

Custody of Jogi Ramesh and Jogi Ramulu Ends Today in Fake Liquor Case

TPN Bureau | November 30

Vijayawada: The remand custody of former Andhra Pradesh minister Jogi Ramesh and his associate Jogi Ramulu in connection with the fake liquor racket case is set to end today, marking a crucial stage in the ongoing investigation led by the Excise Department. After undergoing medical examinations at a government hospital earlier in the day, both accused were transferred under tight security to the Excise Office at Guru Nak Colony in Vijayawada for further inquiry.

According to official sources, the Excise Department is expected to present the duo before the court later this evening after completing the final round of questioning. The department's



investigation team, which has been probing the large-scale illegal manufacture and distribution of spurious liquor, is believed to have gathered vital evidence linking

the accused to procurement and supply networks operating in Krishna district and adjoining areas.

Officials said that the interrogation over the

past few days focused on money trails, distribution channels, and alleged support systems within the local administrative and political circles. During their custo-

dial interrogation, the investigators reportedly confronted the accused with statements from other arrested individuals and technical evidence, including phone records and financial transactions.

Sources indicate that several digital communications and transport logs have also been retrieved as part of the investigation. The Excise officials further stated that the testing of seized liquor samples revealed the presence of industrial-grade chemicals and substances unfit for human consumption. These findings have intensified the probe, following reports that the fake liquor had caused serious health complications for several consumers across multiple districts. Security has been tightened

around the Excise Department's Vijayawada office and the court premises, as supporters of Jogi Ramesh are expected to gather in large numbers. Police have deployed additional personnel to prevent any untoward incidents during the court proceedings. Meanwhile, political observers believe that the outcome of today's hearing could have broader implications, as Jogi Ra-

mesh, a former cabinet minister and senior leader from the region, is a notable figure in local political circles.

The investigation, which began earlier this month following multiple raids across the Krishna and Guntur districts, has so far uncovered a network of illegal distilleries and warehouses allegedly involved in the trade of counterfeit liquor. Authorities are also

probing possible links between the network and certain business entities in neighboring Telangana.

Officials added that further arrests are likely as the department continues to analyze data obtained from seized mobile phones, financial documents, and surveillance material. If substantial evidence is confirmed, the case could expand to include charges under organized crime and public health safety laws.

As of Sunday evening, both Ramesh and Ramulu remained in Excise custody pending their scheduled court appearance. The magistrate is expected to decide whether to extend judicial remand or grant bail based on the department's submission and the progress of the investigation.



YS Jagan Directs YSRCP MPs to Raise Andhra Pradesh's Key Issues in Parliament

TPN Bureau | November 30

Vijayawada: YSRCP President and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the party's MPs to forcefully raise the most pressing public issues of the state during the Parliament sessions beginning tomorrow. He said the party must wage a strong fight to protect the rights of the people, particularly farmers who are in severe distress due to cyclone devastation and the collapse of Minimum Support Price (MSP) across major crops.

Expressing grave concern over the destruction caused by Cyclone Montha, YS Jagan said lakhs of acres of crops in coastal districts have been wiped out. Despite the scale of damage, neither the State nor the Centre has provided



compensation, leaving farmers under unbearable financial stress. He said the current government has completely failed to ensure MSP, unlike the previous YSRCP government which guaranteed procurement through RBKs and direct purchase mechanisms.

Jagan said MSP has sharply fallen across key crops such as paddy, maize, black gram, cot-

ton, red gram, banana, chilli and mango, pushing farmers into extreme hardship. He instructed the MPs to demand urgent relief funds, assured MSP procurement and immediate support to cyclone-hit farmers.

He criticised the withdrawal of free crop insurance that was previously provided automatically without premium. He said input sub-

sidy was not being given and the stoppage of e-crop enumeration has created chaos in farm data, denying support to eligible farmers. He added that mirchi farmers were promised assistance but were betrayed, while mango farmers suffered due to the government's failure to ensure companies honoured their commitments.

YS Jagan also raised serious concern over the mass deletion of MGNREGA job cards, saying 18.63 lakh cards have been removed, depriving rural families of crucial livelihood guarantees. He demanded the restoration of genuine cards and release of pending wages.

He instructed MPs to strongly oppose any move to privatise Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, warning that auctioning individual units

is a step toward full privatisation. He demanded cancellation of these plans, allocation of captive iron ore mines and revival of the plant to protect thousands of workers.

Citing a breakdown of law and order, he said political targeting, illegal arrests and withdrawal of security for public representatives have created a climate of fear. He also highlighted poor conditions in government hostels and welfare institutions, where students lack nutritious food, drinking water and hygiene.

Calling for a united fight, YS Jagan urged MPs to push for pending central funds, employment generation and protection of Andhra Pradesh's rights, asserting that the voice of the people must be heard loudly and clearly in Parliament.

Minister Savitha Slams Jagan; Says YSRCP Targeted Backward Classes for Five Years

TPN Bureau | November 30, 2025
Vijayawada | The Andhra Pradesh Energy Department has been placed on high alert as Cyclone Ditwah moves closer to the state's coast, with Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar directing senior officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply and take proactive measures to mitigate disruptions caused by the approaching storm. Chairing a high-level review meeting from Vijayawada on Sunday, Minister Ravi Kumar held a teleconference with chief engineers and officials from the South Coastal and Rayalaseema power zones to assess departmental preparedness.

Emphasizing the seriousness of the situation, he instructed field staff to remain on constant alert and be ready to tackle any emergencies caused by heavy rains or strong winds once the cyclone makes landfall. The Minister said district-level engineers and line staff must stay available round-the-clock and respond swiftly to complaints of power outages, especially in coastal and low-lying areas prone to flooding.

seats in the next elections.

Referring to the arrest of YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh in the adulterated liquor case, the Minister said the law would take its course irrespective of political stature. She criticised YSRCP leaders for spreading fear among the public and disturbing peace with their activities.

Earlier, Minister Savitha participated in a massive rally from Jinnah Tower to Sri Square Function Hall. She paid floral tributes to NT Rama Rao statue at the NTR Circle before proceeding to the venue. Addressing the gathering, she asserted that only the TDP government has consistently worked for the welfare of BCs and Kuruba communities. Recalling the legacy of NTR and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, she said her father and former minister S Ramachandra Reddy served as a 14-time minister due to their support.

She urged Kuruba families to focus on educating their children, stressing that development begins with education. The event concluded with cultural performances and felicitations.

Energy Department on High Alert as Cyclone Ditwah Nears Andhra Coast, Says Minister Gottipati

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Drawing lessons from the state's previous encounters with severe weather events, he underlined the importance of quick restoration of power supply and adequate readiness of all response teams. Ravi Kumar stressed that preventive maintenance and immediate response were key to minimizing damage and ensuring public safety.

He instructed officials to trim trees close to power lines, reinforce weak poles, and keep safety equipment and repair materials such as transformers, cables, and insulators ready at strategic points. "Every

division must be fully equipped to handle emergency situations without delay. Timely restoration of electricity is crucial to maintaining public confidence during such natural calamities," he told the officials.

The Minister also directed the department to maintain seamless coordination among all its transmission, generation, and distribution units, and to establish direct communication links with district collectors and disaster management authorities. He said continuous updates should be submitted to the Energy Department's control room to monitor power supply conditions in real-time.

According to departmental sources, crew members and technical teams have already been mobilized across vulnerable districts, with special attention given to Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Guntur, and Nellore, which are expected to face the cyclone's major impact. Mobile units equipped with backup generators and repair kits have been stationed at key points to restore electricity swiftly in areas hit by outages.

Minister Durgesh to Highlight Andhra Pradesh's Film and Tourism Potential at CII Big Picture Summit 2025

TPN Bureau | November 30

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh is set to present the state's vast potential in the film and tourism sectors at the prestigious CII Big Picture Summit 2025. The national conference, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), will be held on December 1 and 2 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Juhu, Mumbai.

This year's theme, "The AI Era - Bridging Creativity and Commerce," focuses on leveraging technology to strengthen India's growing media and entertainment landscape. The summit will bring together top executives from the global entertainment industry, media innovators, investors, and policy leaders from India and abroad.

Minister Durgesh, who left Rajamahendravaram on Sunday to attend the event, is scheduled to deliver a keynote address highlighting the state's strategic advantages and ambitious plans to attract investment in both film production and tourism development. According to officials,

the Minister will unveil key aspects of the forthcoming Andhra Pradesh Film Tourism Policy, a comprehensive plan designed to position the state as a preferred destination for film producers and tourists. The policy is being developed with the objective of boosting infrastructure, creating employment, and making Andhra Pradesh a vibrant film-making hub in South India. Minister Durgesh is expected to emphasize the government's commitment to building state-of-the-art film studios, dubbing theatres, and post-production facilities to cater to modern cinematic demands.

He will also brief investors on the incentives and subsidies being offered to domestic and international production houses, including tax benefits, land allotments, and single-window clearances to simplify investment procedures. Highlighting the synergy between films and tourism, the Minister will outline how the two sectors can complement each other. By encouraging film shoots at Andhra Pradesh's scenic destinations ranging from historic tem-

ples and picturesque coastlines to lush forest reserves and unique cultural sites, the state aims to turn its natural and cultural wealth into attractive backdrops for cinema.

He believes such exposure will not only enhance Andhra Pradesh's reputation as a film-friendly state but also bring global visibility that drives tourism inflows. Durgesh will also discuss the government's ambitious effort to brand the state as "Andhra Valley," envisioned as a creative hub that merges art, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The initiative aims to nurture talent, promote innovation, and build a robust ecosystem for the film and media industries, contributing significantly to India's aspiration of developing a \$100 billion media and entertainment economy. Reiterating the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government's long-term commitment to inclusive growth, Durgesh noted that Andhra Pradesh is well-positioned to attract sustained investment by offering policy stability, skilled manpower, and extensive support infrastructure.

Special services in Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Thirupathi from December

TPN Bureau | November 30

Thirupathi: Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Appalayagunta and the temples in Tiruchanoor have an elaborate line-up of special sevass and festivals through December, offering devotees multiple opportunities for worship and participation. The programmes focus on weekly sevass, star-based festivals and major year-end religious observances.

Appalayagunta December programmes

At Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Appalayagunta,

several special rituals have been scheduled across the month. Ashadada Pada Padmaradhana Seva will be performed at 8 a.m. on Tuesdays, beginning on December 2, providing devotees a chance to witness the special worship of the Lord's holy feet. On Fridays throughout December, Vastra Alankarana Seva and Abhishekam will be conducted at 7 a.m., with the presiding deity adorned in special garments and sacred bath rituals performed.

On December 10, the temple will host the Ashottatara Shata Kalash abhishekam at 8 a.m.,

a significant ritual involving 108 kalashas used for a special abhishekam to the deity. On December 23, coinciding with Shravana Nakshatra, Kalyanotsavam will be performed at 10:30 a.m., commemorating the divine wedding of the Lord and drawing many couples and families seeking blessings for harmony. Additionally, on December 7, 14, 21 and 28, Abhishekam to Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy will be performed at 8:15 a.m., offering Hanuman devotees a dedicated weekly worship window.

Main Accused Kamakshamma Among Eight Arrested in Nellore’s Kallurupalli Murder Case

TPN Bureau | November 30
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh – Police have arrested eight individuals, including the prime accused Kamakshamma, in connection with the brutal murder of K. Penchalaiah, which took place on November 28 in Kallurupalli village. The arrests were announced by DSP Ghattamaneni Srinivasa Rao, who revealed significant details about the case and the ongoing investigation.

According to the DSP, the victim, 38-year-old K. Penchalaiah, a resident of RDT Colony in Nellore, was known locally for his active involvement in

community welfare and his efforts to foster a crime-free neighborhood. He had reportedly taken a firm stance against individuals with criminal backgrounds residing in RDT Colony, a move that made him unpopular among certain local groups involved in illicit activities. The main accused, Arava Kamakshamma, was allegedly heading a small network engaged in criminal operations, including the illegal sale of narcotics and gambling activities in the locality.

Police sources said that Kamakshamma and her associates had grown resentful towards Pen-



chalaiah for publicly opposing their presence and activities in the colony. Tensions between the two sides escalated in recent weeks, culminating in the fatal attack.

On the night of November 28, Kamakshamma's followers confronted Penchalaiah and fatally stabbed him with sharp weapons. He succumbed to excessive bleeding before he could receive medical attention. Following the incident, local police launched a massive search operation to trace the perpetrators.

During subsequent raids carried out at Kamakshamma's residence and various surrounding

locations, the police seized 25 kilograms of ganja and several key documents believed to be linked to the accused's illegal operations. In addition, officers recovered seven knives used in the assault and three motorcycles suspected to have been used during the crime. DSP Srinivasa Rao stated that eight suspects have so far been taken into custody for their involvement in the murder. He confirmed that a total of 14 individuals have been identified as part of the conspiracy. The arrested persons are being interrogated to uncover the full extent of the crime network and its possible links to other illegal activities in the region. "Stringent action will be taken against all those involved. Our team is actively pursuing five absconding suspects," the DSP assured.

He also disclosed that Kamakshamma has been separately booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for possession of ganja. Meanwhile, Kamakshamma's brother, James, who sustained injuries during the incident, is currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital. His condition is said to be stable. The murder of Penchalaiah has sent shock-

waves through the RDT Colony and surrounding communities, where residents described him as a courageous and community-minded individual who stood up against criminal elements. The police have intensified patrolling in the area to prevent further disturbances and ensure the safety of the residents.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to eradicating organized crime in the region and urged the public to cooperate with the police by sharing any information relevant to the ongoing investigation.

YSRCP Accuses Chandrababu Naidu of Creating Divide Among Farmers Over District Reorganization

TPN Bureau | November 30
Nellore: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has strongly criticized Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for adopting what it described as an "irrational approach" to the reorganization of districts in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that the move could create divisions among farmers and regional communities.

