



PM Modi Asserts India Is on the Side of Peace, Not Neutrality, During Putin's Visit

TPN Bureau | December 6

New Delhi: In a significant diplomatic statement during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that India is "not neutral" but "on the side of peace" when it comes to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Indian leader made these remarks while welcoming Putin and the Russian delegation for high-level bilateral talks in New Delhi, underscoring India's consistent approach of dialogue, diplomacy, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. Recalling the developments since the onset of the Ukraine crisis, Modi said that India and Russia have maintained "continuous communication at every stage", ensuring transparency and mutual understanding.

He noted that Moscow had kept New Delhi fully informed from the very beginning of the crisis, describing it as a sign of trust and the



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deep strategic relationship that both nations share. "India's commitment has always been towards peace," Modi said, reaffirming that global welfare can only be achieved through peaceful means and mutual cooperation.

He added that India and Russia share a relationship of reliability and mutual confidence, which has remained steadfast despite global challenges. "Trust between our nations is one of our greatest strengths," he commented, describing the bilateral ties as a model of strategic stability. The Prime

Minister also expressed optimism about the global peace process, saying the world is gradually moving back toward stability after years of conflict and uncertainty. "With the ongoing efforts across nations, I am hopeful that the world will soon find its way back to peace," he

dia's independent foreign policy continues to serve as an example of responsible international conduct.

Diplomatic observers view this meeting as an important reaffirmation of India's position amid the shifting global geopolitical landscape. While maintaining defense and energy partnerships with Russia, India has continued to engage actively in dialogue with the United States, the European Union, and other global powers, reflecting its balanced strategic autonomy.

Putin acknowledged India's balanced diplomatic stance and said that Russia had shared details of peace initiatives regarding Ukraine with India in the spirit of openness and mutual respect. "India has always been a dependable partner and a voice of reason," Putin remarked, expressing gratitude for the consistent dialogue between New Delhi and Moscow. He praised Modi's vision for strategic cooperation and noted that India

said, urging both countries to remain instrumental in shaping a peaceful global order. President Putin, on his part, thanked Modi and the Indian leadership for their warmth and hospitality. He recalled the long-standing friendship between the two countries, which has endured for decades

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Stresses Need to Expand Livelihood Opportunities for Tribals

Calls for Structured Planning, Promotion of Forest Produce, Eco-Tourism and Youth Employment

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confidence are essential, he said.

"tribal income must rise. They deserve access to all basic amenities and opportunities. Our duty is to strengthen their self-confidence and provide alternative sources of livelihood," he added.

Linking Horticulture with MGNREGS Bringing Good Results

The Deputy CM observed that Agency areas are well-suited for horticulture, and linking horticulture activities with the MGNREGA employment guarantee scheme has already yielded positive results. He directed officials to explore more activities that can be integrated with MGNREGA, thereby supporting tribal farmers and increasing the area under horticulture crops such as coffee and other region-friendly plantations.

Eco-Tourism and Film Shoots Can Boost Local Income

Stating that tourism interest is rising, Pawan Kalyan said eco-tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors globally. He

urged officials to create awareness among tribal communities on how to develop eco-tourism without disturbing natural ecosystems. Training youth to manage lodging, hospitality, and tourism services can significantly enhance income, he said.

The Deputy CM stated that tribal, who depend primarily on forests for survival, must be supported through targeted programmes focusing on forest produce, marketing, eco-tourism, and tourism-linked income sources. He stressed that tribal youth must not face unemployment and should instead be trained and encouraged to become entrepreneurs.

"Utilise Tribal Strength and Potential to Improve Their Living Standards"

Pawan Kalyan noted that with the world changing rapidly, tribal regions must also adapt to progress. He highlighted the high demand for organic and forest-based products, including coffee cultivation, and urged officials to promote large-scale production based on market needs. Frequent engagement with tribal communities, understanding their needs, and introducing new initiatives to inspire

Continuous Monitoring and Strong Coordination Needed

During the meeting, Pawan Kalyan called for ongoing monitoring of development works in tribal regions and monthly progress reports. He said that coordinated efforts by all departments would undoubtedly transform tribal lives. A comprehensive, realistic plan must be prepared. The government will extend full support," he assured.

IndiGo Crisis Deepens: Government Mulls CEO's Removal, Launches High-Level Probe

TPN Bureau | December 6

New Delhi: India's largest domestic airline, IndiGo, continues to grapple with a severe operational crisis that has left thousands of passengers stranded or facing massive flight disruptions across the country. Despite days of chaotic service interruptions, there appears to be little relief in sight, prompting the central government to step in with tough measures against the airline. According to national media reports, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is seriously considering taking disciplinary action against IndiGo.

The ministry is likely to instruct the airline's board to remove Chief Executive Officer Peter Elbers from his post. In addition, the government is preparing to impose a heavy financial penalty

on the carrier for its widespread service failures and poor crisis management, senior sources revealed. Officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation are expected to hold an emergency meeting with IndiGo executives on Saturday evening to discuss the ongoing disruptions and the airline's recovery plan.

Preliminary reports also indicate that the company may temporarily scale down its flight operations to stabilize schedules and restore reliability. In a statement earlier this week, IndiGo attributed the disruptions to a combination of unexpected challenges. The airline cited multiple factors including adverse weather conditions during the winter season, technical issues within the domestic aviation network, and newly implemented crew duty regulations known as Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL).



These revised FDTL norms, which mandate stricter weekly rest periods for pilots, appear to have caught the airline off guard. The company reportedly failed to accurately estimate the number of pilots required to meet the updated rest cycles. As a result, IndiGo

found itself with insufficient crew to operate scheduled domestic routes, leading to mass cancellations and rescheduling across major airports. In view of the nationwide chaos, the government announced a temporary relaxation of certain FDTL provisions.

Specifically, the mandatory weekly rest requirement has been eased for a short period to allow airlines to resume normal operations. Authorities expect flight schedules to stabilize within three days as these adjustments take effect.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry has launched a high-level investigation into the matter. A four-member committee has been constituted to examine the causes of the disruptions, identify accountability, and recommend measures to prevent recurrence.

The panel includes senior officers from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA): Joint Director Sanjay K. Brahme, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik, and Flight Operations Inspector Lokesh Rampal. The committee will analyze IndiGo's planning strategy, crew

management systems, and technical preparedness in light of the new FDTL regulations.

It is also expected to propose new guidelines to strengthen operational resilience within the aviation sector. The IndiGo crisis has become a major concern for India's aviation industry, which is already facing capacity constraints and high passenger demand during the winter travel season.

Passengers stranded in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru have expressed frustration over cancellations, long queues, and inadequate communication from the airline. As the crisis unfolds, all eyes are now on the government's next move and IndiGo's ability to recover its reputation as a reliable low-cost carrier that once set the standard for punctuality and efficiency in Indian aviation.

AP Aims to Establish National School of Drama; Govt Prioritizes Arts, Culture, and Music Tourism

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Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh is actively pursuing the establishment of a branch of the National School of Drama (NSD) in the state, said Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, while inaugurating the two-day Krishnaveni Sangita Neerajana music festival at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram on Saturday.

