

Telangana CM Launches 'Indiramma Saree' Distribution Scheme on Indira Gandhi's Birth Anniversary

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Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy formally launched the ambitious "Indiramma Saree Distribution Scheme" on Wednesday, a major welfare initiative under which one crore sarees will be distributed to eligible women across Telangana. The launch was strategically timed to coincide with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, positioning the scheme as a tribute to her legacy of women's empowerment. Speaking at the launch event, CM Reddy detailed the distribution plan, explaining that the massive scale of the weaving process requires the distribution to be executed in two distinct phases to ensure the quality and delivery of all one crore sarees. In the first phase, all eligible women residing in villages are scheduled to receive their sarees by December 9. The second phase will focus on women in urban areas.



as, with 65 lakh sarees slated for distribution between March 1 and 8, strategically aligning with International Women's Day.

Chief Minister Reddy appealed directly to all female ministers and MLAs, urging them to wear the Indiramma sarees themselves and to actively serve as "brand ambassadors" for the scheme, helping to showcase the respect and self-worth the government is promoting for women. 2 He

highlighted that the current "people's government" has initiated several key women empowerment programs, directly inspired by the transformative vision of Indira Gandhi, who he credited with working to fulfill the aspirations of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He cited major efforts to encourage women's self-help groups (DWCRAs) to operate lucrative businesses, such as running petrol outlets, as the state actively pursues an ambi-

tious goal to help one crore women become "millionaires." Reddy used the occasion to pay extensive tribute to the former Prime Minister, praising her pivotal role in the nationalisation of banks, the implementation of the Agricultural Land Ceiling Act, the extensive distribution of land to the poor, and the provision of mass housing. He lauded her introduction of "revolutionary reforms," including her resolute stance dur-

ing the India-Pakistan war, which he credited with safeguarding the country's sovereignty. Indira Gandhi, born on November 19, 1917, served as PM from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. The launch event serves to reinforce the new government's commitment to women-centric welfare policies and connect them directly to the historical legacy of the Congress party's leadership.

President Murmu on Three-Day Visit to Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh

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President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to undertake a significant three-day, three-state visit beginning Thursday, covering Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Her itinerary reflects a blend of cultural celebrations, national organizational events, and commemorations of historical figures. The visit commences on Thursday in Chhattisgarh, where President Murmu will grace the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebration organized by the state government at Ambikapur. This event holds particular significance as the President, herself from a tribal background, champions the recognition and empowerment of India's indigenous communities. The celebration is dedicated to honoring the contributions of tribal leaders and freedom fighters to the nation's history and culture. Her presence underscores the Centre's commitment to recognizing tribal heritage as a vital part of the national identity.

The second day of the visit, November 21, will bring the President to Telangana, specifically to the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bolarum, Secunderabad, which serves as one of the official Presidential Retreats. There, she will formally inaugurate



the Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav 2025. This cultural festival, now in its second edition, is a crucial showcase designed to highlight and celebrate the rich, diverse cultural, culinary, and artistic traditions drawn from the western regions of India. The Mahotsav will feature vibrant displays representing the states and union territories of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu, promoting national integration through art and culture. Her presence underscores the Centre's commitment to recognizing tribal heritage as a vital part of the national identity.

The third day of the visit, November 22, will bring the President to Andhra Pradesh to participate in a special session held to commemorate the centenary celebration of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi. This event marks a major milestone for the global spiritual organization and its humanitarian initiatives, which operate extensive education, healthcare, and social service projects worldwide. The President's attendance at the centenary celebration acknowledges the profound social and spiritual influence of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's legacy. Her three-day tour demonstrates the government's focus on cultural promotion, honoring tribal history, and recognizing significant spiritual and social movements that contribute to India's social fabric.



Kavitha Arrested During Protest at Singareni Bhavan over Workers' Issues

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In Hyderabad, a tense situation arose as Kalvakuntla Kavitha, President of Telangana Jagruti, led members of the organization in a demonstration aimed at pressurizing the authorities to address the unresolved problems faced by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) workers. The protest took the form of a siege (Muttadi) on the Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad, which quickly created a highly

charged and tense atmosphere at the location. The protesters were vocally demanding the immediate resolution of various long-standing issues concerning the rights and welfare of the Singareni coal miners. Given the escalation of the protest and the subsequent unrest at the corporate office, local police immediately intervened to control the situation and prevent any potential damage or further disruption of operations. Following their intervention, the police proceeded to arrest Kavitha along

with several other members of the Telangana Jagruti organization who were actively participating in the siege. All arrested individuals, including the Telangana Jagruti President, were subsequently transported by police to the Nampally Police Station. The incident underscores the ongoing tensions between labor groups and the management of the state-owned Singareni company, highlighting the commitment of Kavitha and her organization to raising these worker issues publicly.

Deputy CM Pushes Officials to Finalize the 2047 Telangana Vision Document

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Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu chaired a crucial 2047 Vision Document War Room Meeting at Pragathi Bhavan on Wednesday evening, attended by Principal Secretaries and Secretaries from all government departments, signaling a major push to finalize the state's long-term economic strategy. He emphasized that the primary objective of the Telangana Rising Vision Document is to meticulously present to the global community the substantial progress achieved by the young state in its initial two years and to clearly articulate its future potential, particularly the ambitious goal of achiev-



ing a Three Trillion Dollar Economy by 2047. The Deputy CM affirmed that this massive economic target is a shared aspiration of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the entire Cabinet, and he has been personally entrusted with designing an inclusive vision document that guarantees participation and commitment from every single government department.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed the assembly that the State Government has formalized an official agreement with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to prepare the comprehensive 2047 Vision Document, and ISB has already completed its preliminary groundwork based on data provided by departmental nodal officers. With the Global Summit

scheduled for the 8th and 9th of next month, the Deputy CM instructed officials to dedicate their full focus immediately to bringing the document

to its final, publishable stage due to the limited time. He stressed that creating this document is an exercise worthy of being recorded in the

state's history, showcasing how the "Praja Government" is laying a robust foundation for future generations. The government's strategy re-

volves around enhancing GDP across the economic, industrial, and services sectors, and this requires structured, systematic departmental wor-

k integrated into the Vision Document. He cited massive infrastructure projects, such as the ongoing Regional Ring Road (RRR) works worth

36,000 crore, arguing that once completed, the integration of the RRR with the existing Outer Ring Road via 39 radial roads will be unmatched in India, attracting massive industrial investments and making the state an economic powerhouse. He instructed all departmental secretaries to coordinate closely with ISB experts, meet their respective ministers for final suggestions, and ensure the Vision Document clearly outlines how investment opportunities will be converted into concrete action. He concluded by setting a key economic metric: achieving a 13% GSDP growth rate (up from 11%) and urged officials to treat the finalization process as a prestigious initiative requiring utmost dedication.

Bandi Sanjay Vows to Continue Speaking on Hindutva; Slams Congress and BRS

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Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and senior BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar made a series of sensational statements in Hyderabad, affirming his unwavering commitment to the ideology of Hindutva. Addressing a massive gathering of polling booth presidents and higher-level leaders from the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency, he declared that "Hindutva is my breath," and if the word Hindutva stops coming from his mouth, it would be the day his breath stops. He vowed to create an environment where the BJP comes to power in Telangana by taking the Hindutva message to every doorstep, promising to establish "Ram Rajya" in the

state. He strongly defended the use of Hindutva in politics, citing the BJP's dramatic rise in the GHMC elections from 4 seats to 48 seats as a direct result of this focus.

Bandi Sanjay argued that while the Modi government extends welfare schemes to all communities—Hindu, Muslim, and Christian—without discrimination, Muslims consistently vote against the BJP. He questioned the political logic, asking why imams and maulanas gather in mosques before elections to take a pledge to vote against the BJP, yet if the 80% Hindu population were to unite as a voting bloc, it is labelled as wrong.

He detailed various recent incidents of violence and attacks against Hindus and temples in Telangana, including the demolition of temples and attacks on cow protectors, questioning why he should remain silent in such circumstances. He proudly asserted that his victory as MP from Karimnagar was a result of the Hindu vote bank he helped consolidate. He initiated a "Kashaya Samarabheri" (Saffron War Drum) campaign to collect signatures from November 26, protesting the two years of failures of the Congress government and the ten years of the BRS government. He sharply criticized the Congress's plan to celebrate the completion of two years of its rule as the "Telangana Rising Festival," mockingly suggesting they should instead call it the "Telangana Downfall Festival" or the "Congress Sinking Fest



ival," citing the failure to implement the 420 promises in their 42-page manifesto, including the six guarantees like the 4,000 monthly pension for the elderly and 4,000 unemployment allowance. He also criticized the Congress for its failure to provide a single penny to Gram Panchayats and accused them of only wanting to hold Panchayat elections to secure Central Government funds (15th Finance Commission, MNREGA, etc.), which he asserted are solely responsible for all current village development. He urged BJP workers to contest the upcoming Panchayat elections, promising that if the BJP is elected, he will personally take the responsibility of securing funds, even through CSR initiatives, for the development of villages.

Minister Konda Surekha Vows to Wear 'Indiramma Saree,' Defends Quality

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Telangana Minister for Forests, Environment, and Endowments, Smt. Konda Surekha, made key comments regarding the state government's prestigious "Indiramma Saree Distribution Scheme," affirming her personal support and defending the quality of the product. The Minister declared that she would personally be proud and honoured to wear the

Indiramma Saree" being distributed to all eligible women across the state. She emphasized that she considers wearing the saree, which is part of an ambitious scheme launched by the government for the benefit of poor women, a matter of great self-respect and honour. Minister Surekha attended the scheme's launch event, which was timed to coincide with the birth anniversary of the late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Speaking to the media afterward, the Minister explained that the slight delay in the distribution process was deliberate, driven by the government's firm commitment to ensuring that only high-quality sarees are delivered to enhance the dignity of women beneficiaries.

She launched a direct attack on the previous administration, stating that the former government had previously distributed sarees of poor quality, which ultimately brought the entire saree distribution process into disrepute. In stark contrast, she highlighted that the current government has initiated the "Indiramma Saree" scheme on the birth anniversary of the "Iron Lady," former PM Indira Gandhi, with the explicit goal of providing consistently high-quality garments. She reiterated the govern-

ment's plan to implement this quality-focused scheme in two distinct phases to manage the logistics of distributing one crore sarees efficiently. Her comments serve as a strong rebuttal to the opposition's political criticism regarding the scheme's timing and alleged intentions, focusing instead on the practical commitment to quality and the symbolic tribute to a past leader.

Jupally Stresses Financial Empowerment of Women via Government Support

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Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Excise, Jupally Krishna Rao, stated that the development of women is the government's core objective, highlighting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working towards this goal by introducing numerous welfare schemes, unparalleled elsewhere in the country. The Minister attended a review meeting via video conference from the Nagarkurnool Collectorate, led by the Chief Minister, concerning the launch of the one crore Indiramma

sarees distribution scheme for women's self-help groups (SHGs). Following the video conference, Minister Jupally met directly with the Women's Federation associations. He explained that the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme is implementing various programs to help women become financially independent, including providing extensive loans to SHGs. Recognizing the SHGs for their discipline and trustworthiness, he noted that the government is assisting them in establishing commercial ventures

like petrol bunk outlets, canteens, and solar power units to achieve economic self-reliance. Minister Jupally urged the Federations to work diligently so that women not only achieve economic development through government support but also advance socially. He advised the women to be judicious with their hard-earned money, avoiding unnecessary expenses to prevent falling into debt. He also specifically addressed the tendency of women to spend their savings on enrolling children in expensive corporate schools, despite the presence of good infrastructure and qualified teachers in government schools. He called upon the SHG members to raise awareness among rural women and encourage them to enroll their children in government schools. The meeting was also attended by Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy and Collector Badavath Santhosh.



