the Liquid Glass effect, users should first ensure their device is updated to iOS 26.1. Then, navigate to Settings > Display & Brightness > Liquid Glass. Selecting Clear preserves the original glossy look, while Tinted tones down the effect, giving the interface a more opaque and neutral appearance.

# Ignyte Launches Ultra-Light Airlite Helmets in India



Ignyte, the premium brand of Steelbird Hi-Tech India Ltd, has launched its Airlite Series helmets in India, setting a new benchmark in ultra-light-weight, high-safety motorcycle helmets. The series introduces flagship models AI-10 and AI-14, certified under ECE 22.06 (Europe) and DOT (USA) standards, ensuring global-level safety for riders.

Weighing just 900 grams (ECE) and 800 grams (DOT), the Airlite helmets are designed to provide a zero-fatigue riding experience without compromising impact protection. They are crafted using Ignyte's proprietary balloon moulding technology, featuring a multi-impact Expanded Polypropylene (EPP) liner, which efficiently absorbs energy and rebounds after impact for lasting protection, surpassing traditional EPS liners.

The helmets sport an ultra-light fiberglass composite shell with controlled resin distribution for uniform thickness and superior strength. Riders can choose between Double D-Ring and Micrometric Buckle retention systems, combining professional-grade safety with everyday convenience. The premium interiors use imported, anti-allergenic fabric that is replaceable and washable, ensuring long-term comfort and hygiene. The optical-grade polycarbonate visor provides distortion-free clarity, scratch resistance, and UV protection.

The Airlite Series also offers dual-shell sizing for precise fit and balanced aesthetics, catering to riders of all head sizes. Each model is certified under ISI, ECE 22.06, and DOT standards, reflecting Ignyte's commitment to meeting the most demanding global safety requirements.

Pricing for the Airlite Series starts at Rs 6,659 for the AI-10E (ISI + ECE 22.06), with the AI-14E (ISI + ECE 22.06) priced at Rs 6,999. The DOT variants—AI-10 and AI-14—are priced at Rs 6,649 and Rs 6,859, respectively.

The helmets will be available at authorized Steelbird and Ignyte dealerships and leading online platforms across India, offering riders an ideal blend of lightweight comfort, advanced safety, and modern design for every journey.

# WhatsApp May Soon Let Users Call Others via Username

WhatsApp is reportedly developing a new feature that will allow users to call or message others using usernames, eliminating the need to exchange phone numbers. This functionality, spotted in recent beta releases for iOS and Android by feature tracker WABetaInfo, could significantly simplify connecting with new contacts while maintaining privacy.

