



37 Maoists Surrender in Telangana

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In a significant setback for the banned CPI (Maoist), a total of 37 underground cadres surrendered before the Telangana Police on Saturday. The surrendering group included three high-ranking members: Koyyada Sambaiiah alias Azad and Appasi Narayana alias Ramesh, both from the Telangana State Committee (SCM), and Muchaki Somada alias Erra from the Dandakarnya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC). The surrender also involved th

ree Divisional Committee Members (DVCM), nine Area Committee Members (ACMs), and 22 regular party members. Highlighting the seriousness of the dissociation, the cadres also handed over a cache of eight firearms, including one AK-47 rifle, two SLRs, four .303 rifles, and one G3 rifle, along with 343 live ammunition of various calibre s. Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy stated that the surrender was a direct and positive response to the appeal made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on October 21, urging

Maoist members to renounce extremism, join the mainstream, and participate in the development and welfare activities of the state. The DGP attributed the decision of the cadres to rejoin civil society to the sustained pressure from security forces, growing ideological divergences concerning the movement's relevance, and deepening internal rifts within the leadership. The cadres reportedly chose to prioritize their health and family and resolved to lead a peaceful, dignified life by availing themselves of the rehabilitation and

reintegration measures offered by the Telangana Government. The surrendered Maoists were immediately handed over cash rewards for their rehabilitation, totaling 1,41,05,000 distributed via demand drafts/cheques. The SCMs received a reward of 20 lakh each, DVCMs 5 lakh, ACMs 4 lakh, and party members 1 lakh each. Additionally, they will receive further benefits as per the Telangana Government's rehabilitation policy. In accordance with the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines, they will also re

ceive additional rewards for surrendering their firearms (e.g., 4 lakh for the AK-47, 2 lakh for each SLR). DGP Shivadhar Reddy termed the mass surrender as a significant moral victory for the holistic strategy of the Telangana Police against the CPI (Maoist). He noted that 465 underground cadres, including two Central Committee Members, have surrendered in 2025, and reiterated the appeal to the remaining 59 Telangana-native underground cadres to return to the mainstream and contribute to the state's progress.

Kadiyam Srihari Gets Speaker's Notice on Defection Plea

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Telangana Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has issued a notice to MLA Kadiyam Srihari regarding a disqualification petition filed against him by the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi). The plea alleges that the MLA has violated party norms by switching allegiance to the ruling Congress party. The Speaker directed Srihari to submit his response to the notice by November 23; however, official sources confirmed that the MLA has since requested an extension of time to prepare and submit his reply. Kadiyam Srihari is one of ten BRS MLAs against whom the party has filed similar disqualification petitions alleging defection to the Congress party, which now holds power in the state. The current action by the Speaker follows a strong directive from the Supreme Court. On November 17, the Supreme Court issued a contempt notice to the Telangana Speaker for failing to comply with its earlier order. A bench led by Chief Justice B. R. Gavai had previously instructed the Assembly Speaker on July 31 to decide on the disqualification pleas



against the ten BRS MLAs within a strict three-month period. The Supreme Court bench expressed severe disapproval of the non-compliance, characterizing the failure to follow its earlier directions as the "grossest kind of contempt." Following this strong reprimand, the Court issued notices not only to the Speaker but also to other relevant parties regarding the contempt petition filed by the BRS leaders. The bench also addressed a separate plea filed on behalf of the Speaker's office, which requested an eight-week extension to deliver decisions on the pending disqualification pleas. In the latest hearing on November 17, the Supreme Court posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks. Meanwhile, lawyers

representing the Speaker's office stated that the hearing on four disqualification pleas has been completed, and in three other cases, the recording of evidence has concluded. The political significance of Kadiyam Srihari's defection is underscored by his family's recent political move: his daughter, Kadiyam Kavya, was elected as a Congress Lok Sabha member from Warangal in the 2024 general elections. The Speaker's compliance under the pressure of a Supreme Court contempt notice signals a potential acceleration of the disqualification process for the BRS MLAs who have defected, an outcome that could significantly alter the political composition of the Telangana Assembly.

Telangana Finalises Local Body Reservation Rules

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The Telangana State Government has released G.O. Number 46 to finalize the reservations for Sarpanch and Ward Members in the upcoming local body elections. The key guidelines within this G.O. have been formulated to adhere strictly to the 50% limit mandated by the Supreme Court, ensuring that the total reservations for SC, ST, and BC categories do not exceed this threshold. A primary objective of the new guidelines is to ensure equal opportunities for all communities by implementing a rotation system for SC, ST, BC, and Women reservations.

The G.O. specifies different bases for determining reservations:

Ward Members: SC, ST, and BC reservations for Ward Members will be determined based on the 2024 Social, Economic, Educational, Employment, and Caste Survey (SEEPCE). Sarpanch Positions: SC and ST res



ervations for Sarpanch posts will rely on the 2011 Census data, while BC reservations will be based on the data from the 2024 Caste Survey. BC Quota: Under the new guidelines, the reservation quota for the Backward Classes (BCs) in both Sarpanch and Ward positions is fixed at 23%. Tribal Areas: All Sarpanch and Ward Member seats will be reserved entirely for STs in Gram Panchayats where the ST population is 100%.

Following the issuance of this G.O., the next crucial steps involve the District Collectors and Election Officers completing the reservation process in compliance with these guidelines and submitting their reports to the Panchayat Raj Department. The government is aiming to finalize thi

s process promptly, especially before the next hearing on the reservation matter in the High Court on November 24. Once the reservation finalization is complete, the State Election Commission is expected to announce the election schedule, with the notification likely to be released during the first week of December. The simultaneous reliance on the 2011 Census for SC/ST Sarpanch posts and the 2024 Caste Survey for BC reservations is a key feature, demonstrating the government's effort to balance constitutional requirements with updated social data. This systematic approach aims to ensure a fair and equitable allocation of seats, setting the stage for the democratic exercise of local body elections across Telangana.

iBomma Kingpin's Global Links Under Probe

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The police investigation into Ravi, the alleged operator of the massive film piracy platform 'iBomma', is continuing from all angles after his arrest, focusing on the sheer scale of the operation that troubled the film industry and police for six years. Investigators are attempting to determine if the scale of the operation—involving hundreds of agents globally, links with gaming app operators, over 100 websites, and 21,000 pirated films—could truly be managed by one person, or if a larger network is operating behind the scenes. During the second day of his five-day custody on Friday, police reportedly extracted key information from Ravi, particularly concerning his operational links in the UK, Switzerland, and the

Netherlands. It was discovered that Ravi predominantly purchased pirated movies from Tamil websites. He is estimated to have run the piracy racket brazenly, establishing an office in the Caribbean Islands and utilizing the aid of technical experts (tekkies) based in the UK. Ravi's business model involved obtaining copies of new films, often recorded with cell phones in theaters, from the Tamil websites. He then used specialized software to convert these low-quality recordings into HD quality before uploading them to his network of websites. Ravi revealed that the massive revenue generated from advertisements for betting apps was used to finance the purchase of the pirated films. The police established that the website management and online transactions were handled by teams operating out of the UK.



To successfully evade detection, Ravi confessed to acquiring a foreign citizenship and obtaining a driver's license, Pan Card, and bank accounts under the false name of Prahlad Kumar. He also disclosed that his office in the Caribbean Islands employed 20 staff members. The investigation also uncovered personal details about Ravi's life, including a difficult childhood with separated parents, struggling with

poverty during his job search in Mumbai after completing his B.Sc. in Computers, and subsequent marital separation despite having an eight-year-old daughter. He reportedly told the police that his drive to earn money was fueled by these bitter experiences. The police noted that while they have shut down the 'iBomma' and 'Bappam' websites, Ravi had taken the precaution of linking his uploaded films to other

piracy sites (gateways). This has led to the recent discovery that clicking the old links can still redirect users to over 50 other piracy sites, predominantly operating from Tamil Nadu. Furthermore, police are now assessing whether cyber fraudsters are using the 'iBomma' platform for broader criminal activities, as initially, it was thought to be limited to betting app advertisements.

Vijayawada Family's Udaipur Wedding Goes Viral as Donald Trump Jr Joins the Party

Vijayawada:

A grand wedding hosted by Vijayawada-born US Pharma tycoon Raj (Rama Raju) Mantena turned into one of the most talked-about events in the country after Donald Trump Jr. arrived at the celebrations and was seen dancing alongside top Bollywood stars. Trump Jr. and his girl-

friend Bettina Anderson became the unexpected highlights of the extravagant Bollywood Night at the City Palace, where they grooved to popular tracks with Ranveer Singh. Ranveer even pulled Bettina on stage to dance to his hit 'Jhumka' from Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. Mantena — now an Orlando-based billionaire and CEO of Ingenus Pharmaceuticals — is

hosting the three-day celebrations for his daughter Netra's wedding to tech entrepreneur Vamsi Gadiraju. But it's the high-profile presence of Trump Jr., Hollywood icons, and Bollywood A-listers that has pushed the Vijayawada businessman's family wedding into global chatter. The star-packed festivities have seen dazzling performances from

m Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Janhvi Kapoor, and Shahid Kapoor, along with a lively segment hosted by Karan Johar. Hollywood diva Jennifer Lopez arrived on Friday night to a traditional welcome at The Leela Palace, while Justin Bieber is expected to perform at the Hollywood Night at Manak Chowk. The celebrations are spread across Udaipur's most iconic venues — The Leela Palace, Taj Lake Palace, Zenana Mahal, and the Jagmandir Island Palace, where the main wedding rituals will take place on November 23.

Netra Mantena, daughter of Padmaja and Raj Mantena, is heir to a global pharma empire with R&D centres in the US, Switzerland, and India. Groom Vamsi Gadiraju, a Columbia University

graduate and co-founder of Superorder, was featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 this year. With celebrities, billionaires, and international VIPs descending on the lake city — and Trump Jr.'s dance videos dominating social media — the wedding of Vijayawada-born Raj Mantena's daughter has become one of India's most buzzworthy events of the year.





CM Directs Grand Preparations for Telangana Rising Global Summit

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Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a special meeting with CMO officials on Saturday afternoon to issue directives for the grand preparations of the Telangana Rising Global Summit, scheduled for December 8 and 9. The summit is set to take place in a vast ground in the Future City area. The Chief Minister instructed officials to organize the two-day event not just as a summit, but as a celebration marking the two-year anniversary of the Praja Government coming to power. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, CMO Chief Secretary Seshadri, and other CMO officials. The CM emphasized that the Global Summit should be a visually appealing event of international standards, attracting attention worldwide. He instructed officials to erect a huge stage



in the spacious ground at Future City, reflecting the celebration of two years of achievement. The schedule is strategically divided: the first day (December 8) will be dedicated to showcasing the success of the government's initiatives and schemes, ensuring a festive atmosphere. The second day (December 9) will be centered on un-

veiling the "Telangana Rising 2047 Document," which outlines the state's future vision and plans. In the same venue, the CM mandated round table meetings to showcase Telangana's industrial policy and its priority on investments to the global community. He also advised all government departments to prepare compelling audio-video

presentations and displays detailing their future goals.

The Chief Minister directed officials to specifically invite prominent national and international personalities, as well as renowned industrialists from all sectors. He stressed the importance of ensuring adequate accommodation and highest security for

all visiting guests, ensuring no shortcomings in the arrangements. He mandated that all departments work in coordination to make the event a success. The CM emphasized that all departments, which are key players in transforming Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, must participate actively in the summit. He alerted officials to conduct an in-depth study of every item to be included in the Rising Document. Starting from November 25, the CM will hold a series of review meetings with concerned departments on the topics included in the document, which aims to guide the state's development and the people's quality of life. The document's drafting is already informed by public opinion, suggestions, and the foresight of experts; the final version will integrate the valuable advice from the upcoming departmental reviews. (Word Count: 399)

Transforming Education Is Telangana Government's Core Mission: Minister Sridhar Babu



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Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu stated on Saturday that bringing transformative change to the education system remains a core mission of the State Government. Speaking as the Chief Guest at the JNTUH Global Alumni Meet – 2025 held at the JNTUH Auditorium in Kukatpally, the Minister emphasized the state's commitment to prioritizing skilling, re-skilling, and upskilling its youth. This focus is aimed at preparing them as future-ready human resources for emerging global markets and the demands of modern technology-driven industries. Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted the government's dedication to according top priority to both education and healthcare. Simultaneously, he noted that the state is actively strengthening an ecosystem that aims to position Telangana

as a leader in key emerging technologies, specifically mentioning fields such as quantum computing, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence (AI). In a major announcement, the Minister revealed that the State will soon launch the Telangana AI Innovation Hub, a project developed in collaboration with international experts, designed to advance research and innovation in AI.

Urging the students and alumni to maintain a strong connection to their origins, he stated a philosophical tenet: "No matter how high we rise, we must never forget where we come from. Giving back to society is a responsibility that comes with gratitude." He linked the sincere fulfillment of duties to the power of individuals to demand progress and accountability from leadership. The Minister also issued a challenge to the JNTUH alumni network, calling upon them to take the lead in estab-

lishing a Centre of Excellence in AI, quantum computing, and cybersecurity. Furthermore, he encouraged the alumni to develop research clusters, international mentorship networks, innovation funding avenues, and a Global Alumni Council, assuring them of the State Government's full support for these initiatives. Addressing the current students, he advised them to set their sights on becoming job creators rather than job seekers. He concluded by stressing the importance of acquiring practical exposure and developing problem-solving abilities alongside academic learning, as these skills are essential for driving innovation-led growth. The event was attended by high-ranking educational officials, including Telangana State Council of Higher Education Chairman Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, JNTUH Vice-Chancellor Prof. T. Kishan Kumar Reddy, and other senior faculty members.

