



Telangana Panchayat Elections Schedule Announced in Three Phases

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

The State Election Commission, led by Chief Rani Kumudini, officially announced the schedule for the Panchayat elections in Telangana. The announcement follows the temporary suspension of the schedule initially announced on September 29th due to unspecified reasons. Effective immediately from today, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into force across the state. The election process will involve a total of 16,665,186 voters and will be conducted in three distinct phases across all 31 districts. Election Observers and Election Observers have been appointed to oversee the process and ensure fair and smooth conduct.

The schedule for the three phases, covering



Phase	Nomination Start Date	Polling Date
Phase 1	November 27	December 11
Phase 2	November 30	December 14
Phase 3	December 3	December 17

the crucial dates for nominations and polling, is as follows:

The process for Phase

1 will begin on the day after tomorrow. Nominations for the first phase will be accepted starting

November 27, with polling scheduled for December 11. The second phase will commence with no

minations on November 30, leading up to polling on December 14. Finally, the third phase will see nominations starting from December 3, and voting will take place on December 17.

A key logistical aspect of the schedule is the decision to hold the counting of votes phase-wise on the same day as the polling. The voting time for all three phases has been fixed from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the afternoon. The counting process for each phase will begin at 2:00 PM on the respective polling day. This compressed schedule, with counting immediately following polling, is designed to expedite the declaration of results and ensure timely formation of the new Sarpanch bodies. The State Election Commission's notification marks the formal launch of the election process, setting the stage for grassroots democracy in the state.

Key Cabinet Decisions: GHMC Merger, New Discom, and Solar Power



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The State Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, passed several key decisions focused on urban development, power generation, and infrastructure.

GHMC Expansion and ULB Merger

The Cabinet approved the merger of all 11 municipalities and Corporations within the Hyderabad Telangana Core Urban Area into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). This includes 27 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) located inside, outside, and adjoining the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The necessary amendments to the GHMC Act and the Telangana Municipal Act were also approved to facilitate this significant administrative change, aimed at unified city governance.

Power Sector Reforms and Renewable Energy Push

To meet the state's increasing power demand and ensure long-term supply, the Cabinet approved the formation of a third DISCOM (Distribution Company), in addition to the existing NPDC and SPDCL. This new DISCOM will manage power connections for all agricultural schemes, lift irrigation schemes, Mission Bhagiratha, safe drinking water schemes, and the HM-WSB connections.

The Cabinet extensively reviewed the power sector's long-term needs, including a com-

prehensive PowerPoint presentation by electricity department officials. To comply with central government regulations and boost renewable energy use, the Cabinet decided to:

- Invite tenders for the purchase of 3,000 MW of Solar Power as soon as possible, with power supply agreements valid for five years.

- Invite tenders for the purchase of 2,000 MW of Pumped Storage Power also for a five-year term.

- Approve the setting up of 10,000 MW worth of Pumped Storage Power Plants by private companies/investors across the state. The government will facilitate this by allocating the required land and water under the condition that the power produced must be sold to the state's DISCOMs first.

Industrial Power and Underground Cabling

Under the Clean and Green Energy Policy, the Cabinet made a crucial decision to attract new industries and investment by allowing them to self-generate their required electricity (Captive Power Generation) without any upper capacity limit. Applications for this will be approved immediately, though existing industries will continue under the current system.

The Cabinet decided that the construction of the new 800 MW plant at the Ramagundam Thermal Power Station should be executed by NTPC. Officials were instructed to explore th

e possibility of NTPC building plants in Palvancha and Makthal as well, while comparing the per-unit cost of construction by NTPC versus TSGENCO before final approval.

Finally, the Cabinet approved the installation of an Underground Power Cable System in Hyderabad, similar to the one implemented in Bengaluru. Officials' preliminary estimate suggests this project, covering the GHMC area and to be done in three phases based on electrical circles, will cost around 14,725 crores. The plan includes coordinating with T-Fiber and other cable network companies to ensure all utility wires are routed underground.

Land Allocation for Education and Sports

The Cabinet approved the allocation of government land for two key projects:

1. 20.28 acres in Peddanna Belli village, Bhadrachalam district, for the construction of an SC, ST, BC Young India Integrated Residential School.

2. 40 acres in Jagannapet village, Mulugu Mandal, Mulugu district, for the establishment of a Sports School.

New Advanced Technology Centers

The Cabinet decided to establish a new Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in the Jubilee Hills constituency and to set up 6 new ATCs in ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes), augmenting the existing 56 ATCs in the state.

I-BOMMA RAVI CAUGHT DUE TO HIS FRIEND NOT WIFE

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Cybercrime Additional CP Srinivas briefed the media on the ongoing investigation into the I-Bomma case, which has become a major point of discussion in the Telugu states. He revealed that key information has been extracted from the accused, Imandi Ravi, who was hosting the infamous piracy website I-Bomma from a different company. The domain was reportedly registered with the company 'Enjala'. The Additional CP confirmed that Ravi used a Content Management System (CMS) to post movies on the I-Bomma webs



ite. The official detailed Ravi's operations, explaining that he posted movies on both the I-Bomma and Bappam websites. Furthermore, Ravi wrote a redirect script within the website software, which diverted users to gaming and betting websites, indicating a financial model based on diverting traffic to external lucrative sites. The Additional CP noted that other piracy websites, such as Mov-

ieRulz and TamilMV, are still active, and efforts are underway to apprehend their operators. He also cautioned that after I-Bomma gained popularity, many people began using its name for activities like movie reviews, separate from the original piracy operation.

Regarding the financial gains, Imandi Ravi is suspected to have amassed up to 20 crores through his piracy operations. Th

e Additional CP highlighted a growing concern about future threats, warning that with the advent of Web-3 technology, tracking and catching pirates will become significantly more challenging. He characterized the accused, Ravi, as being overconfident and addicted to "easy money," revealing that Ravi was a lone operator who traveled to a different country every week and had even

purchased citizenship in the Caribbean islands for \$100,000. The officer clarified that the news reports claiming Ravi's wife provided information to the police were untrue, stating they had not even interrogated her.

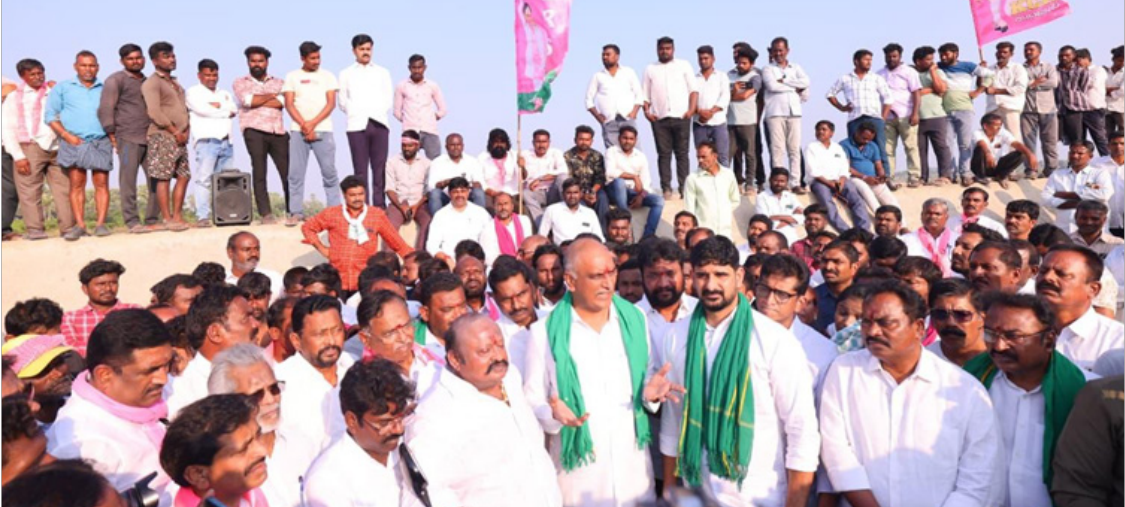
The investigation into piracy is complex, and the official noted that another individual named Nikhil was involved in designing posters for Ravi's websites. He reaffirmed that according to Indian law, any crime committed by a foreigner, even if the act was done abroad, remains a crime, and India has extradition agreements with various countries for handing over criminals.

Ex-Minister Harish Rao Alleges Sand Mafia Blew Up Check Dam at Maneru

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Former Minister Harish Rao, after inspecting the site at Tanugula, Jammikunta Mandal, where a check dam on the Maneru stream was reportedly blown up, alleged that the sand mafia was responsible for the destruction. He stated that the check dam, constructed at a cost of 24 crores, was detonated with gelatin sticks overnight because the water stored in it was obstructing illegal sand mining. Harish Rao squarely blamed Congress leaders for being behind the blast, accusing the current government of being incapable of construction, only destruction. He cited the recent blasting attempts on check dams at Husain Miya Vagu and the successful destruction of the check dam on Swarna Vagu in Nirmal as evidence that the "destruction of reservoirs and check dams has become routine" under the Revanth Reddy administration.

The former minister



voiced suspicions that the ongoing demolition activities, which he described as being carried out by individuals worse than terrorists, suggest that the sinking of the KaleshwaramMedigadda pillars might also have been a result of a gelatin stick conspiracy. He warned that if the government fails to take action against those who blasted the dam, the future BRS government would not spare the officials and police who supported the mafia, emphasizing that they would be punished even if they "hid in the netherworld."

Harish Rao criticized the Congress government for neglecting repairs and the digging of feeder canals for the Kaleshwaram project out of a malicious intent to deny credit to KCR. He pointed out that while reservoirs like MallannaSagar (25 TMC), Kondapochamma (10 TMC), Annapurna (3.5 TMC), and RanganayakaSagar (3 TMC) hold significant water, the failure to dig feeder canals is starving lakhs of acres of irrigation, accusing the Congress of "striking the stomachs of the state's farmers"

out of anger towards KCR. Harish Rao demanded that if the check dam collapse was due to sub-standard quality, the construction company, 'Raghava Constructions,' should be immediately blacklisted and all its tenders in the state cancelled. He also referenced the incident at Husain Miya Vagu where farmers caught the perpetrators with explosive materials, but no FIR was filed due to their alleged affiliation with a Congress MLA. He highlighted the double standard where the government demolishes the homes

of the poor in Hyderabad while simultaneously destroying check dams crucial for farmers. He concluded by demanding immediate action against the perpetrators of the check dam destruction, which has severely impacted the livelihoods of fishermen and deprived farmers of irrigation water for two crops. The BRS announced its intention to raise the issue in the Assembly and warned that if no action is taken, the police and officials supporting the sand mafia will face consequences under the future BRS regime.

Bandi Sanjay Demands Inquiry into Check Dam Collapses

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Central Minister Bandi Sanjay has addressed an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, expressing deep concern and raising suspicions over the recent series of check dam collapses in Telangana. The letter specifically highlighted the alarming situation in the erstwhile Karimnagar district, citing the collapse of the check dam at Tanugula-Gumpula on the Maneru river as a prime example. The Central Minister attributed this deplorable condition to the BRS government's greed for commissions, which he claims led to the utter neglect of construction quality.

He pointed out the irony that the contractors who built the check dams during the BRS regime are now allegedly associated with the Congress party. Bandi Sanjay questioned the Chief Minister about the status of the Vigilance inquiry that CM Revanth Reddy himself had ordered into the irregularities concern-



ing the construction and payment of funds for these check dams. He argued that had the government taken timely action and course-correction based on that inquiry, the Tanugula-Gumpula check dam would not have collapsed.

Bandi Sanjay accused both the Congress and BRS parties of engaging in a "drama" by trading accusations against each other merely to cover up their respective faults. He strongly criticized the BRS leaders, questioning their moral authority to visit Tanugula now, given their alleged culpability in compromising quality for commissions during their tenure. He demanded that if the government truly possessed sincerity and commitment, it must imme-

diately launch a comprehensive investigation into the irregularities surrounding the construction and subsequent collapse of the check dams.

The open letter demands strict action against those responsible, including the registration of criminal cases against the guilty contractors. Most notably, he called for the seizure (attachment) of the contractors' assets and that the recovered funds be used to rebuild the damaged check dams. This robust demand aims to not only punish the offenders but also recover public funds and ensure the crucial infrastructure is restored for the benefit of farmers and the local populace.



Tiger Protection and Tech in Telangana

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Telangana's Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister, Smt. Konda Surekha, has officially launched a pioneering Tiger Monitoring Cell and Command Hub, marking a significant technological leap in wildlife conservation. This initiative, the first of its kind in India, was highly praised by the Minister, who also lauded the excellent work of the Wildlife Safety Team. She announced that this major achievement would be brought to the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy during the "Telangana Rising" program scheduled for November 28 in ICCO, Hyderabad. She encouraged all forest and Zoo officers and staff to continue working with full commitment for wildlife safety. The Minister explained that the Forest Department has started this new high-tech system



tem to protect both wildlife and people.