Former minister and YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy, addressing the media in Nellore on Sunday, accused Chandrababu Naidu of going back on promises made during the recent elections, particularly regarding the inclusion of Gudur in Nellore district. He alleged that the Chief Minister's latest decisions on district boundaries were politically motivated and detrimental to the interests of farmers. Govardhan Reddy recalled that during the election campaign, Naidu had assured the people of Gudur that their region would remain part of Nellore district.

administrative complications in managing irrigation systems and ensuring equitable water distribution," he cautioned. Govardhan Reddy contrasted Naidu's approach with former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's district reorganization model, under which each district was formed based on a Parliamentary constituency for better administrative convenience.

He noted that the addition of Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) district during Jagan's tenure reflected responsiveness to local aspirations. "Unlike Jagan Mohan Reddy, who took local considerations into account, Chandrababu Naidu seems to be reorganizing districts based purely on political convenience rather than developmental needs," he remarked.

The former minister said that YSRCP leaders would soon discuss the issue with their party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and take it up through appropriate political and administrative channels. "We will speak to our leader and decide on further action to protect the interests of the farmers and people," he said.

However, he claimed that after assuming office, the Chief Minister reversed his stand and initiated reorganization steps that removed several areas from Nellore's jurisdiction. "Chandrababu Naidu has completely gone back on his word to the people of Gudur. The government's arbitrary decisions are causing confusion and resentment across regions," he said. The YSRCP leader pointed out that three mandals Venkatagiri, Rapur, and Kaluvayi, along with Saidapuram were earlier part of Nellore district but are now proposed to be shifted to Tirupati district. He warned that such reallocation could disrupt administrative coordination and impact local farmers, especially with regard to irrigation and water-sharing arrangements. "Keeping these three mandals away from Nellore will only lead to hardship for farmers. There will be severe

In a sharp comment aimed at senior TDP leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, the YSRCP leader alleged that Somireddy had failed to demonstrate concern for his own constituency, Sarvepalli. "It is unfortunate that a senior leader has shown such disinterest in local issues.

Merely writing a letter to the Chief Minister does not prove commitment to the constituency's problems," he added. Govardhan Reddy urged the State government to reconsider its district reorganization plan in the interests of maintaining administrative efficiency and regional harmony, stressing that the welfare of farmers and balanced regional development should remain the government's top priorities.

TDP to Hold Leadership Training Sessions for Mandal Presidents at NTR Bhavan from Monday

TPN Bureau | November 30
Amaravathi: In a major organizational move aimed at strengthening its grassroots network, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is set to begin a two-day leadership training program for its mandal presidents at the party headquarters, NTR Bhavan, in Hyderabad from Monday. The sessions are part of the party's broader effort to revive cadre activity and enhance coordination among district and mandal-level leadership across Andhra Pradesh.

According to party sources, around 100 TDP mandal presidents from different parts of the state have been invited to attend the sessions on Monday and Tuesday. The training is designed to give key local leaders a deeper understanding of party ideology, policy priorities, communication techniques, and strategies for effective public engagement in their respective regions. Senior leaders of the party, including former ministers and experienced



organizers, will preside over the classes and hold interactive sessions with the participants.

They are expected to explain the ongoing plans of the TDP in the run-up to the 2026 elections, focusing on local governance, welfare monitoring, and grassroots mobilization. The sessions will also stress the use of technology and social media to strengthen voter connections and to efficiently publicize developmental initiatives undertaken by the TDP government. Party officials said that these training ses-

sions mark a fresh phase of organizational preparedness following the party's return to power earlier this year.

The program is part of the TDP leadership's renewed emphasis on disciplined cadre development, accountability in public service, and alignment with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision for administrative efficiency and transparent governance. The sessions will feature practical discussions about coordination between mandal and constituency leaders, as well as training on how to handle local-level challenges such as resource allocation, welfare scheme implementation, and grievance redressal.

Senior TDP leaders will share insights from their own administrative experiences, encouraging participants to take up leadership roles in community projects and strengthen their public relations skills. The highlight of the program will be the con-

cluding event on Tuesday, which will be attended by Minister Nara Lokesh.

Lokesh, who also plays a key role in the party's organizational affairs, is expected to address the gathering and outline the training's importance in preparing TDP ranks for future administrative responsibilities. His speech will focus on the transformation of local leadership into proactive, result-oriented units that can serve as vital links between the government and the public.

Through this initiative, the TDP aims to ensure that its local leadership is well-prepared to implement the party's developmental agenda and maintain direct contact with citizens at the grassroots level.

The party's leadership believes that an empowered and well-trained cadre can significantly contribute to sustaining the TDP's influence and governance effectiveness across the state.

Farmers in deep crisis under coalition rule - Botsa



TPN Bureau | November 30, Vijayawada: Farmers and agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh are facing a severe crisis under the present coalition government, Legislative Council Opposition Leader and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has alleged. He charged that the ruling dispensation has failed the farm sector on every front, from fertiliser supply to support prices and welfare for vulnerable communities. Allegations on farm sector collapse

Addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, Botsa said the agricultural sector has "collapsed" as the government has not ensured Minimum Support Price (MSP) for any major crop, leaving farmers at the mercy of market fluctuations. He asserted that cultivators are unable to secure even a bag of urea at

time when reports of shortages and distress are surfacing from different parts of the State.

Stating that the ruling coalition had promised farmer-friendly governance, he accused it of instead presiding over a situation where agricultural labourers are losing livelihoods due to reduced crop activity and mounting input costs. He demanded that procurement centres be opened across the State and that MSP be guaranteed for all key crops to prevent further distress.

Charges of land misuse and policy reversal

Botsa alleged that while farmers are struggling for fertiliser and fair prices, the same government is readily allotting valuable government lands to real estate interests at "throwaway" prices without transparent public auction. Such decisions, he contended, in-

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Slams Jagan Reddy for “Destroying” Irrigation System; Lays Foundation for 12.50 Crore Nalli Creek Project

TPN Bureau | November 30
West Godavari: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Irrigation Nimmala Ramanaidu came down heavily on YSR Congress Party chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of ruining the state's irrigation system during his tenure as chief minister. The minister made these remarks while laying the foundation stone for the Nalli Creek development works at P.M. Lanka village in Narsapuram mandal on Sunday, a project being taken up at an estimated cost of 12.50 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Ramanaidu alleged that the Jagan-led government had neglected major irrigation infrastructures and failed to invest in their maintenance. In contrast, he highlighted that the present government had prioritized restoring and strengthening them. "Our government has sanctioned 200 crore for the Srisailem plinth pool and side wall structures, Rs. 54 crore for Tungabhadra dam gate repairs, and 150 crore for Dhavaleswar Barrage," he said.

The minister underlined the government's commitment to the



welfare of fishermen, recalling that several promises made during the elections were now being fulfilled. He noted that the financial assistance provided to fishermen during the fishing ban period had been increased to Rs. 20,000 per beneficiary. The Rs. 12.50 crore allocation for Nalli Creek works, he said, was also part of the government's initiative to support the fishing community and develop coastal infrastructure.

"The Narsapuram coast has immense potential for fisheries and related economic activities. Developing Nalli Creek will not only enhance livelihood opportunities but also contribute to the local ecosystem's sustainability," Ramanaidu stated. Later in the day, the minister visited several areas in the West Godavari district, including Vemu-

ladeevi village, as part of his official tour.

During his visit, he participated in a boat inspection event at Upputeru. Expressing concern over safety violations, Ramanaidu admonished officials for allowing more passengers than the boat's prescribed capacity. "If the boat is overloaded, it may capsize. How could officials allow such negligence?" he questioned sharply.

The minister's comments reflected the government's growing emphasis on public safety, infrastructure revival, and accountability in administrative operations. His pointed criticism of the previous regime also set a political tone, signaling a renewed push by the ruling party to highlight developmental works across Andhra Pradesh.

Tension Marks Krishna Zilla Parishad Meeting as Members Clash with CEO

TPN Bureau | November 30

Machilipatnam: Heated scenes unfolded at the joint Krishna Zilla Parishad (ZP) general body meeting on Saturday as chairperson Uppala Harika and several members engaged in a prolonged confrontation with ZP Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kanamanayudu over the suspension of certain developmental works. The meeting, held at the ZP Convention Hall in Machilipatnam and lasting from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., turned chaotic when members accused the CEO of overstepping his authority by issuing stop-work orders for some approved projects.

Tensions escalated after a few members launched personal attacks against the CEO from the podium, using threatening language and making politically charged remarks. Eyewitnesses reported that during the heated exchanges, the chairperson failed to restrain the members and, on several occasions, allegedly encouraged slo-



gans against the CEO.

It was also noted that her husband, Ramu, was actively giving directions to certain members to prolong the discussion and focus exclusively on the suspension issue. According to district officials, the clash stemmed from an order issued by the CEO to temporarily halt 424 works worth approximately 24.37 crore under the Panchayati Raj and Rural Water Supply departments of the erstwhile Krishna district.

The CEO clarified that the funds currently available were insufficient to cover all sanctioned works. Hence, those not

yet started were placed on hold until additional resources could be arranged. However, sources within the Zilla Parishad revealed that most of these halted works fell under the Pedana constituency, represented by the chairperson. Allegations surfaced that the chairperson and her husband had pressured the CEO to continue the works despite budgetary constraints, raising suspicions of personal and political motives behind the dispute.

Collector D.K. Balaji intervened in an attempt to restore order, assuring members that works al-

ready in progress would be completed, while clarity on pending projects would be provided within 15 days based on fund availability. Though members initially appeared satisfied with this assurance, the chairperson rejected the proposal, insisting on an immediate resumption of all projects. This led to renewed slogan-shouting and further delay of proceedings. Amid the uproar, MLC Mondithoka Aruna Kumar expressed anger at the officials for failing to control the situation, questioning, "Are you treating this as a joke while public representatives

are staging a dharna here?" His remarks fueled further disorder in the hall. Observers criticized the day-long confrontation, arguing that valuable time meant for discussing public welfare issues was wasted on internal political battles.

Many noted that the public's developmental concerns — particularly those related to rural infrastructure and drinking water — were sidelined by the ongoing power struggle between elected representatives and officials. By the meeting's end, the ZP CEO reiterated that necessary revisions would be made to the list of sanctioned works to remove overlaps and that the matter would be reviewed again in consultation with the chairperson.

Nonetheless, the incident has sparked fresh debate in district political circles over administrative interference, alleged misuse of authority, and growing friction between bureaucrats and local leaders.

Nara Bhuvaneshwari congratulates newly appointed Vice Admiral in the Navy

Vice Admiral Kudavalli Srinivas from Nimmakuru Appointed to Senior Leadership Role in Indian Navy

TPN Bureau | November 30

Nimmakuru (Krishna District) — In a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh, Sri Kudavalli Srinivas Garu, hailing from Nimmakuru village in Krishna district, has been appointed as Vice Admiral in the Indian Navy. His elevation to one of the highest positions in the naval hierarchy has brought immense pride to his native village and to the state at large.

Vice Admiral Srinivas's journey from a small-town background to national prominence stands as a testament to perseverance, dedication, and excellence. Having pursued his education at Sainik School, Korukonda in Vizianagaram district, he developed an early passion for military life, disci-

pline, and service to the nation. His academic excellence and leadership qualities paved the way for his selection into the Indian Navy, where he has since built an illustrious career.

Over the years, Kudavalli Srinivas earned a reputation for his professional competence, strategic acumen, and exemplary service record. His extensive experience in command and operational roles contributed to his steady rise through the ranks. Colleagues and subordinates alike commend his ability to lead with integrity and focus, balancing technical expertise with a strong sense of duty.

The appointment has evoked widespread appreciation from the local community, educational institutions, and residents have extended their heartfelt congratulations, describing Vice Admiral Srinivas as a role model for the youth of Andhra

Pradesh. Many have highlighted how his success story reflects the potential of disciplined education and hard work, particularly for students pursuing careers in the armed forces.

Speaking about his appointment, senior officials noted that Vice Admiral Kudavalli Srinivas's leadership will further strengthen India's naval forces, particularly in safeguarding national interests in increasingly complex maritime environments. His career, they said, underscores the Navy's tradition of recognizing commitment, skill, and vision in its highest ranks.

The people of Nimmakuru and the surrounding regions continue to celebrate this momentous accomplishment, viewing it as both a personal and collective pride for the community.

Elderly Man Accidentally Drowns in Water Pond at Varigani Village

TPN Bureau | November 30

Medikonduru: An elderly man tragically lost his life after slipping and falling into a water pond near Varigani village in Medikonduru mandal of Guntur district on Sunday. The incident came to light when local residents discovered the body floating in the pond and immediately alerted the police. According to preliminary reports, villagers noticed the body early in the morning when they went to the outskirts of Varigani for routine work. Shocked by the sight, they informed the Medikonduru police, who soon arrived at the scene to conduct an on-site investigation.

Officers examined the location and confirmed that the deceased was around 60 years old. Police officials stated that the man appeared to have accidentally slipped into the pond, leading to his death

by drowning. They added that the victim had been reportedly suffering from mental instability and lived alone, which might have contributed to the unfortunate mishap. Preliminary findings ruled out any signs of foul play. "Based on the scene and local statements, it appears to be an accidental drowning rather than a suspicious death," a police officer said during the inspection. The officials registered a case under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) relating to unnatural deaths and began further investigation to determine the complete circumstances.

Following standard procedure, the police shifted the body to the Government General Hospital in Guntur for postmortem examination.

The autopsy report is expected to confirm the cause of death and

help close the investigation. The tragedy created a somber atmosphere in the local community, with villagers expressing sadness over the loss of the elderly man, who was described as silent and harmless.

Many residents commented that his health and mental condition had worsened recently, and he was occasionally seen wandering near the pond area.

Authorities have advised the public to stay cautious around water bodies, especially during nighttime or when alone, to prevent similar accidents. Incidents like these remain common in rural regions where ponds and tanks are open and unprotected. Further details about the victim's identity and family background are expected to be released after police verification and completion of the postmortem formalities.