MLA Naveen Yadav Honors Minister Ponguleti for Jubilee Hills By-poll Victory

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Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, was felicitated by Jubilee Hills MLA Naveen Yadav at the State Secretariat on Wednesday. The felicitation was in recognition of Minister Ponguleti's exceptional efforts and

served as the in-charge for these two divisions, and his work was instrumental in securing a substantial majority for the Congress party in the constituency. In return, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy warmly congratulated MLA Naveen Yadav on his successful election with a good majority.

Sports Minister V. Srihari Attends Sub-Junior National Judo



TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari attended the prestigious Sub-Junior National Judo Championship held at the L.B. Stadium in Hyderabad. The Minister watched the Judo competitions and was accompanied by Mettu Saikumar, Chairman of the Fisheries Corporation, and other dignitaries. Minister Srihari personally presented the awards to the winners in the 52 kg Girls' category and the 60 kg Boys' category. In the 52 kg Girls' category,

Manipur secured the first place, followed by Haryana in the second position, while Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra jointly took the third place. In the 60 kg Boys' category, Manipur again clinched the first place, with Rajasthan coming in second, and Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir sharing the third position. The Minister's presence highlights the state government's support for developing sports and encouraging young athletes in Telangana.



BJP Slams Congress for Distributing 1 Crore Sarees on Indira Gandhi's Birthday

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The Telangana BJP has launched a scathing political attack against the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, ridiculing its decision to distribute one crore sarees to women across the state, a scheme dubbed the "Indiramma Saree Distribution Scheme," to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The BJP chief spokesperson and media in-charge, NV Subash, strongly criticized the timing of the distribution, which began on Indira Gandhi's birthday and is scheduled to conclude on December 8, just before Sonia Gandhi's birthday. Subash unequivocally labeled the entire move as "politically loaded and blatantly sycophantic," accusing the Congress of prioritizing dynastic appeasement over genuine public welfare. He asserted that the initiative is nothing more than an election-driven, crude imitation of the BJP's highly successful women-centric welfare initiatives implemented in various states across the country.

Subash did not

mince words in his criticism, remarking sarcastically, "The Congress seems to have taken a cue from us, but as the saying goes, 'nakal marne ke liye akal chahiye' (One needs brains to copy)," implying a lack of original thought or competence from the ruling party. He rhetorically questioned, "If this isn't Revanth's attempt to please the dynasts, then what is?" He drew a sharp ideological distinction between the two parties, asserting that the BJP fundamentally honors women as embodiments of motherhood and dignity, consistent with India's cultural ethos, whereas the Congress, he argued, views them merely as a "convenient vote bank" to be manipulated during elections. He emphatically stated that the BJP has been consistently at the forefront of genuine women's empowerment through landmark programs like the Ladli Behna scheme in Madhya Pradesh and similar successful programs in Maharashtra. Subash maintained that women across all communities, including minority women, place their trust solely in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for authentic empowerment and the restoration of their rights. Subash further accused CM Revanth Reddy of adopting a "desperate 'copycat model'" after witnessing the BJP's significant and strong support among women voters in the recent Bihar elections. He referenced the Chief Minister's own indirect admission that women voters outnumber men in 78 out of 119 Assembly constituencies, framing the massive saree distribution as a "desperate attempt to woo women" ahead of the upcoming civic and local body polls. Subash concluded by dismissing the scheme as "yet another jumla (election promise)" from a government rapidly losing credibility due to its failure to implement its own six election guarantees, particularly the promised 3,000 monthly assistance to women. He also pointed out a significant statistical discrepancy, questioning, "If Telangana has 1.68 crore women, why is the government distributing only one crore sarees? What about the remaining 68 lakh?"

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Welcomes AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) In-charge Secretary, Sachin Sawant. The welcome took place at the State Secretariat on Wednesday. This visit marked the first time that Sachin Sawant travelled to Hyderabad after his official appointment as the AICC In-

charge Secretary for Telangana. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud personally met with Sawant, honouring and felicitating him as a gesture of respect and official welcoming him to the state in his new organizational capacity. The meeting underscored the strengthening of the organizational structure and coordination between the state unit and the central leadership of the Congress party.



Social Media Hails iBomma Ravi as 'Real Hero' Amidst Arrest

V Krishna Kumar | Nov 19, 2025

Hyderabad: The arrest of iBomma Immadi Ravi has sparked a massive public debate, shifting the narrative from a clear-cut case of piracy to a broad critique of the Telugu film industry's opaque financial dealings and long-standing social issues like casting couch exploitation. Ravi, who allegedly provided high-definition quality pirated films online for free, is now a hot topic of conversation, not just in

metropolitan areas but extending to villages. On social media, his following has surged beyond that of many celebrities, with netizens largely supporting his actions. The widespread sentiment, encapsulated by comments like "He's a man, he showed the film industry a movie," suggests that while Ravi's act might be illegal, it is viewed as a justified retaliation against an industry perceived as exploitative and avaricious. Police press conferences

on the matter have been overshadowed by a wave of public criticism, leaving officers reportedly "speechless" and unable to counter the backlash. A key line of questioning focuses on why police and investigative agencies like the IT Department and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) fail to scrutinize the immense, often unexplained, wealth of film stars and producers.

Netizens are demanding accountability for the thousands of crores

of rupees spent on film-making and the massive, unverified revenue claims that follow a successful film, questioning the sources of this wealth and the lack of audits. They specifically challenged why authorities are not investigating remuneration figures and the high cost of movie tickets, arguing that the industry "loots" the common people. Social media posts vehemently state that middle-class families can no longer afford to visit theaters and

praise Ravi for making high-quality cinema accessible to everyone for free, without any financial strain or the risk of stampedes, such as those that were previously linked to first-day-first-show movie viewing. The comments hail Ravi as a "real hero" who exposed the "real heroes," causing an estimated 24,000 crore loss to the industry, and demand an investigation into where that money was sourced and who benefited. Furthermore, the public has



revived the controversy surrounding the casting couch allegations previously raised by Sri Reddy at the Film Chamber, urging Commissioner Sajjanar to reopen the

case and take action against the "film bigwigs" who were implicated. The overall online praise for Ravi has been overwhelming, making the situation deeply em-

barrassing for law enforcement, who are struggling to control the public discourse that has turned Ravi's arrest into an indictment of the film industry itself.

CAG To Establish CoE For Financial Audit In Hyderabad

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025, The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, the nation's supreme audit institution, has announced a significant institutional commitment to modernizing its methodology by establishing a Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit in Hyderabad. This new national hub is strategically envisioned to be at the forefront of innovation, research, and professional development in the field, tasked with incubating advanced skills and driving the standardization of high-quality financial audit practices across various departments. Deputy CAG (Commercial & Report Central), AM Bajaj, confirmed the centre's mission, stating it will serve as an incubator for global best practices and directly strengthen the foundation of fiscal trust and transparency. The move, announced

by CAG of India K. Sanjay Murthy at the recently concluded 32nd Accountants General Conference, underscores the CAG's effort to not merely meet, but to set global benchmarks for excellence in auditing. The leadership sees this investment as a direct step toward maintaining its critical role in governmental oversight in the 21st century. A central theme of the conference and the core mandate of the new centre is a strategic pivot towards revolutionizing audit methodologies through the full realization of data and artificial intelligence (AI) potential. This includes a directive to deliberately break down the silos that traditionally separate the department's audit and accounts functions. The accounts offices are now being recognized as "gold mines of invaluable financial data," containing granular details such as

vouchers, sanctions, and challans. The main date is to transform the rigid boundary between Audit and Accounts into a seamless bridge, allowing audit teams to systematically and comprehensively leverage this rich data for their work. This shift represents a fundamental and necessary departure from the limitations of traditional, sample-based auditing towards a more comprehensive, holistic analysis of entire datasets. The deeper integration of these functions will be powered by cutting-edge technology, forming the basis for conducting sharper, more focused, and evidence-based audits with far greater impact. Furthermore, CAG is developing the CAG-LLM, an indigenously built Large Language Model, which will combine deep data synergy with AI-driven analytics. and Governance (ESG) criteria into audits.

HYDRA Protects Park Land

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025, The Hyderabad Disaster Response Force (HyDRA) successfully intervened to protect public amenity land, while simultaneously the Greater Hyderabad Deputy Mayor launched a major citizen outreach initiative. HyDRA acted on a complaint from residents of Sai Ganesh Nagar in Karmanghat, Ranga Reddy District, regarding the illegal encroachment of a designated park space. The layout, established in 1979, had allocated approximately 450 square yards for the park. Recently, individuals began unauthorized construction of a small room and boundary wall on the site, intimidating residents who questioned the encroachment. HyDRA officials responded swiftly to the residents' complaint, inspected the area, and confirmed the presence of unauthorized structures. Their investigation determined that the constructions were completely illegal and had never been registered with the Sub-Registrar's

office. Taking decisive action, HyDRA officials personally removed the illegal wall and demolished the unauthorized construction, successfully safeguarding the park land for the community. Residents expressed gratitude to HyDRA for their prompt and effective protection of the public space, marking this as 1 instance of direct municipal intervention yielding immediate results.

In a separate but related move toward improving urban life, Greater Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Smt. Mothe Srilatha Shobhana Reddy conducted a 'Basti Bata' Padyatra (neighborhood walkathon) in the Tarnaka area to personally identify and resolve infrastructure issues. Accompanied by her team and GHMC officials, the Deputy Mayor thoroughly inspected the local environment, focusing on the condition of roads, drainage lines, the prevalence of potholes, areas prone to waterlogging, and locations causing traffic congestion.



public engagement. With the inclusion of these two White Swans, the park now proudly houses 199 species and a total population of over 2,000 individuals. Several other distinguished forest officials were present at the event to mark the special occasion and acknowledge the zoo's ongoing conservation and display efforts.

Meanwhile, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), through its Chaitala Branch in the Kukatpally Division, Medchal District, organized a significant seminar for students to celebrate the 197th birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi. Speakers, including St. Martin's School Principal Swapna Reddy and Kukatpally Division Convenor Nagesh, praised her greatness and immense contributions. They emphasized that Rani Lakshmi Bai, who married at a very young age, skillfully managed her family while simultaneously rising up to fight the atrocities committed by the British administration in society, thereby becoming a Queen for India. They stressed that the success of women in all professional fields today is directly attributable to the inspiration provided by figures like Jhansi Lakshmi Bai. The speakers reinforced that the concept of a woman is synonymous with patience, and if a woman decides to achieve something, she can accomplish anything through 1st-rate courage and bravery. The seminar concluded with the message that young women possess the courage and valor to succeed in any endeavor they choose.

