

HC Directs Govt to Announce Local Body Election Dates by Nov 24

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

The Telangana High Court has issued crucial directives to the state government regarding the long-stalled local body elections, instructing officials to finalize and announce the election dates by November 24th of this month. The local body elections across Telangana had previously come to an abrupt halt due to legal disputes concerning the implementation of Backward Classes (BC) reservations. This intervention by the High Court sets a firm timeline for the government to move forward with the democratic process. The court clarified that the objections raised and subsequently litigated were strictly related to the reservation quotas and mechanisms, and not against the fundamental principle or necessity of conducting the elections themselves.

The High Court took a strong stance against the

approach suggested by the State Election Commission (SEC). The SEC had proposed to hold elections only in those local bodies where there was no dispute concerning the BC reservations, thereby conducting the polls in a partial or divided manner across the state. The High Court decisively objected to this segregated approach, suggesting that conducting elections in a fragmented or piecewise manner is inappropriate for a statewide democratic process. This stance effectively pushes the government toward a comprehensive, unified solution. Previously, the SEC had released the election schedule and issued a formal notification, but the process was immediately stopped following petitions filed in the High Court challenging the BC reservation policy.

The state government attempted to overcome the High Court's stay order on the related Government Order (GO) by challenging the decision in the Supreme Court via



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a Special Leave Petition (SLP). However, the Supreme Court refused to hear the SLP and dismissed it, stating that since the core matter was still

pending resolution in the High Court, it could not intervene at that stage. The Supreme Court had, however, provided an option to the government:

if it wished to proceed immediately with the local body polls, it could do so by utilizing the old reservation system instead of the disputed new GO. Now, with the High Court's fresh and firm direction, the government is mandated to make a definitive decision and announce the election schedule before the end of the specified deadline, ensuring the constitutional requirement for holding local body polls is met without further undue delay.

Kavitha Criticizes Harish Rao, BRS Leaders for Lack of Grassroots Work and Financial Misconduct

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Telenaganag Jagruthi President Kavitha launched a scathing attack on senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T. Harish Rao, accusing him of characteristic deception and deflecting blame for the party's recent electoral failures. Speaking at a press conference in Medak, Kavitha asserted that engaging in mutual accusations and infighting is now consuming the BRS party. She directly called out BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), advising him to abandon his focus on social media and instead engage directly with the party's ground reality. Kavitha stated that it is Harish Rao's established nature to avoid taking responsibility immediately after the BRS loses an election. She went on to disclose that she herself was ousted from the party after speaking out strongly about him previously.

Kavitha criticized the perceived disconnect between the leadership and the party's foundation, stating that KTR and Harish Rao are only "Krishna-Arjunas" in name and on Twitter, but are failing to work at the grassroots level. She provided a specific example of the party's lack of support during the recent Jubilee Hills by-election: she noted that 15 independent candidates approached her asking for guidance on sup-



orting a candidate after withdrawing their nominations. She, being outside the BRS, told them she had no involvement. However, she revealed that when the same candidates approached Harish Rao, he reportedly gave them the same non-committal answer, telling them to support whomsoever they wished. Kavitha sharply contrasted her actions—being uninvolved because she is not in the BRS—with Harish Rao's, accusing him of deceiving the party by maintaining a distance despite being a key leader.

The BRS leader further accused the current state government of serious injustice in the Group-1 job recruitment process and generally failing to create sufficient employment opportunities. However, she swiftly pivoted back to criticizing her former party, alleging that Harish Rao has business connections

Telangana Global Summit Set for Dec 8-9; CM Directs Tight Security for Delegates

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a crucial review meeting at the Command Control Centre with top officials from various state departments, focusing on the preparations for the upcoming 'Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025'. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of seamless coordination among all departments to ensure the summit is conducted with grandeur and success. Given the anticipated attendance of delegates and representatives from various countries, the CM issued



strict instructions to authorities to implement adequate security arrangements to guarantee the safety and protection of all international participants throughout the event. The meeting focused specifically on the summit, which is sched-

uled to take place in Hyderabad on December 8th and 9th, coinciding with the second anniversary of the People's Gov-

ernment. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the second anniversary of the government would be

celebrated grandly on December 8th. The highlight of the two-day event will be the formal unveiling of the 'Telangana Ri-

ving-2047 Policy Document' on December 9th. The CM emphasized the profound significance of this document, explaining that it will serve as the future roadmap for Telangana, guiding all major decisions and policies in the years to come. He stressed that this visionary document is essential for providing clarity and confidence to investors regarding the state's long-term economic trajectory and stability.

The Chief Minister directed all departmental heads to immediately begin planning and preparing PowerPoint presentations related to their respective sectoral policies, which are to be showcased at the Global Su-

ACB Raids Sub-Registrar Offices Across Telangana, Seizes Unaccounted Cash and Documents

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) launched a widespread, simultaneous operation across Telangana, conducting raids on numerous Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs) throughout the state. A total of 23 ACB teams were mobilized for the surprise inspections, which took place on Saturday. The raids targeted several key locations, including SROs in Gandipet, Serilingampally, Medchal, Nizamabad, Miryalaguda, Wanaparthy, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Bhupalpally, and Vaire. These coordinated searches were prompted by persistent allegations of corruption and illegal activities within the revenue and registration departments.

During the extensive search operations, the ACB teams successfully seized a significant amount of unaccounted cash totaling 2,51,990. Furthermore, the agency confiscated 289 registered documents that were part of the investigations, along with various sums of cash found within the offices. The ACB's findings highlighted the widespread nature of the corruption: they identified 19 private individuals and 60 document writers who were operating without proper authorization within the SRO premises and were actively involved in corrupt practices. These unauthorized agents and writers were found to be facilitating illegal transactions and demanding bribes, effectively running



parallel operations within the government offices.

A major discovery during the raids was the failure of security infrastructure, with the ACB noting that CCTV cameras were found to be non-functional in many of the raided offices. This lack of surveillance provides an environment conducive to illegal and corrupt activities. The ACB has compiled a comprehensive report detailing all the observed irregularities and systemic flaws, which has been submitted to the state government. In a parallel investigation, the ACB also conducted simultaneous searches at the private residences of SRO officials. A total of 13 Sub-Registrars' houses were raided, resulting in the seizure of substantial amounts of cash, gold ornaments, and property documents, indicating that the corruption extended beyond the SRO premises and into the personal assets of the officials.

rated Telugu films and OTT content via the iBomma website and its network of mirror sites. He was found to have been running the massive piracy operation remotely from the Caribbean islands.

The arrest follows sustained pressure from the Telugu film industry, which registered formal complaints with law enforcement. A case had been registered against Ravi and four other suspects back in September, following persistent complaints from various Telugu film bodies regarding widespread piracy and the resultant massive financial losses incurred by the industry. Film producers stated that the rapid uploading of newly released movies, often on the very day of their theatrical release, caused substantial financial damage. The ongoing investigation has unearthed the staggering scale of the operation, estimating that Ravi illegally amassed hundreds of crores of rupees over several years through the illicit activity.

Conversely, the police investigation has determined that the piracy linked to iBomma and its associated websites has caused an estimated 22,000 crores in losses to the entire Indian cinema industry over the past few years.

During Ravi's arrest



Telangana to Emerge as India's 'Aero-Engine Capital' by 2030

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu articulated a bold vision for Telangana, declaring the state's strategic intent to emerge as India's leading 'Aero-Engine Capital' by the year 2030. Speaking at the 'Empowering Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing Summit' held at the Indian School of Business (ISB) in Hyderabad, the Minister affirmed that the State government is proactively preparing a comprehensive roadmap. This detailed strategy aims to foster a globally competitive aero space and defence (A &D) ecosystem through close, intensified collaboration between leading international and national industries, coupled with strong support from key academic and research institu-

tions. Sridhar Babu emphasized the state's advantageous position, noting that foundational initiatives taken by earlier Congress governments were instrumental in establishing Telangana as a strategic defence hub, providing it with a significant head start in building a complete end-to-end A &D value chain.

The Minister connected the state's ambitions to the global context, noting that the current rapid geopolitical developments and worldwide supply chain disruptions are compelling countries to seek credible, reliable, and dependable partners like India. Telangana is determined to leverage this strategic shift through focused policy and preparedness. He highlighted the strength of India's defence sector, citing the nation's defence production cross-

ing 1.5 lakh crore last year, coupled with defence exports recording an impressive 12 percent growth. These figures, he said, clearly reflect a rapidly increasing global trust in India's manufacturing capabilities. Integrating A&D as a critical sector is part of Telangana's overarching long-term vision to achieve a monumental \$3 trillion economy by 2047. The State currently hosts more than 25 major national and international A&D companies and over 1,500 MSMEs that are actively strengthening the 'Telangana brand' in global markets. The sector's remarkable growth is evidenced by its export performance: aerospace exports surged from 15,900 crore in 2023-24 to a staggering 30,742 crore in just the first nine months of the current fiscal year (2024-25).

Sridhar Babu detailed several key investment projects that are substantially expanding the State's manufacturing capacity. He cited the recent operationalization of the Tata-Safran aero-engine facility at Adibatla, an investment valued at 425 crore. Furthermore, the State is anticipating the imminent commissioning of the JSW Defence UAV manufacturing unit (800 crore investment) and Premier Explosives' new defence production facility (500 crore). The Minister concluded by assuring the summit attendees that numerous other global companies are currently engaged in advanced stages of discussion for major investments in Telangana, underscoring the state's robust future prospects as a leading hub for aerospace manufacturing and technological innovation in India.



Minister Seethakka Vows To Turn One Crore Women into Millionaires Through SHGs

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Minister Seethakka, speaking at the State-level Conference of Mandal Samakhya Presidents, passionately articulated the ambitious social and economic goals of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government under the Indira Mahila Shakti program. The Minister's central declaration was the government's unwavering resolve to enroll one crore women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and actively work to elevate every single member to the status of a 'millionaire' (Koteeswarulu). Addressing the newly elected Mandal Samakhya Presidents, she acknowledged the skepticism surrounding this bold promise but asserted that the dream is already being realized, noting that many Mandal Samakhya Presidents are already managing and utilizing substantial funds amounting to crores of rupees. She stressed that the Chief Minister deeply believes that the financial security and happiness of women are fundamental to the well-being of the entire family, which is the driving force behind the acceleration of empowerment through Mahila Shakti.

Minister Seethakka highlighted the remarkable journey and economic evolution of women's groups in the state. She pointed out their progression from using basic welfare schemes to reaching a point of such financial strength that they are now capable of providing rental buses to the RTC (Road Transport Corporation). She reported impressive financial statistics, stating that the government is facilitating at least 20,000 crores in bank loans annually to SHGs. Crucially, she underscored the exceptional creditworthiness of these groups, citing their outstanding 99 percent loan repayment rate, which has led banks to proactively offer them credit. Minister Seethakka contrasted this reliability with the actions of major corporate loan defaulters, suggesting that financial institutions consider the women of Telangana more trustworthy. She also linked the rise of SHGs to poverty alleviation, noting that these groups have successfully acted as a major check against the historical exploitation by usurers, which was a key driver of rural distress and unrest in the state.

Minister Seethakka detailed the significant

diversification of SHG enterprises. Starting from small ventures like petrol pumps, the groups have rapidly scaled up to manage and operate major commercial ventures such as solar power plants, rice mills, and large storage warehouses. She emphasized the global market potential of their locally sourced products, specifically citing the success of Ippa Puvvu (Mahua flower) Laddus made by Adivasi women in Adilabad, and mentioned the government's support for Ippa tree cultivation in Mulugu. The government's commitment includes providing crores of rupees in business contracts to the SHGs and supporting the operation of the women-run Stree Nidhi Bank. Furthermore, the SHGs are now playing a vital role in social welfare, providing financial support through advances for the construction of Indiramma houses to beneficiaries lacking immediate cash. The Minister affirmed that these SHGs represent the true identity and collective economic strength of the average woman in Telangana, providing not just income but crucial social insurance and recognition.

Telangana Launches 'Tourism Home Stay' Initiative to Promote Local Hospitality

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The Telangana government has officially rolled out the 'Telangana Tourism Home Stay' program, a significant new initiative designed to boost the state's tourism and hospitality sector by promoting standardized, high-quality homestay accommodations. The primary goal of this program is to substantially enhance lodging availability across the state, specifically targeting not only popular tourist destinations but also underserved district centers and rural areas. By offering visitors the option to stay with local families, the initiative seeks to

provide a unique and authentic experience that merges world-class hospitality standards with a deep, firsthand immersion into Telangana's rich cultural traditions and genuine regional cuisine. This strategic move aims to decentralize tourism benefits and encourage visitors to explore beyond the traditional urban hubs.

The program is carefully structured to ensure that both domestic and international tourists can consistently expect clean, safe, and comfortable accommodation that adheres to prescribed quality standards set by the department.

This commitment to maintaining quality is managed through a formal classification and reclassification system for the homestay establishments, providing clear benchmarks for service and infrastructure. Private investors and individuals who are interested in developing and operating homestay units in the state are formally invited to apply for classification under two distinct tiers: the Silver category, which requires a non-refundable classification fee of 2,000, and the premium Gold category, which requires a fee of 4,000. All application fees must be submitted via demand draft

made payable to the 'Commissioner/Director of Tourism, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.'

The Telangana Tourism Department has issued a press release formally inviting applications from private individuals and entrepreneurs who wish to participate in and develop these homestay establishments.

This collaborative approach leverages private sector capital and enthusiasm to rapidly diversify and expand the state's lodging capacity, moving accommodation options beyond traditional hotel models. Interested appli-

cants can easily access the detailed guidelines and application forms, which are made available for download from the official departmental website, www.tourism.telangana.gov.in, or they can be procured directly from the department's central office located in Hyderabad.