Durgesh highlighted that the minister said that proposals have already been sent to Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhar, requesting the allocation of NSD and other performing arts institutions to Andhra Pradesh, institutions the state lost after bifurcation. He stressed that it is the collective responsibility of society to preserve and pass on the rich heritage of music, dance and drama to future generations through the guru-shishya tradition. Durgesh highlighted

that the coalition government is giving top priority to arts and cultural development, aiming to promote Carnatic music globally and build strong pathways for music tourism. Both the state and central cultural bodies, including the Sangeet Natak Akademi, are working tirelessly towards this goal, he said. The minister stressed the need to cultivate artistic interest among the youth and preserve traditional forms such as Harikatha, Burrabatha and Tholu Bommalata.

He added that cultural programs also help rebuild commitment to public service among political leaders often consumed by criticism and confrontational politics. Durgesh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Shekhar, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their continued encouragement of arts and culture. He noted that Andhra Pradesh is home to several iconic composers including Annamayya, Ty

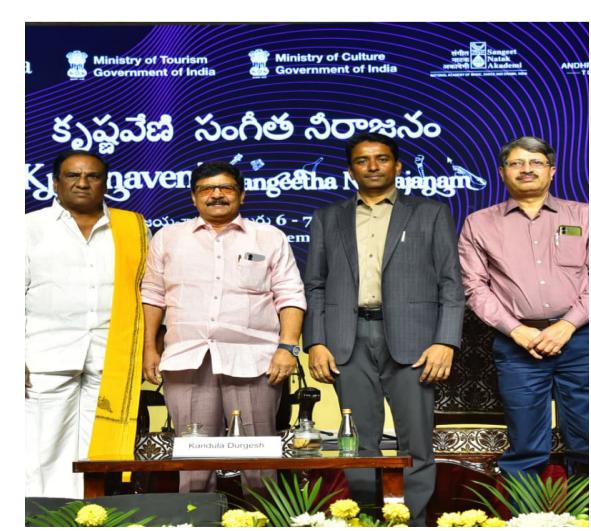
agaraja, Ramadasu and Shyama Shastri, whose legacy must be cherished.

AP Nataka Academy Chairman Gummadi Gopalakrishna, addressing the gathering, expressed gratitude to CM Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the event and said that witnessing so many legendary musicians felt like a blessing.

NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminisha said the district derives 67% of its economy from the service sector, the highest in

the state and cultural tourism plays a key role in supporting Vikas Bharat and Swarna Andhra 2047 goals. He highlighted the district's rich attractions, including Kondapalli toys, Eti koppaka crafts, ancient forts and natural beauty.

Union Tourism Additional Director General Veerakaram Hegde noted that over one crore foreign tourists visited India last year, contributing 3 lakh crore to the economy, emphasizing the nation's growing global appeal.



Speed Up Rooftop Solar Works, Complete Land Acquisition Quickly: CS Vijayanand

TPN Bureau | December 6

Anantapur: Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has directed officials to accelerate the implementation of rooftop solar projects and related renewable energy initiatives across the state, emphasizing timely completion of works under multiple central and state schemes. Chairing a review meeting on Saturday at the Anantapur Collectorate, Chief Secretary Vijayanand said that efforts must be intensified to complete rooftop solar installations for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) households under the Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) jurisdiction by March 2025.

APSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Shivashankar Loteti, Anantapur District Collector O. Anand, Joint

Collector Shiv Narayan Sharma, NREDCAP Managing Director Kamalakar Babu, and Director (Projects & IT) P. Ayub Khan were among the officials present. Vijayanand said rooftop solar works need to be executed on mission mode for 7.48 lakh SC/ST domestic electricity consumers, each receiving a 2 kW solar system, contributing to a cumulative capacity of 415 MW.

He instructed officials to ensure immediate installation of net meters once solar panels are fixed, avoiding procedural delays. "Every installed system must become operational without waiting for approvals or follow-ups," he stressed. Reviewing progress under the PM-KUSUM scheme, the Chief Secretary ordered early completion of solar power systems for 1.36 lakh agricultural pump sets across APSPDCL limits, targeting a



total capacity of 610 MW. He specifically asked district administrations to step up efforts in land acquisition for the feeder solarisation project, which involves setting up 20 solar plants in the Anantapur circle. The project requires

498 acres and will add 111 MW of solar capacity to the state's renewable energy portfolio. Referring to the PM Surya Ghar scheme, Vijayanand said rooftop solar systems should be installed for 17,870 households in Anantapur district

alone, adding 35.7 MW of capacity. The deadline for these works has been fixed for March 2025. Statewide, around 21 lakh Backward Class (BC) households are slated to benefit under the same initiative.

He urged officials to

coordinate effectively to ensure adherence to timelines and monitor ground-level progress closely. The Chief Secretary also called upon officials to expedite work on establishing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations under the PM e-

Drive scheme as part of Andhra Pradesh's larger push toward green mobility.

He reviewed the status of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), instructing departments to ensure quality execution and

completion within set deadlines to strengthen the state's power infrastructure and reduce electricity losses. Before the meeting, Vijayanand paid floral tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his death anniversary at the conference hall of the Anantapur Collectorate. Highlighting Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions to the upliftment of marginalized communities and to the nation's democratic framework, the Chief Secretary called him an eternal source of inspiration for social progress.

APSPDCL CMD Shivashankar Loteti, Collector O. Anand, Superintendent of Police P. Jagadeesh, NREDCAP MD Kamalakar Babu, and several senior officials joined in paying respects to Dr. Ambedkar before participating in the review discussions.

Scandal at Tirupati National Sanskrit University: Assistant Professor Suspended for Alleged Sexual Exploitation of First-Year Student

TPN Bureau | December 6

Thirupathi: A serious scandal has shaken Tirupati's distinguished National Sanskrit University after allegations emerged that an Assistant Professor sexually exploited a first-year student and impregnated her. The accused, identified as Dr. Laxman Kumar, has been suspended following an internal complaint and preliminary inquiry ordered by Vice-Chancellor Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy.

According to initial reports, the young student, who recently joined the university, became the victim of repeated sexual harassment and coercion by the faculty member. Sources within the campus allege that Dr. Laxman Kumar first gained the student's trust and then forced her into a physical relationship under threat and manipulation.

The incident reportedly continued for months before the student discovered she was pregnant. In a shocking twist, another Assistant Professor allegedly secretly recorded visuals of Dr. Laxman Kumar and the student together in private. The footage was reportedly used to pressure the student further, adding another layer of humiliation and exploitation to the case.

However, this recording later came to light as part of the complaint registered with university authorities. The traumati-



zized student eventually gathered the courage to lodge a formal complaint with the Vice-Chancellor's office, detailing the sexual harassment and exploitation she had faced. Acting swiftly, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Krishnamurthy ordered the immediate suspension of Dr. Laxman Kumar pending a detailed investigation.

University officials confirmed that an internal committee had been set up to probe the allegations in line with institutional and legal protocols. Meanwhile, university staff members approached the Tirupati West Police Station to submit a preliminary complaint about the incident.

