

**BUZZ POINTS**

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# 480 Acres approved for Adani Data centre

TPN Bureau | December 3

**Visakhapatnam: Adani Group Gets 480 Acres for Data Center Projects in Visakhapatnam**In a major step toward promoting Andhra Pradesh as a hub for digital infrastructure, the state government has officially allocated 480 acres of land to the Adani Group and its associated companies for establishing large-scale data center and infrastructure projects in the Visakhapatnam district. The decision, formalized through government orders (GOs) issued this week, is expected to contribute significantly to Andhra Pradesh's ambitions of becoming a leading destination for technology-driven investments and data storage facilities in India. According to the government documents, the land parcels have been allocated to multiple subsidiaries and joint venture entities of the Adani Group, including Adani Infra, Adani Connex India, and Adani Power. These allocations have been strategically distributed in three specific locations: 120 acres in Adavivaram, 200 acres in Tharluvada, and 160 ac



res in Rambilli mandal, all within the Visakhapatnam region. The project is being developed in partnership with Raiden Infotech India, which has been notified as the investor associated with key industry partners Adani Group and Bharti Airtel. The government notification specifies that Adani and Bharti Airtel are recognized as notified partners for this venture, reflecting a collaborative push between major corporate players to boost cloud infrastructure and data services in southern India. Officials

from the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) stated that the allotted lands will be used for the establishment of state-of-the-art data center campuses with advanced energy systems, communication networks, and green energy integration. The participation of Adani Power in the project also indicates a focus on ensuring reliable electricity supply to sustain large-scale data operations, a vital requirement for such infrastructure. The Visakhapatnam data center cluster has been envisioned as a cornerstone of the state's digital economy strategy, creating thousands of employment opportunities directly and indirectly.

It is expected to attract a range of technology-driven investments, spurring growth in allied sectors such as renewable energy, fiber connectivity, and logistics support. Sources in the Information Technology and Industries departments mention that these projects are likely to mobilize investments amounting to several thousand crore rupees. The government's decision aligns with its policy to facilitate major national and international companies in setting up data centers in Andhra Pradesh, leveraging Visakhapatnam's geographical advantage, skilled workforce, and developing infrastructure. Officials have also noted that environmental clearances and zoning regulations have been observed in the allocation process, particularly for the Adavivaram and Rambilli locations which fall near coastal regions. Further, the government expects these developments to contribute to the creation of a "Digital AP corridor," linking Visakhapatnam with other upcoming tech hubs in the state. The Adani Group has already expressed its commitment to establish a robust digital ecosystem in southern India through its nationwide data center expansion plan under Adani Connex a joint venture with global data infrastructure giant EdgeConnex. The allocation of land in Visakhapatnam marks one of the largest such initiatives in Andhra Pradesh to date, reinforcing the state's position as a critical node in India's evolving digital infrastructure network.

## Sunitha Reddy Seeks Fresh Probe in Vivekananda Reddy Murder Case: CBI Court Reserves Judgment



TPN Bureau | December 3

**Kadapa:** A new development has surfaced in the sensational murder case of former Andhra Pradesh minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, as his daughter Dr. Y.S. Sunitha Reddy has filed a fresh petition in the CBI court seeking a comprehensive investigation into the unresolved aspects of the case. The court on Wednesday heard arguments from both sides and has reserved its judgment, which is expected to be pronounced on December 10. During the hearing, Sunitha Reddy's counsel argued that the investigation conducted so far has left several crucial questions unanswered, and that a thorough supplementary probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is essential to uncover the full truth behind her father's mysterious death. They urged the court to issue directions to the CBI to reopen specific leads and examine overlooked evidence that could reveal the involvement of key figures who may have evaded scrutiny until now. Dr. Sunitha Reddy, a practicing doctor and daughter of slain leader Vivekananda Reddy, reiterated that without a deeper probe, the real culprits in the case could escape justice. Her petition emphasized that only a transparent, court-monitored investigation could bring closure to her family and restore public confidence in the legal process. Vivekananda Reddy, popularly known as Viveka, was found brutally murdered at his residence in Pulivendula in March 2019, just weeks before the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections. The initial investigation on by the state police drew criticism from Reddy's family members, who accused local officials of mishandling evidence and attempting to cover up the case. In response to persistent appeals from Sunitha Reddy and others, the case was later transferred to the CBI, which filed multiple charge sheets naming several accused persons. However, according to Sunitha's petition, the CBI's existing charge sheet leaves significant gaps in the investigative narrative. She alleged that potential witnesses were not questioned thoroughly and that some influential individuals might have been deliberately shielded. Her legal team urged the court to direct the agency to conduct a supplementary investigation and file an additional charge sheet if new evidence emerges. The hearing saw intense courtroom exchanges as both the petitioner's counsel and CBI representatives presented their positions. After listening to the arguments, the Judge announced that the court has completed the hearing process and reserved its decision. The verdict is likely to determine whether the CBI will be mandated to pursue further investigation or if the case will proceed based on the current findings. The murder of Vivekananda Reddy continues to be one of the most politically and emotionally charged cases in Andhra Pradesh, given his close relation to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the deep divisions it has created within the influential Y.S. family. The reserved judgment on this petition is expected to have significant implications for the ongoing pursuit of justice in the case. All eyes are now on December 10, when the CBI court will issue its crucial order.

# No increase in Electricity cost - AP CM

**Chandrababu Naidu Reiterates Commitment to Farmers During 'Raitanna Meekosam' Visit in Nallajerla**  
TPN Bureau | December 3

**Nallajerla |** East Godavari: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu toured Nallajerla in East Godavari district on Wednesday as part of the state's ongoing 'Raitanna Meekosam' (For Our Farmers) outreach programme. The initiative aims to directly engage with farmers and rural communities, address on-ground agricultural concerns, and spread awareness about the government's developmental priorities. During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted with farmers, their families, and local agricultural officers. He reviewed the status of crop cultivation in nearby fields, inspected agricultural demonstration stalls, and listened to grievances raised by farmers. Officials were instructed to provide prompt solutions and report the latest data on agricultural productivity, irrigation efficiency, and farmer welfare measures being implemented in the region. Addressing the gathering, Naidu reaffirmed



his government's commitment to supporting farmers and strengthening agriculture a field he described as the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's economy. "We promise development, and we are delivering it," he said, emphasizing that the government is steadily fulfilling the promises made to the people. "Every assurance given to the public is being implemented one after another. The Super Six initiative has turned into a super hit," he remarked, referring to the six priority governance areas his administration has been promoting. Naidu highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is an agriculture-driven state, and the current focus remains on

enhancing irrigation facilities, providing uninterrupted power supply, and ensuring better market linkages for agricultural produce. He stated that the government's first slogan after returning to office was to stand by the farmer and that pledge continues to guide every policy decision. Reiterating his long-term vision for water management in the state, the Chief Minister said major river-linking projects are in progress. "We have successfully connected the waters of the Godavari River with the Krishna River. In the coming days, we will link Godavari to Vamsadhara, and eventually take it up to Pennar," Naidu announced, underscoring the government's determination to provide water security to all parts of Andhra Pradesh. Responding to growing concerns about potential power tariff hikes, Naidu assured farmers that electricity charges would not be increased. "I want to make it clear once again there will be no revision in power tariffs. We will continue to supply quality electricity without raising charges," he said, drawing applause from

the assembled audience. The Chief Minister concluded by expressing confidence that sustained efforts in water conservation, renewable energy, and agricultural modernization would help transform Andhra Pradesh into a model state for farmer welfare. He added that transparency, accountability, and public engagement would remain central to his government's administration. Naidu's visit to Nallajerla is part of a broader statewide tour under the 'Raitanna Meekosam' campaign, which aims to bridge the gap between policymakers and farmers while showcasing the government's flagship initiatives for rural prosperity.



## Palnadu District Alarmed as Scrub Typhus Claims Two Lives, One Undergoing Treatment

TPN Bureau | December 3

**Palnadu District:** Scrub typhus, a bacterial infection transmitted through mite bites, has created widespread concern in Palnadu district after the disease reportedly claimed two lives and left another person undergoing treatment at a local hospital. According to official sources, Jyothi, an intermediate student from Rudravaram village in Mavupalla mandal, and an elderly woman named Nagamma from Rajupalem have died in the past 20 days after developing high fever and severe body pain symptoms consistent with scrub typhus infection. Another elderly woman, Saalamma, from Kotturu village in Rajupalem mandal, is currently receiving treatment for suspected scrub typhus at a government hospital. Health authorities have sent the blood samples of the deceased women to

a laboratory in Mumbai for confirmation. Preliminary reports circulating locally suggest that both Jyothi and Nagamma tested positive for scrub typhus, though officials stated that a formal confirmation is awaited. District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Ravi said the district has reported sporadic cases of scrub typhus over the last few years, indicating the disease's continued presence in Palnadu. "Scrub typhus is caused by a bite from a mite that carries the Orientia tsutsugamushi bacteria. It does not spread from person to person," Dr. Ravi explained. He added that the government laboratory at the Guntur General Hospital is equipped to conduct diagnostic tests if local hospitals send suspected samples. "Upon confirmation, patients are immediately provided with appropriate antibiotic treatment," he assured. Medical experts have urged residents to take extra precautions in rural and

semi-rural areas where mite-infested vegetation is common. Preventive measures include maintaining personal hygiene, avoiding sleeping on the ground, using insect repellents, and wearing protective clothing while working in fields or dense vegetation areas. Doctors emphasized the importance of early detection and treatment, as delayed medical attention can lead to severe complications, including multiple organ failure. Scrub typhus has been a recurring challenge in parts of Andhra Pradesh during the post-monsoon season, particularly among agricultural workers and residents in forested regions. Authorities have initiated awareness campaigns across Palnadu mandals, appealing to the public to report prolonged fever cases immediately to local health centers. The district health department continues to monitor the situation closely to prevent further casualties.



# Govt committed to welfare of farmers:CM Efforts on to make Agricultural sector a profitable one:CM

FARMERS SHOULD OPT FOR DEMAND-DRIVEN CULTIVATION

RYTANNA MEEKOSAM: CM INTERACTS WITH FARMERS AND INSPECTS FIELDS

CM PROPOSES MSME PARKS TO PROVIDE DIRECT MARKETING FACILITIES TO AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE PRODUCE

TPN Bureau | december 3  
NALLAJARLA: The NDA government committed to safeguard the interests of farmers by making agriculture sector as a profitable one following an action plan of

pancha Sutras (Five principles), observed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He said the state government giving highest priority towards welfare of farmers. Taking part in the progressive steps of government, farmers should give priority to take up demand-driven cultivation. The Chief Minister participating in Rytnanna Meekosam programme at Nallajarla in Gopalapuram constituency of East Godavari district today, interacted with farmers and discussed on agricultural action plan. He personally visited their fields to see the crop pattern including internal crops. He said 62



per cent of people in the state are depending on agricultural sector. Stressing the need for more income to farmers, he appealed to farmers to focus on agricultural allied sectors. Steps should be taken to improve ground water level. The ground water level across the state stands at 6.8 metres by December one and in East Godavari district at 18 metres. He said East Godavari, Eluru and Prakasam districts registered low ground water levels. He said efforts are on to supply water to all the regions by linking

Krishna and Godavari rivers. The Chief Minister said reorientation of agriculture sector should be taken up and the research projects of agricultural universities to benefit farmers. Farmers can get more income by using technology in palm oil cultivation. He said aquaculture sector suffered due to fall in exports. Likewise maize and tobacco farmers also facing problem. He said efforts are on to provide direct marketing facilities for agricultural and horticultural produce by setting up of MSME parks. As part of it, Rayalseema region will be developed as horticulture



hub as the region producing 18 varieties of fruits. In Chittoor district mango farmers achieved quality yield by using covers to mangoes to protect them from pests. He said horticulture sector fetching a GSDP of 1.85 lakh crore. He said farmers

The Chief Minister made it clear that the NDA government is committed for the welfare of farmers and making efforts to protect the interests of farmers. He said the state government introduced several reforms for the benefit of people including whatsapp governance. He said the state government attracted investments to a tune of Rs 13.25 lakh crore during CII partnership summit in Visakhapatnam and the Google company is going to set up AI data centre in Visakhapatnam. The state government determined to provide employment opportunities to 20 lakh youth.

## Kerala Extends Full Support to ADEETIE Scheme, Calls It a Game-Changer for MSMEs

TPN Bureau | December 3  
VIJAYAWADA : In a significant boost to India's MSME sector, the Government of Kerala has extended full support to the ADEETIE (Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industry and Establishments) scheme, describing it as a transformative initiative for industrial growth, sustainability, and climate action. The 1,000-crore national scheme, launched by the Ministry of Power and implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), is rapidly gaining momentum across the country. As part of the National ADEETIE Series, Kerala formally welcomed the scheme and expressed gratitude to BEE for selecting the Kochi Fisheries Cluster as one of the first MSME clusters in India to be covered under the programme. Speaking at the event, KR Jyothi Lal, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Government of Kerala, hailed ADEETIE as a "great boon for MSMEs" and urged the Industries Department and the Energy Management Centre (State Designated Agency) to prepare a comprehensive action plan to make Kerala a national model in its implementation. Jyothi Lal unveiled a Special ADEETIE Report and Communication Strategy Document prepared by A Chandrasekhara Reddy, Media Adviser, BEE & EESL, Ministry of Power. He requested the Ministry of Power and BEE Director General Dhiraj Kumar Srivastava to extend ADEETIE benefits to more MSME clusters in Kerala, citing the scheme's economic and environmental advantages. Reaffirming the state's commitment to climate action, Jyothi Lal said energy efficiency in industrial clusters boosts productivity, strengthens MSMEs, and promotes sustainable development. Kerala is aiming to become the leading state in industrial promotion, investment, and climate-resilient growth, he added.

