



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27 °C L 23 °C	H 33 °C L 27 °C	H 36 °C L 26 °C

JUST NOW

An FIR has been filed against RG Kar Medical College ex-principal Sandip Ghosh by CBI for a trainee doctor's rape and murder.

Rahul Gandhi demands a nationwide "caste census," stating that 90% of people are excluded from the system and deserve representation.

Union Cabinet approved Unified Pension Scheme for 23 lakh government employees, offering assured pensions and options between NPS and UPS.

The Indian government directed all central medical teaching institutes, including AIIMS, to abandon colonial-era attire in convocation ceremonies.

INSIDE..

PAGE 02	AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Shows Humanity, Assists Injured Constable
PAGE 03	Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy Released from Jail, YCP Labels Case as 'Illegal'
PAGE 04	"Free Sand" Policy Strengthened by CM's Daily Reviews and New Measures
PAGE 05	Amit Shah Sets March 2026 Deadline to Eliminate Maoist Activities in India
PAGE 06	PM Modi to Attend Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee in Jodhpur
PAGE 07	Boeing Starliner Mission Faces Major Setbacks, NASA Astronauts Stranded in Space for 80 Days
PAGE 08	KEC International Secures Rs 1,079 Crore in New Orders
PAGE 09	Debt-Free Stocks: A Pillar of Financial Stability and Long-Term Growth
PAGE 10	Viral Video of Seven Suns Explained as Optical Illusion
PAGE 11	Shikhar Dhawan Retires from Cricket
PAGE 12	Manish Narwal Confident India Will Exceed Tokyo Paralympics Medal Haul

Rs.60k crores for Amaravathi construction, will start from 1st December

Minister Narayana

TPN, Amaravati: Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that the construction work for the capital city of Amaravathi is expected to begin on December 1, 2024. The minister revealed this during his address at the CREDAI South Con 2024 program, where he served as the chief guest.



Minister Narayana stated that the government is currently assessing the existing conditions in the capital region, and the study is expected to be completed within three months. Following the completion of this study, the construction will officially commence. He noted that the estimated cost for constructing Amaravathi stands at ₹60,000 crores, with the goal of completing the capital within four years, as directed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

The minister urged real estate developers to collaborate with the government in this massive endeavor. He assured that the government would simplify the process for obtaining layouts and building permits, streamlining approvals through a new software system designed to offer all necessary permits under a single window. However, he also emphasized that while the process will be made easier, the rules and regulations must be strictly followed.

In addition, Minister Narayana mentioned that

the town planning department is undergoing a significant overhaul, with eleven committees of officials from different states studying best practices to implement improved policies.

A decision on these new regulations will be made

after consultations with representatives from CREDAI. The minister also brought attention to a major scam related to the issuance of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) bonds in Tanuku, highlighting the need for strict adherence to rules in the real estate sector.

LG Polymers Victim's has yet to receive any compensation

Home Minister Anita

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister V. Anita has sharply criticized YSR Congress Party (YCP) chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of insensitivity in dealing with the families of victims affected by industrial accidents. Anita condemned Jagan's behavior, likening it to "ticks gathering on dead bodies," alleging that he visits grieving families with a smile, which she found inappropriate.



Anita specifically targeted Jagan's remarks on the compensation for the Achyutapuram pharma company accident, calling them "ridiculous." She clarified that the Andhra Pradesh government had already disbursed compensation to the families of the 17 deceased and 36 injured individuals through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS).

She also brought up the LG Polymers incident, where 15 people lost their lives during the

YCP regime. According to Anita, despite promises, the families of three of the deceased have not received the promised compensation, and she questioned where the ₹150 crores earmarked for victims had gone.

Addressing the broader issue of industrial safety, Anita emphasized the importance of timely repairs to reactors to prevent such accidents. She noted that while repairs can be costly, ranging from ₹10 lakhs to several crores, they are essential for preventing further tragedies. She also announced the formation of a high-level committee at the state level to prevent the recurrence of such accidents.

Series of Industrial Accidents Spark Fear Among Workers in Vizag's Industrial Hub

TPN, Visakhapatnam: A series of industrial accidents within 48 hours in Visakhapatnam's Anakapalli District has reignited concerns over safety standards in Andhra Pradesh's industrial hub. These incidents have not only shaken the confidence of thousands of workers, particularly those in chemical units, but have also triggered panic among residents in nearby villages.



On August 21, a catastrophic accident occurred at a pharma unit in Atchutapuram Special Economic Zone (SEZ), approximately 25 km from Visakhapatnam, where a reactor blast claimed the lives of 17 workers and injured 36 others. This was followed by another accident on August 23 at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parwada, about 35 km from Visakhapatnam, where four workers were injured while mixing chemicals.

Workers have attributed these disasters to inadequate safety measures, lack of regular maintenance, and the failure of authorities to conduct safety audits. The employment of unqualified personnel has also been cited as a contributing factor. The absence of proper infrastructure to manage emergencies further exacerbates the situation, making it difficult to prevent or mitigate such accidents.

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister V. Anita provided details on the first incident, explaining that a solvent leak of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) at Escientia Advanced Sciences Private Limited led to the reactor blast. Despite efforts by workers to

contain the leak, the solvent ignited after coming into contact with an electrical panel, resulting in a devastating explosion.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu criticized the company for failing to adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), a negligence that he believes directly led to the mishap. The second accident at Synergies Active Ingredients occurred within 24 hours of the Chief Minister's warning to industries against such negligence. The incident has heightened fears among the 40,000 workers employed in over 138 industrial units at Atchutapuram SEZ and Parwada Pharma City.

Naidu revealed alarming statistics: since 2019, the combined Visakhapatnam district has reported 119 industrial accidents, resulting in 120 fatalities. Many of these accidents involved reactor blasts, often caused by a failure to control pressure and temperature. Workers in chemical industries

are particularly vulnerable, and there are calls for better safety gear, such as firecoats, which are often not provided due to their high cost.

There have also been allegations that chemical industries in the region are failing to store sufficient foam and dry chemicals needed to manage leaks and fires. Despite the introduction of new safety guidelines by the state government in 2022, aimed at preventing accidental leaks of toxic gases and hazardous chemicals, workers' unions and advocacy groups argue that these measures have had little impact on the ground.