Cyberabad Police Dismantle \$250 Million Extortion Racket

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025, Cyberabad Police have achieved a significant breakthrough by successfully arresting two individuals involved in a highly sophisticated corporate extortion and cyber-intimidation racket targeting the Hetero Group of Companies, one of India's largest pharmaceutical organizations. The case originated from a complaint filed after a senior company employee received a series of anonymous and pseudonymous emails demanding an exorbitant ransom of USD 250 million.

The perpetrators claimed to possess extensive "confidential" and "damaging" information related to the company's operations and regulatory compliance. They further threatened that failure to pay the ransom would result in this purported information being forwarded to the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). To amplify the pressure, the racketeers falsely asserted they had the ability to

Major Drug Bust: Three Women Arrested



TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025, In a significant law enforcement action targeting drug trafficking in the city, the Special Task Force (STF) successfully conducted a raid in the Fathé Nagar area of Hyderabad. The operation was launched following specific intelligence received by the STF A'Team, led by Anji Reddy, regarding the sale of illegal narcotics, specifically Ganja, being carried out by women in the locality. The coordinated raid resulted in the seizure of a substantial quantity of contraband and cash. During the operation, the STF team confiscated a total of 1.262 kilograms of Ganja and cash amounting to 7,690 from the possession of the suspects. The bust is a major victory in the on-going campaign against drug peddling in the region, focusing on disrupting the distribution network at the local level. The Excise Department subsequently registered cases against a total of seven individuals connected to the drug sales operation. The three women who were apprehended at the scene have been formally arrested. They were identified as Shaik Jaitan Bee, Shakti Nani Mela, and Shakti Parsi Suguna. Following their arrest and the formal registration of the case, the apprehended individuals and the seized evidence were handed over to the Balanagar Excise Station for further investigation and legal proceedings. However, four other suspects involved in the

White Swans Arrive at Nehru Zoological Park

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025, The Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad celebrated a notable addition to its collection, alongside educational events aimed at fostering civic pride and female empowerment. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana, Sri. Elusing Meru, IFS, officially released a pair of magnificent White Swans into an enclosure for public display. The swans were a generous gift, donated by Sri. N. S. Ramjee, an active animal lover and consistent zoo supporter who has been adopting animals since 2010. He made the donation in honor of his late parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. A. Narayanaswamy, IPS (Retd.). Speaking at the ceremony, Sri. Elusing Meru highlighted that Nehru Zoological Park remains 1 of the pioneer zoos in the country, constantly striving to expand and diversify its animal exhibits for



of the Dindigul Municipal and Food Safety authorities.

The local community is now questioning the extent of the failure within the official ranks. It is a mandatory requirement for any establishment, including schools, hostels, and colleges, operating within the municipal jurisdiction to possess a valid Trade License. In the absence of such a license, municipal authorities have the clear responsibility to immediately seal the premises or impose heavy penalties. However, the Dindigul officials' apparent delay in sealing the hostel kitchen or levying a fine despite confirmed violations has raised significant public suspicion, leading to the assumption that some form of administrative negligence or possibly even collu-

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Condemns Heinous Attack on RTC Driver

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2025

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has issued a strong and unequivocal condemnation of the vicious attack on an RTC driver that occurred in the Rajanna Sircilla district. The incident, which took place near the village of Vallampatla in the Illanthakunta Mandal, involved the deliberate assault of an employee who was simply performing his official duties. Minister Prabhakar characterized the attack as a "heinous act," stressing the seriousness of the violence directed at a public servant engaged in essential services. Recognizing the gravity of the incident and the need for immediate and visible action, the Minister did not delay in escalating the matter to the highest level of district law enforcement. He immediately held a telephone conversation with the Rajanna Sircilla District Superintendent of Police (SP).



During the conversation, Minister Prabhakar provided a clear directive to the SP: initiate a thorough investigation into the attack and take stringent and definitive action against all individuals responsible for the assault on the RTC driver. This quick response highlights the government's commitment to employee safety and its intolerance for obstruction of public

service. The Minister also issued a stern warning to the public, emphasizing that any form of attack on RTC personnel—whom he referred to as "brothers" tirelessly working for the public transportation system and the convenience of passengers—will not be tolerated and will be met with the full force of the law. He reiterated that the government views the

safety and security of its employees as paramount. Furthermore, in a crucial message aimed at boosting the morale of the entire RTC workforce, Minister Prabhakar declared that the government would take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. He expressed solidarity with the employees, providing the "manodhairyanni"

(courage/moral support) necessary to reassure them of their value and protection. The Minister's intervention signals a clear instance where the state's leadership has prioritized the dignity and protection of its frontline government workers, sending a strong message of accountability and support across the public sector.

Bar Owners Association Accuses Excise Officials of Intimidation

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

The Telangana Bar and Restaurants Owners Association has levelled serious allegations against the state's Excise Department, claiming that the actions of Excise officials are not only jeopardizing the financial viability of their businesses but are also causing the State government to lose credibility and public trust. The Association's President, Damodar Goud, highlighted the severity of the situation during a visit to Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao's office at Ravindra Bharathi, where he submitted a formal petition. The central grievance revolves around the introduction of G.O. 145, a government order that the Association argues

imposes a significant and unjust financial burden on bars, many of which are already struggling in a post-pandemic economic environment. Goud detailed the timeline of the contentious fee payment. He confirmed that bar owners had fulfilled their financial obligations by paying the mandated license renewal fee of 40 lakh by the initial deadline of September 30. However, the Excise Department then introduced G.O. 145 on November 14—well after the renewal date—and is now demanding an additional 4 lakh from each establishment. Goud explicitly accused the Excise officials of resorting to threats and intimidation to enforce this retrospective payment, a move he argues is fundamentally

unfair and illegal. The Association is demanding a necessary revision of the new GO and immediate resolution of the problems it has created. Their primary plea to the government is that since the GO was issued after the renewal period had concluded, its enforcement should be postponed and should only take effect from the next financial year to avoid penalizing establishments that followed the rules in place at the time of renewal. Furthermore, the Association addressed other restrictive policies that are creating immense difficulty in business operations. They cited the exorbitant hike in the fee for transferring a bar's location, which has been almost doubled

from 16 lakh to 30 lakh. This punitive fee structure makes necessary relocation and business adaptability nearly impossible. Additionally, Goud requested a statutory amendment to the licensing requirements, specifically asking for the exclusion of the mandatory Registrar Lease Deed from the rental agreement documentation. Lastly, he urged the government to take strict measures to ensure that permit rooms operating within wine shops adhere to all stipulated regulations, thereby eliminating illegal competition and maintaining order in the liquor trade sector. The Association's comprehensive submission represents 1 of the most concerted efforts by the trade body to challenge what it views as arbitrary and counter-productive government policy enforcement.



Farmer Commission Chairman Condemns Central Government Cotton Policy

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

Kodanda Reddy, the Chairman of the Farmer Commission, has released a strongly worded press note criticizing the Central Government for its handling of cotton procurement in the state. Reddy asserted that it is the direct and clear responsibility of the Central Government to procure cotton through the CCI (Cotton Corporation of India). However, he accused the Centre of attempting to evade this responsibility, citing a recent policy decision made within the NITI Aayog. The Chairman

believes the government's subsequent actions are deliberate and malicious, intended to harm farmers. He condemned the Central Government's behavior as utterly irresponsible for its actions, which include: the delayed establishment of cotton procurement centres; the imposition of the mandatory Kapas Kisan App; and the arbitrary restriction on procurement volume, limiting purchases to only 7 quintals per acre.

Reddy vehemently argued that forcing innocent farmers to register and book their produce

through the Kapas Kisan App is tantamount to "deceiving the farmers" (रातुलानु दग्याम). He perceives these actions not as administrative hiccups, but as part of a deeper, systemic plot. The Chairman linked these recent procurement restrictions and bureaucratic hurdles to a pattern of anti-farmer policies implemented by the NDA government since coming to power. He specifically referenced the contentious three black farm laws and a subsequent policy document aimed at the privatization of the agri-

cultural market system. Reddy suggested that these restrictions are all part of a larger conspiracy to gradually privatize the agricultural sector in its entirety and hand over control to powerful multinational companies. He concluded that the imposition of such arbitrary con-

Jagga Reddy Hails Indira Gandhi's Sacrifices on 108th Jayanti

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President, Jagga Reddy, paid an emotional tribute to former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her 108th birth anniversary. Speaking at an event in Sangareddy, Reddy passionately hailed her as a towering figure in Indian history, declaring that she was the individual who literally "sacrificed her blood and life for the people of this country." This statement set a powerful and provocative tone for his address. He directly challenged the leadership of the ruling party at the national level, specifi-

cally addressing the BJP leaders in Delhi. He publicly questioned whether any leader from the BJP—including Prime Minister Modi, Amit Shah, or any of their colleagues—has, over the last forty years, "sacrificed their life for the people of the country" as a direct parallel to Indira Gandhi's ultimate sacrifice. This direct political challenge served to contrast the perceived commitment of the two parties to national

poverty in the country through the powerful slogan 'Garibi Hatao' (Remove Poverty). He also recognized her impactful program encapsulated by the slogan 'Roti, Kapada aur Makaan' (Food, Clothing, and Shelter), which fundamentally changed the living conditions of the impoverished masses across India. A major historical achievement lauded by Reddy was the distribution of land to the landless poor, which included members of the SC, ST, BC, and minority communities, underscoring her commitment to economic equity. He reiterated his challenge to the BJP leaders, asking them if

they possessed such a history of profound contribution to the country's disadvantaged. Jagga Reddy's speech was a rallying cry for the Congress, marking this anniversary as 1 key moment to reinforce the party's historical legacy of sacrifice and service to the nation's most vulnerable.



SCR Announces New Special Train Stoppages

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

To enhance convenience and connectivity for passengers, the South Central Railway (SCR) has officially announced the provision of additional temporary stoppages for several special train services. The press release, disseminated by Chief Public Relations Officer A. Sridhar, details the specific schedules and locations where the special trains will now halt, thereby improving accessibility for local communities. The new stoppages are being introduced at Diguvametta and Kavali (Train No. 07001), the train will depart Charlapalli at 21:20 hours on Wednesdays (specifically, 19.11.2025 & 26.11.2025) and will arrive at Diguvametta at 04:30 hours on the following day, departing two minutes later at 04:32 hours. Conversely, the return service from Tirupati to Charlapalli (Train No. 07002) will depart Tirupati at 16:40 hours on Thursdays (20.11.2025 & 27.11.2025) and will stop at Diguvametta on the same day, arriving at 23:20 hours and departing at 23:22 hours. Secondly, the 07107/07108 Charlapalli – Kollam – Charlapalli Weekly Special Trains will receive an additional stoppage at Kavali Station. The Charlapalli to Kollam service (Train No. 07107) will depart Charlapalli at 12:00 hours on multiple

Mondays, starting from November 24, 2025, and continuing through January 19, 2026. This train will arrive at Kavali at 21:13 hours and depart at 21:15 hours on the same day. For the return journey, the Kollam to Charlapalli service (Train No. 07108) will depart Kollam at 02:30 hours on various Wednesdays, spanning from November 26, 2025, to January 21, 2026. The train will arrive at Kavali at 00:33 hours and depart at 00:35 hours on the following day. These strategically placed additional halts are part of the Railways' ongoing effort to manage passenger traffic and facilitate seamless travel on these crucial routes. The inclusion of these stations is 1 measure taken to improve service utility for passengers across the region.