President Concludes Telangana Visit, Heads to Puttaparthi

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

President Droupadi Murmu successfully concluded her visit to Telangana on Saturday and departed for Puttaparthi in neighboring Andhra Pradesh. The President was seen off at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, and other prominent leaders. The departure marks the end of her official engagements in the state, which included a significant cultural event on the previous day.

On Friday, the President had inaugurated the second edition of the 'Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav' (Indian Art Festival) at the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad, which serves as one of the Presidential Retreats. This cultural festival brings together the rich diversity of India's art forms, and its hosting in Telangana was a significant event for the state, as highlighted by Minister Seethakka's speech during the inauguration.

Following her departure from Telangana, the President's itinerary includes attending the birth centenary celebrations of the late spiritual leader Sri



Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, later on Saturday. This transition highlights the blend of official duties and participation in important cultural and spiritual events that characterize the President's travels. The seamless coordination of the visit, from the welcoming of dignitaries to the official departure, underscores the preparedness of the Telangana state administration. The presence of the Governor and the Chief Minister at the airport for the send-off reflects the high importance accorded to the presiden-

tial visit by the state government. The Rashtrapati Nilayam, where the cultural festival was held, holds historical significance as a symbol of national unity and a place where the President conducts official business outside of New Delhi. The President's participation in the birth centenary celebrations of a revered spiritual leader like Sri Sathya Sai Baba emphasizes the importance of recognizing figures who have made significant contributions to humanitarian and spiritual causes in India.

Mandatory Display of PvPI QR Code and Toll-Free Number for Drug Reporting



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The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, issued an important press note informing all Retail Medical Shops / Pharmacies and Wholesale Medical Shops, as well as the general public, about a nationwide initiative to enhance patient safety and pharmacovigilance. As part of this effort, the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) has mandated the display of a designated QR Code and Toll-Free Number at all medical shops for the purpose of reporting Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) by the public.

This directive is crucial for strengthening the drug safety monitoring system in the country. An Adverse Drug Reaction is any unwanted or harmful reaction experienced by a patient after taking a medicine, and prompt reporting is essential for identifying potential safety issues with pharmaceutical products. The DCA's announcement underscores the commitment to ensuring that members of the public have readily

accessible tools to report such adverse events. The public is specifically requested to report any adverse event they experience or suspect after taking a medicine by utilizing the two designated modes: either by scanning the PvPI QR Code displayed prominently at the medical shops or by calling the provided PvPI toll-free number. This proactive measure ensures a standardized, accessible, and user-friendly mechanism for pharmacovigilance reporting at the consumer level, making it easier for citizens to contribute to the nation's drug safety database. The involvement of the PvPI, a national centre for monitoring drug safety, highlights the significance of this mandate. The display of these resources will serve as a constant reminder to consumers about their role in reporting drug side effects, thereby creating a collaborative environment between regulatory bodies, medical shops, and the public to monitor and ensure the safety of medicines sold and consumed in Telangana.

High-Level Committee Formed to Address Sugarcane Farmers' Issues



TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced on Saturday that the government will constitute a high-level committee to conduct an in-depth study of the challenges faced by sugarcane farmers and recommend suitable solutions. The Minister made this announcement after holding a detailed review meeting at the Secretariat with sugarcane farmers, industry representatives, and Chairpersons of Sugarcane Development Councils (CDCs).

Minister Sridhar Babu acknowledged that the government has taken serious note of the steady decline in sugarcane cultivation area in Telangana. He assured the attendees of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's commitment to resolving the issues facing the state's sugar industry. To examine the key concerns raised during the meeting and formulate a clear action plan, the Minister announced

that the committee will be headed by the Special Chief Secretary of the IT & Industries Department. Its members will include officials from relevant departments and representatives from sugar mills. A crucial part of the committee's mandate will be to study the incentives and benefits being offered to sugarcane farmers in other states and submit its report at the earliest to inform state policy.

The meeting highlighted several farmer demands, including the request to extend the 500-per-quintal bonus currently given to fine rice to sugarcane as well, which the Minister assured would be placed before the Chief Minister. Farmers also pointed out the issue of acute labour shortages for harvesting, noting that the BRS government had removed the 50% subsidy on sugarcane harvesters offered by the previous Congress government. Sridhar Babu referenced the labor crisis, even in his own constituency,

where cotton farmers are bringing in workers from Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The committee will also study the demand to continue the drip-irrigation subsidy for sugarcane, as officials noted that drip systems can increase yields by 8-9 tonnes per acre. Furthermore, the committee will assess the feasibility of the government bearing a portion of the transportation cost for sugarcane. Minister Sridhar Babu gave an assurance that Telangana's private sugar mills would be protected and their expertise utilized in the revival of Nizam Sugars. He noted that Telangana has an encouraging sugar recovery rate of up to 11% and stressed the government's commitment to increasing cultivation. The meeting was attended by TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy, Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, Special Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar, and other key officials and farmer representatives.

UIDAI Introduces New Safety Measures: Aadhaar Card to Feature Only Photo and QR Code

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The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is set to introduce new safety features for Aadhaar cards, primarily aimed at preventing the misuse of personal information and reducing reliance on offline verification methods. UIDAI Chief Executive Officer Bhuvanesh Kumar revealed that the authority is considering a proposal to feature only the individual's photograph and a QR code on the physical Aadhaar card. This change

stems from the observation that printing personal details on the card makes them susceptible to misuse.

To further strengthen verification protocols, UIDAI will implement new rules starting in December that will prohibit entities like hotels and event organizers from taking photocopies of Aadhaar cards or relying on physical copies for offline verification. Kumar clarified that Aadhaar is intended solely for online authentication. While the current Aadhaar Act already bans



the use and storage of biometric data or Aadhaar numbers for offline verification, many organizations continue to retain physical copies. To counter this, UIDAI is

launching a new Aadhaar App.

UIDAI DDG Vivek Chandra Verma explained that these new measures are expected to significantly reduce the prac-

tice of submitting photocopies or depending on physical cards. The upcoming app will offer advanced features such as the ability to view the Aadhaar details of up to five members of the same family and will give users complete control over which details they choose to share. Modern facilities like biometric lock/unlock will be available with a single click, and updating details such as mobile number and address will become much simpler for the user.

Deputy CM Highlights Welfare Schemes, Announces Integrated School Project

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Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressed a public meeting in Wyra constituency headquarters after performing the Bhoomi Puja for development works worth 400 crores, stating that the Telangana Government is dedicated to the people and committed to public welfare. He promised to keep exploiters and middlemen away from governance and projected that by 2047, Telangana would be globally competitive through continuous development. Vikramarka announced the



Young India Integrated School project as a “game-changer” that will drive social change and overall progress, with the goal of establishing at least one such school in every constituency. As part of this, a school is being built in Wyra with a 200 crore investment on 20 acres, including on-campus accommodation for

teachers, and a focus on both academics and sports. He noted that this initiative is potentially unique in India. The Deputy CM also detailed significant welfare measures: high-quality sarees are being distributed to one crore women across the state; fine rice is being distributed to 93 lakh families with an allocation

of 13,500 crore; and free electricity up to 200 units is being provided to 53 lakh families under the Gruhajyothi scheme. Addressing the financial empowerment of women, he highlighted the previous BRS government’s failure to provide interest-free loans. The Congress government, in contrast, has pledged 1 lakh crore in interest-free loans over five years, with 27,000 crore already disbursed and the next phase scheduled for release within two to three days. Furthermore, the government is encouraging women’s economic activity

by supporting them with petrol bunks and solar power units, guaranteeing to purchase electricity from them. Vikramarka also addressed the improvement of residential schools by increasing diet charges by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200%, correcting the mismanagement of the previous regime. He sanctioned 400 crore for development works in Wyra in a single day, including the construction of a 100-bed government hospital and resuming work on the canal lining of the Wyra project, for which 42 crore was re-sanctioned.

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav Meets Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



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Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav paid a courtesy visit to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the latter’s Jubilee Hills residence. During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy took the opportunity to detail the development and wel-

fare programs being undertaken by the Telangana government. The Chief Minister specifically highlighted several prestigious initiatives to his Madhya Pradesh counterpart, including the planned Young India Skills University and the upcoming Sports University, along with other ambitious pro-

jects and schemes launched by the new administration. The meeting provided a platform for the Telangana Chief Minister to showcase his government’s vision and major undertakings across sectors like education, skill development, sports, and overall public welfare.

Government Pushes to Complete Gouravelli Project, Legal Hurdles Cleared

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Minister Ponnampallabharathi, following a review meeting with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy at Jal Saudha, announced significant progress toward completing the Gouravelli Project. The project is designed to provide permanent irrigation benefits to the farming community in the Husnabad region, covering an extensive ayacut of over one lakh acres on a high-altitude plateau. Prabhakar stated that the major legal challenge concerning the project has recently been resolved by the Supreme Court. Furthermore, he confirmed that the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and

Irrigation Minister have all approved the necessary funds required for filling the Gouravelli reservoir with water, digging canals, and addressing pending land acquisition issues. The Minister noted that while most legal problems have been resolved, a remaining issue pertains to the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package for 55 acres of land. He brought the affected individuals to meet Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, who reportedly promised to expedite the resolution of their problem. With all major obstacles now being removed, Prabhakar requested the cooperation and support of the local



farmers in completing the canal land acquisition quickly. He emphasized that the completion of the reservoir bund and the canals would enable the Godavari river water to reach every village through Gouravelli. Minister

Prabhakar took personal responsibility for completing the project, which was originally founded by the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy but remained incomplete despite the previous KCR-led BRS government’s ten-year

promise to finish it quickly. He affirmed that the current government is not interested in blaming the past administration but is committed to fulfilling its word and providing water to the farmers of the region as promised.

Harish Rao Brands Congress Land Policy “Biggest Scam”

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Former Minister Harish Rao, speaking at a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, launched a fierce attack on the Congress government’s new land policy, calling it the latest in a series of “scams” and labeling the Congress party as the “address for scams.” He renamed the policy from the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation Policy to the “Hyderabad Industrial Land Looting Policy,” alleging it is a conspiracy by the Revanth Reddy government to sell off nearly ten thousand acres of industrial land cheaply. Rao accused CM Revanth Reddy of being singularly focused on “illegal looting” since taking power,

pointing to alleged issues with Lagherla and HCU lands, and claiming that the current government is only known for “selling” land, unlike the BRS which was known for “approvals” and “investments.” Rao further stated that the CM is selling every inch of land, down to small plots in the Housing Board, contradicting his previous statements against selling land. He noted that while other states take 50% of the land or fees to regularize industrial land conversion, the Revanth Reddy government is only taking 30%. He alleged the CM is not Anumula Revanth Reddy but “Ammakala Revanth Reddy” (Revanth Reddy of Sales). Harish Rao confirmed KTR’s

previous assertions and challenged Minister Sridhar Babu, saying that the Minister himself admitted the 9,292 acres conversion, with only 30% payment of the SRO value, would yield 5,000 crore. Rao stated that the land’s actual value is 5 lakh crore, making the difference of 4.95 lakh crore a clear scam. As the former Chairman of the Resource Mobilization Cabinet Sub Committee, he challenged Sridhar Babu for an open debate on the claim that only 4,740 acres are involved, calling it an attempt to minimize the scale of the scam. He claimed the speed of the implementation—with a two-month completion timeline—shows a pre-planned



sketch for the 5 lakh crore scam. Rao presented eight specific questions to the government, demanding answers on why they are using the lower SRO value instead of the TGICC rate, why they aren’t waiting for the announced SRO hike, why the rate for the poor (LRS) is 60-80% but for the rich (land conversion) is

30%, and whether the policy is intended to fill the pockets of the CM and his alleged associates (“Anumula Brothers”). He called it the “biggest land scam in India” and demanded an immediate Assembly session to discuss the policy, warning that the BRS would not tolerate the selling of public property.

Minister Sridhar Babu Delivers Strong Counter to BRS’s 5 Lakh Crore Land Scam Allegation

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State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu issued a strong counter-statement against former Minister Harish Rao and BRS leaders KTR’s allegations of a 5 lakh crore scam related to the Industrial Land Transformation Policy. Sridhar Babu vehemently dismissed the accusation as “completely baseless, untrue, and politically motivated,” stating that making “false allegations and spreading lies is second nature” to BRS leaders. He challenged Harish



Rao to produce concrete evidence to substantiate the claim, failing which he demanded a public apology to the people of the state, asserting that the BRS is continuously repeating the “5 lakh crore scam” record simply out of frustration over losing

power. The Minister then redirected the focus, demanding that BRS leaders first answer the “lakhs of crores mystery” behind the freehold G.O.s (19, 20, 21) issued by the BRS government in August 2023. He called Harish Rao’s allegations, given his long

ministerial experience, shameful and baseless. Sridhar Babu emphasized that the Congress government has not put any government land up for sale and is committed to transparently increasing the state treasury by 4,000 to 5,000 crore. He questioned the BRS’s agenda, suggesting they are trying to obstruct new investments and jobs for the state’s youth. The Minister provided clarity on the land area, stating that the BRS is misleading the public by claiming the entire 9,292 acres of industrial parks are being sold. He clarified that the ac-

tual area plotted for industries or converted into freehold properties for private individuals is only 4,740 acres, and the remaining land is utilized for essential infrastructure like roads and drainage. He reiterated that this 4,740 acres already belongs to private individuals. Sridhar Babu advised the BRS leaders to understand the facts before making further statements, defending the government’s industrial policy as one that brings in investments and creates jobs, unlike the opposition’s narrative which aims to deter progress.