In response to the latest accidents, authorities are considering making third-party safety audits mandatory for all 300 red category industrial units, a regulation currently applicable to only 41 units. The region has witnessed several industrial disasters in recent years, including a massive fire at Porus Laboratories in 2022 and the deadly styrene gas leak at LG Polymers in 2020, which claimed 12 lives and hospitalized over 580 people.

These recurring incidents underscore the need for stringent safety enforcement and accountability in Visakhapatnam's industrial sector. While compensation is often provided to the victims' families, lasting solutions to prevent future tragedies remain elusive. The recent accidents have once again highlighted the urgent need for enhanced safety measures to protect workers and the surrounding communities.



Poison Gas Leak in Bapatla Kendriya Vidyalaya 24 Students Hospitalized

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: A serious incident occurred today at Bapatla Kendriya Vidyalaya, where a gas leak in the school's chemistry lab resulted in 24 students falling ill due to suffocation. The students were conducting experiments in the lab when toxic gases were accidentally released, filling the room with smoke.

As the fumes spread, the students, struggling to breathe, rushed outside in distress. The school

staff acted swiftly, immediately transporting the affected students to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Fortunately, none of the students lost their lives, and they are currently under medical care.

It is suspected that a chemical reaction during the lab experiments may have caused the gas leak. The exact nature of the gases and the cause of the leak are still under investigation.

The state government has responded to the incident, with officials closely monitoring the situation and ensuring that the students receive the necessary medical attention. The incident has raised concerns about safety protocols in school laboratories, prompting calls for stricter measures to prevent such accidents in the future.

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Shows Humanity, Assists Injured Constable

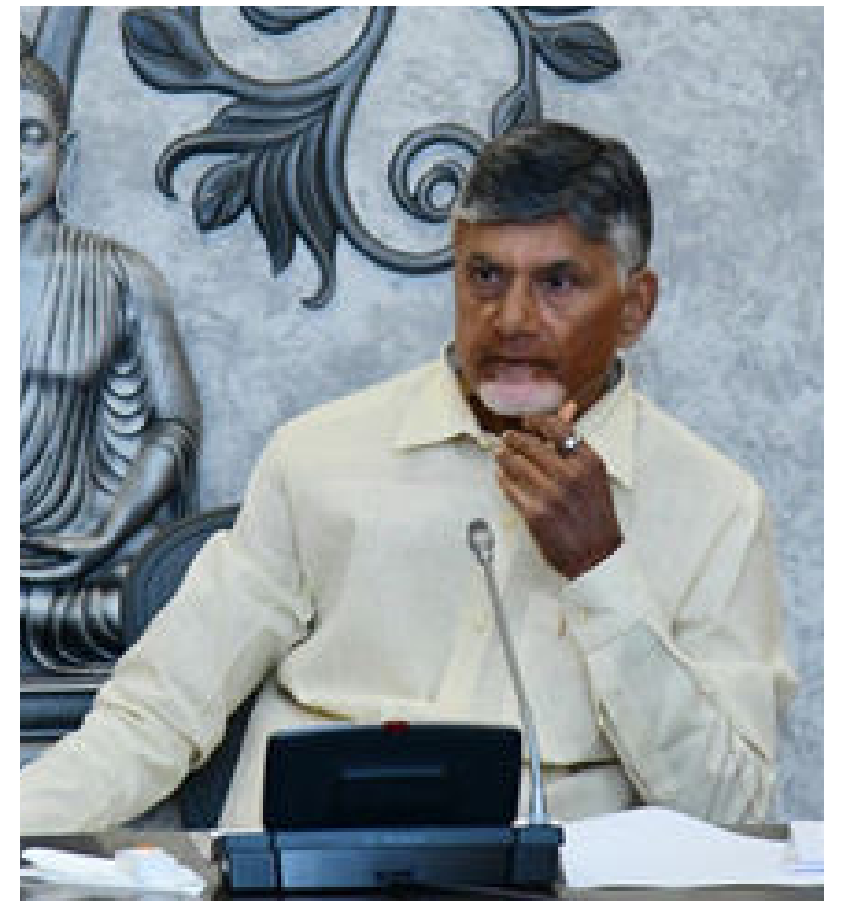


TPN, Tirupati: During a visit to Tirupati Airport following his tour of Annamaiya district, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan demonstrated compassion by responding to urgent pleas for help from distressed citizens. Among those who approached him was the wife of KVB Puram constable Prabhakar, who had recently fallen into a coma due to a serious accident.

The emotional encounter saw the constable's wife fall at Pawan Kalyan's feet, pleading for assistance to save her husband's life. Moved by her plight, the Deputy CM immediately ordered the authorities to transfer Constable Prabhakar to Apollo Hospital in Chennai for advanced medical treatment. He also assured the family of financial support to cover the medical expenses.

In addition to this act of kindness, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan also addressed concerns brought to his attention by maternity doctors, who submitted a petition regarding salary issues. The Deputy CM's actions highlight his commitment to addressing the needs of the public and providing timely support to those in distress.

CM Chandrababu Inquires About Bapatla Lab Accident



TPN, Bapatla: An accident occurred at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bapatla, where hazardous gases were released in the school's science laboratory, leading to 24 students falling ill after inhaling the fumes. The incident caused immediate concern, and the affected students were swiftly moved to Bapatla Hospital by the school's staff.

Doctors at the hospital have assured that the students' conditions are not life-threatening, providing some relief to worried parents and school authorities. However, the situation remains serious, with medical staff closely monitoring the health of the students.

Upon learning of the incident, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu promptly inquired about the well-being of the students. He spoke directly with the doctors treating the affected children, who reassured him that there was no danger to their lives. CM Chandrababu has instructed officials to closely monitor the students' recovery and ensure that they receive the necessary care until they are fully well.

The cause of the gas release in the science lab is yet to be determined, and further investigations are expected to prevent such incidents in the future. The incident has raised concerns about safety protocols in school laboratories, highlighting the need for stringent measures to protect students during practical experiments.