The new system is designed for real-time monitoring of tiger reserves, enhancing both wildlife and human safety. The central State Command Centre in Hyderabad is now functionally connected to new regional centres established in Mannanur and Mancherial. The core strategy involves deploying an array

of sophisticated tools, including CCTV cameras, camera traps, and GPS tracking, to maintain a continuous, 24-hour watch on tiger movements. This constant surveillance aims to quickly detect and counter illegal activities such as poaching and unauthorized forest entry. Furthermore, the system plays a critical role in human-wildlife conflict mitigation.

Immediate alerts are generated if a tiger approaches a village, allowing the response team to act swiftly and prevent potential dangerous encounters.

Minister Surekha also stressed the need for strict reporting protocols, mandating all field officers to upload their daily reports by 5:30 PM. This ensures the government receives accurate,

up-to-date information for timely decision-making. Highlighting a commitment to good governance and transparency, the Minister confirmed that all collected data will be uploaded to the TGFMS portal. The Minister asserted that Telangana is demonstrating how modern technology can be harnessed to significantly improve wildlife protection outcomes. She concluded that the new Tiger Monitoring Cell will strengthen forest security, provide robust support to ground staff, and ultimately help secure the future of wildlife in the state. The program was attended by key officials, including Telangana PCCF Dr. Suvarna, Wildlife Chief Warden Elu Singh Meru, and Director Sunil. The dedication to this cutting-edge approach underscores Telangana's leading position in India's wildlife protection efforts.

PCB Action: 305 Industries Closed

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

The Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) is intensifying its enforcement of environmental laws and regulations across the state. The board has resolved to sharpen its statutory powers to ensure rigorous compliance. Based on pollution intensity, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) categorizes industries into four types: Red, Orange, Green, and White. Telangana hosts a total of 12,264 industries falling under these four categories. The TGPCB is now sharply focused on controlling pollution through continuous monitoring, issuance of notices, and application of penalties, while also processing permits for both new establishments and existing industries to ensure they adhere to legal and environmental standards. Between January 2024 and October 2025, the PCB granted permissions for the establishment of 2,620 new companies, ensuring that their predicted pollutants and activities align with environmental standards to prevent air and water pollution. During the same period, it issued Consent for Operations (CFO) to 3,521 companies, allowing them to commence activities based on the assessment of their future environmental impact and potential pollut-

ants. The PCB identified 2,193 industries as water polluters and 3,164 industries as air polluters in Telangana. To monitor their performance, PCB officials conduct regular inspections. From January 2024 to October 2025, a total of 7,966 samples of sewage/hazardous waste and 3,807 air pollutant samples were collected from industries. Officials stated that actions against companies are pending laboratory reports on these collected samples. In a significant enforcement drive, the PCB issued orders to close down and cease production for 305 companies between January 2024 and October 2025. This action was taken as part of their pollution control measures. Furthermore, the authorities reviewed the pollutants of 2,069 industries and issued formal notices to 1,234 of them. Conversely, closure revocation orders were issued to 697 industries after they demonstrated compliance with the PCB's regulations. To track emissions and pollutants in real-time, the board has established a 24/7 Online Monitoring Cell. Emissions from 501 highly polluting industries are continuously tracked through this online monitoring system. The Task Force Committee reviewed a total of 108 industries that exceeded emission/pollutant norms between

January 2024 and October 2025, ordering immediate control measures to avoid legal action for non-compliance. Under the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) framework, the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) developed a computerised tool for the randomized assignment of inspections. Since its implementation in December 2015, this system allocates 'Red category' industries for inspection to officials on a random basis statewide. The Task Force Committee inspected 1,664 industries and reviewed 324 of them between January 2024 and October 2025, with appropriate actions taken. For faster grievance redressal, the TGPCB has established a toll-free number 10741 and an online complaint application, 'Janavani-Kalushya Nivarni'. Night patrolling is also conducted in industrial areas. Water pollution from bulk drug and chemical industries is effectively managed through the strict implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems. The PCB also encourages the reuse of treated wastewater in industries and has established 5 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), 26 e-waste recycling plants, 4 Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste facilities, and 12 Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Plants for safe waste management. (400 words)



Minister Tummala Discusses Draft Seed Bill

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On Tuesday, Minister Tummala participated in the Raitunestam program, conducting a video conference from Raitu Vedikas across the state to explain the draft of the Central Government's "Seed Bill 2025" to farmers. He was joined by Sri M. Kodand Reddy, Chairman of the Farmer Welfare Commission, and Sri B. Anvesh Reddy, Chairman of the Seed Corporation. Following the explanation, the Minister instructed Agriculture Director Dr. B. Gopi to organize conferences under the supervision of District Collectors to gather written feedback from farmers statewide and submit it to the government. This consultative approach, he noted, is a new chapter in governance, ensuring farmers are informed about and consulted on the laws that directly affect

their rights and interests—a practice he stated no previous government had adopted.

During the same event, the Minister launched the rice seed distribution under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme. As part of this initiative, 5,500 quintals of rice seeds are being supplied to farmers in 16 districts at a 50% subsidy. This step aims to boost agricultural productivity and support farmers financially. Furthermore, the program focused on critical agricultural practices and environmental conservation. Scientists and officials provided extensive awareness to farmers regarding the necessity of intercropping in oil palm cultivation, and, importantly, the crucial need to avoid burning rice straw after harvest. They explained the severe negative consequences of burning crop residue,

urging farmers instead to till the residue back into the soil to protect the environment. A short film on effective crop residue management was also screened, and officials were instructed to conduct widespread awareness campaigns at the village level.

The Minister also highlighted the effective utilization of Raitu Vedikas (Farmer Platforms). He criticized the previous government for building and neglecting these centers but emphasized that the current administration has equipped them with audio-visual aids and is actively using them for farmers' benefit. The Tuesday Raitunestam program, which involves farmers from various districts through these platforms, was attended by approximately 30,000 farmers, demonstrating the success of this participatory approach.

Orientation Program Held for New IPS Probationary Officers

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

A one-day orientation program was successfully conducted on Tuesday at the Telangana State Police Headquarters for the new batch of IPS probationary officers allocated to the state. The four officers—Mandhare Soham Sunil (2023 batch), Rahul Kant (2023 batch), Ayasha Fatima (2023 batch), and Manisha Nehra (2024 batch)—spent the day visiting and gaining crucial first-hand exposure to the functioning of various key wings within the DGP Office.

The probationers initiated their orientation by meeting with Additional DGP (Law & Order) Sri Mahesh M. Bhagwat. He provided them with a detailed briefing on the mechanisms currently employed for monitoring law and order across the state and the significant challenges that the police force faces in maintaining public safety and order. Following this high-level briefing, the officers received orientations on several specialized functions critical to police operations:

State organizational structure was presented by AIG (Law & Order) Sri Ramana Kumar. Police Computer Services & Communications were covered by Additional DGP (Technical Services) Sri V.V. Srinivasa Rao, focusing on the use of technology

in policing.

Provisions & Logistics were explained by IGP (P&L) Sri M. Ramesh, detailing the supply chain and support systems for the force.

Organizational administration was discussed by Additional DGP Smt. Swati Lakra, providing insights into internal management.

Women's Safety initiatives were highlighted by Additional DGP Ms. Charusinha, underscoring the state's focus on gender-sensitive policing. Following the conclusion of their initial training at the Telangana State Police Academy, the probationary officers will proceed to specialized district training in different units across the state. The press release details their specific district postings: Mandhare Soham Sunil, who hails from Maharashtra, will undergo his training in the Karimnagar Commissionerate; Rahul Kant from Jharkhand is assigned to Adilabad District; Ayasha Fatima from Madhya Pradesh will be trained in the Siddipet Commissionerate; and Manisha Nehra from Rajasthan is allocated to Mulugu District. This structured allocation ensures that the new officers gain diverse practical experience in different administrative and geographic settings within Telangana before their full deployment.

Nehru Zoological Park Achieves Prestigious ISO and 5-Star Ratings

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Telangana Forest, Environmental and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha formally presented the ISO 9001:2015 certification to the Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad, acknowledging the dedication of the zoo officials and staff. Established on October 6, 1963, the Nehru Zoological Park stands as one of India's largest and most frequented zoos, attracting an annual visitor count exceeding 3 million people. The Minister proudly noted that this zoo was the first in the country to pioneer the introduction of a safari park within its zoologi-



cal campus, setting a precedent for visitor experience and conservation efforts.

The Minister underscored the zoo's vital role in conservation, specifically mentioning its successful breeding programs for species such as

Mugger Crocodiles, Indian Mouse Deer, and Long-billed Vultures. Currently, the zoo is home to 2,184 animals representing 198 different species, encompassing mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. A key highlight of the achieve-

ment is the zoo's sustained excellence: it is the first zoo in India to receive the ISO 9001:2015 certification for six consecutive years. This certification is a strong testament to its robust management systems, transparent operational practices, and consistently high standards in all areas, including animal care, visitor services, and overall organizational efficiency.

Adding to its list of accolades, Minister Surekha pointed out that the zoo has also secured the ISO 14001 certification. This environmental management standard recognizes the park's committed

efforts toward ecological preservation. These efforts include effective waste reduction, conservation of energy and water resources, appropriate habitat management, pollution control measures, and actively promoting various eco-friendly initiatives throughout its premises. The Minister further celebrated the zoo for achieving a prestigious 5-star rating for excellence in zoo management. This rating validates the zoo's adherence to world-class standards across several crucial domains: animal welfare, scientific research, and comprehensive public education programs.

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has commenced a series of high-level departmental review meetings in preparation for the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, scheduled to take place on December 8 and 9. These review meetings, which began today and will continue until November 30, are being held at the Command Control Centre. A key objective of this series of meetings is to finalize and refine the "Telangana Rising 2047 Document," which is expected to outline the long-term vision and strategy for the state's development. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Sridhar Babu are participating in all the consecutive meetings alongside the Chief Minister, while other relevant ministers are joining the discussions specific to their respective departments.

The schedule for the review meetings is as follows, with focused discussions planned for each day: November 25 (Today): The focus was on

the organization and arrangements for the Telangana Rising Global Summit. The meeting included the Chief Minister, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Sridhar Babu, and the Special Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of the concerned departments.

November 26: The agenda is Logistics and Arrangements. The Chief Minister will be joined by Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar and Seethakka, along with relevant officials.

November 27: Discussions will center on Infrastructure and Development. This session will include Ministers Vivek Venkata swamy, Ponnamm Prabhakar, Seethakka, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with departmental officials.

November 28 (4:00 PM): The topic is Education and Youth Welfare. Ministers Vakati Srihari and Vivek Venkataswamy will join the Chief Minister.

November 28 (6:00 PM): The focus shifts to Tourism and Temple Tourism, with Minis-

ters Jupally Krishna Rao and Konda Surekha in attendance with relevant officials.

November 29 (4:00 PM): The review will cover Agriculture and Welfare Departments. Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Vakati Srihari will participate.

November 29 (6:00 PM): A second session on welfare and related departments is scheduled, involving Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Adluri Laxman Kumar, Seethakka, and Mohammad Azharuddin.

November 30: The final day of the review series will concentrate on the Health Sector. Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha will join the Chief Minister and related officials.

This intensive schedule demonstrates the government's commitment to meticulous planning and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the successful and impactful launch of the Telangana Rising Global Summit and the finalization of the strategic 2047 Document. (400 words)

MP Eatala Rajender Requests 10 Crores for Development of Medchal Sports Grounds

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Eatala Rajender met the Union Minister of Youth Affairs, Sports, and Labour, Mansukh Mandaviya, in New Delhi. He submitted representations requesting funds for the development of sports grounds within his parliamentary constituency.

Responding to a request from the BJP MLA candidate for Medchal constituency, Eenugu Sudarshan Reddy, Eatala Rajender requested the sanction of funds for developing sports infrastructure in the Polytechnic Colleges of Medchal and Ramantapur. Specifically, he requested 5 crores for Medchal Polytechnic College and 5 crores for Ramantapur Polytechnic College under the Khelo India scheme.

Eatala Rajender stated that providing adequate infrastructure and training for students is crucial to enhance India's prestige in sports globally. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya responded positively, assuring that the funds would definitely be allocated in the upcoming budget.

Eenugu Sudarshan Reddy, the BJP contested MLA candidate for Medchal constituency, also participated in the meeting.



HILT Policy: 6.29 Lakh Crore Scam, BJP Demands Policy Cancellation

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The BJP vehemently criticized the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transfer (HILT) Policy, calling it evidence that "land monsters" are ruling Telangana. They accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of acting like a "real-estate" instead of the custodian of the state's wealth, bringing in the HILT Policy, perpetrating a 6.29 lakh crore scam, and acting as the "land robber" and "land loot mafia don."

The BJP demanded that the state government immediately withdraw the HILT Policy, which they termed as "industrial land theft," and cancel GO-27. They called for the Assembly to be convened immediately for an in-depth discussion on the HILT Policy before the government takes any further decision. They warned that if the Assembly is not convened for discussion, the entire country will perceive that there is no democracy in Telangana, but only kleptocracy (a system ruled by people who steal country's resources).

