

# APACL Data Exposes 222.85 Crore Air Travel by Former CM Jagan; Minister Lokesh Says 'Truth Is Finally Out'

TPN Bureau | December 2, 2025

Vijayawada | Fresh revelations from Andhra Pradesh Aviation Corporation Ltd (APACL) have brought to light major expenditure on air travel during the tenure of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Official data shows that between 2019 and 2024, a total of 222.85 crore from the state exchequer was spent on helicopter and aircraft usage for the then chief minister's official and private trips.

According to APACL's financial records, 87.02 crore was spent on helicopters, 112.50 crore on fixed-wing aircraft, and another 23.31 crore on crew handling, boarding, and lodging expenses. The figures have sparked renewed debate over public spending priorities during Jagan's government, particularly when Andhra Pradesh was grappling with unemployment, fiscal stress, and developmental backlog.

The data's release coincides with a series of right-to-information (RTI) responses that debunk allegations made by Sakshi media against Information Technology and Rural Development Minister Nara Lokesh. Recent reports had accused Lokesh of undertaking 77 government-funded flights to Hyderabad.

However, official replies from all four departments under his purview have stated in writing that the minister did not claim a single rupee of government funds for any air travel.

The departments confirmed that every air trip undertaken by Lokesh, including chartered flights, was fully paid from his personal funds.

The RTIs were filed by activist Suresh Babu, whose detailed queries have brought these clarifications into the public domain. The documents also establish Lokesh's active participation in state-level programs, contradicting claims that he was "vacationing" while major events like the Budamuru floods unfolded.

Verified schedules place Lokesh at various public engagements in Patna, Puttaparthi, Mangalagiri, Vijayawada, and Amaravati during the same period. Reacting to the revelations, Minister Lokesh said the facts now exposed a troubling record of extravagance under Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership. "While people



struggled for jobs, basic amenities, and development, their Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was spending 500 crore on a palace and 222 crore flying around. The truth is finally out. Andhra Pradesh needed leadership instead, it got luxury and vacations," Lokesh remarked.

Senior TDP leaders also issued statements condemning what they described as a systematic misinformation campaign by the YSRCP and Sakshi media. "Their lies stand exposed. They targeted Nara Lokesh without evidence, while it is Jagan's own 222-crore air travel indulgence that has come out.

Will Sakshi question Jagan with the same intensity? Their silence speaks louder than their allegations," a senior TDP spokesperson said. Political analysts have noted that the stark contrast between Jagan's publicly funded air travel and Lokesh's personally financed trips underscores a deeper debate about governance and accountability in Andhra Pradesh.

They observe that the emerging financial disclosures could influence public perception in the lead-up to future elections, drawing attention to transparency in leadership and fiscal responsibility.

## Jana Sena Defends Pawan Kalyan Against Misinterpretation of Remarks on Andhra-Telangana Relations

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maravathi: The Jana Sena Party (JSP) on Tuesday issued a statement defending Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan amid growing criticism over his recent comments during a visit to Konaseema district. The party clarified that Pawan Kalyan's remarks, made during an interaction with farmers, were being distorted and taken out of context, leading to unnecessary political controversy.

According to the party's official statement, the actor-turned-politician was merely expressing concern about agricultural conditions and highlighting the natural prosperity of the Godavari districts. The Jana Sena urged critics not to misinterpret his words and stressed that his intention was to maintain a spirit of harmony between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. "Some sections are deliberately twisting the Deputy Chief Minister's comments.

Pawan Kalyan was speaking emotionally with farmers about the damage to coconut trees in Konaseema and about the agricultural richness of the Godavari region. His words should be seen in context and not politicized," the Jana Sena statement read. It further added that the party is mindful of fostering friendly relations between



the two Telugu states and requested the media and political opponents to avoid creating unnecessary divisions through misrepresentation.

The controversy stems from remarks made by Pawan Kalyan during a field visit in Konaseema district, where he inspected damaged coconut plantations along with local officials. Addressing farmers, he said, "The Godavari districts appear as the Annapurna of our state. Their greenery was one of the key features admired even before the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

Many Telangana leaders used to say that this land always remains lush and green. But now it feels as if an evil eye has fallen on these coconut trees. "Opposition leaders and some critics allegedly construed these remarks as politically sensitive, suggesting they implied a connection between Andhra Pradesh's bifurcation and Telangana's attitude toward the coastal districts.

Meanwhile, during his visit, Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to provide immediate relief measures to farmers whose coconut plantations were affected due to climatic changes and pest issues.

## Government Approves Second Phase of Land Pooling for Capital Development

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maravathi: In a major move to accelerate the development of Andhra Pradesh's capital city, the state government has officially issued orders sanctioning the second phase of land pooling for Amaravati. The new government order (GO) assigns the responsibility of acquiring and consolidating the identified lands to the Commissioner of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA).

According to the official notification, the second phase of land pooling will cover seven villages spread across Guntur and Palnadu districts, encompassing a total of 16,666.57 acres of patta (private) and assigned land. Additionally, 3,828.30 acres of government land will also be included as part of this integrated development plan, bringing the overall area under the CRDA's purview to a significant scale. In Palnadu district's Amaravati mandal, land pooling will take place in Vaikunthapuram, Pedamaddur, Yendrayi, Karlapudi, and Lemalle villages.

Harischandrapuram will offer 1,448.09 acres of patta land and 2.29 acres of assigned land, while Pedaparimi contributes the largest share—about 5,886.18 acres of patta land. Consolidating all these locations, the total land identified amounts to 16,562



acres of patta land and 104.01 acres of assigned land, ensuring the inclusion of both private and government holdings.

The CRDA Commissioner has been directed to oversee the entire process of acquisition, documentation, and consolidation in coordination with the respective district collectors. Officials have been instructed to ensure smooth implementation while complying with the guidelines and compensation models developed under the CRDA's land pooling scheme.

This move marks the return of active administrative focus on Amaravati's systematic capital development after a long period of uncertainty. The government aims to revive infrastructure creation, residential and institutional zone planning, and administrative headquarters development across the core capital region.

CRDA sources state that the process will adopt the earlier land pooling framework, which focuses on voluntary participation by landowners and equitable distribution of developed plots in return. With the approval of this second phase, the Amaravati project is expected to gain fresh momentum.

Officials believe this renewed push for land pooling will pave the way for resumption of capital infrastructure projects and attract both public and private investment into the region. This decision underscores the administration's commitment to reviving Amaravati as the functional and administrative center of Andhra Pradesh.

## AP CM Proposes Solar energy on government buildings



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ers who install 3 kW rooftop solar systems, which will come in addition to central support under ongoing schemes. He further ordered that power looms be supplied 500 units of electricity free of cost, signalling targeted relief for small and traditional industries dependent on affordable power.