High Court Orders Action Against Construction by MP Vijayasai Reddy's Daughter at Bhimili Beach



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant development, the High Court has issued an order to take action against the construction being undertaken by Nehareddy, the daughter of YSR Congress Party MP Vijayasai Reddy, at Bhimili Beach. The court's directive came in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Janasena party corporator

Murthy Yadav. The court's decision has prompted the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) officials to prepare for the demolition of a concrete wall constructed as part of the project.

The High Court's order is seen as a setback for the family of MP Vijayasai Reddy, as it signals judicial intervention in the

matter of unauthorized or controversial constructions.

The case highlights the ongoing scrutiny of constructions in environmentally sensitive areas, and the High Court's directive is expected to have wider implications for similar projects along the coast.

Government Assures Secretariat Employees Amid Transfer Process

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: With the coalition government now in power, the situation for ward and village secretariat employees in Andhra Pradesh has seen significant changes. Thousands of volunteers who had resigned from their jobs under the previous YCP government to campaign for the party found their plans disrupted after the coalition government took over following the assembly elections.

As the new government, led by Chandrababu Naidu, begins its tenure, many ward and village secretariat employees are now seeking transfers. The transfer process for these employees is currently underway, with the government providing clear instructions on how to proceed.

The Chandrababu government has mandated that secretariat employees apply online for transfers, with

the process being based on the vacancies available in the respective departments. In the joint Chittoor district alone, there are approximately 10,000 village and ward secretariat employees, with 4,940 employees working in 612 secretariats in Chittoor district and 5,562 employees in 691 secretariats in Tirupati district.

The government has emphasized that transfers will be carried out based on

merit and seniority, and employees are expected to submit the necessary verification documents. A senior official indicated that the transfer process could be completed by the end of this month.

Additionally, the Chandrababu Naidu government has made it clear that employees facing accusations or those from Vigilance and ACB organizations will not be transferred easily,

ensuring that such employees cannot work in their own areas. This move is part of the government's broader efforts to ensure transparency and accountability within the administration. Overall, about 10,000 employees in Tirupati and Chittoor districts are preparing to apply for transfers to their desired areas, with the process expected to be fair and based on the established criteria.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Hyderabad only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the POINT's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's Crackdown on Red Sandalwood Smugglers Shows Results



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's commitment to cracking down on red sandalwood smuggling in the state is yielding significant results, as task force officials intensify their operations against smugglers. Pawan Kalyan has repeatedly vowed to bring red sandalwood traffickers to justice, and recent actions by the task force in Tirupati and Annamayi districts demonstrate that these promises are being fulfilled.

Task force police, working in coordination with local forest department officials, conducted combing operations in the Balapalli and Bhakarapet forest areas of Annamayi district. The operations were led by task force officers, who formed two teams to sweep through the dense forests, starting from Siddaleru and moving towards

Datlu in the Rajampet division.

During the early hours, task force personnel spotted individuals carrying red sandalwood logs near Datlu. When the officers attempted to surround them, the suspects dropped the logs and fled. However, the task force managed to detain six suspects, all of whom were from Kallakurichi district in Tamil Nadu. The arrested individuals—Chandrasekhar, Shankar, Vengatesan, MGR, Laxman, and Selvarasu—were found in possession of 25 red sandalwood logs, which were recovered at the scene.

In a parallel operation, another task force team conducted combing in the Chandragiri forest area. While monitoring entry and exit points at Kalyanidyam, officers noticed individuals loading red sandalwood logs into a

car under a railway bridge near Bhakarapet. The smugglers attempted to flee, but were intercepted by task force personnel at the Chandragiri clock tower after a high-speed chase. Two suspects, Ravi and Ranjith from Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu, were arrested, and seven red sandalwood logs were seized from their vehicle. Additional logs were recovered from under the railway bridge.

These operations resulted in the arrest of multiple individuals involved in red sandalwood smuggling, with cases being registered at the Tirupati Task Force Police Station. The task force continues to conduct regular combing operations in the Seshachalam forests surrounding Tirupati, demonstrating the government's commitment to eradicating red sandalwood smuggling from the region.

YCP Announces ₹5 Lakh Aid to Achyutapuram SEZ Victims, Botsa Criticizes Govt

TPN, Anapalli: The YSR Congress Party (YCP) has pledged financial support to the families of the deceased and the victims of the tragic incident at Essentia Pharma in the Achyutapuram Special Economic Zone (SEZ), where a reactor explosion claimed 17 lives. YCP leader and opposition leader in the council, Botsa Satyanarayana, announced that the party would provide ₹5 lakh to each of the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh to those injured in the incident.

In his statement, Botsa also took aim at the alliance leaders who had criticized YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his warning that a dharna would be staged if the government failed to provide ₹1 crore in aid to the families of those killed in the Essentia Pharma incident. Botsa defended the YCP's stance, questioning why it would be wrong to protest if the promised aid was not delivered. He argued that the alliance's counter-attack was inappropriate.

Botsa further criticized the government's handling of the relief measures following the explosion, accusing the ministers of not responding adequately to the situation. He pointed out the government's negligence in implementing safety measures within the industry, suggesting that the current administration is more focused on deflecting blame onto previous governments rather than addressing the immediate issues.

He also questioned the actions of the government officials who visited the site after the tragedy, implying that they failed to provide meaningful support to the victims or to outline preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future. Botsa's comments underscore the ongoing political tension in the wake of the Essentia Pharma tragedy, with the YCP positioning itself as a more compassionate alternative to the current government.



Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy Released from Jail, YCP Labels Case as 'Illegal'



TPN, Nellore: Former Macherla MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, a prominent figure in the YSR Congress Party (YCP), was released from Nellore Central Jail today after spending several months in detention. Pinnelli, who had been a stronghold in Macherla for the past 20 years, lost his seat in this year's election. His downfall was compounded by a controversial incident on election day, where he was caught on video destroying Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and physically assaulting TDP agents at polling booths.

Following the incident, a case was filed against Pinnelli, leading to his arrest and subsequent imprisonment. The videos of him entering polling stations, smashing EVMs, and assaulting election officials were widely circulated, prompting swift legal action.

