





# Telangana Aims for \$3 Trillion Economy by 2047: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that the Telangana Government is preparing for massive '2047 Telangana Rising' celebrations on the 8th and 9th of next month, where several new policies will be unveiled. Addressing the 47th Quarterly Bankers Meeting (SLBC) in Begumpet, he urged bankers to actively participate and partner in this major event, which will feature the launch of the 2047 Roadmap. This roadmap sets an ambitious target of achieving a 13% GDP growth rate to build a three-trillion-dollar economy for the State by 2047. The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that the Government's long-

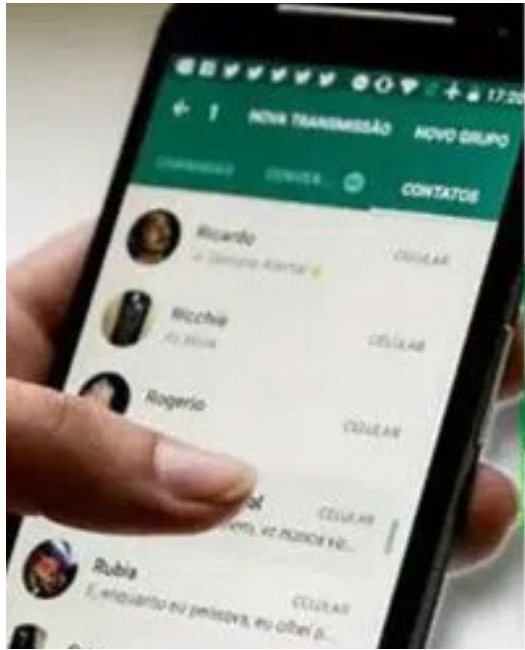
term vision and plans will be showcased during these celebrations, moving from showcasing completed programs in the first year to highlighting continuing initiatives in the second year. He stressed the State's determination to build a modern, inclusive, and future-ready Telangana. Key infrastructure projects, including the Regional Ring Road, the connection of industrial corridors, and the Musi River rejuvenation, are central to attracting global investments. He affirmed that the entire State, and not just Hyderabad, possesses immense potential due to its strategic location, favorable climate, skilled human resources at lower costs, and strong power

supply, which the Government is committed to maintaining despite the anticipated 10% annual increase in electricity demand. The Deputy Chief Minister issued a strong call to the banking sector, urging them to shift from transactional engagement to a transformational partnership by significantly boosting support for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Promoting these two sectors is crucial for large-scale wealth creation and employment generation, which, in turn, will drive GDP growth. He noted that while the banking sector achieved strong figures in the first half of the year (49.45% Priority

Sector Lending and a Credit-Deposit Ratio of 130.18%), there are still critical gaps. Specifically, he urged banks to bridge the gap in agricultural term lending—which limits farmers' modernization—and to increase support for diversification crops like oil palm to secure future incomes, moving the State from volume to value in agriculture. The transformative plan includes the construction of 13,000 km of internal roads through the HAM model, which he asked banks to treat as a priority sector lending opportunity. He concluded by calling for bold credit expansion and innovative financial solutions to match Telangana's ambition for the next transformative decade.



## Telangana Launches MeeSeva Services on WhatsApp; Aims for Digital Governance Model



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025 IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced Telangana's goal to emerge as a national role model for people-centric digital governance as he launched the State's new MeeSeva Services on WhatsApp in Hyderabad. This initiative, developed in

partnership with Meta and MeeSeva, is one of the largest government-WhatsApp service integrations in the country, providing citizens access to more than 580 services from 38 government departments directly through the popular messaging platform, without requiring additional applications. Speaking at

the launch event, Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted the government's commitment to transforming governance into a participatory, transparent, and citizen-led process. He asserted that technology should be viewed as an instrument of equality, ensuring that digital benefits reach "even the last person in remote corners of Telangana."

He emphasized that "Governance should not happen within closed walls. It must integrate citizens as active participants, with technology bringing services directly to their doorstep." As part of this comprehensive digital vision, the

government has set an ambitious target of training 10 lakh youth every year in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to prepare a future-ready workforce. The Minister noted that Telangana is advancing rapidly with other major AI initiatives, including the AI-powered Telangana Digital Exchange (TGDeX), AI City, AI University, and the Telangana Innovation Hub. The new GenAI-driven, mobile-first model is set to reshape citizen service delivery. Plans are underway to soon make the WhatsApp-based MeeSeva services available in Telugu and Urdu and to develop voice-command features for hands-free access. The service will also be expanded to include more government departments in the coming months. Minister Sridhar Babu confirmed that Telangana's innovative digital governance models are already attracting attention from other States looking to adopt similar technology-driven service delivery systems.

## BRAOU Signs MOU with COL to Establish Integrated Digital Education Academy



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025 In a significant step towards modernizing the State's higher education system, the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in the presence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. This agreement is set to transform BRAOU into a prominent digital university through the establishment of an Integrated Digital Education Academy (IDEA). The IDEA will function as a cutting-edge digital hub specifically designed to enhance teaching, learning, and research across the

university. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized that the State Government is fully committed to elevating educational standards and bringing about systemic changes within Telangana's education sector. He assured Mr. Peter Scott, President and CEO of COL, that the government is determined to strengthen all universities in the state and transform the Ambedkar Open University into a major knowledge hub.

This strategic partnership will enable BRAOU to utilize technology to deliver high-quality education, making it more accessible and aligned with global standards. The collaboration underscores the government's vision of integrating digital tools and advanced pedagogy into the traditional open university model. This initiative is expected to play a crucial role in providing quality education to a wider population, democratizing access, and building a more skilled workforce in Telangana. The meeting and MOU signing were attended by key figures, including COL President & CEO Peter Scott, Government Advisor K. Keshav Rao, BRAOU Vice-Chancellor Ghanta Chakrapani, CM Special Secretary Ajit Reddy, and various senior officials.



# KTR Vows BRS Fight Until Cotton Farmers' Issues Are Resolved

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, The Working President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), along with senior party leaders, met with officials from the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in Adilabad to submit a comprehensive representation detailing the grievances of cotton farmers. He expressed severe dissatisfaction that the State Cabinet meeting failed to discuss the distress of cotton farmers, including issues of moisture content, crop damage, and challenges facing the cotton crop grown over 50 lakh acres in the state.

KTR presented three key demands: the immediate withdrawal of the 'Kapas App', the removal of the arbitrary rule limiting procurement to only seven quintals per acre, and the mandatory purchase of cotton with a moisture content of up to 20 per cent. He stated that



the abrupt introduction of the Kisan Kapas App, without proper training or awareness, is causing unnecessary delays in procurement.

He highlighted that many farmers in Adilabad do not own smartphones, connectivity is poor, and due to a lack of training, the app causes more harm than good. Farmers claim that the CCI, which usually procures 5 lakh quintals by this time of year, has not even procured one lakh

quintal, necessitating a return to the old system where farmers can sell directly at market yards. He suggested that if the app is to continue, it should be implemented next year only after giving farmers two to three months of training. The second major issue KTR raised was the Moisture Content (MC) norm. He explained that due to heavy rainfall and the minimum temperature dropping to 6°C by November 18 in Adilabad, the cotton grown in black soil naturally has higher

moisture. He recalled that the previous KCR government ensured CCI purchased cotton even with 20-22% MC, criticizing the current State government's indifference. He expressed concern that the Central government's agreements to import cotton are hurting domestic farmers. Due to the CCI rule to buy cotton only if the moisture is between 8% and 12%, and reducing the price as moisture increases, farmers who should receive 8,110 per quintal are receiving only

5,000 to 6,200, resulting in a loss of around 3,000. Furthermore, KTR criticized the procurement limit, demanding it be raised from seven quintals to 13 quintals per acre, as areas like Jainath and Bela produce 15-18 quintals per acre. He pointed out that cotton and soy farmers in Adilabad are facing an "impossible" situation, as CCI is delaying purchases while private traders have also shut down mills and gone on an indefinite strike. He noted incidents

where farmers lost their stored cotton due to fire accidents. KTR also lashed out at the State government for failing to implement any of its promises, such as the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, input subsidy, or 20,000 per acre compensation for rain-affected crops. He was deeply unhappy that the Cabinet meeting failed to discuss the plight of cotton farmers. He called on the State government to immediately respond and pressure the Centre. KTR announced the BRS's full support for the National Highways Blockade planned by the farmers in Adilabad on November 21st, stating that the party is ready to unite across party lines to approach the Central government on the farmers' behalf. He also demanded the removal of the biometric (fingerprinting) rule for older farmers who have difficulty with authentication.



## BRS Alleges Congress Betrayal on BC Reservations

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025. Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud, addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, accused the Congress government of deceiving the Backward Classes (BCs) regarding reservations in local body elections.

He stated that the Congress promised 42 per cent reservations for BCs in the Kamareddy Declaration, but has failed to implement any of the assurances so far. He noted that the Chief Minister has not met the Prime Minister regarding BC reservations, resorting instead to a protest (dharana) at Jantar Mantar. He recalled that PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud had initially stated they would go for elections only after providing 42 per cent reservations. Now, the Congress says they will provide 42 per cent reservations on a party basis, which Srinivas Goud termed "deception" and "fraud." He questioned how party-based reservations could be implemented in Sarpanch elections, which are non-party elections without 'B' forms.

He alleged that the BJP and Congress are colluding to proceed with elections without 42 per cent reservations, stating that Kishan Reddy signed, and Revanth Reddy followed. He asserted that holding elections without 42 per cent reservations is an insult to the BC community and that the Congress is blatantly deceiving them with the intention of enslaving the BCs. He questioned whether it was reasonable to stop the implementation of 42 per cent BC reservations for the sake of 3,000 crores in funds, suggesting that the government could stop funds for major projects but not for this. He urged BC leaders within the Congress and BJP to fight for the 42 per cent reservation and called for all BC associations to unite. He announced that a BC JAC meeting would be held soon to decide the future course of action.

Former MLA Jaipal Yadav supported the claims, calling the Congress government's failure to finalise the 42 per cent reservation seats an outrage. He warned that the BC reservation would fall from 42 per cent to 23 per cent. He stated that the decision to proceed with reservations below 50 per cent is a betrayal of the BC community. He affirmed that the BRS would fight for the legal right of 42 per cent reservation for the BCs.

## Harish Rao Reaches Out To Farmers



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025. Former Minister Harish Rao inspected cotton crops in Mogilicherla village of Parkal constituency, Warangal district, where he interacted with farmers to understand their difficulties and issues firsthand. A farmer named Shobha shared her deepest distress with the former minister. Farmer Shobha explained that they are losing the subsequent crop due to lack of water. She lamented that cotton, which should fetch a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 8,100 per quintal, is being sold to middlemen for only 4,500. She stated that they cannot even recover the expenses, let alone pay for labour. The promised bonus for paddy sold during

the Yasangi season has not been received so far. She alleged that since the Congress came to power, farmers have been reduced to begging. She highlighted the severe shortage of fertilisers, saying that despite being in line for three days, she could not get even one bag of urea. She questioned how a single bag of urea could suffice for five acres of land. She strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying he has virtually given a bowl to farmers and asked them to beg. She also pointed out that the government is ignoring the rampant sale of duplicate seeds. She reiterated that the government is not paying attention despite farmers suffering losses on all

fronts, including fertiliser, seed, and lack of power. If they go to the market, they are told they haven't registered online, and if they can't sell, they are forced to sell cotton to middlemen for 4,500 per quintal.

She also raised the issue of erratic power supply. When the line-man is asked, he directs them to the officials, and the officials claim they are not coming. She fondly recalled that during the KCR regime, there was 24 hours of current and plenty of water. Since the Congress came back, power problems have resumed. The 5,000 provided by KCR for crop investment (Rythu Bandhu) was helpful, but now that scheme has been stalled by the Congress. She expressed agony over the loan waiver promise. She said they were told if they paid the excess 20,000 on their 2.20 lakh loan, the remaining 2 lakh would be waived; they paid it, but the loan waiver has not happened till now.

