

# SIT Expands Probe in TTD Adulterated Ghee Case; 11 More Named as Accused

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Tirumala: The investigation into the adulterated ghee case that rocked the Tirumala Tirupati Devas thanams (TTD) has gathered momentum, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) operating under the leadership of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) significantly expanding its probe. The SIT, which had earlier named multiple suspects connected to the procurement of substandard ghee used in temple offerings, has now filed a fresh memo in the Nellore ACB Court adding 11 new individuals to the list of accused. According to official sources, the SIT initially registered cases against 15 individuals, later adding another 9 to the list.

With the inclusion of these 11 new names, the total number of accused has now reached 35. Among the latest additions, seven are reported to be employees of the TTD who served in key roles within the procurement



department between 2019 and 2024. Investigators have identified former TTD General Managers Jagadishwar Reddy and Muralikrishna, as well as former SV Gosala Director Harinath Reddy, among those newly charged. These officials allegedly played pivotal roles during the purchase and quality verification of the ghee provided to the temples for use in sacred offerings such as laddus and other prasadam.

The SIT findings suggest that several batches of ghee supplied during the period were of substandard quality and possibly adulterated, raising serious concerns about procurement practices within TTD's key supply chain. Preliminary reports indicate potential collusion between certain TTD officials and private suppliers, leading to financial irregularities and compromise in the quality of materials used for temple preparations.

The CBI-led SIT is also coordinating with forensic laboratories to analyze samples seized from the ghee consignments

Out of the total 35 accused, 10 have so far been arrested. Officials said that further arrests are likely as the SIT continues to scrutinize purchase records, supplier contracts, and quality control documentation to establish the extent of malpractice and accountability.

used during the period in question. Investigative authorities have confirmed that departmental disciplinary proceedings may follow against TTD staff found guilty of negligence or corruption.

The scandal has drawn widespread attention across the state, prompting devotees and political leaders to demand stringent action and a transparent cleansing of the procurement system within the revered temple administration.



## Deputy Chief Minister Receives Warm Welcome at Airport; District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad Leads Reception

TPN Bureau | November 29

TPN/VIJAYAWADA

The coalition government is consistently working to uphold the self-respect and dignity of Backward Classes (BCs), stated S Savitha, Minister for BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles. She said that the government has issued orders to address members of the Domma ra community as "Dora Vamsha," a term of respect and dignity. Members of the community met the minister at her camp office in Tadepalli and expressed their gratitude for the government's decision.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Savitha said that under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the coalition government is implementing welfare schemes while also prioritizing the social dignity of BC communities. She highlighted that the government has officially celebrated the Valmiki, Vadde Obanna and Sardar Gouthu Lachanna jayantis as state festivals. Additionally, the state has declared Bhakta Kanakadasa Jayanti as a permanent state festival. She added that the government is investing significantly in the construction of BC Bhavans and is taking steps to build community buildings for all castes in Amaravati.

For the first time in unified Andhra Pradesh as well as the reorganized state, the current budget has allocated over 47,000 crore for BC welfare, the minister noted. The government is also preparing to launch the Adarana 3.0 scheme soon, designed to provide modern equipment and financial support to traditional BC occupational groups. She stated that both Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh are giving high priority to the education of BC students.

As part of these efforts, the second phase of free civil services coaching for BC aspirants will begin on December 14. Minister Savitha said the government is committed to promoting all-round development of BCs.

Earlier, representatives of the Dora Vamsha (Dommara) community shared their experiences, recalling how derogatory references to their caste caused them deep distress. They said they had brought this issue to the attention of the Chief Minister and Minister Lokesh during the election campaign. Fulfilling their assurance, the government has now issued a respectful designation through the new GO, they said, expressing their appreciation.

According to official sources, the Deputy Chief Minister's visit aimed to review district-level progress under key welfare schemes initiated by the state government. During his stay, the leader is expected to hold a series of meetings with district officials to evaluate the implementation of public welfare programs, including housing for the poor, education and health initiatives, and rural infrastructure development. A large number of local representatives, including MLAs, Zilla Parishad members, and municipal leaders, were present to receive the Deputy Chief Minister.

Following his arrival, the Deputy Chief Minister is expected to visit several ongoing project sites, including a major housing colony, irrigation works, and a model school inaugurated under state education reforms. Later in the day, he will chair a review session at the District Collectorate to assess progress in flagship development programs and address any pending administrative issues.

The visit is viewed as a significant step in reinforcing the state government's commitment to decentralization and effective district-level governance. Officials stated that detailed progress reports and future action plans would be submitted to the Deputy Chief Minister before his departure on Sunday.

Traditional drum ensembles and cultural performances added to the festive atmosphere, showcasing strong community participation in the welcome program. Speaking briefly to the media, Collector Harendhira Prasad said that all necessary arrangements had been made for the Deputy Chief Minister's visit, including coordination meetings with de-

## Widespread Outrage Over Viral Dance Videos of YSRCP Legal Cell Member Venkateswara Sharma



TPN Bureau | November 29

Maravati, Pata manta: Dance videos of YSR Congress Party Legal Cell member Venkateswara Sharma have gone viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism and police attention. Inspired by a song from the movie Animal that featured Bollywood actor Bobby Deol's famous "glass-on-head" dance, Sharma recreated the act with a twist: he placed bundles of 500-rupee notes on his head and danced energetically in a hotel room.

The spectacle didn't stop there. Additional clips surfaced showing him lying on a hotel bed, covered with stacks of currency notes, and twisting his body to the music. These scenes rapidly spread online, drawing sharp reactions from netizens and opposition sympathizers who described his behavior as highly inappropriate for a person associated with a ruling party's legal wing.

Allegations of Corruption and Misconduct The viral videos have reignited old allegations against Sharma, who is known to have used his political and legal connections to threaten others during the YSRCP's five-year governance. Reports suggest he amassed large sums of money through unlawful activities. Several youths from Pithapuram in Kakinada district claimed that Sharma collected huge amounts from them with the promise of securing jobs in the state secretariat.

Police Investigation Underway

The controversy deepened when a woman lodged a complaint with Machavaram police in Vijayawada, accusing Sharma of inappropriate and obscene behavior during a legal consultation. Acting on her statement, police registered a case on Thursday.

Officials confirmed that they are now examining the viral videos and investigating multiple allegations linked to his activities. Authorities are yet to issue a formal statement on potential disciplinary or legal action.

## 'iBomma' stands for 'Internet Bomma', says accused Ravi during police interrogation

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Hyderabad: The ongoing investigation into the infamous movie piracy website iBomma has taken an interesting turn with new revelations made by the main accused, Ravi, during his custodial interrogation. According to the police, Ravi confessed that the website's name "iBomma" was derived from the phrase "Internet Bomma," reflecting its link to digital film sharing. During questioning, Ravi explained that the term "bomma," meaning "movie" in colloquial Telugu, inspired the website's identity.

"We used to refer to a film as a bomma in Visakhapatnam," he told investigators, indicating that the platform's name had cultural roots in regional slang. Ravi also revealed that they initially considered launching another website named "Balpam," but due to a technical issue with the domain registration, the letter "L" was dropped, resulting in the name "Bappam." Police sources said that Ravi has been in custody for two rounds of interrogation, with the latest three-day remand concluding on Saturday.

During this second phase of questioning, investigating officers are said to have gathered crucial details about the network's technical setup and its methods of distribution. Police officials stated that Ravi provided specific information on the use of advanced piracy technologies that helped the syndicate evade detection for years.

Ravi reportedly admitted that he had not recorded or directly copied any films himself but had sourced digital copies of the latest movies from Telegram channels. These films were later uploaded to the iBomma platform, through which pirated versions reached audiences across India and abroad. The accused further explained that multiple backup domains were maintained to ensure uninterrupted access despite frequent government takedown efforts. Investigators suspect that Ravi and his associates operated with technical expertise in web hosting, encryption, and data redirection, allowing them to conceal their servers' locations.

They are likely to seek an extension of custody to question him further regarding offshore connections and cryptocurrency transactions linked to the iBomma network. The iBomma case has drawn national attention as a landmark example of organized digital piracy in India. The Andhra Pradesh Cyber Crime Wing, with assistance from central agencies, continues to dismantle the web of servers and mirror sites associated with the main platform.

Officials believe that the detailed testimony from Ravi may prove vital in tracing the entire chain of operation and bringing other key figures to justice.



## CS Vijayanand Gets Three-Month Service Extension; G Sai Prasad to Take Charge as New Chief Secretary from March 2026

TPN Bureau | November 29 Vijayawada | The Andhra Pradesh Government has extended the tenure of Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand by three months, allowing the senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer to continue in office until February 28, 2026. The extension paves the way for a smooth administrative transition before G. Sai Prasad, a 1991-batch IAS officer, formally takes charge as the new Chief Secretary from March 1, 2026. According to Government Order No. 2230 issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Saturday, the decision follows the Union Government's approval to extend the ser-

vice of Vijayanand, who was due to retire on November 30, 2025.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) cleared the state's proposal seeking his continuation, citing the need to maintain administrative stability during ongoing developmental and policy review activities. Vijayanand, a senior IAS officer belonging to the 1988 batch of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has held several key positions in the state government. Known for his meticulous administrative skills and policy oversight, he has been instrumental in ensuring coordination among various departments, particularly during a period of extensive govern-



ance reforms.

His extended term is expected to help the government carry forward crucial programs and projects without disruption. With the latest order, the state has also outlined its succession plan. G. Sai Prasad, currently serving as Special Chief Secretary for the Water Resources Department and also as Special Chief Secretary (Executive Officer) in the Chief Minister's Office, will take over as the next

Chief Secretary upon Vijayanand's retirement. Sai Prasad, one of the senior-most officers in the state bureaucracy, is widely regarded for his experience in the water resources sector and his contributions to strategic infrastructure development.

Senior officials suggest that the transition plan reflects the state government's emphasis on continuity and policy alignment in the top administrative leadership.

The period between December and February will see Vijayanand concluding major review meetings and ensuring a phased handover of key administrative responsibilities to his successor.

The latest appointment also indicates the government's preparedness to manage continuity in governance while ensuring a seamless leadership change at the highest bureaucratic level of the Andhra Pradesh administration.



## Cyclone Ditwah: AP Chief Secretary Directs Districts to Stay on High Alert; Fishermen Barred From Entering Sea Till Tuesday

TPN Bureau | November 29 Vijayawada | The Andhra Pradesh government has sounded a high alert across Rayalaseema and South Coastal districts as Cyclone Ditwah, brewing in the southwest Bay of Bengal, continues to intensify. The system is currently positioned near the Sri Lankan coast 220 km from Karaikal, 330 km from Puducherry and 430 km from Chennai moving northwest at a speed of 7 km per hour. According to the Indian Meteorological Centre, the cyclone is expected to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm by Sunday morning and head toward the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

As a precaution, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand conducted an emergency teleconference on Saturday with Collectors of Chittoor, Tirupati, Annamaya, Sri Sathya Sai, Nellore, Bapatla and Prakasam districts from the CS Camp Office in Vijayawada. He directed district administrations to adopt stringent measures to safeguard lives, particularly those of fishermen and farmers.

The CS ordered a complete ban on marine fishing till Tuesday, stressing that no fisherman should venture into the sea under any circumstances. Disaster Management Authority and RTGS teams have been instructed

to issue continuous SMS alerts to residents and farmers across vulnerable areas.

According to IMD forecasts, heavy rainfall is likely in Chittoor and Tirupati districts, while moderate to heavy rains may occur in Nellore, Kadapa and Annamaya. Light to moderate showers are expected across Bapatla, Palnadu, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

The CS instructed officials to ensure farmers protect their paddy stocks from moisture damage and to guide them in taking necessary precautionary steps. He also directed field officers to identify people living in dilapidated houses and shift them to safer locations if required. Advance arrangements for relief camps, power restoration teams and tree-clearing squads must be kept ready, he added.

Vijayanand cautioned the public to stay indoors during heavy rains and avoid being near trees, hoardings and weak structures during gusty winds.

Senior officials including Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) B. Rajasankar, Disaster Management MD Prakhar Jain, Civil Supplies MD Dilli Rao, IMD Amaravati Director Dr Stella, NDRF representatives and heads of utility departments participated in the review meeting.

## Home Minister Anita Reviews Preparedness at Disaster Management Office Amid Cyclone Ditwah Threat



TPN Bureau | November 29

TIRUPATI : In a significant Vijayawada: With Cyclone Ditwah intensifying over the southwest Bay of Bengal, Home and Disaster Management Minister Vanagapudi Anita conducted a high-level review meeting on Saturday at the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) office.

She directed officials to continuously monitor the cyclone's movement, assess its severity, and alert vulnerable districts in real time.

Officials briefed the Minister that heavy rainfall is likely on Sunday and the day after in Prakasam, Nellore, Sri Sathya Sai, Kadapa, Annamaya, Chittoor and Tirupati districts. Following the update, Min-

ister Anita held telephonic discussions with the collectors of these districts, instructing them to take up strong precautionary measures and ensure zero loss of life.

