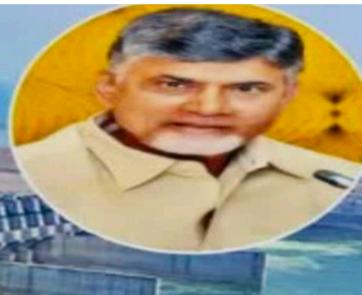




Polavaram to be Completed before Pushkaralu Welfare at the Core of Coalition Governance: CM



TPN Bureau | December 1

UNGUTURU, ELURU DISTRICT: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the state government is committed to completing the Polavaram project before the Godavari Pushkaralu in 2027, adding that the project will eliminate water scarcity, boost agricultural income and transform the state's irrigation potential.

Addressing the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme in Gopinathapatnam of Unguturu constituency, the Chief Minister said the coalition government has set new benchmarks in welfare delivery. "In the last 18 months alone, our government

has spent 50,763 crore exclusively on pensions. No state in India provides welfare benefits at this scale," he said. The CM personally visited the house of a kidney patient, Nagalakshmi, handed over her pension and instructed officials to ensure she receives proper medical treatment.

Record Expenditure on Pensions

Chandrababu Naidu stated that the government is currently distributing 2,739 crore in pensions every month to over 63 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 59% are women. "Of the 50,000 crore disbursed so far, nearly 30,000 crore has gone to women. Unlike the previous government, we have ensured widows face no hurdles in receiving pensions," he said.

The government has also released 114 crore to 1,39,677 beneficiaries who had not collected their pensions for two months and 16 crore for another 13,325 people who missed collections for three months.

Recalling that NT Rama Rao laid the foundation for the pension system in 1984, he said the amount has been increased to 4,000 despite financial constraints. "We ensure pensions on the first of every month without fail, unlike the previous five years when the increase was only 250," he added.

Five Principles for Farmer Prosperity

Chandrababu Naidu outlined a five-principle framework aimed at ensuring farmers never incur losses: water se-

curity, demand-based cropping, agritech adoption, food processing and strong government support. He urged farmers to shift to demand-based crops as global rice consumption is declining due to health concerns. Aquaculture farmers will receive power at 1.50 per unit, with the government bearing a burden of 850 crore. Payments for paddy procurement are being deposited within 24-48 hours, he noted.

The CM said the Chinatalupudi Lift Irrigation Scheme will be completed soon, all local tanks will be rejuvenated and Kolleru issues resolved in a farmer-friendly manner.

20 Lakh Jobs by 2029

Chandrababu Naidu said the recent Global Investment Summit in Visakhapatnam attract-

ed 13.25 lakh crore in proposals, of which approvals have already been granted for 8 lakh crore. "We are on track to create 20 lakh jobs by 2029," he said. Naidu also highlighted the skyrocketing land values in Kokapet from 10,000 per acre in the 1990s to 160 crore today as an example of how development drives wealth creation.

Three Regional Zones for AP; Amaravati Phase-1 by 2028

The state will be reorganised into three regional development zones. Amaravati works are progressing rapidly, and Phase-1 will be completed by 2028. "We will build Amaravati into one of the world's most beautiful cities," he affirmed. Visakhapatnam will be further developed as a major tourism and economic hub.

Sharp Criticism of Previous Government

Naidu accused the previous YSRCP regime of pushing the state into lawlessness, drug proliferation, temple attacks, and economic decline. He also criticised the emergence of criminal networks, calling the party "dangerous for the state." The coalition government will repair all pothole-ridden roads by January, he assured.

The CM also reviewed stalls set up at the venue and congratulated families and volunteers under the P4 initiative. Ministers Nandendla Manohar, Kolus Parthasarathy and local representatives participated in the event.

Welfare and Growth Hand-in-Hand

Listing new welfare initiatives, the CM said the Thalliki Vandana scheme provides 15,000 to mothers for every child, the Deepam-2 scheme offers three free LPG cylinders annually (2.85 crore cylinders already distributed), and the Stree Shakti programme has enabled 25 crore free bus journeys for women to date.

Scrub Typhus Creates Alarm Across Andhra Pradesh; Woman Dies in Vizianagaram District

TPN Bureau | December 1

Vizianagaram: A new wave of infections caused by scrub typhus, a mite-borne bacterial disease, has created concern across Andhra Pradesh after a woman from Vizianagaram district reportedly died while undergoing treatment. Health authorities have confirmed that the disease is now spreading to multiple districts, with more than 1,300 positive cases recorded statewide. According to official data from the state health department, a total of 1,317 scrub typhus cases have been identified so far in Andhra Pradesh.

Medical experts are urging hospitals to remain on alert and report suspected cases immediately to prevent further spread. Health authorities have also advised people living in rural and semi-urban areas to maintain personal hygiene, avoid walking through bushy or grassy areas, and wear protective clothing while working in fields.

Health department officials stated that scrub typhus can be treated effectively with standard antibiotics such as doxycycline or azithromycin if detected early. They emphasized that people suffering from persistent fever should not ignore symptoms and must consult a doctor at the earliest. Delay in diagnosis, they warned, can increase the risk of severe illness or death. District medical officers across the state have been instructed to intensify awareness campaigns and arrange for special fever clinics in affected areas. Surveillance teams have been deployed to monitor rural zones and identify clusters of fever cases. Health personnel are also being trained to recognize symptoms quickly and provide prompt medication.

With cases being reported across all districts, the public remains anxious about the potential expansion of the outbreak. The health department reiterated that early detection and preventive measures remain the most effective way to control scrub typhus and safeguard community health.

Assure Paddy Farmers Amid Crisis, Urges BJP Chief PVN Madhav



TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh BJP President PVN Madhav has urged the state government to extend immediate and firm support to paddy farmers reeling under the impact of successive cyclones that have devastated crops across major rice-growing districts. Madhav expressed deep concern that the relentless natural calamities have left thousands of farmers in despair, as the crucial Kharif harvest season has turned into a period of anxiety and loss.

"Farmers who worked tirelessly for six months to raise their paddy crops are now facing sleepless nights. Just when they were ready to reap the results of their hard work, cyclones have destroyed their produce," he said.

The BJP leader pointed out that while Andhra Pradesh is widely recognized as the "Rice Bowl of India," its farmers are currently in a state of distress due to repeated climatic shocks. Cycloone Montha, which struck the state earlier in the season, submer-

ged standing paddy fields and soaked harvested grain. Before farmers could recover, Cyclone Ditwah battered several coastal districts again, compounding their troubles.

Madhav noted that farmers usually store a portion of their Kharif yield for personal use and sell the remainder in the open market to meet their financial obligations. However, with the crops soaked and damaged, their ability to sell the paddy has been severely affected. As a result, many rural families are uncertain about how to sustain themselves in the coming months.

He further criticised the government's response so far as being limited to verbal assurances without practical relief. Ministers have issued statements promising support, but ground realities tell a different story. Rice millers are allegedly adopting a dual stance hesitant to buy the damaged grain and offering low prices to desperate farmers. The government must step in immediately to regulate the market and restore farmers' confidence," Madhav asserted.

TDP Aims to Groom Village and Mandal Leaders Into State-Level Leadership: Minister Lokesh

TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National General Secretary and Minister for Education and IT, Nara Lokesh, said that it is the party's core philosophy to groom village and mandal-level leaders into strong state-level leaders. Addressing the "Coffee Kaburlu" interactive session organised for mandal party presidents and general secretaries at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Lokesh urged the cadre to work in a manner that wins the hearts of the people and strengthens the party at the grassroots.

Lokesh stated that TDP functions like a "university" where leaders evolve through organisa-



tional experience. Citing the example of Minister Nimmala Rama Rao, who began his journey as a mandal party president in 2012, Lokesh said that the party gives opportunities for its leaders to grow into MLAs, ministers and even deputy chief ministers. "Without the party, we are nothing. Recognition and respect come to us because of the TDP. This must ne

ver be forgotten," he said.

He reminded the cadre that they were chosen for leadership roles because people trusted them and the party had confidence in them. He urged them to fully participate in all programmes called by the party. "The party is like a family. Minor issues are natural. But once a decision is taken, everyone must abide by it. Le-

aders must not sulk over small matters," he said.

Need to Build Strong Public Connect

Lokesh criticised the previous YSRCP government, describing its five-year rule as "demonic". He said that 67 TDP workers were killed in Anantapur district alone during the previous regime. He alleged that former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy "illegally arrested" Chandrababu Naidu and reminded the cadre that the party was fighting a "psycho".

He urged leaders to work collectively, resolve issues at the cluster, unit and booth level and stay connected with local people with humility. "As we grow, we must become more grounded. People are asking us to avoid arrogance," he added. Explain Government Development and Welfare Initiatives.

Assembly Deputy Speaker Seeks Major Penalty Action Against IPS Officer Sunil Kumar

TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker K. Raju Ramakrishna Raju has urged the Union Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to initiate major penalty proceedings against suspended IPS officer P.V. Sunil Kumar for alleged violations of All India Servic-

es (AIS) conduct norms. In a letter addressed to DoPT Secretary Rachna Shah on December 1, the Deputy Speaker alleged that the officer engaged in overt political activity and caste-based mobilisation during a public meeting. He claimed that video evidence shows Sunil Kumar urging Dalit and Kapu communities to unite for political influence and suggesting a power-sharing arrangement between them for

the posts of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. Raju Ramakrishna Raju described these remarks as a grave breach of service discipline, asserting that they undermine the neutrality and integrity expected of an All India Service officer. He cited provisions of the AIS (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, which mandate strict impartiality from officers, including those under suspension. The



Deputy Speaker contend that Sunil Kumar's statements not only compromised administrative neutrality but also risked promoting social discord. He added that such comments could potentially attract penal consequences under the Bhāratīya Naya Sanhita for disturbing enmity and public order. According to the letter, Sunil Kumar is also associated with an organisation named "Ambedkar's India Mission," which, Raju alleged, undertakes activities likely to create caste-based divisions. The Deputy Speaker recalled that he had earlier raised concerns over the officer's speech during his tenure as a Member of Parliament, but no conclusive action had been taken. Emphasising that even a sus-

AP to Launch New Film Tourism Policy, Eyes Global Cinema Hub Status: Minister Kandula Durgesh



TPN Bureau | December 1, 2025

Amaravati : Andhra Pradesh is poised to usher in a new era for its film and tourism industries, with the government set to launch a comprehensive "Film Tourism Policy" to position the state as the nation's most preferred destination for film production and movie-based tourism.

This was announced by Minister for Tourism and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh during his keynote address at the prestigious "CII Big Picture Summit 2025"

held at JW Marriott Hotel in Juhu, Mumbai.

Minister Durgesh said the new film tourism policy would strengthen the Telugu film industry from production to exhibition, reinforcing its growth as a global creative powerhouse. "Telugu cinema has become a global brand, second only to Hindi in India, contributing nearly 20% to the national cinematic output," he stated, citing blockbusters such as Baahubali, RRR, Kalki 2898 AD, Pushpa series, Salaar, and OG as examples of Andhra creativity making waves worldwide. Durgesh assured full government support to ventures engaging in film infrastructure development, including integrated film cities, modern studios, dubbing theatres, and re-recording facilities.

He announced that the state would soon revive the prestigious Nandi Award s and Nandi Natakotsavams to recognize excellence in film and theatre talent across Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting the potential for investment in the Indian media and entertainment sector, Durgesh outlined the incentives being offered by the state. Andhra Pradesh currently targets private investments worth 25,000 crore by 2029 in tourism and allied sectors, with 24,000 crore already in the pipeline and 6,000 crore approved recently. He added that the

government offers benefits such as 100% stamp duty reimbursement, land conversion fee waivers, and State GST reimbursements up to 15 years for eligible projects.

MSMEs can avail 25% capital subsidies, while large projects will get up to 10%. Hospitality units will enjoy industrial power tariffs and five-year electricity duty exemptions. Announcing plans to turn Andhra Pradesh into a global hub for AI, VFX, and gaming under the vision of "Andhra Valley," the minister reiterated the state's goal of building a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047 under the "Swarna Andhra Vision." He highlighted AP's rich mix of

scenic beauty and culture from Visakhapatnam's beaches and Tirupati's temples to the hill stations of Araku and Lambasingi making it an ideal backdrop for film tourism.

Durgesh stressed that under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's leadership, the government is prioritizing cinematic and cultural promotion as powerful avenues for global tourism. "Films are among the most effective tools to showcase Andhra Pradesh's natural and cultural richness to the world," he said. Earlier, Minister Durgesh met CII officials, media and entertainment industry heads, and executives from YouTube India, Cube Cinema, Sony Entertainment, and Thomas Cook to discuss potential collaborations.

Tourism MD and AP Tourism Authority CEO Amrapali Kata also made a presentation highlighting the state's investment opportunities and incentives in film and tourism infrastructure.

"Transparent governance, sustainable growth, and investor-friendly policies are the foundations of Andhra Pradesh's vision," the minister concluded, inviting investors to partner in making India's media and entertainment sector a \$100 billion power house.