TPN Bureau | November 30, Tirumala: Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation (Lepakshi) Chairman Pasupuleti Hariprasad on Sunday met Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal at the TTD Administrative Building in Tirumala, where he submitted a detailed proposal for strengthening Lepakshi's presence across the Tirupati-Tirumala region. During the meeting, Hariprasad outlined comprehensive plans aimed at expanding Lepakshi handicraft outlets, modernizing existing showrooms, and creating new avenues for artisan employment. Stressing the need to boost the visibility of traditional crafts in one of the state's busiest pilgrimage destinations, he said the initiative would substantially benefit thousands of artisans across Andhra Pradesh.

Hariprasad observed that the Tirupati-Tirumala region, which at-



tracts millions of devotees and tourists annually, offers immense potential for promoting Andhra Pradesh's rich handicraft traditions to a global audience. He said that with enhanced cooperation between TTD and Lepakshi, artisans could gain direct access to a market that appreciates authentic cultural products.

Strengthening Lepakshi's retail infrastructure in these temple towns, he noted, would help position the corporation as a gateway for traditional handicrafts from different districts of the state. The chairman's propos-

als included setting up additional retail kiosks and showrooms at key pilgrim locations, integrating digital sales platforms for online visibility, and conducting regular exhibitions showcasing handicrafts such as Kalamkari, Kondapalli toys, Etikoppaka wooden art, and Bobbili veenas.

He also suggested the introduction of exclusive souvenir series aligned with the spiritual theme of Tirumala and Tirupati, blending devotion's appeal with artisan skill. Hariprasad emphasized that Lepakshi has been instrumental in preserving and promot-

ing the heritage crafts of Andhra Pradesh, providing thousands of craftsmen and women with sustainable livelihoods. He said that by collaborating closely with TTD, Lepakshi could ensure steady demand for locally made products while enriching devotees' experience with distinctive cultural offerings.

The discussion also explored ways to implement fair pricing mechanisms for artisans, train younger generations in traditional crafts, and develop quality assurance standards for all Lepakshi-licensed products. Both officials agreed that aligning with TTD's vast visitor network would provide Lepakshi artisans nationwide exposure and a stable marketing platform. TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal appreciated the chairman's proposals and expressed the institution's willingness to examine practical steps for collaboration. He assured that TTD would extend necessary cooperation

to initiatives that preserve and promote Andhra Pradesh's cultural heritage while also contributing to rural employment growth. Officials from both organizations underscored the importance of balancing commercial success with heritage conservation.

They said that increasing handicrafts outlets at major TTD facilities and pilgrim centers would not only enhance accessibility but also reinforce Andhra Pradesh's image as a hub of artisanal excellence.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note, with both sides agreeing to explore a structured partnership aimed at supporting artisan communities and strengthening the presence of Lepakshi in key pilgrimage corridors. The initiative is expected to serve as a model for public-institution collaborations dedicated to cultural preservation and economic empowerment.

Vibrant Vizag Marathon Enlivens Beach Road with Energy and Enthusiasm

TPN Bureau | November 30

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh: The coastal city of Visakhapatnam sparkled with youthful energy and sportsmanship on Sunday morning as thousands of participants took part in the annual Vizag Marathon. The event, held along the scenic Beach Road, turned into a colorful spectacle celebrating fitness, unity, and the spirit of community living. The marathon was conducted in four different categories — 32 km, 21 km (half marathon), 10 km, and 5 km — catering to professional athletes, amateur runners, and fitness enthusiasts alike.

Participants from across Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states gathered before dawn, preparing to showcase their en-

durance and enthusiasm. The atmosphere along the beach was electrifying, with loud cheers, music, and motivational slogans echoing across the coastline as the runners took off. Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Shankha Brata Bagchi graced the occasion as the chief guest and officially flagged off the event, commending the organizers for promoting health awareness, sports culture, and environmental consciousness through the marathon.

In his address, the Commissioner emphasized the importance of physical fitness and community-oriented events that build social bonds among citizens. He also appreciated the seamless organization and urged participants to carry forward th



e message of disciplined living and healthy habits.

The marathon, organized with the joint efforts of local sports associations, civic bodies, and NGOs, saw overwhelming participation from youth,

corporate teams, defense personnel, and students. Many runners came dressed in thematic outfits carrying slogans advocating environmental protection and fitness awareness, further adding vibrancy to the occasion.

Cultural programs organized along the route entertained spectators and participants alike. Local artists performed traditional and modern dance forms, while musical troupes filled the air with festive rhythms, keeping

up the runners' spirits. The scenic beauty of the Visakhapatnam coastline with the backdrop of the Bay of Bengal and the iconic RK Beach enhanced the event's visual appeal, turning the marathon into both a sports competi-

tion and a social festival. Adequate arrangements for safety, hydration, and medical support were made by the city administration and volunteers. The police also ensured smooth traffic regulation throughout the event, allowing participants to enjoy a secure and uninterrupted experience. Clean-up drives were scheduled soon after the event, upholding Vizag's reputation as one of the cleanest coastal cities in India. Participants expressed their excitement and appreciation for the well-organized event.

Many first-time runners described it as an unforgettable experience that motivated them to pursue regular fitness goals. Seasoned runners highlighted the city's pleasant climate, scenic

route, and enthusiastic crowd support as key highlights of the Vizag Marathon. As the finishing line drew close, cheers and applause greeted every runner, reflecting the collective pride of the city in hosting such a grand sporting celebration.

The Vizag Marathon not only brought together people from different backgrounds under one cause but also reaffirmed Visakhapatnam's place as a hub of culture, sports, and civic responsibility. With such overwhelming participation and success, the annual Vizag Marathon is expected to grow into a landmark sporting tradition, symbolizing the vibrant, health-conscious, and dynamic spirit of the City of Destiny.

Administrative Machinery Fully Accessible to Farmers Amid Cyclone Ditva Situation: Youth Leader Mandali Venkatram

TPN Bureau | November 30

Koduru: In the wake of Cyclone Ditva, local authorities have intensified paddy procurement operations across Koduru mandal to assist farmers affected by the recent adverse weather. Constituency youth leader Mandali Venkatram said on Sunday that the administrative machinery is operating round the clock to ensure smooth movement and procurement of paddy from farmers without any disruption.

Venkatram inspected paddy procurement centres in Koduru and Linga Reddypalem villages, as well as warehouses located within the Santa Market compound. During his visits, he interacted

with farmers, cooperative society chair men, local leaders, and millers to assess ground-level conditions and address practical challenges faced in paddy procurement and transportation.

Given that Koduru has only one rice mill, additional arrangements have been made to expedite the process. Venkatram discussed coordination with Shastri, a representative of rice millers from the East Godavari district who arrived to assist in purchasing and processing paddy.

He emphasized efficient use of the additional vehicles now available for grain movement, following the government's relaxation of GPS tracking regulations amid the



cyclone emergency. Venkatram urged millers to fully utilize this relaxation to facilitate faster transportation and minimize inconvenience to farmers.

Officials, cooperative

Farmers Advised to Sell Only Through Rythu Seva Kendras

Addressing concerns about possible underpricing during the cyclone period, Venkatram urged farmers not to believe rumors that paddy is being purchased at lower prices. He cautioned them against selling their produce hastily to private traders or middlemen for cheaper rates and instead recommended selling exclusively through Rythu Seva Kendras, where the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) is guaranteed.

He assured that the revenue department, cooperative officials, and procurement centre staff are all available to assist farmers and ensure eve-

ry cultivator receives the rightful MSP for their crop. He reiterated that the government remains committed to protecting farmers' welfare even in challenging weather conditions and that purchase operations will continue uninterruptedly.

Coordination from Multiple Departments

The inspection program was attended by several key officials and representatives, including PACS Chairman Devan aboyina Venkateswara Rao, State President of Vaddera Welfare Association Tirupati Srinivasa Rao, In-charge Tahsildar Saujanya Kiranmayi, PACS Chairmen Puthaboyina Karuna Kumar and Kota Subbarao, and Janasena Town President Ko-

ta Rambabu. Janasena leaders Kolli Venkateswara Rao (Chinababu), Kagittha Ramarao, Jarugu Adinarayana, Jarugu Pothuraju, Kota Prasad, Jarugu Lakshman, Appikotla Ankababu, and cooperative CEOs Arja Venkata Nagarayalu and Chittiprolu Subba Rao also took part. Venkatram concluded by emphasizing continued coordination between departments and local bodies to ensure that cyclone-related disruptions do not affect farmers' livelihoods. He reaffirmed that authorities remain accessible at all times to address farmer concerns and resolve operational issues swiftly.

‘Lady Don’ Kamakshi Arrested in Nellore for CPI Activist Penchalayya Murder; Police Seize 25 Kg Ganja



TPN Bureau | November 30

Nellore: Police have arrested a notorious woman accused in the brutal murder of CPI activist Penchalayya, bringing to light a nexus between illegal drug trade and local criminal networks. The accused, identified as Kamakshi, popularly known as the “Lady Don” of Nellore, was taken into custody during an early morning raid conducted at her residence in Bodiganthota locality on Sunday.

Acting on credible information, a special police team raided Kamakshi's house and seized about 25 kilograms of ganja, along with several sharp-edged weapons believed to have been used in criminal activities. Police said Kamakshi was the prime suspect in the killing of Penchalayya, who was murdered two days ago by a group of assailants armed with knives and machetes. Investigations revealed that the nine-member gang involved in the attack allegedly acted on Kamakshi's instructions.

According to preliminary findings, Penchalayya had been working closely with local authorities and was known to provide information to the police about illegal ganja trade in the region. His campaign against narcotics reportedly angered Kamakshi, who has long been under the scanner for

her involvement in drug peddling, smuggling, and extortion in the Nellore district.

Police sources said Penchalayya's murder was meticulously planned. On Friday night, he was allegedly trapped near a local junction and attacked repeatedly with knives, leading to his death on the spot. The gang fled the scene, and subsequent investigation led officers to Kamakshi's residence. Superintendent of Police (SP) Rahul Dev Sharma confirmed that Kamakshi has been taken into custody and will be produced before court shortly.

He added that the police have intensified efforts to trace the remaining accused who are currently absconding. Forensic teams have collected blood-stained weapons and other materials from the scene for analysis. Local residents expressed shock over the incident, saying Penchalayya was known for his social activism and his stand against illegal activities.

CPI leaders have condemned the murder and demanded stern action against those involved in the crime. The arrest of Kamakshi, a woman with a long history of criminal allegations, marks a major breakthrough for the Nellore police in their efforts to curb organized crime and the ganja trade in southern Andhra Pradesh.

“Say No to Drugs, Pedal for Change” Bicycle Rally Promotes Awareness

TPN Bureau | November 30

Kurnool: A large-scale awareness rally titled “Drugs Vaddu Bro... Cycle Tokk Bro” (Say No to Drugs, Ride a Bicycle) was organized in Kurnool city on Sunday under the initiative of the district police's EAGLE team. The event aimed to promote a drug-free lifestyle among youth and highlight the importance of physical fitness through cycling. Minister for IT and Industries T.G. Bharat participated actively in the rally along with Panyam MLA Gauru Charitha Reddy, EAGLE Superintendent of Police Nagesh Babu, and several senior officials.

The participants assembled near the historic Konda Reddy Buruju before proceeding along the route up to RS Road Junction, drawing enthusiastic support from local residents and students. Around 400 participants, including students, youth associations, and volunteers, enthusiastically pedaled through the streets carrying placards and chanting



slogans against drug use.

The rally served as a strong message advocating clean habits, health awareness, and a collective commitment to building a drug-free society. Minister T.G. Bharat, who also rode a bicycle during the rally, called the event an inspiring example of public participation in the government's anti-drug campaign. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that tackling the drug menace is a priority for the Andhra Pradesh Government. “Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to achieving a

drug-free Andhra Pradesh. Comprehensive steps have been initiated to curb the supply and consumption of illegal substances across the state,” he said.

The Minister further noted that educational institutions and social organizations have a key role to play in spreading awareness, especially among students who are often the most vulnerable. He encouraged youth to adopt healthy lifestyles and remain engaged in positive activities like sports, cycling, and community service.

SP Nagesh Babu added

Newborn found abandoned on roadside in Maddilapalem, Visakhapatnam



TPN Bureau | November 30

Visakhapatnam: A shocking case of abandonment came to light in Visakhapatnam on Sunday after a newborn baby was found dead on the roadside at Shivajipalem area in Maddilapalem. The incident, which has left local residents disturbed, highlights a disturbing act of cruelty that has shaken the community. According to reports, residents of Shivajipalem in the 22nd ward under the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits noticed a suspicious plastic cover lying near the roadside in the morning.

Out of curiosity, a few local passersby inspected it, only to find the lifeless body of a newborn baby wrapped inside. Witnesses were deeply shocked by the sight and immediately informed the local police. Upon receiving the alert, a police team from the local station rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area. Forensic and crime scene experts were also called to collect evidence.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the infant, believed to be only a few days old, was abandoned by unidentified persons during the night or early morning hours. The body was later shifted to the King George Hospital (KGH) for post-mortem examination to determine the exact

cause and time of death. Inspector-level officers from the local police station recorded statements from nearby residents and reviewed CCTV footage from the surrounding area to identify those involved in the incident.

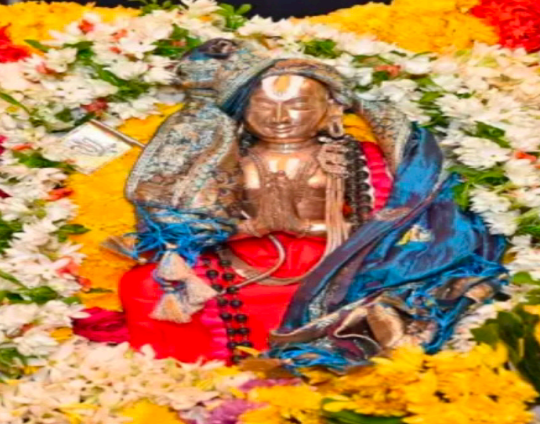
Police suspect that the act was committed by someone attempting to conceal an illicit birth or avoid social stigma, though they have not ruled out other possibilities. Locals expressed deep grief and anger over the incident, questioning how a mother could abandon her own child in such a manner. Many residents demanded strict action against the culprits and suggested that authorities create greater awareness about safe and legal alternatives for child abandonment, such as cradle baby centers or “baby drop” facilities run by the government and charitable organizations.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to abandonment and concealment of birth. Efforts are underway to trace the offenders based on nearby surveillance footage and local leads. This incident has once again raised concerns about the need for stronger social awareness, family counseling, and support systems to prevent such tragedies in the future.