The BJP warned that if the Revanth government does not withdraw the HILT Policy, the people of Hyderabad will be forced to launch a "Save Hyderabad from Land Looting" movement, and the BJP will support and lead such a public agitation. They alleged that while the BRS, when in power, opened the "windows" to the land loot episode by granting Free Hold status to some industrial land owners, the Congress has now opened the "doors," claiming that the "rule of thieves has been replaced by the rule of giant thieves."

BCs Incur Injustice: R. Krishnaiah

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

R. Krishnaiah, National President of the BC Welfare Association and Rajya Sabha Member, expressed concern that the Backward Classes (BCs) are being disadvantaged because reservations for Panchayat elections are being determined with the district as the unit. He stated that while the promise was to provide 42% reservation for BCs, even the existing 22% is not being properly implemented. Speaking at a meeting organized in Kachiguda, Hyderabad, chaired by BC Welfare Association National Vice President Gujja Satyam, R. Krishnaiah pointed out that according to the GO-46 introduced by the government, 22% reservation should be implemented for BCs, but in some districts, it's not even reaching 10%.

He demanded that the Mandal should be taken as the unit to strictly implement the 22% reservations.

R. Krishnaiah criticized that the BC reservations were reduced to protect the interests of upper castes. He lamented that upper castes are unwilling to see BCs become Sarpanches. He asserted that BCs are becoming aware and will launch a movement in the future to achieve reservations in the legislative bodies.



Congress Will Win Sarpanch Elections; MP Mallu Ravi



TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi expressed confidence that the Congress party will win the upcoming local body elections in Telangana, especially the Sarpanch elections. Speaking at a press conference in Delhi, he cited the results of the Jubilee Hills by-election as proof of public support for the Congress's people-centric governance.

Mallu Ravi stated that under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership, the Congress government's administration is running according to public opinion, and people are satisfied with schemes like Sanna Biyyam (fine rice), 200 units of free electricity, Indiramma

missed KTR's claims of a massive corruption scandal, stating that the BRS government itself had granted permissions for land allocation and conversion. Mallu Ravi clarified that the current government only provided the opportunity to convert the purpose of those lands so they wouldn't remain vacant. He warned that if the false propaganda doesn't stop, the BRS will face the same fate in the Panchayat elections statewide as it did in the Jubilee Hills Assembly. He praised Revanth Reddy for running the government better than KCR, and noted that Uttam Kumar Reddy has replaced Harish Rao and is working to rectify past mistakes.

Finally, he informed that he wrote a letter to PM Modi and Amit Shah seeking action against those responsible for the suicide of a Dalit IPS officer in Haryana, and Rahul Gandhi responded, promising to raise the issue in Parliament. He also thanked PM Modi for providing 3 lakhs in aid from the Central Government to a Thalassemia patient in his parliamentary constituency.

HILTP Policy: Congress Unleashes 5 Lakh Crore Land Scam: KTR

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

BRS leader KTR alleged that the Congress government has unveiled a 5 lakh crore corruption scheme. He claimed that the HILTP (Hyderabad Industrial Land Transfer) Policy was introduced to hand over 9,292 acres of land. KTR recalled that previous governments had acquired government land for employment and teaching opportunities and gave it to industrialists at very low prices, without regard for the then-market rates.

However, KTR criticized that the current government is attempting to hand over 9,292 acres of land in 20 industrial parks in Hyderabad to private individuals. He condemned the Congress government for allowing private entities to construct apartments on lands originally meant for industries and employment.

KTR stated that the GRID Policy introduced by the BRS government allowed 50% usage for IT offices and

the remaining 50% for other needs only after paying appropriate fees to the government. But, he alleged that the current Congress government is squandering the land entirely for the profit of private individuals, claiming that paying just 30% of the government registration value, irrespective of market prices, is enough to transfer the government land.

KTR asserted that this policy has unleashed a 5 lakh crore land scam. He mockingly suggested that Revanth Reddy introduced this policy to accumulate wealth for generations to come and that he is attempting to stand alongside Ambani by orchestrating such a massive looting. He directed student leaders to undertake special programs to warn the public against this theft. He pointed out that while Hyderabad lacks space for parks, houses, and city corporations, stressing that the land does not belong to the Congress party's father.

Target to Win 84 Sarpanch Seats in Sangareddy



TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025, Ex MLA Jagga Reddy called upon Congress workers and leaders in the Sangareddy constituency to ensure the victory of 84 village Sarpanches under the Congress banner. He instructed them to field candidates who stood with the Congress during tough times, even if they lack money, and not to choose those who joined the party after the government came to power. He promised to arrange a meeting with him for the winning Sarpanches to secure funds for their villages.

He advised workers to ask for votes by highlighting the schemes implemented under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and himself, such as free bus

travel for women, gas cylinders for 500, Sanna Biyyam, Indiramma houses, 2 lakh farm loan waiver, 500 bonus for paddy, ration cards, and 200 units of free electricity. He warned that he would not forgive any Congress worker or leader, regardless of their position, who attempts to defeat a Congress Sarpanch candidate.

He has mentioned that arrangements are being made to establish industries in the Sangareddy constituency with the cooperation of Minister for Industries Sridhar Babu and TGIIC Corporation Chairperson Nirmala. He clarified that land is being acquired only if farmers voluntarily come forward, and the establishment of industries

will provide jobs and employment opportunities for the local youth. He stated that Nirmala, as the TGIIC Chairperson, is closely overseeing the industrial establishment work in Sangareddy and Patancheru constituencies. Addressing the Congress workers and leaders of Sangareddy constituency once again, Mr. Jagga Reddy clearly stated that Nirmala will be the MLA candidate in the next elections three years from now. He emphasized that even if Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and PCC President Mahesh Goud collectively suggest otherwise, Nirmala will remain the Congress candidate, and they should not assume he will contest, but rather follow Nirmala.

GHMC Council Approves Proposal to Merging 27 Peripheral Municipalities

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

The General Body Meeting of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has approved the government's major proposal to merge 27 municipalities located within or adjacent to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) into the GHMC. This decision signals a significant overhaul in the administrative geography of the Hyderabad metropolitan area. The GHMC officially placed before the Corporation the Preamble sent by the Telangana Government (Memo No. 5924/MA(1)/2024, dated 21-11-2025) which outlines the necessity of this action. The government's justification is rooted in the current state of affairs, citing disparities in development between the core GHMC area and the peripheral municipalities, alongside the pressure of rapid and unplanned urbanization. By consolidating these bodies, the government aims to achieve several key objectives: uniform planning, providing improved civic amenities (like sanitation, water, and roads), and fostering a coordinated metropolitan development strategy that benefits the entire region. The list of municipalities approved for merger is extensive, including prominent areas such as Shamshabad, Manikonda, Tukkuguda, Medchal, and Nizampet, marking them as part of the future 'Greater' GHMC. The proposal required the GHMC to review and study the implications under the GHMC Act-1955 and submit its expert opinion, which the Council promptly delivered by granting its final approval to the Preamble. This move is expected to streamline governance but will also pose massive logistical challenges regarding infrastructure harmonization and tax collection across the newly expanded jurisdiction.



Bar Owners Demand Review of New Excise GO

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

The Telangana Bar and Restaurants Owners Association staged a forceful protest, accusing the Excise Department of unfairly overburdening them to boost the state's revenue. Damodar Goud, President of the Association, voiced profound distress, specifically pointing out that the introduction of GO No. 145 imposes a fresh financial burden on establishments that are already operating at a loss. Association members gathered and staged a demonstration with placards outside the office of Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad, demanding an immediate review of the new GO and resolution of their operational issues. Goud vehemently stated that the arbitrary mistakes and harsh enforcement by officials are creating a bad reputation for the current state government. He questioned the fairness of facing retaliatory actions instead of receiving a response to their official petitions. He detailed their financial compliance, noting that they had already paid 40 lakhs for the bar license renewal fee on September 30. However, he alleged that Excise officials are now resorting to threats to force them to pay an additional 4 lakhs under the new GO, which was issued retrospectively on November 14, after the official renewal deadline. The Association strongly urged the government to postpone the implementation of the post-renewal GO until the next financial year. Additionally, they highlighted the exorbitant hike in the fee for shifting bars, which was drastically raised from 16 lakhs to 30 lakhs, demanding a reduction. They also requested the government to scrap the requirement for a Registrar Lease Deed in the rental agreement and ensure that permit rooms in wine shops adhere to regulations.

Class X Student Dies by Suicide in Habsiguda Due to Academic Pressure

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

A tragic incident unfolded in Habsiguda, Hyderabad, where a Class X student, Sri Vaishnavi, died by suicide after jumping from her apartment building. Preliminary police investigation points to the immense academic pressure she was facing as the catalyst for the tragedy. Vaishnavi was reportedly deeply distraught after her parents scolded her specifically for receiving low marks in her studies. Immediately after the fall, local residents rushed the severely injured student to Gandhi Hospital. However, medical personnel at the hospital sadly confirmed that she was brought dead. Osmania University (OU) Police were immediately informed and dispatched to the scene, where they began the process of collecting details from the grieving family. A formal case has been registered, and a thorough investigation is underway. Police, utilizing the expertise of the clue team, are meticulously collecting physical evidence at the apartment. Their investigation involves closely examining the height of the fall and the specific sequence of events that led her to access the building's rooftop. Furthermore, police are extending their inquiry to Sri Chaitanya School, where Vaishnavi studied, to record statements from teachers and classmates. The incident has cast a pall of deep sorrow over the community. Local residents are voicing serious concern over the rising academic stress faced by students.

Death Toll Rises to Three Following Transgender Self-Immolation



TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

The protest involving self-immolation attempts by a faction of the transgender community at the Borabanda bus stand has tragically resulted in a third death. The demonstration was reportedly staged in opposition to another transgender individual named Monalisa. Navaneeta (24), who had sustained severe burn injuries after pouring petrol on herself during the protest, became the third victim to succumb to her injuries. She passed away while receiving treatment at a hospital located in Balanagar on Tuesday. This latest fatality follows the earlier deaths of two other individuals involved in the tragic protest: Afsana, who died on November 20, and Heena, who passed away on November 23. The escalating death toll, now standing at three, has intensified the tragedy surrounding the Borabanda incident and highlights the profound desperation and internal conflict within the community. The local authorities are likely conducting an ongoing investigation to fully understand the root causes of the protest, the nature of the dispute with Monalisa, and the circumstances that led these individuals to resort to such extreme and fatal measures. The incident has drawn significant public attention to the challenges, rights, and vulnerable conditions faced by the transgender community in the region.



Secunderabad Cantonment Board Commences CC Road Works

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Smt. Bhanuka Narmada Mallikarjun, a Nominated Member of the Secunderabad Cantonment Board, inaugurated the construction of a new CC (Cement Concrete) road in Ward 1's Sanjeevayya Nagar Colony, Chinnotokatta. The move comes in response to the long-standing complaints from local residents regarding the dilapidated road conditions, which had been causing significant inconvenience. The new road project is estimated to cost 6 lakhs, and Smt. Mallikarjun assured the community that the construction would be completed efficiently within two days. During the inauguration, she took the time to personally interact with local residents to gather feedback on other pressing civic issues. The community members highlighted their need for new drainage lines and expressed significant dissatisfaction with the condition and functionality of the existing public toilets. Responding promptly to these concerns, Smt. Narmada Mallikarjun promised to remove the problematic toilets as quickly as possible. The event saw the participation of key local political and community figures, including Cantonment Ward 1 BJP President Jaipal Rakesh Singh, Ward Treasurer Dattatreya Namaji, local women leader Anita, and Colony President Dasari Ashok, signifying the cooperative effort behind the infrastructure development.



Fine Imposed for Unsanitary Conditions

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025

Authorities in the Dundigal Municipal limits took stringent action against a tyre oil godown located in the Dundigal Revenue Ward following the discovery of severely unsanitary conditions surrounding its operations. The officials' primary concern was the substantial lack of cleanliness to cause severe contamination of the local groundwater, posing a serious threat to the public health of the surrounding community. Dundigal Municipal officials promptly identified the violation and imposed a spot fine of 5,000/- on the godown owner, signaling zero tolerance for environmental hazards. Beyond the monetary penalty, the officials issued mandatory instructions to the business owners. They were ordered to immediately maintain high levels of hygiene around the shop premises and strictly mandate that all workers utilize essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits, including masks, safety shoes, and hand gloves, to minimize operational risks. The Municipal Commissioner, N. Venkateshwar Naik, who was part of the drive, also took the opportunity to stress the mandatory requirement for all businesses to obtain and maintain a valid Trade License. The enforcement team, which included Sanitary Inspector Subhash and Environment Engineer Sathvik, confirmed they would continue vigilance to prevent such environmental and health violations in the future.