Focus on Private Temples as Festival Season Nears: CS Vijayanand



TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: With the festival season approaching and heavy crowds expected at temples across Andhra Pradesh, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has directed officials to keep a close watch on arrangements in both public and private temples. He chaired a review meeting on departmental activities and public feedback at the RTGS office in the Secretariat on Monday.

Vijayanand stressed that several major festivals and special occasions including Vaisakhi, Ekadashi and the Dhanurmasam celebrations are set to take place in the coming weeks, drawing large numbers of devotees. He instructed officials to pay particular attention to private temples, which also expect a significant influx of visitors.

He said temple managements must inform district and local officials in advance about the estimated number of devotees and the crowd-control measures being planned. Officials were told to respond promptly and take necessary steps to strengthen security and ensure smooth movement of devotees. The Chief Secretary stressed that temple authorities should seek prior permission from the police and arrange adequate bandoons to prevent any untoward incidents.

While management rests with temple authorities and trustees, district officials must ensure strong oversight and crowd management during major events. He also stressed that cleanliness should be given top priority, with strict measures in place to avoid sanitation lapses or stampede-like conditions during heavy rush.

Turning to agriculture, the Chief Secretary asked officials to plan well ahead to prevent any fertilizer shortages during the upcoming Rabi season. Agriculture department officials assured that there is currently no shortage of fertilizers and that adequate stocks have been arranged to ensure uninterrupted supply to farmers.

Vijayanand also suggested increasing public adoption of the "Manamitra WhatsApp Governance" platform to improve citizen engagement.

The meeting was attended by IT and RTG Secretary Bhaskar Kattamani, CEO Prakhar Jain, Ex-Officio Special Secretary B. Rajasekhar, AP Fibernet MD Geethanjali Sharma, Ratan Tata Innovation Hub CEO Dhananjay Reddy, RTGS Joint Director Malika Garg and other senior officials.

CM Reviews Diarrhoea Outbreak in Tallavalasa, Orders Strengthened Treatment Facilities



TPN/VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday reviewed reports of diarrhoea cases in Tallavalasa village of Santabommamalai mandal in Sri-kakulam district and directed officials to take immediate preventive and containment measures.

The Chief Minister asked officials to conduct a house-to-house survey to identify all diarrhoea cases and determine the reasons behind the spread of the disease. He stressed

that early detection and swift medical response were essential to prevent further infections.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that nine people had been affected from diarrhoea and were admitted to the government hospital in Tekkali. They also reported that a 70-year-old man, Chinna Rao, had died due to multiple organ dysfunction and a heart attack, clarifying that his death was not solely due to diarrhoea. Authorities added that safe drinking water was being supplied to Tallavalasa through tankers as a precautionary measure. A district-level team comprising the Panchayat Officer, Superintendent

Engineer and Deputy DMHO has been stationed in the village. They are conducting a comprehensive door-to-door survey to trace the source of contamination and curb the further spread of the disease.

The CM instructed officials to ensure robust treatment facilities for all affected patients and maintain adequate medical staffing and supplies. He also directed them to monitor and assess the situation in neighbouring villages to rule out any wider health risk.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for swift action, improved sanitation measures and constant vigil to safeguard public health in the region.

APCRDA Conducts 'Work at Height and Scaffolding' Safety Training at APNGO Housing Project

TPN Bureau | December 1

Vijayawada: In a continued effort to strengthen occupational safety standards across major construction projects, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) organised a specialised training programme on "Work at Height and Scaffolding" at the APNGO Housing Project in Vijayawada.

The session, held at 12:00 PM, aimed to enhance safety awareness among construction workers and technical staff involved in height-related activities. The training programme was technically supported by M/s Karam Safety, a leading firm in industrial safety solutions, while Larsen & Toubro (L&T) participated as the executing contractor.

The event served as part of APCRDA's broader safety initiative to ensure that construction practices align with national and international standards for workplace safety. During the session, participants were trained in essential procedures and safety protocols related to working at heights, including the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as full-body harnesses, correct anchoring techniques, and emergency rescue operations.

Experts also demonstrated the use of rescue and fall protection equipment, with practical sessions highlighting methods for hazard identification and risk mitigation at active project sites. Senior officials actively supervised and contributed to the session, including Gudidiwada Gopikrishna, Senior Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Officer, APCRDA; the OHS Manager from the project; Boya Sridhar Reddy, PGMC; Manikantan, Project Director from L&T; and Nilanchal, OHS Manager, PGMC.

Their participation underscored the commitment of both APCRDA and its contractors to enforcing a culture of safety and responsibility in large-scale housing projects. Addressing the participants, senior APCRDA officials stressed that safety at construction



sites is not just a technical requirement but a fundamental responsibility shared by all stakeholders. They noted that adherence to proper scaffolding standards and the use of certified safety gear could significantly reduce the risk of falls and other height-related accidents.

The officials further emphasised that the APCRDA has taken a proactive approach to worker welfare, consistently integrating safety training modules into its project implementation schedule. Such initiatives, they said, ensure that every worker is adequately prepared to identify hazards, follow safe operating procedures, and assist in emergency situations if necessary. By conducting these training sessions, APCRDA aims to build a safety-driven mindset among construction personnel and influence long-term behavioural change in site operations.

As progress continues, the integration of safety protocols remains a major priority for the project management teams. Officials reiterated that continued monitoring and training would remain central to maintaining high safety standards across all APCRDA projects. The training concluded with a practical demonstration and an interactive question-and-answer session, enabling workers and supervisors to clarify safety doubts and understand the latest guidelines on work-at-height safety practices.

Statewide 'Rythana Meekosam' Workshops to Be Held on December 3 Across All Rythu Seva Kendras

TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: The Department of Agriculture has announced that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will participate in the Rythana Meekosam Workshop on December 3 at the Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK) in Pothavaram village, Nallajerla mandal, Gopalapuram constituency of East Godavari district. Director of Agriculture Dr. M. Nazir Jeelani Samoon, urged farmers across Andhra Pradesh to actively join the workshops and contribute to action plans aimed at boosting village-level Gross Value Addition.

The workshops will be conducted simultaneously in all 8,451 Rythu Seva Kendras to prepare detailed action plans for Rabi 2025, Kharif 2026 and Rabi 2026-27, with a focus on improving crop yields and farmers' income. Key discussion points will include the major crops of each RSK area, strategies for yield



enhancement, water resource assessment, agro-climatic factors, and market connectivity. Farmers and officials will jointly identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to raise productivity and gross income.

During the recently concluded Rythana Meekosam Week (Nov 24-29),

RSK staff visited 46.85 lakh farmer households and explained the Chief Minister's Five-Point Agenda: Water Security, Demand-Based Crop Planning, AgriTech adoption, Food Processing and Government Support.

Informational pamphlets on agricultural schemes and welfare measures were also distributed.

Dr. Samoon said the December 3 workshops will stress on modern agricultural practices, improved water management, soil test-based fertilizer application and increased use of organic manures. Action plans will also be prepared for all lied sectors such as horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. He encouraged farmers to participate and share their field-level experiences, noting that the government is committed to strengthening agriculture through a strong, future-focused strategy.

TDP Leaders Accuse Former MLA Kasu Mahesh Reddy and Ex-MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy of Massive Corruption in Palnadu District

TPN Bureau | December 1

Narasaraopet, Palnadu: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders launched a scathing attack on former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders, accusing them of large-scale corruption, land grabbing, and misuse of public funds during the previous government's tenure in Palnadu district. Addressing a press conference on Monday at the TDP district office in Narasaraopet, Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahmareddy and Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu levelled serious allegations against former Gurajala MLA Kasu Mahesh Reddy and former Macherla MLA Pinnelli

Ramakrishna Reddy (PRK).

Brahmareddy alleged that Kasu Mahesh Reddy amassed huge wealth through illegal means and exploited the resources of the Gurajala constituency. "He plundered public resources and amassed over 1,000 crore by misusing his power. With the ill-gotten wealth, he constructed the 'Kasu Convention Hall' in Narasaraopet by violating rules and using two false government orders (GOs)," he said.

The TDP MLA further claimed that Reddy encroached upon 23.5 acres of government land for the construction of the convention hall. "He even deceived his own family members by re-



moving the name of Raghavamma from the property file and manipulating documents to obtain the GO. He used

funds meant for sports infrastructure, particularly from the Cricket Association, to develop the venue and later used

the premises for private gain in the guise of coaching centers and event management," Brahmareddy alleged.

He further charged that the former MLA falsely promised to construct the Chekkavarapu Subba Rami Reddy Kala Vedi but instead built a convention hall for personal profit. In another case, TDP leaders accused Kasu Mahesh Reddy of intimidating party activists near Brahmareddy, close to the Gurajala Medical College, and extorting money from them when they tried to develop residential ventures.

Turning his focus to former Macherla MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, Brahmareddy accused him of fostering a culture of violence and criminal intimidation in the district. "During the YSRCP rule, democracy

was demolished in Palnadu. PRK was involved in political killings, large-scale threats, extortion, and corruption.

Without undertaking any meaningful developmental work, he accrued illegal assets worth around Rs. 2,000 crore," Brahmareddy said. Echoing similar sentiments, Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu condemned both leaders for betraying public trust and prioritizing their own enrichment over people's welfare.

He demanded that the government thoroughly investigate the allegations and recover public property wrongfully occupied by the accused.

The TDP leaders vowed to expose all financial misdeeds committed during the previous government's tenure. They stated that the party would pursue legal action and press for a judicial inquiry into the controversial construction of the Kasu Convention Hall and other questionable land dealings in Palnadu district.

The fiery remarks at the press meet are part of the TDP's broader campaign to highlight corruption and administrative excesses allegedly committed during the YSRCP regime. The allegations, if proven true, could have major implications for regional politics in the run-up to the next elections.

AP Tops Nation as 65 Lakh Beneficiaries Receive Record Welfare Support: Minister Gottipati



TPN Bureau | December 1

Addanki: The Andhra Pradesh Government is ensuring that welfare schemes reach every eligible household, Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said on Monday. Participating in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution programme at Yeleswarapalem in Mailavaram Gram Panchayat under Addanki mandal, the Minister personally handed over pensions at beneficiaries' doorsteps and reviewed the delivery of services at the village level.

Highlighting the government's commitment to social security, he said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has earmarked more than 34,000 crore for NTR Bharosa pensions this year. "Nearly 65 lakh people are receiving pensions, an unprecedented scale of welfare support in the country," he said. The Minister also interacted with locals to verify whether all welfare initiatives were being implemented transparently and whether secretariat staff were extending hassle-free services.

Taking aim at the previous YSRCP administration, the Minister said not a single

spouse pension was sanctioned during its tenure. "After we came to power, over one lakh spouse pensions have been approved," he said. As part of the programme, the government handed over a tractor to a farmer under a subsidy scheme. Ravi Kumar noted that the current administration is offering 90% subsidy on essential farming machinery, while SC and ST farmers are receiving select equipment at 100% subsidy.

Later, the Minister distributed 162 free bicycles to students of Mailavaram Zilla Parishad High School. Appreciating support from NREDCAP and ASSIST, he said over 5,300 bicycles have already been provided in the Addanki constituency to encourage school attendance. He added that the government is working to upgrade government schools and has recruited 16,300 highly qualified teachers through DSC to raise academic standards.

Inspecting the mid-day meal programme, he instructed officials to maintain strict quality standards and urged parents to actively monitor food served to students. Local leaders, parents, and officials participated in the events.

YSRCP Student Wing Demands Immediate Release of Fee Reimbursement Dues

TPN Bureau | December 1
Vijayawada: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediately release the pending fee reimbursement dues to students, warning of intense agitation if the issue remains unresolved. The party's student wing said the delay in clearing the dues has caused immense hardship to lakhs of students across the state who depend on the scheme for their education.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Monday, YSRCP Student Wing President Panuganti Chaitanya accused the Chandrababu Naidu-led government of gross neglect of the education sector. He said students were suffering as the reimbursement amounts had not been credited even months after the start of the academic year, leaving them unable to pay col-



lege fees and sit for examinations.

"If the government continues to ignore students' problems, we will intensify our agitation. We are prepared to storm the houses of MLAs and Ministers and, if necessary, the Chief Minister's residence itself," Chaitanya warned. He alleged that the student community, which once benefited from full support under the previous YS Jagan Mohan

Reddy regime, now faces an uncertain future under the current administration.

Chaitanya contrasted the present situation with the YSRCP's previous term in office, claiming that fee reimbursements were made promptly and transparently when Jagan Mohan Reddy was Chief Minister. He said that under Naidu's leadership, the system has collapsed, describing the government's inaction as an

injustice to financially struggling families.

"During Jagan's rule, students never had to worry about reimbursements or scholarships. Today, they are demoralized and distressed because this government does not honor its commitments," he alleged. Criticizing Education Minister Nara Lokesh, Chaitanya said the Minister has failed to address key issues affecting students, claiming that his foreign trips and lack of focus on higher education have worsened the crisis. "Students are not getting justice because the Minister is more concerned about overseas engagements than the problems in our colleges and universities," he said.