45th Peethadhipathi Jayanti Celebrated with Devotion at Ahobilam Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple

TPN Bureau | November 30

Ahobilam (Allagadda Rural): The 45th Peethadhipathi Jayanti celebrations of the Ahobila Mutt were held on Sunday with grandeur and spiritual fervor at the renowned Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Ahobilam, one of the most prominent Vaishnava pilgrimage centers in Andhra Pradesh. Devotees in large numbers participated in the ceremonies, offering prayers and witnessing the traditional rituals performed in honor of the Acharya lineage of the Ahobila Mutt. The day began with the ceremonial procession and worship of the utsava idols of Prahlada Varadaswamy, Sri Lakshmi Devi, and Bhudevi. The utsava idols, along with the sacred image of the first Peethadhipathi, Sriman Adhivana Shatakopa Yatindra Mahadesikan, were placed magnificently in the temple mandapa after being carried through



the main temple entrance in a spiritual procession accompanied by chanting of Vedic hymns.

The temple priests conducted the Abhishekam with panchamritam, a sacred mixture of milk, honey, curd, ghee, and sugar, followed by the application of turmeric and sandalwood paste to the deities. The rituals were performed with great devotion in accordance with the Vaishnava Agama traditions. The air reverberated with the sounds of holy chants, conches,

and bells as devotees offered prayers to the deities. After the Abhishekam, the deities were adorned with traditional ornaments and silk garments, followed by the Maha Mangala Harathi, marking the culmination of the day's religious proceedings. Devotees expressed their joy in witnessing the elaborate rituals and offered flowers and fruits as part of their devotion. The temple premises were beautifully decorated with flowers and sacred lamps for the celebration, creating a divine and festive atmosphere.

Temple authorities and mutt representatives highlighted the spiritual importance of the Peethadhipathi Jayanti, remarking that it not only honors the Acharya Parampara (lineage of spiritual leaders) but also reinforces the Vaishnava tradition's emphasis on Dharma and devotion.

They noted that the Acharyas of the Ahobila Mutt have played a vital role in spreading the tenets of Sri Vaishnavism across the country. Pilgrims from various parts of Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states attended the event. Arrangements for devotees, including prasada distribution and free meals, were organized efficiently by the temple management. The occasion reflected the timeless spiritual and cultural heritage of Ahobilam, continuing its legacy as a revered center of Srivaishnava tradition.

Is Modi bypassing the 8th Central Pay Commission



The much-anticipated Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC), whose recommendations are scheduled to take effect from January 1, 2026, has yet to be formally constituted by the government, raising questions about the Modi administration's approach to public sector pay revisions.

The Central Pay Commission is a technocratic body tasked with reviewing and recommending salary structures, allowances, and benefits for government employees, including civilian staff, armed forces person-

nel, and pensioners. Its recommendations have historically had a direct impact on millions of employees and indirectly influence the broader economy through government expenditure.

Experts note that, unlike previous regimes, the Modi government appears to be bypassing the traditional timeline of the pay panel. "Never has such a cavalier approach been adopted in setting up a pay commission," said Sandeep Joshi, a policy analyst. Sources within the bureaucracy suggest that political considerations and perception

management might be taking precedence over routine administrative timelines, especially with general elections approaching.

Observers argue that in the Modi era, even a technocratic exercise like the Central Pay Commission can be easily delayed or sidelined in the battle for perception and votes. With the previous, Seventh CPC having been implemented fully only in 2020, government employees were expecting timely initiation of the next panel to avoid pay stagnation and inflationary losses.

Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, say that consultations are ongoing, and key parameters—such as fiscal space, inflation projections, and government revenue—are being carefully assessed before constituting the commission. However, no formal notification has been issued, fueling speculation among employees and pensioners.

The delay has also stirred debate about the government's commitment to institutional processes. Analysts warn that pro-

longed indecision may lead to discontent among public servants and could have repercussions in sensitive sectors such as defense, railways, and administrative services.

As January 1, 2026, approaches, stakeholders are urging the government to act swiftly and announce the 8th CPC to ensure continuity in pay revisions. The panel's recommendations are crucial not only for employee welfare but also for maintaining morale and operational efficiency across central government departments.

US H-1B Fee Sparks Brain Drain Debate in India



New Delhi/Washington: Washington's recent announcement of a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions has reignited India's decades-old debate over brain drain and raised questions about whether the country can retain its skilled workforce. The fee, announced on September 19 by former US President Donald Trump, applies only to new applications and does not affect currently valid visas or petitions filed before September 21, 2025, according to guidelines from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The fee is officially described as a cost-sharing mechanism to reduce American dependence on foreign talent. However, experts warn it could significantly impact skilled Indian professionals, who constitute a large portion of H-1B visa recipients. Companies facing higher hiring costs may curb recruitment, freeze salaries, shift operations overseas, or pass the burden onto employees. This, analysts say, could disadvantage both US businesses reliant on specialized talent and foreign professionals seeking legitimate opportunities.

Historically, immigrant talent has been central to the US innovation ecosystem. From Silicon Valley engineers to scientists at NASA and the National Institutes of Health, foreign professionals—particularly from India—have fueled research, technology, and economic

growth. International students contribute over \$40 billion annually to the US economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, with mid-tier universities particularly vulnerable to declining enrollment. Restricting talent flow sends a worrying signal about the value of global collaboration in innovation.

For India, the developments present both a challenge and an opportunity. The nation's "brain drain," which peaked in the 1960s and 1970s, continues today with 2.5 million Indians emigrating annually. Professionals cite limited career advancement, research opportunities, and inadequate higher education options as key drivers of emigration. Some also point to perceived barriers to merit-based progress due to reservation policies.

Experts argue that reversing brain drain requires more than curbing migration. Past proposals, such as imposing a tax on income earned abroad, were considered but largely impractical. Today, the emphasis is on creating an environment where talented citizens choose to stay, with improved research facilities, competitive pay, career opportunities, and merit-based recognition. Analysts stress that only long-term structural reforms, rather than short-term political promises, can ensure India retains and nurtures its intellectual capital in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

Bagram Base Sparks Afghanistan-Pakistan Tensions



New Delhi/Washington: The sudden escalation of border clashes between Afghanistan and Pakistan has drawn global attention, with speculation pointing to the Bagram Air Base as the flashpoint. Analysts suggest the tensions may be linked to former US President Donald Trump's push to regain control of the strategic base, abandoned by US forces during their 2021 withdrawal.

Located in Parwan province, about 60 km from Kabul, Bagram is one of the largest and most powerful air bases in the world. Originally built by the Soviets in the 1950s and expanded by the US after the 9/11 attacks, it features heavy concrete runways, permanent barracks, and extensive logistics capabilities. Reestablishing a US presence there would provide a foothold in Eurasia, allowing oversight of China, Iran, Russia, Central Asia, and Pakistan, including its nuclear arsenal.

Pakistan stands to gain

from such an arrangement. The US would rely on Pakistan for logistics and supply chains, generating revenue while enabling Islamabad to influence Taliban behavior. The recent clashes coincided with the visit of Afghanistan's acting Taliban foreign minister to India, adding to Pakistan's strategic anxieties over India's growing presence in Kabul.

Within Afghanistan, opposition groups like the National Resistance Front (NRF), composed mainly of former Afghan soldiers loyal to the US-backed government, have expressed support for a US return to Bagram. Analysts argue these groups possess local networks that could secure American operations more reliably than the Taliban, whose control remains contested.

However, the Taliban have categorically rejected all proposals, citing Afghan sovereignty. Regional powers, including China, Iran, Russia, and Central Asian states, have

also expressed opposition to a US military footprint, emphasizing stability over renewed conflict. A joint Moscow-format statement, signed by multiple regional countries including India and Pakistan, condemned attempts to deploy foreign military infrastructure in Afghanistan.

Experts warn that any renewed US presence could trigger instability similar to the 2001–2014 "War on Terror," further empowering groups like ISIS-KP and creating internal Taliban divisions. Additionally, US reliance on Pakistan—whose past duplicity in counterterrorism is well-documented—adds layers of risk.

For the Taliban, Bagram is emerging as a key test of leadership: balancing international pressures, domestic cohesion, and regional diplomacy. How they navigate this challenge may determine Afghanistan's stability in the years ahead.

OpenAI's ChatGPT to Offer Erotica for Verified Adults



OpenAI has announced a major update to its ChatGPT platform that has sparked widespread debate and public outrage. The upcoming version of ChatGPT, set to roll out from December, will allow verified adult users to request the generation of erotica, according to a post by CEO Sam Altman on social media platform X on October 14, 2025.

Altman explained that this decision is part of OpenAI's principle to "treat adult users like adults." He argued that past restrictions, implemented to prevent mental health issues and protect children, made the chatbot experience less enjoyable for adult users without mental health concerns. "Now that we have

tools to mitigate serious mental health risks, many of the restrictions can be relaxed," Altman wrote.

The announcement drew over 15 million views within days and ignited a firestorm of reactions online. While some users expressed curiosity and enthusiasm about the added flexibility, critics raised ethical and legal concerns. Many worried about child safety, potential misuse, and the broader societal implications of AI-generated erotica.

In response to mounting backlash, Altman issued a clarification on October 16, emphasizing that safeguards will be in place to prevent underage access and that the feature would only be availa-

ble to verified adults. He reassured the public that the company is committed to addressing mental health concerns and minimizing potential harms, although these claims have yet to be independently validated by regulators.

OpenAI's move has reignited debates about AI ethics, content moderation, and the balance between innovation and social responsibility. Analysts point out that the decision could position ChatGPT as the first mainstream AI chatbot offering explicit adult content, a development that raises questions about age verification, user consent, and regulatory oversight.

Despite controversy, Alt-

man has defended the update as a necessary step to improve user experience and agency. "Our goal is to create a platform that is both safe and enjoyable for all users," he said. Industry observers note that while OpenAI continues to prioritize safety, the introduction of erotica may attract further scrutiny from lawmakers, consumer groups, and international regulators.

The new feature is expected to be implemented in the upcoming ChatGPT release in December, and the company has indicated that additional controls and moderation tools will accompany the update to ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.

PM Modi: Youth Dedication Key to ‘Viksit Bharat’

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed the dedication of India's youth as the country's greatest strength, describing it as central to achieving a 'Viksit Bharat'. Speaking during his 128th 'Mann ki Baat' radio address, he highlighted achievements across multiple sectors, from space manufacturing to agriculture, as evidence of India's rising global stature.

The Prime Minister pointed to several notable November milestones, including the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram', Constitution Day celebrations at the Central Hall, and the hoisting of the 'Dharmadhwaaja' atop the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, describing them as sources of national inspiration.

PM Modi also emphasized bee farming initiatives, noting how innovative practices across the country have empowered farmers and boosted local economies. He cited India's accomplishments in sports, including winning the bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, reflecting the nation's growing presence on the global stage.



The Prime Minister recounted his recent international engagements, including visits to South Africa for the G-20 Summit and Bhutan, underscoring India's commitment to international cooperation and leadership.

"The energy and commitment of our youth are

the driving forces behind India's progress," PM Modi said, urging young Indians to continue contributing to national development. He highlighted how technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship are shaping a modern India, reinforcing the vision of a devel-

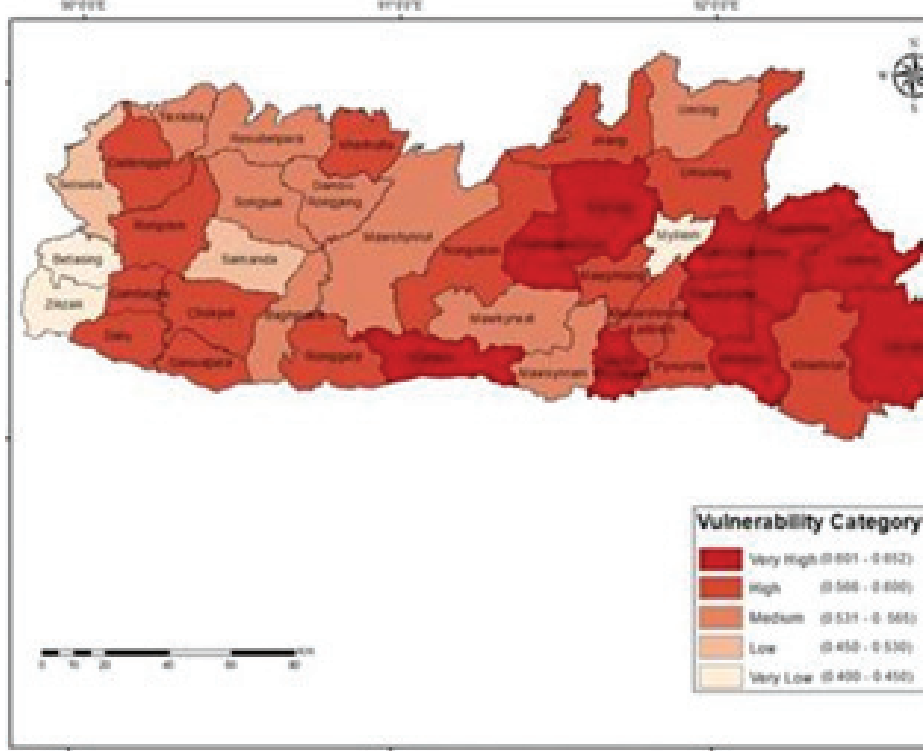
oped and self-reliant nation.

He concluded by reiterating the government's broader narrative of youth empowerment, national pride, and global ambition, positioning the younger generation at the heart of India's journey toward a developed and progressive future.

cent achievements.