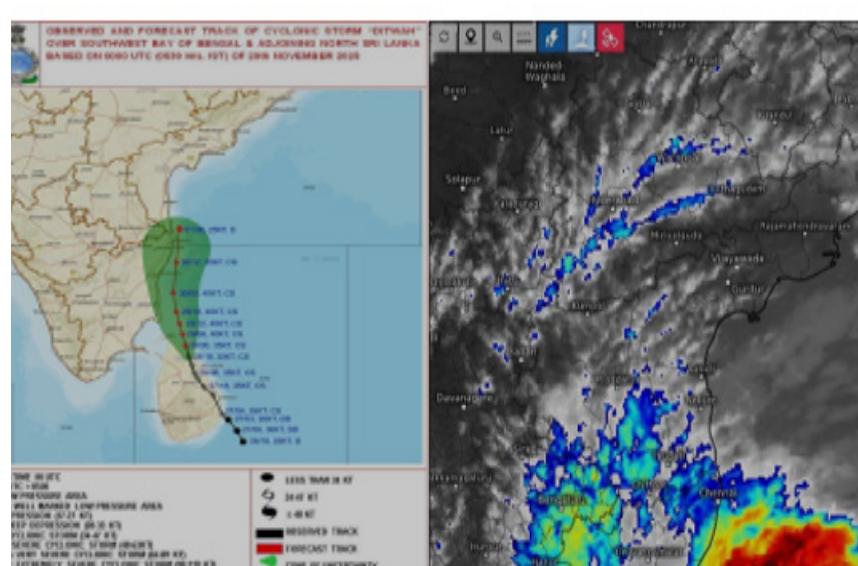
The Minister ordered the deployment of SDRF and NDRF teams to undertake rescue and relief operations wherever necessary. She stressed the need for timely communication of cyclone information to field-level officials and the public. All district administrations have been directed to maintain round-the-clock vigilance.

Anita instructed officials to operate control rooms 24/7 and publicize the toll-free numbers 112, 1070 and 1800-425-0101 for emergency assistance. She also di-

rected authorities to identify people living in dilapidated and unsafe houses and shift them to safe locations in advance. Preparations must be in place to move residents to relief camps if required.

The Minister further ordered immediate clearance of uprooted trees and restoration of power supply in case of outages. She appealed to the public to remain indoors and stay safe during periods of heavy rainfall. Farmers were advised to take adequate precautions during agricultural activities.

During strong winds, people should avoid staying near trees, hoardings and weak structures, the Minister cautioned, issuing key safety advisories to the public.



## Three-Member Committee Meets to Settle Amaravati Capital Region Farmers' Issues



TPN Bureau | November 29

Vijayawada: A key meeting of the three-member committee constituted to resolve the long-pending issues of farmers in the Amaravati Capital Region was held in Vijayawada on Saturday. The meeting, seen as a crucial step towards addressing farmer concerns under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS), brought together Union Minister Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhara, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr. P. Narayana, MLA Sravan Kumar, CRDA Commissioner Kanna Babu, Guntur District Collector Tameem Ansariya, and several farmer representatives from the region.

The committee reviewed a range of critical matters connected to land allotment and development, including the distribution and eligibility of Grama Kankam plots, the status of Veedhi Potu plots, classification of fertile and non-fertile lands, and disputes related to assigned lands. Officials and representatives discussed solutions to facilitate fair and transparent land distribution among the farmers who had contributed land for the state's capital city project.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Dr. Narayana noted that the committee would verify whether the beneficiaries allotted Grama Kankam plots received them according to the official guidelines. A detailed review was also conducted on the categorization of fertile and non-fertile lands to ensure proper classification and fair compensation. The minister assured that any irregularities found during the verification of plots affected by proposed road alignments would be rectified promptly.

On the issue of assigned lands, Dr. Narayana announced that the matter would be brought before the State Cabinet for a final decision.

He further stated that farmers who lose portions of their land due to road widening by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department would receive compensation through Transferable Development Rights.

## AP's Maternal Healthcare Model Recognized Internationally; Netherlands-Based Global Body Invites Presentation in Portugal



### International Confederation of Midwives

TPN Bureau | November 29

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh's maternal healthcare system has earned significant international recognition, with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) a Netherlands-based global organization inviting the State to present its best practices at an international forum in Lisbon, Portugal, scheduled from June 14 to 18, 2026.

Announcing this on Saturday, Dr. Veerapandian, Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Department, said the invitation is a testimony to the excellence of the State's maternal health initiatives. The ICM has selected Andhra Pradesh's Midwifery Training Programme as one of the world's best models for promoting natural birthing practices

among pregnant women.

The ICM had earlier called for global submissions on best practices in maternal healthcare. Andhra Pradesh responded three months ago by sending detailed documentation on its midwifery training programme and its outcomes. The organization reviewed 6,188 global submissions, following which it shortlisted the AP model as among the best.

The State Health Department, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Fernandez Foundation, has been running a structured midwifery programme for selected staff nurses. Several training centres have been set up, and the first batch has already completed training, while more nurses are currently undergoing the programme.

Experts provide comprehensive training on exercises required before delivery, counseling methods, procedures to follow during labour and evidence-based birthing practices. According to Commissioner Veerapandian, hospitals where trained midwife-nurses have been deployed have recorded a notable rise in natural deliveries, along with improvements in several other maternal health indicators.

The assessment of these outcomes by the Netherlands-based ICM led to the State's inclusion in the list of best global practices. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav congratulated officials and the medical teams for their proactive efforts in strengthening maternal healthcare in Andhra Pradesh.

# BJP Consolidating Presence in Rayalaseema, Says AP President PVN Madhav

TPN Bureau | November 29

Kadapa : Andhra Pradesh BJP President PVN Madhav stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party has considerably bolstered its organisational strength across the Rayalaseema region and is now well-positioned to advance further with renewed vigour. He was speaking at the Rayalaseema Zone BJP Mandal Presidents' Training Programme held at Gandikota on Saturday, which saw participation from a wide spectrum of party leaders and office bearers. The training programme was attended



by State Minister for Medical and Health Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Zakia Khanam, BJP State General Secretaries Madhukar Ji and Sannareddy Dayakar Reddy, and several other senior leaders from different districts of the region.

The event focused on strengthening grassroots-level organisation, leadership training, and communication strate-

gies to consolidate the BJP's influence in Rayalaseema. In his keynote address, Madhav traced the historical journey of the BJP, beginning with its ideological roots in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He spoke in detail about the contributions of party visionaries such as Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, who laid the foundation for a political movement based on nationalism, self-reliance, and integral humanism. Their legacy, he said, continues to guide the party's vision for governance and development. Emphasizing

the BJP's transformative role in national politics, Madhav underscored key milestones achieved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He described the abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and the abolition of Triple Talaq as landmark decisions that reflected the Modi go-

vernment's resolve to ensure equality, unity, and justice. Madhav added that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's policies have driven progress in sectors including infrastructure, healthcare, and education while maintaining a strong focus on welfare and empowerment.

Speaking about Andhra Pradesh, the BJP state chief said that the party's organisational network has grown significantly in Rayalaseema, thanks to consistent outreach efforts and public support. He called for converting this growing influence



into a strong organisational structure, particularly at the grassroots level. "We must strengthen the BJP from the village upwards. Only then can we deliver the party's ideals and the Modi government's development agenda effectively to the people," Madhav said.

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, addressing the gathering, discussed practical methods for enhancing efficiency and coordination at the mandal level. He highlighted the importance of disciplined teamwork, communication, and community outreach in building a responsive local leadership model. He also elaborated on the central and state government schemes that must be effectively communicated to the people to enhance the party's visibility and credibility.

Interactive sessions followed the speeches, during which mandal presidents and local leaders shared experiences, exchanged ideas, and discussed strategies for organisational improve-

ment. Participants also outlined plans for future public engagements aimed at expanding the BJP's base in the region.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment among district and mandal-level functionaries to intensify the party's activities in preparation for upcoming political challenges. The Rayalaseema zone meeting is expected to serve as a model for similar capacity-building programmes across Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the BJP's focus on rooting its organisational presence deep within rural communities.

## Prathipati Pullara Blames YSRCP Regime for Neglecting Roads, Farmers' Welfare

TPN Bureau | November 29

Yadlapadu (Palnadu district): Former minister and MLA Prathipati Pullara criticized the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government for neglecting farmers' welfare and failing to maintain rural infrastructure. Speaking at the "Raitanna Meekosam" program held in Lingarao-palem and Chengiz Khan Peta villages of Yadlapadu mandal, Pullara said five years of YSRCP rule left roads full of potholes and farmers burdened with unaddressed troubles.

He performed the foundation stone ceremony for the construction of a new BT road between Lingarao-palem and Boyapalem under NABARD funding worth Rs. 2.40 crore. The former minister said the present coalition government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is prioritizing both welfare and development by rebuilding damaged infra-

structure and strengthening the agricultural sector.

Pullara told farmers that the new government aims to balance debt repayment with raising citizens' incomes through transparent and welfare-oriented governance. He explained the "Panchasutra," the five guiding principles introduced by Chief Minister Naidu to promote scientific and profitable farming practices.

Visiting several farmers' homes, he encouraged the community to adopt modern cultivation techniques to boost productivity and profitability. He alleged that during YSRCP's tenure, even basic farm inputs such as tarpaulins and sprayers were not distributed to farmers. "Those who could not fill potholes on village roads or support a single farming family now have the audacity to speak about agriculture," Pullara remarked, calling it shameful.

Referring to Kondaveedu Fort, Pullara said the historic site

would be developed into a national-level temple tourism center. He added that linking Kondaveedu to the national highway would enhance tourist inflows and improve the income of local families who depend on business and agriculture. The presence of three hilltop tanks, he noted, would further aid the region's tourism potential.

Calling for unity among the coalition parties, Pullara urged leaders and cadre of the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP to set aside egos and work collectively for Andhra Pradesh's progress. "Our unity is our strength," he said, warning that YSRCP leaders were waiting to exploit any internal differences.

The event was attended by Jana Sena in-charge Thota Rajaramesh, TDP leaders Nelluri Sadasiva Rao, Sheikh Karimulla, district farmer leader Maduri Veerareddy, officials, and hundreds of local farmers.

flat and only boost Jagan's popularity further.



## Chandrababu deceiving farmers in the name of world class capital

TPN Bureau | November 29

Vijayawada: Former Minister and YSRCP Guntur District President Ambati Rambabu strongly criticized Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that he is deceiving farmers in the name of building a world class capital city. Speaking at the YSR Congress Party Central Office in Tadepalli, he said farmers had given 35 thousand acres of land ten years ago, yet they still have not received the promised returnable plots. He questioned why the government is unable to show the location of the plots even after a decade and accused ministers of insulting farmers when they ask about their land rights.

Ambati said Chandrababu collected a total

of 50 thousand acres earlier by pooling farmers' land along with government and forest lands, and is now preparing to collect another 20 thousand acres only to benefit contractors and earn commissions. He stated that Chandrababu is the real villain behind the problems surrounding Amaravati and alleged that the capital project is only being used for financial exploitation rather than development.

He said Chandrababu had claimed the capital would be built through a self-financing model without loans, but now the government is borrowing thousands of crores from several financial institutions. He added that temporary buildings alone cost 680 crore rupees and criticised the government for spending

11000 rupees per square foot, even higher than the cost of the permanent Parliament building. He accused the government of pushing farmers and real estate into crisis, paying advances of 3000 crores to contractors without real work, and increasing estimates only to help syndicates.

Ambati demanded immediate allocation and

registration of returnable plots to the farmers. He said farmers are angry and losing hope and stated that Chandrababu is acting like a heartless Chief Minister. He also said the government is unable to even provide proper security to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and accused the coalition of indulging in political drama instead of governance.



## Coalition's PPP Plan for Medical Colleges Is a "Massive Loot," Says Dr Gopireddy

TPN Bureau | November 29

Vijayawada: The coalition government's decision to hand over ten newly constructed government medical colleges to private entities under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model is a calculated attempt to loot public wealth worth thousands of crores, alleged YSRCP Doctors Wing Working President and former MLA Dr Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy. Speaking at the YSRCP central office on Saturday, he strongly criticized the government for violating pre-election promises and compromising the future of medical education in Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Gopireddy condemned the decision to allocate only 50% of seats under the NEET-based convenor quota, despite the coalition promising that all seats in new medical colleges would fall under the government quota. He said the remaining 50% allocation to B- and C-category management quotas and NRI quotas amounted to "a fraud on students" and an attempt to enrich private operators at the cost of public resources.

Calling the land-leasing terms "outrageous," Dr. Gopireddy said leasing prime medical college land for just Rs. 100 per acre was equivalent to gifting away public assets. He pointed out that a typical 50-acre medical college would cost private entities only Rs. 5,000 per year, even though the land is worth hundreds of crores. Furthermore, private operators will be allowed to use existing government hospi-

tals and staff for two years without any investment, he said.

He accused the coalition of adopting what he called the "DTP model — Dochuko, Tinuko, Panchuko" that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had warned about before the elections. The PPP arrangement gives private entities operational control for 66 years (33 years plus an extendable 33 years), enabling "generational profiteering," he said.

Terming the cabinet decision a betrayal of students, farmers, women, employees, and even Amaravati land-pooling farmers, Dr. Gopireddy said every major election promise had been broken. He highlighted that 2,450 medical seats have already been lost in just two years due to the coalition's negligence,

forcing students to spend crores studying abroad.

He argued that YSRCP-built colleges—such as those in Paderu, Pulivendula, and Machilipatnam set national benchmarks for quality, yet the present government is handing them over to private players "just for commissions." Despite tribal areas like Paderu suffering severe health-care gaps, the government has failed to op-

erationalize the completed medical college there, he added.

Dr. Gopireddy said the party's one-crore signature campaign against the PPP move is receiving massive public support and warned that once YSRCP returns to power, all such tenders will be cancelled, ensuring that all medical colleges remain fully government-run to protect public health and public assets.