YSRCP Student Wing Working President Ravichandra also addressed the media, echoing Chaitanya's remarks. He said the state government's in-

efficiency and neglect have paralysed an important welfare scheme designed to ensure that every student, irrespective of economic background, could pursue higher education. "Under Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership, fee reimbursement was a reality. Now it has become a broken promise," Ravichandra stated.

The YSRCP student leaders said they would submit representations to district officials across Andhra Pradesh, demanding immediate action from the government. They also announced plans for demonstrations at district collectorates and educational institutions if the dues are not released soon. The fee reimbursement scheme has been one of the cornerstone welfare programs in Andhra Pradesh for more than a decade, aimed at easing the financial burden on students pursuing professional and higher education.

Crisis in agriculture under the coalition govt



TPN Bureau | December 1

VIJAYAWADA: Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh has plunged into a severe crisis due to back-to-back natural calamities and the absolute negligence of the coalition government, said former MLA and Avanigadda YSRCP incharge Simhadri Ramesh Babu. Speaking at the YSRCP central office, he warned that farmers are suffering without any form of assistance, even as another cyclone approaches and thousands of tonnes of paddy remain exposed in the fields.

Ramesh Babu criticised Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar for repeatedly claiming that the government is prepared to procure 51 lakh tonnes of paddy out of the 83 lakh tonnes expected this season, while not a single assurance has translated into action on the ground. He said farmers are left to fend for themselves with no preventive steps taken despite clear cyclone

warnings, and paddy heaps across the state are getting drenched.

He expressed anguish that when YSRCP leaders visit fields to highlight farmers' hardships, the coalition government resorts to blaming and maligning them instead of addressing the crisis. He pointed out that the government is refusing to purchase 1318 variety paddy, even though the seeds were supplied by the government itself through the Maruturu Research Centre. Shockingly, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu himself claimed that current varieties are only suitable for seed and not for consumption, an unscientific assertion, he said, noting that BPT and 2716 varieties are widely consumed.

Ramesh Babu said the collapse of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers has pushed the sector into distress. Last year, under the YSRCP government, a 75 kg BPT bag fetched Rs. 2,200, while today the same is being sold at a distress

price of Rs. 1,250. He added that Krishna district has 160 rice mills, of which only 72 have dryers, making procurement during emergency harvests even more difficult, unlike Godavari districts where mills have higher capacity with boilers. If the government had coordinated with millers in time, this crisis could have been avoided, he said.

He stressed that traders, millers, and middlemen have completely taken over the procurement process, leaving farmers without MSP, gunny bags, or purchase centres. Even though the government boasts of sophisticated technology and disaster management capabilities, it has failed to protect farmers from crop damage or ensure timely procurement.

Ramesh Babu demanded that the government immediately wake up to the grim reality, start procurement on a war footing, and compensate farmers to prevent irreversible losses.

Banana farmers in Rayalaseema face severe crisis



TPN Bureau | December 1, NEW DELHI:

YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose has urged the Union Agriculture Ministry to intervene immediately and provide relief to banana farmers of Rayalaseema, stating that market failures are destroying the livelihoods of thousands of small and marginal farmers.

He appealed to the Central Government to take urgent steps to protect farmers from ruin. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, he highlighted the alarming collapse of banana

prices in the region, which has pushed farmers into deep distress. He said that despite record cultivation and high yields in recent seasons, the sudden crash in market prices has caused unprecedented losses. In Pulivendula, one of the biggest banana-producing zones, prices fell sharply from Rs 22,000 per tonne to Rs 8,000 per tonne within a month, marking a 60 percent collapse. Many farmers have been forced to throw away ripe fruit as they were unable to sell their produce.

He said the situation has devastated farmers who invested lakhs of rupees expecting a stable income. He also conveyed that YSRCP Party President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy visited the banana fields in Pulivendula and directed him to raise the matter in Parliament seeking immediate assistance.

Minister Lokesh, Anitha in Delhi to Meet Union Ministers Over Key State Issues; Cyclone Montha Damage Report on Agenda

TPN Bureau | December 1

Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Ministers Nara Lokesh and Vangalapudi Anitha arrived in New Delhi on Sunday to pursue crucial discussions with the Union government over major state issues, including the extensive damage caused by Cyclone Montha. The high-level visit aims to secure central assistance for relief and rehabilitation efforts across Andhra Pradesh's affected coastal districts.

Lokesh, who holds the Education and IT portfolios, and Home Minister Anitha were given a warm welcome at the national capital by Union Minister Kishan Reddy. Several Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Members of Parliament and senior party leaders, including Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Sana Satish Babu, Kesineni Sivanath, Appala Naidu, Bastipati Nagaraju, Lalu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, Parthasarathy, Ambika Lakshminarayana, Daggumalla Prasad Rao, Kambhampati Rammohan Rao, and Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, greeted the visiting ministers upon arrival.



According to party sources, the ministers' Delhi tour underscores the Andhra Pradesh government's ongoing engagement with the Centre to address several pressing concerns. The immediate priority is the presentation of a detailed report on Cyclone Montha, which recently battered parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh, causing extensive damage to crops, coastal infrastructure, and housing.

The report, prepared after on-ground assessments, outlines estimated losses and the measures undertaken by the state government to manage emergency relief op-

erations. On Monday, December 2, Ministers Lokesh and Anitha are scheduled to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shrikrishna Singh Chouhan. During these discussions, they are expected to seek enhanced central support for the restoration of essential services, financial assistance for farmers, and initiatives to rebuild public infrastructure damaged by the cyclone. The delegation is also likely to emphasize the need for faster disbursement of funds under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

Beyond the cyclone

concerns, Minister Lokesh is set to raise issues related to education and information technology development in Andhra Pradesh. Sources indicate that he will highlight proposals to strengthen digital education infrastructure, attract new investments in the IT sector, and promote skill development programs aligned with the National Education Policy framework. Discussions are also anticipated around central collaborations to expand higher education opportunities and technology-driven learning initiatives across the state.

Home Minister Anitha, meanwhile, is expected to discuss inter-

nal security coordination, disaster management reforms, and broader administrative cooperation between state and central agencies. Her meetings are likely to focus on enhancing preparedness mechanisms for disaster-prone regions and securing additional central support for police modernization and emergency response capacity building.

This visit marks one of the first major joint efforts by the Andhra Pradesh ministers since the formation of the new government earlier this year. It signals a proactive approach in strengthening ties with the Union government and ensuring swift rehabilitation measures for the people affected by natural calamities.

The meetings tomorrow are expected to set the tone for further Centre-State collaboration, as Andhra Pradesh seeks to fast-track recovery from Cyclone Montha's devastation while advancing its broader developmental priorities under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's leadership.

Panangi Karuna Kumari Receives Grand Welcome in Gannavaram After Creating History at Women's T20 Blind World Cup

TPN Bureau | December 1

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh's pride, Panangi Karuna Kumari, was given a rousing reception at Gannavaram Airport after her triumphant return from the Women's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup, where the Indian team created history by clinching the title. Hailing from a remote tribal village in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district, Karuna Kumari played an instrumental role in India's success, earning praise from sports officials and fans alike.

Karuna Kumari, who returned to the state for the first time after the World Cup victory, was accorded a warm welcome by Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman R. Ravinaidu, Managing Director S. Bharani, and several sports officials.

Students, young athletes, and SAAP staff cheered and applauded her arrival, expressing

immense pride in her achievement. Speaking on the occasion, SAAP Chairman Ravinaidu said that Karuna Kumari's outstanding performance in the international tournament has brought immense pride to Andhra Pradesh. "Her determination and talent have not only inspired many young players but also showcased the strength and potential of differently-abled athletes from the state," he said. Among others present at the reception were Library Chairman Kot eswara Rao, Different

ly Abled Corporation Chairman Narayana Swamy, SAAP Board Members Jagadeeshwari and Santosh, and Corporation Director Prakash Reddy. They felicitated Karuna Kumari with bouquets and shawls, lauding her contribution to India's historic victory.

In the final match of the T20 Blind World Cup held against Nepal, Karuna Kumari de-

Vijayawada MLA Yaralagadda Directs Police to Remove Seized Vehicles from Ramavarappadu Ring Divider



TPN Bureau | December 1

Vijayawada: Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yaralagadda Venkata Rao has instructed the police to immediately remove seized vehicles that have been left unattended for months on the road divider near Ramavarappadu Ring, Vijayawada. During his morning journey on Monday, the MLA noticed several two-wheelers and auto-rickshaws parked on the divider opposite the Anjaneyaswamy Temple, a busy junction on the Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu route.

These vehicles had been seized by the police during regular vehicle checks in the area for not possessing valid documents such as registration certifi-

cates, insurance, or driving licenses. Due to the large open space along the divider, the seized vehicles were being kept there temporarily. However, over time, the number of vehicles increased, resulting in a heap of rusting and dust-covered vehicles that have become an eyesore to commuters and passersby.

Residents had earlier complained that the stretch, which serves as an important route for VIP and VVIP movement, was losing its visual appeal and obstructing ongoing beautification works. MLA Yaralagadda, upon noticing the situation, immediately contacted the concerned police officers over the phone and directed them to relocate

Distribution Of Tasty, Hygienic (Naivedya) Annprasadams In All Ttd Temples On The Lines Of Tirumala - TTD EO

TPN Bureau | December 1

Tirupati: The TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singh instructed the officials concerned to ensure that devotees visiting other temples of TTD receive Annaprasadam (Naivedya) that is tasty, hygienic, and of high quality, similar to the standards maintained in Tirumala temple. The EO conducted a review meeting with officials on Monday at his chambers in the TTD Administrative Building to discuss ongoing development activities under TTD. Speaking on the occasion, the EO directed that proper training be given to Potu staff responsible for preparing Annaprasadams (Naivedyams) in TTD temples.

Later he instructed officials to strengthen the processes involved in the distribution of Annaprasadam (food serving). He also asked the departments to prepare a daily report on the Annaprasadams being served at each temple under TTD.

The EO further instructed the officials to identify if any employees belonging to other

faiths are still working in TTD departments and to submit a report for further action.

He also ordered a comprehensive report on the number of Veda Parayanams and Archakas required for historical and other temples across the country that have come under the administration of TTD.

The EO directed officials to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for every temple that has come under the

purview of TTD and submit it in the next meeting.

Referring to the TTD Board's decision to replace the designation "Potu Workers" with "Mukya Pachaka" and "Pachaka," he instructed officials to coordinate with the State Endowments Department and complete the renaming process at the earliest.

To strengthen the Urban Development Cell within TTD, the Chief Engineer was asked to prepare an action plan with

adequate staffing.

The EO also instructed officials to prepare a Calendar of Events for conducting Srinivasa Kalyanam programs in a planned manner, so that devotees receive prior information and participate in large numbers to receive the blessings of Srikrishna.

He emphasized the need to focus on the expansion works of the Sri Venkateswara Temple at Venkatapalem in Amaravati.

Officials were asked to prepare a detailed action plan for the development of 25 acres, including the existing temple and proposed constructions such as Kalyana Mandapam, archakas and staff quarters, compound walls, gopurams, pushkarini, and other structures.

JEO Veerabrahmam, CV&SO Muralikrishna, FA & CAO Balaji, CE Satyanarayana and other officials participated in the meeting.

MLA Bhashyam Praveen Slams Ambati Rambabu for Remarks on Amaravati Land Pooling

TPN Bureau | December 1

Pedakurapadu (Palanadu district): Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Pedakurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen strongly condemned the comments made by former minister Ambati Rambabu over the land acquisition process in the Amaravati capital region. Speaking at a public meeting organized under the "100 Days, 100 Villages" program in Peddama-durru village of Amaravati mandal, the MLA lashed out at the YSRCP for its alleged neglect of the capital project over the past five years.

Praveen accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government of deliberately disrupting the progress of Amaravati by promoting



what he described as "three-capital politics" aimed at confusing the people. He said that the five-year period under YSRCP rule had caused deep disappointment among farmers and citizens who had sacrificed their lands for the capital's development. Refuting allegations by Ambati Rambabu that the new phase of land pooling was politically motivated, the MLA clarified that the decision to initiate a second round of

land pooling in the constituency was made only after local farmers requested it.

Many farmers in the region, he explained, had suffered losses due to railway lines, canals, and other infrastructure works that had cut through their lands. The farmers themselves came forward and sought inclusion in the pooling process, as they wanted fair compensation and long-term development benefits, he said. Praveen stressed that the ongoing land acquisition was not being done for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or for the TDP's political interests, but entirely for public welfare. "This land belongs to the government

and ultimately serves the future of the people of this region," he asserted.

Highlighting the renewed momentum in Amaravati's development since the formation of the current government, the MLA assured that all pending infrastructure, road, and housing projects would be fast-tracked. He added that the capital would soon regain its rightful status as the administrative and economic hub of Andhra Pradesh, restoring the faith of farmers and citizens alike.