## Harish Rao: Congress Rule Plagued by Issues From Electricity to Weighing Scales

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, Former Minister Harish Rao, addressing the media after visiting the Enumamula Agricultural Market, launched a scathing attack on both the Congress and BJP, stating that under Congress rule, everything from electricity (current) to weighing scales (kanta) is mired in problems.

He listed the failures, addressing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directly: "No fertilisers, no seeds, no proper electricity, no Rythu Bandhu, no loan waiver, defaulting on bonus, no crop insurance. Isn't this your governance, Revanth Reddy?" He questioned if the Congress government had implemented even a single promise made in the Warangal Declaration.

He criticised the BJP for its policy of lifting import duties and imposing restrictions on farmers, asking who benefits from the removal of duty on cotton and palm oil imports, and why they are placing a noose around the farmers' necks. He accused the BJP of helping big contractors and corporates by harming farmers.

Harish Rao strongly condemned the CCI's "Tughlaq-like crazy decisions" such as the L1, L2, L3 system, the Kapas App, and the 8 to 12% moisture norm, stating these rules have put farmers on the road. He noted that all ginning mills across the state have been closed for two days, leaving cotton farmers in confusion.

With no market access, farmers are forced to sell to middlemen at exploitative rates. Against an MSP of 8,100, farmers are selling for around 6,000, losing 2,000 per quintal. He accused the Central and State governments of showing farmers 'heaven in their palms' verbally, but delivering 'hell' in reality.

He questioned if the Chief Minister, who has visited Delhi 60 times, did not get a chance or patience to present the cotton farmers' issues to the Centre. He taunted that since Revanth Reddy has good relations with "Bade Bhai" (referring to the Central leadership), why is he not speaking up for the cotton farmers? He demanded the Central government immediately

## KTR Slams State and Central Governments Over Cotton Procurement Crisis

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accompanied by senior party leaders, conducted an extensive tour of Adilabad district to understand the hardships faced by farmers, particularly those cultivating cotton and soybean. During his visit to the Adilabad Market Yard, KTR interacted with several farmers who expressed deep distress over the ongoing procurement crisis. They alleged that both the Central and State governments have completely ignored their pleas and failed to provide any form of support. Farmers complained that despite Congress promising major relief for the agriculture sector, the government has not honoured any assurances. Even basic assistance required to sell their harvested crops has not been provided. After meeting farmers, KTR addressed the media and



questioned the State government's intentions. "If there is no problem for farmers, why is the Adilabad Market Yard shut today? Why did the government obstruct our visit to meet farmers?" he asked.

He condemned the severe decline in cotton and soybean procurement systems, stating that such a situation has never been witnessed in history. KTR criticised the "Kisan Kapas Mobile App," pointing out that many farmers do not own smartphones and several regions in Adilabad still lack proper mobile network connectivity. KTR highlighted that due to unseasonal

rains and extreme cold, the moisture content in cotton has naturally increased. He recalled that during the previous BRS government, even cotton with 20-22% moisture was procured after mounting pressure on the Centre. "But today, they refuse to buy even at 12% moisture. Farmers are left with no option and are being pushed to despair," he said. He stated that not even one lakh quintals of cotton have been procured so far. KTR alleged that the government appears to be colluding with private traders to exploit farmers. The BRS leader criticised the arbitrary rule

limiting cotton procurement to only seven quintals per acre, despite Adilabad's fertile lands producing 10-15 quintals per acre. "Where should farmers sell the remaining produce?" he questioned. He slammed the State government for indulging in "political drama," claiming that they scheduled a video conference with the Centre only because BRS leaders were visiting the farmers. He also pointed out that the recent Cabinet meeting failed to discuss the cotton crisis affecting more than half of Telangana's districts. KTR further blamed the Congress government for the crisis across every stage of agriculture—power supply, fertiliser distribution, and now crop procurement. He also attacked the BJP-led Central government for allowing cotton imports and removing import duties, thereby damaging domestic farmers' prospects. He warned that without mounting pressure on the Centre, the

State government cannot resolve the crisis. "Protests are the only way forward. BRS will stand firmly with farmers," he declared.

The BRS leader demanded immediate withdrawal of the fingerprint requirement, 12% moisture restriction, and the 7-quintal-per-acre rule. He insisted that cotton must be procured even without the Kisan Kapas app and called for compensation of 20,000 per acre for all farmers affected by heavy rains. He urged local BJP and Congress leaders, MPs, and Union Ministers from Telangana to exert pressure on the Centre to ensure justice for farmers. KTR appealed to farmers to participate in the National Highways Blockade scheduled for November 21, organised jointly by farmer unions and various political parties in Adilabad. KTR also assured financial support from the party to the family of Hadavu Deepak, a farmer who recently died by suicide.





# Brilliant College Heist Solved: Over 1 Crore Stolen, Three Arrested



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, The Rachakonda Police achieved a major success in solving the massive theft case at Brilliant Engineering College (Abdulapurmet Police Station limits) that had shocked the

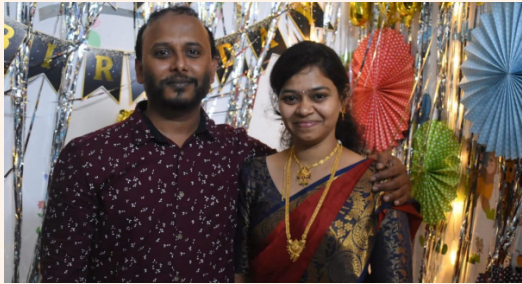
city on October 10th. LB Nagar DCP Anuradha announced the decisive breakthrough in a press briefing, confirming that the culprits forced the office lock, used a screwdriver to break into an internal cup-

board, and stole 1.07 crore in cash, primarily comprising student fees. Following a prompt complaint by Principal Puligadda Veeranna, the police formed specialized teams, leading to the apprehension of three members of the sophisticated interstate gang, notably including a minor boy. The arrested individuals were identified as Raj Manohar Pawar (22) from Gujarat and Rithik @ Rithik Mohit (24) from Madhya Pradesh, though three key members—Dinesh Mohit (27), Arun Mohit (18), and Vilas Chauhan (22)—are still at large.

Police successfully recovered 37 lakh in cash, along with the burglary tools. This highly specialized gang is known for exclusively targeting educational institutions near highways across states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Haryana. They meticulously utilize Google Maps for location scouting, operate in large groups (5-6 members), use crude tools to force entry, and meticulously plan their escapes via public transport. The investigation revealed they had initially surveyed Shreyas College but abandoned the

plan due to its high security. Each arrested member had initially received an equal share of 17.83 lakh from the stolen money. Significantly, the culprits originated from Umadhav village in Gujarat, a community with a notorious history where many residents rely on organized theft as a primary livelihood. The arrests were a result of the tireless efforts of 20 special police teams who physically scoured Gujarat, utilizing over 1,000 CCTV camera feeds to meticulously track and eventually apprehend the accused.

# Father Ends Life After Twin Babies Pass Away



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

A profoundly tragic and deeply emotional incident unfolded within the jurisdiction of the Shamshabad RGI Airport Police Station, leading to a dual tragedy for one family. Muthyala Vijay, a young man working at a private company and originally from Bengaluru, Karnataka, committed suicide, utterly devastated by the news that the twin babies his wife was carrying had passed away while undergoing critical medical treatment. RGI Airport Police Inspector Balraj provided official details, confirming the man's identity. Vijay

resided with his eight-months-pregnant wife, Sravya, in the Sama Enclave Colony in Shamshabad. Sravya was initially taken to Butterfly Hospital in Attapur for a medical check-up, where doctors delivered the shocking and critical news regarding the babies. Following medical advice for advanced care, she was urgently moved to Mythri Hospital in Gudimalkapur, and then quickly transferred to the major Sarojini Hospital in the city as her health rapidly deteriorated. Tragically, despite all medical efforts, both twin babies died inside the womb. When the doctors conveyed the

news to Sravya's mother, she called Vijay to inform him. Unable to cope with the immense shock, grief, and mental distress of losing his unborn children, Vijay immediately returned to his room in Shamshabad and tragically hanged himself with a dupatta from the fan. His uncle, upon discovering the unresponsive body, instantly alerted Vijay's elder brother, Praveen, who rushed to the scene. The police were notified, reached the location, recorded the scene, and transported the body to the Osmania Mortuary for a post-mortem examination. A case has been registered under relevant sections, and the police are now investigating the emotional circumstances that led to this catastrophic loss of life, emphasizing the acute need for accessible mental health support during extreme personal crises.

# Traffic Rule Awareness Program for Students

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, A comprehensive traffic rule awareness program was diligently organized for the students of NSSK School & College in Gagillapur, Quthbullapur, with the primary goal of promoting road safety and compliance. The event was conducted under the expert guidance of Jeediimetla Traffic CI V. Narasimha Rao. CI Narasimha Rao delivered a pointed and critical address to the large group of attending students, college lecturers, and staff, firmly stating that all motor vehicle operators must possess a valid driving license and unequivocally mandated that at two-wheeler riders must always wear a helmet as a life-saving measure. He made a compelling emotional appeal, asserting that the nation's future potential is vested in the youth, and pleaded with them to abstain from any reckless or negligent driving born of youthful haste, which often precipitates devastating and avoidable accidents. The program included an in-depth

educational segment on the severe legal and personal dangers associated with minors illegally driving vehicles and the stringent criminal consequences, including harsh legal penalties, linked to driving under the influence (DUI). He emphasized that students must proactively embrace traffic discipline from an early age as a cornerstone of civic responsibility to prevent risks to themselves and the wider community. The CI systematically elaborated on critical safety norms, underscoring the vital importance of consistently using seat belts, strictly avoiding excessive speed, correctly utilizing designated pedestrian crossings, and the absolute necessity of obeying all traffic signals without exception. The Jeediimetla Traffic staff, alongside college faculty, actively participated, aiming to permanently instill a crucial culture of responsible and lawful driving among the students, thereby contributing to the significant reduction of road accidents in the entire region.

# Everyone Must Come Forward Against Narcotics: Police

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

The Jeediimetla Police Station organized a major community outreach and pledge event as part of the nationwide Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign), emphasizing the collective goal of creating a society completely free from drug abuse. The program witnessed strong engagement from various sections of the public, including complainants, local citizens, and key police personnel, such as the Jeediimetla DI, sector SIs, ASIs, and other police staff. Jeediimetla CI Gaddam Malleshram, taking a leading role, administered a solemn pledge to all participants, committing them to relentless efforts in drug eradication and ensuring they report any credible intelligence regarding the sale, purchase, or illicit transportation of narcotics to the appropriate

law enforcement agencies. CI Malleshram highlighted the severe social concern posed by the daily escalation in drug usage, which has tragically transitioned into an addiction, specifically drawing the youth astray from productive lives. He passionately stressed that reversing this destructive trend is not just a governmental task but a profound collective social responsibility, expressing the firm belief that the deeply entrenched problem of narcotics can only be dismantled through the active co-operation and immediate reporting by the general public. Pledge at Dundigal Municipal Office In a parallel effort, the Dundigal Municipal Office also underscored the anti-drug drive. Municipal Commissioner N. Venkateshwar Naik administered the formal "Anti-Drug Pledge" to

the municipal staff, including Manager Laxmaiah, Sanitation Inspector Subhash, and Revenue Inspector Nagesh Babu. Commissioner Naik issued a stern warning to the youth, advising them to shun harmful associations that often lead to the misuse of narcotics, which ultimately leads to the destruction of their golden futures and mental enslavement. He painted a grim picture of the severe societal risk, cautioning that unchecked drug abuse inevitably fuels organized crime and creates pervasive social insecurity, reminding the staff that intoxicated individuals often have lowered inhibitions, enabling them to commit heinous offenses. He urged every single citizen to embrace drug eradication as a crucial social responsibility and actively join the movement to decisively eliminate the drug menace.

