

Andhra Pradesh Intensifies Mission to Make State Pothole-Free; 22,000 km Roads Restored, 3,000-Crore Plan Unveiled for Further Works

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Vijayawada : In a major infrastructure drive aimed at improving road connectivity and safety across Andhra Pradesh, the State government announced the restoration of 22,000 kilometers of roads under the ambitious “Mission Pothole” programme. Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said the State spent nearly 1,600 crore over the past six months to address severe road damage and make key stretches motorable again.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, the Minister said the restoration works were undertaken on a war footing following extensive damage caused by monsoon rains and prolonged neglect. The drive, which covered critical stretches across all districts, focused on vital rural and urban routes that facilitate the movement of agricultural produce, freight, and daily commuters.

Despite the considerable progress, the Minister



ter said several regions, particularly in Guntur, Krishna, East and West Godavari districts, and parts of North Andhra, continue to face deterioration due to challenging soil conditions and recurring rainfall. To comprehensively address these problems and ensure long-term durability, the government has launched an additional 3,000-crore road improvement initiative.

Of this total, 1,000 crore has been released under the plan budget, while another 1,000 crore is currently in the tendering process. In addition, 500 crore and 277 crore

have been sanctioned through specific Government Orders, taking the total approved amount to 3,000 crore. These funds are earmarked exclusively for renewing 14,983 kilometers of C-category roads vital routes that link smaller habitations with district and State highways.

Janardhan Reddy emphasized that a strict monitoring and evaluation mechanism is in place to ensure speedy implementation and adherence to quality standards. Department officials are supervising the sanctioning, tendering, and execution phases at close

intervals. The government has set a target to make Andhra Pradesh “pothole-free” by March 2026, with all essential renewals expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

The Minister highlighted that improving road infrastructure is not only crucial for safe travel but also for boosting economic activities across sectors. Efficient road connectivity, he said, plays a central role in attracting new investments, facilitating industrial operations, and enhancing the quality of life in rural and urban communities alike.

As part of its long-term strategy, the government is also advancing several road projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. A total of 175 stretches spanning 539 kilometers have been identified for development through private participation. Feasibility studies have been completed, and tenders for these works will be issued shortly. Janardhan Reddy reiterated the State’s commitment to delivering durable, high-quality roads that can withstand climatic challenges and heavy vehicular loads.

Farooq Shubli Takes Charge as Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy



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Vijayawada: The Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed senior Urdu scholar and cultural activist Farooq Shubli from Vijayawada as the new Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy. The official appointment orders were issued on Thursday by Minority Welfare Department Secretary Ch. Sridhar. Shubli formally assumed charge in a brief yet significant ceremony held at the State Secretariat in Velagapudi, marking a new chapter for the Academy’s ongoing efforts to promote the Urdu language and culture in the State.

The oath-taking ceremony was organized at the Minority Welfare Department office located in Block-3 of the Secretariat, in the presence of Minority Welfare Minister N. Mohammed Farooq, senior officials, and representatives from various Urdu and minority welfare organizations. The event witnessed active participation of department officers and Urdu enthusiasts, who welcomed the appointment as a positive step toward revitalizing Urdu institutions across Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Farooq expressed confidence that the new Chairman would bring renewed energy

and purpose to the Academy’s functioning. He emphasized that the Urdu Academy should work in a systematic and proactive manner to encourage the learning, teaching, and public use of Urdu across educational and community platforms.

The Minister highlighted that the government, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, attaches importance to cultural and linguistic diversity, and aims to give equal recognition and support to all minority language academies functioning under the State’s cultural and educational framework. Minister Farooq further stated that the Academy must take the lead in strengthening Urdu Ghars, Shadi Khanas, and other community centres where the language can thrive as a medium of communication, literature, and social exchange.

He urged the new Chairman to focus on effective management of Urdu training centres across different districts, ensuring that literary activities, translation programs, and cultural events are conducted regularly to sustain community engagement. After assuming office, Chairman Farooq Shubli expressed gratitude to the Government for the confidence reposed in him.

He acknowledged the guidance of Chief Minister

N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Education Minister Nara Lokesh, and Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Farooq, stating that their collective vision for inclusive development would guide his work at the Academy.

“The Urdu Academy has a rich legacy and a crucial responsibility in preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of Urdu. I will strive to enhance its reputation and outreach by taking up field-level initiatives, expanding training opportunities, and building stronger connections with educational and literary institutions across the State,” Shubli said.

He also indicated plans to introduce new programs focusing on modern Urdu learning methods, youth participation in literary activities, and digital archiving of Urdu publications from Andhra Pradesh. With the new leadership taking charge, officials expressed optimism that the Academy will regain its prominence as a key institution for minority welfare and cultural promotion.

The appointment of Farooq Shubli signals the government’s continued commitment to nurturing linguistic diversity and advancing the cultural identity of Urdu-speaking communities throughout Andhra Pradesh.

AP Government Accelerates Power Infrastructure Expansion to Support Industrial Growth: Minister Gottipati

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Vijayawada | Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Thursday announced that the state government is giving top priority to strengthening the power sector in line with the rapid pace of industrial and economic development across the state. He said the government is implementing a comprehensive plan to modernize and expand electricity infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted and high-quality power supply to industries, households, and the agricultural sector.

Chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials of APTRANSCO and APSPD CL at Vijayawada, Ravi Kumar said Andhra Pradesh is emerging as one of the most attractive destinations for major industries, and the energy sector must keep pace with this progress.

He emphasized the importance of advance planning, investment, and efficient project execution to meet rising electricity demand while maintaining stability and reliability in supply. The Minister noted that electricity consumption in the state has seen a sharp rise, driven by the establishment of new industrial units, expansion of manufacturing facilities, and the development of multiple industrial corridors across regions.



To address this surge, the Energy Department has charted out a capacity enhancement plan that includes the construction of 29 new substations at 132 kV, 220 kV, and 400 kV levels, along with associated transmission lines. Once operational, these infrastructure upgrades will significantly bolster the power grid, strengthen connectivity, and enhance system stability throughout the state.

Ravi Kumar reiterated that consumer satisfaction remains a key focus of the government’s energy policy. He directed officials to ensure that no grievances arise regarding power supply for agriculture or domestic categories. Utilities were instructed to process all service connection applications promptly, ensure swift grievance redressal, and maintain continuous supply.

The Minister set a goal of achieving at least 95 percent consumer satisfaction across all service areas. During the meeting, officials briefed the Minister on the status of ongoing transmission and distribution projects. Ex-

pressing concern over delays in certain projects stretches, Ravi Kumar directed the managements of APTRANSCO and DISCOMs to remove bottlenecks and speed up execution. He called for improved coordination with contractors, timely supply of materials, and adequate manpower deployment to ensure all works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Minister also instructed the utilities to maintain accountability through regular monitoring. He directed them to submit fortnightly progress reports detailing current project status, existing challenges, and completion schedules. The reports, he said, would enable the Energy Department to monitor progress in real time and make faster decisions to address field-level issues. Reaffirming the government’s long-term vision for the power sector, Ravi Kumar said Andhra Pradesh is firmly committed to building a “future-ready” power network to support rapid industrialization and economic growth.

AP Government Prioritises Labour Welfare, Industrial Peace and Investment Growth: Minister Subhash

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Vijayawada | The Andhra Pradesh Government has reiterated its strong commitment to protecting labour rights, ensuring worker welfare, and fostering an investment-friendly industrial environment that guarantees both economic growth and industrial harmony. Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash affirmed this while addressing the media at an awareness conference on the new Labour Codes held in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Labour Commissioner and Secretary Seshagiri Babu joined him at the event, which focused on promoting understanding of key labour reforms being implemented across the State. Minister Subhash said the State government regards labour welfare as a top priority and is diligently implementing the major labour reforms introduced by the Central Government, including the Social Security Code, Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, and the Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code.

These laws, he said, lay the foundation for transforming Andhra Pradesh into a model state in upholding labour rights and ensuring socio-economic security for all sections of the workforce. “Our objective is to guarantee fair wages, timely payments, and a safe working environment



for every worker in Andhra Pradesh,” the Minister said. “We are extending comprehensive social security benefits to workers in the unorganised sector, including gig and platform-based workers such as delivery partners and online drivers, who form a vital part of today’s evolving economy.”

“He emphasised that recent amendments and administrative measures such as maternity benefits, work-from-home provisions, and the granting of permissions for women to work night shifts have paved the way for greater women’s participation in the workforce. “Women’s empowerment through inclusive reforms is essential for equitable industrial growth,” Subhash noted.

He added that the government is fostering greater coordination between industries, labour unions, and government departments to ensure a balanced and progressive industrial environment that attracts new investments and generates sustainable employment. Labour Commissioner and Secretary Seshagiri Babu elaborated on the State’s efforts to establish a comprehensive social security network for workers. He explained that mandatory health check-ups, safety committees, appointment letters, and proper registration of employees in all establishments have been made compulsory. Andhra Pradesh, he said, is among the few states that have extended benefits such as journey allowance, portability of ration cards through the Public Distribution System (PDS), and continuous benefit portability for migrant and construction workers.

Highlighting the inclusiveness of the new labour framework, Seshagiri Babu stated that digital media workers, dubbing artists, and other creative professionals are now officially covered under the new Labour Codes, ensuring their access to social and welfare protections. He also announced the creation of a dedicated Reskilling Fund designed to support workers who lose their jobs by providing immediate training and re-employment opportunities.

Ravi Naidu Accuses Bhumana Karunakar Reddy of Key Role in Parakamani Scam

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Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority Chairman (SAAP) Ravi Naidu on Thursday launched a strong counter-attack on former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, alleging his direct involvement as a key accused in the Parakamani scam. Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, Naidu declared that the facts of the case reveal Bhumana is not a mere bystander but a central figure who must face legal scrutiny for his alleged role in the misappropriation of temple offerings.

Naidu recalled that the case initially came to light after a former TTD Assistant Vigilance and Security Officer (AVSO), Satish Kumar, was caught in connection with the theft of temple offerings and valuables. Instead of pursuing a full-



fledged probe, authorities allegedly issued only a 41A notice to the accused, allowing him to go free. "Why was such leniency exercised in a case involving sacred offerings of Lord Venkateswara? Who benefited from the silence that followed?" he questioned.

The SAAP Chairman stated that the quantum of cash and jewelry stolen from temple donations was too large to be the work of a few individuals. "Such scale of theft points to an organized network. Even Bhumana himself indirectly admitted during past discussions that the prob-

lem was not confined to a few employees. This clearly indicates wider involvement reaching higher levels of influence," Naidu said.

He further alleged that key leads in the investigation were deliberately brushed aside and that certain suspects were protected by powerful figures. Ravi Naidu specifically drew attention to reports of Satish Kumar owning benami assets, including a hostel property held through relatives. "Who controls these properties now? Why was there no recovery or seizure? The people deserve to know who

is shielding whom," he demanded.

According to Naidu, credible information has emerged about a secret deal allegedly struck in Chennai involving Sub-Inspector Jagan Mohan Reddy, benami operator Jayachandra Reddy, and other individuals connected to the case. "Was this a compromise designed to sabotage the investigation? Those behind such acts must be exposed. We cannot allow sacred trust funds to become instruments of personal gain," he asserted.

Accusing the previous management of attempting to bury the case thr-

ough political influence, Naidu said the scam has tarnished the sanctity of Tirumala Temple and betrayed the faith of devotees. He emphasized that current investigations will reach every level, regardless of political position or affiliation. "No one who has looted the offerings of Lord Venkateswara will be spared.

Whether it is Bhumana or anyone else, justice will prevail," he declared. Naidu concluded by appealing to the government and investigative agencies to pursue the case without bias, ensuring accountability and transparency. "Devotees across the world contribute their hard-earned money to the temple with devotion. Protecting that faith is our moral duty. The truth about the Parakamani scam must come out, and those responsible must face strict legal action," he said.

TDP-Led Government Working with Focus on Development: MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu

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Macherla (Palnadu District): Narsaraopet MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu emphasized that the coalition government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to ensuring all-round development across Palnadu district. He participated in the foundation stone-laying ceremony for inner bypass road constructions in Macherla, Rentachintala, and Gurazala towns on Thursday. The MP, along with local MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy, performed the traditional ground-breaking rituals near the main entrance of the Macherla Market Yard.

