

Three New Districts to Be Formed in Andhra Pradesh: CM Chandrababu Naidu Gives Approval

TPN Bureau | November 25

Amravati: The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has approved the creation of three new districts—Markapuram, Madanapalle, and Polavaram with the aim of improving administrative efficiency and bringing governance closer to the people. With this decision, the number of districts in the state will increase from 26 to 29. The Chief Minister reviewed the recommendations of the Ministers' Committee on district reorganization at the Secretariat before giving the final approval. Along with the new districts, the government has also decided to establish five new revenue divisions and one new mandal across various existing districts.

New Districts and Their Composition

The proposed Polavaram district will be carved out with Rampachodavaram as its headquarters. It will include the Rampachodavaram and Chinturu revenue divisions. Under the Rampachoda-



varam division, mandals such as Rampachodavaram, Devipatnam, V.R. Puram, Gurteedu, Addateegala, Gangavaram, Mare-dumilli, and Rajavommangi will be included. The Chinturu division will comprise Yetapaka, Chinturu, Kunavaram, and Vararamachandrapuram mandals.

The Markapuram district will be formed by merging revenue divisions from the Yerragondapalem, Markapuram, Kanigiri, and Giddalur constituencies. The Markapuram division will include Yerragondapalem, Pullalacheruvu, Tripurantakam, Dornala, Peddaravedu, Tarlapadu, Marka-

puram, Podili, and Konakanamitla mandals. The Kanigiri division will contain Hanumanthunipadu, Veligandla, Kanigiri, Pedacherlopalli, Chandrasekharapuram, Pamuru, Giddalur, Bestavari-peta, Racherla, Komarolu, Kambham, and Arda-veedu mandals.

The reorganization will also transfer Addanki constituency from Bapatla district to Prakasam district, forming a new Addanki revenue division. The third new district, Madanapalle, will include the newly created Pileru revenue division comprising Sadum, Somala, Pileru, Gurramkonda, Kalakada, K.B. Palli, Ka-

likiri, and Valmikiapuram mandals. Additionally, the Chowdepalli and Pun-ganur mandals of Palamaner division will be merged into the Madanapalle division to strengthen administrative coordination in the Chittoor region.

New Revenue Divisions and Administrative Changes

Apart from the three new districts, five new revenue divisions have also been approved: Nakapalli in Anakapalli district, Addanki in Prakasam district, Pileru in the newly formed Madanapalle district, Banaganapalle in Nandyal district

Ma dakasira in Sri Sathya Sai district. The government has also approved the creation of Pedda Harivanam mandal by bifurcating the existing Adoni mandal in Kur-nool district.

Further jurisdictional adjustments include merging Marripudi and Ponnalur mandals into the Kandukur division, and transferring Kandukur constituency entirely to Prakasam district. In Tirupati and Nellore districts, Kaluvaya, Rapur, and Saidapuram mandals will now come under Gudur division of Tirupati district. In Chittoor district, Bangarupalem will be attached to the Chittoor revenue division.

Administrative Rationale

Officials stated that these reorganizations are aimed at streamlining governance, improving public service delivery, and ensuring balanced regional development. The Chief Minister directed departments to complete the logistical and administrative formalities soon so that the new districts can become operational early next year.

Minister Nara Lokesh Urges Political Cadre to Uphold Civility, Avoid Personal Attacks in Public Discourse

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Minister for IT, Electronics and Education, Shri Nara Lokesh, today issued an appeal for restraint, dignity and civility in political expression after an AI-generated post containing derogatory content about Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy surfaced online.

In a message addressed to his party cadre and the wider public, Shri Lokesh emphasised that while political differences are natural in a democracy, personal attacks have no place in responsible public discourse. He reiterated that political engagement must remain issue-based and respectful.

Reproducing his message shared earlier on X, Shri Lokesh



said: "To my beloved TDP family — While I get the emotion behind such content, personal attacks are never desirable. We may be political opponents, but our public discourse must be grounded in dignity and respect. I request everyone, including our supporters, to avoid amplifying such content. Let us maintain civility even in disagreement, and focus on constructive politics that strengthens Andhra Pradesh."

Shri Lokesh stated that Andhra Pradesh's political culture must rise above negativity and concentrate on development-oriented dialogue. He added that the State can only progress when the focus remains on ideas, governance, and the aspirations of its people. The Minister called upon all political parties, supporters, and social media users to join in fostering a healthier and more constructive democratic environment.

Sajjala flays Chandrababu

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: Reiterating that the coalition government has dismantled the protective structures put in place by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, YSRCP has said that farmers are being pushed into distress, especially during natural calamities.

Speaking to the media here on Tuesday, Party State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had taken special care of farmers' welfare, whereas Chandrababu has left them in the lurch during the recent cyclone and its aftermath. His negligence has further aggravated farmers' plight as they are not getting MSP for any of their crops. He said that TDP and its propaganda machine



inery have been busy spinning false narratives against YSRCP and have been booking party leaders and close associates in one case after another. There has been no progress in what they called the liquor scam and the SIT is not even adhering to court directives.

People have now realised how false cases were foisted on us and will give a fitting reply to the ruling coalition, he said. On the other hand, Chandrababu has been trying to shut down the cases pending against him, which clearly shows he is scared of them. "We will reopen all cases against him," Sajjala asserted.

Cyber Crime Authorities Unravel Key Details in iBomma Piracy Case

TPN Bureau | November 25

Hyderabad: The long-running iBomma piracy case, which has stirred intense debate across the Telugu states, has taken a significant turn following crucial revelations from the key accused, Imandi Ravi. Hyderabad Cyber Crime Additional Commissioner of Police (CP) K. Srinivas briefed the media on Tuesday, shedding light on how the massive piracy operation was organized and monetized.

According to the Cyber Crime officials, Ravi had been hosting the infamous iBomma website through another company to conceal his identity. The domain, sources revealed, was registered with a company named "Angela." Ravi used an advanced content management system (CMS) to regularly upload pirated Telugu films to the website. Over time, he managed and operated about 66 such piracy websites under different names, including platforms like "Bappam." Investigators discovered that Ravi had written redirect scripts in the websites' backend software.

These scripts rerouted users to gaming and betting sites, allowing



him to generate additional revenue from ads and traffic manipulation. Even as iBomma gained popularity, several other piracy websites, including Movieulz and TamilMV, remained active. "Efforts are ongoing to track down and apprehend the operators of these remaining platforms," said Additional CP Srinivas.

The officer also mentioned that the popularity of iBomma led many others to use its name for movie reviews and fake clone websites, misleading viewers and exploiting the brand's reputation in the process. Preliminary estimates suggest that Ravi earned close to Rs. 20 crore through his piracy network and associated online revenue streams.

During the investigation, authorities uncovered that Ravi had invested approximately one lakh US dollars to pur-

chase citizenship in a Caribbean island nation, possibly to evade Indian jurisdiction. He frequently traveled overseas, visiting multiple countries every few weeks to run his operations remotely. "Ravi became addicted to easy money," Srinivas remarked, describing him as an overconfident individual who underestimated law enforcement tracking abilities.

Addressing speculation in certain media circles, Srinivas clarified that the reports claiming Ravi's wife provided crucial information to police are false. "We have not questioned his wife. Those reports are baseless," he stated. The ongoing investigation has revealed that another individual named Nikhil was responsible for designing promotional posters for Ravi's websites. The police emphasized that under Indian law, cyber crimes committed by

foreigners or involving foreign citizens are still punishable offenses. India maintains extradition agreements with several countries, simplifying cooperative legal proceedings in international cybercrime cases.

Highlighting future challenges, the Additional CP expressed concern over the emerging Web 3.0 technologies, which could make piracy even harder to track and control due to decentralization and encrypted hosting. Srinivas reiterated that the fight against digital piracy remains complex and evolving, requiring cross-border cooperation and constant technological adaptation.

"The iBomma case is not just about one website—it reflects the larger challenge of combating organized online piracy networks that exploit both creative content and digital users," he concluded.



YS Jagan Holds Praja Darbar in Pulivendula, Listens to Public Grievances

TPN Bureau | November 25

Pulivendula, Kadapa district: YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy conducted an extensive Praja Darbar at his Bhakarapuram camp office in Pulivendula on Tuesday. The event witnessed a large turnout of party workers, local leaders, and residents from various parts of Kadapa district who came to present their grievances and seek his guidance. Throughout the session, YS Jagan interacted personally with the people, lending a patient ear to their issues. Citizens from different walks of life—farmers, small traders, daily wage earners, and youth seeking employment—shared their difficulties under the current government. Responding to each representation,

Jagan assured them that he would continue to fight for their welfare and stand by them like an elder brother. His empathetic approach drew warm appreciation from many in attendance. During the interaction, several attendees expressed disappointment that they had not received any assistance or relief from the present administration. They alleged that welfare schemes once implemented under the previous YSRCP government were either halted or diluted, leaving them vulnerable. Jagan assured them that the YSRCP would continue to remain the voice of the people and hold the government accountable for neglecting the poor and marginalized.

Farmers from various mandals detailed the severe hardships they faced due to recent cyclones and unseasonal rains. They complained

that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government had not provided compensation or input subsidies for crop losses. Many recalled that under the YSRCP regime, timely financial relief and input support gave them a sense of security, which they now lacked. Expressing concern over the distress in the farming community, Jagan said he would relentlessly fight against the government's negligence toward farmer welfare. For grievances that demanded immediate attention, Jagan directed Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy to intervene and initiate follow-up action. He emphasized that public representatives of the YSR Congress must continue to stay connected to the people and serve them even while in opposition, as the party was born out of people's struggles. He reminded party workers that public trust was

the foundation of their movement.

Several local leaders also participated in the Praja Darbar, briefing Jagan on regional issues, including stalled infrastructure projects, drinking water woes, and unemployment among youth. Jagan assured them that all such matters would be raised strongly through proper democratic platforms and that people's welfare would remain his top priority. The Praja Darbar concluded with Jagan reaffirming his commitment to the people of Pulivendula and the YSR district.

He reiterated that the YSRCP would continue to champion the cause of the underprivileged and exposed governance failures wherever necessary. The gathering closed with cheers from supporters who pledged their continued faith in Jagan's leadership, expressing hope that his people-centered politics would once again bring relief to the suffering sections of society.

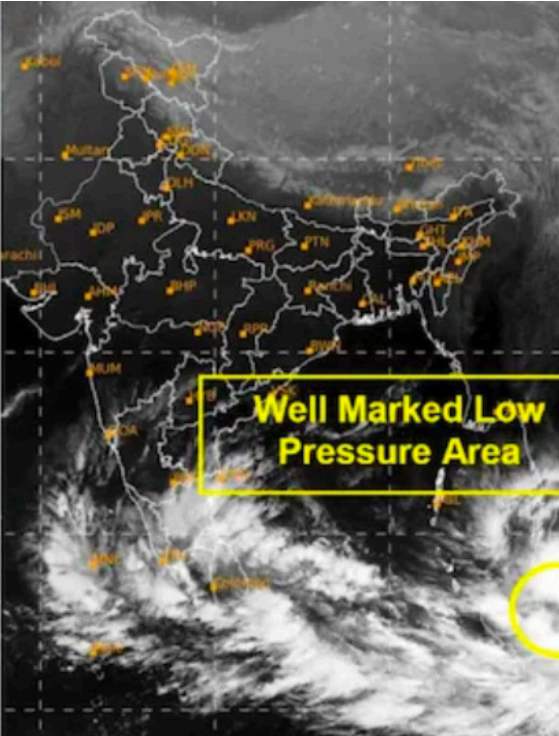
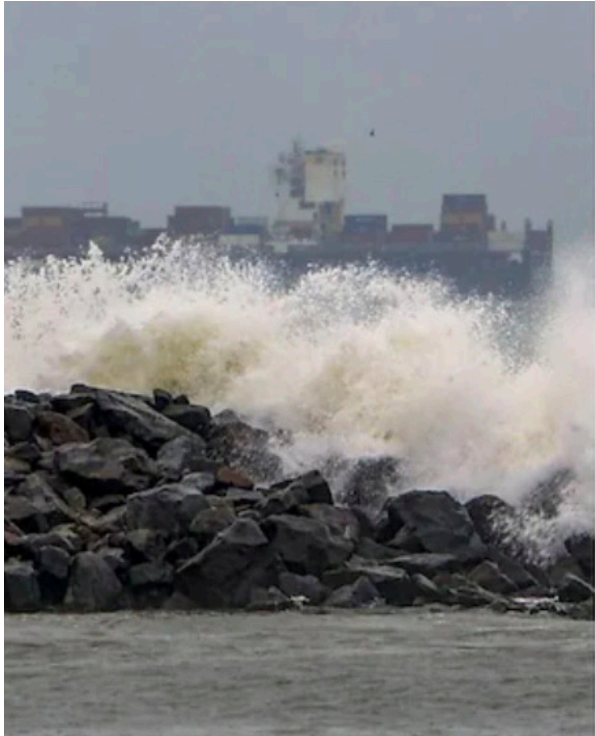
Cyclone alerts in 48 hours to AP

TPN Bureau | November 25

Visakhapatnam: A deepening low-pressure system over the Malacca Strait near South Andaman has intensified into a depression and is expected to strengthen further into a cyclonic storm within the next 48 hours, moving slowly west-northwestward. As per officials from the Visakhapatnam cyclone warning center, this weather system may significantly impact Andhra Pradesh, especially the coastal and Rayalaseema regions, with moderate to heavy rainfall anticipated between November 29 and December 2.

Farmers are advised to take precautions to safeguard crops, and fishermen are warned not to venture into the sea from Thursday onward due to dangerous conditions. The depression currently lies about 70 km west of George Town, Malaysia, and several hundred kilometers east to southeast of the Nicobar Islands. Another low-pressure area near the southwest Bay of Bengal and southern Sri Lanka is forecast to move northwest, likely bringing light to moderate rain to southern Coastal Andhra.

