

ments are underway at Rashtrapati Bhavan for a grand state dinner in honour of Russian President Vladimir Putin. The guest list features prominent figures from politics, business and culture, highlighting the depth of India's "Russia ties."

Equal Opportunity to all in Vaikunta Ekadasi Dwara Darshans through E-Dip: EO

Common Devotees allotted 164H out 182H available Darshan Hours

TPN Bureau | December 5

TIRUMALA: Keeping in view the larger interests of Srivari devotees spread across the country, TTD has allotted Vaikuntha Ekadasi Dwara Darshan tokens in e-Dip, providing equal opportunity to all, said TTD EO Anil Kumar Singhal.

The TTD EO responded to 23 callers from across the country during the monthly Dial Your EO program held at Annamayya Bhavan in Tirumala on Friday.

Some of the callers also lauded the e-Dip system of allotment of to-

kens by though they did not get the tokens. Thnking the devotees for their positive feedback, he said keeping in view the past experience, this time TTD and its Board has decided to allot tokens to devotees on Vaikunta Ekadasi, Dwadasi and on January 1 in a transparent manner avoiding inconvenience to devotees through e-Dip.

TTD has planned to provide darshan to 7.7 lakh devotees during these ten days and 164 hour out of 182 available Darshan hours has been allotted to common devotees, he added.

Answering callers Durga Prasad from Bhimavaram, Srinivas from Chennai, Rajalakshmi from Hyderabad, Maheswaraiah from Ven-

katagiri, who sought EO to enhance the quota for physically challenged and aged, the EO said TTD has to do justice to every category of its devotees and not possible to enhance quota to one section of devotees.

Responding to caller Chandrasekhar Reddy from Tirupati the EO said all the ten days during Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam are considered auspicious. As majority try for Dwara Darshan on first two days we made this an e-dip with an aim to have equal opportunity to all. So last three days, January 6,7,8 have been allotted to 15000 locals of Tirumala and Tirupati, he maintained.

When a couple of callers sought EO to resume Parayanam on Nada

Neerajanam the EO said concerned officers will be instructed to verify the possibility of slots.

A caller from Vizag who suggested that the staff working and sevaks rendering service should address devotees and each as GOVINDA only to which EO said will be ensured.

Ms Preeti from Chennai suggested EO to provide Annaprasadam made of millets instead of Rice on the day of Vaikunta Ekadasi as majority of the devotees come fasting on that auspicious day and also wish to have Annaprasadam after darshan of Srivaru only. The EO said the feasibility will be checked.

A few more callers suggested EO on to check

that no filmy songs played in Ghat Road in private vehicles, to serve Annaprasadam to waiting devotees in compartments much before its release avoiding wastage of food, queue line management, solid waste management in Gogarbhama area, behavioral attitude of Sevaks, revival of TTD Kalyana Mandapams and others.

The EO said TTD takes decisions from time to time based on the feedback and suggestions given by devotees by discussing its feasibility in the larger interests of the pilgrims.

Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, CE Satyanarayana, CEO SVBC Phani Kumar Naidu and other officers were present.



Udbhav-2025 Showcased the Extraordinary Talent of Tribal Students: Minister Kandula Durgesh

TPN Bureau | December 5

GUNTUR: Udbhav-2025, the national cultural, literary and arts festival of Ekalavya Model Residential Schools, has proven to be an inspiring platform that brought to light the exceptional talent of tribal children, said Guntur District Incharge Minister Kandula Durgesh. He attended the valedictory ceremony of the event held on Friday at the KL University campus.

Minister Durgesh was given a grand welcome by Tribal Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhya Rani, Social Welfare Minister Dola Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy and senior officials of the Tribal Welfare Department. Addressing the gathering, he said it was remarkable that students from across the country had travelled to Andhra Pradesh to participate and showcase their abilities. Hosting an event of such national prominence was a matter of pride for the state, he added.

The Minister described Udbhav-2025 as a symbol of a new beginning, emphasising that rising from remote and resource-lim-

ited regions to achieve holistic development was no small feat. He expressed hope that tribal students, even those growing up in deep forest regions, would scale great heights in future. Durgesh said it was a matter of immense satisfaction that Udbhav-2025 was successfully organised in Andhra Pradesh under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan.

He lauded the initiative of conducting national-level cultural competitions for tribal students from across the country. More than a thousand children from several states showcased their artistic brilliance, reflecting India's rich cultural heritage and traditional diversity. Tribal art forms from different regions were displayed on a single platform, creating a spectacular visual treat, he noted.

Minister Durgesh appreciated the Andhra Pradesh government for consistently supporting such cultural initiatives. In a country enriched by diverse ethnicities and tradi-

tions, Udbhav-2025 has etched history by bringing the innate talent of tribal youth before the world, he said.

He commended Minister Sandhya Rani and the Tribal Welfare Department for their efforts, highlighting that Ekalavya Model Residential Schools are not only offering high-quality education but are also shaping the all-round personalities of tribal students. Teachers and staff deserve appreciation for nurturing talent in academics, sports, and arts, he noted.

The Minister further stated that Udbhav-2025 instilled confidence, removed fear and hesitation among tribal children living in remote forest regions, and awakened in them a belief that they too can excel.

“Udbhav means emergence and this festival has truly brought forth the hidden genius of tribal youth,” he declared. He added that both the Central and State Governments are running special drives to identify and promote tribal talent, resulting in many tribal children emerging as stars in various fields.

Fishermen Protest Against Land Takeover Near Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

TPN Bureau | December 5

Visakhapatnam: Tensions flared near the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on Friday as members of the local fishing community staged a protest opposing alleged government moves to take over their traditional fishing grounds for upcoming naval events connected to the Navy Fleet Review. The protest, organized by the Fishermen Industrial Welfare Association, drew dozens of fishermen from the One Town and Jalaripeta areas, who vowed to defend their ancestral land at any cost.

The site in contention lies opposite the Navy Quarters near the harbour's fish landing centre, an area long used by local fishermen to dry their nets and sort their daily catch. The protesters alleged that authorities were now attempting to seize this land under the pretext of development activities linked to the forthcoming International Fleet Review (IFR). They warned officials not to

enter or interfere with their land, declaring, “Anyone entering our area will face resistance.”

Speaking at the protest, association representatives Valasetti Tataji and Chintapalli Ayyappa Raju reminded authorities of earlier unfulfilled promises. They alleged that since the early 2000s, several development projects had displaced fishermen without proper compensation or rehabilitation. “In the past, the container terminal project took away our coastline. Later, in 2002, the port authorities acquired our land promising to construct a multi-purpose jetty,” said Tataji. “They assured each affected family 60 square yards of residential land, 1 lakh as economic support, and employment opportunities. None of those promises have been honored,” he added. The protesters accused the current administration of repeating history by targeting the same coastal stretch for the upcoming naval exhibition and fleet review.



“Under the name of infrastructure and national events, they are slowly erasing the livelihoods of traditional fishermen,” said Ayyappa Raju.

The fishermen expressed bitterness that while the city's port and navy projects brought prestige and profit to the region, local communities continued to lose land, income, and cultural heritage. Demonstrators gathered near the Navy Canteen and marched through parts of Jalaripeta, carrying placards demanding justice and protection of their traditional

fishing rights. Many recalled how their ancestors had depended on the very coastline now threatened by development.

“This is not just land; it is our life,” said one protester. “We will give our lives if necessary, but we will not give up our land.” Leaders of the protest urged the government and the Visakhapatnam Port Trust to open a dialogue and implement long-pending rehabilitation measures before initiating any new projects.

They also demanded written assurances that no part of the fish landing area would be taken

over without the consent of the community. Those who participated in the protest included Gundla Ganesh, Vadamodula Pentayya Master, Vadamodula Gurranna, and several others from the coastal community.

The fishermen's protest has once again highlighted the long-standing conflict between coastal development and the livelihood rights of traditional fishing families in Visakhapatnam, an issue that continues to test the balance between modernization and social justice along Andhra Pradesh's coastline.

Road Safety Key to Achieving “Swarn Andhra”: Accidents, Fatalities Decline in NTR District

TPN Bureau | December 5, VIJAYAWADA:

NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminsha said road accidents and fatalities have significantly decreased in 2025 compared to the previous year, attributing the improvement to coordinated efforts of various departments. He was speaking at the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting held in the Vijayawada Collectorate, attended by Vijayawada Police Commissioner Rajashekhar Babu and officials from various departments.

The Collector said that while NTR district recorded 1,343 road accidents in 2024, the number dropped to 918 in 2025. Fatalities also declined from 432 to 317. He noted that most accidents occur between 6 p.m. and midnight and highlighted that nearly one-third of all mishaps



and deaths involve two-wheelers.

He said 58% of the district's accidents and 41% of its fatalities occur along National Highway 65. To further reduce accidents, he directed officials to install clear signboards indicating speed limits and take strict action against overloaded vehicles. Dr Lakshminsha reiterated that Good Samaritans who help accident victims will not face any civil or criminal liability or police harassment, urging society to honour such lifesavers. He called on NGOs to actively participate in road-safety awareness programmes. High-Risk Zones Identified; Foot Overbridges

Proposed

Vijayawada Police Commissioner Rajashekhar Babu said that Bhavanipuram, Ibrahimpatnam, Patamata, Kanchikacherla and Krishnalanka police station limits account for the highest number of road accidents in the city. He proposed the construction of foot overbridges at major junctions including Bus Stand, Benz Circle and Ramavarappadu to ensure pedestrian safety. He said special attention is being given to frequent accident-prone “black spots” and announced the introduction of a new app aimed at reducing traffic inconvenience for citizens.

Ex-IRS Officer and Sons Arrested in 55-Crore Fraud Case Promising 12% Monthly Returns

TPN Bureau | December 5, Visakhapatnam:

In a major crackdown on a high-profile financial fraud, Visakhapatnam police have arrested former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Katika Shivabhogarao and his sons for allegedly defrauding investors of over 55 crore through a cooperative society that promised unusually high monthly returns. The accused were running an operation under the banner “Sneha Max Mutually Aided Cooperative Society”, which authorities say was nothing short of a large-scale ponzi-style scam.

According to the police, the 65-year-old ex-IRS officer, hailing from Khairatabad in Hyderabad, along with his sons Srikanth and Kranthi, had been enticing investors since 2014 with promises of 12% interest on deposits. The scheme targeted primarily retired employees, ex-police offi-

cers, and middle-class pensioners who were lured by the promise of steady monthly returns. Initially, to gain the confidence of depositors, the society reportedly made timely payments for a few months.

This created a sense of legitimacy and encouraged many investors to reinvest or increase their deposits. Over time, however, the payments stopped, and all communication from the management ceased.

Alarmed by the sudden silence, investors began inquiring only to realize that they had fallen victim to a massive fraud. Investigations revealed that what started as a modest cooperative entity originally known as an SC-ST Mutual Cooperative Society in Visakhapatnam's Seethampeta area since 2008 was rebranded in 2014 by Shivabhogarao and his associates as Sneha Max Cooperative Society.

Telangana Minister Invites Chandrababu Naidu to Hyderabad Global Summit

TPN Bureau | Dec 5
Vijayawada: Strengthening inter-state ties and signalling greater regional cooperation, Telangana Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy on Friday called on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada and formally invited him to participate in the Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025, slated to take place in Hyderabad on December 8 and 9.

The Minister personally conveyed the invitation on behalf of the Telangana Government and briefed the Chief Minister about the theme and

agenda of the high-profile event. The Telangana Rising Global Summit, he explained, is being organised on the model of the World Economic Forum at Davos, with the twin objectives of fostering economic dialogue and promoting domestic and foreign investment opportunities in India's southern states. Komatireddy stated that the summit would serve as a platform for international and national industry leaders, policy makers, trade experts, economists and corporate leaders to exchange ideas on the global investment climate and discuss new opportunities in emerging sectors.

The event will also feature interactive sessions on technology innovation, infrastructure, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, agribusiness, and digital economy. He informed that top executives from major multinational companies and leading Indian conglomerates have confirmed participation, alongside diplomats and senior officials from several countries.

The summit, he added, is envisioned as one of the largest economic and investment promotional gatherings ever hosted by Telangana, reflecting the state's ambition to position Hyderabad among

the foremost global business hubs.

According to sources, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed appreciation for the Telangana Government's initiative and emphasised the importance of regional collaboration in driving growth and investment in South India.

He noted that such forums create positive momentum for strengthening inter-state relations and facilitating mutually beneficial partnerships between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in key economic domains.

Political observers view Friday's meeting as a significant gesture of

goodwill between the two Telugu-speaking states, whose governments are now keen on fostering cooperative engagement after a decade of administrative separation. The invitation to Naidu underscores Telangana's intention to include Andhra Pradesh as a vital partner in the broader southern growth narrative and reflects a spirit of constructive federalism aimed at shared economic progress.

The Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025 will be inaugurated in Hyderabad next week and is expected to draw delegates from over 30 countries.



Advocate Seeks 33% Quota for Women in AP High Court Bar Association Elections



TPN Bureau | December 5
Vijayawada: Senior advocate Thota Sunitha has approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court, urging the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women advocates in the upcoming elections of the Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocates' Association (APHCAA). The petition marks a significant move toward ensuring gender representation and equality within the state's legal fraternity.

In her writ petition filed against the president, secretary, and executive committee members of the Association, Sunitha contended that the same constitutional spirit that guarantees women's reservation in law-making bodies should apply to representative institutions within the legal ecosystem. She sought the court's direction to compel the Association to set aside one-third of the posts in its elected body exclusively for women.

Citing the 106th Constitutional Amendment, which mandates one-third reservation for women from panchayats to Parliament, Sunitha argued that the legal profession—being a pillar of democracy—must adopt similar affirmative action to reflect inclusive participation. "Equality in representation is the foundation of justice. The bar, being the cradle of judicial leadership, cannot remain an exception to constitutional ideals," she submitted before the court.

Sunitha further referred to a Supreme Court directive issued in May 2024, which instructed the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and other as-

sociated bodies to ensure 33 per cent representation for women in their respective elected committees. She contended that the Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocates' Association should comply with the same principle, promoting greater participation of women advocates in decision-making and leadership roles.

Accepting the petition, Justice Gannamaneni Rama Krishna Prasad admitted the case and issued notices to the Association's office-bearers, seeking their response. The matter has been posted for further hearing on Wednesday. The petitioner, Sunitha, appeared in person during the proceedings.

The plea is expected to initiate a broader debate within the state's legal community regarding gender inclusivity in professional bodies. While the legal profession in India has witnessed a steady rise in women advocates, their representation in bar associations and governing councils remains disproportionately low.

Activists and senior women lawyers have long argued that mandated quotas could break long-standing barriers and reshape institutional culture within the legal sector. If the High Court rules in favor of the petition, the decision could set a precedent for other bar associations across Andhra Pradesh to adopt similar measures.