The address reflected the government's broader narrative of youth empowerment, national pride, and global ambition, positioning the younger generation at the heart of India's journey toward a developed and progressive future.

Meghalaya Blocks Face High Climate Vulnerability



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A first-ever block-level climate vulnerability assessment in Meghalaya has revealed that 25 out of 39 Community & Rural Development (C&RD) blocks

fall under high or very high climate vulnerability categories, highlighting urgent risks to both natural and socio-economic systems in the state.

The study was conduct-

ed by the Meghalaya Climate Change Centre (MCCC), a key component of the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) under the National Action

Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC). The assessment aims to support climate-resilient planning and strengthen adaptive measures at the local level.

Using a common national framework, the study integrated both biophysical and socio-economic indicators through a tiered, top-down methodology to provide a comprehensive understanding of climate vulnerability at the block level. The findings underscore that regions in Meghalaya, particularly fragile Himalayan ecosystems, are increasingly susceptible to climate-related threats, including erratic rainfall, landslides, soil erosion, and shifts in agricultural productivity.

The report also emphasizes that socio-economic systems—such as livelihoods, health, and infrastructure—are under significant strain due to climate impacts, necessitating targeted interventions for communities in high-risk blocks. The study will help state authorities prioritize areas for climate adaptation and

disaster risk reduction programs, ensuring resources are directed toward the most vulnerable populations.

The Climate Change Programme under the CEST Division of the Department of Science and Technology has established State Climate Change Cells (SCCCs) in 30 states and Union Territories to improve coordination on climate actions between the Centre and states. Meghalaya's initiative demonstrates the potential of combining scientific assessment with local governance to build climate resilience in sensitive ecosystems.

Experts say that these insights are crucial for developing long-term adaptation strategies, particularly in the Indian Himalayan region, where environmental fragility intersects with socio-economic vulnerability. The assessment sets a benchmark for other states to adopt block-level planning for climate risk mitigation and sustainable development.

Nationwide Lok Adalat on Dec 13 to Waive Traffic Fines

TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

A National Lok Adalat will be held across India on December 13, offering citizens a major opportunity to settle pending traffic challans and minor compoundable cases with discounts ranging from 50% to 100% in many states.

The initiative targets minor traffic violations, including not wearing a helmet or seatbelt, signal jumping, wrong parking, over-speeding, missing Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates, driving without a license, or old e-challans. Serious offences like drunk driving, hit-and-run, dangerous driving, or cases involving injury or death are not eligible for settlement under this scheme.

Vehicle owners are advised to first check their pending challans on the Parivahan portal or respective state police websites, save or print the details, and book a token if required.

During the Lok Adalat, eligible cases will be resolved outside the regular court system. Citizens must visit the designated



court or traffic court with their RC, driving license, ID proof, and challan documents. Judges and traffic officials will then apply the fine reduction, and in many instances, older minor cases may receive a complete waiver. After paying the final amount via cash or UPI, a Lok Adalat settle-

ment order will be issued, ensuring the case is permanently closed with no future reopening.

States participating in this nationwide drive include Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.

Authorities have emphasized that this one-day event is aimed at encouraging compliance and clearing backlog cases, providing citizens a convenient and cost-effective way to resolve minor traffic offences. The Lok Adalat also helps reduce the burden on courts by settling cas-

es efficiently and permanently.

With this initiative, individuals can benefit from major fines reduction, avoid legal hassles, and ensure their traffic records are cleared, making it an ideal opportunity for all motorists to take advantage of the nationwide drive.

IAF Mobilises NDRF for Cyclone Ditwah Relief



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid ongoing relief operations in Sri Lanka following the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has simultaneously intensified support for domestic emergency preparedness.

On Saturday, an IAF C-17 Globemaster transported critical National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and equipment from Pune and Vadodara to Chennai. This rapid airlift enabled the deployment of over 300 NDRF personnel along with approximately 35 tonnes of essential relief and rescue equipment, enhancing the government's readiness to respond to emergencies across cyclone-affected regions in India.

The operation underscores India's dual-pronged approach to disaster management: providing immediate international humanitarian aid while maintain-

ing robust domestic disaster readiness. The NDRF teams are equipped to handle a wide range of emergency scenarios, including flood rescue, debris clearance, medical aid, and infrastructure repair, ensuring swift relief for affected populations.

In Sri Lanka, Cyclone Ditwah has caused severe flooding and landslides, affecting millions of people and resulting in a growing death toll. India has already dispatched relief consignments and teams under Operation Sagar Bandhu, demonstrating cross-border solidarity and timely humanitarian assistance.

IAF officials highlighted the strategic advantage of airlifting specialized teams and heavy equipment, which allows rapid mobilisation to areas cut off due to floodwaters or damaged infrastructure. The C-17's payload

capacity and range enable simultaneous international and domestic operations, reflecting India's growing capability in coordinated disaster response.

Authorities continue to monitor cyclone-affected areas closely, with NDRF and state agencies on high alert. Coordination between the IAF, NDRF, and civil administration ensures that both rescue and relief measures are executed efficiently.

Experts note that such preemptive mobilisation not only reduces the immediate impact of natural disasters but also enhances preparedness for future extreme weather events, aligning with broader national disaster management objectives.

The ongoing operations highlight India's proactive approach to disaster mitigation, combining humanitarian outreach abroad with robust domestic preparedness.

Opposition Demands Debate on SIR

Govt Seeks Cooperation Ahead of Winter Session



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament, beginning December 1, opposition parties on Sunday pressed for a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and national security, while the government assured it would engage with all sides to ensure smooth functioning of the House.

The all-party meeting, attended by around 50 leaders from 36 political parties, was convened by the government. Key attendees included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, and his deputies Arjun Ram Meghwal and L. Murugan. Opposition leaders raised concerns over SIR, national security following the Delhi blast, labour codes, fed-

eralism, and alleged delays in bills passed by opposition-ruled states.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju emphasized that the House must function without disruption. "Parliament should not be stalled and it should function smoothly. The government will keep discussing with all parties to ensure smooth functioning," he said. He added that the agenda of the session will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

Opposition leaders, however, criticized the government for limiting discussion time. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called the meeting "a mere formality," highlighting that many bills had not been examined by Standing Committees. Gaurav Gogoi alleged that the government sought to undermine democracy and parliamentary tradi-

tions, demanding debates on national security, voter list integrity, foreign policy, and farmers' issues.

Other opposition members echoed concerns over SIR. Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav warned that Parliament would be disrupted if SIR was not discussed, citing deaths of BLOs during the exercise. Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee and DMK's Tiruchi Siva also emphasized the need for discussion, noting that electoral irregularities and national security breaches required parliamentary scrutiny.

The Winter Session, scheduled from December 1 to 19, will see the government seek cooperation from all parties, while opposition leaders remain firm on debating SIR and pressing other key issues before passing legislation.

Trump Stands Firm on Migration Freeze Amid UN Appeals



TPN Bureau | Washington

President Donald Trump has reaffirmed his decision to permanently pause migration from all third-world countries, despite appeals from multiple United Nations agencies, including the UN Human Rights Office, urging the U.S. to continue allowing asylum seekers into the country.

Trump cited Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) on Truth Social, which grants the President authority to suspend entry of “any applicants or any class of applicants” if their entry is deemed detrimental to U.S. interests. The provision also allows the imposition of entry restrictions for any period the President considers necessary.

The administration recently intensified immigration restrictions, including a temporary halt on visa issuance for all travelers holding Afghan passports, following a shooting near the White House that left two National Guard soldiers critically injured. The suspect, Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal, faces first-degree murder charges, and authorities are exploring the possibility of the death penalty, despite its abolition in Washington, DC.

As part of the new measures, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has paused asylum decisions until enhanced vetting procedures can be completed. USCIS Director Joseph Edlow stated, “This pause will stay in place until we can ensure that every alien is properly vetted. The safety of the American people always comes first.”

The Trump administration emphasized that national security is its top priority. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio noted that the visa freeze is part of a broader security response to recent threats, highlighting the need to protect citizens and prevent illegal entries.

Critics, including UN officials, have warned that the migration freeze could exacerbate humanitarian crises and violate international obligations to protect asylum seekers. However, Trump has remained resolute, framing the policy as a necessary step to secure U.S. borders and ensure public safety.

The policy is expected to have significant implications for refugees and migrants worldwide, while also intensifying domestic and international debate over the balance between security and humanitarian responsibility.

Trump Backs Asfura in Tight Honduras Presidential Race



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has thrown his support behind Nasry Asfura, the conservative National Party candidate, in Honduras’ closely contested presidential election. Trump, posting on Truth Social, said Asfura can work with the United States to counter drug trafficking and urged Hondurans to “vote for Freedom and Democracy.”

Hondurans will head to the polls on Sunday in a race widely seen as a toss-up. Current polls show Asfura, former mayor of Tegucigalpa, nearly tied with former defense minister Rixi Moncada of the leftist LIBRE Party and television host Salvador Nasralla of the centrist Liberal Party. The winner will govern Honduras from 2026 to 2030.

Trump criticized both Moncada and Nasralla, calling the former a communist and the latter a “borderline communist” seeking to siphon votes from Asfura, although neither candidate identifies as communist. The US administration has voiced concern over the influence of leftist governments in the region, particularly in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

“Will Maduro and his Narco-

terrorists take over another country like they have taken over Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela?” Trump questioned in his post, claiming Asfura would stand against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom the US has accused of links to drug trafficking—a charge Maduro denies.

Asfura’s National Party has historically maintained close ties with Washington under former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who governed from 2014 to 2022. Hernandez was arrested after leaving office and is serving a 45-year prison sentence in the United States for drug trafficking and firearms charges.

Observers caution that the razor-thin margins could spark disputes over the results. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the US State Department have both expressed concern over Honduras’ electoral process and will monitor the vote closely to ensure transparency.

With high stakes and international attention, the outcome of Sunday’s election could shape Honduras’ political alignment and its relations with the United States and regional powers for years to come.

Netanyahu Requests Presidential Pardon Amid Ongoing Corruption Trial



TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump ignited speculation over a possible 2028 presidential campaign after posting an AI-generated image on his Truth Social account showing him holding a blue sign reading “TRUMP 2028, YES!” The post, captioned “TRUMPLICANS!”—a mix of Trump and Republicans—quickly became the focus of political debate. The image comes nearly ten months into Trump’s second non-consecutive term, which began January 20, 2025, as he pursues his “America First 2.0” agenda with a Republican-controlled Congress, including measures on immigration and higher tariffs. References to “Trump 2028” have also appeared on merchandise and during public events, fueling speculation about the president’s long-term political strategy.

However, constitutional limits remain clear. The

22nd Amendment restricts presidents to two elected terms. House Speaker Mike Johnson downplayed the post as “trolling,” noting Trump is well aware of the constitutional constraints. Trump himself acknowledged last month, “I’m not allowed to run, it’s too bad.”

Despite Trump’s legal ineligibility for a third

term, the “Trump 2028” messaging may be laying groundwork for his political influence or promoting a family succession. Polls show his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., gaining traction among Republicans as a potential 2028 nominee. A McLaughlin and Associates survey indicates Vice President JD Vance led Trump Jr. 38% to 20% in October,

but by November, the gap narrowed to 34% versus 24%, signaling a tightening contest.

The post follows earlier displays of “Trump 2028” branding, including hats on Trump’s Oval Office desk during meetings with Democratic leaders Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer. Analysts suggest these signals may aim to consolidate the

Trump base and maintain visibility within the party, even as legal and constitutional barriers prevent a direct run.

As the 2028 Republican nomination approaches, all eyes will remain on the Trump family and its influence on the party’s future, with potential ramifications for both party dynamics and US electoral politics.

India Assists Sri Lanka as Cyclone Ditwah Death Toll Surpasses 200



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

Sri Lanka continued large-scale rescue and relief operations on Sunday with crucial assistance from India after Cyclone Ditwah unleashed catastrophic floods and landslides across the island nation, causing massive loss of life and widespread destruction.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), the death toll has risen to 212, while 218 people remain missing since the extreme weather system struck on Thursday. The cyclone has battered multiple districts, triggering flash floods, mudslides, and severe infrastructure damage.

The scale of the disaster is staggering. The DMC reported that 9,68,304 people from 2,66,114 families have been affected. Thousands have been displaced, with many seeking refuge in temporary shelters set up across affected regions. Several roads remain inaccessible, complicating ongoing rescue efforts.

India has stepped in

as a key partner in Sri Lanka’s hour of need through Operation Sagar Bandhu, dispatching humanitarian aid and emergency support. Images shared by

the Indian Air Force on Sunday showed relief material—including food supplies, medicines, tents, and rescue equipment—being loaded for trans-

port to Colombo. Indian rescue teams have also joined Sri Lankan authorities in evacuation efforts in severely hit areas.

Sri Lankan officials described the situation as one of the worst natural disasters in recent years. Continuous rainfall and unstable terrain have raised the risk of additional landslides, prompting authorities to issue alerts for vulnerable regions. Emergency crews are racing against time to locate the missing and provide relief to stranded families.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe’s office said international support, particularly from India, has been “critical” in scaling up rapid-response operations. Rehabilitation and long-term recovery are expected to require substantial resources as damage assessments begin in the coming days.

With the death toll still climbing and large swathes of the country inundated, Sri Lanka faces a long and difficult road to recovery.

Tropical Storm Ravages Southeast Asia, Death Toll Surges Past 600



TPN Correspondent - Colombo

A rare tropical storm that battered Southeast Asia for a week has left more than 600 people dead and millions affected across Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, officials confirmed on Sunday. Torrential rains triggered widespread flooding

and landslides, causing large-scale destruction and displacing tens of thousands.

Indonesia has been the hardest hit, with the death toll climbing to 435, up sharply from 303 a day earlier, according to government data. The western island of Sumatra suffered the worst devastation, where

landslides and flash floods ravaged three provinces. Many areas remain cut off due to blocked roads and damaged telecommunications networks, hindering rescue operations. Helicopters are being deployed to deliver food, medicine, and emergency supplies to stranded communities.