Cutting power costs, boosting solar Reviewing the power sector at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister told officials to bring down transmission losses, which currently stand at around 9.2 percent, and to explore power-swapping arrangements with other states to ease the purchase burden.

He reiterated that under the PM Kusum initiative, Andhra Pradesh should work toward generating 4,792 MW, particularly by using irrigation and endowment lands for solar projects. Naidu also stressed that companies opting into the Integrated Clean Energy Policy must implement their action plans within 60 days, underlining his focus on timely execution. He emphasised that quality, uninterrupted power must be supplied to both domestic and industrial consumers even as costs are brought down.

Subsidy for BC households, support to loom The Chief Minister approved a 20,000 state subsidy for Backward Class power consumers.

Support for ferro alloys industry The government decided to extend existing incentives for ferro alloys companies for one more year, which will impose an additional burden of about 1,053 crore on the state exchequer. Officials indicated that the move is aimed

at maintaining quality power supply without hiking tariffs and called for a rating system to assess the quality of power delivered to consumers. Energy officials briefed him that the effective use of the Electrical Power Monitoring System and lower power purchase prices in the first quarter helped save between 400 crore and 500 crore for the state. Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and senior executives from Transco, Genco and Discoms attended the review meeting.

# AP Positioned as a Prime Destination for Investor-Friendly Opportunities: Minister Durgesh

Highlights from the 12th CII Big Picture Summit 2025 in Mumbai

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Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a strong contender for investor-friendly opportunities in tourism, film production, animation, gaming, and creative industries, stated Minister Kandula Durgesh during the 12th CII Big Picture Summit – 2025 held in Mumbai on December 1 and 2.

The Minister, along with Tourism MD and

APTA CEO Amrapali Kata, engaged with several investors, explaining how the state is integrating tourism and the film industry to accelerate economic growth.

Speaking on the second day of the summit, Minister Durgesh emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is fully prepared to collaborate with global investors. The state delegation presented detailed clarity on investment avenues, incentives, and concessions available under the AP Tourism Policy 2024–29, particularly for film production and tourism-related ventures.



Investors were briefed on the government's ambitious Swarna Andhra Vision @2047, which aims to transform Andhra Pradesh into a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047, with the creative economy and deep technologies identified as major growth engines.

The Minister highlighted that key destinations Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Gudikota, Rajahmundry, Amaravati, Srisailam and Araku Valley have been designated as Anchor Hubs for the development of Adventure, Spiritual, Coastal, and Film Tourism Circuits. These hubs, he noted, are being shaped to attract international tourism and large-scale media production.

He further announced plans to position the state as a global leader in Animation, Gaming, and VFX (AGV) sectors by investing in AI, XR tech-

nologies, and cloud-based infrastructure, branding this initiative as the creation of an "Andhra Valley" for creative industries.

Minister Durgesh also revealed that the government will soon introduce a Comprehensive New Film Tourism Policy aimed at simplifying film shoot permissions, boosting production efficiency, and attracting major domestic and international film projects. He encouraged investors to support the state's growing film ecosystem.

Throughout the summit, Minister Durgesh

and MD Amrapali Kata held extensive discussions with representatives from Koo, Book My Show (Anil Makija, Chirag Saraiya), 91 Film Studios Founder Naveen Chandra, Space City and Space Exhibition Founder Srikanth Kodeboyina, Blue Eye Soft Corp/BES Space Pvt. Ltd., Della Resorts, Delta Adventure Park Founder Jimmy Mistry, and Ilive Studios Director D. Rakesh.

Ravi Kottarkar, President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce, also submitted several proposals aimed at strengthening the state's film industry dur-

ing a lengthy meeting with the Minister. Kottarkar expressed plans to visit Vijayawada, to which the Minister extended a formal invitation.

Minister Durgesh concluded that many investors expressed interest in constructing studios in Andhra Pradesh, particularly Digital Studios in Visakhapatnam, and voiced confidence that the state's film sector is poised for rapid expansion.

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## AP CM Directs about Scrub Tphus

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Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has issued firm directives to state health authorities to step up public awareness initiatives concerning Scrub Typhus, a bacterial disease recently implicated in a fatality in Vizianagaram district. The Chief Minister's instructions came during a high-level review meeting he led at the state secretariat in Vijayawada, attended by Principal Secretary of Medical and Health Saurabh Gaur and other senior officials. Expressing deep concern over the death of Chandaka Rajeswari from Vizianagaram due to Scrub Typhus, Chief Minister Naidu emphasized the urgent need to prevent similar tragedies across Andhra Pradesh.

He urged health officials to proactively educate the public on early symptoms, timely testing, and the importance of seeking immediate medical attention if they develop relevant health issues. "No such incident should recur elsewhere in the state," Naidu reportedly insisted, underscoring his commitment to public health preparedness and rapid response.

According to the briefing provided by health authorities during the meeting, Scrub Typhus is contracted through the bite of infected chigger mites. The disease is caused by the bacterium Orientia tsutsugamushi, and is not transmitted from person to person, officials clarified.

Symptoms typically include persistent fever, cold, headache, muscle pain, and rash. The state government reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding public health, with Chief Minister Naidu directing that robust monitoring and rapid response teams be kept on alert. The initiative reflects a broader push by the administration to tackle emerging health concerns and reinforce the public health-care system against both infectious and vector-borne diseases.

In recent cases, misdiagnosis has been highlighted as a critical issue, with Rajeswari initially receiving treatment for typhoid fever before a rapid test confirmed Scrub Typhus as the actual cause. Officials also informed the Chief Minister about their ongoing efforts to enhance the state's diagnostic and treatment capabilities for vector-borne diseases such as Scrub Typhus.

The Medical and Health Department has been asked to ensure all frontline medical staff are trained to recognize symptoms and conduct appropriate testing. Health facilities, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where exposure risk is higher, will be equipped to manage patients swiftly and effectively. To further strengthen preventive efforts, Chief Minister Naidu has called for awareness campaigns targeting at-risk populations in districts like Vizianagaram.

The campaigns are expected to focus on simple preventive measures such as maintaining clean surroundings, wearing protective clothing during outdoor agricultural work, and seeking prompt healthcare if illness arises. Information materials in Telugu and other local languages are being prepared for wide dissemination.

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## Banana Farmers Hit by Crashing Prices in Andhra Pradesh, Selling Produce for Just 50 Paise per Kilo

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Ananthapur: A shocking agricultural crisis is gripping Andhra Pradesh as banana farmers are forced to sell their produce at an unimaginable rate—only 50 paise per kilogram. Once a profitable crop sustaining thousands of farming families, bananas have now turned into a symbol of rural distress.