Legal experts note that such a reform would not only align with the constitutional principles of equality but also resonate with the Supreme Court's recent push for gender equity in legal institutions.

YSRCP stands with Joji Nagar Families

TPN Bureau | December 5
VIJAYAWADA:

YSRCP leaders strongly condemned the brutal demolition of 42 homes in Bhavanipuram's Joji Nagar, assuring full support to the displaced families and vowing to fight for justice until the end. Former Minister Velampalli Srinivas, former MLA Malladi Vishnu, NTR district YSRCP president Devineni Avinash, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, YSRCP Social Media Wing State President Dodda Anjireddy and other leaders visited the victims and expressed deep anger at the manner in which the demolition was executed.

They said over 200 police personnel accompanied by hired rowdy elements stormed the locality at dawn, threatened the sleeping families, and razed their houses within minutes without giving them time even to collect their belongings.



This was done despite victims showing Supreme Court orders explicitly stating that no demolitions should take place until December 31.

The leaders revealed that Joji Nagar residents had repeatedly approached Minister Nara Lokesh, the Jana Sena party office, local MLA and MP Kesineni Chinni, pleading

for protection, yet none responded. They alleged that the demolition was carried out with the full knowledge and instructions of the MP and MLA, which explains why they have not visited the victims even after such a cruel act.

YSRCP leaders stated that ever since the coalition government came to power, MP

Kesineni Chinni has been eyeing this high-value land worth hundreds of crores and the demolition was part of a planned attempt to grab it. Even when a similar attempt was made four months ago, YSRCP leaders stopped the move, but this time the government secretly executed the operation during early hours to avoid resistance.

The leaders said the victims have been paying house tax, water tax and power bills to the Vijayawada Corporation for 20 years, and many elderly residents have been receiving pensions from the government. All documents proving ownership were ignored and even Supreme Court directions were violated, proving that the Chandrababu-led government has no respect for law or the Constitution.

They alleged that some rowdy elements accompanying the police misbehaved with wom-

en, and despite complaints, no cases were filed. The leaders said the coalition government is operating like a bulldozer regime, supporting land grabbers while driving poor families onto the streets.

YSRCP asserted that on being informed of the incident, former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy immediately directed party leaders to stand with the victims and lead the fight for justice. The party warned that it will not remain silent and will take the battle to the courts and to the people until the 42 displaced families get justice.

The leaders demanded an immediate response from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, holding them responsible for the unconstitutional, inhuman demolition carried out under their watch.



Parakamani probe twisted for political vendetta : Bhumana

TPN Bureau | December 5

TIRUPATI: YSRCP State Official spokesperson and former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy strongly condemned the ongoing Parakamani case investigation as politically motivated and deliberately distorted to portray YSRCP leaders as culprits. Speaking to the media at his residence in Tirupati, he said the CID inquiry is being conducted in a completely biased manner, targeting honest officials while sparing those who continue to serve in the present TTD Board under the Chandrababu government.

He questioned why TDP leaders who publicly claim to possess "evidence" against him and YV Subba Reddy were never summoned for questioning by the CID. He challenged those making allegations to produce proof, declaring that he would take political sanyas if even a single rupee benefit or favour from donor Ravi Kumar is established. He asked whether TDP lead-

ers would resign if the CID report contradicts their accusations.

Bhumana stated that he was only a special invitee to the TTD Board, yet was selectively summoned while other Board members from that period, who are still members today, were conveniently ignored. He asserted that the investigation has gone off-track due to direct interference from the Chandrababu-led government, with CID and ACB officials acting under political pressure and misleading courts while leaking selective information to pro-TDP media to malign YSRCP leaders.

He accused the government of twisting even court orders to suit its narrative and using the probe solely to defame YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and other YSRCP leaders over the last three months.

He further said that the inquiry was conducted in such a coercive and intimidating manner that an honest police officer like Satish Kumar lost his life. Lower-rank

officials were pressured, threatened, and pushed to give false statements, while attempts were made to use ACB as a weapon against officers who refused to lie.

Calling the entire probe a fabricated exercise, he questioned why the current government has not returned Ravi Kumar's donated properties if it claims they were obtained improperly. Accepting donations is a long-standing TTD practice, he said, and no wrongdoing occurred during the Board's tenure. Bhumana demanded that Chandrababu Naidu, who has been getting multiple cases against him withdrawn, perform "penance" by handing over his own assets to the government just as donor Ravi Kumar did. Concluding that the Parakamani inquiry is nothing but a political conspiracy aimed at terrorising honest officers and branding YSRCP leaders as thieves, he insisted that the investigation was carried out in a manner completely contrary to facts and justice.

TDP State President Palla Targets Jagan, Says Tirumala Traditions Were 'Denigrated' Under Previous Regime

TPN Bureau | December 5

VISAKHAPATNAM: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State President Palla Srinivasa Rao launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that the previous YSRCP government had undermined the sanctity of Tirumala and mishandled several temple-related issues. Addressing the media, Palla accused Jagan of "repeatedly invoking the sacred name of Lord Venkateswara for political gain," despite lacking understanding of Sanatana Dharma and Tirumala's traditions.

He said every rupee offered at the temple hundi represented the "faith and sacrifice of devotees," and alleged that the previous regime allowed mismanagement of temple affairs. Referring to the Parakamani episode, Palla termed it the "clearest example" of what happens when persons facing theft allegations are entrusted with sensitive temple duties. He also ridiculed Jagan's recent media interactions, claiming they reflected desperation to stay politically relevant.

He further alleged that votive offerings and temple resources had become vulnerable to misappropriation under the YSRCP



administration. Citing the alleged 72,000 theft, transfer of temple properties, and the deaths linked to the Viveka murder case, he said these incidents revealed the "modus operandi of the Jagan syndicate." Theft of any magnitude, he said, remained a crime before the law.

On the adulterated ghee scandal involving Tirumala laddu production, Palla called it "a grave sin disguised as corruption," asserting that the ghee supplied during the YSRCP tenure did not contain "even a drop of milk." He questioned why Jagan was now opposing inquiries despite his own government earlier seeking a CBI probe.

Arrests made by the Supreme Court-appointed SIT, he said, were only the beginning of uncovering the full network. Palla also accused the former Chief Minister of lacking basic knowledge of temple etiquette, including restrictions on

footwear and traditional offerings. He criticised Jagan for allegedly maligning judges and constitutional authorities and for promoting an environment of intimidation through phone tapping and pressure tactics.

He said Andhra Pradesh had turned into a "narcotics corridor" during the previous regime, with illegal liquor and ganja cultivation reportedly flourishing. Contrasting this with the present administration, he credited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh for restoring governance standards and reviving investor confidence.

He highlighted the successful conduct of the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting 3.0, held across nearly 45,000 schools, calling it a testament to the government's commitment to improving education quality and community participation.

AP Agriculture Department Launches Initiative to Boost Farmers’ GVA and Net Income

TPN Bureau | December 5

VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department has begun implementing a new set of initiatives aimed at enhancing farmers’ Gross Value Addition (GVA) and net income, following the directions issued by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during the Rythanna Meekosam workshop held at Nallajerla, East Godavari district.

Director of Agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon, announced that the department is working with Athena Infonomics, which is functioning as the Project Management Unit (PMU) with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to roll out a pilot programme that strengthens data-driven planning and value enhancement at the Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK) level. The initiative aims to institutionalise scientific planning at RSKs to ensure higher net income, greater value addition, and improved gross val-



ue for farmers across agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and sericulture. As part of the programme, the department will identify key agricultural resources contributing to GVA and train RSK staff to understand how various factors influence value addition. The training will cover GVA calculation, value drivers, crop planning opportunities, and market-linked strategies within each RSK jurisdiction.

Director Holds Review Meeting

Dr Samoon convened a detailed review meeting on Thursday at the Mangalagiri office with senior agricultural officials and the PMU team from Athena Infonomics. He noted that the Chief Minister had emphasised the need for a mindset shift among farmers, urging them to focus on increasing value and income rather than merely production.

He said RSK functionalities would play a key role in this transformation. To support them, data from all village-level departments will be inte-



grated into a unified RSK Dashboard, enabling evidence-based decision-making and transparent monitoring. The Director also instructed the PMU to integrate market price variations and analytics into the dashboards to help farmers make informed choices.

Mechanisation and Annual Planning

The meeting also discussed mapping all mechanisation assets—such as GPS-enabled harvesters and tractors—to improve utilisation and streamline state-wide

planning. Dr. Samoon stressed that the Annual Action Plan prepared by RSKs must be realistic, data-driven, and inclusive of inputs from all related departments. Strengthening dashboards to display targets, measurable indicators, and performance gaps was identified as a priority.

Additional Directors V Vijayalakshmi and B Prasad, senior officers, and Athena Infonomics consultants Amit Chakravarty and Soumya A, participated in the review.



Minister Nara Lokesh to Embark on Another Foreign Tour

Aiming to Attract Investments to Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | December 5

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh will embark on a five-day tour of the United States and Canada from December 6 to 10, with the primary objective of securing investments from the state.

This will be Minister Lokesh's second visit to the United States since the coalition government assumed power. Over the past 18 months, Lokesh has toured the United States, Davos, Singapore and Australia as part of the state's broader strategy to promote Andhra Pradesh as a global investment destination.

During these visits, he has highlighted Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's reputation, the state's investor-friendly policies and the conducive environment for setting up industries. His recent efforts have contributed significantly to the investment momentum, evident from the surge of commitments made during the Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam.

The government expects that Lokesh's upcoming tour will further strengthen international collaborations and accelerate industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh.

Road Safety and Defensive Driving Training Held for Amaravati Project Personnel

TPN Bureau | December 5

VIJAYAWADA: A comprehensive Road Safety and Defensive Driving Training Program was conducted at the APCRDA office hall in Vijayawada for personnel engaged in the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme. The initiative, organized under the supervision of the Amaravati Project Management Consultants (PgMC), aimed to enhance safety awareness among engineers, supervisors, and drivers associated with the ongoing capital region development works.

The event brought together officials and representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL), Project Management Consultants (PMC), and several contracting firms involved in the execution of key Amaravati infrastructure projects. The central theme of the program “Target Zero” emphasized the ambitious goal of achieving zero road accidents within project zones

through education, discipline, and effective safety implementation.

The training sessions were conducted by PgMC Road Safety Specialist Arun Kumar Gajula and PMC Road Safety Specialist Kiran Kumar Egga, who guided participants through a detailed overview of road safety principles, work-zone management, and defensive driving techniques. Demonstrations and interactive discussions were conducted to help participants recognize accident-prone areas, adopt standard safety protocols, and respond effectively to emergency situations. Prominent APCRDA officials including Anita Vani Bhupathi (Labour Commissioner), Gudivada Gopikrishna, and Boya Sreedhar Reddy participated in the event, highlighting the authority's commitment to strengthening safety culture across all Amaravati project sites.

Members of the PgMC Capacity Building Team Suryanarayana, Gangadhari, and Manohar Rao were also present and assisted in facilitating the training sessions. In



her address, Labour Commissioner Anita Vani Bhupathi stressed that road safety must be viewed as a shared responsibility among contractors, engineers, and field staff. She emphasized that proper awareness, combined with strict adherence to safety guidelines, is essential to prevent avoidable accidents at construction sites and along corridor roads connecting project areas.

Experts also spoke about the importance of the “four E’s” — Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Response — as the guiding pillars of any successful road safety

strategy. The concept encourages joint coordination among departments to ensure safety audits, enforce traffic discipline at work zones, train vehicle operators, and establish efficient emergency response systems.

Participants suggested conducting regular refresher training programs and proposed observing a Road Safety Month in January 2026, to be organized collaboratively by the participating departments. They noted that such continuous efforts would help sustain a culture of safety and accountability among personnel working in high-risk environments. The program concluded with a pledge by all attendees to follow defensive driving practices, use protective gear, and promote safety awareness among co-workers.

The session was well received for its practical approach and the organizers' commitment to improving safety standards within the Amaravati development zone. With large-scale construction activities underway across the capital region, initiatives like this reflect the APCRDA's proactive stance in protecting human life, reducing risks, and ensuring that the Amaravati projects progress with both efficiency and care.

Gurudeva Trust is a Symbol of Humanity: HM Anitha

Assures Aarogyasri Approval for Cancer Hospital

TPN Bureau | December 5

KOTTHAVALASA/MANGALAPALEM: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha praised the services of Gurudeva Charitable Trust Dr Vijaya Sri Uppalapati Memorial Cancer Hospital, describing the institution as a “temple of compassion” and a model of humanitarian service. She assured that she would take all necessary steps to secure Aarogyasri approval for the hospital at the earliest.

The Home Minister visited the hospital on Friday, where she inspected the operation theatre, ICU and various patient wards. She laud-



ed the trust for extending remarkable medical services, especially to the needy, and said its activities truly reflect the spirit of service and humanity.

Distribution of Assistive Devices to the Differently Abled

Marking the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Minister Anitha

participated in a special programme organised by the Trust. She distributed artificial limbs, assistive devices to persons with disabilities, and blankets to the poor. Speaking on the occasion, she said she felt fortunate to be part of such a noble initiative held in a place that feels like a temple.

Congratulating Trust Chairman R Jagadeesh Kumar for his dedicated services, she said, “If humanity dies, the world cannot survive. Jagadeesh is like a messenger sent by God.” She emphasised that persons with disabilities should not be viewed as disabled but as “differently talented individuals” who often possess great mental strength.

She said Chief Minis-

ter N Chandrababu Naidu's policies have brought light into the lives of differently abled individuals, ensuring political and social inclusion. The Minister encouraged Jagadeesh to further expand the Trust's activities.

Reiterating her commitment, Minister Anitha said she would personally work towards ensuring that the cancer hospital receives Aarogyasri approval soon.

S Kot MLC Kollu Lalitha Kumari, MLC Indukuri Raghuraju, Trust Chairman Ramparti Jagadeesh Kumar, Differently Abled Corporation Chairman Narayanaswamy, Dasari Corporation Chairperson P Ratnaji and Visakhapatnam Deputy Mayor Govinda Rao were among those present.