Praveen urged all political parties to set aside differences and cooperate in building a unified capital city that symbolizes progress, stability, and pride for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Young Woman Ends Life Over Dowry Harassment in Tadepalli; Police Launch Investigation

TPN Bureau | December 1

Tadepalli (Guntur District): A tragic case of alleged dowry harassment ended in the death of a 25-year-old woman who reportedly took her own life in Tadepalli. Police identified the deceased as Madhuri, a native of Bethamcherla, who had been living with her family in Tadepalli at the time of the incident. According to police sources, Madhuri had married Rajesh around eight months ago following a love affair.

After their marriage, the couple began living together in Bethamcherla. However, soon after the wedding, disputes reportedly began between them, with Rajesh

allegedly subjecting Madhuri to continuous harassment for additional dowry. Unable to cope with the mental and physical torment, Madhuri left her husband's home some weeks ago and returned to stay with her parents in Tadepalli, hoping for peace and safety.

Despite the separation, police said Rajesh continued putting pressure on her over dowry demands, which severely affected her mental state. On Sunday night, unable to bear the harassment any longer, Madhuri is believed to have ended her life by hanging herself at her family's residence. Her family members found her dead on Monday morning and immedi-

ately informed the local police.

Tadepalli police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to AIIMS Mangalagiri for post-mortem examination. Based on a formal complaint filed by Madhuri's mother, Lakshmi, police registered a case against Rajesh under sections related to dowry harassment and abetment of suicide. DSP Murali Krishna, under whose supervision the investigation is being carried out, said a thorough probe has been ordered to uncover all circumstances leading to the death. Circle Inspector Veerendrababu and Sub-Inspector Pratap Kumar are leading the inquiry. Preliminary findings

World Fisheries day observed - Fisheries department

TPN Bureau | December 1

Davaleswaram | Rajah

Allegations of Large-Scale Irregularities in Fish Seed Release at Dhavaleswaram

By TPN Bureau, East Godavari A major controversy erupted in East Godavari district following allegations of serious irregularities in the Fisheries Department's fish seed release program conducted on the occasion of World Fisheries Day. The department had announced that 5.2 million (52 lakh) fish seedlings were released into the Godavari River. However, local fishermen's associations claim that only about 30,000 fish seedlings were actually released.

The incident took place in the Dhavaleswaram area under Rajah-



mundry Rural mandal, where the fisheries department held the public event. While officials and public representatives took part in the program, fishermen allege that the figures presented by the department were grossly inflated.

According to local fishermen, the discrepancy has left hundreds of families dependent on river fishing deeply distressed, as dwindling fish populations in the Godavari are already threatening their livelihoods.

Fishermen from the Dhavaleswaram Boatsmen and Fishermen Cooperative Society filed a formal complaint during the district grievance program held on Monday. In their petition to the East Godavari District Collector, they accused departmental officers of misreporting numbers, misusing government funds, and violating procedural norms in fish seed distribution. They demanded a detailed inquiry into what they described as "fabricated statistics."

The fishermen stated that every year, the government allocates crores of rupees to enhance fish production by releasing large quantities of fish seedlings into the river. However, this year's exercise, they claim, was marred by negligence and manipulation. They argue that official records showing 52 lakh fish seeds were released are false, as transportation and field-level evidence point to only a fraction of that number.

"There were only 12 vehicles bringing fish seedlings on that day, not 17 as claimed by the department," said representatives of the fishermen's society, who also provided CCTV footage from the site. When questioned, the Fisheries Department's Joint Director, Nirmala Kumari, explained that five vehicles

had made multiple trips, accounting for the higher count. Yet, fishermen dispute this, pointing out that vehicle numbers were pre-recorded as 17 before the program even began raising further suspicion of manipulation.

The controversy deepened further as fishermen claimed that officials had forged their signatures on official registers to validate the release figures. They alleged that signatures of Fishermen Cooperative Society representatives, shown on departmental documents, were not genuine and had been fabricated. Officials, however, denied these accusations, asserting that the program was conducted transparently under the supervision of local representatives and

officers. In contrast, fishermen insist that there was no proper register, video verification, or certified documentation of the fish seed release.

They also alleged that some fisheries officials demanded money from society members, turning the issue into a question of corruption and accountability. The fishermen have urged the District Collector to order an immediate probe into the matter, verify the actual fish seed supply records, and hold responsible officials accountable.

With over 200 families in Dhavaleswaram depending on fisheries for their survival, the alleged irregularities have stirred public anger, exposing concerns over transparency in government-sponsored fishery programs.

NTR Bharosa Pension Providing Vital Support to Needy Families, Says MLA Budda Prasad

TPN Bureau | December 1

Avanigadda, : The NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme has emerged as a major source of relief for disadvantaged and economically weak families, said Avanigadda MLA and Legislative Council member Budda Prasad. He stated that the initiative launched by the coalition government is ensuring financial stability for poor, elderly, disabled, and chronically ill citizens who have no other means of support. On Monday, a pension distribution program was organised at Lankamma Manyam in Avanigadda as part of the state-wide implementation of the NTR Bharosa Scheme.

MLA Budda Prasad personally participated in the event and handed over pensions to deserving beneficiaries, including differently-abled persons and long-term bedridden patients such as Pasupuleti Muralikrishna and Gangu Seetharamayya. Speaking on the occasion, Budda Prasad said that the NTR Bharosa Scheme stands as a symbol of compassion and care in governance. The program, he noted, has been designed to protect vulnerable sections of society from socio-economic distress by providing them with consistent monthly financial assistance.

He interacted with the beneficiaries to inquire about their living conditions, family situations, and medical needs, assuring them that the government remains committed to their welfare. Beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the coalition government for increasing the monthly pension to Rs. 15,000, noting that the enhanced amount has made a significant difference in their lives. Many shared that earlier they struggled for basic needs, but the revised pension now allows them to manage household expenses, medical bills, and essential commodities with dignity. Several recipients, especially those confined to their homes due to chronic illness or physical disability, said the timely deposit of the pension on the first of every month serves as a crucial lifeline.

They thanked the MLA for personally visiting their village and ensuring transparent distribution and direct com-

munication with citizens. Budda Prasad emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision behind the NTR Bharosa initiative is to extend the legacy of the late N. T. Rama Rao, who always worked to uplift the poor and vulnerable. "The government's goal is not just to distribute pensions but to restore a sense of security and dignity to every family that struggles for survival," he said.

The MLA encouraged the village staff and ward members to ensure that no eligible person is left out from receiving pensions and that every beneficiary's record is updated regularly to avoid delays or discrepancies. He also appreciated the dedicated service of local administration officials in reaching out to beneficiaries in remote and rural areas. The program saw participation from Panchayat Executive Officer Thota Srinivas Rao, ward member Adapa Venkateswara Rao, government staff, and local residents.

MLA Bhasshyam Praveen Distributes NTR Aasara Pensions in Pedamadduru, Highlights Government's Welfare Commitment

TPN Bureau | December 1

Pedakurapadu: Pedakurapadu MLA Bhasshyam Praveen on Monday distributed NTR Aasara pensions to beneficiaries in Pedamadduru village of Amaravati mandal, Palnadu district. Addressing the gathering, the legislator emphasized that the coalition government places top priority on public welfare and is committed to ensuring social security for all eligible citizens.

MLA Praveen stated that the government has been taking concrete measures to deliver pensions promptly and without interruption to every eligible beneficiary. He reiterated that improving the living standards of the underprivileged remains at the heart of the administration's mission. "The coalition government is moving forward with the firm belief that the true measure of progress is reflected in the well-being of the people," he said.

Speaking on the significance of welfare programs like NTR Aasara, Praveen noted that these initiatives provide crucial support to the elderly, differently-abled individuals, and single women, ensuring they lead lives of dignity and security. The MLA assured the residents that pension distribution would remain a transparent and continuous process, free from political bias or administrative delays.

Officials and local leaders who participated in the event echoed the MLA's remarks and praised the government's efforts to strengthen grassroots welfare mechanisms. Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) T. Parvathi, Tahsildar Misala Daniel, and Mandal Telugu Desam Party president Manchineni Raja were among the officials present at the event. Prominent local TDP leaders Ala Veerababu, Nalliboina Rajasekhar Yadav, Gudise Kiran Kumar, Malladi Vishnu, Jasti Veeranjaneyulu, Podile Srinu, Sambasiva Rao, and Brahmaiah also took part in the program.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the timely distribution of pensions, saying that the monthly financial support has been instrumental in meeting essential needs such as healthcare, food, and shelter. Local residents appreciated the MLA's initiative to personally monitor the distribution process and interact with villagers to address their concerns. The event concluded with the MLA reaffirming that the welfare of weaker sections will remain a central focus of the state government.

He assured that similar programs will continue to reach every deserving household, aligning with the government's vision of inclusive development and social justice.

Yadlapadu/Chilakaluripet (Palnadu District): Former Minister and MLA Prathipati Pullara has said that the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has set a national benchmark in the implementation of welfare promises. He stated that the distribution of social security pensions worth 55,000 crore under the "NTR Bharosa" scheme demonstrates the state government's commitment to the poor and marginalized.

Pullara participated in the distribution of social pensions at Yadlapadu mandal on Monday. As part of his visit, he toured Karuchola and surrounding villages, laying the foundation stone for renovation works of a primary school building being taken up at a cost of Rs. 6 lakh. Later, he went door to door to hand over pensions to beneficiaries and explained

details about the government's welfare schemes.

Speaking to the media, Pullara said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh were working tirelessly, like warriors, for the welfare of the poor and the development of the state. He highlighted that Andhra Pradesh attracted investments worth Rs. 13.25 lakh crore through the recent CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, which would generate large-scale benefits for the people. Pullara claimed that Naidu had fulfilled his promise of being a "supportive elder son" to every household.

By effectively translating manifesto assurances into action, the coalition government

had become an example for the entire country, he said. Out of 1.4 crore households in the state, 67 lakh families were receiving pensions. He added that while 25 out of 28 states in India provided pensions below 1,000, Andhra Pradesh's approach stood out for its generosity.

Criticizing former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Pullara accused him of showing little concern for the poor. He alleged that Jagan distributed pensions with reluctance and increased them by only Rs. 250 over four years just because "no commission came his way."

In contrast, he said, the current government fulfilled promises within just 17 months, even crediting pending pension amounts for three earlier months to

Narsaraopet MLA Aravind Babu Highlights Law and Order Improvements, Lauds Pension Scheme Expansion

TPN Bureau | December 1

Narsaraopet (Palnadu District): Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu, MLA for Narsaraopet, participated in the distribution of NTR Bharosa pensions across the town on Monday and personally visited homes to hand over pension benefits to eligible recipients.

Spaking to reporters during the program, the MLA emphasized that pensions were being distributed not just as an obligation but also with affection and respect for beneficiaries.

He strongly criticized the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, accusing it of widespread irregularities and injustice.

Aravind Babu praised the governance of the present coalition government, noting that under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, welfare schemes had been expanded significantly and peace restored in several trouble-prone areas.

Focusing on improvements in law and order, the MLA detailed how the Varavakata area in Narsaraopet, once known for anti-social elements, had been freed from criminal influence.

He alleged that during the YSRCP regime, local goons and rowdy gangs dominated the neighborhood, creating fear among residents. He accused former MLA Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy of promoting "murder politics" and encouraging violence through hired musclemen.

Aravind Babu further alleged that political workers who opposed the former MLA were targeted. He cited the example of TDP leader Chinnapareddy, who, after defecting from YSRCP to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) during the previous elections, was attacked and disabled.

Coalition Government Setting Example in Welfare Implementation: Prathipati Pullara

TPN Bureau | December 1

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



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

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

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

Other NDA constituents face their own challenges.

The Pattali Makkal Katchi

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

The DMK, in contrast,

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

archaeological report, themes that resonate strongly with the electorate.

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

Bihar Polls Reignite Vote-Seat Debate



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

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

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

PR also weakens the link be-

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

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

Experts argue that the focus should instead be on strengthening the legitimacy of elections under FPTP. Measures such as ensuring the independence of the Election Commission, curbing electoral corruption, and reconsidering the anti-defection law are seen as critical steps to improve voter confidence.

While mixed systems combining FPTP and proportional elements exist in countries like Germany, any electoral reform must consider India's unique political and social context.

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

Humane Solutions for Stray Dogs



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

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

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

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

Education also plays a crucial role. Communities that teach children and adults how to coexist with stray animals—feeding them safely, avoiding provocation, and reporting unwell animals—see fewer conflicts. "Fear and aggression stem from misunderstanding," says Navtej Johar, an animal rights advocate. "When people treat dogs with respect, dogs reciprocate with calm behaviour."

Adoption drives and fostering initiatives further complement these strategies. Shelters and NGOs facilitate adoption of dogs that can be integrated into homes, while community volunteers provide temporary care for injured or vulnerable strays.

This dual approach—reducing numbers humanely while ensuring care for existing animals—balances population control with animal welfare.

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

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

UP Government's Bid to Withdraw Akhlaq Case Raises Eyebrows



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

Under Section 360 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), the state can recommend withdrawal from prosecution, but the law now requires that the court hear the victim's family before approving any such request. This safeguard ensures that the vic-

tim's voice remains central, preventing quiet administrative decisions that could undermine justice.