The projects, estimated at a total cost of Rs. 54.09 crore, aim to ease urban traffic congestion and improve regional connectivity. After unveiling the commemorative plaque, the leaders addressed a public meeting organized within the Market Yard premises. Speaking on the occasion, MP Devarayalu detailed the



developmental initiatives being implemented in Palnadu district during the past one and a half years of the coalition government. He asserted that welfare programs promised by the administration are being delivered effectively under the direction of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Urging public cooperation, he noted that both agriculture and industry need to progress in tandem for the district's sustainable development. Devarayalu revealed that

nearly 231 kilometers of new national highways have been developed within his parliamentary constituency with investments worth several thousand crores of rupees. He said he would not rest until the completion of the Varikapudisela project and stated that the works will move forward rapidly once environmental clearances are secured.

He added that foundation works for projects worth 1,200 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission and 124 crore under the A

mrit scheme would soon commence within the constituency. Meanwhile, Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy reiterated his commitment to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's belief that "development thrives only in a peaceful atmosphere." He criticized the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for allegedly creating unrest in the region and disturbing the harmony essential for progress.

The MLA observed that Macherla had suffered from developmental ne-

glect for 15 years and expressed pride that the present government had realized the Chief Minister's promise of Rs. 50 crore for municipal infrastructure.

He also alleged that YSRCP-backed groups were illegally selling Telangana liquor in Macherla, causing revenue losses, and warned that strict action would be taken against such elements. Officials from the Roads and Buildings Department, coalition party leaders, and local activists participated in the ceremony.

Smiles on Farmers' Faces Under Coalition Rule: MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu Leads "Raitanna Mee Kosam" in Ikurru Village

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Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): The coalition government is committed to filling the faces of farmers with smiles through continuous welfare efforts, said Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu. The legislator expressed this sentiment while participating in the "Raitanna Mee Kosam" (For the Farmer) program held Wednesday night at Ikurru village in Narasaraopet mandal.

The initiative, organized jointly by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Jana Sena Party (JSP), aims to take information about various government welfare schemes directly to farmers in every village.

A festive atmosphere prevailed in Ikurru as villagers warmly welcomed the MLA with traditional aarti and showers of flower petals, turning the event into a celebration of gratitude and optimism. During the event, Dr. Aravinda Babu



highlighted that both the central and state governments are working in tandem to ensure farmers' economic and social well-being. He said the "Raitanna Mee Kosam" outreach initiative was designed to provide every farmer with clear and accurate information about the welfare schemes being implemented for their benefit. "Our goal is to ensure no farmer is left unaware of the assistance available to them," he stated.

In his address, the ML

A proudly announced that financial aid under the "Annadata Sukhibhava Nidhi" scheme had been successfully credited to the accounts of 780 farmers in Ikurru village. He emphasized that this achievement reflects the government's unwavering commitment to securing the livelihood and welfare of the farming community.

Dr. Aravinda Babu underscored that timely financial support is crucial for improving farmers' productivity and re-

silience. Thanking Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their dedicated efforts toward farmer welfare, the MLA said the coalition government places agriculture at the center of its social and economic priorities.

"Under the guidance of our Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, multiple programs are being rolled out to strengthen the agricultural sector, enhance farmer welfare, and uplift rural

communities," he added. Dr. Aravinda Babu urged local leaders and officials to ensure that every eligible farmer benefits fully from the schemes. He also appealed to the farming community to stay informed and make use of the opportunities created by the government.

"Only when these welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries can we fulfill our vision of a prosperous and self-reliant rural economy," he remarked. The event witnessed an enthusiastic turnout from party leaders, local farmers, and villagers who expressed their appreciation for the MLA's outreach and the government's continued focus on agricultural development.

With 780 farmers receiving direct monetary assistance, the "Raitanna Mee Kosam" program in Ikurru has set a strong example of participatory governance and transparent welfare delivery in the Palnadu region.

"Raithanna meekosam" is a drama show for publicity - Ex-MLA Gopireddy

TPN Bureau | November 27

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): Ex-MLA Gopireddy slammed the alliance government's "Raithanna Kosam" programme as a publicity drama.

YSR Congress district working president and former MLA Dr. Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy has sharply criticized the alliance government's recently launched "Raithanna Kosam" (For the Farmer) programme, calling it a "political drama show" rather than a genuine effort to help farmers. Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP district office on Guntur Road on Thursday, he alleged that the coalition government had failed to deliver any tangible benefit to farmers over the past two years.

Dr. Gopireddy questioned the intent behind the new programme, claiming that it was merely aimed at gaining publicity after neglecting the farming sector since coming to power. "This government has done absolutely nothing for farmers in two years, and now, under the banner of 'Raithanna Kosam,' it is trying to fool the farming community," he said. He pointed out that no crop had received a fair minimum support pr



ice under the present government. Banana and mango growers were unable to sell their produce and were forced to throw it away on roadsides, he said.

The same situation, he warned, could soon hit the Palnadu region once the paddy harvest begins in January, similar to what farmers in Nellore are currently experiencing with unsold stock. Citing examples, Gopireddy noted that maize, which earlier fetched Rs. 2,200 per quintal, now sells for only Rs. 1,600. He also recalled the pre-election promise of Rs. 20,000 per farmer under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme but claimed that only half the amount had been paid in two years.

He further alleged that the government had failed to purchase tobacco worth Rs. 200 crore as promised, buying less than Rs. 100 crore's worth so far. On cotton procurement, the YSRCP leader said that centers had been opene

d in a haphazard manner. "Except for Chilaka luripet, no center has been started elsewhere. The Narasaraopet market yard is still waiting," he said, demanding its immediate activation.

He strongly criticized the state's handling of crop damage assessments following the recent Monda cyclone. According to him, agricultural officers initially reported damage to 55 acres of cotton, but after a re-evaluation by agricultural scientists, the report misleadingly claimed there was no loss at all. The government, he said, later announced relief of just Rs. 10,000 to a few affected farmers, downplaying the real damage.

Dr. Gopireddy accused the administration of failing to conduct even basic enumeration in storm-affected areas. "Not a single officer visited the damaged fields. The government completely ignored the plight of farmers," he charged. He also alleged widespread black-marketing of urea, with prices reaching Rs. 500 per bag in some areas. "The alliance government earlier staged the 'Super Six' and 'Capital City' dramas, and now it is staging another one in the name of farmers," he remarked.

Three-Member Committee Pushes for Swift Resolution of Amaravati Farmers' Issues



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Amaravati: The three-member committee formed to address the long-pending issues of Amaravati capital region farmers held another round of discussions on Thursday, signaling renewed momentum toward resolving key land and development concerns. The committee, comprising Union Minister Pemm

assani Chandrasekhar, State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. P. Narayana, and MLA Sravan Kumar, convened to review major policy and implementation challenges related to various categories of land in the capital area.

Thursday's meeting primarily focused on the classification and settlement of different types of agricultural lands, including "jaribu" (wet) and "metta" (dry) lands, assigned lands, river island (lanka) lands, and village boundaries located within the Amaravati capital zone. The leaders discussed ways to

finalize boundary markings for farmers' plots, initiate pending development works, and clear administrative hurdles delaying the planned capital region infrastructure projects.

According to official sources, the committee is working on an accelerated plan to deliver tangible results in the shortest possible time. One of the major decisions reportedly reaffirmed during the meeting was to complete the demarcation process by laying boundary stones for plots allotted to farmers under the land pooling scheme. Once the layout marking is finalized, the government intends to immediately begin the next phase of developmental works, including roads, drainage, and basic amenities, to demonstrate visible progress on the ground. The committee also reviewed the status of major approach roads connecting Guntur and Mangalagiri to the core capital zone of Amaravati. Improving these arterial routes

has been identified as a key priority to ensure seamless connectivity for administrative and developmental activities.

Officials emphasized that the road upgrades will not only benefit farmers but also attract investment and accelerate the region's urban infrastructure rollout. Emerging details from the meeting suggest that the committee members are carefully examining both technical and legal aspects tied to unsettled land ownership patterns, especially for assigned and lanka lands.

They also discussed the need for clear communication with farmers to build confidence in the administration's renewed commitment to the Amaravati capital project. Technical teams from the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) and revenue departments are expected to provide updated mapping and documentation to support the committee's upcoming recommendations.

Religion Is Secondary, Humanity Comes First: Minister Nara Lokesh at Noor Masjid Inauguration in Mangalagiri



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Vijayawada: “Whatever the religion, humanity must remain at the core,” said Minister for Education & IT, Nara Lokesh, while inaugurating the newly constructed Noor Masjid at Pavurala Colony near the RTC Depot in Mangalagiri. The minister participated in special prayers before addressing the gathering. Lokesh expressed gratitude to the people of Mangalagiri for giving him the opportunity to

serve them. “I am doing my best with the responsibility you have entrusted to me. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been given the opportunity to serve the entire state. It is our collective duty to uplift those around us,” he said. Stressing that poverty still persists in many sections of society, Lokesh called on everyone to extend a helping hand to those in need. Highlighting the importance of discipline and perseverance, the minister recalled the

challenges he faced in 2019. “God put me to the test. Many mocked me. Yet, the same God gave me strength. With discipline and determination, success becomes inevitable,” he remarked. He urged the youth to make the best use of emerging opportunities and to stay focused on education as the world continues to evolve rapidly. Lokesh underscored the need for active participation from every citizen in the progress of the state and the nation. “Everyone must contrib-

ute to the development of Andhra Pradesh and India. The youth, especially, should seize the opportunities that the future holds,” he added. Speaking about the vision for a stronger India, the minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s efforts to place the nation at the forefront by 2047. He stressed the need to strengthen moral values to build a better society. “Respect for women is essential. God has entrusted me with a sacred responsibility, and I must fulfill

it,” he said. Warning that some groups may attempt to sow discord in society, he urged people to stay calm and united. The event was attended by Padmashali Welfare and Development Corporation Chairman Nandan Abbadayya, APMHDC Chairman Chilla palli Srinivasa Rao, TTD Board Member Tam-mishetty Janakidevi, Guntur Parliament TDP secretary Potineni Srinivasarao and several mosque committee members and local TDP leaders.

Minister Nara Lokesh Unveils Statues of NTR and Dr. MSS Koteswara Rao, Inaugurates Modernized Library in Atmakuru

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Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resource Development and IT, Nara Lokesh, inaugurated statues of former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), and former Health Minister late Dr. M.S.S. Koteswara Rao, at Atmakuru village in Mangalagiri mandal on Thursday. The event was marked by enthusiastic participation from local residents, students, and TDP supporters who gathered to pay respects to the two revered leaders.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Lokesh praised NTR’s legacy of social justice and welfare-oriented governance, crediting him with revolutionary schemes that provided dignity and empowerment to the poor. He noted that commemorating NTR’s ideals remains a moral duty for the party and that developing educational and community infrastructure reflects the spirit of his vision.

Lokesh also recalled Dr. Koteswara Rao’s contributions as a compassionate doctor and public servant who



brought accessible healthcare facilities to rural communities during his tenure. Following the statue unveiling ceremony, the minister inaugurated the newly modernized branch library building built at a cost of Rs. 1.72 crore. The upgraded facility now includes a digital reading section, improved lighting and ventilation, and new volumes catering to students, competitive exam aspirants, and general readers.

Lokesh highlighted the government’s commitment to promoting education and literacy by strengthening public libraries and equipping them with technology-driven learning tools. He said that libraries would once again become centers of community learning and civic dialogue across rural and urban

Andhra Pradesh. After inaugurating the building, Lokesh also participated in a plantation program inside the library premises. He planted saplings and urged locals to adopt green habits for sustainable development. “A clean and green environment is vital for a progressive society,” he stated, emphasizing the importance of environmental awareness among youth. Lokesh Thanks Football Legend David Benham for Inspiring Government School Students In a separate statement, Minister Lokesh extended heartfelt gratitude to globally renowned football legend David Benham for his visit to the Government School in Kothavalasa, Vizianagaram district.

TTD Ghee Adulteration Case: SIT Arrests TTD General Manager in Tirumala Laddu Case; Total Arrests Rise to 10

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Vijayawada | Tirupati — The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)-led Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Thursday arrested another accused in the sensational Tirumala laddu ghee adulteration case. The latest arrest is that of Subrahmanyam, the General Manager of the Purchase Department of the Tirumala Tiru-

pati Devasthanams (TTD). With this, the total number of arrests in the case has risen to ten. According to investigation sources, the SIT apprehended the senior TTD official following evidence suggesting his alleged role in approving or overlooking the procurement of adulterated ghee that was supplied for preparing the famous Tirumala laddus, which are consid-



ered sacred offerings (prasadam) by millions of devotees. The adulteration scandal has shock-

ed devotees nationwide and raised serious concerns about the integrity of TTD’s procuremen-

t systems. The SIT, which has been conducting the probe under the directions of the Supreme Court, had earlier arrested several ghee suppliers, contractors, and their associates involved in the supply chain. These individuals were accused of supplying substandard or mixed ghee instead of pure ghee, thereby violating TTD’s quality standar-

ds. The investigators now believe the irregularities could not have occurred without internal cooperation from key officials within the institution. Following his arrest, Subrahmanyam was taken to Ruia Government Hospital in Tirupati for a mandatory medical examination before being produced in the Nellore Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) special court.