# Pledge at Dundigal Municipal Office



In a parallel effort, the Dundigal Municipal Office also underscored the anti-drug drive. Municipal Commissioner N. Venkateshwar Naik administered the formal "Anti-Drug Pledge" to the municipal staff, including Manager Laxmaiah, Sanitation Inspector Subhash, and Revenue Inspector Nagesh Babu. Commissioner Naik issued a

stern warning to the youth, advising them to shun harmful associations that often lead to the misuse of narcotics, which ultimately leads to the destruction of their golden futures and mental enslavement. He painted a grim picture of the severe societal risk, cautioning that unchecked drug abuse inevitably fuels organized crime and creates

pervasive social insecurity, reminding the staff that intoxicated individuals often have lowered inhibitions, enabling them to commit heinous offenses. He urged every single citizen to embrace drug eradication as a crucial social responsibility and actively join the movement to decisively eliminate the drug menace.

# Ragging Chaos Erupts at Shamshabad College: Assaults and Injuries

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Severe chaos and a shocking outbreak of ragging leading to a violent clash and physical assaults erupted at the Meta Mind Academy Private Junior College in Shamshabad. The hostilities began with blatant acts of ragging by second-year students targeting and attacking vulnerable first-year students, quickly escalating into a physical confrontation that injured multiple students. The situation became critical when the day-scholar students allegedly escalated the conflict further by attempting to involve external individuals—a local gang—to attack the hostel students, forcing an immediate intervention by police to prevent mass violence. The college management immediately responded to the crisis by summoning the parents of all involved students to the campus. Compounding the seriousness of the situation, the entire student confrontation was reportedly captured vividly on the college's

CCTV cameras, but the administration is under suspicion of actively attempting to suppress this critical video evidence. Adding to the college's woes, strong local accusations claim the institution operates without the required official permissions from educational authorities. Moreover, one of the most serious allegations is that the college warden is implicated in the illegal activity of supplying cigarettes to the minor students. Parents confirmed previous similar incidents, noting two students were issued Transfer Certificates (TCs) last year due to unresolved ragging issues. Police are now conducting a thorough investigation into the conflict's origins, the extent of the ragging, and the alleged involvement of the outside gang. They confirmed that prompt and stringent legal action will be initiated based on the formal complaints filed by the students' parents, ensuring accountability for the violence and the reported illegal conduct.

# 6.5 Lakh Hash Oil Seized: Odisha Accused Arrested



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Achieving a major success in counter-narcotics efforts, the elite Medchal District Task Force (DTF) team executed a critical operation, resulting in the seizure of a substantial consignment of hash oil valued at approximately 6.50 lakh. The raid took place near the Asian Theatre in Chintal area, Quthbullapur. The operation led to the immediate arrest of Vishal Sarkar (22), a resident of Malkangiri district in Odisha, who was intercepted while he was actively attempting to facilitate the sale of the illicit substance in

the local Hyderabad area, confirming the existence of an interstate drug trafficking route. The dedicated DTF team successfully confiscated a total of 1300 grams of high-quality hash oil from the possession of the accused. Excise Superintendent Sheikh Fayazuddin officially verified the estimated street value of the seized narcotic to be 6.50 lakh. Following the successful interception, seizure, and arrest, the individual and the confiscated hash oil were formally handed over to the custody of the Quthbullapur Excise Station for the initiation of comprehensive legal

proceedings and detailed investigation. The Excise Superintendent specifically offered high commendation on to the specialized team for their effective action, naming AES Madhavayya, CI Narsireddy, SI Pawan Kumar, and the entire accompanying staff. The ongoing investigation is focused on meticulously tracing the complete source and network responsible for the large drug supply originating from Odisha, with the ultimate goal of dismantling the entire trafficking chain operating into the greater Hyderabad metropolitan area.

# Woman Dies Over Dowry Harassment



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

A heart-wrenching case of suicide, tragically linked to relentless dowry harassment, occurred in Vambe Colony, Mansoorabad, LB Nagar, where Gangotri, a B.Tech third-year student, ended her life by hanging herself at home just one year after her love marriage. In her final written testament, a detailed suicide letter, Gangotri explicitly named and directly held her husband, Bhanu, responsible for her death, making a desperate plea to the authorities to ensure he faces the full force of the law. The victim's severely traumatized parents provided harrowing accounts of the abuse,

asserting that her husband, Bhanu, repeatedly subjected Gangotri to physical assaults and began demanding an exorbitant dowry of 30 lakh. His harassment escalated, including vicious threats to publicly release private videos of the couple taken before their marriage if the huge financial demand was not met, revealing a cruel pattern of exploitation and emotional blackmail. Despite the parents' desperate attempts to intervene and mediate the issue multiple times with community elders, Bhanu remained unrepentant, refusing to alter his abusive conduct, which intensified his demands for money and his physical har-

assment. This persistent, agonizing torment and exploitation drove Gangotri to the tragic and ultimate step of committing suicide. Based on the family's compelling testimony and the evidence contained in the suicide note, the LB Nagar Police Station promptly registered a comprehensive case against the husband, Bhanu, under relevant sections of the law, including those related to dowry death and abatement of suicide. Police have launched an immediate, extensive search operation for the accused, who has since gone into hiding, confirming their unwavering commitment to achieving justice for the deceased victim.



# Seethakka Vows to Resolve Egg Supply Issues for Anganwadis and Hostels



TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Minister Seethakka, who oversees Women and Child Welfare, proactively convened an important meeting with egg contractors to systematically address serious logistical and quality control issues surrounding the supply of eggs to Anganwadi centers and welfare hostels throughout the state. The Minister immediately acknowl-

edged the contractors' primary concern regarding the perishable nature of eggs, noting that they are spoiling quickly under changing storage and transport conditions, and she decisively instructed officials to mandate that fresh eggs be supplied once every 10 days to strictly ensure maximum quality and freshness. Minister Seethakka passionately emphasized that providing

high-quality, nutritious food is the government's foremost and non-negotiable objective, strongly asserting that, "Poor children are the future of our nation." She issued a firm directive mandating that officials must eliminate all forms of negligence and significantly increase their supervision and monitoring to uphold the stringent quality standards required. She gave a direct

assurance to the contractors that her departmental staff would consistently and relentlessly follow up with them until the required quality of food is delivered, and she committed to personally conducting a comprehensive review of the entire supply chain system every three months to ensure sustained compliance. She proudly highlighted the already visible positive impact of the government's ongoing enhanced food supply efforts, which are tangibly contributing to an increase in children's height and weight, validating the nutrition programs.

She made a fervent plea to all parties involved, urging them to act with profound humanitarian responsibility and diligence when delivering essential services and supplies to Anganwadi children and pregnant women, demanding that not a single day's egg

supply is missed. The egg contractors, in turn, clearly articulated several major and complex operational challenges they face daily. They pointed out the severe Coordination Issues arising from having contracts that involve supplying the wildly fluctuating demands of welfare hostels alongside the fixed requirements of Anganwadi centers simultaneously. A major hurdle is the Lack of Clarity in meeting hostel demands because they never receive clear, consistent, or specific schedules detailing "when and how many eggs are needed," unlike the straightforward fixed numbers required for Anganwadis. Critically, they highlighted the intense Pressure to Divert Stock, where hostel administrators often exert significant pressure on them to unload fresh eggs originally intended for Anganwadi centers, inevitably leading to sub-

stantial supply delays at the centers. Furthermore, the Logistical Uncertainty—specifically the unpredictability of when hostel administrators will suddenly demand eggs or, conversely, arbitrarily reject and return eggs—causes immense disruption, unnecessary loss,

and severe complications in their logistics management. Recognizing the systemic severity of these operational difficulties that impact the delivery of nutrition, Minister Seethakka promised to immediately take the specific issue to the attention of the Chief Minister and assured the contractors that the government is committed to finding a viable, long-term solution to structurally streamline the dual supply system for both welfare hostels and Anganwadi centers, ensuring efficient delivery and accountability.



## Eight Injured as Private Bus Collides with Truck in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Eight people sustained injuries, with three classified as seriously hurt, when a private travels bus violently rammed into the back of a slow-moving truck near Nandigama in the NTR district of Andhra Pradesh, a local police official confirmed on Tuesday morning. The unfortunate accident occurred in the intervening hours of Monday and Tuesday night. According to the police official who provided details to the press, the bus was transporting a total of 23 passengers and was operating on the long-distance route from Hyderabad, heading towards its final destination of Srikakulam. The initial, on-site investigation strongly suggests that the accident was precipitated when the bus driver attempted to overtake the commercial truck in an unsafe and improper manner on the highway, resulting in a direct, high-impact collision between the two vehicles. As a severe consequence of the collision, the entire left side structure of the bus was extensively and severely damaged, requiring external assistance for passenger extraction. The official detailed the casualty fig-

ures to PTI, stating, "The Srikakulam-bound bus with 23 passengers met with an accident. Eight people were injured, among them three are currently seriously injured and required immediate advanced care." The police clearly and unequivocally attributed the primary cause of the accident to the negligence and recklessness of the bus driver for attempting an unsafe overtaking maneuver. Police personnel are currently in the crucial process of formally registering a criminal case against the bus driver under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Indian Penal Code, initiating legal proceedings. Additionally, the transport department has been officially informed about the severity of the incident and is mandated to carry out a comprehensive and detailed inspection of the bus to thoroughly assess its compliance with all safety regulations, maintenance standards, and fitness certificates. This dual action ensures both legal accountability for the driver's dangerous actions and regulatory oversight on the condition of the commercial vehicle, aiming to prevent similar tragic events in the future.



## Minister Tummala Negotiates with CCI and Ginning Millers

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

State Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao successfully conducted a high-stakes and crucial meeting today with Lalit Kumar Gupta, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), alongside key representatives from the Ginning Millers' Association. This important high-level meeting was purposefully convened to urgently address the pressing, complex issues faced by the ginning millers, whose operational difficulties had directly and negatively impacted the ongoing cotton procurement process, and crucially, to resolve the underlying grievances and instability affecting the cotton farmers across Telangana.

Following comprehensive discussions, successful negotiations, and crucial assurances received from the State Government regarding future support, Minister Tummala was able to announce a significant and welcome breakthrough: cotton procurement will resume from tomorrow (Wednesday) as usual,

signalling the end of the temporary procurement disruption. The Minister further explicitly promised that the full operation of all ginning mills across all districts will be completely restored and normalized very soon. He stressed forcefully that the State Government maintains an unwavering commitment to actively supporting the ginning millers' sector and assured the Millers' Association of all necessary assistance, cooperation, and financial backing from the government's side to ensure seamless, efficient, and sustained operations throughout the season, which is vital for farmer confidence.

The Minister also took the opportunity to issue a direct and pointed appeal to the worried farming community, strongly advising them not to fall victim to the traps or misinformation being spread by opposition leaders, who often seek to politicize procurement issues. He firmly assured the farming community that the government is fully and actively engaged in meticulously resolving the root causes of the procurement crisis and is

implementing decisive measures to secure not only fair prices but also timely purchases for their entire harvest.

This comprehensive assurance from Minister Tummala is fully expected to bring immediate and necessary relief to thousands of farmers who have been struggling with uncertainty and financial stress due to the recent disruptions and the temporary closure of mill operations, thereby stabilizing the market. The Minister's intervention underscores the government's dedication to ensuring that the vital cotton sector is protected from market volatility and logistical breakdowns, thereby securing the economic backbone of the agricultural community. The successful negotiation sets a strong precedent for collaboration between the state government and central agencies like the CCI. Minister Tummala's swift action to convene the meeting and secure the resumption of procurement aims to ensure that farmers do not suffer financial losses by being forced to sell their produce in distressed sales due to procurement delays.