However, upon his release, YCP's official Twitter handle sparked controversy by referring to the case against

Pinnelli as "illegal." The tweet, which included a video of Pinnelli leaving the jail premises, read: "Former MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy has come out of detention in illegal cases."

The statement quickly drew criticism and ridicule from social media users, with many questioning the YCP's stance. One user pointed out, "This MLA was caught destroying the EVM. There is a video of him physically picking up an EVM and smashing it to the ground. If so, how can it be an illegal case? What more proof is needed to file electoral charges?"

The YCP's reaction to Pinnelli's release, particularly their claim that the case was illegal, has raised eyebrows and sparked debate. While the party's enthusiasm for Pinnelli's release is understandable given his long-standing loyalty, the audacity of labeling the well-documented charges as "illegal" has left many observers puzzled and amused.

TDP MLA Allegedly Threatens Reporter Over Sand Mafia Exposure

TPN, Tirupati: In a disturbing incident that highlights the misuse of power by elected representatives, Srikalahasti TDP MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy has allegedly threatened a reporter from the Telugu daily *Eenadu* for reporting on illegal sand collection activities in his constituency. The reporter had published a story exposing how political leaders were illegally charging ₹500 per tractor load of sand from the Vikrutamala and Munagalapalem areas in Erpedu Mandal, Tirupati district, despite the government's policy of providing free sand to consumers and contractors.

The report has caused a stir, as it directly implicates the MLA in the illegal sand mafia activities, which are in direct violation of the TDP government's policies. Learning about the publication, Sudhir Reddy reportedly threatened the *Eenadu* reporter with dire consequences if any further reports were written against him. The MLA allegedly warned the reporter, saying, "Thaata teesta.. emanukuntunnava?" (I'll finish you off, what do you think?), and added, "This is my final warning to you... Be careful. Henceforth, if I find anything against me in your newspaper, that will be the end of your story."



The *Eenadu* reporter claimed that the MLA did not give him a chance to explain the facts or the context of the report, instead resorting to threats and intimidation. This incident has raised serious concerns about the conduct of public representatives and their disregard for the democratic principles they are sworn to uphold.

The YCP government, which previously held power, was voted out in the recent Assembly elections due to widespread dissatisfaction with its governance and policies. The public's frustration with corruption and

nepotism among YCP leaders led to their defeat. However, this incident involving a TDP MLA threatens to tarnish the image of the new government and raises questions about whether the same issues of corruption and misuse of power will persist under the TDP rule.

All eyes are now on TDP supremo and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, as the public awaits his response to the MLA's alleged misconduct. The situation could have serious implications for the credibility of the TDP government if not addressed promptly and appropriately.

Vishnukumar Raju Criticizes YCP and Jagan's Governance



TPN, Vishakhapatnam: BJP legislative party leader and MLA Vishnukumar Raju stated that YCP leader Botsa Satyanarayana's victory in the recent MLC elections of local bodies was due to the absence of an alliance candidate. He expressed disappointment that the leaders of the alliance were not thanked despite their non-participation.

Raju also criticized Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him

of exploiting public resources and building luxurious structures in Rushikonda, Visakhapatnam. He condemned Jagan for politicizing the Achyutapuram pharma company accident, highlighting that the government responded promptly, with former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visiting the victims and providing immediate compensation. Raju emphasized the state's commitment to preventing such industrial accidents in the future.



"Free Sand" Policy Strengthened by CM's Daily Reviews and New Measures

TPN, Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government's "Free Sand" policy is receiving a significant boost through the daily reviews conducted by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. As part of his ongoing efforts to ensure the policy's success, the CM's directive to reach the goal of providing free sand at the ground level is gradually being fulfilled. The queues of lorries waiting for sand are diminishing, and the Department of Mines' recent measures are showing positive results, addressing the challenges faced by consumers.

The introduction of a new and improved online sand booking system, set to launch on September 11, aims to streamline operations further. Principal Secretary of Mines and Mining Department, Mukesh Kumar Meena, emphasized that even before the full implementation of this system, strict rules will be enforced to prevent issues such as overcrowding at supply centers and excessive charges by middlemen.

which will be enforced to reduce congestion at supply centers.

To address consumer concerns promptly, a toll-free number (1800-599-4599) and an email ID (dmgapsandcomplaints@yahoo.com) have been established for complaints. The respective District Collectors' offices will take appropriate action on each complaint, ensuring that consumers are informed of the outcomes.

The state government is also launching a daily sand bulletin that will provide details on sand reserves, loading progress, the number of beneficiaries, and the availability of allotments. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and ease of booking for users. Additionally, the booking process has been relocated to revenue offices, with special counters set up at RDO offices for sand booking. Customers will receive a standardized invoice containing all relevant details, including the date and time of delivery,

To maintain order, police have been instructed to monitor the areas closely, allowing only vehicles with valid invoices. The government is also working to increase loading capacity at stockyards, ensuring that only registered and verified vehicles are used for transportation. District Collectors are required to submit detailed reports on daily activities, registered complaints, and actions taken regarding the free sand policy.

The Chief Minister has made it clear that strict action will be taken against any violations, including illegal mining and the collection of extra transport charges. The government's goal is to make free sand accessible to all while ensuring a fair and transparent process for consumers across the state.

Dharna Held in Tiruvur Constituency to Address Rising Kidney Disease Cases



TPN, Tiruvur, NTR District: In a significant demonstration of public concern, a dharna was held in front of the Mandal Revenue Office (MMARO) in A Konduru Mandal, Tiruvur Constituency, NTR District, under the leadership of CPM and CPI parties. The protest aimed to draw attention to the alarming increase in kidney disease cases in the region, which has seen a sharp rise in both deaths and new patients.

The protestors highlighted the dire situation in A Konduru Mandal, where 63 people have reportedly died of kidney disease in 2024 alone. The region, along with neighboring Gampalagudem Mandal, is being compared to the notorious Uddanam area due to the high prevalence of kidney ailments. Over the past decade, the district has seen more than 1,000 deaths from kidney disease, with 2,000 people currently suffering, over 110 of whom are on dialysis.