Officials indicated that he will be questioned further regarding his role in approving supply tenders, payment clearances, and possible links with the accused contractors. The SIT has reportedly gathered procurement documents, lab test reports, and communication records between suppliers and the TTD purchase wing. Investigators are said to be ver-

ifying whether purchase decisions were influenced by personal or financial considerations. More arrests are likely if deeper internal collusion is established. The TTD management has assured full cooperation with the probe and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining transparency and public faith in the institution.

APCRDA Project Office Becomes India’s First Government Building to Achieve IGBC Net Zero Energy (Design) Rating

PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION CONFERRED AT GREEN BUILDING CONGRESS 2025 IN MUMBAI

TPN Bureau | November 27
VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has achieved a remarkable national distinction, with its Project Office at Rayapudi, Amaravati, becoming the first government building in India to earn the IGBC Net Zero Energy Rating at the Design Stage. The honour was presented during the IGBC Green Building Congress 2025, held from November 27–29 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. Sandeep Dixit, Chief Architect and Design Coordinator of APCRDA, received the award on behalf of the Authority. The recognition from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) underscores APCRDA’s pioneering role in promoting sustainable, energy-efficient and climate-resilient urban infrastructure in the Amaravati Capital Region. Highlights of the Award-Winning Green Building



advanced sustainability and energy-performance measures: It is India’s first government building to secure the IGBC Net Zero Energy Design Stage Rating. The building achieves an exceptional Energy Performance Index (EPI) of 0.85 (~17,08,980 kWh/year), performing nearly 15% better than the ECBC 2017 baseline. Energy demand has been minimised through high-efficiency lighting systems, state-of-the-art HVAC technologies, and an optimised building envelope. A 540 kWp rooftop solar photovoltaic system generates approximately 7,88,724 kWh/year, meeting around 45% of the

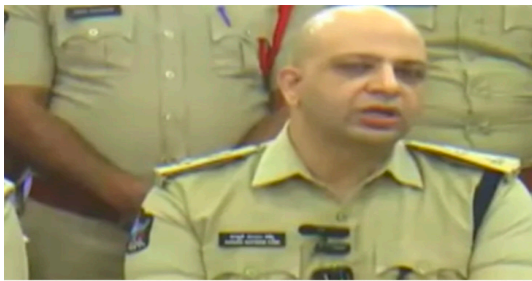
annual energy requirement through onsite renewable generation. The remaining 55% energy requirement is met through Green Tariff renewable sources, enabling the facility to achieve 100% renewable energy compliance, qualifying it as a true Net Zero Energy building. Commissioner’s Remarks APCRDA Commissioner Kanna Babu, applauded the achievement, stating: “This is a proud landmark for APCRDA and for Andhra Pradesh. The Rayapudi Project Office stands as a model for sustainable public infrastructure across India. This accomplishment strengthens our commitment to climate-resilient

urban development, green building practices, and renewable energy integration in Amaravati and beyond.” The Green Building Congress 2025 witnessed the participation of over 2,000 delegates and 125+ experts from India and abroad, showcasing cutting-edge innovations in the sustainable built environment sector. APCRDA reaffirmed its dedication to promoting green building standards across its upcoming projects, aligning with the Government of Andhra Pradesh’s vision for a smart, sustainable, and energy-efficient Amaravati Capital City.

Bhimavaram Police Bust International ‘Digital Arrest’ Scam: 13 Arrested, Rs. 61 Lakh Recovered

TPN Bureau | November 27

Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant breakthrough against international cybercrime networks, Bhimavaram police have busted an interstate and international “digital arrest” scam that defrauded a retired professor of Rs. 78 lakh. The operation, led by West Godavari Superintendent of Police (SP) Adnam Nayeem Asmi, has exposed a sophisticated online fraud syndicate with links to multiple states and foreign countries. According to police reports, the victim, identified as retired professor Sharma, recently received a phone call from individuals posing as officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The callers falsely claimed that a SIM card registered in his name was linked to criminal activity. Using this pretext, they convinced Sharma that he faced serious charges unless he cooperated in an “official digital investigation.” The fraudsters then threatened to “digitally arrest” him—a base-



less term invented to intimidate victims and asked for his Aadhaar, bank account details, and other personal information. Over a period of 13 days, the cybercriminals siphoned off Rs. 78 lakh from his account through multiple transactions. Alarmed by his financial losses, Sharma lodged a complaint with the Bhimavaram Crime Branch. In response, the Bhimavaram Two Town Police registered a case and formed seven special teams to track down the culprits. Their extensive investigation led to the identification of 14 suspects, of whom 13 have been arrested so far. The alleged mastermind, identified as Rahate J. Nayan from Mumbai, remains absconding. SP Adnam Nayeem Asmi revealed that the gang operated as part of a wider cyber

network that targeted vulnerable individuals—especially senior citizens, retired employees, and people living alone. He stated that the group had roots in multiple Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. Notably, seven members of the gang previously worked in Cambodia and used their international exposure to coordinate operations through cross-border online communication platforms. Out of the Rs. 78 lakh stolen, police have successfully recovered Rs. 42 lakh and frozen an additional Rs. 19 lakh spread across various bank accounts. SP Asmi highlighted that recovering this much money in a cybercrime case is an unprecedented achievement for the district’s

cybercrime unit. Preliminary investigations revealed that the fraudsters used advanced digital manipulation tools and social engineering tactics to convince victims of their false authority. Some of the accused are technically skilled individuals, including a software engineer previously employed with a reputed private firm. SP Asmi urged citizens to remain vigilant and never share personal or banking details over phone calls or online platforms. “There is no such thing as a digital arrest. If anyone receives a call claiming to be from law enforcement or investigative agencies demanding money or information, they should immediately contact their nearest police station,” he emphasized. With this operation, Bhimavaram police have not only cracked a major cyber fraud case but also set an example in cross-jurisdictional coordination and rapid financial recovery, providing reassurance to the growing number of cyber fraud victims across Andhra Pradesh.

DBS treatment at Yashoda Hospital offers new hope for Parkinson’s patients

TPN Bureau | November 27

Rajamahendravaram: In a major stride toward advanced neurological care, Yashoda Hospital, Hitech City, has successfully performed Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgeries on two patients suffering from Parkinson’s disease, one of the fastest-growing neurodegenerative disorders worldwide. The procedures were carried out by a team led by senior consultant neurologist Dr. Rukmini Mridula, who also heads the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Research Centre (PDM DRC) at Yashoda Hospital.

Addressing a press conference at the Yashoda Medical Centre in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday, Dr. Mridula explained that Parkinson’s, commonly known as the “shaking disease,” affects 42 to 60 out of every 100,000 people in India. “It is a progressive, lifelong condition, much like blood pressure or diabetes. In the initial years, medications provide symptoms control, but their effectiveness gradually wanes after three to four years,” she said.



Highlighting the importance of DBS, Dr. Mridula noted that it remains the only FDA and DCGI-approved advanced therapeutic option for Parkinson’s disease in such cases. Deep Brain Stimulation involves the surgical implantation of electrodes in specific regions of the brain, which are then connected to a small pulse generator placed in the chest. When activated, this device sends electrical impulses that help normalize abnormal brain signals responsible for tremors, stiffness, and movement difficulties. “DBS has been globally recognized for more than three decades as

a revolutionary treatment for movement disorders. It can significantly improve mobility, reduce tremors and rigidity, and improve overall quality of life,” she added. Citing recent success stories, Dr. Mridula reported that Mr. Ashok Reddy from Hurabad and Ms. Sangeetha from Kazipet, both of whom had been struggling with severe Parkinson’s symptoms, underwent DBS surgery at Yashoda Hospital and are now leading normal, independent lives. “Their recovery is a testament to the precision of this scientific technique and the efficiency of our medical

team,” she said. Dr. Mridula emphasized that Yashoda Hospital’s mission is to bring world-class medical innovation to patients at affordable costs. She reiterated that the institution remains committed to leveraging technology and research to improve neurological health outcomes across India. The press meet was attended by Yashoda Hospital’s Deputy General Manager Santosh Kumar, Andhra Pradesh Marketing Manager Nallam Bala Veerabhadra, Marketing Manager Sharif, and several members of the medical and administrative staff. They expressed that increasing awareness

about Parkinson’s disease and its treatment options is crucial, as early diagnosis and timely intervention can make a significant difference in patients’ lives. “With the right combination of medication, physiotherapy, and advanced surgical techniques like DBS, patients can regain mobility and self-reliance,” Dr. Mridula concluded. The success of these DBS procedures marks a promising advancement for thousands of people suffering from Parkinson’s disease across the region, reaffirming Yashoda Hospital’s role as a leading center for neurological excellence in South India.

Irregular Appointments in RUDA Raise Transparency Concerns

TPN Bureau | November 27

East Godavari: Serious allegations have surfaced over the recruitment of four outsourcing staff members at the Rajamahendravaram Urban Development Authority (RUDA), reportedly carried out in violation of official norms. The appointments, made during the tenure of RUDA Chairman and TDP leader Boddu Venkata Ramana Chowdary, are now under scrutiny for alleged favoritism and irregular procedures.

According to internal sources, the posts were filled without any public notification, transparent selection process, or formal interviews. The four newly appointed employees include two data entry operators, one engineering section assistant, and one supporting staff member. Reports suggest that each of them was recruited through personal or political recommendations, allegedly involving a local public representative’s personal assistant, the chairman’s associate, a former East Godavari Joint Collector, and a senior RUDA officer.

Ordinarily, outsourcing and contract posts in government institutions are filled through a documented recruitment process that involves newspaper notifications, job fairs, written tests, and interviews under the supervision of the district collector and designated agencies. However, in this case, no such steps appear to have been followed. This has raised doubts about the legitimacy and transparency of the appointments.



When contacted, RUDA Secretary M.V.R. Saibaba claimed that a few applications were received for the vacant posts and that the details were forwarded to the empanelled outsourcing agency, which conducted scrutiny before the executive board approved the selections. However, this explanation appears inconsistent with established government procedures and has drawn criticism for its lack of clarity. Adding to the controversy, outsourcing employees appointed during the previous YSRCP administration under former chairperson Sharmila Reddy are reportedly still continuing in their roles.

Questions are being raised about how their contracts have been renewed after the change in government, and under what criteria those extensions were granted.

Public and political observers argue that recruitment processes in public institutions like RUDA should represent transparency and trust. Instead, the current revelations suggest that backdoor lobbying, recommendations, and personal affiliations have taken precedence over merit and fairness.

In a time when unemployed youth are waiting for job notifications and recruitment drives, such opaque practices have sparked frustration and anger. Citizens and employees alike are demanding a thorough investigation into these appointments. RUDA officials are now under pressure to provide a clear and detailed explanation to restore public confidence in the institution’s functioning.

Coalition Leaders Inaugurate Rs. 12 Lakh Kitchen Facility at Tamaraada School, Stress Government’s Focus on Education

TPN Bureau | November 27

K. Gangavaram: The alliance government continues to place a strong emphasis on education, ensuring that public schools receive upgraded facilities and financial support to enhance learning environments. Senior Kootami party leader Vasamsetti Satyam on Thursday inaugurated a newly constructed kitchen block and toilets at the Mandal Parishad Primary School in Tamaraada village, built at an estimated cost of 12 lakh under the state’s Manabadi Mana Bhavishyathu programme.



He underlined that the student phase is a crucial stage in a child’s life, shaping personality, knowledge, and character.

By providing quality education from an early age, the state can nurture responsible and capable citizens for tomorrow, he noted. Satyam also highlighted that the construction of the new kitchen facility was carried out under the directives of State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash as part of efforts to improve the mid-day meal scheme and hygiene standards in government schools.

The facility will enhance the nutritional and sanitary conditions under which meals are prepared and served to students. Assuring continued community support, Satyam stated that any education-related issues in the region would be duly addressed with assistance from the Vasamsetti Foundation.