Scenes of desperation have surfaced elsewhere, with reports of people looting relief trucks as shortages intensify. Survivors recount harrowing escapes. Afrianti, 41, from Padang city, said her family fled as water surged into their home. When they returned, the house had collapsed. “My

home and business are gone. Nothing remains,” she said, now sheltering beside the only surviving wall of her property.

The Indonesian government reports 406 people missing and 2,13,000 displaced, numbers expected to rise as rescue teams access previously unreachable regions.

In Thailand, heavy flooding has claimed 170 lives, affecting nearly 3 million people in the country’s southern provinces. Although waters have begun to recede, many villages remain submerged, forcing mass evacuations.

Malaysia has reported three deaths, but authorities warn that continued rainfall could worsen the situation in vulnerable coastal districts.

Across the Bay of Bengal, neighbouring Sri Lanka also battled severe weather, with 153 deaths, 191 people missing, and over half a million affected—underscoring the storm’s wide-reaching impact.

With rescue operations still underway, regional governments face enormous challenges in restoring connectivity, providing relief, and preventing further loss of life. The full scale of destruction will emerge only as water levels continue to fall and assessments expand into remote areas.

RBI Announces Measures to Support Exporters Amid U.S. Tariffs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday unveiled a series of measures aimed at assisting Indian exporters facing difficulties due to the recent 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the U.S. administration on Indian shipments.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra emphasized the importance of the export sector, calling it “a vital part of India’s economy.” To ease the pressure on exporters, the central bank has extended the repatriation period for foreign currency accounts held by Indian exporters in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) from one month to three months. This extension provides exporters greater flexibility in managing their foreign earnings amid the challenging trade environment.

In addition, the RBI announced steps to reduce paperwork and compliance burdens, particularly targeting small exporters and importers. These ef-



orts are designed to streamline export processes, helping businesses save time and costs, and improve overall ease of doing trade.

The central bank’s move comes in response to growing con-

cerns from the export community, which has been grappling with the increased tariffs that threaten to impact India’s trade competitiveness. By easing procedural requirements and extending repatriation timelines,

the RBI aims to provide exporters with much-needed relief and enhance their ability to manage foreign exchange inflows efficiently.

These measures form part of a broader strategy to safeguard

and promote India’s export sector during uncertain global trade conditions. Stakeholders across industries have welcomed the RBI’s proactive approach, viewing it as a timely boost that can help maintain the

sector’s growth momentum.

With these steps, the RBI reinforces its commitment to supporting exporters and ensuring the resilience of India’s external trade amidst evolving international challenges.

Manufacturing Growth Slows in September, Job Creation Hits One-Year Low

India’s manufacturing sector witnessed a slowdown in September, with growth in new orders, output, and input buying easing to four-month lows, according to the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) released on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted PMI dropped to 57.7 in September from 59.3 in August, marking the weakest expansion since May. While the index remains comfortably above the 50-mark that separates growth from contraction, it indicates a mild loss of momentum in the sector.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, noted, “The September headline index softened, but it remained well above the long-term average,” highlighting the sector’s resilience despite competitive pressures and global uncertainties.

Job creation in the sector also slowed, hitting a one-year low. Only 2% of surveyed companies reported an increase in staffing, making it the weakest hiring pace since September 2024.



Despite the slowdown, optimism remains strong. Business confidence rose to a seven-month high, boosted by recent tax relief measures and expectations of rising demand. Many firms cited changes in GST rates as a key factor behind their

positive outlook for the next 12 months.

Export demand offered some relief, with international orders increasing at a faster rate, particularly from Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. This offset some of the

negative impact from recent U.S. tariffs on Indian goods.

On the pricing front, input and output costs rose at the fastest pace since May. Firms reported higher expenses for labour, raw materials, and transport, which led to the sharpest rise in

output charges in nearly 12 years.

Overall, while manufacturing continues to expand, rising costs and sluggish hiring indicate emerging challenges that may affect the sector’s growth trajectory in the months ahead.

RBI Holds Rates, Cuts Inflation Forecast, Ups Growth Outlook



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday kept the key policy rate — the repo rate —

unchanged at 5.5%, while lowering its inflation forecast and raising its growth outlook, re-

flecting confidence in the domestic economy despite global uncertainties.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in a unanimous decision, opted to maintain the

current rate for the second consecutive meeting. Lending and deposit rates across the banking system are expected to remain steady, offering relief to borrowers and depositors alike. The RBI also retained its “neutral” policy stance, indicating it will remain flexible in responding to future economic developments.

In a significant move, the central bank revised its inflation forecast downward to 2.6% from the earlier 3.1%, citing easing food and fuel prices. Simultaneously, the GDP growth projection for FY26 has been raised to 6.8%, up from the previous estimate of 6.5%.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that recent rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates is likely to cushion the impact of global trade tensions and ongoing uncertain-

ty around U.S. H-1B visa policies. “The Indian economy remains resilient, supported by stable demand conditions, improving exports, and moderating inflation,” Malhotra noted.

The central bank’s cautious optimism comes amid rising global risks, including escalating tariff wars and currency volatility. However, domestic indicators, including robust tax collections and strong service sector growth, have provided enough buffer for the RBI to hold rates steady.

Analysts expect the RBI to continue monitoring inflation trends and global developments closely before making any further policy shifts. For now, the pause signals policy stability and continued support for economic growth, while leaving room to respond to future shocks.

ATF Price Hiked 3%, Commercial LPG Up ₹15.50



Oil companies on Wednesday revised fuel prices, increasing the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by over 3% and commercial LPG rates by ₹15.50 per cylinder, reflecting changes in global market benchmarks.

The price of jet fuel (ATF) in the national capital, home to one of India’s busiest airports, was raised by ₹3,052.50 per kilolitre — a 3.3% hike — bringing the new rate to ₹93,766.02 per kilolitre, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

Alongside this, commercial LPG used by hotels and restaurants also saw a price increase of ₹15.50 per 19-kg cylinder, pushing the cost to ₹1,595.50 in New Delhi. This adjustment follows a series of six reductions in LPG prices over the past six months, with the last cut being ₹51.50 on September 1. Since April, LPG prices have fallen by a total of ₹223 per cylinder.

The recent hikes come as oil firms align domestic fuel

prices with fluctuating global crude oil markets and foreign exchange rates. This adjustment impacts sectors relying heavily on ATF and commercial LPG, such as aviation and hospitality, which may see a rise in operational costs.

The aviation industry, already recovering from pandemic-related setbacks, will feel the effect of the ATF price increase, potentially influencing airfares and cargo charges. Similarly, restaurants and hotels might adjust prices to offset the higher fuel costs.

Fuel price revisions by state-owned oil companies are closely monitored, as they directly affect inflation and the cost of living. The government typically allows market-driven adjustments, but such hikes often draw public and industry attention.

Consumers and businesses alike will be watching for any further fuel price movements amid ongoing global energy market volatility.

Bank Nifty Jumps 700 Points as RBI Unveils Lending, Capital Reforms



Banking and financial stocks rallied sharply on Wednesday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held interest rates steady and proposed sweeping reforms to boost lending and ease capital requirements. The Bank Nifty soared 700 points, or 1.3%, reclaiming the 55,000 mark, while the Nifty Financial Services index rose 1.4% to 26,396.

Private banks led the charge, with Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank gaining up to 3% intraday. The Nifty Private Bank index rose 1.75%, though public sector banks saw some profit booking, with the Nifty PSU Bank index down 1.1%.

The RBI’s proposals, announced alongside its bi-monthly monetary policy review, include the removal of the 2016 lending restrictions on large corporates, allowing banks greater freedom to finance corporate acquisitions. Lending limits against listed debt securities and equity shares were also relaxed, and the cap on bank financing for IPOs was raised from ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh per individual.

Another major boost came for non-bank lenders (NBFCs), as the RBI lowered risk weights for loans to high-quality infrastructure projects. Shares of HUDCO, IREDA, PFC, and REC jumped 3–5% following the move, which is expected to reduce financing costs in the infrastructure sector.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra also announced the phased implementation of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework from April 2027 to March 2031, and the adoption of Basel III capital norms starting April 2027. Draft credit risk rules—expected to reduce capital requirements for small businesses and home loans—will be released soon.

Market experts welcomed the reforms, calling them growth-positive. “These steps align with the government’s broader economic stimulus agenda,” said Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC.

The RBI’s dovish tone and regulatory easing fueled optimism, pushing banking and financial indices to fresh highs.

Internet Calls AI Modi Birthday Video ‘Cutest’



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday on September 17 sparked global wishes, but what stole the spotlight online was an AI-generated video reimagining his celebration as a "Modi Ji Birthday Bash" with world leaders depicted as adorable babies. The video, which has gone viral, features baby versions of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, alongside Indian politicians like Rahul Gandhi, Yogi Adityanath, and Mamata Banerjee.

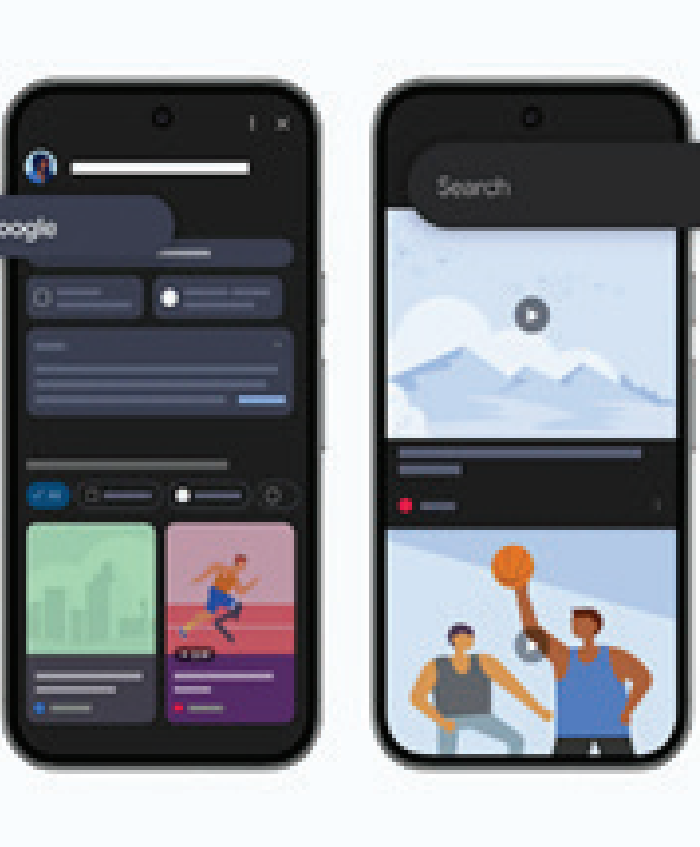
The clip begins with Meloni gifting Modi a giant toffee labelled "Melody," a playful nod to the popular candy and their much-talked-about camaraderie, often tagged online as "#Melodi." Other scenes show baby Trump presenting tariffs, Putin gifting a toy version of the S-400 missile, and leaders exchanging oversized ladoos and cheerful hugs, creating a

light-hearted, giggly spectacle. The video, shared widely on Instagram and X, quickly drew millions of views and reactions. One user commented, "Okay, this is genuinely wonderful and sweet. Major credit to the creative mind behind this—you made my day!" Another wrote, "I saw it 10 times already, fantastic," while many dubbed it the "cutest" tribute of the day.

Beyond the AI celebration, world leaders sent real wishes. New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon praised Modi's vision for a developed India by 2047, Meloni called him an "inspiration," Putin lauded his global prestige, and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu highlighted his achievements. Trump personally called Modi, with the Indian leader thanking him online and reaffirming commitment to strengthening India-US ties.

Blending creativity, humour, and heartfelt wishes, the AI tribute has become one of the most talked-about highlights of Modi's milestone birthday.

Google Discover Adds Follow Button For More Personalised Feed



Google has rolled out new personalisation features for its Discover feed, giving users more control over the news, updates, and content they see. Announced on Wednesday, the update introduces a Follow button that appears on the top left of every news card, allowing users to directly follow their favourite news portals and creators from the Discover page. This means platforms like Gadgets 360, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter) can now be followed with a single tap.

In addition to the Follow button, Google says the Discover feed will soon show more content from social platforms and video streaming services, including YouTube Shorts, Instagram, and X. The aim is to give users a broader mix of updates beyond just traditional news stories, covering weather, sports scores, and stock prices alongside social and video content.

The new update also introduces preview pages for news portals and creators. When users

tap on the name of a publication or content creator displayed on the Discover card, they will be taken to a dedicated page that shows the outlet's description, latest articles, videos, and links to social media handles. This provides a quick way to explore a creator's work without leaving the Discover feed.

The feature is now live, and Google says it builds on a recent enhancement that lets users set their preferred news sources in Search. By combining this with Discover's new Follow option, the tech giant aims to make staying updated with trusted content simpler and more personal. The move also reflects Google's push to integrate more diverse formats—blogs, news articles, YouTube clips, and social media posts—into one unified feed.

With this update, Discover becomes not just a place for quick updates but a personalised hub, adapting to users' interests across platforms.

Can Eating More Fibre Help You Live Longer?

Gut health is increasingly recognised as central to overall well-being, influencing not just digestion but also immunity, energy, inflammation, and possibly longevity. A recent viral claim suggests that eating more fibre could extend lifespan, and growing scientific evidence lends weight to this idea.

Fibre plays multiple roles in the body. It feeds beneficial gut bacteria, regulates digestion, supports healthy cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and prevents constipation. These combined effects may explain why people who consume fibre-rich diets tend to live longer and healthier lives. However, experts caution that most findings come from observational studies, meaning they show association rather than definitive proof.

Dr Saurabh Sethi, a gastroenterologist trained at AIIMS, Harvard, and Stanford, recommends eating fibre-rich foods like



chia seeds, berries, and oatmeal. He advises aiming for about 30 grams of fibre daily, noting that people who consume more fibre often experience less acid reflux and constipation, alongside improved long-term health outcomes.