AP to Develop Model Education System; CM Launches FLN and Classroom Clickers Programme

TPN Bureau | December 5, BHAMINI (Parvatipuram Manyam)

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced that Andhra Pradesh will be developed into a national role model in education, emphasising the integration of technology, creativity, and value-based learning across schools. Addressing a mega parents-teachers meeting at the AP Model School in Bhamini, he said that reforms introduced by the government are aimed at nurturing globally competent and socially responsible young citizens. The Chief Minister announced that a Students' Innovative Partnership Summit will be held in the last week of January to foster innovation among students. Industrialists will be invited to the summit, and awards will be presented to the best student innovation projects. Additionally, students aspiring to pursue higher education abroad will be supported under the Kalalaku Rekkalu scheme with loans at a nominal 25 paise interest rate. Naidu said he was impressed by the skills displayed by students at the meeting and noted that India's demographic advantage places a special responsibility on the education system to empower youth. Stressing

the need for moral and ethical education, he said the government has appointed Chaganti Koteswara Rao to help promote value-based learning and build an ethics-driven society.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the NDA government has introduced 28 reforms in school education and 10 reforms in Intermediate education. The Talliki Vandanam scheme is being implemented effectively, with one mother reportedly receiving 90,000 for her six school-going children. Improvements in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, apolitical



distribution of school kits, and a favourable teacher-student ratio of 1:18 in government schools—compared to 1:28 in private schools—were also cited as key achievements.

To bring global best practices to AP classrooms, teachers will be sent to countries like Finland for exposure visits. Naidu reiterated that the government is moving ahead with the vision of making Andhra Pradesh the No. 1 state in India. He also highlighted the economic disparity within the region, noting that while AP's per capita income is 2.37 lakh, it is significantly

lower in Parvatipuram (1.43 lakh), Palakonda (1.19 lakh), and Bhamini (1.15 lakh), underscoring the need for development in agency areas.

Launch of FLN and Classroom Clickers

Earlier, the Chief Minister and Education Minister Nara Lokesh stepped into a classroom to experience teaching methods firsthand and launched the Classroom Clickers and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) programmes. The clickers system provides real-time feedback to teachers on students' comprehension. Naidu personally interacted with a girl student who scored 73% and encouraged her to improve further.

He reiterated the government's decision to observe Saturdays as "No Bag Day" to promote sports and fine arts. Nearly 16,000 teachers have been recruited under Mega DSC to strengthen academic standards. Impressed by a display of self-defence skills by girl students, the CM announced that a special Act will be enacted to ensure their safety.

MLA N Jayakrishna, Principal Secretary Kona Sasidhar, Commissioner Vijayarama Raju, Headmaster G Babu Rao and SMC Chairman Vanapalli Ravikumar participated in the program.



Violence and Negligence Incidents Shock Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | December 5

Eluru: Several disturbing incidents across Andhra Pradesh over the past 24 hours have drawn public outrage from violent assaults to alleged medical negligence and political statements heightening tensions in Maoist-affected regions. Eluru Incident: Woman Allegedly Abducted and Assaulted A shocking crime was reported in Eluru late Thursday night when a group of alleged rowdy sheets reportedly barged into a residence and abducted a young woman who was alone at home.

According to police sources, the suspects took her to an isolated location and allegedly subjected her to sexual assault. Based on the victim's complaint, police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and have launched a search operation to nab the accused. Local residents expressed anger over the incident and demanded strict action against habitual offenders. Police have assured speedy investigation and additional patrolling in the area.

Guntur District: Surgical Negligence at Narasaraopet Government Hospital In another alarming development, doctors at the Narasaraopet Government Hospital allegedly left a surgical blade inside a woman's abdomen after a delivery operation. The victim reportedly suffered severe pain after the procedure, leading to the shocking discovery during a follow-up examination.

Relatives of the affected women staged a protest in front of the hospital demanding

accountability and action against the negligent medical staff. Health department officials have initiated an internal inquiry, and preliminary reports suggest procedural lapses during the surgery. The incident has reignited public debate over medical negligence in public healthcare institutions.

Chilakaluripet: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan at Mega Parents-Teachers Event Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan attended a large-scale Parents and Teachers' Day celebration in Chilakaluripet, where he interacted with educators and students. During his address, he emphasized the government's commitment to improving educational infrastructure and teacher welfare across the state.

Maoist Group "Vikalp" Issues New Letter

In a separate development, a Maoist faction calling itself "Vikalp" released another statement claiming senior leaders Devji and Rajireddy were part of their ranks. The group dismissed reports that top leader Hidma had leaked information to police, asserting instead that he had gone to Vijayawada for medical treatment.

The letter accused certain timber and furniture traders in Vijayawada of betraying the organization and alleged that the recent Maredumilli encounter was staged by Andhra Pradesh police, claiming that 13 Maoists were captured alive and later killed. The group threatened retaliation, vowing revenge for what it called "fake encounter killings."

Online Applications Made Mandatory for 22A Land Issues, Says Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji



TPN Bureau | December 5

Avanigadda, Krishna District: Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji has directed residents of 22A lands to submit their applications online for faster and more transparent resolution of their land-related issues. The Collector made this announcement on Friday at a land regularization and title distribution program held at the Revenue Hall in Avanigadda. The event was organized to distribute regularization documents and registration deeds under Government Order (G.O.) No. 30, which allows for the regularization of house sites in certain categories of government lands.

Avanigadda MLA and Legislative Council member Budda Prasad and District Collector D.K. Balaji attended as chief guests. They personally handed over registered documents and title deeds to several beneficiaries. Addressing the gathering, Collector Balaji explained that the government had introduced a digital mechanism to ease the process for residents living on 22A lands. Instead of carrying files and visiting offices repeatedly, applicants can now directly submit their applications online.

This step, he noted, would help the administration verify cases systematically and resolve them efficiently. "Many families have been residing in these places for more than four decades without legal ownership of their house sites,"

Balaji said. "By identifying such people and providing legal titles, the government ensures that long-pending problems are resolved permanently and transparently." During the program, about forty long-term residents received regularized registration documents and title deeds, granting them legal ownership of their properties. The Collector appreciated the coordinated efforts of local officials, including revenue staff and field officers, who have been instrumental in implementing the G.O. 30 regularization initiatives across the district. MLA Budda Prasad praised Collector Balaji for his active role in addressing the long-standing 22A land issues. He remarked that Balaji's leadership and commitment had brought hope and relief to poor families who had lived for years in uncertainty about their land rights.

The legislator also noted that he had been closely monitoring the progress of these cases and consistently pressing for their resolution at the

district level. He further commended Tehsildar Nagamalleswara Rao and the Avanigadda revenue team for their diligence in preparing and processing the necessary documents in record time. The MLA urged all eligible residents to follow the Collector's advice by submitting their applications online to speed up future settlements.

As part of the event, Collector Balaji and MLA Budda Prasad felicitated Tehsildar Nagamalleswara Rao and his wife on the occasion of his promotion and transfer, recognizing his efficient service and contribution to the district's land regularisation efforts. Several local representatives and officials attended the ceremony, including AMC Chairman Kolluri Venkateswara Rao, MPP Tungal Sumathi Devi, MPDO Mariyadevi, and other revenue and office staff.

marking a significant step toward formalising property ownership for long-term residents in Avanigadda and nearby areas.

PHC Staff suspended for negligence



TPN Bureau | December 5

Ganapavaram: Ganapavaram PHC Staff Suspended for Dereliction of Duty in Palnadu District In a stern action against negligence in public health services, the Palnadu District authorities suspended two doctors and ten staff members of the Ganapavaram Primary Health Centre (PHC) under Nadendla mandal. The decision was taken following an unexpected inspection by the Andhra Pradesh Health Commissioner, Dr. Veerapandian, who discovered the centre closed well before the official working hours.

According to official sources, Dr. Veerapandian conducted a surprise visit to the Ganapavaram PHC on Thursday evening as part of a routine state-level inspection drive to assess medical services in rural health institutions. However, on arrival, the Commissioner was reportedly shocked to find the premises locked. None of the doctors or staff were present on duty, despite working hours not being completed.

The Commissioner immediately documented the situation by taking photographs and videos of the locked PHC. These visuals were then forwarded to District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Ravi Kumar for further action. Expressing his displeasure, the Commissioner noted that such negligence in providing healthcare services during official working hours was unacceptable, especially in rural areas where timely medical attention is crucial. Responding promptly to the findings, DMHO Dr. Ravi Kumar issued suspension orders against all the personnel involved.

The suspended in-

clude Medical Officers Dr. Kavitha Anasuyadevi and Dr. Prasad Naik, Medical and Health Officer (MPHO) Srinivasa Reddy, Health Educator Anjamma, Senior Assistant Hanumanta Naik, Staff Nurses Vijaya, Aruna, and Mastan Bee, Lab Technician Aruna Kumari, and Multi-Purpose Health Supervisors (MPHS) Rahiman Basa and Janaki Devi, along with FMO Putlamma.

Officials stated that the suspension orders were issued on charges of dereliction of duty, absenteeism, and violation of government service conduct rules. Sources within the health department revealed that the inspection drive led by the Commissioner aims to ensure accountability and discipline within government-run health institutions, particularly in rural and backward districts like Palnadu.

District health authorities have confirmed that further departmental inquiry will be conducted to determine the reasons behind the premature closure of the PHC and to decide if any additional disciplinary action is warranted. Dr. Ravi Kumar emphasized that the health department will not tolerate negligence that endangers community welfare, saying that PHCs serve as the first point of contact for healthcare in villages, and their smooth functioning is vital for effective public health delivery.

This incident has sparked discussions in the district about the need for stricter monitoring of government medical staff and better administrative oversight, noting that ensuring doctors are available during working hours is essential for maintaining public trust in government healthcare facilities.

Coalition Government Prioritises Rural Healthcare, Says Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

TPN Bureau | December 5

ADDANKI : Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar asserted that the coalition government led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is according top priority to strengthening rural healthcare and ensuring accessible medical services for people in remote regions. The Minister, accompanied by Health Minister Satya Kumar, toured Santamaguluru village in Addanki constituency on Friday and inaugurated a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) built at a cost of 1.66 crore. The Ministers also inaugurated the Santamaguluru Secretariat-2 and distributed free bicycles to school students.

Speaking at the programme, Gottipati said construction of PHCs in Santamaguluru, Addanki, and Korisapadu has been completed and will soon be opened to the public. He announced that 1.50 crore has been sanctioned for constructing a PHC in Elchuru. He

also informed that 38 Sub-Health Centres sanctioned for Addanki mandal are nearing the construction stage and directed revenue officials to expedite land acquisition. Buildings will be named after land donors as a mark of gratitude, he added.

The Minister said development of specialized healthcare facilities is a key priority. A five-bed dialysis centre and an AIDS treatment facility will be set up in Addanki so patients no longer need to travel long distances. He also revealed that the existing 30-bed Area Hospital will be modernized with upgraded facilities.

Taking on the previous YSRCP government, Gottipati alleged that public health development during their rule remained "only on paper," with no real progress on the ground. He said the Santamaguluru Secretariat was left incomplete and important government offices in the Nagarjuna Sagar command area lacked proper build-

ings. "Such negligence will not be tolerated under the coalition government," he asserted.

He reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling promises made by Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan during the elections. As part of this, the government sanctioned a special Revenue Division for Addanki and initiated steps to realign the constituency back into Prakasam district, addressing long-pending local demands. He credited Health Minister Satya Kumar for securing additional resources owing to his rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Touching on education, the Minister praised the conduct of the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting and

appreciated Education Minister Nara Lokesh for key reforms, including recruiting 16,300 teachers through DSC and ensuring annual filling of teacher vacancies. He highlighted donor contributions 350 bicycles from Continental Coffee Chairman Rajendra Prasad and 150 bicycles through Assist NGO to support students in Santamaguluru.

He criticized the previous government for neglecting school infrastructure, pointing out that the Santamaguluru SC Hostel had been closed due to poor facilities. The coalition government has since modernized and reopened it to benefit students. Various officials and coalition leaders took part in the programme.

Telangana's Temples Marching Forward



Telangana's temples are seeing major improvements, thanks to the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Endowments Minister Smt. Konda Surekha. The government is working hard to make temples beautiful and grand, but most importantly, they're making sure ordinary people have basic facilities when they visit. They are fixing many things that were ignored before and are giving special importance to the people's religious beliefs. This commitment was clear during the big festivals. The recent Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, the state's largest gathering, was held successfully, with the government spending

₹110 crores to ensure a smooth experience. Now, they are planning an even bigger festival next time, including permanent construction at the site. The Bonalu festival in Hyderabad was also celebrated on a grander scale, with ₹20 crores sanctioned—more money than before—due to the Minister's special interest. In a first, the Endowments Department started Mass Karthika Month Lamp Festivals (Deepotsavams), bringing spiritual light to all temples every evening during the holy Karthika month. They're also using technology: people who can't attend the Sammakka-Saralamma festival can now offer 'gold' and receive

prasadam online through services like Mee Seva and the Postal Department. This online service was also available for prasadam during Maha Shivaratri. On the administrative side, the government gave promotions to 33 long-serving employees and moved temple staff around in transfers after 16 years. New events like the River Lamp Offering (Nadi Aarathi) have begun at sacred places like Bhadrachalam. Big Plans for Big Temples The government is spending about ₹400 crores to improve temples across the state. Yadagirigutta is getting a new gold plating on its main dome (about 63 kg of gold). They've also planned

a Vedic School and acquired a large area of land for building guest houses. Vemulawada received ₹76 crores for improvements, including building a new free meal (Annadanam) center. Bhadrachalam received ₹60.20 crores to buy land for future development. The government is also protecting temple property. They started a special effort to secure over 632 acres of temple land. They plan to use some of this land for solar plants, involving women's self-help groups (Indira Mahila Shakti Groups). They are also using modern mapping technology (GIS digitalization) to keep track of temple lands, which is a commendable step. Over-

all, Telangana's religious sites are not just being preserved; they are being actively developed using modern methods, greater funding, and a deep respect for the public's faith, ensuring a bright future for these cultural landmarks.



Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst.

The rupee's real problem: A rising import bill and stagnant exports



The Indian rupee's latest slide has sparked concern, especially since domestic fundamentals appear stable. Inflation remains within the RBI's tolerance band, economic growth hit 8.2% in Q2 FY26, and weakening US manufacturing data should typically soften the dollar. Yet the rupee continues to depreciate, and attributing this solely to tariff threats from the Donald Trump administration oversimplifies the issue. India's currency pressures stem from long-standing structural vulnerabilities in the external sector—not short-term geopolitical shocks.

At the core of the problem is a persistent mismatch: India's heavy import dependence alongside modest export performance. India relies on a narrow set of imports—crude oil, gold, electronics, edible oils, and key intermediate goods. As incomes rise and manufacturing expands, the import bill grows faster than export earnings, widening the current account deficit. HSBC estimates FY26's deficit may nearly double from 0.6% to 1.4% of GDP, signalling mounting pressure on the rupee.

Meanwhile, India's export performance has remained largely stagnant for decades. The country accounts for just 1.8% of global merchandise exports and 4.3% in services. By contrast, China's share jumped from 4% in 2001 to over 15% by 2022 due to its deep integration with global value chains and massive investments in logistics and manufacturing. India continues to grapple with high logistics costs, unpredictable regulations, quality-control issues, and limited participation in global supply chains.