## Minister Sandhyarani Alleges False Campaign by 'Sakshi' Daily

TPN Bureau | November 29

HVijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Minister Sandhyarani has accused the 'Sakshi' newspaper of deliberately targeting her and engaging in what she described as a sustained false campaign intended to damage her reputation and political standing. Speaking to reporters in Vijayawada on Saturday, the minister alleged that the daily has been publishing baseless reports to malign her and her family. Sandhyarani condemned what she termed an "organized attempt" to spread misinformation against her.

She said that rather than confronting her politically, certain vested interests are resorting to character assassination through media propaganda. "Unable to face me politically, they are fabricating stories and using the press to circulate lies," she remarked. The minister specifically referred to a series of recent articles that she claimed contained fabricated allegations about her personal life and her children.

She dismissed the reports as "sensational fiction" designed to divert public attention from the



accusations crosses all boundaries of decency," she said, issuing a stern warning that those responsible would face legal consequences. "I will not spare anyone who drags my family into political mudslinging," she asserted.

Sandhyarani emphasized that her focus remains on implementing the government's initiatives in education, women's welfare, and youth employment. She stated that false media narratives would not distract her from her ministerial duties. "People are watching and can clearly

see the intention behind this smear campaign.

The truth will prevail through my work," she added. The minister also appealed to the media to exercise responsibility and verify facts before publishing politically motivated reports. She said that freedom of the press should not be misused to spread misinformation or defame individuals.

"Healthy criticism strengthens democracy, but malicious propaganda weakens it," she observed. When asked whether she planned to take legal action against the newspaper,

per, Sandhyarani said her legal advisors were reviewing the matter and appropriate steps would be taken soon.

She reiterated that she stood firm against any coercion or attempts to silence her voice. Political observers view her statements as a sign of growing tensions between sections of the state media and the ruling establishment. Sandhyarani's remarks have sparked debate in political circles, with her supporters rallying to defend her while opposition voices remain largely silent on the controversy.

# Balakrishna Chittineni Appointed Chair of CII Young Indians Amaravati Chapter for 2026;

Ram Nagarjunakonda  
Named Co-Chair  
TPN Bureau | November 29

Vijayawada: The CII Young Indians (Yi), Amaravati Chapter, held its Annual Session in Vijayawada on Saturday, during which new leadership for the year 2026 was formally announced. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rahul Mirchandani, Past National Chairman of Young Indians (Yi) and Chairman & Managing Director of Aries Agro Limited, declared Balakrishna Chittineni as the Chair and Ram Nagarjunakonda as the Co-Chair of the Yi Amaravati Chapter for 2026.

Balakrishna, Director at Cultural Canvas India Pvt. Ltd, is known for



championing India's cultural heritage through curated experiences and creative collaborations.

Ram, an active Yi member since 2016, is a social entrepreneur and Managing Director of Akshara Infratech. With an MBA from IMI Belgium, executive training from Harvard Business School, and certifications in Social Psychology and Interior Design, he brings a multidisciplinary

lens to leadership. His career spans Learning & Development at TCS, founding Cognistyx Business Solutions, and advising the Andhra Pradesh government on education and skill development. His current portfolio includes ventures across design, culture, infrastructure, health care, and real estate. Ram is also passionate about theatre, music, photography, tennis, and organic farming.

In his special address, Dr Mirchandani praised the Amaravati Chapter for its innovative engagement and community initiatives. He highlighted the exponential growth of Yi nationwide, which now boasts a membership of over 7,500, calling it a strong reflection

of "Bharat Rising." Dr V Nagalakshmi, Chairperson of CII Vijayawada and Managing Director of IMIS Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., commended Yi Amaravati's decade-long contributions to youth empowerment, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility.

Outgoing Chair Harikrishna Kankanaala presented the chapter's achievements, noting its growth to 61 members and over 30 impactful activities. Key initiatives included the Project Masoom awareness campaign on Safe and Unsafe Touch, Yi G20 Session for Yuva, and multiple industry learning missions, which collectively created significant stakeholder impact.

## Dr. Sunitha Receives Doctorate in Alternative Medicine from Prestigious North American University

TPN Bureau | November 29

Visakhapatnam: Dr. Sunitha, an eminent practitioner and researcher in alternative medicine, has been conferred the prestigious Doctorate in Alternative Medicine by the highly reputed Medicina Alternativa Azteca University, North America. The recognition was awarded in honor of her extensive research on the treatment and prevention of brain stroke through safe and natural alternative medicinal practices.

Speaking to the media

on Saturday, Dr. Sunitha said that her work focuses on developing safe therapeutic alternatives to combat some of the most dangerous diseases affecting humankind today. She emphasized that while modern medicines have proven effective in reducing disease symptoms, they often lead to secondary health complications. Her approach through alternative therapies aims to eliminate such risks and provide a holistic, side-effect-free healing process.

Dr. Sunitha currently

practices and promotes 52 forms of alternative healing therapies, including acupuncture, acupressure, and hijama (cupping therapy). According to her, these scientifically validated techniques not only help treat chronic conditions but also strengthen the human body's natural defense mechanisms. Elaborating on her recent international exposure, Dr. Sunitha said she participated in the World Congress of Traditional and Alternative Medicine held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from

November 24 to 26.

During the conference, she presented multiple research papers highlighting her findings on stroke prevention, therapeutic methodologies, and the efficacy of multi-modal treatment approaches.

Her presentations received wide appreciation from global medical experts and fellow

researchers.

The Sanfo Global Federation also honored Dr. Sunitha with the prestigious Sanfo Supportive Fellowship for her contributions to the field of holistic health. In addition, she was recognized with the Sanfo International Life Fellowship Award 2025 for her outstanding service and commitment to advancing traditional medicinal knowledge.

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# MLA Buddha Prasad Urges Vigilance in View of Cyclone 'Dithwa'; Reviews Preparation with Officials in Ghantasala

TPN Bureau | November 29

Ghantasala, Krishna District: With meteorological forecasts warning of rains under the influence of cyclone 'Dithwa', Machilipatnam MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad has called upon all government officials to remain vigilant and take proactive measures to mitigate potential damages. The MLA conducted a review meeting with revenue and agricultural officials at the Tahsildar's office in Ghantasala on Saturday, directing them to ensure the safety of farmers and their produce.

During the meeting, Buddha Prasad emphasized that the immediate priority should be the

procurement and safe storage of paddy harvested by farmers. He instructed officials to accelerate the purchase of dried paddy from farmers and arrange prompt transportation to rice mills before the onset of heavy rains. Since rainfall could disturb the drying process and result in significant losses, the MLA urged the officials to create awareness among farmers about securing their produce in accessible storage spaces such as local warehouses, community halls, and function halls.

He noted that as of now, paddy procurement in Ghantasala mandal had reached 5,932 metric tonnes from 1,102 farmers. The government has

already credited approximately 1.40 crore directly to farmers' bank accounts for the purchased grain, ensuring timely payment. Later, MLA Buddha Prasad visited the agricultural market yard in Kodali village under Ghantasala mandal and

inspected the ongoing paddy drying and procurement operations.

He interacted with farmers, gathered their feedback, and reviewed the arrangements in place to prevent any inconvenience amid the changing weather conditions.



Farmers informed him that, due to the cyclone alert, many have begun harvesting paddy simultaneously across the region with the help of machinery, leading to a surge in workload and activity in the fields round the clock.

Officials explained that despite the increased pressure caused by 24-hour harvesting, procurement operations were progressing smoothly. They assured the MLA that continuous coordination was being maintained with farmers through Rythu Bharosa Kendras, agricultural cooperatives, and paddy purchasing centers to ensure that no farmer faces hardship during this crucial period. Buddha

Prasad appreciated the efforts of officials in maintaining steady procurement and directed them to remain on high alert until the cyclone subsides.

He stressed the importance of real-time communication with farmers and timely updates on rainfall forecasts to avoid any loss to the agricultural community. Several local leaders and officials participated in

the review and inspection, including AMC Chairman Thota Kanakadurga, TDP Mandal President and former AMC Chairman Tummala Chodwari Babu, Jana Sena Mandal President Kona Rajashekhar, former ZP Vice Chairman Gorrepati Venkata Ramakrishna, DC Chairman Ananampudi Bhanu Prakash, Society Chairman Bandi Paratpararao, Gorrepati Suresh, MPDO D. Subba

Rao, DT Kanakadurga, ADA Shyamala, AO D. Anusha, AMC directors, and staff members from various departments.

The MLA reiterated that effective coordination between government machinery and the farming community is essential in minimizing the potential impact of the cyclone and in ensuring that the livelihood of farmers remains protected.

## K-Ridge International School in Narasaraopet Receives Prestigious 'Swachh Vidyalaya' 5-Star Award



TPN Bureau | November 29

Narasaraopet (Palanadu District): The K-Ridge International School in Narasaraopet has earned the prestigious "Swachh Vidyalaya" 5-star rating from the government in recognition of its outstanding efforts toward maintaining a clean, green, and eco-friendly educational environment. The school's principal, Barnabas, announced the achievement on Saturday, noting that the award reflects the institution's consistent commitment to cleanliness, hygiene, and sustainability.

According to Principal Barnabas, the award was granted after state-level evaluators inspected various parameters, including sanitation facilities, campus cleanliness, energy, waste management, and the effective implementation of health and environmental awareness programs.

The evaluators reportedly found the school to be exemplary in promoting cleanliness and hygiene standards that align with the objectives of the national Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the Swachh Vidyalaya initiative. Speaking on the occasion, School Chairman Nataani Venkateswarlu said the recognition was a proud moment for the entire K-Ridge community.

He praised the collective efforts of teachers, students, and staff members, emphasizing that their teamwork and consistent adherence to cleanliness protocols had brought the institution this distinc-

tion. "This 5-star award stands as a tribute to the dedication of our school family in creating a learning environment that is both clean and inspiring," he remarked.

The chairman also highlighted that the school's eco-friendly practices including plastic-free initiatives, green landscaping, and energy conservation measures had become integral parts of the institution's daily routine. The administration plans to continue expanding such sustainability programs in the coming years.

School Director Komatineni Nasarayya extended his congratulations to the teachers and students, acknowledging their enthusiasm and cooperation in achieving this milestone.

He expressed hope that the award would encourage other schools in the region to adopt similar cleanliness and environmental standards. The felicitation ceremony, held on the school campus, was attended by teachers, students, and parents, who celebrated the recognition with pride.

The event concluded with a pledge from the school community to persist in maintaining hygiene and environmental responsibility as key elements of holistic education.

With this award, K-Ridge International School sets a benchmark for other institutions in Palnadu district, demonstrating how commitment to sustainability and teamwork can bring national recognition in the field of education and environmental responsibility.

## Cyclone Dithwa Moves North-Northwest Near Sri Lanka; Heavy Rains Forecast for Andhra and Tamil Nadu

TPN Bureau | November 29

Visakhapatnam: The deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal has intensified into Cyclone Dithwa and continues to move north-northwestwards along the Sri Lankan coast. According to the Cyclone Warning Centre at Visakhapatnam, Dithwa is currently centered over the southwest Bay of Bengal, very close to the southern coast of Sri Lanka.

As of Saturday afternoon, the cyclone's center lay about 50 km south of Trincomalee, 70 km northwest of Batticaloa, and around 220 km north of Hambantota in Sri Lanka. On the Indian side, the system was positioned nearly 460 km southeast of Puducherry and about 560 km southeast of Chennai.

Over the past six hours, the cyclone has moved at a speed of nearly 10 km per hour towards the north-northwest.

Meteorological authorities indicate that Dithwa is likely to continue on this path and could approach the south Tamil Nadu coast by the morning of November 30 (Sunday). Under its influence, widespread rainfall accom-

panied by strong gusty winds is expected across parts of southern India over the next five days.

Rough Weather Conditions Along the Coast

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre have advised fishermen not to venture into the sea along the Tamil Nadu, south coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Sri Lanka coasts. Squally winds reaching speeds of 60 to 70 km per hour, gusting up to 80 km per hour, are likely along the coastal belt starting from Saturday evening. The sea condition is expected to be rough to very rough in the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal.

In view of the deteriorating sea conditions, danger signal number two has been hoisted at all major ports along the Andhra and Tamil Nadu

coasts as a precautionary measure.

Heavy Rainfall Predicted Across South Andhra

Due to the cyclone's influence, many parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema are expected to receive widespread rains during the next five days. The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in the Nellore and Tirupati districts on Saturday.

On Sunday, extremely heavy rains are likely to occur in Nellore, Chittoor, Tirupati, and Anantapur districts. Districts such as Sri Sathya Sai, Anantapur, Kadapa, Prakasam, and Bapatla are also expected to witness moderate to heavy rainfall. Some areas could record more than 20 centimeters of cumulative rainfall, which may lead to waterlogging, local flooding, and disruption of transport

and electricity supply.

Preparedness and Advisories

Local administrations in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been alerted to take precautionary measures, including possible evacuation in low-lying areas if necessary. Disaster response teams are on standby, and officials have been instructed to ensure uninterrupted communication and power backup in vulnerable zones.

The cyclone is expected to gradually weaken as it moves inland after making its closest approach to the Tamil Nadu coast. However, meteorological experts caution that its impact in terms of rainfall and strong winds will remain significant across southern Andhra districts through early next week.

ate young professionals. Dr. Goli elaborated on the essential skills for successful entrepreneurship, including creativity, the courage to take calculated risks, decision-making ability, continuous learning, and adaptability.