The comprehensive rollout of this Homestay initiative is a strategic step to fully capitalize on the state's varied tourist potential, encouraging visitors to spend more time and promoting local economies by integrating tourists directly into the social and economic fabric of Telangana's regions.

TPCC Chief: Jubilee Hills Victory Endorses Development and Welfare

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that the voters of Jubilee Hills constituency have given their mandate in favor of the current government's agenda of development and welfare. Speaking at a press conference organized at the R&B Guest House in Nizamabad district center, Goud attributed the Congress party's victory to the collective effort of every dedicated party worker. He firmly stated that the party is committed to delivering a 'People's Rule' (Praja Palana) that aligns with the aspirations of the public in the coming years. Goud emphasized the significance of the victory, particularly highlighting the success of the BC candidate, Naveen Yadav. He credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the cabinet ministers, and every Congress



worker for securing the win for a leader from the Backward Classes community.

According to Goud, the massive majority achieved by the Congress candidate is a clear reflection of the public's satisfaction with the state government's performance and its ongoing welfare schemes. On behalf of the party, he

extended special thanks to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his tireless efforts during the campaign. Goud stated that the verdict in Jubilee Hills provides the party with strong confidence that the Congress will secure 100 seats in the upcoming general Assembly elections and that the government is guaranteed to remain in power for at least ten years. The TPCC President reiterated the Congress party's 'commitment' to providing 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs). He viewed the Jubilee Hills verdict as a strong warning issued by the public to the BJP, which he accused of obstructing the implementation of BC reservation. Furthermore, he as-

serted that the clear mandate once again proves that the BRS party has no place in the state's future political landscape, claiming that the public had already decided the BRS's fate with a 'zero' vote in the preceding Parliament elections. Goud concluded by emphasizing the decisiveness of the victory, positioning the Jubilee Hills result alongside the Cantonment by-election as a 'slap in the face' to the opposition parties. He expressed strong confidence that the Jubilee Hills success is a clear indicator that the public will endorse the Congress party in the forthcoming GHMC elections as well. The press conference was attended by prominent leaders including Government Advisors Produturi Sudarshan Reddy and Mohammd Shabbir Ali, Nizamabad Rural MLA Bhupathi Reddy, and several others.

KTR Meets KCR After Jubilee Hills Defeat; Plans Review and State-wide Tour

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025, Following the BRS party's defeat in the Jubilee Hills by-election, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) paid a visit to the party President and former Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR). KTR traveled to KCR's farmhouse in Erravalli for the meeting, marking the first time the two leaders met since the by-poll results were announced. It is reported that KCR inquired extensively about the party's defeat in Jubilee Hills and the subsequent internal political situation. The leaders also engaged in detailed discussions regarding the party's future course of action and strategy.



In response to the defeat and the prevailing sense of disappointment among the grassroots, KTR has decided to hold a crucial review meeting with the Jubilee Hill

s cadre on Tuesday at Telangana Bhavan. The news indicates that the Jubilee Hills party workers are feeling discouraged and frustrated following the unexpected

KTR announced broader plans to undertake a state-wide tour in the coming days.

The primary objectives of this tour are to energize party workers from the village level upwards and to directly engage with the public to understand their grievances and issues. KTR also affirmed the BRS party's commitment to intensify its fight against the "failures" of the Congress government as part of its role as the principal opposition. The meeting with KCR and the subsequent mobilization plan signal the BRS leadership's efforts to regroup and refocus the party's energies after the recent electoral setback.

KTR Vows to Protect Workers After Attack; Warns Congress Against 'Arrogance'

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) issued a strong statement following the alleged attack on a BRS worker, using sharp language to warn the ruling Congress party. KTR firmly reiterated his pre-election promise, stating, "What I said before the election, I say now: the responsibility to protect every worker in the Jubilee Hills constituency, no matter what happens to them, is mine, and I will protect them like the apple of my eye." KTR highlighted his immediate

action, noting: "I said I would come in half an hour, and I came today. I will continue to come like this in the future too!" This was a direct signal of his commitment to the ground-level cadre following the party's defeat.

KTR forcefully asserted that the Congress party must take responsibility for the attack carried out against the BRS worker. He pointedly referenced the ongoing public discourse surrounding political temperament, stating that "the people are observing whose arro-

gance is at play." This statement serves as a counter-accusation to the narrative of BRS arrogance that often surfaces following their electoral losses. He issued a clear warning to the ruling party, stating that if the Congress party continues to "swagger" (viravigite) in this manner, the public will eventually teach them a lesson. The statement was a powerful reaffirmation of KTR's commitment to the party base and a challenge to the Congress party's conduct following their by-election victory.



BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan Slams CM's 'Arrogance' Post-Bypoll Win

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of operating with an air of "arrogance and dominance" and celebrating the Jubilee Hills by-election victory as if it were a monumental achievement. Sravan dismissed the win, stating that it does not represent public approval of Revanth Reddy's administration, as it is "common for the ruling party to win by-elections." He pointed out that the Congress party has historically lost deposits in numerous by-elections and even in the recent GHMC elections, questioning the CM's aggressive celebratory tone. Sravan warned the Chief Minister to "talk without jumping up and down," criticizing his rhetoric which he felt portrays him as being impeccably pure.

Sravan detailed the massive resources allegedly deployed by the ruling party, claiming

that the CM, 15 Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, and party workers, along with the DGP, were all involved in the Jubilee Hills campaign. He alleged that the Congress party spent 200 crore and "begged" the MIM party for support to secure the victory. Furthermore, Sravan accused the Congress of "rigging" the Jubilee Hills by-election, drawing parallels to electoral fraud seen in regions like Bihar, Rayalaseema, and Hyderabad's Old City. He asserted that at the by-election was a "life-or-death issue" for Revanth Reddy, who feared losing his Chief Minister position if the party had lost. Sravan alleged that the CM colluded with officials, the Election Commission, and the MIM to ensure his victory.

The MLC argued that the public did not vote for Revanth Reddy but for the individual Congress candidate, Naveen Yadav. He questioned why the Congress had bypassed Azharuddin, who lost

in 2023, and why they did not field Gaddar's daughter in the Cantron by-election despite campaigning with the late balladeer across the state. Sravan reminded the CM of his own past defeat in the Kodangal constituency and the poor performance of Congress corporators in the Malkajgiri Parliamentary seat. He further accused Revanth Reddy of colluding with Bandi Sanjay (BJP) to secure BJP votes and soliciting "bogus votes" from Asaduddin Owaisi (MIM). Sravan accused the CM of being envious of KTR and questioned his leadership, suggesting his own ministers are working for his failure. He likened Revanth Reddy to Duryodhana and pointed to past incidents of alleged verbal abuse and disrespect towards senior party leaders like Ponnalla Lakshmaiah, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and even AICC Secretary Nadeem Javed, as proof of his innate "arrogant and dominant nature."



Rajiv Sagar escalated the significance of the attack, describing it not merely as an assault on Rakesh Christopher alone, but as an attack on the entire community. He argued that the inci-

dent clearly demonstrates the "poor regard" and dismissive attitude the Congress party harbors toward Dalit Christians. He further alleged that while the Congress party feigns affection and support for Dalit Christians only during election time, it quickly reverts to such "acts of tyranny and aggression" once the polls are over, a pattern he claimed is inherent to the party. The

BRS leader accused the Congress, which he claimed "won through fraudulent votes due to lack of public support," of instigating such attacks to silence the voice of the people and intimidate the Dalit Christian voters in Jubilee Hills, labeling the incident as a deliberate conspiracy.

Rajiv Sagar strongly criticized the inaction following the attack. He stated that the lack of response from Dalit Christian leaders who had backed the Congress, coupled with the absence of swift action against the perpetrators, suggests that the Congress leadership is tacitly approving and supporting these actions. He issued an uncompromising demand for the immediate arrest of the "goons" who attacked Rakesh Christopher, calling for a formal case to be filed and for the accused to face the harshest possible punishment. He warned the government to implement stringent measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur, emphatically stating that the Dalit Christian community will not tolerate any further attacks against them.

BRS Condemns Attack on Dalit Christian Leader Rakesh Christopher

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Former Telangana Foods Chairman Mede Rajiv Sagar (BRS) has vehemently condemned the alleged attack on Rakesh Christopher, a senior BRS leader and Vice President of the Jubilee Hills Christian Forum, by what he termed "Congress goons" in the Ramamurthy Nagar area of the Jubilee Hills constituency. Rajiv Sagar asserted that this incident vividly exposes the "true nature of the Congress party," which he claimed is characterized by a high-handed attitude and contempt for the marginalized sections, contrary to democratic values. He launched a sharp critique, particularly directed at the Dalit Christian leaders who had supported the Congress party, questioning their silence in the face of such attacks on a member of their own community. He demanded to know what answer these leaders could possibly give to their community while the party they supported allegedly perpetrates such violence, urging them to break their silence and challenge the ruling party's actions.

TPCC Spokesperson Thanks Voters, Criticizes BRS and BJP 'Propaganda'

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

TPCC Official Spokesperson Dr. Lingam Yadav addressed the media at Gandhi Bhavan, starting with a message of gratitude to the voters of Jubilee Hills constituency. He extended his thanks to the electorate for ensuring the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav, who secured a commanding 51% share of the votes. Dr. Yadav specifically praised the coordinated efforts of the party, highlighting the collaborative work of Mahesh Kumar Goud and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, describing them as "yoked bulls" (Jodeddu luga) who worked tirelessly to secure the win. Dr. Yadav strongly condemned the propaganda tactics employed by the opposition parties, the



He questioned KTR's basic political awareness, asking if a leader who governed the state for ten years lacks the understanding that an opposition party should offer support to the government. Dr. Yadav shift-

ed focus to the future, defending the Chief Minister's vision, stating that Revanth Reddy is actively working to transform Telangana into a leading state in the country with a strong focus on the Vision 2047 goal. He ex-

pressed confidence in the party's future performance, predicting that the Congress will secure victories in over 90 seats in the upcoming local body elections, including the highly important GHMC polls.

Rana Daggubati Appears Before CID in Betting App Promotion Case

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

In a significant development concerning the ongoing investigation into the promotion of illegal betting applications, prominent Telugu actor Rana Daggubati appeared before the CID (Crime Investigation Department) for questioning. Rana is the latest in a series of film personalities to be investigated by the CID in connection with these cases, where the agency has already interrogated and recorded statements from several other leading film industry figures. The investigation seeks to determine the extent of celebrity involvement in promoting these applications and any financial transactions associated with their illegal operation. Simultaneously, the Hyderabad City Police is grappling with a sophisticated form of cyber fraud targeting its top officials.



Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sajjanar issued a public advisory after cyber criminals created a fake Facebook account in his name. The imposters are exploiting the fraudulent account to send deceptive messages to the Commissioner's contacts, claiming to be in an emergency and asking them to send money. CP Sajjanar revealed that already, one of his friends, believing the message to be genuine, was duped and lost 20,000. The Commissioner urged the public to immediately block the source and report the incident.

and not trust or respond to any messages requesting money, especially those purporting to be from him. He strongly advised anyone who receives suspicious links, messages, or unsolicited video calls to immediately block the source and report the incident

to the police. Sajjanar directed citizens to file complaints regarding cyber fraud through the national helpline 1930 or via the official website, www.cybercrime.gov.in, emphasizing the importance of immediate action against these online fraudsters.

November Cold Intensifies in Telangana; 11 Locations Record Single-Digit Temperatures

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025, Telangana is experiencing a sharp and notable intensification of the winter cold during November, with the chill becoming pronounced across the state. This surge in cold has resulted in single-digit minimum temperatures being recorded in as many as 11 different locations across the state on Saturday. The lowest minimum temperature recorded was 8.1°C, observed in both Kohi mandal in Sangareddy district and Yalal mandal in Vikarabad district, signifying the severity of the early winter chill.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a forecast indicating that the minimum temperatures across Telangana are expected to remain



approximately 3°C to 4°C below normal for the next two to three days, suggesting the cold wave conditions will persist. Other mandals that recorded single-digit temperatures on Saturday include: Sirpur (8.4°C) in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Bibipet (8.6°C) in Kamareddy, Bazarhathnagar (8.6°C) in Adilabad,

Akbarpet-Bhoompalpally (8.9°C) in Siddipet, Rudrangi (9.0°C) in Rajanna Siricilla, Ramayampet (9.6°C) in Medak, Serilingampally (9.8°C) in Rangareddy, Saran-

gapur (9.9°C) in Nirmal, and Varni (9.9°C) in Nizamabad. This widespread reporting of near-freezing temperatures confirms a marked shift towards colder weather patterns much earlier in the season than typically expected.

Fake Certificate Racket Busted; 12 Arrested

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

The Madhapur Special Operations Team (SOT) police successfully dismantled a large-scale fake certificate racket operating out of the Gachibowli area of Hyderabad. The SOT police conducted a raid and seized a substantial volume of fraudulent documents and the necessary equipment used for their manufacture from the suspects.

According to police reports, three main perpetrators—identified as Mohammad, Sajid, and Rajiv—were running a xerox center in Indira Nagar, Gachibowli.



This center was secretly being utilized as a hub for the manufacture of various types of counterfeit documents.

The scope of their illegal operation was extensive, encompassing the production of various fake papers, including Police Verification Certificates, counterfeit Way Bills, fraudulent Experience Certificates, marks memos from various educational institutions, and forged PAN cards. The police successfully tracked down the operation, arresting the three main accused. Furthermore, the SOT detained an additional nine individuals who

were found to be in possession of, or had obtained, certificates from this gang, and all 12 individuals are currently being interrogated. ACP Sridhar, speaking on the matter, issued a strong warning to the public to remain vigilant against fake certificate operations and explicitly cautioned against resorting to such illegal means to fulfill administrative or professional requirements. The successful bust highlights the police's focus on combating document forgery that undermines professional and educational standards.