## Scrub Typhus is raising

TPN Bureau | December 3  
Thirupathi: Scrub typhus cases are surging in Chittoor district, triggering widespread public anxiety as health authorities confirm more than 380 infections over the past seven months. Rising cases in Chittoor Health department data show that Chittoor is currently one of the worst-affected districts in Andhra Pradesh, with around 380-384 confirmed scrub typhus cases reported in roughly seven months. Officials note that the actual burden may be higher, as many patients initially mistake the infection for common viral fevers such as dengue, malaria or seasonal flu and seek treatment late. Local reports say the steady increase in cases has sparked fear across rural and semi-urban parts of the district, where people are more exposed to mite-infested grasslands and fields. Medical teams are intensifying field visits, surveillance and awareness campaigns to trace suspected clusters and ensure early diagnosis. Patients going to other states With case numbers climbing, several patients to major tertiary hospitals in cities like Vellore and Bengaluru, and the presence of advanced diagnostic facilities there, is drawing patients who can afford to travel. Doctors say referral to higher centres is common when complications such as breathing difficulty, organ involvement or shock are suspected, especially if patients present late or with severe symptoms. However, public health experts stress that most scrub



typhus cases can be effectively managed at district and area hospitals when identified early and treated with appropriate antibiotics. Nature of the disease Scrub typhus is a potentially serious bacterial infection caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi, transmitted through the bite of infected chigger mites that thrive in bushes, grassy fields and moist soil. Symptoms typically appear 6-21 days after a bite and often include high fever, chills, severe headache, muscle and body pain, and sometimes a characteristic dark scab (eschar) at the bite site. Experts clarify that scrub typhus does not spread from person to person; infection occurs only through mite bites, which means personal protection and environmental cleanliness are key to prevention. If left untreated or if treatment is delayed, the disease can lead to complications involving the lungs, brain and kidneys, raising the risk of death, though timely therapy usually keeps fatalities low. Government and health

## TDP MP Byreddy Shabari Urges Centre to Grant ST Status to Boya Community

TPN Bureau | December 3  
NEW DELHI: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MP from Nandyal, Byreddy Shabari, reiterated the long-pending demand for granting Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Boya-Valmiki community, calling it an issue of "justice, constitutional equality, and long-overdue recognition." Speaking in the Lok Sabha, she highlighted the deep socioeconomic deprivation endured by the community for decades. The MP noted that the Boya community, historically known as skilled forest hunters and presently dependent on forest produce and agriculture, continues to face severe financial, social and educational backwardness. She reminded the House that the community had been wrongly classified under the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, a stigma that affected generations. Referring to official recommendations, Byreddy Shabari pointed out that the Deputy Registrar General of India had, as early as 1961, suggested the inclusion of Boyas in the ST list. She added that, in 2017, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council and the State Commission under the leadership of then Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had unanimously passed a resolution supporting the demand. Questioning the disparity in recognition across states, she said, "When Karnataka and Telangana grant ST status to the Boya-Valmiki community, why not Andhra Pradesh?" She urged the Union Government to introduce a Bill at the earliest to ensure long-awaited justice for the community.

## TTD Chairman BR Naidu Meets Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Discusses Srivari Temple in Tripura



TPN Bureau | December 3  
Tirupati/Hyderabad: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu on Wednesday paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Telangana, Jishnu Dev Varma, at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad. The meeting reflected growing cooperation between religious institutions and state leadership toward promoting spiritual and cultural harmony across India. During the meeting, the TTD Chairman felicitated the Telangana Governor with a traditional shawl and presented the sacred Tirtha Prasadam from Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala. The gesture symbolized the divine blessings from the abode of Lord Venkateswara to the Governor of Telangana and marked mutual goodwill between the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, originally from Tripura, expressed admiration for TTD's immense contribution toward serving devotees from across the world. He appreciated the quality and devotion behind the 'Annaprasadam' service offered daily at Tirumala. Referencing the spiritual and organizational excellence of TTD, the Governor praised the efficient facilities extended to pilgrims, including amenities that ensure comfort and a spiritually fulfilling experience for millions of devotees visiting Tirumala each year. Governor Varma went on to request the TTD Chairman to consider constructing a Srivari Temple in his home state of Tripura. The proposal, if materialized, is expected to deepen cultural and religious ties between South India and the North-East, offering devotees from that region easier access to worship and participate in Vaishnavite traditions inspired by Tirumala.

## Elections for AP Secretariat Employees Association to Be Held on December 23

TPN Bureau | December 3  
Amaravati: The elections for the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Employees Association (APSEA) will be held on December 23. The executive committee of the association, led by its president Kakarl Venkatarami Reddy, finalized the election schedule during a meeting held on Wednesday. The committee took several key decisions concerning the conduct of the elections and related arrangements. According to the schedule announced by the APSEA executive body, the five-year term of the present panel under president Venkatarami Reddy will officially conclude on December 29. In view of the upcoming completion of the current term, the committee unanimously decided to hold elections beforehand on December 23 to ensure a smooth transition and avoid any administrative gaps within the association. This year's election will cover nine major positions within the association. They include President, Vice President, Vice President (Women), General Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary (Institutions), Joint Secretary (Sports), Joint Secretary (Women), and Treasurer. Around 1,200 eligible voters from both the Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly departments are expected to cast their votes to elect new representatives. The election process will formally begin with a General Body meeting scheduled for December 11. The official election notification will be released on December 12. Nominations for various posts will be accepted on December 15 and 16, followed by scrutiny of nominations on December 17. Candidates will have the option to withdraw their nominations until 5 p.m. on the same day. Polling for all posts is set for December 23, and counting of votes will take place immediately after the elections. The winners will be declared on the same day. Sources within the association indicated that this election will be conducted in a transparent and democratic manner, providing equal opportunity for all employee groups to participate.



The APSEA leadership has also instructed concerned officials to make necessary arrangements for smooth conduct of polling and counting within the Secretariat premises. The AP Secretariat Employees Association plays a key role in representing the interests of government employees, addressing workplace issues, and liaising with the state administration on service and welfare matters. The upcoming polls are expected to draw considerable attention as employees look forward to a renewed leadership to take forward their collective goals for the coming term.



# Andhra Pradesh Riding on ‘Super Six’ Welfare Agenda Amid Empty Treasury: CM Chandrababu Naidu

TPN Bureau | December 3  
Amaravati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday acknowledged that Andhra Pradesh's financial condition remains extremely strained even as his government aggressively pushes forward with its flagship "Super Six" welfare programs aimed at improving the lives of millions of people across the state. Speaking to officials during a high-level review on fiscal management, Naidu stated that the state treasury is virtually dry and that raising additional funds has become a major challenge. "There is no money left in our coffers. Even after searching everywhere, there are no funds available. Those willing to lend are also unwilling to do so," Naidu reportedly

said, highlighting the serious liquidity crunch preventing the smooth implementation of developmental and welfare activities. The Chief Minister explained that despite the difficult financial situation, his government remains committed to fulfilling its promises under the "Super Six" initiative, which focuses on sectors such as education, healthcare, women empowerment, housing, farmer welfare, and employment generation. "On one side are our Super Six programs for the people. On the other side, the treasury is empty. Still, we are determined to deliver results," he said. Naidu further pointed out that the state cannot borrow indiscriminately due to restrictions set by the Government of India. Fiscal responsibility



norms and borrowing limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act prevent states from taking on

unchecked debt beyond prescribed ceilings. "Even if we want to borrow more, the Government of India's norms do not allow it.

We must work within existing constraints," he remarked. Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the financial status of various depart-

ments, explaining that pending bills and committed expenditure have created additional pressure on the state exchequer. Naidu directed fi-

nance officials to prioritize spending on essential sectors, particularly welfare schemes that directly benefit the poor and vulnerable. Political analysts note that Naidu's comments reflect a balancing act between fulfilling electoral promises and maintaining fiscal discipline. The "Super Six" agenda, launched earlier this year, has been widely publicized as the backbone of his governance, emphasizing targeted social welfare measures. However, implementation costs have significantly burdened the already fragile state finances. Critics argue that the previous government's financial mismanagement left Andhra Pradesh in a precarious state, with mounting debts and limited revenue streams. The current adminis-

tration has maintained that stabilizing the economy while continuing welfare commitments will take time and careful planning. Meanwhile, the Finance Department has been exploring ways to enhance revenue collection, control non-priority spending, and attract central assistance for infrastructure and welfare projects. Naidu emphasized that good governance and transparency in resource utilization would help restore public confidence and improve fiscal stability. As Andhra Pradesh continues navigating its post-bifurcation economic challenges, balancing people-centric welfare initiatives with the realities of a financially constrained treasury remains the administration's toughest test yet.

## MLC Karri Padmashree Slams Legislative Council Chairman for Sitting on Resignation; Warns of Legal Action

TPN Bureau | December 3  
Amaravati: Political tensions in Andhra Pradesh's Legislative Council intensified on Wednesday after MLC Karri Padmashree accused the Council Chairman of deliberately delaying the acceptance of her resignation, calling his conduct "highly inappropriate" and "insulting to democratic traditions." Padmashree, who had formally submitted her resignation according to the legislated procedures, expressed deep dissatisfaction that the Chairman had not yet acted upon it. Addressing reporters, she said the inaction had raised questions over the impartiality of a constitutional post that is expected to function above political bias. "The Chairman's attitude is unbecoming of the post he holds," Padmashree asserted. "I have tendered my resignation in accordance with the rules, yet it has not been processed till

now. What interests is he trying to serve by this delay?" she demanded. Questions Over Political Pressure Padmashree alleged that political interference might be behind the Chairman's refusal to take quick action on her resignation. Without naming specific individuals, she strongly hinted that the decision could have been influenced by the ruling party's leadership. "Is the Chairman acting under the directions of the Tadepalli bosses?" she asked, indirectly referring to the headquarters of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Tadepalli, Guntur district. She criticized the move as part of a broader strategy to create confusion and maintain political control. "Those holding constitutional positions must act within the framework of law and fairness. Instead, what we are witnessing is political favoritism and disregard for democratic norms," she said.



Legal Battle on the Horizon Padmashree revealed that she had personally met the Chairman and formally requested him to approve her resignation, but he had not provided any response so far. According to her, even the court had directed that necessary action be taken on the pending resignations, but the Chairman reportedly ignored those instructions as well. "The court's directions are clear," she noted. "Failure to act amounts to contempt. If my resignation is not accepted immediately, I will have no choice but to wage a legal battle

against the Chairman himself," she warned. The MLC claimed that the current stance of the Chairman is tarnishing the dignity and credibility of the Legislative Council. "This issue is not limited to my personal resignation. It reflects how institutions are being manipulated for political purposes," she remarked. Broader Political Implications Observers suggest that the controversy could have larger implications within the political landscape, especially as several opposition legislators, including those from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), have

raised similar complaints about procedural bias in the Council. Padmashree's sharp comments have drawn public attention as they add to a growing debate about neutrality within legislative bodies in Andhra Pradesh. Her statements are expected to increase pressure on the Chairman to act, even as opposition leaders prepare to take the issue to both the courts and the public domain. With mounting political tensions, the dispute over one resignation has now evolved into a test of impartial governance and the rule of law inside Andhra Pradesh's Legislative Council.

## Karumuri Slams ‘Raitannaa Mee Kosam’ as “Farmers’ Deception Programme”



TPN Bureau | December 3  
Vijayawada: YSRCP regional coordinator and former minister Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao launched a scathing attack on the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, alleging that Andhra Pradesh's farmers are facing their worst crisis in recent memory. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, he described the government's "Raitannaa Mee Kosam" programme as a massive publicity exercise designed to mislead farmers rather than address their distress. Karumuri said that while paddy yards across the state are overflowing with unsold produce, farmers are burdened with losses and uncertainty. Dismissing the programme as a "farmers' deception campaign," he alleged that it was being run like a film shoot, with party workers donning green shawls to create the illusion of farmer interaction. "Crores of public money are be-

ing wasted on propaganda while farmers struggle to get even the minimum support price," he said. He pointed out that paddy, which should fetch an MSP of 1,770 per quintal, is being purchased by middlemen for as low as 1,200-1,300, turning the state into a "broker raj." In contrast to the YSRCP government, which he said ensured MSP, gunny bags, transportation, hamali charges, crop insurance, zero-interest loans, and timely input subsidies, Karumuri claimed that the present administration has failed to conduct field reviews or extend compensation for crop damage caused by heavy rains and cyclones. Highlighting the plight of horticulture farmers, he said banana growers were being forced to sell their produce at just 50 paise per kg while consumers paid 750 per kg, with middlemen reaping undue profits. He recalled that the previous government had purchased banana crops directly and

shipped them to West Bengal to stabilise prices as an example, he said, of genuine farmer-friendly governance. Karumuri accused the current government of failing to clear pending procurement dues amounting to 600 crore and of providing no support for recent crop losses. He alleged that the coalition's "Sampada Srishti" initiative had added 2.66 lakh crore to the state's financial burden while offering nothing meaningful to farmers. Demanding immediate government intervention, he called for guaranteed MSP for all crops and timely availability of seeds and fertilisers ahead of the next agricultural season. He also criticised the government for avoiding e-crop registration, which he said deprived farmers of insurance and compensation. "Had even a small portion of the government's publicity budget been spent on farmers, today's suffering could have been averted," he added.

## Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Slams Kakani Govardhan Reddy Over Alleged False Corruption Claims

TPN Bureau | December 3  
Nellore: A fresh political row erupted in Nellore district after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and Nellore Rural MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy strongly criticized former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy for allegedly making baseless corruption allegations against him. Speaking to reporters after filing a complaint at the Nellore Rural Police Station against the YSRCP leader, Somireddy accused Kakani of spreading false information aimed at tarnishing his reputation. He said that Kakani had a history of leveling unfounded corruption charges and must refrain from making such accusations without evidence. Somireddy lashed out at Kakani, saying that the YSRCP leader's accusations were politically motivated.



"Developing a temple has now become a mistake in his view. If Kakani had any wisdom, he would stop making baseless remarks," Somireddy said while addressing the media outside the police station. The TDP MLA defended his record by citing the philanthropic contributions made by his family to the community. He claimed that his family had donated 14.5 acres of land worth around Rs. 60 crore to schools and hospitals. "Our family has a history of giving back to

society. Can Kakani name even one cent of land his family has donated?" he questioned. Accusing Kakani's family of illegal land encroachments, Somireddy alleged that the YSRCP leader had grabbed adjacent lands under the guise of his mother-in-law's property. "The history of forcefully occupying land belongs to Kakani, not to us. The record of embracing Dalits and tribal communities belongs to my family," he added, highlighting his political legacy and social

work. Somireddy also reminded the YSRCP leader that he was currently out on conditional bail. "Kakani should remember that he is under bail conditions. Whenever police cases are registered, his usual pattern is to run away and later end up in jail. Soon, Kakani and his batch will have no choice but to return to prison," Somireddy warned. This exchange between the two leaders is the latest in a series of political confrontations that have intensified in Nellore district in recent months.

The rivalry between Somireddy and Kakani has been ongoing since the last assembly elections, with each accusing the other of corruption and misuse of power. The complaint lodged by Somireddy is expected to trigger another round of legal and political developments in Nellore. TDP sources indicated that the party would not tolerate any defamatory remarks against its senior leaders and would take the issue to the courts if necessary. Meanwhile, YSRCP supporters dismissed the allegations as politically motivated attempts to regain public attention. As both leaders double down on their positions, Nellore once again finds itself at the center of an escalating political battle between the YSRCP and TDP, a conflict that underscores the deepening divisions in Andhra Pradesh's regional politics.



# Udbhav-2025, the 6th National EMRS Kala Utsav, Inaugurated Grandly at KL University, Amaravati

TPN Bureau | December 3

Vijayawada: The sixth edition of Udbhav-2025, the National Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Kala Utsav, was inaugurated on Wednesday at KL Deemed-to-be University, Amaravati, in a vibrant ceremony graced by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram and several distinguished dignitaries. The event marked one of the largest gatherings of tribal students for a cultural festival in the country. Speaking at the inauguration, Jual Oram underscored the importance of holistic development for tribal students, stating that they should excel academically while preserving and celebrating their rich cultural heritage. He announced that EMRS institutions would be upgraded on par with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kendriya Vidyalayas and Sainik Schools to provide world-class education. Emphasizing multilingual proficiency, he



stressed the need for fluency in Hindi, English, regional languages, and mother-tongue education. The Minister applauded the Andhra Pradesh Government, Tribal Welfare Minister Smt. Gummidi Sandhya Rani, and Chief Secretary (Tribal Welfare) M Mallikarjuna Naik for the flawless arrangements. Sandhya Rani described Udbhav-2025 as a transformative platform designed to bring out the hidden talents of tribal children and build their

confidence. She noted that 1,647 students from 405 EMRS institutions nationwide—including 110 from Andhra Pradesh—are participating, the highest ever for any host state. Highlighting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's focus on tribal advancement, she appealed to the Union Minister to sanction more EMRS schools, enhance funding for hostels and education, and prioritise road connectivity to remote tribal belts. NESTS Commissioner

Ajay Kumar Srivastav delighted attendees by greeting them in Telugu. He noted that cultural festivals organised annually by NESTS help promote India's tribal diversity and appreciated the exceptional arrangements made by the Andhra Pradesh Government, particularly the efforts of M Gautami, IAS. Principal Secretary Ma Ilikarjuna Naik expressed pride in Andhra Pradesh hosting the event, home to 28 lakh tribal people. He said the Cen-

tre is constructing buildings for 440 EMRS schools nationwide and that the state has made extensive arrangements, including 20 special teams, accommodation, food facilities, medical camps, and ambulances for the three-day festival. The inaugural session began with the traditional lamp lighting by Jual Oram and Sandhya Rani, followed by a soulful prayer and an enthralling Thinsa dance by students of Araku Valley EMRS. The Union Minister also visited cultural stalls, sampled Araku coffee, and tried his hand at tribal archery. Dignitaries including Rayapati Shailaja, Pilli Manikya Rao, Shaikh Hassan Basha and others were felicitated during the ceremony. The festival will host competitions across multiple venues including theatres, seminar halls, and an open-air arena featuring group performances, storytelling, creative writing, and various cultural events.

# Class 10 Student Ends Life Over False Theft Allegation in Krishna District

TPN Bureau | December 3

Pamarru: (Krishna district): A pall of gloom descended on Yada dibba village near Pamarru in Krishna district after a 15-year-old Class 10 student died by suicide allegedly over a false accusation of theft. The deceased, identified as Kaile Yashwanth, was studying at a local high school and lived with his family in the village. According to police reports and local accounts, the tragic incident occurred on Tuesday evening when Yashwanth took his own life by hanging at his residence. Preliminary investigations suggest that the boy was deeply distressed after being wrongly accused of stealing 1,500 rupees from his household. His father, Rajesh, who was inconsolable after the incident, recounted that Yashwanth had only gone out earlier in the

day to chase away a stray dog. Later, when 1,500 rupees was found missing from the house, some family members allegedly suspected Yashwanth of taking the money. Despite his denials, he was reportedly scolded and warned that he would be held responsible whenever anything went missing in the house. Rajesh told reporters that his son had even offered to let them keep the money if they found it necessary, but insisted that he had nothing to do with it. "He said they could take the money if they wanted, but he hadn't stolen it. Even then, they didn't trust him. He felt deeply hurt and decided to end his life," the grieving father said. Neighbors and relatives said Yashwanth was a quiet, well-behaved student who had never caused trouble. Local residents expressed shock and sadness over

the tragic turn of events, describing him as a bright young boy with a promising future. They urged parents and elders to show patience and understanding toward children, especially during sensitive situations. Pamarru police have registered a case and taken up an investigation. The body was shifted for post-mortem examination at the government hospital. Police officials said they are verifying the sequence of events and will record statements from the family and others who interacted with the boy before the incident. Child rights activists have meanwhile called for awareness programs in schools and communities to address emotional wellbeing among students, pointing out that parental pressure and misplaced blame can have devastating consequences.

# AIIMS Mangalagiri Marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities with Awareness Activities



TPN Bureau | December 3

Vijayawada: AIIMS Mangalagiri observed the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a series of awareness and educational activities organised by the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR). The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ahnthem Santa Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Mangalagiri. The event aligned with the United Nations' 2025 global theme, "Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress," underscoring the institute's commitment to promoting inclusivity, accessibility, and comprehensive rehabilitation services. As part of the obser-

vance, a poster competition was conducted, drawing enthusiastic participation from 51 students and staff members. The submissions reflected a range of creative ideas and messages on disability inclusion, accessibility, and social empowerment. An interdisciplinary awareness session was also organised to enhance understanding of various forms of disabilities, including locomotor disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and intellectual disability. Specialists from the Departments of PMR, Orthopaedics, ENT, Ophthalmology, and Psychiatry contributed to the session, highlighting the importance of collaborative medical approaches in rehabilitation

and patient support. The programme was chaired by the Dean of Academics, Dean of Examination, Deputy Director (Administration), and the Principal of the College of Nursing, reaffirming the institution's multi-departmental commitment to disability awareness and welfare. AIIMS Mangalagiri stated that it remains dedicated to creating supportive and inclusive environments for persons with disabilities by improving accessibility, strengthening awareness initiatives, and enhancing rehabilitative care. The institute reiterated its mission to empower persons with disabilities through continuous education, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and community outreach.

# Amaravati to Prioritize 30% Green Cover, Says Minister Narayana

TPN Bureau | December 3

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ponguru Narayana announced that the State Government is giving top priority to developing greenery across Amaravati, with an aim to ensure that at least 30% of the capital region is covered in green spaces. Speaking at a media conference held in Amaravati, the minister explained that a comprehensive plantation plan covering 133.3 kilometers has already been prepared as part of the capital region's sustainable development strategy. Narayana highlighted that the government is committed to turning Amaravati into a modern, eco-friendly capital city that balances infrastructure growth with environmental protection. The plan includes extensive development of parks, green belts, and buffer zones along major roads. "We are taking up measures for the development of parks in different parts of the capi-



tal region. A detailed plan has been prepared to implement the Green and Blue Concept in areas such as Shakamuru, Krishnayapalem, and Neerukonda," the minister said. He further stated that the tendering process for various beautification and greening projects will be completed by the end of January. Seasonal flowering plants will be used to enhance the visual appeal of parks and open spaces across Amaravati. "According to the flowering seasons, the beautification will be planned to ensure con-

tinuous aesthetic appeal throughout the year," Narayana added. Outlining the specifics of the urban development plan, the minister revealed that greenery will be developed on both sides of 22 major roads within the capital region. These roads will have designated buffer zones to promote an eco-friendly and pollution-free environment. The government intends to integrate green technology with modern infrastructure to establish Amaravati as a model city focused on environmental sustainability. In

addition to the greenery initiative, Minister Narayana addressed long-pending issues related to capital region farmers. He assured that the government is steadily resolving these concerns one by one. "We are requesting the farmers in the 29 villages under the capital region to come forward for land pooling once again," he said. The minister made it clear that the government still prefers voluntary land pooling as the primary method for acquiring land needed for capital development. However, he warned

that if farmers do not respond positively, the government will have to initiate land acquisition procedures as per legal provisions. To facilitate smoother coordination, Narayana announced the establishment of a dedicated cell for farmers within the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority) office. The special cell will focus on addressing farmers' grievances, monitoring compensation distribution, and ensuring that all aspects of land pooling and development proceed transparently. Reiterating the government's vision, Narayana said the State is committed to building Amaravati into a capital city known for its livability, greenery, and sustainable urban design. The combination of large-scale plantation drives, park development, and farmer-friendly policies, he said, will help transform Amaravati into a world-class, environment-conscious urban center in the coming years.

# Minister Narayana Reviews Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation Works

## Inspects Compost Yard at Atmakur

TPN Bureau | December 3

Vijayawada: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr P Narayana conducted a review meeting with officials of the Mangalagiri-Tadepalli Municipal Corporation (MTMC) at the corporation office in Mangalagiri. Senior officials attended the review, during which the Minister also inspected the MTMC compost yard located at Atmakur. Speaking after the inspection, Minister Narayana said the govern-



ment is undertaking major infrastructure works in the Mangalagiri-Tadepalli region, including the construction of an underground drainage network. "We are building a 513-km underground drain-

age system at a total cost of 1,167 crore," the Minister said. "These works are being carried out under the Hybrid Annuity Model, with funds jointly contributed by CRDA and MTMC." He noted that road de-

velopment from Mangalagiri to the Amaravati capital region is progressing rapidly. Highlighting the scale of solid waste management operations in the state, the Minister said that 7,000 tonnes of waste are generated daily across 123 municipalities in Andhra Pradesh. Criticising the previous government, Narayana stated, "The former administration imposed a garbage tax and left behind 85 lakh tonnes of accumulated waste." He recalled that between 2014 and 2019, the state government had approved the establishment of 10 Waste-to-Energy plants, but eight of them were cancelled by the previous regime. "As soon as

our government returned to power, we resumed work on setting up these plants," he said. The Minister added that new measures are being taken to ensure scientific processing of household waste, including vegetable scraps and chicken waste. He said that through Waste-to-Energy plants, biogas plants and compost yards, the state aims to achieve 100% processing of solid waste. Minister Narayana reiterated that the government is committed to strengthening urban infrastructure and ensuring efficient waste management across the Mangalagiri-Tadepalli region.



# Palnadu Collector Krittika Shukla Emphasizes Farmer Welfare at “Raitanna Meekosam” Programme

TPN Bureau | December 3

Amaravathi (Palnadu District): The government’s prime objective is the overall development and welfare of farmers, said Palnadu District Collector Krittika Shukla. She participated in the “Raitanna Meekosam” (For the Farmer) programme organized at Didugu village in Amaravathi mandal on Wednesday. Pedakurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen also attended the event alongside senior officials.

During the programme, Collector Krittika Shukla and MLA Bhashyam Praveen distributed cheques sanctioned to beneficiary farmers through the Munugodu Cooperative

Society. Addressing the gathering, the Collector highlighted that the government’s “Raitanna Meekosam” initiative aims to make agriculture a profitable and sustainable occupation by empowering farmers with modern knowledge and practical support.

She urged every farmer to adopt crop rotation and innovative farming methods to increase productivity and income. The Collector explained that under the scheme, agricultural extension teams would visit every village to spread awareness about the government’s “Five-Point Plan” designed to transform farming into an economically viable and technology-driven sector.