He encouraged students to develop a mindset of inquiry and resilience, enabling them to navigate challenges and transform innovative ideas into impactful ventures. Chairman of the college, M.R. Shehagiri Rao, appreciated the efforts of the organizing team and emphasized the institution's commitment to promoting entrepreneurial culture among young engineers. He noted that such initiatives equip students with the confidence and knowledge required to contribute meaningfully to society while generating employment opportunities.

College Principal Dr. S. Rama Rao informed that the workshop was conducted as part of the college's sustained efforts to nurture creativity, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit among students. The session was addressed by Dr. Gurunadham Goli, Dean and Associate Professor at the Astra School of Business, SR University, Warangal, who served as the resource person.

During his address, Dr. Goli emphasized that entrepreneurship is not limited to starting a business but also about identifying opportunities, solving real-world problems, and generating value for society. Highlighting the role of innovation, he explained how creative problem-solving and the ability to adapt to changing market demands are key to achieving long-term success.

Participants expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to gain practical insights from industry experts. The workshop reflected MAM Women's Engineering College's dedication to bridging academia and industry through knowledge-sharing programs that foster innovation-driven growth and empower women engineers as future leaders and entrepreneurs.

## Five of Family, Including Two Children, Killed in Road Accident in Kurnool



TPN Bureau | November 29

Kurnool: In a tragic accident on Saturday morning, five members of the same family, including two young children, were killed when two cars collided head-on at the Kotekal ghat curve in Yemmiganur mandal of Kurnool district, his daughter Meenakshi (32), son-in-law Satish (34) and grandchildren Ritwik (4) and Bunnith (5). All five died on the spot.

Venkatesham's wife Gangamma and the car's driver Suresh suffered serious injuries

Adoni. Dense early-morning fog, poor visibility and the sharp curve between the hills are believed to have caused the collision.

The deceased were identified as Venkatesham (76) of Chikkahalli village in Karnataka's Kolar district, his daughter Meenakshi (32), son-in-law Satish (34) and grandchildren Ritwik (4) and Bunnith (5). All five died on the spot.

Venkatesham's wife Gangamma and the car's driver Suresh suffered serious injuries

and are currently receiving treatment at Yemmiganur Hospital, where doctors describe their condition as critical.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed profound grief over the tragedy. He instructed officials to ensure that the injured receive immediate, high-quality medical care. The Chief Minister also stated that the government would extend all necessary assistance to the affected families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those

injured.

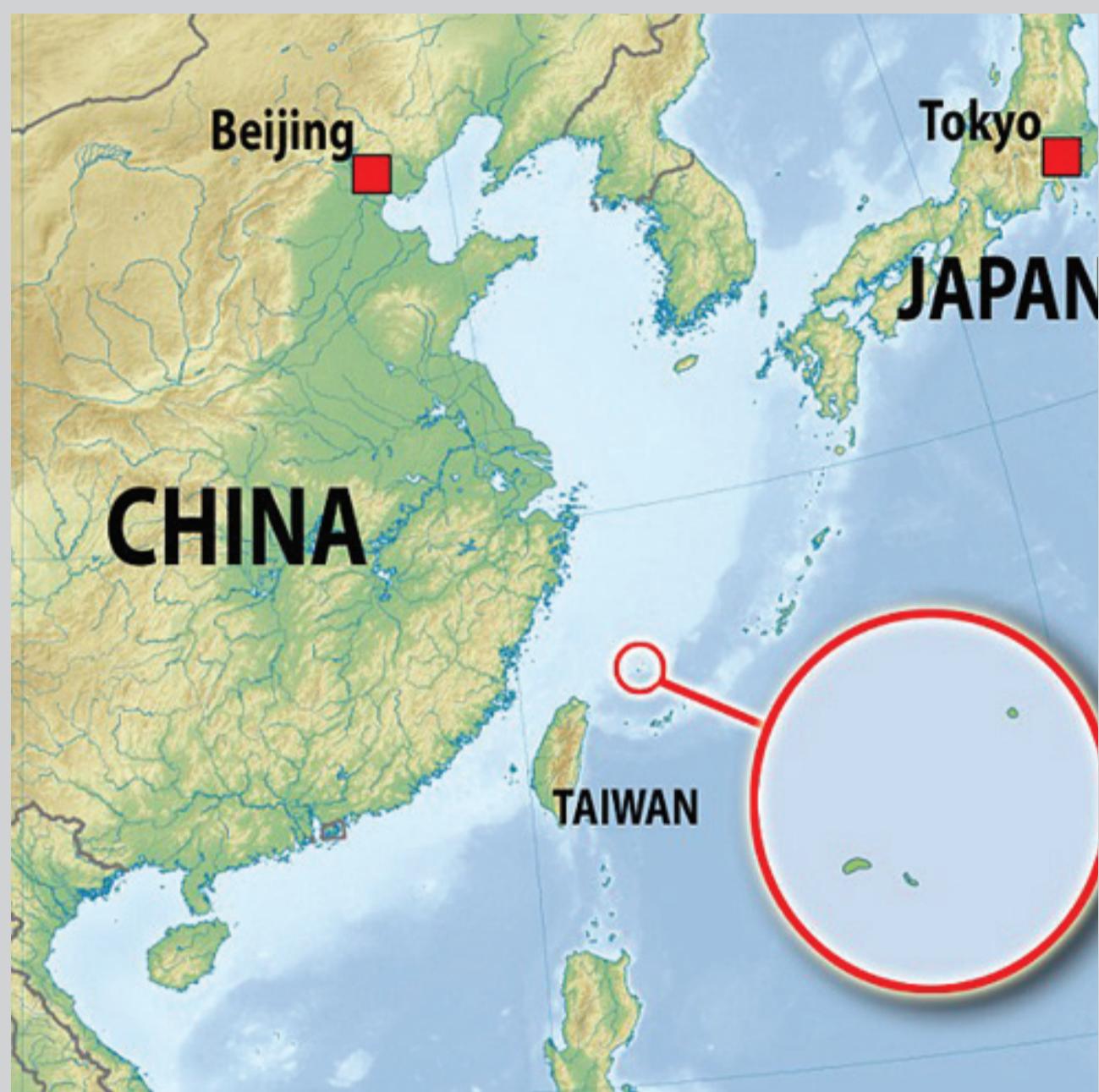
Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy conveyed deep condolences and directed authorities to step up enforcement of road safety measures, urging travellers to exercise caution, especially in hilly and fog-prone areas. R&B Minister BC Jnardhan Reddy and district in-charge minister Nimmala Ramanaidu reviewed the situation with local officials and asked them to intensify rescue efforts and provide comprehensive support to the victims' families.

Ministers TG Bharath and Kinjarapu Atchanna Reddy also expressed shock over the deaths, particularly of the children and stressed the need for strengthening road surveillance and preventive measures to avoid such accidents in future.

He also spoke about the growing opportunities across various sectors in India, particularly in technology, manufacturing, and sustainable development, that are opening doors for passion-



# Tensions Rise Between China and Japan Over Taiwan



Diplomatic tensions between China and Japan have escalated sharply following remarks by Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, triggering concerns about regional stability in East Asia. On November 7, Takaichi warned that any Chinese military action against Taiwan could threaten Japan's survival, suggesting that Tokyo

might intervene militarily. This marked the first time a sitting Japanese Prime Minister openly articulated a potential military response to a conflict involving Taiwan, departing from decades of strategic ambiguity.

China reacted strongly, demanding a retraction of Takaichi's statement, imposing bans on Japanese

seafood imports, issuing travel advisories against Japan, and accusing Tokyo of planning missile deployments on Yonaguni Island near Taiwan. Chinese Coast Guard vessels have intensified patrols around the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which Japan considers a violation of its territorial waters. Beijing has warned

that any Japanese intervention in Taiwan would be treated as an act of aggression.

The roots of China's anger are deep. Japan's colonial past in China and Taiwan, including its occupation of Taiwan from 1895 to 1945 and brutal campaigns in parts of China, continues to influence Chinese perceptions. Taiwan

was returned to Chinese control after World War II but became a separate administrative entity following the Kuomintang's retreat in 1949. Although Taiwan has been self-governing since, China continues to regard it as a core sovereignty issue, a position supported by the international One-China policy.

Despite these tensions, China and Japan remain heavily economically interdependent. Bilateral trade exceeds \$300 billion annually, reflecting deep commercial ties that both nations rely on. Experts warn that provocative political rhetoric, combined with historical mistrust, could usher in an era of "full-spectrum hostility" unless careful diplomacy prevails.

Analysts emphasize that the Taiwan issue is unlikely to be resolved in the near term. Maintaining the status quo—China's claims, Taiwan's self-rule, U.S. strategic ambiguity, and restraint from all parties—is essential for regional peace. Both China and Japan are urged to de-escalate tensions and prioritize economic collaboration. At the same time, the United States, as Japan's treaty ally, faces the delicate task of balancing security commitments with diplomatic measures to prevent misunderstandings or miscalculations.

With East Asia's security environment already complicated by global conflicts, the coming weeks will be critical. Observers stress that dialogue, restraint, and renewed economic engagement are the only viable paths to prevent a worsening of one of the region's most sensitive flashpoints. Failure to act prudently could have consequences far beyond the Taiwan Strait, affecting global trade and stability.

## Idli, Dosa Done, Raagi Mudde And High Command Next In Karnataka



est-serving CMs in the state's history. Second, Siddaramaiah would continue as the sole Deputy CM and remain state Congress president until then. Third, no major cabinet reshuffles would take place in the interim, ensuring stability. Fourth, Siddaramaiah's loyalists would be accommodated under Shivakumar's leadership, allowing a smooth political handover.

The rationale behind Shivakumar's patience is clear: he currently lacks the numbers to unseat Siddaramaiah without fracturing the party. A sudden takeover could alienate key communities and risk party cohesion. For Siddaramaiah, agreeing to a planned transition secures his legacy as a leader who prioritized party unity, preserved his influence, and ensured the future of his loyalists.

Yet, politics rarely unfolds linearly. Trust between the two leaders, the timing of the handover, and managing caste and factional sensitivities among 137 Congress MLAs remain critical factors. With the Karnataka Assembly session set to begin on December 8 and the BJP threatening a no-confidence motion, every breakfast, lunch, and dinner between Bengaluru and New Delhi could shape the state's political landscape. The story is far from over, and the coming months may decide who holds the reins of power in Karnataka.

Sources suggest that an emerging understanding includes four key elements. First, Siddaramaiah would hand over the chief ministership to Shivakumar before the 2027 state elections, possibly after the budget session in February-March 2026, allowing him to set a record for one of the long-

## 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 exports adjusting to high U.S. tariffs. Crude oil imports, which account 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 bil-

lion, 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.

## India's Chabahar Push Shifts Afghanistan Away From Pakistan



A strategic shift is quietly unfolding in South Asia as Afghanistan moves closer to India, leveraging the Chabahar port in Iran to bypass Pakistan entirely.

Built with Indian investment and sustained diplomatic engagement, Chabahar is emerging as a vital trade gateway, reshaping regional geopolitics and challenging Pakistan's long-held influence over Kabul.

Over the past three months, a series of high-level Taliban visits to India have underscored this realignment. Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Acting Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi visited India, signaling Kabul's intent to strengthen trade ties with New Delhi while reducing dependency on Pakistan's transit routes. Both officials carried the clear message that Afghani-

stan is looking for reliable alternatives to Pakistan's trade corridors.

Azizi's visit to New Delhi from November 22 for five days was particularly significant. During his meetings, he emphasized that Pakistan's trade routes are increasingly unreliable, and Afghanistan is keen to encourage Indian investment.

"We request the government of India to restore the political, trade and cultural relationship that once existed between our two countries," Azizi told News18, highlighting Kabul's willingness to provide incentives and security guarantees to Indian investors.

The Chabahar port, a project developed with Indian technical and financial support, has become the centerpiece of this strategy. It allows Indian goods to reach

Afghanistan directly, cutting out the Pakistani route, which has historically dominated regional trade. This development strengthens India's economic footprint in Afghanistan and provides Kabul with a secure, stable, and reliable trade alternative.

Experts say the move is not purely economic; it also has far-reaching geopolitical implications. By deepening ties with India, Afghanistan is diversifying its partnerships, ensuring that it is not overly dependent on Pakistan, which has traditionally exerted considerable influence over Kabul. For India, Chabahar represents both an economic opportunity and a strategic lever in the region, supporting Afghanistan's development while expanding its own influence in Central Asia.

In addition to trade, India and Afghanistan are exploring enhanced collaboration in political, cultural, and infrastructure sectors. The recent visits and discussions demonstrate a shared pragmatism despite ideological differences, showing that both nations prioritize strategic and economic stability.

With Chabahar fully operational, the dynamics of South Asian trade and diplomacy are shifting. Pakistan, long accustomed to Kabul's reliance on its territory, now faces the challenge of adjusting to a new reality where India's influence grows, and Afghanistan charts a more independent, India-oriented path. The coming months could see this Indo-Afghan alignment deepen further, marking a historic change in regional power equations.

## 'GDP Growth Reflects Impact Of Our Policies, Reforms': PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India's economy recorded a robust 8.2 per cent growth in the second quarter of 2025-26, marking a six-quarter high, driven by a surge in manufacturing and strong double-digit growth in the services sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attributed the impressive GDP performance to the hard work and enterprise of the people and the government's pro-growth policies and reforms.

In a post on X, Modi said, "The 8.2 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 is very encouraging. It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people."

The Q2 growth indicates a sustained recovery in the Indian economy, with manufacturing showing a significant uptick due to rising industrial output and domestic consumption. The services sector, a major contributor to India's GDP, posted double-digit growth, reflecting strong performance in IT, finance, and tourism-related services.