Officials have issued



alerts urging farmers to be vigilant in their agricultural activities and fishermen to return ashore if already at sea. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) reports heavy rainfall and gusty winds ranging from 35 to 55 km/h are expected along the south Andhra coast starting November 27. The sea will be rough to very rough in the affected regions, posing risks to marine activity. Rainfall is likely to be widespread but especially

intense in coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema districts over the forecast period. These weather developments follow the existing northeast monsoon pattern and are influenced by La Niña conditions currently prevailing in the Pacific. Due to the intensity and potential impact of the cyclonic system, disaster response authorities have cautioned residents about the possibility of flooding and urged all coastal

communities to be prepared. Emergency management is closely monitoring the evolving situation, and public advisories emphasize early harvesting of standing crops and avoidance of sea-related activities during the storm period. Sea travel and fishing activities along the Andhra and Tamil Nadu coasts are particularly discouraged until conditions improve. In summary, the re-

gion is bracing for a significant weather event emanating from the South Andaman Sea, expected to intensify and bring moderate to heavy rainfall and strong winds to multiple districts in Andhra Pradesh from late November to early December. Citizens, especially farmers and fishermen, are urged to follow official warnings and exercise caution during this period for their safety and livelihood.

Aim at international market for horticulture products to benefit farmers:CM



Rayalaseema and Prakasam districts to be developed as horticulture hub:CM

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada:

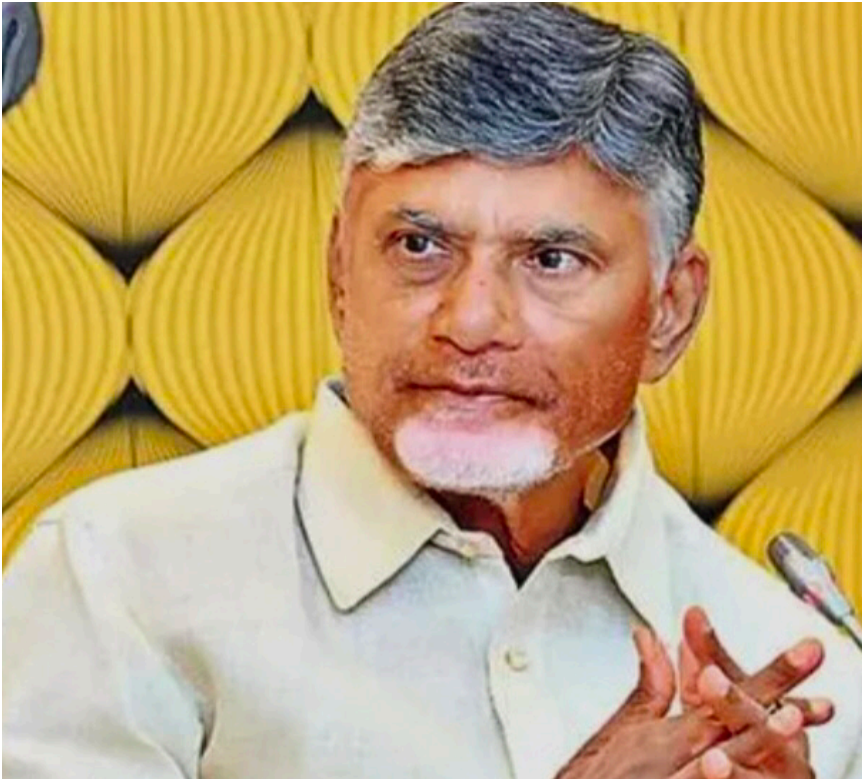
The state government plans to develop Rayalaseema region as horticulture hub under Purvodaya scheme. As 18 varieties of fruits which are having world wide demand are being produced in Rayalaseema and Prakasam districts, the state government planning to encourage the horticulture farmers in a big way.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu conducted a review meeting today on development of horticulture in Rayalaseema and Prakasam districts. As part of it he directed the officials to prepare an action plan to improve livelihood of horticulture farmers through developing 92 clusters. He said an action plan was formulated to benefit 5.98 lakh horticulture farmers by developing horticulture and panchayat roads at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore. He asked the officials to provide ce

rtification and traceability for horticulture products. He said out of 65 varieties of fruits being produced in Rayalaseema region there is world wide demand for 18 varieties. Farmers should change cropping pattern and focus more on demand driven crops.

The Chief Minister said priority should be given for micro irrigation in horticulture and value addition will be provided through adopting to natural farming. He directed the officials to provide transport and marketing and cold storage facilities for horticulture to be benefit horticulture are a spread in 50 lakh acres. He said more focus should be made on international export through cargo services. The Chief Minister said that Rs 14,800 crore will be spent on different projects aimed at encouraging horticulture including Rs 9000 crore subsidy. Minister for Finance Payyavula Kesava said that the ground water levels increased in Rayalaseema region due to supply of water through Handri-Neeva and several other projects. He said with the supply of water horticulture improved in Anaparthi districts and the land value was also increased.

Green signal for AP Logistics Infrastructure Corporation



CM keen on developing AP as Gate way of East Coast with best logistics hub

TPN Bureau | November 25

VIJAYAWADA :Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu gave green signal to establish AP Logistics Infrastructure Corporation (AP-LINC). The corporation aimed to link ports, airports, roads, inland water ways and cold storages and to act as nodal agency to improve logistics infrastructure to bring down logistics cost. An MD will be appointed for the corporation which will take responsibility to attract investments in a big way.

In a review meeting held at secretariat today, the Chief Minister said the AP LINC should function as a government holding company to attract investments in logistics

sector. The Corporation will also look after improving logistics infrastructure in the state. He said district level cells will be set up to promote logistics sector and the logistics at field level including in remote areas also should be improved. It may be noted that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is keen on developing Andhra Pradesh as Gate way of East coast soon with best logistics hub to meet global standards. As part of it, he also announced on establishing a logistics university and civil aviation university in AP soon. The Chief Minister advised the experts of port-led shipping industries to form an advisory body with 20 members to offer suggestions to the state government to develop AP as Logistics hub of East Coast. Participating as chief guest of East Coast and Logistics summit organised in Visakhapatnam recently by Global Fo-

rum for Sustainable Transformation (GFST) and Maritime Gateway, the Chief Minister said that Logistics sector play key role in increasing our economy and for providing employment. He said the contribution of logistics sector to GSDP stands at one per cent at present and stressed the need for increasing it to 3 per cent. He said with added advantages Andhra Pradesh is best place for port cargo exports with existing 6 ports and four more ports are coming. He said that the state government determined to develop ports or fishing harbours at every 50 km along the 1050 km coastline in AP. He said AP stands in second place in sea cargo transport and neighbouring states including Telangana, Maharashtra, Orissa and Chattisgarh and some parts of Karnataka also depending on AP ports for sea cargo transport.

Udbhav-2025: Andhra Pradesh to Host National-Level Cultural and Talent Festival in December

TPN Bureau | November 25

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh is set to host the prestigious national-level “Udbhav-2025” festival in December, marking a first-of-its-kind celebration of culture, creativity, and youth talent in the state. Announcing the details of the event, Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Gummidi Sandhyarani, unveiled the official poster and logo of Udbhav-2025 in Amaravati on Tuesday. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Minister Sandhyarani said the event aims to showcase and promote talent from across India, especially from tribal and rural regions.

She noted that such large-scale national-level competitions are being held for the very first time in Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the government’s commitment to youth empowerment and inclusive cultural development. The three-day festival will take place on December 3, 4, and 5 at KL University near Vijayawada. Spread across 12 dedicated venues within the campus, the event will include a wide range of competitions, performances, and exhibitions.

Over 1,800 students representing 22 states are expected to participate, bringing together a vibrant mix of artistic, academic, and athletic excellence under one banner. According to the organisers, Udbhav-2025 will highlight



India’s cultural diversity while providing young participants a platform to express their creativity and innovative thinking. Competitions will be held in performing arts, literature, science projects, painting, traditional crafts, and indigenous cultural displays.

Apart from these, interactive workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions are also being planned to encourage collaboration among students of different backgrounds. Minister Sandhyarani emphasized that special attention is being given to ensure participation from students belonging to tribal and remote areas. “The main objective of Udbhav-2025 is to identify young talent in underrepresented communities and provide them opportunities to grow and shine at the national level,” she said.

She added that such initiatives not only encourage learning beyond classrooms but also strengthen cultural unity and mutual understanding among India’s youth. Officials from the Department of Tribal Welfare and Higher Education not-

ed that extensive arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the event. The KL University campus has been transformed into a festival hub with multiple thematic stages, accommodation facilities, and cultural pavilions to represent different states.

Organisers have also roped in academic experts, artists, and mentors to guide and evaluate the participants. The government of Andhra Pradesh is viewing Udbhav-2025 as a milestone event that will place the state on the national map of youth and cultural festivals. It aligns with the state’s broader vision to promote education, innovation, and creativity as key drivers of social progress.

“Through Udbhav-2025, we want to celebrate India’s youthful energy and cultural diversity. It’s not just a competition; it’s a confluence of ideas, art, and inspiration,” the minister concluded. The excitement is growing as Amaravati prepares to welcome participants from across the country to this landmark celebration of talent and tradition.

Constitutional Principles Should Benefit All: Dr. Rayapati Shailaja

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: State Women’s Commission Chairperson Dr. Rayapati Shailaja has called on citizens to treat the Indian Constitution as a guiding force similar to the Bhagavad Gita and to practice its ideals in daily life to uphold democracy. She said the central and state governments are striving to ensure that the fruits of the Constitution reach every section of society as part of the vision for a “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India). Dr. Shailaja was addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the “Constitution Protection Day” celebrations organized by the Pan Indian Socio-Cultural Organization at the Ailapuram Convention Hall in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

The program marked the presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards and other honors to eminent personalities from the Telugu states who contributed significantly in various fields. The event’s inaugural session was presided over by Dr. Katimanda Pratap, CEO of Sri Sri Kalavedika International. In her address, Dr. Shailaja praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for implementing numerous welfare schemes that are improving the lives of people across the



country.

She highlighted that the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, through initiatives like the Shree Shakti scheme, has provided free bus travel for women, which is bringing tangible relief and empowering them to become more economically self-reliant. She asserted that several welfare programs are in force to promote the social and economic progress of women across the state. The Women’s Commission, she said, is taking continuous measures to address issues faced by women and to ensure justice is delivered swiftly. Legislative Council member Somu Veeraj, who also spoke at the event, emphasized that both the central

and state governments are working jointly under the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision to strengthen the economic and social foundations of every citizen. He said India has set clear goals in areas such as economic growth, sustainable development, infrastructure, social welfare, ease of doing business, and quality of life.

Other dignitaries who addressed the gathering included former AP Media Academy Secretary M. Balagangadhar Tilak, Sri Vignana Vedika founder Cherukuvada Rangasai, Dr. V. Varalakshmi, Chairperson of Paul Raj Engineering College, and vastu expert K. V. Reddy. Pan Indian Organization founder Addanki Raja organized the event.

CID Issues Notice to Former TTD Chairman Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy in Parakamani Case

TPN Bureau | November 25

Thirupathi: The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID) has issued formal notices to former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman and ex-MLA of Tirupati, Sri Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy, directing him to appear for questioning in connection with the ongoing investigation into the Parakamani issue at the Tirumala temple. The summons follows the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, which had earlier instructed the CID to conduct a comprehensive probe into the alleged irregularities.

According to the notice sent by the CID, the inquiry pertains to matters linked with the Parakamani (temple offerings counting) procedures of the TTD. The investigation is being conducted under judicial oversight as per the orders issued by the High Court on October 27, 2025, in Writ Petition No. 1294 of 2025. The court's directive came after several petitions raised concerns about transparency and governance related to handling of temple offerings and financial accountability within TTD.

The CID notice specifically mentions that Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy either participated in or was invited to the TTD Board meeting convened to discuss matters relating to the Parakamani issue. In light of this, the investigating officer stated that his testimony is considered vital to ensure a fair and impartial investigation into the allegations. The former chairman has been asked to appear before CID officials at 3:30 p.m. on November 25, 2025, at the Padmavathi Rest House, Down Hills, Tirupati.



The summons highlights that his cooperation is mandatory and will be treated as such for the continuation of the investigation. The Parakamani refers to the process of counting and accounting for cash, gold, ornaments, and other valuables offered by devotees at the Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala. It is regarded as one of the most sacred and sensitive practices under TTD management. Allegations concerning procedural lapses, misreporting, and handling of funds recently led to widespread debate, drawing the attention of both devotees and political circles across Andhra Pradesh. CID officials have clarified that the investigation is being conducted in strict accordance with court directions and aims to ensure complete transparency in temple administration. Sources suggest that several senior TTD officials and board members from previous terms have also been asked to provide statements. Bhoomana Karunakar Reddy, known for his long association with TTD and his political career as a senior leader from Tirupati, served as the chairman of the temple board during a crucial phase of administrative and infrastructure expansion. The notice comes as part of a broader inquiry to scrutinize past decisions, financial procedures, and accountability mechanisms within TTD operations.

The CID inquiry into the Parakamani issue is being closely followed across the state, as the outcome could potentially influence governance reforms in temple management. With the court monitoring the investigation, the case continues to draw significant public and political attention in Tirupati and beyond.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Orders Study on Secretariat Functioning and Employee Promotions

TPN Bureau | November 25

Amaravati: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed officials to conduct a comprehensive study on the functioning of village and ward secretariats and the career advancement opportunities of their employees. He instructed that a detailed report be submitted by March 2026, highlighting key challenges and suggesting measures for improvement.