The affected populations are predominantly from tribal, Dalit, and economically weaker sections, who are bearing the brunt of this health crisis. The protesters voiced their concerns about the failure of the previous YCP government to address the issue adequately, particularly criticizing the neglect of the Krishna Jalala water scheme, which was intended to provide clean water to the region. The delay in completing this scheme has forced many villages to rely on infrequent water tanker supplies, with some receiving water only once a week. The presence of harmful substances like fluoride and silica in the water supply is believed to be a significant factor contributing to the spread of kidney disease.

The protest also called attention to the socio-economic impact of the disease, with kidney patients spending up to ₹10,000 per month on medicines and medical care. The financial burden has led many to take loans and sell their properties, with an estimated ₹25 crore being spent annually by affected families in the district.

The demonstrators demanded that the Telugu Desam Alliance government take immediate action to address the crisis. They called for the establishment of a special team of experts to study the kidney disease problem in A Konduru and Tiruvur constituencies and the construction of a kidney super specialty hospital in the region. They also urged the government to expedite the Krishna river fresh water scheme to provide clean drinking water to the affected areas.

Additionally, the protesters demanded an increase in the pension for dialysis patients from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 per month, and the provision of a ₹5,000 pension for all kidney patients, along with free access to quality medicines. They also raised concerns about the widespread availability of alcohol in the region, with more than 100 belt shops and two government liquor outlets operating in Konduru Mandal, exacerbating the health crisis.

The demonstration called for an immediate high-level meeting by the state government and the Department of Medical Health to implement measures to prevent further spread of kidney disease and to provide much-needed relief to the affected communities.

National Sports Day Special Competitions from August 26

TPN, Vijayawada: In celebration of National Sports Day, which commemorates the birthday of hockey legend Major Dhyani Chand on August 29, a series of special competitions will be held from August 26 to 31. District Sports Development Officer SA Aziz announced on Saturday that these events, organized under the guidelines of the State Sports Authority, will include not only sports competitions but also quizzes, essay writing, and other activities.

The competitions will take place at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, as well as at various schools and colleges across the district. Participants will have the opportunity to compete in a wide range of sports, including Walk/Race, Volleyball, Hockey, Mini Football, Basketball, Badminton, Chess, Boxing, Judo, and Weightlifting.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of these competitions, and outstanding athletes who have excelled at various levels will be honored during a special program at the IGM Stadium. SA Aziz encouraged sportspersons and students in the district to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the events.

For more information on eligibility and participation details, interested individuals can contact the District Sports Development Office at 9494481669.

ANNEXNURE			
NATIONAL SPORTS DAY PROGRAMMES IN N.T.R DISTRICT			
Sl. No	Date	Programme / Event Proposed	Venue
1	26-08-2024	Fit India Pledge	DSA, IGM Stadium, Vijayawada & KVK's of N.T.R District
2	27-08-2024	Sports Activities Schedule as proposed by Vice Chairman & Managing Director, SAAP, Vijayawada.	DSA, IGM Stadium, Vijayawada & K.V.K - Krishna Lanka K.V.K - Jaggayyapeta
3	28-08-2024	Sports Competitions in Schools / Colleges	All Government Schools / Colleges / Hostels
		Out Door Activities	Indoor Activities
		Walk / Race, Volley Ball, Hockey (Penalty Shootout) Fustal / Mini Foot Ball (5 vs 5), Tennis Ball Cricket, Basket Ball, Kabaddi	Badminton, Chess, Basket Ball(3 vs 3) Table Tennis, Tug of war, Boxing, Judo, Weight Lifting.
4	29-08-2024	3 KM Rally & Felicitation to Eminent Sports Persons in the District and Prize distribution to winners of competitions.	IGMC Stadium to DV Manor Hotel and Back
5	30-08-2024 & 31-08-2024	Conduct of Sports, Quiz & Essay writing competitions in Colleges & Schools	concerned Colleges & Schools

SA Aziz
 District Sports Development Officer,
 District Sports Authority,
 N.T.R District.

APJAC Amaravati Welcomes Exemption from Transfers for Employees Retiring Before March 2025

TPN, Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (APJAC) Amaravati has expressed satisfaction over the state government's decision to exempt employees who are retiring before March 31, 2025, from the existing general transfers. This exemption was announced in Government Order (G.O.) No. 76 issued by the Finance Department on August 24, 2024.

In recent general transfer orders (G.O. No. 75, dated August 17, 2024), concerns were raised that employees nearing retirement, particularly those aged 62 and suffering from various health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart ailments, would face significant challenges.

Additionally, these employees would have difficulty preparing their pension papers six months in advance, a crucial step for a smooth retirement process.

APJAC Amaravati had submitted a written appeal on August 20, 2024, to the Principal Finance Secretary and officials from the Chief Minister's office, urging the government to exempt employees who are retiring within a year from the transfer process. They highlighted that similar exemptions had been granted in previous years (2016, 2017, 2018).

The government's decision to grant this exemption will benefit approximately 8,000 employees across various departments, al-

lowing them to retire peacefully without the burden of transfer-related disruptions. APJAC Amaravati, represented by Bopparaju and Palishetti, expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his consideration of the appeal.

They also extended special thanks to Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mr. Muddada Ravichandra IAS, and Principal Finance Secretary, Mr. Piyush Kumar IAS, for their role in facilitating this decision. The exemption will provide much-needed relief to the retiring employees, ensuring that they can finalize their pension papers and retire without additional stress.



Amit Shah Sets March 2026 Deadline to Eliminate Maoist Activities in India

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced an ambitious target of March 2026 to eradicate Maoist activities in India. Speaking at a press briefing in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Shah emphasized the need for a "strong and ruthless strategy" to launch the final assault against Maoist groups. The announcement follows a review of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the state with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and senior police officials.

Shah's remarks underscore a significant push to address the ongoing challenge posed by Maoist violence, which has claimed approximately 17,000 lives in the country. The Home Minister urged Maoists to surrender, promising a "new look" surrender policy set to be introduced within the next two months. This policy aims to facilitate the reintegration of those who abandon extremism and seek a peaceful path.

Reflecting on progress made, Shah noted a substantial decrease in Maoist violence over the past decade. He highlighted that incidents of Maoist violence have dropped by 52% and related deaths have decreased by 70% since 2014. The number of affected districts has fallen from 96 to 45, and the number of "LWE-hit police stations" has been reduced from 495 to 176. These improvements mark significant strides in the government's efforts to combat Maoist extremism.