MLA Bhashyam



Praveen lauded the government’s efforts, stating that the coalition administration is determined to uplift farmers and make them “kings of their own lands.” He said that the new government has framed a five-point strategy focusing on ensuring water security, promoting demand-based crops, adopting agri-tech solutions, supporting food processing, and strengthening government-backed farmer networks.

He further criticized the previous government, alleging that farmers had suffered immensely due to negligence and poor planning during its tenure. The current government, he added, is committed to revitalizing agriculture through strategic investments and direct support programs like “Raitanna Meekosam.”

Officials and local representatives including Sattenapalli RDO Ramakanth Reddy, Amaravathi Tahsildar Mee-

sala Daniel, MPDO T. Parvathi, MPP Mekala Hanumanth Rao, Agriculture Department AD Amala Kumari, and chairpersons of the Munugodu and Narukulapadu societies, Nagotu Nagarjuna and Bhashyam Jagadeesh, took part in the programme.

Local political leaders from TDP and Jana Sena — including Manchineni Raja, Vaka Akhil, Sheikh Jani, Nalliboyina Rajasekhar Yadav, Ala Veerababu, Gudise Kiran Kumar, Malladi Vishnu, Penu-machu Ramakrishna, and Shauri also participated. The programme concluded with a collective call to strengthen agricultural productivity and make farming a proud and profitable profession in Palnadu district.

# Avanigadda MLA Buddha Prasad Promotes Profitable Farming through “Raithanna Meekosam” Initiative

TPN Bureau | December 3

Ghantasala (Krishna District):

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad asserted that the state government’s “Raithanna Meekosam” (For the Farmer) five-point program aims to transform agriculture into a profitable sector for farmers across Andhra Pradesh. The legislator participated in the official “Raithanna Meekosam” event organized on Wednesday at the Rythu Seva Kendra in Ghantasala, held as part of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s ambitious farmer outreach initiative.

Addressing farmers who gathered to witness the Chief Minister’s live telecast, Buddha Prasad explained the government’s commitment to ensuring remunerative farming and timely procurement of produce. He said that the state administration was determined to shield farmers from losses due to natural calamities while ensuring prompt paddy procurement in the constituency.

“So far, 18,673 metric tonnes of paddy have been purchased, and Rs. 43.14 crore has been directly credited to the farmers’ accounts,” he stated. The MLA criticized the previous YSRCP government for what he described as financial neglect toward the farming sector, alleging that the earlier regime left arrears amounting to Rs. 16,000 crore. “Unlike the previous administration which burdened farmers with delays under the guise of offline and online processes, the current coalition government clears payments within 24 hours of procurement.



This government truly stands by farmers,” Buddha Prasad emphasized. Technological Boost for Agriculture MLC Alapati Raja, who attended the event along with the MLA, lauded the coalition government for integrating technology into the agriculture sector. “This administration is committed to making farming more efficient by introducing modern tools and methods,” he said. Alapati assured that the government would stand as a reliable partner for farmers, ensuring support from irrigation to marketing.

“Through Raithanna Meekosam, the government promises complete support from water to market access making agriculture sustainable and beneficial for every farmer,” he added. Focus on Dairy and Rural Economy Krishna Milk Union Chairman Chalasani Anjaneyulu highlighted that the coalition government is simultaneously promoting agriculture and the dairy industry. He criticized the previous government for allegedly creating hardships for local dairy cooperatives by inviting external companies like Amul. “Our government is reviving the rural dairy cooperative network and linking it with crop cultivation to make agriculture doubly profitable,” An-

janeyulu said.

Visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra Following the event, MLC Alapati Raja and MLA Buddha Prasad visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Ghantasala. They inspected experimental, innovative, and organic farming methods implemented there. KVK Coordinator Dr. D. Sudha Rani briefed them on the center’s ongoing projects and farmer training activities.

The leaders also interacted with students from the Agricultural Polytechnic College, appreciating their participation in modern agricultural learning. Several local leaders, officials, and farmers attended the program, including Mandali Venkatram, AMC Chairman Thota Kanakadurga, former ZP Vice Chairman Gorrepati Venkata Ramakrishna, former AMC Chairman Tum-mala Chowdary Babu, DC Chairman Aynampudi Bhanu Prakash, BJP Mandal President Thalluri Phani Hariprasad, Telugu Yuvatha State Executive Secretary Tadikonda Chinna, AMC Director Kolapalli Srivajsha, Tehsil-dar Vijay Prasad, and Agriculture Officer Anusha.

The event concluded with a message of empowerment for farmers, promising continued reforms and technology-driven support under the Raithanna Meekosam initiative.

# Rythu Triumphs Reflect Coalition Government’s Success: Chief Whip G.V. Anjaneyulu

TPN Bureau | December 3

Vinnukonda (Palnadu District): Andhra Pradesh Chief Whip and Vinnukonda MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu has said that the successes achieved by the state’s farmers are the true reflection of the coalition government’s achievements. He emphasized that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s foremost goal is to double farmers’ incomes and strengthen the agricultural sector through practical and transparent governance. Participating in the “Raitanna Meekosam” (For the Farmer) awareness program held at Gopuwaripalem village in Eepuru Mandal on Wednesday, Anjaneyulu highlighted the government’s commitment to farmers’ welfare.

The Chief Whip interacted directly with farmers and their families, explaining the government’s “Panchasootralu,” or five key principles for agricultural development. Officials briefed farmers on how to adopt advanced and sustainable practices to enhance productivity and profit. Anjaneyulu also inspected the stalls arranged on the



occasion, showcasing various agricultural schemes, innovations, and inputs.

Speaking to the media, the MLA described Chandrababu Naidu as a leader who understands the “scent of the soil” and works tirelessly for the welfare of farmers. He cited several initiatives to demonstrate the government’s sincerity providing 90% subsidy for drip irrigation, financial assistance of up to 1 lakh per acre for horticulture

and vegetable cultivation, timely supply of seeds, fertilizers, and loans, as well as facilities for drone usage and guaranteed minimum support prices.

He also noted that payments for procured paddy are being credited to farmers’ accounts within 24 hours. Anjaneyulu contrasted the current administration’s approach with that of the previous YSRCP government, accusing it of neglecting farmers, withholding dues, and filing

false cases against those who protested. He alleged that the earlier government was marked by corruption, exploitation, and mismanagement, contributing to stagnation in the farm sector.

In contrast, he claimed that Chandrababu Naidu, despite being targeted politically, had regained public trust and returned to power with a massive mandate, securing 94% of the Assembly seats. He further ridiculed Y.S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy’s “part-time politics,” accusing him of avoiding court appearances in corruption cases and evading accountability.

The Chief Whip remarked that the opposition’s absence forced the ruling coalition to play the role of government and opposition simultaneously. The event was attended by DCCB Chairman Makkena Mallikarjuna Rao, alliance leaders, and officials from agriculture and allied departments.

# American Couple Adopt Abandoned Girl from Palnadu District; Collector Hands Over Certificate

TPN Bureau | December 3

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District): In a touching gesture of cross-border compassion, an American couple has adopted a two-year-old girl who had been under the care of the district’s Women and Child Welfare Department. District Collector Krittika Shukla formally handed over the adoption certificate during a meeting with the couple at the district collectorate on Wednesday morning.

The child, named Amara Pragathi, had been abandoned by her parents shortly after birth and was living under government protection. After fulfilling all legal procedures and background verifications, the American couple was granted permission to adopt her. Collector Shukla personally interacted with the adoptive parents to ascertain their motivations, family background, and fi-



nancial stability before approving the adoption documents.

During the interaction, the Collector emphasized the importance of post-adoption monitoring to ensure the child’s continued welfare and emotional growth. She stated that the administration would supervise the upbringing of Amara Pragathi until she reaches

the age of 21. Regular progress reviews will be conducted weekly for the first year, monthly for the next three years, and annually thereafter.

These assessments will focus on the child’s health, education, and overall well-being. Collector Shukla also appealed to prospective parents interested in adoption to approach the Integrated Child De-

velopment Services (ICDS) for legitimate and transparent procedures. She reiterated that the district administration prioritizes safe and ethical adoptions in line with national and international child protection regulations.

Officials from the Women Development and Child Welfare Department, including Empowerment Officer

M. Umadevi, Adoption Manager M. Kumari, DCPU Officer Shaurirazu, Mission Vatsalya Coordinator Santosh Kumari, and EO Adilakshmi, participated in the proceedings. They expressed confidence that Amara Pragathi would receive loving care in her new family environment abroad.

The Palnadu District administration has been actively promoting institutional reforms to expedite legal adoptions and ensure the safety of abandoned children. This latest adoption highlights India’s growing adherence to transparent inter-country adoption norms and the government’s commitment to giving every child a nurturing home.

For many attending the ceremony, the occasion underscored the emotional and administrative collaboration between local authorities and global adoptive families uniting compassion, legality, and humanity in equal measure.

# Visakhapatnam Collector Praises World-Class Facilities at City Public Library

TPN Bureau | December 3

Visakhapatnam: In a gesture highlighting the city’s growing focus on knowledge and learning, Visakhapatnam District Collector and Magistrate, Shri A. Hareendhira Prasad, visited the Visakhapatnam Public Library (VPL) on Wednesday and expressed his admiration for the exceptional facilities available to the public. The Collector was warmly welcomed at the library premises by Mr. D. S. Varma, Secretary of VPL, along with members of the management committee.

During his visit, Shri Hareendhira Prasad took a detailed tour of the library, inspecting various sections including the digital reading zone, children’s library, research area, and multimedia facilities. He interacted with staff and members to understand the library’s operations and services for readers and students. Impressed by the infrastructure and maintenance, the Collector commended the institution for offering high-quality facilities



that meet international standards.

He noted that the Visakhapatnam Public Library serves as a vital hub for students, children, and book lovers across the district, contributing significantly to the intellectual and cultural life of the city. Later, addressing an enthusiastic gathering of civil-service aspirants and young readers, Shri Hareendhira Prasad shared his own experiences as a student preparing for competitive examinations.

He spoke about the importance of focus, perseverance, and strategic preparation, while also recalling the challenges he encountered on his path to becoming a civil servant. His address inspired attendees to set ambitious goals and work toward them with dedication and

confidence. “The facilities here are truly world-class and a great boon to our youth and knowledge seekers. The citizens of Visakhapatnam are fortunate to have access to such a center for learning,” the Collector remarked.

He appreciated the efforts of the library management and staff for maintaining the space with such commitment, adding, “Kudos to the team who are managing the affairs so effectively.” The visit concluded with an informal interaction between the Collector, library officials, and members of the public.

The event left a strong impression on the attendees, reaffirming the importance of public libraries as essential institutions for lifelong learning in an increasingly digital age.



# Delhi’s Air Pollution Crisis: Politics Over Public Health



New Delhi: Air pollution in Delhi continues to claim lives and affect millions, yet political accountability remains elusive, experts say. Every year, pollution kills an estimated 1.5 million Indians and aggravates heart and lung diseases, with vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, and the working poor—bearing the brunt. Despite this, the government has often sidestepped direct debate on the crisis. Recently, the Modi admin-

istration rejected a request from the Congress party for a parliamentary discussion on air pollution, while sanctioning a ten-hour debate on Vande Mataram. This comes amid Delhi’s dangerously high pollution levels, with November’s average AQI hitting 357. Political parties have also manipulated narratives. Farmers’ stubble burning, blamed for Delhi’s winter smog, accounts for only a few weeks of the year, yet it remains a focal

point for blame games between the BJP, AAP, and other parties. Meanwhile, perennial contributors like vehicular emissions, congested roads, poor public transport, and polluting fuels receive insufficient attention. Incremental measures, such as the Graded Response Action Plan, BS6 fuel adoption, and peripheral expressways, have helped somewhat, but pollution spikes remain severe every winter. Thermal power plants, road

congestion, and outdated public transport continue to add to Delhi’s toxic air. Experts urge urgent reforms: operationalizing flue gas desulfurisation at thermal plants, rapid electrification of buses, taxis, and commercial vehicles, major Metro expansion, and fixing the city’s poorly maintained roads. Transparency and enforcement by municipal authorities are essential to reduce vehicle emissions and traffic-related pollutants. Environmentalists ar-

gue that citizens must use their voting power to hold leaders accountable and demand sustained action. Without political will and a coordinated approach across central, state, and municipal governments, Delhi’s residents will continue to struggle for clean air, while health risks rise with each passing winter. The call is clear: air pollution is no longer just an environmental issue—it is a pressing public health and political crisis that requires decisive action.