The Deputy Chief Minister issued these directions during a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee held at his camp office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday. The meeting focused on the structural organization of various departments and the integration of village and ward secretariat staff with concerned departments to enhance administrative coordination and efficiency. Officials briefed the ministers on the current status of the secretariat operations and the implementation of employee promotion schemes.



The sub-committee sought detailed information on departmental linkages, workflow improvements, and strategies to strengthen the grassroots governance model introduced through the secretariat system. Speaking after the review, Pawan Kalyan emphasized the need to balance employee career growth

with the stability and effectiveness of the village secretariat structure. He noted that while promotions were necessary for staff motivation and retention, care must be taken to ensure that the administrative network at the village and ward levels remains robust and uninterrupted.

He further stressed the importance of expediting the promotion process so that deserving employees are not left waiting for long durations. If required, he said, monthly review meetings should be held to monitor the progress of the studies and the implementation of proposed measures. The Deputy Chief Minister underlined that the secretariat system has played a significant role in bringing government services closer to citizens, and any decisions related to restructuring

or promotions should only strengthen this framework, not disrupt it.

He directed departments to prepare a roadmap for linking employees more effectively to their respective parent departments while maintaining operational transparency and accountability. Ministers Ponguru Narayana, Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Vangalapudi Anitha, Anagani Satya Prasad, Dola Balaveer anjaneya Swamy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, and Gummati Sandhya Rani participated in the meeting.

Senior officials from multiple departments were also present, sharing updates and recommendations on improving service efficiency within the village and ward secretariat network. The meeting marked a key step in the government's efforts to reassess and strengthen the decentralized administrative system that forms the backbone of governance at the grassroots level.

CM's Nod for Three New Districts Welcomed by CPM Leader Srinivasa Rao

TPN Bureau | Nov 25

Amaravati: Communist Party of India (Marxist) state secretary V. Srinivasa Rao has welcomed the state government's decision to approve the formation of three new districts based on the recommendations of the Cabinet sub-committee on district and revenue division boundaries. Rao described the move as a positive step toward improving administrative efficiency and regional development, particularly in tribal and remote areas.



Addressing the media through a press statement on Tuesday, Srinivasa Rao said the new districts would help bring governance closer to the people and ensure faster delivery of welfare schemes. He appreciated Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for approving the proposal after an extensive review of the sub-committee's report, which analyzed various geographic, demographic,

and administrative factors. He particularly expressed satisfaction over the formation of a new district with Rampachodavaram as its headquarters, to be known as Polavaram district. Srinivasa Rao noted that the inclusion of the surrounding tribal areas from the existing Polavaram Assembly constituency would

make the district more cohesive and beneficial for the local population. He emphasized that the livelihoods and cultural identity of tribal communities in this region could be better preserved and developed under a unified district administration. However, Rao also urged the Chief Minister to

carefully consider integrating all tribal belts from the Polavaram constituency into the proposed district's jurisdiction. He suggested that this step would strengthen the administrative reach in remote Agency areas and promote equitable development through improved access to education, healthcare, and

Andhra Pradesh Committed to Strengthening Law and Order: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha

TPN Bureau | November 25

Amaravati: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Tuesday reaffirmed that the Andhra Pradesh government remains fully committed to maintaining public peace, strengthening law and order, and ensuring the safety and security of all citizens. She stated that the government has been placing strong emphasis on technological modernization within the police department to improve crime prevention and law enforcement efficiency.



Speaking at a high-level review meeting held at the State Secretariat in Amaravati, the Home Minister discussed various aspects of policing, public safety, and infrastructure development with senior police officials. The meeting primarily focused on assessing the resources required for effective law enforcement, identifying technological gaps, and planning upgrades to better equip police stations across the state.

Minister Anitha emphasized that the government would not compromise when it comes to investing in advanced technology and modern facilities essential for policing. She explained that new technologies such as digital surveillance, data analytics, and automation's objective, she noted, is to make policing more citizen-friendly, transparent, and technology-driven.

As part of these efforts, the Home Minister announced that steps are being taken to provide new vehicles to all police stations in the state in the near future. The initiative is aimed at strengthening mobility, improving emergency response times, and enhancing police visibility in urban and rural areas alike. The review meeting was attended by Home Department Principal Secretary Kumar Vishwajit, Special Secretary Vijay Kumar, and senior officers from the Police Headquarters, including the Police Transport Organization Superintendent of Police.

The participants presented detailed reports on current requirements, resource utilization, and ongoing modernization projects. Concluding the meeting, Minister Anitha reiterated that maintaining peace and security remains one of the top priorities of the government led by Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

She also appreciated the tireless efforts of the police force in ensuring safety during festivals, political events, and day-to-day civic life. The state government, she said, is determined to provide every necessary support and facility to enable the police department to serve the public more efficiently.

Guntur's Young Student to Represent District in State Government's Constitution Day Mock Assembly



TPN Bureau | November 25

Mangalagiri, Guntur District: Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has emphasized that while people often speak about the rights granted by the Indian Constitution, very few reflect on the responsibilities it places upon every citizen. He said this while congratulating a young student from his constituency who has been selected to participate in the State-level "Mock Assembly" being held on Constitution Day.

On Tuesday, Minister Lokesh invited the student, Kurmala Sri Kanaka Putlamba of Mangalagiri town, and her family to his residence to personally appreciate her achievement and encourage her further. Sri Kanaka Putlamba, an eighth-grade student at BR Nagar Municipal High School in Mangalagiri, earned the opportunity to represent Guntur district in the student Mock Assembly organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as part of Constitution

Day celebrations on Wednesday. According to officials, the State Government's Mock Assembly is designed to help students understand legislative procedures, democratic values, and the significance of constitutional duties. Participants were selected based on their performance in a series of school-level competitions, including essay writing, debates, and quizzes on constitutional themes. Putlamba stood out for her eloquence and awareness about constitutional principles. Her teachers praised her dedication and participation in civic competitions over the past academic year. The event, they said, will not only showcase her talent but also inspire other students to learn about the nation's foundational document and democratic functioning.

Minister Lokesh, speaking after meeting the student and her parents, said that the youth must not only know their rights but also actively practice the responsibilities envisioned by the Constitution. "Our progress as a nation depends on citizens fulfilling their constitutional obligations with commitment," he remarked. In a touching gesture, Lokesh assured full support to Putlamba's family.

Her father, Ramu, is differently abled and runs their modest livelihood by selling vegetables on a three-wheeler scooter. Lokesh promised to extend assistance to help them overcome their hardships and continue encouraging their daughter's education. Residents of Mangalagiri expressed pride that one of their own will represent the district in the mock assembly, which is expected to feature discussions on social issues, civic duties, and youth participation in democratic processes. The initiative, they said, is a meaningful step toward nurturing responsible future citizens of the country.

MLA Buddha Prasad Clarifies Purchase of BPT Paddy, Urges Farmers Not to Believe Rumors

TPN Bureau | November 25

Mopidevi: Machilipatnam constituency MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad clarified that farmers should not believe rumors suggesting that the government has stopped purchasing BPT paddy. He asserted that as many as 513 metric tonnes of BPT paddy worth 1.23 crore have already been procured in the constituency. The legislator toured several villages in Mopidevi mandal on Tuesday, including Ravivaripalem, Venkatapuram, and Pedda Kallepalli, to review the ongoing paddy procurement process. During his visit to a rice mill in Ravivaripalem, Buddha Prasad interacted with farmers and millers, who confirmed that BPT rice was being purchased without any issues.

He inspected the drying and storage facilities

and instructed millers to expedite the purchase process for the benefit of farmers. Later, in Venkatapuram, the MLA visited the Rythu Seva Kendra and interacted with the staff and farmers to assess the progress of procurement operations. He also unveiled awareness pamphlets titled "Raitanna Meekosam" (For You, Farmer) to educate cultivators about official procurement procedures and discourage misinformation. In Pedda Kallepalli, Buddha Prasad met farmers who were drying their BPT paddy near the local temple and addressed their concerns about the sale of the variety.

He directed village revenue officers (VROs) to record the list of farmers possessing BPT paddy and ensure that their stocks are promptly purchased. Officials



were instructed to deploy staff from village secretariats to procurement centers in villages where such facilities are unavailable, aiming to speed up the process. Providing detailed figures, the MLA said the constituency's procurement target stands at 1,04,064 metric tonnes of paddy. So far, 1,037 farmers have sold 7,468 metric tonnes worth Rs.

16.89 crore, out of which Rs. 16.81 crore has already been deposited into their accounts.

Among this, 513 metric tonnes of BPT paddy have been purchased within the constituency. At the district level, a total of 2,500 metric tonnes of BPT paddy valued at 5.80 crore have been procured. Buddha Prasad reiterated that farmers should not be swayed by

false reports and assured that the government remains committed to ensuring timely purchases and payments. Tehsildar M. Haranath, Agriculture Officer Hepsiba Rani, PACS chairpersons Paruchuri Srinivasa Rao and Araja Radhika, and village sarpanch Tumma Somulamma were among those present during the inspection visits.

Former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy Shifted to AIIMS, Mangalagiri for Medical Treatment

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: In a new development in the ongoing liquor scam case, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy, who has been listed as Accused No. 38 (A-38) in the case, was shifted from Vijayawada Central Jail to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri, for medical treatment on Tuesday morning. Jail authorities confirmed that the transfer followed a referral issued by the Vijayawada Government General Hospital after an initial round of medical examinations.

According to sources, Chevireddy had been complaining of swelling in his legs for the past two days and requested specialized medical consultation. The jail medical team examined him and reported symptoms consistent with varicose veins, a condition in which veins become en-

larged and twisted, leading to discomfort and restricted circulation. Taking his condition into consideration, the superintendent of Vijayawada Central Jail permitted him to be taken to the new Government General Hospital (GGH) in Vijayawada for preliminary assessment.

After thorough medical evaluation at the GGH, doctors there advised that he be examined by a vascular surgeon for further diagnosis and management. Acting on this recommendation, the hospital authorities formally referred Chevireddy to AIIMS, Mangalagiri, which has advanced facilities specializing in vascular and circulatory disorders. Following the official approval from AIIMS, the jail administration arranged for his transfer under strict security protocols early Tuesday. Jail officials informed the media that the former MLA was ac-

companied by a medical team and escorted by police personnel during the transfer.

He will undergo a detailed examination by vascular specialists at AIIMS, where doctors are expected to recommend an appropriate course of treatment after assessing his current health condition. Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy's detention is linked to the high-profile liquor scam case that has drawn widespread attention across Andhra Pradesh. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and special investigation teams have been probing the alleged involvement of multiple individuals, including political leaders, businessmen, and excise officials, in what is believed to be a large-scale financial and regulatory violation involving the illicit liquor trade.

As Chevireddy continues his judicial custody, his health-related concerns have now be-



come an added focus point in the case. Sources indicate that his medical condition will determine whether he continues treatment under judicial observation at AIIMS or is discharged and returned to jail in the coming days. Meanwhile, legal experts note that medical transfers of under-trial prisoners are routine procedures when legitimate health issues arise.

However, given the political profile of the accused, the transfer

has attracted public and media attention, prompting authorities to ensure that the process remains transparent and in accordance with established protocols. Officials from AIIMS have not yet released a detailed medical bulletin on his condition, but sources from the hospital suggest that his vitals are stable. Further updates regarding his treatment and progress are expected after doctors complete diagnostic evaluations later this week.

The four Labour Codes mark a significant moment in India's reform journey": CII

TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: The CII Andhra Pradesh has welcomed Government of India's implementation of the Four Labour Codes, calling it a landmark step in strengthening India's labour ecosystem. The Codes, which came into effect this week, consolidate 29 existing labour laws into a unified framework, providing greater clarity, simplicity and significantly reduced compliance for enterprises. Key reforms such as universal minimum wages, time-bound wage payments and wider ESIC-EPFO coverage are expected to enhance worker welfare and bring India closer to global standards.

Mr. Murali Krishna Gannamani, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh* stated, "The four Labour Codes mark a significant moment in India's reform journey. By simplifying and updating our labour laws, the Government has taken a decisive step toward a



more productive, fair and future ready workforce. CII welcomes this move and remains committed to supporting industry and state governments in implementing these reforms, so that India's workers and enterprises can grow together."

"From Andhra Pradesh's lens: higher take-home pay, portability of social security benefits, safer factories and a drastic reduction

in compliance burden. Exactly the ecosystem our investors have been asking for in every roadshow and the recently concluded CII Partnership Summit. The timing couldn't be better as we race towards Swarnadhara Vision 2047", he added.

Commenting on the development, *Mr. Narendra Kumar, Vice Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh* said, "We thank the Government

of India for implementing the four Labour Codes – an important reform that balances the needs of industry and employees. It offers a modern, predictable framework that boosts competitiveness while expanding social security and strengthening worker welfare. A truly progressive step for India and especially Andhra Pradesh which has recently attracted some of the leading

global investments and have signed MoUs worth more than Rs 13.25 trillion at the CII Partnership Summit held earlier this month".

CII looks forward to supporting industry in the smooth transition to the new labour framework and in this regard will be organising various sessions – both physical and virtual, to disseminate the information amongst the businesses.

HOME GUARD REMOVED BY SP FOR MISCONDUCT



TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: Kankipadu Rural's Circle Inspector jeep driver and home guard Ajay Kumar has been removed from duty after a viral video showed him performing obscene dances in front of children, drawing strong condemnation from the district Superintendent of Police (SP) Vidyasagar Naidu.

Incident details

According to police sources, Ajay Kumar, who was working as the driver of the Kankipadu Circle Inspector's vehicle in Krishna district, was seen dancing with vulgar gestures in a video that circulated widely on social media platforms. The incident reportedly took place in the presence of minors, causing public outrage and raising serious concerns about the conduct of a uniformed force member in a public setting.