Farmers who invested lakhs of rupees and months of hard labor are now left staring at financial ruin. In several districts across the state, banana prices have fallen to record lows, with market yards flooded by unsold produce. Farmers say the cost of labor, fertilizers, and irrigation has skyrocketed, but the prices they receive are not even enough to cover transport. For many, the return is less than what a single matchbox or biscuit costs, leading to widespread despair.

Agricultural unions and farmers' associations have described the situation as one of the worst price collapses in years. The absence of government intervention, especially in the form of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) or procurement drives, has left cultivators helpless.

"When a kilo of bananas sells for fifty paise, what is the value of a farmer's sweat?" one farmer from Krishnna district lamented. The crisis extends beyond bananas. The prices of onions, tomatoes, and several other vegetables have also crashed, indicating a broader market imbalance. Farmers say that neither the free crop insurance promised by the government nor the input subsidies have reached them. With no relief forthcoming, debt and despair are spreading rapidly in the state's agricultural belts.

Opposition leaders have attacked the current state administration for its "complete neglect" of the farming community. They argue that during the previous government's tenure, banana farmers received much fairer prices, averaging up to Rs. 25,000 per tonne. Former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu recalled that special trains were once operated directly from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi to transport bananas, ensuring farmers received remunerative prices.

Additionally, several cold storage facilities were established across the state to help preserve surplus produce and stabilize market fluctuations. "During our administration, we saved the livelihoods of lakhs of families by guaranteeing fair returns to their crops," Naidu asserted, accusing the present government of watching idly as the agricultural sector collapses.

Farmers are demanding that the government immediately step in with procurement support, compensation for losses, and effective implementation of crop insurance. They argue that agriculture cannot survive without strong structural support from fair pricing mechanisms to proper storage and transport infrastructure.

As the crisis deepens, the sight of banana bunches being sold for less than a rupee a kilogram stands as a painful reminder of the under-valued toil of the Indian farmer. A stark question to the nation: when food becomes this cheap, what is the worth of those who grow it?



## Prioritise Dry Crops in Rabi Season, Avoid Cultivating Paddy: Ministers Farooq and Janardhan Reddy

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Nandyal: Farmers should prioritize dry land crops instead of paddy during the Rabi season, appealed Minister for Law and Minority Welfare NMD Farooq and Minister for Roads, Buildings, Infrastructure and Investments BC Janardhan Reddy. The Ministers made this request while participating in the Irrigation Advisory Board meeting held at the PG RS Hall in the Collectorate, under the chairmanship of District Collector G Raja Kumari.

Zilla Parishad Chairperson Erra Boththula Papireddy, MLAs Bhuma Akhilapriya (Allagadda), Budha Rajashekhar Reddy (Srisila), Gowru Charitha (Panyam), Gitta Jayasurya (Nandikotkur), Varadarajula Reddy (Proddutur), Joint Collector Kolla Battulha Karthik, KC Canal Chairperson Ramalinga Reddy, Telugu Ganga Chairperson Sanjeev Kumar Reddy, SRBC Chairperson K. Rajasekhar Reddy, irrigation officers, water-users' associations leaders and farmers attended the meeting.

The Ministers said that extensive discussions were held on the supply of irrigation water for Rabi crops. Farmers were advised to shift from paddy to dry crops in view of water availability. They said that a detailed review was conducted with irrigation officials regarding water releases under KC Canal, SRBC and Telugu Ganga ayacuts. They assured that water would be supplied up to the tail-end ayacut of SRBC. However, due to the reconstruction of Tungabhadra project gates, temporary inconveniences have arisen. As a result, irrigation water cannot be supplied between 0–120 km and 120–150 km under KC Canal this season. The Ministers clarified that the government's intention is to safeguard farmers' interests and any issues that arise will be taken to the notice of the State government for resolution. Water supply under the Telugu Ganga project will continue until the end of March, they added. They explained that the old and damaged Tungabhadra gates were being replaced through joint coordination between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Temporary inconveniences have arisen. As a result, irrigation water cannot be supplied between 0–120 km and 120–150 km under KC Canal this season. The Ministers clarified that the government's intention is to safeguard farmers' interests and any issues that arise will be taken to the notice of the State government for resolution. Water supply under the Telugu Ganga project will continue until the end of March, they added. They explained that the old and damaged Tungabhadra gates were being replaced through joint coordination between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Temporary inconveniences have arisen. As a result, irrigation water cannot be supplied between 0–120 km and 120–150 km under KC Canal this season. 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# Botsa Accuses CM Naidu of Misusing Power to Close Corruption Cases

TPN Bureau | December 2

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Opposition Leader Botsa Satyanaarayana has strongly alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is grossly misusing his office to suppress and close the corruption cases filed against him during the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime.

In a strongly worded press statement issued on Tuesday, Botsa claimed that Naidu is orchestrating a well-planned conspiracy to terminate the cases through intimidation and administrative manipulation. Botsa charged that the complainant officers in these corruption cases are being coerced and threatened into withdrawing their complaints. "Offi-

cials who filed the complaints are being frightened into silence.

Even the investigating officers, who are supposed to act impartially, have been reduced to tools in ensuring the closure of these cases," he alleged. According to him, this conduct reflects "a dangerous level of abuse of power unprecedented in Indian politics. "The Opposition Leader insisted that Naidu's actions are not only unconstitutional but are also deeply harmful to democratic systems and insti-

"The Chief Minister has neither the courage to face legal battles nor the integrity to respect judicial procedures. Instead, he is choosing backdoor tactics to escape accountability," Botsa stated. Recalling past devel-

opments, Botsa said that during the YSRCP government between 2014 and 2019, multiple corruption cases were registered against Naidu, each supported by substantial evidence.

Among these were the Skill Development Scam in which the court had sent Naidu to judicial remand based on prima facie evidence and the assigned lands case, Amaravati ring road alignment case, free sand distribution scam, Fiber Net scam involving hundreds of crores of rupees, and several liquor-related scandals. Botsa remarked that after assuming power, Chandrababu Naidu began systematically dismantling these investigations.

"Since returning to office, he has put pressure on investigating agen-

cies, weakened their independence, and ensured that the cases are buried. Some officers have been trapped in false cases and forced to retract their original complaints, while others have been lured or intimidated into silence," he alleged.

He cited the recent closure of the Assigned Lands case and the Liquor Scam case as examples of this alleged misuse of authority. "These closures show the extent to which the system is being compromised for personal gain. All remaining cases, too, are being pushed in the same direction," Botsa said. Condemning Naidu's alleged behavior, Botsa asserted that this represents "mockery of law and contempt for the Constitution."