Telangana HC Website Hacked; Police Register FIR

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

cause lists and case status updates—from its database, as well as administrative information like notifications and notices, mostly in the form of PDF documents. The complaint highlighted that on the morning of November 11, 2025, it was discovered that the PDF documents uploaded to the official website had been tampered with by unknown malicious actors. These documents were disabled from display, and crucially, clicking on them resulted in the pages redirecting users to an external gaming application/site named "BDG SLOT." The Registrar affirmed that this unauthorized redirection clearly constitutes hacking and the commission of a cyber-crime, thereby severely affecting the reputation and sanctity of the High Court. The NIC officials have initiated an internal inquiry into the hacking of the PDF documents, though their report is still pending. Registrar Rao urged the DGP to direct the concerned officials to immediately register a First Information Report (FIR) regarding the incident and conduct a thorough investigation to take appropriate action against the perpetrators. This cyber security breach, targeting a high-profile judicial website, underscores the ongoing need for robust digital defense mechanisms for critical public services.

Illegal Structures Razed; Sanitation Worker Found Burned Nearby

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

In compliance with directives from the High Court, the Dundigal Municipal and Police departments carried out a joint operation to demolish illegal constructions in the Bowrampet area of Quthbullapur. The enforcement action targeted a site at Gayatri Garden, where unauthorized bus parking structures and makeshift huts (gudisela) had been erected without the necessary official permissions. Municipal Commissioner N. Venkateshwar Naik sternly warned the public that severe and uncompromising measures will be taken against anyone who attempts to carry out unauthorized constructions within the municipality's limits. The operation saw the participation of key officials, including Municipal Commissioner Naik, Circle Inspector Satish, SI Ram Mohan Reddy, Revenue Officer Nagesh Babu, Municipal Engineer Surender Naik, and municipal ward officers and staff, underscoring the collaborative effort to enforce urban planning rules. However, the area was simultaneously marked by a tragic incident:

A day laborer's body was discovered in a burned condition within a clump of bushes near the Quthbullapur Municipal Office, under the jurisdiction of the Jeedimetla Police Station. The deceased was identified as Anjayya (50), a sanitation worker. Police who arrived at the scene initially suspected that the death may have been accidental. Colleagues of Anjayya reported that he suffered from epilepsy (fits) and that he would often experience seizures while on duty, sometimes briefly interrupting his work before he resumed. The leading police theory suggests that the worker may have suffered a seizure and accidentally fallen into a pile of burning trash while disposing of waste. Family members, concerned about Anjayya's failure to return home since Friday afternoon, initiated a search on Saturday morning and found his burned remains near a nursery. The body has been sent to Gandhi Hospital for a post-mortem examination.



While police are investigating whether the death was accidental or due to other causes, the incident has caused considerable alarm in the Quthbullapur area, raising significant questions about the safety, health examinations, and monitoring systems for sanitation workers. There is a growing public demand for relevant officials to address the alleged neglect by Safety Field Assistants (SFAs) and the lack of basic facilities, to better protect these essential public servants.

Techie Commits Suicide Due to Marital Discord

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

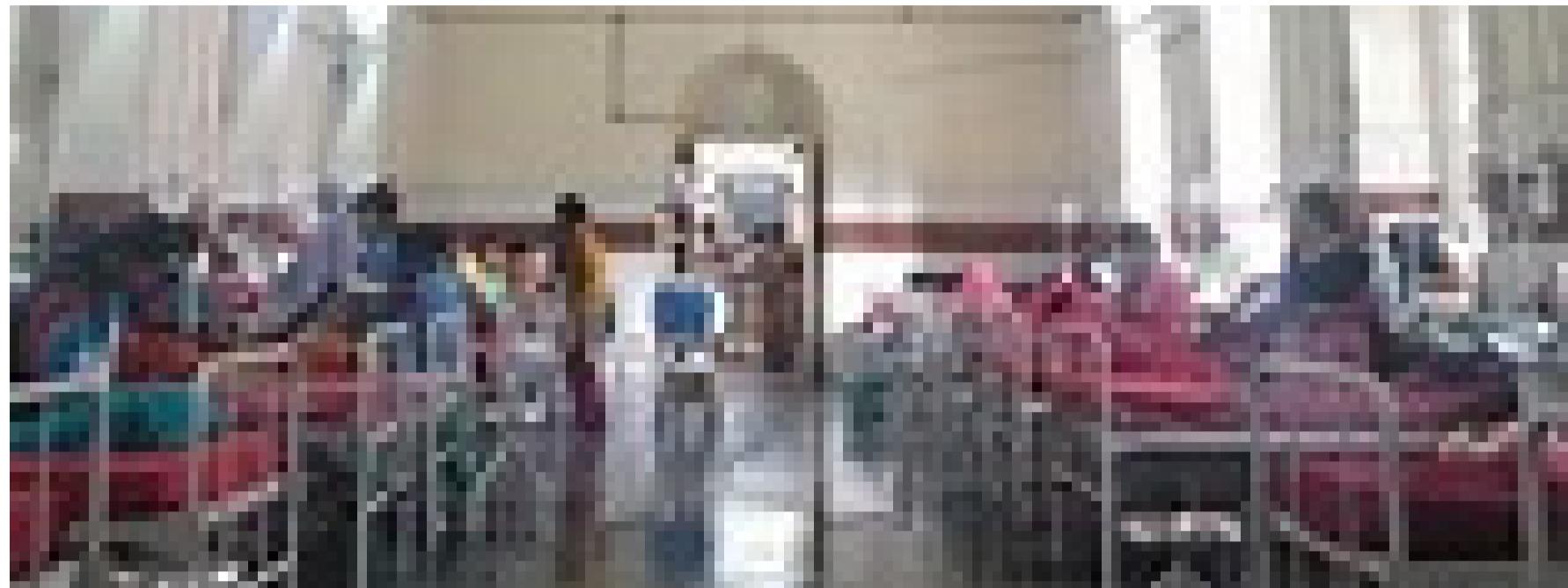
A tragic incident occurred within the limits of the Gandhinagar Police Station, where an IT employee committed suicide due to persistent family conflicts. According to Inspector Bose Kiran, the deceased was identified as Vishal Goud (28), who resided in Krishnanagar, Bansilapet, and was employed at TCS. Vishal Goud had married his wife, Navya, in December 2023. However, the couple experienced frequent and intense marital disputes. Despite multiple interventions and mediations by elders, the differences continued to resurface. The situation escalated in March of this year when Navya left the marital home to live with her parents and did not return.



The discord led to frequent legal intervention. Two months ago, Vishal Goud was contacted by the Uppal police and attended counseling following a complaint filed by Navya. Subsequently, a case was officially registered, and the Uppal police called him again on Friday, asking him to appear at the station. These developments caused Vishal Goud severe emotional distress and mental agony. On

Friday morning, he entered his room and failed to emerge, causing alarm among his family members. Upon forcibly breaking open the door, the family discovered that Vishal Goud had hanged himself from the ceiling fan. The police have registered a case based on the complaint and are conducting further investigation into the circumstances surrounding the suicide.

17 Children Fall Ill at Government Hospital Over Adverse Reaction to Injection



TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Seventeen children suffered an adverse reaction and fell ill at the Government Hospital in Nagarjuna Sagar, Nalgonda district, following an administered injection. The children had been admitted to the pediatric ward recently while suffering from viral fever. The incident occurred on Friday evening after the children received a routine injection from the doctors. Approximately half an hour later, the children began to experience severe symptoms, including vomiting and diarrhea, leading to a chaotic situation in the ward. The parents of the affected children immediately

confronted the doctors, arguing vehemently that a wrong injection had been administered instead of the intended one, causing the sudden deterioration in their children's health. Currently, all 17 children are receiving intensive care unit (ICU) treatment at the same hospital. Despite the alarming incident, doctors have stated that the children's

health condition is now stable. The hospital authorities have initiated an inquiry into the matter, although the parents are demanding stringent action against the medical staff responsible for the alleged medical error that led to the mass illness.

Warangal-Karimnagar National Highway Expansion Nears Completion

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

The expansion work on the National Highway (NH) stretch running for 68 km from Warangal to Karimnagar is rapidly progressing and is anticipated to be completed within the next four months. The construction pace has significantly accelerated over the past six months, with work nearing conclusion in several sections. The entire project is being executed at an estimated cost of 1,647 crore and will incorporate advanced technical facilities and amenities along the route. The transformation is most visible in the stretch from Elkathurthi in Hanumakonda district up to Karimnagar.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is closely



monitoring the development. According to a recent report submitted by NHAI officials to the District Collector, 78% of the work has already been completed. The final deadline for the project is set for March 31, 2026. The tender process was finalized in July 2023, following a

year-long land acquisition process by revenue officials. However, the report also noted that resettlement issues for some displaced persons are yet to be fully resolved in certain areas. New proposals are also being raised by the public: residents of Edulagattupally recently met

The status of the construction work is as follows:

Karimnagar District: 35 km of the 46 km road section has been completed.

Hanumakonda District: 18 km of the 22 km stretch has been laid.

Bridges and Structures: Six out of nine major new bridges are in various stages of construction. Five or six of the 20 smaller bridges are in the final stages. Work is required on 112 box culverts and 77 junction bridges.

Grade Separations: One Road Over Bridge (ROB) and one Road Under Bridge (RUB) are currently under construction.

Amenities: Bus shelters are yet to be constructed at 12 locations along the two sides of the highway.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Participates in Social Events in Karimnagar

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar undertook a day-long visit to his home district headquarters, Karimnagar, where he engaged in a mix of social and personal engagements. The Minister's schedule involved offering condolences to bereaved families, blessing newly married couples, and spending time reconnecting with childhood friends. This outreach underscores the Minister's commitment to maintaining close ties with the local community and party workers.

Minister Prabhakar attended several wedding celebrations. He extended his blessings to Sai Charan and Ramya, the newly mar-

ried couple, with Sai Charan being the son of Padisetti Bhumaiyah, a former corporator and Karimnagar District Secretary of the Congress party from Kothirampur. He also blessed the marriage of Sridhar (IAS, Manipur), the son of his classmate, Vidyamari Ramgopal. Additionally, he visited the residence of Musku Shyam Sundar Reddy to bless his recently married son, Abhilash Reddy. The Minister also performed his duty to the party cadre by visiting the home of Congress senior leader Chakradhar, whose father recently passed away, offering his heartfelt condolences and support to the grieving family. Furthermore, he paid respects and offered floral tributes at

In a personal touch, the Minister sought out his childhood friends, including E.V. Kiran and Venu. He visited their residences to spend time with them, inquiring affectionately about their well-being and the welfare of their families. He specifically urged his friends to prioritize their children's higher education, aspiring for them to become highly successful and productive members of society. The visit emphasized a focus on personal connections and community support alongside his official duties, reaffirming his deep-rooted bond with the Karimnagar community.

Driver Injured As Two Lorries Collide on Rajiv Rahadari

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

A severe accident occurred on the Rajiv Rahadari (Rajiv Highway) on Saturday, near the outskirts of Kondapaka mandal center in Siddipet district, involving a collision between two lorries. The incident took place when a lorry traveling from Hyderabad toward Karimnagar crashed into the back of another lorry that was parked on the roadside, actively engaged in watering nearby

plants and trees. The force of the impact caused severe damage to the vehicles.

The driver of the lorry that crashed, identified as Praveen (38), sustained critical head injuries in the collision. Information was immediately relayed to the emergency services, and ambulance personnel promptly arrived at the accident site.

The rescue operation was challenging, re-

quiring the ambulance staff to work for approximately 30 minutes to successfully extricate the critically injured driver from the wreckage of his lorry. Praveen was immediately transported to the Siddipet Government Hospital for urgent medical attention. According to the attending doctors, the condition of the injured driver is reported to be critical. Local police are investigating the exact cause of the accident.

Ministers Launch Free Fish and Shrimp Seed Distribution; Focus on Fishermen Welfare

TPN Bureau | Nov 15, 2025

Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar (Transport & BC Welfare) and Vakiti Srihari (Fisheries & Animal Husbandry) jointly inaugurated the free distribution of fish and shrimp seed, a state-wide initiative aimed at bolstering the fishing community. This year, the government plans to distribute 84 crore fish seeds and 10 crore shrimp seeds across 26,000 water bodies throughout the state. During the event at the Yellamma Cheruvu (tank) in Huzurnagar town, they released 3 lakh fish seeds worth 5.17 lakh, which is expected to benefit 253 families of fishermen. Across the entire constituency, 38.92 lakh fish seeds will be released into 165 tanks, benefitting 4,144 families.

The scheme is designed to strengthen fishermen economically and elevate the fisheries sector's crucial role in the state's economy. The government already provides a Group Accident Insurance Policy of 5 lakh to support the families of fishermen who die in accidents. Initiatives under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme have also provided women's groups in the constituency with three mobile fish retail outlets. Minister Prabhakar use



the occasion to appeal to Minister Srihari to modernize the veterinary hospital in Huzurnagar with a new building, complete the pending modern fish market, sanction a veterinary doctor

post, and resolve the issues faced by Gopal Mithras. Responding positively, Minister Srihari promised to modernize the veterinary hospital, establish a fish market, a cold storage center, and a milk chilling center in Huzurnagar. He also mentioned that, following his proposal, action is being taken to include fish in the menu of Gurukul schools, similar to mutton and chicken, to enhance nutrition.

Minister Srihari praised Minister Prabhakar for his constant focus on the constituency, acknowledging his pivotal role in securing the 123 crore budget allocation from CM Revanth Reddy for the Fisheries Department. To address past irregularities in distribution, Srihari announced that signboards detailing the type and size of the fish seeds and the number distributed will be erected at the water bodies to ensure transparency. He noted that 5 lakh fishermen families depend on the sector and announced plans to increase fish production centers to supply fish to other regions, while also providing an insurance policy of 1.40 crore for recognized fishermen.