The prime minister reaffirmed the govern-



ment's commitment to continuing economic reforms and improving the overall quality of life for citizens. "Our government will continue to advance reforms and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," Modi added.

Analysts noted that In-

dia's GDP growth outperformed expectations, positioning the country as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. The government's focus on infrastructure development, digitalisation, and investment-friendly policies is seen as a key factor behind the sustained

momentum. With global uncertainties and geopolitical challenges, maintaining high economic growth remains a priority. Experts believe that continued structural reforms, combined with domestic consumption and export growth, could help India sustain its eco-

nomic trajectory in the coming quarters.

The Q2 GDP figures underscore India's resilience and the effectiveness of policies aimed at boosting industrial output, enhancing services, and creating a conducive environment for businesses and entrepreneurs.

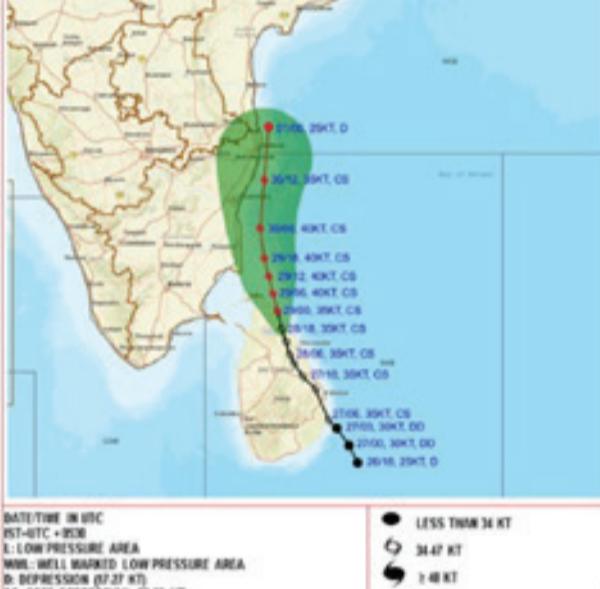
## Cyclone Ditwah Approaches Tamil Nadu, Moves Northwest from Sri Lanka



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Cyclonic Storm Ditwah, which has already wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka, is now moving towards the southeastern coast of India, prompting authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to issue alerts.

According to the India Meteorological Depart-



ment (IMD), the storm is currently located about 80 km west of the Sri Lankan coast, moving northwest at 7 kmph. It is approximately 220 km southeast of Karaikal and 380 km from Puducherry.

The IMD has warned that Ditwah is very likely to reach the Southwest Bay of Bengal, near the North

over 120 deaths, hundreds of missing persons, and the displacement of nearly 44,000 people to state-run relief centers. Floods and landslides damaged infrastructure, homes, and disrupted power and water supplies. Relief operations are ongoing, with neighboring countries like India stepping in to provide aid.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh administrations have already advised fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea, and disaster management teams are on alert. Coastal districts are being prepared for potential evacuations, while local authorities are coordinating with the Indian Meteorological Department to provide timely updates to residents.

The IMD has also cau-

tioned that strong winds, heavy rainfall, and high waves may continue over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas, urging residents to remain vigilant and adhere to safety advisories.

Authorities have urged the public to stay indoors, avoid non-essential travel, and keep emergency supplies ready as Cyclone Ditwah advances toward the Indian coast. Continuous monitoring and precautionary measures are being prioritized to minimize the impact of the approaching storm.

## Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah Reaffirm Loyalty to Party High Command

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bengaluru, Nov 29: In a clear message of unity and discipline, Karnataka Congress leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to the party high command amid speculation over state leadership. Addressing the media, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar emphasized that both he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are following the directives of the party leadership and remain focused on governance and development.

Shivakumar revealed that he and Siddaramaiah held a breakfast meeting recently to discuss governance and party strategy. He also mentioned that the CM will visit his residence for further discussions over lunch or dinner in the coming days, reflecting ongoing coordination between the two leaders. "We have joined together and worked together. The workers of the state have supported us, and the people of Karnataka have blessed us with a massive

mandate," he said.

Highlighting the government's focus, Shivakumar stated, "Whatever promises we have given to the people, it is our bound duty to deliver them. It is our responsibility to fulfil every commitment made to our people. We are fortunate to have their support, and we are delivering a government focused on good governance."

The leaders also discussed the upcoming Assembly session starting December 8 and electoral strategy for 2028, indicating a proactive approach to legislative and political planning.

On the sensitive issue of state leadership, Shivakumar clarified, "As far as the leadership issue is concerned, we will go by the decision of the party high command. We have always been loyal soldiers of the party." He expressed confidence in Congress' continued dominance in Karnataka, stating that the party aims to repeat its government in 2028 and continue



its progress in 2029 under the guidance of Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

The statement underscores the Congress leadership's focus on unity, stability, and governance,

sending a strong signal to both the party cadre and opposition ahead of crucial legislative sessions.

## India Re-elected to IMO Council with Highest Votes



## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2026-27 biennium, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes, the highest tally in its category. The announcement came during the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly in London, underscoring India's leadership and constructive engagement in global shipping.

An official statement highlighted that the result validates the Government of India's reform and forward-looking initiatives to strengthen the maritime sector, including enhanced regulatory frameworks, port modernization, and promotion of international trade routes.

The Council, the executive body of the IMO, comprises 40 member states elected for two-year terms and supervises the organization's work between Assembly sessions. The IMO, a United Nations agency headquartered in London, aims to ensure safe, secure, and environmentally sustainable shipping.

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Water-

ways, Sarbananda Sonowal, described the re-election as a "proud moment for India's maritime sector," emphasizing that the highest vote tally reflects the international community's strong confidence in India's leadership and constructive engagement in global shipping.

During the Assembly, the Indian delegation engaged with multiple countries, international organizations, and IMO officials to explore cooperation in shipping safety, environmental protection, and maritime trade facilitation.

India's re-election reinforces its position among the world's leading maritime nations, ensuring continued influence in shaping IMO policies and decisions affecting international seaborne trade.

The Council membership allows India to further contribute to global maritime governance, advance sustainable shipping practices, and enhance collaboration on technical, legal, and operational standards within the international shipping community.

## NIA Convicts Two in Lucknow Al-Qaeda Terror Case



TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has convicted two more individuals in connection with the 2021 Lucknow Al-Qaeda terror conspiracy case. Mohammad Mustaqueem and Shakeel, both residents of Lucknow, were found guilty under Section 25(1B)(a) of the Arms Act and Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code.

The court sentenced them to 20 months imprisonment in August of the same year. The main accused, Minhaz Ahmed and Masiruddin (aka Mushir), allegedly received instructions from Halimuddi to plan terror activities across Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, before August 15, 2021. Mustaqueem and Shakeel aided the duo in

procuring weapons and ammunition.

Earlier, on October 30, 2025, the court had convicted Mohammad Moid, also in this case, sentencing him to 20 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 after he pleaded guilty.

The NIA highlighted that Minhaz and Masiruddin, radicalised by other operatives, had conspired to wage war against the Indian government, acquiring arms, ammunition, and explosives to further Al-Qaeda's objectives.

The convictions mark another step in India's ongoing efforts to dismantle terror networks and curb radicalisation, reinforcing the NIA's commitment to national security and counter-terrorism operations.

## 'Harm To Him Will Push Pak Into Chaos'

Imran Khan's Sister On Death Rumours



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

Noreen Niazi, sister of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, has warned that any attempt to physically harm the jailed PTI leader would push the country into "chaos," citing his strong public support. Speaking to NDTV, she called her brother "a hundred percent healthy" and criticized rumours about his condition as attempts to distract the public and his supporters.

Khan has been held in Adiala Jail since August 2023, facing multiple cases, including corruption and terrorism, following his removal from power through a no-confidence motion in 2022. Niazi highlighted that Khan has spent nearly a month in solitary confinement, far exceeding the jail manual limit of four days, calling it "mental and physical abuse." She added that family visits are being restricted to prevent his messages from reaching the public.

Niazi also commented on Pakistan's military leadership changes, noting the recent assumption of charge by Asim Munir as the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

"He thinks he's all-powerful, but he's still not. In our religion, there is nobody more powerful than God," she remarked.

Despite her criticism of the system, she expressed hope for judicial fairness. "There is no justice system left, but we will stand for his justice, and Inshallah, he will get justice," she said. Her sister Aleema has also filed a contempt of court petition against the jail superintendent for failing to comply with an Islamabad High Court order mandating twice-weekly meetings with Khan.

Authorities maintain that Khan remains in "good health" and has not been shifted from prison. Niazi's statements come amid heightened tensions in Pakistan, with concerns over public reaction and the treatment of a high-profile political figure. Her warning underscores the sensitivity surrounding Khan's imprisonment and the potential for unrest if perceived injustices continue.

The situation highlights ongoing political and judicial challenges in Pakistan, with Khan's supporters closely monitoring developments.

## Trump Backs Asfura in Tight Honduras Presidential Race



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has thrown his support behind Nasry Asfura, the conservative National Party candidate, in Honduras' closely contested presidential election. Trump, posting on Truth Social, said Asfura can work with the United States to counter drug trafficking and urged Hondurans to "vote for Freedom and Democracy."

Hondurans will head to the polls on Sunday in a race widely seen as a toss-up. Current polls show Asfura, former mayor of Tegucigalpa, nearly tied with former defense minister Rixi Moncada of the leftist LIBRE Party and television host Salvador Nasralla of the centrist Liberal Party. The winner will govern Honduras from 2026 to 2030.

Trump criticized both Moncada and Nasralla, calling the former a communist and the latter a "borderline communist" seeking to siphon votes from Asfura, although neither candidate identifies as communist. The US administration has voiced concern over the influence of leftist governments in the region, particularly in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

"Will Maduro and his Narco-

terrorists take over another country like they have taken over Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela?" Trump questioned in his post, claiming Asfura would stand against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom the US has accused of links to drug trafficking—a charge Maduro denies.

Asfura's National Party has historically maintained close ties with Washington under former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who governed from 2014 to 2022. Hernandez was arrested after leaving office and is serving a 45-year prison sentence in the United States for drug trafficking and firearms charges.

Observers caution that the razor-thin margins could spark disputes over the results. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the US State Department have both expressed concern over Honduras' electoral process and will monitor the vote closely to ensure transparency.

With high stakes and international attention, the outcome of Sunday's election could shape Honduras' political alignment and its relations with the United States and regional powers for years to come.

## 'Trump 2028, Yes': US President Hints At Running For 3rd Term With AI Image

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump ignited speculation over a possible 2028 presidential campaign after posting an AI-generated image on his Truth Social account showing him holding a blue sign reading "TRUMP 2028, YES!"

The post, captioned "TRUMPLICANS!"—a mix of Trump and Republicans—quickly became the focus of political debate. The image comes nearly ten months into Trump's second non-consecutive term, which began January 20, 2025, as he pursues his "America First 2.0" agenda with a Republican-controlled Congress, including measures on immigration and higher tariffs.

References to "Trump 2028"

tion about the president's long-term political strategy.

However, constitutional limits remain clear. The 22nd Amendment restricts presidents to two elected terms. House Speaker Mike Johnson downplayed the post as "trolling," noting Trump is well aware of the constitutional constraints. Trump himself acknowledged last month, "I'm not allowed to run, it's too

Vice President JD Vance led Trump Jr. 38% to 20% in October, but by November, the gap narrowed to 34% versus 24%, signaling a tightening contest.

The post follows earlier displays of "Trump 2028" branding, including hats on Trump's Oval Office desk during meetings with Democratic leaders Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer. Analysts suggest these signals may aim to consolidate the Trump base and maintain visibility within the party, even as legal and constitutional barriers prevent a direct run.

As the 2028 Republican nomination approaches, all eyes will remain on the Trump family and its influence on the party's future, with potential ramifications for both party dynamics and US electoral politics.



## Sri Lanka Declares Emergency as Cyclone Ditwah Kills 123

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency after Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread devastation, leaving 123 people dead and 130 reported missing, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) confirmed on Saturday. Torrential rains and severe flooding over the past week have submerged vast areas, destroying homes and infrastructure across the island nation.

Director General of the DMC, Sampath Kotuwegoda, said relief operations are actively underway. "So far, 43,995 people have been moved to state-run welfare centres after their homes were destroyed in the heavy rains," he stated. Rescue teams, supported by the military and police, are navigating submerged roads to evacuate stranded residents and provide essential supplies such



as food, drinking water, and medical aid.

Authorities warned that the situation remains critical as many areas are still inaccessible due to collapsed bridges, blocked roads,

and overflowing rivers. The emergency declaration allows the government to mobilize resources quickly, enforce curfews in severely affected regions, and coordinate

disaster relief efforts more efficiently.

Meteorologists have noted that Cyclone Ditwah is among the deadliest storms to hit Sri Lanka in recent years, intensifying

fears over the impact of climate change on the region. Hospitals in Colombo and other affected districts are stretched to capacity, treating injuries caused by flooding, landslides, and collapsed structures.

The international community has begun offering support, with neighbouring countries and global aid agencies pledging humanitarian assistance. The Sri Lankan government has appealed for immediate assistance to ensure that displaced residents receive shelter, food, and medical care.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors where possible and to follow official instructions closely. Meanwhile, search-and-rescue teams continue combing through flood-affected areas to locate missing individuals and provide relief to the hardest-hit communities.

Cyclone Ditwah has left Sri Lanka facing a long road to recovery, with emergency measures and relief efforts now the country's top priority.