Congress Slams KTR’s Allegations as Diversionary Tactic for Formula E Scam

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

TPCC General Secretary Channagani Dayakar fiercely criticized BRS leader KTR, accusing him of making “petty comments” against CM Revanth Reddy as a tactic to divert attention from his own alleged corruption, particularly the Formula E Cars corruption case. Dayakar stated that Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister by successfully fighting against the corruption of the BRS regime. He then aggressively counter-alleged that KTR was complicit in the misappropriation of nearly 1,000 acres of land belonging to HMDA and TGICC between 2014 and 2023. As evidence of BRS corruption, Dayakar pointed to the ACB raids on former HMDA Director Balakrishna, who was allegedly caught with assets worth 1,000



crore. Dayakar accused KTR of colluding with realtors to sell off valuable land in prime locations around Hyderabad, including Kokapet, Bachupally, Uppal Bhagayat, and Patancheru. He claimed that the sale of TGICC lands was conducted haphazardly to finance by-elections and GHMC elections during the BRS tenure. The General Secretary warned KTR to cease his “petty allegations” against the Chief Minister, or Congress workers would not hesitate to retaliate physically. Dayakar asserted that the new Congress government is a “Praja Prabhutvam” (Peo-

ple’s Government) that has introduced a new industrial policy aimed at Telangana’s progress and development, contrasting it with the BRS era, where government land was “eaten up like an anaconda.” He alleged that corruption involving TGICC lands over the past ten years amounted to 30,000 crore. Dayakar concluded by demanding that KTR respond to the corruption allegations made by his own sister and show “shame and conscience” by answering the demands of the people, emphasizing that the current government is working to protect government lands.

HYDRA Resolves Dispute Over Temple and Chilla Relocation at Sunnam Cheruvu

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

The HYDRA successfully held a meeting with residents of the Sunnam Cheruvu area, resolving a dispute concerning the relocation of an Anjaneya Temple and a Muslim prayer site (Chilla) located within the Full Tank Level (FTL) boundary of the lake. Sunnam Cheruvu, which borders Madhapur and Borabanda, is one of the six lakes undergoing restoration in HYDRA's first phase. As the two religious structures were encroaching upon the lake's FTL area, HYDRA planned to relocate them to the lake bund. The issue had become a subject of discussion on social media. To address the matter, HYDRA Commissioner Shri A.V. Ranganath held a meeting with local residents from both communities at the HYDRA office on Saturday. During the discus-



sion, he explained the guidelines set by the Supreme Court regarding constructions in water bodies. After reviewing their opinions on relocating the Anjaneya idol and the Chilla to the bund side, safely outside the FTL boundary, both parties agreed to the proposal. The residents ex-

pressed their consent to the safe relocation of the structures adjacent to Sunnam Cheruvu. This agreement successfully resolves the contentious issue, clearing the path for the full restoration and protection of the lake's FTL boundary. The Commissioner's approach of directly engaging wi-

th the community leaders and explaining the legal context, particularly the Supreme Court mandates to protect water bodies, was instrumental in building consensus. The relocation is considered vital for the ecological health of Sunnam Cheruvu, as encroachment severely com-

promises the lake's capacity and integrity, leading to flooding during heavy rains. The agreement ensures that the religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim communities are respected by providing safe, designated alternative sites for the temple and the Chilla, thus balancing environmental conservation with community faith. This resolution is being hailed as an example of effective, sensitive administration in managing complex urban issues where development and religious structures often clash. The successful consensus is expected to expedite the overall lake restoration project, benefiting the larger population of Madhapur and Borabanda by mitigating flood risks and creating a cleaner urban water body.

Begumpet Residents Protest Against Liquor Store In Residential Area



TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

Residents of Begumpet's Harmony Avenue, organized under the Harmony Avenue Welfare Association, conducted a peaceful candlelight protest demanding the relocation of a liquor store situated near their residential colony. The residents stated that the liquor store, which has been operating near Gurumurthy Colony in Begumpet for the past four years, has been causing severe distress to colony residents, students, and women. With the recent completion of liquor tenders and the imminent opening of new shops next month, the association demanded the immediate removal of the existing store from the vicinity of the colony. Residents expressed deep concerns about safety, reporting that intoxicated patrons often behave inappropriately toward female students and women from the colony late at night. They voiced their anxiety, stating that the situation has

made them fearful of entering the colony after dark. The protesters expressed anger toward Excise officials, who they claim provide indifferent responses when the issues are brought to their attention. They emphasized that the police have the responsibility to ensure their protection and vowed to continue their struggle until the liquor store is relocated elsewhere. Residents Parvati and Rashi provided statements echoing the community's demand for safety and relocation of the shop, highlighting the urgent need for action to restore peace and security in their neighborhood. The protest underscores a recurring issue in urban planning where commercial establishments selling alcohol are located close to sensitive residential and educational areas, leading to community-wide safety concerns and distress, particularly for women and children. The prolonged presence of the outlet has reportedly led to a

noticeable deterioration in the quality of life, with frequent disturbances including public intoxication, loud noise, and littering. The residents articulated a demand for the government to enforce stricter zoning regulations that clearly demarcate safe zones around schools and housing colonies, preventing the establishment of liquor shops in such proximity. Their peaceful demonstration was intended to draw the attention of higher authorities, beyond the local Excise department, to the severe impact on their fundamental right to a secure living environment. They stressed that the safety of young women walking home from educational institutions is being directly compromised by the behavior of the patrons. The association is reportedly prepared to escalate the matter to a legal challenge if administrative action is not taken swiftly to address the public nuisance.

Sneha Mehra Takes Charge as New Vikarabad District SP

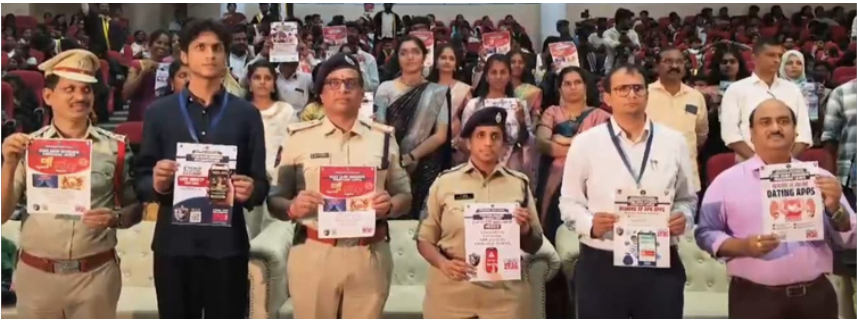


TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

Smt. Sneha Mehra, IPS, who previously served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for Hyderabad South Zone, officially assumed charge as the new District Superintendent of Police (SP) of Vikarabad today. She was accorded a warm reception by senior officials at the District Police Office. Following her charge assumption, the new SP outlined her key priorities for the district. She stated that she would thoroughly examine the current law and order situation and the historical context of the district's crime profile to implement necessary changes in policing strategies. Her primary objective is crime control, with a clear focus on significantly reducing the crime rate across the district. Smt. Sneha Mehra emphasized a community-centric approach, assuring that police officials will engage with the public to understand local problems within the jurisdiction of every police station and take targeted measures for their prevention. She pledged to create an environment where the public can feel more peaceful and secure. A special focus will be placed on conducting extensive awareness programs to combat prevalent crimes such as thefts, chain snatching, and the recently increasing cy-

bercrimes. Furthermore, she affirmed that the safety and protection of women and children will receive the highest priority. The SP also committed to taking adequate measures for the welfare of the police staff, assuring that she will strive to strengthen the overall police system in the Vikarabad district. The SP's mandate to study the district's crime history suggests an intention to move beyond reactive policing to a data-driven, preventive model. By prioritizing the collection of local information from police stations, she aims to identify specific crime hotspots and demographic vulnerabilities to allocate resources more effectively. Her commitment to staff welfare is seen as a key strategy for boosting police morale and ensuring efficient service delivery to the public. The focus on cybercrimes is particularly relevant, indicating recognition of the evolving nature of crime even in district settings. She also mentioned the importance of leveraging technology for better surveillance and faster response times. The SP's initial address sets a tone for a modern, accountable, and people-friendly police administration in Vikarabad, with tangible goals of reducing street crime and enhancing safety for the most vulnerable citizens.

Hyd Police Launch 'Jagrut Hyderabad, Surakshit Hyderabad' Campaign on Cyber Crimes



TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

In an effort to raise public awareness about the risks of cybercrime, the Hyderabad Police have initiated a campaign titled 'Jagrut Hyderabad, Surakshit Hyderabad' (Aware Hyderabad, Safe Hyderabad). As part of this program, Central Zone DCP Shilpavalli conducted an awareness session on cybercrimes at the RTC Kala Bhavan in Bagh Lingampally, Hyderabad. The session was specifically tailored for the Degree and PG students of Aurora College, with the DCP explaining in detail how cyber frauds are perpetrated and, crucially, how to prevent and counter them. DCP Shilpavalli announced that, going forward, the police would actively engage with the community by visiting every household on Tuesdays and Saturdays to educate residents about various cyber frauds. The DCP highlighted that scammers primarily exploit people's greed and fear to

commit financial and personal frauds. To reinforce the commitment to safety, the DCP led the students in taking an oath, pledging to actively stand up against and counter cybercrimes in their communities. This proactive, two-pronged approach—educating students and engaging directly with households—reflects the police department's intensified commitment to tackling the growing menace of cybercrime and ensuring the digital safety of Hyderabad's residents. The focus on students aims to equip the young, digitally native population with the knowledge to recognize and resist online manipulation, while the house-to-house initiative ensures broader public reach, especially among vulnerable sections of the population. During the session, the DCP provided practical examples of common cyber threats prevalent today, such as phishing emails, social engineering tactics, OTP (One-Time Password)

frauds, and financial scams targeting digital wallets and banking details. She stressed the importance of not sharing sensitive personal information with unknown callers or clicking on suspicious links. The house-to-house campaign on specific days is a deliberate strategy to reach senior citizens and those who may not attend public forums or be digitally savvy. This direct outreach aims to provide customized, face-to-face guidance and instantly address public queries or concerns regarding recent scam patterns. The administration of the cyber-safety oath to students is a symbolic but powerful gesture, encouraging them to become 'cyber volunteers' who can protect themselves and educate their families and peers. This grassroots strategy is essential for building collective resilience against sophisticated online criminal networks operating globally.

Family Suicide Reported in Amberpet Due to Suspected Superstitious Beliefs

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

A tragic incident was reported in Mallikarjun Nagar, Amberpet, where a family of three committed suicide. The deceased were identified as the husband, Srinivas, his wife, Vijayalakshmi, and their daughter, Sravya. All three were found to have died by hanging. Upon receiving the information, Amberpet Police immediately arrived at the scene, accompanied by the Clues Team to gather forensic evidence. The police have initiated an investigation into the incident. Initial suspicions suggest that the family's extreme step may have been driven by superstitious beliefs

(Maha Nammakalu). The police are currently working to ascertain the exact motive and circumstances surrounding the family's suicide. The case has sent shockwaves through the local community, highlighting the dangers of extreme beliefs influencing vulnerable individuals. The Amberpet Police are meticulously searching the residence and examining the family's personal belongings, including any notes or diaries, to find concrete evidence that substantiates the initial suspicion of black magic or other forms of extreme superstition as the primary motive. They are also interviewing close relatives, neighbors,

and friends to understand the family's financial status, social interactions, and any signs of recent distress or obsession with particular rituals or spiritual practices. The investigation will also look into whether the family was exploited or influenced by any specific individual or group promoting such harmful beliefs. The police are treating the matter with extreme seriousness, recognizing the need to investigate all possible angles—from financial hardship to psychological distress—before confirming the role of superstitious practices in this devastating family tragedy.

Cops Conduct Special Safety Drives, Focus on Human Trafficking



TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

The Cyberabad Women & Child Safety Wing, under the direction of Dy. Commissioner of Police K. Srujana, detailed its activities for the week from November 15 to November 21, 2025, highlighting a focus on anti-human trafficking, public indecency, and preventive awareness. The Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) conducted night raids, apprehending 5 sex workers and 2 transgenders. Furthermore, AHTU registered three cases under the PITA Act, resulting in the rescue of 10 victims and the apprehension of 5 accused persons. Meanwhile, Cyberabad SHE Teams conducted 128 decoy operations, catching 79 persons red-handed while engaging in indecent acts in public spaces. Petty cases were booked in these 79 incidents, while the remaining individuals were appropriately counselled. The SHE Teams also addressed 18 complaints received from women victims through various channels during the week. In an effort to strengthen family bonds, the Family Counselling

Centres / CDEW Centres successfully worked to reunite 30 families embroiled in marital and family disputes. As part of their preventive strategy, AHTU and SHE Teams organized awareness programs across Cyberabad, engaging approximately 286 participants. These sessions covered crucial topics, including Human trafficking (both general and child trafficking), eve teasing, social media harassment, child marriages, child rights, child labour, stalking, begging, cyber bullying, and cyber frauds. Participants were also educated on essential support services like the Women helpline (181), Child helpline (1098), Dial 100, and Crimes 1930. The Suraksha Kavach Program, a special initiative under the Children & Youth Forum in association with SCSC, held a safety awareness session for 230 Grade 3 students at CHIREC School 1 (Cambridge Board). The session, themed "Being Good, Being Safe," used interactive activities to teach safety habits, reinforcing the message that the police are friendly and trustworthy protectors.

This comprehensive weekly report indicates a multi-faceted strategy by Cyberabad Police, balancing enforcement operations with extensive social welfare initiatives. The high number of decoy operations highlights the commitment to creating safer public spaces for women and girls by actively curbing harassment. The counselling provided to both petty offenders and distressed families underscores a restorative justice approach, aiming for social reformation alongside legal enforcement. Additionally, the targeted awareness campaigns, reaching students and general public alike, are critical in empowering citizens with the knowledge to protect themselves from modern threats like cyber fraud and trafficking, thus contributing to a proactively safer community. The 'Suraksha Kavach' program, in particular, focuses on building a foundation of trust between young children and the police force, ensuring that safety consciousness is inculcated from an early age, making them effective partners in crime prevention.