Telangana Police Officer Completes Kashmir to Kanyakumari Cycling Expedition

Date: 25-11-2025, Telangana Police Constable Sri Regalla Gopi (PC 3360) from the CAR Khammam unit has brought immense pride to the state police department by successfully completing the highly challenging “Kashmir to Kanyakumari Cycling Expedition.” This prestigious national event was organized as “A Ride for Unity” by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, in collaboration with the Fit India Movement, serving to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, an iconic figure representing Indian unity. The arduous journey spanned 18 days, running from October 31 to November 17, 2025, and saw 150 cyclists cover a monumental distance of 4,249 kilometers. PC Gopi’s successful completion of the entire route is a testament to his exceptional cycling prowess, physical fitness, and mental resilience. His achievement was formally recognized by senior department officials. Sri M. Ramesh, IPS, Inspector General of Police (Sports), Telangana, along with Dy. SP & Sports Officer Sri R.V. Rama Rao and RI & Administrator K. Madhu, personally felicitated and lauded Constable Gopi. They praised him for exemplifying the core virtues of the police force—discipline, courage, mental toughness, and superior physical capability—on a national stage, further enhancing the reputation of the Telangana Police.



Tense Situation at Khammam Collectorate After Protest Over Samineni Rama Rao’s Murder

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025
The atmosphere at the Khammam District Collectorate turned highly volatile following an attempt by leaders and activists of the CPI(M) party to lay siege to the premises. This large-scale demonstration was organized to strongly condemn the recent and brutal murder of the party’s revered senior leader, Samineni Rama Rao. Prominent figures in the protest included State Secretary John Wesley and other key party functionaries, underscoring the seriousness of the issue for the CPI(M). As the protesters aggressively attempted to breach the Collectorate’s entry points, police personnel, who were already deployed in anticipation of the demonstration, rapidly moved to block their path. The confrontation quickly devolved into a heated scuffle and pushing match between the determined political leaders and the police force. Given the intense nature of the confrontation and the threat of the situation escalating out of control, a massive deployment of police forces was strategically put in place across the area. This heavy police presence was essential to restore order, contain the agitated crowd, and prevent any further damage or security breaches at the administrative headquarters. The incident highlighted the deep political tension and the party’s demand for justice regarding the high-profile killing.

Golden Care Initiative: CI Venkateshwarlu Supports the Elderly in Maheshwaram Mandal



TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025, The police department in Maheshwaram Mandal, Rangareddy District, is actively implementing a commendable community service initiative known as ‘Golden Care’ under the guidance of Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu IPS and supervised by DCP Narayana Reddy IPS. CI Venkateshwarlu is leading the local efforts, focusing on providing comprehensive support to the most vulnerable residents. The initiative began by meticulously identifying and registering the details of lonely individuals aged 60 and above across four specific villages: Sirigiripuram, Gangaram, Kalwakole, and Akapally. The commitment of the police extends to offering 24-hour assistance to these seniors. This includes the essential delivery of groceries and fresh fruits, as well as ensuring that sick individuals receive necessary medicines. Recognizing the onset of the

cold season, the police team, led by CI Venkateshwarlu, Sector SI Prasad, and the mobile staff, made a special distribution of warm items like rugs, sweaters, and mufflers. Crucially, the team makes scheduled welfare visits twice every week to personally check on the well-being of the elderly, offering them a strong sense of security and reassurance, thereby solidifying the image of the police as a dedicated community protector.



Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Orders Shifting of Koheda Dump Yard

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025
Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has issued swift and decisive orders for the immediate relocation of the dump yard situated in the Koheda Mandal Centre of Siddipet district. This action was taken following direct appeals from the local populace, who highlighted the severe environmental and health issues caused by the dump yard’s proximity to the residential areas and, critically, its location adjacent to the Badugula lake. The Minister’s immediate response demonstrated a high degree of sensitivity to the public’s well-being. He wasted no time in communicating with the District Collector, who subsequently issued the necessary directives for the transfer. Minister Prabhakar officially announced that the government has allocated two acres of state land under Survey No. 998 within the Koheda Mandal to serve as the new, designated dump yard location. This move promises significant relief to the local residents from foul odors and potential contamination. Furthermore, the relocation is a lifeline for the fishermen communities who rely on the Badugula lake for their livelihood; removing the pollution source will allow the water body to regenerate and secure the families’ profession. The order signifies the current government’s focus on resolving regional civic and environmental issues promptly.



Minister Thummala Orders Immediate Start of Pending Cotton Ginning Mills

TPN Bureau | Nov 25, 2025, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nagewara Rao has expressed his firm discontent and issued strict instructions to the Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan and CCI (Cotton Corporation of India) officials regarding the delayed start of cotton procurement in several centres. The Minister noted that despite the state officially notifying 328 ginning mills to function as CCI purchasing centres across Telangana, a significant number of these mills have yet to begin their operations, causing anxiety among farmers. This inaction persists even after the Ginning Millers Association President Ravinder had reportedly assured the government that the mills would resume work following the withdrawal of their strike. Minister Thummala personally intervened by speaking with the association president, unequivocally directing that all remaining mills must commence cotton procurement without any further delay. His primary concern is to ensure that the farmers face absolutely no disruption or hardship during the harvest season. He highlighted that substantial progress has already been made, with 2.35 lakh metric tonnes of cotton already procured from 1.32 lakh farmers. Minister Thummala’s clear mandate to the officials is to significantly accelerate the procurement process to ensure rapid transactions and timely payments, thereby supporting the agricultural economy of the state.

A tribute to Tejas. India’s delay culture is the real enemy in the skies



The tragic crash of a Tejas fighter at the Dubai Air Show, which claimed the life of the pilot, has prompted reflection on the broader challenges facing India’s indigenous air power. While the Indian Air Force (IAF) remains resilient, professional, and capable, the incident underscores persistent gaps in domestic aircraft development and the strategic costs of a “catch-up” approach. The IAF operates under unique pressures compared with the army and navy. As the first responder in most escalatory situations, a service almost entirely led by

combat-trained officers, and one that is heavily technology-dependent, it faces acute operational and technological demands. Unlike ground or naval forces, where numerical strength can sometimes offset technological gaps, air combat requires cutting-edge systems and seamless integration, leaving little room for error or delay. India’s struggle to match adversaries has deep historical roots. Since the mid-1950s, when the U.S. began supplying Pakistan with advanced fighters, the IAF has often been in a reactive posture. Early domestic efforts,

such as the HF-24 Marut in the 1960s, were hampered by engine shortages and technological limitations, even as 147 aircraft were built and 28 were lost in accidents. Later, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas project, cleared in 1983, faced decades of delays before its first flight in 2001, initial operational clearance in 2011, and full operational clearance still pending for its first squadron until 2027. Despite these delays, the Tejas is widely regarded as a capable and largely homegrown fighter, with only two crashes in 24

years. Yet, software integration issues, particularly synchronizing India’s indigenous electronic warfare systems with imported radars and missiles, continue to slow production, leaving gaps relative to Pakistan’s evolving JF-17 fleet. Experts note that India’s policy and procurement choices over decades—coupled with technological gaps and slow adoption—have contributed to a persistent “catch-up” dynamic. While domestic fighter programs are critical for self-reliance, repeated delays and compromises car-

ry tactical and strategic costs. Critics argue that political and bureaucratic hesitancy, rather than operational realities, has often dictated timelines, limiting India’s ability to achieve timely parity or superiority in the subcontinent’s air domain. The Tejas crash is a somber reminder of the bravery of IAF pilots and the high stakes of air combat. It also serves as a call for introspection among policymakers on whether India’s air power ambitions are matched by consistent strategic and technological support.

Is Indian skincare better than Korean, French, Japanese products?



As Indian consumers increasingly seek effective skincare, a common question arises: which country makes the best products for Indian skin? According to dermatologists, there is no single answer, as “best” depends on individual concerns such as melasma, acne, dehydration, or photo-ageing, as well as skin tolerance, climate, and formulation quality. Indian skin, mostly Fitzpatrick types IV-VI, is pigmented, photoreactive, and prone to post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH). Dermatologists emphasize that products should prioritize barrier support, gentle brightening, and strong sun protection while minimizing irritation. South Korea remains a leader in lightweight textures, humectant-rich hydration, and soothing botanicals like centella, mugwort, and green tea. Korean brands such as COSRX, Laneige, Dr.Jart+, and iUNIK are popular in India for daily gentle routines, glass-skin hydration, and early pigmentation prevention. However, purely “original” Korean formulations can feel too dewy in peak Indian summers, making age- or skin-specific variants more suitable.

The United States continues to lead in high-strength actives: SkinCeuticals, Paula’s Choice, and Obagi are preferred for melasma, acne scars, and photo-ageing. Dermatologists caution starting low and gradually building tolerance to prevent irritation in Indian skin. Notably, Indian skincare brands are emerging as top contenders. Minimalist, The Derma Co., Dot & Key, Plum, Dr. Sheth’s, and Re’equil offer dermatologist-formulated products tested on Indian skin and tailored to local climates. Hybrid Korean-Indian brands like D’you and Quench Botanics combine global actives with pollution- and heat-adapted formulations. Key ingredients for Indian skin include niacinamide, azelaic acid, tranexamic acid, gentle retinoids, and photostable broad-spectrum sunscreens. “Ingredient quality, formulation stability in heat and humidity, patch-testing, and consistent sunscreen use matter far more than the country of manufacture,” says Dr. Deepali Bhardwaj, consultant dermatologist at Max Hospital, Saket. The bottom line: the best skincare for Indian skin increasingly comes from India itself. Homegrown brands now rival, and often surpass, international products in efficacy, affordability, and suitability for pigmented, sensitive, and climate-adapted skin. Consistency, careful ingredient selection, and sun protection remain the most important factors for lasting results.

Sheikh Hasina Conviction Raises Concerns Over Fair Trial and Rule of Law



The recent conviction of ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has sparked widespread debate over the fairness and legality of the proceedings. While presented as a necessary act of justice for the events of July 2024, legal experts and observers argue that the trial reflects serious procedural deficiencies and political influence. The tribunal, originally established to prosecute collaborators of the 1971 Bangladesh genocide, was repurposed to try Hasina in absentia after she went into exile. Critics argue this exceeds the body’s intended mandate, creating a structural mismatch between its historical focus and the constitutional significance of prosecuting a former head of government. The tribunal’s reputation for prioritizing convictions over nuanced legal standards further exacerbates concerns about

impartiality. A central issue is the violation of the principle of natural justice, audi alteram partem, or the right to be heard. Sheikh Hasina was represented by a state-appointed counsel who had no access to her and could not receive instructions, rendering her defense effectively non-existent. International norms, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), allow trials in absentia only when there is a clear guarantee of a retrial once the accused returns. The ICT’s decision to issue a death sentence without such a safeguard has been widely criticized as incompatible with modern legal standards. Legal analysts describe the proceedings as an example of “abusive constitutionalism,” where the law is employed not to uncover truth, but to validate a predetermined outcome. The transitional Muhammad Yunus-led

administration, lacking an electoral mandate, is accused of leveraging the tribunal to consolidate political objectives rather than pursue an impartial judicial process. Observers warn that using a tribunal designed for historical retribution to prosecute contemporary political figures risks undermining the rule of law. By transforming a judicial body into an instrument of the executive, the process erodes the separation of powers and sets a troubling precedent for accountability in Bangladesh. While proponents argue the conviction delivers moral closure for past grievances, legal scholars caution that justice cannot be equated with expediency. The case has become a flashpoint in discussions on constitutional safeguards, the rights of the accused, and the proper role of transitional institutions in upholding the principles of fairness and due process.

Eulogising Hidma At India Gate: A Warning From The Campus Frontlines



What began as a protest against air pollution at India Gate on Sunday took an unexpected turn when a group of university students publicly glorified Maoist terrorist Hidma, drawing sharp criticism from across the political spectrum. The students, reportedly affiliated with ultra-Left campus organisations, gathered at the C-Hexagon near the iconic Amar Jawan Jyoti. Instead of focusing on environmental concerns, they began chanting slogans in praise of Hidma, a dreaded Maoist commander who carried a bounty of Rs 1 crore and was linked to at least 27 armed operations against the Indian state, resulting in hundreds of soldier casualties. The irony was stark: the eu-

logy occurred within touching distance of Amar Jawan Jyoti, a memorial dedicated to India’s fallen soldiers. Beyond celebrating Hidma, the group also vowed to resurrect the “Jantana Sarkar,” the parallel Maoist administration that controlled the so-called ‘Red Corridor’ for decades. The corridor, which included areas like Phulnar-Gundurwahi, was once the forbidden capital of Maoist operations, complete with red flags, People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army cadres in olive-green uniforms, and lethal ambushes against security forces. Hidma’s death in a recent encounter marked the reclamation of Gundurwahi by the state, ending years of unchallenged Maoist domi-

nance. Many Maoists have surrendered, and the government’s writ is re-established, yet the ideology continues to resonate with certain segments, particularly among ultra-Left student groups. Authorities moved swiftly to arrest the students, triggering debate on the limits of free speech. Critics on the Left condemned the arrests, arguing that punitive measures could stifle student activism and idealism. However, security experts and policymakers warn that glorifying individuals responsible for decades of terror is not mere rhetoric—it poses a direct challenge to national security. Even former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had identified Maoist insurgency as India’s “no. 1 in-

ternal security threat.” Observers note that while youth activism is essential in a democracy, romanticizing violent extremism risks normalizing ideologies that have long caused suffering and destabilization. The India Gate incident serves as a warning from the campus frontlines: unchecked radicalism in universities can intersect dangerously with political symbolism, requiring careful monitoring by both authorities and educators. The protest has reignited national conversations on the balance between free expression, student activism, and the responsibility to uphold constitutional values, particularly when it comes to defending India’s democratic and territorial integrity.

