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Andhra Pradesh on Course to Become a Maoist-Free State



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Clarifies: Dev Ji and Others Not in Custody

Surrender Will Be Accepted; Rehabilitation Promised

Our Correspondent - D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam
A.S.R. District In-charge
Pen Power, November 20: Director General of Police



- 13 Maoists Killed, 50 Arrested in Two Days - 'Operation Sambhav' to Continue Intensively

(DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta stated that stringent measures are being taken to make Andhra Pradesh a Maoist-free state within the deadline set by the Central Government. In the wake of the recent encounter between Maoists and police in Mareduhilli, the DGP toured Rampachodavaram in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on Thursday. Addressing the media, he revealed that the

Andhra Pradesh Police Department achieved significant success in the ongoing 'Operation Sambhav,' conducted in the Mareduhilli forest region over the past two days. The DGP conducted an aerial survey of the operation zone before speaking to reporters. He disclosed that 13 Maoists were killed during the exchange of fire, including top leaders such as Hidma and Tech Shankar. He also announced that 50 Maoists had been arrested across the state as part of this crack-down. DGP Gupta said the success of the operation was the result of coordinated efforts by ASR district police and the State Intelligence Department. Police recovered large quantities of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and Maoist propaganda material from the encounter site. These seizures dealt a major blow to the Maoist organization, he noted. Recalling the major encounter that took place in June, the DGP said police had earlier appealed to Maoists to surrender, but they chose not to take that path. He once again

urged them to give up violence and join the mainstream. The government and the police department are ready to help them return to normal life, he assured. He reiterated that the ultimate goal of the Andhra Pradesh Police is to completely eliminate Maoist influence in the state. Achieving this will ensure smooth implementation of development activities without disruptions, he added. DGP Gupta thanked the police personnel involved in the operation and the public who provided vital information. He emphasized that Operation Sambhav is still ongoing and will continue with greater intensity. Anyone supporting Maoist ideology will be brought under control, he warned. He also clarified that Maoist leaders Dev Ji and Malla Rajareddy are not in police custody. The DGP said the success of this operation stands as proof of the police department's strong commitment to strengthening state security. The fight against Maoism will continue as part of a long-term strategy to secure the state's future and ensure uninterrupted development.

CM conducts teleconference for farmer welfare programs



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 20 : The state government is undertaking several programs to make cultivation profitable through radical changes in the agricultural sector. As part of this, it has focused on programs that benefit farmers through the five principles. In this order, programs will be undertaken from the 24th of this month. From the 24th to the 29th, public representatives and officials will visit every farmer's house. Workshops will be held within the scope of the Rythu Seva Kendras on December 3. Agriculture-related sectors and marketing department officials will participate in this program. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference with 10,000 people, including officials of agriculture and allied sectors as well as staff of Rythu Seva Kendras on Thursday. In the teleconference, he directed the respective departments on the issue of educating farmers on the five principles announced by the Chief Minister on the changes to be brought in the cultivation system for the welfare of the food givers. To this extent, the schedule of programs to be organized at the field level in the state has been announced. Programs will be organized under the name 'Meekosam Raitthanna' for this program. Staff working in the Rythu Seva Kendras will play

taken by the government to add more value to crops through modern methods should be explained door to door. He revealed that only scientific farming can benefit the farmers and that natural farming is being further encouraged. The Chief Minister said that this will improve health along with soil protection. He said that they are already doing traceability along with certification for the respective products and that natural farming products should be further promoted in the farmers' markets. He said that he had also examined natural farming in Kadapa and that the farmers who cultivate it are very satisfied. He said that the price of fertilizers at Gromore centers is lower than that of private fertilizer shops. "The investment costs for farmers should be reduced.

Setting up food processing units will benefit the products. We should know directly what crops the farmers have cultivated and what kind of help they need. The losses caused by the use of pesticides in cultivation should be explained to the farmers in a clear way. Along with this, the benefits of low use and the level of demand for products grown through organic farming abroad should be explained. We have been able to fill the reservoirs through complete water management. We should also tell the farmers about effective water management, soil tests, food processing, and the support provided by the government," said Chief Minister Chandrababu. Minister Atchannaidu and officials of various departments participated in this teleconference.

Meeting Centre's deadline to make Andhra free from left-wing extremism by March 2026: DGP Harish Kumar Gupta



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 20 : Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Thursday claimed that everything was being achieved to declare Andhra Pradesh free from left-wing extremism by the end of next March.