Legal experts stress that the Akhlaq case is far from a routine matter. "A man was lynched in his own home. This is not a case that can be treated as dispensable when political winds change," said senior advocate Sanjay Hegde. The prosecution must weigh the evidence carefully and resist any attempts to serve political convenience.

Past instances in UP, where withdrawal powers were allegedly used to shield senior political leaders, have raised doubts about the motivations behind such moves.

The law now places a dual responsibility: prosecutors

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

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

Experts note that India's for-

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

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

Parliament is a place for delivery, not drama: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday emphasized that Parliament should be a forum for results and constructive debate, not political theatrics, ahead of the Winter Session. Speaking to reporters outside the Parliament, he highlighted concerns over the increasing use of legislative proceedings as a platform for political posturing.

"Parliament is not a place for drama; it is a place for delivery," Modi stated, criticizing the Opposition for turning the House into a "warm-up arena for elections" or an outlet for frustration following electoral setbacks. He urged lawmakers to prioritize responsibility and effective governance over political point-scoring.

Modi stressed that the Winter Session should serve as a stage for constructive discussions and policy-focused deliberations rather than repetitive arguments and theatrics. He offered to share insights with the Opposition on bringing positivity into politics, underscoring the need for a collaborative approach to legislative work that benefits the nation.



The Prime Minister's remarks come amid concerns over rising confrontations in Parliament in recent sessions, where disruptions have often delayed debates on key bills and policy matters. By calling for a focus on delivery, Modi reinforced the government's mes-

sage that legislative work should prioritize citizens' welfare and progress rather than partisan conflict.

Political analysts note that Modi's comments reflect an ongoing push by the ruling party to streamline parliamentary business and reduce procedural disruptions, especially

during sessions dealing with major policy reforms and budgetary discussions.

Lawmakers from both sides will now be under public scrutiny to ensure that the Winter Session remains focused on governance and legislative efficiency, addressing pressing issues rather than

engaging in theatrics.

Modi concluded by reminding all parties that responsibility, dialogue, and results should define parliamentary work, signaling a push for a more mature and constructive political discourse as the nation prepares for crucial legislative decisions in the coming weeks.

Shinde Urges Focus on Local Issues Ahead of Elections



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has urged political leaders and party workers to prioritize local issues in upcoming elections, downplaying recent allegations exchanged between him and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's rival factions. Speaking from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Shinde ac-

knowledged past disagreements, saying, "Yes, it's true that I made allegations against the CM, and he also made allegations against me. But you need to understand that these elections are local elections, which are fought on very local issues and are fought by the local party workers."

Shinde emphasized that while political differences

exist at the leadership level, local elections should focus on grassroots concerns rather than broader political disputes. "Big political issues do not need to be brought up in these local body elections," he added, highlighting the importance of addressing the immediate needs of citizens through municipal and local governance.

Despite downplaying

the conflicts, Shinde acknowledged the motivational role of senior leaders in election campaigns. He noted that party workers appreciate seeing their leadership actively participate in canvassing and supporting local candidates. "Party workers like to see their senior leadership come and join them in these election campaigns," Shinde said, un-

derlining the significance of visible leadership in mobilizing support at the local level.

Political analysts say

Shinde's remarks appear aimed at calming intra-party tensions ahead of elections, signaling a pragmatic approach where local governance priorities are emphasized over leadership rivalries. By focusing on community-level issues, leaders hope to strengthen voter engagement and ensure that election campaigns remain constructive and issue-oriented.

Shinde's comments come amid ongoing speculation about internal dynamics within the Maharashtra government, but he stressed that effective local governance and election campaigning require cooperation between leaders and party workers. His message reinforces the idea that, despite differences, senior figures must present a united front to support the democratic process and the functioning of local bodies.

'Will Go If He Invites': Siddaramaiah On

DK Shivakumar's Proposed Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he has not yet received an invitation from Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar for the breakfast he had been promised, but added he would attend whenever invited. Speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah said, "If I am invited to breakfast by Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar, I am ready to go. He had said I should come to his residence for breakfast on Tuesday, but until now, I have not received any call."

Shivakumar, who is also state Congress chief and a key contender for the Chief Minister's post, had earlier suggested that the two leaders are working closely together. After a breakfast meeting at the CM's residence on November 30, he had said, "The CM and I had a breakfast meeting. The CM will also visit my residence for dinner in the next two days," emphasizing their unity

fast by CM Siddaramaiah, and in that context, he had also said he would invite the CM to return," Rao explained.

Rao stressed that there is no confusion within the party, and that all decisions will be guided by the high command. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and I are working together like brothers. We participated in the breakfast meeting only because of media pressure," he said, downplaying reports of factions within the party.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao also addressed the matter, noting that breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings would continue to allow leaders to discuss political and administrative matters. "Shivakumar had stated he was invited for break-

Supreme Court To Hear Tamil Nadu Voter Roll Plea On Dec 4

TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

Actor Vijay's TVK party, which had moved the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission's Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the voter rolls in Tamil Nadu, submitted concerns regarding the pressures faced by officials responsible for the exercise. The party highlighted that Anganwadi workers and other personnel designated as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are under immense work pressure from authorities during the voter roll update process.

Shinde's comments come amid ongoing speculation about internal dynamics within the Maharashtra government, but he stressed that effective local governance and election campaigning require cooperation between leaders and party workers. His message reinforces the idea that, despite differences, senior figures must present a united front to support the democratic process and the functioning of local bodies.

ing responsibilities such as verifying voter details, updating information, and ensuring compliance with electoral regulations.

The hearing has drawn attention due to the involvement of a high-profile political party, ongoing scrutiny of the Election Commission's processes, and concerns over the treatment of frontline election workers. Observers say the Supreme Court's decision could influence future voter roll exercises and clarify the legal responsibilities of BLOs and other personnel involved in election administration.

This case underscores the balance the court must maintain between efficient electoral processes and protection of workers' rights in India's democratic system.

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh Takes Charge as DG (Inspection & Safety)

Air Marshal Tejbir Singh assumed charge as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Headquarters on Monday, marking a new chapter in the leadership of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

An alumnus of the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), UK, Air Marshal Singh brings over 37 years of distinguished service to the role, having logged more than 7,000 flying hours. He is widely recognized for his pioneering contributions to the C-130J Special Operations capability, underscoring his expertise in both operational and strategic aspects of the IAF.

He succeeds Air Marshal M B Ranade, who superannuated on 30 November 2025 after 39 years of exemplary service, leaving behind a



legacy of professionalism and leadership.

IAF officials highlighted that his extensive experience, including operational missions and command appointments, positions him to further enhance the force's inspection and safety standards across its diverse fleet.

PM Modi Extends Greetings on BSF Raising Day

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On the occasion of Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day, Prime Minister extended his heartfelt greetings to all BSF personnel, commending their dedication, professionalism, and humanitarian service. In a statement released on Monday, the Prime Minister said, "BSF symbolises India's unwavering resolve and utmost professionalism. Their sense of duty is exemplary. They serve in some of the most challenging terrains."

The Prime Minister highlighted the dual role of the force in safeguarding the nation while upholding humanitarian values. "Alongside their valour, their humanitarian spirit is also exceptional," he added, noting the sacrifices and commitment of BSF personnel in maintaining national security across India's borders.

Celebrated annually to mark the establishment of the BSF in 1965, Raising Day serves as a reminder of the force's pivotal role in defending the



country against external threats, including border management, counter-insurgency operations, and anti-smuggling initiatives. The Prime Minister praised the personnel for their relentless vigilance, stating that the BSF's contribution goes beyond protection, extending to support for communities in border areas and disaster relief operations.

He also recognized the personal sacrifices made by BSF members and their families, emphasizing that their dedication ensures the safety and sovereignty of India. "My best wishes to the force in their pursuit of serving and protecting our nation," the Prime Minister said, urging citizens to acknowledge and honor the government's commitment and

bravery of these frontline defenders.

BSF Raising Day celebrations typically include parades, award ceremonies, and demonstrations of operational capabilities, reflecting the force's rich legacy and its evolving role in national security.

The Prime Minister's message reinforces the government's commitment to supporting the force and acknowledging the indispensable role of BSF personnel in safeguarding India's borders and upholding the nation's values.

The occasion also serves to inspire the next generation of security personnel, highlighting the importance of courage, discipline, and service to the nation.

Imran Khan's Sons Raise Alarm Over Father's Wellbeing



TPN correspondent - Colombo

The sons of Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan have voiced grave concerns over his condition, saying it has been over three weeks with no evidence that he is still alive. Speaking to Reuters, Kasim Khan described the uncertainty as a form of "psychological torture," highlighting the family's distress over blocked court-ordered prison visits and rumors of possible transfers.

"Not knowing whether your father is safe, injured or even alive is a form of psychological torture," Kasim said. He added that there has been no independently verified communication for months, and the family fears authorities may be hiding "something irreversible" about Khan's health. The family has repeatedly requested access for Khan's personal physician, who has been denied entry for over a year.

A jail official, speaking anonymously, assured that Khan, 72, was in good health and was not scheduled for transfer to a higher-security facility. Pakistan's Interior Ministry did not comment. Khan has been imprisoned since August 2023 following convictions in multiple cases he

describes as politically motivated, including the Toshakhana gift scandal, a diplomatic cable leak, and a graft case linked to the Al-Qadir Trust. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), claims the prosecutions aim to remove him from public and electoral life.

The lack of information has intensified the family's anxiety. Television channels have reportedly been instructed not to use Khan's name or image, leaving only a grainy court photograph online. Kasim and his older brother Suleiman Isa Khan, who live in London with their mother Jemima Goldsmith, emphasized that their appeals for access have been ignored.

"This is not just a political dispute. It is a human rights emergency," Kasim said, urging international pressure to restore court-ordered access. The sons stress that while they draw strength from their father, they urgently need confirmation that he is safe.

The family continues to pursue internal and external channels, including appeals to human rights organizations, to ensure Khan's wellbeing is independently verified and his rights protected.

Deadly Floods Ravage Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Severe flooding triggered by heavy rains has devastated parts of Southeast and South Asia, with recovery and relief operations underway as authorities continue to assess the full scale of casualties. The disaster has already claimed at least 469 lives in Indonesia, 162 in Thailand, and 33 in Sri Lanka, according to official figures.

In Indonesia, flash floods and landslides struck West Sumatra, particularly in the Agam regency, leaving communities buried under mud and debris. Indonesian soldiers and rescue teams are working tirelessly to locate survivors and clear rubble, providing emergency aid to affected families. Local authorities warn that the death toll could rise as more remote areas are reached and missing persons accounted for.

Thailand has also been severely affected, with floods inundating low-lying provinces and displacing thousands. Rescue teams are using boats and helicopters to evacuate residents from submerged villages, while relief agencies distribute food, clean water, and medical supplies to those stranded.

Sri Lanka faces one of its worst flood crises in recent

years, as overflowing rivers and landslides have left hundreds dead and thousands homeless. The government has mobilized military units and volunteers to assist in search and rescue operations, while international aid groups step in to support relief efforts.

Authorities across the three countries have warned residents to remain vigilant as heavy rainfall is expected to continue in some regions. Roads remain blocked, and power outages complicate relief work, creating urgent challenges for recovery teams.

The floods have prompted governments to urge citizens to follow safety advisories and to relocate to higher ground where possible. While the immediate priority is rescue and humanitarian assistance, officials stress the need for longer-term measures to mitigate future disasters, including improved flood management and early warning systems.

As communities grapple with the devastation, the focus remains on saving lives and providing essential aid to survivors, with officials cautioning that the human and economic toll may continue to grow in the coming days.

Trump Pardons Convicted Cocaine Trafficker Amid Venezuela Crackdown

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump has sparked controversy by granting a full pardon to former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, a convicted cocaine trafficker, even as he announced a major "war on drugs" targeting Venezuela. Hernandez was extradited to the US in 2022 and sentenced to 45 years in prison for aiding the smuggling of hundreds of tons of cocaine from Venezuela into the United States, in a case involving guns and large-scale drug trafficking.

Trump's announcement came shortly after he outlined a broad military and diplomatic operation against alleged drug networks linked to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. The administration classified the Venezuelan cartel, Cartel of the Suns, as a foreign terrorist organization, authorized strikes on suspected drug-trafficking vessels, and deployed Marines and warships to the Caribbean to prevent cocaine



flows into the US.

Despite these measures, Trump justified the pardon for Hernandez in a social media post, claiming the former president had been "treated very harshly and unfairly" and citing advice from "many people that I greatly respect." The timing of the pardon, just days before Honduras' presidential election, was widely

seen as politically motivated, benefiting the conservative party nominee Nasry Asfura.

The decision drew sharp criticism from both American and Honduran officials. Prosecutors highlighted Hernandez's misuse of power, ties to criminal traffickers, and the "unfathomable destruction" caused by his cocaine operations, ar-

guing he should remain in prison. Virginia Senator Tim Kaine called the pardon "unconscionable," saying it undermined Trump's proclaimed efforts to combat illegal narcotics.