“Democracy In India’s DNA”: PM Modi After Hoisting Flag At Ayodhya Temple



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hoisted a saffron flag atop the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya during a sacred ceremony called Dhvaj Arohan, calling the moment a step toward healing “wounds and pain of centuries.”

The 22-foot triangular flag, adorned with the Sun symbol and the sacred ‘Om’, was raised atop a shikhar built in the traditional Nagara architectural

style. Modi led the rituals in the presence of sadhus, dignitaries, and members of the Ram Janambhoomi Trust, marking a significant religious and cultural milestone. Addressing the gathering, he said, “A 500-year-old resolve is being fulfilled. Ayodhya is witnessing another epochal event in its history. The entire country and globe are immersed in Ram.”

The Prime Minister highlighted India’s unique democratic heritage, coun-

tering claims that democracy was borrowed from abroad. “Democracy is in our DNA,” he asserted, emphasizing the continuity of India’s civilizational values.

The ceremony coincided with Vivah Panchami, the auspicious day marking the marriage of Ram and Sita, and also commemorates the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, who meditated in Ayodhya for 48 hours in the 17th century. The rituals were

conducted by 108 Acharyas from Ayodhya, Kashi, and South India under the guidance of Kashi scholar Ganeshwar Shastri.

Access to the temple was restricted to invited guests with QR-coded passes until 2:30 pm, with around 6,000 attendees expected. The city was spruced up in preparation, with roads cleaned, stop signs installed, and sanitation measures intensified.

This ceremony follows Modi’s earlier participa-

tion in key milestones of the temple: he presided over the consecration of Ram Lalla’s idol on January 22, 2024, and laid the foundation stone for the temple in August 2020, nearly a year after the Supreme Court awarded the 2.77-acre disputed land for the Ram Mandir.

The event reflects a blend of religious devotion, cultural heritage, and the Prime Minister’s message linking India’s spiritual and democratic ethos.

Chandigarh Police Bust Two Inter-State Narcotic Syndicates, 12 Held



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major crackdown on organized drug networks, the Crime Branch of Chandigarh Police has busted two inter-state narcotic syndicates, arresting 12 people and seizing narcotics and assets worth over Rs 8.15 crore.

In the first case, acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ashwani Kumar alias Ashu from Sector 40, recovering 47.8 grams of heroin. Subsequent investigations led to the arrest of Sonu alias Kallu alias Don, Salman, Sunil alias Darchi, and Anup, with the operations exposing a key interstate supplier, Bunty from Dhakoli, Zirakpur. Raids at Bunty’s residence recovered 523 grams of cocaine, Rs 20.64 lakh in cash, gold ornaments,

and other incriminating items. Additional seizures included 490 grams of cocaine, heroin, and crack balls, bringing the total haul from this syndicate to 1.02 kg of cocaine, 197 grams of heroin, 2.01 grams of ICE, cash of Rs 21 lakh, gold, and two vehicles. Investigations revealed Bunty sourced cocaine from Delhi-based supplier Sunny and synthetic drugs from African nationals, with local peddlers distributing them across Chandigarh.

In the second case, on November 19, police arrested Rahul and Arun Kumar, recovering 146.36 grams of cocaine. Further interrogations led to arrests of Inderjeet Singh alias Rohit, Tinku, Akash, and Vishal. Arun Kumar was identified as

the main handler sourcing cocaine from Delhi, while Rahul used GPS-based “drop points” for deliveries. The operation recovered 184 grams of cocaine, 279 grams of heroin, Rs 5 lakh drug money, gold and silver jewellery, two vehicles, and a note-counting machine.

Crime Branch SP Jasbir Singh said both syndicates were highly organized, using digital payments, proxy bank accounts, and interstate supply chains. Investigations are ongoing to trace further networks and suppliers involved in both operations.

These coordinated raids mark a significant effort by Chandigarh Police to dismantle structured narcotics operations affecting multiple states.

India, Afghanistan Commit to Strengthen Trade Ties

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

India, Afghanistan Commit to Strengthen Trade Ties

India and Afghanistan have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing economic cooperation and expanding bilateral trade, following a meeting between Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Afghanistan’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, on Monday.

Sharing images of the meeting on social media, Goyal said the discussions reflected a shared resolve to facilitate smoother movement of goods and investment, deepen partnerships, and strengthen people-to-people ties. Azizi, who is on a five-day visit to India, also met officials from the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) earlier in the day.

Highlighting the historical relationship between the two nations, Azizi said the visit aimed to enhance bilateral economic cooperation and explore new trade and investment opportunities. He noted that



both countries were targeting bilateral trade of nearly USD 1 billion, driven by strong interest from the private sector.

The Afghan minister added that the discussions covered potential collaborations in mining, agriculture, health, and investment sectors, emphasizing the untapped potential and mutual intent to work to-

gether effectively.

Azizi also addressed minor operational issues such as visa challenges and air corridor costs, which were reportedly resolved during the visit. He highlighted that resolving these matters would boost trade, investment, and transit between India and Afghanistan in the coming months.

The meeting underlines the renewed focus on strategic economic engagement between India and Afghanistan, following years of challenges in bilateral trade due to regional instability and logistical hurdles. Both sides expressed optimism that the strengthened cooperation would not only enhance commercial links

but also foster long-term political and diplomatic relations.

This visit marks a significant step in reinforcing historical ties and building a framework for sustainable economic collaboration, reflecting both nations’ intent to leverage their resources and strategic positions for mutual growth.

Zubeen’s Death “Plain and Simple Murder”:- Assam Chief Minister In Assembly



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday stated in the Assembly that singer Zubeen Garg’s death in Singapore on September 19 was not an accident, but a “plain

and simple murder”. Garg, 52, had died while swimming during a yacht trip while attending the North East India Festival (NEIF).

Sarma said that after a preliminary probe, Assam Police concluded the case

was a murder. Four to five people are being booked in connection with the incident. “One of the accused killed Garg, and others assisted him,” Sarma added during an adjournment motion raised by the oppo-

sition to discuss the singer’s death.

Following the incident, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was formed to investigate, after over 60 cases were filed across the state. Additionally, a one-man inquiry commission headed by Gauhati High Court judge Justice Soumitra Saikia was set up to probe the case.

Days after the death, seven people were arrested, including NEIF organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta, Garg’s manager Siddharth Sharma, two band members, and his cousin Sandipan Garg, a senior Assam police officer. Garg’s personal security officers, Nandeswar Bora and Prabir Baishya, were also taken into custody after investigations revealed financial transactions exceeding Rs 1.1 crore from their accounts.

The accused are currently in judicial custody and

face charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including murder, culpable homicide, criminal conspiracy, and causing death by negligence.

CM Sarma stated that the SIT will file a “water-tight chargesheet” in December, and that the motive behind the crime will shock the state. The investigation will also expand to include criminal breach of trust and negligence.

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is conducting an independent probe, while the state commission has extended the deadline for collecting statements and evidence till December 12. The inquiry began on November 3, and the case continues to unfold with high public interest across Assam and Northeast India.

The Delhi government has directed private offices to operate with 50% on-site staff and allow the rest to work from home, as authorities continue to urge caution amid hazardous air quality.

Ambedkar, Constitution subjected to ‘ferocious assault’ by RSS: Congress



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday (November 25, 2025) claimed that B.R. Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution have faced a “ferocious assault” from the RSS, a trend that, according to the party, has continued since the drafting of the Constitution 76 years ago.

Congress general secretary and in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, recalled Ambedkar’s role in moving the resolution for the formal adoption of the draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, emphasizing the significance of Ambedkar’s acknowledgment of the Congress party’s contribution. In his closing speech before moving the resolution, Ambedkar had praised the Congress for its role

in shaping India’s foundational legal document, Ramesh noted.

Ramesh underscored that while the Constitution was meticulously drafted to ensure equality, justice, and democratic governance, it immediately faced challenges from ideological groups like the RSS, which opposed several provisions and principles. “The assault on Ambedkar and the Constitution was fierce then, and unfortunately, the attempts to undermine the values enshrined in the Constitution continue today,” he said.

The Congress highlighted that Ambedkar’s vision for India was rooted in social justice, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights, which remain cornerstones of India’s democracy. The party called on citizens and po-

litical leaders to remain vigilant and safeguard the Constitution against efforts to distort or dilute its core values.

This statement comes amid ongoing political debates about constitutional interpretation and the role of institutions in preserving democratic norms. Ramesh emphasized that revisiting Ambedkar’s speeches and contributions is crucial to understanding the intent behind the Constitution and defending it against attempts to politicize or undermine it.

By drawing attention to Ambedkar’s legacy, the Congress seeks to reinforce its commitment to constitutional values and democratic principles, stressing that the protection of these principles is essential for the nation’s unity, equality, and justice.

China Launches Shenzhou 22 to Aid Stranded Astronauts



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

China successfully launched the Shenzhou 22 spacecraft on Tuesday to assist in the eventual return of three astronauts temporarily stranded aboard the Tiangong space station. The crew had docked on the station on November 1, 2025, but a damaged spacecraft had left them without a guaranteed return vehicle in case of emergency.

The Shenzhou 22 mission is unmanned and is scheduled to be used sometime in 2026 to bring the astronauts safely back to Earth. The launch follows complications earlier this month when the Shenzhou 20 crew faced a nine-day delay in returning home due to a damaged spacecraft window. That team eventually returned using the Shenzhou 21 spacecraft, which had delivered the replacement crew to the station.

The damaged Shenzhou 20 craft remains in orbit and is slated for a controlled return later, after which Chinese space authorities will assess the vehicle. State broadcaster CCTV reported that the spacecraft did not meet safety standards required for transporting astro-

nauts, prompting the deployment of Shenzhou 22 as a precautionary measure.

China's Tiangong program, meaning "Heavenly Palace," has steadily expanded over the past few years, with astronauts conducting missions and constructing the station module by module. Unlike the International Space Station, which has been operational for 25 years, Tiangong is smaller and entirely managed by China's military-controlled space program. Beijing developed the station after being excluded from the ISS due to U.S. national security concerns.

Since its first crewed mission in 2021, Tiangong has hosted multiple teams of astronauts, demonstrating China's rapidly advancing capabilities in human spaceflight. The Shenzhou 22 launch underscores China's commitment to maintaining continuous human presence in orbit while addressing safety challenges. With this mission, authorities aim to ensure that the current crew has a reliable means of return and that China's space program continues its steady progress in orbital operations.

Taliban Pushes Trade Ties with India Amid Border Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Afghanistan's Minister for Commerce and Industry, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, has made a strong pitch to India, emphasizing that Kabul is "open for business" even as tensions with Pakistan have temporarily disrupted trade routes. Speaking during his first visit to New Delhi, Azizi underscored Afghanistan's desire to expand bilateral trade, investment, and diplomatic engagement with India.

Azizi confirmed that Afghanistan will dispatch a commercial attaché to New Delhi within a month and is progressing on appointing new ambassadors in both capitals. He assured that full security guarantees are in place for Indian diplomats, adding that the Taliban government is removing large blast walls erected during the US presence, signaling a safer environment for foreign missions.

On economic cooperation, Azizi stressed that current trade between India and Afghanistan stands at \$1 billion, far below potential. He highlighted efforts to subsidize Ariana Afghan Airlines and support private carriers to strengthen the India-Afghanistan air corridor, making freight cheaper and more predictable. He also mentioned plans to explore sea routes via

Iran and land routes through Central Asia, reducing dependency on Pakistan.

Regarding Afghanistan's rich mineral and rare-earth resources, Azizi welcomed Indian participation, provided companies comply with Afghan regulations. "We give equal access for trade to all," he said, emphasizing India's technological advantage and competitive pricing as reasons it remains a preferred partner.

The minister also highlighted women's entrepreneurship, noting that the Afghan Chamber of Commerce for Women is expanding offices and facilitating \$100 million in partnerships with NGOs and private firms. He invited Indian women-focused businesses to collaborate with Afghan women entrepreneurs.

Concluding his visit, Azizi extended formal invitations to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to visit Afghanistan in June or July 2026 and encouraged Indian journalists to report on Afghanistan's private sector and development. Amid regional tensions, Azizi's outreach signals Kabul's determination to strengthen economic and diplomatic ties with India while promoting peace and stability.

Trump's DOGE Denies Shutdown, Promises Return Soon

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), once led by Elon Musk, has denied recent reports claiming it was shutting down, calling such stories "fake news" and promising to resume its regular updates in the coming days. The clarification comes amid conflicting statements about the department's status, with some earlier reports, including by Reuters, suggesting DOGE had been disbanded.

In a post on X, DOGE highlighted its recent achievements, noting that in the past week alone it terminated 78 contracts, saving taxpayers \$335 million. The department said it continues to collaborate with other federal agencies to modernize technology and software, aiming to enhance efficiency and productivity across the U.S. government. Acting head Amy Gleason emphasized that DOGE



remains active despite the lack of a permanent head following Elon Musk's departure eight months ago.