Ex-Deputy Speaker Champions Healthcare for the Poor

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

The former Deputy Speaker and current Secunderabad MLA, Teegulla Padmarao Goud, emphasized his commitment to prioritizing healthcare services for the underprivileged, stating that his primary goal is to ensure that essential services like education and medical care are made readily accessible to the poor. Goud made these remarks during an event at the Vasavi Diagnostic Center in Sitalpahad and, where a free eye medical camp was organized on Wednesday with the support of the Balanagar Lions Charitable Trust. The MLA was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony for the new X-ray and ECG equipment installed at the center.

Speaking at the event, Padmarao Goud detailed his focus on improving social infrastructure, confirming that he is currently overseeing



the construction of three new hospitals to bolster medical and educational facilities in his constituency. He stressed that these projects are central to his political mandate of serving the disadvantaged sections of society. Furthermore, he extended his full support and assurance of encouragement to all voluntary and charitable organizations that dedicate themselves to providing free services to the needy. He highlighted the crucial role played by such organizations in complementing government efforts and reaching the most vulnerable populations. The event saw the participation of key organizers, including Naveen Kumar, Dhana Shekhar, Shyamal Rao, Gundu Srinivas, Subhadra Gupta, Mahankali Uma Maheshwar, and political leaders like Puppalla Viresham Gupta, C.S. Narasimha Rao, and Raj Sundar. Goud's commitment to expanding healthcare infrastructure and actively supporting non-governmental organizations demonstrates 1 clear focus on social welfare and community development in his constituency.

10Kg Ganja Seized At Warangal Railway Station

TPN Bureau | Nov 19, 2025

The anti-narcotics efforts in the region achieved a notable success when a raid conducted by the Special Task Force (STF) resulted in the seizure of a substantial quantity of Ganja near the Warangal Railway Station. Based on specific intelligence indicating the presence of Ganja in the vicinity of the railway station, the STF D' Team, led by CI Nagaraju and his staff, mobilized from Hyderabad to carry out a discreet inspection. Upon searching the areas surrounding the railway station, the team discovered a suspicious plastic bag.

The contents of the bag were examined and immediately identified as Ganja.

Following the initial discovery, the seized narcotic substance was accurately weighed, confirming the haul to be 10 kilograms. The successful seizure underscores the persistent nature of drug trafficking operations that utilize railway corridors for transportation. However, despite the successful confiscation of the Ganja, law enforcement officials were unable to locate or apprehend any individuals associated with the illegal substance at the scene. Since no suspects were found, the seized 10 kg of Ganja was formally handed over to the Warangal Excise Station for the registration of a case and initiation of the necessary subsequent investigation and legal proceedings. This operation serves as 1 successful interdiction, demonstrating the vigilance of the STF in curbing the drug trade in key transit hubs. The subsequent investigation will now focus on tracing the origin and intended destination of the seized narcotics to dismantle the drug network responsible.



Modi In Tamil Nadu: A High-Voltage Start, But What About Past Baggage?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile roadshow in Coimbatore on Tuesday is widely seen as the launch of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) campaign for the 2026 Tamil Nadu elections. While the spectacle showcased the BJP's organisational strength, the underlying political terrain remains challenging for the party in a state that has long resisted its expansion.

The biggest hurdles lie within the NDA itself. The AIADMK, the BJP's main ally in Tamil Nadu, continues to navigate internal di-

visions after the expulsions of VK Sasikala, O Panneerselvam, and TTV Dhinakaran. The exit of two prominent Thevar community leaders has weakened the party's influence in western Tamil Nadu, traditionally an AIADMK stronghold. The recent removal of veteran leader KA Sengottaiyan adds further uncertainty. AIADMK's successive election losses in 2019, 2021, and 2024, two of them in alliance with the BJP, have reinforced perceptions of the national party's electoral isolation.

Other NDA constituents face their own challenges.

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) is witnessing a leadership tussle between founder Dr S Ramadoss and his son Anbumani Ramadoss, raising the possibility of a split or internal competition. The Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMK), once an ally, has yet to decide its political direction. Adding to the unpredictability is actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), debuting in 2026. Vijay has repeatedly positioned the BJP as an ideological opponent, ruling out any alliance and potentially attracting former NDA partners.

The DMK, in contrast, enters the election season from a position of continuity. Its alliance has remained intact through three consecutive victories. The party leans on welfare schemes, such as monthly Rs 1,000 support for women, free bus travel, and assistance for government-school college students, while highlighting faster double-digit economic growth. Politically, it continues to challenge the BJP on issues central to Tamil Nadu's identity, including NEET exemption, Hindi imposition, alleged financial discrimination, and the

Keeladi archaeological report, themes that resonate strongly with the electorate.

Coimbatore, where Modi showcased the BJP's local presence, remains one of the few areas of firm support. The roadshow aims not just to energise cadres but also to test whether the BJP can recalibrate its approach to a state where national narratives often fail to gain traction. The outcome will reveal whether this spectacle can translate into tangible electoral momentum or remain a symbolic display in a still-challenging terrain.

Bihar Polls Reignite Vote-Seat Debate



The recent Bihar elections have once again sparked discussions on the gap between vote share and seat share, with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) securing a majority of votes but far fewer seats than proportionality would suggest. Calls to shift India from the first-past-the-post (FPTP) system to Proportional Representation (PR) have gained traction. However, experts caution that PR carries significant drawbacks that may outweigh its perceived fairness.

Under India's FPTP system, voters choose individual candidates, and the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins. Losing candidates receive no representation, even if their vote counts are nearly equal to the winner's. This system can create disparities between vote share and seat share but ensures that governments have a clear mandate.

By contrast, PR systems, where parties are awarded seats based on overall vote share, can produce highly proportional outcomes but often result in fragmented, unstable coalitions. Israel's experience illustrates this: governments are frequently formed through alliances of 20-30 parties, giving small or extremist factions disproportionate influence. Only nine out of 25 Israeli governments have completed a full term, raising questions about PR's effectiveness in a large and diverse country like India.

PR also weakens the link be-

tween legislators and voters. Candidates are elected based on party lists rather than personal constituencies, turning representatives into "rubber stamps" for party leadership. In India, where political parties already wield substantial power through mechanisms like the anti-defection law, such a shift could further diminish voter influence.

Additionally, PR incentivizes parties to appeal to narrow sections of the electorate, allowing fringe groups to gain influence without broad-based support. In India's diverse polity, this could amplify the role of extremist or sectarian parties, undermining governance and social cohesion.

Experts argue that the focus should instead be on strengthening the legitimacy of elections under FPTP. Measures such as ensuring the independence of the Election Commission, curbing electoral corruption, and reconsidering the anti-defection law are seen as critical steps to improve voter confidence. While mixed systems combining FPTP and proportional elements exist in countries like Germany, any electoral reform must consider India's unique political and social context.

The Bihar results highlight the tension between fairness and effectiveness in electoral systems, but analysts warn that adopting PR without addressing these structural issues could create more problems than it solves.

Humane Solutions for Stray Dogs



As urban areas across India grapple with the growing stray dog population, experts emphasize that the solution lies in humane management rather than fear or culling. In neighbourhoods across Delhi, programmes focused on kindness, trust, and cooperation have demonstrated that reducing stray dog numbers humanely is not only possible but sustainable.

Activists and veterinarians argue that community engagement is key. "The solution begins with building trust with animals, educating residents, and promoting responsible ownership," says animal welfare expert Sandeep Joshi. Neighbourhoods that implement structured sterilization, vaccination, and adoption programmes have seen tangible reductions in stray dog populations without resorting to inhumane methods.

Sterilization and vaccination, commonly referred to as the ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme, have been pivotal. Dogs are cap-

tured, neutered or spayed, vaccinated against rabies, and then returned to their familiar areas. Studies from Delhi and other cities show that over time, this approach leads to a gradual decline in stray populations and reduces incidences of dog bites and disease transmission.

Critics of traditional culling methods point out that such practices fail to address the root causes of overpopulation. Dogs often return to the same areas, and without vaccination, rabies risks persist. Humane methods, by contrast, tackle both population growth and public health concerns, creating a safer environment for humans and animals alike.

As cities expand and human-animal interactions increase, adopting a compassionate, evidence-based approach is essential. Humane population management is not a dream; it is a proven reality in many parts of Delhi. The challenge now lies in scaling these efforts nationwide, fostering awareness, and encouraging collaboration between residents, authorities, and welfare organisations.

UP Government's Bid to Withdraw Akhlaq Case Raises Eyebrows



The Uttar Pradesh government's recent attempt to withdraw from the prosecution in the 2015 Mohammed Akhlaq lynching case has sparked widespread concern about political interference in justice. The lynching, in which Akhlaq was brutally killed by a mob over a baseless rumour, remains etched in public memory as a symbol of communal violence and the fragility of social harmony.

Under Section 360 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), the state can recommend withdrawal from prosecution, but the law now requires that the court hear the victim's family before approving any such request. This safeguard ensures that the victim's voice remains central, preventing quiet administrative decisions that could undermine justice.

Legal experts stress that the

Akhlaq case is far from a routine matter. "A man was lynched in his own home. This is not a case that can be treated as dispensable when political winds change," said senior advocate Sanjay Hegde. The prosecution must weigh the evidence carefully and resist any attempts to serve political convenience. Past instances in UP, where withdrawal powers were allegedly used to shield senior political leaders, have

raised doubts about the motivations behind such moves.

The law now places a dual responsibility: prosecutors must act independently, and judges must scrutinize withdrawal applications thoroughly, demanding full disclosure of reasons and assessing broader public impact. Courts have rejected similar requests in the past when motives were questionable, and a lynching case warrants even stricter scrutiny.

For Akhlaq's family, the law offers a right to be heard, but the emotional and social burden is heavy. Opposing withdrawal forces them to reopen painful wounds, while accepting it would mean surrendering hope of a full trial, potentially sending a troubling message to victims of communal violence nationwide.

Experts note that India's formal withdrawal mechanism contrasts with systems like the U.S., where political influence on prosecutions is limited by structural and public oversight. In India, the onus falls heavily on prosecutors, judges, and now victims to safeguard justice.

The Akhlaq case underscores the delicate balance between law and political power. Courts must ensure that any withdrawal is genuinely in public interest, not politically motivated, reaffirming that the justice system remains steadfast. Upholding prosecution in this case would signal that justice in India is not a seasonal exercise but a principle that stands firm, even under pressure.

Satya Sai Baba's teachings showing light to lakhs in 140 countries: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tribute to the late spiritual leader Sri Satya Sai Baba, highlighting the guru's enduring influence on lakhs of followers across 140 countries. Modi made the remarks during the birth centenary celebrations of Satya Sai Baba in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, where he also released a commemorative coin and a set of stamps in the guru's honor.

Calling the centenary "a divine boon," Modi said, "Though Sai Baba is not among us physically, his love and spirit of service are the guiding forces for crores of people." He noted that devotees worldwide continue to find light, guidance, and inspiration from Satya Sai Baba's teachings, emphasizing the spiritual leader's focus on service as central to human life.