## India Prepares for Strategic Talks as Putin Arrives for Summit



New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit India on December 4-5 for the 23rd annual bilateral summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his first trip to the country since 2021. The summit comes at a critical geopolitical juncture, with both leaders facing significant international pressures. Putin is under U.S. pressure to end the war in Ukraine, while India navigates tensions with the United States, sanctions on Russian oil, and ongoing defence procurement challenges. Key issues on the agenda include energy, defence, and trade. India’s oil imports from Russia have steadily declined, though state-owned refiners like Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum continue limited purchases. Russia is reportedly exploring alternative trade mechanisms to bypass sanctions. The summit is expected to focus on balancing India’s energy security needs with geopolitical sensitivities, including the 25% U.S. tariff on Russian oil. Defence cooperation remains a cornerstone of the India-Russia relationship. Around 60-70% of Indian military equipment is Russian-made, including T-90 tanks, Su-30MKI and Mig-29 fighters, the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier, and multiple Krivak-class frigates. Recent military operations have highlighted the performance of Russian systems, including the S-400 Triumf missile defence systems and the BrahMos

cruise missile. Discussions may include the BrahMos-II hypersonic missile project, the Pantir self-propelled anti-aircraft system, and long-range early-warning radars to monitor Chinese activity. India is also exploring nuclear attack submarines and continued Russian support for nuclear-powered vessels. Trade and economic ties will also be discussed, particularly the \$65 billion in Russian exports to India, dominated by oil, compared to India’s \$5 billion in exports. Both sides aim to develop alternate payment systems and strengthen bilateral trade, including potential cooperation in small modular nuclear reactors. Analysts note that Russia remains a key strategic partner for India, offering advanced systems without restrictive conditions often imposed by Western suppliers. Maintaining close ties with Russia while deepening relations with the U.S. and EU represents a delicate balancing act for India amid rising global tensions, especially concerning the Ukraine conflict. Putin’s visit is expected to reaffirm India-Russia ties and explore avenues for energy, defence, and trade cooperation, even as the West watches closely. For India, the summit underscores the importance of sustaining long-standing partnerships while navigating a complex international environment.

## Rupee Slide Signals Urgent Need to Cut Oil Dependence



The Indian rupee has depreciated around 7% over the past year, falling from roughly ₹83.4 to ₹89.2 against the U.S. dollar, raising concerns about the currency’s stability amid external pressures. While not unprecedented—the rupee slid 11-12% in 2018—the current context mirrors earlier periods of global uncertainty, including rising U.S. interest rates, strong dollar trends, and trade tensions. To manage volatility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has actively intervened, selling a net \$50 billion in foreign exchange since November 2024 and employing long-term currency-swap mechanisms. In 2025 alone, the RBI executed a \$10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to inject liquidity into the banking system. Analysts note that under

India’s floating-but-managed exchange rate regime, the RBI can smoothen volatility but cannot fully prevent depreciation. The rupee’s slide has been driven largely by a widening current-account deficit, fueled by rising bullion imports as a hedge and exporters adjusting to high U.S. tariffs. Crude oil imports, which account for over 20% of total imports, remain a significant pressure point. As India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to more expensive U.S. oil, currency weakness could translate into higher import bills, potentially impacting inflation. Despite these challenges, there are reasons for cautious optimism. India’s foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable at around \$693 bil-

lion, and retail inflation has eased significantly, with headline CPI at 0.25% in October 2025—well below the RBI’s target range of 2%-6%. This allows the central bank room to tolerate modest depreciation without aggressive rate hikes. Experts stress that monetary measures alone are insufficient. Structural reforms, particularly reducing dependence on oil through initiatives such as faster transport electrification, are critical. Coordinated trade policies, rather than a focus on bilateral deals with Japan, the UAE, or ASEAN, are needed to ensure a balanced trade environment. Without addressing these vulnerabilities, the rupee may continue to face pressure amid global volatility.

## South Africa Humiliates India in Historic Test Series Sweep



New Delhi: Indian cricket suffered a humbling defeat as South Africa completed a 2-0 series sweep in the ongoing Test series, exposing critical flaws in India’s red-ball game. The first Test at Guwahati saw South African captain Temba Bavuma lead from the front, scoring 55 in the second innings—the highest in the match—and guiding his team to a commanding victory. The second Test only reinforced South Africa’s dominance, with India succumbing by a record 408 runs at home. The series has highlighted India’s startling decline in home Test cricket. Between 2008 and 2025, India had won 59 out of 88 home Tests, rarely

losing at home. But recent series losses against New Zealand and South Africa suggest that the home advantage has eroded, leaving Indian cricket vulnerable. Analysts attribute the downfall to weak spin bowling, inconsistent batting against quality attacks, and misguided team selection strategies that prioritize all-rounders over specialists. Controversial team choices worsened India’s woes. Washington Sundar, usually an off-spinner, was played out of position at number three and bowled minimally, while Nitish Reddy contributed little with both bat and ball. The absence of specialist spinners and failure to groom domestic

talent for red-ball cricket exposed India to a well-prepared South African attack. Off the field, a now-infamous incident involving Jasprit Bumrah’s on-field remark about Bavuma went viral. While Bumrah’s use of a derogatory word drew criticism, Bavuma responded graciously, emphasizing the series was defined by cricketing performance rather than personal slights. The South African team, however, ensured India “grovelled” on the field, reminiscent of historical confrontations such as the 1976 West Indies-England series. Experts argue that the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) must refocus on red-ball cricket, nurturing specialists and maintaining a balance between youth and experience. The selectors, including chairman Ajit Agarkar, and the team management face scrutiny for decisions that have undermined India’s historic dominance. With the World Test Championship cycle continuing and Australia set to tour India for five Tests, the BCCI must address these structural issues. Without urgent corrective measures, Indian cricket risks normalizing home defeats, eroding fan confidence, and losing its competitive edge in the longest format of the game.



# Russia to Deepen Civil Nuclear Ties with India During Putin Visit

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**

Russia is set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India to strengthen bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy during President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to India on December 4-5.

The Russian cabinet has cleared the MoU, which will be signed by Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, on behalf of the government. Rosatom is already engaged in constructing multiple reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu, marking a long-standing collaboration in India's nuclear energy sector.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told the Indian media that Rosatom CEO Alexei Ligachev will bring a comprehensive portfolio of proposals for the summit, including plans for cooperation in developing small modular reactors (SMRs) in India. These initiatives are expected to enhance India's nuclear infrastructure and support its energy diversification goals.

Reports indicate that Rosatom has also expressed readiness to local-



ise the production of advanced Russian-designed reactors in India. This move aligns with India's push for domestic manufacturing and technology transfer in strategic sectors, including energy.

The upcoming MoU is expected to further consolidate India-Russia ties in civil nuclear energy, building on decades of partnership that has seen cooperation in reactor construction, fuel supply, and technical training. Both countries aim to leverage nuclear energy as a key component of sustainable development and energy security.

Experts note that this agreement could accelerate India's transition to low-carbon energy sources while providing Russian technology firms a strong foothold in the growing Indian nuclear market.

The civil nuclear partnership is part of a broader agenda for Putin's India visit, which also includes discussions on trade, defence, and regional security. Analysts suggest that the MoU underscores the strategic importance both nations place on energy cooperation amid evolving global geopolitical and energy dynamics.

With nuclear energy playing a central role in India's clean energy strategy, the MoU with Russia is expected to strengthen collaboration and innovation in the sector.

# BJP Wins 7, AAP 3 in Delhi Municipal By-Polls



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a comfortable victory in seven of the 12 wards contested in the Delhi Municipal Corporation by-polls on Wednesday, strengthening its position following the February Assembly elections.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won three seats, finishing second in most contests, while the Congress managed to claim one seat, marking a rare win in the city this year. The All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) took the remaining seat.

Despite its overall success, the BJP lost two wards it previously held—one each to Congress and AIFB—but gained Chandni Chowk, previously held by AAP. AAP, in turn, reclaimed Naraina, a BJP ward from 2022. These minor shifts, however, do not affect BJP's control of the municipal house, where it now holds 122 of 250 seats. AAP has 102, while Congress holds nine.

The by-polls were conducted in Greater Kailash, Shalimar Bagh B, Ashok Vihar, Chandni Chowk, Chandni Mahal, Dichaon Kalan, Naraina, Sangam Vihar A, Dakshin Puri, Mundka, Vinod Nagar,

and Dwarka B wards. Eleven of the vacancies arose after sitting councillors were elected to the Assembly, including Shalimar Bagh B, previously represented by BJP's Rekha Gupta, now Delhi's Chief Minister. BJP's Anita Jain retained that ward, while Veena Asija narrowly held Ashok Vihar by a margin of 405 votes.

For BJP, the by-polls were a key test for Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, which the party cleared comfortably. For AAP, it was the first electoral test under the leadership of Saurabh Bhardwaj, who also emerged without losing any contested seats.

The results reinforce BJP's continued dominance in Delhi's civic politics while showing AAP's resilience in key wards. Congress' single victory and AIFB's win indicate smaller players can still influence local contests, even in a largely bipolar municipal scenario.

The by-poll outcomes will shape party strategies ahead of future local elections in the capital.

# President Murmu Honors Disability Champions

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) for the year 2025 in New Delhi on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The ceremony celebrated individuals, organisations, and institutions making outstanding contributions to the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu highlighted the importance of a rights-based approach for Divyangjan, urging society to move beyond charity and engage with persons with disabilities as equal partners. "Respect, not charity, should guide our efforts for Divyangjan," she said, underlining that inclusion must be grounded in dignity and empowerment.

The President appreciated the government's initiatives aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities, citing legislative measures and



executive actions that have enhanced accessibility, employment opportunities, education, and social welfare programs. She emphasized that a collaborative approach, involving civil society, corporate sectors, and government, is essential to create an inclusive environment where Divyangjan can thrive.

The National Awards recognise excellence across multiple categories, including individual achievement, institutional support, innovation in accessibility, and efforts in advocacy and awareness. Recipients included exemplary role models who have broken barriers in education, employment, sports, and social services, demonstrating that persons with disabilities can lead independent and fulfilling lives with appropriate support and recognition.

President Murmu encouraged all citizens to actively participate in empowering Divyangjan, fostering an environment of equality and mutual respect. She noted that national development is incomplete unless every individual, including those with disabilities, is able to contribute meaningfully to society.

The awards ceremony was attended by senior government officials, social activists, and representatives from organisations working for disability rights. It served as a reminder of India's ongoing commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities, aligning with the global vision of equity and social justice.

# IndiGo Cancels 70+ Flights Amid Crew Shortages



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**

IndiGo Airlines cancelled over 70 flights on Wednesday, affecting operations at major airports including Bengaluru and Mumbai, primarily due to crew shortages, aviation sources said. Numerous other flights faced delays as the airline struggled to meet operational requirements, causing frustration among passengers.

In a statement, IndiGo acknowledged the disruptions, citing "technology issues, airport congestion, and operational requirements" alongside the acute crew shortage as key factors behind the cancellations and delays. Sources noted that the situation worsened on Wednesday following already disrupted schedules on Tuesday.

According to the Civil Aviation Ministry, IndiGo's on-time performance from six major domestic airports dropped to 35 per cent on Tuesday. In comparison, other carriers fared better, with Air India at 67.2 per cent, Air India Express 79.5 per cent, SpiceJet 82.5 per cent, and Akasa Air 73.2 per cent.

The ongoing issues are linked to the implementation of the second phase of Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, which came into effect on November 1. These norms, mandated by the DGCA following Delhi High Court directives, extend weekly rest periods to 48 hours, limit night flights, and reduce the number of allowable night landings from six to two. Airlines, including IndiGo and Air India, had initially opposed the measures, citing additional crew requirements.

IndiGo, headquartered in Gurugram, currently operates around 2,100 domestic and international flights, with a significant portion during night hours. As of December 2, the airline had a fleet of 416 aircraft, with 366 in operation and 50 grounded, up from 47 last month, according to Planespotters.com.

Passengers have reported long delays and cancellations, prompting concerns over winter travel disruptions. IndiGo has urged travellers to check flight status before heading to the airport and assured that it is taking steps to mitigate the impact of the ongoing crew shortage while adhering to safety and regulatory norms.

The airline is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with airports to resume normal operations as soon as possible.

# Government Withdraws Mandatory Sanchar Saathi Pre-Installation



**TPN Correspondent | Lucknow**

The Ministry of Communications on Wednesday announced it will no longer mandate the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all smartphones, reversing a controversial decision issued just days ago.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had earlier directed phone manufacturers to pre-install the cybersecurity app on all devices from March 2026, citing concerns over handsets with duplicate or spoofed IMEI numbers that could threaten telecom security. The move, however, sparked widespread criticism from digital rights groups and opposition parties over privacy and potential government surveillance.

In its revised statement, the government said the policy reversal was prompted by the app's "increasing acceptance" among users. Following the initial directive, Sanchar Saathi saw a sudden surge in adoption, with six lakh new registrations recorded in a single day—a tenfold increase compared to average daily downloads. The app now has 1.4 crore users who report around 2,000 cyber fraud incidents daily.

Launched in 2023, the app allows citizens to report suspicious phone calls, cyber fraud, and other telecom-related threats. Government officials emphasized that the app is "secure and purely meant to help citizens from bad actors in the cyber world," and clarified that users can uninstall it at any time.

The initial mandate had drawn sharp criticism from opposition leaders and privacy advocates, who argued it



## Five-Layer Security Deployed Ahead of Putin’s India Visit



TPN Correspondent New Delhi

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to arrive in India tomorrow for a two-day visit, and authorities have established an elaborate five-layer security ring to ensure his safety throughout the action-packed itinerary. The measures include top commandos, snipers, drones, jammers, AI monitoring, and facial recognition systems, according to sources.

Putin’s visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, includes a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, a visit to Mahatma Gandhi’s memorial at Raj Ghat, the India-Russia Annual Summit at Hyderabad House, and a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu. Over four dozen Russian security personnel have already arrived in Delhi to coordinate with Indian agencies for the operation.

The outer layers of the security ring involve the National Security Guard (NSG) and Delhi Police, who are responsible for sanitising routes and monitoring crowds. The inner layers are managed by the Russian Presidential Security Service, with specialized drones providing live feeds to a central control

room. Commandos from India’s Special Protection Group (SPG) will join the inner ring when Putin meets Prime Minister Modi. Several snipers will cover the President’s movement, and jammers will protect against potential electronic threats.