Police officials, however, advised them that the victim must personally file a statement for the case to proceed formally. Sources indicate that the student, reportedly distressed and fearing social stigma, left for her home state of Odisha soon after the incident was exposed. The National Sanskrit University adminis-

tration has faced mounting criticism for failing to ensure student safety and confidentiality in such sensitive matters.

Student unions and women's organizations have demanded strict legal action under sexual harassment and criminal law provisions, as well as reforms in campus grievance systems. Local residents and academic circles expressed anger and disappointment that such incidents could occur in a reputed national institution known for promoting traditional learning and moral values.

The scandal has sparked discussions across Andhra Pradesh about the need for stronger mechanisms to protect female students in universities, particularly in hostels and isolated academic departments.

While police investigations are still at an early stage, senior officers confirmed that they are in touch with university officials and are seeking to record the victim's statement. If proven, the charges could lead to criminal prosecution and dismissal from service for the accused.

The Tirupati academic community remains in shock as the university's reputation hangs in the balance. Authorities emphasized that strict action will be taken once the inquiry concludes, promising zero tolerance for sexual misconduct within the campus.

The Bihar government has allotted 10.11 acres of land to the TTD

TPN Bureau | December 6

Bihar | Vijayawada: The Bihar government has allotted 10.11 acres of land to the TTD-Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for the construction of a Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in the state capital, Patna, marking a major step in expanding the devotional footprint of the famed Tirupati deity in North India. The land, located in the Mokama Khas area near Patna, has been sanctioned to TTD on a

long-term lease of 99 years for a token annual rent of just Rs 1, underscoring the Bihar government's intent to encourage religious tourism and cultural ties between Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu welcomed the decision of the Bihar government and termed it a "significant development" in promoting the spiritual heritage associated with Lord Venkateswara across

the country. AP Minister for IT and Industries Nara Lokesh also appreciated Bihar's gesture, stating that the new temple will serve millions of devotees from North and East India who may find it difficult to visit Tirumala frequently.

TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu expressed his happiness and gratitude to the Bihar government for approving the land allotment for the temple project. He said the move would help extend the devotional services of TTD to a broader sec-

tion of devotees and would further strengthen cultural integration between regions. According to official communication, Bihar Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit, IAS, has written a formal letter to TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, confirming the allotment of 10.11 acres in Mokama Khas for the proposed Sri Venkateswara temple.

The symbolic Rs 1 annual lease rent and the 99-year tenure highlight the strong support of the Bihar administration for the project. The

TTD Chairman stated that a team from Tirumala will soon visit Bihar to hold discussions with the Director of Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation. These talks will focus on technical, architectural and logistical aspects related to the construction of the temple, including design, access, amenities for pilgrims and integration with local tourism circuits. The upcoming temple in Patna is expected to be developed on the lines of other TTD temples established outside Andhra Pradesh, combining traditional South Indian temple architecture with facilities for large numbers of devotees.

In addition to regular rituals and darshan, the temple complex is likely to host spiritual programs, cultural events and social service activities, similar to TTD centres across the country. Officials believe that the Sri Venkateswara temple at Patna will not only become a major spiritual hub for devotees in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring states, but will also boost religious tourism and local economic activity in the region.

The strategic location of Mokama Khas is expected to facilitate easy access for pilgrims. With the land allotment now formally communicated, TTD is preparing to initiate the next stages of planning, including detailed project reports, architectural designs, cost estimates and timelines. The project is seen as another milestone in TTD's efforts to take the services of Lord Venkateswara closer to devotees across India.



CM Slams Jagan's Remarks on Tirumala Parakamani Theft; Highlights Law & Order Improvements, Capital Progress and Education Reforms

TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: During an informal interaction with media persons at the Telugu Desam Party central office, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu addressed a series of questions on the Tirumala Parakamani theft controversy, remarks made by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the state's law-and-order situation, capital development efforts, and the progress of education sector reforms.

Sharp Criticism of Jagan's Remarks on Tirumala Parakamani Theft.

Responding strongly to Jagan Mohan Reddy's comments terming the Tirumala Parakamani theft a "small theft," the Chief Minister said the statements had shocked people across the state. He noted that such re-

marks deeply hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees of Lord Venkateswara.

"Jagan has no regard for God, no respect for the faith of devotees, and no concern for the sanctity of temples," Chandrababu Naidu said. He added that Jagan's attempt to trivialise the crime was highly condemnable.

The Chief Minister further criticised Jagan's argument that no wrong was committed since the stolen money was returned. "A person who tried to 'settle' even his own uncle's murder also tried to settle this sacred Tirumala theft. What could be more atrocious?" he questioned. Naidu said that offerings in the Lord's Hundi are sacred and should never be dismissed as a minor issue. He added that people



from all regions, communities, and political groups were expressing anger and condemnation over Jagan's remarks.

Law and Order Situation Has Improved: CM
Chandrababu Naidu asserted that the present government is making no compromis-

es on law and order. He alleged that the previous administration allowed criminal elements to flourish even in traditionally peaceful

regions.
"Have we ever heard of 'lady dongs' in Nellore? Who encouraged such a culture?" he asked. He said that dis-

tricts such as Vizianagaram and Nellore, once known for their peaceful atmosphere, had turned into crime-prone regions under the previous government. The Chief Minister said the current administration is "cleaning the system," eliminating criminal groups, and taking firm

action to suppress rowdy elements.

Capital Development Gaining Momentum

Speaking about the development of Amaravati, Naidu said that his recent interaction with farmers of the capital region had yielded positive results. He noted that farmers were fully cooperating with the government and that even the second phase of land pooling was progressing smoothly.

"People, farmers, and the government are all

happy. Only a few individuals are unable to digest this progress," he remarked. He said construction activities had picked up pace and issues were being resolved systematically.

Education Reforms Showing Positive Impact

Chandrababu Naidu highlighted that the "Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting" initiative had emerged as a strong brand in the education sector. He added that the reforms being implemented across schools were showing encouraging and visible results.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving education standards, strengthening law and order, and advancing the state's capital development in a transparent and people-centric manner.

YSRCP Leaders Accuse TDP Govt of Insulting Ambedkar, Claim Jagan Upheld Ideals of Equality

TPN Bureau | Dec 6

Vijayawada: Senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders on Saturday paid glowing tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his death anniversary at the party's Central Office in Tadepalli, emphasizing that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had carried forward Ambedkar's ideals through policy, welfare, and inclusive governance. The leaders alleged that the present TDP-led coalition government was undermining the Constitution, damaging social justice, and dismantling the reforms introduced during the previous YSRCP regime.

Speaking after offering floral tributes to Ambedkar, the YSRCP leaders recalled Jagan Mohan Reddy's efforts to institutionalize Ambedkar's vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all sections of society. They noted that the former Chief Minister had taken several concrete steps to trans-



late Ambedkar's philosophy into governance. Among the key initiatives, they highlighted the construction of the 125-ft Ambedkar statue and the Ambedkar Smritivinam memorial park in Vijayawada, established with an investment of 400 crore to serve as a lasting inspiration for future generations.