“The Kings of India’s Billion-Dollar KYC Industry”



From Bias to Business: How a Landlady Sparked a Digital Identity Giant

In 2011, Ashok Hariharan had just moved from the U.S. to Mumbai when a strange incident changed his life. While trying to rent an apartment in Bandra, his landlady hesitated—until she found out he was South Indian. She agreed to rent him the place based on that alone.

“Boss, there needs to be better ways to arrive at decisions,” Hariharan said, reflecting on the experience. That moment led him to start IDfy, a digital identity verification startup aimed at replacing hunches with data and trust.

From that small apartment, Hariharan and a handful of colleagues laid the foundation for what would become one of India’s biggest players in the Know Your Customer (KYC) revolution—a booming industry now valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

The KYC Surge: Fueling India’s Digital Economy

Today, KYC is no longer a back-end compliance process—it’s the backbone of India’s digital economy. The country has over 227 startups dedicated to KYC technology, more than any other nation, including the U.S. and the U.K.

On average, 17 new KYC startups emerge each year in India. Among

them, 83 have received external funding, and 31 have progressed to Series A or later rounds, signifying deep investor confidence.

The Indian digital KYC market, currently pegged at \$26.3 million, is projected to grow to \$139.3 million by 2033, clocking a 20.3% annual growth rate—ahead of fintech, e-commerce, and even IT services.

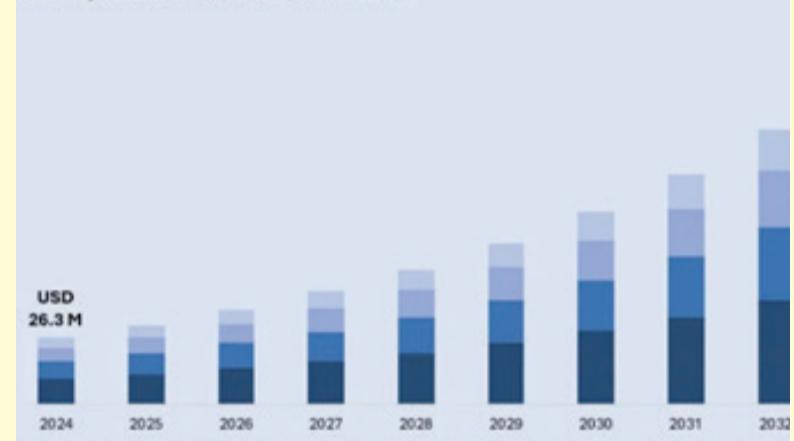
the charge in digital identity checks:

- IDfy
- Protean eGov Technologies
- AuthBridge
- Perfios

Each has carved out a niche in video KYC, e-verification, document analysis, and onboarding tech.

India e-KYC Market Forecast

Size, By Product, 2024-2033 (USD Million)



The Titans of Trust: Who Rules India’s KYC Space?

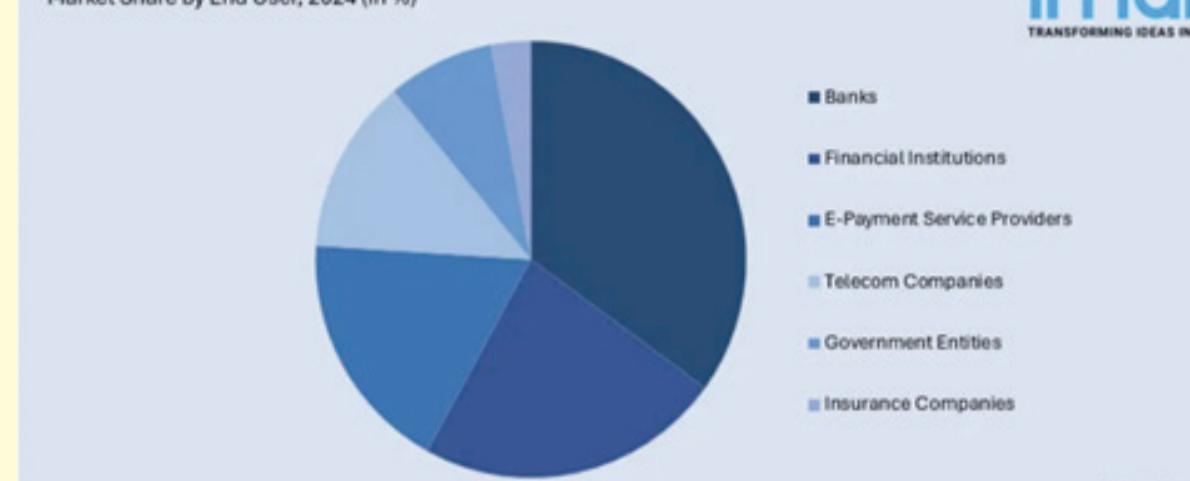
According to exclusive data from IMARC’s India KYC Market Insights, four companies are leading

IDfy: From Start-Up to Verification Powerhouse

IDfy was founded to tackle fake résumés and unreliable background checks. Over time, it

India e-KYC Market

Market Share by End User, 2024 (in %)



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evolved into a full-stack KYC platform. Today, it processes 65 million verifications per month across seven countries and generates close to ₹188 crore in annual revenue.

Backed by investors like Blume Ventures, TransUnion, IndiaMART, and Elev8 Venture Partners, IDfy has raised over \$60 million in primary and secondary funding. Its current estimated valuation is \$126.5 million, according to Tracxn.

The Video KYC Breakthrough

The real turning point for the industry came in 2016 with the introduction of video KYC. Instead of paperwork and in-person meetings, users could now verify their identity via a short video call.

Regulators were quick to adapt. SEBI first allowed brokerages to experiment with video-based onboarding, and by 2020, the RBI officially recognised video KYC as a valid method. The impact was instant—the industry scaled rapidly.

India recorded over 205 crore e-KYC transactions in 2018–19, and after a brief regulatory dip, surged to 416 crore transactions in 2023–24.

Protean: From PAN Cards to Digital Verification Giant

Formerly known as NSDL e-Governance, Protean eGov Technologies played a key role in India’s early digital infrastructure. Initially managing PAN validations and pension infrastructure, the company eventually shifted focus to digital identity.

Now, as a licensed KYC User Agency (KUA) and Other Service Agency (OSA) under Aadhaar, Protean processes 1.2 million e-KYC transactions every day, working with thousands of financial institutions nationwide.

Its long-standing government ties and national infrastructure give it a unique edge in scale and reliability.

HyperVerge: Making KYC Work Even in Rural India

HyperVerge, a Bengaluru-based startup, began in an IIT Madras dorm with a dream to fix governance tech. Its biggest test came with Jio—it had to build a system that worked just as well on rural 2G networks as it did in metros.

HyperVerge’s AI-based selfie and liveness detection tech passed rigorous global benchmarks, including those from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Today, it powers KYC for sectors far beyond banking—including insurance, e-commerce, and telecom.

Perfios: Digitising Credit and Compliance

Perfios—short for “Personal Finance One Stop”—started in 2008 to help consumers manage money. But its founders, V.R. Govindarajan and Debashish Chakraborty, soon discovered the real bottleneck was inside banks.

By digitising loan application and compliance processes, Perfios transformed from a consumer app into a key enabler for NBFCs and banks, helping them speed up credit decisions and customer

onboarding.

A Billion-Dollar Future, But Who Regulates It?

India’s KYC startups have now raised over \$111 million in funding and are becoming prime acquisition targets for large banks and depositories.

Yet, despite their critical role, these firms operate in a regulatory grey zone. Banks carry the compliance risk, but no regulator directly oversees the KYC vendors themselves.

Still, their influence is undeniable.

The Last Mile of Trust

India’s digital boom—powered by Aadhaar, UPI, and mobile internet—has transformed how we transact. But it’s the KYC industry that closed the loop, turning access into trust.

From apartment rejections to billions in verifications, companies like IDfy, Protean, AuthBridge, HyperVerge, and Perfios have turned identity into infrastructure—and compliance into opportunity.

As the digital economy grows, these companies will remain the silent engines behind every verified identity, every bank account opened, and every loan disbursed.

In today’s India, trust isn’t just earned—it’s verified.

Global development finance has lost its way

China can step in but India has an edge too



From SDGs to SDGs Denied

A decade after world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, global development appears to be on life support. Last week, at the UN General Assembly, President Donald Trump’s mocking dismissal of climate change and multilateralism underscored what many feared: the era of global cooperation is crumbling.

The SDGs, once hailed as a universal blueprint to improve human well-being, have failed to take off. Trillions of dollars in annual funding were promised but never materialised. Private investment meant to be leveraged through public aid didn’t arrive. According to McKinsey, global aid is projected to drop by up to 22%

leaving the SDG vision largely unrealised.

Why It Matters—Especially to India

In India, some welcome this demise, labelling the SDGs as “Western” or “anti-national.” But that’s a flawed view. India has historically shaped and benefitted from global development dialogues. Our own economic reforms in 1991 were deeply informed by global debates and knowledge flows.

Global cooperation also helps tackle transnational crises like pandemics and climate change—challenges no single nation can resolve alone.

India’s Development Dilemma

Yes, the global development system is flawed—

dominated by Western interests, often hypocritical, and increasingly irrelevant. But walking away from it cedes ground to China, which is poised to become the world’s development superpower through sheer scale.

India cannot match China’s development finance, but it can lead with ideas, democratic values, and grassroots innovation. To do so, it must empower its civil society and knowledge institutions—not silence them.

The Real Choice

This is not idealism—it’s strategy. India must either help reimagine global development on equitable terms or risk irrelevance in a new world order where China writes the rules.

India’s Semiconductor Mission Gains Momentum with Emerging State Clusters



India’s push to become a global semiconductor hub is entering a decisive phase, backed by the ₹76,000 crore (\$9.1 billion) India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). With a strategic mix of central and state-level incentives, the country is aiming to fast-track decades of semiconductor ecosystem development within just a few years.

The ISM provides up to 50% fiscal support for eligible fabrication units, out-sourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facilities, and compound semiconductor projects. In parallel, states like Gujarat,

Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have launched additional incentive packages, streamlined clearances, and built sector-specific infrastructure—mirroring the successful models seen in global tech hubs across the U.S., such as California and Texas.

India’s strategy includes not only manufacturing but also innovation. The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme encourages chip design and intellectual property creation through R&D grants, prototyping support, and access to Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools

and fabrication services.

These clusters are more than just factories. They aim to create comprehensive ecosystems where design houses, component suppliers, academia, and advanced R&D facilities work together—forming the bedrock of long-term competitiveness and export-readiness.

For the U.S., this creates a natural partner in supply chain diversification and talent access. India’s vast pool of engineering talent and its design expertise complement America’s existing manufacturing and research strength. Strategic collabora-

tion with India offers Washington a trusted production base beyond East Asia—a priority as security considerations begin to outweigh cost in semiconductor decisions.

For India, U.S. experience in building integrated manufacturing clusters provides a tested roadmap to scale operations beyond design to full-spectrum semiconductor production, enhancing both resilience and self-reliance.

With the stakes high and global demand surging, India’s semiconductor ambition is no longer just aspiration—it’s active execution.

PM Modi Reviews Progress of Surat Bullet Train Station

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday visited the under-construction bullet train station in Surat to review ongoing work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR), India's first bullet train project. The visit comes as construction accelerates across key stretches of the 508-km corridor, a flagship infrastructure initiative being executed with Japanese collaboration.

Modi arrived at Surat airport in the morning and proceeded to the Antroli area, where one of the project's major stations is taking shape. Officials from the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) briefed him on construction milestones, structural progress, and upcoming phases of the project. They also presented updates on station design elements, passenger mobility systems, and integration with local transport networks.

The MAHSR corridor spans approximately 508 km, including 352 km across Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and 156 km in Maharashtra. The Surat



station is expected to serve as one of the busiest nodes on the route, given the city's status as a commercial and textile hub. Officials said construction at the site has progressed significantly, with major civil works nearing completion.

Modi emphasised the project's potential to transform regional connectivity, reduce travel times, and boost economic activity. Once fully operational, the high-speed rail corridor is expected to cut travel between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to around two

hours—less than half the current duration.

The Prime Minister's visit is part of a broader review of infrastructure projects in Gujarat, where construction on the bullet train corridor is currently most advanced. NHSRCL officials said they are on

track to meet revised deadlines for commissioning key sections, though work in Maharashtra continues to move at a comparatively slower pace.

The PM is expected to review additional development projects during his Gujarat visit.

India's Veiled Dig Over Pak Heading UN Panel On Sanctions Against Taliban

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India sharply criticised Pakistan's leadership roles in key UN Security Council committees, calling them "obvious and outright conflicts of interest" during a debate on the Council's working methods on Friday. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, P. Harish, delivered the remarks while underscoring the need for transparency and impartiality in the functioning of the Council's subsidiary bodies.

Although Harish did not directly name Pakistan, his comments clearly referenced Islamabad's chairmanship of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee and its co-chair position in the Counter-Terrorism Committee. India has long argued that Pakistan's vested interests and past record of providing safe havens to UN-sanctioned terrorist groups make it unsuitable for such roles. "Council mem-



bers must be prevented from chairing committees when they have vested interests," Harish said. "Obvious and outright conflicts of interest can have no place in the Council."

The 1988 Sanctions Committee has authority over travel bans and asset freezes targeting Taliban members. India has previously faced delays securing travel clearances, including for Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit last month. Harish criticised the opaque decision-making process within such committees, noting that rejection of listing proposals for terrorists remains secretive and inaccessible to non-Council members. India and the US have repeatedly seen China block attempts to sanction leaders of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad under the 1267 Sanctions Committee.

Harish also called for transparency in selecting

committee chairs and "pen-holders"—members who lead drafting responsibilities for specific issues. He urged reforms to curb politically motivated extensions of outdated

"Mandates that have

UN mandates, referring indirectly to the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which India considers obsolete.