Every venue, including the hotel where Putin will stay, has been thoroughly secured. Russian and Indian officials are also monitoring potential impromptu destinations the President may visit. The control room will maintain constant communication with all layers, ensuring rapid response to any threat.

Officials emphasized that the multi-tiered security approach is designed to address a range of risks, from physical attacks to cyber or drone threats. Sources said the operation reflects India’s focus on providing the highest level of protection for visiting world leaders, combining advanced technology with elite personnel.

Putin’s visit underscores the close diplomatic ties between India and Russia, with extensive security measures highlighting the significance and high-profile nature of the two-day engagement.

## Israel: Gaza Findings Don’t Match Hostages



TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israel on Wednesday announced that the remains returned from Gaza on Tuesday do not match any of the hostages killed during Hamas’ 2023 attack, according to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office. Forensic testing confirmed that the materials handed over by Palestinian militants were unrelated to the 26 hostages who had died in captivity.

The handover occurred in Beit Lahiya, a northern town in Gaza, and marks one of the last steps in the first phase of the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Since early October, the ceasefire has facilitated the return of 20 living hostages and the remains of 26 others, under terms that both sides have accused each other of violating.

With two sets of remains still in Gaza, officials on both sides are reportedly close to concluding this initial phase of the ceasefire. While the exchange represents a cautious step toward stability, tensions remain

high, as each side continues to scrutinize the other’s compliance with the agreement.

The handover is seen as a critical aspect of the ceasefire, which was mediated by the United States to de-escalate violence in the region. Despite the ongoing diplomatic efforts, both Israel and Hamas have faced criticism for actions perceived as undermining the agreement, including delays and selective reporting of returns.

Analysts note that while the forensic findings provide clarity regarding the remains, they may further complicate negotiations over the remaining hostages. The fate of the two individuals still in Gaza remains uncertain, and Israel has emphasized the need for continued international pressure to ensure their safe return.

The ceasefire and hostages’ return remain closely watched by the global community, with hopes that this phase will pave the way for broader negotiations to reduce hostilities and address humanitarian concerns in Gaza.

## Trump administration halts immigration applications for migrants from 19 travel-ban nations

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Trump administration has ordered an immediate pause on immigration benefit applications — including green cards and naturalisations — for individuals from the 19 countries already covered under this year’s expanded travel ban. The directive, detailed in a policy memo released Tuesday by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), marks one of the most sweeping immigration actions taken since the recent shooting of two National Guard troops near the White House.

The pause affects a broad range of immigration processes for applicants from nations the administration has labelled “high-risk.” USCIS Director Joseph Edlow has been given authority to determine when the suspension will be lifted. The travel restrictions announced in June banned entry for citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, while access was limited for individuals from Burundi, Cuba, Laos,



Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Until now, immigrants from these nations already inside the US before the ban faced no additional procedures. The new order changes that significantly. USCIS has confirmed it will re-review all “approved benefit requests” for anyone from

these countries who entered the US on or after January 20, 2021 — regardless of their immigration status or the length of time they have been in the country. This may include fresh interviews, background checks, and referrals to immigration enforcement.

The agency cites national

security concerns linked to the Thanksgiving week shooting involving a suspect of Afghan origin, which left one National Guard soldier dead and another injured. Within 90 days, USCIS will prepare a priority list of cases for reassessment.

The move comes amid a

series of rapid policy shifts, including a pause on all asylum decisions and the State Department’s suspension of visa processing for Afghans who assisted US forces. Critics argue the administration’s actions amount to collective punishment and risk destabilising long-settled immigrant communities.

## “Radicalised Islamist Asim Munir Yearns For War With India”: Imran Khan’s Sister

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Imran Khan’s sister Aleema Khan has launched a sharp attack on Pakistan’s Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Asim Munir, alleging he is driven by “radical Islamist” ideology and is responsible for escalating tensions with India. Speaking to Sky News on The World with Yalda Hakim, Aleema claimed Munir “yearns for a war with India,” contrasting him with her brother, whom she described as a “pure liberal” who seeks peace with neighbouring nations.

Responding to questions on the reasons behind the India-Pakistan conflict in May, Aleema accused Munir of pushing confrontation due to his “radicalisation and conservatism.” She asserted that whenever Imran Khan comes to power, he attempts to improve ties with India, whereas Munir’s approach leads to conflict not only with



India but potentially with its allies as well. Aleema urged Western nations to increase pressure on Pakistan to release the former prime minister.

Her remarks come months after the May 7 Indian Armed Forces’ precision strikes on

nine terror bases across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India said the strikes — part of Operation Sindoor — were a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 civilians dead.

Tensions between

Imran Khan and Asim Munir date back to 2019, when Munir reportedly initiated probes involving Khan’s wife Bushra Bibi. He was removed as ISI chief within eight months, a move the army did not publicly explain.

Imran Khan, detained since August 2023 on multiple convictions, remains in Adiala Jail. Recent concerns over his well-being intensified after his family alleged they were denied access. His sister Dr Uzma Khanum, after a brief

meeting on Tuesday, said Khan was “mentally tortured” and held in isolation. Aleema accused authorities of attempting to “suppress the people of Pakistan” by silencing a leader she claims “represents 90% of the country.”

## Zelenskyy in Europe as US Envoy Meets Putin on Peace Talks



TPN Correspondent - Colombo

As peace efforts in the four-year-long Ukraine conflict gather momentum, US special envoy Steve Witkoff met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss an early-stage peace plan, with hopes of ending the war. The

meeting, attended by Jared Kushner, son-in-law of former US President Donald Trump, was described by the Kremlin as a focused session involving only the US delegation and an interpreter.

The talks mark a renewed push by the Trump administration to advance peace pro-

posals, following months of limited progress. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has been engaged in parallel discussions with Ukrainian officials, while Witkoff’s visit signals direct US engagement with Moscow. According to Kremlin sources, the discussions are expect-

ed to continue “as long as needed” to find common ground on key issues.

Coinciding with the Moscow meeting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accompanied by his wife Olena Zelenska, visited Ireland, part of his ongoing tour of European nations sup-

porting Ukraine’s resistance to Russian aggression. In Dublin, Zelenskyy met Ireland’s President Catherine Connolly, highlighting Ukraine’s diplomatic outreach in Europe amid ongoing conflict.

Speaking on Tuesday, President Putin asserted that Russia does not

seek war with European powers but warned that Moscow is prepared to fight if Europe desires direct confrontation. He also accused European nations of complicating US-led peace efforts by submitting proposals Moscow deems unacceptable, adding tension to the diplomatic landscape.

Observers say the dual-track approach—diplomatic outreach in Europe by Zelenskyy and direct negotiations in Moscow by US officials—reflects the urgency to find a resolution before the conflict escalates further. Analysts note that the involvement of high-profile US figures underscores the international community’s commitment to ending hostilities, though major hurdles remain in reconciling Moscow and Kyiv’s positions.

The outcome of these discussions could shape the trajectory of the Ukraine war and influence broader European security dynamics in the months ahead.



# India’s Power Tools Market Set to Cross \$3.8 Billion by 2035

India’s power tools segment is projected to more than double, reaching \$3.8 billion by 2035, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8%, according to industry experts and a recent study by IMARC Group.

The growth is being driven by massive government capital expenditure in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, airports, and housing, alongside increasing demand from furniture manufacturing, the automotive aftermarket, and a rising Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture.

To reduce reliance on imports and tap into the growing demand, the Union Government is actively encouraging domestic manufacturing, which is beginning to show results. Local manufacturers are gradually scaling up production capacity in line with the “Make in India” initiative.

The broader hand tools, power tools, and fasteners market in India is also on an upward trajectory. The domestic hand tools market, currently valued at \$826 million (2024), is expected to reach \$1.22 billion by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 4.1%, the IMARC study noted.



This surge is being attributed to the modernisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increasing industrialisation, and strong aftermarket demand. Moreover, with India’s booming construction and home improvement sectors, the need for efficient and cost-effective tools is only expected to grow.

Industry officials said that the DIY trend among urban consumers, especially in metro cities, is also expanding the market for portable and battery-operated tools. E-commerce platforms have further simplified access to such products, making them popular among younger, tech-savvy users.

Experts believe that sustained policy support, coupled with infrastructure and industrial growth, will transform India into a manufacturing and export hub for power tools over the next decade.

# India Becomes Top Expansion Market for APAC 3PL Firms:

India has emerged as the most-preferred expansion destination for third-party logistics (3PL) companies in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, according to a new report released by CBRE on Sunday (September 28, 2025).

The study reveals that nearly 70% of APAC-based 3PL occupiers are planning to expand their footprint in India over the next two years. This marks the highest intent for expansion among all markets surveyed in the region.

CBRE attributed this growing interest to India’s rapidly developing infrastructure, digital transformation in supply chains, and the booming e-commerce sector. Other contributing factors include favourable government policies under initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiency and reducing operational costs.

“India’s position as a key supply chain hub is strengthening, driven by robust demand from retail, e-commerce, manufacturing, and FMCG sectors,” said a senior CBRE analyst. “The country



is now seen not only as a consumption market but also as a strategic distribution and logistics hub.”

The report also highlighted a rise in Grade-A warehousing demand, especially in Tier-1 cities like Delhi-NCR,

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Tier-2 cities such as Lucknow, Coimbatore, and Indore are also gaining traction due to lower costs and improving connectivity.

India’s 3PL segment has seen double-digit annual

growth in recent years, supported by increasing outsourcing of logistics operations by major industries. With rising investments in automation, cold chain facilities, and multi-modal logistics parks, the sector is poised for

sustained expansion.

CBRE expects the Indian logistics real estate market to outperform its regional counterparts in the medium term, reinforcing the country’s status as the logistics growth engine of APAC.

# SBI Bats for 25 bps Rate Cut Ahead of RBI Policy Meet



Ahead of the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) bi-monthly monetary policy announcement

on October 1, a State Bank of India (SBI) research report has recommended a 25 basis

point (bps) rate cut, calling it the “best possible option” in the current economic

climate. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Gover-

nor Sanjay Malhotra, will begin its three-day meeting on Monday, September 30, amid global economic uncertainty, rising geopolitical tensions, and the recent 50% tariffs imposed by the US on Indian exports.

The SBI report argues that a modest rate cut would support domestic growth without stoking inflation, especially as headline CPI inflation remains within the RBI’s comfort range. “A 25 bps cut would signal proactive policy support to insulate the economy from external shocks,” the report said.

However, several other economists and analysts expect the RBI to maintain status quo on the repo rate, citing concerns about volatile crude prices, geopolitical risks, and the weak rupee. Many believe the central bank will

prefer to wait and watch, especially as the US Federal Reserve remains hawkish.

India’s repo rate currently stands at 6.50%, unchanged since February 2023. The central bank has maintained a “withdrawal of accommodation” stance, balancing inflation control with the need to support growth.

A rate cut now, according to SBI, would also help ease borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, just ahead of the festive season, potentially boosting consumption and credit demand.

The final decision will be announced by RBI on Wednesday, October 1, and will be closely watched by markets, banks, and industry stakeholders for its signal on the direction of monetary policy amid global uncertainty.

# Plastic Pipes Industry Faces FY25 Challenges, Eyes 10–12% Growth Ahead



India’s plastic pipes industry has faced significant turbulence in FY25, struggling with subdued infrastructure investments, tight liquidity, and volatile raw material prices, according to a report released by JM Financial. However, the industry remains optimistic about its medium-term outlook, supported by stabilising input costs and sustained demand from key sectors.

Navigating a Tough Year FY25 proved to be a challenging year for the sector. Plastic pipe manufacturers—especially those reliant on PVC (polyvinyl chloride)—had to deal with erratic pricing patterns. Global factors, such as sluggish construction activity in major markets like China and developed economies, combined with a supply glut from large exporters like China, South Korea, and Taiwan, led to aggressive undercutting of prices in the Indian market.

PVC, which constitutes a major input cost for the industry, dropped significantly over FY20–25, declining at a 4% CAGR, compared to its long-term growth trend of 2% CAGR over the last 25 years. After a prolonged downtrend, prices began to recover, rising by ₹7/kg over the last 4–5 months to reach ₹79/kg in September 2025. While this remains below the FY22 peak, it marks a potential turning point for the sector.

Market Evolution and Future Drivers

Traditionally fragmented and focused heavily on agriculture, India’s plastic piping sector has evolved into a more organised ecosystem, addressing critical needs in water supply, plumbing, sanitation, and industrial applications.

Despite current hurdles, long-term structural drivers remain intact. Government-backed programs like the Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Housing for All are expected to boost demand significantly, alongside growing agricultural and replacement requirements.

JM Financial estimates the Indian plastic piping market at 600–650 billion, and forecasts a 10–12% CAGR growth between FY25 and FY30.

Policy and Regulatory Tailwinds

Industry experts believe upcoming policy measures may offer additional support. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is expected to implement quality control norms for PVC imports by December 2025, which would restrict the influx of substandard foreign products and offer a competitive edge to domestic manufacturers.

“Stabilising PVC prices should restore distributor confidence, reduce inventory risks, and aid margin recovery for organised players,” the report concluded, projecting a more stable and profitable path ahead for the sector.

# Govt to Borrow ₹6.77 Lakh Crore in H2, Holds Near FY26 Target



New Delhi: The central government plans to borrow ₹6.77 lakh crore through dated securities in the second half (H2) of fiscal year 2025–26, aiming to stay close to its full-year borrowing goal.