He called on teachers and education department officials to work together to increase enrollment in government schools and ensure that public education regains the trust of parents and communities. The event also saw active participation of Tahsildar Sri

Ram Prasad, Mandal Education Officer A. Nagaraju, Tamaraada village Sarpanch Tokala Manga, Deputy Sarpanch Boyapati Mangadevi, Headmaster D. Venkata Subbarao, Mandal Parishad Office Superintendent Surendra Reddy, TDP Mandal Publicity Secretary Chilli Nageshwar Rao, Gandhi Srinu, Kanchumarthi Baburao, and several village elders and local leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials appreciated the government’s efforts to upgrade facilities across rural schools and boost student welfare. The initiative aligns with the state’s broader goal of transforming government schools into centers of excellence through better infrastructure, teacher support, and community engagement.

With the new kitchen and sanitation facilities now operational, students at Tamaraada village’s primary school will benefit from improved hygiene, healthier meals, and a more conducive environment for learning reflecting the Kootami government’s commitment to making education accessible, safe, and progressive in every corner of the state.

Krishna Veni Degree College Emerges Champion in Thrilling Inter-Collegiate Volleyball Tournament



TPN Bureau | November 27

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): The inter-collegiate volleyball tournament hosted by Krishna Veni Degree College concluded on a highly spirited note today, with Krishna Veni Degree College clinching the championship title after a gripping four-set battle against the University College of Physical Education, Acharya Nagarjuna University. The tournament brought together some of the finest volleyball teams from the region, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the day.

The final match between Krishna Veni Degree College and the University College of Physical Education kept the audience on edge from start to finish, with both sides displaying remarkable energy and sportsmanship. In the opening set, Krishna Veni Degree College narrowly triumphed 27-25 after a tense exchange of rallies. The second set saw another close contest, with the hosts prevailing 26-24, pushing themselves closer to the championship.

Determined to stay in the game, the University College bounced back in the third set, winning 25-22. However, Krishna Veni’s players regrouped swiftly and dominated the fourth set with a decisive 25-13 victory,

sealing their place as the tournament champions. The University College of Physical Education finished as runners-up, while Bapatla Arts and Science College secured third place by defeating Dhanalakshmi College of Physical Education in the play-off match.

The tournament served as a platform for young athletes to exhibit their competitive spirit and gain valuable experience. A vibrant prize distribution ceremony followed the matches. Principal N. Venkateswara Rao presided over the event and congratulated the winners and participants for their skill and discipline.

He expressed pride in the sportsmanship and enthusiasm displayed by all the students, emphasizing that such events strengthen the spirit of cooperation and resilience among youth. Chief guest Professor B. Suryanarayana Rao, Yoga Coordinator at Acharya Nagarjuna University, highlighted the importance of sports in shaping young individuals for future success. He remarked that physical activities like volleyball not only nurture physical fitness but also develop mental strength, leadership qualities, and teamwork.

Director Nasarayana also addressed the gathering, encouraging students to aspire to represent their institutions at

state and national levels. He praised the organizing committee for conducting a smooth and exciting tournament that reflected high standards of discipline and commitment. Several faculty members and dignitaries graced the occasion, including Dr. C. Venkata Rao, Dr. Gauri Shankar, Dr. P. Srinivasa Rao, Mr. Abbayi Chowdary, and Vice-Principal Satish Babu.

Their presence and encouragement motivated the young athletes and added significance to the event. Organizing Secretary Aadi Babu, who played a crucial role in coordinating the tournament, received special appreciation and felicitation along with his team member, Mr. Mohammad. In his concluding remarks, Aadi Babu expressed gratitude to all participating colleges, coaches, and students for their cooperation.

He also announced plans to conduct more sports events in the future to promote physical fitness and competitive spirit among students. The day ended with cheers, celebration, and applause as Krishna Veni Degree College players hoisted the victory trophy, marking another proud moment in the institution’s growing reputation for excellence in both academics and sports.

Prathipati Ramakrishna Holds Public Darbar at Chilakaluripet Camp Office



TPN Bureau | November 27

Chilakaluripet (Palnadu District): A large-scale public grievance redressal programme, popularly known as a “Public Darbar,” will be held at the camp office of former minister and local MLA Prathipati Ramakrishna on Friday. Party leaders from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) announced that the event is part of the MLA’s continuous effort to engage directly with the people of his constituency and resolve issues at the grassroots level.

According to TDP sources, people from both the rural and urban areas falling under Prathipati constituency limits can personally meet the MLA and raise their pending issues, complaints, and service requests. The program will begin at 9 a.m. at the MLA’s camp office in Chilakaluripet. Application forms for recording grievances will be available on site, making it easier for the public to register their concerns in writing before meeting the legislator.

Party representative said the Public Darbar has been witnessing a strong and positive response from local residents since its inception. This outreach initiative has become an important platform for people to communicate directly with their elected representative, particularly regarding civic amenities, infrastructure, welfare schemes, and administrative issues.

The grievances typically include matters such as road repairs, drainage problems, pending housing applications, pension delays, ration cards, and local development works. Constituents are encouraged to bring supporting documents for quick review and immediate guidance. The TDP office has arranged seating, help desks, and volunteers to facilitate smooth organization of the program.

Leaders added that MLA Prathipati Ramakrishna personally reviews the cases submitted by citizens and issues instructions to relevant officials on the spot wherever feasible. Several problems raised during previous darbars have already been resolved, earning appreciation from participants who view it as a sign of responsive governance.

The local TDP unit appealed to all residents of the constituency to attend the event and make the best use of this opportunity to share their issues directly with their representative. The party also reiterated that such interactive public platforms are essential to strengthening accountability and ensuring that development efforts reach every community in the region. Officials expect a significant turnout at Friday’s session, reflecting both public trust and the growing importance of direct outreach initiatives in modern political engagement.

Why Imran Khan the Pathan spooks Punjabi General Asim Munir



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's continued influence and Pashtun roots have emerged as a source of unease for Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir, despite Munir's control over the military and state institutions. Analysts suggest that Munir's fear is not merely political but deeply tied to ethnic and regional dynamics in Pakistan.

The rift between Khan and Munir is widely considered personal. Khan had removed Munir from the position of ISI chief in 2019, citing corruption probes involving Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi. Since then, the former cricket star-turned-

politician has remained a persistent thorn in Munir's side. Khan's charisma and moral authority, coupled with his victimhood and resistance, continue to challenge Munir's legitimacy as Pakistan's de facto ruler.

Pashtun resentment against the Punjabi-dominated establishment amplifies this tension. Pathans, historically sidelined in Pakistan's power hierarchy dominated by Punjabis, have long-standing grievances over underdevelopment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and perceived ethnic bias. These feelings have been intensified by recent tensions involving Afghan refugees, airstrikes in

eastern Afghanistan, and aggressive deportation policies, fueling anti-establishment sentiment among Pashtuns.

Khan, jailed since August 2023 on graft charges, embodies Pashtun defiance and commands a substantial support base in KP, the only province where his party, PTI, retains political power. Thousands of his supporters have gathered outside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi demanding access to him, creating further pressure on Munir's administration. Reports of Khan's possible death, though unverified, have sparked fears of widespread unrest across Pashtun regions.

Munir's response has been a severe state crackdown, restricting access to Khan and closely controlling information about his condition. Analysts argue that Munir's moves are aimed at preventing mass mobilization and ethnic unrest, particularly from KP and Pashtun-dominated areas. The army chief's recent consolidation of power, including lifetime immunity and expanded authority over the military and judiciary under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, highlights his attempt to secure his position amid growing challenges.

Observers suggest that Khan's continued popularity and Pashtun identity pose a unique threat to Munir, as releasing or mistreating Khan could trigger mass protests or even ethnic backlash. Khan's political survival and symbolic stature have thus become a crucial factor in Pakistan's fragile power dynamics, turning a personal rivalry into a broader ethnic and national security concern.

Imran Khan, for Munir, represents not just a political opponent but a mobilizing force for marginalized Pashtuns, making him a singular challenge to the Punjabi-led establishment's authority.

CJI Surya Kant Upholds Dissent as Pillar of Democracy



Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, in his tenure as the 53rd head of the Supreme Court, has reiterated that dissent is an essential pillar of democracy, emphasizing the judiciary's role in upholding rights and ensuring accountability. His life and career serve as an inspiration to young lawyers, showcasing that excellence arises from preparation, perseverance, and integrity rather than privilege.

Justice Surya Kant, hailing from a modest middle-class family in Hisar, Haryana, embodies the ideal that talent and honesty can propel individuals to the highest echelons of India's judicial system. His journey reflects the Constitution's faith in equal opportunity and merit, resonating deeply with aspiring legal professionals across the country.

In recent addresses and public interactions, CJI Kant highlighted that the existence of differing opinions and the freedom to voice them are fundamental to a functioning democracy. "No democracy can thrive without dissent," he remarked, underlining that judicial independence and free expression are inseparable from the na-

tion's constitutional ethos.

Beyond championing democratic ideals, Justice Kant is known for his empathetic approach, signaling a justice system that is accessible and sensitive to the needs of ordinary citizens. He has encouraged the younger legal fraternity to pursue excellence with unwavering dedication, stressing that integrity and perseverance often outweigh privilege in shaping a distinguished legal career.

Legal experts note that CJI Kant's tenure has coincided with critical debates on human rights, environmental law, and governance reforms, making his vision for an inclusive and accountable judiciary particularly relevant. His emphasis on preparation, ethical conduct, and responsiveness to societal needs underscores the Supreme Court's evolving role as not just a legal authority but a guardian of democratic values.

As Justice Surya Kant continues to lead the judiciary, his reflections serve both as guidance for young lawyers and a reminder of the enduring significance of dissent, integrity, and accessibility in India's democratic framework.

Karnataka Congress Tussle Hinges on Rahul Gandhi



The ongoing power tussle in Karnataka Congress between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has intensified, with all major developments pointing toward Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as the ultimate decision-maker. The high-stakes battle is testing the party's ability to balance ambitions, caste equations, and political stability in the southern state.

DK Shivakumar, who belongs to the influential OBC Vokkaliga community, is pushing for a clear transition plan to eventually succeed Siddaramaiah. His demands include a formal timeline for transfer of power, a firm directive from the high command to Siddaramaiah regarding stepping down, and support from party factions to ensure a smooth handover. Shivakumar's camp argues that this transition is a long-promised arrangement, necessary to maintain party stability and discipline.

Siddaramaiah, a veteran leader and representative of the 'AHINDA' coalition of mi-

norities, OBCs, and Dalits, is determined to maintain his authority until at least after the state budget session. He has resisted calls for immediate change, citing potential disruptions, and has sought to end speculation around his exit through strategic moves, including a cabinet reshuffle to reinforce his command. Siddaramaiah also emphasizes the need for public backing from Rahul Gandhi, which would solidify his position and signal stability to his supporters.

Meanwhile, other regional leaders add complexity to the scenario. Senior Dalit leader and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is closely observing developments and could serve as a compromise candidate. Satish Jarkiholi, a known critic of Shivakumar, has ambitions to become state Congress president, while G Parameshwara has publicly expressed interest in the chief ministership. These multiple power centers make internal consensus a challenging task for the high command.

The Congress leadership faces a delicate balancing act. Any abrupt shift risks alienating key caste blocs—the OBC Vokkaliga support base crucial to Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah's AHINDA coalition of minorities and backward classes. The party must navigate factional loyalties, electoral considerations, and public perception, all while ensuring stability in a state where political equations can shift rapidly.

As Karnataka Congress grapples with competing ambitions and strategic maneuvers, Rahul Gandhi's role as mediator and arbiter becomes decisive. His intervention will likely determine the future leadership structure, manage internal friction, and maintain the coalition that delivered the party a strong mandate. With multiple stakeholders, intricate caste dynamics, and high political stakes, the ultimate resolution hinges on the Congress high command's ability to reconcile ambitions without destabilizing the party.

Rupee Slide Signals Urgent Need to Cut Oil Dependence



The Indian rupee has depreciated around 7% over the past year, falling from roughly 83.4 to 89.2 against the U.S. dollar, raising concerns about the currency's stability amid external pressures. While not unprecedented—the rupee slid 11-12% in 2018—the current context mirrors earlier periods of global uncertainty, including rising U.S. interest rates, strong dollar trends, and trade tensions.

To manage volatility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has actively intervened, selling a net \$50 billion in foreign exchange since November 2024

and employing long-term currency-swap mechanisms. In 2025 alone, the RBI executed a \$10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to inject liquidity into the banking system. Analysts note that under India's floating-but-managed exchange rate regime, the RBI can smoothen volatility but cannot fully prevent depreciation.