Action by district SP In response to the video, District SP Vid-

yasagar Naidu expressed anger over the misconduct, stating that such behaviour severely damages the image and credibility of the police department. Taking immediate departmental action, the SP ordered that home guard Ajay Kumar be removed from duty pending further proceedings, treating the matter as a serious breach of discipline and decorum expected from police personnel.

Departmental inquiry ordered

The SP has directed local police officers to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the incident and submit a detailed report. As part of this probe, officers have been instructed to verify when and where the video was recorded, who was present at the spot, and whether any additional violations of conduct or law occurred during the episode.

Warning to police

personnel

SP Vidyasagar Naidu stressed that the behaviour of police staff must always enhance the reputation of the department, not bring it into disrepute. He warned that any officer or staff member found engaging in indecent acts, especially in public or in the presence of children, would face strict departmental action without exception.

Emphasis on professional conduct

The district police administration has reiterated that personnel are expected to maintain discipline both on and off duty, particularly in an age when any misconduct can be instantly recorded and shared online. Senior officers have also appealed to the public to promptly bring such incidents to the notice of the department so that swift and appropriate action can be taken to uphold public trust in the police force.

Remand extended for Jogi Ramesh & Co



TPN Bureau | November 25

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Excise Court has extended the judicial remand of YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh, along with six other accused, in the ongoing fake liquor case. The court's latest order continues their remand period until December 9. According to official sources, the seven accused, including Jogi Ramesh, his brother Jogi Ramu, and Addapalli Janardhan Rao, were produced before the court as their previous remand tenure expired today.

After hearing submissions from both the prosecution and defense, the court decided to extend the remand to facilitate further investigation into the wide-ranging liquor scam. The case pertains to the manufacture and sale of counterfeit liquor in Krishna district and surrounding areas, a racket that allegedly operated under the cover of legitimate liq-

uor distribution channels. The illegal operation reportedly caused substantial financial losses to the state exchequer, apart from posing grave health hazards to consumers.

Excise authorities and local police had unearthed the scam in early November following a series of raids on godowns and unlicensed bottling units. Large quantities of artificial liquor, empty bottles, fake labels, and blending equipment were seized during the operation. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of several individuals, including politically connected figures. Jogi Ramesh, a senior YSR Congress leader and former housing minister in the previous state government, was arrested earlier this month after being named as a key suspect in facilitating aspects of the operation.

His involvement has drawn considerable political attention, with opposition parties demanding an im-

partial and transparent probe. The ruling party, however, has maintained that legal proceedings should take their course without political interference. Meanwhile, officials from the Excise Department have indicated that the investigation has entered a crucial phase, focusing on the source of raw materials, supply routes, and potential links to a wider interstate network.

Authorities believe the racket might have deeper connections extending beyond Andhra Pradesh and are working to trace the financial transactions associated with the illegal trade. The accused are expected to remain in judicial custody until December 9, pending further interrogations and forensic examination of seized materials. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for that date, when the court will review the progress of the investigation and determine subsequent judicial action.

Intercollegiate Volleyball Tournament Kicks Off at Krishnaveni Degree College

TPN Bureau | November 25

Narasaraopet: A spirited intercollegiate volleyball championship began on Tuesday at Krishnaveni Degree College, located on Chilakaluripet Road in Narasaraopet, Palnadu district. The event, titled AUNIC Volleyball Men Tournament-2025, is being organized under the aegis of Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU) and features participation from several affiliated colleges across the region. The tournament was formally inaugurated by Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Aravind Babu, who attended the event as the chief guest.

Upon declaring the tournament open, Dr.

Aravind Babu interacted with the players and encouraged them to display discipline and sportsmanship throughout the competition. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that sports not only cultivate physical fitness but also play a vital role in shaping an individual's overall personality. He emphasized that sports events like these motivate young students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and develop teamwork, confidence, and leadership qualities.

The MLA further noted that the government has been prioritizing the promotion of sports by improving sports infrastructure and facilitating opportunities for young athletes in rural



and urban areas alike. He expressed appreciation for the organizers' efforts in hosting such a large-scale tournament that brings together student players from multiple colleges. The tournament drew enthusiastic participation from various colleges affiliated with Acharya Nagarjuna University.

Players representing different institutions assembled at the college campus early in the morning, where the inauguration ceremony began with a march-past and the playing of the national anthem. Faculty members and student volunteers ensured arrangements for the smooth conduct

of matches, including proper court setup and amenities for visiting teams. College chairman, principal, lecturers, and staff members graced the event and extended their encouragement to the participants. Students in large numbers gathered to witness the matches and cheer for their favorite teams, creating an electric atmosphere on the campus.

The opening day concluded with a series of exciting preliminary matches that reflected both skill and team spirit. The tournament will continue over the next few days, with the final match scheduled to take place later this week.

Historic Revival for Yadlapadu Lutheran High School: AELC Steps in to Protect Church Property

TPN Bureau | November 25

Guntur: The past two days marked a turning point in the history of Yadlapadu Lutheran High School near Guntur. This century-old institution, an integral part of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church's (AELC) legacy, once served thousands of students across generations. However, recent attempts by non-Christian entities to encroach on the school's land pushed the situation into crisis, prompting decisive intervention from church leadership and the legal community.

The controversy escalated when certain education department officials submitted an inaccurate report claiming that the land did not belong to AELC. The Lutheran community reacted strongly, staging protests across the re-

gion. Responding to the growing tension, the AELC leadership, under the stewardship of Supreme Court retired judge Justice Kurian Joseph (Controller) and retired judge N. Yesu Ratna Kumar (Administrator), stepped in to defend both the property and the institution's dignity.

Declaring the movement a fight for justice and heritage, Ratnakumar asserted, "Every AELC educational institution will be revived, and we will legally counter every assault on our schools." His words restored confidence among the church community. The "Mana Badi - Manaku Kaavali" public meeting, held in the school compound, showcased the unity of the Lutheran community.

Pastors, church elders, and parent groups under the Guntur West Synod rallied together

to safeguard and rehabilitate the institution. The meeting symbolized AELC's firm commitment to restoring numerous Lutheran schools that had fallen into decline over the decades. Adding significance to the development, Dr. Joshua Daniel, Acting Chairman of the State Minorities Commission, personally inspected the campus. After reviewing records alongside officials from the Revenue and Education Departments, authorities affirmed that the school property rightfully belongs to AELC.

Dr. Daniel directed the concerned departments to support the school's continuation and emphasized the revival of its former stature. "I was once a Lutheran student myself. This institution must be revived," Dr. Daniel remarked, instilling re-



newed confidence in the community. The Commission outlined a clear roadmap for restoration: expanding student enrollment, ensuring proper fund utilization for infrastructure repair, and fostering cooperation between church leadership, administrators, and the local congregation.

The Yadlapadu event

stands as a broader message of unity and resilience. It reaffirms that the Lutheran community's heritage and properties cannot be undermined when law, justice, and collective will stand together. More than a school, Yadlapadu Lutheran High School embodies a centuries-old mission of education and faith—now entering a new chapter of revival.

Kadapa Cybercrime Police Recover Over 700 Stolen Mobile Phones Worth Rs 1.86 Crore



TPN Bureau | November 25

Kadapa: Kadapa district witnessed a significant breakthrough in the fight against mobile phone theft and loss, as the Cybercrime Police successfully recovered 702 stolen or lost mobile phones valued at approximately Rs 1.86 crore. The recovery was conducted as part of a large-scale mobile recovery mela (event) organized by the police, attracting public attention and appreciation.

The recovered mobiles were personally handed over to the rightful owners by Kadapa Superintendent of Police (SP) Nachiketh

Vishwanath, who praised the dedicated efforts of the Cybercrime Cell. This drive is one of many phases of a continuing crackdown on mobile theft in the district, where authorities have so far recovered a total of 5,372 stolen mobile phones, demonstrating strong operational success.

The Cybercrime Police used advanced technologies such as IMEI tracking, digital forensics, and network analysis, along with public complaints lodged through official portals, to trace and recover the devices. This strategic approach has made Kadapa a leading district

in Andhra Pradesh for mobile recovery efforts, with a strong emphasis on protecting citizens' property.

SP Nachiketh Vishwanath urged people who have lost their mobile phones to immediately report the loss to the police, advising that timely reporting significantly enhances the chances of recovery. The Kadapa police also operate a dedicated helpline and chatbot services to aid victims in registering complaints swiftly and efficiently.

This campaign highlights the commitment of Kadapa police to curb mobile theft and reassure the public of

their safety and security. The recovered devices were returned in a publicized distribution event to build community trust and encourage collaboration between citizens and law enforcement. Over previous phases, the Cybercrime Cell has demonstrated remarkable progress; last year's operations recovered thousands of mobiles worth crores of rupees.

The current mela further cements Kadapa's reputation for deploying cutting-edge technology and rigorous policing to combat digital and property crimes. This concerted mobile recovery drive is part of

wider efforts by Kadapa Police to strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention measures in the district under the leadership of SP Nachiketh Vishwanath, known for his proactive approach and dedication to public service.

Residents are encouraged to participate actively by reporting lost or stolen phones through official channels, enhancing the overall effectiveness of these recovery initiatives. The police continue their vigilant surveillance using advanced tools to track down offenders and retrieve stolen property promptly.

Human service is the utmost aim



Kambala Srinivasa Presents Golden Weapon to Lord Subrahmanya in Korukonda

TPN Bureau | November 25

East Godavari: Renowned spiritual leader and BJP leader Kambala Srinivasa, who also serves as president of the Viswa Hindu Dharma Parishad - Ramasena, has once again drawn wide appreciation for his remarkable act of devotion and public service. Known for blending spirituality with social service across the Godavari districts, Srinivasa's latest contribution is a golden Velayudham (sacred weapon) for Lord Subrahmanya at the historic Korukonda temple.

As part of his ongoing spiritual service activities, Kambala Srinivasa purchased 250 grams of gold worth 25 lakh from the Bhima Gold showroom in Rajahmundry to craft the divine weapon for the deity. The golden Velayudham symbolizes devotion and prosperity, and the offering is being seen as an example of deep religious faith combined with a dedication to Sanatana

Dharma. Speaking to the media after the purchase, Srinivasa said he chose Bhima Gold because the store adheres to traditional values and ethics aligned with Sanatana Dharma.

On this occasion, he extended his goodwill by distributing Rs. 62,500 among 125 employees of the store, offering Rs. 500 each as a token of gratitude and blessing. This initiative follows an earlier large-scale charity effort during the Varalakshmi Vratam festival, where Kambala Srinivasa distributed gold Lakshmi idols to nearly 2,000 women across Gokavaram, Rampachodavaram, and Rajanagararam mandals. The idols, made from one and a half kilograms of gold, were gifted as a gesture of goodwill and empowerment, earning him appreciation from all sections of society.

His continuous efforts reflect not just devotion but also an enduring commitment to social welfare. From the tribal hamlets of the agency areas to the urban and rural belts of East and West Godavari, Srinivasa has consistently

taken part in service activities ranging from spiritual programs and student aid to healthcare camps for the poor. Continuing his tradition of blending cultural and social enrichment, Srinivasa plans to organize large-scale Muggula (rangoli) competitions during the upcoming Sankranti festival.

These competitions aim to encourage women's creativity and artistic talent. He also announced that gold Lakshmi idols will once again be presented as prizes to the winners, with the required gold to be purchased soon from the same Bhima showroom. Community members and followers hail Kambala Srinivasa as a man whose life embodies the ideal "Service is Dharma, and Dharma is Life."

His actions bear no signs of extravagance in service, no hypocrisy in spirituality, and no self-interest in politics.

Through his quiet but consistent work, he continues to set an inspiring example for others demonstrating that true faith lies not in preaching, but in serving.

Education has no Age limit



Dr. Karri Ramareddy Creates History with 73 Academic Qualifications

TPN Bureau | November 25

Rajahmendravaram (East Godavari): Proving that age is no barrier to learning, renowned psychiatrist Dr. Karri Ramareddy has achieved an extraordinary milestone in his lifelong pursuit of knowledge. At the age of 71, the eminent doctor has earned an astonishing 73 academic qualifications including doctorates, post-graduate degrees, diplomas, and certifications all through rigorous examinations and dedicated effort, not honorary titles.

A native of Rajamahendravaram in East Godavari district, Dr. Ramareddy has turned education into a way of life. His academic achievements span an incredible range of disciplines: psychiatry, psychology, engineering, management, law, English literature, library science,

journalism, yoga therapy, political science, and commerce. For most people, mastering even one of these fields would be demanding.

For Dr. Ramareddy, accomplishing excellence in 18 different domains stands as an unparalleled academic feat. In the latest semester alone, he completed 12 courses under the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), a prestigious online education initiative conducted by India's IITs. Out of these, he topped 9 courses, achieved "Elite + Gold" status in 8, and "Elite + Silver" in 4 a record that highlights his exceptional discipline and intellectual vigor. His consistent performance earned him the "Megastar" rank for a third consecutive time, making him one of the few scholars in India to achieve a hat-trick in NPTEL ranking history.

Dr. Ramareddy exemplifies the principle that learning has

no age limit. Despite being in his seventies, he maintains the enthusiasm and drive of a young student preparing for exams, studying late into the night, and balancing professional commitments with charitable and educational activities. Speaking about his journey, Dr. Ramareddy says, "Age affects the body, not the mind."

Learning never stops; only our effort does. Education is a permanent investment." At a press meet organized to celebrate his 73rd academic milestone, friends, students, and well-wishers hailed him as a role model for youth and professionals alike. Admirers hope to see him honored with national awards such as the Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan for his unwavering dedication to knowledge. Dr. Karri Ramareddy stands as living proof that determination and curiosity can make a lifetime of learning possible at any age.