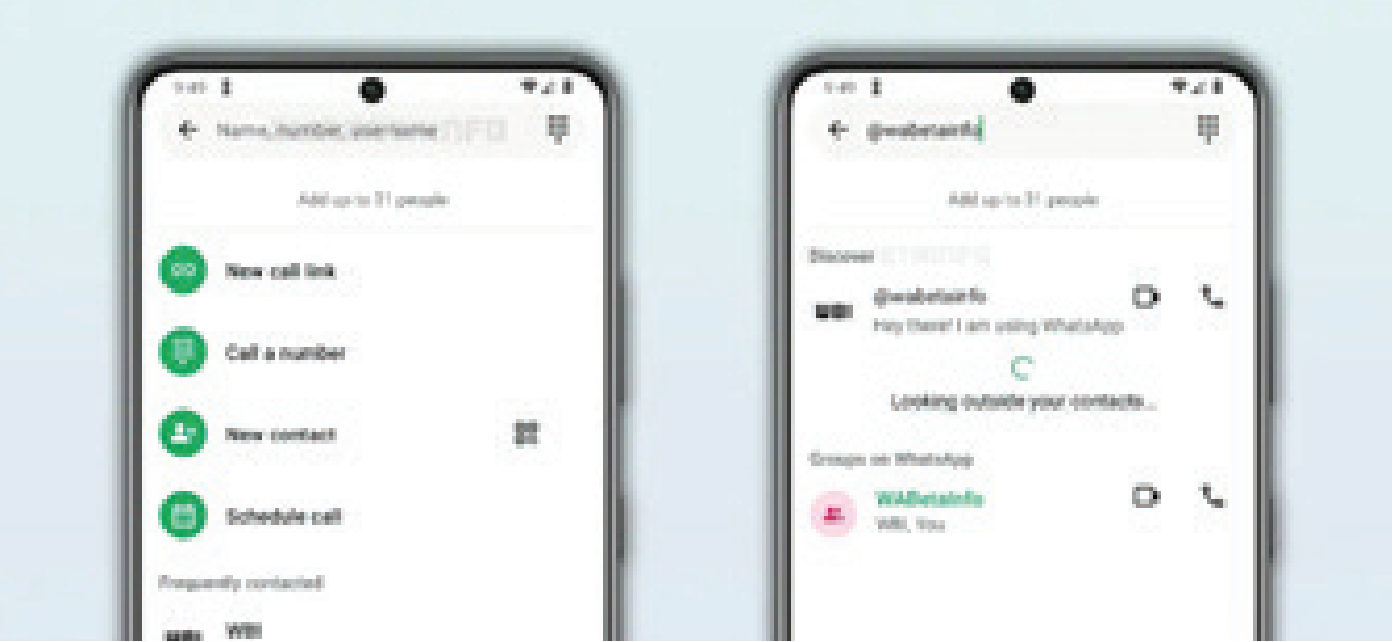
The feature will let users search for a person's username in the Calls tab. If a match is found, users can tap on voice call or video call buttons to initiate a conversation. Depending on privacy settings, the caller may also see the person's profile photo before connecting. While the feature is still in development, it promises to offer a more streamlined way of communication, similar to Signal's existing username-based calls.

To prevent misuse by spammers or scammers, WhatsApp plans to introduce a "username key" system. Unknown users attempting to place a call would need to enter the correct username key to connect. This feature is expected to be optional but could play a crucial role in enhancing security while enabling easier communication.

Apart from username-based calls, WhatsApp is actively testing several other features. These include cover photos for chats, in-chat storage management, media and sticker filters, message limits for new chats, and a channel quiz feature. Users may also soon be able to reply and react to messages from Apple Watch and secure chat backups with passkey encryption.

No official timeline has been shared regarding the rollout of these features. They are expected to first appear on the beta channel, where WhatsApp will test them before making them available to all users. Once released, these updates could mark a significant shift in how WhatsApp handles privacy, contact discovery, and user interaction.

This development indicates WhatsApp's growing focus on enhancing usability while balancing security and privacy for its over 2 billion global users.



# French Students React to Spicy Andhra Chicken Curry

A viral video capturing the reactions of a group of French students tasting Andhra chicken curry for the first time has won hearts on social media. The clip, shared on Instagram by @amarprashanth\_07\_yt, shows the students attempting the fiery South Indian delicacy with rice, revealing both their struggle with the spice and their enjoyment of the dish.

In the video, the French students are seen eating the curry in the traditional Indian way, mixing it with rice using their hands. The expressions on their faces range from shock at the heat to sheer delight. While some struggle with the intensity of the spices, one student is seen licking his plate clean, clearly impressed by the flavor despite the fiery kick.

The video has struck a chord with viewers online, celebrating not only the boldness of the students but also the richness of Indian cuisine. It reflects how food can bridge cultural gaps, bringing people together through shared experiences. The reel has garnered thousands of likes and comments, with many praising the students' adventurous spirit and the popularity of Andhra cuisine abroad.



Social media users have been quick to comment on the spice tolerance challenge, with many tagging friends who might enjoy or struggle with such a spicy dish. The video also highlights the global appeal of regional Indian cuisines, showing that authentic flavors can excite food lovers, even those unaccustomed to intense spices.

With short-form content like this going viral, many are now curious to see more international reactions to Indian dishes, from street foods to home-style recipes. The clip serves as a light-hearted reminder that food is a universal language, capable of creating moments of joy, surprise, and connection across cultures.

And for the French students, this fiery Andhra chicken experience was one to remember—and share with the world.