## 31 Maoists Hiding as Labourers Arrested in Andhra's Vijayawada, Kakinada

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025, A significant, intelligence-led security operation was executed across Andhra Pradesh, culminating in the major arrest of 31 suspected Naxals, including individuals believed to be acting as crucial security personnel for top command, with a large number belonging to Chhattisgarh cadres, creating a major security stir in Vijayawada and surrounding regions on Tuesday. The bulk of the arrests—27 Maoists—were efficiently made at a four-storey building complex located in the New Autonagar neighbourhood of Kanuru, Vijayawada. Highly sensitive intelligence sources strongly suggest that nine members of the Central Committee of the CPI(Maoist) were amongst those targeted in the joint

operation conducted by elite OCTOPUS and Greyhounds personnel, working closely with local police forces. It was revealed that most of the detained individuals were women who had meticulously taken shelter in the urban environment under the guise of migrant labourers, blending into the large workforce. The entire operation was launched following a specific and validated intelligence alert indicating that a large contingent of Maoist elements had covertly moved into the city and were attempting to establish urban cells. Additional Director General (Intelligence) Mahesh Chandra Laddha confirmed the total number of arrests (31) spanning Krishna district, Vijayawada, and Kakinada. Since the Vijayawada Autonagar

area employs a large, rotating number of migrant workers from states like Chhattisgarh, the Maoists exploited this massive transient workforce to effectively conceal their presence and not arouse any local suspicion.

This extensive and highly successful large-scale arrest operation is believed to be directly and strategically linked to a major counter-insurgency effort carried out just hours earlier on Tuesday in the deep forests of the Alluri Sitharamaraju district in the crucial Andhra-Odisha border (AOB) region, which had resulted in the confirmed killing of six Maoists, including top commander and CPI(Maoist) Central Committee member Hidma and his wife Raji.

# MP Urges Union Minister to Protect Telangana Cotton Farmers from Yield Reduction

TPN Bureau | Nov 18, 2025

Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna has taken a resolute and proactive step to bring the severe and pressing issues faced by Telangana's vast cotton farming community directly to the attention of the Central Government. In an official and strongly worded letter addressed to the Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, the MP meticulously outlined several critical suggestions concerning the procedures for the ongoing 2025-26 cotton procurement season and urged immediate, corrective action from the Centre to ensure justice for the farmers. The most contentious point raised was his categorical opposition to the Cotton Corporation of India's (CCI) proposal to drastically cut the state's average

cotton yield estimate from 11.74 quintals to a mere 7 quintals, a reduction he deemed arbitrary and unacceptable. The MP stressed that this severely reduced estimate is fundamentally and factually inconsistent with the verified ground data officially submitted by the Collectors of all 33 districts across the state, as well as the reports provided by the State Director of Agriculture. He issued a solemn warning that proceeding with the decision to lower the yield estimate at this critical juncture would inflict immense further financial hardship on thousands of farmers who are already struggling profoundly to recover from significant crop damage and economic setbacks caused by the recent severe Monsoon cyclone. The current season's initial procurement data indicates that a total

of 6,680 Metric Tons (MTs) of cotton have been purchased to date, successfully benefiting 3,175 farmers, with the overall value of the cotton procured standing at a considerable 52.25 crore, of which 15.04 crore has already been accurately disbursed into the growers' bank accounts, demonstrating the pace of the ongoing procurement effort.

MP Vamsi Krishna concurrently drew the Centre's attention to several critical operational hurdles and underlying policy issues that have been repeatedly raised by the Cotton Millers & Traders Welfare Association, whose smooth operation is vital for the procurement process. These include the restrictive nature of current moisture norms, complicatio-

ns arising from the complex L1/L2 grade separation system, severe practical difficulties faced by millers and farmers with slot booking procedures, and general, persistent operational challenges being faced by the ginning mills, all of which together significantly obstruct a smooth and efficient procurement process. The MP commendably acknowledged and offered praise for the State Government's efforts, noting the proactive steps already taken, such as the establishment of a toll-free helpline for farmer grievances, the setting up of special support centres in 176 market yards across the state, implementing detailed ginning mill mapping in coordination with CCI, and conducting necessary awareness programmes for field staff to expedite the process. The

three key and non-negotiable demands raised by MP Vamsi Krishna are that the state's average cotton yield estimate must be maintained at the original 11.74 quintals; the maximum permissible moisture limit must be immediately relaxed up to 20%; and all legitimate operational issues raised by the Millers & Traders Association must be resolved immediately. MP Vamsi Krishna unequivocally stated that the implementation of these specific, time-bound corrective measures by the Central Government is absolutely essential to ensure that Telangana's cotton farmers not only receive fair market pricing but also benefit from a smooth, transparent, and timely procurement process that protects their livelihoods throughout the duration of the season.



# Can India Turn H-1B Setback into a Brain Gain Revolution?



The United States’ latest crackdown on skilled immigration has landed like a thunderbolt on India’s middle-class dreams. President Donald Trump’s executive order slapping a massive \$100,000 fee on each new H-1B visa application threatens to cripple the once-dependable pathway that connected India’s brightest minds to Silicon Valley’s innovation hubs. For decades, this visa wasn’t just a work permit — it was a symbol of aspiration. Thousands of In-

dian engineers, doctors, and scientists migrated to the U.S. every year, fueling American growth while sending money and pride back home. With nearly 70% of the annual 85,000 H-1B visas going to Indians, this program was central to India’s soft power in global tech. Now, with the cost barrier so high, even big tech may hesitate to hire, while startups, universities, and nonprofits could be shut out completely. Yet amid the despair lies

a historic opportunity for India. Much like China in the early 2000s, or South Korea and Taiwan before that, India now stands at a crossroads. Beijing responded to tightening US visa policies with bold action — offering repatriation incentives, fast-track STEM visas, and startup capital. Returnees helped build tech giants like Alibaba and Baidu. South Korea’s chip empire and Taiwan’s TSMC rose similarly from the return of overseas

talent. India must act now to seize this moment. The groundwork exists. India’s digital economy is growing, global capability centers are thriving, and cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad already attract global tech. But talent won’t return without compelling reasons. Competitive pay, research freedom, clean governance, and streamlined startup ecosystems are vital. This calls for a bold national policy — perhaps an “India

Return Visa” — backed by both government and industry. PM Modi’s Atmanirbhar Bharat vision aligns perfectly with this opportunity. Trump’s move may unintentionally offer India the opening to turn decades of brain drain into a flood of brain gain. If India acts swiftly and smartly, what started as a setback could spark a new era — one where innovation, talent, and leadership return home to build the India of tomorrow.

# Will AI Trigger a New Engels’ Pause?



In a recent commentary, Artificial Intelligence (AI) pioneer and Nobel Laureate Geoffrey Hinton warned that AI could make a few people extraordinarily rich, while leaving the rest poorer. His observation points to the possibility of an “Engels’ pause” in our modern AI-driven economy — a term with roots in the first industrial revolution but with deep relevance today. The Engels’ pause refers to a historical paradox where, despite rising productivity and industrial output in 19th-century Britain, workers saw little improvement in their living standards for decades. Coined by Oxford economist Robert Allen, the term draws from the work of Friedrich Engels, who observed that wages remained stagnant, inequality grew, and the benefits of progress were disproportionately captured by capital owners. Britain, though hailed as the “workshop of the world,” saw rising social and economic divides before eventual welfare gains reached the masses. Today, AI is driving a similar wave of transformative productivity — from language models and automation to predictive analytics and synthetic biology. But there’s growing concern that the benefits are being cornered by a handful of tech firms

and elite professionals, while displacing traditional jobs and increasing income inequality. Unlike the 1800s, however, the modern world may not need to wait decades to address these imbalances — if policy keeps pace with innovation. Governments and international institutions must prioritize inclusive AI governance frameworks. This means ensuring that the gains from AI are widely distributed through social safety nets, upskilling initiatives, and stronger labour protections. The historical Engels’ pause was eventually overcome by progressive reforms, education expansion, and the emergence of organized labour. In the AI era, a similar roadmap could include public investments in AI infrastructure, equitable data access, and ethical oversight mechanisms. As Hinton cautions, AI must be more than a productivity revolution — it must become a human welfare revolution. The choices made today by policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society will determine whether this new industrial transformation leads to greater inequality or broader prosperity. The future of AI, then, is not just technological — it’s profoundly political and human.

# Karur Tragedy Exposes Dark Side of Tamil Nadu’s Star-Struck Politics



The tragic stampede in Karur that claimed 40 lives and injured hundreds during actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay’s rally has triggered a wave of public outrage and political introspection in Tamil Nadu. What was meant to be a grand show of strength for Vijay’s new party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), turned into a horrific event — one that lays bare the risks of personality-driven politics in the state. Eyewitness reports and police briefings suggest that between 30,000 to 60,000 people packed a narrow stretch of road meant for less than 10,000. Many had been waiting since morning under the scorching sun to catch a

glimpse of Vijay, who was expected around noon but only arrived close to 7 p.m. The late arrival — eerily reminiscent of his film industry habits — proved catastrophic. Critics argue that Vijay’s nonchalance was not just a failure in time management, but a reflection of deep-seated arrogance. His absence from the hospitals, his silence with the bereaved, and his casual response have angered even some of his supporters. “This isn’t just star arrogance—it’s a failure of leadership,” a senior political analyst said. The tragedy brings into focus Tamil Nadu’s decades-old fascination with film stars in politics—a legacy of M.G. Ramachandran, Jayalalithaa, and others. While their cha-

risma often masked governance shortcomings, Vijay’s entry into politics now raises a harsher question: Has the blind worship of celebrity reached a fatal threshold? The state High Court is now hearing pleas to restrict TVK’s future gatherings. Nearly 500 police personnel were deployed for the Karur event, but crowd control was inadequate. With the 2026 elections looming, the incident may become a turning point for both voters and political parties. The question isn’t just about Vijay’s fitness to lead — it’s about Tamil Nadu’s willingness to evolve beyond personality cults and demand accountability from those who seek power.

# How India can make an opportunity of the H-1B visa crisis



With the Bihar Assembly election looming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s latest move — transferring ₹10,000 each to 75 lakh women in the state — has stirred both admiration and criticism. The massive ₹7,500 crore payout dwarfs other recent announcements, including the ₹1,600 crore re-

lief package for flood-hit Punjab. The message is clear: women are now a core constituency for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the party is doubling down on its electoral investment. As Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra highlights in her op-ed There’s something special

about Bihar, this is not an isolated gesture. Across states headed for elections, BJP has systematically launched women-focused welfare schemes — from Lado Lakshmi in Haryana and Ladli Behna in Madhya Pradesh to Mahila Samridhi Yojana in Delhi and Mahtari Vandana in Chhattis-

garh. Modi’s strategy appears to be forging a reliable “women constituency” with targeted financial empowerment and social messaging. However, this calculated outreach raises deeper questions. Is this genuine empowerment or strategic pandering? Critics argue that while cash transfers provide short-term relief, they often lack the structural support needed for long-term gender parity — in education, employment, and safety. Beyond domestic politics, another shift is reshaping India’s global talent landscape: the H-1B visa crisis in the US. With President Trump imposing a staggering \$100,000 fee per application, Indian skilled workers — once the backbone of Silicon Valley — are looking elsewhere. Canada, Australia, and Europe are seizing the moment, offering simpler immigration pathways and greater certainty for skilled migrants. India, instead of lamenting the loss, could turn this crisis into an opportunity. With strong policy initiatives, it can attract its own global talent back home. The groundwork is present — thriving tech hubs, growing global capability centers, and a youthful workforce. But without reforms in research, innovation, and governance, return migration will remain a missed opportunity. As India navigates electoral battles and global disruptions, the real test lies in whether policy can rise above politics — delivering not just votes, but vision.



# Can India Deny Dhaka’s Request To Extradite Sheikh Hasina? What Rules Say

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

After Bangladesh’s ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia for “crimes against humanity,” Dhaka has formally requested India to extradite her. Hasina, who fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year amid a student-led uprising, has been living in exile in India since. Her former home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, believed to be in India as well, is also sought by Dhaka authorities.