Mr. Harish Kumar Gupta on Thursday (November 20, 2025) arrived at Rampachodavaram to review the ongoing 'Operation Sambhav' launched to eliminate the Maoists who arrived from South Bastar to reportedly revive the Naxal

Digital arrest scam: Tirupati police arrest eight for cheating elderly citizen of Rs.80 lakh

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, Nov., 20 : The Tirupati police arrested eight persons, believed to be members of an inter-State cyber criminal gang, for allegedly swindling senior citizens on the pretext of 'digital arrest'. According to the police, the accused made a video call to a 65-year-old resident of Tirupati. Identifying themselves as CBI officials from Mumbai, they threatened to arrest him, citing his 'involvement' in a Rs.583-crore money laundering case. Assuring to conduct the inquiry through virtual mode, the senior citizen was fooled into transferring Rs.80 lakh into suspected mule accounts. After the accused stopped responding, the victim complained to the cyber wing of the Tirupati police. Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu formed a special team under the Sub Divisional Police Officer (Tirupati) to probe the case, who found that the money had initially been transferred into two accounts and from there to several accounts in fourteen States. The trail led to several users of gaming applications. Dande Kranti Kumar and Nimmala Pavan Kumar of Anantapur, Mane Koti Babu and G. Gautam of Hyderabad, P. Srinivas of Rajamahendravaram were accused of the



crime, apart from M. Chandrasekhar Reddy, Kodala Sivasankar adn N. Prashanth Reddy of Ballari in Karnataka. All of them were arrested and the Rs.2.5 lakh found in two joint accounts was freed. The probe showed that the prime accused, Koti Babu, went to Cambodia to get trained in cybercrimes for 24 days, got in touch with Daniel of Haryana and Teon of China and also a suspected criminal network, identified simply as 'D'.

Jagan Mohan appears before CBI special court in Hyderabad in long-pending DA case



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, Nov., 20 : Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, appeared before a special court for CBI cases in Nampally, Hyderabad, on Thursday, complying with the Court's recent directive that he must ensure his personal appearance for the hearing in the long-pending disproportionate assets (DA) case. The court order came after the withdrawal of Mr. Reddy's plea seeking exemption from personal appearance, a request which was allegedly opposed by the CBI. The Nampally Court has scheduled the next hearing in the cases involving Mr. Reddy for November 28, while the discharge petition filed by him remains pending. The DA case, which dates back over a decade, pertains to alleged quid pro quo investments made by private firms and individual investors in Mr. Reddy's companies, reportedly in exchange for government favours during the tenure of his father, the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister.

EDITORIAL

Is it revenge? Is it a dictatorial decision?

The death sentence of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may carry the weight of the legal process. But there is a stench of an undetected act of political revenge lurking in it. On the one hand, the interim Bangladesh government led by Mohammad Yunus is praising itself for its historic verdict and the deep scrutiny it has received, while appealing to the public to remain calm during this time. However, the political unrest that has erupted across Bangladesh is exposing the deep cracks in the mistakes it has made so far. Hasina is the daughter of the freedom fighter Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Her closest confidant, former Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, was also sentenced to death. Bangladesh is pressing for the extradition of both of them. Bangladesh is trying to approach Interpol as India is reluctant to do so. Although Hasina does not want to return to Bangladesh from India, she is forced to go to the gallows when India unexpectedly expels her.

She criticizes the tribunal's verdict on the unelected caretaker government as a political vendetta and a unilateral decision that did not allow her arguments to be heard. India is right to ignore Bangladesh's request to send Hasina back to their country. Because India argues that it will have to think only when a legally elected and constitutional government is formed. Elections are due in Bangladesh in February 2026. Hasina's Awami League was ousted from the caretaker government there, leaving no room for her. Hasina was found guilty on three main counts. She was found guilty on three counts of inciting violence during last year's student-led uprising, ordering firing, and failing to prevent violence. The tribunal sentenced her to death in two of the three counts, and in the third, she was sentenced to life imprisonment until she died naturally. These opportunities are further fueled in a country suffering from the turmoil of 2024. In light of the post-coup crack-down, the United Nations Human Rights Commission has officially confirmed that nearly 1,400 people have been killed in Bangladesh. Most of them were shot at close range. The report says that these atrocities were committed deliberately and that arbitrary arrests were carried out under a dictatorial policy. An examination of the audio recordings reveals a very humbling picture of how much the government overstepped its bounds and acted excessively. However, this verdict came at a very difficult time. Bangladesh is currently under the rule of an interim government. Its legitimacy emerged from a crisis, not from a popular vote. Dhaka has not yet achieved stability under Yunus' leadership. Bangladesh has been ablaze with protests by Hasina's supporters and Awami League activists since the verdict was issued. Protests and clashes are taking place on the streets of Dhaka.

Buses are being burned. Lathis are being broken. The absence of any of the necessary law and order and security for a country is a testament to the caretaker government. It is important to understand that the rule of law and political stability cannot be built on the foundation of revenge alone. Hasina also made some unforgivable mistakes when she was in power. She failed to stop the military from taking excessive action against the protesters. She weakened democratic institutions. She could not tolerate dissent under her watch. However, equating political revenge with the death penalty is deeply objectionable. Justice should not only light the way ahead, but should not create more dire conditions that will lead the country into instability. India is seeking restraint in these circumstances. Bilateral relations with Bangladesh could face a difficult phase. There are signs that political uncertainty in Dhaka will intensify, especially if Hasina's Awami League is not represented in the upcoming Bangladesh elections. But Bangladesh's rulers must understand that Bangladesh is not just a government, but also its people, its cultural heritage, its economic future, and its national security. If it slows down in these matters, it will only jeopardize the most crucial developments in the subcontinent. Now, the Bangladesh government must decide for itself whether the death sentence imposed on Hasina is the beginning of Bangladesh's authoritarian policies or a continuation of political revenge.