Minister Leads Indiramma Sarees Distribution in Makthal

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

Telangana State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari distributed Indiramma Sarees in Makthal, asserting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is acting as a brother to the state's one crore women by providing high-quality sarees, in stark contrast to the "substandard" ones distributed for Bathukamma by the previous government. The Minister proclaimed that the "Indiramma Rajyam" is a government dedicated to the poor, following the ideals of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He reiterated the commitment to making one crore women financially independent, mentioning the key components of the Mahalakshmi scheme—free bus travel, 500 gas cylinders, and 200 units of free electricity—and the sanction of 3,600 Indiramma houses for the Makthal constituency, all in the women's names. To boost women's economic activity,



he spoke about initiatives like enabling women's groups to manage RTC bus rentals, petrol pumps, rice mills, and setting up Indira Shakti canteens. Crucially, the Minister announced that on December 1st, the Chief Minister will visit Makthal to lay the foundation stone for several major projects, including the 4,500 crore Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme, the

Makthal-Narayanpet 4-lane road, and new Young India Integrated School buildings, urging the public to ensure the CM's tour is a grand success. The emphasis on distributing high-quality sarees serves as a political statement aimed at reinforcing public trust and projecting the Congress government as genuinely caring for women's dignity, unlike its predecessor. The Minister fur-

ther elaborated on the government's social safety net, including the provision of 6 kg of fine rice monthly through ration shops, ensuring better nutrition for the poor; and the increase in diet and cosmetic charges for hostel students. The sanction of 3,600 Indiramma houses to be registered in the women's names is a significant step towards ensuring women's property rights and financial se-

curity within the family unit. The highlight remains the CM's impending visit to lay the foundation for the massive 4,500 crore Lift Irrigation Scheme, which is anticipated to be a game-changer for the drought-prone regions of Makthal, Narayanpet, and Kodangal by securing water resources for agriculture and development, thereby driving significant regional growth.

Indira Mahila Shakti Sarees Distributed in Jangaon



TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

The Indira Mahila Shakti Sarees Distribution program was successfully held in Jangaon town center, with Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chimala Kiran Kumar Reddy and local MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy attending as the chief guests. The leaders jointly distributed the high-quality sarees to the women's

group members at the Om Sai Function Hall. They highlighted that the quality of the sarees symbolizes the state government's respect and commitment to women's welfare, which is a core focus of the overarching Indira Mahila Shakti scheme. The event was attended by various officials, including Additional Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers, along

with members of the women's self-help groups. The presence of both the Member of Parliament and the local MLA underscored the significance of the ruling party places on the Indira Mahila Shakti initiative as a flagship welfare program connecting directly with the electorate. The leaders, while distributing the garments, took the opportunity to inter-

act with the beneficiaries and reaffirm the government's promise to uplift women economically and socially. The distribution was executed efficiently with the coordination of the Additional Collectors, Pinkesh Kumar and Ben Shalom, along with RDOs Gopiram and Venkanna, ensuring a smooth process for the large gathering of women's group members.

This event forms part of a wider statewide effort to empower women financially and provide them with dignity, contrasting the current administration's scheme with previous similar programs. The smooth execution also highlights the effective coordination between elected representatives and the district administrative machinery in Jangaon.

Former MLA Applauds Vattipally Yadamma Amrutha Dhara Trust for Service

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

Former Malkajgiri MLA Mainampally Hanumantha Rao praised the humanitarian services of the Vattipally Yadamma Amrutha Dhara Trust. The Trust organized a fruit distribution program for patients at the Malkajgiri District Government Hospital to commemorate the 37th birth anniversary of the late Youth Congress leader, Naresh. As the chief guest, Mainampally Hanumantha Rao personally distributed the fruits. He commended the Trust's Vice Chairman Manohar and his family for their dedication to social service, encouraging them to continue their good work, and stating that

those who perform good deeds receive good in return. The event was specifically designed to honor the memory of the deceased Youth Congress leader, turning a commemorative day into an act of community service, thereby reinforcing the legacy of public spiritedness. The former MLA's presence lent significant visibility to the Trust's efforts and served as a motivational boost for the organization's members. He highlighted the importance of NGOs and community trusts in supplementing government efforts, especially in the health sector where patient comfort is essential. The fruit distribution was particularly appreciated by the recover-



ing patients in the government hospital, symbolizing hope and care. The former MLA's public endorsement re-

inforces the social credibility of the Vattipally Yadamma Amrutha Dhara Trust, encouraging more participation

and support for its future charitable endeavors aimed at serving the vulnerable sections of society.

CITU Protests Implementation of 4 Labor Codes, Demands Withdrawal of Notification

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

The CITU (Centre of Indian Trade Unions) organized a protest in Pragathi Nagar, Bachupally Mandal, Kutbullapur, by burning documents related to the four Labor Codes recently notified by the Central Government. CITU Bachupally Mandal Secretary Rathod Santhosh led the demonstration, fiercely condemning the codes as being anti-worker and designed solely to favor corporate entities and capitalists. He accused the Central Government of undermining the existing rights and welfare of workers by condensing 29 established labor laws into just four codes, asserting that the gov-

ernment has remained indifferent despite nationwide strikes and protests by major national trade unions. The CITU demanded the immediate withdrawal of the notification to implement the four labor codes and called for the proper enforcement of existing labor laws to protect the working class. The act of burning the code-related documents was a symbolic and forceful expression of the trade union's frustration over what they perceive as the complete erosion of historical labor safeguards. Rathod Santhosh emphasized that these new labor codes will strip workers of crucial protections, including the right to form unions easily, limits

on working hours, and access to social security benefits, effectively making labor highly precarious and exploitable for the benefit of large corporations. He criticized the Central Government for its perceived callousness, comparing its lack of response to the famous Telugu phrase about indifference. The protest involved various local CITU committee members and leaders, showcasing a unified front against the policy, and reiterating that the struggle to preserve the hard-won rights of the working class will continue until the notification is formally withdrawn and the original comprehensive laws are upheld.



Public Outcry Over Staff Negligence at Vikarabad Civil Supplies Office

TPN Bureau | Nov 22, 2025

The Civil Supplies Department section within the Vikarabad District Collectorate is facing severe public criticism due to chronic unpunctuality among its staff. Citizens arriving for services consistently find staff arriving late, and when questioned about the delay on Saturday morning, the employees reportedly responded with arrogance, stating they would work at their own will. This indifferent and irresponsible attitude from the officials has created deep public dissatisfaction. The public contrasted the staff's negligence with the exemplary punctuality of the District Collector, who strictly

adheres to time schedules. Residents are now demanding that senior authorities take strict disciplinary action against the non-punctual staff to ensure accountability and prevent the precious time of the public from being wasted, especially when seeking essential services like ration card approvals and distribution of vital supplies. The recurring lack of discipline within the Civil Supplies section is causing significant service delays, forcing the public, often the elderly and poor seeking ration services, to wait for hours. This ongoing issue demonstrates a systemic failure of supervisory checks and balances within the department, despite

the clear example set by the Collector's office. The public's demand for action is fueled by the abusive and contemptuous response from the staff, which they feel reflects a deep-seated contempt for public service and accountability. The residents argue that the Collector must intervene directly and implement swift, punitive measures against those displaying dereliction of duty and disrespect to citizens. Such action is seen as necessary not only to restore punctuality and efficiency but also to uphold the dignity of the public interacting with the district administration and ensure the reliable supply of essential commodities.



Trump’s Trade Power, India’s Missed Opportunity



U.S. President Donald Trump’s recent Asia tour has highlighted the growing influence of trade as a tool of geopolitical power—an area where India appears to have missed the memo. Analysts note that while China has leveraged both its seller and buyer power, India has yet to fully exploit its potential in global trade.

Trump, who often emphasizes the U.S. as the world’s largest importer, has used this economic leverage to shape relationships with exporting nations. During his interactions with China,

he demonstrated how import dependence can translate into bargaining power, particularly in commodities like soybeans and corn, vital for Chinese agriculture. By contrast, India’s imports of U.S. soybeans, corn, and edible oils—totaling over \$18 billion annually—remain underutilized in diplomatic strategy.

China’s success, experts say, stems from a mix of forward planning, technological adoption, and strategic patience. The nation has invested in genetically modified crops, improved yields, and diversified im-

port sources, ensuring it can negotiate from a position of strength. India, meanwhile, continues to rely heavily on trade protectionism and domestic lobbying pressures, limiting its ability to wield similar influence.

The recent events underscore the shift in global power dynamics: reputation, moral authority, or political history no longer determine leverage—economic power does. Trump reportedly showed condescension toward India’s leadership, emphasizing that hard power is measured by what nations can

offer rather than what they expect. Analysts argue that India’s hesitancy to strategically use its import capacity has cost it potential influence in bilateral negotiations.

Experts point to lessons from history: like Deng Xiaoping’s dictum to “bide your time, hide your power,” nations must exercise patience and deploy strategic leverage rather than celebrate economic size prematurely. India, while the world’s fifth-largest economy, has yet to convert its market size into tangible diplomatic influence.

Commerce Minister Pi-

yush Goyal has urged Indian entrepreneurs to adapt, innovate, and move beyond tariff protections. Observers say this moment resembles India’s 1991 balance-of-payments crisis, signaling that reform may now be necessary, driven not by financial collapse but by geopolitical imperatives.

As global trade reshapes power structures, India’s challenge will be to align domestic policy with strategic opportunity, ensuring its buying power becomes a currency in international diplomacy rather than a missed chance.

Amazon Layoffs Highlight AI Transition Challenges



Global tech industry trembled last week as Amazon announced the layoff of 14,000 employees, part of a broader wave that has seen over 1,72,000 jobs cut across American tech giants, including Meta, Microsoft, Salesforce, and Google. These reductions have sparked concerns about the human cost of automation, especially as artificial intelligence continues to transform workplaces worldwide.

The layoffs contrast sharply with the soaring market value of AI hardware and software leaders. Nvidia, whose chips power AI data centers, recently reached a staggering \$5 trillion market capitalization, while OpenAI, in partnership with Microsoft, plans to develop 30 gigawatts of computing resources at a cost of \$1.4 trillion. Such figures underscore a growing divide between AI-driven wealth creation and workforce instability.

Jensen Huang, Nvidia’s CEO, recently highlighted the future demand for skilled trades like electricians and plumbers as AI infrastructure expands. His comments illustrate the duality of the AI revolution: while some jobs are replaced by automation, new roles emerge that require technical, adaptive, and hybrid skill sets. Analysts emphasize that long-term success depends on the ability of workers to reinvent themselves, adapt to new tools, and blend core skills with technological fluency.

The rapid rise of AI has also amplified demand for cybersecurity, data management, and AI-specific roles, as automation tools proliferate. “Agentic AI,” which integrates intermediate technologies to enhance automation, demonstrates the need for professionals who can combine coding, industry knowledge, and problem-solving skills. As AI-generated content grows, so does the need for human oversight to manage misuse, maintain trust, and ensure quality.

Historical parallels offer lessons for today. The late Sitar- am Kesri, former Congress treasurer, was known for his impeccable trustworthiness—a quality still vital in the AI era. Similarly, past technological revolutions, such as electrification or industrial mechanization, created fears of job losses but ultimately gave rise to new roles. Roy Amara’s law, which notes that people overestimate short-term impacts and underestimate long-term change, remains relevant: AI may disrupt now, but it also generates opportunities for those prepared to adapt.

Experts advise tech professionals to focus on continuous learning, cultivate human-centric skills like trust and teamwork, and maintain financial prudence to navigate this transition. While AI is reshaping the workplace, the combination of human judgment, adaptability, and resilience will remain indispensable in the new digital economy.

GST Reform 2.0: Turning Compliance Into Empowerment



Since its rollout in 2017, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India has been both a compliance challenge and an unintentional digital revolution. What began as a complex tax system has evolved into a live, verifiable digital ledger of the economy, enabling businesses and authorities alike to leverage real-time data. Mandatory e-invoicing and the GST Network (GSTN) turned every invoice into a trusted financial footprint, creating a foundation for credit access, financial inclusion, and data-driven governance.

For small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), GST filings became a financial passport. Lenders could now assess a firm’s health instantly, unlocking loans and invoice financing. Yet, this digital advantage is uneven. Only 12% of MSMEs are fully digitalised, leaving many reliant on paper records or outsourced accounting. This digital divide risks creating a two-speed economy, where businesses in digitally advanced states like Karnataka,

Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu thrive, while those in less-connected regions lag behind.

GST Reform 2.0 aims to bridge this gap. The 56th GST Council meeting introduced people-centric reforms, including a simplified two-rate tax structure and reduced levies on daily essentials. For businesses, the changes are transformative: provisional, risk-based refunds cover 90% of claims, easing cash-flow constraints, while a streamlined, automated GST registration scheme promises onboarding of low-risk entrepreneurs in just three days. The establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by December 2025 adds a credible, rules-based enforcement layer.

The convergence of the initial digital engine and these deliberate reforms creates a powerful synergy. Real-time GST data not only empowers businesses with financial tools but also enables authorities to detect fraud efficiently. However, for the system to

achieve its full potential, digital literacy and access must improve. Experts advocate a three-pronged approach: scaling practical digital training, promoting affordable tech platforms for micro-enterprises, and using policy incentives to encourage adoption.

Looking ahead, GST is poised to become more than a tax mechanism—it could emerge as a cornerstone of India’s economic strategy. Recognising the GST data infrastructure as a national public good, similar to UPI, could stimulate private innovation in finance and supply-chain management. The next phase will test whether GST 2.0 can drive inclusive growth, ensuring that every MSME, regardless of location or size, benefits from this digital transformation.

GST’s journey—from chaotic rollout to digital backbone and now to a tool of empowerment—could redefine India’s economic landscape, shaping competitiveness and inclusivity for the decade ahead.