"Mandates that have

outlived their utility must not be allowed to continue for narrow political interests," he said, advocating sunset clauses to streamline UN operations and ensure accountability.

India and Canada Deepen Cooperation on Critical Minerals, Trade, and Investment



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

India and Canada have taken significant steps to strengthen their economic partnership, focusing on critical minerals, clean energy, and expanded investment opportunities. The

progress came during the 7th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, held in New Delhi under the framework of the New Roadmap 2025. The dialogue was co-chaired by India's Com-

In a joint statement issued on November 14, 2025, both nations highlighted their commitment to deepening long-term supply chain cooperation in critical minerals—an area vital for global clean energy transitions and advanced manufacturing. These minerals, essential for batteries, renewable technologies, and electronic components, have become strategically important as countries work to diversify supply chains amid rising global demand.

The ministers agreed to enhance collaboration in clean energy, emphasizing the shared goal of accelerating sustainable industrial growth. The partnership aims to support new-age industries and ensure stable access to minerals central to transitioning toward greener economies.

Beyond critical minerals and clean energy, India and Canada also announced plans to expand trade and investment opportunities in sectors including aerospace and

dual-use capabilities—areas seen as high-potential for innovation and technology-based cooperation. The two sides committed to identifying specific investment projects and strengthening business-to-business linkages to maximize the benefits of bilateral engagement.

The meeting underscored the importance of resilient and mutually beneficial economic ties, particularly at a time when global supply chains continue to face geopolitical and logistical challenges. The ministers reaffirmed their intention to work closely through established institutional mechanisms to advance negotiations, remove trade barriers, and promote smoother investment flow.

Overall, the latest ministerial dialogue marks a renewed chapter in India-Canada relations, setting a strong foundation for strategic, long-term cooperation across emerging and traditional sectors.

'No Sorrow In Defeat, No Arrogance In Victory': RJD After Bihar Poll Defeat



TPN Correspondent | Patna

A day after suffering one of its worst defeats in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Saturday said that "ups and downs" are natural in the "endless journey of public service." In a post on X, the party described itself as the "voice of the poor" and vowed to continue raising issues concerning marginalised communities. "Public service is an unceasing process, an endless journey. Ups and downs are inevitable in it. No sorrow in defeat, no arrogance in victory," the statement read in Hindi.

The Tejashwi Yadav-led party managed to win just 25 of

the 243 seats—its second-worst performance after 2010, when it had won 22 seats. The setback comes five years after the RJD emerged as the single largest party in the 2020 election with 75 seats. Despite the decline in its tally, the RJD secured the highest vote share this year at 23%, outperforming both the BJP by 2.92 percentage points and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) by 3.75 points.

The broader Mahagathbandhan alliance also suffered a steep fall, winning only 35 seats. The Congress bagged six seats, down from 19 in 2020, while the CPI(ML)L won two, the CPI(M) one, and the CPI failed to

make any gains. In contrast, the ruling NDA surged to a dominant victory with 202 seats. The BJP secured 89 seats and the JD(U) 85, while Lok Janshakti Party (Ran Vilas) won 19. Hindustani Awam Morcha claimed five seats and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha four.

Among smaller parties, AIMIM secured five seats, while Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraksha Party and Mukesh Sahani's VIP failed to open their accounts.

Bihar voted in two phases on November 6 and 11, recording a historic turnout of over 66%—its highest since 1951—with women voters outpacing men at 71.6% compared to 62.8%.

Rahul, Kharge Huddle After Bihar Poll Rout; Congress Flags 'Vote Chori'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A day after its poor performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress leadership met in New Delhi on Saturday to assess what went wrong and to renew allegations of irregularities in the electoral process. The party won only six of the 61 seats it contested—its second-worst performance in the State since 2010, when it secured just four seats.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge convened the review meeting at the party headquarters. They were joined by AICC general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, treasurer Ajay Maken and Bihar in-

charge Krishna Allavaru, party sources said.

The leadership discussed organizational weaknesses, seat-sharing dynamics within the alliance, and the party's failure to convert its vote share into victories.

According to insiders, several leaders expressed concern that the Congress' grassroots machinery in Bihar has weakened over the years, making it increasingly dependent on allies for electoral support.

At the same time, the party doubled down on its "vote chori" (vote theft) allegation, questioning the role of the Election Commission.

Congress leaders claimed discrepancies in counting patterns and alleged that officers at several booths acted

under political pressure. The Election Commission has not responded to the charges, but officials said earlier that the elections were conducted "free and fair."

Senior leaders also highlighted the need for a deeper analysis of the party's declining support base in states like Bihar, where it once held considerable influence. The discussion is expected to continue at future strategy sessions, with a full report to be submitted to the Congress Working Committee.

Despite the setback, party sources said Rahul Gandhi emphasised rebuilding the organisation in Bihar from the ground up, ahead of future state and national elections.

Awami League Intensifies Protests Against Yunus Regime



14-15 November | Nationwide protests, demonstrations, and resistance programs on Friday and Saturday

16-17 November | A total nationwide shutdown on Sunday and Monday

THE MOVEMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL YUNUS RESIGNS.

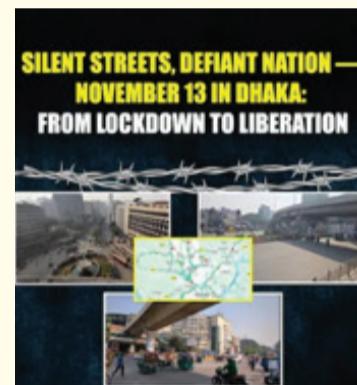
TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

The Sheikh Hasina-led Bangladesh Awami League has escalated its confrontation with the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus, announcing a fresh wave of nationwide protests and shutdowns. The party, which has been banned by the current regime, declared that its movement will continue until Yunus resigns, accusing the Nobel laureate of yielding to pressure from hardline Islamist groups by announcing a referendum alongside upcoming elections.

"Our struggle will continue... Nationwide protests, demonstrations, and resistance programs on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15. A total nationwide shutdown on Sunday and Monday, November 16 and 17," the Awami League said in a statement. The party added that its recent Dhaka lockdown had been "immensely successful," prompting it to amplify its agitation through the weekend.

In a fiery message, the Awami League framed the protests as a battle for the nation's democratic survival. "Dhaka stands still... Yet beneath this eerie calm lies the thunder of a nation's heart—a collective roar against illegitimate power," it said, likening the current "lockdown" to a political uprising rather than a public health measure.

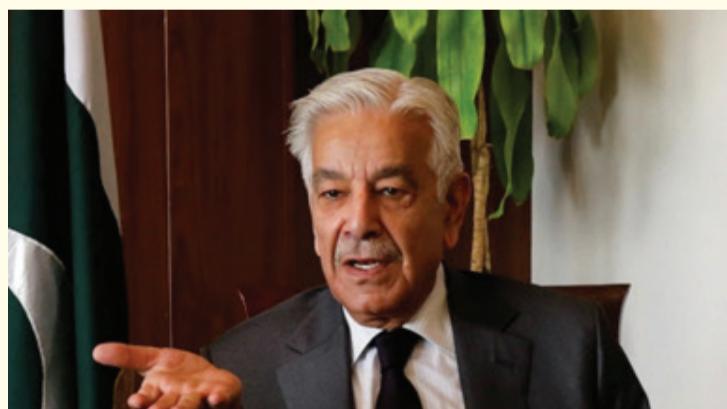
Protests have gathered momentum in recent days, especially



ly in Awami League strongholds, buoyed by recent interviews given by Sheikh Hasina from abroad. The political climate has grown increasingly tense ahead of November 17, when the International Crimes Tribunal is set to deliver its verdict against Hasina in a trial she has dismissed as politically motivated. She has accused foreign powers of orchestrating her removal in order to install Yunus.

The interim government, however, has dismissed claims of successful protests. The Chief Adviser's Press Wing said that a viral video allegedly showing Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Mohammad Sajid Ali endorsing the lockdown was fabricated using artificial intelligence. "No record of such a statement can be found," the government said, accusing the Awami League of spreading misinformation.

Defence Minister Khawaja Warns India, Afghanistan



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan

In a fresh provocation, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that the country is "fully prepared" to face a two-front war with India and Afghanistan. His remarks come amid heightened regional tensions following a recent terror attack in New Delhi, allegedly linked to Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammed, which killed at least 13 people.

Speaking to a local news channel, Asif declared, "We are ready; we are prepared to face both the eastern (India) and western (Afghanistan) borders. Allah helped us in round one, and He will help us in round two. If they want the final round, we have no option but war."

The statement follows a blast in Islamabad earlier this week that killed 12 people. While the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had accused groups "supported by India" of involvement — a

claim New Delhi has firmly rejected in the past.

Asif also warned both India and Afghanistan against "any misadventure," saying, "Pakistan will never initiate aggression, but we will respond forcefully if provoked." He further alleged that the Taliban-led government in Kabul was fragmented, accusing some factions of maintaining links with India.

"Some are linked with India, and some have their strings pulled elsewhere. These incidents are preludes to aggression that could happen from the Afghan side — in reality, Indian aggression waged through Afghanistan," Asif claimed, without offering evidence.

This is not the first time Asif has accused Afghanistan of fighting "India's proxy war" along the Durand Line. His comments have sparked strong reactions across diplomatic circles, with observers warning that such rhetoric could further destabilize an already volatile region.

Trump Rolls Back Tariffs on Key Food Imports Amid Inflation Concerns

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Friday reversed course on his earlier trade stance, rolling back tariffs on more than 200 food products—including beef, coffee, bananas and orange juice—as voter frustration over high grocery prices grows. The exemptions took effect retroactively at midnight on Thursday and signal a notable shift for Trump, who has long maintained that his sweeping import duties were not contributing to inflation.

Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump conceded for the first time that tariffs "may in some cases" raise prices, though he insisted the country has "virtually no inflation." The move follows Democratic victories in recent elections in Virginia, New Jersey and New York City, where affordability—particularly food costs—was a dominant concern for voters.



Trump also said he plans to push forward with a \$2,000 payment to lower- and middle-income Americans next year, funded by tariff revenues. "The tariffs allow us to give a dividend... We're going to do a dividend and we're also reducing debt," he told reporters.

The administration on Thursday announced new framework trade deals that will eliminate tariffs on specific foods and other imports from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala and El Salvador. More agreements are expected before the end of the year.

The tariff rollbacks

cover widely used household staples that have seen sharp price increases. Ground beef prices were up nearly 13% in September, while steaks rose almost 17%, the largest jump in more than three years. Produce such as bananas and tomatoes also saw year-over-year increases.

Overall, the cost of food at home rose 2.7% in September.

Industry groups largely welcomed the exemptions. FMI-Food Industry Association president Leslie Sarasin said the action should help consumers and manufacturers alike. However, some sectors expressed dis-

appointment, including the Distilled Spirits Council, which criticized the continued tariffs on imports such as Scotch and Cognac.

Despite the rollback, Trump signaled no further changes are planned, saying prices—especially for coffee—would fall "in a very short period."

UN Security Council to vote on November 17 on Trump's Gaza plan

TPN Correspondent | London

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is preparing to vote on Monday, November 17, 2025, on a resolution that would formally endorse U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed Gaza peace plan, according to diplomatic sources. The vote follows intensified negotiations led by Washington aimed at securing broad international backing for a framework intended to solidify the fragile ceasefire that ended the two-year conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Over the past week, American diplomats circulated a draft text to the 15-member Council, seeking to translate the political momentum generated by the ceasefire into a long-term roadmap for stability in Gaza. The proposal is designed to reinforce commitments



made during the U.S.-brokered talks and to encourage both sides to adhere to mechanisms that prevent renewed violence.

Diplomats said the resolution would not only endorse the U.S.

plan but also outline obligations for humanitarian access, reconstruction efforts, and monitoring arrangements to ensure compliance by all parties. While the text has garnered interest among

several Council members, negotiations have centered on language regarding sovereignty, security guarantees, and oversight—issues that have historically divided the Council during deliberations

on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The United States has argued that endorsing the peace plan at the UN would send a unified message encouraging regional actors and international

donors to support post-conflict recovery in Gaza. Some Council members, however, have raised concerns about whether the proposal sufficiently addresses Palestinian political aspirations and the long-term status of Gaza.

Monday's vote is expected to be closely watched, as any of the five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, or the United States—holds veto power that could halt the resolution. Should the measure pass, it would mark a significant diplomatic milestone for Washington and signal a potential shift in international engagement with the Gaza question.

If adopted, the resolution could set the stage for renewed negotiations aimed at forging a more comprehensive peace in the region.

"I'm A Grok Guy": JD Vance Claims Elon Musk's AI Is The "Least Woke"

TPN Correspondent | New York City

US Vice President JD Vance on Thursday called Grok—Elon Musk's artificial intelligence system—the "least woke" among major AI platforms, during an appearance on Fox News with host Sean Hannity. The remarks came as the two discussed the growing influence of AI in politics, media, and everyday life.

When Hannity joked about being a "Grok guy," Vance quickly agreed, saying he shared the preference. He went on to explain that his personal test for evaluating any AI system is whether it provides what he considers an "objective answer" instead of a "woke answer." Praising Musk's AI tool, he said, "I think it's the best. It's also the least woke. I'm always asking myself, if I ask an AI a question, is it going to give me an objective answer, or is it go-



ing to give me a woke answer?"

Hannity later teased Vance about whether he had tried Grok's

most unrestrained setting, known as "extreme mode." Laughing, Vance replied, "I have not, Sean. I don't

want the media to attack me." The feature is a part of Grok 3's "Unhinged" mode, unveiled earlier in 2025 by Musk's AI company XAI. The mode is designed to offer unfettered, personality-driven responses, though it

remains available only to premium subscribers.

Elon Musk shared the exchange on X (formerly Twitter) on November 14, captioning it enthusiastically: "Grok rocks!"