Launched under President Donald

Trump, DOGE's mandate has been to streamline government operations, reduce waste, and cut unnecessary spending. According to DOGE's online tracker,

the department has reportedly saved \$214 billion as of October 4 through measures including contract cancellations, renegotiations, stopping

improper payments, and workforce reductions, though some experts have questioned the accuracy of these figures.

Several former

DOGE officials have moved to other government roles. Zachary Terrell, who handled sensitive health-system data at DOGE, is now the CTO at the Department of Health and Human Services. Jeremy Lewin, involved in dismantling USAID under DOGE, has become the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Assistance, while Rachel Riley, another former member, is now Acting Chief of the Office of Naval Research.

Despite past uncertainty, DOGE reiterated that its mission remains ongoing, and it is preparing to resume its standard Friday update. The department's statement reinforced that the organization continues to execute President Trump's agenda of modernizing government systems and ensuring fiscal responsibility, reassuring the public and federal partners that operations are fully functional.

Lahore HC Restores Imran Khan's Plea to Consolidate 107 Cases

TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

The Lahore High Court has revived a writ petition filed by jailed PTI founder Imran Khan, seeking the consolidation of all 107 cases registered against him, mainly related to the May 9 violence. The petition, originally filed in 2023, had been dismissed earlier due to non-prosecution. Chief Justice Aalia Neelum accepted an application on Khan's behalf, restoring the petition and scheduling the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

Khan's plea argues that many of the FIRs are politically motivated and involve overlapping allegations across Punjab. It also highlighted logistical challenges, as multiple hearings were often fixed on the same day in different districts, making it impossible for him to appear before several courts simultaneously. Consolidation, the petition



contends, is essential for practical access to justice.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had on October 24 issued orders regarding jail visits for Khan.

The court directed that all meetings be conducted strictly according to the approved schedule and that Adiala Jail authorities comply with security protocols. A three-member

bench led by Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar emphasized that all future visits follow established procedures.

Recently, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad So-

hail Afridi visited Khan in Adiala Jail under court-sanctioned protocols. His petition, which sought to discuss governance and cabinet formation, faced initial objections from

the IHC registrar's office. However, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir overruled these objections, allowing the meeting and issuing notices to the interior secretary, Punjab inspector general of police, and the jail superintendent for compliance.

This development comes amid ongoing scrutiny of Khan's legal and political situation. His legal team, represented by Advocate Ali Bukhari and through Advocate General Shah Faisal, emphasized fresh legal grounds for the petition, citing unfinished cabinet formation and administrative concerns.

The restoration of Khan's consolidation plea is seen as a key step in streamlining his legal proceedings, which have drawn national and international attention due to the political implications of the multiple cases against the former Prime Minister.

India, Canada to Fast-Track Trade Deal Amid New Foreign Policy



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv/Europe

Canada and India are set to accelerate talks on a new trade deal following a period of strained relations, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand announced on Monday. The announcement comes after a meeting between Canadian

Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit in South Africa, where both leaders agreed to restart stalled negotiations.

Anand highlighted that Ottawa's new foreign policy approach, shaped by a more protectionist global envi-

ronment and the aftermath of US President Donald Trump's trade war, is driving the expedited timeline. "The leaders were adamant that this work proceed as quickly as possible," Anand said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. Carney is expected to visit India early next

year to advance discussions.

Relations between the two nations had been tense since 2023, after Canadian authorities accused New Delhi of involvement in the assassination of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar near Vancouver. Four Indian nationals in

Canada were charged in connection with the case, which led Ottawa to suspend trade talks. Diplomatic ties improved in June 2025 when Carney invited Modi to the G7 summit in Alberta and both countries restored their top diplomats in August.

Anand emphasized

that Canada aims to double non-US trade over the next decade and sees India as a key partner. "This is a completely new approach to foreign policy... a moment for Canada as a trading nation," she said. Canada is India's seventh-largest trade partner for goods and services and a major foreign investor. Both nations expect bilateral trade to reach USD 50 billion by 2030.

The renewed push reflects Canada's broader strategy to diversify trade beyond the US and strengthen economic ties with key partners like India and China. Anand noted that Canada remains ready to engage with the US on trade issues while actively pursuing agreements with other nations to secure its position in a shifting global economic landscape.

This accelerated trade initiative marks a significant step toward repairing India-Canada relations and boosting long-term economic cooperation.

Markets Slip on Foreign Fund Outflows, Weak Asian Cues

Equity markets opened lower on Tuesday, weighed down by foreign fund outflows and weak cues from Asian peers. The BSE Sensex slipped 55 points to 83,923.48, while the NSE Nifty 50 dipped 40.95 points to 25,722.40 in early trade.

Among the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, Eternal, HCL Tech, Maruti, Tata Motors, and Infosys were the major laggards, while Bharati Airtel, Titan, Reliance Industries, and Mahindra & Mahindra gained ground.

According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 1,883.78 crore on Monday, continuing a trend of persistent outflows. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought shares worth Rs 3,516.36 crore, providing partial support to the market.

“FIIs’ renewed selling is constraining the rally in the market. In the last four days, FIIs have off-loaded equities worth Rs 14,269 crore. Higher



valuations in India and muted earnings growth are restraining foreign investors, who are now focusing on cheaper markets with better earnings potential,” said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments

Limited. In Asian markets, most indices traded lower, with South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225, and Shanghai’s SSE Composite under pressure. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was an exception, trading in positive

territory. US markets ended mostly higher on Monday, providing mixed global cues. The Brent crude benchmark slipped 0.20% to USD 64.76 a barrel, adding to the cautious sentiment. In the previous ses-

sion, the Sensex had inched up 39.78 points to 83,978.49, while the Nifty gained 41.25 points to settle at 25,763.35. Analysts suggest that market direction will continue to be influenced by FIIs’ selling patterns, domestic earnings

growth, and global economic cues.

The early weakness highlights investor caution amid valuation concerns and global volatility, even as domestic institutional support offers some cushion to the markets.

Rupee Rises 11 Paise to 88.66 Against Dollar



The Indian rupee rebounded on Tuesday, settling 11 paise higher at 88.66 against the U.S. dollar amid a mix of domestic and global factors.

Forex traders noted that while the rupee showed signs of recovery, gains remained limited due to a firm dollar, continued foreign fund out-

flows, and subdued domestic equity markets. These factors tempered a sharper appreciation in the currency.

Early trade saw the rupee hovering around 88.70 before gradually strengthening as selling pressure eased. Analysts attributed the recovery to improved market senti-

ment and lower demand for dollars in the spot market.

“While the rupee’s rebound is encouraging, persistent foreign capital outflows and a strong greenback globally are preventing more significant gains,” said a senior forex dealer at a leading Mumbai-based bank.

The U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback’s performance against a basket of major currencies, remained supported by expectations of stable interest rates in the United States. This limited the rupee’s upward movement despite some domestic buying interest.

In the domestic equity markets, the Sensex and Nifty opened lower amid cautious investor sentiment, further restricting foreign inflows and keeping pressure on the currency.

Analysts suggest that in the near term, the rupee is likely to trade in a narrow range, influenced by global dollar trends, foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, and domestic macroeconomic indicators such as trade balance and inflation data.

The rupee had faced pressure in the previous sessions due to large outflows by foreign investors, with equities witnessing net selling. However, improved domestic demand for the currency and easing market concerns provided support, allowing the rupee to recover part of its losses.

With global markets expected to remain volatile, forex traders are closely watching U.S. economic data, crude oil prices, and domestic fund flows to gauge the currency’s trajectory in the coming weeks.

The rupee’s rebound, though modest, reflects resilience amid global uncertainties and ongoing volatility in capital markets.

India’s 92% AI adoption rate the highest in Asia Pacific: BCG report



India has emerged as the front-runner in workplace artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in the Asia Pacific region, with 92% of employees using AI in

their daily work, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Across the Asia Pacific, 78% of workers regularly use AI, sur-

passing the global average of 72%. The report, published by BCG X, the firm’s technology build and design arm, highlights the region’s leadership in integrating AI

across workplaces, from offices to frontline operations.

“India’s AI adoption rate, the highest in Asia Pacific, signals not just enthusiasm but readi-

ness for the next phase of transformation,” said Nipun Kalra, India Leader, BCG X. He noted that 58% of frontline Indian employees receive clear guidance on AI use, nearly double the regional average, fostering responsible and scalable innovation.

The study shows AI adoption is no longer confined to managerial roles. Across Asia Pacific, 70% of frontline employees now use AI weekly or more, compared to 51% globally, demonstrating how workers at all levels are driving digital transformation.

Despite optimism, concerns remain. 52% of employees worry AI may replace their roles, while only a third fully understand how AI tools work. Additionally, 58% admitted they would use AI without company approval, underscoring the need for

better governance and oversight.

BCG emphasized that sustained AI progress will require effective leadership, upskilling, and organizational design. “Organizations must move from experimentation to reimaging operating models, building governance, skills, and structures that turn AI’s promise into measurable enterprise and economic value,” Kalra added.

The findings highlight India’s readiness for large-scale AI adoption and the critical need for structured frameworks to ensure that the technology benefits both businesses and employees while mitigating risks.

This report positions India not only as a regional leader in AI adoption but also as a model for responsible and strategic AI integration across emerging economies.

Microsoft Signs \$9.7B Deal With IREN for Nvidia Chips



Microsoft has entered into a \$9.7 billion contract with data-center operator IREN, securing access to Nvidia’s advanced chips to address the growing demand for artificial intelligence (AI) computing power. The deal aims to help Microsoft overcome bottlenecks that have limited its ability to fully capitalize on the AI boom.

According to IREN’s filing, a portion of the funds from Microsoft’s prepayment will be used to finance part of its \$5.8 billion deal with Dell, which supplies Nvidia’s GB300 chips and other equipment essential for Microsoft’s AI infrastructure.

The announcement had an immediate impact on the stock market. IREN shares surged more than 20% in pre-market trading on Monday, reflecting investor optimism about the strategic partnership. Dell’s shares also rose 5%, given its role in providing the AI-server hardware that Microsoft will deploy.

Analysts say the deal underscores Microsoft’s commitment to expanding its AI capabilities at a time when demand for high-performance computing is skyrocketing. By securing priority

access to Nvidia chips through IREN, Microsoft can accelerate the rollout of its AI products and services while managing supply chain challenges.

“Access to cutting-edge Nvidia chips is critical for Microsoft to maintain competitiveness in the AI sector,” said an industry analyst. “This deal not only strengthens its data-center capacity but also helps hedge against global semiconductor supply constraints.”

The partnership also illustrates the growing trend of tech giants collaborating with data-center operators to secure hardware essential for AI workloads, signaling the strategic importance of supply chain management in the AI race.

Microsoft and IREN did not provide exact timelines for deployment, but the scale of the contract indicates a significant expansion of Microsoft’s AI infrastructure in the coming months. The move is expected to reinforce Microsoft’s position in the AI market while giving IREN and Dell a substantial boost in revenue from chip-related contracts.

SBI Q2 Net Profit Jumps 10% to ₹20,160 Crore



State Bank of India (SBI) reported a 10% year-on-year rise in net profit for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, at ₹20,160 crore, driven by improved asset quality and gains from strategic investments.

A key contributor to the robust performance was the sale of a 13.18% stake in Yes Bank, which generated a profit of ₹4,593 crore. This exceptional gain significantly boosted the bank’s overall net earnings for the quarter.

The bank’s performance also reflects strengthened asset quality across its lending portfolio, which helped offset pressures from other operational costs. Analysts note that SBI’s proactive approach in managing non-performing assets and strategic stake sales is reinforcing its financial position.

“This quarter’s results highlight SBI’s ability to generate exceptional returns through smart investment decisions while maintaining

healthy lending practices,” said an industry expert.

SBI, India’s largest public sector lender, continues to leverage its wide branch network and digital banking footprint to drive growth, while balancing risk management and capital allocation. The gains from the Yes Bank stake sale underscore the bank’s focus on unlocking value from strategic investments.

With robust capital buffers and improved asset quality, SBI is well-positioned to maintain steady growth in the coming quarters, even as the broader banking sector faces challenges from fluctuating interest rates and evolving credit demand.

The bank’s strong quarterly performance also strengthens investor confidence, reflecting its continued dominance in India’s banking landscape and its capacity to capitalize on both operational and strategic opportunities.