# McDonald's CEO Picks Snack Wrap as Favourite Menu Item



McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski recently revealed his favourite menu item in a playful "McDonald's Menu Item Tournament," surprising fans by choosing a non-burger item as his top pick. The tournament, shared on LinkedIn,

featured popular menu staples including Big Mac, Egg McMuffin, World Famous Fries, McCrispy Chicken Sandwich, Filet-O-Fish, Chicken McNuggets, Vanilla Cone, Apple Pie, Quarter Pounder with Cheese (QPC), and Snack Wrap.

In the bracket-style challenge, Kempczinski initially favoured the Egg McMuffin over the Big Mac, showing his fondness for McDonald's breakfast offerings. The fries, often celebrated as a fan favourite, performed strongly, defeat-

ing the Egg McMuffin, McCrispy, and Filet-O-Fish, but eventually lost to Chicken McNuggets. The McNuggets then progressed through the rounds, surpassing McCrispy Strips but falling short against the Vanilla

Cone. The tournament's semi-finals saw the Quarter Pounder with Cheese edge out the Vanilla Cone, leading to a final showdown between the QPC and the Snack Wrap. In a surprising turn, Kempczinski crowned the Snack Wrap—comprising McCrispy Strips, shredded lettuce, cheese, and a soft tortilla—as his ultimate favourite.

The choice carries special significance, as the Snack Wrap made a return to McDonald's US menus in July 2025 after nearly ten years off shelves. Fans and social media users responded positively to the CEO's pick, appreciating the spotlight on a beloved, once-retired menu item.

The video offered a rare, personal glimpse into the preferences of McDonald's top executive, showing that even the leader of a global fast-food empire has his own quirky favourites. The Snack Wrap's victory underscores its enduring popularity and reminds fans of the simple pleasures beyond burgers and fries.

Kempczinski's fun tournament not only engaged food lovers worldwide but also celebrated the diversity of McDonald's menu offerings, from breakfast classics to desserts and nostalgic favourites.



# Italy Clinches Third Straight Davis Cup Title

Italy reaffirmed its dominance in world tennis by securing its fourth Davis Cup title with a commanding 2-0 victory over Spain in the final on Sunday. The triumph also marks Italy's third consecutive Davis Cup championship, cementing the nation's position at the very top of men's team tennis.

What made this win even more remarkable was that Italy achieved it without their star player Jannik Sinner, who had been pivotal in the previous title runs. Despite his absence, the Italian squad showcased exceptional depth, resilience, and confidence, proving they remain a formidable force on the world stage.

The final opened with Matteo Berrettini, who delivered a powerful performance to give Italy the early lead. Displaying the experience and calm of a seasoned campaigner, Berrettini controlled the pace of the match, using his strong serve and forehand to dismantle the Spanish challenge.

Following him, Flavio Cobolli stepped onto the court with the pressure of securing the championship—but the young Italian



rose to the occasion magnificently. Playing with poise beyond his years, Cobolli dominated the second singles match to secure Italy's unassailable 2-0 advantage. His victory sent Italian fans into celebration, and he was joined court-

side by Berrettini as the team embraced the moment of triumph.

The Spanish team, despite a spirited run to the final, struggled to match Italy's intensity and consistency. With both singles matches going Italy's way,

the doubles rubber was rendered unnecessary.

For Italy, this latest win is a testament to their continued growth and exceptional team structure. With seasoned stars like Berrettini and emerging talents like Cobolli, the Italian squad

appears well-prepared for sustained success.

As celebrations erupted in Bologna, Italy's reign as the undisputed king of the Davis Cup continued—proof that their tennis resurgence remains strong, unified, and historic.

# India Lift Inaugural T20 Blind Women's World Cup



India created history on Sunday by winning the first-ever T20 Blind Women's World Cup, defeating Nepal by seven wickets in a dominant final held in Colombo. The landmark victory marks a monumental moment for women's blind cricket in the country, as the Indian team remained unstoppable throughout the tournament.

Opting to field first, India's bowlers delivered a disciplined and controlled performance, restricting Nepal to 114/5 in 20 overs. Tight bowling, sharp fielding and smart variations never allowed Nepal to gain momentum at any stage of the innings.