India Pushes for Globalised Rupee Ecosystem

India is taking significant steps to reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar and strengthen its financial sovereignty amid an increasingly uncertain global trade environment. Geopolitical tensions, sanctions threats on Russian oil, and inconsistent U.S. tariff policies have accelerated efforts to develop a rupee-led international settlement system.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has spearheaded key initiatives to promote rupee internationalisation. In October, the RBI allowed authorised dealer (AD) banks and their overseas branches to extend rupee-denominated loans to residents, businesses, and financial institutions in Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. This is facilitated through Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs), which now number around 200, up from 156 in February. The expansion allows bilateral trade settlements in rupees, bypassing the U.S. dollar, reducing conversion costs, and limiting exposure to dollar volatility. Surplus SRVA balances can also be invested in corporate bonds and commercial papers, enhancing liquidity and attracting foreign participation.

In parallel, the RBI has launched the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), or Digital Rupee (e), a blockchain-based, fully regulated digital token. The digital rupee supports atomic settlements via Delivery vs Payment (DvP) protocols, ensuring efficiency, privacy, and transparency. The RBI will also publish reference exchange rates for major trading partners’ currencies, starting with UAE dirhams and Indonesian rupees, to streamline INR-based trade settlements.



GIFT City in Gujarat has emerged as a hub for these developments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Foreign Currency Settlement System in October, enabling faster and safer transactions in major currencies, starting with the U.S. dollar and expanding to the euro, yen, and pound. Meanwhile, BRICS countries are exploring integration of their digital currency systems, aiming to reduce intermediary costs and promote de-dollarisation. The

New Development Bank plans its first INR-denominated bond issuance to encourage local currency financing.

India is also planning onshore rupee bonds worth \$400-500 million with three- to five-year maturities by March 2026. These moves could expand investment opportunities in masala bonds and reinforce India’s role in global financial markets. Future plans include linking SRVAs with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for international settlements

and integrating with central bank digital currencies, potentially enabling GIFT City to operate as a 24×7 global financial hub.

Analysts say these steps mark a strategic shift from a globalised outlook to transactional diplomacy, prioritising national financial sovereignty. By reducing dependence on offshore financial centres, India aims to enhance regional stability, attract investment, and strengthen the rupee’s global presence.

PM Modi meets Indian origin tech entrepreneurs, community members in Johannesburg

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Indian-origin tech innovators and members of the Indian community in Johannesburg on Friday urging them to strengthen their collaboration with India and contribute to the country's growth in emerging sectors. Modi is in South Africa to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit, which has brought together world leaders for high-level discussions on global economic and geopolitical challenges.

In a social media post, the Prime Minister described the meeting as a "fruitful interaction," noting that the entrepreneurs shared insights into their work across a wide spectrum of industries, including FinTech, social media platforms, agriculture technology, education, healthcare and medical devices. Modi encouraged them to continue deepening ties with India's innovation ecosystem, highlighting the government's support for startups, digital infrastructure and cross-border collaboration.

The Indian diaspora in South Africa, one of the oldest and most influen-



tial abroad, also played a significant part in the interaction. Modi met several community members who are actively engaged with local organisations supporting cultural, educational and social initiatives. He acknowledged their contributions in strengthening India-South Africa ties and appreciated their efforts in preserving Indian heritage while integrating with South African society.

The Prime Minister highlighted the role of the diaspora as a bridge between the two nations, noting that Indian-origin professionals and entrepreneurs are making significant contributions to South Africa's technology and business landscape. He also emphasised India's growing importance as a global innovation hub and invited the community to be part of the country's expanding digital and economic transformation.

Modi's outreach to the Indian community has become a hallmark of his international visits, reflecting his government's emphasis on harnessing global Indian talent to support national development goals. The Johannesburg meeting continued this tradition, reinforcing India's engagement with its diaspora at a time when technological collaboration is gaining greater geopolitical significance.

Lobbying intensifies for Bihar Assembly Speaker post

BJP's Prem Kumar emerges frontrunner

TPN Correspondent | Patna
Intense lobbying has begun within the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for the crucial post of Bihar Assembly Speaker, just a day after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar allocated portfolios to his new cabinet. With a special Assembly session expected soon, both the BJP and JD(U) are vying for the influential position, party insiders confirmed on Saturday.

Among the contenders, senior BJP leader and nine-term MLA Prem Kumar has emerged as the leading candidate. Elected repeatedly from the Gaya Town constituency, Kumar is one of the BJP's most experienced legislators. He previously served as the state's cooperative minister and was Leader of Opposition between 2015 and 2017. In the recent polls, he defeated Congress candidate Akhauri Onkar Nath by over 26,000 votes.

Sources said that JD(U) is also actively lobbying for the post, with the name



of Damodar Rawat, the MLA from Jhajha, gaining traction within the party. JD(U) leaders argue that since BJP's Awadhesh Narain Singh currently heads the state legislative council, the Speaker's chair should be allotted to Nitish Kumar's party under power-sharing norms. The BJP, on the other hand, is reportedly eyeing the Deputy Speaker position if the top slot goes to JD(U).

A special Assembly session will be convened soon to administer the oath to all 243 newly elected members and conduct the Speaker election. The date will be finalised at the state cabinet meeting scheduled for November 25. The Governor will appoint a Protem Speaker, who will oversee the swearing-in of the MLAs before the formal election.

In the last Assembly, BJP's Nand Kishore Yadav served as Speaker while JD(U)'s Narendra Narayan Yadav held the Deputy Speaker position.

Nitish Kumar, sworn in on Thursday for a historic 10th term, leads a cabinet that includes 14 BJP ministers, 8 JD(U) ministers, along with members from LJP (Ram Vilas), HAM and Rashtriya Lok Morcha. With lobbying intensifying, the Speaker election is set to be one of the first major political tests for the renewed NDA alliance.

President Murmu Pays Tribute to Sri Sathya Sai Baba on Birth Centenary



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday lauded spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba, saying he

inspired millions worldwide to follow the path of selfless service. She made the remarks while addressing the birth centenary celebrations of Sai Baba at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathya Sai district, Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting his endur-

ing philosophy, President Murmu said, "Sri Sathya Sai Baba emphasised that service to mankind is service to God. He linked spirituality with selfless service and personal transformation, inspiring millions to dedicate themselves to the welfare of others." She added that Sathya Sai Baba encouraged his followers to align spiritual growth with public welfare, motivating devotees across the globe to serve the underprivileged.

Murmu also emphasized the universal and timeless nature of Sai Baba's teachings. "His message of 'love all and serve all, help ever and hurt never' is eternal. He believed the world is our school, and the five human values of truth, good conduct, peace, love, and non-violence are our curriculum," she said. The President noted that the Sri Sathya Sai organisation continues to actively volunteer in community service, reflecting the

saint's philosophy of selfless love.

President Murmu arrived at Sri Sathya Sai Airport in Puttaparthi around 11 am, where she was received by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and other dignitaries. Following her arrival, she attended a special programme at the Poornachandra Auditorium, part of the centenary celebrations.

The event marked a major tribute to the spiritual leader whose teachings on compassion, selflessness, and human values continue to influence followers globally. By linking spirituality with social service, Sathya Sai Baba's message remains relevant, inspiring communities in India and abroad to contribute meaningfully to society.

The centenary celebrations included cultural programmes, spiritual discourses, and community service initiatives, reflecting the life and teachings of one of India's most revered saints.

US Court Orders Byju's Founder to Pay \$1.07 Billion After Default Ruling



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
A US bankruptcy court has ordered Byju Raveendran, founder of EdTech giant Byju's, to pay over \$1.07 billion, holding him personally liable for the movement and alleged concealment of funds from Byju's Alpha, the company's US-based financing arm. The ruling was issued by Judge Brendan Shannon of the Delaware Bankruptcy Court after Raveendran repeatedly failed to comply with court directions to appear and provide documents.

The judgment is a default ruling, which occurs when a party does not participate in litigation or ignores court orders, allowing the court to decide the case without a trial. Byju Raveendran has denied all allegations and announced plans to appeal the US court decision, calling it expedited and claiming it denied him the opportunity to present a defence. His legal team argued that the court ignored relevant facts, including that the funds were used for the benefit of Think & Learn Private Limited (TLPL), Byju's India-based parent company, rather than for personal gain.

Byju's Alpha, incorporated in Delaware in 2021, was set up as a special-purpose vehicle to manage a \$1.2 billion term loan from a consortium of global lenders. The subsidiary had no operational business and primarily acted as a holding entity for the loan proceeds. Court filings revealed that \$533 million was transferred from Alpha to Camshaft Capital, a small Miami-based hedge fund, and subsequently moved through affiliated entities such as InspiLearn and offshore trusts without any consideration returning to Byju's Alpha.

The default judgment marks a major legal setback for Byju's, which has been grappling with financial and operational challenges in recent years. Observers note that the appeal process could extend the case timeline, and Raveendran's legal team is expected to challenge the court's expedited handling, emphasizing his right to present a full defence.

This ruling underscores increasing scrutiny of global fund management practices by Indian founders operating US-based financing entities, especially in high-profile EdTech ventures.

Union Minister Accuses DK Shivakumar of MLA Lobbying in Karnataka



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday accused Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of attempting to buy support from MLAs amid an escalating leadership tussle in the state.

Speaking to reporters, Joshi claimed that Shivakumar recently visited Bengaluru Central Prison to meet two jailed Congress MLAs, Vinay Kulkarni and Veerendra Pappi, undertrial prisoners, allegedly to secure their support after release. "Why had he not met them all these days? This meeting was clearly aimed at gathering numbers for a vote on the Chief Minister's post," Joshi said.

The Union Minister added that both leaders are actively mobilising MLAs to consolidate their positions, as Siddaramaiah faces calls to step down. "Whenever the Chief Minister is asked to resign, he insists on a vote. Both are busy ensuring legislative backing," Joshi claimed.

In response, Congress MLA HC Balakrishna, a close Shivakumar supporter, said the Deputy CM has his own strength and does not need external support. "All matters will be decided by the high command. Shivakumar has instructed leaders not to embarrass the party through public statements," Balakrishna clarified. He stressed that MLAs expressing personal opinions should not be construed as Shivakumar seeking support.

The allegations come amid intensifying Congress infighting in Karnataka, over demands for a leadership change after two-and-a-half years of the Siddaramaiah government. Party president Mallikarjun Kharge, who visited Bengaluru on Friday, is staying on to address the crisis. He is scheduled to meet Siddaramaiah and is expected to hold talks with Shivakumar to resolve the leadership dispute.

This episode highlights growing tensions within the ruling Congress in Karnataka, with the high command under pressure to mediate between warring factions and maintain party cohesion ahead of the next political developments.

The situation remains fluid, and political observers are closely watching how the high command manages internal dissent and the potential implications for state governance.

Trump’s New Ukraine Plan Puts Zelenskyy in a Difficult Corner



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

US President Donald Trump’s newly unveiled 28-point plan to end Russia’s war in Ukraine has intensified pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, pushing him toward concessions that heavily favour Moscow. The proposal, presented in Kyiv this week, demands territorial compromises, military reductions and guarantees that Ukraine will never join NATO.

Trump has argued that Ukraine can no longer sustain the battlefield struggle, claiming Zelenskyy “doesn’t have the cards” to continue resisting Russia. Speaking at the White House, Trump said he expects a response from the Ukrainian leader by next Thursday, saying, “We think we have a way of getting peace. He’s going to have to approve it.”

Zelenskyy, grappling with corruption scandals, battlefield losses and a harsh winter as Russia intensifies strikes on Ukraine’s energy grid, admitted the country faces one of the most difficult decisions in its history. Though he has not spoken to Trump since the plan became public, Zelenskyy says a discussion is expected soon.

Key elements of Trump’s plan

include Ukraine conceding the entire Donbas region, despite large parts remaining under Ukrainian control. Analysts note that Russia would need years to fully occupy the territory at its current pace, but Trump insists its loss is inevitable. The proposal also calls for a drastic downsizing of Ukraine’s armed forces and demands from European allies to block Kyiv’s future NATO membership.

The plan was delivered by US Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, surprising even his own staff. Early indications suggest Ukraine views the proposal as a starting point, though Trump’s willingness to negotiate further is unclear.

Zelenskyy faces political risks at home, where a \$100 million kickbacks scandal has already led to ministerial resignations. Experts warn that accepting Trump’s terms could endanger his government’s stability and undermine Ukrainian national dignity.

With looming energy shortages, uncertain European financial support and unrelenting Russian attacks, Ukraine must now weigh its survival against the cost of concessions that many fear would be impossible for the public to accept.

China Builds World’s First Nuclear-Resistant Artificial Floating Island



TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

China is advancing a groundbreaking maritime project with the construction of the world’s first artificial floating island capable of surviving nuclear blasts. The massive 78,000-tonne semi-submersible structure—officially named the Deep-Sea All-Weather Resident Floating Research Facility—is expected to become fully operational by 2028, marking a major leap in offshore engineering and strategic ocean research.

Comparable in size to China’s Fujian aircraft carrier, the twin-hull platform is designed for long-term deployment in deep seas. It can withstand 6-9 metre waves and endure Category 17 typhoons, the strongest tropical cyclones rated in China. The facility will be able to support 238 personnel for up to four months without resupply, enabling extended scientific missions in remote waters.

Project leader Lin Zhongqin, an academician with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), told Economic Information Daily that rapid progress is underway: “We’re racing to complete the design and construction, aiming for operational status by 2028.”

A report in the South China Morning Post reveals that the platform’s resilience is en-

hanced by advanced metamaterial sandwich panels, engineered to convert intense shock waves—including nuclear blast pressure—into far milder impacts. The core superstructure includes protected compartments for emergency power, communications and navigation, making blast resistance crucial to ensuring uninterrupted operations.