This is not the first time Vance has praised the AI tool. In a previous interview with former Musk aide Katie Miller, he mentioned using Grok to generate images for a picture book he created with his children. "We actually made a 'big cats' version where we wrote it ourselves, but I used Grok to make the actual images," he said.

Grok 3 also made headlines earlier in the year when, in response to a user's politically charged question, it unexpectedly listed Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and JD Vance as the three individuals "doing most harm to America," prompting widespread attention and debate about AI bias.

DGFT Restricts Plain Silver Jewellery Imports to Curb FTA Misuse

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced new restrictions on the import of plain silver jewellery, effective immediately, unless expressly authorised. The move, issued through Notification No. 34/2025-26 on September 24, 2025, aims to curb misuse of India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and prevent large-scale imports of silver disguised as finished jewellery. Most of these imports, according to an analysis by The Hindu, have been coming from Thailand.

The decision comes in response to a sharp rise in silver jewellery imports in recent months. Between April and June 2025, India's imports jumped to \$235.1 million, up 270.6% from \$63.4 million during the same period in 2024. Imports from Thailand surged 330% in the same quarter, from \$50.9 million to \$219 million. This trend continued in July 2025, with total sil-



ver jewellery imports increasing to \$148.5 million, a 255.6% rise from \$41.8 million in July 2024, and imports from Thailand rising 288.5% to \$142.7 million.

The Commerce Ministry noted that these imports circumventing FTA provisions were ad-

versely affecting domestic manufacturers and posed challenges to employment in the jewellery sector. To address this, plain silver jewellery will now be allowed into India only with a valid import authorisation issued by the DGFT.

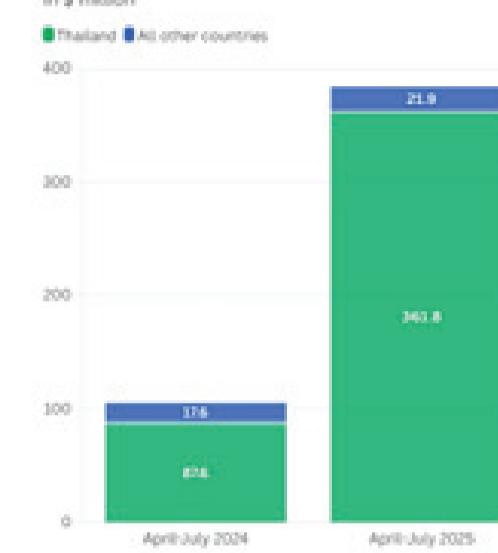
This framework is designed to allow genuine trade while preventing unfair practices that undercut local businesses.

The government stated that the measure will provide a level playing field for India's jewellery manufacturers, safeguard small and me-

Thai Silver Influx

The surge in silver jewellery imports into India has been driven by imports from Thailand.

in \$ million



dium enterprises, and protect livelihood opportunities for workers in the sector. By regulating imports more strictly, India aims to balance international trade commitments with the protection of domestic industry, ensuring sustainable growth and em-

ployment in the silver jewellery market.

These restrictions mark a significant step in curbing FTA misuse and promoting fair competition in India's jewellery industry while securing the interests of both manufacturers and workers.

Gold Eases Slightly as Traders Eye U.S. Inflation Data



Gold prices eased by ₹125 to ₹1,12,430 per 10 grams in domestic futures trading on Thursday, mirroring a flat trend in global markets as traders remained cautious ahead of key U.S. inflation data. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the October gold futures contract declined 0.11% to ₹1,12,430 per 10 grams on a turnover of 6,314 lots, while the December contract fell ₹147 or 0.13% to ₹1,13,500 in 11,823 lots.

In contrast, silver futures for the December contract rose ₹124 or 0.09% to ₹1,34,126 per kilogram in 17,121 lots, with the March 2026 contract climbing ₹147 or 0.11% to ₹1,35,563 per kg. Globally, gold and silver futures traded flat at \$3,768.50 per ounce and \$44.19 per ounce, respectively.

Analysts said gold remained near the \$3,750 level as expectations of two U.S. rate cuts this year limited the dollar's rally to a two-week high, providing support to bullion. Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, noted that new-home sales in the U.S. surged to their fastest pace since ear-

ly 2022, easing fears of an economic slowdown and complicating expectations for further Federal Reserve easing.

Gold's safe-haven appeal continues to be supported by geopolitical tensions, including the intensifying Russia-Ukraine war and conflicts in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Fed Chair Jerome Powell emphasized the challenge of balancing persistent inflation with a slowing labor market.

While some policymakers favour two additional rate cuts this year, others advocate a slower or more aggressive approach, keeping gold prices relatively capped.

Investors are now closely watching U.S. macroeconomic indicators, including the final second-quarter GDP, weekly jobless claims, durable goods orders, and the Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) Price Index — the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. Upcoming speeches by Federal Open Market Committee members are also expected to provide fresh cues on monetary policy, influencing bullion trends in the coming days.

Indian Rupee Hits Multi-Year Lows Against US Dollar, Outlook Mixed



The Indian rupee traded within a narrow range on Thursday, hovering at 88.6250 against the U.S. dollar at 10:30 a.m. IST, slightly stronger than Wednesday's close of 88.69. The currency touched a record low of 88.7975 earlier this week and has fallen over

3% this quarter, marking its steepest quarterly decline since April-June 2022. Overall, the rupee has depreciated nearly 30.6% against the dollar since 2014, raising concerns about further weakness ahead.

Brokerage firm Care Edge

cited multiple pressures on the rupee, including U.S. secondary tariffs, a recent increase in H-1B visa fees, and sustained foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows. Despite these challenges, the brokerage expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to

intervene as needed to curb excessive volatility. Their forecast anticipates the USD/INR rate to settle between 85 and 87 by the end of FY26, supported by a softer dollar, a stronger yuan, India's manageable current account deficit, and potential progress on

a U.S.-India trade deal.

Several factors are providing some support to the rupee. The U.S. dollar index has weakened around 10% year-to-date, aided by a 25-basis-point rate cut in September and expectations of further Federal Reserve easing. Meanwhile, the Chinese yuan has strengthened 2.5% against the dollar this year, benefiting from a weaker dollar, supportive PBOC policy, and buoyant Chinese equity markets.

India's current account deficit is expected to remain manageable at 0.9% of GDP in FY26, helped by range-bound crude oil prices and resilient services exports. Care Edge noted that even if U.S. tariffs persist at 50%, the deficit may widen only slightly to 1.2-1.3% of GDP, remaining sustainable.

Investors are closely monitoring global macroeconomic developments, trade policies, and domestic interventions, as these will be key in determining the near-term trajectory of the rupee against the dollar.

S&P Maintains India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast at 6.5%

S&P Global has maintained its projection for India's economic growth at 6.5% for the current financial year, citing resilient domestic demand that would offset external headwinds from rising U.S. tariffs and slower global growth. In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 report, the rating agency highlighted factors supporting India's GDP, including a largely benign monsoon, cuts in income and goods and services tax (GST), and accelerating government investment.

The S&P forecast aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's own projection of 6.5% growth for 2025-26. Fitch Ratings recently upgraded its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% from an earlier estimate of 6.5%, citing stronger-than-expected performance in

the first quarter. Official data for Q1 FY26

shows India's GDP ex-

panded by 7.8%, significantly exceeding expectations and RBI projections.

Domestic positives such as a favourable monsoon, GST reforms, and the government's infrastructure push are expected to support economic activity. However, the report also noted that high U.S. tariffs, imposed under the Trump administration, remain a notable risk to India's external sector. These tariffs could affect trade competitiveness and potentially weigh on growth if global conditions deteriorate.

S&P's report further observed that compared to June assumptions on U.S. tariffs, China has fared somewhat better than other Asian economies, while Southeast Asian countries have

faced mixed impacts. India's domestic consumption, resilient services sector, and government-led investment are seen as mitigating factors against such global uncertainties.

Overall, while external challenges persist, robust domestic demand, fiscal measures

and infrastructure initiatives are expected to sustain India's growth trajectory. The country remains well-positioned to maintain

strong economic momentum despite global headwinds, providing a stable outlook for investors and policy-makers alike.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India surged to a 50-month high in July 2025, reaching \$11.11 billion, more than double the inflows recorded in the same month last year. Data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday showed that this marked the highest gross FDI since May 2021, when \$12.32 billion had flowed into the country.

In June 2025, gross FDI inflows stood at \$9.57 billion, while in July 2024, the figure was \$5.54 billion, highlighting the strong year-on-year growth. On a net basis, India received \$5.05 billion in FDI in July 2025, compared to \$2.51 billion in June and an outflow of \$2.69 billion in July 2024. This demonstrates not only higher inflows but also a significant improvement in net capital movement into the country.

Analysts attribute the strong inflows to growing investor confidence in India's long-term growth prospects, backed by structural reforms and policy measures aimed at enhancing ease of doing business and promoting industrial development. The uptick comes even before

S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's sovereign rating, and ahead of several government initiatives announced to further boost economic growth.

The rise in FDI is expected to bolster job creation, technology transfer, and sectoral investments across industries such as manufacturing, digital services, and infrastructure. It also reflects global investors' growing interest in India as a stable and attractive investment destination amid uncertain global markets.

Experts note that sustained FDI inflows will play a key role in supporting India's economic recovery, enhancing foreign exchange reserves, and facilitating capital formation. July's record inflows reinforce India's position as a preferred destination for global investment, signaling confidence in the country's economic fundamentals and policy framework.

With continued reforms and investor-friendly measures, India is poised to attract even higher FDI in the coming months, further strengthening its economic growth trajectory.

Apple, Google, Meta Must Face Lawsuits Over Casino-Style Gambling Apps



A federal judge has ruled that Apple, Google, and Meta Platforms must face lawsuits accusing them of promoting illegal gambling through casino-style apps on their platforms. The ruling came on Tuesday from U.S. District Judge Edward Davila in San Jose, California, who denied the tech giants' attempts to dismiss the claims.

The lawsuits allege that Apple's App Store, Google's Play Store, and Meta's Facebook enabled an "authentic Vegas-style experience" of slot machine gambling by hosting these apps and collecting commissions, often as high as 30 percent. Plaintiffs contend that these platforms knowingly profited from apps that are addictive and harmful, contributing to mental health issues like depression and suicidal thoughts among users.

Apple, Google, and Meta argued that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act shields them from liability because they are not responsible for third-party content posted on their platforms. However,

Judge Davila rejected this defense for most claims, stating that the companies could still be held accountable for their role in facilitating and profiting from these gambling apps.

While the judge dismissed some claims based on certain state laws, all consumer protection claims—except those in California—were allowed to proceed. The decision means

the companies will have to defend themselves in class-action lawsuits brought by dozens of plaintiffs accusing them of operating an illegal racketeering conspiracy.

This ruling signals increased scrutiny of how major tech platforms manage and profit from third-party apps, especially those with potential social harms. The case highlights ongoing concerns about the regulation of online gambling and the responsibilities of app stores in protecting users.

As these lawsuits move forward, Apple, Google, and Meta could face significant legal and financial challenges related to their casino-style gambling app ecosystems.

ChatGPT Launches 'Instant Checkout' to Simplify In-Chat Purchases



OpenAI has introduced a new feature called "Instant Checkout" that allows ChatGPT users in the United States to make purchases directly within their chat sessions. The update aims to streamline online shopping by enabling users to confirm orders, delivery, and payment details with a simple tap of the "Buy" button—no need to leave the chat.

Available to ChatGPT Pro, Plus, and Free users who are signed in, Instant Checkout initially supports purchases from US-based Etsy sellers and more than one million Shopify retailers. Popular brands like Glossier, Skims, Spanx, and Vuori are expected to join the platform soon, expanding the range of products accessible through ChatGPT.

This feature builds on ChatGPT's earlier shopping capabilities, where users could ask for product recommendations and receive curated options complete with images, reviews, and prices. Now, users can complete transactions seamlessly using payment options like credit cards, Apple Pay, Google

Pay, or Stripe—all within the conversation interface.

In a recent blog post, OpenAI emphasized that product suggestions will remain "natural and unsponsored," ranked strictly by user relevance rather than paid promotions. To sustain the service, OpenAI plans to charge merchants a small fee on completed purchases.

Instant Checkout marks a significant step toward integrating AI-powered shopping assistance with payment and delivery logistics, aiming to enhance convenience for consumers and boost sales opportunities for merchants.

By merging product discovery, recommendation, and payment into one smooth experience, ChatGPT is positioning itself as a new kind of online shopping assistant, reducing friction in the buying process and potentially reshaping e-commerce interactions.

As this feature rolls out, it could redefine how consumers shop online, turning casual conversations into instant purchasing moments.

US Man Wins Rs 17 Crore on Scratch-Off Ticket Bought 'On a Whim'



A 32-year-old man from Wayne County, Michigan, has struck gold after purchasing a scratch-off lottery ticket on a spontaneous impulse, winning a life-changing \$2 million (approximately Rs 17 crore).

The lucky winner was at Fleck's Fresh Mart on Michigan Avenue in Canton when he spotted the 100X scratch-off tickets. Although he didn't usually play this particular game, he decided to buy a few "on a whim." Little did he know, his impulsive choice would lead to one of the top prizes offered by the Michigan Lottery.

As he scratched the tickets, he was stunned to find a match on number 11, revealing the \$2 million jackpot. "I kept asking myself: 'What does this mean?' because I didn't believe I really won \$2 million at first," the winner told Michigan Lottery offi-

cials. In disbelief, he asked his mother to double-check the ticket, and upon her confirmation, excitement took over.

"When my mom looked the ticket over and told me it was a \$2

million winner, I was so excited I didn't know what to do with myself!" he said. "Turning 20 into \$2 million is unbelievable and still doesn't feel real. I don't think it's going to fully sink in until I cash the

check."