Having already borrowed ₹7.95 lakh crore in H1, the Centre will revise the total gross market borrowing for FY26 to ₹14.72 lakh crore, narrowly lower than the original budgeted ₹14.82 lakh crore.

The shift is designed to balance fiscal discipline with market stability, despite increasing defence spending pressures.

Officials say that the H2 borrowing will be conducted over 22 weekly tranches, each totaling ₹28,000–₹33,000 crore, and is scheduled to conclude by March 6, 2026. Of the total, ₹10,000 crore is planned via sovereign green bonds.

In terms of maturity com-

position, the share of short-term papers (3–5 years) will be increased to 19.9% (from 15.9%), while the share of longer-term papers (15–50 years) will fall from 51.8% to 43.7%. Medium-term securities (7–10 years) will also see a rise to 36.5% from 32.4%.

The Centre reaffirmed its commitment to keeping the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP, compared to 4.8% in FY25. To manage liquidity mismatches, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the ways and means advances (WMA) limit for H2 at ₹50,000 crore.

Officials emphasise that despite uncertainties—like US-imposed tariffs and defence expenditure—the borrowing plan remains predictable, aiming to avoid surprising the bond market and limit crowding out of state and private borrowing.



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



India and Japan are collaborating to build one of the world's most advanced astronomical instruments, the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), designed to probe the deepest reaches of the universe and search for signs of extraterrestrial life. With a massive 30-metre primary mirror, the telescope will surpass existing instruments in size and capability, offering unprecedented clarity in observing distant galaxies, black holes, and exoplanets.

The TMT project is an international initiative involving India, Japan, and two leading U.S. universities. Unlike traditional telescopes, TMT's primary mirror is formed by 500 smaller mirrors precisely aligned, a technological challenge where India plays a crucial role. Indian scientists and engineers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; and Aryabhata Research Institute for Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have developed opto-mechanical systems to ensure perfect mirror alignment, a critical factor for the telescope's success.

Dr. Saku Tsuneta, Vice Chair

of Japan's Committee on National Space Policy, explained that the larger the mirror, the more light it can capture, enabling discoveries about extremely distant cosmic objects. Indian technology is central in managing the alignment and calibration of these mirrors, highlighting the nation's growing role in global science collaborations.

The telescope will be constructed at Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at an altitude of 4,000 metres, chosen for its clear skies and minimal atmospheric interference. Japan already operates an 8.2-metre telescope at the site, which has delivered groundbreaking astronomical observations for over 25 years.

India joined TMT as a founder-member partner in 2014, contributing to optical and infrared astronomy expertise. The telescope is expected to redefine humanity's understanding of the universe, potentially answering one of the most profound questions: Are we alone in the cosmos?

This collaboration underscores India's strength in high-precision science and engineering, while offering a platform for cutting-edge discoveries in astronomy and astrobiology.

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



A British man's attempt to become the Incredible Hulk for an event in Benidorm turned into a multi-day ordeal after a paint mishap left him stuck in green.

The man, identified as Kane, used green fabric paint instead of body-safe makeup while preparing for a night out. His friend, Graham White, who documents city life on TikTok, filmed Kane applying the paint with a brush, smiling as he transformed into the superhero.

However, the fun quickly turned into frustration when Kane discovered that the paint would not wash off easily. Scrubbing and showering for hours proved futile, leaving him in a Hulk-like state for several days.

The unusual incident has gone viral on social media, elic-

iting laughter, sympathy, and warnings from users about the importance of using safe, removable body paints for costumes. Experts caution that fabric paints are not intended for skin and can cause irritation if left on for long periods.

Kane's experience serves as a cautionary tale for cosplayers and partygoers, highlighting the need to double-check product labels and use proper make-up or body paint when transforming into characters.

Despite the mishap, Kane reportedly maintained his good humor, sharing the ordeal online and joking about being "the real-life Hulk" until the paint finally came off. The story has sparked a mix of amusement and concern, reminding others that not all paints are created equal when it comes to skin safety.

# Half of Packaged Foods on Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy Instamart Are Junk: Survey

A recent survey has revealed that nearly half of the packaged food items available on popular online grocery platforms like Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart fall into the category of "junk food," raising concerns over public health and nutrition. The study examined hundreds of products, highlighting a high prevalence of items rich in unhealthy fats, sugar, and salt, while being low in fiber, vitamins, and other essential micronutrients.

Nutrition experts warn that regular consumption of these processed foods is strongly linked to lifestyle diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and even accelerated ageing. The survey also found that many products marketed as "healthy" or "snack alternatives" often contain hidden sugar, refined flours, and preservatives, misleading



Paan Corner



Dairy, Bread & Eggs



Fruits & Vegetables



Cold Drinks & Juices



ing consumers into believing they are making healthier choices. "The convenience of online grocery platforms has made access



to packaged foods easier, but consumers must exercise caution," said a nutritionist involved in the study. "A large portion of these prod-



ucts do not meet basic nutritional standards and can have long-term health consequences if consumed regularly." The survey under-



scores the urgent need for stricter regulations on the marketing and labeling of packaged foods, especially those sold on e-commerce

platforms. Experts suggest that clear front-of-pack labeling and public awareness campaigns could help consumers make informed choices.

While e-commerce grocery services have transformed urban food consumption, making delivery of snacks and packaged meals easier than ever, the study highlights the hidden health risks associated with this convenience. Health authorities and consumer rights organizations have called for increased monitoring and guidance to ensure that these platforms prioritize nutritional value alongside variety and affordability.

Consumers are advised to read labels carefully, limit consumption of processed snacks, and include more fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in their diets to maintain a balanced nutritional profile.

# Apple May Launch Only Three iPhones in 2026, Foldable Model Rumoured

Cupertino: Apple is reportedly planning a leaner iPhone release schedule in 2026, with only three models expected to hit the market. According to industry sources, the tech giant may delay the launch of the standard "vanilla" iPhone and the next-generation iPhone Air, focusing instead on premium and innovative models.

One of the most anticipated developments is the potential debut of a foldable iPhone, which could mark Apple's first entry into the foldable smartphone segment. Analysts suggest that the foldable model would feature advanced flexible display technology, improved durability, and enhanced multitasking capabilities, aiming to compete with existing foldable devices from Samsung and other manufacturers.

Apple's decision to trim the lineup is seen as part of a broader strategy to streamline production, reduce supply chain complexities, and emphasize high-margin devices. The company has reportedly conducted extensive research on consumer de-



mand and found that premium models continue to generate the majority of revenue and profit, making a focused launch strategy more viable.

While the foldable iPhone could redefine the smartphone experience for Apple users, the delayed launch of the standard and Air mod-

els may impact mid-tier buyers who prefer more affordable options. Industry watchers expect Apple to maintain its existing pricing strategy while positioning the foldable iPhone as a premium, aspirational device.

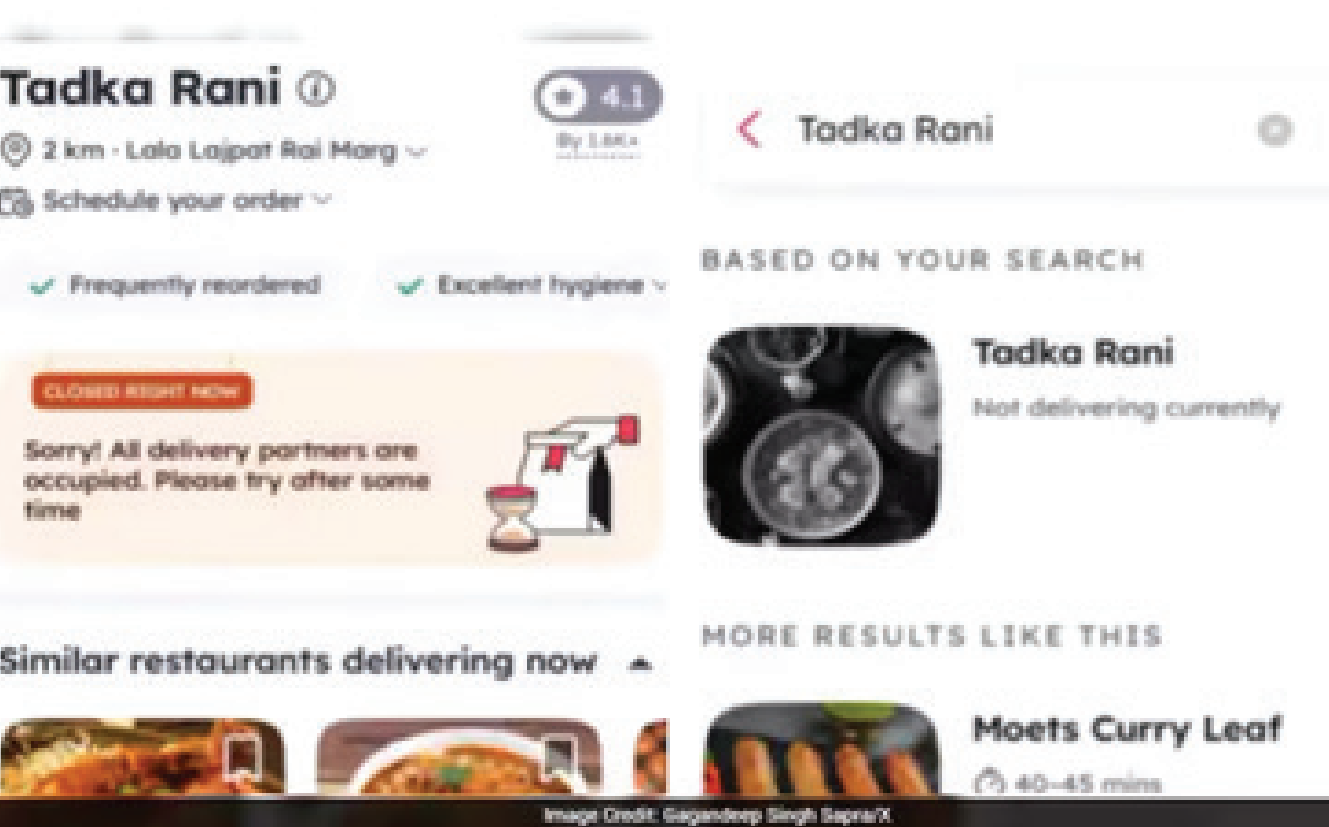
Additionally, the new lineup is expected to feature

incremental upgrades in processing power, camera capabilities, and battery life, along with tighter integration with Apple's broader ecosystem, including the Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac devices.

Rumors indicate that Apple may unveil the 2026 models at its traditional Septem-

ber launch event, but confirmation on the exact lineup and specifications is still awaited. Tech enthusiasts worldwide are eagerly awaiting more details, particularly on the foldable iPhone, which could signal a significant shift in Apple's product design and market strategy.

# Delhi Restaurateur Claims Zomato Lists His Eatery as "Unavailable"



A Delhi restaurateur has raised concerns over Zomato repeatedly marking his restaurant as "unavailable", even when nearby eateries remain open. Gagandeep Singh Sapra, owner of Tadka Rani in Greater Kailash 1, shared a video on X show-

ing the app displaying his restaurant as unavailable while others within 50 meters continued to receive orders.

Sapra alleged that this issue occurs during peak hours, affecting rider allocation and impacting his busi-

ness. He claimed to have reported the problem for 31 days without resolution. The restaurateur also suggested that the move might be aimed at increasing Zomato's commission, which he says already exceeds 52% of sales. He accused the plat-

form of using a system glitch to further hike charges.

Following the post, Aditya Mangal, Zomato's Food Delivery CEO, responded, stating that the matter would be investigated. Sapra's complaint also mentioned Deep-

inder Goyal, CEO of Zomato's parent company, Eternal, implying senior management awareness of the issue.

The video Sapra shared highlights the growing frustration among restaurant owners over app-based delivery platforms controlling visibility and rider allocation, a long-standing point of contention in the food-tech industry.

Zomato, which dominates India's online food delivery market, has faced similar allegations from other restaurateurs in the past regarding system glitches, order prioritization, and high commission charges. Industry experts say such concerns reflect the need for greater transparency and fairness in algorithmic management of restaurants on delivery platforms.

Sapra has urged Zomato to rectify the listing and ensure fair access to riders, emphasizing that repeated unavailability listings during busy hours are harming his revenue and customer base. The company's formal investigation is awaited, and it remains to be seen whether corrective measures will be implemented to restore the restaurant's visibility on the app.



# Serena Williams Shuts Down Comeback Rumours

Serena Williams has firmly denied speculation about a tennis comeback after news broke that she had re-entered the sport's Registered Testing Pool, a requirement for any player considering a return to competitive tennis. The development triggered widespread reports suggesting the 23-time Grand Slam champion might be preparing for a dramatic return. However, Williams made it clear on Tuesday that she has no such plans.

The 44-year-old last competed at the 2022 US Open, where her third-round loss left her just one title shy of Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles trophies. Since then, she has repeatedly indicated she has moved on from the sport, describing her transition not as retirement but as an "evolution" away from professional tennis.

An International Tennis Integrity Agency spokesperson confirmed that Williams was indeed back on the Registered Testing Pool list but offered no explanation beyond the administrative update. Players consid-



ering a return must be available for drug testing for at least six months before they are eligible to compete, fueling speculation about her intentions.

But Williams put all rumours to rest with a direct post on X, stating: "Omg yall I'm NOT coming back. This wildfire is crazy," underscoring that the registration should not be interpreted as a sign of a return.