Party leaders charged that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government had shown open disrespect to Ambedkar's legacy by politically targeting these projects. They alleged that one of the first actions of the TDP regime was to remove the commemorative plaque at Ambedkar Smritivinam and that the Chief Minister had avoided visiting the site for over 18 months. "This insult to Ambedkar's memory reflects the TDP's disregard for constitutional values," a senior YSRCP leader stated.

The leaders demanded that the original plaque be restored by

January 26, warning that any new inscriptions or plaques installed by the current administration would be replaced once the YSRCP regained power. The YSRCP leaders further criticized Naidu's decision to propose a taller statue of N.T. Rama Rao, alleging that it was driven by jealousy over Jagan's monumental tribute to Ambedkar. "Ambedkar's name should not be dragged into political rivalry," the leaders observed, stressing that Dr. Ambedkar symbolized equality and integrity, not competition among leaders.

Drawing comparisons

between the current and previous governments, YSRCP leaders accused the TDP-led coalition of systematically weakening constitutional governance, eroding the education sector, and pushing children from poor families out of quality learning ecosystems. They claimed that the government's approach amounted to the replacement of the Constitution with a "Red Book rule," resulting in a breakdown of law and order. In contrast, they said, the YSRCP administration under Jagan ensured welfare based purely on eligibility, irrespective of caste, religion, or party affiliation.

They asserted that under Jagan's leadership, women and marginalized communities were empowered through direct welfare programs, transparent administration, and equitable distribution of resources. Concluding their remarks, the YSRCP leaders urged people to recognize Jagan Mohan Reddy's commitment to Ambedkar's vision of a society founded on equality, justice, and empowerment.

They asserted that only with YSRCP's return to power could Andhra Pradesh restore constitutional order, social balance, and the true spirit of Ambedkar's India.

Rayalaseema Leaders Demand Realignment of Pothireddypadu-Banakacharla System to Its Original Purpose

TPN Bureau | December 6

Nandyal: The Rayalaseema Saguneti Sadhana Samithi has urged the Nandyal district administration to take immediate corrective action to restore the Pothireddypadu-Banakacharla complex to its originally intended purpose of meeting Rayalaseema's critical irrigation needs.

Samithi President Bojja Dasaratharami Reddy, accompanied by members of the executive committee, met the Nandyal District Collector and submitted a detailed representation on the distribution of Krishna water through the Banakacharla system.

During the meeting, Dasaratharami Reddy explained how the system designed to supply water from the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator to the Rayalaseema irrigation network—has "completely deviated" from its fundamental



objective.

He highlighted that due to lapses in the construction and maintenance of associated irrigation projects, the Banakacharla complex has effectively turned into a structure that diverts Krishna water into the Kundoo river, rather than carrying it to farmlands across Rayalaseema.

He stressed the need

to remove bottlenecks in the main canals and expedite the construction of distributary canals, which are vital to draw the planned 44,000 cusecs from the Pothireddypadu Head Regulator.

This flow is essential to deliver 120 TMC of Krishna water within 30 days to major irrigation projects including Sri Sailam Right Branch

Canal (SRBC), Telugu Ganga, Galeru-Nagari, Mylavaram, Paidipalem and Chitravathi Balancing Reservoir. Achieving this, he said, would ensure irrigation for nearly 8 lakh acres across the drought-prone region.

Responding to the appeal, the District Collector assured the delegation that a comprehensive report outlining the necessary measures to restore proper water supply to Rayalaseema's irrigation projects would be prepared and forwarded to the state government.

Lakshmi Parvathi slams TDP's extravagance and failures

TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: YSRCP State General Secretary Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi strongly condemned Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for spending crores of public money on special events, settings, and charter flights merely to attack former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, she questioned the need for extravagant Parent-Teacher Meetings that were turned into political shows, when a simple press meet would have sufficed. She said that the Bhamini school in Parvathipuram Manyam district, showcased by Chandrababu as his achievement, was actually built during Dr YS Rajasekhar Reddy's tenure and later upgraded under YS Jagan's Nadu-Nedu programme.

Yet, crores were wasted on decorations, props, and stage-managed settings to falsely claim credit and to create animosity towards YS Jagan among

students.

Lakshmi Parvathi said that while YS Jagan delivered every promise with transparency, transferring over .2 lakh crore directly to beneficiaries irrespective of caste or religion, the coalition government has not fulfilled even a single promise in 18 months. Instead, Chandrababu has pushed the state into a crushing debt of 2.66 lakh crore, with corruption visible at every step.

She accused Chandrababu and Lokesh of misusing public money for weekly trips to Hyderabad and abroad in chartered flights, while claiming that welfare schemes are a financial burden. Calling it a display of sheer incompetence and irresponsibility, she remained that a governance requires sincerity, not political theatrics.

She ridiculed the TDP's "mega" PTM event where even benches, furniture, and digital boards installed under YS Jagan's governance were passed off as new achievements.

She stated that the government cannot even provide quality mid-day meals, let

alone run the education sector efficiently. Instead of fixing the crisis they created, the father-son duo is indulging in credit theft and spending lavishly on event management to attack YS Jagan.

Lakshmi Parvathi said Chandrababu has already given up on governance within just 18 months, with the state sliding to the bottom in GST growth, agriculture collapsing with no crop getting remunerative prices, and employees not receiving salaries on time.

She called Chandrababu, Lokesh, and Pawan Kalyan "political jokers" who have no moral right to stay in power even for a minute. She asserted that Andhra Pradesh prospered under YS Jagan, while today every section of society is suffering under the coalition rule.

She further said that people are eagerly waiting for the next election to bring back YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, as Chandrababu's government has proven incapable of governing and should step down immediately.

"Suffering could have been averted," he added.

Why waste crores on events just to abuse YS Jagan?



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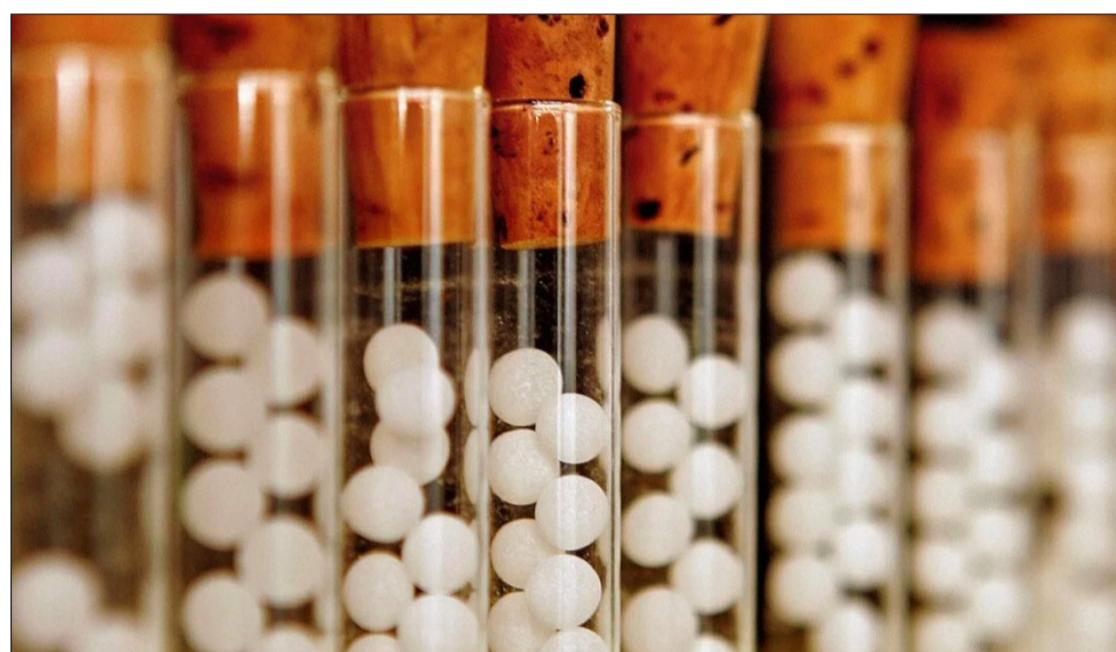
Minister's Intervention Brings 17% Reduction in Homeopathy Medicine Tender Price; 2.21 Crore Saved This Year

TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: A decisive intervention by Andhra Pradesh Medical & Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has resulted in a 16.88% reduction in the tender price for homeopathy medicines, saving the state 2.21 crore in the current financial year. The AYUSH department had proposed the purchase of homeopathy medicines worth nearly 14 crore for 2024-25.

However, despite issuing two rounds of tenders for medicines worth 4 crore, only one bidder Kerala government-run HOMCO (Kerala Homeopathic Cooperative Organisation)—responded. Highlighting the urgency of medicine procurement, the AYUSH department sought approval to proceed with the single bidder.

Granting permission, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav instructed officials to thoroughly verify whether the quoted price was reasonable before finalizing the bid. Following his direction, officials held detailed negotiations with the supplier, resulting in a price reduction of



16.88% from the original quote. This translated into a savings of 2.21 crore for the state.

Tender Background: Previous Purchases Costly

During the verification process, officials examined previous supply rates of HOMCO to both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. They discovered that during the previous government's tenure, the company had supplied medicines to Andhra

Pradesh at prices 13% higher than those charged to Karnataka.

After extensive discussions with HOMCO, the department secured a revised rate that is:

16.88% lower than the current quoted price 6.04% lower than Karnataka's purchase price

6% lower than the price at which Andhra Pradesh purchased medicines in 2023-24

AYUSH officials stated that these corrective measures resulted

in substantial savings and ensured better value for public funds.

The approved contract price will remain valid for one year, under which the state will procure medicines worth 14 crore this financial year.

Minister Congratulates AYUSH Officials

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav congratulated AYUSH Director Kottamasu Dinesh and other department

officials for securing the reduced rate through effective negotiation. He praised their diligence in ensuring transparency and cost efficiency in procurement.

Under the new contract, homeopathy medicines worth 14 crore—including 162 varieties—will be supplied to 207 homeopathy dispensaries and three teaching hospitals across the state.

State-wide "Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra"



TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced that it will undertake a state-wide "Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra" from December 11 to 25 to highlight the ideals of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the governance model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking on the occasion, PVN. Madhav said that the BJP is marking Vajpayee's upcoming birth anniversary on December 25 as Good Governance Day, celebrating his vision and contributions to the nation. "Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a leader respected beyond party lines," he said. "From the beginning, he carried forward the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and worked for harmony and national development.

Without ever hurting anyone, he gained the admiration of all political parties. He continues to inspire the younger generation even today."

Madhav emphasized that Vajpayee's approach to governance embodied humility, inclusiveness, and democratic spirit—qualities that remain central to the BJP's philosophy.

The party's leadership hopes that the Yatra will reinvigorate these values at the grassroots level and strengthen public connection at the national level.

tion with the BJP's ideology in Andhra Pradesh. Union Minister Srinivasa Varma, who also spoke at the event, said that the party intends to take Vajpayee's legacy to every district and every citizen.

"Vajpayee was a man of great character who placed values above power," Varma commented. "He never compromised on principles. Even when he knew a single vote could cost him the Prime Minister's post, he upheld democratic values and accepted the outcome gracefully. That is the kind of political integrity we need to remind people of today." As part of the Yatra, the BJP plans to unveil bronze statues of Atal Bihari Vajpayee across all districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Various cultural and educational programs will also be organized, including seminars on good governance, youth engagement drives, and exhibitions on Vajpayee's life and achievements. Party leaders expressed confidence that the "Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra" will strengthen the BJP's organizational presence in the state by connecting citizens with the party's leadership vision at the national level.

The Yatra is expected to conclude on December 25, coinciding with Good Governance Day, observed annually by the BJP to commemorate the late leader's birth anniversary and his contributions to Indian politics and administration.

Comprehensive Arrangements Underway for Bhavani Deeksha Viraman from December 11-15: AP Endowments Commissioner

TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Endowments Commissioner K Ramachandra Mohan announced that extensive and well-planned arrangements are being made for the Bhavani Deeksha Viraman rituals scheduled from December 11 to 15 at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Vijayawada.

The Commissioner, accompanied by temple officials, trustees, and engineering teams, inspected the arrangements from 4 PM onwards today. He said that devotees arriving in Vijayawada during the auspicious Margasira month to conclude their Bhavani Deeksha will be provided all required facilities.

Key Measures Revealed and Announced

The Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of preparations for Bhavani Man-



dala Deeksha Viraman 2025 at the Indrakeladri temple premises.

He instructed officials to complete all arrangements within the next three days, ensuring they are ready 48 hours before the commencement of the rituals.

Ramachandra Mohan stated that, similar to the Dasara festivities, coordination among all govern-

ment departments will ensure the successful conduct of the Deeksha Viraman.

He stressed that every devotee should leave with complete satisfaction after performing their Deeksha Viraman.

Facilities for Devotees

Adequate arrangements are being made for laddu prasadam, anna prasadam and drinking

water.

Special staff will be deployed at bathing ghats and keshakhandana (tonsure) halls.

Laddu prasadam is being prepared at three separate points, similar to Dasara, to ensure adequate availability.

Additional Endowments Department staff are being deputed exclusively for the event to im-

prove service quality and ensure devotee satisfaction.

Inter-departmental Coordination

The Commissioner instructed temple authorities to work closely with the District Collector, Police Commissioner and Municipal Commissioner for crowd management, sanitation and security. He also directed officials to complete works at the new laddu production unit and anna prasadam counters on priority. During his inspection, Ramachandra Mohan personally reviewed the queue lines on the hill steps leading to the Shiva temple.

Chief Engineer Shekhar, Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi), Executive Officer VK Sreena Naik, Trust Board members, and engineering officials KVSR Koteshwara Rao, B Rambabu and Assistant Executive Officers participated in the inspection.

TDP Leader Questions Jagan's Remarks on Tirumala Offerings; Demands Apology for Hurting Hindu Sentiments



TPN Bureau | Dec 6

Vijayawada | Amaramati: Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board Chairman and senior TDP leader Neelayapalem Vijay Kumar strongly condemned YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his controversial remarks regarding devotees' offerings to Lord Venkateswara Swamy of Tirumala.