Mountains Warming 50% Faster Than Global Average: Study



Mountain regions worldwide, including the Himalayas, are warming nearly 50% faster than the global average, posing significant risks to ecosystems and over a billion people dependent on mountain water resources, a new study reveals. Published in Nature Reviews Earth and Environment, the research highlights the phenomenon of elevation-dependent climate change (EDC), where environmental changes accelerate at higher altitudes. The study, led by researchers from the University of Portsmouth, UK, with contributions from India's Uttaranchal and Jawaharlal Nehru universities, analysed global datasets and case studies across mountain ranges including the Alps, Tibetan Plateau, and High-Mountains Asia. Findings show that between 1980 and 2020, mountains experienced an enhanced warming of 0.21°C per century, drying of 11.5 mm per century, and snow loss of 25.6 mm per century compared to lowlands. Lead researcher Nick Pepin noted that accelerated warming is driven by factors such as loss of snow and ice, surface albedo changes, specific humidity, and aerosols from low-

lands, which increase snowmelt. He emphasized that intermediate elevations, where snowlines are receding, are changing most rapidly. The study warns that rising temperatures are causing glaciers to shrink faster, increasing the likelihood of devastating floods in regions dependent on meltwater, such as China and India. Ecosystems are also under threat as flora and fauna move uphill in search of cooler climates, eventually reaching altitudes where survival becomes impossible, leading to potential species loss. Projections suggest continued warming of 0.13°C per century in mountain regions throughout the 21st century, although precipitation patterns remain uncertain. Researchers stress that these changes have global implications, affecting water security, agriculture, and biodiversity far beyond mountain communities. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted climate adaptation strategies in high-altitude regions to mitigate the cascading environmental and socio-economic impacts of accelerated warming.

India, Japan Join Forces on Giant Telescope to Hunt for Aliens



India and Japan are collaborating to build one of the world's most advanced astronomical instruments, the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), designed to probe the deepest reaches of the universe and search for signs of extraterrestrial life. With a massive 30-metre primary mirror, the telescope will surpass existing instruments in size and capability, offering unprecedented clarity in observing distant galaxies, black holes, and exoplanets. The TMT project is an international initiative involving India, Japan, and two leading U.S. universities. Unlike traditional telescopes, TMT's primary mirror is formed by 500 smaller mirrors precisely aligned, a technological challenge where India plays a crucial role. Indian scientists and engineers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; and Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have developed opto-mechanical systems to ensure perfect mirror alignment, a critical factor for the telescope's success. Dr. Saku Tsuneta, Vice Chair

of Japan's Committee on National Space Policy, explained that the larger the mirror, the more light it can capture, enabling discoveries about extremely distant cosmic objects. Indian technology is central in managing the alignment and calibration of these mirrors, highlighting the nation's growing role in global science collaborations. The telescope will be constructed at Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at an altitude of 4,000 metres, chosen for its clear skies and minimal atmospheric interference. Japan already operates an 8.2-metre telescope at the site, which has delivered groundbreaking astronomical observations for over 25 years. India joined TMT as a founder-member partner in 2014, contributing to optical and infrared astronomy expertise. The telescope is expected to redefine humanity's understanding of the universe, potentially answering one of the most profound questions: Are we alone in the cosmos? This collaboration underscores India's strength in high-precision science and engineering, while offering a platform for cutting-edge discoveries in astronomy and astrobiology.

Blinkit, Myntra, Google Pay Top India's Online Choices: BofA Survey

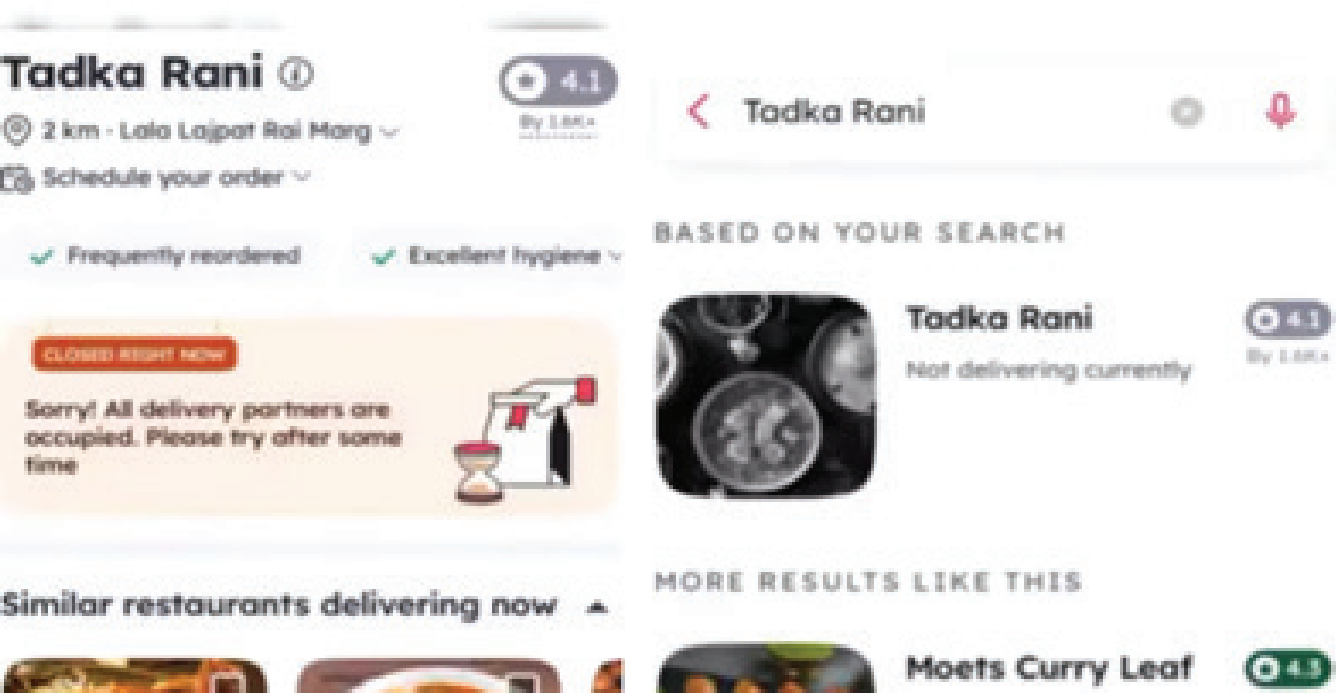
Blinkit, Myntra, and Google Pay have emerged as the most preferred platforms for online shopping and transactions in India, according to a new Bank of America (BoFA) internet survey conducted in November 2025. The survey captured insights from over 1,000 Indian users, highlighting shifting trends in e-commerce, digital payments, and consumer behavior. The survey reveals that Blinkit leads among quick-commerce platforms, reflecting growing demand for fast delivery of groceries and essentials, while Myntra remains the top choice for fashion and lifestyle products. Google Pay dominates the digital payments space, consolidating its position as a preferred method for both peer-to-peer transfers and online transactions. BoFA's findings suggest a significant shift toward integrated digital experiences, where consumers increasingly favor platforms that combine ease of use, convenience, and reliability. The survey also highlighted a surge in mobile-first transactions, with smartphones continuing to serve as the dominant device for online purchases and payments. Other notable trends include rising interest in app-based shopping, the influence of personalized recommendations, and the growing adoption of buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) schemes, reflecting a broader transformation in how Indian consumers engage with digital commerce. The survey indicates that trust and user experience are central to platform preference. Blinkit and Myntra's customer-friendly return policies and fast delivery options contributed to their high rankings, while Google Pay's security features and seamless interface drove its leadership in digital payments. Industry experts suggest that the survey underscores the dynamic nature of India's online ecosystem, where speed, convenience, and trust are increasingly shaping consumer loyalty. As e-commerce and fintech continue to evolve, platforms that adapt to user expectations and integrate multiple services are likely to maintain a competitive edge. This latest BoFA survey provides a comprehensive snapshot of India's online consumer behavior, offering valuable insights for businesses, investors, and policymakers navigating the rapidly growing digital market.



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Delhi Restaurateur Claims Zomato Lists His Eatery as "Unavailable"

A Delhi restaurateur has raised concerns over Zomato repeatedly marking his restaurant as "unavailable", even when nearby eateries remain open. Gagandeep Singh Sapra, owner of Tadka Rani in Greater Kailash 1, shared a video on X showing the app displaying his restaurant as unavailable while others within 50 meters continued to receive orders. Sapra alleged that this issue occurs during peak hours, affecting rider allocation and impacting his business. He claimed to have reported the problem for 31 days without resolution. The restaurateur also suggested that the move might be aimed at increasing Zomato's commission, which he says already exceeds 52% of sales. He accused the platform of using a system glitch to further hike charges. Following the post, Aditya Mangal, Zomato's Food Delivery CEO, responded, stating that the matter would be investigated. Sapra's complaint also mentioned Deepinder Goyal, CEO of Zomato's parent company, Zomato.



of contention in the food-tech industry. Zomato, which dominates India's online food delivery market, has faced similar allegations from other restaurateurs in the past regarding system glitches, order prioritization, and high commission charges. Industry experts say such concerns reflect the need for greater transparency and fairness in algorithmic management of restaurants on delivery platforms. Sapra has urged Zomato to rectify the listing and ensure fair access to riders, emphasizing that repeated unavailability listings during busy hours are harming his revenue and customer base. The company's formal investigation is awaited, and it remains to be seen whether corrective measures will be implemented to restore the restaurant's visibility on the app.

Man Turns Hulk, But Paint Mishap Leaves Him Green for Days



A British man's attempt to become the Incredible Hulk for an event in Benidorm turned into a multi-day ordeal after a paint mishap left him stuck in green. The man, identified as Kane, used green fabric paint instead of body-safe makeup while preparing for a night out. His friend, Graham White, who documents city life on TikTok, filmed Kane applying the paint with a brush, smiling as he transformed into the superhero. However, the fun quickly turned into frustration when Kane discovered that the paint would not wash off easily. Scrubbing and showering for hours proved futile, leaving him in a Hulk-like state for several days. The unusual incident has gone viral on social media, eliciting laughter, sympathy, and warnings from users about the importance of using safe, removable body paints for costumes. Experts caution that fabric paints are not intended for skin and can cause irritation if left on for long periods. Kane's experience serves as a cautionary tale for cosplayers and partygoers, highlighting the need to double-check product labels and use proper makeup or body paint when transforming into characters. Despite the mishap, Kane reportedly maintained his good humor, sharing the ordeal online and joking about being "the real-life Hulk" until the paint finally came off. The story has sparked a mix of amusement and concern, reminding others that not all paints are created equal when it comes to skin safety.

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Medvedev, Bopanna to lead star-studded field at WTL India debut

The World Tennis League (WTL) is set to make its India debut in Bengaluru from December 17 to 20, with World No. 13 and 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev headlining a stellar lineup. The exhibition tournament, known for its team-based format and entertainment-centric atmosphere, unveiled its team compositions on Monday, confirming a strong international field.

India's veteran doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna will team up with Medvedev, creating one of the event's most anticipated pairings. Their partnership adds local flavour and significant competitive intrigue to the four-day tennis showcase.

Alongside Medvedev, several high-profile names are set to light up the tournament. Canada's Denis Shapovalov, known for his explosive shot-making, will be in action. Ukraine's Elina Svitolina, a consistent Top-20 presence and former WTA Finals runner-up, brings added star power to the women's field. Australian crowd favourite Nick Kyrgios, making a return to



competitive action, is expected to draw fans with his charismatic on-court style.

Joining them are France's Gael Monfils, celebrated for his athleticism and flair, and Spain's Paula Badosa, a former World No. 2 whose power-packed game has

made her a regular contender on the WTA Tour. Their presence underscores the tournament's status as a major off-season attraction.

The WTL, first conceived as a blend of sport and entertainment, features mixed

teams competing across singles, doubles, and mixed doubles formats. Its Bengaluru edition marks the league's first expansion into India, a country with a growing appetite for international tennis events.

With elite players, fan-

friendly scheduling, and a festive atmosphere, the WTL's India debut promises high-quality tennis and global appeal. For local fans, the Medvedev-Bopanna pairing is set to be one of the biggest draws of the tournament.

India–Pakistan T20 World Cup clash set for Feb 15 in Colombo



India and Pakistan are set for another high-voltage showdown at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with their group-stage clash scheduled for February 15 at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium. The marquee fixture will be their first meeting since India dominated a heated trilogy of matches in the 2024 Asia

Cup.

The ICC is expected to formally unveil the full tournament schedule in Mumbai on Tuesday. As per early details, India have been drawn in the same group as Pakistan, USA, Namibia and the Netherlands.

India will open their campaign on the tourna-

ment's opening day, February 7, against the USA in Mumbai. They will then travel to Delhi to face Namibia on February 12, before heading to Colombo for the much-anticipated Pakistan encounter. Their final group match will take place against the Netherlands at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

The 2026 T20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will run from February 7 to March 8. The format remains unchanged, featuring 20 teams divided into four groups of five. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Eight stage, which will again be split into two groups of four.

The best two sides from each will qualify for the semifinals.

Depending on India's progression, their Super Eight fixtures are slated for Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. Should they reach the semifinals, India's match will be hosted in Mumbai. The second semi-final will be held either in Colombo or Kolkata, depending on Pakistan or Sri Lanka's qualification path. The final is scheduled in Ahmedabad, though the venue could shift to Colombo if Pakistan make the title clash.

Apart from co-hosts India and Sri Lanka, the 18 participating teams include Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, USA, Ireland, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Oman and UAE. India enter the tournament as defending champions after defeating South Africa in the 2024 final in Barbados.