A tribute to Tejas. India’s delay culture is the real enemy in the skies



The tragic crash of a Tejas fighter at the Dubai Air Show, which claimed the life of the pilot, has prompted reflection on the broader challenges facing India’s indigenous air power. While the Indian Air Force (IAF) remains resilient, professional, and capable, the incident underscores persistent gaps in domestic aircraft development and the strategic costs of a “catch-up” approach. The IAF operates under unique pressures compared with the army and navy. As the first responder in most escalatory situations, a service almost entirely led by

combat-trained officers, and one that is heavily technology-dependent, it faces acute operational and technological demands. Unlike ground or naval forces, where numerical strength can sometimes offset technological gaps, air combat requires cutting-edge systems and seamless integration, leaving little room for error or delay. India’s struggle to match adversaries has deep historical roots. Since the mid-1950s, when the U.S. began supplying Pakistan with advanced fighters, the IAF has often been in a reactive posture. Early domestic efforts,

such as the HF-24 Marut in the 1960s, were hampered by engine shortages and technological limitations, even as 147 aircraft were built and 28 were lost in accidents. Later, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas project, cleared in 1983, faced decades of delays before its first flight in 2001, initial operational clearance in 2011, and full operational clearance still pending for its first squadron until 2027. Despite these delays, the Tejas is widely regarded as a capable and largely homegrown fighter, with only two crashes in 24

years. Yet, software integration issues, particularly synchronizing India’s indigenous electronic warfare systems with imported radars and missiles, continue to slow production, leaving gaps relative to Pakistan’s evolving JF-17 fleet. Experts note that India’s policy and procurement choices over decades—coupled with technological gaps and slow adoption—have contributed to a persistent “catch-up” dynamic. While domestic fighter programs are critical for self-reliance, repeated delays and compromises car-

ry tactical and strategic costs. Critics argue that political and bureaucratic hesitancy, rather than operational realities, has often dictated timelines, limiting India’s ability to achieve timely parity or superiority in the subcontinent’s air domain. The Tejas crash is a somber reminder of the bravery of IAF pilots and the high stakes of air combat. It also serves as a call for introspection among policymakers on whether India’s air power ambitions are matched by consistent strategic and technological support.

Is Indian skincare better than Korean, French, Japanese products?



As Indian consumers increasingly seek effective skincare, a common question arises: which country makes the best products for Indian skin? According to dermatologists, there is no single answer, as “best” depends on individual concerns such as melasma, acne, dehydration, or photo-ageing, as well as skin tolerance, climate, and formulation quality. Indian skin, mostly Fitzpatrick types IV-VI, is pigmented, photoreactive, and prone to post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH). Dermatologists emphasize that products should prioritize barrier support, gentle brightening, and strong sun protection while minimizing irritation. South Korea remains a leader in lightweight textures, humectant-rich hydration, and soothing botanicals like centella, mugwort, and green tea. Korean brands such as COSRX, Laneige, Dr.Jart+, and iUNIK are popular in India for daily gentle routines, glass-skin hydration, and early pigmentation prevention. However, purely “original” Korean formulations can feel too dewy in peak Indian summers, making age- or skin-specific variants more suitable.

The United States continues to lead in high-strength actives: SkinCeuticals, Paula’s Choice, and Obagi are preferred for melasma, acne scars, and photo-ageing. Dermatologists caution starting low and gradually building tolerance to prevent irritation in Indian skin. Notably, Indian skincare brands are emerging as top contenders. Minimalist, The Derma Co., Dot & Key, Plum, Dr. Sheth’s, and Re’equil offer dermatologist-formulated products tested on Indian skin and tailored to local climates. Hybrid Korean-Indian brands like D’you and Quench Botanics combine global actives with pollution- and heat-adapted formulations. Key ingredients for Indian skin include niacinamide, azelaic acid, tranexamic acid, gentle retinoids, and photostable broad-spectrum sunscreens. “Ingredient quality, formulation stability in heat and humidity, patch-testing, and consistent sunscreen use matter far more than the country of manufacture,” says Dr. Deepali Bhardwaj, consultant dermatologist at Max Hospital, Saket. The bottom line: the best skincare for Indian skin increasingly comes from India itself. Homegrown brands now rival, and often surpass, international products in efficacy, affordability, and suitability for pigmented, sensitive, and climate-adapted skin. Consistency, careful ingredient selection, and sun protection remain the most important factors for lasting results.

Sheikh Hasina Conviction Raises Concerns Over Fair Trial and Rule of Law



The recent conviction of ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has sparked widespread debate over the fairness and legality of the proceedings. While presented as a necessary act of justice for the events of July 2024, legal experts and observers argue that the trial reflects serious procedural deficiencies and political influence. The tribunal, originally established to prosecute collaborators of the 1971 Bangladesh genocide, was repurposed to try Hasina in absentia after she went into exile. Critics argue this exceeds the body’s intended mandate, creating a structural mismatch between its historical focus and the constitutional significance of prosecuting a former head of government. The tribunal’s reputation for prioritizing convictions over nuanced legal standards further exacerbates concerns about

impartiality. A central issue is the violation of the principle of natural justice, audi alteram partem, or the right to be heard. Sheikh Hasina was represented by a state-appointed counsel who had no access to her and could not receive instructions, rendering her defense effectively non-existent. International norms, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), allow trials in absentia only when there is a clear guarantee of a retrial once the accused returns. The ICT’s decision to issue a death sentence without such a safeguard has been widely criticized as incompatible with modern legal standards. Legal analysts describe the proceedings as an example of “abusive constitutionalism,” where the law is employed not to uncover truth, but to validate a predetermined outcome. The transitional Muhammad Yunus-led

administration, lacking an electoral mandate, is accused of leveraging the tribunal to consolidate political objectives rather than pursue an impartial judicial process. Observers warn that using a tribunal designed for historical retribution to prosecute contemporary political figures risks undermining the rule of law. By transforming a judicial body into an instrument of the executive, the process erodes the separation of powers and sets a troubling precedent for accountability in Bangladesh. While proponents argue the conviction delivers moral closure for past grievances, legal scholars caution that justice cannot be equated with expediency. The case has become a flashpoint in discussions on constitutional safeguards, the rights of the accused, and the proper role of transitional institutions in upholding the principles of fairness and due process.

Eulogising Hidma At India Gate: A Warning From The Campus Frontlines



What began as a protest against air pollution at India Gate on Sunday took an unexpected turn when a group of university students publicly glorified Maoist terrorist Hidma, drawing sharp criticism from across the political spectrum. The students, reportedly affiliated with ultra-Left campus organisations, gathered at the C-Hexagon near the iconic Amar Jawan Jyoti. Instead of focusing on environmental concerns, they began chanting slogans in praise of Hidma, a dreaded Maoist commander who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore and was linked to at least 27 armed operations against the Indian state, resulting in hundreds of soldier casualties. The irony was stark: the eu-

logy occurred within touching distance of Amar Jawan Jyoti, a memorial dedicated to India’s fallen soldiers. Beyond celebrating Hidma, the group also vowed to resurrect the “Jantana Sarkar,” the parallel Maoist administration that controlled the so-called ‘Red Corridor’ for decades. The corridor, which included areas like Phulnar-Gundurwahi, was once the forbidden capital of Maoist operations, complete with red flags, People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army cadres in olive-green uniforms, and lethal ambushes against security forces. Hidma’s death in a recent encounter marked the reclamation of Gundurwahi by the state, ending years of unchallenged Maoist domi-

nance. Many Maoists have surrendered, and the government’s writ is re-established, yet the ideology continues to resonate with certain segments, particularly among ultra-Left student groups. Authorities moved swiftly to arrest the students, triggering debate on the limits of free speech. Critics on the Left condemned the arrests, arguing that punitive measures could stifle student activism and idealism. However, security experts and policymakers warn that glorifying individuals responsible for decades of terror is not mere rhetoric—it poses a direct challenge to national security. Even former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had identified Maoist insurgency as India’s “no. 1 in-

ternal security threat.” Observers note that while youth activism is essential in a democracy, romanticizing violent extremism risks normalizing ideologies that have long caused suffering and destabilization. The India Gate incident serves as a warning from the campus frontlines: unchecked radicalism in universities can intersect dangerously with political symbolism, requiring careful monitoring by both authorities and educators. The protest has reignited national conversations on the balance between free expression, student activism, and the responsibility to uphold constitutional values, particularly when it comes to defending India’s democratic and territorial integrity.

“Democracy In India’s DNA”: PM Modi After Hoisting Flag At Ayodhya Temple



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hoisted a saffron flag atop the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya during a sacred ceremony called Dhvaj Arohan, calling the moment a step toward healing “wounds and pain of centuries.”

The 22-foot triangular flag, adorned with the Sun symbol and the sacred ‘Om’, was raised atop a shikhar built in the traditional Nagara architectural

style. Modi led the rituals in the presence of sadhus, dignitaries, and members of the Ram Janambhoomi Trust, marking a significant religious and cultural milestone. Addressing the gathering, he said, “A 500-year-old resolve is being fulfilled. Ayodhya is witnessing another epochal event in its history. The entire country and globe are immersed in Ram.”

The Prime Minister highlighted India’s unique democratic heritage, coun-

tering claims that democracy was borrowed from abroad. “Democracy is in our DNA,” he asserted, emphasizing the continuity of India’s civilizational values.

The ceremony coincided with Vivah Panchami, the auspicious day marking the marriage of Ram and Sita, and also commemorates the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who meditated in Ayodhya for 48 hours in the 17th century. The rituals were

conducted by 108 Acharyas from Ayodhya, Kashi, and South India under the guidance of Kashi scholar Ganeshwar Shastri.

Access to the temple was restricted to invited guests with QR-coded passes until 2:30 pm, with around 6,000 attendees expected. The city was spruced up in preparation, with roads cleaned, stop signs installed, and sanitation measures intensified.

This ceremony follows Modi’s earlier participa-

tion in key milestones of the temple: he presided over the consecration of Ram Lalla’s idol on January 22, 2024, and laid the foundation stone for the temple in August 2020, nearly a year after the Supreme Court awarded the 2.77-acre disputed land for the Ram Mandir.

The event reflects a blend of religious devotion, cultural heritage, and the Prime Minister’s message linking India’s spiritual and democratic ethos.

Chandigarh Police Bust Two Inter-State Narcotic Syndicates, 12 Held



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major crackdown on organized drug networks, the Crime Branch of Chandigarh Police has busted two inter-state narcotic syndicates, arresting 12 people and seizing narcotics and assets worth over Rs 8.15 crore.

In the first case, acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ashwani Kumar alias Ashu from Sector 40, recovering 47.8 grams of heroin. Subsequent investigations led to the arrest of Sonu alias Kallu alias Don, Salman, Sunil alias Darchi, and Anup, with the operations exposing a key interstate supplier, Bunty from Dhakoli, Zirakpur. Raids at Bunty’s residence recovered 523 grams of cocaine, Rs 20.64 lakh in cash, gold ornaments,

and other incriminating items. Additional seizures included 490 grams of cocaine, heroin, and crack balls, bringing the total haul from this syndicate to 1.02 kg of cocaine, 197 grams of heroin, 2.01 grams of ICE, cash of Rs 21 lakh, gold, and two vehicles. Investigations revealed Bunty sourced cocaine from Delhi-based supplier Sunny and synthetic drugs from African nationals, with local peddlers distributing them across Chandigarh.

In the second case, on November 19, police arrested Rahul and Arun Kumar, recovering 146.36 grams of cocaine. Further interrogations led to arrests of Inderjeet Singh alias Rohit, Tinku, Akash, and Vishal. Arun Kumar was identified as

the main handler sourcing cocaine from Delhi, while Rahul used GPS-based “drop points” for deliveries. The operation recovered 184 grams of cocaine, 279 grams of heroin, Rs 5 lakh drug money, gold and silver jewellery, two vehicles, and a note-counting machine.

Crime Branch SP Jasbir Singh said both syndicates were highly organized, using digital payments, proxy bank accounts, and interstate supply chains. Investigations are ongoing to trace further networks and suppliers involved in both operations.

These coordinated raids mark a significant effort by Chandigarh Police to dismantle structured narcotics operations affecting multiple states.

India, Afghanistan Commit to Strengthen Trade Ties

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

India, Afghanistan Commit to Strengthen Trade Ties

India and Afghanistan have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and expanding bilateral trade, following a meeting between Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Afghanistan’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, on Monday.

Sharing images of the meeting on social media, Goyal said the discussions reflected a shared resolve to facilitate smoother movement of goods and investment, deepen partnerships, and strengthen people-to-people ties. Azizi, who is on a five-day visit to India, also met officials from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) earlier in the day.

Highlighting the historical relationship between the two nations, Azizi said the visit aimed to enhance bilateral economic cooperation and explore new trade and investment opportunities. He noted that



both countries were targeting bilateral trade of nearly USD 1 billion, driven by strong interest from the private sector.

The Afghan minister added that the discussions covered potential collaborations in mining, agriculture, health, and investment sectors, emphasizing the untapped potential and mutual intent to work to-

gether effectively.

Azizi also addressed minor operational issues such as visa challenges and air corridor costs, which were reportedly resolved during the visit. He highlighted that resolving these matters would boost trade, investment, and transit between India and Afghanistan in the coming months.

The meeting underlines the renewed focus on strategic economic engagement between India and Afghanistan, following years of challenges in bilateral trade due to regional instability and logistical hurdles. Both sides expressed optimism that the strengthened cooperation would not only enhance commercial links

but also foster long-term political and diplomatic relations.