During the briefing, Shah reiterated these statistics and stressed the urgency of addressing the problem with a final, decisive strategy. He pointed out that there has been a 53% reduction in Naxal incidents from 2014 to 2024 compared to the previous decade, showcasing the effectiveness of ongoing countermeasures.

The Home Minister's declaration aligns with his previous statement made in December, where he had expressed confidence in nearly eradicating Maoist extremism from the country. At the 59th Raising Day of the Border Security Force, Shah had outlined the notable declines in Maoist violence and fatalities, reflecting the government's successful initiatives in this area.

Shah also detailed the government's approach to filling security vacuums in LWE-affected regions. He highlighted the combined efforts of state and Central Armed Police Forces, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and the Enforcement Directorate in addressing Maoist extremism. The coordination among these agencies aims to dismantle the infrastructure supporting Maoist activities and enhance security in vulnerable areas.

The Home Ministry's Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Division, established in 2006, plays a critical role in combating Maoist violence. The division oversees a holistic approach to addressing the issue, which includes monitoring the LWE situation and evaluating countermeasures implemented by affected states. It also facilitates capacity building for state governments through various schemes, such as the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, Special Infrastructure Scheme, and Special Central Assistance.

Shah's announcement has been met with a mix of optimism and scrutiny. While the target of March 2026 sets a clear deadline for addressing Maoist extremism, it remains to be seen how effectively the planned strategies will be executed. The government's commitment to enhancing security and promoting development in LWE-hit areas will be crucial in determining the success of these efforts.

The ongoing focus on both security and development aims to create a more stable environment in regions previously plagued by Maoist violence. As the government works towards its ambitious goal, the coordination between various agencies and the implementation of robust policies will be key in achieving a lasting resolution to the Maoist insurgency in India.

India Maintains Strategic Neutrality as PM Modi Visits Ukraine Amidst Global Tensions



As the Russia-Ukraine conflict marks its two-year anniversary, India continues to navigate its position on the global stage with strategic neutrality. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Kyiv, following a significant trip to Moscow in July, underscores India's complex balancing act in international diplomacy. This marks the first visit by an Indian prime minister to an independent Ukraine since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Despite the ongoing conflict and domestic pressure, India's stance has largely remained one of strategic neutrality, abstaining from clear endorsements or criticisms. This approach has sparked dissatisfaction among Western allies, particularly within the European Union (EU) and the United States, who have been vocal about Russia's aggression and the broader implications for global security.

Decoupling from the West: Not an Option

India's strategic neutrality is not a mere diplomatic stance but a calculated move within its broader geopolitical strategy. Prime Minister Modi's diplomatic engagements with Western countries, particularly the EU, reflect a nuanced approach. Since 2014, Modi has worked to strengthen India-EU relations, emphasizing strategic and economic partnerships. This includes the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) established in April 2022, which aims to bolster cooperation in various sectors.

Domestic and international analysts argue that despite the apparent friction with Western countries over the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India cannot afford to decouple from the West. The EU and the US remain crucial to India's strategic and economic interests, and any significant shift away from these relationships could undermine India's long-term goals.

Shifting Defence Dynamics

The conflict has influenced India's defence procurement strategies. Historically reliant on Russian military equipment, India has seen a significant decline in Russian arms exports—from 76% of India's arms imports in 2009–2013 to 36% in

2019–2024, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. This shift reflects India's growing diversification in its defence partnerships. Countries like France have intensified their efforts to court India, offering advanced military technology and collaborative defence projects. India's ongoing partnerships with France include joint ventures in building submarines, combat aircraft engines, and multi-role helicopters. Similarly, Ukraine, accounting for 11% of India's total defence imports, remains an important partner, further evidenced by Modi's visit to Kyiv.

Strategic Neutrality and National Interests

India's strategic neutrality allows it to secure alliances across Europe and Asia without becoming overly dependent on any single power. This approach is especially relevant given the ongoing geopolitical tensions with China and the US's reluctance to fully share critical defence technology with India.

By positioning itself as a mediator rather than a partisan player, India aims to leverage its influence with both Russia and Ukraine. Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak has acknowledged India's potential influence over Russia, highlighting India's strategic role in seeking peace negotiations.

Timing and Realism

Modi's visit to Ukraine comes at a time when significant diplomatic and military developments are on hold until the upcoming US presidential election. India's role in this context is more about optics and positioning than immediate outcomes. By maintaining a stance of neutrality while fostering relationships with key global players, India is strategically positioning itself for long-term gains. In conclusion, India's approach to the Russia-Ukraine conflict reflects a pragmatic balance between strategic neutrality and national interests. By engaging with both Russia and Ukraine while bolstering ties with Western allies and diversifying its defence partnerships, India aims to assert itself as a key global negotiator in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

Government Unveils Union Pension Scheme Amid Protests Over New Pension System

In a strategic move ahead of upcoming assembly elections in a state and a Union Territory, the central government has announced the launch of the Union Pension Scheme (UPS), addressing ongoing disputes over the New Pension Scheme (NPS). Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw revealed that the UPS will benefit 23 lakh central government employees and is set to be implemented from April 1, 2025. Employees will be given the choice between continuing with the NPS or opting for the new UPS.

The UPS, approved by the Union Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is designed to offer more comprehensive pension benefits compared to the current NPS. The key features of the UPS include:

- **Assured Pension:**** Employees who complete a minimum of 25 years of service will receive 50% of their average basic salary from the last 12 months before retirement as their pension. For those with shorter service periods, the pension will be proportionate, with a minimum service requirement of 10 years.
- **Assured Family Pension:**** In the event of an employee's death, the family will receive 60% of the last-drawn pension amount, ensuring financial support for dependents.
- **Assured Minimum Pension:**** The scheme guarantees a minimum pension of ₹10,000 per

month for retirees who have completed at least 10 years of service.

The introduction of the UPS also involves an increase in contribution rates. Under the current scheme, employees contribute 10% and the central government contributes 14%. With the UPS, the government's contribution will rise to 18%.