## India Launches Op Sagar Bandhu to Aid Flood-Hit Sri Lanka



TPN Correspondent | Colombo

India has launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to assist Sri Lanka in the wake of devastating floods caused by Cyclone Ditwah. Early Saturday, an Indian Air Force C130 aircraft carrying essential food and sanitary supplies

landed at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport around 1:30 am. The relief materials were received by Indian High Commission officials and Sri Lanka Air Force personnel.

This is part of a broader effort involving the Indian Navy,

with the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and frontline ship INS Udaigiri transporting the first tranche of relief materials to Sri Lanka. The operation reflects India's commitment to regional support under its Neighbourhood First policy.

Sri Lankan authorities have declared the situation an "unprecedented disaster" in the Western Province, as rising water levels in the Kelani and Attanagalu rivers inundated communities. Cyclone Ditwah has caused widespread floods and landslides, particularly impacting Kandy, Badulla, and other central districts. According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), 69 deaths were confirmed by Saturday morning, with at least 34 people still missing. Local reports suggest the death toll in Kandy alone could exceed 50,

though official figures remain unverified. Over 200,000 people from 61,000 families have been affected.

The cyclone also caused reservoir overflows and disrupted power supply to nearly 35% of the island, leaving around seven million customers of the Ceylon Electricity Board without electricity. Restoration efforts have been hampered by continuous heavy rainfall, with over 200 mm more rain expected before the storm moves away late Saturday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed condolences to the affected families and reiterated India's commitment to support Sri Lanka during this crisis. Relief operations under Operation Sagar Bandhu continue, with both air and naval assets mobilized to ensure timely delivery of aid to flood-affected areas.

This mission highlights India's swift humanitarian response and regional solidarity in times of natural disasters.

# Nifty December Seasonality: 60% Success Rate Over Last Decade

The Nifty 50 has started the December series on a strong note, climbing to a fresh lifetime high of 26,310.45 on Thursday, ending a 14-month rally drought. Market participants are optimistic that the rally could continue throughout the month, supported by December's historically favourable seasonality.

Over the past 10 years, the Nifty has delivered positive returns in six out of ten Decembers, translating to a 60% success rate. On average, December returns have been around 1.6%, despite typically lower global market activity ahead of Christmas and New Year holidays.

Institutional flows have also historically bolstered December rallies. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in six of the past ten Decembers, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) maintained a stronger buying streak, injecting funds in seven Decembers over the same period.



Examining the decade-long trend, the Nifty ended December higher in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023, while closing in the red in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024, with declines ranging from 0.13% to 3.48%. The sharpest December

rally occurred in 2023, when the index surged 7.94%, closely followed by a 7.81% jump in 2020. Other notable gains include 2.97% in 2017 and 2.18% in 2021, while 2015 and 2019 delivered modest increases of 0.15% and 0.93%, respectively.

Analysts suggest that December's performance is influenced by a combination of domestic investor sentiment, institutional inflows, and end-of-year portfolio adjustments. The early signs of strength in 2025, along with positive

global cues, could help sustain momentum.

As investors position themselves for the last month of the calendar year, market watchers will closely track earnings announcements, foreign fund flows, and

macroeconomic indicators to gauge whether the seasonal trend continues. If historical trends hold, December could again provide a boost to the benchmark index, reinforcing optimism among market participants.

## RBI Issues 244 Consolidated Master Directions to Ease Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MDs), aiming to streamline regulatory compliance for banks and other financial institutions. The move comes after a comprehensive review of nearly 3,500 existing directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the decades.

Speaking at a press conference, RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Marmu said, "These 244 MDs consolidate all the regulatory instructions issued to the Regulated Entities (REs) over several decades which are currently administered by the Department of Regulation." The consolidation is expected to simplify adherence to RBI norms and reduce the compliance burden on financial institutions.



lated entities can focus on core banking activities without navigating overlapping instructions.

The move also aligns with the RBI's broader objective of regulatory simplification and transparency. Analysts believe that consolidating decades of instructions into a single, structured framework will help improve com-

pliance monitoring and make regulatory expectations clearer for banks, non-banking financial companies, and other financial institutions.

Marmu emphasized that the review and consolidation exercise reflects the RBI's commitment to modernizing its regulatory framework, keeping pace with evolving

financial markets, technological advancements, and the growing complexity of the banking sector.

Financial sector experts have welcomed the move, noting that it will reduce ambiguity and enable REs to allocate resources more efficiently toward business growth while ensuring adherence to prudential norms.

The consolidated Master Directions are now accessible on the RBI's official website and will serve as the primary reference point for regulated entities going forward.

This step is expected to mark a significant milestone in easing regulatory compliance while maintaining strong oversight over the financial system.

## India Posts Six-Quarter High GDP Growth of 8.2% in Q2 FY26



India's economy grew by 8.2% in Q2 of 2025-26, marking a six-quarter high, driven by a robust manufacturing surge and strong services sec-

tor performance, according to data from the National Statistics Office (NSO). The manufacturing sector expanded 9.1%,

up from 2.2% in the year-ago period, as factories ramped up production ahead of the festive season following the GST rate cut on Sep-

tember 22. The services sector recorded 10.2% growth, supported by banking, real estate, and other service industries. However, the agri-

culture sector slowed, with growth declining to 3.5% from 4.1% in the same period last year.

The first half of FY26 saw a GDP growth of 8%, up from 6.1% in H1 FY25, positioning India to potentially exceed the annual growth target of 6.3-6.8% projected in the Economic Survey. The Real Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) rose 7.9%, indicating healthy domestic demand.

Analysts noted that while government final consumption moderated due to weak revenue spending, strong gross capital formation and the GST-driven manufacturing push helped boost GDP. Deloitte India economist Rumki Majumdar said, "Despite the strong Q2 growth, factors such as US tariffs and limited government capital spending could temper momentum, but FY26 growth is set to comfortably exceed 7%."

India's Q2 performance reaffirms its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, surpassing China's 4.8% growth during the same period.

The nominal GDP for Q2 FY26 stood at ₹85.25 lakh crore, up 8.7% from ₹78.40 lakh crore a year ago, while gross fixed capital formation grew 7.3%, compared to 6.7% in Q2 FY25.

Experts caution that while the GDP growth is impressive, the low GDP deflator and nominal growth may pose challenges for fiscal deficit and debt ratios. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said, "Despite the strong Q2 growth, factors such as US tariffs and limited government capital spending could temper momentum, but FY26 growth is set to comfortably exceed 7%."

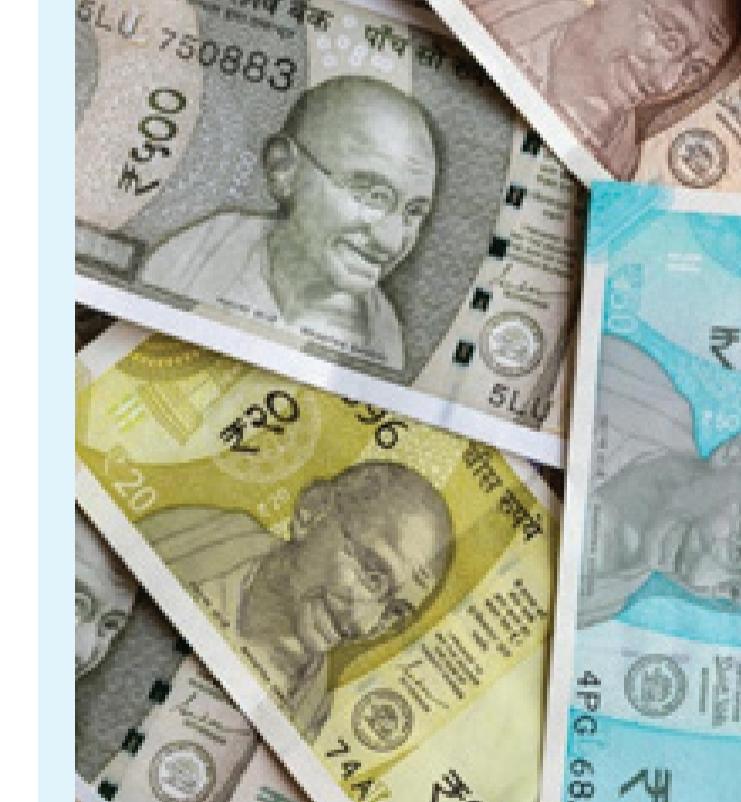
India's Q2 performance reaffirms its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, surpassing China's 4.8% growth during the same period.

The Indian rupee fell 7 paise to settle at 89.43 against the U.S. dollar on Friday, pressured by a stronger greenback and rising crude oil prices in global markets.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 89.41 and touched an intra-day low of 89.49 before closing at 89.43 (provisional). Forex traders noted that subdued domestic equity markets and foreign fund outflows further weighed on the currency.

Market participants were also cautious ahead of the release of key domestic macroeconomic data, which could influence near-term currency movements.

"The rupee was under pressure from external factors, including trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025."



with domestic equity weakness," said a forex trader.

The depreciation comes amid a strengthening U.S. dollar globally, which has impacted several emerging market currencies in recent weeks.

Analysts said that continued volatility in crude oil prices and foreign capital flows could keep the rupee under pressure in the near term.

Despite the slip, the rupee remains within its recent trading range against the greenback, reflecting investor caution ahead of key economic indicators and global market developments.

Investors will closely watch upcoming economic data, including trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025.

## Govt Reforms, Manufacturing Boost Q2 GDP to 8.2%: Goyal



India's economy recorded a strong 8.2% growth in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025-26, driven by government reforms, a manufacturing push, and robust performance in the services sector, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday.

Addressing the media, Goyal highlighted that the government's initiatives to enhance ease of doing business, streamline regulatory processes, and support domestic manufacturing have contributed significantly to the strong economic performance. He added that the reforms have provided a conducive environment for growth across sectors.

Goyal also noted that India's merchandise and services exports have recorded high growth during April-October of the current fiscal year, despite global uncertainties in trade. Merchandise exports rose marginally by 0.63% to ₹254.25 billion, while imports increased by 6.37% to ₹451.08 billion in the same period.

"We will continue to see relentless growth," the minister said, stressing that India's focus on strengthening industrial output, boosting domestic manufacturing, and

promoting exports will help sustain momentum in the coming quarters.

The manufacturing sector showed a marked improvement, benefiting from government schemes and policy interventions aimed at enhancing competitiveness and technological adoption.

The services sector also contributed to the overall growth, reflecting strong domestic demand and recovery in trade, IT, and financial services.

Economic analysts said the Q2 growth is a six-quarter high, underlining India's resilience amid global economic challenges. They attributed the performance to a combination of policy reforms, export growth, and domestic consumption.

With continued emphasis on reforms, innovation, and export promotion, the government expects sustained growth and stability in India's economic trajectory for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The strong Q2 numbers reaffirm India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, highlighting the impact of pro-growth policies and structural reforms.

## Rupee Slips 7 Paise to 89.43 Against U.S. Dollar

## Apple Responds to iPhone 17 'Scratchgate' Concerns



Apple has addressed growing concerns about the so-called 'scratchgate' affecting its new iPhone 17 series. Several users of the iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone 17 Pro Max, and iPhone Air have reported that their devices are developing visible scratches, particularly around the camera island, just weeks after launch. The issue appears more pronounced in the Deep Blue, Cosmic Orange, and Space Black colour variants.

Tech reviewers and users noticed that the scratches tend to form around the sharp edges of the camera bump. Popular YouTuber JerryRigEverything suggested that the anodised aluminium layer on the iPhone 17 and iPhone 17 Pro Max "does not stick to corners very well," potentially causing these marks. While the iPhone 17 series performed well in official durability and scratch tests, real-world usage has highlighted a vulnerability that some customers weren't expecting.

In response, Apple clarified that the scratches are not permanent and can generally be cleaned. The company emphasized that the devices remain highly durable and that normal

handling might produce minor marks, which do not affect the performance or functionality of the phone. Apple reassured users that the iPhone 17's materials, including the camera housing and aluminium frame, were designed for long-term use and everyday wear, but recommended handling the devices with care to avoid scratches in vulnerable areas.

This incident highlights the challenges smartphone makers face when balancing sleek design with durability, particularly as devices increasingly feature sharp edges, large camera modules, and premium finishes. Despite the 'scratchgate' reports, early reviews show that the iPhone 17 series continues to deliver strong performance, advanced features, and reliability, with Apple taking steps to address user concerns and provide guidance on keeping devices in top condition.

As the conversation around iPhone 17 scratches continues online, Apple encourages customers to report any concerns and follow care recommendations to maintain the phone's finish while enjoying its full suite of features.

## NASA's Artemis 2 Moon Mission Set for 2026, Could Launch Earlier



NASA officials confirmed on September 23, 2025, that the agency's first crewed flight in its Artemis program, a mission circling the moon and returning to Earth, remains on track for April 2026, with potential launch as early as February if conditions allow. Artemis 2 is a critical precursor to NASA's goal of landing astronauts on the moon for the first time since 1972, testing the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion capsule with a human crew aboard.

The Artemis program represents the United States' flagship lunar initiative, a multi-billion-dollar effort to return humans to the moon, coinciding with China's similar goal of a 2030 astronaut moon landing. Artemis 2 will be a 10-day mission, with four astronauts flying around the moon and back, preparing for Artemis 3, the ambitious 2027 lunar landing using a Starship moon lander.

Artemis 2 will utilize NASA's 322-foot-tall SLS rocket, developed by Boeing and Northrop Grumman, and the Orion capsule, built by Lockheed Martin.