These Are India's Options Against Sheikh Hasina's Death Sentence

Bangladesh's domestic war crimes court - the International Crimes Tribunal - has sentenced Sheikh Hasina to death after a trial in absentia. This verdict raises many questions. Bangladesh has no legally legitimate government at present. It is an interim government that has no basis in the country's constitution. Muhammad Yunus is the Chief Advisor, with other ministers as advisors. It is this unelected government, headed by an individual who has been parachuted into power by his US backers, which has taken the decision to try Sheikh Hasina. To begin with, it is unclear how the actions of a government in the present case to suppress violent mobs by using force, whether excessive or not, can be characterised as "international crimes". The crimes attributed to her were committed within the territory of Bangladesh and had no external links. When Sheikh Hasina set up this tribunal, the logic was the involvement of the Pakistan army and its collaborators inside the country in genocidal acts against the Bangladesh population.

The violent street uprising that led to Sheikh Hasina's ouster was accompanied, as known, by widespread arson against properties and symbols associated with Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation. Broadly speaking, the street revolt appeared to be not only against Sheikh Hasina but against the legacy of the Awami League that had fought for the country's independence. In the background of the assaults against the judiciary during the rioting, the forced resignations of some by the mobs, it is reasonable to suspect that the tribunal judging Sheikh Hasina was packed with compliant judges who would have given the desired judgment. The ruling clique in Dhaka seems bent on barring Sheikh Hasina's party, the Awami League, from elections next year. This judgment against Sheikh Hasina delegitimises the party even though it has a very strong following in the country. Any election held without the participation of Awami League as a party would amount to disenfranchising a large part of the population. The condemnation to death of Sheikh Hasina should be seen also in the context of the hostile policies of the Yunus government towards India and the related restoration of ties with Pakistan, including the Pakistan military that was responsible for the genocide in Bangladesh. The anti-India and pro-Pakistan Jamaat-e-Islami that sided with the Pakistani army during the liberation struggle has acquired major influence in policymaking in Bangladesh, which also explains the growth of the anti-India sentiment in the country. Yunus himself has been contributing to this, which has prompted our Defence Minis-

ter to caution him about the statements that he has been making.

That Sheikh Hasina was not seen as being directly responsible for the loss of lives during the street rioting would explain why, to prevent a mob assault on her, she was flown out of the country by the country's Army Chief in an Air Force plane. If Sheikh Hasina was directly responsible for war crimes, it stands to reason that the Bangladesh Army Chief should be held accountable for aiding her escape to India. Moreover, Yunus himself is on record saying proudly at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York in September 2024 that the revolution in Bangladesh was "meticulously designed", and introduced Mahfuz Alam, the "brain" behind the student led movement to the audience. The interim government of Yunus has taken many acrimonious steps towards India. The presence of Sheikh Hasina in India is no doubt a source of discord. The issue could have been handled more wisely by the Yunus team by not consciously aggravating ties with India by unfriendly steps. Her presence here would have receded in the background and become more manageable politically for both sides if the Chief Advisor had pursued a friendly course towards India. By not doing that, the attention is now on what divides us and not what unites our interests.

The Bangladesh clique knows that India will not extradite Sheikh Hasina. This clique had sought her extradition even earlier. Now that the tribunal has given its verdict, Bangladesh is raising the ante by asking India to immediately hand Sheikh Hasina, saying New Delhi is obligated to do so under the bilateral extradition treaty, and adding that extradition is a "mandatory duty" under the existing treaty. The interim Bangladesh government law advisor has raised the pitch by saying that Bangladesh would formally write to New Delhi again to seek Sheikh



Hasina's extradition, and that "if India continues to shelter such a mass murderer, it must know this would be an act of enmity against Bangladesh and its people". The spokesperson of the UN Human Rights Commission has welcomed the verdict as justice done, pointing again to the involvement of foreign interests in the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina has, of course, rejected the ruling as politically motivated, calling the tribunal "rigged" and accusing the interim government of trying to wipe out the Awami League. She said she was willing to face charges before a fair judicial forum. Extradition is a long drawn process. We have not been able to extradite economic fugitives or terrorists from the UK, Canada or the US. Those whose extradition is sought move local courts, resort to appeals and use every means at their disposal, aided by lawyers, to prevent extradition. Our courts will examine very carefully the evidence produced by the Bangladesh authorities, on the

basis of which the Tribunal gave its verdict. The fact that a death sentence has been pronounced will make it virtually impossible to obtain her extradition. In our Treaty of Extradition with Bangladesh, Clause 6 says that extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character. It can well be argued that the decisions taken to quell violent mobs that burn government property, attack the police and potentially threaten the stability and security of the country is a political responsibility that the head of the government has to bear, and hence decisions taken in the interest of the nation and society are political in nature. Article 8 of the treaty says that the extradition request can be rejected if the person concerned can satisfy the requested state that it would, having regard to all the circumstances, be unjust or oppressive to extradite him if the accusation made against him has not been made in good faith in the interests of justice.