According to a research team led by Professor Yang Deqing of SJTU, the platform is designed for all-weather, long-duration deep-sea residency, reflecting more than a decade of Chinese research into far-sea mobile bases. Measuring 138 metres in length and 85 metres in width, the facility stands 45 metres above the waterline, offering a stable and protected workspace even in extreme marine conditions.

Although officially presented as a civilian scientific facility, the design cites GJB 1060.1-1991, a Chinese military standard for nuclear blast protection—fueling speculation about possible dual-use strategic capabilities.

With its vast endurance, cutting-edge materials and unprecedented blast resistance, China’s floating island marks a new frontier in maritime engineering and deep-sea infrastructure development.

Trump Administration to Launch Immigration Crackdown in New Orleans

TPN Bureau | Washington

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump is preparing to target New Orleans in the next phase of its ongoing city-by-city immigration crackdown, according to one current and two former immigration officials familiar with the planning. The move marks a continuation of the administration’s intensified enforcement campaign, which has been rolling out across several major American cities in recent months.

Sources said that U.S. Border Patrol agents could arrive in New Orleans as early as Saturday, November 22, 2025, with operations expected to continue into January 2026. Officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the plans, added that enforcement activity is likely to scale down temporarily during



the Thanksgiving holiday on November 20 and again around Christmas.

The planned operation forms part of Trump’s broader strategy to tighten immi-

gration enforcement by deploying federal agents to targeted cities deemed to have high levels of undocumented migrants or insufficient local cooperation with federal

authorities. Earlier phases of the crackdown have included increased workplace raids, broader use of mobile fingerprinting units, and expanded detention measures.

While the administration has maintained that such operations are necessary to restore law and order, critics argue that the measures create fear within immigrant com-

munities and disrupt local economies. Civil rights groups have warned that aggressive raids risk sweeping up individuals with no criminal background and could strain relations between federal agencies and municipal governments.

New Orleans, known for its diverse population and strong cultural identity, has previously positioned itself as a city supportive of immigrant communities. Officials there have not yet commented publicly on the reported federal plan.

As the operation prepares to launch, questions remain about its scope, scale and potential impact on residents. With enforcement expected to extend over several weeks, New Orleans is poised to become the next focal point in the Trump administration’s escalating immigration policy drive.

Over 300 Children Abducted in Nigerian School Attack After Updated Count

TPN Correspondent | UN

The number of victims in the St. Mary’s School mass abduction in Nigeria’s Niger state has risen significantly, with authorities confirming that 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers were taken by armed assailants. The updated tally was released on Saturday by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), following a full verification and census at the Catholic-run institution.

Most Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of CAN’s Niger state chapter, said the revised figures emerged after a thorough assessment during his visit to the school on Friday. Earlier estimates had placed the number of abducted children at 215. Yohanna also revealed that 88 additional students were captured while attempting to flee during Monday’s attack in the remote Papi community. The



victims, both boys and girls aged between 10 and 18, were taken during a midnight raid on the school dormitories.

The abduction occurred just four days

after another kidnapping of 25 schoolchildren in neighbouring Kebbi state’s Maga town, located about 170 km away. No armed group has claimed responsibility yet, but se-

curity forces, along with local hunters, have been deployed to mount rescue operations.

Yohanna criticised the Niger state government for claiming the

school had resumed classes despite previous directives to shut schools in high-risk areas. He dismissed the statement as an “afterthought” and urged families to remain calm

and prayerful as efforts continue.

School kidnappings have become a recurring tragedy in Nigeria, where armed gangs frequently target educational institutions to attract maximum attention. UNICEF reported last year that only 37% of schools across 10 conflict-affected states have effective early warning systems for threat detection.

The attack coincides with renewed international scrutiny, including recent claims by US President Donald Trump about targeted killings of Christians in Nigeria—assertions contradicted by evidence showing that both Christians and Muslims have been victims of such attacks. The incident also unfolded as Nigeria’s National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu visited Washington for security discussions with US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth.

“Wipe My A**”: Ex-CIA Man On Pak Apology Demand Over ‘India Will Win’ Remark



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

A diplomatic and political row has erupted after former CIA officer John Kiriakou revealed that Paki-

stan’s Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) attempted to pressure him into issuing an apology over comments he made on the military balance between India and Pa-

kistan. Instead of complying, Kiriakou responded with an intentionally crude message, saying he would “wipe” himself with the party’s letter de-

manding contrition.

The controversy began after Kiriakou told ANI in October that Pakistan would lose a conventional war with India, stress-

ing that “nothing good will come out of an actual war” between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. His remarks ignited backlash in Pakistan, resulting in a wave of online abuse and numerous death threats. “I’ve lost count of how many death threats I received,” he said during a podcast interview with Julian Dorey released on November 18.

PTI, led since 2023 by former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, issued a formal letter condemning Kiriakou’s remarks “in the strongest possible terms.” The party demanded an “immediate apology” to former Prime Minister Imran Khan, its members and “the people of Pakistan.” According to Kiriakou, the letter came directly from the PTI president.

Instead of softening his stance, Kiriakou wrote back bluntly:

“In regards to your demand for an apology, I wipe my a** with your demands.” He added that despite legal advice urging him to keep a low profile, he felt compelled to respond directly. PTI has not replied since.

Kiriakou, who served 15 years with the CIA, played a key role in US counterterrorism operations after 9/11, including the 2002 capture of top al-Qaeda operative Abu Zubaydah. He later became a whistleblower in 2007 by exposing the CIA’s torture programme, a move that led to his imprisonment for 23 months. Reflecting on his past, he maintains he has “no regrets, no remorse.”

The latest dispute underscores the heightened sensitivities surrounding India-Pakistan relations and the intense political polarization within Pakistan’s leadership.

GST 2.0 Reforms To Put ₹2 Lakh Crore In People’s Hands: Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced sweeping GST reforms under “GST 2.0,” aimed at simplifying the tax system and boosting affordability for the common man. Speaking at an outreach programme in Visakhapatnam, she said the reforms will leave an additional ₹2 lakh crore in the hands of consumers by easing their tax burden and improving liquidity in the economy.

The revamped system, effective from September 22, will replace the existing five tax slabs (0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%) with just two — 5% for essential goods and 18% for others. Sitharaman highlighted that daily necessities such as soaps, toothpaste and household essentials will now fall under the 5% or nil tax category, while life-saving medicines will see their rates cut from 12% to 5% or nil. Big-ticket items including two-wheelers, cars, televisions, and cement



will move from 28% to 18%, offering significant relief to the middle class. “Nearly 99% of goods that were taxed at 12% earlier have been shifted into the 5% slab un-

der the new GST 2.0 system,” Sitharaman said, underscoring the direct benefits to poor and middle-class families. She credited GST revenues for enabling infrastructure projects like

airports, expressways, and Vande Bharat trains. Revenues have grown from ₹7.19 lakh crore in 2018 to ₹22.08 lakh crore in 2025, with taxpayers increasing from 65 lakh to 1.51

crore over the same period. Calling it the biggest reform since the introduction of “One Nation, One Tax” in 2017, Sitharaman said GST 2.0 is designed with the

common man at its core. The government hopes the simplified structure will encourage greater spending and drive economic growth by making goods more affordable across the country.

Urban Company Shares Soar Over 10% After Strong Market Debut



Urban Company shares made a bumper debut on the Indian stock exchanges on Wednesday (September 17), listing with a stellar premium and continuing their rally through the trading session. The stock opened at ₹162.25 apiece on the NSE,

reflecting a 64.77% jump over the issue price of ₹103. On the BSE, it listed at ₹161.00, marking a 56.31% premium. Soon after listing, Urban Company surged further to hit an intraday high of ₹179.00 apiece, nearly 74% above its IPO price and more

than 10% higher than its listing price. The ₹1,900 crore IPO, open between September 10 and 12, received overwhelming investor response, being subscribed 103.63 times. The grey market premium (GMP) had already hinted at a

strong debut, indicating nearly 50% gains over the issue price. Urban Company, a tech-enabled marketplace for home and beauty services, operates in 51 cities across India, UAE, and Singapore. The successful listing is being viewed as a boost for In-

dia’s startup IPO market, which has seen cautious momentum in recent years. Post listing, analysts largely advised investors to hold the stock for long-term gains. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities, said the company offers a compelling structural growth story in the expanding home services segment. He recommended allotted investors to hold, while non-allotted investors should adopt a wait-and-watch strategy for a possible price dip. Shivani Nyati of Swastika Investmart suggested partial profit booking while holding the rest with a stop loss at ₹120. Meanwhile, Harshal Dasani of INVAsset PMS highlighted that the stock’s opening market capitalization of nearly ₹25,300 crore reflects investor conviction but also raises expectations on profitability and execution. At 2:05 PM, Urban Company was trading at ₹163.30 apiece on the BSE, up 58.54% from its issue price, underscoring strong investor confidence in the company’s long-term growth prospects.

Gold and Silver prices hit record high, driven by global uncertainty



Gold and silver prices surged to fresh record highs this week, supported by safe-haven demand amid rising global uncertainty, tariff concerns, and geopolitical tensions. Analysts expect the bullish momen-

tum in bullion to continue in the near term as investors turn to precious metals for security during volatile times. According to the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), 24-carat gold closed at

₹1,09,707 per 10 grams on Friday, registering a sharp gain of ₹1,670 compared to Monday’s ₹1,08,037. Gold has remained above the ₹1 lakh mark throughout September, having started the month at ₹1,04,075.

Prices of 22-carat gold followed suit, ending the week at ₹1,00,492 per 10 grams, up from ₹98,962 earlier in the week. Silver prices also maintained a strong rally. The metal ended the week at ₹1,28,008 per kil-

ogram, higher by ₹3,595 from Monday’s ₹1,24,413. With silver holding firm above ₹1.20 lakh levels, investor appetite remains robust. On the futures market, October gold contracts settled at ₹1,09,356

per 10 grams, up 0.34 per cent, reflecting sustained optimism. Globally, Comex gold traded at \$3,680.7 per ounce, extending gains as traders sought refuge from economic and political uncertainties. Analysts believe the upward trend will remain intact, citing geopolitical risks, a fragile economic outlook, and ongoing tariff issues. Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities noted that gold gained 0.35 per cent at ₹1,09,350, with Comex prices factoring in expectations of a possible U.S. Fed rate cut to support economic growth. Despite being in overbought territory, bullion continues to attract premium buying. Market watchers see gold trading within a range of ₹1,07,000–₹1,12,000 in the coming weeks, reinforcing its role as a safe-haven asset during global uncertainty.

US tariffs to hit 8% of India’s auto component output



The Indian auto component industry is facing significant headwinds as high US tariffs are expected to impact nearly 8% of the sector’s total production, according to ratings agency Icra. Auto component exports contribute almost 30% to the industry’s revenues, with the United States alone accounting for 27% of this share. However, the recent imposition of a 50% tariff on Indian goods has placed Indian exporters at a relative disadvantage compared to several Asian peers.

Despite the hurdles, Indian auto component exports to the US have witnessed steady growth in recent years. Shipments rose from USD 4.1 billion in FY2021 to USD 6 billion in FY2022, followed by USD 6.5 billion in FY2023, and USD 6.8 billion in FY2024. For FY2025, exports are projected to touch USD 7.3 billion, reflecting the strong demand for Indian-made components. However, experts caution that the escalating tariff regime could slow this momentum in the near future.

While China, Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia face tariffs in the 15–30% range, India’s much higher tariff burden makes its products less competitive. Adding to the challenge, manufacturers in Mexico and Canada enjoy exemptions under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), further intensifying competition in the American market. This disparity underscores the growing need for India to accelerate trade talks with Washington to protect its export interests.

Geographically, Europe remains India’s largest export market with a 30% share, followed closely by the US at 27%, Asia at 26%, Latin America at 3%, and other regions contributing 13%. Domestic sales account for 56% of the industry’s revenues, while replacement demand makes up the remaining 15%. With exports under pressure, industry stakeholders are calling for urgent policy interventions to safeguard market access and sustain the sector’s growth trajectory.

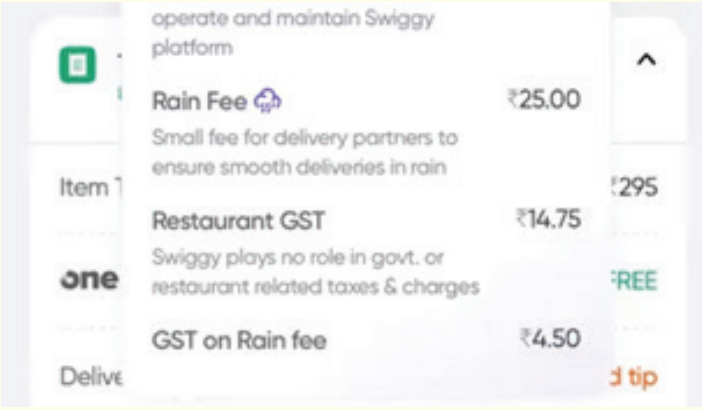
GST Cut on Renewables to 5% Aims to Power India’s Green Future



The government’s decision to rationalize GST rates across the renewable energy value chain from 12% to 5% is set to bring down the cost of clean energy projects, making electricity more affordable for households, farmers, industries, and developers. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the move will significantly reduce capital costs for utility-scale projects, rooftop solar systems, and solar pumps, while strengthening India’s clean energy ecosystem. For large-scale solar projects, where the cost typically stands at ₹3.5–4 crore per MW, the revised GST is expected to generate savings of ₹20–25 lakh per MW. A 500 MW solar park, for instance, could see project costs cut by over ₹100 crore, improving tariff competitiveness and lowering the financial burden on distribution companies (DISCOMs). Nationwide, annual savings of ₹2,000–3,000 crore in power procurement costs are anticipated. Households will also benefit as rooftop solar sys-

tems become cheaper. A 3 kW system will now cost ₹9,000–10,500 less, accelerating adoption under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Farmers under the PM-KUSUM scheme are expected to save nearly ₹17,500 on a 5 HP solar pump, translating into a collective saving of ₹1,750 crore across 10 lakh pumps, making irrigation more sustainable and cost-effective. The reform is also set to enhance competitiveness of Indian-made solar equipment, reducing module and component costs by 3–4%. With India targeting 300 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, a modest 2–3% cost reduction could free up investments worth 1–1.5 lakh crore, while creating 5–7 lakh jobs in the next decade. Faster renewable deployment will also help India avoid 50–70 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually by 2030. Effective from September 22, 2025, the GST cut is being hailed as a landmark step to advance India’s green growth, energy independence, and Paris Agreement commitments.