Hasina was convicted on multiple charges, including ordering the killing of student protesters and using lethal force via helicopters and drones. She has denounced the verdict as “biased and politically motivated,” asserting she acted to minimize loss of life. The Awami League has called for a national shutdown in protest, while Hasina cannot appeal the verdict unless she surrenders or is arrested within 30 days.

Bangladesh’s Foreign Ministry described India’s extradition of Hasina and Khan as a “compulsory responsibility” under the bilateral extradition treaty, warning



that sheltering them could be deemed “unfriendly” and a disregard for justice.

India, however, has responded cautiously. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) noted the verdict and assured constructive engagement with all stakeholders, emphasizing peace, democracy, and

stability in Bangladesh, without directly commenting on the extradition request.

Under the India-Bangladesh Extradition Treaty (2013, amended 2016) and India’s Extradition Act, 1962, New Delhi retains discretion to deny requests deemed politically motivated, unjust, or not

in the interest of justice. Extradition may also be refused if charges are considered trivial, oppressive, or purely political, or if India can prosecute the accused domestically. Legal experts say Hasina’s extradition is highly unlikely, given the potential political overtones and discre-

tion granted to India under both treaty and domestic law.

As tensions rise, India is expected to carefully weigh diplomatic relations with Bangladesh against legal safeguards and the risk of political persecution before taking any decision on Hasina’s extradition.

# India-Russia Ties Factor Of Stability In International Relations: S Jaishankar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday emphasized that India-Russia relations have long been a factor of stability in international affairs, noting that their continued growth serves not only the mutual interests of the two nations but also the broader global community.

Jaishankar made the remarks during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, highlighting ongoing discussions on several bilateral agreements, initiatives, and projects across multiple sectors. “We look forward to their finalisation in the coming days. These will add more substance and texture to our Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership,” he said.

The Indian minister also pointed to the importance of regular diplomatic interactions, noting that six meetings had already taken place between



him and Lavrov this year. He described the discussions as vital for advancing bilateral cooperation and exchanging perspec-

tives on key regional, global, and multilateral issues.

Jaishankar highlighted that the talks would also

cover the complex global situation, including the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. “India supports recent ef-

forts towards establishing peace. We hope all parties approach that goal constructively. An early cessation of the conflict and the ensuring of enduring peace is in the interest of the entire international community,” he added.

The meeting comes ahead of President Vladimir Putin’s visit to India for the 23rd Annual Summit, underscoring the strategic depth of India-Russia relations. Jaishankar described the ties as a model of openness and constructive engagement, asserting that their evolution benefits not just India and Russia but the world at large.

Jaishankar is in Moscow to lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, hosted by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on November 18, 2025, where further collaboration and regional stability initiatives are expected to be discussed.

# “Will Quit If JDU Fulfills 2 Lakhs Promise”: Prashant Kishor After Bihar Loss



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor, in his first reaction after his party’s disappointing performance in the Bihar Assembly elections, announced a one-day ‘maun upvas’ (vow of silence), taking full respon-

sibility for the electoral setback.

Kishor’s party contested 238 of Bihar’s 243 Assembly seats but failed to win a single seat. The ruling NDA alliance, led by BJP and Nitish Kumar’s JDU, secured a decisive victory with 202 seats, while Chi-

rag Paswan’s LJP (Ram Vilas) won 19 seats.

“We tried very positively from our end. We failed to change this government. The responsibility lies entirely with me,” Kishor said, adding that introspection would follow. He acknowledged the

efforts of his team but admitted, “If the public did not show faith in us, the responsibility is mine.”

Despite his pre-poll remark that he would quit politics if JDU won over 25 seats, Kishor clarified that he would not resign immediately. However, he reiter-

ated a new promise: he would retire from politics if the ruling government fulfills its pre-election pledge of giving ₹2 lakh each to 1.5 crore people. “If Nitish Kumar transfers the ₹2 lakh as promised and proves he didn’t win by buying votes, I will retire without any ifs or buts,” he stated.

Kishor also rejected allegations that voters sold their votes. “For the first time, a government promised to spend ₹40,000 crore for people, which contributed to NDA’s majority. People here will not sell their future,” he said.

Despite the loss, Kishor affirmed his commitment to Bihar politics, saying, “We will stand again with the same power. You are not defeated until you quit.”

The poll strategist-turned-politician’s vow of silence and conditional promise to quit politics signal both reflection and resilience, as he navigates the aftermath of Jan Suraj’s historic electoral failure.

# Red Fort Blast: Co-Conspirator Sent to NIA Custody



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Tuesday remanded Jasir Bilal Wani, described as an “active co-conspirator” of suicide bomber Umar un Nabi, to 10 days of NIA custody in connection with the Red Fort car blast that killed 15 people.

The blast, which occurred near the historic Red Fort, had triggered nationwide security concerns and intensified investigations into the perpetrators and their network. Wani, a key accused in the attack, was produced before the Patiala House Court, where the National Investigation Agency (NIA) requested custodial interrogation to gather critical evidence.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Ba-

jaj Chandna allowed the NIA plea, emphasizing the necessity of custodial questioning to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy behind the blast. The court proceedings were held almost entirely ‘in camera’, with media personnel barred from entering the courtroom, reflecting the sensitive nature of the investigation.

NIA officials indicated that Wani’s interrogation could provide crucial leads regarding the planning and execution of the blast, as well as the possible involvement of other associates. The agency is expected to question him on logistics, recruitment, and funding networks that may have facilitated the attack.

The Red Fort incident remains one of the most significant terror attacks in Delhi in recent years, prompting enhanced security measures around key landmarks and intensified intelligence operations across the National Capital Region. Investigators are working to piece together the chain of command and identify other operatives linked to the attack.

As the probe continues, authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Wani’s custodial interrogation marks a key step in the ongoing investigation, as the NIA seeks to prevent further attacks and dismantle the terror network behind the Red Fort tragedy.

# Top Naxal Commander Madvi Hidma Killed in Andhra Pradesh Encounter



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Top Naxal commander Madvi Hidma, who masterminded multiple deadly attacks over the past two decades, was killed in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. Security forces also eliminated his wife Raje and four other Naxal cadres in the Mare-dumilli forest of Alluri Sitaramaraju district, officials confirmed.

Chhattisgarh Police described the operation as the “last nail in the coffin” of the Maoist insurgency in Bastar. Hidma, a native of Puvarti village in Sukma district, had long evaded capture due to his extensive guerrilla tactics and a sophisticated four-layered security ring in forested areas spanning Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Maharashtra.

He headed the Maoists’ People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, the most formidable unit in Dandakaranya, and was recently elevated to the Maoists’ Central Committee.

Hidma first came on security forces’ radar after the 2010 Tadmetla attack, which killed 76 personnel. He later played key roles in other high-profile strikes, including the 2013 Jhiram Valley ambush, which wiped out senior Congress leaders in Bastar, and the 2017 Burkapal attack, leaving 24 CRPF personnel dead. His wife Raje was also actively involved in the battalion and reportedly participated in major Maoist operations.

In recent years, intensified anti-Naxal operations weakened Hidma’s security network, forcing him to retreat deeper into forests along

state borders. Sustained operations in Maoist strongholds eventually led to his elimination, along with several senior Central Committee members.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma called Hidma’s death a significant milestone in eliminating Maoism from the region. With this encounter, nine top Maoist Central Committee members have been killed this year across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh, including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the general secretary of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist).

Officials said Hidma’s elimination marks a decisive blow to the insurgency and weakens the Maoist network’s operational capabilities in Bastar and neighboring areas.



## UN Adopts US Resolution Backing Trump’s Gaza Peace Plan



TPN Correspondent | UN

The UN Security Council on Monday adopted a US-drafted resolution endorsing former President Donald Trump’s plan to end the conflict in Gaza and authorising an international stabilisation force for the Palestinian territory. The resolution, seen as key to legitimising a transitional governance body, comes after Israel and Hamas agreed last month to the first phase of Trump’s 20-point plan, including a ceasefire and hostage-release deal.

The text allows member states to participate in the Trump-chaired Board of Peace, envisioned as a transitional authority overseeing Gaza’s reconstruction and economic recovery. It also authorises the international force to oversee demilitarisation, including dismantling weapons and military infrastructure.

Hamas immediately rejected the resolution, stating it will not disarm, calling the international intervention an “imposed guardianship mechanism” on Gaza. The militant group insists its fight against Israel remains legitimate, raising concerns of potential clashes with the new international force.

US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz described the resolution as a “pathway for Palestinian self-determination” and said it aims to replace rockets with diplomacy, dismantle Hamas’

grip, and create a prosperous and secure Gaza.

While Russia and China abstained, their ambassadorships criticised the resolution for giving the US-led initiative control over Gaza with unclear operational details. Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya argued the UN was sidelined in planning the international stabilisation force.

The Palestinian Authority welcomed the resolution and expressed readiness to cooperate with its implementation, a crucial endorsement that helped prevent a Russian veto. Trump hailed the Security Council’s vote as “a moment of true historic proportion,” promising further announcements regarding the Board of Peace in the coming weeks.

The resolution also references a potential pathway to Palestinian statehood contingent on reforms by the Palestinian Authority and Gaza’s redevelopment. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed opposition to a Palestinian state, pledging to demilitarise Gaza “the easy way or the hard way,” reflecting internal political pressure from right-wing factions.

The UN vote marks a significant international step in attempting to stabilise Gaza, though tensions remain high over Hamas’ resistance and Israel’s opposition.

## Japan Issues Safety Warning for Citizens in China



TPN Correspondent | Bhutan,

Japan has advised its citizens in China to exercise heightened caution amid a growing diplomatic rift between Beijing and Tokyo over Taiwan. The advisory urges Japanese nationals to avoid crowded areas, stay alert, and watch for suspicious individuals, signaling concerns over potential threats to their safety.

The warning comes after tensions escalated between the two countries, with Chinese media coverage reflecting increasingly negative sentiment toward Japan. Japanese officials describe the advisory as a preventive measure, ensuring citizens remain vigilant during this period of strained relations.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara emphasized that the advisory is a standard safety measure but reflects the deteriorating atmosphere affecting the bilateral ties between the nations. The advisory also coincides with the suspension of Japanese film screenings in China, a move seen as part of the wider diplomatic friction.

Japanese business leaders have voiced concern over the impact of the dispute on trade and investment, urging both governments to seek a diplomatic resolution. Japan continues to emphasize dialogue while

safeguarding its citizens amid uncertainty in China.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaiichi and government officials have highlighted the importance of monitoring the situation closely, particularly for Japanese nationals living, working, or traveling in major Chinese cities. The advisory underscores the seriousness with which Japan views public safety in the context of international tensions.

The advisory also comes amid ongoing disputes over Taiwan, a sensitive geopolitical flashpoint. Japan’s cautionary message reflects broader regional concerns about security, diplomatic stability, and the potential for anti-Japanese sentiment to escalate in China.

Authorities have encouraged Japanese citizens to stay updated with local news, register with embassies, and maintain contact with family members. The advisory signals Tokyo’s effort to protect its nationals while navigating an increasingly tense relationship with China.

Japan has not ruled out further measures depending on how the diplomatic situation evolves, highlighting the ongoing uncertainty in bilateral relations.

# Trump Blames Hoarse Voice on Trade Dispute Shouting

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump revealed that his raspy voice during a recent White House meeting was the result of a heated confrontation over trade policy with a foreign country. Speaking to reporters during a FIFA World Cup 2026 task force session, Trump said he had “blew [his] stack” while arguing with representatives from a nation attempting to renegotiate an existing trade deal.

Trump declined to specify the country, stating, “A country wanted to try and renegotiate the terms of their trade deal. And I wasn’t happy about it.” When pressed further, he added, “Why would I say that to you?” He described the exchange as necessary to “straighten it out” but admitted that it left his voice hoarse.