The Ministry of External Affairs has "noted" the verdict of the "International Crimes Tribunal", stating, "As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including in peace, democracy, inclusion and stability", adding that it would "engage constructively with all stakeholders" in Bangladesh. The implicit message here is that this decision is not in the larger interests of the Bangladesh people, and that India will constructively deal with developments beyond the positions taken by the interim government. We have rightly said nothing at this stage to the Tribunal's verdict, which clearly smacks of political vengeance. However, the words "constructively" and "commitment to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh" can cause some confusion because of equivocal language. A positive sounding note in the statement could have been avoided. Anyhow, it is early times and we will have occasion to make our position clearer.

How Hasina's Death Sentence Has Put Delhi-Dhaka Relations At Crossroads

The Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal sentenced ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death for crimes against humanity, which also included directing destructive force during the June 2024 student-led protests. Hasina, who resigned and fled to India, has denied the charges and claimed that the prosecution is politically motivated. However, India is not shocked by the capital punishment awarded to Hasina by the Bangladesh Tribunal. Former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was also given the death penalty when he was tried in absentia, while former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was sentenced to

five years in prison. Although the United Nations and other organisations have expressed concerns about the process of their judicial prosecution, the political conviction of the Bangladesh authorities is evident, as they are not withdrawing their decision to impose capital punishment on Hasina. It is unlikely that India will return Hasina to Bangladesh. Dhaka itself is not pursuing the extradition requests stringently, as bringing the 78-year-old ousted leader back would increase internal tensions in the country, making it difficult for interim government chief Muhammad Yunus to manage, especially before the general elections in

February. Moreover, India can refuse Bangladesh's extradition



request if the charges against Hasina appear politically motivated or filed in bad faith.

Amid strained ties,

Bangladesh's National Security Adviser (NSA), Khalilur Rahman, a close aide of Yunus, is visiting New Delhi to participate in a regional security conclave. An individual conversation with Ajit Doval, the Indian National Security Adviser, is possible. Currently, the primary concern is India's strategy and the future of the Indo-Bangladeshi relationship. While Bangladesh's internal turmoil is detrimental to India, New Delhi does not wish to meddle in the internal dynamics of Bangladesh's political system.

Reading as the Foundation for Personal and Social Growth: Deputy Director Nagarjuna

Kakinada, Pen Power, November 20: Reading books is essential for individual development and plays a key role in social progress, said D. Nagarjuna, Deputy Director, Department of Information & Public Relations. He attended the valedictory of the 58th National Library Week held on Thursday at the Gandhinagar Branch Library near Vivekananda Park in Kakinada, organized by the former East Godavari District Library Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Nagarjuna described libraries as "treasure houses of knowledge" and urged students to make the best use of them to build a



bright future. He also presented prizes to students who won various competitions conducted as part of the Library Week celebrations. District Secretary of Samskara

Bharati G. Savitri Prasad, drawing teachers P. Veerababu, T. Jayaram, Y. Satyanarayana Murthy, along with readers and students, participated in the programme.

Journalists Must Complete Accreditation Registration by November 30

Visakha, Pen Power, November 20: The registration process for granting accreditation to journalists for the year 2026-27 has begun. Deputy Director of the District Information and Public Relations Department, K. Sada Rao, has instructed that all print and electronic media representatives must complete their online registration by November 30 without fail. He stated that before applying for accreditation, every journalist must first visit the mediarelation.ap.gov.in website and fill in their personal details under the "Registration" section. After completing the personal registration, it is mandatory to upload all required documents along with complete

details related to their respective media organization. He advised journalists to complete the entire process by November 30 and start the registration immediately without any delay. The online accreditation application must be filled out and a copy should be submitted at the District Information and Public Relations Office. Local newspapers that are not empanelled should save all the required documents on a pen drive and submit them along with Xerox copies at the DIPRO office. The department has clarified that media representatives seeking accreditation must take note of this deadline and complete the registration process promptly.