Recent studies reinforce this. A 2024 systematic review covering 64 studies and 3.5 million participants found higher fibre intake linked to 23% lower risk of all-cause mortality, 26% lower risk of cardiovascular death, and 22% lower

cancer mortality. Another meta-analysis confirmed fibre's protective effects, especially from cereals and whole grains, with benefits seen above 15 grams per day.

For gut health, experts recommend combining prebiotic foods

such as garlic, onions, and asparagus with probiotic-rich foods like yoghurt, kimchi, and idli. Adequate hydration is also essential since fibre works best with water.

The bottom line: higher fibre intake is strongly associated

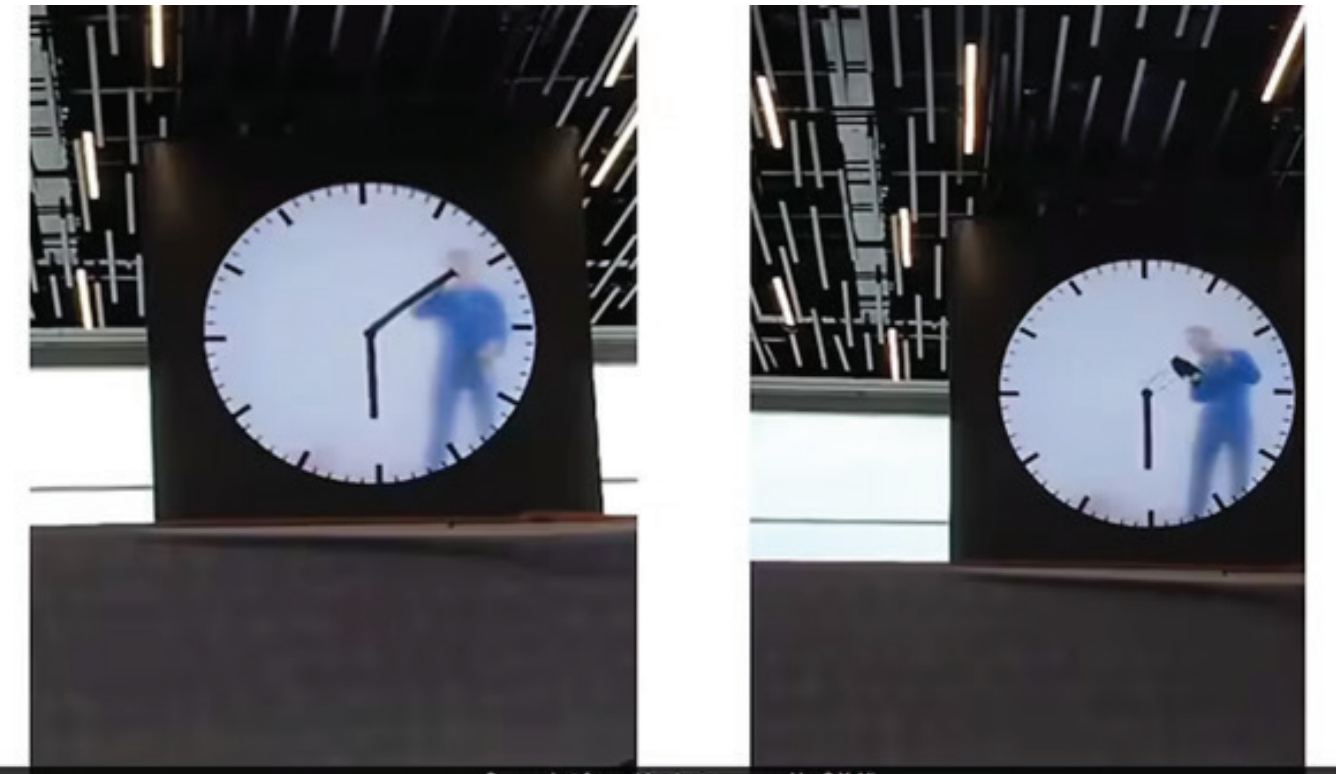
with lower risks of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, alongside better gut health. While more research is needed, fibre remains one of the simplest, most effective dietary tools for supporting longevity.

Amsterdam Airport's 'Human Watch' Fascinates Travellers

Travellers passing through Amsterdam Airport Schiphol are being captivated by a striking art installation known as the "Human Watch". Recently, Indian traveller SK Ali shared his amazement in a viral Instagram video, which has already crossed 1.2 million views. The clip shows a giant transparent clock that appears to feature a man inside, painting and erasing the clock hands every minute to update the time.

In his video, Ali points out the unusual design, capturing the moment when the figure drew 6:10 on the clock and then adjusted it to 6:11. "At Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, a giant transparent clock fascinates travellers with its unique design. Instead of mechanical hands, a man inside the clock appears to paint and erase the hands every minute, creating the illusion of real-time updates," read the Instagram caption.

The installation, officially called the Schiphol Clock, is the creation of Dutch artist Maarten Baas. While it looks like a real man working tirelessly inside the massive clock, it is actually a 12-hour



video loop of Baas himself dressed in blue overalls. The video cleverly synchronises to always display the correct time, blending performance art with practical timekeeping.

Online viewers have responded with both admiration and humour. One user joked, "Good innovation but getting tired of seeing his hard work every minute," while another clarified,

"This is not a real man inside the clock. It's an art installation by Maarten Baas." Positioned prominently at one of the world's busiest airports, the Human Watch has become a landmark that

surprises and delights travellers. For many, it turns a routine glance at the clock into an unforgettable artistic experience, merging creativity with everyday functionality.

Kerala Expat Wins \$1 Million In Dubai Duty Free Draw



A 37-year-old Indian expatriate based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has won USD 1 million (8.77 crore) in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire Draw. The lucky winner, Abdul Rahman K, hailing from Kerala and working as a sales assistant in Sharjah, struck gold in Millennium Millionaire Series 516 with ticket number 4171, purchased online on September 6. The draw was held at Concourse B of Dubai International Airport (DXB) on Wednesday, September 17.

Rahman's win was the result of a group effort. Since 2010, he and nine friends have pooled money to buy tickets, rotating the names on each entry. "It's amazing!

through the long-running promotion, which has seen overwhelming participation from Indian expats.

Other Indian winners also shone in the same draw. Amit Saraf, a 51-year-old Dubai resident, won a Mercedes-Benz G500 (Obsidian Black) with ticket number 0482. Saraf is a serial winner, having previously bagged USD 1 million twice (January 2021 and October 2024), a Mercedes-Benz S500 in February 2023, and a Dh 40,000 Duty Free gift card in December 2023.

Two more Indians walked away with luxury motorbikes. Shafeekh Nasarudeen, 41, from Umm Al Quwain, won a BMW F900 GS Adventure with ticket number 0347, while Olavo Fernandes, 61, from Abu Dhabi, won a Ducati Panigale V2 (Red) with ticket number 0239. Remarkably, Fernandes had already won an Aprilia RSV4 1100 motorbike earlier this month on September 3.

Launched in 1999, the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire and Finest Surprise promotions remain among the world's most recognisable raffles, with Indian nationals consistently featuring among the biggest winners.

Two of my daughters are celebrating their birthdays this month, and now we have even more reason to celebrate. Thank you, Dubai Duty Free," Rahman said. He becomes the 259th Indian national to win USD 1 million

Srikanth, Treesa–Gayatri Storm Into Syed Modi International Finals

India enjoyed a strong day at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow as former champion Kidambi Srikanth and defending women’s doubles duo Treesa Jolly–Gayatri Gopichand marched into their respective finals with contrasting victories.

Srikanth, the 2016 winner, overcame a stiff challenge from compatriot and 2023 national champion Mithun Manjunath, prevailing 21-15, 19-21, 21-13 in an intense semifinal. The 32-year-old showcased composure and tactical clarity, especially in the decider, where he maintained a steady lead throughout. “Getting a good start and keeping mistakes low was very important. He always plays well against me, so I’m happy with my performance,” Srikanth said after the match. He will face Hong Kong’s Jason Gunawan in the summit clash as he chases his second final appearance of the season.

In women’s doubles, Treesa and Gayatri delivered a commanding 21-11, 21-15 win over Malaysia’s



Ong Xin Yee and Carmen Ting. The Indian pair displayed excellent control and tactical sharpness, particularly impressive as this is only their second tournament since Gayatri’s return from a five-month shoulder injury. They now face Japan’s eighth-seeded

pairing Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe as they look to defend their title. “It’s great to be back, and we’re happy to reach the final as defending champions,” Gayatri said. Treesa added that patience will be key in the final.

However, India’s chal-

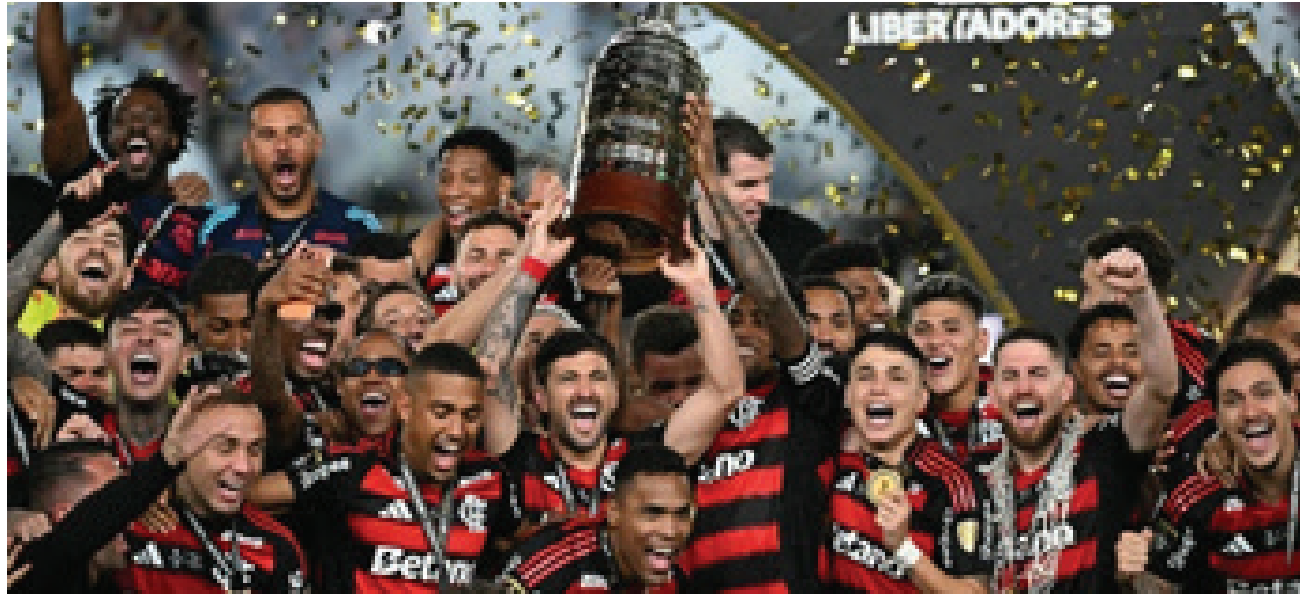
lenge in women’s singles ended in the semifinals. Unnati Hooda lost 15-21, 10-21 to Turkey’s Neslihan Arin, while Tanvi Sharma, who shocked Nozomi Okuhara earlier in the tournament, fell 17-21, 16-21 to Japan’s Hina Akechi.

In mixed doubles, Hari-

haran Amsakarunan and Treesa Jolly exited following a 17-21, 19-21 defeat to Indonesia’s Dejan Ferdinansyah and Bernadine Anindya Wardana.

With two Indian entries in the finals, expectations remain high for title wins on Sunday.

Flamengo Clinch Fourth Copa Libertadores Title With 1-0 Win



Flamengo created history on Saturday by defeating Palmeiras 1-0 to lift the Copa Libertadores title for a record fourth time, becoming Brazil’s most successful club in South America’s premier competition. The tense final, held at the Estadio Monumental in Lima, was settled by a powerful

second-half header from center-back Danilo, sealing a hard-fought victory in a clash marked by physical play and high stakes.

The triumph also served as revenge for Flamengo’s 2021 final loss to Palmeiras and keeps the Rio giants on track for a potential treble in 2025. Having already won

the Brazilian Super Cup earlier this year, the club now needs just two points from its final two league matches to secure the domestic championship.

Flamengo’s fourth Libertadores crown—three of which have come since 2019—puts them level with Argentina’s Estudiantes

and just three titles behind record-holders Independiente. For Palmeiras, the defeat was a bitter disappointment, particularly after missing a golden opportunity to equalize in the 89th minute when Vitor Roque fired over the bar from close range.

The match itself was

scrappy and intense, with 33 fouls and seven yellow cards issued as tempers flared on both sides. Flamengo enjoyed the better spells in the first half, with early attempts from Bruno Henrique and Samuel Lino, though neither threatened the target. A heated moment arrived around the half-hour mark when a confrontation involving Bruno Fuchs and Giorgian de Arrascaeta escalated, leading to Erick Pulgar escaping with only a yellow despite a reckless kick.

After the break, Flamengo continued to push forward and finally broke through in the 67th minute. Arrascaeta delivered a precise corner from the right, allowing Danilo—left inexplicably unmarked—to rise and head in the decisive goal.

With this victory, Flamengo once again asserted their dominance on the continental stage, celebrating a historic night for Brazilian football.

Foden Rescues City Late; Spurs Suffer Another Setback



Manchester City survived a major scare as Phil Foden struck a last-minute winner to edge Leeds 3-2 in a dramatic Premier League clash on Saturday. City, chasing leaders Arsenal, squandered a two-goal lead before Foden’s calm stoppage-time finish restored control and lifted Pep Guardiola’s men to second place.