This mission marks the first time the SLS-Orion combination will carry humans. Acting senior NASA official Lakiesha Hawkins emphasized that while the mission could potentially launch earlier, astronaut safety will guide the final schedule.

The crew includes Commander Reid Wiseman, who previously flew to the International Space Station (ISS) on a Russian Soyuz in 2014; Pilot Victor Glover, a 2020 SpaceX ISS mission veteran; Mission Specialist Christina Koch, who flew to the ISS in 2019; and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, flying to space for the first time and becoming the first Canadian to travel near the moon.

Artemis 2 represents a major milestone in lunar exploration, testing systems, crew readiness, and deep-space operations ahead of the historic Artemis 3 landing. NASA continues to monitor space-craft readiness, ensuring both safety and mission success as humanity prepares to return to the moon.

## Climate Change Forces Fish to New Homes: DNA Tells the Story



Across the planet, species are on the move, with climate change forcing over 12,000 species to shift their homes across land, freshwater, and seas. In the ocean, tropical fish are moving into temperate reefs along Australia's east coast, one of the fastest-warming marine regions. New coral and fish species are arriving in Sydney's waters, and their numbers are expected to rise as the climate changes. Traditionally, researchers and citizen scientists monitor these shifts through visual surveys, but small, rare, nocturnal, or cave-dwelling species are often missed, meaning the true rate of movement is likely underestimated.

Our new research, published in *Diversity and Distributions*, uses environmental DNA, or eDNA, to detect these hidden migrations. Fish shed mucus, scales, and waste that

contain DNA. By collecting seawater and filtering it, we can extract these genetic fingerprints and identify the species present,

much like forensic scientists solving a crime from hair or fingerprints. While eDNA has been used since the 1980s for microbes, its

application to larger animals and plants has transformed biodiversity monitoring.

We surveyed 2,000

kilometres of Australia's east coast, from tropical reefs to temperate kelp forests. Alongside traditional visual transects, we collected seawater for

DNA analysis. Back in the lab, filtering and sequencing the water revealed species often missed by divers. Tropical species like lined surgeonfish, striated surgeonfish, and black-blotched porcupinefish were detected in temperate ecosystems for the first time. Conversely, divers were often better at spotting temperate species, highlighting that eDNA complements rather than replaces visual surveys.

Combining eDNA with traditional methods provides the clearest view yet of how climate change is reshaping marine life. Globally, species are shifting ranges as oceans warm and currents change. Tracking these movements is essential to understand ecological transformations, anticipate which species may thrive or decline, and better manage our oceans in a rapidly changing climate.

## Samsung India Announces Festive Discounts Across Galaxy Smartphones



Samsung India, the country's largest consumer electronics brand, has unveiled special festive pricing across its Galaxy smartphone lineup, giving customers an opportunity to own premium and feature-rich devices at some of the most attractive prices since launch. The offers are designed to bring AI-powered features to enhance creativity, productivity, and everyday experiences within reach of more users.

The premium Galaxy S24 series takes the spotlight in this festive sale. The Galaxy S24 Ultra, India's best-selling premium smartphone, is available at Rs 71,999, down from Rs 1,29,999. The Galaxy S24, powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 processor, is priced at Rs 39,999 (originally Rs 74,999), while the Galaxy S24 FE, offering the same advanced AI experience, can be purchased for Rs 29,999 (originally Rs 59,999).

The Galaxy A series is also seeing discounts of up to 42%. The Galaxy A55 5G is available for Rs 23,999 (originally Rs 39,999), and the Galaxy A35 5G is priced at Rs

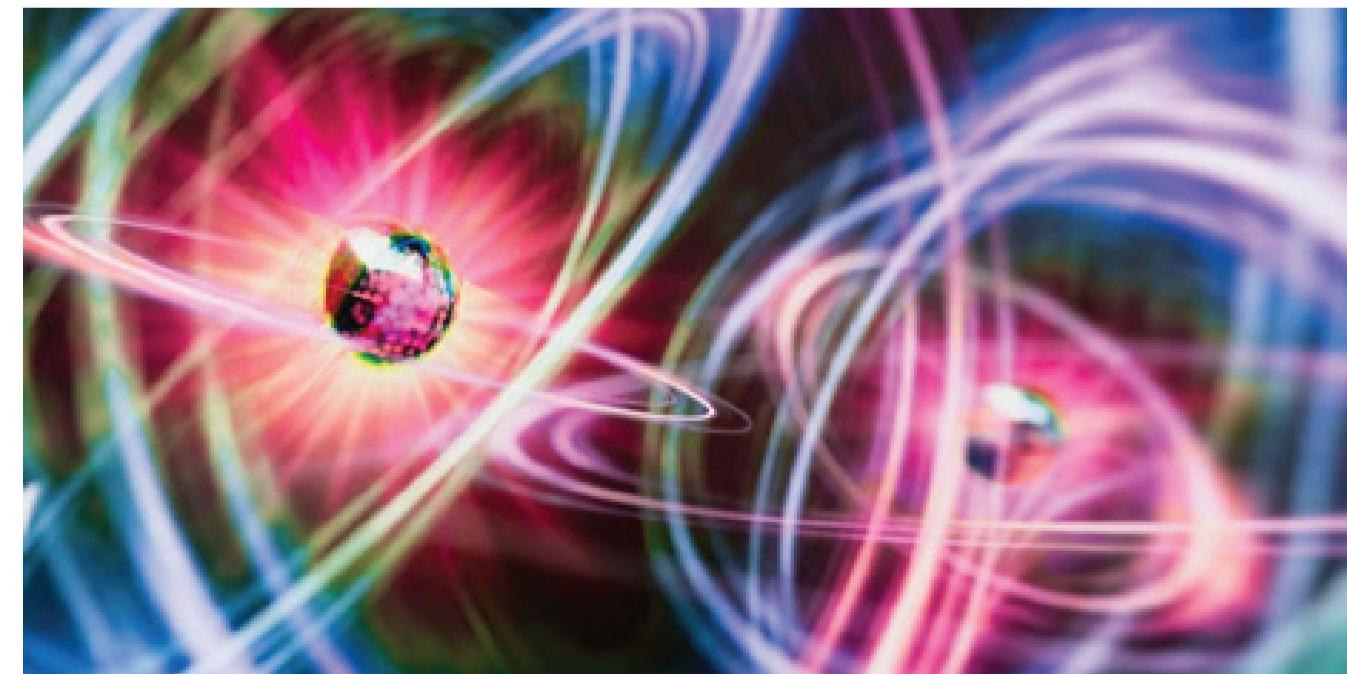
17,999 (originally Rs 30,999). Both feature a 6.6-inch FHD+ 120Hz Super AMOLED display, Dolby stereo speakers, Vision Booster technology, and a versatile camera setup with a 50MP main sensor, ultra-wide and macro lenses, plus enhanced Nightography capabilities.

The Galaxy M series offers up to 30% off, with the M36 5G at Rs 13,999 (originally Rs 19,999), M16 5G at Rs 10,499 (originally Rs 13,499), and M06 5G at Rs 7,499 (originally Rs 9,999). Designed for Indian Gen Z consumers, the M36 5G brings AI innovations and Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®+ for durability.

The Galaxy F series also sees up to 30% discounts, including the F36 5G at Rs 13,999 and F06 5G at Rs 7,499. The F06 5G supports 12 5G bands across operators, offering a complete 5G experience at an affordable price.

These festive offers across Galaxy S, A, M, and F series go live from 22 September 2025, giving customers a prime chance to upgrade their smartphones with cutting-edge technology at unbeatable prices.

## Quantum Entanglement Breakthrough Brings Nuclear Spin Computers Closer



Quantum entanglement — famously called "spooky action at a distance" by Albert Einstein — is the key feature that makes quantum computers powerful. It allows particles to be connected in ways that enable computations impossible for classical computers, such as simulating molecules, pharmaceuticals, or

catalysts. In new research published in *Science*, scientists have demonstrated entanglement between two atomic nuclei separated by about 20 nanometres, a breakthrough that could accelerate the development of quantum computers using nuclear spins.

Quantum engineers face a

fundamental challenge: balancing the need to shield qubits from noise while allowing them to interact for computations. Many quantum hardware platforms either excel in shielding but are hard to control, or perform fast operations but are prone to errors. The team, led by Professor Andrea Mo-

rello, works with phosphorus atoms implanted in silicon chips, using the spins of atomic nuclei to store quantum information reliably. Until now, entanglement between nuclei required them to share a single electron, limiting scalability.

The new approach uses electrons as "telephones" to

enable communication between nuclei even when they are physically separated. Each electron interacts with a nucleus, and electrons interact with one another, creating entanglement between distant nuclei via a method called the "geometric gate." In the experiment, the phosphorus nuclei were 20 nanometres apart — a distance compatible with existing silicon transistor fabrication.

This breakthrough integrates long-lived nuclear spin qubits into standard silicon chips, opening the path for scalable, reliable quantum computing. The team envisions extending entanglement over even greater distances by manipulating electron shapes and positions, allowing more complex quantum circuits. This research bridges electron-based quantum devices and nuclear spin qubits, bringing practical, high-fidelity quantum computers closer to reality.

By combining precision, stability, and scalability, this work marks a significant step toward the next generation of quantum computing built on silicon, the backbone of today's electronics.

# Rohit, Kohli Begin High-Stakes ODI Audition Against South Africa

India face South Africa in the first ODI on Sunday in Ranchi, where Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli return to the limited-overs setup for a crucial three-match series that could influence their prospects for the 2027 ODI World Cup. With India scheduled to play only six ODIs over the next two months—three against the Proteas and three versus New Zealand in January—the stage is set for a high-pressure evaluation of two modern greats who now feature in just one international format.

The JSCA Stadium holds symbolic relevance for Rohit, who in 2013 was first backed as a full-time opener at this venue, a move that transformed his white-ball career. Now, at 37, he returns seeking a different kind of resurgence as India rebuild following their recent home Test defeat.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir also enters the series under scrutiny. While his job is secure until the 2027 World Cup, his tactical decisions during the Test series were widely questioned. The ODIs present

an opportunity for Gambhir to reset the narrative and reinforce clarity in India's white-ball plans, even as the immediate focus remains on the 2026 T20 World Cup at home.

India's squad remains unsettled with key players missing. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have been rested, while Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer are recovering from injuries. This forces stand-in captain KL Rahul and Gambhir to experiment, especially in the middle order where Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Tilak Varma are competing for key roles. The team will also assess wicketkeeping options between Rahul and Rishabh Pant.

South Africa, buoyant after their Test series win, arrive confident despite missing pace stars Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje. Captain Temba Bavuma leads a balanced squad featuring Quinton de Kock, Dewald Brevis, Tony de Zorzi, and spinner Keshav Maharaj, who is expected to play a pivotal role on



slowing surfaces.

## Squads

India: KL Rahul (c), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja,

Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Rituraj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Aiden Markram, Dewald Brevis, Nandre

Burger, Quinton de Kock, Marco Jansen, Tony de Zorzi, Rubin Hermann, Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickleton, Prenelan Subrayen.

## Athlead Juba Ingolstadt Academy Launched in Delhi-NCR



The Athlead Juba Ingolstadt Academy (AJIA) was officially inaugurated on November 26 at the Juba Sangha Club in New Delhi, marking a major step toward strengthening Indo-German collaboration in

grassroots football development. The launch coincided with an AIFF Elite Youth League Under-18 match featuring the Athlead Juba Sangha team, adding significance to the ceremony.

The event was attended by key dignitaries, including FC Ingolstadt 04 CEO Dietmar Beiersdorfer and Director of Strategy Manuel Schafer. Also present were Shrachi Sports leadership members Tamal

Ghosal, Susanta Deb and Managing Director Rahul Todi, along with officials from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Delhi Soccer Association (DSA).

Football legends and members of the AJIA technical leadership graced the inauguration, including former India captain and celebrated goalkeeper Bhaskar Ganguly, former East Bengal winger Alvito D'Cunha, Mohun Bagan icon José Barreto and East Bengal stalwart Suley Musah. Their presence highlighted the academy's ambition to build a robust, professional football development structure.

Speaking at the launch, Rahul Todi emphasised the academy's mission to merge German technical standards with India's evolving grassroots ecosystem to create world-class pathways for young footballers. FC Ingolstadt CEO Dietmar Beiersdorfer echoed this vision, stressing the club's commitment to

nurturing international talent and supporting sustainable development models in India.

A central part of the collaboration is the International Player and Coach Exchange Programme, which will bring German coaches to India while sending promising Indian talents to Germany for training. The initiative includes advanced coaching workshops, high-performance camps and structured competitive exposure, with formal pathways for players to secure trial opportunities with FC Ingolstadt 04 and other European clubs.

The Athlead Juba Sangha setup features a fully integrated residential development programme, including a 70-bed facility, physiotherapy and S&C units, a performance gym, data analysis department and a nutrition-focused cafeteria. The comprehensive ecosystem aims to create a new benchmark for youth football development in India.

## Mbappé Hits Four as PSG, Arsenal and Teen Stars Light Up Champions League

A thrilling night of Champions League action on November 26 produced a storm of goals, standout performances and a reminder that football's biggest stage belongs not only to rising teenage stars but also to seasoned elite performers. At the centre of it all was Kylian Mbappé, who delivered a sensational four-goal display for Real Madrid in their dominant win over Olympiakos.

Mbappé's haul included the second-fastest hat-trick in Champions League history, reaffirming his status as one of the sport's most explosive finishers. Celebrating alongside Vinicius Júnior, the French superstar headlined a night packed with drama across Europe.