Collector Orders Swift Action in Crimes Against SC/ST Communities

Bapatla, Nov 20 (Pen Power Bureau): District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar directed officials to respond immediately and ensure justice whenever atrocities or crimes occur against SC/ST communities. He chaired the district-level monitoring and vigilance committee meeting on the SC/ST Atrocities Prevention Act at the Collectorate on Thursday. The Collector said the Act acts as a protective shield for marginalized communities and stressed strict implementation. He instructed officials to ensure timely support to victims under GO 95, including compensation and employment. Over the past two years, compensation of ?1.44 crore was provided in 152 cases, while 29 cases are under police investigation and 265 cases are pending in court. In the last three months, three cases were settled mutually, and one case resulted in conviction.

He also directed officials to prepare details of victims eligible for employment and upload case information into Google Sheets for better monitoring, emphasizing that investigations should not be delayed. The Collector also chaired a meeting of the district-level committee on Safai Karmachari welfare, stating that the government is work-



ing towards creating a society free from manual scavenging. No Safai Karmacharis were found in the district during inquiries across rural and urban bodies. He called for strengthening the financial status of panchayats and municipalities to enhance development works. Officials present included DRO G. Gangadhar Goud, committee convener Rajadibora, members B. Pothuraju, Bhagavan Das, Venkata Prasad, Alfred Raj Suvi Salman, D. Emmanuel, U. Sudhakar, and other departmental officers.

CPI Demands Judicial Probe into Fake Encounters K. Ramakrishna



Ongole | Pen Power | November 20: CPI National Secretary K. Ramakrishna demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge into what he termed as the fake encounters being carried out by the Union government. Speaking at a media conference held at Mallayya Lingam Bhavan, Ongole, Ramakrishna alleged that the BJP government at the Centre was running a “demonic rule in the

name of Ram Rajya,” targeting Maoists and innocent tribal people under the guise of encounters.

He accused the government of continuing a massacre even though Maoists had expressed willingness for peace talks. He criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging that they were “killing democracy and promoting a murderous regime.” Ramakrishna condemned Union Minister Bandi Sanjay’s remarks that even those who oppose encounters would face cases, warning that after Maoists, the government could target communists, secularists and democrats next. He reiterated the CPI’s demand for a Supreme Court-monitored judicial probe into all alleged fake encounters. CPI district secretary M.L. Narayana, Ongole city secretary Sriram Srinivasulu, and INSAF state leader M.A. Salar participated in the meeting.

Visakhapatnam Gears Up for IFR–2026

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, Nov 20: District administration and the Indian Navy are moving in coordination to host the prestigious International Fleet Review (IFR)–2026 from February 15–20. In a key review meeting held at the Collectorate, officials discussed infrastructure development, security arrangements, guest accommodation, and transport.

Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad instructed all departments to expedite works, noting the participation of over 100 countries and the presence of top dignitaries including the President, Prime Minister, Defence Minister, and Chief Minister.

Navy officials detailed the event schedule:

Feb 15–20: Milan Village
Feb 18: International Fleet Review
Feb 19: City Parade & Milan Inauguration



Feb 19–20: Harbour Phase
Feb 21–25: Sea Phase

Road development, flyover works, and modernization of drains and pipelines across key routes were ordered to be fast-tracked. Departments including police, VMRDA, NHAI, GAIL, HPCL, and BPCL were asked to coordinate closely to ensure flawless execution of the international event.

Tej Bharat Sets Strict Deadline for Rs.175-Crore Road Projects

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, November 20: VMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner N. Tej Bharat inspected key road projects being developed to connect with the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport. The seven major road corridors, spanning 26.72 km and costing Rs.175 crore, are being given top priority. He reviewed works on the Adivivaram–Gandigundam (8 km), Gambheeram Road (2.2 km), Gambheeram–Paradesipalem (1.4 km), and Boyapalem–Kapuluppada (3 km) stretches. The Commissioner instructed officials to speed up construction in all obstruction-free zones and ensure timely completion through coordination among departments. With the airport set to open soon, these road networks will significantly reduce traffic load on national highways and provide faster access to Bhogapuram Airport, he said. Senior officials including Chief Engineer Vinay Kumar, Planning Officer Shilpa, Supervising Engineer Madhusudhan Rao, Executive Engineer Rama Raju, DEEs Vishwanath and Ravishankar, and AE



Reddy participated in the inspection.

Custodian Officers Should Work in Coordination: DRO Venkat Rao



Kakinada, Pen Power, November 20: District Revenue Officer J. Venkat Rao instructed officials to ensure smooth and hassle-free procurement of Kharif paddy in the district. In a review meeting with custodian officers at the Collectorate, he emphasized their responsibilities at rice mills and the process of issuing acknowledgements for paddy arriving from Rythu Seva Kendras.

He said 269 procurement centres have been linked to 117 rice mills, and 25,000 metric tonnes of paddy have been procured so far. Officials were directed to monitor every stage—from procurement to transportation—and ensure timely payments to farmers. To avoid congestion at mills, custodian officers have been deployed in two shifts. Officers were told to oversee timely loading and unloading of vehicles. Civil Supplies DM M. Devula Naik, District Civil Supplies Officer Satyanarayana Raju, DSDTs, and custodian officers attended the meeting.