He added that Chandrababu Naidu, while on

bail in one of the corruption cases, is now involved in threatening witnesses and complainants an act that he termed as an "outrage against justice and morality." Botsa demanded that the Governor of Andhra Pradesh intervene immediately to stop what he described as blatant misuse of power.

"The Governor must act urgently to protect the independence of investigative agencies and uphold the sanctity of democratic institutions," he appealed. Botsa concluded by asserting that the YSRCP will take up a legal and political battle to stop Naidu's misuse of power and protect the integrity of the state's governance.



## Parakamani case report submitted

TPN Bureau | December 2, 2025

Amaravati: The investigation into the high-profile Parakamani theft case took a fresh turn on Tuesday as the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID) submitted a sealed-cover report to the High Court concerning a compromise settlement alleged in the case. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has also filed its own report detailing the assets and financial status of one of the key accused, Ravi Kumar. During the hearing, the CID's sealed-cover report was presented before the bench, underscoring the sensitive nature of the contents, which reportedly pertain to internal findings on the suspected compromise that emerged during the course of the investigation.

The ACB's submission, meanwhile, included an account of the properties allegedly owned by the accused, providing a clearer picture of his financial dealings and possible illicit wealth accumulation. The High Court, after receiving both reports, directed the registry particularly the Registrar (Judicial) to keep the documents under secure custody and ensure they remain sealed until the next stage of proceedings.

The court emphasized that any act of unsealing or disclosing the contents without specific judicial approval would not be permissible, given the ongoing inquiry and the potential implications for the case's integrity. Ravi Kumar's defense counsel argued that the reports submitted by both the CID and ACB should be shared with the defense side to enable a fair opportunity for review and response.

The attorney asserted that withholding the documents from the accused amounted

to a denial of procedural fairness and transparency, which are fundamental in judicial proceedings. However, after hearing the submissions, the presiding judge rejected the plea made by Ravi Kumar's counsel.

The court held that at this stage of the proceedings, maintaining confidentiality was necessary to protect the investigation process and ensure that sensitive findings were not prematurely disclosed. Legal experts following the case observed that the court's decision reflects a cautious approach typical in high-stakes investigations where internal reports or preliminary findings could influence future investigations or connected trials.

They noted that such sealed-cover proceedings are generally used to ensure that critical evidence or witness statements are not compromised before formal charges or trials are completed. The Parakamani theft case, which surfaced earlier in 2025, involves allegations of misappropriation of funds and mishandling of temple revenue collections.

The term "Parakamani" refers to the counting and management of temple offerings, and the case has drawn considerable public attention due to the alleged involvement of temple officials and public servants. With the latest court order, the case proceedings have now been adjourned to Friday.

The High Court is expected to review the sealed submissions further and may decide at that time whether any parts of the reports can be disclosed to the defense or whether the confidentiality will continue until the investigation reaches a more advanced stage. He said the col-

## YSRCP Accuses Chandrababu of Misusing Power to Close Cases

TPN Bureau | December 2

Kakinada: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Tuesday mounted a sharp attack on the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that it has prioritized personal interests over public welfare. Former minister Kurasala Kannababu accused the Chief Minister of protecting himself from corruption cases instead of addressing pressing issues faced by farmers and common citizens.

Speaking to media persons in Kakinada, Kannababu alleged that Chandrababu Naidu was "judging his own cases," as key investigations registered against him during the previous regime were reportedly being withdrawn or diluted under the current government. He claimed that the Crime Investigation Department (CID), which had filed a liquor scam case against



Naidu, has now reversed its stance, raising serious questions about transparency and accountability in the adminis-

tration.

"The liquor trade was carried out earlier without the approval of the Finance Department. Now, Chandrababu has ensured that the case is closed. This clearly shows how he is misusing his position to escape legal scrutiny," Kannababu remarked, adding that the development was a "blow to the rule of law." He further alleged that several bureaucrats and senior police officers were being pressured to comply with political directions.

"Government funds are being diverted to pay huge amounts to leading lawyers to fight Chandrababu's personal cases," Kannababu said. He also reiterated the YSRCP's allegations linking Naidu to the Inner Ring Road and Skill Development scams, accusing the Chief Minister of orchestrating cover-ups for these high-profile cases.

Turning to public issues,

Kannababu said that the state's farmers are suffering as agricultural produce fetches distressingly low prices. He highlighted that bananas are being sold for as little as 50 paise per kilogram while the government is allegedly offering prime lands to private associates at throwaway prices.

"This government has turned its back on the people while enriching those close to power," he alleged. Kannababu concluded by demanding that the government make public the number of pension beneficiaries affected by recent cuts and accused the ruling alliance of abandoning welfare commitments.

"Public money is being misused to protect one individual, while the poor and farmers are left to struggle," he said, urging citizens to hold the government accountable for what he termed as "blatant misuse of authority."

## Coalition Government Pushing Farmers Into Deep Crisis: Former MLA Kaile Anil Kumar



TPN Bureau | December 2

Vijayawada: Former MLA and YSRCP Official Spokesperson Kaile Anil Kumar on Monday launched a sharp attack on the TDP-led coalition government, alleging that Andhra Pradesh's agriculture sector has been pushed into its worst-ever crisis due to a combination of natural calamities and government negligence.

Speaking at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, Anil Kumar said farmers across the state are struggling between relentless cyclones and the government's failure to support them. He criticized the administration for dismantling crucial farmer-support mechanisms created under former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, particularly the Rythu Bhavosa Kendras (RBKs), which had guided farmers from seed distribution to crop procurement. He said the col-

lapse of supply chains has forced farmers to stand in long queues even for essentials like seeds and urea, while black marketing has flourished. Despite harvest-ready crops, he alleged that no crop is being given Minimum Support Price (MSP), resulting in paddy stocks lying exposed for days in fields, yards, and even on highways. Citing a recent incident in Penamaluru, he said officials removed heaps of paddy lying on the road for ten days—not to help farmers but to prevent negative publicity for the government.

Anil Kumar condemned the silence of both state and central governments on compensation for losses caused by Cyclone Monta, stating that no announcement has been made regarding input subsidy. He claimed that the coalition has virtually abolished input subsidy, deepening farmers' distress.

Sharing the situation

## TDP Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Criticizes Past YSRCP Regime, Highlights Major Investment in Handri Neeva Project

TPN Bureau | December 2

Mangalagiri: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu strongly criticized the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, alleging that it failed to make any progress on the vital Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanti project during its five-year tenure under former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagannath Reddy. Speaking to the media in Mangalagiri, Ramanaidu asserted that the project, which is considered the lifeline of the Rayalaseema region, was completely neglected during the YSRCP's rule.