The man has decided to be prudent with his newfound fortune, choosing to put the entire amount into savings to secure his financial future.

This remarkable win

highlights the thrill and unpredictability of lottery games, where a moment's whim can lead to an extraordinary payday. The 100X scratch-off game remains one of Michigan Lottery's most popular offerings, boasting several top prizes just like this one.

As the winner prepares to cash his check, this story serves as a reminder that sometimes fortune favors the spontaneous.

"America, I Love You": Indian Woman's Emotional Farewell After US Layoff



Ananya Joshi, an Indian biotechnology graduate, bid a tearful goodbye to the United States after being laid off and unable to secure a new job. Joshi, who graduated from Northwestern University in 2024 with a master's degree in Biotechnology, had been working at a biotech startup through the F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) program.

On September 29, Joshi shared a heartfelt video on Instagram capturing the emotional moment of her departure. Despite having come to terms with her situation, she admitted that leaving the country was the hardest part of her journey. "Nothing could have prepared me for this day," she said, reflecting on the deep emotional impact of saying goodbye.

In her message, Joshi expressed immense gratitude toward the US, which she de-

scribed as her first home as a financially independent adult—a milestone she cherished deeply. "Though short-lived, I really appreciate the life you gave me. AMERICA, I LOVE YOU," she wrote in the video's caption.

Joshi's story resonates with many international

students and professionals who face uncertainty due to visa restrictions and job market challenges. After being laid off from her startup job, she spent months searching for new opportunities but was unable to find a suitable position, leading to her difficult decision to leave.

Her candid account highlights the challenges skilled foreign workers face in the US job market, especially in highly competitive fields like biotechnology. Despite the setback, Joshi's gratitude and affection for her time in America remain clear, marking a bittersweet end to her chapter in the country.

Her video has touched many viewers, sparking conversations about immigration, career struggles, and the emotional toll of leaving a place that once felt like home.

Opera Launches Neon AI Browser to Revolutionize Web Browsing



Opera has unveiled its latest innovation, Neon, an AI-powered web browser designed to take web browsing to the next level by executing tasks and running code directly within web pages. This launch places Opera in the growing race among tech companies to develop "agent" browsers—browsers that do more than just deliver search results by actively assisting users in completing tasks.

Neon aims to transform the traditional browsing experience into a productivity hub where AI can act on behalf of users, streamlining online activities such as shopping, researching, and managing workflows. A key feature of the browser is that all AI actions occur locally on the user's device, giving users full control over when the AI operates or pauses, ensuring privacy and transparency.

Opera's entry into this space highlights the intense competition among companies eager to redefine how people interact with the web. Earlier this year, Perplexity AI introduced its Comet browser, and The Browser Company launched Dia, both focused on integrating AI to enhance user productivity.

Meanwhile, OpenAI is preparing to launch its own Chromium-based AI brows-

er, which may incorporate its "Operator" agent. This feature promises to let users browse and transact seamlessly without ever leaving a native chat interface, further blurring the lines be-

tween browsing, chatting, and completing tasks.

With Neon and other AI browsers emerging, the future of web navigation looks set to become more interactive and intuitive. By embed-

ding AI deeply into browsing, these new tools aim to save users time and effort, offering personalized assistance and smarter web experiences.

As AI browsers like Op-

era's Neon hit the market, they signal a significant shift in digital habits—where the browser is no longer just a window to the web but an active partner in online productivity.

Lakshya Sen Cruises Into Second Round at Japan Masters

India's ace shuttler Lakshya Sen began his Japan Masters campaign in fine style, advancing to the second round of the men's singles with a commanding straight-game victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe on Wednesday.

Seeded seventh in the tournament, Sen displayed excellent control and sharp shot selection to dominate the proceedings. He defeated world No. 26 Watanabe 21-12, 21-16 in just 39 minutes, marking a confident start to his Kumamoto Masters Japan campaign. The world No. 15 Indian will next face the winner of the clash between Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh and Victor Lai of Canada.

However, it turned out to be a mixed day for the Indian contingent as Kiran George and the mixed doubles pair Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde bowed out of the tournament after closely fought matches.

Kiran George couldn't sustain his early momentum, going down 20-22, 10-21



to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok. In the mixed doubles event, Kapoor and Ruthvika fought valiantly before suffering a narrow loss to the American duo of Presley Smith and Jennie Gai. The Indians took the match to

three games but ultimately fell short 12-21, 21-19, 20-22.

The tournament, part of the BWF World Tour Super 500 series, continues to see intense competition among top international shuttlers. Later in the day, HS Pran-

noy will face Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong, Ayush Shetty will take on fourth seed Kodai Naraoka, and Tharun Manepalli will meet Korea's Hyek Jin Jeon in their respective first-round encounters.

With Sen leading India's charge, the spotlight now turns to whether the country's top shuttlers can maintain momentum and advance further in this prestigious badminton event.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Remark On Dublin Crowd Ahead Of Ireland Clash



Cristiano Ronaldo has once again made headlines with his trademark confidence and humour ahead of Portugal's crucial World Cup qualifier against Ireland in Dublin on Thursday. The Portuguese captain, who is just one win away from leading his nation to the 2026 World Cup finals, said he hopes the Irish crowd boos him—believing it could help ease the pressure on his teammates.

"The stadium will boo me, I'm used to it, I certainly hope they do—maybe it will take the pressure off other players," Ronaldo told reporters on Wednesday. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner, now 40, remains a key figure for Portugal, who top Group F with a five-point lead and have two matches remaining in the qualification campaign.

Ronaldo, currently playing for Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, admitted that the match would be "difficult," expecting Ireland to adopt a defensive approach and

deny Portugal space. Still, the veteran forward emphasized his determination to continue contributing to the team's success.

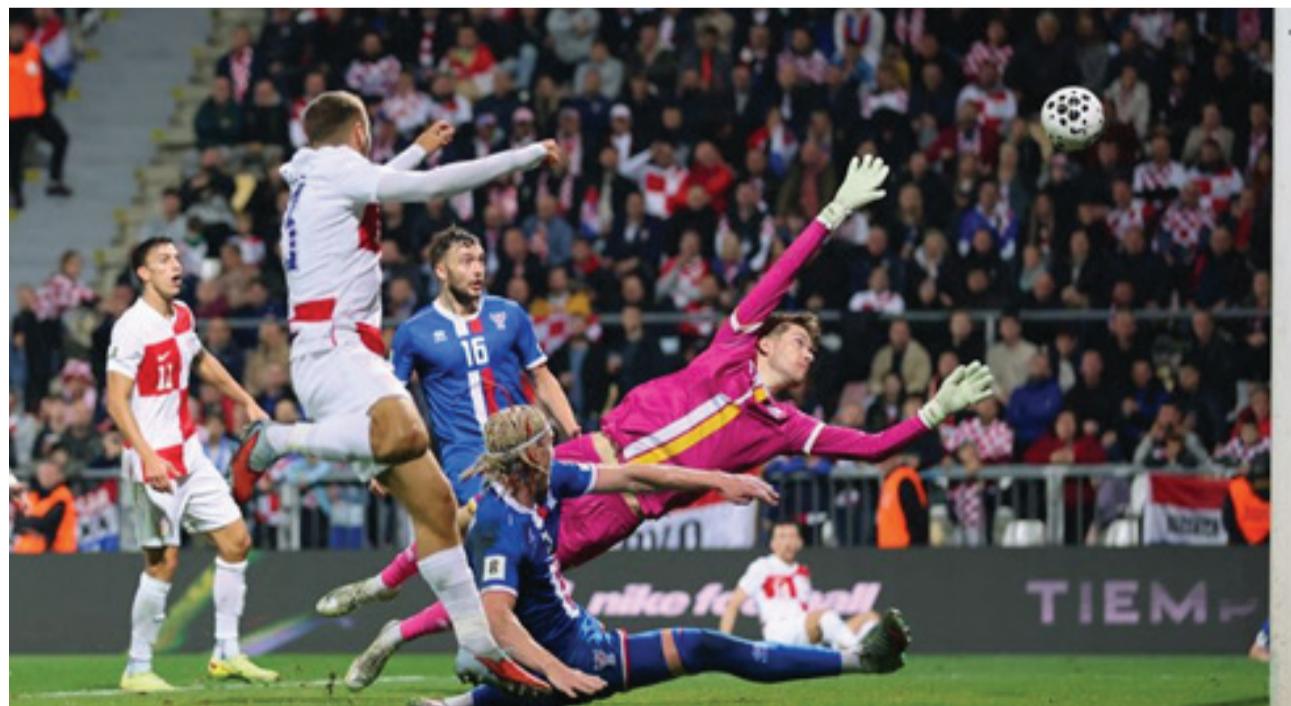
When asked about the possibility of scoring his 1,000th career goal in the World Cup final, Ronaldo laughed off the notion: "You've been watching too many movies—that would be too perfect."

With an incredible 953 career goals and 143 for Portugal—the most by any male international player—Ronaldo said his focus remains firmly on qualification rather than personal milestones.

"I want to play in the next World Cup, otherwise I wouldn't be here. But let's take it step by step," he said.

While hinting that the 2026 World Cup could be his last, Ronaldo declined to elaborate on retirement plans. "There's no point in being repetitive and losing focus," he added. "Portugal has another opportunity to be in another finals—that's what matters most."

Croatia Qualifies as 2026 World Cup Field Takes Shape



Memphis Depay cancelling Jakub Błaszczykowski's opener. Coach Ronald Koeman said the result brought the Dutch closer to direct qualification in Group G, with one match remaining against Lithuania. Poland will face Malta, which stunned Finland 1-0 thanks

to Jake Grech's late goal—Malta's first win in 2026 qualifiers and only the fourth in its history.

Germany secured a top-two finish in Group A with a 2-0 win over Luxembourg, while Slovakia defeated Northern Ireland 1-0. The two sides will meet in Leip-

zig to determine the group winner.

With Europe claiming 16 direct spots, other qualified teams include England, France, Algeria, Morocco, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, and New Zealand, among others. Intercontinental playoffs in March

2026 will decide the remaining spots, rounding out a record 48-team World Cup.

The 2026 edition promises broader global representation and heightened competition, as teams across all continents battle to secure a place in the sport's most prestigious tournament.

Samson-Jadeja Mega Trade Reshapes CSK, Royals Ahead of IPL 2026



In one of the biggest player swaps in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, Rajasthan Royals (RR) have traded captain Sanju Samson to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in exchange for star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and England's Sam Curran. The IPL confirmed the blockbuster deal on Saturday morning, just hours before the deadline for teams to submit their retention lists for the 2026 season.

The move ends weeks of speculation, with reports earlier suggesting that the Samson-Jadeja trade was virtually sealed. The formal announcement now sets the stage for major restructuring in both franchises as they gear up for the next IPL cycle. For CSK, Samson becomes a marquee signing and a likely long-term leader as the franchise looks to rebuild. With MS Dhoni nearing the end of his career and Rituraj Gaikwad captaining last season, Samson's arrival introduces a dynamic top-order batter and an experienced captaincy option. The 30-year-old wicketkeeper-batter

had been the face of the Royals for several years and one of their most consistent performers. Rajasthan Royals, meanwhile, have secured significant firepower and experience with the addition of Jadeja and Curran. Jadeja, one of CSK's longest-serving players and a fan favourite, returns to the franchise where he first made his IPL name—RR—after more than a decade. His all-round ability and finishing skills are expected to provide the Royals with greater balance and depth.

Sam Curran, the England all-rounder and former IPL MVP, also strengthens RR's pace attack and lower-order batting. His versatility across formats makes him a valuable asset in the shorter format.

The multi-player deal marks a rare and dramatic reshuffle involving franchise cornerstones. With teams preparing for another high-stakes season, the trade is expected to significantly impact squad dynamics and strategies heading into IPL 2026.

Harmanpreet Relives Iconic Catch That Sealed India's First Women's World Cup



India's World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur says she has watched the final moment of the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup—her full-length diving catch to dismiss South Africa's Nadine de Klerk—"at least a thousand times." The stunning catch sealed India's 52-run victory and delivered the country its first-ever Women's World Cup title, a moment she says transformed both her life and the future of women's cricket in India.

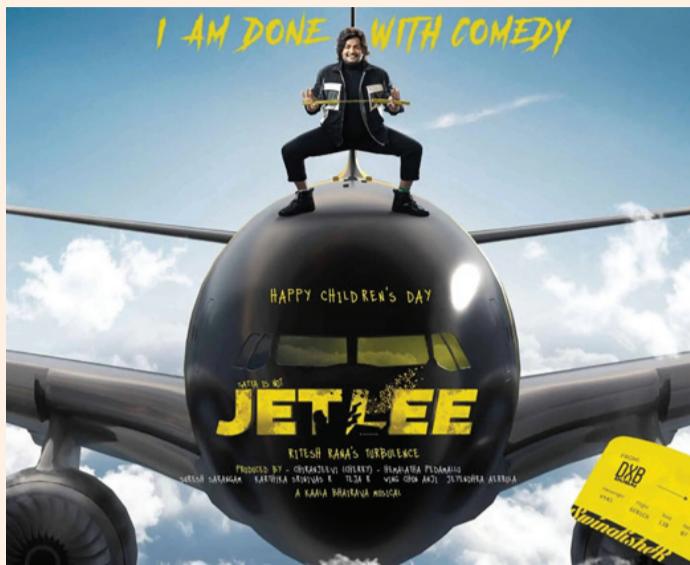
Speaking to PTI in New Delhi, Harmanpreet reflected on the emotional high that followed the triumph and how the catch has become a symbol of India's rise in women's cricket. "It's a moment I can't get tired of watching. Every time I see it, I relive those last few seconds—the noise, the pressure, the belief," she said.

Harmanpreet said the win has opened doors for women's cricket in a way she had only imagined. "The support, recognition, and love we've received since the victory has been overwhelming. This trophy isn't just for the team—it belongs to every girl in India who dreams of playing cricket," she said.