This visit marks a significant step in reinforcing historical ties and building a framework for sustainable economic collaboration, reflecting both nations’ intent to leverage their resources and strategic positions for mutual growth.

Zubeen’s Death “Plain and Simple Murder”:- Assam Chief Minister In Assembly



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday stated in the Assembly that singer Zubeen Garg’s death in Singapore on September 19 was not an accident, but a “plain

and simple murder”. Garg, 52, had died while swimming during a yacht trip while attending the North East India Festival (NEIF).

Sarma said that after a preliminary probe, Assam Police concluded the case

was a murder. Four to five people are being booked in connection with the incident. “One of the accused killed Garg, and others assisted him,” Sarma added during an adjournment motion raised by the oppo-

sition to discuss the singer’s death.

Following the incident, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was formed to investigate, after over 60 cases were filed across the state. Additionally, a one-man inquiry commission headed by Gauhati High Court judge Justice Soumitra Saikia was set up to probe the case.

Days after the death, seven people were arrested, including NEIF organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg’s manager Siddharth Sharma, two band members, and his cousin Sandipan Garg, a senior Assam police officer. Garg’s personal security officers, Nandeswar Bora and Prabir Baishya, were also taken into custody after investigations revealed financial transactions exceeding Rs 1.1 crore from their accounts.

The accused are currently in judicial custody and

face charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including murder, culpable homicide, criminal conspiracy, and causing death by negligence.

CM Sarma stated that the SIT will file a “water-tight chargesheet” in December, and that the motive behind the crime will shock the state. The investigation will also expand to include criminal breach of trust and negligence.

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is conducting an independent probe, while the state commission has extended the deadline for collecting statements and evidence till December 12. The inquiry began on November 3, and the case continues to unfold with high public interest across Assam and Northeast India.

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.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday (November 25, 2025) claimed that B.R. Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution have faced a “ferocious assault” from the RSS, a trend that, according to the party, has continued since the drafting of the Constitution 76 years ago.

Congress general secretary and in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, recalled Ambedkar’s role in moving the resolution for the formal adoption of the draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, emphasizing the significance of Ambedkar’s acknowledgment of the Congress party’s contribution. In his closing speech before moving the resolution, Ambedkar had praised the Congress for its role

in shaping India’s foundational legal document, Ramesh noted.

Ramesh underscored that while the Constitution was meticulously drafted to ensure equality, justice, and democratic governance, it immediately faced challenges from ideological groups like the RSS, which opposed several provisions and principles. “The assault on Ambedkar and the Constitution was fierce then, and unfortunately, the attempts to undermine the values enshrined in the Constitution continue today,” he said.

The Congress highlighted that Ambedkar’s vision for India was rooted in social justice, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights, which remain cornerstones of India’s democracy. The party called on citizens and po-

litical leaders to remain vigilant and safeguard the Constitution against efforts to distort or dilute its core values.

This statement comes amid ongoing political debates about constitutional interpretation and the role of institutions in preserving democratic norms. Ramesh emphasized that revisiting Ambedkar’s speeches and contributions is crucial to understanding the intent behind the Constitution and defending it against attempts to politicize or undermine it.

By drawing attention to Ambedkar’s legacy, the Congress seeks to reinforce its commitment to constitutional values and democratic principles, stressing that the protection of these principles is essential for the nation’s unity, equality, and justice.

China Launches Shenzhou 22 to Aid Stranded Astronauts



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

China successfully launched the Shenzhou 22 spacecraft on Tuesday to assist in the eventual return of three astronauts temporarily stranded aboard the Tiangong space station. The crew had docked on the station on November 1, 2025, but a damaged spacecraft had left them without a guaranteed return vehicle in case of emergency.

The Shenzhou 22 mission is unmanned and is scheduled to be used sometime in 2026 to bring the astronauts safely back to Earth. The launch follows complications earlier this month when the Shenzhou 20 crew faced a nine-day delay in returning home due to a damaged spacecraft window. That team eventually returned using the Shenzhou 21 spacecraft, which had delivered the replacement crew to the station.

The damaged Shenzhou 20 craft remains in orbit and is slated for a controlled return later, after which Chinese space authorities will assess the vehicle. State broadcaster CCTV reported that the spacecraft did not meet safety standards required for transporting astro-

nauts, prompting the deployment of Shenzhou 22 as a precautionary measure.

China's Tiangong program, meaning "Heavenly Palace," has steadily expanded over the past few years, with astronauts conducting missions and constructing the station module by module. Unlike the International Space Station, which has been operational for 25 years, Tiangong is smaller and entirely managed by China's military-controlled space program. Beijing developed the station after being excluded from the ISS due to U.S. national security concerns.

Since its first crewed mission in 2021, Tiangong has hosted multiple teams of astronauts, demonstrating China's rapidly advancing capabilities in human spaceflight. The Shenzhou 22 launch underscores China's commitment to maintaining continuous human presence in orbit while addressing safety challenges. With this mission, authorities aim to ensure that the current crew has a reliable means of return and that China's space program continues its steady progress in orbital operations.

Taliban Pushes Trade Ties with India Amid Border Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Afghanistan's Minister for Commerce and Industry, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, has made a strong pitch to India, emphasizing that Kabul is "open for business" even as tensions with Pakistan have temporarily disrupted trade routes. Speaking during his first visit to New Delhi, Azizi underscored Afghanistan's desire to expand bilateral trade, investment, and diplomatic engagement with India.

Azizi confirmed that Afghanistan will dispatch a commercial attaché to New Delhi within a month and is progressing on appointing new ambassadors in both capitals. He assured that full security guarantees are in place for Indian diplomats, adding that the Taliban government is removing large blast walls erected during the US presence, signaling a safer environment for foreign missions.

On economic cooperation, Azizi stressed that current trade between India and Afghanistan stands at \$1 billion, far below potential. He highlighted efforts to subsidize Ariana Afghan Airlines and support private carriers to strengthen the India-Afghanistan air corridor, making freight cheaper and more predictable. He also mentioned plans to explore sea routes via

Iran and land routes through Central Asia, reducing dependency on Pakistan.

Regarding Afghanistan's rich mineral and rare-earth resources, Azizi welcomed Indian participation, provided companies comply with Afghan regulations. "We give equal access for trade to all," he said, emphasizing India's technological advantage and competitive pricing as reasons it remains a preferred partner.

The minister also highlighted women's entrepreneurship, noting that the Afghan Chamber of Commerce for Women is expanding offices and facilitating \$100 million in partnerships with NGOs and private firms. He invited Indian women-focused businesses to collaborate with Afghan women entrepreneurs.

Concluding his visit, Azizi extended formal invitations to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to visit Afghanistan in June or July 2026 and encouraged Indian journalists to report on Afghanistan's private sector and development. Amid regional tensions, Azizi's outreach signals Kabul's determination to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties with India while promoting peace and stability.

Trump's DOGE Denies Shutdown, Promises Return Soon

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), once led by Elon Musk, has denied recent reports claiming it was shutting down, calling such stories "fake news" and promising to resume its regular updates in the coming days. The clarification comes amid conflicting statements about the department's status, with some earlier reports, including by Reuters, suggesting DOGE had been disbanded.

In a post on X, DOGE highlighted its recent achievements, noting that in the past week alone it terminated 78 contracts, saving taxpayers \$335 million. The department said it continues to collaborate with other federal agencies to modernize technology and software, aiming to enhance efficiency and productivity across the U.S. government. Acting head Amy Gleason emphasized that DOGE



remains active despite the lack of a permanent head following Elon Musk's departure eight months ago.

Launched under President Donald

Trump, DOGE's mandate has been to streamline government operations, reduce waste, and cut unnecessary spending. According to DOGE's online tracker,

the department has reportedly saved \$214 billion as of October 4 through measures including contract cancellations, renegotiations, stopping

improper payments, and workforce reductions, though some experts have questioned the accuracy of these figures.

Several former

DOGE officials have moved to other government roles. Zachary Terrell, who handled sensitive health-system data at DOGE, is now the CTO at the Department of Health and Human Services. Jeremy Lewin, involved in dismantling USAID under DOGE, has become the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Assistance, while Rachel Riley, another former member, is now Acting Chief of the Office of Naval Research.

Despite past uncertainty, DOGE reiterated that its mission remains ongoing, and it is preparing to resume its standard Friday update. The department's statement reinforced that the organization continues to execute President Trump's agenda of modernizing government systems and ensuring fiscal responsibility, reassuring the public and federal partners that operations are fully functional.

Lahore HC Restores Imran Khan's Plea to Consolidate 107 Cases

TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

The Lahore High Court has revived a writ petition filed by jailed PTI founder Imran Khan, seeking the consolidation of all 107 cases registered against him, mainly related to the May 9 violence. The petition, originally filed in 2023, had been dismissed earlier due to non-prosecution. Chief Justice Aalia Neelum accepted an application on Khan's behalf, restoring the petition and scheduling the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

Khan's plea argues that many of the FIRs are politically motivated and involve overlapping allegations across Punjab. It also highlighted logistical challenges, as multiple hearings were often fixed on the same day in different districts, making it impossible for him to appear before several courts simultaneously. Consolidation, the petition



contends, is essential for practical access to justice.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had on October 24 issued orders regarding jail visits for Khan.

The court directed that all meetings be conducted strictly according to the approved schedule and that Adiala Jail authorities comply with security protocols. A three-member

bench led by Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar emphasized that all future visits follow established procedures.

Recently, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad So-

hail Afridi visited Khan in Adiala Jail under court-sanctioned protocols. His petition, which sought to discuss governance and cabinet formation, faced initial objections from

the IHC registrar's office. However, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir overruled these objections, allowing the meeting and issuing notices to the interior secretary, Punjab inspector general of police, and the jail superintendent for compliance.

This development comes amid ongoing scrutiny of Khan's legal and political situation. His legal team, represented by Advocate Ali Bukhari and through Advocate General Shah Faisal, emphasized fresh legal grounds for the petition, citing unfinished cabinet formation and administrative concerns.

The restoration of Khan's consolidation plea is seen as a key step in streamlining his legal proceedings, which have drawn national and international attention due to the political implications of the multiple cases against the former Prime Minister.

India, Canada to Fast-Track Trade Deal Amid New Foreign Policy



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv/Europe

Canada and India are set to accelerate talks on a new trade deal following a period of strained relations, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand announced on Monday. The announcement comes after a meeting between Canadian

Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit in South Africa, where both leaders agreed to restart stalled negotiations.

Anand highlighted that Ottawa's new foreign policy approach, shaped by a more protectionist global envi-

ronment and the aftermath of US President Donald Trump's trade war, is driving the expedited timeline. "The leaders were adamant that this work proceed as quickly as possible," Anand said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. Carney is expected to visit India early next

year to advance discussions.

Relations between the two nations had been tense since 2023, after Canadian authorities accused New Delhi of involvement in the assassination of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar near Vancouver. Four Indian nationals in

Canada were charged in connection with the case, which led Ottawa to suspend trade talks. Diplomatic ties improved in June 2025 when Carney invited Modi to the G7 summit in Alberta and both countries restored their top diplomats in August.

Anand emphasized

that Canada aims to double non-US trade over the next decade and sees India as a key partner. "This is a completely new approach to foreign policy... a moment for Canada as a trading nation," she said. Canada is India's seventh-largest trade partner for goods and services and a major foreign investor. Both nations expect bilateral trade to reach USD 50 billion by 2030.

The renewed push reflects Canada's broader strategy to diversify trade beyond the US and strengthen economic ties with key partners like India and China. Anand noted that Canada remains ready to engage with the US on trade issues while actively pursuing agreements with other nations to secure its position in a shifting global economic landscape.

This accelerated trade initiative marks a significant step toward repairing India-Canada relations and boosting long-term economic cooperation.

Markets Slip on Foreign Fund Outflows, Weak Asian Cues

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

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

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

“FIIs’ renewed selling is constraining the rally in the market. In the last four days, FIIs have off-loaded equities worth Rs 14,269 crore. Higher



valuations in India and muted earnings growth are restraining foreign investors, who are now focusing on cheaper markets with better earnings potential,” said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments

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

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

sion, the Sensex had inched up 39.78 points to 83,978.49, while the Nifty gained 41.25 points to settle at 25,763.35. Analysts suggest that market direction will continue to be influenced by FIIs’ selling patterns, domestic earnings

growth, and global economic cues.

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

Rupee Rises 11 Paise to 88.66 Against Dollar



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

Forex traders noted that while the rupee showed signs of recovery, gains remained limited due to a firm dollar, continued foreign fund out-

flows, and subdued domestic equity markets. These factors tempered a sharper appreciation in the currency.

Early trade saw the rupee hovering around 88.70 before gradually strengthening as selling pressure eased. Analysts attributed the recovery to improved market senti-

ment and lower demand for dollars in the spot market.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



India has emerged as the front-runner in workplace artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in the Asia Pacific region, with 92% of employees using AI in

their daily work, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Across the Asia Pacific, 78% of workers regularly use AI, sur-

passing the global average of 72%. The report, published by BCG X, the firm’s technology build and design arm, highlights the region’s leadership in integrating AI

across workplaces, from offices to frontline operations.

“India’s AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readi-

ness for the next phase of transformation,” said Nipun Kalra, India Leader, BCG X. He noted that 58% of frontline Indian employees receive clear guidance on AI use, nearly double the regional average, fostering responsible and scalable innovation.

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

Despite optimism, concerns remain. 52% of employees worry AI may replace their roles, while only a third fully understand how AI tools work. Additionally, 58% admitted they would use AI without company approval, underscoring the need for

better governance and oversight.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Analysts say the deal underscores Microsoft’s commitment to expanding its AI capabilities at a time when demand for high-performance computing is skyrocketing. By securing priority

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

“This quarter’s results highlight SBI’s ability to generate exceptional returns through smart investment decisions while maintaining

healthy lending practices,” said an industry expert.