The rupee's slide has been driven largely by a widening current-account deficit, fueled by rising bullion imports as a hedge and exporters adjusting to high U.S. tariffs. Crude oil imports, which ac-

count for over 20% of total imports, remain a significant pressure point. As India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to more expensive U.S. oil, currency weakness could translate into higher import bills, potentially impacting inflation.

Despite these challenges, there are reasons for cautious optimism. India's foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable at around \$693 billion, and retail inflation has eased significantly, with headline CPI at 0.25% in October 2025—well below the RBI's target range of 2%-6%. This

allows the central bank room to tolerate modest depreciation without aggressive rate hikes.

Experts stress that monetary measures alone are insufficient. Structural reforms, particularly reducing dependence on oil through initiatives such as faster transport electrification, are critical. Coordinated trade policies, rather than a focus on bilateral deals with Japan, the UAE, or ASEAN, are needed to ensure a balanced trade environment. Without addressing these vulnerabilities, the rupee may continue to face pressure amid global volatility.

PM Modi Inaugurates Skyroot Facility, Unveils Vikram-I Rocket

TPN Correspondent | Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday virtually inaugurated Skyroot Aerospace's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad, marking a significant milestone in India's growing private space sector. The PM also unveiled Skyroot's first orbital launch vehicle, Vikram-I, capable of placing satellites into orbit, showcasing the rapid advancements of India's private space enterprises.

Addressing the event, Modi highlighted the government's "historic" reforms that opened the space sector to private players, enabling startups like Skyroot to innovate and compete on a global scale. "Today, India's private space sector is emerging with flying colours. Over 300 space startups are giving new hope to the nation's space ecosystem," he said.

Modi traced India's space journey from humble beginnings—where rocket parts were transported on bicycles—to becoming a trusted global space power. He emphasized the role of India's youth, particularly Gen Z engineers, designers, coders, and scientists, in driving innovation across propulsion systems, composite materials, rocket stages, and satellite platforms.

"The Infinity Campus re-



flects India's new thought, innovation, and youth power. Their risk-taking ability and entrepreneurship are reaching new heights," the PM noted. He added that the reforms have not only strengthened the space sector but also made it attractive to global investors.

Skyroot's state-of-the-art facility spans around two lakh sq.ft., designed for the design, development, integration, and testing of multiple launch vehicles, with the capacity to build one orbital rocket per month. Founded by IIT alumni and former ISRO scientists Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, Skyroot became the first Indian private company to launch a sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, in November 2022.

Modi stressed that India's space sector has transformed into an open, cooperative, and innovation-driven ecosystem over the last six to seven years. He also hinted at fu-

ture reforms, including opening up the nuclear sector to private players. The Prime Minister concluded that India's youth and startups are ensuring the nation maintains a leadership role in space technology while fostering homegrown innovation and global competitiveness.

Rahul Gandhi building 'anti-India' narrative through foreign-based social media accounts

TPN Correspondent | Delhi The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Left ecosystem of orchestrating a social media campaign against India using accounts based abroad. Speaking at a press conference, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra displayed multiple X (formerly Twitter) accounts that he alleged were created from countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Ireland, Thailand, and the United States.

Patra claimed these accounts were being used to target the Election Commission, the BJP-RSS, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various issues, including allegations of "vote chori" by the Congress. He also alleged that the X account of Congress media head Pawan Khera is registered in the United States.

"Since 2014, Rahul Gandhi, his social media and advisory team, and key figures from the Left have left no stone unturned to insult the Prime Minister and India," Patra



said. "For this, they have not refrained from taking help from foreign forces."

The BJP leader said the revelations came to light following X's rollout of a new feature allowing users to view account creation details, locations, and other metadata.

Patra noted that some accounts previously registered abroad, such as the Maharashtra Congress X account, have now changed their listed location to India. Similarly, the Himachal Pradesh Congress account was initially connected via a Thailand Android app despite being based in India.

Patra further alleged that these foreign-based accounts are deliberately crafting narratives against the BJP and Modi government, framing it as part of a larger strategy by Congress and Left-leaning actors to influence public opinion in India.

The BJP's claims have not yet elicited an official response from the Congress. The party emphasized that these accounts represent a coordinated effort to undermine India's institutions and democracy using foreign resources.

This development underscores growing concerns in India over foreign influence in domestic social media discourse, particularly during politically sensitive periods.

Supreme Court Seeks Expert Solutions for Delhi-NCR Pollution

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi The Supreme Court of India on Thursday acknowledged the persistent air pollution crisis in the Delhi-NCR region, noting that there is no "magic wand" to immediately clear the choking smog. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant emphasized that long-term solutions require the expertise of domain specialists and the implementation of multifaceted strategies.

Addressing the issue, the CJI assured that the court would move beyond the traditional "ceremonial listing" of the air pollution case that occurs annually before Deepavali. Instead, the matter will now be heard continuously, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to addressing the crisis in a structured and sustained manner.

"The problem of air pollution is complex and cannot be solved overnight. Solutions lie in the hands of experts who can guide the implementation of scientific, technological, and administrative

measures," the Chief Justice said.

Delhi-NCR experiences severe air quality deterioration every winter due to a combination of crop residue burning in neighboring states, vehicular emissions, construction dust, and industrial pollution. The persistent smog affects millions of residents, triggering respiratory illnesses and other health hazards.

The Supreme Court has previously issued directives to tackle pollution, including measures to regulate construction activity, restrict vehicular emissions, and monitor industrial discharge. However, the problem remains a recurring challenge, particularly during the colder months when air stagnation exacerbates pollution levels.

With the court committing to continuous hearings, authorities hope for a coordinated approach involving the central government, state administrations, and expert bodies. Environmentalists and policymakers have welcomed the decision, noting that sustained judicial oversight can ensure better compliance with pollution control measures and encourage long-term planning for air quality management.

The Supreme Court's proactive stance signals a move toward a more rigorous and expert-driven strategy to combat one of India's most persistent environmental crises, aiming to secure cleaner air and a healthier environment for the region's residents.



Karnataka CM Tug-of-War Shifts to Delhi



TPN Correspondent | Delhi The simmering leadership tussle in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy, DK Shivakumar, is now heading to the Congress high command in Delhi for resolution. The political drama, marked by week-long lobbying, cryptic social media posts, and internal party maneuvers, coincides with Siddaramaiah's government completing half of its five-year term.

Shivakumar, a powerful Vokkaliga leader and state Congress chief, has hinted at growing impatience, subtly referencing a "secret deal" that promised him the chief ministership for the latter half of the term. Siddaramaiah, an OBC leader, has asserted he intends to continue as CM until 2028. The apparent rift within Siddaramaiah's camp surfaced when Home Minister G Parameshwara indicated willingness to accept Shivakumar as CM if the high command decided so, while another aide, Zameer Ahmed Khan, reaffirmed that the post remains Siddaramaiah's till 2028.

Around ten MLAs loyal to Shivakumar reportedly travelled to Delhi to lobby for his elevation. However, Shivakumar has been strategic, holding late-night discussions with ministers loyal to Siddaramaiah while avoiding direct meetings with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

Kharge has confirmed a high-level meeting with senior Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, to end the confusion. Both leaders have publicly stated they will abide by the party high command's decision and emphasized the unity of all 140 Congress MLAs, dismissing BJP claims of a possible snap election.

At the core of the crisis is the "2.5-year formula," a power-sharing precedent used in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, which led to electoral setbacks for Congress in both states. Siddaramaiah is banking on his mass appeal among SC, ST, Muslim, and OBC voters, while Shivakumar is recognized for his organizational skills and election management capabilities.

A final decision on Karnataka's leadership is expected before December 1, bringing an end to weeks of suspense and political intrigue within the state Congress.

Red Fort Blast Accused Wani in NIA Custody



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi Jasir Bilal Wani, a key accused in the Red Fort blast case, was sent to the custody of the National Investigating Agency (NIA) for seven days by a Delhi court on Thursday. The development comes as the earlier 10-day custody granted by Principal Sessions and District Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna on November 18 concluded.

Wani, a resident of Qazigund in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, was arrested by the NIA in Srinagar on November 17. He is accused of providing technical support for terror attacks, including modifying drones and attempting to manufacture rockets ahead of the November 10 Red Fort blast that shook the national capital.

During the brief court proceedings at Patiala House, Wani, with his face covered, was produced before the judge, after which the NIA secured the extension to continue interrogation and investigation. The agency has been probing the case to uncover the broader network involved in the attack, which targeted the historic Red Fort during a high-profile event.

Investigators allege that Wani played a pivotal role in supplying technical expertise to aid the execution of the terror plot. The NIA's continued custody is expected to help extract crucial information about co-conspirators, logistical support, and methods used in the blast.

The Red Fort incident has been a major security concern for India, given its symbolic significance and the timing of the attack during a public event. Authorities have intensified counter-terror measures in Delhi and across sensitive regions, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, to prevent similar incidents.

The NIA is also coordinating with intelligence agencies and local law enforcement to track the network allegedly involved in the attack. Wani's interrogation over the next week is expected to shed light on the planning, execution, and possible collaborators of the Red Fort blast, aiding the ongoing investigation into the terror conspiracy.

Where Is Imran Khan? Sisters Ask To Meet Jailed Ex-Pak PM Amid Death Rumours



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

Tensions escalated outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail this week after supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the sisters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan gathered to demand a meeting with him. Khan, imprisoned since 2023 in multiple cases, has reportedly not been allowed to meet his family for more than three weeks.

According to PTI, the peaceful gathering turned violent when police personnel allegedly "pounced on" Khan's sisters and supporters. The party condemned what it called a "brutal assault" and demanded an impartial investigation into the incident.

In a strongly worded letter to Punjab police chief Usman Anwar, Khan's sister Noreen Niazi described the attack as "brutal, orchestrated, and unprovoked." She stated that the demonstrators neither blocked roads nor disrupted public order.

She alleged that authorities suddenly switched off the streetlights, plunging the area into darkness before police launched the assault. "At the age of 71, I was seized by my hair,

thrown violently to the ground, and dragged across the road," Noreen wrote, adding that other women were slapped and pulled by their clothes.

The sisters accused Punjab Police of a continued pattern of excessive force against peaceful protesters over the past three years. They urged the Inspector General of Police to initiate proceedings against those responsible.

Meanwhile, concerns over Imran Khan's condition continue to grow. PTI claims he is being kept in complete isolation and solitary confinement, with access to essential items, books, and even his legal team reportedly restricted. Lawyer Khalid Yousaf Chaudry criticized the situation, saying, "The law of the jungle prevails here."

Even Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was allegedly denied permission to meet the former PM on seven consecutive attempts, with Khan asserting that jail authorities are under the control of an army officer.

The situation has intensified calls for transparency surrounding Khan's imprisonment and treatment.

Indonesia Floods and Landslides Kill 49, Rescue Efforts Underway



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv/ Europe

Rescue operations intensified on Thursday in North Sumatra, Indonesia, as authorities searched rivers, villages, and landslide debris for survivors and victims following devastating floods and landslides that have claimed 49 lives and left 67 people missing. The natural disaster, fueled by persistent monsoon rains, has caused widespread destruction across the province.

Heavy rainfall over the past week caused rivers in North Sumatra to overflow on Tuesday, triggering flash floods that swept through mountainside villages. The force of the water destroyed homes, tore apart infrastructure, and left more than 2,000 houses submerged, according to the National Disaster Management Agency. Nearly 5,000 residents have been forced to evacuate to government shelters for safety.

Rescuers, including teams from the Indonesian National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), have deployed rubber boats and heavy machinery to navigate the floodwaters and reach isolated villages. Authorities are combing through rubble and mud, hoping to locate

survivors trapped beneath debris or stranded by the floods.

In addition to search and rescue operations, officials are preparing to implement cloud seeding in the region to mitigate further rainfall and reduce the risk of additional landslides. Neighboring provinces are also grappling with severe flooding, disrupting thousands of lives and hampering transport and communication networks.

Local authorities have called for nationwide support, urging volunteers and relief organizations to assist with rescue efforts, provide food, clean water, and medical aid to affected communities. Early warnings suggest that the monsoon rains may continue in the coming days, raising concerns about secondary disasters and the need for sustained emergency measures.

The government has pledged to accelerate relief operations and reinforce disaster preparedness measures, highlighting the urgent need to address the increasing frequency of extreme weather events across the Indonesian archipelago. Families of the missing and deceased continue to await news as rescue teams work tirelessly in challenging conditions.