Prime Minister Modi expressed pride in the government's efforts to enhance the financial security of its employees. "The Unified Pension Scheme ensures dignity and financial security for government employees, aligning with our commitment to their well-being and a secure future," Modi stated.

The rollout of the UPS follows a review conducted by a committee led by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, established in response to demands from non-BJP-ruled states to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). This scheme provided retired government employees with 50% of their last-drawn salary as a monthly pension, with adjustments based on Dearness Allowance (DA) hikes. The introduction of the UPS is seen as a direct response to widespread dissatisfaction with the NPS and a bid to address the concerns of government employees. The decision reflects the government's strategy to offer a more predictable and secure pension framework while preparing for significant state and territorial elections.

PM Modi to Attend Rajasthan High Court Platinum Jubilee in Jodhpur



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Jalgaon in Maharashtra and Jodhpur in Rajasthan on August 25, where he will participate in two significant events. At 11:15 AM, the Prime Minister will attend the Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in

Jalgaon. This event marks a milestone for women's empowerment under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana, where 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis—women who have recently become lakhpatis during the third term of the NDA government—will be felicitated by PM Modi. The

Prime Minister will present certificates to these women and engage with Lakhpati Didis from across the country. In addition, PM Modi will release a Revolving Fund of Rs 2,500 crore to benefit around 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs). He will also oversee the disbursement of bank loans worth Rs 5,000 crore, benefiting 25.8 lakh members of 2.35 lakh SHGs. Since the inception of the Lakhpati Didi Yojana, the government has successfully created one crore Lakhpati Didis, with a target to empower three crore women under this scheme. Later in the day, at 4:30 PM, PM Modi will be the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur. The ceremony, held at the High Court Campus, will also see the Prime Minister inaugurating the newly established Rajasthan High Court Museum, commemorating 75 years of the court's service to the nation. The dual events reflect the Prime Minister's continued focus on women's economic empowerment and the celebration of India's judicial legacy.

Special Polling Stations Set Up for Kashmiri Migrants in Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi



The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the establishment of 24 special polling stations to facilitate voting by Kashmiri migrants in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. These stations are strategically located in Jammu, Udhampur, and New Delhi to ensure that displaced voters can easily participate in the electoral process.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, confirmed that these provisions aim to ease the voting process for those displaced from the Kashmir Valley. Notably, the requirement for filling out Form-M, which was mandatory during the Lok Sabha elections, has been waived for migrant voters residing in Jammu and Udhampur.

The special polling stations are distributed as follows: 19 in Jammu, 1 in Udhampur, and 4 in New Delhi. These stations will be equipped with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to ensure a smooth voting process. The CEO also highlighted that the draft electoral roll extracts, mapping migrant voters to their respective polling stations in Jammu and Udhampur, will be published shortly. There will be a seven-day window for voters to request any additions, deletions, or corrections to the rolls. Following this, the final photo electoral roll extracts will be released, allowing migrant electors to vote using their Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or any of the 12 alternate photo identity documents recognized by the ECI.

For those migrants residing outside Jammu and Udhampur, self-certification of Form-M is now permitted, eliminating the need for attestation by a gazetted officer. Additionally, all migrant voters who opt not to vote in person can use postal ballot papers.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections will be conducted in three phases starting on September 18, with the counting of votes scheduled for October 4.

PM Modi Announces Ex-Gratia for Victims of Bus Accident in Nepal's Tanahun District

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an ex-gratia payment for the victims of a tragic bus accident that occurred in the Tanahun district of Nepal. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) shared the announcement on social media platform X.

According to the PMO, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be provided to the next of kin of each deceased victim. Additionally, those injured in the accident will receive Rs. 50,000.

The PMO's post on X read: "The Prime Minister has announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in Tanahun district, Nepal. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

The bus accident, which took place in Nepal's Tanahun district, has led to significant loss of life and left several others injured. The announcement of the ex-gratia payment underscores the Indian government's commitment to extending support to those affected by the tragedy.

This gesture of solidarity from India is expected to provide some relief to the families of the victims during this difficult time. The Prime Minister's announcement has been well-received, reflecting the close ties between India and Nepal and the shared sense of empathy in times of crisis.

SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav Calls for Defamation Case Against BJP MLA Over Remarks on Mayawati

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav has demanded a defamation case be filed against Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Rajesh Chaudhary for making "derisive and derogatory" remarks about Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati. On Saturday, Yadav shared a video from a news channel in which MLA Chaudhary stated, "While there is no doubt that Mayawati has been the Chief Minister of UP four times, it was the BJP which made her the Chief Minister for the first time. We made that mistake." Additionally, Chaudhary referred to Mayawati as "the most corrupt Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh."

Expressing strong objection to these comments, Yadav emphasized, "Political differences have their place, but no one has the right to tarnish her dignity as a woman." He condemned Chaudhary's remarks as baseless and highly objectionable, urging legal action against the BJP legislator from Mant Assembly constituency.

"The BJP is saying that they made a mistake by making her the Chief Minister... This is also an insult to the public opinion in a democratic country. To baselessly accuse her of being the most corrupt Chief Minister is extremely objectionable," Yadav stated. He further criticized the BJP for protecting MLAs who undermine women's dignity, asserting that if the party does not take immediate disciplinary action, it implies the entire BJP shares such views.

In response to Yadav's support, Mayawati expressed her gratitude and praised the SP chief's stance, hinting at a possible thaw in their traditionally strained relations. On X (formerly Twitter), Mayawati thanked Akhilesh Yadav for addressing the false



allegations made by the BJP MLA from Mathura district and acknowledged the truth about her honesty. "The SP chief has responded to the false allegations levelled by the BJP MLA from Mathura district, acknowledging the truth about the BSP chief's honesty. The party is grateful for this," she wrote. The incident highlights the ongoing political tensions and the importance of maintaining respect and dignity across party lines.

Resident Doctors Meet CBI Over Murder of Trainee Doctor in Kolkata

A delegation of resident doctors met with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials on Friday, August 23, regarding the alleged sexual assault and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The delegation expressed dissatisfaction with the responses provided by the investigative agency.