Modi highlighted that the core of Indian civilization lies in Seva, or selfless service. "All our diverse spiritual and philosophical traditions ultimately lead to this one idea, whether one walks the path of Bhakti, knowledge, or karma," he said. He fur-



ther connected the principle of service to contemporary governance, noting that the government's social security and welfare schemes for the poor are being recognized and discussed in international forums.

The Prime Minister also

underscored the 'local for vocal' initiative, stating that it will help India achieve its goal of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

The celebrations were attended by prominent leaders and personalities, including Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, and actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, along with R J Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Satya Sai Central Trust.

As part of the centenary

observances, Modi paid obeisance at Satya Sai Baba's Mahasamadhi and received Vedic blessings from priests, marking a day of devotion, reflection, and reaffirmation of the guru's teachings of universal love, peace, and service.

'Smoke From Punjab Doesn't Even Reach Delhi': CM Bhagwant Mann

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday dismissed claims that stubble burning in his state contributes significantly to Delhi's worsening air quality, sparking a political debate over the national capital's smog crisis.

Addressing a press conference, Mann asserted that smoke from Punjab does not reach Delhi due to prevailing wind patterns, and pointed fingers at Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi's own emissions. He noted that Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) had hit 400 even before paddy harvesting began in Punjab, challenging the narrative that the state's crop residue is responsible. "The smoke that travels to Delhi stays over Connaught Place! What a joke!... 99% of Punjab's rice is exported, and it is not a staple food locally," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi woke up to thick smog with an



average AQI of 341 at 7 AM, placing the city in the "very poor" category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Areas such as

Dhaura Kuan recorded 365, Anand Vihar 381, Ghazipur 345, and Akshardham 381, all in the "very poor" category. CPCB classifies an AQI be-

tween 301-400 as "very poor" and 401-500 as "severe."

The debate intensified as Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Sin-

gh Sirsa accused the AAP-led Punjab government of coercing farmers to burn stubble, despite central incentives to prevent it. Sirsa claimed that most incidents coincided with the post-Diwali period and accused AAP of hypocrisy, recalling how former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal had previously highlighted stubble smoke from Punjab as a major pollution source.

Sirsa said, "Earlier, Kejriwal used to explain how stubble smoke travels to Delhi. Now, the same people are silent while in power." He argued that the worsening pollution reflects governance failures in Delhi rather than actions in Punjab.

The exchange underscores the growing political tussle over the source of Delhi's toxic smog as winter pollution peaks, with blame being shifted between states amid rising public concern over health risks.

'Tally is now 60': Congress after Trump repeats 'India-Pakistan' peace broker claim



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress on Wednesday mocked the Narendra Modi government after former US President Donald Trump repeated his claim that he prevented a war between India and Pakistan, sarcastically noting that "the tally is now 60."

Trump, addressing a bi-

lateral meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince in Washington on Tuesday, reiterated that he had intervened to halt Operation Sindoor, a claimed conflict between the two South Asian nations. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh reacted, saying, "Just when it appeared that the claims had

stopped. President Trump has reminded the world again." He added that Trump has made similar assertions in multiple countries including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the UK, Netherlands, and Japan, tallying up to 60 such statements.

During the meeting, Trump stated, "I've

right here in the Oval Office."

Since May 10, Trump has repeatedly claimed that India and Pakistan agreed to a full ceasefire after a night of talks mediated by Washington. However, India has consistently denied that any external intervention was involved in the easing of tensions.

The Congress's response also comes amid growing criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier this month, the opposition questioned Modi's role following Trump's assertion that India had "largely stopped buying oil from Russia," sarcastically asking, "What does Howdy Modi have to say about all this?"

Ramesh's remarks underline Congress's continued efforts to target the Modi government over its handling of international perception and diplomatic claims, highlighting a sharp political divide over foreign policy narratives.

Congress Targets EC Over Alleged Voter Deletions



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Following its defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress on Tuesday accused the Election Commission of selectively deleting voters from electoral rolls under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. The party claimed the exercise was being used to target specific communities across several states and Union Territories.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi held a review meeting at Indira Bhawan in New Delhi with senior leaders from 12 states and UTs where the SIR is underway. Attendees included former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, senior leaders Salman Khurshid and KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary, PCC presidents,

CLP leaders, and AICC secretaries.

Kharge alleged that the Election Commission's conduct during the revision process was "deeply disappointing" and must prove its neutrality. He said the SIR was being "weaponised"

for "vote theft" and warned that Congress workers and local units would remain vigilant to expose any attempts to remove genuine voters or add bogus ones.

Venugopal said patterns of targeted deletions observed in Bihar were now emerging in 12 states and UTs. He criticized the EC's separate special revision in Assam and flagged Kerala, where booth-level officers (BLOs) were instructed to finalize voter lists on the same day local body elections begin, despite a state Assembly resolution to

postpone the exercise. Venugopal noted the extreme workload had led to cases of suicide among BLOs.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera accused the EC of political bias, stating that names were being selectively removed across states. He recalled the party's "Voter Rights Yatra" in Bihar and cited five Supreme Court orders reflecting concerns over the Commission's approach.

The party announced plans for a massive rally at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, in early December to protest alleged irregularities. Khera said the Congress had collected five crore signatures nationwide to defend voter rights, emphasizing, "If the voter's right is taken away, it is our duty to raise our voice, and we will continue to do so."

Nitish Kumar Elected JD(U) Legislature Party Leader in Bihar



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Janata Dal (United) supremo Nitish Kumar was chosen as the leader of the JD(U) legislature party during a meeting of newly elected MLAs in Patna on Wednesday, state minister Shrawan Kumar confirmed. The decision comes ahead of a meeting of NDA constituents, where Kumar is expected to be appointed the leader of the alliance in Bihar.

The meeting, held at 'Samvad' at the Chief Minister's Secretariat,

was attended by all newly elected JD(U) MLAs and 22 Legislative Council members. Party leaders Vijay Choudhary and Umesh Kushwaha proposed Kumar's name, which was seconded by senior leaders Bijendra Yadav, working national president Sanjay Jha, and Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

After his election as legislature party leader, Kumar addressed party members, urging them to work tirelessly for the welfare of the state. He will meet Governor Arif Mohammad Khan later in the day to initiate the process for forming the new government and submit a letter of support from all NDA constituents. The current Bihar assembly will be dissolved on Wednesday.

Kumar is set to take oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record 10th time at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan on Thursday. The NDA, comprising JD(U), BJP, LJP(RV), HAM, and RLM, secured a decisive victory in the 243-member assembly, winning 202 seats in total. JD(U) bagged 85 seats, while BJP won 89, LJP(RV) 19, HAM 5, and RLM 4.

In the run-up to the

elections, Kumar rolled out welfare schemes including hikes in social security pensions, stipends for Jeevika, Asha, and Anganwadi workers, and the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, under which over one crore women received Rs 10,000 each. Despite criticism and speculation of political sidelining similar to Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde, the 75-year-old leader remained unfazed.

Born in 1951 in Bakhtiyarpur, Bihar, Nitish Kumar entered politics during the JP Movement, initially joining the Janata Party. He contested his first assembly elections in 1977 and secured his first victory in 1985, gradually rising to become the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar.

India saved my mother's life

Sheikh Hasina's son rejects legitimacy of her extradition



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has strongly dismissed Dhaka's request to extradite his mother from India, alleging severe violations of judicial norms and rising extremist threats in Bangladesh. Speaking to ANI from Virginia, Wazed expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for granting Hasina asylum, claiming militants had been plotting to assassinate her before she left the country.

Wazed alleged that legal proceedings against his mother are fundamentally flawed, accusing the interim government of manipulating the judiciary. "They terminated 17 judges before the trial, amended laws illegally without parliamentary approval, and barred her defence attorneys from court proceedings," he said. He added that no democratic nation would agree to extradition under such circumstances and expressed confidence that India would reject the request.

Hasina, who ruled Bangladesh for 15 years, faces multiple charges filed by the interim administration, but Wazed insists the process has been politically

motivated and compromised. Describing her exit from Bangladesh as life-saving, he said, "India has essentially saved my mother's life. If she hadn't left, militants had planned on killing her."

He further warned India of escalating security threats, alleging that the Yunus-led interim government has released "tens of thousands of terrorists" previously jailed during Hasina's tenure. He claimed that Lashkar-e-Taiba is now operating freely in Bangladesh and linked its local networks to recent terror incidents in Delhi.

In a sharp escalation, Wazed accused Pakistan's ISI of arming infiltrators during last year's protests in Dhaka, citing video evidence of armed demonstrators. He also referenced comments attributed to US President Donald Trump, who reportedly said the previous US administration spent "millions of dollars" through USAID to influence political change in Bangladesh.

The allegations add new strain to India-Bangladesh relations already tense over border security and minority protection. Further diplomatic responses are expected as the situation evolves.

Eight-Month Pregnant Indian Woman Killed in Sydney Car Crash



TPN Correspondent | Australia

A 33-year-old pregnant Indian woman tragically lost her life in Sydney, Australia, when she was struck by a car while out for an evening walk with her family. Samanvitha Dhareshwar, eight months pregnant with her second child, was walking alongside her husband and three-year-old son in Hornsby on George Street around 8 pm last Friday.

Police reports state that a Kia Carnival had slowed to allow the family to cross a footpath when a speeding BMW rear-ended the Kia, propelling it forward and hitting Dhareshwar near a car park entrance. She sustained catastrophic injuries and was rushed to Westmead Hospital, but neither she nor her unborn child survived.

The BMW was being driven by 19-year-old provisional license holder Aaron Papazoglu. Both the BMW and Kia drivers escaped without injury. Police later arrested Papazoglu at his Wahroonga residence. He faces charges including dangerous driving occasioning death, negligent driving occasioning death,

and causing the loss of a foetus. A magistrate denied him bail due to the gravity of the incident.

Papazoglu is expected to be tried under New South Wales' Zoe's Law, enacted in 2022, which imposes harsher penalties for deaths caused to unborn children in traffic incidents. Convictions can carry up to three additional years in prison on top of standard sentences for dangerous or negligent driving.

Dhareshwar, a qualified IT systems analyst, worked as a test analyst for Alscos uniforms, specialising in business application administration and support. Her untimely death has shocked both the local and Indian communities in Australia. Authorities are yet to confirm if her husband or young son suffered any injuries during the accident.

The tragic incident underscores concerns over speeding and the risks posed by inexperienced drivers in urban areas. Police continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the crash and urge caution to prevent further fatalities.

Trump repeats claim he stopped war between India, Pakistan

TPN Bureau | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated his long-standing claim that he "stopped a war between India and Pakistan," making the remark during a bilateral meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House. The statement, delivered in the Oval Office, comes amid heightened global attention on U.S. foreign policy in South Asia and Trump's repeated assertions of his role in defusing regional tensions.

Trump did not provide new details about the alleged intervention but framed it as an example of his administration's ability to prevent major global conflicts. The President has made similar claims in the past, often referencing periods of heightened tension between New Delhi and Islamabad, though neither country has publicly cor-



borated the extent of his involvement.

The meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman focused on strategic cooperation, regional security, and bilateral economic ties. However, Trump's remarks about India and Pakistan quickly drew attention, given the sen-

sitivity surrounding the two nuclear-armed neighbours and their long history of conflict.