This combination—high imports and stagnant exports—keeps the rupee vulnerable. Depreciation is often seen as a tool to boost exports, but in India's case the benefits are muted. The rupee has weakened more than 35% since 2015, yet export shares have barely moved. Many export industries depend heavily on imported inputs, meaning a weaker rupee simply raises production costs. In high-value sectors, competitiveness depends on reliability, innovation, and supply-chain integration—not currency movements.

The RBI's ability to influence this structural imbalance is limited. The central bank can smooth volatility but cannot sustainably support an artificially strong rupee without risking reserve depletion or capital flight. Durable currency strength must come from the real economy.

Policy priorities must therefore shift toward expanding export capacity. This includes strengthening R&D, improving university-industry collaboration, modernising logistics through programmes like Gati Shakti, and ensuring a stable, predictable trade regime. India also needs deeper participation in global supply chains through free-trade agreements and partnerships. Finally, a shift from volatile portfolio flows to long-term FDI would provide greater currency stability.

The rupee's recent depreciation is a reminder that currencies reflect economic strength. Without bold reforms to raise competitiveness and diversify exports, the rupee will continue to mirror India's unrealised potential.

India Needs More Bureaucrats, Not DOGE-Style Cuts, to Improve Efficiency



As the US disbands its controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), once championed by Elon Musk and former President Donald Trump, the episode offers a cautionary tale for countries like India that often romanticise drastic bureaucratic downsizing. DOGE's 10-month run, marked by the firing of 2,60,000 federal workers, ultimately collapsed under its own chaos. Rather than improving governance, it promoted a techno-dystopia that sidelined human expertise in favour of hyper-automation.

Yet in India, where frustrations over red tape are common, many saw DOGE as a model for streamlining governance. This reflects a broader belief that bureaucracies are bloated and inefficient. However, global research—and India's own experience—suggest the opposite: the Indian state is severely understaffed, not overstaffed.

Much of India's administrative reform discourse relies

on curbing bureaucratic discretion through digital surveillance tools—MIS dashboards, biometric attendance, GPS tracking and command-and-control centres. These systems aim to “discipline” civil servants but often undermine their ability to deliver public services. Frontline workers, from teachers to anganwadi staff, say they are reduced to “clerks” uploading data rather than solving real implementation challenges.

Restricting discretion also removes critical feedback loops from frontline officers who best understand on-ground realities. When their voices are ignored, bureaucratic culture shifts toward rigid adherence to process rather than outcomes. Many officers describe themselves as powerless “post officers,” reflecting a system that over-values data compliance instead of service delivery.

International comparisons highlight India's staffing crisis. In 2011, government em-

ployment accounted for only 4.6% of total employment—far below the US, where public employment stands at 15.9%. India has 1,623 government servants per 1 lakh residents, compared to 7,681 in the US. At senior levels, the gaps are stark: a 23% shortfall in IAS posts in 2018, only 940 diplomats compared to nearly 14,000 in the US State Department, and nearly 48% vacancies among Block Development Officers, according to research by Devesh Kapur and Aditya Dasgupta.

As outlined in State Capability in India, co-authored by current Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, India's state machinery performs remarkably well given its size and burdens. The real path to efficiency lies not in axing staff or replacing them with algorithms, but in empowering frontline workers, restoring autonomy, and expanding the workforce to match the country's administrative needs.

Putin in Delhi: India-Russia Ties Enter a More Transactional Phase

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi has renewed attention on a relationship long steeped in nostalgia and strategic habit. While expectations from his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi remain high, the India-Russia partnership is undergoing visible transformation, shaped by shifting global geopolitics, sanctions pressure, defence diversification, and India's broader multi-alignment strategy.

For decades, defence ties served as the backbone of bilateral relations. Since the 2000 Strategic Partnership declaration and the 2010 upgrade to a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership,” India has relied on Moscow for trusted defence supplies, advanced technologies, and diplomatic support. Legacy platforms—from MiG and Sukhoi aircraft to T-90 tanks and the INS Vikramaditya—cemented Russia's role as India's key armaments partner. Flagship ventures like BrahMos and the S-400 exemplified deep collaboration.

But the landscape is changing. Russia remains India's largest single defence supplier, yet its share of imports has declined sharply as New Delhi diversifies towards the US, France, Israel, and domestic production under Make in India. Sanctions and the Ukraine conflict have disrupted deliveries and payments, exposing the risks of overdependence and accelerating India's push for selective, high-end cooperation rather than broad reliance.



Energy and trade ties have expanded, particularly after India increased purchases of discounted Russian crude. Trade has surged to over \$65 billion, but remains starkly imbalanced: India's exports are still below \$5 billion. Western sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil have complicated payments, creating rupee surpluses and pushing experiments with local-currency settlement. Ambitious connectivity initiatives—INSTC, Chennai Vladivostok, and the Northern Sea Route—have political backing but face infrastruc-

tural and sanctions-related hurdles.

Geopolitically, both countries champion multipolarity and coordination in BRICS, SCO, and the G20. But Russia's tightening embrace of China limits Moscow's ability to balance Beijing on issues central to India's security. Meanwhile, India's deepening partnerships with the US, QUAD, and Europe constrain overt alignment with a heavily sanctioned Russia. This dynamic has led to a more pragmatic Indian approach—maintaining ties with Moscow while di-

versifying across multiple partners.

Looking ahead, the relationship will remain relevant but more constrained and transactional. Cooperation will endure in nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, select defence technologies, and Eurasian connectivity. Yet Russia will no longer occupy the central position it once did in India's foreign policy. Instead, New Delhi will pursue a calibrated partnership—resilient in priority sectors but shaped by the realities of a rapidly evolving global order.

MODI AND PUTIN REAFFIRM STRONG ANTI-TERROR ALLIANCE

TPN Bureau, New Delhi

India and Russia on Friday reaffirmed their long-standing strategic partnership and vowed to intensify cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. In a strong and symbolic joint statement delivered at Hyderabad House, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the two nations “stand shoulder-to-shoulder and walk together in the fight against terrorism”, while Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed New Delhi’s efforts to promote global peace amid ongoing geopolitical turbulence.

The meeting marked Putin’s first state visit to India in four years, a trip loaded with diplomatic significance given the shifting global alignments, continued Western pressure on Moscow, and India’s own challenge of balancing relations between Russia and the United States.

A Shared Stand Against Terrorism

Prime Minister Modi opened his remarks by highlighting the shared security concerns of both nations and condemned recent terrorist attacks that have shaken India and Russia.

“Whether it is the terrorist attack in Pahal-gam, where 26 innocent people were killed by the Jaish-e-Mohammed, or the cowardly assault on the Crocus City Hall in Moscow... the root of all these incidents is the same,” the Prime Minister said, referring to the March 2024 Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K) attack in Russia that left 149 people dead.

Reiterating India’s long-standing position, Modi stated, “Any terrorist attack is a direct assault on the values of humanity, and global unity against terrorism is our greatest strength.” The



remarks come at a time when both countries have intensified intelligence and security cooperation, particularly after Moscow strongly backed India following the Pahal-gam attack. Russia had publicly condemned the Pakistan-based Jaish group and stated it “stands in solidarity with India for elimination of terrorism in all its forms”.

The Kremlin had also supported India during Operation Sindoor, the military response targeting terror bases across Pakistan and regions illegally occupied by it. Friday’s joint statement further cements this alignment, signaling that counter-terrorism continues to be a core pillar of the India-Russia strategic partnership.

A Partnership That Has ‘Stood the Test of Time’

Reflecting on the durability of bilateral ties, PM Modi said the India-Russia friendship remained a stabilizing force despite global upheavals.

“Over the past eight decades, the world has witnessed ups and downs. Humanity has had to pass through many challenges and crises. Amidst all this, the India-Russia friendship has remained steady,

fast,” he said. He emphasized that the relationship is “rooted in mutual respect and trust,” and has consistently “stood the test of time.”

Putin’s presence in Delhi — his first state visit since the pandemic and the escalation of the Ukraine war — underscored Moscow’s continued prioritization of New Delhi even amid its growing dependence on China.

Energy and Trade: The Driving Forces of Cooperation

One of the most closely watched segments of the joint statement related to energy cooperation, especially at a time when Western nations, led by the United States, are pressuring India to scale down its purchases of Russian crude.

Putin reaffirmed Russia’s commitment to ensure “uninterrupted shipments” of fuel to India, a message of reassurance as global markets brace for another turbulent year. However, PM Modi chose his words carefully, making no specific reference to Russian oil. Instead, he highlighted cleaner and long-standing areas of joint work.

“Energy security has been a strong and important pillar of the India-

Russia partnership. Our decades-old cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy has been crucial in giving meaning to our shared priorities for clean energy. We will continue this win-win cooperation,” the Prime Minister said.

Despite Modi’s diplomatic balancing act, both leaders signaled a push for deeper economic engagement. Russia announced plans to elevate annual bilateral trade to USD 100 billion, a major leap from the current levels. Officials exchanged agreements covering employment, healthcare, shipping, chemicals, and maritime cooperation, including a new MoU for the shipping sector.

In what will be closely scrutinized by Western capitals, particularly the United States, Putin said India and Russia are “moving towards use of national currencies for bilateral payments,” a step that could further dilute dependence on the US dollar in global trade, especially within the BRICS framework.

Ukraine War: Peace Efforts and Diplomacy

The ongoing war in Ukraine — now in its fourth year with no visible resolution — was also a key point of discussion. Putin said he had a “very

informative and useful conversation” with Prime Minister Modi on the matter and thanked him for his consistent efforts to promote peace.

He revealed he had shared new details of a potential plan for peaceful resolution of the conflict and reiterated Moscow’s appreciation for India’s role as a “champion of peace”. India has maintained a balanced diplomatic stance throughout the conflict, calling for dialogue and cessation of hostilities without aligning fully with either bloc.

Expanding Horizons: Minerals, Technology, and Future Growth

Modi also emphasized expanding cooperation beyond traditional sectors. The PM highlighted new opportunities in critical minerals — an emerging global priority, especially for clean energy technologies — and reaffirmed the intent to strengthen the partnership across energy, trade, innovation, and defense.

“We will continue this trend while expanding to areas like critical minerals,” he said, signaling India’s interest in leveraging Russia’s resource-rich geography.

A Renewed Commitment

The Modi-Putin summit concluded on a note of warmth, strategic clarity, and shared global vision. While geopolitical tensions remain high internationally, the India-Russia partnership appears set for renewed momentum.

For New Delhi, the challenge will be to maintain this deep-rooted friendship with Moscow while navigating its increasingly complex relations with the West — a diplomatic balancing act that Prime Minister Modi seems determined to continue.

INDIA’S BIGGEST AIRLINE HIT BY UNPRECEDENTED MELTDOWN



TPN Bureau, New Delhi:

India’s largest airline, IndiGo, faced its worst operational crisis to date on Friday, cancelling more than a thousand flights and leaving passengers stranded across major airports. Calling it the “most severely impacted day” in the airline’s history, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers issued a public apology this evening, acknowledging widespread disruption and assuring that efforts are underway to stabilise operations.

IndiGo, which operates around 2,300 domestic and international flights every day, cancelled “more than half” of its daily schedule. Passengers at airports across Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and other metros reported long queues, confusion, and last-minute announcements, prompting aviation authorities to intervene.

In a video statement, CEO Pieter Elbers apologised for the “major inconvenience” caused and attributed the unprecedented cancellations to a mix of regulatory changes and internal planning gaps. The crisis stems primarily from new pilot duty norms that increase weekly rest requirements from 36 to 48 hours and limit nighttime landings to two per week instead of six. These rules, aimed at improving pilot welfare, have strained IndiGo’s crew availability, leading to cascading disruptions across its extensive network.

Elbers admitted the airline had misjudged the impact of the new regulations. “Yesterday and today have been the most severely impacted days so far. The situation is a result of various causes, including misjudgment and planning gaps on our part,” he said. He added that while disruptions will continue into Saturday, the airline expects fewer than 1,000 cancellations. Normal operations are projected to return only between December 10 and 15.

To manage the crisis, the CEO outlined three key steps the airline is taking. First, he said IndiGo is prioritising customer communication, deploying additional support teams, and issuing detailed updates on refunds, cancellations, and rescheduling options. “Messages have been sent on social media, and a more detailed communication with information, refunds, cancellations and other customer support measures was sent,” he noted.

Second, Elbers said IndiGo has expanded call centre capacity to handle the surge in queries. The airline also urged passengers whose flights were cancelled to avoid coming to the airport, stressing that unnecessary crowding adds to delays and confusion.

Third, the CEO said the airline deliberately cancelled flights today to “reset” crew rotations and aircraft positioning for the coming days. “Earlier measures of the last few days, regret-

table, have proven not to be enough,” he said. “We have decided today to reboot all our systems and schedules, resulting in the highest numbers of cancellations so far, but imperative for progressive improvements starting tomorrow.”

As scenes of overcrowding and frustration spread across social media, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) stepped in to provide temporary regulatory relief. The aviation regulator granted IndiGo a short-term exemption from strict night-duty limitations for pilots and allowed the airline to substitute weekly rest periods with approved leave in certain cases. These measures are expected to ease crew shortages and help IndiGo accelerate its recovery plan.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the government will order a high-level inquiry into the disruptions and ensure accountability is fixed. The minister said passenger safety and service reliability remain the government’s top priority.

Despite the immediate uncertainty, IndiGo said it expects gradual improvements over the weekend and full normalisation by mid-December. However, with the airline handling nearly 60 percent of India’s domestic aviation traffic, the ripple effects of this crisis are likely to continue impacting travellers in the coming days.

KUDANKULAM EXPANSION ACCELERATES AS RUSSIA SENDS FUEL FOR THIRD REACTOR

TPN Bureau, New Delhi

Russia reaffirmed its commitment to India’s civil nuclear energy ambitions on Friday, with President Vladimir Putin emphasizing the strategic importance of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) during a joint press briefing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Calling Kudankulam a “flagship project” of India-Russia cooperation, Putin said Moscow remains fully committed to ensuring that the plant reaches its full six-reactor capacity, strengthening India’s long-term energy security.

Putin noted that two of the plant’s six VVER-1000 reactors are already operational and supplying power to the national grid, while four more reactors are at various stages of construction. “We’re conducting a flagship project to build the largest Indian nuclear power plant, Kudankulam. Two out of six reactor units have already been connected to the energy network, and four are still under construction. Getting this nuclear power plant to full power output will make an impressive contribution to the energy requirements of India,” he said.