She also credited the team's consistent preparation and belief throughout the tournament. "We wanted to change the narrative around women's cricket in India. Winning the World Cup was the biggest step in that direction."

As the celebrations continue, Harmanpreet said she hopes the victory inspires greater investment in grassroots cricket and encourages young girls to take up the sport with confidence.

Satya's Jetlee Title Poster Amuses Fans



Director Ritesh Rana, known for his hit Mathu Vadalara and its sequel, is teaming up with Satya once again for a fresh and intriguing venture. The film, produced by Clap Entertainment and presented by Mythri Movie Makers, recently revealed its title poster, sparking amusement among fans.

Unveiled on Children's Day, the poster is as quirky as it is entertaining. It features Satya in a squatting pose atop the nose of a jet airplane, wielding nunchucks, against a backdrop of a wide-open sky that adds a sense of scale and adventure. The tagline, "I'm done with comedy", adds humorous twist, perfectly complementing the poster's playful visual, even as it hints at Satya's trademark style of blending comedy with action.

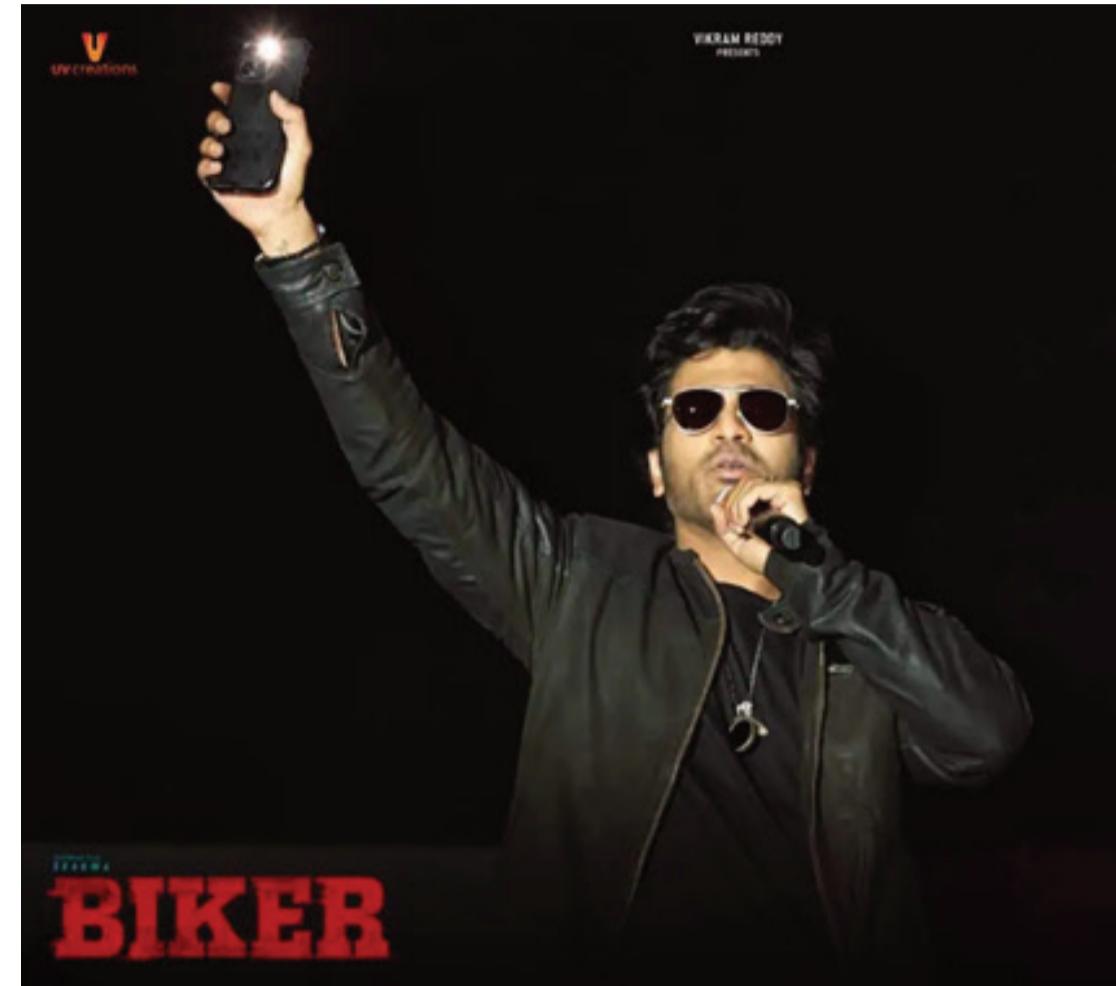
The film stars Miss Universe India Rhea Singha as the female lead, while comedians Vennela Kishore and Ajay are set to bring their signature comic timing to the story. With such a cast, the film promises a mix of action, humor, and a larger-than-life entertainment.

Sharwa Urges Students to "Rise Above Failures"

Popular Telugu actor Sharwanand, busy promoting his upcoming film Biker, inspired students at a college event on Thursday night, urging them to "Rise Above Failures" and embrace life's challenges with courage. Biker, directed by Abhilash Reddy Kankara, is touted as the first Indian film centered on motor racing. For the role, Sharwanand underwent a rigorous four-month transformation, shedding 12 kilograms through diet, exercise, gym workouts, and yoga.

During his motivational address, the actor emphasized that life is about experiences rather than degrees, money, or accolades. "Be a good person and success will find you. Embrace your failures and learn from them. Don't run away from life into depression; nothing is permanent," he told the students.

Sharwanand spoke candidly about his personal struggles, admitting, "I did go through



lots of failures, got cheated, felt used, but never gave up. I rose again. In real life, a hero is defined by how you rise above obstacles. Be patient, kind, willing, and always

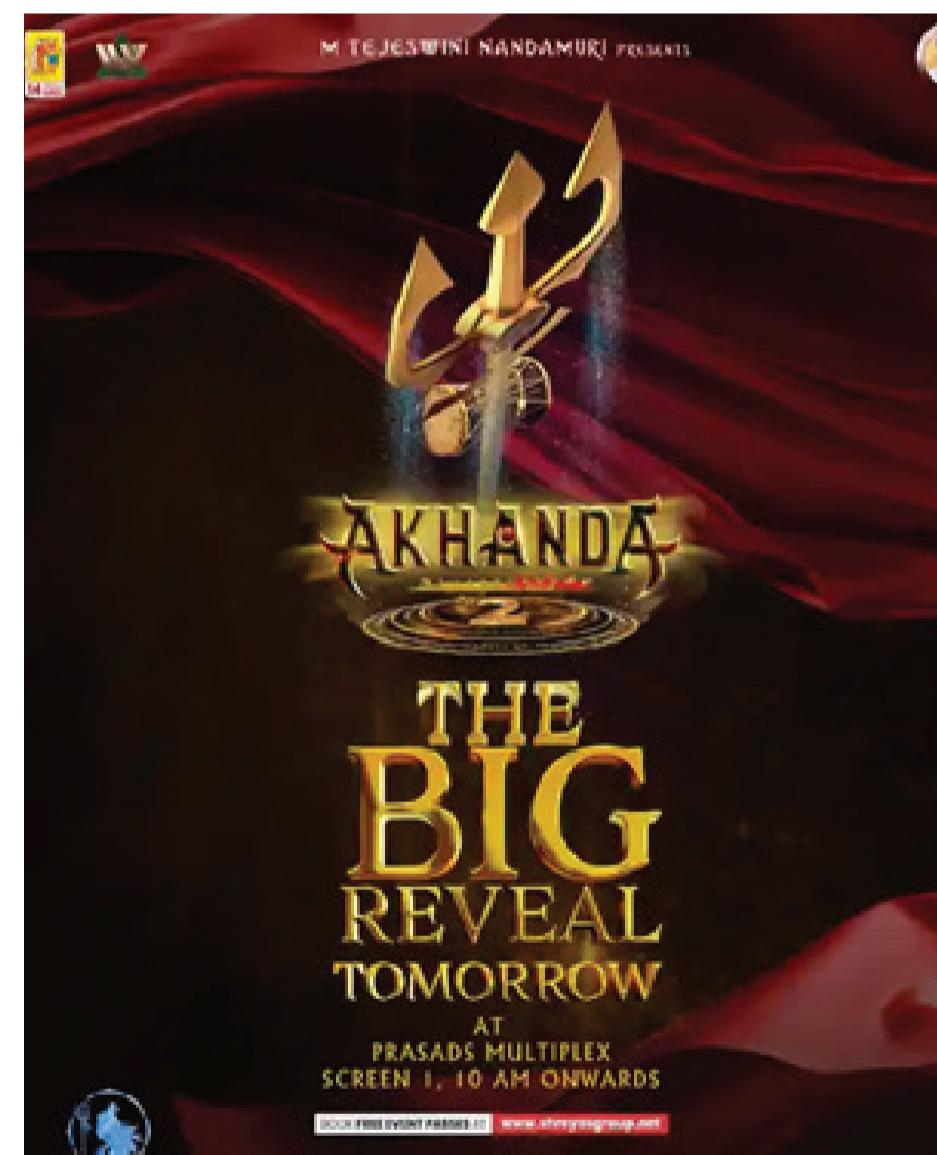
work hard. Never give up and never run away from responsibility."

He also encouraged students to take charge of their own narratives. "When it is your story, you should be the writer. Life has taught me that, and I am telling you all—be the writer of your story and create history," he said.

The actor's heartfelt speech struck a chord, and short reels of his motivational talk have quickly gone viral on social media. Fans and students alike praised this rare glimpse of Sharwanand's inspiring side, different from his on-screen persona.

Produced by UV Creations, Biker is set for release on 6th December, and Sharwanand's promotional tour is generating considerable excitement among audiences. Beyond the film, his words of resilience and determination are leaving a lasting impression on young minds, reminding them to face failures with courage and write their own success stories.

Akhanda 2: Big Reveal Set for Today



Santhana Praphirasthu: A Humorous Take on Male Infertility



The small-budget Telugu film Santhana Praphirasthu, starring Vikranth and Chandini Chowdary, hit theaters on November 14, 2025. Directed by Sanjeev Reddy and produced by Madhura Sreedhar Reddy and Nirvi Hariprasad Reddy, the movie tackles the sensitive issue of male infertility while keeping the tone light and entertaining.

The story follows Chaitanya (Vikranth), a shy software employee in Hyderabad who struggles to communicate with women. A chance encounter with Kalyani (Chandini Chowdary) sparks romance, and the couple eventually marries against her father's wishes. The twist arises when Chaitanya discovers he has a low sperm count, leading to challenges that form the core of the narrative.

The film's strength lies in its comedy. Much of the humor stems from Muralidhar Goud's portrayal of Kalyani's disapproving father, whose constant attempts to trouble Chaitanya provide endless laughs. Vennela Kishore adds solid comic support, while Tharun Bhascker offers a decent performance. Abhinav Gomatam also adds an extra layer of fun, making the second half especially enjoyable.

Vikranth shows significant improvement over his debut, effectively balancing humor and vulnerability, while his chemistry with Chandini Chowdary and Muralidhar Goud works well. Chandini's natural and heartfelt performance anchors the emotional aspects, and Muralidhar Goud emerges as the scene-stealer with his comedic timing.

However, the film does have minor flaws. Emotional scenes arrive late in the narrative, making the final portions feel somewhat rushed, and the initial half, particularly the love sequences, feels generic. Editing in the first half could have been sharper to maintain pacing.

Technically, Sunil Kashyap's music and background score are satisfactory, and Mahi Reddy Pandugula's cinematography and production values are neat. Director Sanjeev Reddy deserves credit for handling a bold subject in a family-friendly, humorous way.

Overall, Santhana Praphirasthu is a fun, light-hearted take on male infertility, buoyed by strong performances and humor, making it a decent weekend watch despite minor pacing and emotional shortcomings.

that the film promises.

The film stars Samyuktha as the female lead, with Aadi Pinisetty essaying the role of the antagonist. Harshaali Malhotra, known for her performance in Bajrangi Bhaijaan, makes her Tollywood debut in Akhanda 2. Produced by Raam Achanta and Gopinath Achanta under the banner of 14 Reels Plus, the film is presented by M Tejaswini Nandamuri on a grand scale.

The makers have now announced that a bigger reveal is scheduled for tomorrow at 10 AM at Prasads Multiplex, Hyderabad.

Speculation is rife that it could be a new video asset from the action-packed drama, offering fans another glimpse of the high-octane sequences and larger-than-life performances

ful screen presence with Boyapati Sreenu's signature action sequences.

With the countdown to Akhanda 2's release intensifying, fans are eagerly waiting for tomorrow's reveal, which could offer a sneak peek into the film's action sequences or an important plot element. The combination of a star-studded cast, gripping storyline, and grand production values has already created high expectations, making Akhanda 2 one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year.

As promotional activities continue at full swing, fans are marking their calendars, ready to witness Balakrishna in another larger-than-life avatar on the big screen.



Raashi Khanna Turns Heads with Classy Yet Bold Look During Film Promotions

Actress Raashi Khanna is once again making headlines, this time for her effortlessly stylish and bold appearance that perfectly blends grace with confidence. Known for her versatility and charm, Raashi recently stepped out in a striking floral corset outfit with soft, flowing drapes — a look that instantly caught everyone's attention.

Meanwhile, Raashi's Bollywood journey appears to be on a much brighter track. She is gearing up for the release of 12 Bahadur, a war drama produced by Farhan Akhtar, slated to hit theaters on November 21. In the film, she plays the wife of Major Shaitan Singh Bhati — a role she described as both "tough and deeply emotional."

Balancing beauty with substance, Raashi Khanna continues to prove that she's more than just a pretty face — she's an actress who's here to stay, one project and one perfect look at a time.