Chasing a modest target, India began aggressively and maintained their tempo from the outset. The batters reached 100 runs within the first 10 overs, signalling complete command of the chase and leaving Nepal with little hope of a comeback.

Opener Phula Saren

emerged as the star of the match, playing a match-winning knock of 44 off 27 balls, laced with four boundaries. Her fluent and fearless innings laid the perfect foundation for India's successful chase. Supporting her brilliantly, Karuna K scored an impressive 42 from 27 balls, ensuring India crossed the

finish line comfortably in the 13th over. Saren's exceptional performance earned her the Player of the Match award.

Following the historic win, India captain Deepika TC expressed immense pride in the team's achievement. "We are very proud and it is a huge win. Our entire team worked very hard. It is a very strong team and other teams are afraid to play with us. We are even ready to play with the men's team," she said.

India's journey to the title was flawless. They opened the tournament with a strong win over Sri Lanka, followed by a 57-run victory against Australia. They later chased down Pakistan's target of 136 in just 10.2 overs. In the semi-final, India crushed Australia by nine wickets before delivering a commanding performance against Nepal in the final.

With this historic triumph, India have set a new benchmark in women's blind cricket and announced themselves as the team to beat in future global competitions.

# Messi Shines as Inter Miami Storms Into Conference Final

Lionel Messi once again showcased his unmatched brilliance as Inter Miami cruised into the Eastern Conference championship with a commanding 4-0 victory over FC Cincinnati on Sunday. The Argentine maestro delivered one of his finest performances in the MLS, guiding Miami to within one win of their first-ever MLS Cup final appearance.

From the outset, Messi dictated the flow of the game with trademark creativity, vision, and precision. He scored one goal himself and assisted all three of Inter Miami's other strikes, proving instrumental in dismantling Cincinnati's defence. The team's fluid attack revolved around him, with defenders unable to contain his movement or disrupt his passing rhythm.

Messi opened the scoring with a clinical finish, setting the tone for Miami's dominance. Following his early strike, he turned into the perfect playmaker. Tadeo Allende benefited the most from Messi's brilliance, netting a superb brace off two perfectly timed assists. Mateo Silvet-



ti added the fourth, also created by Messi, sealing the rout and sending the home supporters into raptures.

Miami's emphatic win not only reflects their growing confidence but also highlights Messi's continued impact at the highest level—even at 38,

his influence remains unmatched. Inter dominated possession, controlled the midfield, and maintained relentless pressure, leaving Cincinnati with few opportunities to respond.

The victory propels Inter Miami into next Saturday's Eastern Conference

championship, where they will face New York City FC. With Messi in sublime form and the squad functioning cohesively, Miami enters the clash as favourites to book their historic MLS Cup final berth.

As expectations rise and

momentum builds, fans are eager to see whether Messi can carry Inter Miami all the way to their first championship final. For now, his magical night against Cincinnati stands as another reminder of why he remains one of football's greatest ever.

# Eze Fires Hattrick as Arsenal Dominate Spurs 4-1



Eberechi Eze delivered a sensational performance in the North London Derby, scoring a stunning hat trick as Arsenal thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 at the Emirates Stadium. His masterclass not only powered Arsenal to a memorable derby victory but also gave them a commanding six-point lead at the top of the Premier League table.

Eze, who came close to joining Spurs last summer, instead punished his suitors in ruthless fashion. Leandro Trossard opened the scoring in the 36th minute, and Eze doubled the advantage five minutes later with a composed finish. Just 23 seconds into the second half, he struck again with a precise left-footed shot to make it 3-0, sending the home crowd into raptures.

Tottenham briefly lifted spirits with the goal of the match when Richarlison produced an audacious chip from nearly 45 yards, catching goalkeeper David Raya off his line. However, any hope of a comeback vanished in the 76th minute when Eze curled home his third, becoming the first Arsenal player

to score a hat trick against Spurs since 1978.

Reflecting on the moment, Eze said, "It is special. Words can't explain this."

The weekend could not have been better for Arsenal, with title rivals Manchester City and Liverpool both losing on Saturday. Chelsea now sit closest in second place, but after 12 games, Arsenal look strong contenders for their first league crown since 2004.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta praised Eze's growing influence in midfield amid Martin Odegaard's injury, calling him a player capable of "magic moments." In contrast, Spurs manager Thomas Frank admitted it was a "hard defeat to take," while goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario apologised to fans for the team's lacklustre display.