The President's comments come at a time when South Asia remains geopolitically complex, with ongoing concerns about cross-border terrorism, ceasefire violations,

and diplomatic relations.

Analysts suggest that Trump's repeated emphasis on his role may be aimed at reinforcing his foreign policy credentials.

The White House did not issue any additional clarification, and neither the Indian nor Pakistani governments responded im-

mediately to the remarks.

The meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince also included discussions on defence cooperation, energy partnerships, and stability in the Middle East.

As one of Washington's closest regional allies, Saudi Arabia remains a key player

in U.S. strategic planning, and Tuesday's dialogue was part of broader efforts to strengthen ties.

Trump's comments are expected to generate debate, especially in South Asia, where narratives around diplomatic intervention remain politically sensitive.

Massive Fire in Japan Destroys 170 Homes, Forces Large-Scale Evacuations

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

A massive fire swept through a residential neighbourhood in Oita, southwestern Japan, destroying more than 170 homes and forcing over 170 residents to evacuate. The blaze, which began on Tuesday evening near a fishing port amid strong winds, continued burning for nearly 20 hours before authorities managed to bring it partially under control on Wednesday.

According to the Oita prefectural disaster response team, one person—an elderly man in his 70s—was reported missing, and firefighters later discovered a body believed to be his. A woman in her 50s sustained minor injuries during the incident. The fire also spread into nearby forested land, affecting approximately 12 acres, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) reported.



Efforts to contain the blaze involved a large-scale mobilisation of resources, including more than 200 firefigh-

ters, dozens of fire engines, and two UH-1 helicopters dispatched by the Ground Self-Defense Force. Despite

these efforts, the fire remained difficult to control due to strong winds that rapidly carried flames across densely packed wooden homes.

The affected area, located near Oita's mackerel fishing zone, is not close to the region's re-

nowned hot spring resorts or historic thatched-roof structures, but the damage to local residences and infrastructure has been extensive. Around 260 homes remained without electricity by Wednesday afternoon.

Television footage showed thick plumes of smoke rising over charred remains of houses, though flames had subsided by mid-day. Residents described the ordeal as overwhelming, with one woman telling Kyodo News that the fire "spread in the blink of an eye," leaving little time to gather belongings.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed her condolences on X and pledged full government assistance to affected families. Authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze and the factors that contributed to its rapid spread.

Close Yunus Aide Arrives In India Days After Sheikh Hasina's Death Sentence



TPN Correspondent | UN

Amid strained India-Bangladesh ties, National Security Adviser (NSA) Khalilur Rahman, a close aide of interim Bangladeshi

leader Muhammad Yunus, arrived in New Delhi to attend the 7th meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC). The visit comes days after former

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in exile in Delhi, was sentenced to death by Dhaka, marking one of the most significant engagements by a senior Bangladeshi

official since her government's fall in August.

Rahman's visit was officially at the invitation of India's NSA Ajit Doval. The two-

day CSC gathering will host NSAs from Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, with Seychelles participating as an observer and Malaysia invited as a guest. The conclave, established to strengthen regional security in the Indian Ocean, focuses on maritime safety, counterterrorism, cyber security, combatting transnational organized crime, and disaster relief coordination.

Observers in Delhi see Rahman's presence as a signal that dialogue continues between the two neighbours, despite concerns over Bangladesh's recent moves. Dhaka's plans to revive the Lalmirhat airbase, only 20 kilometres from India's Siliguri Corridor in West Bengal, have raised strategic alarms. Analysts note that recent visits by top Pakistani military officials to Bangladesh and statements from its

leadership indicate a tilt in Dhaka's security alignment, which India is closely monitoring.

Bangladesh officially became the fifth member of the CSC in 2024, joining India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives. Rahman, an influential figure in Yunus' administration, has been part of prior engagements with Pakistan, signaling the complexity of regional alliances.

India aims to use the CSC meeting to review ongoing initiatives and implement its 2026 Roadmap, promoting cooperation on security threats of common concern. While the conclave underscores the importance of multilateral dialogue, Rahman's visit highlights ongoing strategic sensitivities, with Delhi keen to balance engagement with vigilance in the context of evolving Bangladesh-Pakistan ties and recent political upheavals in Dhaka.

Govt Panel Plans New SEZ Norms to Boost Domestic Sales

New Delhi: A government panel is working on revised norms for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to help exporters tap into the domestic market amid rising challenges in overseas trade. The panel includes officials from the Commerce and Industry Ministry, NITI Aayog, and representatives from the export sector, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The move comes in response to growing concerns from SEZ units, particularly those entirely reliant on the US market, which have faced sudden tariff pressures making exports uncompetitive. Several units have reportedly requested the Commerce Ministry to de-note their SEZ status, though many exporters have so far continued operations despite incurring losses, hoping to maintain their US market presence.

SEZs in India benefit from tax incentives such as duty-free im-



ports and domestic procurement advantages. Official data for FY25 indicates that exports from India's 276 SEZ units totaled \$172 billion, while domestic sales accounted for only 2% of production. The limited domestic engagement has raised

concerns about underutilization of SEZ potential, especially when compared with China's SEZs, which have been instrumental in transforming manufacturing in that country.

In addition to market access issues, SEZs are

also facing challenges with low investments in research and development (R&D), which experts say is crucial for innovation and competitiveness. The revised norms under discussion aim to create greater flexibility for SEZ units, enabling

them to sell more products domestically without losing SEZ benefits, and encouraging investment in R&D to strengthen the sector.

Officials emphasized that the policy changes are intended to support exporters in diversifying markets, reducing

dependency on a single country, and enhancing overall manufacturing competitiveness. The panel is expected to finalize recommendations in the coming months, potentially reshaping the operational framework of SEZs in India.

Tata Projects, ASI Global Join Hands for Aircraft Maintenance Facilities



Tata Projects Ltd (TPL) and ASI Global have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly design and construct aircraft maintenance facilities in India, positioning themselves

as integrated solution providers for hangar and MRO infrastructure.

The alliance brings together Tata Projects' engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) exper-

tise with ASI Global's global experience in aircraft hangar design and fabrication.

Together, the companies aim to cater to growing demand from commercial airlines, third-party MRO op-

erators, business aircraft operators, and the defence sector.

Under the MoU, Tata Projects and ASI Global will jointly identify and pursue opportunities across India

for the development of hangars and related maintenance infrastructure. The partnership is expected to streamline project execution and provide end-to-end solutions for aviation clients, from design and engineering to construction.

Industry experts note that India's aviation sector is witnessing increased demand for modern maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facilities, driven by the expansion of commercial airlines and rising defence requirements. The collaboration between Tata Projects and ASI Global is seen as a timely move to strengthen domestic capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign infrastructure providers.

The MoU reflects a strategic effort to enhance India's aerospace infrastructure, supporting both civil and defence aviation growth. With the partnership in place, the companies are set to play a key role in shaping the country's MRO ecosystem while leveraging their combined technical and operational expertise.

Rupee Inches Up 2 Paise to 88.58 Against Dollar



Mumbai: The Indian rupee closed 2 paise higher at 88.58 against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, supported by buying momentum in domestic equities and softer global crude oil prices.

Forex traders noted that despite these domestic positives, gains were limited due to a firm U.S. dollar and continued foreign capital outflows. The dollar in-

dex, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.18% higher at 99.63.

Market participants also cited cautious in-

vestor sentiment ahead of developments on the proposed India-U.S. trade deal, which has been closely monitored by businesses and foreign investors alike.

"While the rupee saw

modest gains, broader global factors and the strength of the U.S. dollar kept any sharp appreciation in check," said a senior forex dealer.

Analysts expect the

rupee to remain sensitive to both domestic equity trends and international cues, including crude oil prices, dollar movement, and foreign fund flows, in the near term.

Zomato Set to Gain Bigger Nifty Share by 2030



Zomato is poised to strengthen its presence in India's Nifty 50 index as new-age digital companies are expected to dominate the market by 2030, according to market analyst Hiren VedVed highlighted that among the 50 companies currently in the index, only three—Trent, Bajaj Finance, and Zomato—are delivering profit growth exceeding 18% signaling strong fundamentals in a competitive market.

The growth trajectory of Zomato reflects a broader trend of digital and technology-driven companies gaining prominence in India's financial markets. Analysts believe that as consumer behavior increasingly shifts toward online platforms for food delivery, e-commerce, and digital services, companies like Zomato are well-positioned to capitalize on this transformation.

"Zomato's consistent revenue growth, expanding customer base, and innovation in delivery logistics make it a strong contender for an in-

creased weighting in the Nifty index over the next five years," Ved noted. He added that new-age companies with robust digital strategies are expected to gradually replace traditional businesses in the index as the economy evolves.

Financial experts also point out that Zomato's ability to maintain high profit margins amid rising operational costs and intense competition sets it apart from many peers. This trend underscores the growing influence of digital-first companies in shaping India's equity market landscape.

With the Nifty 50 representing India's top-performing companies, an increased share for Zomato would not only reflect investor confidence but also mark a significant milestone for digital enterprises in India's stock market. Analysts expect that by 2030, several digital companies, led by Zomato, could emerge as dominant players, reshaping the composition of India's key stock indices.

Record IPO Fundraising, Mixed Returns in 2025



The Indian IPO market is witnessing an unprecedented surge in 2025, with companies raising record amounts through public listings. So far this year, more than 90 firms have debuted on stock exchanges, collectively generating substantial capital from investors, signaling strong corporate confidence and investor interest.

Despite this fundraising boom, market performance for many newly listed companies has been uneven. Of the 90-plus IPOs, 42 are currently trading below their listing price, highlighting a striking contrast between record fundraising and post-listing returns. Analysts say this reflects the growing complexity of market dynamics, where investor enthusiasm for new listings does not always translate into sustained share price growth.

"While the capital raised is impressive, the fact that nearly half of the IPOs are underperforming underscores the need for investors to evaluate fundamentals carefully," said market strategist Anil Mehra. Factors such as sector-specific challenges, macroeconomic uncertainties, and company valuation gaps are contribut-

ing to this mixed performance.

The market's strong fundraising trend is fueled by a combination of pent-up liquidity, robust institutional interest, and favorable regulatory frameworks. Notably, sectors like technology, fintech, and renewable energy have attracted significant attention, with large subscription numbers driving over-subscribed listings. However, post-listing corrections in several high-profile IPOs have tempered investor optimism.

Experts caution that while 2025 marks a record year for IPO proceeds, retail and institutional investors must remain cautious and focus on long-term value rather than short-term gains. The paradox of record fundraising alongside mixed returns highlights the evolving nature of India's equity markets and signals a more discerning approach to IPO investment moving forward.

As the year progresses, market watchers will closely monitor whether these trends persist and how upcoming listings perform in an environment balancing record capital raising with selective stock performance.

Apple Leads India's Premium Smartphone Surge



India's smartphone market reached an all-time high in the third quarter of 2025, driven by strong demand for premium devices from Apple and Samsung, according to a new report by Counterpoint Research.

The overall market grew 5% year-over-year in Q3 2025, marking the highest quarterly value ever recorded. Analysts attribute this growth to a combination of festive season sales, attractive discounts, and a rise in consumer preference for higher-end smartphones.