Two National Guardsmen Shot in DC, Trump Calls It "Act of Terror"

TPN Bureau | Washington

Two West Virginia National Guard members were critically injured in a brazen shooting on Wednesday afternoon, just blocks from the White House, in what authorities are investigating as a targeted act of violence. The incident occurred near a busy metro station as downtown streets and offices were bustling, heightening concerns over security in the nation's capital.

The suspected shooter, identified as 29-year-old Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal, came to the United States during the 2021 Afghanistan airlift under Operation Allies Welcome and had been resettled in Bellingham, Washington. Lakanwal reportedly lived in Washington state after his arrival. Law enforcement officials confirmed he was shot four times during the confrontation and taken into custody, though he is also severely wounded.



Speaking at a media briefing, US President Donald Trump condemned the attack as "an act of evil, hatred, and terror"

and blamed his predecessor, Joe Biden, stating that the suspect was brought to the US under the Biden administration.



Trump described Afghanistan as a "hellhole" and vowed to re-examine the entry of all aliens from Afghanistan during Biden's

presidency. He called the shooter an "animal" and warned he would "pay a very steep price."

In response to the

shooting, Trump ordered 500 additional National Guard troops deployed to Washington, DC, and extended his support to all military and law enforcement personnel. The shooting has renewed debate over Trump's militarisation of American cities, particularly in Democrat-run areas, which has faced criticism and lawsuits from local officials.

FBI Director Kash Patel and Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser confirmed that the two guardsmen are hospitalized in critical condition. The FBI is investigating the attack as a possible act of terrorism. Authorities continue to search for motives and any potential accomplices, while the city remains on heightened alert following the shocking attack.

The incident has sparked national outrage and raised urgent questions about security protocols for National Guard members deployed in the capital.

Bangladesh Court Sentences Sheikh Hasina to 21 Years for Corruption

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

In a landmark ruling, a Dhaka court on Thursday sentenced former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years in prison on corruption charges. The Special Judge-5, Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun, handed down the sentence, assigning seven years each for three separate plot fraud cases linked to illegal allocation of government land in Dhaka's Purbachal area.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had filed six separate cases against Hasina and her family in January 2025, alleging misuse of authority in allocating government plots. Verdicts in the remaining three cases are expected on December 1. Alongside Hasina, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy received a five-year prison term and a fine of Tk 100,000, while her daughter Saima Wazed Putul was also sentenced to five years behind bars.

Sheikh Hasina and her family have been ab-



scending and did not have legal representation during the trial. They have consistently denied involvement in any

wrongdoing through public statements and speeches.

This ruling comes after the International Crimes

Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh had previously sentenced Hasina to death for crimes against humanity linked to her

crackdown on the July 2024 anti-government protests. The former Prime Minister had fled Bangladesh on August 5,

2024, seeking refuge in India following the student-led uprising that led to the formation of an interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

India's Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that it has formally received Bangladesh's request for Hasina's extradition. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the request is under examination as part of India's judicial and internal legal processes. He emphasized India's commitment to Bangladesh's stability, democracy, and public welfare while engaging constructively with all state stakeholders.

The ruling is expected to have significant political and diplomatic ramifications, particularly concerning Hasina's legal status, ongoing international attention, and India-Bangladesh relations. It marks a dramatic turn in the country's political landscape, with the interim government consolidating authority following the 2024 upheaval.

Is Imran Khan Dead? Speculation And Rumours Flood The Internet



TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Speculation surrounding the health and safety of Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan intensified on Wednesday after unverified reports on social media claimed that the 72-year-old leader had died inside Adiala Jail. The

rumours erupted following an Afghan media report alleging that Khan had "succumbed to mistreatment" while in custody, sparking widespread concern and online frenzy.

Imran Khan, who has been imprisoned since August 2023 on multiple corruption convictions, has

not been allowed family visits for over three weeks, according to his sisters. Noreen Niazi, Aleema Khan and Dr Uzma Khan alleged they were "brutally assaulted" outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail while attempting to meet their brother. They claimed that authorities had effectively

stopped all visits for more than a month, raising alarm over the former prime minister's condition.

The Afghanistan Times report, which first triggered the rumours, claimed that Khan's body had been removed from the prison facility after his alleged

death. The claims, however, remain unverified and have not been confirmed by Pakistani authorities. Social media users across Pakistan and beyond have been demanding clarity from officials, with hashtags related to Imran Khan trending continuously for two days.

Adding to the speculation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the self-styled government of Balochistan echoed the allegations, asserting that Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, along with Army Chief General Asim Munir, had orchestrated Khan's assassination. In a statement posted on X, the entity warned that if the claims were proven true, it would mark "the absolute end of terrorist Pakistan" and accelerate what it called the collapse of the state's legitimacy.

Despite the growing rumours, no official confirmation has been issued by Pakistan's government or prison authorities. The lack of transparency, coupled with restricted access to Khan, has deepened public suspicion and fuelled further unrest online.

For now, Imran Khan's status remains unclear, as citizens and political observers await an authoritative statement to quell the spiralling speculation.

Core Sector Growth Slows to 3% in September, Hits 3-Month Low

Growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors slowed to a three-month low of 3% in September 2025, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The deceleration was mainly due to contractions in key fuel-related sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products — as well as a marked slowdown in fertiliser production.

The Index of Eight Core Industries, which represents about 40% of the weight of items in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), showed that although growth in September 2025 was higher than the 1.5% growth recorded in the same month last year, it was the weakest performance since June 2025.

Sector-Wise Performance:

Coal, crude oil, natural gas, and refinery products all registered declines in output compared to September 2024.

Fertiliser output, while not contracting,



saw significantly slower growth, further dampening the overall index. Sectors like steel, ce-

ment, and electricity provided some cushion with moderate gains but were not enough to offset the drag from energy-related sectors.

Analysts attributed the slowdown to seasonal factors, lower global demand, and operational bottlenecks in certain sectors. The contraction in coal and refinery products, in particular, may affect downstream industries and overall industrial momentum in the coming months.

Despite the setback, the government maintains that the medium-term outlook remains stable, with core sector growth for the first half of FY2025-26 still showing positive trends.

The data will likely be closely watched by policymakers and the Reserve Bank of India, as it offers early signals for industrial output and broader economic performance. The next few months will be crucial in determining whether the slowdown is temporary or indicative of a more sustained moderation.

Silver Prices Likely to Fall as Global Supply Increases



Silver prices in India are expected to decline further after a sharp correction, following an increase in global supply aimed at cooling down soaring demand during the Diwali festival season, according to industry experts.

Kumar Jain, national spokesperson for the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), said the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) has released additional silver stocks into the international market to counterbalance India's high demand, which led to a recent price surge. This increase in supply has caused silver prices to drop sharply, and further declines are anticipated.

During the festive season, Indian investors heavily bought silver jewelry and silver ETFs, leading to a

shortage of physical silver. This demand spike was intensified by financial influencers promoting silver as an attractive investment with a favorable ratio compared to gold. The demand pressure was so intense that MMTC-Pamp, India's largest precious metals refinery, exhausted its silver stock for the first time ever.

Silver premiums in India surged above \$5 per ounce,

far exceeding normal levels. Due to the shortage, several mutual fund houses, including Kotak MF, UTI, and SBI MF, had to halt new silver fund subscriptions. Globally, the silver market faces supply challenges due to China's holiday slowdown and increased silver shipments to the US amid tariff concerns. Following Dhantaras, silver prices fell over 5-6% in the past two days,

with international spot prices dropping below \$50 per ounce after a 60% rally year-to-date. In India, silver traded at Rs 1,62,000 per kg on October 22.

Despite recent corrections, structural demand for silver remains strong, driven by industrial uses such as solar panel manufacturing, which continues to outpace mining and recycling supply.

India Emerging as Global Hub for Services Exports: NSE



India is rapidly establishing itself as a global hub for services exports, outpacing the growth of goods exports, according to the

National Stock Exchange (NSE). NSE chief economist Tirthankar Patnaik said, "India will be to services what China has been

to manufacturing," highlighting the country's transformation in the global economic landscape. The NSE reported

that India's services exports have been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.8%, significantly higher than the 9.8%

CAGR observed in goods exports. This robust expansion is attributed to several factors, including structural reforms, digital innovation, and demographic advantages that position India favorably in the global services market.

The services sector, which includes IT and software services, finance, telecommunications, and professional services, has become a key driver of India's economic growth. Investments in technology, skill development, and infrastructure have accelerated the sector's ability to compete on a global scale. Additionally, India's young and dynamic workforce provides a demographic edge that fuels the expanding services industry. The NSE also pointed out that policy reforms aimed at easing business regulations and boosting digital in-

frastructure have created a conducive environment for growth. These reforms have enhanced efficiency and enabled Indian service providers to tap into international markets more effectively.

This rise in services exports is transforming India's economic profile, reducing dependence on manufacturing and goods exports, and contributing to higher foreign exchange earnings. It also reflects the global shift toward a knowledge and technology-driven economy, where services play a pivotal role.

As India continues to capitalize on these strengths, experts believe it will solidify its position as a global leader in services exports, further integrating into the global value chain and contributing to sustainable economic development.

Net FDI Plunges 159% in August 2025 as Outflows Exceed Inflows



India's net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plunged 159% in August 2025, with more capital leaving the country than entering, marking a rare instance of negative net FDI, according to official data. This is only the second time in the current financial year that outflows have surpassed inflows.

Gross FDI into India during August stood at \$6,049 million, which is 30.6% lower than August 2024 and a significant 45.5% drop compared to July 2025. The sharp decline signals a temporary slowdown in foreign investment interest or increased repatriation of funds by foreign investors.

Despite the disappointing figures for August, the broader picture remains positive. Over the five-month period from April to August 2025, net FDI rose by more than 121% compared to the same period last year, indicating robust inflows earlier in the year helped offset the recent dip. Experts suggest the August

outflows could be linked to global economic uncertainties, portfolio rebalancing by multinational companies, or sector-specific challenges within India. However, sustained government reforms and easing regulatory frameworks continue to attract foreign investors over the longer term.

The decline in net FDI during August is likely to raise concerns for policymakers who are keen to maintain India's position as a top destination for foreign investment. The government has recently emphasized initiatives to boost manufacturing, digital infrastructure, and ease of doing business to sustain and grow foreign capital inflows.

As the economic landscape evolves globally, the coming months will be critical for India to stabilize FDI flows and ensure continued confidence among foreign investors. Market watchers will closely monitor upcoming data to assess whether August's net outflow is an isolated incident

Stock Markets Closed for Bali Pratipada; Trading Resumes October 23



Indian stock markets remained closed on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in observance of the Bali Pratipada festival, according to the official National Stock Exchange (NSE) holiday calendar. Trading activities will resume on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

The day prior, on Tuesday, October 21, the benchmark indices closed marginally higher during the special Muhurat trading session, which is conducted annually to mark the auspicious occasion of Diwali. The Muhurat session saw cautious but positive investor sentiment as participants welcomed the festive season.

Bali Pratipada is a significant Hindu festival that celebrates the legendary victory of Lord Vishnu's Vamana avatar over the mighty yet righteous demon king Bali. The festival is symbolic of humility, devotion, and the restoration of cosmic balance. Traditionally, it is regarded as an auspicious day for new beginnings, prosperity, and success, often

marked by rituals and prayers across many parts of India.

The closure of the stock markets for the festival is part of the broader tradition of observing major cultural and religious events in India, reflecting the country's respect for its diverse heritage.

Investors are expected to resume trading with fresh enthusiasm on October 23, following the mid-week break. Market participants will be closely watching for movements in global cues and domestic developments as the festive momentum continues through the week.

As the markets reopen, analysts anticipate a return to regular trading patterns with potential volatility driven by global economic factors and corporate earnings announcements scheduled later in the week.

For now, investors and traders observe the festive pause, marking a moment of cultural significance amidst the fast-paced world of finance.

Modern Problems Require Modern Solutions



Bengaluru's crumbling roads have long been a sore spot for its residents, but a recent incident near KR Road has pushed the frustration to new heights — or depths. A pothole nearly half a foot deep was spotted covered by an old couch, reportedly placed there by local shopkeepers as a warning for drivers and two-wheelers.

The unusual workaround gained attention after a photo of the scene was shared on Reddit. The uploader explained that despite the pothole being a hazard large enough to trap a scooter wheel, civic authorities had done little beyond placing traffic cones and barricades.