Elsewhere, Aston Villa continued their resurgence with a 2-1 comeback win over Leeds, thanks to a brilliant brace by Morgan Rogers, lifting Villa to fourth place, while Leeds slipped into the relegation zone after a fifth loss in six games.

# 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 medalist. 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.



Swayambhu Locks Its Release Date



Actor Nikhil Siddhartha's highly anticipated period war action drama Swayambhu is once again making headlines as the makers have officially confirmed its release date. Following the massive nationwide success of Karthikeya 2, Nikhil's next project has been under keen observation from audiences and industry watchers alike. The announcement has now set expectations soaring.

Swayambhu, directed by debutant Bharat Krishnamachari, is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on February 13, 2026. In a remarkable move that underlines the film's ambitious scale, it will release in eight languages—Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic. This wide linguistic reach positions the film as one of the most expansive releases for a Telugu hero in recent times.

The makers have confirmed that the shoot has been completed, and to mark the release-date announcement, they unveiled a short video titled Rise of Swayambhu. The glimpse show-

cases the film's large-scale visuals and intense war backdrop, offering audiences a taste of what's to come. Full-fledged promotional activities are expected to roll out soon.

The film features Samyuktha and Nabha Natesh as the female leads, adding strong star value to the project. Swayambhu is being produced lavishly by Bhuvan and Sreekar under Pixel Studios, with veteran producer Tagore Madhu presenting the film.

The technical crew brings together top-tier talent. KK Senthil Kumar, known for his spectacular visual work, handles cinematography, while Ravi Basrur, of KGF fame, composes the music. Production design is led by M Prabhakaran and Raveendra, both of whom are working to create a visually immersive and historically authentic world.

With the announcement now official, excitement around Swayambhu is steadily building. The film promises an intense, visually striking cinematic experience, and fans are eagerly waiting for more glimpses as the release date approaches.

Mrunal–Dhanush Dating Buzz Reignites



The rumours surrounding actors Dhanush and Mrunal Thakur appear to have resurfaced yet again, with social media once more sparking speculation about their alleged relationship. For months, whispers of the two stars dating have circulated widely, though both have consistently chosen to remain silent on the matter. However, their recent exchange on Instagram has breathed new life into the ongoing gossip.

The latest trigger occurred after Mrunal shared the teaser of her upcoming film Do Deewane Shaher Mein, co-starring Siddhant Chaturvedi. Reacting to the post, Dhanush commented, "Looks and sounds good." Mrunal replied with a heart and sunflower emoji, a response that fans quickly picked up on. This seemingly simple interaction set off another wave of speculation, with netizens convinced that there's more than just professional admiration between the two actors.

This is not the first time

their social media activity has invited scrutiny. Some months ago, both Dhanush and Mrunal posted pictures from Mykonos, leading fans to speculate that they were vacationing together. Adding to the buzz, Dhanush was spotted at Mrunal's birthday celebration on August 1. Earlier still, a throwback video shared by Mrunal in July featured her enjoying a track from Dhanush's Idly Kadai, which further intensified the rumour mill. From comparing travel photos to dissecting their Spotify playlists, fans have been relentless in trying to connect the dots.

Whether the duo will finally respond to the renewed curiosity remains to be seen.

On the work front, Dhanush is gearing up for the release of Tere Ishk Mein, hitting theatres this Friday. Mrunal, meanwhile, has a packed slate with Do Deewane Shaher Mein, Da-coit: A Love Story, Allu Arjun–Atlee's film, and Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai.

Bollywood's legendary actor Dharmendra passes away at 89

Bollywood has lost one of its most cherished icons as legendary actor Dharmendra passed away today at the age of 89. The veteran star, who had been battling age-related health complications, breathed his last after his condition worsened despite treatment. He was recently admitted to Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, where doctors monitored his declining health. Just days earlier, false reports of his demise had circulated, prompting strong denials from the Deol family. However, after being brought home, his health deteriorated again, leading to his peaceful passing.