Counterpoint's Monthly India Smartphone Tracker highlights that offline campaigns played a key role in boosting sales. Retailers offered easy financing options, trade-in deals, and pre-stocked inventory, encouraging buyers to upgrade their devices. Online channels, meanwhile, continued to see strong performance, particularly during festive promotions.

The premium smartphone segment, in particular, recorded a remarkable 29% year-over-year growth. Consumers are increasingly willing to invest in higher-value devices, reflecting a shift in purchasing

patterns from purely budget-conscious choices to premium options. This trend contributed to an 18% increase in the overall market value and a 13% rise in the average selling price (ASP).

Apple emerged as the dominant player in the premium segment, closely followed by Samsung, benefiting from new launches and aggressive marketing campaigns. The festive season, which coincided with significant discounts and product launches, amplified demand and helped both brands capture a larger share of India's growing smartphone market.

Industry experts note that India's smartphone market is evolving rapidly, with consumers showing greater interest in feature-rich devices, better cameras, and larger screens. This trend is likely to sustain the growth of premium smartphones in the coming quarters.

The report underscores that India is not only a high-volume market but is increasingly becoming a high-value market, making it a critical battleground for global smartphone makers.

Google Play Reveals Best Apps and Games of 2025 in India



Google has unveiled its Best of Play 2025 awards, highlighting the top apps and games on the Play Store in India. The recognition celebrates apps and games that combine local cultural relevance with innovative features, including artificial intelligence (AI), which is becoming increasingly central to user experiences.

The overall Best App of 2025 in India was awarded to District: Movies Events Dining, a ticketing and lifestyle platform owned by Zomato. In the games segment, CookieRun India: Running Game was named the Best Game, while also earning the title of Best Pick Up and Play Game.

Several other apps were recognized for their utility and creativity. Toonsutra, a webtoon and manga app, was named the Best Hidden Gem, while Daily Planner, a journaling platform, earned the Best Everyday Essential app title. Edits, an Instagram-focused app, was recognized as the Best for Fun, and invideo AI:

AI Video Generator won the Best Personal Growth App award, reflecting AI's growing role in the Indian digital ecosystem. According to Google, 69% of Indian users had their first interaction with AI through an app on Android devices.

Among trending apps, Instamart led the shopping category, while Seekho: Short Learning Videos and Adobe Firefly: AI Generator topped the education and art & design categories, respectively.

In gaming, aside from CookieRun India, Kamla, a horror survival game, received Best Indie Game, Real Cricket Swipe was named Best Made in India Game, Disney Speedstorm won Best Multi-Device Game, and 8 Pool Fever topped the multiplayer segment.

Google's awards highlight the growing appetite for apps and games that are locally relevant, engaging, and AI-enabled, marking a year of innovation and creativity on the Play Store in India.

X and ChatGPT Back Online After Cloudflare Outage



Several major online services, including Elon Musk-owned X, OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, and Perplexity, went offline for hours on Tuesday due to a global outage caused by Cloudflare, a leading web infrastructure company. The incident disrupted access to multiple websites worldwide, leaving millions of users unable to reach popular online platforms.

Cloudflare first reported an "internal service degradation" at 11:48 UTC (5:18 PM IST), noting that the issue affected a wide range of its clients. Users quickly took to outage tracking platforms such as Downdetector.com to report connectivity problems, confirming the widespread impact of the disruption.

By 8:12 PM IST, Cloudflare announced that a fix had been implemented and that monitoring was under-

way to ensure all affected services returned to normal. "The team is continuing to focus on restoring service post-fix. We are mitigating

several issues that remain post-deployment," the company said in an official update.

The outage comes

nearly a month after Amazon Web Services (AWS) experienced a massive disruption that also affected large portions of the inter-

net, highlighting the vulnerability of critical cloud infrastructure.

X, formerly known as Twitter, has been at

the center of public attention since its \$44 billion acquisition by Musk in 2022, which led to massive layoffs and a rebranding of the platform. While this outage was unrelated to X's internal operations, it added to ongoing frustrations among users who rely on the platform for real-time updates and communication.

With the issue resolved, all services, including X and ChatGPT, are now reportedly operating normally. Cloudflare continues to investigate the root cause and has assured users that measures are being taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The incident serves as a reminder of the heavy reliance of the internet ecosystem on a few key cloud providers and the potential ripple effects when their systems encounter technical failures.

87-Year-Old Ahmedabad Woman Rides City with Sister in Sholay Style



Age is no barrier for 87-year-old Mandakini Shah from Ahmedabad, who has captured hearts with her adventurous spirit. Known for her love of freedom and thrill, Mandakini, along with her younger sister Usha, continues to ride around the city on their scooter in what social media users fondly call "Sholay style."

Mandakini learned to ride a scooter at the age of 62, proving that it's never too late to embrace independence. When asked why she rides at 87, she simply replies, "Why not?" Her journey reflects a lifetime of responsibility and self-reliance. Eldest among six siblings, she grew up watching her mother work tirelessly while her father, a freedom fighter, struggled to establish a business post-independence. These experiences instilled in her the val-

ues of hard work and self-confidence.

At just 16, Mandakini began her career as a Montessori teacher at Bal Mandir, despite facing challenges with English. Later, she devoted herself to social welfare, traveling extensively to engage with women's

groups, panchayats, and community organizations, educating women about their rights. During these travels, she mastered riding a moped, a jeep, and eventually a second-hand scooter, which remains her preferred mode of city exploration.

Mandakini's story is more than just about riding a scooter—it's a celebration of living life fully and fearlessly. She emphasizes that age should not limit one's aspirations, and her motto is to "live freely, not just as hard as I worked, but even more." Her bond with Usha adds an extra layer of joy to her adventures, showing that courage, independence, and companionship know no age.

Her inspiring journey continues to resonate online, with many praising her confidence, zest for life, and refusal to let age define her limits.

Chinese Woman Survives 35-Day Wilderness Challenge, Loses 14 Kg



A 25-year-old Chinese woman, Zhao Tiezhu, has stunned the public after surviving a grueling 35-day wilderness survival competition on an island in Zhejiang Province, shedding 14 kilograms in the process.

The young contestant also won a bronze medal and a cash prize of 7,500 yuan (Rs 88,608) for her extraordinary endurance, reported South China Morning Post.

The competition, which began on October 1, tested participants' physical and mental limits. Zhao faced extreme challenges, including 40-degree heat, insect bites, sunburns, and tough living conditions. Despite these hardships, she thrived by relying on her survival

skills, hunting and foraging for food. Her diet included crabs, sea urchins, abalone, and notably, 50 rats, which she hunted, cleaned, and roasted. Zhao described the rats as surprisingly tasty and even preserved some

rat jerky to eat after the contest.

After a typhoon struck the island on November 4, Zhao decided to leave the competition, satisfied with her achievement. "The outcome far exceeded my expectations, and I look forward to participating in more survival games," she said. Her weight dropped from 85 kilograms to 71 kilograms, a byproduct of her protein-rich, self-sourced diet and constant physical activity.

The event is part of a growing trend in China, where survival competitions are gaining popularity. Organizer Long Wu emphasized that such feats should not be attempted without proper medical and logistical support. Meanwhile, two male participants continue to compete for the first prize of 50,000 yuan (Rs 6,20,168). Similar survival challenges, including a high-profile competition on Seven Star Mountain in Hunan Province with a grand prize of 200,000 yuan (US\$28,000), are being streamed online, attracting a large audience.

Zhao's journey highlights the extreme lengths some are willing to go for adventure, endurance, and personal achievement, turning a survival challenge into a remarkable story of grit and determination.

Prannoy, Ayush Shetty and Mannepalli Advance to Second Round at Australian Open

Indian shuttlers made a strong start at the USD 475,000 Australian Open Super 500, with HS Prannoy, Ayush Shetty and Tharun Mannepalli progressing to the second round after hard-fought wins in their men's singles opening matches on Wednesday.

Prannoy, the tournament's runner-up in 2023, showcased resilience after a shaky start. The world No. 85 Yohanes Saut Marcellino dominated the opening game, but Prannoy bounced back in impressive fashion to seal a 6-21, 21-12, 21-17 victory in 57 minutes. The 33-year-old, who won bronze at both the Asian Games and the 2023 World Championships, will face eighth seed Alwi Farhan of Indonesia in the next round.

World No. 32 Ayush Shetty continued his upward trajectory this season. Fresh off his maiden Super 300 title at the US Open, the Karnataka shuttler eased past Canada's Sam Yuan 21-11, 21-15 in just 33 minutes. The 20-year-old, a bronze-medallist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, will



now await the winner of the match between fourth seed Kodai Naraoka and Canada's Xiadong Sheng.

Tharun Mannepalli also kept India's momentum going with a gritty three-game win over Denmark's Magnus Johannessen. After

taking the first game comfortably, Mannepalli faltered in the second but held his nerve to clinch a 21-13, 17-21, 21-19 victory after 66 minutes. The 2023 National Games gold-medallist will next meet fifth seed Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese

Taipei.

However, it was heartbreak for Kiran George, who pushed sixth seed Kentaro Nishimoto to the limit before losing 21-11, 22-24, 17-21. Nishimoto, who recently defeated Lakshya Sen on his way to the Japan Mas-

ters final, proved too experienced in the closing stages.

Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth are scheduled to play their opening matches later in the day as India continues its campaign in Sydney.

Rohit Sharma Slips to No. 2 as Daryl Mitchell Claims Top Spot in ODI Rankings



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma's brief stint as the No. 1 ODI batter has come to an end, with New Zealand's

Daryl Mitchell overtaking him in the latest ICC rankings released on Wednesday. Mitchell climbed to the top

on the back of a superb century against the West Indies in the opening ODI of their ongoing series, becoming

only the second New Zealander after Glenn Turner (1979) to achieve the feat.

Mitchell now has 782 rating points, narrowly edging past Rohit, who sits at 781 after holding the top position for roughly three weeks. The Kiwi all-rounder's rise highlights his consistency across formats, adding to New Zealand's proud legacy of world-class batting talent, including Martin Crowe, Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor, and others who previously featured in the elite top-five.

Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran also slipped one place to third, while India

continues to maintain a strong presence in the top 10 with Shubman Gill (4th), Virat Kohli (5th), and Shreyas Iyer (8th). The latest update

also saw notable gains for Pakistan players following their 3-0 series sweep against Sri Lanka. Mohammad Rizwan rose five spots to joint 22nd, and Fakhar Zaman climbed to 26th

among ODI batters. In the

bowling category, Abrar Ahmed jumped 11 positions to ninth, while Haris Rauf moved up to 23rd, though Afghanistan's Rashid Khan continues to dominate as the top ODI bowler.

The conclusion of the India-South Africa Test in Kolkata brought fresh movement in the Test rankings. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma entered the top five for the first time after his fighting 55*. Shubman Gill rose to 11th despite sustaining an injury, while Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto climbed to 34th after a century against Ireland.

In bowling, Jasprit Bumrah retained his No. 1 Test ranking, supported by teammate Kuldeep Yadav rising to 13th and Ravindra Jadeja to 15th. South Africa's Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer also made gains, with Jansen additionally moving to fifth among Test all-rounders.