His comments came shortly after Rosatom, Russia’s state-run nuclear corporation, confirmed the delivery of its first consignment of nuclear fuel for the initial loading of Kudankulam’s third reactor. The fuel assemblies were manufactured at the Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant and arrived in India earlier today on a special cargo flight. According to Rosatom, the



complete fuel delivery for Unit 3 will require seven flights from Russia, all part of a long-term supply contract signed in 2024 that covers the full operational lifespan of both the third and fourth reactors. The fuel delivery marks a major advancement for the expansion phase of the Kudankulam project, which has been central to India’s civil nuclear programme for over two decades. Russia has consistently supplied uranium fuel to the plant and provided the reactors’ design, engineering expertise, and operational support. With all six reactors expected to have a combined capacity of 6,000 MW, Kudankulam remains the largest and most significant nuclear facility under construction in the country.

Putin also signaled Russia’s willingness to expand nuclear cooperation into emerging and next-generation technologies. He said Moscow is ready to discuss projects involving small modular reactors and floating nuclear power plants—both of which represent the newest wave of global nuclear innovation. Such technologies can be deployed more quickly, require smaller footprints,

and could serve remote regions, islands, or coastal areas. He also highlighted the potential of nuclear technologies in non-energy applications such as medicine, cancer treatment, and agriculture, areas where both countries already collaborate through existing scientific partnerships.

The Russian President described Moscow as a stable and reliable supplier of energy to India, emphasizing that Russia continues to provide oil, gas, coal, and nuclear fuel despite global market pressures and geopolitical tensions. “Russia is a reliable supplier of oil, gas, coal, and everything required for the development of India’s energy,” he said, adding that uninterrupted supplies would continue for the fast-growing Indian economy.

For India, the Kudankulam project remains a cornerstone of its long-term clean energy strategy. The first two reactors have been operating successfully since 2013 and 2016, and the upcoming units are expected to significantly enhance the country’s non-fossil power capacity. As India expands its energy infrastructure to meet rising demand, nuclear power is poised to play an increasingly important role.

Putin’s two-day visit and the progress at Kudankulam reaffirm the durability of India-Russia strategic cooperation, especially in high-technology sectors. With fresh fuel deliveries underway and the next phase of construction advancing, the partnership is set to deepen further in the years ahead.

SPECIAL CESS ON PAN MASALA: LOKSABHA APPROVED

TPN Bureau, New Delhi:

The Lok Sabha on Friday approved the Health Security Cess Bill, 2025, paving the way for the imposition of a special cess on pan masala manufacturing units. The revenue generated from this cess will be directed toward national security initiatives and public health programmes. The bill, introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was passed by a voice vote after a short but pointed discussion.

Explaining the purpose of the new levy, Sitharaman said that pan masala and similar products have long-term adverse effects on public health, and therefore industries manufacturing them should contribute financially to measures that improve national well-being. She emphasised that the funds collected would not remain solely with the Centre; instead, they would be shared with the states to support joint efforts in strengthening health infrastructure and security preparedness.

Currently, pan masala falls under the highest GST slab of 40 per cent. The Finance Minister clarified that the new cess would not impact GST revenue since it is being structured as a separate charge. The cess will be imposed based on the production capacity of each unit, ensuring an objective and measurable method of assessing liability.

Sitharaman also pointed out a decline in the contribution of cesses to



the government’s total revenue. Between 2010 and 2014, cesses accounted for nearly 7 per cent of revenue, while in the current financial year the figure has dropped to 6.1 per cent. She argued that the new cess is necessary to boost funds for crucial sectors linked to national health and security.

Government sources said the measure is also intended to send a strong public health message, given that pan masala consumption remains a major cause of oral and other health issues in India. By imposing an additional financial burden on manufacturers, the government aims both to raise essential revenue and to discourage the proliferation of harmful products.

With the bill’s passage in the Lok Sabha, the government is confident it will strengthen targeted revenue mobilisation for high-priority national needs. Opposition members, however, may raise implementation-related questions when the bill is introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

DON’T USE TEMPLE’S FUND: SUPREME COURT

TPN Bureau, New Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Friday delivered significant observations, ruling that funds belonging to temples cannot be diverted to rescue financially distressed cooperative banks. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made it clear that temple money is “entirely the property of the deity” and must be used strictly for temple-related purposes.

The court emphasised that temple funds cannot be treated as revenue sources for cooperative banks or used as a means to sustain their operations. The strong remarks came while hearing petitions filed by several cooperative banks, including the Mananthavady Co-operative Urban Society Ltd and the Thirunelli Service Co-operative Bank Ltd from Kerala. These banks had challenged an earlier Kerala High Court order directing them to return fixed deposits belonging to the Thirunelli Devaswom.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Surya Kant questioned the conduct of the banks. “You want to save a bank by using temple



money? What is wrong with directing that such funds be transferred to a nationalised bank offering higher interest instead of leaving them with a cooperative bank struggling to survive?” he asked.

The banks argued that the High Court’s order had created difficulties for them. However, the Bench rejected their submissions. “You must build credibility among the public. If you are unable to attract customers or deposits, that is your problem,” the court remarked sharply.

The Supreme Court allowed the cooperative banks to approach the High Court only to seek an extension of time to repay the temple’s deposits. It, however, refused to entertain their petitions challenging the High Court’s main order.

The dispute began after five cooperative banks, in which the Thirunelli Devaswom had placed fixed deposits, failed to return the funds even after the maturity period ended. Despite repeated requests from the temple authorities, the banks declined repayment, forcing the Devaswom to approach the Kerala High Court. The High Court subsequently directed the banks to refund the deposit amounts within two months.

Friday’s Supreme Court observations reaffirm the legal position that temple funds are sacred, dedicated to the deity, and cannot be diverted for any financial rescue operations. The ruling is expected to influence future cases involving the misuse or misallocation of temple properties by financial institutions.

Trump Administration Warns of “Civilisational Erasure” in Europe in New National Security Strategy

TPN Desk
The Trump administration has issued a stark warning about the future of Europe, cautioning that the continent could face “civilisational erasure” if current political, economic, and demographic trends persist. The warning comes in the 33-page National Security Strategy released by the White House, which outlines President Donald Trump’s vision for US military, economic, and diplomatic priorities.

The document, described by Trump as a “roadmap” to ensure that America remains “the greatest and most successful nation in human history,” places particular emphasis on Europe, assessing its security, economic, and political challenges in stark terms. It warns that certain European countries may not have militaries and economies strong enough to remain reliable allies in the decades to come.

The report highlights what it perceives as threats to European stability, including declining birthrates, mass migration, suppression of political opposition, censorship, and the erosion of national identity. It criticises the European Union and other transnational bodies for activities it claims undermine political liberty and sovereignty. According to the document, if these trends continue, Europe could become “unrecognisable in 20 years or less,” with economic challenges overshadowed by the “real and more stark prospect of civilizational erasure.”

In a controversial stance, the strategy encourages the growth of “patriotic European parties,” framing them as part of a broader revival of Western spirit. The document notes that the Trump administration has fostered ties with far-right parties in Europe, such as Germany’s AfD, classified as extreme right by German intelligence. The strategy suggests that America supports political allies in Europe who promote national sovereignty and a resurgence of traditional values.

European leaders have already reacted to the document. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl stressed that Germany does not require “outside advice” on domestic matters, while reaffirming that the



United States remains Germany’s most important NATO ally. He added that issues such as freedom of expression and the organisation of democratic societies should not be included in US strategic assessments of Germany.

The strategy also addresses the ongoing war in Ukraine, noting that Europe lacks confidence in managing relations with Russia. The Trump administration emphasises that resolving hostilities in Ukraine remains a core US interest. Earlier proposals from the administration reportedly included plans for Ukraine to cede some territory to Russia, though subsequent modifications were presented in Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Russian forces may seize additional territory in eastern Ukraine if Ukrainian troops do not withdraw from the Donbas region.

In addition to its European focus, the National Security Strategy underscores the importance of protecting the Western Hemisphere from external threats and ensuring America’s primacy in global affairs. The document doubles down on Trump’s previous rhetoric on migration, national identity, and Western values, echoing his earlier speech at the United Nations, while signalling that the administration intends to prioritise US economic and security interests in policy and budget decisions.

Analysts say the report represents a continuation of Trump’s worldview, highlighting skepticism toward multilateral institutions, a focus on nationalism, and a willingness to critique traditional allies while maintaining strategic and military commitments.

Taiwan and Japan Express Concern Over China’s Largest Naval Deployment in East Asia

Taiwan and Japan have voiced concern over recent Chinese military activities in East Asian waters, following reports that Beijing deployed its largest maritime show of force to date. On Thursday, Reuters reported that China had mobilized more than 100 naval and coast guard vessels across the region, citing intelligence sources.



Speaking in Taipei on Friday, Taiwan presidential spokesperson Karen Kuo said the Chinese operations were not confined to the Taiwan Strait but extended from the Yellow Sea to waters near the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, and further into the South China Sea and western Pacific. “This indeed poses a threat and impact to the Indo-Pacific and the whole region,” Kuo said.

Kuo urged China to exercise restraint, calling on Beijing to “live up to its responsibilities as a major power.” She added that Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te had instructed security forces to maintain full situational awareness and provide timely updates. Taiwan, she said, would continue to coordinate closely with friendly partners to safeguard peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

In Tokyo, Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi acknowledged the reports and said Japan was monitoring Chinese military movements “with great attention.” Koizumi noted that China had been expanding its presence and operations in areas surrounding Japan. “We make a constant effort to gather and analyse information on Chinese military movements with great attention,” he said, without providing specific details or a timeline of the Chinese deployment.

He emphasised that Japan would continue to monitor developments with deep concern and ensure thorough surveillance and intelligence gathering.

China has not commented directly on the recent maritime deployment. However, foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian stated that navy and coast guard operations in “relevant maritime areas” were fully compliant with both domestic and international law. China has urged other countries not to overreact to its activities.

The deployment comes amid rising regional tensions and ongoing disputes over territorial claims in the East and South China Seas. Analysts suggest that China’s enhanced maritime presence may be intended as both a demonstration of power and a signal to regional actors, including Taiwan, Japan, and the United States, of its expanding naval capabilities.

Observers note that such large-scale maneuvers increase the risk of miscalculations or incidents at sea, highlighting the importance of communication and restraint in the region. Both Taiwan and Japan appear determined to strengthen cooperation with international partners to manage potential tensions and maintain stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Putin’s India Visit Sends Message of Strategic Resilience Amid Western Pressure, US Trade Talks Continue



TPN Bureau, New Delhi

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s two-day visit to India has been widely interpreted as a powerful geopolitical signal, demonstrating that both Russia and India remain resilient to Western pressure. Chinese state media, in particular, has framed the visit as a “clear message” to the world that neither country is isolated, even as the United States and its allies encourage New Delhi to reduce economic engagement with Moscow.

The Global Times, quoting Li Haidong, a professor at China Foreign Affairs University, reported that the India-Russia coordination reflects a determination to strengthen “independent and autonomous capabilities” in international relations. According to Li, the partnership between the two nations is “highly strategic in nature” and has historically shown resilience against external interference.

Through Putin’s visit, India and Russia have jointly sent a clear message to the outside world: neither country is isolated,” Li said. He added that both sides enjoy extensive mutual support and strong complementarity, implying that sanctions and political pressure from the United States and the West are unlikely to significantly disrupt their bilateral ties.

The visit takes place at a critical juncture for India, which has traditionally maintained deep ties with Russia, particularly in defence and energy sectors. Critics argue that Putin’s high-profile presence in New Delhi could complicate India’s ongoing negotiations with the US and European Union over trade, which are vital for boosting exports and ensuring access to key markets.

The timing is especially

significant as Washington works to advance its Indo-Pacific strategy and strengthen its alliances in the region. A recent report by the US National Security Strategy highlighted the importance of improving commercial and strategic relations with India. The report emphasises that continued cooperation with New Delhi is crucial for regional security, including its role in the Quad alliance with the US, Japan, and Australia.

“We must continue to improve commercial and other relations with India to encourage New Delhi to contribute to Indo-Pacific security,” the report stated. It also noted that the US aims to align its allies and partners to prevent domination by any single competitor nation, a likely reference to China. The report’s release coincided with Putin’s visit, underlining the complex geopolitical dynamics India must navigate.

Despite the geopolitical sensitivities, India has sought to maintain a careful balance, continuing its long-standing partnership with Russia while keeping diplomatic channels open with the United States. Analysts suggest that this balancing act is part of New Delhi’s broader strategy of pursuing independent foreign policy decisions, ensuring that it remains engaged with multiple global powers without being forced into one-sided alignments.

In a parallel development, the US is moving forward with trade engagement. A delegation led by Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer is scheduled to visit India next week to continue negotiations on a trade agreement. This step reflects Washington’s willingness to maintain economic cooperation despite geopolitical tensions with Russia.

Putin’s visit also reinforces the strategic and economic dimensions of India-Russia relations. Beyond diplomatic symbolism, the visit is expected to further cooperation in areas such as energy, defence, and technology. Officials from both countries have highlighted mutual commitments to advancing trade, expanding energy supplies, and exploring new avenues for industrial collaboration, underlining the multidimensional nature of the partnership.

As global attention remains focused on India, the visit underscores New Delhi’s growing role as a key player in international diplomacy. The events in Delhi demonstrate that India, while sensitive to Western concerns, is asserting its autonomy in foreign policy, strengthening strategic partnerships that serve its long-term national interests while balancing global pressures.

Netflix to Acquire Warner Bros Discovery for \$72 Billion in Major Hollywood Shake-Up

TPN Desk

Netflix has agreed to acquire the film and streaming assets of Warner Bros Discovery for \$72 billion (£54 billion), marking one of the most significant deals in the entertainment industry in recent years. The acquisition positions Netflix as an even larger force in Hollywood, combining its streaming platform with Warner Bros’ iconic library of films and series, including Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, and HBO Max.

The deal, valued at \$27.75 per Warner Bros share, carries an enterprise value of approximately \$82.7 billion, which includes the company’s debt. Both Netflix and Warner Bros boards approved the transaction unanimously, though it remains subject to regulatory approval. Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos expressed confidence that the necessary approvals would be granted, stating that the company is running “full speed” toward regulatory clearance.

“This is a rare opportunity to set Netflix up for success for decades to come,” Sarandos said, adding that combining Warner Bros’ content with Netflix originals such as Stranger Things will allow the company to deliver “more of what audiences love” and help “define the next century of storytelling.” Co-CEO Greg Peters noted that



while the HBO brand remains important for consumers, the company has not yet decided how to integrate the service into its broader offerings.

Netflix expects to achieve \$2-3 billion in savings from the merger, primarily by eliminating overlaps in support and technology functions. Films produced by Warner Bros will continue to release in cinemas, while the Warner Bros television studio will maintain the ability to produce for third parties. Netflix will also continue producing original content exclusively for its platform.

David Zaslav, president and CEO of Warner Bros, described the agreement as a combination of “two of the greatest storytelling companies in the world.” He said the merger ensures that audiences will continue to enjoy “the world’s most resonant stories for generations to come.”