The United States has recently conducted trade discussions with



Japan, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia, alongside ongoing negotiations with China.

In October, Trump met Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, where both leaders

reported progress on key trade issues. Trump said China agreed to assist the US

in addressing the fentanyl crisis, in exchange for a 10% reduction in tariffs on Chinese im-

ports, lowering the rate from 57% to 47%.

Trump also decided not to impose an additional 100% tariff on Chinese goods scheduled for November 1 after China postponed export restrictions on rare-earth magnets by one year. Commenting on the outcome of the Xi meeting, Trump expressed strong optimism, stating, “Zero, to 10, with 10 being the best, I’d say the meeting was a 12. A lot of decisions were made ... and we’ve come to a conclusion on very many important points.”

Trump’s candid remarks about losing his voice drew attention to the intensity of the negotiations and reflected his personal style of engagement in high-stakes trade diplomacy. The incident underscores the ongoing US efforts to manage trade relations across Asia while addressing domestic and international economic priorities.

## Yunus Wants Civil War: Hasina’s Aide After Death Penalty Verdict

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Tensions in Bangladesh escalated sharply after a Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and ex-Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to death over their alleged role in last year’s violent crackdown on student protesters. The verdict, delivered in absentia, has triggered a political storm, with top Awami League leaders accusing the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government of running a “kangaroo court”.

Awami League leader and former minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, a close aide of Hasina, condemned the judgement as “pre-written” and illegitimate. Speaking to NDTV, he claimed the tribunal was illegally constituted and insisted that Hasina was denied legal representation.



Senior lawyers, he said, were barred from appearing in court, rendering the entire trial process “a staged drama”.

Chowdhury warned that the interim regime was pushing Bangladesh “towards civil war”, alleging it lacked public support and relied instead on

repression. He further accused the Yunus administration of fostering ties with Pakistan and allowing extremist groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and

Jaish-e-Mohammad into the country—claims that have not been independently verified.

Despite being banned from elections,

Chowdhury insisted the Awami League still commands majority support. He challenged the interim government to allow the party to contest the February elections, asserting that the public—not an unelected regime—should decide the nation’s future.

Hasina, currently in India, denounced the verdict as “biased and politically motivated”, saying she and Khan acted “in good faith” during the unrest. India has declined to extradite the two leaders, making the enforcement of the sentence unlikely.

The Awami League has called for a national shutdown to protest the judgement. Under Bangladeshi law, Hasina must surrender within 30 days to appeal—an outcome seen as improbable amid the deepening political crisis.

## “Copy Cat”: Elon Musk Jabs Jeff Bezos Over New AI Platform Launch



TPN Correspondent | US

Tech titans Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos have reignited their long-running rivalry, this time over artificial intelligence. Moments after Bezos unveiled his new AI platform, Project Prometheus, Musk took a

jab on X, calling the Amazon founder a “copycat” — a label he has used multiple times when Bezos entered sectors dominated by Musk.

Responding to the announcement, Musk posted: “Haha no way”, followed by another

message: “copy cat”.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO has previously mocked Bezos using similar remarks — once when Amazon announced its satellite internet project to compete with Starlink, and again when it acquired Zoox to enter

the autonomous vehicle race.

Project Prometheus marks Bezos’s first major operational role since stepping down as Amazon CEO in 2021. The ambitious venture aims to create advanced AI systems for engineering, aero-

space, computing, and automotive manufacturing. The company will be co-led by former Google X scientist Vik Bajaj, who has worked closely with Google co-founder Sergey Brin. Bezos will serve as CEO.

The startup has al-

ready raised \$6.2 billion, including a major investment from Bezos himself, making it one of the most heavily funded early-stage AI companies globally. The team has quickly expanded to nearly 100 employees, with several top researchers hired from OpenAI, DeepMind, and Meta.

Musk, whose xAI recently launched the Grok model, is competing aggressively against OpenAI and Google in the global AI race. Bezos’s entry into the field intensifies the competition, adding a new battleground to their rivalry, which already spans space exploration, satellite internet, and autonomous tech.

With Project Prometheus positioned to challenge xAI and other industry leaders, the Musk-Bezos feud shows no signs of cooling — and the AI sector may be its fiercest arena yet.



# Groww Parent Billion Brains Garage Ventures Hits New High, CEO Becomes Billionaire

Billion Brains Garage Ventures, the parent company of leading stock brokerage Groww, is continuing its impressive run in the stock market, trading at a new high of Rs 168 on Monday, up 13% on the NSE. This marks the fourth consecutive day of gains since its listing last week, pushing the company's market valuation past the Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

The shares of Billion Brains Garage Ventures debuted on the NSE last Wednesday at Rs 112, a 12% premium over the issue price of Rs 100, closing the day at Rs 128.85. Since listing, the stock has surged nearly 46%, reflecting strong investor demand. The initial public offering (IPO), which closed on November 4, raised Rs 6,632 crore, with a price band set at Rs 95-100 and a total subscription of 17.6 times.

Founded in 2016, Groww has grown to become India's largest stock broker with a



market share of over 26% as of June 2025. The company's strong growth trajectory and robust listing performance underscore its dominance in the retail investment space.

With the rise in Groww's stock price, CEO and co-founder Lalit Keshri has officially joined the ranks of billionaires. Hailing from a small village called Lipa in Madhya Pradesh, Lalit holds a 9.06% stake in the company, amounting to 55.91 crore shares. At the current share price of Rs 169, his holdings are valued at around Rs 9,448 crore, surpassing the \$1 billion mark.

An IIT Bombay alumnus, Lalit began his career at Flipkart before co-founding Groww in 2016. His journey from a farmer's son to a billionaire entrepreneur is being celebrated as a remarkable success story in India's startup ecosystem.

The company's continued market momentum highlights growing investor confidence in digital brokerage platforms and the broader retail investment sector in India.

# India's Q2 GDP Likely to Soar Above 7.5% on GST-Led Festive Sales: SBI



India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the second quarter (July to September) is expected to rise to 7.5% or higher, driven by a surge in consumption following the recent Goods & Services Tax (GST) rate cuts, according to a report by the research department of State Bank of India (SBI).

The SBI report highlighted that the GST reduction has spurred festive season sales, boosting consumer spending across sectors such as auto-

mobiles, electronics, and consumer goods. This increase in domestic consumption is likely to be a major driver of economic growth for the quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its recent projections, had estimated Q2 GDP growth at 7%, slightly lower than the revised forecast by SBI. The central bank had cited moderating inflation and steady private investment as factors supporting sustained economic expansion.

With the festive season extending into November, SBI expects that Q2 numbers could even surpass initial forecasts, marking one of the strongest quarters in recent years. Analysts will be closely watching upcoming data on industrial production, retail sales, and investment activity to gauge the sustainability of this growth trend into the latter half of the fiscal year.

Economists see the higher-than-expected GDP growth as an indication that the Indian economy is maintaining a robust recovery momentum despite global uncertainties. The GST rate cuts, implemented earlier this year, have lowered prices for key consumer goods, thereby incentivizing spending and stimulating economic activity.

# SBI Shares Near Record High After 286% Five-Year Surge

Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) traded flat on Tuesday, a day after the stock became the first public-sector lender to surpass a market capitalization of ₹9 trillion. The stock had touched a new lifetime high of ₹976.80 in the previous session, marking a remarkable rally over the past five years.

SBI has delivered multibagger returns, rising 286% over the last five years. In more recent time frames, the stock has gained 21% in the past year, 23% over six months, 17.5% in the last three months, and over 9% in the past month, reflecting consistent investor confidence amid strong quarterly results and improved asset quality.

Analysts remain bullish on SBI shares, citing both its robust fundamentals and potential for further gains. Philip Capital has maintained a "Buy" rating on the stock with a revised target price of ₹1,100, indicating room for upside from current



levels. Market participants note that the stock may face resistance near ₹1,000, but the broader trend remains positive.

SBI has also been in focus due to reports of potential consolidation

among public-sector banks (PSBs). Bloomberg News reported on November 14 that SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty suggested that "some further rationalisation might make sense,"

highlighting opportunities for scale-building and strengthening financing capacity in India's rapidly growing economy.

Investors are weighing the stock's strong historical performance

against near-term valuations. While the PSU giant has delivered exceptional returns, analysts recommend monitoring market trends, policy developments, and quarterly earnings to assess whether SBI

remains a buy at current levels.

SBI's performance continues to underscore the growing prominence of India's public-sector banks in both domestic and global markets.

# Indian Equity Markets Dip in Early Trade After Six-Day Rally



Indian equity markets opened lower on Tuesday, reversing a six-day winning streak as profit-taking and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 292.95 points to 84,658, while the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 83.3 points to 25,930.15 in early trade.

Market analysts attributed the decline to a combination of domestic profit-taking and negative trends in global markets. Asian indices were sharply lower, with South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, China's Shanghai SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng all trading in the red. This global weakness added pressure on Indian equities despite recent strong gains.

"The early decline reflects a natural correction after a sustained six-day rally," said an equity strategist. "Profit-taking is expected, particularly in high-performing sectors, while investors monitor global developments and domestic data for guidance."

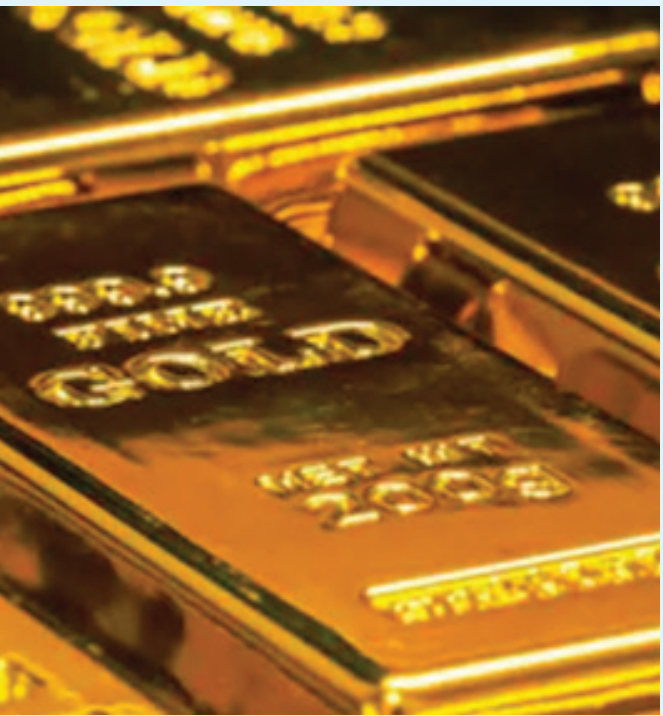
Domestic markets had gained steadily last week, buoyed by positive economic indicators and strong corporate earnings, which helped restore investor confidence. However, the sudden pause in momentum suggests that traders are recalibrating positions in light of mixed signals from global markets.

Despite the early losses, analysts remain cautiously optimistic about the medium-term outlook, noting that strong economic growth, robust consumption, and government policy support continue to provide a favorable backdrop for equities.

Sectorally, selling pressure was visible in IT, banking, and automobile stocks, which had contributed significantly to the market rally over the past week. Investors appeared cautious ahead of upcoming corporate earnings and macroeconomic data that could influence market direction in the near term.

Investors are now closely watching global developments, including currency movements and international trade updates, which are likely to influence market sentiment for the remainder of the trading session.

# Gold, Silver Prices Decline Amid Market Correction



Gold and silver prices fell on Monday, continuing a brief correction after recent upward trends. In Mumbai, 24-carat gold was trading at Rs 1,24,970 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold was priced at Rs 1,14,700 per 10 grams. Silver also witnessed a sharp drop of Rs 2,000, bringing prices to Rs 1,67,000 per kilogram.

Global markets showed mixed signals as US spot gold rose to USD 4,070 per ounce, reflecting ongoing demand for the yellow metal as a safe-haven asset. Despite this, domestic prices were weighed down by profit-taking and short-term market adjustments.