Born Dharam Singh Deol on December 8, 1935, in Punjab, Dharmendra rose to become one of Indian cinema's most beloved and enduring figures. Fondly remembered as Bollywood's original "He-Man," he featured in over 300 films across a remarkable career



spanning more than six decades. His versatility allowed him to shine in romantic dramas, intense emotional stories, and high-voltage action entertainers.

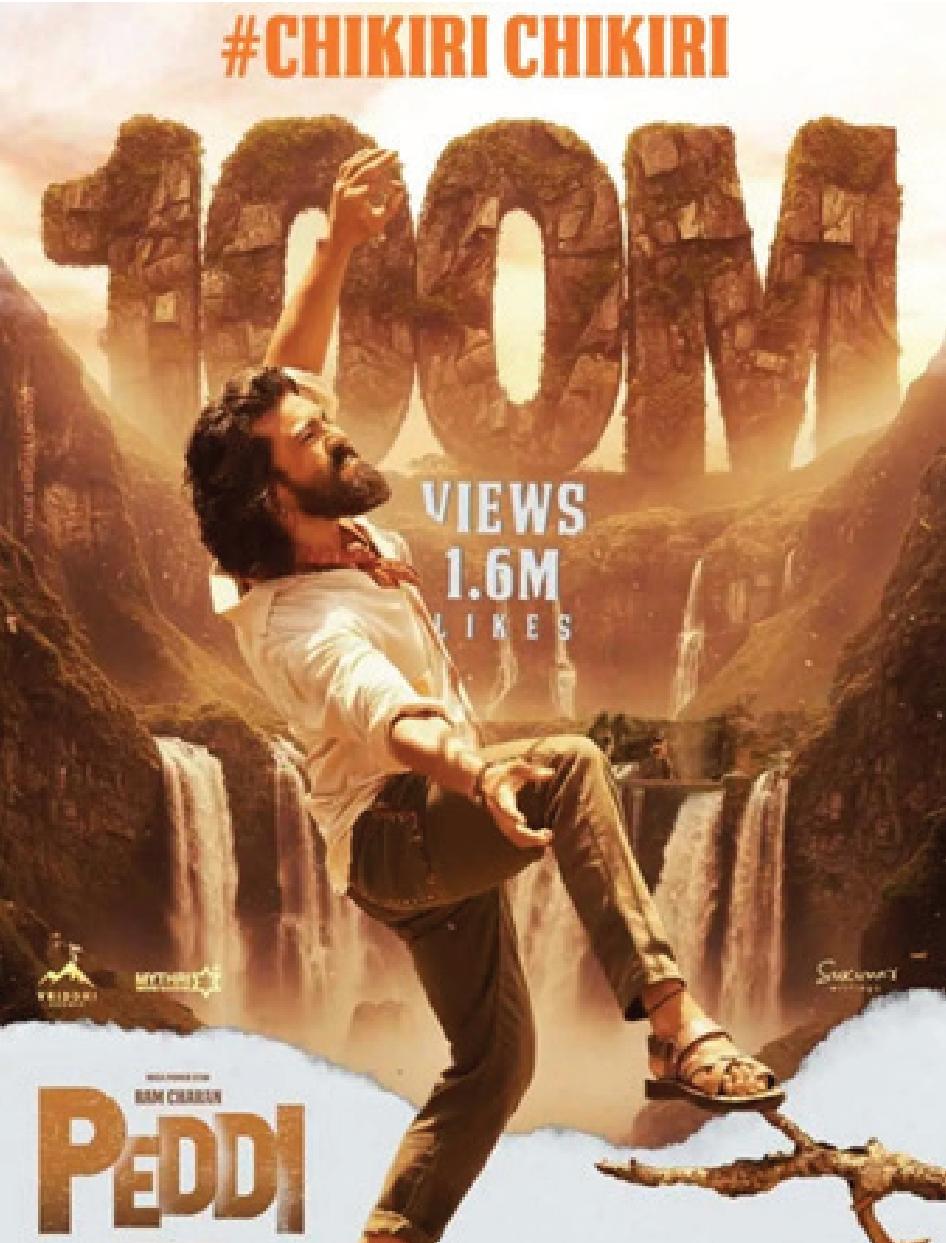
Dharmendra made his debut with Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere in 1960. He captured early praise for films like Bandini (1963) and later achieved superstardom with the blockbuster Phool Aur Patthar (1966). His portrayal of Veeru in the 1975 classic Sholay remains etched in the history of Indian cinema, with the iconic friendship anthem "Yeh Dosti Hum Nahi Todenge"

continuing to resonate with audiences even today.