Zomato, Swiggy Users Face ‘Rain Fee’ Hike Under GST 2.0



Online food delivery users are feeling the pinch as platforms like Zomato and Swiggy now come under 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their delivery fees, effective September 22, 2025. The move, part of the latest GST Council reforms, applies Section 9(5) of the Central GST Act to local e-commerce delivery services, making even small charges like the “rain fee” taxable.

The change has already started reflecting in bills, with users noticing higher costs for orders during adverse weather conditions. For instance, a delivery rain fee of Rs 25 now attracts an 18% GST, bringing the total to Rs 29.50, adding an unexpected extra burden on customers. Restaurant GST is also separately applied, as seen in typical bills showing charges such as Rs 14.75 for the meal itself.

Social media users quickly reacted to the new tax rules with humor and satire. One post on X (formerly Twitter) jokingly remarked, “After historic GST reforms, even Lord Indra has been brought under

the tax net. Now when it rains, you get Rs 25 Rain Fee + 18% GST = Rs 29.50. Next up: Sunlight Convenience Fee, Oxygen Maintenance Charge GST on Breathing, Pay as you inhale.” The witty post resonated widely, highlighting public frustration while keeping the tone lighthearted.

Industry experts note that the 18% GST on delivery charges is part of a broader effort to simplify and rationalize the tax structure under GST 2.0, ensuring all e-commerce services are brought under a uniform tax net. While this ensures compliance and transparency, it also means consumers need to adjust to slightly higher bills for routine food deliveries.

As the new rules settle in, users are exploring workarounds, apps, and loyalty discounts to offset the additional cost. Meanwhile, the humorous takes on social media continue to lighten the mood around a tax change that has everyone talking, proving that even small policy shifts can spark nationwide conversations online.

Bengaluru Woman Goes Viral Walking 28 Golden Retrievers, Wins Hearts



A heartwarming video from Bengaluru has captured social media’s attention, showing a woman taking a peaceful stroll with 28 golden retrievers in the RT Nagar area of the city. Titled “28 dogs, 1 big heart. Meet the dog lover aunty of RT Nagar, Bangalore!”, the clip highlights the calm and disciplined demeanor of the dogs as they accompany their owner on her walk. The sight of so many well-behaved furry companions has left viewers both amazed and delighted.

The video’s voiceover explains, “We saw a lady in RT Nagar, Bengaluru, walking with 28 golden retrievers, all matching, all happy. She looked so peaceful, smiling with her furry family. In today’s life, loyal friends are rare, but sometimes love and loyalty comes on four legs.” The footage has since gone viral, garnering over 7.2 lakh views and sparking hundreds of comments praising her dedication and love for the animals.

Many social media users shared their personal experiences with the woman and her

dogs. One viewer wrote, “She has customised her Innova car for the dogs. I love her,” while another recalled, “I’ve been seeing these dogs and this lady since I was a kid, she’s such a nice person.” Others reminisced about earlier days when the number of retrievers was smaller, highlighting her long-standing commitment to caring for them. Humorous comments also emerged, including one that jokingly read, “HR: Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? Me be like: Woofff.”

The viral moment comes in the wake of a Supreme Court directive last month modifying its earlier order on the management of stray dogs. The court clarified that dogs could be released from shelters after sterilisation, except in cases of aggressive behaviour or rabies infections.

This Bengaluru woman’s dedication to her furry friends has struck a chord with viewers nationwide, proving that love, patience, and loyalty often come on four legs, leaving the internet collectively saying, “We love her.”

Google Tests New Gboard Features: AI Writing Tools, Flick Keys, and More

Google is rolling out new experimental features for Gboard, the default keyboard on most Android devices, aiming to enhance user experience and boost productivity. One of the most notable additions is the AI-powered Writing Tools, designed to help users improve, refine, and polish their text messages across apps. The feature can suggest edits, provide alternative phrasings, and even help craft more professional or engaging messages, making typing faster and more efficient.

Another interesting feature being tested is “flick keys to enter symbols.” When enabled, users can quickly access a symbol associated with a key by touching it and swiping downwards. This functionality is similar to the Apple keyboard experience on iPads, offering a faster way to type symbols without



switching keyboard modes. While it may take some time for users to get accustomed to the gesture, it promises to streamline text input once mastered.

The latest Gboard beta is also reportedly testing other small enhancements, such as improved emoji suggestions, smarter autocorrect options, and better multilingual support. Google appears focused on integrating AI and intuitive gestures into the keyboard, aiming to

make it more than just a typing tool—it becomes an assistant capable of anticipating and refining user input in real time.

These features are currently in beta testing, meaning they are being evaluated by select users before a wider rollout. Google often uses beta releases to gather feedback and tweak functionalities for performance, ease of use, and reliability. Users interested in trying these new features can join the Gboard beta program through the Google Play Store.

With AI-driven writing assistance and gesture-based input, Gboard is moving beyond traditional keyboard functions, reflecting Google’s push to combine smart technology with everyday tools, ultimately making typing faster, more accurate, and more intuitive for millions of Android users worldwide.

Thinnest Yet Strongest? iPhone Air Survives JerryRigEverything Durability Test

Apple recently unveiled the iPhone 17 series along with the iPhone Air, its slimmest smartphone yet. At the launch, the company highlighted the Air’s durability, claiming it is the most robust iPhone to date. With tech enthusiasts eager to see how it performs in real-world stress tests, YouTuber JerryRigEverything put the device through his signature durability assessment.

The iPhone Air measures just 5.6mm in thickness, making it remarkably slim, yet it features a titanium frame designed to enhance structural strength. The 6.5-inch OLED display is safeguarded by Corning’s Ceramic Shield 2, which Apple says is three times more scratch-resistant than the previous generation. This combination of lightweight design and reinforced materials has made it a point of curiosity for fans and reviewers alike.

During the test, the iPhone Air faced standard scratch, burn, and bend assessments. The screen resisted scratches up to higher levels on the



Mohs scale, confirming Apple’s claims about Ceramic Shield 2. Its titanium frame provided significant rigidity, minimizing bending even under extreme pressure, and

demonstrating an impressive balance between thinness and structural integrity.

The device also fared well in drop and burn tests, with minimal cosmetic damage to the screen and body. This suggests that Apple’s engineering approach—using premium materials like titanium while keeping the device ultra-thin—successfully delivers both aesthetics and durability.

For users who prioritize sleek design without compromising toughness, the iPhone Air appears to be a compelling option. While ultra-thin devices often face criticism for fragility, this test indicates that Apple has managed to push the boundaries of smartphone engineering, creating a device that is as strong as it is slender. The iPhone Air may well redefine expectations for premium smartphones, balancing portability, elegance, and resilience in one package.

Delhi Metro’s Airport-to-Railway Station Ride Wows Passenger: “Built Differently”



A Delhi Metro commuter has gone viral for sharing their seamless journey from the airport to New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) in under an hour, praising the city’s public transport network. The post, titled “Delhi Metro is

just built differently”, detailed the passenger’s experience of travelling from the airport after arriving from Mumbai.

According to the passenger, they landed in Delhi at 2:14 PM and collected their luggage by 2:24 PM. By 2:30

PM, they were already on the airport metro platform, and by 2:54 PM, they had reached NDLS. Boarding their train by 3:10 PM, the total travel time from landing to getting on the railway train clocked in at just under an hour.

In the viral post shared on X (formerly Twitter), the user wrote, “Less than 1 hour from airport to railway station. This is how public transport should work!! @OfficialDMRC”, highlighting the efficiency and convenience of the Del-

hi Metro system. The journey impressed many online, who lauded the capital city’s ability to connect key transport hubs swiftly.

Delhi Metro, the lifeline of India’s capital, caters to millions of commuters daily, providing quick and hassle-free connectivity not just within the city but also to neighbouring states. Its extensive network, combined with efficient train schedules, allows passengers to reach major locations like railway stations, airports, and business districts in record time.

The viral post reflects a growing appreciation for well-planned urban transport solutions, particularly in cities where traffic congestion can make otherwise delay travel. Many users echoed the sentiment, praising Delhi Metro for its reliability, speed, and overall user experience, calling it a benchmark for how public transportation should operate in modern cities.

This passenger’s story serves as a reminder of how strategic infrastructure and timely execution can make urban commuting both fast and convenient, leaving travelers impressed and the internet celebrating Delhi Metro’s efficiency.

Australia Beat India by 4 Wickets in 2nd T20I, Take Series Lead

Australia defeated India by 4 wickets in the second T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. The hosts chased down India's modest target of 126 with ease, maintaining their dominant form in the series.

India, sent in to bat by Australian captain Mitchell Marsh, struggled from the start. The team was bundled out for 125 in 18.4 overs, losing early wickets under pressure. Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood starred with the ball, dismantling India's top order in a sensational spell. He accounted for vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma in the initial overs, putting India on the back foot immediately.

Amid the batting collapse, Abhishek Sharma stood out with a resilient 68 runs, while Harshit Rana, promoted to No. 7, contributed 35 runs, providing some resistance. Despite their efforts, India could not recover, as the middle and lower order failed to



capitalize on the platform created by Sharma and Rana.

Australia's chase was clinical, anchored by steady batting performances and disciplined bowling. The visitors managed the target efficiently without losing control, showcasing their experience and composure in tricky situations.

This win gives Australia an early edge in the five-match T20I series, placing pressure on India to respond in the remaining games. The Indian team will need to address their batting fragility, especially their vulnerability against fast bowling in powerplay overs, to remain competitive in the series.

The third T20I is scheduled to be played later this week, where India will look to bounce back and level the series, while Australia aims to consolidate their lead and secure a significant advantage in the contest.

Abhishek Sharma Shines as Hazlewood Tears Through India in 2nd T20I



India were bundled out for 125 in the second T20I against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with Abhishek Sharma the lone bright spot amid a top-order collapse. The first match of the five-game series in Canberra had been abandoned due to rain.

Abhishek's 37-ball 68 featured aggressive strokes on the off-side, including slashes, check drives, and lofted shots, helping him reach a 23-ball half-century in his debut appearance at the iconic venue. His innings stood out as the only resistance against the relentless Australian pace attack.

Australia's Josh Hazlewood led the charge, wreaking havoc on India's top and middle order. He dismissed vice-captain Shubman Gill, captain Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma early, leaving India reeling at 5 wickets down in just eight overs. The rest of the batting lineup faltered under pressure, failing to build partnerships or mount a meaningful chase.

16-Year-Old Ilamparthi A R Becomes India's 90th Chess Grandmaster

Ilamparthi A R, a 16-year-old chess prodigy from Chennai, has become India's 90th Grandmaster after achieving his final norm at the GM4 Bijeljina 2025 Chess Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ilamparthi's journey to the Grandmaster title has been marked by consistent performance across international tournaments. He secured his first GM norm at the Hanoi tournament in Vietnam in December 2023, followed by a second norm at the Singapore International Open in 2024. Crossing the 2500 Elo rating at the Rilton Cup (2024-25) positioned him for the final push, and his performance in Bosnia sealed the prestigious title.

The achievement was widely celebrated in the chess community. AICF president Nitin Narang took to social media to congratulate Ilamparthi, saying, "Grandmaster No. 90 for Bharat! Congratulations to Ilamparthi A R on fulfilling all the requirements to become the 90th Grandmaster of the country. Wishing you many more laurels and continued



success in making the nation proud."

Legendary Indian chess player and five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand also praised the young prodigy, noting, "He has been missing the title on a few occasions, but each time he came back and worked harder. I really believe he has a lot of potential and we hope to work together towards greater achievements."

Ilamparthi's rise is seen as a continuation of India's growing prominence in international chess, following in the footsteps of players like Viswanathan Anand and Praggnanandhaa R. His achievement at such a young age highlights his talent, dedication, and the growing support system for chess in India.

The chess fraternity and sports enthusiasts across the country have hailed Ilamparthi's accomplishment, celebrating him as an inspiration for aspiring young players aiming to excel on the global stage.

Sinner, Zverev Advance to Paris Masters Quarter-Finals



Italy's Jannik Sinner and defending champion Alexander Zverev powered into the Paris Masters quarter-finals on Thursday, keeping their title hopes alive in dominant fashion.

Sinner eased past Francisco Cerundolo 7-5, 6-1 to reach the last eight, setting up a high-voltage clash with American Ben Shelton. The victory means Sinner remains on track to reclaim the World No. 1 ranking, following Carlos Alcaraz's shock early exit at the hands of Britain's Cameron Norrie.

"It was a crucial first set. Francisco is very talented and tough to play against, but I raised my level in the second," Sinner said after his win. The 24-year-old, who has yet to drop a set this tournament, is aiming for his fifth title of the season.

Shelton continued his dream season, beating Andrey Rublev 7-6(6), 6-3. The American fifth seed, who won his maiden Masters 1000 title in Toronto earlier this year, also secured a debut spot at the ATP Finals in Turin.

"It's the result of a year's hard work — the ups, downs, and comebacks," Shelton said.