Hernandez, 57, became one of the most high-profile figures to be pardoned despite a federal conviction for transnational drug trafficking. The move raises

questions about the coherence of US drug policy, as it combines aggressive rhetoric against Venezuela with the controversial release of a convicted trafficker with extensive ties to Venezuelan cocaine networks.

Critics argue the pardon could embolden traffickers and weaken the credibility of US anti-narcotics efforts in Latin America.

Sheikh Hasina's Family Hit With Fresh Sentences In Corruption Case

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

In a landmark verdict, a Dhaka court on Monday sentenced deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to five years in jail in a high-profile land scam case. Her niece, British MP Tulip Siddiq, received a two-year jail term, while Hasina's sister, Sheikh Rehana, was handed a seven-year sentence. The case involved a total of 17 convicts, all fined Tk 1 lakh each, with an additional six months in jail if fines are unpaid.

The Special Judge's Court-4, presided over by Judge Md Rabiul Alam, delivered the verdict in the absence of the accused. Siddiq, who is based in London, strongly denies the charges and is unlikely to serve her sentence, as the UK does not have an extradition treaty with Bangladesh. Her lawyers argued she is not a Bang-



ladeshi citizen, citing lack of ID and passport since childhood.

The case centers on allegations that Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials,

illegally acquired six plots in Dhaka's Purbachal New Town project for herself, her family, and relatives, including Siddiq's mother and siblings.

Siddiq was accused of influencing Hasina to secure plots for Rehana, Bobby, and Azmina. This marks the fourth graft verdict against Hasina, filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which has been investigating irregularities in land allocation during her tenure.

Hasina has been liv-

ing in India since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5 last year amid massive protests that toppled her Awami League government. She was earlier declared a fugitive and, last month, sentenced to death in absentia for "crimes against humanity" during the crackdown on student-led protests.

Bangladesh has formally requested India to extradite Hasina, with authorities stating that the judicial process has been completed. New Delhi has confirmed it is examining the request, emphasizing its commitment to the interests of the Bangladeshi people.

The convictions mark a significant turn in Bangladesh's political landscape, with most senior Awami League leaders either detained or having fled the country since Hasina's government fell.

Elon Musk Shares Shivan Zilis' Indian Roots, Son Named After Nobel Laureate



TPN Correspondent | Abuja

Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Chandrasekhar, an Indian-American astrophysicist, won the 1983 Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work on the structure and evolution of stars.

Musk shared that Zilis was adopted as a baby and grew up in Canada. "I think her father was like an exchange student at the university... she was given up for adoption," he explained, noting that she did not spend time in India. Despite

her upbringing outside India, Musk emphasized the family's connection to her Indian heritage through their children.

The couple has four children together: twins Strider and Azura, a daughter Arcadia, and a son Seldon

Lycurgus. Zilis serves as Director of Operations and Special Projects at Neuralink, one of Musk's ventures, where she plays a key role in the company's technological ecosystem.

their son, Musk highlighted his admiration for Chandrasekhar's scientific achievements. The Nobel laureate's contributions to astrophysics, particularly the theoretical understanding of star formation and evolution, are widely celebrated globally.

Musk's disclosure sheds light on Zilis' multicultural background and the family's appreciation for science and heritage. In addition to his public ventures in space, electric vehicles, and artificial intelligence, Musk's personal anecdotes provide a glimpse into his family life and the values he hopes to instill in his children.

This interview adds a personal dimension to Musk's public persona, connecting his family's identity with scientific legacy and cultural heritage, while also highlighting Zilis' important professional role within Musk's business ecosystem.

By choosing the middle name Sekhar for

Nifty December Seasonality: 60% Success Rate Over Last Decade

The Nifty 50 has started the December series on a strong note, climbing to a fresh lifetime high of 26,310.45 on Thursday, ending a 14-month rally drought. Market participants are optimistic that the rally could continue throughout the month, supported by December's historically favourable seasonality.

Over the past 10 years, the Nifty has delivered positive returns in six out of ten Decembers, translating to a 60% success rate. On average, December returns have been around 1.6%, despite typically lower global market activity ahead of Christmas and New Year holidays.

Institutional flows have also historically bolstered December rallies. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in six of the past ten Decembers, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) maintained a stronger buying streak, injecting funds in seven Decembers over the same period.



Examining the decade-long trend, the Nifty ended December higher in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023, while closing in the red in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024, with declines ranging from 0.13% to 3.48%. The sharpest December

rally occurred in 2023, when the index surged 7.94%, closely followed by a 7.81% jump in 2020. Other notable gains include 2.97% in 2017 and 2.18% in 2021, while 2015 and 2019 delivered modest increases of 0.15% and 0.93%, respectively.

Analysts suggest that December's performance is influenced by a combination of domestic investor sentiment, institutional inflows, and end-of-year portfolio adjustments. The early signs of strength in 2025, along with positive

global cues, could help sustain momentum.

As investors position themselves for the last month of the calendar year, market watchers will closely track earnings announcements, foreign fund flows, and

India Posts Six-Quarter High GDP Growth of 8.2% in Q2 FY26



India's economy grew by 8.2% in Q2 of 2025-26, marking a six-quarter high, driven by a robust manufacturing surge and strong services sector performance, according to data from the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The manufacturing sector expanded 9.1%, up from 2.2% in the year-ago period, as factories ramped up production ahead of the festive season following the GST rate cut on September 22.

The services sector recorded 10.2% growth, supported by banking, real estate, and other service industries. However, the agriculture sector slowed, with growth declining to 3.5% from 4.1% in the same period last year.

The first half of FY26 saw a GDP growth of 8%, up from 6.1% in H1 FY25, positioning India to potentially exceed the annual growth target of 6.3-6.8% projected in the Economic Survey. The Real Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) rose 7.9%, indicating healthy domestic demand.

Analysts noted that while government final consumption moderated due to weak

revenue spending, strong gross capital formation and the GST-driven manufacturing push helped boost GDP. Deloitte India economist Rumki Majumdar said, "With festive spending and GST 2.0 momentum likely to continue into Q3, full-year growth estimates may be revised upward."

The nominal GDP for Q2 FY26 stood at ₹85.25 lakh crore, up 8.7% from ₹78.40 lakh crore a year ago, while gross fixed capital formation grew 7.3%, compared to 6.7% in Q2 FY25.

Experts caution that while the GDP growth is impressive, the low GDP deflator and nominal growth may pose challenges for fiscal deficit and debt ratios. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said, "Despite the strong Q2 growth, factors such as US tariffs and limited government capital spending could temper momentum, but FY26 growth is set to comfortably exceed 7%."

India's Q2 performance reaffirms its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, surpassing China's 4.8% growth during the same period.

RBI Issues 244 Consolidated Master Directions to Ease Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MDs), aiming to streamline regulatory compliance for banks and other financial institutions. The move comes after a comprehensive review of nearly 3,500 existing directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the decades.

Speaking at a press conference, RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu said, "These 244 MDs consolidate all the regulatory instructions issued to the Regulated Entities (REs) over several decades which are currently administered by the Department of Regulation." The consolidation is expected to simplify adherence to RBI norms and reduce the compliance burden on financial institutions.

The MDs cover a wide range of regulatory aspects, including banking operations, risk management, corporate governance, prudential norms, customer protection, and digital banking regulations. By repealing outdated or redundant directives, the RBI aims to enhance



operational efficiency and ensure that regulated entities can focus on core banking activities without navigating overlapping instructions.

The move also aligns with the RBI's broader objective of regulatory simplification and transparency.

Murmu emphasized that the review and consolidation exercise reflects the RBI's commitment to modernizing its regulatory framework, keeping pace with evolving

will help improve compliance monitoring and make regulatory expectations clearer for banks, non-banking financial companies, and other financial institutions.

Murmu emphasized that the review and consolidation exercise reflects the RBI's commitment to modernizing its regulatory framework, keeping pace with evolving

financial markets, technological advancements, and the growing complexity of the banking sector.

Financial sector experts have welcomed the move, noting that it will reduce ambiguity and enable REs to allocate resources more efficiently toward business growth while ensuring adherence to prudential norms.

The consolidated Master Directions are now accessible on the RBI's official website and will serve as the primary reference point for regulated entities going forward.

This step is expected to mark a significant milestone in easing regulatory compliance while maintaining strong oversight over the financial system.

Govt Reforms, Manufacturing Boost Q2 GDP to 8.2%: Goyal



India's economy recorded a strong 8.2% growth in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025-26, driven by government reforms, a manufacturing push, and robust

performance in the services sector, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday.

Addressing the me-

that the government's initiatives to enhance ease of doing business, streamline regulatory processes, and support domestic manufacturing have contributed

significantly to the strong economic performance. He added that the reforms have provided a conducive environment for growth across sectors.

Goyal also noted that India's merchandise and services exports have recorded high growth during April-October of the current fiscal year, despite global uncertainties in trade. Merchandise exports rose marginally by 0.63% to \$254.25 billion, while imports increased by 6.37% to \$451.08 billion in the same period.

"We will continue to see relentless growth," the minister said, stressing that India's focus on strengthening industrial output, boosting domestic manufacturing, and promoting exports will help sustain momentum in the coming quarters.

The manufacturing sector showed a marked improvement, benefiting from government schemes and policy interventions aimed at enhancing competitiveness and technological adoption. The services

sector also contributed to the overall growth, reflecting strong domestic demand and recovery in trade, IT, and financial services.

Economic analysts said the Q2 growth is a six-quarter high, underlining India's resilience amid global economic challenges. They attributed the performance to a combination of policy reforms, export growth, and domestic consumption.

With continued emphasis on reforms, innovation, and export promotion, the government expects sustained growth and stability in India's economic trajectory for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The strong Q2 numbers reaffirm India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, highlighting the impact of pro-growth policies and structural reforms.

Rupee Slips 7 Paise to 89.43 Against U.S. Dollar



The Indian rupee fell 7 paise to settle at 89.43 against the U.S. dollar on Friday, pressured by a stronger greenback and rising crude oil prices in global markets.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 89.41 and touched an intra-day low of 89.49 before closing at 89.43 (provisional). Forex traders noted that subdued domestic equity markets and foreign fund outflows further weighed on the currency.

Market participants were also cautious ahead of the release of key domestic macroeconomic data, which could influence near-term currency movements.

"The rupee was under pressure from external factors, including a firm U.S. dollar and rising crude prices, along

with domestic equity weakness," said a forex trader.

The depreciation comes amid a strengthening U.S. dollar globally, which has impacted several emerging market currencies in recent weeks. Analysts said that continued volatility in crude oil prices and foreign capital flows could keep the rupee under pressure in the near term.

Despite the slip, the rupee remains within its recent trading range against the greenback, reflecting investor caution ahead of key economic indicators and global market developments.

Investors will closely watch upcoming economic data, including trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025.

Modern Problems Require Modern Solutions



Bengaluru's crumbling roads have long been a sore spot for its residents, but a recent incident near KR Road has pushed the frustration to new heights — or depths. A pothole nearly half a foot deep was spotted covered by an old couch, reportedly placed there by local shopkeepers as a warning for drivers and two-wheelers.

The unusual workaround gained attention after a photo of the scene was shared on Reddit. The uploader explained that despite the pothole being a hazard large enough to trap a scooter wheel, civic authorities had done little beyond placing traffic cones and barricades.

"The shopkeepers didn't complain or attempt to fix it, they just placed a couch there," the user wrote, noting how pedestrians and drivers merely avoid the pothole instead of addressing the larger issue. The Redditor also mentioned filing a complaint through the Namma Bengaluru (Sahaya) app, but said no response was re-

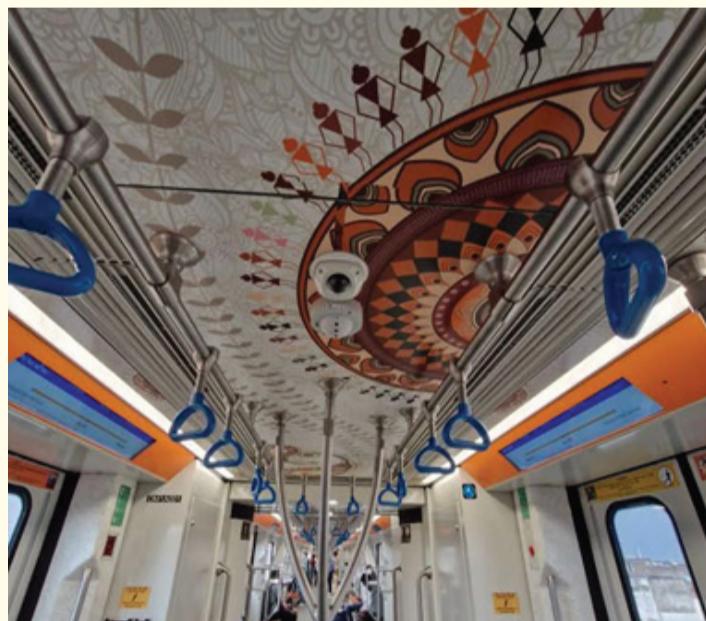
ceived from civic authorities.