The acquisition is anticipated to expand Netflix’s studio production capacity and bolster its investment in original content. The deal follows Warner

Bros’ plan to separate its streaming and studio divisions from its global networks division, which will become Discovery Global, encompassing cable channels such as CNN, TNT Sports in the US, and Discovery channels in Europe. TNT Sports International, however, will remain with the Netflix-acquired division.

Industry analysts have described the deal as a bold statement of Netflix’s intent to dominate the global streaming market. Paolo Pescatore, founder of PP Foresight, said the

move “underlines Netflix’s aspirations to be a global leader in the new world order of streaming,” though he warned that the size of the merger could present integration challenges.

Experts have also highlighted potential implications for consumers and Hollywood. Tom Harrington of Enders Analysis suggested that the merger could lead to reductions in television and film output, higher subscription prices, and resistance from unions. Danni Hewson of AJ Bell noted that Net-

flix’s promise to continue theatrical releases might mitigate some industry concerns but added that cost savings could raise scrutiny over pricing power.

Ahead of the deal, the Directors Guild of America expressed “significant concerns” about the merger, reflecting broader industry apprehension about the consolidation of creative power under one dominant streaming service. If approved, the acquisition is set to reshape Hollywood and the streaming landscape for years to come.

SENSEX SURGES 447 POINTS, NIFTY GAINS 153 ON RBI RATE CUT

TPN Desk

Indian equity markets rallied on Friday following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%, providing a boost to investor sentiment. The Sensex climbed 447 points to close above 68,200, while the Nifty rose 153 points to finish near 20,300. The rally was led by financial and automobile stocks, which are among the most sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Among the top gainers were State Bank of India (SBI), Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti Suzuki, and HCL Technologies. Analysts noted that the RBI's move to lower borrowing costs is expected to benefit consumers and businesses alike, boosting demand for home loans, vehicle financing, and other credit products. "The rate cut is positive for large-cap financials and auto companies, as lower interest rates typically lead to higher loan growth and increased consumer spending," said a market strategist.



Despite Friday's gains, weekly performance remained muted. The Sensex and Nifty were largely flat for the week, reflecting a mix of positive and negative sectoral movements. Mid-cap and small-cap indices underperformed, with the Nifty Midcap 150 down 0.7% and the Nifty Smallcap 250 declining 1.8%. This

indicates that investors favored large-cap stocks amid selective buying, while broader market segments faced selling pressure.

A notable underperformer this week was IndiGo, whose shares dropped 9% following the airline's cancellation of more than 1,000 flights. The disruptions, described as the "most

severely impacted day" in the airline's history, were attributed to new pilot regulations and internal planning gaps. Regulators intervened, granting temporary relief to help IndiGo manage its operations and reduce further cancellations. Analysts highlighted that investor concerns over operational setbacks and po-

tential financial impact weighed on the stock.

Sectoral analysis shows that banking and financial services stocks were among the main beneficiaries of the rate cut, as lower borrowing costs are expected to spur credit growth. Automobile companies also gained on expectations of increased consumer demand for vehi-

cles. Meanwhile, technology stocks, led by HCL Technologies, contributed to the broader market gains, reflecting ongoing investor interest in the IT sector.

Looking ahead, market experts said domestic monetary policy and global cues will remain key drivers for equity markets. The RBI's accommodative stance to support growth is likely to provide continued momentum for rate-sensitive sectors, though caution remains around companies facing operational or regulatory challenges.

Overall, Friday's surge in Sensex and Nifty highlights renewed investor optimism following the RBI rate cut, with financials and auto stocks leading the rally. However, the underperformance of mid- and small-cap stocks, along with sector-specific concerns such as IndiGo's flight cancellations, underscores that markets remain cautiously optimistic, balancing macroeconomic support with company-level risks.

RBI CUTS REPO RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS, HOME LOAN BORROWERS TO BENEFIT



TPN Desk

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has once again brought good news for home loan borrowers by reducing the repo rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 5.25%. This marks the fourth rate cut by the central bank this year, resulting in a total reduction of 125 basis points in 2025. The move is expected to provide substantial savings for borrowers across the country.

Several banks have already passed on the benefits of earlier rate cuts to borrowers, although the impact may vary depending on the reset cycle of the loan. With the latest 25-basis-point reduction, home loans linked to the External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) are expected to see a further decrease in EMI burdens. Interest rates that were around 9% last year have now fallen to below 7.5%, offering long-term financial relief for borrowers. Financial experts estimate that a reduction of 125 basis points on a ₹50 lakh home loan could save nearly ₹9 lakh over the tenure of the loan.

For example, if an individual takes a ₹50 lakh loan for 20 years at an interest rate of 8.50%, the monthly EMI would be ₹43,391. Following the repo rate cut, with interest rates dropping to 7.25%, the EMI would reduce to

₹39,518, resulting in a monthly saving of nearly ₹4,000. Over the long term, this could save approximately ₹9.29 lakh. If borrowers continue paying the same EMI amount, the loan tenure could reduce by about 42 months, saving nearly ₹18 lakh in interest payments, experts say. They also suggest that when banks pass on the benefits, borrowers may consider reducing the loan tenure instead of lowering the EMI to maximize savings.

While home loan borrowers stand to gain, the repo rate cut has a downside for depositors. Fixed deposit (FD) rates are likely to decline as banks adjust to the lower policy rate. Although existing FDs will not be affected, new deposits may earn lower interest. Currently, long-term FDs offer interest rates between 7% and 7.25%, but these are expected to decrease further following the RBI's decision.

The central bank's rate cut is part of its ongoing effort to support economic growth and reduce the cost of borrowing. With home loan EMIs becoming more affordable, borrowers can expect relief in their monthly budgets, while banks and financial institutions will adjust deposit offerings in response to the monetary easing.

SPICEJET CAPITALIZES ON INDIGO CRISIS

TPN Desk:

The ongoing operational crisis at IndiGo has provided a strategic opportunity for rival airline SpiceJet, which moved quickly to expand its services amid widespread flight cancellations and delays. While IndiGo continues to grapple with stranded passengers and operational bottlenecks, SpiceJet has added multiple new flights from Delhi and Mumbai to meet the surge in demand, positively impacting its business and stock performance. Conversely, IndiGo's shares have been negatively affected due to the disruption.

SpiceJet announced the additional flights on social media platform X, stating, "Quick update: We have added additional departures from Delhi and Mumbai today for your convenience." The airline also provided detailed information on flight numbers, destinations, and timings for the new services.

The expanded schedule includes flights from Delhi to Mumbai, Ayodhya, Pune, Bangkok, Bengaluru, and Kolkata. Meanwhile, Mumbai-based departures now cover Jaipur, Patna, Goa, Bengaluru, Gorakhpur, Chennai, and New Delhi. The airline's prompt response highlights its strategy to capture demand generated by IndiGo's operational setbacks, turning a competitor's crisis into a commercial advantage.

However, the spike in fares has drawn attention. According to SpiceJet's website, one-way tickets from Mumbai to Delhi for late-night flights were priced at ₹40,599 and ₹34,299—dramatically higher than the regular ₹4,000-₹7,000 range. This surge reflects the pressure of limited seat availability amid high demand, as travelers urgently seek alternatives to canceled IndiGo flights.

Despite the announcement of additional flights, most of the new services were already sold out at the time of reporting, suggesting that



the airline is operating at full capacity to accommodate displaced passengers. Industry experts note that while the high fares may attract criticism from travelers, the move is a significant revenue booster for SpiceJet during a period when competitors are struggling operationally.

Financial analysts have pointed out that SpiceJet's quick operational response demonstrates the flexibility and opportunistic strategies of smaller carriers in the Indian aviation market. By swiftly reallocating aircraft and increasing flight frequencies, the airline has not only addressed urgent passenger needs but also strengthened its position in the domestic sector, particularly in key hubs like Delhi and Mumbai.

For IndiGo, the crisis continues to weigh heavily, affecting customer trust and investor confidence. Regulatory intervention and temporary relief measures have been implemented, but recovery is expected to take time. Meanwhile, SpiceJet's decisive approach has underscored the importance of agile planning in a competitive industry where one airline's misfortune can become another's opportunity.

Overall, the IndiGo disruption has reshaped short-term dynamics in India's aviation sector, with SpiceJet emerging as the primary beneficiary through expanded flight offerings, record fares, and increased market visibility.

SEBI BANS FINANCIAL INFLUENCER AVADHUT SATHE: FREEZES ₹546 Cr

TPN Desk:

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken a major step to regulate the booming "finfluencer" ecosystem by banning financial influencer and market trainer Avadhut Sathe from participating in the securities market. The regulator found that Sathe, through his organization Avadhut Sathe Trading Academy Private Limited, was offering investment advice without proper registration, prompting SEBI to prohibit him from entering the securities market and to order the attachment of assets worth ₹546 crore.

Sathe, a prominent figure in investor education, has gained massive popularity for his trading sessions and on-line advice related to the stock market. SEBI observed that he was advising investors on stock purchases and sales without holding any regulatory licenses, raising concerns about potential risks for retail investors. In August, the regulator conducted inspections at his residence and the academy to assess his activities.

Originally from Dadar,



Mumbai, Sathe studied engineering and worked in the IT sector across Singapore, Australia, and the United States before focusing full-time on trading after returning to India in 2007. In 2008, he founded Avadhut Sathe Trading Academy, which combines technical analysis, market psychology, yoga, and motivational sessions into its training programs. His approach

has drawn widespread attention both in India and abroad, with hundreds of thousands of followers on platforms like YouTube. Reports indicate that his courses range from ₹21,000 to ₹1.7 lakh for three-month programs. A video of Sathe dancing during a trading session in 2023 went viral, further boosting his popularity.

According to SEBI, the

academy collected ₹601 crore from approximately 3.37 lakh investors. Beyond providing training, the academy actively advised participants on which stocks to buy or sell during live market sessions.

Such practices, SEBI noted, could mislead retail investors into following questionable trading strategies. Other financial influencers have criticized Sathe for sharing stock

tips in private groups, potentially influencing inexperienced traders.

The rapid growth of Sathe's business also drew SEBI's attention. While he earned ₹17 crore in fees in 2021, the income reportedly rose to ₹86 crore in 2023, with projections suggesting it could reach ₹200 crore by 2025. This exponential expansion, coupled with unregistered advisory activities, was a key factor behind SEBI's regulatory intervention.

SEBI's directive includes freezing Sathe's assets until further notice, ensuring that the ₹546 crore raised from investors cannot be moved or utilized without regulatory oversight. The move highlights the regulator's commitment to safeguarding investors from unregistered financial advisors and maintaining the integrity of India's securities market.

As India witnesses a surge in fintech-based financial education and influencer-driven trading advice, SEBI's decisive action against Sathe sets a strong precedent for regulating the rapidly growing segment of unlicensed financial influencers.

SANCHAR SAATHI APP CLIMBS TO No.1 ON APP STORE AMID CONTROVERSY



TPN Desk:

The government-backed Sanchar Saathi app has achieved a remarkable milestone, climbing to the number one position on the App Store after rising sharply from its previous rank of 127. The sudden surge comes amid heightened public attention and

controversy surrounding the platform, reflecting both widespread curiosity and public debate over its use and privacy concerns.

Launched to help mobile users access information related to their telecom connections, Sanchar Saathi enables individuals to verify all

mobile numbers registered under their name, manage subscriptions, and check for unauthorized connections. The app is part of the government's initiative to improve transparency and consumer awareness in the telecom sector, ensuring that users have easy access to criti-

cal data related to their mobile connections.

The recent controversy has revolved around concerns over user privacy and the collection of personal data. Critics have questioned whether the app, which requires access to sensitive information such as phone numbers and

identity details, could compromise user security. Despite these criticisms, or perhaps because of the widespread debate, the app has witnessed an unprecedented surge in downloads.

Industry analysts note that such a rapid climb on the App Store—from 127th to the top position—is unusual in India's competitive app market, dominated by social media, streaming, and gaming platforms. The spike indicates strong public engagement and the influence of media coverage in driving app adoption, particularly when controversies or disputes attract nationwide attention.

Government officials defending the app have emphasized that Sanchar Saathi is a secure and reliable tool aimed at protecting consumers' telecom connections. They have assured users that the app complies with data protec-

tion guidelines and is designed to strengthen user control over their mobile services. Officials also highlighted that the platform provides valuable services, including identifying unauthorized mobile connections, reporting complaints to telecom operators, and managing multiple numbers efficiently.

The Sanchar Saathi app's ascent to the top of the App Store highlights the growing role of digital platforms in shaping public discourse. It also underscores how controversies, while sometimes drawing criticism, can significantly boost awareness and user adoption. As the debate around privacy continues, the app's developers and government agencies are likely to focus on reinforcing security measures and addressing public concerns to maintain trust while sustaining its newfound popularity.

Fabergé ‘Winter Egg’ Expected to Fetch Rs 200 Crore at Auction



A rare Fabergé masterpiece—famously known as the Winter Egg—is once again headed to auction, and experts believe it could command an extraordinary price of Rs 200 crore. Just four inches tall, the jewel-like creation is considered one of the most exquisite and valuable decorative eggs ever made.

Crafted in 1913 for Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, the Winter Egg was designed by Alma Pihl, one of the very few female artists at the House of Fabergé. The Tsar commissioned it as an Easter gift for his mother, Empress Maria Feodorovna. Today, only two eggs created by Pihl survive—one held by the British royal family, and this newly surfaced piece now set for sale.

What sets the Winter Egg apart is its extraordinary craftsmanship. Made from rock crystal, the exterior shimmers like frozen glass and is embellished with nearly 4,500 dia-

monds, giving it a glistening, frost-like appearance. Inside the egg lies its signature surprise: a miniature basket of flowers, crafted from precious stones and quartz. The delicate design symbolises the transition from winter to spring, capturing the elegance and imagination for which Fabergé is renowned.

The egg’s journey through history is just as striking as its design. After the fall of the Romanov dynasty in 1917, many royal treasures were sold off by the new communist regime. Despite its immense value, the Winter Egg was reportedly sold to a London dealer for only £450 due to Russia’s financial crisis at the time.

More than a century later, the piece is poised to break auction records. With its rich imperial history, intricate artistry, and extreme rarity, the Fabergé Winter Egg stands as one of the world’s most extraordinary—and expensive—art objects.

Over 1,000 Amazon Workers Warn Against ‘Warp-Speed’ AI Rollout



More than 1,000 Amazon employees have signed an open letter urging the company to slow down its rapid expansion of artificial intelligence systems, warning that the current “all-costs-justified, warp-speed” approach could harm workers, democracy and the environment. The letter, published on November 26, comes amid Amazon’s ongoing plan to cut up to 14,000 corporate jobs globally this year.