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said gold and silver are attempting to stabilise after recent sharp corrections. "Price action is showing signs of support at key long-term trend levels," he noted. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold was hovering near Rs 1,23,450, rebounding from its

upward-sloping trendline. Analysts suggest that holding above Rs 1,23,000 is crucial to maintain the broader bullish structure, opening the possibility for an upside move toward Rs 1,24,200-Rs 1,25,000.

The decline in precious metal prices comes amid fluctuating investor sentiment, with traders balancing between safe-haven demand and short-term profit-taking. Seasonal demand from the wedding and festive period also played a role in price volatility.

Market participants are closely watching global economic cues, currency fluctuations, and domestic demand trends for further guidance. With gold and silver holding support at key levels, analysts remain cautiously optimistic about a potential rebound in the coming weeks.

Consumers and investors are advised to monitor daily rate updates, as bullion prices continue to show short-term volatility amid broader economic trends.



# China’s Longevity Pill Claims 150-Year Lifespan



A Chinese biotech company has stirred global interest with claims that humans could one day live up to 150 years. Lonvi Biosciences, based in Shenzhen, says its new “longevity pill” targets ageing cells, or senescent cells, which stop dividing but trigger chronic inflammation and age-related decline.

The pill’s key ingredient, Procyanidin C1 (PCC1), derived from grape seeds, reportedly extended the lifespan of mice by 9.4% in laboratory experiments. The remaining life expectancy of treated mice also increased by over 64%, prompting the company to tout the potential of cell-targeting interventions in significantly slowing ageing.

Lyu Qinghua, Lonvi’s chief technology officer, told The New York Times that living up to 150 years is “definitely realistic,” suggesting that meaningful progress could emerge in the coming years. The announcement aligns with China’s rising interest in longevity research, boosted by public awareness, private investment, and policy support. China’s av-

erage life expectancy reached 79 years in 2024, above the global benchmark of 74 years, and experts say longevity-focused innovations could push this further.

Gan Yu, co-founder of Shanghai-based longevity start-up Time Pie, noted a cultural shift: “Earlier, no one in China talked about living longer; it was something only wealthy Americans explored. Now, many Chinese are investing in longevity.”

Despite the excitement, experts urge caution. While the mouse data is promising, extensive human clinical trials are essential before assessing the pill’s safety or effectiveness in humans. Scientists stress that preliminary lab results cannot directly predict outcomes for people, and that ageing is a complex biological process influenced by genetics, lifestyle, and environment.

Lonvi’s claims have sparked both curiosity and skepticism worldwide, highlighting the growing intersection of biotechnology, longevity research, and the human desire to extend life far beyond current limits.

# 5 Peaceful Nations With Minimal Military



In a world increasingly defined by military might, a few nations have taken a different path — maintaining little to no standing army while remaining remarkably safe for citizens. These countries rely on geography, governance, and efficient security networks rather than large militaries to protect themselves.

**1. Singapore**

Though Singapore invests around \$11.5 billion annually in defence, roughly 2.8% of its GDP, it is renowned for low crime and a peaceful environment. The city-state relies heavily on a strong security network, strict law enforcement, and advanced surveillance systems to maintain internal safety.

**2. New Zealand**

New Zealand’s defence spending is modest, about \$3.9 billion or less than 1% of GDP. Its isolation and lack of land borders provide natural protection, while transparent governance and a robust judicial system keep defence costs low and society secure.

**3. Austria**

Austria, long committed to neutrality, spends \$3.4 billion

yearly on defence. The country’s strategic approach includes strict border control and diplomatic neutrality, which together help maintain national safety without a large military force.

**4. Iceland**

Iceland stands out in Europe for having no standing army, with a total defence budget of only \$40 million. The island’s remote location, rugged terrain, and sparse population act as natural barriers, keeping it largely insulated from global conflicts.

**5. Ireland**

Ireland maintains a defence expenditure of about \$1.3 billion, just 0.3% of GDP. Its strong policy of neutrality, absence of military alliances, and efficient police force make it one of the safest countries in the world.

These nations demonstrate that peace can be safeguarded through strategy, stability, and social trust, proving that a large military is not the only path to national security. Their examples challenge the global assumption that safety is synonymous with heavy militarisation.

# Bengaluru Traffic Gridlock Frustrates Commuters

Commuters in Bengaluru faced unusually heavy traffic on Tuesday morning, leaving many stuck in long queues across major roads. Residents described the congestion as “2.5 times worse than usual”, highlighting the city’s ongoing struggle with weekday traffic.

Social media users shared photos showing streets clogged with two-wheelers, cars, buses, and trucks, all moving at a crawl. One Reddit user captioned a post: “What is this on Tuesday morning,” sparking hundreds of comments as people shared their own experiences.

Many commuters blamed the absence of auto-rickshaws for altering the flow of traffic. Others highlighted that mid-week—Tuesday through Thursday—typically sees the worst congestion, while Mondays and



Fridays are comparatively lighter due to work-from-home arrangements or leave. Local reactions ranged from humorous to frustrated. One user joked, “Romans called it traffic, Bangaloreans call it social gathering, BBMP calls it STFU and live.” Another shared, “I missed my alarm today, so going WFH instead of facing traffic,” echoing a common coping strategy among office-goers. The morning grid-

lock impacted thousands trying to reach offices on time, with many reporting long delays on major routes. Users also noted that traffic jams have become an accepted part of city life, often treated with humor or resignation despite the inconvenience.

While BBMP authorities regularly work to ease congestion through traffic management measures, Bengaluru’s growing population and vehicle density continue to strain road infrastructure. Residents continue to adapt with flexible work schedules, remote work, or simply patience amid the city’s chaotic traffic landscape.

For now, Bengaluru commuters will have to brace themselves for the long, slow-moving lanes that have become a regular mid-week challenge in the Silicon Valley of India.

# Hotel Uses Lion Cubs For Wake-Up Calls

Hotels worldwide offer unique services to surprise and delight guests, but a resort in China has taken it to a whole new level. The Happy Countryside Resort in Jiangsu Province has introduced a wake-up service that sends live lion cubs into guest rooms to rouse them from sleep, sparking fascination and concern on social media.

The “morning call service” operates between 8 am and 10 am, with staff bringing a lion cub into the room for a seven-minute interaction. The hotel offers this service in 20 designated rooms, each costing 628 yuan (around ₹7,800) per night.

According to the resort, the cubs are well-trained, and the service is meant to provide a thrilling and unforgettable start to the day. Videos and images shared online show guests interacting closely with the animals, with many praising the experience as fun and unique.



However, the initiative has also raised serious safety and ethical concerns. Many social media users and animal welfare advocates have called the service “dangerous and irresponsible,” questioning the wellbeing of both guests and the cubs. Experts note that even young wild animals can act unpredictably, and such encounters could pose risks despite precautions.

Despite the controversy, the service has gone viral, attracting global attention and curiosity. It highlights the lengths to which some hotels will go to stand out in a competitive industry, combining luxury and extreme novelty in one package.

Whether guests will line up to pay for a lion cub wake-up call or regulators will intervene remains to be seen, but the Happy Countryside Resort has already made its mark as one of the most unusual and talked-about destinations in the world.

# Kaizen Café Redefines Wellness Dining in Goa



In Goa’s vibrant café scene, Kaizen Café is quietly carving a niche by blending wellness with indulgence. Inspired by the Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement, the café offers a mindful,

globally inspired menu that evolves with seasons, trends, and guest feedback. Founder Prerna Khetrapal explains that Kaizen isn’t just about healthy eating—it’s about conscious nourishment. Ingredients

are sourced globally, from specialty coffees and adaptogens to artisanal produce, and dishes are designed to energize while promoting ease and wellbeing. Signature offerings include turmeric saffron

lattes, high-protein sourdough, plant-forward desserts, and innovative beverages like the Blueberry Smoothie with Blue Spirulina, reflecting the café’s commitment to experimentation and taste-focused

wellness.

Kaizen Café’s menu is constantly refined, balancing indulgence with nutrition. Seasonal specials, festival menus, and limited-edition creations, such as Diwali treats or Global Coffee Rituals, showcase culinary innovation while keeping guest preferences and wellness trends at the forefront. The café emphasizes that eating well doesn’t mean restriction but awareness, delight, and satisfaction.

What sets Kaizen apart is its intentional approach to the overall dining experience. Beyond the food, the café focuses on ambiance, music, and design to create a calm, restorative space where visitors can pause, connect, and feel nourished. In a destination known for leisure and indulgence, Kaizen has shown that wellness dining can be approachable, inviting, and joyful.

Looking ahead, Kaizen plans mindful expansion through new cafés, wellness product lines, and ready-to-eat offerings, all while staying true to its philosophy-first approach. With its innovative, intention-driven model, Kaizen Café is redefining what wellness dining can feel like in Goa, proving that mindful food and thoughtful design can create a deeply satisfying, restorative experience.



# Satwik-Chirag Move Into Second Round of Australian Open

India's star men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the second round of the Australian Open Super 500 with a hard-fought straight-game win in Sydney on Tuesday. The world No. 3 duo defeated Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei 25-23, 21-16 in a gripping 48-minute opener. The match began on a challenging note for the Indian pair, who trailed 2-6 early in the first game. The Taiwanese combination held a narrow lead until 16-14, before Satwik and Chirag regrouped to take a 19-17 advantage. A tight phase followed, with both sides exchanging game points. A sharp net shot from Satwik earned the Indians a game point which their opponents saved with a powerful smash. Errors on both sides kept the game in a tense balance, but the Indians finally clinched the opener after the Taiwanese pair hit the net on a crucial point. In the second game,



Satwik and Chirag pulled ahead 7-4, but two net errors allowed their rivals to level the score. Both teams traded points evenly before the Indians entered the mid-game interval with a slender one-point lead. After the break, the top seeds accelerated, widening the gap to 18-15 with steady defence and sharp attacking play. Two decisive smashes sealed the contest, securing their place in the next round. In women's doubles, India suffered an early setback as Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down 10-21, 14-21 to Indonesia's F. Kusuma and M. Puspitassari in their opening round. India's singles contenders, including Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth and Ayush Shetty, are set to begin their campaigns on Wednesday, hoping to join Satwik and Chirag in the next phase of the tournament.

# Ronaldo Set for Record Sixth World Cup as Portugal Thrash Armenia 9-1



Cristiano Ronaldo is officially headed to a historic sixth FIFA World Cup, as Portugal crushed Armenia 9-1 to seal qualification for the 2026 tournament to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The emphatic victory on Sunday ensured Portugal's direct passage from Group F, reaffirming their dominance in the qualifiers. Ronaldo, who has already appeared in every World Cup since 2006, is now set to become the first men's player in history to feature in six editions of the global event. The Portuguese captain was at the heart of the action once again, scoring and assisting in a commanding display that showcased his enduring influence even at 40. The match, played earlier in Yerevan in September but decisive for qualification standings, saw Portugal overwhelm the Armenian defence from start to finish. João Félix, Rafael Leão, Bernardo Silva and others joined Ronaldo on the scoresheet as Portugal delivered one of their biggest wins of the qualifying campaign. Portugal's relentless attacking play left Armenia struggling to cope, with the visitors leading comfortably by halftime. The second half saw the floodgates fully open, as Roberto Martínez's side pushed forward with speed, precision and clinical finishing. With qualification now secured, Portugal turn their attention to preparing for 2026, where they hope to improve on their quarterfinal exit in 2022. For Ronaldo, the tournament offers another chance to chase the one trophy that has eluded him throughout his illustrious career. The 2026 World Cup will also mark Portugal's first under Martínez at a major finals, and expectations are high as the team blends Ronaldo's experience with a new generation of stars. For Portugal and for football fans worldwide, Ronaldo's sixth World Cup appearance promises to be one of the defining storylines of next year's tournament.