"The shopkeepers didn't complain or attempt to fix it, they just placed a couch there," the user wrote, noting how pedestrians and drivers merely avoid the pothole instead of addressing the larger issue. The Redditor also mentioned filing a complaint through the Namma Bengaluru (Sahaya) app, but said no response was received from civic authorities.

The image has since gone viral and reignited public anger over BBMP's (now GBA's) inaction. "I honestly don't expect anything from the authorities," the Reddit user added. "Unless people force change, things will remain the same for another decade."

This pothole protest comes amid increasing scrutiny of Bengaluru's urban infrastructure. Recent comments from top entrepreneurs like Rajan Anandan and Aadit Palicha highlight growing concern about the city's traffic congestion and road conditions, while civic issues have sparked political debates between BJP and Congress leaders.

While the couch-covered pothole may have served as a creative — albeit desperate — safety measure, it also symbolizes the city's deeper problem: citizens losing faith in civic accountability and choosing to improvise rather than wait for official action.

What Should Disappear From Earth?



In a thread that quickly turned hilarious and insightful, a Reddit user recently asked: "Delete one thing from Earth that you think would make it better?" What followed was a mix of clever, quirky, and unexpectedly deep responses that reflected the internet's creativity and collective frustrations.

Among the most viral responses was one user suggesting "UV rays because sunscreens are oily," blending humour with a common skincare complaint. Another top comment simply read: "My browsing history", drawing laughs and thousands of upvotes.

Others were slightly more practical but still amusing, such as "tobacco stains", "occasional cold that brings immense throat pain", and even "alarm clocks". One user mused, "Mosquitoes. No one would miss them."

However, the conversation also took a more philosophical turn. One Redditor stated:

"Greed—the root of all problems." Another added: "Remove the concept of politics," though that sparked a debate, with one reply noting, "Politics isn't inherently bad. It's how people use it."

The post spurred hundreds of responses within hours, ranging from light-hearted irritants like pop-up ads and spam emails to global issues such as poverty, corruption, and pollution.

Many agreed that removing even one small annoyance could drastically improve daily life, while some believed only deeper systemic changes could bring true transformation.

As the thread grew, it became a mix of meme-worthy answers and real reflections — a rare internet moment where entertainment met empathy.

One thing is clear: from UV rays to rude drivers, the world might be a little better with a "delete" button — if only it existed.

Smart Bed Worth 1.75 Lakh Malfunctions , Users Face Sleepless Night

Owners of the high-end Eight Sleep "Pod" smart beds, priced around 1.75 lakh (\$2,000), were left frustrated after a global Amazon Web Services (AWS) outage caused widespread malfunctions late Monday night.

The Pod beds, known for their automated temperature control and adjustable settings, suddenly overheated and froze in fixed positions, leaving users stuck and sleep-deprived. The issue was traced to a disruption in AWS's US-EAST-1 region, which began around 3 a.m. ET. The beds rely on AWS servers to function via app-based controls.

By morning, Downdetector had recorded over eight million outage reports globally, affecting not just smart home devices but also apps, gaming platforms, and banking services.

Several users took to Reddit and X (formerly



Twitter) to share their ordeal. Some reported intense heating issues, while others were unable to adjust their beds, leading to discomfort and panic during sleep. Eight Sleep's CEO Matteo Franceschetti issued a public apology on X: "The AWS outage has

impacted some of our users since last night, disrupting their sleep. That is not the experience we want to provide, and I want to apologize for it."

Franceschetti added that the company would work round-the-clock to ensure such issues don't happen again. He revealed that developers were building an "outage-proof mode" that would allow the bed to operate independently of AWS during similar incidents.

While some services have been restored, Franceschetti noted that data processing delays may persist, and full functionality would return as AWS stabilizes.

For now, frustrated users are demanding a "real solution" — with many questioning the reliability of smart home devices that rely entirely on cloud services for basic operations.

How Do Engineers Keep The Water Out While Building Bridges On Rivers?

Ever wondered how massive bridge foundations are laid in deep, fast-flowing rivers? Unlike land construction, building in water poses serious challenges, including strong currents, limited visibility, and high risk for workers. To overcome this, engineers use a remarkable technique called a cofferdam — a temporary watertight structure that makes underwater construction possible in dry conditions.

A cofferdam is essentially an enclosed area built within the river using interlocking steel sheet piles, typically 10 to 20 metres long. These sheets are hammered deep into the riverbed using hydraulic or vibratory hammers, forming a sealed circle or rectangle that blocks water from entering. Once sealed, powerful pumps remove the water from the inside, creating a dry workspace.

This method was used in major Indian infrastructure projects like the Thane Creek Bridge, where engineers noted that vibrations from the pile-driving process even scared off nearby fish.



Before construction begins, a thorough survey of the riverbed is conducted to measure depth, soil stability, and current speed. These details determine how deep the foundation needs to be and how many support pillars are required.

Once water is pumped out and the space is dry, workers can safely descend into the cofferdam — often via ladders or crane platforms — to begin laying the bridge foundation. Strict safety measures are in place, with helmets and life jackets mandatory on site.

Despite its temporary nature, a cofferdam plays a critical role in ensuring bridge stability and safety. Once the foundation work is complete, the structure is dismantled, and water is gradually reintroduced to the area.

This ingenious engineering solution allows for massive construction projects to succeed — even in the middle of a river.

Viral Metro Art Mistaken for Madhubani Is Actually Warli, Confirms AI



A viral image showing a metro coach covered in stunning traditional artwork had the internet buzzing, with many believing it was part of Patna Metro's initiative to celebrate Madhubani art. The vibrant patterns and cultural designs led social media users to praise the effort — but it turns out, the art isn't Madhubani at all.

As appreciation poured in, eagle-eyed users began questioning the authenticity of the claim. "This doesn't look like Madhubani," one user wrote. Another chimed in, "Looks more like Warli art to me." The confusion prompted a fact-check from an unusual but modern source — Grok, the AI

chatbot from X (formerly Twitter).

When asked to identify the art form, Grok responded clearly: "That's Warli art. Those geometric stick figures and tribal motifs are classic Warli style from Maharashtra — fits the Pune Metro hint perfectly."

The revelation shifted the narrative. Not only was the artwork not Madhubani, it also wasn't from Patna Metro. It was actually a Pune Metro coach, decorated in Warli art, a tribal style native to Maharashtra known for its simple stick figures and depictions of rural life.

Despite the confusion, the viral post highlighted public appreciation for India's diverse folk art traditions. While one user joked, "At least it's not the floor — or it would be covered in pan masala stains," others celebrated the creative fusion of culture and urban transit.

The mix-up sparked debate but also showcased how India's artistic heritage continues to thrive, even on modern platforms like metro coaches — whether it's Madhubani in Bihar or Warli in Maharashtra.

Mbappé’s Four-Goal Show Headlines Wild Champions League Night

The Champions League delivered one of its most electrifying nights of the season on November 26, 2025, with established superstars and rising teenagers lighting up Europe’s biggest stage. Leading the charge was Real Madrid talisman Kylian Mbappé, who produced a sensational four-goal performance against Olympiakos, including the second-fastest hat-trick in Champions League history. His explosive display reminded fans that even as young talents rise, the established elite remain unstoppable forces.

Elsewhere, Arsenal delivered a powerful statement by dethroning Bayern Munich from the top of their group with a commanding 3-1 victory. Showcasing high pressing, fluid attacking play and clinical finishing, the Gunners outclassed the German champions to seize control of the standings. The result marks another strong step in Arsenal’s European resurgence.

In Paris, defending champions Paris Saint-Germain stormed to a thrilling 5-3 win over Tottenham Hot-



spur. Midfielder Vitinha stole the spotlight with a remarkable hat-trick, underlining his evolution into one of Europe’s most dynamic performers. PSG’s relentless attacking approach overwhelmed Spurs despite a spirited effort from the Premier League side. Liverpool’s struggles at

Anfield continued as they slumped to a disappointing 4-1 defeat to PSV Eindhoven. Defensive lapses and a lack of finishing touch cost the home side dearly, while PSV capitalized on every opening to secure a memorable away victory. The result deepens Liverpool’s woes and places their qualifica-

tion hopes under further scrutiny.

The night also saw several teenage talents making significant impacts across fixtures, highlighting the next generation’s readiness to take center stage. Yet, amid the rising stars, it was Mbappé’s masterclass that defined the evening—an em-

phatic reminder of his unmatched ability to dominate Europe’s biggest stage.

With knockout stages approaching, the Champions League continues to produce drama, goals and unforgettable moments, setting up an exciting round ahead for fans worldwide.

Unnati Hooda, Srikanth & Prannoy Lead India’s at Syed Modi International



India enjoyed a commanding opening day at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament in Lucknow,

with top seed Unnati Hooda and senior shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy cruising into the second

round on Wednesday. The trio delivered confident performances, signaling a strong campaign ahead for

the home contingent.

Unnati Hooda, the top seed in women’s singles, began her run with a solid 21-13, 21-18 victory over compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap. Former champion Kidambi Srikanth followed suit, producing a fluent display to defeat Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10. Later in the day, HS Prannoy — the 2023 World Championships bronze medallist — eased past Shashwat Dalal to set up an all-Indian second-round clash against Manraj Singh.

The opening round saw several Indian shuttlers advance across categories. In men’s singles, Mithun Manjunath narrowly overcame Dmitriy Panarin 21-18, 12-21, 21-10, while sixth seed Tharun Manneppalli dominated Sathish Karunakaran 21-7, 21-9. Kiran George also progressed with a 21-17, 21-9 win over Israel’s Daniil Dubovenko and will next face Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong.

Among the promising young women’s singles com-

petitors, seventh seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj registered a comfortable 21-12, 21-14 win against Shreya Lele. Tasnim Mir battled hard to defeat Aditi Bhatt 21-15, 11-21, 21-17, while world junior silver medallist Tanvi Sharma ousted Ashmita Chaliha 21-15, 21-19.

Priyanshu Rajawat made a strong return after a five-month injury break, beating Meiraba Luwang Maisnam 21-18, 21-14. He will face fellow Indian BM Rahul Bharadwaj, who edged out Tarun Reddy Katam 18-21, 21-16, 23-21.

India also picked up key wins in mixed and women’s doubles. Juniors C. Lalram-sanga and Taarini Suri defeated Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo 25-23, 21-14, while sisters Gayatri and Mansa Rawat clinched a 21-11, 21-18 win.

Top seeds Teh (Singapore) and the duo Terry Hee-Jin Yujia advanced smoothly, setting up an exciting Round of 16 ahead.

Kumble Calls for ‘New Mindset’ After India’s 0-2 Test Whitewash

Former India captain and legendary spinner Anil Kumble has voiced strong disappointment after India’s 0-2 Test series defeat to South Africa, their first home loss to the Proteas in 25 years. Calling the performance a “complete surrender”, Kumble stressed that India must rethink their approach to Test cricket if they hope to remain competitive in the World Test Championship cycle.

India suffered a massive 408-run defeat in Guwahati, sealing a 2-0 whitewash. Exceptional performances from Simon Harmer and Marco Jansen ensured South Africa’s first Test series win in India since 2000. This setback comes on the back of last year’s 0-3 loss to New Zealand, placing India’s WTC final hopes under serious threat.

Speaking on Cricket Live, Kumble said the issues run deeper than just the results. He criticised India’s tendency to “constantly change the playing XI, shuffle batting orders, and rotate players”, which he believes has prevented the team from building stability. He added that with India’s next Test only



in August 2026, team management has time for “deep reflection” and long-term planning.

Kumble highlighted the vacuum created by the retirements of stalwarts like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin. He cautioned against filling the

squad with too many youngsters at once, emphasising the need for a strong core of experienced players to guide new talent. “A structured vision and clear planning are essential,” he said.

Despite brief resistance — particularly a 74-run stand between Washington

Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav and a fighting half-century from Ravindra Jadeja — India failed to counter South Africa’s dominant bowling. Harmer claimed 6/37 in the final innings and finished with 17 wickets in the series, earning Player of the Series honours. Jansen,

who scored 93 and took seven wickets in the match, was named Player of the Match.

India now face a long gap before their next Test assignment, giving them a crucial window to reassess strategy and rebuild confidence.

Gimenez’s Last-Minute Header Gives Atletico Dramatic Win Over Inter



Atletico Madrid snatched a dramatic 2-1 victory over Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday, thanks to a stoppage-time winner from Jose Gimenez. The late goal handed Inter their first defeat of the competition and delivered a crucial boost to Atletico’s hopes of finishing in the top eight of the league phase.