City made a blistering start, going ahead inside 59 seconds when Foden smashed home off the crossbar. Josko Gvardiol doubled the advantage in the 25th minute, finishing from close range after Nico O’Reilly’s header across goal. But Leeds, battling in the relegation zone, mounted a spirited comeback after the interval. Substitute Dominic Calvert-Lewin capitalised on a defensive error to pull one back in the 49th minute. The visitors then equalised in the 68th when Lukas Nmecha converted a rebound after his penalty was initially saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Just as City looked set to drop vital points for the third straight game, Foden carved out space in

the box and slotted home the winner, prompting visible relief from Guardiola. “It was a relief. The game should have been over, but Phil’s quality made the difference,” the City boss said.

Meanwhile, Tottenham’s struggles deepened with a 2-1 home defeat to Fulham. Kenny Tete opened the scoring before Harry Wilson punished a mistake from goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario, sending Spurs into the break amid loud boos. Though Mohammed Kudus scored early in the second half, the London side could not avoid their 10th-place slide. Manager Thomas Frank criticised fans who jeered Vicario mid-match, calling the behaviour “unacceptable.”

Elsewhere, Newcastle celebrated manager Eddie Howe’s birthday with a commanding 4-1 win over Everton, including the Premier League’s fastest goal this season after 52 seconds. Brentford defeated Burnley 3-1, with Igor Thiago netting twice, while Sunderland mounted a remarkable comeback to beat Bournemouth 3-2 at home.

Kohli’s Masterclass Powers India to 349/8 Against South Africa



Virat Kohli reaffirmed his unmatched value in ODI cricket with a majestic century as India piled up 349/8 in the opening match of the series against South Africa in Ranchi on Sunday. Under scrutiny with every appearance in the format, the 36-year-old delivered emphatically, crafting a superb 135 off 120 balls, featuring 11 fours and seven sixes.

Kohli’s knock formed the backbone of the innings and showcased his ability to dominate even in a format he now plays sparingly. Walking in early after Yashasvi Jaiswal’s dismissal for 18, Kohli appeared in vintage touch from the outset. A stunning six over mid-off against Burger set the tone, followed by a trademark cover drive that electrified the Ranchi crowd.

A crucial 136-run partnership between Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma (57 off 51) laid the platform for India’s imposing total. Rohit, dropped on one by Tony de Zorzi, capitalised on the reprieve with an array of boundaries against Marco Jansen and Corbin Bosch before falling LBW to

Jansen. The partnership not only steadied India but also reignited the famed “RoKo” chemistry.

After Rohit’s exit, India lost momentum briefly as Ruturaj Gaikwad and Washington Sundar fell in quick succession to Otneil Baartman. But Kohli remained composed, rotating strike smartly and accelerating when needed. His century sparked emotional scenes as a fan breached security to touch his feet before being escorted away.

KL Rahul (60) provided solid support later in the innings, though Kohli dominated the scoring, especially against off-spinner Pranelan Subrayen, who conceded 21 runs in one over. Even as the ball softened after 34 overs, Kohli shifted gears seamlessly.

With the 2027 World Cup still distant, Kohli’s statement hundred was a timely reminder of his enduring hunger and unmatched ODI pedigree. India’s total of 349/8 now puts the pressure firmly on the Proteas in the chase.

Treesa–Gayatri Defend Syed Modi International Title in Thrilling Final

Defending champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand produced a gritty and brilliant comeback to retain the women’s doubles crown at the Syed Modi International Super 300 in Lucknow on Sunday. The top-seeded Indian pair overcame Japan’s Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in a pulsating, high-intensity final that lasted one hour and 16 minutes.

Playing only their second tournament since Gayatri’s return from a five-month shoulder injury layoff, the Indian duo displayed remarkable resilience and tactical maturity. The final opened with a spectacular 49-shot rally, immediately signalling the intensity to follow. Although Osawa and Tanabe edged ahead in the early exchanges and secured the opening game, Treesa and Gayatri showed no signs of panic.

After dropping the first game, the Indians switched sides with renewed aggression. Their anticipation and attacking play clicked perfectly as they raced to a 9-2 lead, maintaining control with sharp net play and booming backcourt smashes,



particularly from Treesa. They comfortably sealed the second game 21-13 to force a decider.

The momentum carried into the third game, with Treesa and Gayatri storming to a 7-4 lead before minor miscommunication al-

lowed the Japanese pair to close the gap. But the Indians quickly regrouped. Clever net interceptions, deceptive shots, and well-constructed rallies restored their advantage, giving them a six-point cushion at the mid-game interval.

Despite Osawa and Tanabe narrowing the score to 15-13, Treesa’s disguised net shots and Gayatri’s sharp smashes kept India in command. A delicate drop from Treesa and an error from the Japanese handed the Indians six match points.

They converted on the second, sealing a memorable defence of their title.

The win not only highlights the duo’s growing maturity but also marks a strong return to form as they look ahead to a crucial season.

Akhanda 2 Pre-Release Event: Balakrishna Promises a Divine Action Spectacle



Under the banner of HNG Cinemas LLP, “Sahakutumbanam” is directed and written by Uday Sharma, produced by Mahadev Goud and Nagarathna, and is set for release on December 12. The film features Raam Kiran and Megha Akash in lead roles, with an ensemble cast including Rajendra Prasad, Brahmanandam, Subhalekha Sudhakar, Satya, Rajashree Nair, Racha Ravi, Giridhar, Tagubothu Ramesh, Bhadram, and many others.

Mani Sharma has composed the music, Madhu Dasari handled cinematography, and Shashank Mali worked as the editor.

Director Buchi Babu Sana's Remarks

“Greetings to everyone. I earlier worked as an assistant director on films

featuring Rajendra Prasad garu and Brahmanandam garu such as Naannaku Prematho and Arya 2. Standing beside them today as a director feels like a blessing.

This film has a special emotional connection for me. My friend Vikram wanted to make a film based on a single-line idea, but his untimely demise left that dream incomplete. His friend Uday developed that line into a story and is now making it as a film, which makes me immensely happy.

‘Sahakutumbanam’ carries the essence of Sukumar garu’s storytelling style. I wholeheartedly wish the cast, crew, and producers great success. My best wishes to the entire team.”

Actor Rajendra Prasad's

Speech

“Greetings to Sabha Saswathi and my Telugu audience. It gave me immense happiness to act once again with Brahmanandam garu and to see many of my former colleagues growing to great heights.

A film actor remains in the hearts of audiences only when the roles they choose leave a deep impact. I became close to people from many regions by portraying characters with different dialects.

In my 48-year-long career, I have never heard or performed a story like Sahakutumbanam. This film beautifully portrays the value, importance, and emotional foundation of family.

I owe my acting life to the legendary N.T. Rama Rao garu, who shaped me

as an artist.

Hero Ram Kiran performed remarkably well, learning everything with dedication.

I wholeheartedly wish producer Mahadev Goud garu continues to make meaningful films like this. I request all audiences to watch Sahakutumbanam in theatres.”

Brahma Brahmanandam's Speech

“Greetings to everyone. Director Uday Sharma is a perfectionist who ensures he gets exactly what he envisions. Behind him, Arjun Sai provided tremendous support.

Rajendra Prasad garu guided him in fine-tuning performances, and Uday brought out the best from all of us.

My character in this

film is very unique. Ram Charan, the film’s hero, is a talented dancer. I enjoyed acting in a few scenes along with the lead pair.

I sincerely wish the producer Mahadev Goud garu great success and hope audiences will give this film a big hit.”

Producer Mahadev Goud's Words

“This is the first film from HNG Cinemas. I loved the story of Sahakutumbanam and brought together the best cast and technicians. I hope everyone supports us and helps make this film a grand success.”

Director Uday Sharma's Speech

“I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Buchi Babu garu for launching our

trailer as the chief guest. My special thanks to Rajendra Prasad garu, Brahmanandam garu, Mani Sharma garu, and every artist and technician who made this film possible.

My journey to this stage was possible because of my friend Vikram, Arjun Sai, and producer Mahadev Goud.

Our lead actors Ram Kiran and Megha Akash delivered excellent performances. Mani Sharma garu scoring music for my debut film is a huge honour. Madhu, our DOP, gave outstanding visuals. I hope the film receives immense love from the audience.”

Hero Ram Kiran's Speech

“My sincere thanks to producer Mahadev Goud garu for trusting me as a

hero. I worked very hard, heard many scripts, and finally entered the Telugu film industry which I deeply love.

Acting alongside Megha Akash garu, who has performed with many big stars, was a great learning experience. Director Uday Sharma garu beautifully created a family within the story.

It is a dream come true to have music by Mani Sharma garu. My 16-year-long dream of becoming a hero has been fulfilled because of my mentors.

I thank my dance masters, the entire team, and Buchi Babu garu for supporting our trailer launch. I request the audience to bless our film in theatres.”

CAST

Ram Kiran, Megha

Akash, Rajendra Prasad, Brahmanandam, Satya, Subhalekha Sudhakar, Rajashree Nair, Racha Ravi, Giridhar, Tagubothu Ramesh, Bhadram and others.

TECHNICAL CREW

Writer & Director: Uday Sharma
Producer: H. Mahadev Goud
Music: Mani Sharma
Director of Photography (DOP): Madhu Dasari
Editor: Shashank Mali
Choreographers: Chinni Prakash, Bhanu, Vijay Polaki
Lyricist: Ananta Sriram
Art Director: P. S. Varma
Fights: Anji, Karthik
Executive Producer: Rohit Kumar Padmanabha
PRO: Madhu VR
Digital Promotions: Digital Dukanam

The musical journey of Dhandoraa begins with the single “Pilla Song”

The first single from Dhandoraa, titled “Pilla Song”, has been released, giving audiences their first musical glimpse of the film. Composed by Mark K Robin under the T-Series label, the track features vocals by Aditi Bhavaraju and Anurag Kulkarni, with lyrics written by Purna Chari. Within the film, the song marks a gentle emotional shift - the moment when the girl indirectly accepts the boy's love proposal, expressed not through dramatic declaration but through subtle warmth and unspoken acknowledgement.

The track leans into

a soft folk rhythm, keeping the melody approachable and easy to carry. The lyrics maintain a warm conversational quality, giving the tune an immediate emotional connection. JD Master's choreography follows a restrained design, built around neat movements and a simple hook step that fits the song's tenderness. In the lyrical video, Ravi Krishna and Manika Chikkala bring this moment alive with understated performances - clean timing, balanced coordination, and a natural chemistry that keeps the sequence sincere rather than showy. Their body language and softened expressions allow the song's emo-

tional acceptance to unfold organically, giving the moment its quiet charm.

As the film continues its promotional rollout, Dhandoraa maintains the clarity of craft that has gradually become its signature. Written and directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth and produced by Ravindra Benerjee Muppaneni under Loukya Entertainments, the film features Shivaji, Navdeep, Nandu, and Bindu Madhavi, supported by Ravi Krishna, Manika, Mounika Reddy, Raadhya, and Muralidhar Goud. With cinematography by Venkat R. Shakamuri, editing by Srujana Adusumilli, overseas release by Atharvana Bhad-



rakali Pictures and a creative team focused on sincerity and grounded storytelling, Dhandoraa moves steadily toward its worldwide release on 25 December 2025.

Bandhu Mithrula Abhinandhanalatho? Trivikram–Venkatesh Film Title Buzz

A fresh wave of excitement is building in Bollywood as director Trivikram Srinivas and Victory Venkatesh prepare to join forces once again for a new entertainer. The project, backed by Haarika & Hassine Creations, is gaining strong traction even before going on floors, thanks to an intriguing title circulating online.

The title Bandhu Mithrula Abhinandhanalatho has been doing the rounds on

social media over the past few days, with widespread speculation that this could indeed be the film's final title. Though the makers have remained tight-lipped, industry chatter suggests that the official announcement may be just around the corner. The unusual and attention-grabbing title has already sparked conversations among fans, raising curiosity about the film's theme and Trivikram's approach this time.



Meanwhile, the casting has also added to the buzz. KGF actress Srinidhi Shetty has reportedly been finalised as the female lead, marking her next major Telugu project. Her pairing with Venkatesh is expected to offer a refreshing on-screen

dynamic.

The production team is gearing up for the shoot, which is planned to commence in mid-December. At present, Venkatesh is occupied with a song shoot alongside Chiranjeevi for the film Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu (MSG). Once he wraps up that schedule, he will shift his focus to the Trivikram project.

Adding to the excitement is the involvement of Harshavardhan

Rameshwar, who will be composing the music. Known for his impactful scores, his collaboration with Trivikram and Venkatesh promises an engaging musical experience.

With the official title announcement expected soon and the shoot set to begin shortly, fans can look forward to more updates in the coming days. Stay tuned for further details on this much-awaited entertainer.

Akhanda 2 Clears Censor; Grand Event on December 5



The much-awaited mass entertainer Akhanda 2, bringing back the powerful combination of Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Boyapati Srinu, is inching closer to its theatrical release. The film, which has been creating strong buzz across Telugu states, has successfully completed its censor formalities.

The censor board has granted the film a U/A certificate, confirming that Akhanda 2 will once again showcase Balakrishna's signature high-voltage action, intense drama, and power-packed mass sequences—elements that defined the blockbuster success of the first installment. The certificate has further heightened expecta-

tions among fans who have been eagerly waiting for Balayya's return in this larger-than-life avatar.

The makers have locked December 5, 2025, for the film's worldwide release. With promotions already gaining momentum, the team is gearing up for a grand pre-release mass event on the same day, promising electrifying moments and solid fanfare. Such events are a trademark for Balakrishna's films, often turning into massive celebrations for his large and devoted fan base.

In Akhanda 2, Balakrishna will reprise his dual roles, reportedly bringing even more intensity and emotional depth to the characters. His por-

trayal of the fierce Ag-hora character in the first film became a cultural phenomenon, and fans are looking forward to witnessing an even more powerful screen presence in the sequel.

Director Boyapati Srinu, known for his mass-appeal filmmaking style, has shaped the sequel to deliver heightened drama, elevated action sequences, and spiritually charged moments. With the censor formalities now completed and the release date locked, the stage is set for another festival for NBK fans.

All eyes are on December 5 as Akhanda 2 promises to bring back the roaring energy of Balakrishna in a full-fledged mass spectacle.