The Minister, addressing reporters, said that ever since the coalition government came to power in the state, substantial progress has been achieved on long-pending irrigation projects. He announced that the current government has already sanctioned and utilized Rs. 3,869 crore for the Handri Neeva project in its very first year, completing works that the previous administration had failed to undertake over five years.

Ramanaidu explained

that the coalition government's priority has been to ensure water security for the drought-prone districts of Rayalaseema. According to him, several reservoirs in the region are now brimming with water, a development that has brought relief and joy to farmers who depend on irrigation for their livelihoods. He praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision and commitment to rejuvenating stalled projects and reviving infrastructural development across the state.

"While the YSRCP administration couldn't make even a small beginning, our government achieved what they could not do in five years," Ramanaidu declared. He emphasized that the success of the Handri Neeva project demonstrates the coalition government's efficiency and accountability. The Minister further added that even during the harsh summer months, water now flows through Rayalaseema's irrigation canals, turning parched lands fertile once again.

The Minister noted that villagers and farmers across the region have been expressing their gratitude through traditional prayers and thanksgiving ceremonies, celebrating the arrival of water in long-dry reservoirs. "Rayalaseema's children and farmers are offering prayers and expressing happiness as the waters have finally reached their fields," he remarked.

Ramanaidu also reiterated the government's broader commitment to balanced regional development. He pointed out that irrigation infrastructure plays a crucial role in ensuring agricultural prosperity, which in turn supports the rural economy. He blamed the YSRCP government for prioritizing political motives over public welfare and delaying essential infrastructure projects that directly impact the lives of ordinary people.

Highlighting the government's dedication to transparency and results-driven governance, Ramanaidu stated that the coalition government would continue to focus on major irrigation and drinking water projects across Rayalaseema and other backward regions.





## Chandrababu's 'Cash-for-MLCs' Operation Exposes Abuse of Power: Perni Nani

TPN Bureau | December 2

Vijayawada: YSRCP Krishna District President and former Minister Perni Venkataramanaih (Nani) launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of orchestrating the "most disgraceful political trading operation" in the history of Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office, Nani alleged that the Chief Minister is openly luring YSRCP MLCs with money, engineering resignations, and purchasing positions, actions he

said strike at the heart of democratic values.

Calling the episode an "unethical political game," Nani said Dr BR Ambedkar could never have imagined a political climate where leaders show such disregard for constitutional morality. Instead of opposing defections and seeking disqualification as required by democratic norms, Chandrababu has allegedly turned the system upside down by using bribes and coercion to force resignations, he said.

Nani further accused Chandrababu of gross misuse of power after ta-

king office, including threatening officials and influencing the withdrawal of corruption cases that were previously filed based on departmental evidence. He reminded that Chandrababu had fought these cases in court with high-pro file lawyers, and when unsuccessful, secured bail on medical grounds. "After returning home with a massive rally, he never visited hospital again. People should recognise the deception," he said.

He alleged that the coalition government exists primarily to clear cases against Chandrababu

and his associates while filing fabricated cases against political rivals. Manipulating institutions, forging documents and intimidating officers will not protect Chandrababu from legal scrutiny forever, Nani warned.

Taking aim at Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Nani ridiculed his claim that coconut trees in Konaseema were dying due to "Telangana's evil eye", asking whether Pawan spoke as a Deputy CM or a sorcerer. A responsible government should consult experts and save farmers,

not promote superstition, he said. Nani also questioned Minister Nar a Lokesh's claim that he does not spend public money on flights, demanding transparency on who pays for weekly chartered trips costing around 10 lakh each.

On Amaravati, Nani accused Chandrababu of undermining the very capital he once championed. With major companies being diverted to Visakhapatnam, Amaravati risks becoming a "barren administrative island," leaving farmers anxious about the future of their lands.

## First Batch of "Train The Trainees Launched"



Training Aims at Religious Management Srivari Sevaks are Torch Bearers of Hindu Dharma - Additional EO

TPN Bureau | December 2

TIRUMALA: The motto behind the Train the Trainees is to prepare Srivari Sevaks in a professional way and develop their skills in Religious Management besides sprucing them up as Torch Bearers of Hindu Sanatana Dharma, said the TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary.

Addressing the first batch of Train the Trainees orientation

program held at Seva Sadan 2 in Tirumala on Tuesday, he called upon the participants to learn all the training modules designed by the Planning Department of AP along with IIM Ahmedabad.

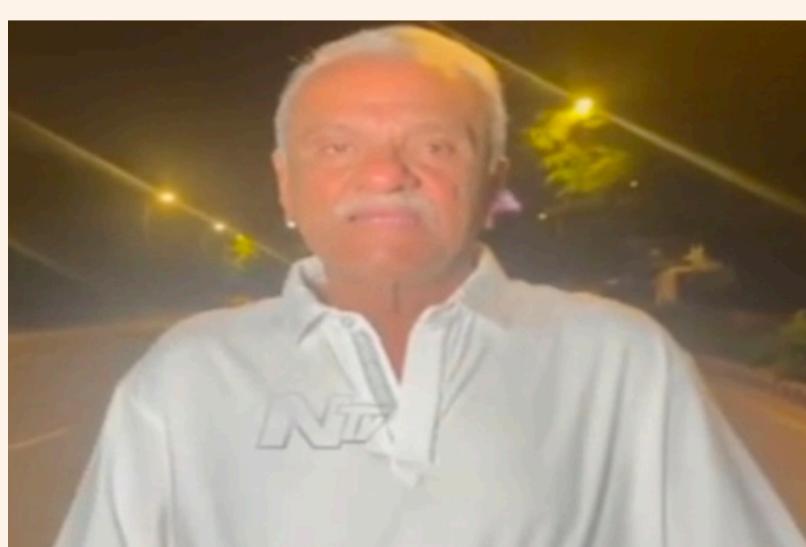
"The training includes personality development, skill management, communication skills, behaviour towards devotees, leadership qualities, besides informing about history of TTD and importance of Srivari Seva, mythological stories and many more. Many experts have been roped in to train you for the purpose, he maintained.

Adding further he said, the Honourable CM of AP N Chandrababu Naidu, has given instructions to enhance the quality of seva by Srivari Sevaks.

This training is mulled at taking forward Srivari Seva in a Professional way as per the directives of the AP CM. The trained sevaks will train the registered sevaks at their respective places before they report for Seva in Tirumala or Tirupati", he maintained.

Imbibe the essence of training classes and train up other sevaks, he added.

Scholars Dr Medasani Mohan, Dr Damodar Naidu, Dr Srinivas, Chief PRO Dr T Ravi, PRO (FAC) Ms Neelima, Seva Sadan staffs and others were also present.