Her sister, Venus Williams, who resumed competition this year at age 45 after nearly two years away from the tour, has openly expressed her desire to see Serena back on court. The sisters, one of the most iconic duos in tennis history, have won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles and three Olympic gold medals together.

Despite the growing buzz, Serena's latest clarification signals that fans may have to accept her legacy as complete. While the door appears closed for now, the tennis world continues to hold out hope—just as Venus does—that she may one day reconsider.

# Haaland Smashes Record, Becomes Fastest to 100 Premier League Goals



Erling Haaland has rewritten Premier League history yet again, becoming the fastest player to

reach 100 goals in the competition. The Manchester City striker achieved the milestone in just 111 ap-

pearances, surpassing Alan Shearer's long-standing record of 124 games. The landmark moment came

during City's thrilling 5-4 win over Fulham on Tuesday.

Haaland struck in the 17th minute with trademark precision. Latching onto a sharp cross from Jeremy Doku, the Norwegian fired a first-time left-footed shot past the Fulham goalkeeper, sending the away fans into a frenzy. The goal not only placed him in the Premier League record books but also set the tone for what became one of the most dramatic matches of the season.

Manchester City and Fulham exchanged goals in a high-octane contest that saw nine goals distributed across the 90 minutes. Despite Fulham's resilient attacking display, City's firepower ultimately proved too strong. Haaland's early strike added to an already sensational goalscoring résumé, one that has seen him dominate English football since his arrival from Borussia Dortmund.

Reaching the 100-goal mark in such a short span

highlights Haaland's extraordinary consistency and his unmatched ability to find the net. His scoring rate has placed him among the most lethal forwards in modern football, and his latest record reinforces his growing legacy in the Premier League.

Alan Shearer, whose benchmark stood for decades, had long been considered untouchable. Yet Haaland's relentless scoring spree has shattered that notion, redefining expectations for strikers in the league. With several years ahead of him, the 25-year-old is now on track to challenge more long-standing records, including Shearer's all-time tally of 260 goals.

As Manchester City continue their pursuit of domestic and European success, Haaland's historic achievement stands as a defining moment of the 2025 season—one that may signal the beginning of an era dominated by the Norwegian powerhouse.

# Shubman Gill Set to Return as Vice-Captain for T20I Series vs South Africa

Shubman Gill has been declared fit and will return to India's T20I setup as vice-captain for the upcoming five-match series against South Africa, beginning December 9 in Cuttack. A senior BCCI source on Wednesday confirmed that the star batter has fully recovered from the neck injury that forced him out of the ongoing ODI series.

Gill, who leads India in Tests and ODIs, sustained the injury during the opening Test against the Proteas in Kolkata. The setback ruled him out of the second Test in Guwahati as well as the subsequent ODI leg of the tour. His return is expected to provide stability to India's top order in the shortest format.

"Gill has recovered fully and will be back as vice-captain," the BCCI source said, adding that the full squad for the T20Is will be announced later in the day. Suryakumar Yadav will continue as India's regular T20I captain.

The series holds significance with the T20 World Cup cycle in view, and Gill's comeback will be closely watched as India begins shaping a long-term



core. His recent form across formats has made him one of India's most dependable batters, and his leadership presence is expected to benefit the young squad.

Meanwhile, the BCCI

source dismissed growing speculation of a proposed meeting between board officials, senior players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and head coach Gautam Gambhir amid rumours of dressing-room tension. "No

meeting will take place mid-series. We will see what's to be done once the series is over," he clarified.

India recently suffered a 0-2 defeat in the Test series against South Africa, plac-

ing added importance on the limited-overs leg to regain momentum. The upcoming T20Is will offer India an opportunity to bounce back while integrating key players returning from injury.

# Chennai Super Warriors Stay Unbeaten

Gurgaon Registers First Win in IPL Day 2 Thriller



Day 2 of the Indian Pickleball League delivered high-intensity action, dramatic momentum swings and a dash of celebrity glamour. Chennai Super Warriors continued their dominant run with a 4-2 victory over Hyderabad Royals, while Capital Warriors Gurgaon edged Bengaluru Blasters in a nail-biting Grand Rally to secure their first win of the season. Earlier, Lucknow Leopards staged a spirited comeback to earn a 3-3 draw against Mumbai Smashers.

The league, India's only official pickleball tournament sanctioned by the Indian Pickleball Association under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, witnessed star presence from actors Sonam Bajwa and Nitanshi Goel, adding sparkle to an already electric night.

The top-billed clash between unbeaten sides Hyderabad Royals and Chennai Super Warriors lived up to expectations. Divyanshu Kataria started strong for Hyderabad, leading 14-11 in the opener before Mitch Hargreaves staged a stunning turnaround to take it 15-14. Chennai's momentum carried into the men's doubles, where Hargreaves and

Harsh Mehta fought off Kataria and Ben Newell 15-13 in a thrilling kitchen-line battle. Roos van Reek then stamped her authority with a 15-7 win over Megan Fudge in the women's singles and later combined with Aaliya Ebrahim to seal the women's doubles 15-11.

Hyderabad salvaged the Grand Rally 21-16, but it wasn't enough to stop Chennai from extending their perfect streak. Van Reek and Kataria were named Players of the Tie.

The second contest of the night saw Lucknow Leopards and Mumbai Smashers deliver one of the season's most gripping encounters. DUPR World No. 3 Quang Duong opened with a decisive 15-8 win, but Lucknow responded through Ryler DeHeart and Himansh Mehta in the men's doubles. Allison Harris clinched a golden-point victory in the women's singles, and Mumbai took a 3-1 lead with a rare sisters' showdown featuring Pearl and Naomi Amalsadiwala. However, Lucknow stormed back in the Grand Rally, winning 21-15 and forcing a dramatic 3-3 draw. Duong and Harris were named Players of the Tie.

# 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.



Dil Raju’s Team Dismisses Rumours

Confirms Akshay Kumar–Anees Bazmee Project



Producer Dil Raju and his banner Sri Venkateswara Creations have issued an official clarification addressing the recent wave of rumours surrounding their upcoming projects. According to the statement, several speculative reports circulating across media and social platforms are entirely baseless and do not reflect the studio’s current plans. The team noted that outdated and unrelated reports are being linked to their ongoing developments, resulting in misinformation being presented as fact. Stressing the need for accuracy, they stated that these rumours have been “blown out of proportion,” creating confusion among audiences and industry trackers. Setting the record straight, the production house confirmed that they are actively developing a film featuring Akshay Kumar in the lead role. The project will be directed by Anees Bazmee, known for his successful commercial entertainers. At present, the film is in the pre-production stage, with work progressing steady-

ly behind the scenes. The makers assured that authentic updates, including cast and crew details, will be shared at the appropriate time through official channels. In their message, the team appealed to media professionals and social media platforms to avoid drawing premature conclusions. They emphasized the importance of verifying information before publication and urged everyone to refrain from circulating unconfirmed or speculative content. Sri Venkateswara Creations reiterated that they value the support of the media and audiences and will continue to maintain transparency regarding their projects. Until then, they request patience and responsible reporting, noting that only information released directly by the production house should be regarded as official. With the Akshay Kumar–Anees Bazmee collaboration now formally acknowledged, fans can look forward to further announcements once pre-production advances.

Mohanlal Joins ‘Jailer 2’ After Wrapping Drishyam 3



Mollywood superstar Mohanlal continues his packed schedule in 2025, keeping fans engaged with back-to-back updates. After completing the much-awaited Drishyam 3, the actor has already shifted focus to his next major project—Jailer 2, the sequel to the blockbuster Rajinikanth starrer Jailer. The veteran actor reportedly flew to Chennai earlier this week to join the film’s shoot, which is progressing at a brisk pace under the direction of Nelson Dilipkumar. Mohanlal reprises his popular role as Mathew, a character that left a strong impact in the first film. This time, insiders suggest that his character will have significantly more screen time and narrative weight, making his presence one of the key highlights of the sequel. Fans are eagerly waiting for glimpses of Mohanlal and Rajinikanth sharing screen space once again—a combination that created massive hype earlier. With both legends currently on set, expectations

around Jailer 2 have skyrocketed. The film is being produced by Sun Pictures, known for mounting high-budget commercial entertainers. Music sensation Anirudh Ravichander returns to score the soundtrack, adding further excitement given his chart-topping work in the first installment. The cast also includes Ramya Krishnan, Mirnaa Menon, Vinayakan, and several other prominent actors, promising a star-studded narrative. Jailer 2 is slated for a June 2026 theatrical release, positioning itself as one of the biggest pan-Indian films to look forward to next year. With Mohanlal now officially on set and the team ramping up production, more updates and first-look reveals are expected soon. As two of Indian cinema’s most iconic performers reunite, audiences across the country are eagerly anticipating what promises to be a powerful, action-packed sequel.

Karthi’s “Annagaru Vostaru” Locks December 12 Release, ‘Annagaru’ Lyrical Song Out Now

The highly-anticipated Tamil film “Va Vaathiyaar” is coming to Telugu audiences under the title “Annagaru Vostaru.” The makers officially announced the release date today, confirming that the film will hit theatres worldwide on December 12. The film is produced by K.E. Gnanavel Raja under the prestigious Studio Green banner and is directed by Nalan Kumarasamy, known for his unique blend of action and comedy. Krithi Shetty plays the female lead. Along with the release-date announcement, the team also launched the ‘Annagaru’ lyrical song today. Composed by Santhosh Narayanan with a chart-buster vibe, the song features catchy lyrics by Rakendu Mouli. S.P. Abhishek and HariPriya have rendered the track with high energy. The lyrics “Annagaru, Annagaru... already I’m a rich kid; I’ve planned a pan-India movie; I even called Rajamouli to direct my biopic...” paired with colourful, vibrant visuals, make



the song instantly engaging. Recently, blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi launched the teaser of “Annagaru Vostaru,” which has received an overwhelming response. With the strong impact created by the promotional content so far, expectations are high that this film will become another major blockbuster in Karthi’s career. **Cast:** Karthi, Krithi Shetty, Sathyaraj, Madhurr Mittal, Anand Raj, Raj Kiran, Shilpa Manjunath, Karunakaran, and others. **Technical Crew:** Cinematography – George C. Williams, Editing – Vetre Krishnan, Music – Santhosh Narayanan, PRO – GSK Media (Suresh & Srinivas) Banner – Studio Green, Producer – K.E. Gnanavel Raja, Writer & Director – Nalan Kumarasamy

Thiruveer–Aishwarya Rajesh Film Titled ‘Oh..! Sukumari’

Actor Thiruveer, who recently impressed audiences with The Great Pre Wedding Show, is continuing his strong run with a series of new projects. Among them, his upcoming film with acclaimed actress Aishwarya Rajesh has been generating considerable buzz. Announced in November 2025, the film has now returned to the spotlight as the makers officially revealed its title: Oh..! Sukumari. The project marks the directorial debut of Bharat Dharshan and is being produced by Maheswara Reddy Mooli under the Gangaa Entertainment banner. Significantly, Oh..! Sukumari is being positioned as a true pan-Indian film, marking Thiruveer’s first entry into large-

scale nationwide releases. With both lead actors known for their performance-driven roles, the pairing has already sparked strong curiosity among fans and industry observers. Billed as a wholesome family entertainer, the film’s first-look poster has succeeded in raising expectations. The visuals hint at a colourful and engaging narrative, though the makers are keeping plot details under wraps for now. As Thiruveer expands his horizons beyond regional cinema, this project is seen as a crucial step in his career progression. The production is currently moving ahead at a steady pace. Cinematographer CH Kushendar is crafting the film’s



visual palette, while Bharath Manchiraju is composing the music. The technical team, combining fresh talent with experienced hands, is expected to play a major role in shaping the film’s pan-Indian appeal. With shooting underway and key creative elements in place, the team behind Oh..! Sukumari is gearing up to share more updates in the coming weeks. As anticipation grows, fans of both Thiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh are eagerly waiting to see how this vibrant family entertainer unfolds on a national scale.

‘Irumudi’ Tipped as Title for Ravi Teja’s Upcoming Thriller

Tollywood star Ravi Teja, who is awaiting the Sankranti 2026 release of his family entertainer Bhartha Mahasayulaki Wignapathi, is simultaneously working on another highly anticipated project. Directed by Shiva Nirvana, the film is said to be a thriller and is also targeting a 2026 release. While the plot details remain closely guarded, the movie has already begun generating buzz due to rumours surrounding its title and casting. According to industry reports, the makers are seriously considering ‘Irumudi’ as a potential title. The term, associated with devotion and determination, is seen as a strong thematic fit for the film’s narrative. Early rumours suggest that the story revolves around a father who goes to extraordinary



lengths to protect his daughter—an emotional core that could give Ravi Teja ample scope for an intense performance. Meanwhile, speculation is rife about the female lead. Recent whispers in the industry indicate that actress Priya Bhavani Shankar may have been roped in for the role. However, the team has not issued any official announcement yet, and fans are eagerly awaiting confirmation. Ravi Teja, who wrapped up shooting for Bhartha Mahasayulaki Wignapathi and

is now fully engaged with this new project, appears to be heading into one of the busiest phases of his career. With Shiva Nirvana at the helm, expectations are high, given his reputation for blending strong emotions with engaging storytelling. The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, one of Tollywood’s most successful production houses in recent years. Music is expected to be composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, whose work has been drawing attention across industries. As discussions around the title intensify, an official announcement from the makers is anticipated soon. Fans of Ravi Teja are watching closely, hoping for clarity on Irumudi and more updates on this promising thriller.