# Medvedev, Rybakina and Bopanna to Lead Star Line-Up as WTL Debuts in India

The World Tennis League (WTL) is all set for its grand India debut on December 17, bringing an impressive line-up of global tennis stars to the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. This marks the first time the four-day exhibition tournament, launched in 2022, will be held outside the UAE. Among the headline attractions are former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina, both of whom will compete alongside an eclectic mix of tennis personalities. Fans will also see the return of the charismatic and fiery Nick Kyrgios, French showman Gael Monfils, and former World No. 2 Paula Badosa. India will have a strong presence too, with recently retired doubles legend Rohan Bopanna, along with Sumit Nagal, Yuki Bhambhani, Ankita Raina, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, and Maaya Revathi set to join the roster. Rybakina, excited for her first competitive appearance in India, said, "I've heard so much about the tennis culture in India, and



I'm thrilled to make my debut here with WTL. I'm ready to enjoy every moment on the court with my team." The WTL format features four teams competing in a round-robin league, with each tie including men's singles, women's singles, and two doubles matches. The top two teams will advance to the final, promising thrilling matchups throughout the week. WTL Co-Founder and 12-time Grand Slam doubles champion Mahesh Bhupathi said the tournament's India debut is an opportunity to deepen the nation's connection with tennis. "India has always shared a deep and lasting connection with the sport, and the WTL's arrival here helps strengthen that bond," Bhupathi said. "With international champions sharing the court with India's top talent, we hope to inspire the next generation of players." The star-studded event is expected to draw strong crowds and energise India's tennis landscape as it welcomes some of the world's best to its courts.

# Mitchell Ruled Out of West Indies ODIs with Groin Injury



New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell has been sidelined for the remainder of the ODI series against the West Indies after scans confirmed a minor groin tear, the ICC reported on Tuesday. Mitchell sustained the injury during the opening ODI in Christchurch, where he battled discomfort to score a match-winning century. The injury requires a two-week rehabilitation period, ruling Mitchell out of the final two ODIs but keeping him in contention for the three-match Test series starting December 2. New Zealand selector-coach Rob Walter expressed disappointment at losing the in-form player. "It's always tough being ruled out early with injury, particularly when you're in hot form like Daryl is," Walter said. "He has been our standout performer in ODIs this summer, so he'll be missed for two important matches. The positive is that the injury is only minor, and we expect him fit for the Tests." Mitchell was instrumental in New Zealand's narrow seven-run victory in the first ODI at Hagley Oval, scoring his seventh ODI hundred despite the injury. Following Mitchell's exit, Henry Nicholls, who joined the squad on Monday, will stay on and is likely to be considered for the second ODI in Napier. Nicholls has been in prolific touch in the Ford Trophy, making him a strong replacement option. "Henry has been in top form and is an experienced international cricketer," Walter said. "We know he'll be eager to contribute if given an opportunity." New Zealand will now look to recalibrate their middle order as they aim to clinch the series against the Caribbean side. New Zealand ODI squad: Mitchell Santner (capt), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner, Will Young.

# Alcaraz Withdraws from Davis Cup Finals Due to Injury



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, the world number one tennis player, has withdrawn from the Davis Cup Finals in Bologna after suffering a swollen right hamstring. The 21-year-old expressed his disappointment on Instagram, saying he was "heartbroken" to miss the tournament. Alcaraz aggravated the injury during the ATP Finals, where he lost to Italy's Jannik Sinner in the title clash on Sunday. Following a medical evaluation, he was advised not to compete to prevent further damage. "I have edema in my right hamstring and the medical recommendation is not to compete," Alcaraz wrote. "Playing for Spain is the greatest thing there is, and I was really looking forward to helping us fight for the Davis Cup." His withdrawal marks another setback for the Davis Cup organizers, who had also lost Sinner, the world number two, last month. Spain's absence of their top player leaves the team relying on their remaining squad as they prepare to face the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals on Thursday. The tournament is also facing disruptions on the host side, with Italy, the defending champions, missing Lorenzo Musetti due to physical and family reasons. Musetti's spot is expected to be filled by Lorenzo Sonego, who has been training in Turin ahead of Italy's quarter-final clash against Austria on Wednesday. Alcaraz's injury underscores the physical toll on top players navigating a packed tennis calendar, coming just weeks after his stellar performances in the ATP season. Fans and analysts alike will be watching closely as Spain and Italy attempt to defend their titles in the absence of some of their leading stars. The Davis Cup Finals are scheduled to conclude with the final on Sunday, with both teams adjusting their line-ups amid last-minute changes.



Ranveer Singh Stuns as RAW Agent in ‘Dhurandhar’ Trailer



The much-awaited trailer of Ranveer Singh’s upcoming action drama Dhurandhar has finally been released, creating a wave of excitement across Bollywood circles. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Aditya Dhar, the film marks his second directorial venture after the blockbuster Uri: The Surgical Strike, raising expectations among audiences and industry insiders alike.

Set for release on December 5, Dhurandhar showcases Ranveer Singh in a rugged, intense avatar as a RAW agent on a covert mission in Pakistan. The trailer hints at a gripping narrative packed with high-voltage action sequences, emotional intensity and espionage-driven drama. It follows the challenges, threats and moral dilemmas faced by Ranveer’s character as he navigates hostile territory while carrying out a high-risk intelligence operation.

The trailer also highlights the film’s powerful ensemble cast. Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan and Arjun Rampal appear in key

roles, each bringing a commanding presence that adds depth to the narrative. Their glimpses suggest layered characters intertwined with the mission’s stakes, promising strong performances.

Aditya Dhar, known for delivering taut, realistic action thrillers, seems to bring back the same intensity and patriotic fervour that defined Uri. The visuals reflect a gritty tone, backed by sharp cinematography and an impactful background score, setting the stage for a tense and engaging spy thriller.

With Ranveer Singh embracing a serious and action-heavy role after a series of diverse performances, Dhurandhar is expected to mark a refreshing shift in his filmography. The buzz around the film has intensified following the trailer launch, and trade analysts predict a strong opening owing to the star cast, high production value and Dhar’s proven storytelling.

Dhurandhar hits theatres on 5 December, and fans are eagerly waiting to witness Ranveer Singh in one of his most intense roles yet.

Dhruv Vikram’s Sports Drama ‘Bison’ Locks OTT Release Date



Dhruv Vikram’s much-acclaimed sports drama Bison is all set to make its digital debut after enjoying a successful theatrical run last month. Directed by noted filmmaker Mari Selvaraj, the film received widespread praise for its impactful storytelling, strong performances and emotional depth, emerging as a super hit at the box office.

On Tuesday, streaming giant Netflix announced that Bison will be available for streaming from November 21, giving audiences who missed the theatrical release a chance to experience the film from home. The OTT platform also confirmed that the movie will premiere in five languages — Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam, enhancing its reach across India.

Bison marks another significant milestone in Dhruv Vikram’s growing career. The actor, son of Kollywood superstar Chiyaan Vikram, earned applause for his intense and

nuanced performance as a determined young athlete navigating personal struggles and societal challenges. His pairing with Anupama Parameswaran, who plays the female lead, was also well received.

The film features an impressive supporting cast including Pashupathi, Rajisha Vijayan and Aamir, each delivering strong performances that add emotional weight to the narrative. Director Mari Selvaraj, known for his socially conscious storytelling, once again blends sports drama with powerful themes, making Bison one of the most talked-about Tamil films of the year. With its OTT release around the corner, Bison is expected to reach a wider audience and continue its successful run in the digital space. The buzz around the film remains high, and fans are eagerly waiting to stream it when it premieres on 21 November.

Balakrishna–Nayanthara Team Up Again for NBK111

The hit on-screen pair Nandamuri Balakrishna and Nayanthara is reuniting for the fourth time, bringing excitement to fans ahead of their new collaboration. The duo, known for delivering box-office successes with Simha, Sri Rama Rajyam, and Jai Simha, will now share screen space in director Gopichand Malineni’s upcoming film, tentatively titled NBK111.

The announcement was made on Nayanthara’s birthday, with the makers welcoming her on board with a striking note: “The Queen who carries the calm of oceans and the fury of storms, Nayanthara enters the empire of NBK111.” The project marks Malineni’s second film with Balakrishna after the highly successful Veera Simha Reddy.

Nayanthara’s inclusion is being hailed as a major boost to the film. Over the years, she has built strong chemistry with Balakrishna—something



that has repeatedly drawn audiences to theatres. Industry watchers believe this combination has a unique appeal, particularly among mass and family audiences, making NBK111 one of the most anticipated projects of the coming year.

Adding to the buzz, music director Thaman hinted that the film will be “beyond everyone’s imagination,” raising expectations for both the soundtrack and overall cinematic experience. Thaman previously delivered chart-topping music for Balakrishna’s films, further heightening curiosity around what he has in

store this time.

The film is being produced by Venkat S. Kilaru under the Vridhi Cinemas banner. With Balakrishna’s action-packed screen presence, Nayanthara’s star power, and Gopichand Malineni’s commercial storytelling, NBK111 is shaping up to be a major attraction for Telugu cinema fans.

More details on the cast, plot, and release schedule are expected to be revealed soon.

Team Varanasi Kicks Off Promotions a Year Ahead



The team behind Varanasi has surprised fans by launching promotions almost a year before the film’s release. Just days after the grand title reveal at Ramoji Film City, the makers dropped an unexpected update—lead actors Mahesh Babu, Prithviraj Sukumaran, and Priyanka Chopra sat down for media interactions, despite a significant portion of the shoot still pending.

This early promotional strategy marks a clear departure from director S.S. Rajamouli’s usual approach. His films typically maintain secrecy until the final stages. However, with Varanasi, the team appears to be building momentum early, allowing the buzz to grow gradually on a global level.

Adding to the chatter was the trio’s coordinated fashion statement during the interviews. All three turned up in black, unintentionally creating a unified look. Priyanka Chopra wore a black top paired with a netted floral skirt—simple yet elegant. Prithviraj Sukumaran opted for an all-black ensemble, understated but stylish. Mahesh Babu, meanwhile, broke the pattern slightly with a black shirt matched with blue trousers, offering a balanced and clean look.

Priyanka later shared photos from the promotional shoot on social media, expressing her excitement about working alongside two major stars. She highlighted how unusual and thrilling it was to promote the film to international media nearly a year in advance. Her caption ended with a striking “Jai Shri Ram” and the hashtag #Varanasi, fueling speculation about the film’s themes and what else the team has planned for the coming months.



Raashi Khanna Turns Heads in All-Black Look

Raashi Khanna, known for her vibrant and colorful fashion choices, stunned fans and fashion enthusiasts alike with a bold, all-black ensemble for Grazia magazine. The actress, who was present to receive the Breakthrough Performer Award, opted for a sleek black powersuit adorned with subtle golden accents, creating a striking, sophisticated look.

Her styling was minimal yet impactful—open hair, understated makeup, and confident poses that radiated authority and poise. The Grazia photoshoot showcased Raashi in a “boss lady” avatar, blending elegance with assertiveness. Her expressions and poses suggested a mix of corporate power and playful sass, making the cover both fresh and dynamic.

Fashion critics praised her choice, noting how she effortlessly balanced boldness with grace. “Raashi’s all-black look is a masterclass in understated power dressing. She exudes confidence without overdoing it,” commented one fashion expert.

The actress, who has often been seen in bright, cheerful attire, proved her versatility by pulling off a look that was strong, stylish, and commanding. The Grazia shoot captures a different side of Raashi—one that’s all about control, attitude, and fearless elegance.

Amidst her growing fashion footprint, Raashi is also busy with her upcoming film 120 Bahadur, where she stars alongside Farhan Akhtar. Despite the film preparations, her Grazia appearance has quickly become the talk of the town, with fans and social media buzzing over the iconic look.

From magazine covers to red carpets, Raashi Khanna continues to reinvent her style, proving she is not just an actor but a trendsetter. With her confident all-black outfit, she delivered a look that is bold, modern, and unforgettable—a true Raashi vibe that resonates with power, charm, and charisma.