## CPI National Secretary Ramakrishna Slams PM Modi's Remarks on Opposition, Calls Them Undemocratic

TPN Bureau | December 2

Vijayawada: Communist Party of India (CPI) National Secretary K. Ramakrishna strongly criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his remarks belittling the Opposition and the functioning of Parliament. He said the Prime Minister's comments were "undemocratic and disrespectful" to parliamentary norms.

In a statement released on social media on Tuesday, Ramakrishna questioned Modi's comments alleging that the Opposition engages in "drama" while raising issues of public concern in Parliament. "If the Opposition highlights people's problems, how does that become a drama? The Prime Minister must answer," he said.

Ramakrishna demanded that Modi spell out what development had actually taken place during his 11-year tenure, asking: "In which sectors has India progressed? In which sectors have we fallen behind? What real development has occurred under Modi's

rule?" He criticised the Prime Minister's repeated claim that India is advancing rapidly in all sectors globally. Referring to the depreciation of the Indian rupee, Ramakrishna noted that the exchange rate had fallen from 60 per US dollar in 2014 to 89.65 today. "If the rupee is weakening this severely, how can anyone say the economy is moving forward?" he asked.

Ramakrishna also objected to what he described as politically motivated cases against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and former Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, saying these were attempts to tarnish the Left ahead of upcoming local body and Assembly elections. He cited similar cases against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald matter.

The CPI leader said such actions pose a threat to democracy, urging all Left and democratic forces to oppose the Prime Minister's "confrontational and vindictive approach."

Condemning Modi's criticism of the Opposition, Ramakrishna

said the Prime Minister was trying to demean parliamentary debate while failing to tolerate any questions on critical issues such as the SIR (Special Investment Regions). He alleged that Modi repeatedly uses religion to divide the people and cannot accept Opposition scrutiny of such actions.

Ramakrishna further pointed out that the country's debt has risen sharply. "When Modi took office in 2014, India's total debt stood at 55 lakh crore. Today, it has touched 200 lakh crore," he said. He accused the Prime Minister of failing to fulfil major election promises and of neglecting fundamental issues. Farmers' problems remain unresolved, price rise is uncontrolled, unemployment persists, and the much-publicised promise of bringing back black money from foreign banks has not been met, he said.

The CPI leader said such actions pose a threat to democracy, urging all Left and democratic forces to oppose the Prime Minister's "confrontational and vindictive approach."

He said such remarks reflected a lack of respect for Hindu faith and amounted to a direct insult

to the community's spiritual beliefs. "The Chief Minister of Telangana has behaved recklessly and spoken disrespectfully about Hindu gods, causing anguish among millions of devotees,"

## Andhra Pradesh Notifies Landmark Rules to Regulate Display Devices in Urban Areas

Cleaner Streets, Safer Structures, Transparent Business, Stronger Municipal Revenues

TPN Bureau | December 2, Vijayawada: The Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued a major urban reform by notifying The Andhra Pradesh Regulation and Control of Display Devices (Promotion of Products and Services) in Urban Local Bodies Rules, 2025. The comprehensive policy aims to regulate all advertisements and display devices across Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations. Officials described it as a transformative initiative aligned with the vision of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to build clean, modern and investment-ready cities.

The new rules address long-standing issues caused by unregulated hoardings such as obstructed traffic, unsafe structures, visual clutter, indiscriminate flex usage, and loss of municipal revenue. The government stated that Andhra Pradesh will now



transition to a safe, cleaner and aesthetically aligned urban environment, with advertisements monitored through strict guidelines and digital oversight.

Public safety has been placed at the core of the reform. All display structures above 50 sq ft including rooftop hoardings, ground-mounted frames and unipoles, must undergo mandatory

structural safety certification. These certifications cover wind and seismic resistance, load-bearing capacity and annual inspections by certified engineers. Unsafe devices will be removed immediately, with the cost recovered from violators. Public liability insurance is now compulsory to ensure compensation in case of accidents caused by display dev-

ices.

To protect cultural values and sensitive locations, advertisements are prohibited near places of worship, educational institutions, hospitals, government offices, traffic intersections, heritage sites, bridges and central medians. Content promoting nudity, obscenity, tobacco, liquor, drugs, hate speech, violence or child exploi-

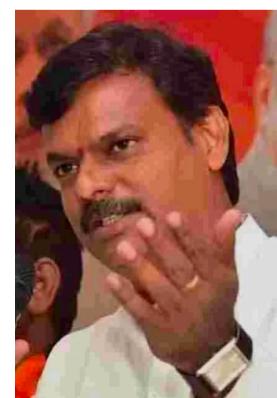
tation is strictly banned across all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

A new structured licensing system has also been introduced. Individuals or establishments can register as Individual Displayers for up to 10 devices, while professional agencies may operate without limit. Each display device will require explicit permission, carrying visible details such as permission number, GSTIN and printer information. Municipal lands for advertising will now be leased only through open public auctions, ensuring transparency and higher revenue for civic bodies.

Enforcement will be stringent, with penalties up to 50,000 per day for violations. A fully integrated online system for licensing, permissions, payments and monitoring will be operational within 45 days.

Principal Secretary, MA&UD, S. Suresh Kumar, said the reform will ensure safer streets, respect for heritage, and improved urban aesthetics, marking Andhra Pradesh as a national leader in display device regulation.

## AP BJP Chief PVN Madhav Demands Apology from Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



ter's comments as "shameless and irresponsible," asserting that no public leader should speak in a manner that divides communities or provokes religious sentiments. "These words show his anti-Hindu attitude and expose his mindset."

They reveal the true colours of the Telangana Chief Minister," Madhav remarked. The Andhra Pradesh BJP Chief said that the Hindu community across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana strongly condemned the remarks and demanded respect for their faith. "The Chief Minister must realise that people look up to him as a responsible constitutional head, not as a person who ridicules their religion," he

said.

Madhav urged Revanth Reddy to tender an immediate and unconditional apology to Hindus and withdraw his offensive remarks. He warned that continued silence from the Telangana Chief Minister would be viewed as deliberate disregard for public sentiment.

The BJP leader also appealed to political leaders of all parties to uphold the dignity of their offices and avoid statements that inflame religious feelings. "The BJP will not stay silent when Hindu beliefs are disrespected," Madhav concluded, emphasizing that such issues go beyond politics and touch the collective faith of millions.

to the community's spiritual beliefs. "The Chief Minister of Telangana has behaved recklessly and spoken disrespectfully about Hindu gods, causing anguish among millions of devotees,"

He said such remarks reflected a lack of respect for Hindu faith and amounted to a direct insult

to the community's spiritual beliefs. "The Chief Minister of Telangana has behaved recklessly and spoken disrespectfully about Hindu gods, causing anguish among millions of devotees,"

He said such remarks reflected a lack of respect for Hindu faith and amounted to a direct insult

# Man Dies Outside PHC in Chebrolu: Locals Outraged Over Alleged Negligence by Medical Staff

TPN Bureau | December 2

Pithapuram, East Godavari District: In a shocking and deeply disturbing incident, a man identified as Manikyam from Sarabhavaram village died outside the Chebrolu Primary Health Centre (PHC) on Monday night after allegedly being denied medical attention. The tragedy has sparked outrage among local residents, who have accused the health staff of gross negligence and demanded an immediate inquiry into the circumstances that led to the death.