Addressing the media at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Friday, Vijay Kumar questioned whether stealing offerings made to the deity could be considered a "small theft," as suggested by Jagan in his recent comments. Vijay Kumar said that such statements reflect deep disrespect toward Hindu faith and traditions.

"How can anyone scoff at the offerings made by lakhs of devotees with pure devotion? Mocking such sacred acts is an insult not just to religion but to the col-

lective faith of millions of Hindus," he said, demanding that Jagan Mohan Reddy immediately withdraw his comments and tender a public apology. He further alleged that Jagan's attitude exemplifies his government's past record of undermining Hindu institutions and sentiments.

Vijay Kumar reminded that even when he was Chief Minister, several incidents, including the desecration of temple idols and removal of temple lands from protection lists, took place under Jagan's leadership.

"The people of Andhra Pradesh have not forgotten how temple trusts were neglected and how wealth belonging to Lord Venkateswara Swamy was mishandled in the name of administrative reforms," he added.

The TDP leader described faith as the emotional and spiritual backbone of millions of devotees of Lord Venkateswara. He urged all like-minded citizens and religious organizations to condemn Jagan's remark and stand up for the dignity of Hindu faith. Concluding his address, Vijay Kumar reiterated that an apology from Jagan Mohan Reddy was the least he could do to restore trust and show respect toward the spiritual sentiments of the devotees of Lord Venkateswara.

Ambedkar Death Anniversary Observed Grandly in Vissannapeta

TPN Bureau | December 6

Vijayawada: The death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a crusader for social equality, was observed with great reverence in Vissannapeta on Saturday. Leaders of the local political alliance, party members, and residents participated in large numbers to pay tributes to the iconic social reformer.

At the Ambedkar Center in the town, leaders garlanded the statue of Dr. Ambedkar and offered floral tributes. Speaking on the occasion, they said that



Addressing the gathering, leaders said that following the path shown by Dr. Ambedkar is es-

sential for building a truly progressive and inclusive society. They recalled that Ambedkar's dream was to create a nation where the underprivileged could live with dignity and equality. Local leaders also urged youth to study Ambedkar's life, adopt his values, and work toward social harmony.

The event concluded with the participants raising slogans promoting unity and social integration, echoing Ambedkar's vision of an equitable society. Sweets were distributed to attendees as a mark of respect and remembrance.

How can anyone scoff at the offerings made by lakhs of devotees with pure devotion?

Mocking such sacred acts is an insult not just to religion but to the col-

Narasaropet MLA Dr. Chadalawada's "Praja Vedika" Earns Massive Public Response

TPN Bureau | December 6Narasaropet (Palnadu District): The "Praja Vedika" people's grievance redressal program launched by Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu, MLA of Narasaropet constituency, has been receiving overwhelming public appreciation across the Palnadu district. Held every Saturday at his local office, the initiative has become a direct platform for citizens to submit their grievances, interact personally with their elected representative, and receive immediate action on various welfare and civic issues.

Large numbers of people from different mandals have been attending the programme. Residents are submitting written representations on key problems affecting



their daily lives—ranging from road repairs, drinking water supply, and electricity issues, to hospital facilities, pensions, ration cards,

and housing site allocations. Instead of routing these petitions through multiple bureaucratic levels, the MLA has been personally receiving them and issuing directions to the concerned officials on the spot.

According to participants, many grievances

are being resolved instantly during the meetings, reflecting a new level of accountability and efficiency in governance. Officials from

relevant departments, who are present alongside the MLA, are given clear instructions to expedite solutions without delay. Beneficiaries have lauded the initiative as a transparent and accessible system that strengthens public trust in the functioning of local leadership.

Since the introduction of "Praja Vedika," thousands of petitions have been submitted and resolved, according to officials attached to the MLA's office. The program has provided a continuous feedback loop between citizens and the administration,

helping identify policy gaps and service delivery bottlenecks at the grassroots level. Local residents have described the forum as a "trustworthy bridge" connecting people's concerns directly to the government.

By taking the time to personally interact with the public each week, Dr. Aravinda Babu has projected an image of accessibility and responsiveness rarely seen in routine political settings.

The success of "Praja Vedika" is not only reflected in the number of resolved cases but also in the renewed faith of citizens who feel that their voices are being heard meaningfully.

What began as an experiment in people's outreach has now evolved into a regular, institutionalized practice in the Narasaropet constituency embodying the spirit of responsive governance that connects administration with accountability and empathy.

Corruption Runs Deep in RUDA: Quarry Layout Scandal Stalls Rajahmundry Master Plan

TPN Bureau | December 6

Rajahmundry, East Godavari: An alleged case of large-scale corruption and negligence within the Rajahmundry Urban Development Authority (RUDA) has thrown the city's future growth into uncertainty. The long-pending Rajahmundry Master Plan, vital for the city's expansion and infrastructure mapping, has reportedly been stalled for nearly two years due to irregularities in a single land layout approval granted in violation of planning norms.

Sources revealed that RUDA officials granted layout permissions for a land parcel located along the Korukonda-Anandanagar road, within an identified quarry zone. The site reportedly has pits as deep as 100 meters, classifying it as high-risk terrain. As per regulations, any such layout requires mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the Mines and Geology Department and the Pollution Control and Environment Departments. However, officials issued approvals without obtaining these clearances.

The violation came to light when the proposal file reached the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP). Upon scrutiny, the DTCP Principal Secretary objected strongly to the irregularities, questioning how such an approval could be processed without basic environmental and geological clearances. The file was immediately returned with remarks condemning RUDA's negligence.



Following this, the DTCP ordered a detailed inquiry, sending a special investigation team to Rajahmundry. Preliminary findings confirmed that the land indeed falls within a quarry zone, with no required NOCs or safety clearances obtained. Moreover, investigators discovered that the disputed layout abuts a designated Master Plan road meaning any irregularity here directly affects the integrity of the entire urban blueprint.

Due to this single violation, the entire draft of the Rajahmundry Master Plan has been left in limbo. Revising or removing the flawed section requires redrawing significant portions of the city's zoning map

halting progress for nearly two years. Allegations point towards a nexus involving former RUDA commissioners, the current Chief Planning Officer (CPO), and certain local public representatives, who allegedly influenced the approval process.

Reliable sources indicate that RUDA's current CPO may face imminent transfer, and a structural reshuffle within the authority is likely. Observers say this episode reveals not just one case of bureaucratic misconduct but a deep-seated system of corruption. The depth of the quarry may be 100 meters but insiders claim the depth of corruption inside RUDA runs far deeper.

MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu Launches worth 74.50 Lakh Development Works in Narasaraopet Municipality

TPN Bureau | December 6

Narasaraopet (Palnadu district): Efforts are underway to transform Narasaraopet Municipality into a model civic body, declared MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu as he laid the foundation stones for new development works worth 74.50 lakh on Saturday. The projects, funded through the Building Penetration Scheme (BPS) and Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS), aim to strengthen urban infrastructure and improve living standards for residents across four wards.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Dr. Aravind Babu emphasized his commitment to making the town a model municipality in the state. "Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, development and welfare are progressing hand in hand across Andhra Pradesh. Narasaraopet will soon become a benchmark for urban progress," he said.