Meanwhile, Zverev maintained his title defence with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. The German third seed will next face former World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, who defeated Lorenzo Sonego in three sets. "Daniil is my kryptonite — he beats me most of the time," Zverev admitted.

Elsewhere, Alexander Bublik stunned fourth seed Taylor Fritz 7-6(5), 6-2 to meet Alex de Minaur, who cruised past Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-2. Felix Auger-Aliassime also advanced, rallying past Daniel Altmaier 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, keeping his ATP Finals hopes alive as the Paris Masters heads into an electrifying final weekend.

Oman Replaces Pakistan at Junior Hockey World Cup



Oman will join the lineup for the upcoming FIH Men's Junior World Cup 2025 in Tamil Nadu, following Pakistan's late withdrawal, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced on Wednesday. The tournament is scheduled from November 28 to December 10, with matches to be held in Chennai and Madurai.

Oman earned the spot as the next highest-ranked team from the Junior Asia Cup 2024, stepping in after Pakistan decided not to participate despite qualifying through last year's continental championship. The Pakistan Hockey Federation informed the FIH that the team would not accept the invitation, citing internal consultations with their government before the event.

Pakistan had been placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland. With Oman taking their place, the group composition has been updated ahead of the tournament. This late withdrawal marks the second recent instance of Pakistan pulling out from a major hockey event in India, after the Men's Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar, where Bangladesh replaced them. The withdrawal also cost Pakistan a chance to qualify for next year's World Cup, as the Asia Junior Cup served as a qualifying event.

The FIH had initially postponed the official draw for nearly a month to accommodate Pakistan's decision-making, eventually holding the ceremony at its headquarters in Lausanne. The Men's Junior World Cup 2025 will feature 24 teams for the first time, alongside the Women's edition, reflecting the FIH's Empowerment and Engagement strategy aimed at promoting wider participation.

Germany enters the tournament as the defending champions, having won the 2023 edition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The inclusion of Oman ensures the tournament maintains full participation and competitive balance, while giving the Middle Eastern nation an opportunity to showcase its growing hockey prowess on the global stage.

Mahieka Sharma Quashes Engagement Rumours With Hardik Pandya



Actress-model Mahieka Sharma has dismissed speculation about her engagement to cricketer Hardik Pandya, putting an end to the social media frenzy.

The rumours began after Mahieka was spotted wearing a diamond ring at a puja ceremony, prompting fans and media to speculate about an engagement. Hardik Pandya had confirmed their relationship in October 2025, which fueled the chatter further.

On Friday, Mahieka took to Instagram Stories to address the rumours in a witty post. Sharing an image of a black cat wearing a pink wig, she captioned, “Me watching the Internet decide I’m engaged when I just wear nice jewellery every day.”

She continued the humorous thread with a playful nod to potential pregnancy rumours. In another post, featuring a man driving a toy car, she wrote, “Wyd if I pull up in this to fight the pregnancy rumours?”

The actress attended a puja

ceremony at Hardik Pandya’s residence a few days ago, where the priest performing the rituals shared glimpses of the event, further sparking media attention.

Mahieka’s posts, however, clarify that the jewellery she wore was purely ornamental and not a symbol of engagement, while keeping the tone lighthearted and humorous.

The couple, who have been in a relationship since earlier this year, continue to be in the public eye, but Mahieka’s witty social media response has successfully put engagement rumours to rest—at least for now.

Her playful and humorous approach has been widely appreciated by fans, who lauded her for addressing the speculation with grace and a sense of humor, rather than feeding the gossip cycle.

With the social media storm calmed, the couple can now focus on their relationship without constant public scrutiny, though fans continue to follow their updates closely.

Vijay’s ‘Jana Nayagan’ Audio Launch Set for Malaysia



The makers of Thalapathy Vijay’s upcoming action entertainer ‘Jana Nayagan’ have announced that the film’s audio launch will take place in Malaysia on December 27, 2025, at the Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. This marks Vijay’s return to Malaysia after three years and is particularly special as ‘Jana Nayagan’ is reported to be his last film.

Co-producer Jagadish Palanisamy shared an emotional note, reflecting on his journey with Vijay, from attending the ‘Nanban’ audio launch as a fan to now organizing the #OneLastDance – ‘Jana Nayagan’ audio launch. He described the event as more than just an audio launch, calling it “an emotion” for fans and the team.

To build anticipation, the makers released a video montage showcasing Vijay’s most iconic on-screen moments, spanning films such as ‘Ghilli’, ‘Thuppakki’, ‘Mersal’, ‘Bigil’, ‘Master’, and ‘Leo’. The montage also includes Malaysian fans sharing personal sto-

ries, highlighting how Vijay has inspired and impacted their lives. One fan described Vijay as a lifelong source of inspiration, while another, who has no family, called him her brother.

Directed by H. Vinoth, the film features a powerful ensemble cast including Bobby Deol, Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, and Gautham Vasudev Menon. Produced by Venkat K. Narayana under KVN Productions, ‘Jana Nayagan’ is slated for a global release on January 9, 2026, coinciding with Pongal celebrations.

With its Malaysian audio launch, the event is expected to be a historic celebration for Vijay’s fans, marking a memorable chapter in the actor’s illustrious career while setting the stage for the much-anticipated global release.

This launch not only celebrates the film’s music but also Vijay’s connection with fans worldwide, making it a truly emotional and grand occasion.

Champion’s ‘Gira Gira Gingiraagirey’ Promo Shines with Charm

The much-awaited musical journey of Champion has officially begun with the release of the promo for its first single, “Gira Gira Gingiraagirey.” The film features Roshan in the lead role and marks a grand collaboration between Swapna Cinemas, Anandi Art Creations, and Concept Films, with Zee Studios presenting this ambitious project. Directed by Pradeep Advaitam, the movie is set in a period backdrop, blending sports drama with patriotic elements.

The newly released song promo has already started drawing attention for its delightful and refreshing musical vibe. Composer Mickey J Meyer, known for his melodious and emotionally soothing works, brings his trademark touch once again. His composition in this track is filled with pleasant, smooth orchestration, creating an instantly engaging musical atmosphere. Adding further allure, singer Ram Miriyala

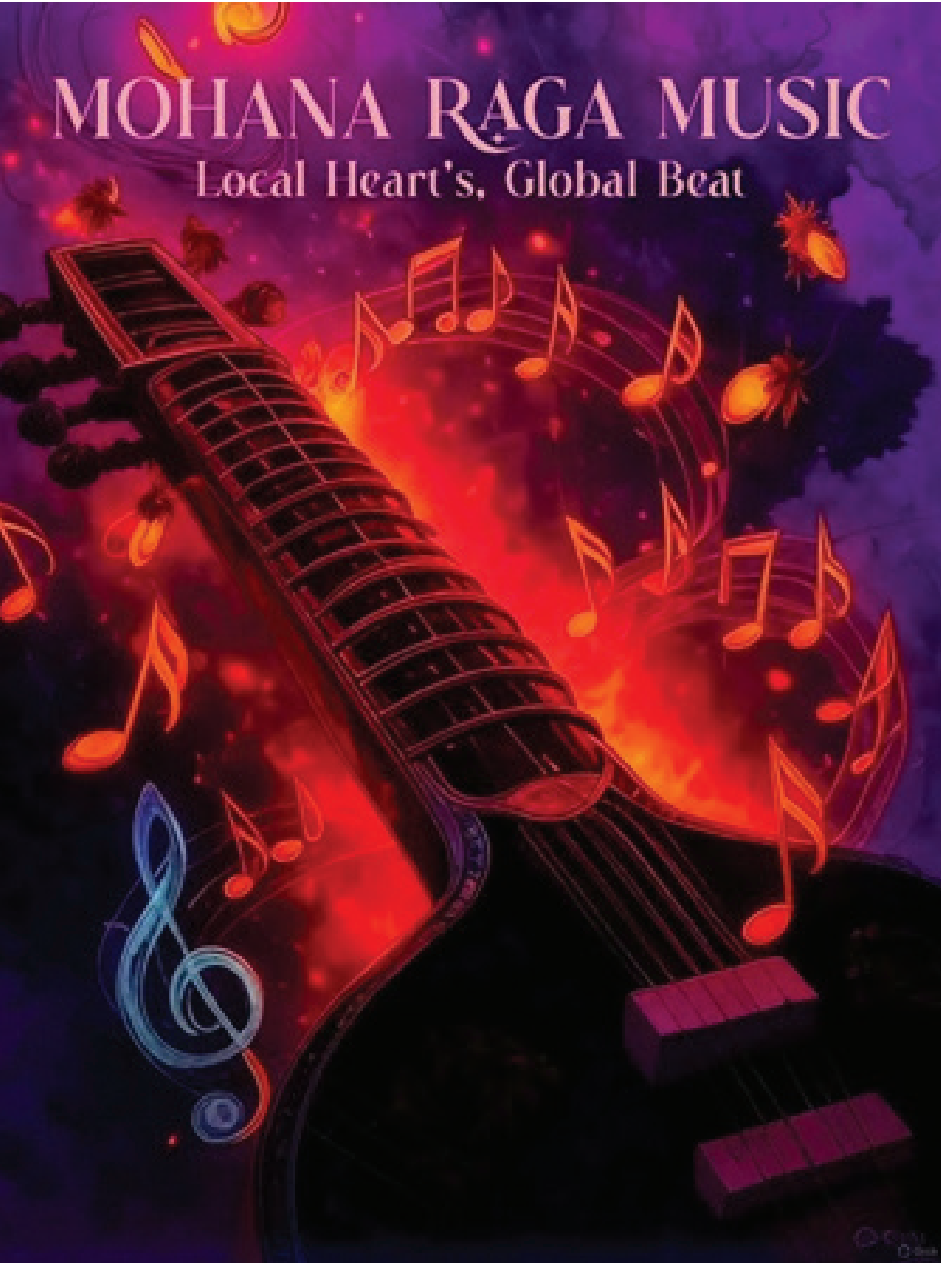


lends his expressive vocals, giving the track a warm and charming feel that resonates even in the short preview.

The promo also introduces audiences to the world of the film’s heroine, played by Anaswara Rajan. Her character appears to be a strong-willed, independent woman determined to follow her artistic calling. She is shown dreaming of building her own drama company, symbolizing ambition, self-belief, and creative passion. These glimpses hint that her role will add significant emotional and narrative depth to the film.

Champion, with its combination of sports, patriotism, drama, and melodic storytelling, is shaping up to be a promising entertainer. The launch of “Gira Gira Gingiraagirey” sets the tone with a gentle yet sparkling musical start, raising anticipation for the full song and the upcoming promotional content. Fans can now look forward to more musical treats as the makers prepare for the next phase of the film’s campaign.

Manchu Manoj Begins a New Musical Venture



Manchu Manoj has stepped into a fresh creative chapter with the launch of his new music label, Mohana Raga Music. The venture holds deep emotional value for the actor, as music has always been an integral part of his life. Manoj shares that this dream has been nurtured within him and his family for many years, finally taking shape in a form that connects directly to his artistic spirit.

Known for carving a distinctive space in Telugu cinema, Manoj began his journey as a child actor and went on to deliver memorable performances in films such as Bindaas, Current Theega and Potugadu. His energetic performances, unique acting style, and

commitment to performing his own stunts have made him a dependable and versatile presence on screen. Beyond acting, he has remained deeply involved in the creative process of filmmaking, often contributing ideas and participating in behind-the-scenes work.

Music, however, has always been a personal passion. Manoj has showcased his vocal talent in songs like “Pyar Mein Padipoya” from Potugadu and released the soothing independent track “Antha Baguntamra” during the pandemic. As a lyricist too, he has penned songs such as “Pistha Pistha,” “Yenno Yenno,” and “Pranam Poye Badha,” each reflecting his raw and expressive artistic

style.

His creative contributions extend to working in music and action departments for several films produced by his father Dr. Manchu Mohan Babu, his brother Manchu Vishnu, and his sister Lakshmi Manchu. He has even added rap segments to multiple family projects. Manoj’s collaboration with composer Achu Rajamani for the Hollywood film Basmati Blues, starring Brie Larson, further expanded his artistic horizons.

With Mohana Raga Music, Manoj hopes to bring more heartfelt, soulful work to audiences, marking the beginning of an exciting new phase in his artistic journey.

Naga Chaitanya Birthday Special: Mahesh Babu to Unveil NC24 First Look



Tollywood fans are in for an exciting treat as the makers of NC24, starring Akkineni Naga Chaitanya, have announced a major update ahead of the actor’s birthday. The film, directed by Virupaksha filmmaker Karthik Varma Dandu, is gaining strong buzz after BTS visuals hinted at its intriguing mythological thriller backdrop. The much-awaited title and first look poster will officially be launched on November 23 at 10:08 am.

Adding to the excitement, the team revealed that Superstar Mahesh Babu will be unveiling the film’s first look. A special poster featuring Mahesh Babu in a striking Varanasi-themed visual, designed by Chaitanu, has already gone viral, raising anticipation among fans of both stars. The makers shared that this announcement is part of a birthday gift for Naga Chaitanya, whose special day falls on the same date.

Meenakshi Choudhary plays the female lead in

NC24, marking another strong pairing for the actor. Rising talent Sparsh Srivastava, known for his impressive performance in Laapataa Ladies, is playing a crucial role in the film, adding further depth to the cast.

NC24 is being produced by BVSS Prasad under the Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra banner, with Sukumar Writings presenting the project. The film’s technical strength is amplified by the involvement of Ajaneesh Loknath of Kantara fame, who is composing both the music and background score. His inclusion has already elevated expectations around the film’s audio and atmospheric elements.

With a powerful cast, an accomplished technical crew, and the major boost of Mahesh Babu launching the first look, NC24 is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films in Tollywood’s upcoming lineup. Fans are eagerly waiting for tomorrow’s unveiling to get a first glimpse of this promising mythological thriller.