Naomi Osaka Pulls Out of Auckland Event to Represent Japan at United Cup



Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from the ASB Classic in Auckland, opting instead to represent Japan at the United Cup as she shifts her preparation for the 2026 Australian Open to Australia. The four-time Grand Slam champion had earlier committed to beginning her 2026 season in New Zealand, where she impressed earlier this year by reaching the final. However, plans changed after she informed tournament director Nicolas Lamperin of her decision to compete in the mixed-team event.

Osaka's withdrawal is a setback for the Auckland tournament, which had banked on her star presence to draw global attention. The ASB Classic has been a meaningful stop for Osaka, offering her strong early-season competition and a chance to build rhythm ahead of the Melbourne Slam. Her run to the final earlier this year had particularly boosted the event's profile.

According to sources, Osaka communicated directly with Lamperin, expressing that she would now begin her season in Austral-

ia, where Japan's United Cup campaign will serve as her buildup for the year's first major. The United Cup, featuring combined ATP and WTA national contests, provides top-tier match play in a team environment — a format Osaka has previous-

ly said helps her ease into the season mentally and physically.

While Osaka's change of schedule aligns with her renewed focus on major tournaments, it also signals Japan's intention to field a

strong squad in the United Cup. Her participation is expected to significantly strengthen the nation's prospects in the competition.

Despite the disappointment for Auckland organizers, the ASB Classic is still expected to feature a com-

Gill to Travel to Guwahati for 2nd Test Despite Injury Concerns



that Gill will remain under the supervision of the board's medical staff, and a final call on his availability for the second Test will be taken closer to the match.

Given Gill's doubtful fitness, the selectors have already initiated contingency plans. All-rounder Nitish Reddy has been withdrawn from the ongoing India A series against South Africa A in Rajkot. The Andhra cricketer reached Kolkata on Monday but did not participate in Tuesday's training session, indicating that he is being considered as a standby option.

Reddy, a right-handed batter with a Test century to his name, could make his way into the playing XI if Gill is ruled out. His inclusion would add depth to India's middle order and provide a useful additional bowling option.

With the series hanging in the balance, India's squad decisions in the coming hours will be crucial as they prepare to bounce back in Guwahati.

Germany Seal 2026 World Cup Spot With Dominant 6-0 Rout of Slovakia



Germany delivered their most commanding performance of the qualifying campaign, crushing Slovakia 6-0 in Leipzig on Monday to secure their place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Captain Joshua Kimmich said the team "wanted to send a message," and they did exactly that with a ruthless display that put them atop Group A and assured direct qualification. Slovakia, finishing second, will head to the play-offs.

Leroy Sané struck twice, Nick Woltemade continued his remarkable scoring streak, and debutant Assan Ouedraogo added a memorable late goal as Germany raced to a 4-0 lead by half-time and never looked back. Woltemade opened the scoring in the 18th minute, heading home to register his fourth goal in three matches. Serge Gnabry doubled the advantage soon after, finishing coolly inside the box.

Florian Wirtz, under pressure at Liverpool, produced a brilliant spell late in the first half, setting up both of Sané's goals within five minutes. His creativ-

ity broke Slovakia's resilience and sent the home crowd into a frenzy. After the break, substitute Ridle Baku smashed in Germany's fifth shortly after coming on, before 17-year-old Ouedraogo scored on debut in front of his home fans, capping a dream night.

Coach Julian Nagelsmann praised the squad's intensity, calling the win a reflection of "incredible team spirit." The result gives Germany a high seed for the World Cup draw, reducing the risk of an early matchup with another top contender.

The emphatic victory also marks Germany's fifth consecutive win, brightening the end of a qualification phase in which they often appeared efficient rather than dominant. With key players like Kai Havertz, Jamal Musiala, Antonio Rüdiger, and Marc-André ter Stegen set to return from injury, Nagelsmann will take confidence from his side's best performance of the campaign as they look ahead to 2026.

Karthi's Vaa Vaathiyaar Set for Telugu Release as Annagaru Vostaru



Karthi, one of the few Tamil stars who enjoys a strong and consistent fan base in the Telugu states, is gearing up for an exciting new release. After his impactful appearance in Nani's HIT 3, which laid the foundation for the next installment of the franchise, the actor is now returning to Telugu theatres with a full-fledged release.

Studio Green officially announced that Karthi's upcoming Tamil film Vaa Vaathiyaar will hit Telugu screens under the title Annagaru Vostaru. The announcement was accompanied by a striking look poster that has already generated solid curiosity among fans. While the team has yet to finalize an exact release date, they have confirmed a December 2025 arrival, setting expectations for a strong end-of-year theatrical outing.

The film is directed by Nalan Kumarasamy, known for his unique storytelling style and sharp character-driven narratives. Pairing opposite

Karthi is Krithi Shetty, who continues to balance projects across South Indian industries. The film's music is being composed by Santhosh Narayanan, whose soundtracks often become chart-toppers and significantly shape the mood of the narrative.

Meanwhile, fans of Karthi have another reason to celebrate. His blockbuster film Awara, which enjoyed tremendous success during its original release, is slated for a grand re-release in Telugu on November 22, 2025. With nostalgia-driven re-releases proving popular in recent years, Awara is expected to draw strong crowds once again.

With Annagaru Vostaru slated for December and Awara returning to theatres this month, Karthi is set to enjoy a strong presence in the Telugu market. More announcements and promotional updates are expected soon as the team ramps up preparations for the big release.

Balayya Goes Pan-India for Akhanda 2



Telugu superstar Balakrishna Nandamuri, known for his massive fan base in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, is now aiming to expand his reach across pan-India with Akhanda 2. After the pan-India success of Akhanda, Balakrishna has garnered fans in North India, and for the first time, he is actively engaging in a nationwide promotional campaign.

Speaking at the recent song release event, Balakrishna said, "Akhanda 2 is not just a Telugu cinema. We are holding functions in Karnataka and Chennai too. The North audiences were mind blown when we released the teaser and the title song." This marks a significant shift for the veteran actor, who has typically relied on his Telugu fan base for the success of his films.

The first-of-its-kind pan-India promotional effort reflects Balakrishna's confidence in the film and his trust in director Boyapati Srinu. Their earlier collaborations, including Simha, Legend, and the first Akhanda, were major hits, reinforcing the duo's reputation for delivering blockbusters.

Balakrishna also acknowledged the growing potential of his films in northern markets. His previous films have already shown strong box-office numbers outside Telugu-speaking states, and Akhanda 2 is being positioned to capitalize on that momentum. The actor's direct involvement in promotions across multiple states signals a strategic approach to further increase the film's reach and appeal.

Industry insiders note that such pan-India campaigns are usually led by younger actors or those with established national appeal, making Balakrishna's proactive approach particularly noteworthy. By personally engaging in promotional activities outside his traditional stronghold, he is not only boosting anticipation for Akhanda 2 but also paving the way for broader recognition of Telugu cinema nationwide.

With the teaser and title song already receiving positive responses, Balakrishna's pan-India push could set a new benchmark for how regional stars connect with audiences across India.

Diesel Sets OTT Premiere Date; Telugu Version Also Confirmed



Harish Kalyan's recent Tamil action thriller Diesel, which marked the directorial debut of Shambu Muthusamy, is gearing up for its digital release after its underwhelming theatrical run. Despite the buzz around its action-packed narrative, the film opened to mixed reviews from critics and struggled to make a mark at the Tamil Nadu box office, overshadowed by simultaneous releases such as Dude and Bison.

The latest update brings good news for those who missed the film in theatres. Diesel is set to premiere on OTT platforms Aha Tamil and Sun NXT starting November 21, just five weeks after its theatrical debut. Notably, Sun NXT will also offer the film in Telugu from the same date, expanding its reach to a wider South Indian audience.

The film stars Har-

ish Kalyan, known for opting for unconventional scripts, in a rugged action-oriented role. Athulya Ravi plays the female lead, adding emotional depth to the story, while Vivek Prasanna steps in as the antago-

nist. The supporting cast includes Vinay Rai, Sai Kumar, Ananya, Karunas, and Ramesh Thilak, each contributing to the film's dramatic tension.

With its OTT launch

around the corner, in-

Diesel hopes to follow that trajectory.

Industry watchers are curious to see whether Diesel can find renewed momentum among digital viewers. Many films that performed modestly in theatres have gone on to enjoy significant success online, and

Whether the action thriller can turn its digital release into a second innings of success remains to be seen, but its arrival on Aha Tamil and Sun NXT has certainly piqued interest among fans of the genre.

Shriya, Rukmini Fight Back Against Fake Profiles



Actresses Shriya Saran and Rukmini Vasanth have recently faced a growing cyber threat: fake accounts impersonating them

online. The trend, which has become increasingly common in the film industry, highlights the risks of social media impersona-

tion and the vigilance required by both celebrities and fans.

Rukmini Vasanth was the first to raise the alarm. She shared a

post exposing a random number being used to pretend to be her. Firm and clear, Rukmini warned her followers not to re-

spond to any messages from the number and urged anyone in doubt to contact her or her team directly. "This is cybercrime, and we are already taking action," she stressed, emphasizing the seriousness of the issue. Her post served both as a warning and a call for caution, highlighting how impersonators can exploit trust and familiarity online.

Shriya Saran faced a similar issue shortly after. She posted a screenshot of a fake profile claiming to be her and did not mince words, calling the impersonator an "idiot."

Mixing frustration with humor, Shriya remarked on the absurdity of someone wasting time creating a fake profile. She even noted a silver lining: the impersonator was messaging people she genuinely admires and hopes to work with,

adding a lighthearted touch to her warning. Both actresses' re-

sponses underline the need for vigilance without escalating panic, keeping fans informed while addressing the issue with a personal touch.

The surge in fake profiles comes as social media continues to be an essential part of celebrities' engagement with fans. Impersonators often exploit the trust of followers, which can lead to scams, misinformation, or reputational harm. By publicly exposing these accounts, Shriya and Rukmini are taking proactive steps to protect themselves and their audiences.

The episode is a reminder of the growing cyber risks celebrities face and the importance of awareness among fans. Shriya and Rukmini's candid responses highlight that while online impersonation is frustrating, transparency, humor, and vigilance remain the best tools against it.

'Varanasi' Globetrotter Event Hits YouTube

Director S.S. Rajamouli and actor Mahesh Babu recently hosted the much-anticipated 'Globetrotter' event for their upcoming film Varanasi at Ramoji Film City. The event, organized to celebrate and promote the project, attracted widespread attention from fans and the media alike.

Initially, the ceremony was exclusively streamed on the OTT platform Jio Hotstar, giving subscribers a first look at the festivities. However, the film team has now released the full video on YouTube, making it accessible to a global audience.

With the YouTube release, viewers from around the world can now experience the Globetrotter event firsthand. Fans have shared clips, reactions, and commentary online, turning the event into a trending topic across platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

announcements related to the movie.

The event reportedly featured insights into the making of Varanasi, glimpses of the star-studded cast, and discussions between Mahesh Babu and Rajamouli about the film's vision and production. The digital release of the event has generated excitement among fans eager for updates on the collaboration, as both the director and actor are known for their blockbuster projects.

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Varanasi, being one

of the most awaited films in Indian cinema, has already created significant buzz. The Globetrotter event, now widely available, has amplified anticipation further, showcasing the growing trend of combining traditional film promotions with digital engagement to reach a broader audience.

continues to excite

fans nationwide, promising a grand cinematic experience when Varanasi finally releases.