Details of the Development Works

A total of four major



projects are being undertaken under this phase:

Ward No. 1: Construction of a stormwater drain wall from the stadium culvert to CBN Colony 5th Line in Chandrababu Naidu Colony at an estimated cost of 18.90 lakh. The drain will be 85 meters long and 1.5 meters wide, providing much-needed drainage infrastructure to prevent waterlogging.

Ward No. 6: Installation of RCC socket and spigot pipes from SRKT

1st Line to the main road of 17th Line, with a total estimated cost of 7.10 lakh. This will help strengthen underground drainage connectivity in the area.

Ward No. 11: Construction of a new cement concrete (CC) road in Bank Colony 4th Line at a cost of 18.50 lakh. The road will improve mobility and safety for residents suffering from potholes and erosion due to recent rains.

Ward No. 33: Building of a CC drain from Hossanna Church to Mooda

Bavula Center, spanning 780 meters in length and 0.60 meters in width, at an estimated cost of 30 lakh. This long stretch is designed to handle stormwater effectively and reduce flooding during monsoon seasons.

Development Amid Recovery Challenges

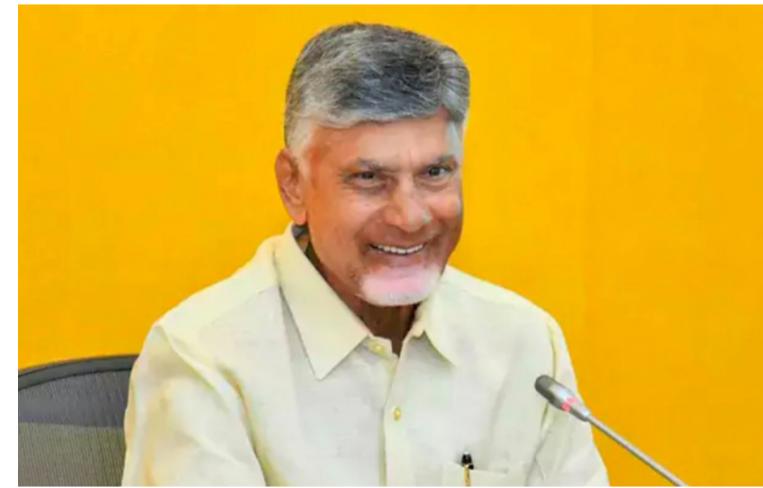
The MLA highlighted that heavy rains and cyclonic conditions in recent weeks had caused severe damage to existing roads and drains. Low-lying areas in the municipality were inundated, leading to the deterioration of CC roads and drainage lines. "People have placed their trust in us. We are determined to rebuild every damaged facility and upgrade urban infrastructure so that Narasaraopet stands as an example for other municipalities," Dr. Aravind Babu said.

A Joint Effort for Urban Transformation

Municipal officials and local leaders joined the MLA during the foundation ceremony. They expressed optimism that once completed, these works would ease local inconveniences and strengthen civic amenities. The planned infrastructure improvements align with the state government's broader vision of balanced regional development.

Dr. Aravind Babu reiterated that under the collaborative guidance of CM Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, the focus remains on equitable urban growth, improved sanitation, and upgraded facilities, ensuring that every citizen benefits from the wave of development sweeping across the state.

Performance of MLAs increased - AP CM



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that the performance of most MLAs has improved significantly through ongoing reviews and one-on-one meetings.

Chairing an internal meeting with party leaders at the central TDP office, NTR Bhavan in Amaravati, he revealed that systematic performance evaluations are being carried out through four to five different survey methods to ensure factual and accurate assessments of each legislator's efficiency and outreach.

Naidu, who has been personally reviewing governance and political performance across constituencies, noted that while many MLAs have shown substantial progress, around 37 members still need to enhance their effectiveness.

He urged them to focus on stronger constituency-level engagement, implementation of welfare programs, and effective public communication to meet people's expectations and the government's reform-oriented goals.

Discussing organizational values and ideological discipline, the Chief Minister drew a comparison with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He praised the RSS for working with complete selflessness and dedication, without

seeking any positions or personal benefits, solely for the strengthening of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Naidu advised party leaders and cadre to embrace the same sense of ideological commitment and integrity in their service to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the people of Andhra Pradesh.

During the meeting, Naidu also announced plans to launch an innovative educational initiative titled the School Innovative Partnership Summit.

The program aims to discover and nurture student talent through new learning approaches and collaborations with reputed national organizations. He revealed that the initiative will be executed in partnership with the Ratan Tata Innovative Hub, symbolizing a major step towards fostering creativity, innovation, and future-ready skills among the youth of the state.

The summit, he said, will be a milestone event for the education sector and a platform to encourage young minds to think beyond traditional methods.

Party leaders also apprised the Chief Minister of recent remarks made by opposition leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had reportedly held a brief press meet lasting only three hours. Responding to this,

Naidu dismissed the comments as lacking depth or vision, asserting that "those who appear occasionally without understanding issues cannot influence serious public discourse." He remarked that people themselves would ultimately judge and teach such leaders a lesson for misleading them.

"There is no need to pay attention to meaningless statements that do not contribute to constructive governance," he added. Naidu reiterated that the TDP's focus remains on transparent governance, performance-driven leadership, and sustainable development.

He encouraged leaders to remain accessible to citizens and work efficiently to ensure the state's progress under the principle of "people-first" politics.

The Chief Minister's remarks came as part of a broader push to strengthen political accountability and administrative responsiveness within the government and the party organization. The meeting at NTR Bhavan concluded with a renewed sense of determination among party functionaries to align themselves with the Chief Minister's vision of efficient governance, innovative education, and ideological steadfastness.

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 Sammaka-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 Sammaka-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 Aarthi) 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 Vanaparthy, 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 overvalues 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 multilateral 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 infrastructural 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 diversifying 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 Pahalgam, 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 Pahalgam 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 Sindoora, 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-

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

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.

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.

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 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.

SPECIAL CESS ON PAN MASALA: LOKSABHA APPROVED

TPN Bureau, New Delhi:

The Lok Sabha on Friday approved the Health Security and National 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 emphasized 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.



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, canceling 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, canceled "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 an-

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 over-crowding 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 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, regrett-

able, 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."

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.

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 Jaymalya Bagchi made it clear that temple money is "entirely the property of the deity" and must be used strictly for temple-related purposes.

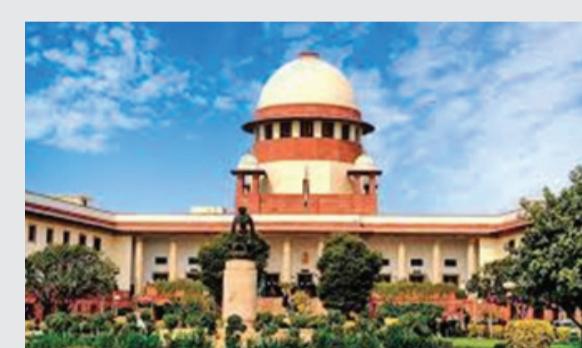
The court emphasized that temple funds cannot be treated as revenue sources for cooperative banks or used as a means to sustain their operations.