According to local so

urces, Manikyam had been suffering from ill health late on Monday and was rushed by his family members to the Chebrolu PHC for urgent medical treatment. When the family reached the facility, they were horrified to find the hospital locked. Despite desperate attempts to locate hospital staff, no one was available on the premises. The family kept waiting outside the locked gate for assistance, but Manikyam's condition worsened rapidly, and he passed away before any help could be secured. The incident has angered residents of



Chebrolu and nearby villages, who gathered at the PHC on Tuesday morning to express their outrage. They blamed the authorities for failing to ensure proper night-time medical coverage in the government-run facility.

Villagers alleged that for over a year, the PHC has not had any medical staff or duty doctor available during night hours, forcing patients to seek aid at distant hospitals often at the cost of precious time. "This is pure negligence. What is the use of a Primary Health Centre if no one is available even in emergencies at night?" asked Ramesh,

a local farmer, who joined others in staging a protest outside the locked hospital gates.

Several residents demanded strict action against the staff responsible for keeping the facility closed at night and urged higher officials from the Health Department to visit and review the situation immediately. Witnesses described the scene as heart-wrenching, with the victim's family crying helplessly outside the hospital. Local leaders and activists have condemned the situation as a failure of the public healthcare system in rural areas.

They have also questioned how such negligence could continue despite repeated complaints from villagers over the past year. The villagers claimed they had raised the same issue with Mandal-level health officials several times, but no effective action was taken. "Every time we complained, they assured us that night duty staff would be appointed.

However, the villagers insist that promises alone are not enough; they want accountability and permanent staffing at the PHC to prevent such tragedies in the future. As the community mourns Manikyam's death, the incident has once again highlighted the urgent need for stronger supervision and staffing in rural government healthcare centers across Andhra Pradesh.



## Political Storm in Palnadu: War of Words Intensifies Between TDP and YSRCP Leaders

TPN Bureau | December 2

Narasaraopet: A political storm is brewing in Palnadu district as a fierce war of words escalates between the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and leaders of the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The controversy was triggered by remarks made by Macherla MLA Julakanti Brahma Reddy, who levelled serious allegations of corruption against former Gurazala MLA Kasu Mahesh Reddy, sparking heated reactions from senior YSRCP figures. Brahma Reddy accused Mahesh Reddy of constructing the "Kasu Convention Centre" in Narasaraopet using allegedly misappropriated funds from his tenure as an MLA.

He challenged Mahesh Reddy for an open debate on the financial sources behind the project, claiming it was built on questionable grounds and demanded a public explanation. Responding sharply, former minister Vidudala Rajini, ex-MLAs Kasu Mahesh Reddy, and Dr. Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy held a joint press conference at Kasu's residence in Narasaraopet on Tuesday. They condemned the remarks made by Brahma Reddy, calling his allegations baseless and politically motivated. Mahesh Reddy clarified that the land where the convention centre stands was purchased by his family over 60 years ago and that the project was built with full legal permissions.

He dismissed Brahma Reddy's charges as "irresponsible and unfortunate," asserting that "someone without proper education or manners" was making wild accusations for political mileage. Mahesh Reddy threw the challenge back at the Macherla MLA,

## MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu Distributes Tricycles to the Disabled in Vinukonda, Praises CM Chandrababu's 15-Year Journey

TPN Bureau | December 2

Vinukonda (Palnadu District): Marking Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's completion of 15 years of outstanding governance in Andhra Pradesh, Vinukonda MLA and Government Chief Whip G.V. Anjaneyulu organized a special program on Tuesday to distribute tricycles to differently-abled persons. The event, held at the local Chief Whip office, was conducted under the auspices of the Shivas hakti Leela Anjan Foundation, which provided 40 specially designed tricycles to beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Anjaneyulu congratulated all the recipients and said that the initiative would empower them to lead more independent lives. He observed that while the average percentage of differently-abled individuals in the state is around 3 percent, Vinukonda records a higher rate of 5 to 6 percent. He urged the government to

study the reasons behind this and implement effective solutions to improve their quality of life. Reflecting on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's long political journey, Anjaneyulu said that Naidu's career has been a true inspiration to today's youth. "Chandrababu Naidu's life is filled with examples of good governance and struggle.

His leadership has left an indelible mark on Indian politics," he said. He further stated that Naidu has successfully led the state for 15 years as Chief Minister and has also served 15 years as Leader of the Opposition, continuously dedicating himself to public service.

He advised eligible students to submit their applications to the foundation's manager within a week. State Library Council Chairman Govugunta Koteswara Rao also addressed the gathering, describing Chief Minister Naidu as a leader who served for 15 years with an unblemished record.

He said Naidu embodies the ideals of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, who viewed society itself as a temple. Rao praised Anjaneyulu for following Naidu's footsteps and expressed his wish that the people of Vinukonda continue to elect him as their MLA for life. Rao also assured that he would extend his support for setting up a new public library in Vinukonda by securing more than one crore rupees in funding. District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB) Chairman Makkenna Mallikarjun Rao, Jana Sena leader Nag Seenu Royal, and several local leaders also participated in the program.

The MLA also lauded the efforts of Shivashakti Foundation Chairperson Leelavathi, his wife, for her commitment to social service. He praised the foundation for providing uninterrupted service for the past 28 years and promised to further expand its activities. Anjaneyulu announced that the foundation would soon introduce special scholarships for differently-abled and minority students pursuing medicine, engineering, or postgraduate degrees.

## Rajahmundry MLA Battulu Balaramakrishna Appeals to DGP for New Police Buildings and Vehicles

TPN Bureau | December 2

Rajahmundry (Rajanagaram) East Godavari: MLA Battulu Balaramakrishna met the Director General of Police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Harish Kumar Gupta, in his office and submitted several petitions addressing pressing issues concerning police infrastructure and mobility in his constituency.

The legislator urged the state police chief to sanction funds for the construction of new police station buildings and to allocate new vehicles to improve law enforcement efficiency in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency. During the meeting, the MLA explained that police stations at Seethanagaram and Korukonda, as well as the Korukonda Circle Office, are currently functioning in rented or temporary premises due to the lack of dedicated government buildings.