Real Madrid held 2-2 by Elche as winless run extends to three

Real Madrid's struggles continued as Jude Bellingham's late equaliser salvaged a 2-2 draw against Elche in La Liga on Sunday, stretching their winless streak to three matches. Madrid twice came from behind but were unable to find a winner, slipping into a period of inconsistency after a dominant start to the season.

Elche struck first through Aleix Febas in the 53rd minute, capitalising on a sloppy defensive moment from the visitors. Madrid, who entered the match following a 0-0 draw with Rayo Vallecano and a 1-0 Champions League defeat to Liverpool, looked short of fluency for large parts of the contest. Dean Huijsen eventually pulled Madrid level in the 78th minute, finishing off a well-worked move.

However, Elche responded almost immediately. Alvaro Rodriguez restored the home side's lead in the 84th minute, punishing Madrid's inability to defend in transition. With time running out, Bellingham delivered once again, firing home from inside the box in the 87th minute to make it 2-2 and avoid



a second straight league defeat.

Vinicius Junior made an appearance off the bench but could not change the outcome. Elche were reduced to 10 men deep in stoppage time as Victor Chust received a red card,

but Madrid couldn't capitalise. The result pushed Madrid a point ahead of Barcelona, who had returned to the revamped Camp Nou a day earlier with a commanding 4-0 win over Athletic Bilbao.

Elche, sitting 11th, re-

main without a win for six consecutive league games.

Elsewhere in La Liga, an own goal by Domingos Duarte handed Atletico Madrid a narrow 1-0 win over Getafe, marking their fifth straight victory across competitions. Captain Koke cel-

ebrated his 700th appearance, although Marcos Llorente was forced off early due to injury.

Real Betis were held 1-1 by struggling Girona, while Oviedo and Rayo Vallecano played out a goalless draw, each finishing with 10 men.

South Africa score 220/4, lead India by 508 runs



South Africa tightened their grip on the second Test in Guwahati by declaring their second innings at 260 for 5 on the fourth day, leaving India to chase an enormous 549-run target. The visitors, already in a dominant position, batted with composure through Tristan Stubbs and Tony de Zorzi, whose partnership effectively shut the door on India's hopes of a manageable chase.

The morning session had offered India a glimmer of opportunity. Ravindra Jadeja, continuing his probing spell, removed early wickets on his way to impressive figures of 4 for 62. Washington Sundar supported him well with a wicket, and together the duo reduced South Africa to 77 for 3. On a surface beginning to show visible signs of turn and variable bounce, India sensed an opening.

However, Stubbs and de Zorzi rebuilt with remarkable discipline. Stubbs, in particular, showcased maturity, crafting an excellent 94 off 180 balls. His in-

nings was marked by patience and selective aggression, frustrating the Indian bowlers. De Zorzi complemented him effectively, scoring a fluent 49 off 68 deliveries. Their 101-run stand for the fourth wicket not only steadied the innings but also pushed the match beyond India's control.

South Africa's declaration came shortly after Stubbs fell, six runs short of what would have been a deserved century. With the pitch offering increasing assistance to spin—as evident from the sharp turn extracted by both Jadeja and Washington—the task ahead for Indian batters is daunting.

India now face a monumental challenge. To save the Test, they require resilience and application on a deteriorating wicket; to win, they need a record-breaking effort. With South Africa firmly in command, the hosts' focus may now shift to surviving the final day against a confident and varied bowling attack.

India edged 2-3 by Belgium in rain-hit Azlan Shah clash



The Indian Men's Hockey Team put up a spirited performance but fell short in a tightly contested 2-3 defeat to Belgium in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup match, rescheduled and played on Tuesday in Ipoh, Malaysia. Despite periods of dominance and resilient defending, India could not overturn Belgium's clinical finishing.

Belgium struck first through Roman Duvekot in the 17th minute, capitalising against the run of play after India had controlled possession early on. Goalkeeper Pawan was impressive throughout the opening exchanges, making crucial saves and keeping India in the contest as Belgium earned back-to-back penalty corners in the first quarter. India, meanwhile, moved the ball well but struggled to convert their build-up into clear opportunities.

Early in the second quarter, India thought they had equalised when Dilpreet Singh slotted home following a swift move. However, the effort was disallowed for dangerous play, allowing Belgium to maintain their 1-0

advantage heading into halftime.

India started the second half with renewed energy. Their persistence paid off when Abhishek scored in the 33rd minute, finishing off a well-constructed attack to level the game. With momentum shifting, India pressed aggressively, looking for a second goal. But Belgium responded sharply, regaining the lead in the 45th minute as Nicolas De Kerpel converted from a penalty corner.

The final quarter saw India push hard, but Belgium once again found success through Duvekot, who netted his second goal in the 57th minute. India refused to back down, pulling one back moments later through Shilanand Lakra, also in the 57th minute, to set up a tense finish.

Despite late pressure and promising phases of play, India could not find the equaliser. The narrow defeat, however, highlighted the team's fighting spirit and competitive edge as they continue their Azlan Shah Cup campaign.

Ananya Panday stuns in classy new look as teaser with Kartik Aaryan drops



Ananya Panday has set social media abuzz yet again — this time with both a fresh film teaser and a striking new photoshoot that has left fans captivated. The actress, who was last seen in Telugu cinema with Liger alongside Vijay Deverakonda, is now gearing up for her next Bollywood outing, Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, co-starring Kartik Aaryan.

The film’s teaser, released earlier in the day, has already generated considerable chatter. Featuring Kartik and Ananya as Ray and Rumi, the short clip unfolds like a vivid rom-com dipped in colour and old-school charm. The duo is seen exchanging playful glances and engaging in light-hearted banter, set against picturesque backdrops that enhance the nostalgic tone. Viewers have praised the chemistry between the leads, noting the teaser’s refreshing mix of fun, warmth and visual appeal.

Even as the teaser trended across platforms, Ananya managed to make an independent fashion statement.

She shared a series of photos from the teaser launch event, instantly drawing attention for her elegant and understated style. Dressed in a fitted, earthy-toned outfit, the actress posed seated on the floor — a simple setup that unexpectedly amplified the sophistication of the look. With soft, natural waves in her hair and minimal accessories, Ananya’s aesthetic carried a blend of effortless glamour and cinematic poise.

Fans flooded the comments praising her “classy” and “breathtaking” appearance, with many noting that the photographs looked straight out of a film still. The combination of the buzzy teaser and Ananya’s standout styling has positioned the project strongly in the public eye.

With excitement building around Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri, the film’s promotional campaign is off to a promising start, leaving audiences eager for the upcoming trailer and soundtrack releases.

Gujarati Film ‘Laalo’ Set to Cross 100 Crore Mark



Laalo – Krishna Sada Sahaayate, a recent Gujarati devotional drama, is making waves at the box office, inching closer to a remarkable 100 crore gross despite being produced on a modest budget of just 50 lakh rupees. Directed by Ankit Sakhiya, the film has already amassed a total of 74 crore rupees and is approaching its 50-day theatrical run, highlighting its steady and growing appeal among audiences.

The film’s journey at the box office has been unusual. While it recorded only average numbers during the first week, strong word-of-mouth and audience appreciation helped it gain momentum over time. Today, Laalo stands out not just as a commercial success but as a landmark achievement in Gujarati cinema. If it crosses the 100 crore mark, it will become the first Gujarati film to reach this benchmark, setting a new standard for regional cinema.

Laalo stars Reeva Rachh, Shruhad Goswami, Karan Joshi, and Mishty Kadecha in pivotal roles.

The story follows a rickshaw driver trapped in a farmhouse, who confronts past traumas while experiencing divine visions of Lord Krishna. Guided by these spiritual experiences, the protagonist undergoes a transformative journey of self-discovery, healing, and redemption. The film’s unique blend of devotional themes, emotional storytelling, and strong performances has resonated with audiences across Gujarat and beyond.

Critics have praised the film for its heartfelt narrative, soulful music, and the way it blends spirituality with relatable human struggles. Audiences have echoed this sentiment, making Laalo a slow-burning hit that proves regional cinema can achieve nationwide acclaim.

With continued screenings and strong audience support, Laalo – Krishna Sada Sahaayate is poised to not only cross the 100 crore gross milestone but also inspire confidence in Gujarati filmmakers aiming for larger commercial success in the mainstream market.

‘Rebel Saab’ song trends nationwide with strong 24-hour numbers

The first song from Prabhas’ upcoming pan-India film The Raja Saab—titled “Rebel Saab”—has taken social media by storm, trending across platforms within hours of its release. Unveiled on November 23, 2025, the track has quickly energised fans and heightened expectations around the film, which is gearing up for a Sankranti 2026 release.

Despite being released later than initially anticipated, the song drew a solid response online. In the first 24 hours, “Rebel Saab” garnered 14.92 million views and 335.4K likes on YouTube. While the numbers do not break major records, industry observers consider them impressive for a song that dropped without extensive pre-release promotions. Notably, the track crossed 100K likes within just 23 minutes, highlighting Prabhas’ massive fan following.

Audience reactions have been overwhelm-



ingly positive, with many praising Prabhas’ screen presence, styling, and powerful mass appeal in the video. Fans noted that the star appears in top form, surpassing the impact of his recent on-screen looks. Social

media platforms were flooded with celebratory posts and fan edits soon after the song’s release.

A special screening held at Vimal Theatre in Hyderabad witnessed a massive turnout, with fans cele-

brating in trademark “mass” style. The high-energy visuals and catchy composition contributed to the festive atmosphere, giving fans a theatrical experience even before the film’s release.

The strong reception to “Rebel Saab” has boosted anticipation for The Raja Saab, with viewers now eagerly awaiting the upcoming trailer and subsequent songs. As Sankranti approaches, the film is expected

to be one of the biggest festival releases.

Following The Raja Saab, Prabhas is set to appear in several major projects, including Fauji, Salaar 2, and Kalki 2, further adding to the excitement surrounding his lineup.

‘Andhra King Taluka’ ticket sales begin ahead of Nov 27 release



Ticket sales for Andhra King Taluka, the upcoming action entertainer starring Ram Pothineni, have officially gone live, building excitement ahead of the film’s theatrical release on November 27, 2025. The movie will hit screens in both Telugu and Kannada, marking one of Ram’s most ambitious projects in recent years.

Directed by Mahesh Babu P, the film has already generated notable buzz through its trailer, songs, and promotional content. With advance bookings gradually opening across more regions, the makers are optimistic that the strong pre-release momentum will translate into solid early footfall. Fans are also eagerly awaiting the

announcement of premiere show timings, expected to be revealed shortly.

Bhagyashri Borse plays the female lead opposite Ram, while the supporting cast features an impressive lineup. Kannada star Upen-dra appears in a significant role, bringing additional star power to the film. Rahul Ramakrishna, Rao Ramesh, Murali Krishna, Rajiv Kanakala, and Satya also contribute to the ensemble, promising a mix of drama, humour, and emotional depth.

Music for Andhra King Taluka is composed by the popular duo Vivek-Mervin, whose songs have received positive feedback online. Their soundtrack has been highlighted as one of the film’s key

strengths, helping build anticipation among younger audiences.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, a banner known for delivering high-production-value entertainers, the film is expected to be a major release for the late-November window. With just days to go before its arrival in theatres, industry watchers are keen to see how the movie performs, especially given Ram Pothineni’s recent focus on big-scale commercial cinema.

As advance bookings continue to expand, early indications suggest that Andhra King Taluka could open strongly in both Telugu states and Karnataka, setting the stage for a promising box-office start.

Ranbir Kapoor criticised over ‘vegetarian’ claim after Netflix special sparks debate



Ranbir Kapoor has found himself at the centre of a fresh controversy after clips from Netflix’s new reality special Dining With The Kapoors triggered questions about his earlier claims of turning vegetarian. The special, which features members of the Kapoor family sharing memories and conversations over a meal, did not initially draw much attention. However, online debate erupted after a Reddit user alleged that the dishes served in the episode appeared to be predominantly non-vegetarian.

The criticism does not stem from what Ranbir ate on camera, but from what viewers see as a contradiction between the visuals and previous public statements. Ahead of his role as Lord Sri Rama in Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana, Ranbir’s PR team had repeatedly claimed that the actor had completely given up meat as part of his preparation. These claims were highlighted across interviews and promotional articles, contributing to an image of strict dietary and spiritual discipline.

The Reddit post noted that nearly all food items on the

table during the Netflix special seemed to be meat-based, with no visible vegetarian alternatives. Although there is no direct footage of Ranbir consuming non-vegetarian food, the setting alone has prompted some viewers to accuse his PR team of constructing a misleading narrative. The perceived inconsistency has upset sections of the audience who associate the role of Rama with certain expectations of lifestyle and conduct.

Social media conversations intensified through the day, with several users demanding clarity from the actor. Critics argued that if the earlier claims were merely promotional strategy, the team should address the matter transparently. As of now, neither Ranbir nor his representatives have issued a statement.

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Ranbir continues filming Ramayana, scheduled for a Diwali 2026 release. Industry speculation suggests that the sequel may not arrive in 2027, though the production team has yet to confirm any revised timeline.