SBI, India’s largest public sector lender, continues to leverage its wide branch network and digital banking footprint to drive growth, while balancing risk management and capital allocation. The gains from the Yes Bank stake sale underscore the bank’s focus on unlocking value from strategic investments.

With robust capital buffers and improved asset quality, SBI is well-positioned to maintain steady growth in the coming quarters, even as the broader banking sector faces challenges from fluctuating interest rates and evolving credit demand.

The bank’s strong quarterly performance also strengthens investor confidence, reflecting its continued dominance in India’s banking landscape and its capacity to capitalize on both operational and strategic opportunities.

Mountains Warming 50% Faster Than Global Average: Study



Mountain regions worldwide, including the Himalayas, are warming nearly 50% faster than the global average, posing significant risks to ecosystems and over a billion people dependent on mountain water resources, a new study reveals. Published in Nature Reviews Earth and Environment, the research highlights the phenomenon of elevation-dependent climate change (EDC), where environmental changes accelerate at higher altitudes. The study, led by researchers from the University of Portsmouth, UK, with contributions from India's Uttaranchal and Jawaharlal Nehru universities, analysed global datasets and case studies across mountain ranges including the Alps, Tibetan Plateau, and High-Mountains Asia. Findings show that between 1980 and 2020, mountains experienced an enhanced warming of 0.21°C per century, drying of 11.5 mm per century, and snow loss of 25.6 mm per century compared to lowlands. Lead researcher Nick Pepin noted that accelerated warming is driven by factors such as loss of snow and ice, surface albedo changes, specific humidity, and aerosols from low-

lands, which increase snowmelt. He emphasized that intermediate elevations, where snowlines are receding, are changing most rapidly. The study warns that rising temperatures are causing glaciers to shrink faster, increasing the likelihood of devastating floods in regions dependent on meltwater, such as China and India. Ecosystems are also under threat as flora and fauna move uphill in search of cooler climates, eventually reaching altitudes where survival becomes impossible, leading to potential species loss. Projections suggest continued warming of 0.13°C per century in mountain regions throughout the 21st century, although precipitation patterns remain uncertain. Researchers stress that these changes have global implications, affecting water security, agriculture, and biodiversity far beyond mountain communities. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted climate adaptation strategies in high-altitude regions to mitigate the cascading environmental and socio-economic impacts of accelerated warming.

India, Japan Join Forces on Giant Telescope to Hunt for Aliens



India and Japan are collaborating to build one of the world's most advanced astronomical instruments, the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), designed to probe the deepest reaches of the universe and search for signs of extraterrestrial life. With a massive 30-metre primary mirror, the telescope will surpass existing instruments in size and capability, offering unprecedented clarity in observing distant galaxies, black holes, and exoplanets. The TMT project is an international initiative involving India, Japan, and two leading U.S. universities. Unlike traditional telescopes, TMT's primary mirror is formed by 500 smaller mirrors precisely aligned, a technological challenge where India plays a crucial role. Indian scientists and engineers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; and Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have developed opto-mechanical systems to ensure perfect mirror alignment, a critical factor for the telescope's success. Dr. Saku Tsuneta, Vice Chair

of Japan's Committee on National Space Policy, explained that the larger the mirror, the more light it can capture, enabling discoveries about extremely distant cosmic objects. Indian technology is central in managing the alignment and calibration of these mirrors, highlighting the nation's growing role in global science collaborations. The telescope will be constructed at Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at an altitude of 4,000 metres, chosen for its clear skies and minimal atmospheric interference. Japan already operates an 8.2-metre telescope at the site, which has delivered groundbreaking astronomical observations for over 25 years. India joined TMT as a founder-member partner in 2014, contributing to optical and infrared astronomy expertise. The telescope is expected to redefine humanity's understanding of the universe, potentially answering one of the most profound questions: Are we alone in the cosmos? This collaboration underscores India's strength in high-precision science and engineering, while offering a platform for cutting-edge discoveries in astronomy and astrobiology.

Blinkit, Myntra, Google Pay Top India's Online Choices: BofA Survey

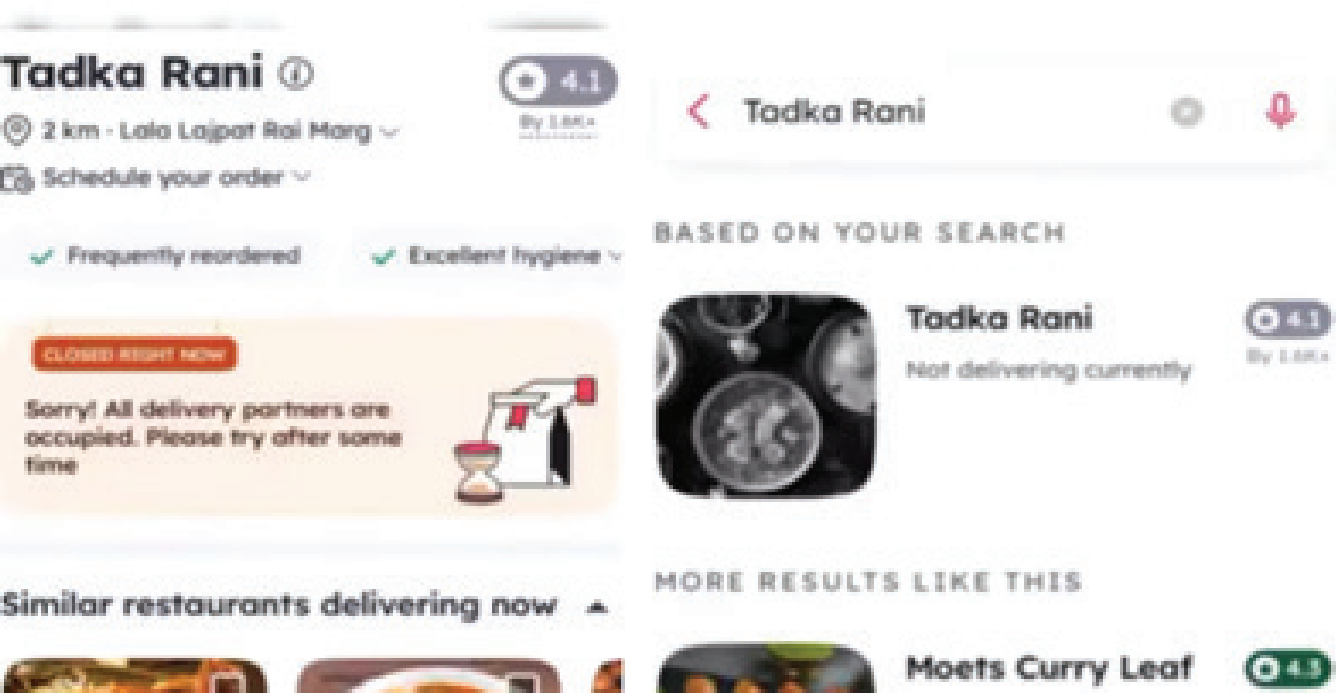
Blinkit, Myntra, and Google Pay have emerged as the most preferred platforms for online shopping and transactions in India, according to a new Bank of America (BoFA) internet survey conducted in November 2025. The survey captured insights from over 1,000 Indian users, highlighting shifting trends in e-commerce, digital payments, and consumer behavior. The survey reveals that Blinkit leads among quick-commerce platforms, reflecting growing demand for fast delivery of groceries and essentials, while Myntra remains the top choice for fashion and lifestyle products. Google Pay dominates the digital payments space, consolidating its position as a preferred method for both peer-to-peer transfers and online transactions. BoFA's findings suggest a significant shift toward integrated digital experiences, where consumers increasingly favor platforms that combine ease of use, convenience, and reliability. The survey also highlighted a surge in mobile-first transactions, with smartphones continuing to serve as the dominant device for online purchases and payments. Other notable trends include rising interest in app-based shopping, the influence of personalized recommendations, and the growing adoption of buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) schemes, reflecting a broader transformation in how Indian consumers engage with digital commerce. The survey indicates that trust and user experience are central to platform preference. Blinkit and Myntra's customer-friendly return policies and fast delivery options contributed to their high rankings, while Google Pay's security features and seamless interface drove its leadership in digital payments. Industry experts suggest that the survey underscores the dynamic nature of India's online ecosystem, where speed, convenience, and trust are increasingly shaping consumer loyalty. As e-commerce and fintech continue to evolve, platforms that adapt to user expectations and integrate multiple services are likely to maintain a competitive edge. This latest BoFA survey provides a comprehensive snapshot of India's online consumer behavior, offering valuable insights for businesses, investors, and policymakers navigating the rapidly growing digital market.



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Delhi Restaurateur Claims Zomato Lists His Eatery as "Unavailable"

A Delhi restaurateur has raised concerns over Zomato repeatedly marking his restaurant as "unavailable", even when nearby eateries remain open. Gagandeep Singh Sapra, owner of Tadka Rani in Greater Kailash 1, shared a video on X showing the app displaying his restaurant as unavailable while others within 50 meters continued to receive orders. Sapra alleged that this issue occurs during peak hours, affecting rider allocation and impacting his business. He claimed to have reported the problem for 31 days without resolution. The restaurateur also suggested that the move might be aimed at increasing Zomato's commission, which he says already exceeds 52% of sales. He accused the platform of using a system glitch to further hike charges. Following the post, Aditya Mangal, Zomato's Food Delivery CEO, responded, stating that the matter would be investigated. Sapra's complaint also mentioned Deepinder Goyal, CEO of Zomato's parent company, Zomato.



Eternal, implying senior management awareness of the issue. The video Sapra shared highlights the growing frustration among restaurant owners over app-based delivery platforms controlling visibility and rider allocation, a long-standing point of contention in the food-tech industry. Zomato, which dominates India's online food delivery market, has faced similar allegations from other restaurateurs in the past regarding system glitches, order prioritization, and high commission charges. Industry experts say such concerns reflect the need for greater transparency and fairness in algorithmic management of restaurants on delivery platforms. Sapra has urged Zomato to rectify the listing and ensure fair access to riders, emphasizing that repeated unavailability listings during busy hours are harming his revenue and customer base. The company's formal investigation is awaited, and it remains to be seen whether corrective measures will be implemented to restore the restaurant's visibility on the app.

Man Turns Hulk, But Paint Mishap Leaves Him Green for Days



A British man's attempt to become the Incredible Hulk for an event in Benidorm turned into a multi-day ordeal after a paint mishap left him stuck in green. The man, identified as Kane, used green fabric paint instead of body-safe makeup while preparing for a night out. His friend, Graham White, who documents city life on TikTok, filmed Kane applying the paint with a brush, smiling as he transformed into the superhero. However, the fun quickly turned into frustration when Kane discovered that the paint would not wash off easily. Scrubbing and showering for hours proved futile, leaving him in a Hulk-like state for several days. The unusual incident has gone viral on social media, eliciting laughter, sympathy, and warnings from users about the importance of using safe, removable body paints for costumes. Experts caution that fabric paints are not intended for skin and can cause irritation if left on for long periods. Kane's experience serves as a cautionary tale for cosplayers and partygoers, highlighting the need to double-check product labels and use proper makeup or body paint when transforming into characters. Despite the mishap, Kane reportedly maintained his good humor, sharing the ordeal online and joking about being "the real-life Hulk" until the paint finally came off. The story has sparked a mix of amusement and concern, reminding others that not all paints are created equal when it comes to skin safety.

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Medvedev, Bopanna to lead star-studded field at WTL India debut

The World Tennis League (WTL) is set to make its India debut in Bengaluru from December 17 to 20, with World No. 13 and 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev headlining a stellar lineup. The exhibition tournament, known for its team-based format and entertainment-centric atmosphere, unveiled its team compositions on Monday, confirming a strong international field.

India's veteran doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna will team up with Medvedev, creating one of the event's most anticipated pairings. Their partnership adds local flavour and significant competitive intrigue to the four-day tennis showcase.

Alongside Medvedev, several high-profile names are set to light up the tournament. Canada's Denis Shapovalov, known for his explosive shot-making, will be in action. Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, a consistent Top-20 presence and former WTA Finals runner-up, brings added star power to the women's field. Australian crowd favourite Nick Kyrgios, making a return to



competitive action, is expected to draw fans with his charismatic on-court style.

Joining them are France's Gael Monfils, celebrated for his athleticism and flair, and Spain's Paula Badosa, a former World No. 2 whose power-packed game has

made her a regular contender on the WTA Tour. Their presence underscores the tournament's status as a major off-season attraction.

The WTL, first conceived as a blend of sport and entertainment, features mixed

teams competing across singles, doubles, and mixed doubles formats. Its Bengaluru edition marks the league's first expansion into India, a country with a growing appetite for international tennis events.

With elite players, fan-

friendly scheduling, and a festive atmosphere, the WTL's India debut promises high-quality tennis and global appeal. For local fans, the Medvedev-Bopanna pairing is set to be one of the biggest draws of the tournament.

India–Pakistan T20 World Cup clash set for Feb 15 in Colombo



India and Pakistan are set for another high-voltage showdown at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with their group-stage clash scheduled for February 15 at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium. The marquee fixture will be their first meeting since India dominated a heated trilogy of matches in the 2024 Asia

Cup.

The ICC is expected to formally unveil the full tournament schedule in Mumbai on Tuesday. As per early details, India have been drawn in the same group as Pakistan, USA, Namibia and the Netherlands.

India will open their campaign on the tourna-

ment's opening day, February 7, against the USA in Mumbai. They will then travel to Delhi to face Namibia on February 12, before heading to Colombo for the much-anticipated Pakistan encounter. Their final group match will take place against the Netherlands at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

The 2026 T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will run from February 7 to March 8. The format remains unchanged, featuring 20 teams divided into four groups of five. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Eight stage, which will again be split into two groups of four.