Collector Shanmohan Felicitates National-Level Skating & Karate Winners

Kakinada, Pen Power, November 20: Kakinada District Collector Shanmohan congratulated three talented students of Joy English Medium High School, Suresh Nagar, who qualified for national-level competitions. Class 3 student Kankatala Niharika secured a spot at the national level in skating after mastering the sport in a short span. Class 4 student Kare Moksha Aditya and Class 8 student Kare Revanth excelled in national-level karate events. Revanth bagged first prize in Katas and second prize in Kumite. The students met the Collector at the Collectorate and showcased their trophies. Appreciating their achievements, Shanmohan encouraged them to maintain discipline and strive for higher goals. School representatives Guttula Susheela, Kowwada Nageswara Rao, and Parents’ Association member Sape Sudhakar participated in the program.



Collective Effort Behind Success of Partnership Summit: Collector



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, November 20: District Collector M.N. Harendira Prasad credited the success of the Partnership Summit held on November 14 and 15 in Visakhapatnam to the collective efforts of officials and staff at all levels. Speaking at the Victory Celebration and Felicitation Ceremony organized at the VMRDA Children’s Arena on Wednesday, he praised the dedication of senior officials, ground-level staff, and CII representatives, calling their coordination the key to the event’s success. He



acknowledged the support of Police Commissioner Shankha Brata Bagchi, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, and Joint Collector Mayur Ashok, stating that they worked as strong pillars throughout the event. The state government’s guidelines were implemented efficiently by all departments, he added. Later, the Collector, Police Commissioner, and Joint Collector presented appreciation certificates and mementos to officials and staff who excelled in organizing the summit.

Good Response to Karthika Van Samaradhana at Kambalakonda

- Public participation vital for environmental conservation: Collector Harendra Prasad

Visakhapatnam South, Pen Power, November 20: The traditional Karthika Van Samaradhana, which blends spirituality with nature, is helping raise environmental awareness among the public, said Visakhapatnam District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad. He visited the event held at Kambalakonda Forest Area on Thursday, reviewed ongoing development works, and interacted with officials.

The Collector emphasized the need for active public participation along with government efforts in protecting nature, conserving wildlife, and expanding green cover. He noted that the event promotes spiritual, cultural, and social values while encouraging healthy living. He also reviewed eco-tourism development works at City Forest, the Kambalakonda watchtower, and the canopy walk, stating that eco-tourism plays a key role in environmental awareness and wildlife habitat protection. Cultural programs and sports activities were held as part of the event.



Forest department officials serving the region were felicitated. Conservator of Forests Mohammed Divan Maidin, DFO Mangamma, SDFO Vani, and other staff participated.

Security, Law & Order a Priority: Eluru Range IG Ashok Kumar



Amalapuram, Pen Power, November 20: Eluru Range IG Ashok Kumar said that maintaining law and order remains a top priority. He inspected the circle offices at Draksharamam, Ramachandrapuram and Mandapeta Rural on Thursday. Rural CI Dora Raju welcomed the IG on his visit. Speaking on the occasion, the IG said women’s safety is being given utmost priority and added that strict action is being taken to curb ganja and drug-related activities. SP of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district Rahul Meena, Rural CI Dora Raju, Urban CI Dharam Suresh and other local police officials participated.

Mega Job Mela on November 23 in Anaparthi: Collector Keerthi Chekuri



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, November 20: A Mega Job Mela will be held on November 23 at Anaparthi under the initiative of MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy with the support of Vikaasa. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri unveiled the poster at the Collectorate and urged unemployed youth across the district to make full use of this opportunity. About 33 MNCs from various sectors—technical, non-technical, IT, pharma, healthcare, and banking—are participating, offering nearly 1,200 job openings. The Collector said the district administration is actively promoting skill development programs to enhance employment opportunities and will soon conduct job melas across all constituencies. Interested candidates should attend the event at SR ZP High School, Anaparthi, on Sunday at 9 AM, carrying photocopies of their certificates, said Vikaasa Project Director K. Lachha Rao.

Minister Vasamshetti Subhash Challenges YSRCP for Open Debate

Kakinada, Pen Power, November 20: Labour Minister Vasamshetti Subhash has challenged YSR Congress Party leaders to participate in an open debate on the injustices done to the Setti Balija community during the previous YSRCP regime. In a statement, he strongly criticized former minister Chelluboina Venugopal, accusing him of mortgaging the community’s honour at the feet of YSRCP top leaders and now shedding “crocodile tears. Subhash dismissed Venugopal’s claims that the G.O. merging Setti Balijas with the Gouda community was issued during Chandrababu Naidu’s tenure, calling them “false and misleading.” He said government orders are recorded with dates and accused Venugopal of speaking out of ignorance. He further stated that Venugopal, who remained silent when “betrayal” occurred under the YSRCP government, is now pretending to care only after losing his position. Unable to digest the importance given to Setti Balijas under the new coalition government, Venugopal is resorting to baseless allegations, Subhash said. The minister added that while Jagan tried to block his growth, Chandrababu and Lokesh encouraged him. He asserted that he will continue to fight for the self-respect of Setti Balijas regardless of political affiliation and challenged Venugopal to join an open debate on all related G.Os. Subhash also alleged that Venugopal is unable to tolerate the unity of Setti Balijas across both Telugu states seen during the Karthika Vanasamaradhana celebrations, and advised him to publicly apologise to the community for his mistakes.