The Korukonda Police Station, in particular, is being operated from a temporary facil-

ity in the Rythu Seva Kendra. Moreover, the DSP North Zone office and staff do not have a permanent space and are functioning out of a private campus. Balaramakrishna highlighted that the absence of proper infrastructure hampers efficient policing and affects the morale of officers working in these regions.

He requested the DGP to consider the immediate allocation of land and release of necessary funds to construct new, permanent buildings for Seethanagaram and Korukonda police stations, as well as for the DSP North Zone office and Korukonda Circle office. Establishing these buildings, he emphasized, would significantly strengthen policing in the area and enhance the public's sense of security.

In addition to infrastructure concerns, the MLA also drew attention to the urgent need for new police vehicles across the region. He stated that three police stations under the Rajanagaram and Korukonda circles are strug-



gling with outdated and frequently malfunctioning vehicles, which disrupt routine operations and emergency response. To address this issue, he requested the sanctioning of five new vehicles two for the Circle Inspectors of the respective circles and three for the Sub-Inspectors stationed at the three police stations.

Responding positively to the MLA's representation, DGP Harish



## Coalition Government Prioritizes Public Problem-Solving: Minister Subash Holds Praja Darbar in Ramachandrapuram

TPN Bureau | December 2

Ramachandrapuram: The state Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subash reaffirmed that addressing public grievances remains the top priority of the coalition government. Speaking at a Praja Darbar held at his camp office in Ramachandrapuram on Tuesday, the Minister asserted that the government is committed to resolving people's issues at the earliest possible stage through coordinated administrative action.

The programme was organized under the supervision of coalition party leader Vasamshetty Satyam. Large numbers of residents from various villages in and around Ramachandrapuram attended the event to present petitions highlighting local problems ranging from infrastructure deficiencies to welfare-related grievances.

Minister Subash carefully examined each petition, assuring that every genuine issue will be addressed promptly. During his interaction with the public, the Minister emphasized that the coalition government gives utmost importance to solving people's problems. He instructed officials to act swiftly upon any issue brought to their notice and ensure that no grievance remains unattended.

Subash noted that continuous review meetings are being conducted to track the progress of grievance redressal and to ensure timely solutions within the Ramachandrapuram constituency. Highlighting the government's community outreach initiatives, Subash stated that people-friendly governance remains transparent, responsive, and accessible to every citizen in his constituency.

a promise but a working principle of the coalition regime.

He said that the administration is being made more accountable at the local level, with every departmental officer answerable for delays or negligence in resolving complaints. "Any issue from any village that comes to my attention will be taken up immediately," the Minister reassured, urging citizens to come forward without hesitation.

He also lauded the dedication of party activists and supporters in conveying people's concerns to the government. "Every volunteer and activist who stood behind me during the elections can feel confident that I will remain by their side, working for their welfare and for the betterment of the people," Subash said. He appealed to the cadre to maintain close interaction with local communities and help identify unresolved civic and social problems.

Senior coalition leaders, including Vasamshetty Satyam, Ramachandrapuram Town Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President Undavalli Shiva, and local leader Kanchambarthi Baburao, participated in the programme. Several other coalition party representatives, activists, and villagers from different areas were also present.

The event reflected the government's ongoing commitment to hold direct public interactions and bring administration closer to the people. Through initiatives like the Praja Darbar, Minister Subash aims to ensure that governance remains transparent, responsive, and accessible to every citizen in his constituency.



# 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.

## 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.

## 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 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 commit-

ment 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.

## '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

and alignment with the party high command.

However, when asked about inviting Siddaramaiah for breakfast, Shivakumar remarked that the matter concerns only the two of them. "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-

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

Rao stressed that there is no confusion within the party, and that all decisions will be guided by the high command. "The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are united and will move forward together. Discussions on leadership should not take place

in the interest of the party and the government," he added. He further dismissed media speculation about a crisis in November, asserting that the party is moving ahead in unity after clarifying any perceived confusion.

## 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.

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During the proceedings, TVK contended that in some areas, the police have registered First Information Reports (FIRs) against BLOs under the Representation of Peoples' Act, which carries a potential prison term of up to three months. The party argued that these legal actions are creating undue stress and may affect the fairness and accuracy of the voter roll revision process.

The submissions emphasized the burden placed on grassroots-level workers, who are often overworked and under-scrutinized while performing

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.



## 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 living 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.

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## 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.

Analysts believe that consolidating decades of instructions into a single, structured framework

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-

dia, Goyal highlighted

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 trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025."

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 goal straight from their 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 equalizer, 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.

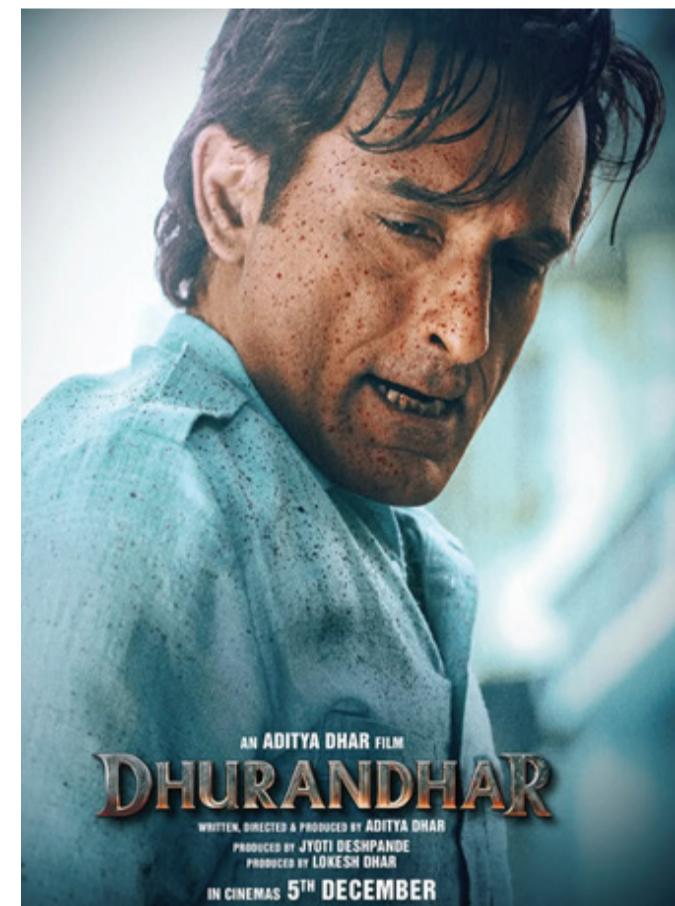
In the lead-up to the opening day, the campaign will highlight special Avatar-themed box office counters at all IMAX theatres, giving fans a dedicated, high-energy space to book tickets and build excitement for the film's

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.