The night began brightly for Diego Simeone’s side as Julian Alvarez opened the scoring early in the first half. The Argentine forward capitalised on a favourable deflection and drilled the ball home from close range. Although the goal was initially ruled out for a suspected handball by Alex Baena, VAR overturned the decision, confirming the ball had struck his stomach. The strike marked Alvarez’s 10th goal of the season, underlining his growing influence for the Rojiblancos.

Inter, missing key players Denzel Dumfries and Henrikh Mkhitaryan, responded strongly. Federico Dimarco repeatedly threatened, while Nicolo Barella came agonisingly close early in the second half when his lofted effort struck the crossbar. Their persistence paid off in the 54th minute when Ange-

Yao Bonny set up Piotr Zielinski, who calmly swept home the equaliser.

Despite the leveller, Atletico grew stronger in the closing stages. Substitute Marc Pubill and Antoine Griezmann both tested Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer as Simeone urged his side forward. The decisive moment arrived in the third minute of stoppage time when Antoine Griezmann delivered a perfect corner and Jose Gimenez powered a header past Sommer, sending the Metropolitano into celebration.

The Uruguayan defender dedicated the goal to his family and supporters, calling it a moment that restored belief within the squad. The victory lifts Atletico to 12th place, while Inter — now fourth — face a challenging run-in with fixtures against Liverpool, Arsenal and Borussia Dortmund.

Inter coach Cristian Chivu admitted the result was painful, noting his side “came to do much more” but lacked composure in key moments. Meanwhile, Atletico turn their focus to upcoming matches against PSV, Galatasaray and Bodo/Glimt as their hopes of a top finish remain alive.

Champions League Teenager Estevao stars in Chelsea’s 3-0 win over Barcelona



Chelsea teenager Estevao stole the show as the London club secured a commanding 3-0 victory over Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday. The 18-year-old scored a brilliant individual goal, while Barcelona struggled with defensive errors, including an own goal and a red card, compounding their woes.

In another surprising result, Manchester City suffered a 2-0 defeat to Bayer Leverkusen in Pep Guardiola’s 100th Champions League game as City manager. The Premier League leaders struggled to deal with Leverkusen’s rapid counterattacks, leaving City unable to find their rhythm and marking a disappointing night for Guardiola’s side.

Chelsea’s win highlighted the impact of youth and individual brilliance. Estevao’s goal came after a series of slick passes and intelligent movement, demonstrating his rising potential on the European stage. Barcelona, meanwhile, were unable to recover from the early setbacks, and their defensive lapses proved costly throughout the

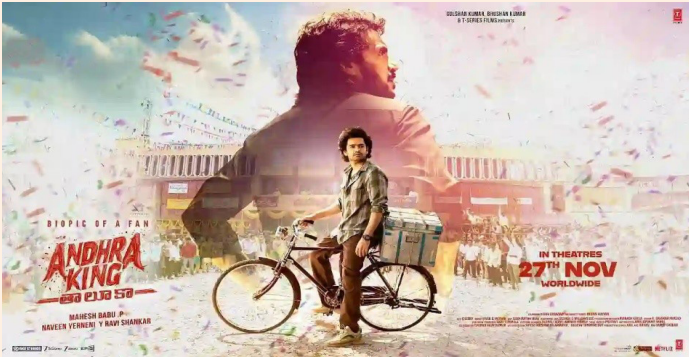
match.

For City, Leverkusen’s disciplined play and swift transitions exposed vulnerabilities in Guardiola’s normally solid side. Despite City’s possession dominance, they were unable to convert chances or handle the German side’s high-pressure attacks.

Tuesday’s results have added fresh twists to the Champions League group standings, with Chelsea now asserting themselves as strong contenders, while Barcelona and City face uphill battles to advance. The night underscored football’s unpredictability, where youthful talent and tactical discipline can overturn expectations, leaving even the biggest clubs vulnerable on Europe’s grandest stage.

Chelsea and City fans will now look ahead to upcoming fixtures with contrasting emotions: elation in London and reflection in Manchester. Meanwhile, Estevao’s performance has already sparked excitement among fans and pundits, heralding the arrival of a new star in European football.

Andhra King Taluka – Ram impresses in a heartfelt story



Andhra King Taluka, starring Ram Pothineni and Kannada icon Upendra, hit theatres on November 27, 2025, carrying strong pre-release buzz driven by hit songs, an impactful trailer and aggressive promotions. Directed by Mahesh Babu P and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar, the film explores the emotional bond between a fan and his favourite star, set against the backdrop of early 2000s Andhra Pradesh.

The story unfolds in 2002, where Surya (Upendra), a celebrated actor known as the “Andhra King,” begins shooting his 100th film after a string of flops. When the project stalls due to financial issues, an unexpected deposit of Rs. 3 crore revives the production. Surya discovers the contribution came from Sagar (Ram Pothineni), a devoted fan from the remote village of Godapalli Lanka. The film gradually reveals Sagar’s deep admiration for Surya, the struggles of his underdeveloped village and how their lives intersect through destiny. Bhagyashri Borse, as Mahalaxmi, adds charm to the narrative with a

neatly captured romantic track.

Ram delivers a controlled and emotionally strong performance, portraying Sagar with sincerity and grounded energy. Upendra leaves a dignified impression despite limited screen time. Supporting actors Murali Sharma, Rao Ramesh and Rahul Ramakrishna enhance key moments, particularly in the emotionally resonant pre-climax and climax. Rao Ramesh’s Ramayanam analogy stands out, adding thematic depth.

While the film has a heartfelt core, pacing issues hinder its overall impact. The runtime feels stretched, especially post-interval, and several scenes dilute the emotional intensity. However, strong cinematography by Siddhartha Nuni, music by Vivek–Mervin and well-crafted production design successfully recreate the early 2000s ambience.

Overall, Andhra King Taluka offers a sincere and engaging experience, appealing especially to cinephiles and fans of emotional storytelling, despite its uneven pacing.

Stranger Things 5’ Premieres on OTT in Three-Part Finale



The wait is finally over for fans of Netflix’s global phenomenon Stranger Things. After nearly three years, the highly anticipated final season—Stranger Things 5—has officially arrived on OTT, marking the beginning of the end for one of the most beloved sci-fi dramas of the decade. The series, which has captivated millions with its blend of supernatural thrills, emotional storytelling and nostalgic 80s charm, is concluding with an epic multi-part release schedule.

Netflix has divided the final season into three parts, offering viewers a slow-burn finale filled with rising tension and emotional depth. Volume 1, consisting of the first four episodes, is now streaming from November 27, 2025. Volume 2, featuring the next three episodes, will arrive on December 26, making it a Christmas treat for global fans. The grand finale—the eighth and final episode—will be released on January 1, 2026, giving viewers a dramatic start to

the New Year.

The season is available in over 25 languages, including Telugu, Hindi and Tamil, ensuring that Indian audiences can join the excitement along with fans worldwide. The story continues from the harrowing events of Season 4, with the children of Hawkins preparing for a final confrontation against Vecna, whose dark influence has left the town in turmoil. With the stakes higher than ever, Season 5 promises intense suspense, gripping sci-fi elements and emotional payoffs that long-time viewers have been waiting for.

Netflix has teased that this concluding chapter will be “bigger, darker and deeply emotional,” signalling an unforgettable farewell to the characters who have become cultural icons. As Stranger Things enters its grand finale, fans across the world are gearing up for a thrilling and nostalgic final ride through the world of Hawkins.

Anupama Stuns in Intense Trailer of ‘Lockdown’



Actress Anupama Parameswaran, who has recently been choosing strong, performance-driven roles over conventional glamour-oriented characters, is back with another powerful portrayal in her upcoming film Lockdown. Directed by AR Jeeva and produced by Lyca Productions, the film’s theatrical trailer was unveiled today, immediately catching attention for its emotional depth and gripping tone. The film is scheduled for a worldwide release on December 5.

Following impressive performances in Parah and Bison, Anupama steps into the character of Anita, a woman battling emotional and psychological turmoil during the COVID-19 lockdown. The trailer opens with Anita stating that she does not want to go home, hinting at a deep conflict that she is unable to face. The narrative then shifts to the unsettling atmosphere of the pandemic era, showcasing the chal-

lenges faced by individuals confined within their circumstances. As the trailer progresses, Anita’s life spirals into chaos. She is seen borrowing money, being chased by un-

known men and facing violence at home, all of which point to a major conflict that remains deliberately concealed in the promotional cut. This mystery surrounding her core struggle adds a layer of intrigue, setting the stage for a tense and compelling drama.

Anupama’s intense performance stands out as the emotional anchor of the trailer. Her expressions, body language and vulnerability contribute significantly to the film’s gripping atmosphere. The background score by NR Raghunathan and Siddharth Vipin heightens the tension and enhances the trailer’s overall impact.

With its realistic portrayal of lockdown hardships and a central character pushed to her limits, Lockdown promises to be a serious, hard-hitting drama. If the trailer is any indication, the film could serve as another strong milestone in Anupama Parameswaran’s evolving career as a versatile performer.

Suriya’s ‘Karuppu’ Reportedly Seals Record OTT & Satellite Deal



Suriya’s much-awaited rural action drama Karuppu, directed by RJ Balaji, continues to generate strong buzz as fans eagerly await an official release date. Although the makers have not yet made a formal announcement, industry circles widely speculate that the film is being planned for a grand theatrical release on January 23, 2026. The date is being considered ideal, given the festive season and the massive anticipation surrounding Suriya’s return in a raw, rural avatar.

Adding to the excitement, reports suggest that Karuppu has secured an impressive post-theatrical deal. According to industry insiders, Netflix has reportedly acquired the film’s OTT streaming

rights, while ZEE Tamil is said to have bagged the satellite rights. Though the production house has not confirmed these details, the buzz indicates that the combined deal has fetched a record price, reflecting the strong market confidence in Suriya’s box-office pull and the film’s commercial potential.

Karuppu also marks a notable reunion, bringing Trisha and Suriya together on screen after several years. Their pairing, which has delivered memorable hits in the past, has heightened expectations for the film. The supporting cast includes Indrans, Yogi Babu, Swasika and several others, each playing key roles that are expected to enrich the narrative with emotional depth and humour.

Produced by Dream Warrior Pictures, the film is said to blend gritty action with strong rural flavour—an area where Suriya has excelled in earlier performances. Music director Sai Abhyankkar has been roped in to compose the soundtrack, and early insiders hint that the album will feature folk-infused mass numbers aligned with the film’s earthy tone.

With anticipation steadily building, fans are now looking forward to an official announcement from the team regarding the release date and confirmation of the OTT and satellite deals. If early reports hold true, Karuppu could emerge as one of the biggest Tamil cinema releases of 2026.

Jaya Krishna’s Debut Film Titled ‘Srinivasa Mangapuram’



Debutant Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of Superstar Krishna and nephew of Mahesh Babu, is set to make his Tollywood entry with director Ajay Bhupathi’s upcoming film, now officially titled Srinivasa Mangapuram. The makers revealed a powerful pre-look poster on Thursday, generating strong interest among audiences and fans of the Ghattamaneni legacy. The film is presented by veteran producer Ashwini Dutt and produced by P. Kiran under the Chandamama Kathalu banner.

Ajay Bhupathi, known for his intense and emotionally layered films RX 100 and Mangalavaram, directs this project as his fourth venture, popularly referred to as AB4. The film also marks the Tollywood debut of Rasha Thadani, daughter of Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon, who plays the female lead opposite Jaya Krishna.

The newly released pre-look poster offers an intriguing glimpse into the film’s tone. It showcases the entwined hands of the lead pair—Jaya Krishna’s hand, visibly injured and clutch-

ing a rustic gun, held firmly by Rasha Thadani’s supporting hand. The backdrop featuring the iconic Tirumala Temple and the Seshachalam Hills hints at a narrative steeped in devotion, conflict and emotional intensity, raising curiosity about the film’s central theme.

Jaya Krishna has reportedly undergone extensive training and preparation for his role and is currently shooting for the film. Rasha Thadani, stepping into Telugu cinema with a significant role, is expected to bring fresh screen presence to the project.

For Ashwini Dutt, Srinivasa Mangapuram marks another milestone in his long association with the Ghattamaneni family. After backing Agni Parvatham with Superstar Krishna and launching Mahesh Babu in Rajakumarudu, he now introduces the third generation of the family in collaboration with Ajay Bhupathi.

Music for the film is composed by GV Prakash Kumar. Details about the supporting cast, technical crew and the first-look poster will be revealed in the coming days as anticipation continues to build.