VFX: ‘Varanasi’ sets new technical benchmark!

Rajamouli’s magnum opus “Varanasi” continues to dominate social media conversations. Ever since the title footage dropped online, the internet hasn’t stopped raving, reacting, and decoding every frame of it. Fans and film analysts alike are stunned by the scale, the world-building, and the signature Rajamouli touch that elevates fantasy to an emotional and visual spectacle. Adding to the excitement, the film’s VFX supervisor Srinivas Mohan revealed a fascinating technical detail behind the breathtaking visuals. According to him, the title footage was shot at an extraordinary 400 frames per second, compared to the standard 24 fps. “One of the core creative ideas was to present the world of Varanasi in extreme slow motion at 400 fps,” he explained. “Every element in the frame moves in slow motion, but the camera travels at real-time speed so that the audience can absorb the grandeur and the micro-details of each moment.” This technique not only enhances the



surreal, mythic tone of the film but also sets a new benchmark for Indian cinema’s visual storytelling. Rajamouli is known for pushing boundaries—with

Baahubali and RRR, he redefined scale and global appeal. Varanasi is described as a globe-trotting adventure thriller featuring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and

Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles. If this glimpse is anything to go by, Varanasi is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious films in Indian cinema history.

Ustaad Bhagat Singh: Plan locked for everything

Director Harish Shankar recently confirmed that the first single from “Ustaad Bhagat Singh,” starring Pawan Kalyan as a tough cop, will be released in December, officially kick-starting the film’s promotions. Now, the producers have also firmed up the film’s release strategy. “Ustaad Bhagat Singh” is set to hit theaters in April 2026, positioned as a major summer attraction. The team plans to begin promotions nearly four months in advance. The first single, composed by Devi Sri Prasad, is expected to be a feast for Pawan Kalyan’s fans and may recreate the same frenzy that the “Gabbar Singh” title track generated over a decade ago. The Pawan–DSP–Harish Shankar combination previously delivered a blockbuster both commercially and musically. Following the release of “Ustaad Bhagat Singh,” Pawan Kalyan is likely to take a year-long break from movies, strategizing his next releases



ahead of the 2028/29 elections. With “OG” emerging as the highest-grossing film of Pawan



Kalyan’s career, expectations are sky-high for “Ustaad Bhagat Singh.” The film features Raashi

Khanna and Sreeleela as the heroines and is produced by Mythri Movie Makers.

The Raja Saab: Date set for ticket sales North America

Amid ongoing rumors that Prabhas’s upcoming biggie “The Raja Saab” might be postponed yet again, the makers have put all speculation to rest by announcing the premiere schedule and advance booking date. “The Raja Saab” will premiere in North America on 8 January 2026, with advance ticket sales opening on December 4, more than a month ahead. With this announcement, the team has effectively ended all chatter surrounding a potential delay. Directed by Maruthi and produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under People Media Factory, the film is a horror comedy featuring Prabhas in two contrasting shades. Malavika Mohanan makes her Telugu debut, while Nidhi Agerwal and Riddhi Kumar play the other female lead roles. Sanjay Dutt appears in a crucial role as a ghost. Thaman composes the music, though the promotional campaign for the songs is yet to begin. “The Raja Saab” had released its teaser and trailer. There will be another release-date trailer in the coming days along with the unveiling of songs.



Manchester United target is ready to join in January? Casemiro to be replaced by Brazilian Joao Gomes ahead of World Cup

Manchester: Wolverhampton’s struggles have left Manchester United with an opportunity to get their long-time target João Gomes, a report said. If the Brazilian’s will to move to Old Trafford in January materialises, the contract extension offer before Casemiro will be shut, the report added. Casemiro’s countryman João Gomes is rated as a cheaper alternative to Brighton’s Carlos Baleba and Nottingham Forest’s Elliot Anderson by United. He has been under the club’s radar since 2024 as the direct successor of Casemiro. According to the latest report, the midfielder can be acquired for a sum around £40 million, Spanish portal Record claimed. Five-time Champions League winner from Real Madrid arrived at Old Trafford for around £70 million in 2022. 33-year-old Casemiro’s contract runs out at the end of the current season, but United possess an option to extend it for a further year. But, the club’s



board was earlier hesitant to even consider him staying due to the fact that he remains one of the highest-paid players in the side. The midfielder has seen ups and downs during his three-year stint at Old Trafford. However, he has shown more consistency this season for Amorim’s delight, and this has unlocked the door yet again for him, but only if he is willing to accept a pay cut. But if the 24-year-old Gomes agrees to come in January, United will be able to

offload another high-salaried veteran at the end of the campaign. Manchester United are in the process of getting rid of as many ageing stars as possible in the hope of improving their cost-cutting record and focusing on signing as many promising young bloods. João Gomes has played 10 games in all for the national team to date, and a string of strong shows for a major team could help him improve his chances of getting into Carlo Ancelotti’s FIFA World Cup squad.