The best two sides from each will qualify for the semifinals.

Depending on India's progression, their Super Eight fixtures are slated for Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. Should they reach the semifinals, India's match will be hosted in Mumbai. The second semi-final will be held either in Colombo or Kolkata, depending on Pakistan or Sri Lanka's qualification path. The final is scheduled in Ahmedabad, though the venue could shift to Colombo if Pakistan make the title clash.

Apart from co-hosts India and Sri Lanka, the 18 participating teams include Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA, Ireland, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Oman and UAE. India enter the tournament as defending champions after defeating South Africa in the 2024 final in Barbados.

Real Madrid held 2-2 by Elche as winless run extends to three

Real Madrid's struggles continued as Jude Bellingham's late equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw against Elche in La Liga on Sunday, stretching their winless streak to three matches. Madrid twice came from behind but were unable to find a winner, slipping into a period of inconsistency after a dominant start to the season.

Elche struck first through Aleix Febas in the 53rd minute, capitalising on a sloppy defensive moment from the visitors. Madrid, who entered the match following a 0-0 draw with Rayo Vallecano and a 1-0 Champions League defeat to Liverpool, looked short of fluency for large parts of the contest. Dean Huijsen eventually pulled Madrid level in the 78th minute, finishing off a well-worked move.

However, Elche responded almost immediately. Alvaro Rodriguez restored the home side's lead in the 84th minute, punishing Madrid's inability to defend in transition. With time running out, Bellingham delivered once again, firing home from inside the box in the 87th minute to make it 2-2 and avoid



a second straight league defeat.

Vinicius Junior made an appearance off the bench but could not change the outcome. Elche were reduced to 10 men deep in stoppage time as Victor Chust received a red card,

but Madrid couldn't capitalise. The result pushed Madrid a point ahead of Barcelona, who had returned to the revamped Camp Nou a day earlier with a commanding 4-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Elche, sitting 11th, re-

main without a win for six consecutive league games.

Elsewhere in La Liga, an own goal by Domingos Duarte handed Atletico Madrid a narrow 1-0 win over Getafe, marking their fifth straight victory across competitions. Captain Koke cel-

ebrated his 700th appearance, although Marcos Llorente was forced off early due to injury.

Real Betis were held 1-1 by struggling Girona, while Oviedo and Rayo Vallecano played out a goalless draw, each finishing with 10 men.

South Africa score 220/4, lead India by 508 runs



South Africa tightened their grip on the second Test in Guwahati by declaring their second innings at 260 for 5 on the fourth day, leaving India to chase an enormous 549-run target. The visitors, already in a dominant position, batted with composure through Tristan Stubbs and Tony de Zorzi, whose partnership effectively shut the door on India's hopes of a manageable chase.

The morning session had offered India a glimmer of opportunity. Ravindra Jadeja, continuing his probing spell, removed early wickets on his way to impressive figures of 4 for 62. Washington Sundar supported him well with a wicket, and together the duo reduced South Africa to 77 for 3. On a surface beginning to show visible signs of turn and variable bounce, India sensed an opening.

However, Stubbs and de Zorzi rebuilt with remarkable discipline. Stubbs, in particular, showcased maturity, crafting an excellent 94 off 180 balls. His in-

nings was marked by patience and selective aggression, frustrating the Indian bowlers. De Zorzi complemented him effectively, scoring a fluent 49 off 68 deliveries. Their 101-run stand for the fourth wicket not only steadied the innings but also pushed the match beyond India's control.

South Africa's declaration came shortly after Stubbs fell, six runs short of what would have been a deserved century. With the pitch offering increasing assistance to spin—as evident from the sharp turn extracted by both Jadeja and Washington—the task ahead for Indian batters is daunting.

India now face a monumental challenge. To save the Test, they require resilience and application on a deteriorating wicket; to win, they need a record-breaking effort. With South Africa firmly in command, the hosts' focus may now shift to surviving the final day against a confident and varied bowling attack.

India edged 2-3 by Belgium in rain-hit Azlan Shah clash



The Indian Men's Hockey Team put up a spirited performance but fell short in a tightly contested 2-3 defeat to Belgium in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup match, rescheduled and played on Tuesday in Ipoh, Malaysia. Despite periods of dominance and resilient defending, India could not overturn Belgium's clinical finishing.

Belgium struck first through Roman Duvekot in the 17th minute, capitalising against the run of play after India had controlled possession early on. Goalkeeper Pawan was impressive throughout the opening exchanges, making crucial saves and keeping India in the contest as Belgium earned back-to-back penalty corners in the first quarter. India, meanwhile, moved the ball well but struggled to convert their build-up into clear opportunities.

Early in the second quarter, India thought they had equalised when Dilpreet Singh slotted home following a swift move. However, the effort was disallowed for dangerous play, allowing Belgium to maintain their 1-0

advantage heading into halftime.

India started the second half with renewed energy. Their persistence paid off when Abhishek scored in the 33rd minute, finishing off a well-constructed attack to level the game. With momentum shifting, India pressed aggressively, looking for a second goal. But Belgium responded sharply, regaining the lead in the 45th minute as Nicolas De Kerpel converted from a penalty corner.

The final quarter saw India push hard, but Belgium once again found success through Duvekot, who netted his second goal in the 57th minute. India refused to back down, pulling one back moments later through Shilanand Lakra, also in the 57th minute, to set up a tense finish.

Despite late pressure and promising phases of play, India could not find the equaliser. The narrow defeat, however, highlighted the team's fighting spirit and competitive edge as they continue their Azlan Shah Cup campaign.

Ananya Panday stuns in classy new look as teaser with Kartik Aaryan drops



Ananya Panday has set social media abuzz yet again — this time with both a fresh film teaser and a striking new photoshoot that has left fans captivated. The actress, who was last seen in Telugu cinema with Liger alongside Vijay Deverakonda, is now gearing up for her next Bollywood outing, Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, co-starring Kartik Aaryan.

The film’s teaser, released earlier in the day, has already generated considerable chatter. Featuring Kartik and Ananya as Ray and Rumi, the short clip unfolds like a vivid rom-com dipped in colour and old-school charm. The duo is seen exchanging playful glances and engaging in light-hearted banter, set against picturesque backdrops that enhance the nostalgic tone. Viewers have praised the chemistry between the leads, noting the teaser’s refreshing mix of fun, warmth and visual appeal.

Even as the teaser trended across platforms, Ananya managed to make an independent fashion statement. She shared a series of photos from the teaser launch event, instantly drawing attention for her elegant and understated style. Dressed in a fitted, earthy-toned outfit, the actress posed seated on the floor — a simple setup that unexpectedly amplified the sophistication of the look. With soft, natural waves in her hair and minimal accessories, Ananya’s aesthetic carried a blend of effortless glamour and cinematic poise.

Fans flooded the comments praising her “classy” and “breathtaking” appearance, with many noting that the photographs looked straight out of a film still. The combination of the buzzy teaser and Ananya’s standout styling has positioned the project strongly in the public eye.

With excitement building around Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, the film’s promotional campaign is off to a promising start, leaving audiences eager for the upcoming trailer and soundtrack releases.

Gujarati Film ‘Laalo’ Set to Cross 100 Crore Mark



Laalo – Krishna Sada Sahaayate, a recent Gujarati devotional drama, is making waves at the box office, inching closer to a remarkable 100 crore gross despite being produced on a modest budget of just 50 lakh rupees. Directed by Ankit Sakhiya, the film has already amassed a total of 74 crore rupees and is approaching its 50-day theatrical run, highlighting its steady and growing appeal among audiences.

The film’s journey at the box office has been unusual. While it recorded only average numbers during the first week, strong word-of-mouth and audience appreciation helped it gain momentum over time. Today, Laalo stands out not just as a commercial success but as a landmark achievement in Gujarati cinema. If it crosses the 100 crore mark, it will become the first Gujarati film to reach this benchmark, setting a new standard for regional cinema.

Laalo stars Reeva Rachh, Shruhad Goswami, Karan Joshi, and Mishty Kadecha in pivotal roles. The story follows a rickshaw driver trapped in a farmhouse, who confronts past traumas while experiencing divine visions of Lord Krishna. Guided by these spiritual experiences, the protagonist undergoes a transformative journey of self-discovery, healing, and redemption. The film’s unique blend of devotional themes, emotional storytelling, and strong performances has resonated with audiences across Gujarat and beyond.

Critics have praised the film for its heartfelt narrative, soulful music, and the way it blends spirituality with relatable human struggles. Audiences have echoed this sentiment, making Laalo a slow-burning hit that proves regional cinema can achieve nationwide acclaim.

With continued screenings and strong audience support, Laalo – Krishna Sada Sahaayate is poised to not only cross the 100 crore gross milestone but also inspire confidence in Gujarati filmmakers aiming for larger commercial success in the mainstream market.

‘Rebel Saab’ song trends nationwide with strong 24-hour numbers

The first song from Prabhas’ upcoming pan-India film The Raja Saab—titled “Rebel Saab”—has taken social media by storm, trending across platforms within hours of its release. Unveiled on November 23, 2025, the track has quickly energised fans and heightened expectations around the film, which is gearing up for a Sankranti 2026 release.

Despite being released later than initially anticipated, the song drew a solid response online. In the first 24 hours, “Rebel Saab” garnered 14.92 million views and 335.4K likes on YouTube. While the numbers do not break major records, industry observers consider them impressive for a song that dropped without extensive pre-release promotions. Notably, the track crossed 100K likes within just 23 minutes, highlighting Prabhas’ massive fan following.

Audience reactions have been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising Prabhas’ screen presence, styling, and powerful mass appeal in the video. Fans noted that the star appears in top form, surpassing the impact of his recent on-screen looks. Social media platforms were flooded with celebratory posts and fan edits soon after the song’s release.

A special screening held at Vimal Theatre in Hyderabad witnessed a massive turnout, with fans celebrating in trademark “mass” style. The high-energy visuals and catchy composition contributed to the festive atmosphere, giving fans a theatrical experience even before the film’s release.

The strong reception to “Rebel Saab” has boosted anticipation for The Raja Saab, with viewers now eagerly awaiting the upcoming trailer and subsequent songs. As Sankranti approaches, the film is expected to be one of the biggest festival releases.

Following The Raja Saab, Prabhas is set to appear in several major projects, including Fauji, Salaar 2, and Kalki 2, further adding to the excitement surrounding his lineup.



‘Andhra King Taluka’ ticket sales begin ahead of Nov 27 release



Ticket sales for Andhra King Taluka, the upcoming action entertainer starring Ram Pothineni, have officially gone live, building excitement ahead of the film’s theatrical release on November 27, 2025. The movie will hit screens in both Telugu and Kannada, marking one of Ram’s most ambitious projects in recent years.

Directed by Mahesh Babu P, the film has already generated notable buzz through its trailer, songs, and promotional content. With advance bookings gradually opening across more regions, the makers are optimistic that the strong pre-release momentum will translate into solid early footfall. Fans are also eagerly awaiting the

announcement of premiere show timings, expected to be revealed shortly.

Bhagyashri Borse plays the female lead opposite Ram, while the supporting cast features an impressive lineup. Kannada star Upen-dra appears in a significant role, bringing additional star power to the film. Rahul Ramakrishna, Rao Ramesh, Murali Krishna, Rajiv Kanakala, and Satya also contribute to the ensemble, promising a mix of drama, humour, and emotional depth.

Music for Andhra King Taluka is composed by the popular duo Vivek-Mervin, whose songs have received positive feedback online. Their soundtrack has been highlighted as one of the film’s key

strengths, helping build anticipation among younger audiences.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, a banner known for delivering high-production-value entertainers, the film is expected to be a major release for the late-November window. With just days to go before its arrival in theatres, industry watchers are keen to see how the movie performs, especially given Ram Pothineni’s recent focus on big-scale commercial cinema.

As advance bookings continue to expand, early indications suggest that Andhra King Taluka could open strongly in both Telugu states and Karnataka, setting the stage for a promising box-office start.

Ranbir Kapoor criticised over ‘vegetarian’ claim after Netflix special sparks debate



Ranbir Kapoor has found himself at the centre of a fresh controversy after clips from Netflix’s new reality special Dining With The Kapoors triggered questions about his earlier claims of turning vegetarian. The special, which features members of the Kapoor family sharing memories and conversations over a meal, did not initially draw much attention. However, online debate erupted after a Reddit user alleged that the dishes served in the episode appeared to be predominantly non-vegetarian.

The criticism does not stem from what Ranbir ate on camera, but from what viewers see as a contradiction between the visuals and previous public statements. Ahead of his role as Lord Sri Rama in Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana, Ranbir’s PR team had repeatedly claimed that the actor had completely given up meat as part of his preparation. These claims were highlighted across interviews and promotional articles, contributing to an image of strict dietary and spiritual discipline.

The Reddit post noted that nearly all food items on the

table during the Netflix special seemed to be meat-based, with no visible vegetarian alternatives. Although there is no direct footage of Ranbir consuming non-vegetarian food, the setting alone has prompted some viewers to accuse his PR team of constructing a misleading narrative. The perceived inconsistency has upset sections of the audience who associate the role of Rama with certain expectations of lifestyle and conduct.

Social media conversations intensified through the day, with several users demanding clarity from the actor. Critics argued that if the earlier claims were merely promotional strategy, the team should address the matter transparently. As of now, neither Ranbir nor his representatives have issued a statement.

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Ranbir continues filming Ramayana, scheduled for a Diwali 2026 release. Industry speculation suggests that the sequel may not arrive in 2027, though the production team has yet to confirm any revised timeline.