A respected family man, Dharmendra married twice and is survived by his children, including actors Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. In 2012, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his invaluable contributions to Indian cinema. Despite his age, he remained active and was preparing for the release of Ikki in December 2025. A poster featuring him had been unveiled just hours before the tragic news.

Known for his humility, love for poetry, and serene life at his Lonavala farmhouse, Dharmendra leaves behind a legacy filled with warmth, grace, and unforgettable performances. Fans across the nation are mourning the loss of an irreplaceable star. We extend our deepest condolences to the Deol family and pray for his soul to rest in peace.

Chikiri Chikiri Crosses 100 Million Views



Mega Power Star Ram Charan, who achieved global fame with RRR, is once again capturing widespread attention with the first single from his upcoming film Peddi. Titled Chikiri Chikiri, the vibrant number has taken the music world by storm, marking a powerful start to the film's promotional journey.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is a rustic sports-action drama that has already generated immense curiosity. The addition of AR Rahman, the Academy Award-winning maestro, to the project has elevated expectations even further. Rahman's composition for Chikiri Chikiri has resonated strongly with audiences across languages,

allowing the song to break barriers and amass massive love globally.

In a remarkable achievement, Chikiri Chikiri has surpassed 100 million views across all versions, reaffirming its status as a chart-busting phenomenon. The Telugu version leads the pack with nearly 64 million views, accompanied by close to a million likes, establishing it as the clear favourite among listeners. The Hindi version has garnered an impressive 25 million views, while the Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam versions collectively add around 10 million views, showcasing the pan-Indian appeal of the track.

A major factor behind the song's soaring popularity is

Ram Charan's striking screen presence. His rugged look, dynamic energy, and stylish choreography have become instant highlights, sparking an avalanche of fan-made reels, edits, and dance covers across social media platforms. The infectious beat, combined with Charan's charismatic performance, has helped the song maintain a strong hold on trending charts.

With Chikiri Chikiri already setting the stage ablaze, anticipation for Peddi continues to rise. As fans celebrate this milestone, the film's team is gearing up for more exciting updates, promising a thrilling cinematic experience ahead.

Shambhala Secures OTT and Satellite Deals



Aadi Saikumar's upcoming supernatural thriller Shambhala is steadily gaining attention even before its release. Directed by Ugadhar Muni, the film has opted out of the Dasara competition and instead locked a strategic Christmas release date—25 December 2025. The makers aim to capitalise on the extended holiday season and ensure a wider reach without box-office crowding.

Well ahead of its theatrical debut, Shambhala has closed several major business deals, placing the project in a strong financial position. According to industry buzz, Aha has acquired the OTT streaming rights, marking a significant early win for the film. Additionally, reports suggest that the satellite rights for the Telugu version have been picked up by the Zee network. Though an official announcement from the team is awaited, trade circles confidently indicate the same.

Selling digital and satellite rights in advance has provided the producers with a solid

safety net. Even if theatrical performance varies, these early deals ensure that the makers recover a substantial part of the investment. Should the film perform strongly at the box office, the pre-release revenue will only add to its overall commercial success, giving the team a comfortable advantage.

Content-wise, Shambhala promises a refreshing departure from conventional thrillers. Set in the early 1980s, the film blends mystery, horror, and a period backdrop to deliver a distinctive cinematic mood. The vintage atmospherics, combined with supernatural elements, aim to draw in audiences seeking a unique and gripping experience.

With a calculated release strategy, promising genre mix, and already secured business deals, Shambhala is shaping up to be more than just another thriller. The combination of content strength and smart distribution planning suggests that the film may emerge as a noteworthy holiday release this December.