The signatories include engineers, product managers and warehouse associates, reflecting concerns across the company’s workforce. Their message has also drawn support from over 2,400 employees at other major tech firms, including Microsoft, Apple, Google and Meta—showing a broader industry unease about unchecked AI growth.

Employees argue that Amazon’s leadership is pushing ahead with AI adoption without adequate guardrails, risking mass job displacement and expanding workplace surveillance. They also highlight the environmental cost of large-scale AI infrastructure, which demands vast energy resources at a time when climate concerns are mounting.

The letter warns that deploying powerful AI tools without proper oversight could contribute to democratic backsliding, especially when combined with rising global authoritarianism. Workers fear that AI-driven decision-making in logistics, hiring, productivity tracking and customer-facing services could concentrate power and reduce transparency.

“We believe that the warp-speed approach to AI development will do staggering damage,” the letter states, urging Amazon to invest in stronger safety, privacy and ethical standards before scaling further. Employees want clearer policies on how AI may affect job roles, along with commitments to retraining and protecting workers’ rights.

As Amazon accelerates integration of generative AI across e-commerce, cloud services and warehouse operations, the internal pushback underscores a growing divide between corporate strategy and employee anxieties. Workers say AI innovation is inevitable—but warn that without meaningful safeguards, its consequences could be far-reaching and irreversible.

Apple Watch Rolls Out Hypertension Alerts for Users in India

Apple has introduced a new hypertension notifications feature for Apple Watch users in India, aiming to help identify signs of chronic high blood pressure in people who may not know they have the condition. The feature analyzes 30 days of PPG (photoplethysmography) sensor data using machine learning and is designed specifically for users without a prior hypertension diagnosis.

Unlike a traditional blood pressure monitor, the Apple Watch does not measure blood pressure directly or show BP readings. Instead, it looks for long-term patterns linked to chronic hypertension and alerts eligible users—those over 22, not pregnant, and undiagnosed—if concerning trends emerge. Once enabled through the Watch or Health app, the feature runs automatically in the background.



Dr. Adam Phillips, a cardiologist at Apple involved in developing the feature, said it is built on three principles: scientific validation, actionable insights, and privacy. Apple used data from over 100,000 participants to design the feature and clinically vali-

dated it on 2,229 adults. In testing, it achieved 41.2% sensitivity in detecting hypertension and 92.3% specificity in identifying users without it—performance comparable to clinical BP cuffs.

The feature works on Apple Watch Series 9, 10, 11, Ultra 2, and Ultra 3. If a user receives a notification, Apple recommends logging blood pressure for seven days using a certified external BP cuff. Reports generated through the Health app can be shared with doctors via email, messaging apps, or WhatsApp.

Hypertension affects 1.3 billion people worldwide, with nearly half going undiagnosed. Apple says its goal is to help this large population get early alerts that can encourage timely medical evaluation and prevent complications such as heart attacks, stroke, and kidney disease.

Russian Firm Claims Neurochip Can Turn Pigeons Into Human-Controlled Drones

A Russian neurotechnology company, Neiry, has announced that it is developing a system that can turn real birds—starting with pigeons—into remotely operated “biodrones.” According to a translated post from the company, its implanted neurochip allows an operator to control the bird’s flight by uploading tasks, similar to programming conventional unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Unlike trained messenger birds, Neiry claims its biodrones require no training at all. After surgery, the bird can reportedly be guided through brain stimulation. By activating specific neural regions, researchers say they can create an impulse that makes the bird “want” to fly in the commanded direction.

The company argues that using live birds offers significant advantages. Pigeons can naturally navigate complex urban environments and have better endurance than many mechanical drones. Neiry also asserts that the risk of operational failure is equivalent to the normal chances of a bird falling mid-flight.



The biodrone system involves implanted electrodes, a back-mounted stimulator, and a remote controller that sends directional cues. A GPS receiver tracks the bird’s location in real time. Neiry claims that operators can manage entire flocks, updating flight paths through the neural interface. A pigeon equipped as a PJN-1 biodrone can reportedly fly up to 310 miles in a day, and with adequate sunlight for the on-board power system, nearly 1,850 miles in a week.

Founder Alexander Panov says the company plans to expand the technology to other species: ravens for heavier payloads, gulls for coastal monitoring, and albatrosses for long-range ocean surveillance.

Neiry states that the project is in its final testing phase and will soon be used for remote monitoring. However, the company has not disclosed how many birds have been harmed during development or provided data on surgical success rates, raising ethical and welfare concerns.

AI Firms Fall Short of Global Safety Standards: Study



A new report from the Future of Life Institute (FLI) has found that the safety practices of leading artificial intelligence companies—including Anthropic, OpenAI, xAI and Meta—remain far below emerging global standards. The findings were released in the latest edition of FLI’s AI Safety

Index on Wednesday. The independent expert panel that evaluated these companies concluded that, despite rapid efforts to build increasingly powerful and potentially superintelligent AI systems, none of the firms has developed a robust, reliable framework to control or align such ad-

vanced technologies. The report warns that safety measures are not keeping pace with the accelerating AI race.

The study comes at a time of growing public anxiety over the societal impacts of smarter-than-human systems. Recent incidents linking AI chatbots to self-harm

and suicide cases have intensified scrutiny. Concerns have also risen around AI-powered hacking, manipulation, and psychological harm.

Max Tegmark, MIT professor and president of FLI, criticized the regulatory vacuum surrounding AI development. “Despite recent up-

roar over AI-powered hacking and AI driving people to psychosis and self-harm, US AI companies remain less regulated than restaurants and continue lobbying against binding safety standards,” he said.

While governments worldwide are exploring guardrails for advanced AI, the tech industry continues its rapid expansion. Major companies are investing hundreds of billions of dollars to scale up machine learning infrastructure, signaling no slowdown in the competitive push toward superintelligence.

FLI—founded in 2014 and initially supported by Elon Musk—has long warned about the existential risks posed by uncontrolled AI. Just this October, a group of prominent scientists including Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio called for a moratorium on developing superintelligent AI until stronger public oversight and scientific understanding are in place.

The institute argues that without stringent safety standards, the gap between AI capabilities and governance will continue to widen, increasing the risk of real-world harm.

Visakhapatnam ODI Decider: India and South Africa Clash for Series Victory



Cricket fans are eagerly anticipating the third One Day International (ODI) match between India and South Africa at Visakhapatnam, as the series hangs in the balance. With the series currently tied 1-1, this final ODI has become the decisive encounter, promising intense competition and high stakes for both teams. After India's victory in the first match and South Africa's comeback in the second, all eyes are on this clash to determine the series winner.

In the opening ODI, India delivered a commanding performance, showcasing their batting depth and bowling strength. The top order laid a solid foundation, while middle-order contributions ensured a competitive total. India's bowlers then executed a disciplined plan, restricting South Africa's batting line-up and clinching a

comprehensive win. The match highlighted India's balanced team composition and the experience of its key players in handling pressure situations.

However, South Africa demonstrated their resilience in the second ODI, leveling the series with an impressive performance. Their bowlers applied consistent pressure on the Indian batsmen, exploiting gaps and maintaining tight lines and lengths. The South African batsmen responded effectively in their chase, building crucial partnerships and overcoming early setbacks. This victory not only showcased South Africa's adaptability but also set up a thrilling decider at Visakhapatnam.

The third ODI carries immense significance as it will determine the outcome of the series. Both teams are expected to field their strongest line-ups, with

strategic adjustments based on the performances in the first two matches. India will rely heavily on its experienced batsmen, who have consistently provided stability in previous games. Contributions from the middle order will be crucial, particularly in navigating tricky phases of the innings. On the bowling front, India's pace attack and spin duo will be tasked with breaking partnerships and containing the South African batsmen.

South Africa, on the other hand, will aim to carry forward the momentum from their second-match victory. Their all-rounders and middle-order batsmen will play pivotal roles in setting or chasing totals, while the bowlers will focus on exploiting weaknesses in India's batting order. With the series on the line, both sides are likely to play aggressively, bal-

ancing risk and caution to gain an edge over their opponents.

Visakhapatnam's pitch and weather conditions will play a crucial role in the match. Analysts predict a balanced wicket that offers opportunities for both batsmen and bowlers, potentially leading to an exciting contest with twists and turns throughout the game. The coastal conditions might aid swing bowling in the early overs, while spinners could come into play during the middle overs, adding another layer of strategy for the captains.

Fans can expect an electrifying atmosphere in the stadium, with supporters from both nations turning out in large numbers. The decider ODI is not only about claiming the series but also about building momentum for upcoming international fixtures. A win

here would boost confidence and morale for the victorious team, while a loss could trigger a period of introspection and analysis.

Both teams have shown remarkable skill, determination, and adaptability in the first two matches, setting the stage for a memorable showdown. The third ODI at Visakhapatnam promises to deliver intense cricketing action, strategic battles, and high drama, providing fans with a perfect finale to this closely contested series.

As the players take to the field, all eyes will be on the performances of star players and emerging talents alike. The decider ODI is set to be a showcase of competitive spirit, technical prowess, and tactical acumen, making it a must-watch for cricket enthusiasts across India, South Africa, and the world.

Cricket World Awaits as Virat Kohli Eyes Third Consecutive ODI Century



TPN Desk:

The cricketing world is abuzz as India gears up for the third and decisive ODI against South Africa at Visakhapatnam. All eyes are on Virat Kohli, who has been in sublime form, scoring centuries in the first two matches of the series. Fans, analysts, and former players alike are eagerly anticipating whether Kohli can achieve a remarkable hat-trick of centuries in the series, a feat that would further cement his reputation as one of the modern greats of the game.

Kohli's performance in the first two ODIs has been extraordinary. In the opening match, he anchored India's innings with his trademark calm and precision, compiling a century that set up a dominant total. His ability to rotate strike, punish loose deliveries, and maintain a steady pace helped India secure a comfortable victory. In the second ODI, despite South Africa's spirited comeback, Kohli once again showcased his class, crafting another century under pressure and keeping India competitive in a closely fought match.

The third ODI now holds even greater significance. With the series tied 1-1, Kohli's form could be the decisive factor in determining the winner. Fans are not only hoping for a series victory but also eagerly looking forward to witnessing Kohli achieve the rare milestone of three consecutive centuries in a bilateral ODI series — a feat achieved by only a select few in international cricket.

Cricket enthusiasts around the world are already speculating on Kohli's approach for the

decider. Analysts suggest that his success lies in combining patience with aggression, adapting to pitch conditions, and capitalizing on any early breakthroughs. Kohli's exceptional hand-eye coordination, footwork, and ability to read the game have been on full display in this series, giving Indian fans every reason to believe he can repeat his heroics.

The stakes are high not just for Kohli but for the Indian team as a whole. A strong performance from their star batsman can inspire the rest of the line-up and create momentum in crucial phases of the match. Moreover, a century from Kohli in the third ODI would provide India with a solid platform to chase or defend totals, significantly increasing their chances of clinching the series against a formidable South African side.

Across social media, fans have already started planning celebrations, with hashtags and posts expressing excitement and hope. Former players and commentators have lauded Kohli's consistency and mental fortitude, noting that such performances often define the outcome of closely contested series.

As the match approaches, cricket fans everywhere are holding their breath, hoping to witness history in the making. Whether Virat Kohli achieves the much-anticipated hat-trick of centuries or not, his dazzling form and dedication continue to inspire millions and underscore why he remains one of the most celebrated cricketers in the world today.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's Future in World Cup 2027 Looks Bright After Stellar Performances

The debate over the future of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in Indian cricket seems to be nearing a resolution, much to the delight of fans and cricketing pundits. The ongoing tussle between Gautam Gambhir and the senior Indian stars — popularly referred to as ROKO — may finally be coming to an end as per sports circles. The discussion around whether these stalwarts should be included in the 2027 World Cup squad has been a hot topic in recent months, but their recent performances against South Africa have shifted perceptions within the BCCI.

Earlier, Gautam Gambhir had expressed strong reservations about including Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the upcoming World Cup, citing concerns over age and workload management. He had reportedly advised the BCCI to consider the longer-term future of Indian cricket, suggesting that newer, younger players should gradually replace the senior duo. This stance, however, did not sit well with fans or some former players, who have long recognized the unmatched talent and match-winning capabilities of the two veterans.

The South Africa series became a turning point for Rohit and Kohli. Both players displayed world-class performances, proving that age has not dulled their skills or temperament. Kohli, in particular, impressed cricket enthusiasts with his consecutive centuries in the



ODIs, showing remarkable consistency, focus, and resilience under pressure. Rohit Sharma, too, played crucial innings that stabilized India's batting line-up and guided younger teammates through challenging situations.

According to sources within cricketing circles, the BCCI has reportedly reconsidered its earlier stance, which was influenced by Gambhir's opinion. The board is now leaning towards retaining both Kohli and Rohit in the squad for the 2027 World Cup, recognizing the immense value of their experience, leadership, and ability to perform in high-stakes matches. Cricket fans across India have welcomed this move, flooding social media with messages of support and ap-

preciation for the two stars.

Prominent former players have also spoken in favor of ROKO. Madan Lal praised their performances, stating that both veterans are "playing like 28-year-olds" and continue to be instrumental in India's successes. Senior cricketing figure Ravi Shastri, who has previously coached the Indian team, cautioned the BCCI against making any hasty decisions regarding their careers, emphasizing that the experience and composure of Rohit and Kohli in critical situations are irreplaceable.

The possible reconciliation between Gambhir's camp and ROKO could herald a new phase of harmony within Indian cricket. It is believed that the board is keen to maintain a balance

between youth and experience, ensuring that emerging players get opportunities while the senior players continue to mentor and lead the team in crucial tournaments like the World Cup.

With the World Cup 2027 still a few years away, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli now appear poised to play a pivotal role in India's campaign. Fans, analysts, and cricketing legends alike are optimistic that these stalwarts will continue to entertain, inspire, and deliver match-winning performances on the biggest stage. Their recent displays against South Africa have not only silenced critics but have also reignited hopes that the Indian cricket team will field its strongest possible squad in pursuit of global glory.

Indian Bowling Woes Against South Africa Put Pressure on BCCI Ahead of Third ODI

As the India-South Africa ODI series reaches its climax, the focus has shifted sharply to the Indian bowling attack, which has struggled to make a significant impact despite home conditions and strong batting performances. While India has managed big scores with the bat, it has been the bowlers' inability to capitalize on these totals that has caused concern among fans, analysts, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The second ODI, played in [city], highlighted India's vulnerability with the ball. South Africa, chasing a formidable total, capitalized on inconsistent line and length from Indian pacers and spinners alike. Despite the team posting a competitive score, India succumbed to a defeat that was largely attributed to a lack of penetration in the bowling department. This has sparked widespread debate over the effectiveness of the current pace attack and the strategy being employed by the team management.