The image has since gone viral and reignited public anger over BBMP's (now GBA's) inaction. "I honestly don't expect anything from the authorities," the Redditor user added. "Unless people force change, things will remain the same for another decade."

This pothole protest comes amid increasing scrutiny of Bengaluru's urban infrastructure. Recent comments from top entrepreneurs like Rajan Anandan and Aadit Palicha highlight growing concern about the city's traffic congestion and road conditions, while civic issues have sparked political debates between BJP and Congress leaders.

While the couch-covered pothole may have served as a creative — albeit desperate — safety measure, it also symbolizes the city's deeper problem: citizens losing faith in civic accountability and choosing to improvise rather than wait for official action.

Viral Metro Art Mistaken for Madhubani Is Actually Warli, Confirms AI



A viral image showing a metro coach covered in stunning traditional artwork had the internet buzzing, with many believing it was part of Patna Metro's initiative to celebrate Madhubani art. The vibrant patterns and cultural designs led social media users to praise the effort — but it turns out, the art isn't Madhubani at all.

As appreciation poured in, eagle-eyed users began questioning the authenticity of the claim. "This doesn't look like Madhubani," one user wrote. Another chimed in, "Looks more like Warli art to me." The confusion prompted a fact-check from an unusual but modern source — Grok, the AI chatbot from X (formerly Twitter).

When asked to identify the art form, Grok responded clearly: "That's Warli art. Those geometric stick figures and tribal motifs are classic Warli style

from Maharashtra — fits the Pune Metro hint perfectly."

The revelation shifted the narrative. Not only was the artwork not Madhubani, it also wasn't from Patna Metro. It was actually a Pune Metro coach, decorated in Warli art, a tribal style native to Maharashtra known for its simple stick figures and depictions of rural life.

Despite the confusion, the viral post highlighted public appreciation for India's diverse folk art traditions. While one user joked, "At least it's not the floor — or it would be covered in pan masala stains," others celebrated the creative fusion of culture and urban transit.

The mix-up sparked debate but also showcased how India's artistic heritage continues to thrive, even on modern platforms like metro coaches — whether it's Madhubani in Bihar or Warli in Maharashtra.

What Should Disappear From Earth?

Internet Replies with UV Rays, Tobacco Stains & More

In a thread that quickly turned hilarious and insightful, a Reddit user recently asked: "Delete one thing from Earth that you think would make it better?" What followed was a mix of clever, quirky, and unexpectedly deep responses that reflected the internet's creativity and collective frustrations.

Among the most viral responses was one user suggesting "UV rays because sunscreens are oily," blending humour with a common skincare complaint. Another top comment simply read: "My browsing history", drawing laughs and thousands of upvotes.

Others were slightly more practical but still amusing, such as "tobacco stains", "occasional cold that brings immense throat pain", and even "alarm clocks". One user mused, "Mosquitoes. No one would miss

them."

However, the conversation also took a more philosophical turn. One Redditor stated: "Greed—the root of all problems." Another added: "Remove the concept of politics,"

though that sparked a debate, with one reply noting, "Politics isn't inherently bad. It's how people use it."

The post spurred hundreds of responses within hours, ranging from light-hearted irritants like pop-up ads and spam emails to global issues such as poverty, corruption, and pollution.

life, while some believed only deeper systemic changes could bring true transformation.

Many agreed that removing even one small annoyance could drastically improve daily

rare internet moment where entertainment met empathy.

One thing is clear: from UV rays to rude drivers, the world might be a little better with a "delete" button — if only it existed.

Smart Bed Worth ₹1.75 Lakh Malfunctions, Users Face Sleepless Night



Owners of the high-end Eight Sleep "Pod" smart beds, priced around ₹1.75 lakh (\$2,000), were left frustrated after a global Amazon Web Services (AWS) outage caused widespread malfunctions late Monday night.

The Pod beds, known for their automated temperature control and adjustable settings, suddenly overheated and froze in fixed positions, leaving users stuck and sleep-deprived. The issue was traced to a disruption in AWS's US-EAST-1 region, which began around 3 a.m. ET. The beds rely on AWS servers to function via app-based controls.

By morning, Downdetector had recorded over eight million outage reports globally, affecting not just smart home devices but also apps, gaming platforms, and banking services.

Several users took to Reddit and X (formerly Twitter) to share their ordeal. Some reported intense heating issues, while others were unable to adjust their beds, leading to discomfort and panic during sleep.

Eight Sleep's CEO Matteo

Franceschetti issued a public apology on X:

"The AWS outage has impacted some of our users since last night, disrupting their sleep. That is not the experience we want to provide, and I want to apologize

for it."

Franceschetti added that the company would work round-the-clock to ensure such issues don't happen again. He revealed that developers were building an "outage-proof mode" that

would allow the bed to operate independently of AWS during similar incidents.

While some services have been restored, Franceschetti noted that data processing delays may persist, and full functionality would re-

turn as AWS stabilizes.

For now, frustrated users are demanding a "real solution" — with many questioning the reliability of smart home devices that rely entirely on cloud services for basic operations.

How Do Engineers Keep The Water Out While Building Bridges On Rivers?



Ever wondered how massive bridge foundations are laid in deep, fast-flowing rivers? Unlike land construction, building in water poses serious challenges, including strong currents, limited

visibility, and high risk for workers. To overcome this, engineers use a remarkable technique called a cofferdam — a temporary watertight structure that makes underwater construction possible

in dry conditions.

A cofferdam is essentially an enclosed area built within the river using interlocking steel sheet piles, typically 10 to 20 metres long. These sheets are hammered deep

into the riverbed using hydraulic or vibratory hammers, forming a sealed circle or rectangle that blocks water from entering. Once sealed, powerful pumps remove the water from the in-

side, creating a dry workspace.

This method was used in major Indian infrastructure projects like the Thane Creek Bridge, where engineers noted that vibrations from the pile-driving process even scared off nearby fish.

Before construction begins, a thorough survey of the riverbed is conducted to measure depth, soil stability, and current speed. These details determine how deep the foundation needs to be and how many support pillars are required.

Once water is pumped out and the space is dry, workers can safely descend into the cofferdam — often via ladders or crane platforms — to begin laying the bridge foundation. Strict safety measures are in place, with helmets and life jackets mandatory on site.

Despite its temporary nature, a cofferdam plays a critical role in ensuring bridge stability and safety. Once the foundation work is complete, the structure is dismantled, and water is gradually reintroduced to the area.

This ingenious engineering solution allows for massive construction projects to succeed — even in the middle of a river.

Treesa-Gayatri Retain Title, Srikanth Falls Short at Syed Modi International

India witnessed mixed fortunes at the Syed Modi International Super 300 in Lucknow on Sunday, as Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand successfully defended their women's doubles crown, while Kidambi Srikanth suffered a heart-breaking loss in the men's singles final, extending his title drought.

Treesa and Gayatri produced a spirited comeback to defeat Japan's Kaho Osawa and Mai Tanabe 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in a gripping 76-minute battle. Despite dropping the opening game, the Indian duo shifted gears with aggressive play, sharp interceptions, and superior rotation. Gayatri, returning from a five-month shoulder injury break, said the win was a major confidence boost ahead of their upcoming World Tour events. Treesa credited their improved coordination, noting how both now operate confidently across all areas of the court.

While the women's pair celebrated, the day ended in disappointment for former champion Kidambi



Srikanth, who missed out on ending his eight-year title wait. The 2021 World Championships silver medallist lost a tense three-game final to Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan, ranked 59th in the world. Srikanth fought hard before going

down 16-21, 21-8, 20-22 in a 67-minute thriller. Srikanth surged back strongly in the second game and led 5-1 and later 14-11 in the decider. However, Gunawan's consistency and timely aggression helped him claw back to 19-

19 before sealing the match with a jump smash. Reflecting on the narrow defeat, Srikanth said the contest hinged on "just a few points," acknowledging Gunawan's strong finish while expressing optimism about his own progress after injuries.

With Treesa and Gayatri's successful title defence and Srikanth's gritty run to the final, India wrapped up a memorable yet emotional campaign at the Syed Modi International.

Merino Saves Arsenal As Chelsea Hold Leaders To Fiery Draw



Mikel Merino salvaged a crucial point for Premier League leaders Arsenal in a tense 1-1 draw against 10-man Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. The London derby, packed with aggression and controversy, saw Chelsea's Moises Caicedo sent off late in the first

half for a reckless foul on Merino, a decision upgraded to red after VAR review. Despite being reduced to 10 men, Chelsea struck first. Just three minutes into the second half, Trevoh Chalobah rose highest to head home from a well-taken near-post corner, giving

the hosts a surprise lead. Arsenal, known for their set-piece strength this season, were left stunned by a own tactical playbook.

Arsenal regained control through sustained pressure, and the breakthrough arrived in the 59th minute.

Bukayo Saka, brilliant throughout, beat Marc Cucurella before delivering a precise cross that Merino powered past Robert Sanchez. It marked Merino's fourth goal of the campaign, once again showcasing his effectiveness as a makeshift striker under

Mikel Arteta.

Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca praised his side's resilience, saying they "were the better team 11 v 11," while acknowledging the difficulty of playing a man down. Arteta, meanwhile, highlighted the intensity of the contest, calling Arsenal's performance emotionally and physically demanding.

Both sides pushed for a winner in the frantic closing stages. Sanchez denied Saka and Merino with superb saves, while Arsenal's defensive gaps without the injured William Saliba tested their composure. However, neither team could find the decisive goal.

The draw trims Arsenal's lead at the top to five points over Manchester City and keeps Chelsea six points behind in third. Arsenal remain unbeaten in 17 matches across competitions, while Chelsea extend their undefeated streak to seven games, signalling their growing threat in the title race.

India Crush Canada 14–3 To Reach Sultan Azlan Shah Final



The Indian men's hockey team sealed their place in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 final with a commanding 14-3 victory over Canada in Ipoh on Saturday. The win not only secured India's top position in the pool standings but also sent a strong message ahead of their title clash against Belgium on November 30.

Star defender Jugraj Singh was the standout performer, netting four goals in a dominant outing that saw India overwhelm the Canadian defence from start to finish. India's relentless attacking play, swift transitions, and clinical finishing ensured that Canada had little room to recover once the scoring began.

India entered the match with confidence, having suffered only one defeat in the tournament—a narrow loss to Belgium—and coming off an impressive 3-2 victory over New Zealand in their previous fixture. That momentum was visible right from the opening minutes, as India maintained high press-

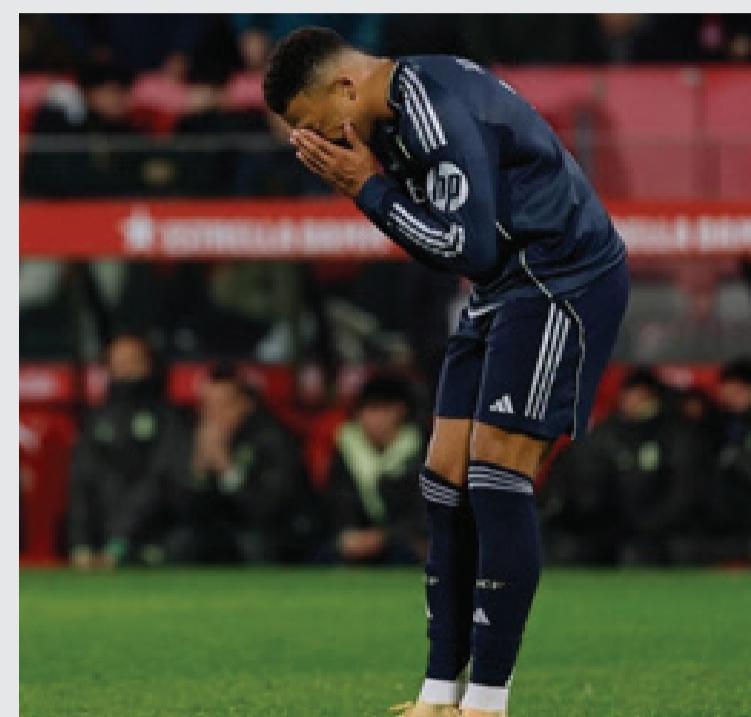
ing intensity and sharp passing combinations.

The scoring spree featured contributions from multiple players, as India rotated efficiently and capitalized on penalty corners and field opportunities with equal ease. Jugraj's drag-flicks proved unstoppable, while the forward line consistently stretched Canada's defence, creating openings throughout the 60 minutes.

Canada managed to pull three goals back, but the Indian defence held firm and ensured the scoreboard remained lopsided. The huge margin of victory not only reflected India's superiority on the day but also boosted their confidence heading into the final.

As India prepare to take on Belgium—the only side to beat them in this edition—the team will look to build on their attacking rhythm while tightening defensive gaps. With spirits high and rhythm strong, India now stand just one win away from lifting the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Cup once again.