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.

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.

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.

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"You want to save a bank by using temple

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 misappropriation 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 Wadephul 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 scepticism 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 resil-

ience 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 con-

tent exclusively for its

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.

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 online 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

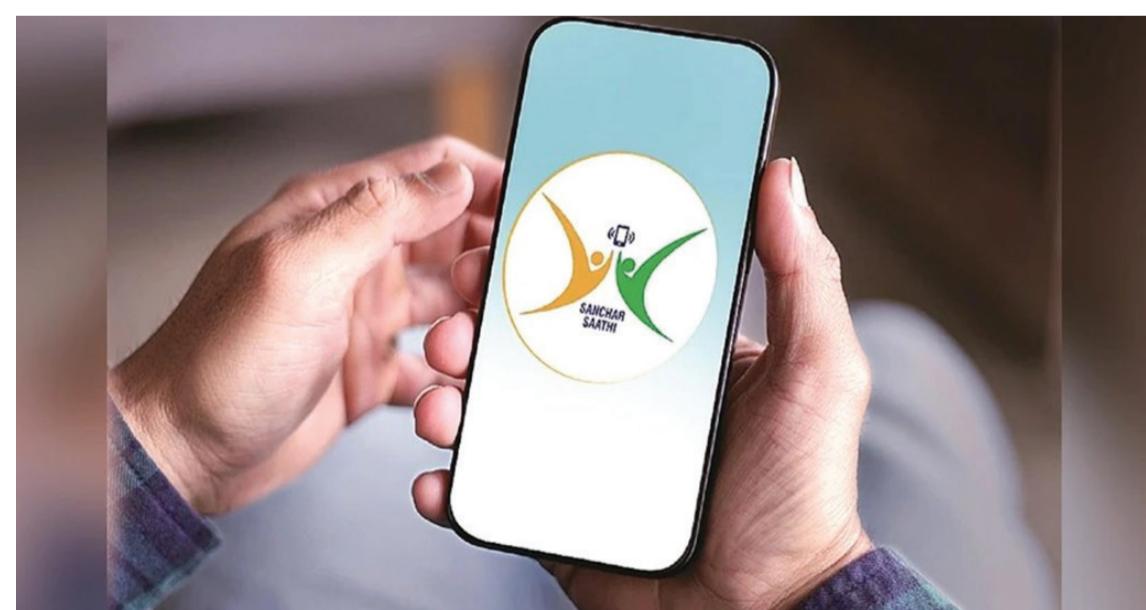
tips in private groups, potentially influencing inexperienced traders.

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 critical 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.

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.

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 protection

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. 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.

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



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.

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.

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

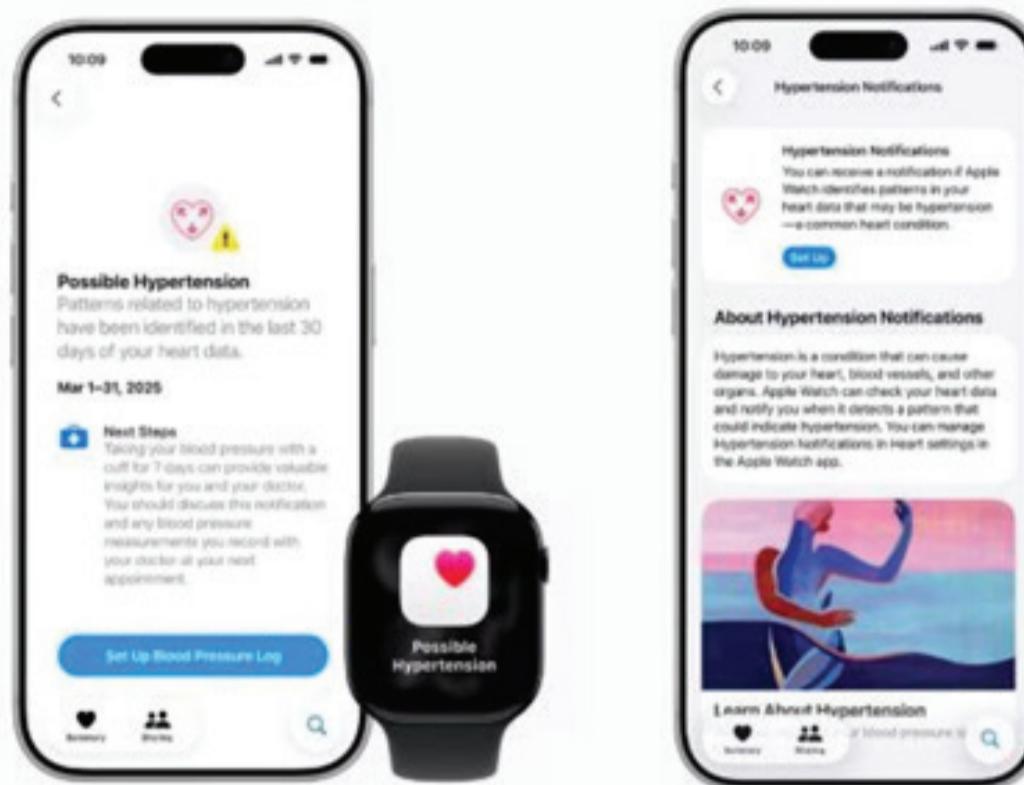
the feature, said it is built on three principles: scientific valida-

tion, actionable insights, and privacy. Apple used data from

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, up-

dating 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—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 to this closely contested match.

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.

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.

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

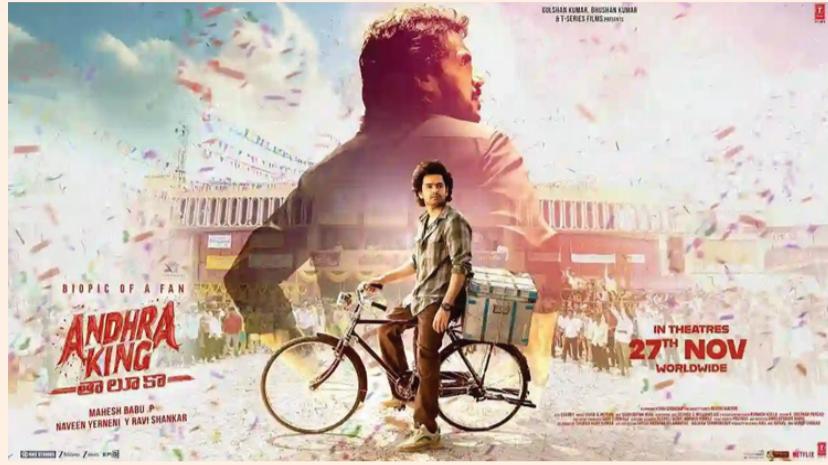


cannot rely solely on its batting prowess; a balanced team with a strong, disciplined bowling attack is essential to secure a series victory. Experts have highlighted the importance of quick bowlers who can exploit early movement, as well as spinners capable of controlling the middle overs and taking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

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

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 Adhiraj 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

Akhand 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 road-block, 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 choos-

ing 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.

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 Krishan 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



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.