'Asian Messi' is coming to Premier League! Takefusa Kubo set to join London club in January: Report



England: Takefusa Kubo is set to end his three-year association with La Liga side Real Sociedad by joining Europa League champions Tottenham Hotspur in the January window, a report said. The former Real Madrid star, who was often called the “Asian Messi” during his formative period, will be reaching England as Sociedad are hell-bent on improving their financial situation, it said. 24-

year-old Kubo, who has also represented Mallorca, Villarreal, and Getafe in Spain, will cost Spurs •60 million, who have triggered the Japanese international’s release clause, Fichajes said in a report. No major roadblocks are expected in the path of the deal’s completion as Thomas Frank believes a creative winger with speedy legs is a must-have addition to his squad. However, there is a pos-

sibility that Real Sociedad will stall the deal if they get a verbal promise from potential buyers to come knocking with a bigger cheque in the summer, the report claimed. Kubo’s versatility in becoming a forward and attacking midfielder when needed, and his excellent dribbling ability, could give Spurs further depth in the absences of James Maddison, Dejan Kulusevski, and Dominic Solanke. Star winger Mohammed Kudus had also suffered an injury setback recently, although it was ruled minor in nature. If not for financial reasons, the La Liga side would not have parted ways with Japan’s number 20, who has managed 24 goals and 18 assists for them from 147 games. Aston Villa are also interested in Kubo, but the report labels Spurs as a clear frontrunner to secure the attacker’s signature.

T20 World Cup 2026 and IPL 2026 to only have a small gap

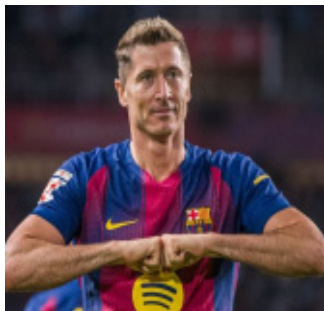
Kolkata: The 2026 edition of the T20 Men’s World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, will begin on 7th February with the final slated to be held a month later on March 8. What this means is a very short recovery time for players as the 2026 season of the Indian Premier League is scheduled to begin from March 15 onwards. It will mean an extremely hectic cricketing season in India with the World Cup and IPL happening back-to-back. IPL 2026 is also expected to be a longer season than usual - there are 84 league games slated for this year as compared to 74 in previous season. The date for the final has been chalked out as May 31. In previous years, IPL teams had to play 14 games in the league stage but that will now be extended to 16. More details on this are awaited. A massive boost



for the tournament is that the international players will be available for the entire season as the IPL has gotten an exclusive window in 2026. The mini-auction for IPL 2026 will be held on December 16 in Abu Dhabi. All the franchises submitted their list of retentions on November 15 with several teams making shocking decisions regarding retention, release and trade. However,

the trade window is still open till December 9 and will open once again after the mini-auction. The Indian men’s side have a packed calendar with the white-ball series against South Africa followed by another white-ball series against New Zealand home. These two series will be the preparation platform for the T20I side as they gear up to defend the title on home turf.

Barcelona hit new low! Why broke Laporta asked Robert Lewandowski to stop scoring!



Barcelona: When FC Barcelona became La Liga champions in the 2022–23 season, Robert Lewandowski won the Golden Boot awarded to the season’s top scorer—managing 23 goals. The Polish striker, who joined

Xavi’s team from Bayern Munich, had two games left to play when Barca had mathematically thumped runners-up Real Madrid to lift their 27th league title. Now, a new story has emerged from that time with the potential to make the Catalans eat humble pie. The biography “Lewandowski. Prawdziwy” (“Lewandowski. The Real Deal”), written by Sebastian Staszewski, claims that Lewandowski was summoned by the club board with two rounds left to play. The club president Joan Laporta then told the former

Bayern Munich star that nobody has ever dared to tell him, or he thought, would never tell him. Laporta categorically asked him not to score again in the remaining fixtures! “Robert, we need you to stop scoring goals in the last two games,” Marca reported Laporta as telling his ace striker. The ten-time Bundesliga champion signed for Barcelona in August 2022 and, as per the deal, Laporta’s team had to pay a bonus of 2.5 million euros to Bayern Munich if Lewandowski breached the 25-goals mark in LaLiga.