Mbappé Scores But Real Madrid Held 1-1 By Girona



Real Madrid missed the chance to reclaim the top spot in La Liga after being held to a frustrating 1-1 draw by relegation-threatened Girona at Montilivi Stadium on Sunday. Despite dominating possession for long stretches, Madrid struggled to break down a resolute Girona side that fought with urgency and discipline.

The hosts shocked the visitors just before halftime when Azzedine Ounahi struck in the 45th minute. Capitalizing on a defensive lapse, Ounahi found space inside the box and fired past the goalkeeper, sending the home crowd into delirium and putting pressure on Madrid to respond.

Madrid, who have been battling consistency issues in recent weeks, pressed aggressively after the break. Their breakthrough finally arrived in the 67th minute when Kylian Mbappé converted from the penalty spot. The French star sent the Girona keeper the wrong way to level the score, marking yet another key contribution in his debut season with the club.

However, Madrid's push for a winner was repeatedly thwarted. Girona defended compactly, blocked clear shooting lanes, and made crucial interceptions as the visitors poured forward. Real's forwards—despite sustained pressure and several half-chances—could not find the decisive goal.

The draw proved costly as Madrid failed to return to the top of the table, leaving them trailing league leaders Barcelona by two points. For Girona, the result was vital, offering a morale boost in their fight against relegation.

Madrid will now look to regroup quickly with a demanding schedule ahead, while Girona hope this spirited performance can inspire a turnaround in their season. Despite Mbappé's equaliser, the night belonged to Girona's defensive grit and Madrid's lingering frustration.

Subplots Shine in India's Commanding Ranchi ODI Win



India's convincing victory over South Africa in the Ranchi ODI offered more than statistics or scorecard highlights. It revealed the emotional undertow within a team emerging from a difficult phase, turning the match into a study of body language, unspoken assertions, and subtle responses under pressure.

The win itself was emphatic, but two quiet moments on the field spoke louder than the final margin.

The first came when Rohit Sharma reached his half-century. Standing at the non-striker's end, Virat Kohli glanced toward the dressing room with a sharpness that seemed to carry months of speculation, criticism, and boardroom chatter. In that split-second look, observers sensed a message—one shaped by recent debates over leadership and selection. It felt like a silent rebuttal to those who doubted the experienced core of the side.

The second moment unfolded when Kohli completed his 52nd ODI century, a milestone

achieved with grit as India rebuilt their rhythm after recent setbacks. Rohit's applause was soft, almost tender—far from the fiery celebrations often associated with international cricket.

It carried the warmth of camaraderie and the reassurance of two senior players who have weathered storms together. His gesture seemed to recognise not just the hundred, but the emotional weight behind it.

These reactions reflected a team still healing from a bruising Test-series defeat and navigating decisions that sidelined senior figures at critical junctures. Such choices, made in closed meeting rooms, face their real test under stadium lights—where pressure strips emotions down to their rawest form.

In Ranchi, India's victory restored confidence, but the silent exchanges between its leaders revealed deeper truths. They highlighted a group determined to reclaim control of its narrative through performance, unity, and unwavering resolve—both expressed and unspoken.

It's Official! Samantha, Raj Nidimoru Tie the Knot



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu and filmmaker Raj Nidimoru have officially put an end to the swirling speculation of the past 24 hours. The duo tied the knot early this morning (December 1, 2025) in an intimate ceremony held at the Linga Bhairavi Temple inside the Isha Yoga Center, Coimbatore.

The wedding was extremely private, attended only by a close circle of family and friends. Samantha later shared a few serene moments from the ceremony, and the photos quickly went viral across social media platforms. Industry colleagues, including Upasana Konidela, Parvathy Thiruvitham, Paayal Rajput, and Ruhani Sharma, extended heartfelt wishes to the newlyweds.

The rumours that heated up social media began with a cryptic Instagram post by Raj's ex-wife Shhyamali De, who wrote, "Desperate people do desperate things." The post, released just a day before the wedding, sparked intense speculation and fueled conversations online. While many wondered whether her comment hinted at underlying tensions, today's confirmation has given those discussions new direction.

Raj Nidimoru and Shhyamali De ended their marriage in 2022. Samantha, who married actor Akkineni Naga Chaitanya in 2017, legally separated from him in 2021. Since then, both Samantha and Raj have remained discreet about their personal lives, making today's revelation even more unexpected for fans and the industry.

On the professional front, Samantha and Raj are currently collaborating on Rakt Bramhand, a Netflix original series that continues production alongside their personal milestones. Samantha is also simultaneously working on Maa Inti Bangaram, her second production venture with director Nandini Reddy.

With both celebrities maintaining busy schedules and gaining momentum in their respective fields, their union has naturally become the talk of the town. More updates are expected as the couple steps into this new chapter of their lives.

Euphoria Teaser Sparks Buzz, New Release Date Announced



Gunasekhar's much-talked-about upcoming film Euphoria has intensified curiosity among audiences with the release of its thought-provoking official teaser. Originally planned for a Christmas 2025 release, the makers opted to shift the date to avoid competition during the crowded festive season. The film will now arrive in theatres on February 6, 2026.

The newly released teaser offers an intriguing look into the world of Euphoria, setting a vivid and intense tone. Showcasing vibrant visuals and a trippy atmosphere, it highlights the emotional and psychological landscape of today's youth. The teaser hints at the film's exploration of drug culture, peer pressure and the complexities of modern life. These thematic elements, paired with Gunasekhar's signature storytelling style, have added to the growing expectation surrounding the project.

A key highlight of the teaser is the powerful presence of filmmaker-actor Gautham

Menon, who appears in a strong, commanding role. The video also introduces the film's other major characters, giving viewers a broader sense of the ensemble cast and the dynamics that will shape the narrative. Each frame adds layers of intrigue, suggesting a bold and contemporary approach to youth-centric cinema.

Euphoria is produced by Neelima Guna and Yuktha Guna under the banner of Guna Handmade Films, with Ragini Guna presenting the film. Backed by a talented team including music composer Kaala Bhairava and a dynamic cast featuring Bhumiika Chawla and Vignesh, the project promises a gripping cinematic experience.

With its edgy visuals, relevant themes and an evocative teaser that leaves viewers wanting more, Euphoria has already set high expectations. As the film gears up for its February release, excitement continues to build around what could be one of early 2026's most impactful dramas.

Mohan Babu's Grand Industry Gala Celebrating 50 Years, Hosted by Vishnu Manchu

Many Celebrities From Cinema & Politics Grace The Night



Collection King Dr. M. Mohan Babu hosted one of the most talked-about gatherings of the year, MB50, bringing together leading figures from Indian cinema and politics under one roof. The star-studded celebration, held at Park Hyatt in Hyderabad, turned into a memorable reunion of icons, statesmen, and close friends from across the entertainment fraternity.

The evening saw the arrival of Superstar Rajinikanth, who shared a warm and affectionate camaraderie with Mohan Babu, symbolizing a friendship that has endured for decades. Adding to the gravitas of the event were Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, former Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu, and several notable personalities from the political spectrum, all of whom extended their wishes to the senior actor. Dynamic Star Vishnu Manchu, Mohan Babu's son, hosted this grand industry gala, elevating the celebration into a truly unforgettable

tribute to the legendary actor's 50-year cinematic journey.

The film fraternity also made its presence felt, with Bollywood star Jackie Shroff, Sarath Kumar, Bhagya Raj, Nani, Gopichand, Brahmanandam, Ali, Harish Shankar, People Media Factory's Vishwa Prasad, Allu Aravind, Dil

Raju, Mythri Shashi, Jayasudha, Sumalatha, Nasser, Aadi Saikumar, Sundeep Kishan, Sr Naresh, Srikanth, Sreenu Vaitla, Srikanth Odela, and many other prominent film personalities from all languages, as well as several politicians and business leaders, joining the celebrations.

Known for his towering persona both on and off screen, Mohan Babu played the perfect host, ensuring every guest experienced his trademark warmth and hospitality. The lavish arrangements, exquisite décor, and thoughtfully curated dinner reflected the respect and affection the veteran

holds for those who have been part of his professional and personal life.

The gathering has stirred excitement across the industry, with many viewing it as a prelude to an even grander celebration of Mohan Babu's enduring legacy. With five decades of contribution to cinema, his influence continues to command admiration and reverence from peers, fans, and future generations alike.

The spectacular evening not only highlighted Mohan Babu's stature but also showcased the strong bonds he shares across film and political circles, making it a night to remember.

IMAX Gears Up for the biggest film of the year Avatar

Fire and Ash as Advance Bookings Open 5th December



Grab the chance to experience global's biggest event film in the best seats in IMAX and releasing first time ever in Dolby vision cinema. Don't Miss it!

With massive global buzz around the biggest cinematic event of the year, the month of Avatar begins on an electrifying note. Advance bookings for James Cameron's Avatar: Fire and Ash will open on 5th December, with a special push across IMAX and Dolby vision cinemas on 5th nationwide.

As audiences eagerly await the next chapter in the epic Avatar saga, IMAX invites fans to be the first to experience the film in the most immersive way possible — with the best seats, unmatched visuals, and unparalleled sound.

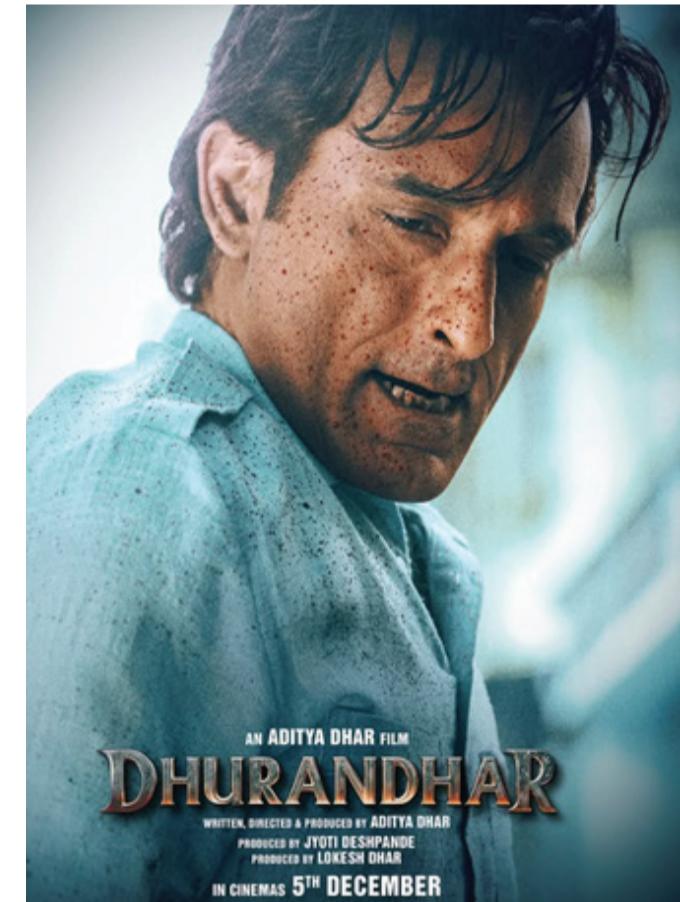
In the lead-up to the opening day, the campaign will highlight special Avatar-themed box office counters at all IMAX theatres, giving fans a dedicated, high-energy space to book tickets and build excitement for the film's

release. With demand expected to surge, IMAX encourages moviegoers to gear up for first-day, first-show bookings to ensure they don't miss the chance to witness Avatar: Fire and Ash in its full, awe-inspiring scale.

Advance bookings open 5th December across all IMAX locations.

20th Century Studios will release Avatar: Fire and Ash in theatres on 19th December in 6 languages English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada.

Dhurandhar Trailer Highlights Lyari's Dark Legacy



The recently released trailer of Dhurandhar, starring Ranveer Singh, has revealed that a significant portion of the action is set in Lyari, a town in Karachi, Pakistan. The film, based on "incredible true events," has not shared a full plot yet, but the trailer offers a glimpse into the gritty world of the town, known for its history of violence and gang wars.

Lyari, spread across six square kilometers in Karachi's Sindh province, is one of the city's oldest and most densely populated neighborhoods. The town stretches along the Lyari River and has long been considered impoverished, with a reputation for high crime rates. Its historical and socio-political complexities make it a compelling backdrop for an intense action narrative.

In the trailer, Ranveer Singh's character, reportedly named Humza, is seen arriving in Pakistan by helicopter, eventually making his way into Lyari. While his exact mission remains a mystery, the visuals set a tense, action-packed tone, indicating that the film will explore the darker corners of the town and the challenges within.

Lyari has gained notoriety as one of Karachi's most dangerous areas due to rampant gang activity. The town was once under the influence of Rehman Dakait, a notorious criminal who maintained control over local businesses, smuggling, and arms trade, often with political backing from the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) in the 2000s. This intersection of crime and politics has shaped Lyari's turbulent reputation, making it a fitting setting for Dhurandhar's intense storyline.

With its high-octane sequences, realistic depiction of urban crime, and Ranveer Singh's compelling performance, Dhurandhar is shaping up as one of the most anticipated action films of the year. The film's official release is scheduled for this Friday, and audiences are eager to see how it portrays Lyari's complex, violent, and vibrant culture.