One particular focus has been on Mohammed Shami, India's senior pacer. While Shami has been a match-winner in the past, his recent performances against South Africa have come under scrutiny. Critics argue that the team may need to rethink its pace options, considering fresh faces or giving more responsibility to other bowlers who have shown promise in domestic and franchise cricket. The BCCI, in consultation with the team management, is reportedly evaluating the bowling combinations for the upcoming Third ODI, which could prove pivotal in deciding the series.

The stakes are high as both teams are tied in the series, making the third ODI a decider. Cricket analysts suggest that India



cannot rely solely on its batting prowess; a balanced team with a strong, disciplined bowling attack is essential to secure a series victory. Experts have highlighted the importance of quick bowlers who can exploit early movement, as well as spinners capable of controlling the middle overs and taking crucial wickets.

Team captain [name] and the bowling coach have reportedly been working closely with the pacers and spinners to fine-tune their strategies, emphasizing variations, field placements, and better execution under pressure. Sources indicate that the bowlers are being trained to adapt quickly to South Africa's batting strengths, particularly their ability to chase down high totals with calculated aggression.

The Third ODI, set to take place in Visakhapatnam, is expected to witness a more aggressive and cohesive bowling unit from India. Fans are hoping that the bowlers will rise to the occasion, delivering consistent breakthroughs and containing the opposition's run rate. Ana-

lysts believe that a strong bowling performance could not only secure the series but also boost the confidence of the Indian bowling department, which has struggled at crucial moments in recent international fixtures.

While questions linger over individual players like Shami, the broader challenge for the team remains clear: the bowlers must step up to complement India's batting firepower. The series outcome could hinge on whether the Indian pacers and spinners can deliver disciplined, strategic, and pressure-driven performances to outsmart the formidable South African lineup.

With the third ODI serving as the decider, all eyes will be on India's bowlers to see if they can address their shortcomings and help the team clinch a hard-fought series victory on home soil. Fans, selectors, and cricket experts alike will be watching closely to gauge whether India can finally find the perfect balance between batting and bowling to dominate the series.

Andhra King Taluka Movie: Ram Pothineni’s Crazy Video Song Released



Ram Pothineni’s latest outing as a lead actor, Andhra King Taluka, directed by Mahesh Babu P, has recently hit theaters. Produced under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, the film brought together an ensemble cast with Ram Pothineni in the lead role and Kannada actor in a pivotal supporting character. However, despite high expectations, the film failed to make the desired impact at the box office and could not fully satisfy the fans.

The film also featured the talented actress Bhagyashree Bose as the female lead, portraying the role of the Kingdom’s beauty. Her performance was widely appreciated and emerged as one of the highlights of the movie. The production team had invested significant effort in ensuring grandeur in both storytelling and visual presentation, making it a much-anticipated release among Telugu cinema enthusiasts.

Adding to the film’s buzz, the makers have now released a full video song titled Pappy Shame, which has already garnered attention across social media platforms. The song stands out not only for its catchy tune but also because it features Ram Pothineni himself lending his voice to the track, adding a personal touch and connecting with fans in a unique way. The lyrics of the song were penned by Bhaskarbatla Ravikumar, while the music composition was provided by the duo Vivek-Mervin, combining energetic beats with engaging visuals to create a memorable song sequence.

The song’s release has sparked excitement among fans, who are sharing clips and reactions online, highlighting the hero’s performance and the vibrant choreography. Despite the

movie’s lukewarm response, the video song offers a chance for audiences to relive the energy and charm of the film, bringing renewed attention to the project.

The movie’s storyline revolves around political intrigue and kingdom-related drama, incorporating action, romance, and entertainment elements that are typical of Ram Pothineni’s films. The inclusion of a Kannada actor in a key role adds cross-industry appeal and introduces a fresh dynamic to the narrative. While the film’s reception has been mixed, the makers’ promotional strategies, including song releases and social media engagement, aim to sustain audience interest and boost overall viewership.

Mythri Movie Makers, known for producing high-budget, visually grand Telugu films, have put considerable effort into the production values of Andhra King Taluka. From elaborate sets to stylized action sequences, the film was designed to offer a cinematic experience that resonates with fans of commercial Telugu cinema. However, it appears that while some aspects like performances and music have been appreciated, the overall storyline did not meet audience expectations entirely.

In conclusion, Andhra King Taluka may not have achieved blockbuster status, but with engaging performances, a talented cast, and recently released energetic songs like Pappy Shame, the film continues to capture attention. Ram Pothineni’s singing debut in the track and the overall promotional activities ensure that fans remain invested in the movie and its music, keeping the excitement alive despite the initial response.

Vision Cinema House Unveils Heart-Warming First Look of ‘Haiku’ on Producer Dr. Arulanandhu’s Birthday

Vision Cinema House, the rapidly rising production banner helmed by producers Dr. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu, has unveiled the first look of its upcoming bilingual film Haiku on the special occasion of Dr. Arulanandhu’s birthday, December 5, 2025. Known for backing authentic and emotionally resonant cinema, the production house has already made a mark with acclaimed films like Joe and Kozhi Pannai Chella Durai, and Haiku promises to continue that legacy.

Haiku is a heartfelt romantic drama set against the tender backdrop of youth and student life. The first look poster captures the lead pair seated amid an empty gallery of colorful chairs, radiating a gentle spark of chemistry. A heart-shaped sky trail adds a poetic touch, reflecting the film’s soft, emotional narrative. The line “Falling Soon” at the center of the poster teases audiences with a feel-good journey that celebrates first love, friendship, and self-discovery.

The film stars Aegan in the lead role alongside Sridevi Apalla, widely recognized for her work in Court: State vs A Nobody, and Femina George of Minnal Murali fame. The cast is further strengthened by Adhirchi Arun and several other pivotal characters, promising a layered and engaging cinematic experience.

Haiku is written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, who co-wrote the screenplay with Hariharan Ram. Known for his rooted storytelling and youthful vibrancy, Yuvaraj brings a fresh narrative voice to the project, blending simplicity with emotional depth. The film’s music, composed by Baby Vijai Bulganin of Court fame, promises a breezy and melodic soundscape that complements the romantic and emotive tone of the story.

With this new venture, Vision Cinema House continues to uphold its commitment to nurturing emerging talents and supporting meaningful



storytelling. The production house has been lauded for giving a platform to fresh voices, and Haiku embodies this vision by combining a strong narrative with young, energetic talent both in front of and behind the camera.

The unveiling of Haiku coinciding with Dr. Arulanandhu’s birthday added a celebratory touch, as the team expressed heartfelt wishes to the producer for his enduring dedication to the growth of new filmmakers and storytellers. Executive producer Aegan Arulanandhu, co-producer Srinivas Niranjan, and producers Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu have all played pivotal roles in bringing the project to life under the Vision Cinema House banner.

Fans can expect more updates in the coming weeks, including teaser releases, glimpses of the cast, and official announcements regarding the film’s theatrical release. With its fresh take on young love, self-discovery, and the vibrancy of student life, Haiku is poised to be a charming, heartwarming addition to contemporary South Indian cinema.

Akhanda 2 Release Postponed: Fans Frustrated as Legal Issues Stall NBK’s First Pan-Indian Film

Tollywood superstar Nandamuri Balakrishna’s eagerly awaited pan-Indian project, Akhanda 2, has hit an unexpected roadblock, leaving fans disappointed and frustrated. The film, which promised to be a milestone in NBK’s illustrious career, has been postponed indefinitely without any official release date. This marks the first time in Balakrishna’s career that a major project of his stature has faced such a delay.

Akhanda 2 had been touted as a grand cinematic venture, with Nandamuri Balakrishna actively participating in promotional events across multiple cities, including Chennai, Bangalore, and Mumbai. Fans were eagerly anticipating the release, expecting a blockbuster that would cement NBK’s position in the pan-Indian film market. However, despite the extensive promotions and high expectations, the film has yet to see the light of day due to legal complications involving the producers.

The production house, 14 Reels, is reportedly facing negligence allegations and unresolved financial obligations, particularly concerning payments to ERO’s International. The issue has escalated to the courts, further complicating the film’s release. While 14 Reels has vowed to settle the dues, the de-



lay has already generated significant unrest among NBK’s fan base. Many fans have taken to social media to express their anger and frustration, some even questioning if there is a conspiracy to sabotage the film at this critical juncture.

Fans are particularly puzzled over the decision of director Boyapati Srinu to collaborate with 14 Reels despite the ongoing disputes. Questions are being raised across social media platforms about the producer’s credibility and the reasons behind choosing them for such a significant project. Industry insiders reveal that discussions are underway among key figures in Tollywood to resolve the legal and financial hurdles and ensure the film’s eventual release, but no concrete solutions have emerged yet.

The postponement of Akhanda 2 has cast a shadow over what was supposed to be a landmark event in Balakrishna’s career. For NBK, this pan-Indian film was not just another release but a strategic step to expand his

reach beyond Telugu cinema into other regional and national markets. The delay has created a sense of uncertainty not only for the actor and the production team but also for distributors and theater owners who had invested heavily in the film’s promotions and anticipated earnings.

While fans continue to voice their concerns and push for clarity, the industry remains hopeful that the legal issues can be resolved swiftly. Sources indicate that prominent Tollywood personalities and stakeholders are actively engaged in mediation efforts to bring all parties to a consensus, aiming to finally give Akhanda 2 the release it deserves.

As of now, neither the producer nor the filmmakers have provided a new timeline for the film’s release. Until the legal complications are resolved, fans of Nandamuri Balakrishna remain in suspense, eagerly awaiting updates on a film that could potentially be one of the biggest highlights of Tollywood in recent years.

‘Tere Ishq Mein’: Dhanush and Kriti Sanon’s Romantic Drama Wins Hearts, Trailer Goes Viral



The much-awaited romantic drama Tere Ishq Mein, starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, directed by Anand L. Rai and produced by Bhushan Kumar, has received phenomenal response from audiences since its release. The movie is steadily making its mark at the box office, with viewers lauding the performances of the lead pair. Fans are particularly impressed by the on-screen chemistry between Dhanush and Kriti, praising the way the characters and their emotions have been portrayed. Adding to the appeal, A.R. Rahman’s soulful music has struck a chord with the audience, elevating the cinematic experience.

Recently, the Telugu trailer of the film created a significant buzz online, further raising excitement for the movie. The trailer beautifully showcases the emotional journey of the protagonists, including themes of love, heartbreak, and the struggle to overcome emotional pain. Audiences have appreciated the depth of the story, highlighting how the film portrays not only the joy of romance but also the unspoken pain and vulnerabilities that accompany

it. Anand L. Rai’s signature storytelling style is evident in the way the narrative unfolds, making the film an engaging cinematic experience. The director’s nuanced depiction of emotional depth adds a layer of realism, making the characters’ experiences relatable to viewers.

The movie has been produced under the banners of Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Color Yellow Productions, with Anand L. Rai, Himanshu Sharma, Bhushan Kumar, and Krishna Kumar serving as producers. Anand L. Rai has also directed the film, while Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav have contributed to the writing. The music, composed by Oscar-winning maestro A.R. Rahman, combined with lyrical contributions by Irshad Kamil, has enhanced the emotional and romantic appeal of the movie. The film’s production values, combined with a strong narrative and a memorable soundtrack, make it a standout release in contemporary Indian cinema.

The story follows the journey of love between the lead characters, exploring both the highs and

lows of romantic relationships. Themes such as heartbreak, emotional recovery, and personal growth are interwoven seamlessly, allowing viewers to connect deeply with the characters’ experiences. Dhanush’s compelling performance, coupled with Kriti Sanon’s expressive portrayal, has struck a chord with audiences, who have praised both actors for their natural and heartfelt performances. The film also balances humor and lighthearted moments with intense emotional sequences, creating a well-rounded cinematic experience.

Tere Ishq Mein was released worldwide on November 28 in multiple languages, including Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, reaching audiences across the globe. The combination of Anand L. Rai’s direction, a talented cast, a captivating script, and A.R. Rahman’s music has ensured that the film resonates with viewers of all ages. With the trailer generating tremendous excitement online and the positive audience response at the box office, Tere Ishq Mein is poised to be remembered as a memorable romantic drama in Indian cinema.

Mythri Movie Makers Secure Nizam Rights for Aadi Saikumar’s ‘Shambhala’ Ahead of Christmas Release

Aadi Saikumar’s upcoming mystical thriller Shambhala: A Mystical World, is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release this Christmas, on December 25th. The film, directed by Ugandhar Muni and produced by Rajasekhhar Annabhimoju and Mahidhar Reddy under the Shining Pictures banner, has already generated substantial anticipation among audiences with its intriguing promotional material and captivating teasers.

Adding to the excitement, Tollywood’s prominent production and distribution house, Mythri Movie Distributors LLP, has acquired the Nizam distribution rights for the film at a notable price. Known for handling several successful Pan-India releases, Mythri Movie Makers’ involvement is expected to significantly enhance Shambhala’s visibility in the crucial Nizam region. Their strong distribution network and experience are anticipated to create a wider reach for the film, potentially boosting its box office prospects.

The film’s theatrical rights across other regions have already been finalized, ensuring a well-organized release across the country. On the non-theatrical front, the producers have also completed strategic deals. OTT giant Aha has secured the streaming rights for Shambhala, allowing viewers to access the film online shortly after its theatrical run. Meanwhile, Zee Network has acquired the satellite broadcasting rights, guaranteeing a wide television audience once the film completes its theatrical journey.

For overseas releases, Moonshine Cinemas has been entrusted with the distribution, ensuring that the film reaches audiences around the globe. This coordinated approach to theatrical and digital distribution underscores the producers’ aim to maximize the film’s reach and establish a pan-India and international presence.



The promotional campaign for Shambhala is already in full swing, with teasers, posters, and other marketing initiatives generating buzz on social media platforms. The team is now preparing to intensify their marketing efforts as the release date approaches, promising a high-octane promotional rollout that includes interactive fan engagement activities, interviews, and media appearances. With such strategic marketing and distribution in place, the anticipation surrounding the film is reaching its peak.

Shambhala: A Mystical World blends elements of fantasy, adventure, and thriller genres, offering audiences a unique cinematic experience. With Aadi Saikumar in the lead, the film promises a gripping narrative, visual spectacle, and an immersive storyline that has intrigued fans and moviegoers alike. The combination of a compelling plot, strong production values, and a strategic release plan positions Shambhala as one of the most awaited Telugu films of the year.

As the film gears up for its Christmas release, expectations are high for both its box office performance and reception among audiences worldwide. With Mythri Movie Makers handling the Nizam region, the team’s distribution strategy across India and internationally, and a robust promotional campaign, Shambhala is poised to make a significant impact this holiday season. Fans of Aadi Saikumar and Tollywood enthusiasts alike are eagerly awaiting the film’s premiere, ready to step into the mystical world promised by the film’s intriguing title.