In London, Arsenal climbed to the top of their group after a commanding 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich. The win not only dethroned Bayern from the summit but also strengthened Arsenal's case as genuine contenders in this season's tournament. Their high-intensity press and sharp finishing



proved too strong for the German giants, who struggled to match Arsenal's tempo.

Over in Paris, defending champions Paris Saint-Germain produced a lively 5-3 triumph against Tottenham Hotspur. Midfielder Vitinha was the star of the night, scoring a memo-

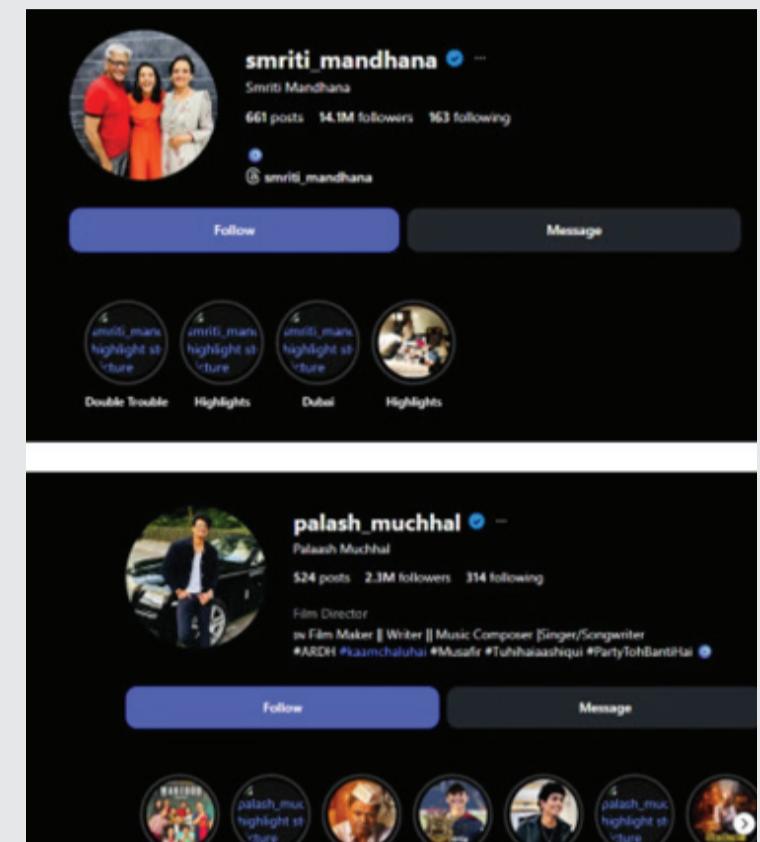
rable hat-trick that dismantled Spurs' defensive structure. PSG's attacking depth shone once again, sending a strong message to rivals eyeing the knockout stages.

However, the shock of the night came at Anfield, where Liverpool suffered another disappointing

home defeat—this time a 4-1 loss to PSV Eindhoven. The Dutch side capitalised on defensive lapses and maintained complete control, deepening Liverpool's struggles in Europe this season.

Adding to the night's excitement were several teenage scorers across the

## Smriti Mandhana, Palash Muchhal Spark Buzz With Instagram Bio Update



The postponed wedding of Indian cricket star Smriti Mandhana and music composer Palash Muchhal has turned into a swirl of speculation as both updated their Instagram bios with the 'nazar' (evil eye) emoji, triggering fresh curiosity among fans.

The couple was set to tie the knot on November 23 in Sangli, just weeks after India's Women's World Cup triumph, where Smriti played a crucial role. However, the celebrations were halted abruptly when Smriti's father, Shrinivas Mandhana, suffered a medical emergency and was rushed to the hospital on the day of the ceremony. A day later, Palash too was hospitalised in Sangli and later shifted to Mumbai, prompting the families to officially postpone the wedding.

According to Smriti's business manager, both were admitted due to unrelated health issues, and the decision to defer the ceremony was made purely out of medical necessity. Both have since been discharged and are recovering well, but the families have yet to announce a new wedding date.

Adding to the mystery, Smriti recently removed all wedding-related posts from her Instagram account. While several casual photos with Palash still remain, the deletions sparked rumours about the status of their relationship. Palash, too, updated his bio in sync with Smriti's, with both choosing the protective 'nazar' emoji—a symbol commonly used to ward off negativity.

Fans quickly took notice, flooding social media with questions, theories and well-wishes. Despite the chatter, neither family has issued any statement beyond the initial announcement of the postponement.

For now, supporters of the couple remain hopeful that the wedding will simply be rescheduled once the families are ready. Until an official date is shared, the updated bios and subtle social media movements will continue to keep followers guessing.

## MI to Face RCB in WPL 2026 Opener on January 9



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday announced the full schedule for the 2026 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL), confirming Navi Mumbai and Vadodara as the host cities for the month-long tournament.

The five-team league will run from January 9 to February 5, with two-time champions Mumbai Indians set to take on 2024 winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the high-profile opener at DY Patil Stadium.

The opening clash promises a blockbuster start, pitting two of the league's strongest sides against each other. Mumbai Indians, known for their consistency and depth, will look to begin their campaign on a strong note, while RCB aim to recreate the form that brought them their first title in 2024.

According to the schedule released by the WPL, the Navi Mumbai leg will be played from

January 9 to 17. DY Patil Stadium will host the first 11 matches of the tournament, setting the stage for an intense start as teams jostle for early momentum in the tightly contested league.

The action will then shift to Vadodara, where the remaining 11 matches—including the play-offs—will be hosted. The relocation marks the WPL's expansion into a new venue, with Vadodara set to welcome its first major women's cricket event. The city's inclusion underscores the BCCI's ongoing efforts to broaden the reach of women's cricket across India.

With five teams competing over 22 matches, WPL 2026 promises high-quality cricket, renewed rivalries and emerging stars. As the countdown begins, fans eagerly await another season of impactful performances, thrilling finishes and standout talent shaping the landscape of women's cricket in India.

## Annagaru Vostaru Teaser Promises Fun-Filled Action Ride



Tamil star Karthi is gearing up to entertain audiences once again with his upcoming film *Vaa Vaathiyaaar*, which is set for a grand theatrical release in December 2025. Directed by the acclaimed Nalan Kumarasamy and produced by KE Gnanavelraja under the Studio Green banner, the film will hit screens simultaneously in Tamil and Telugu. The Telugu version is titled *Annagaru Vostaru*.

The newly released teaser was unveiled by director Anil Ravipudi, who extended his best wishes to the entire team. The one-and-a-half-minute glimpse instantly sets a lively tone, blending Karthi's trademark charm with his action-packed screen presence. The teaser suggests that the film will lean heavily into quirky humour and energetic sequences, creating expectations for a wholesome commercial entertainer.

Karthi plays a police officer who is tough and uncompromising on duty but re-

veals a lighter, playful side outside of it. This duality is showcased effectively in the teaser, offering fans a taste of both intensity and humour. The sleek cutting style, coupled with Santhosh Narayanan's vibrant background score, enhances the excitement and amplifies the teaser's overall impact.

Krithi Shetty plays the female lead, adding freshness to the pairing. The supporting cast includes Shilpa Manjunath, Rajkiran, Anand Raj, and Sathyaraj in key roles. The ensemble is further strengthened by the presence of Karunakaran, GM Sundar, Ramesh Thilak, PL Thenapalan, Vidhya Borgia, Nivas Adithian, and Madhur Mittal.

With a strong technical team, an exciting cast, and a teaser that promises a mix of fun and action, *Annagaru Vostaru* has already started building solid buzz. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release as Karthi steps into yet another entertaining avatar.

## Revolver Rita Opens to Disappointing Response



Keerthy Suresh's latest film *Revolver Rita* hit theatres on Friday, but the release went almost unnoticed across most regions. Despite being a dubbed Tamil film, the makers had hoped for a modest opening, especially with known actors like Radhika Sarathkumar, Sunil, and John Vijay in the cast. Keerthy Suresh even promoted the film in Hyderabad, giving interviews to generate interest. One interview moment—where she was unexpectedly asked about Chiranjeevi—briefly went viral, but it did little to boost the film's visibility.

Trade sources report that while a handful of shows were held in Hyderabad, the occupancy remained extremely low. In many centres, screenings reportedly ran with almost no audience, reflecting the minimal buzz surrounding the release.

*Revolver Rita* positions itself as a dark comedy thriller, but the narrative offers little novelty. The premise follows a mother and daughter who accidentally kill a local don who

barges into their home. What unfolds is a string of chaotic attempts to hide the body, escape from the don's vengeful son, avoid the police, and survive the chaos. However, the storytelling lacks conviction, drawing inevitable comparisons to films like *Coco Kokila* and *Keeda Kola*. Despite packing in numerous elements, the film struggles to bring them together cohesively, resulting in a bland and forgettable experience.

The repetitive screenplay makes the film feel stretched, turning it into a lesson in how not to craft a dark comedy. For many viewers, it is disheartening to see Keerthy Suresh—once praised for her exceptional performance in *Mahanati*—stuck in yet another poorly executed project. Her recent attempts at leading roles have largely fallen flat at the box office, with *Miss India*, *Penguin*, and *Good Luck Sakhi* all underperforming. Unfortunately, *Revolver Rita* now joins that list, adding another setback to the actress's inconsistent run.

## Akhanda 2 Pre-Release Event: Balakrishna Promises a Divine Action Spectacle



*Akhanda 2: Tandavam*, the powerful reunion of God of Masses Nandamuri Balakrishna and blockbuster director Boyapati Srinu, held its grand pre-release event ahead of the film's worldwide release on December 5, 2025, in both 2D and 3D formats. Produced by Ram Achanta and Gopichand Achanta, and presented by M. Tejaswini Nandamuri, the film has already created massive buzz with its teaser, trailer, and music by S. Thaman.

Addressing the packed venue, Balakrishna said the audience would witness "the power of Maha Shiva, Rudra Tandava Vinyasa, and the essence of Sanatana Dharma." Calling *Akhanda 2* an "explosive" cinematic experience, he expressed gratitude to fans, whom he described as emotionally connected to him "for many births." He bowed in reverence to his father, legendary actor Dr. Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, acknowledging him as his guiding force.

Balakrishna spoke of

how *Akhanda* succeeded during the COVID period and expressed confidence that the sequel would surpass expectations. He emphasized the film's spiritual core, stating that the energy of Maha Shiva and Adi Shakti would be strongly felt on screen. He

praised director Boyapati Srinu for their effortless creative chemistry and lauded the cast and crew, including Aadi Pinisetty, Murali Mohan, and the stunt masters Ram-Laxman. He also highlighted Thaman's impactful music and

appreciated the team's efforts during the challenging shoot in Georgia.

Balakrishna revealed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had praised the film's portrayal of Sanatana Dharma after watching

the trailer. He described *Akhanda 2* as "Ugadi pacchadi," promising a blend of emotions, action, devotion, and grandeur.

Director Boyapati Srinu thanked governments, police departments, actors, and technicians, calling

Balakrishna "our power and our courage." He assured fans that the film would deliver unmatched divine action.

*Akhanda 2: Tandavam* is set to roar at the box office, carrying sky-high expectations from fans across the globe.

## Janhvi Kapoor Lets Earthy Glam Speak in Silence



Janhvi Kapoor has been dominating social media lately, largely thanks to the unexpectedly viral "Chikiri Chikiri" track from her upcoming rural sports drama *Peddi*. The song's catchy rhythm and rustic flavour have caught on quickly, and Janhvi appears to be embracing the momentum with quiet confidence. Riding the wave, she has now shared a new set of photographs that are sparking fresh conversations online, with many noting a shift toward a calmer, more grounded phase in her career.

The latest pictures reveal Janhvi in an earthy, textured ensemble that exudes

an old-world elegance. The muted, warm-toned background, lightly brushed with greenery, creates an almost cinematic hush. Standing still with her hands poised gracefully and her hair pulled back, Janhvi channels an understated assurance. Her jewelry adds only a whisper of shine, letting the ambience carry most of the mood. Rather than a typical glam shoot, the images feel intimate and atmospheric—a moment suspended in silence, which is why they've struck a chord with viewers.

With *Peddi* slated for a March 2026 release, the promotional campaign is still in its early stages. Yet the team is steadily building intrigue by dropping songs and subtle glimpses that hint at the film's tone. Janhvi's role, described as performance-heavy and rooted in a rural setting, is drawing attention for its potential to showcase a new dimension of her craft.

As the buzz grows, these recent photos reinforce the idea that Janhvi is leaning into authenticity—both in her styling choices and her evolving screen presence. For now, *Peddi*'s teasers and her grounded aesthetic are doing exactly what they need to: keeping audiences curious and waiting for more.

## "Varanasi" Title Row Ends – Telugu Version to Be "Rajamouli Varanasi" Other Stick with "Varanasi"



A fresh resolution has emerged in the months-long dispute over the title of *Varanasi*, the upcoming film by S. S. Rajamouli starring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Originally announced simply as "Varanasi" at a grand launch on November 15, the film's title had triggered controversy—another production house, Rama Bramha Hanuma Creations, while enabling the much-hyped Rajamouli project to retain its brand identity in non-Telugu markets. The decision reportedly involved buy-out and licensing discussions, ensuring no pending objections remain.

With the title controversy behind them, the makers now plan full-steam ahead for release. According to previous announcements, *Varanasi* is slated for a nationwide, multi-language release in 2027—promising a grand cinematic spectacle worth the wait.