Dr. Kinjal, a representative of the delegation, stated that they requested a timeline from the CBI to identify the individuals involved in the case. However, the agency informed them that setting a time limit was not possible. "Our delegation of five people who went to meet the CBI at CGO Complex yesterday, did not get any satisfactory answer even from there. Our only demand is justice. We told the CBI that the motive behind our ongoing protest is justice, which is in your hands because all of you are investigating officers. So the sooner you can tell us who were involved, we can set the direction of our protest. They told us to just keep faith in them. We also asked about the time limit, the CBI said it is not possible but as soon as possible," Dr. Kinjal explained.

Due to the ongoing protest, outpatient departments (OPDs) at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital remain non-operational, although emergency services continue with senior doctors attending to patients. In a related development, a team from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Delhi, arrived in Kolkata to conduct a polygraph test on former RG Kar Medical College principal Sandip Ghosh and others involved in the case. This test is expected to take place today, as per sources.

Additionally, Kolkata police have handed over all documents related to alleged financial irregularities at RG Kar Medical College to the CBI, following a court order. The court has granted the CBI three weeks to submit a progress report on the investigation, which is due on September 17. The investigation follows the discovery of the trainee doctor's body in the seminar hall of the college on August 9, sparking widespread protests and demands for justice from the medical community.

Indian Space Sector Adds \$60 Billion to GDP, Generates 4.7 Million Jobs Over the Last Decade

The Indian space sector has made significant contributions to the nation's economy over the past decade, adding \$60 billion to the GDP and creating 4.7 million jobs, according to a recent report by global consulting firm Novaspac. Commissioned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the report was released by Union Minister of State for Space Jitendra Singh on National Space Day.

The report highlights that India invested nearly \$13 billion in the space sector over the last ten years. These investments, through direct, indirect, and induced benefits, have substantially boosted the national GDP. Steve Boehinger, affiliate executive adviser at Novaspac, noted that for every dollar generated via investments or revenues in the space sector, an additional \$2.54 was contributed to the broader economy.

The space sector's revenues have seen a marked increase, rising from \$3.8 billion in 2014 to \$6.3 billion in 2023. This growth underscores the sector's expanding role in India's economic landscape. Boehinger also emphasized that the sector directly employs 96,000 people across both public and private sectors, contributing to the total of 4.7 million jobs generated. India's space industry ranks as the eighth-largest globally in terms of funding and has seen rapid growth in the number of startups. The sector has also had a tangible impact on daily life, with approximately eight lakh fishermen benefiting from ISRO's services and 1.4 billion Indians relying on satellite-based weather forecasts.

However, the report also identified challenges that the sector faces, including regulatory, financing, infrastructure, market context, and workforce issues.



PM Modi Concludes Historic Visits to Poland and Ukraine

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to India today after concluding a significant two-nation visit to Poland and Ukraine. This visit marked a historic milestone, as it was the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Poland in 45 years and the first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Ukraine.

During his visit to Ukraine, PM Modi met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, where both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to upholding international law, including the principles of the UN Charter. They agreed on the importance of closer bilateral dialogue and emphasized the need for peaceful resolution through diplomacy. India's participation in the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, held in Burgenstock, Switzerland, in June 2024, was appreciated by the Ukrainian side, which welcomed continued high-level Indian involvement in future peace efforts. The two nations also signed four agreements aimed at strengthening their bilateral relationship.

In Poland, PM Modi held bilateral discussions with his counterpart, Donald Tusk, and the two countries agreed to elevate their ties to a "Strategic Partnership." The leaders expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its tragic humanitarian impact. They underscored the necessity for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace that aligns with international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

Amid the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, both leaders emphasized that the use or threat of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. They also highlighted the negative global repercussions of the conflict, particularly on food and energy security, affecting the Global South.

In addition to addressing the Ukraine conflict, India and Poland reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. They stressed that no country should provide a safe haven to those who finance or commit terrorist acts and called for the firm implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Both sides also reinforced their commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region, in line with international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Prime Minister Modi's visits to Poland and Ukraine have not only strengthened bilateral ties but also reaffirmed India's role as a key player in promoting global peace and stability.



Boeing Starliner Mission Faces Major Setbacks, NASA Astronauts Stranded in Space for 80 Days



What was initially planned as an eight-day test mission aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft has turned into an unexpected ordeal, as NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore remain stranded in space 80 days after their launch. The spacecraft, which docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on June 6, has encountered several technical issues, preventing the astronauts' return to Earth. The mission, launched on June 5, was part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program, with the goal of demonstrating the Starliner's ability to safely transport crew to and from the ISS. Boeing, one of NASA's key partners, views the mission as crucial to competing with Elon Musk's SpaceX in offering regular crew transportation services. However, technical problems have delayed the return journey, leaving the two astronauts stuck in space indefinitely.

Technical Issues Plague Boeing Starliner

The delay has been attributed to a series of malfunctions within the spacecraft's critical systems:

Helium Leaks: The spacecraft's service module reported several helium leaks, which are essential for maintaining the spacecraft's structural integrity and maneuverability. These leaks have raised safety concerns for re-entry.

Thruster Problems: Five of the Starliner's thrusters, which are crucial for propulsion and docking, have malfunctioned. These issues have further complicated efforts to plan a safe return.

Valve Malfunctions: Multiple issues were detected with a valve responsible for regulating the flow of oxidizers, which are necessary for the propulsion system to function effectively.

NASA and Boeing's Response

NASA and Boeing engineers are working around the clock to resolve these issues. They are meticulously examining data from the spacecraft's propulsion system and conducting extensive tests on the spacecraft's thrusters. Ground-based simulators are being used to explore various scenarios, aiming to identify and address the problems.

As the situation continues, there is no set date for the return of the astronauts. NASA and Boeing are prioritizing the safety of the crew as they work to overcome these technical challenges. The prolonged mission has underscored the complexities and risks involved in space exploration, particularly in the context of developing new commercial crew transportation systems.

Russia and Ukraine Exchange 115 Prisoners of War Each Amid Ongoing Conflict



Russia and Ukraine announced on Saturday that they had exchanged 115 prisoners of war each, marking a significant development in the ongoing conflict between the two nations. The exchange occurred just over two weeks after Ukraine launched a surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region, intensifying the hostilities.

The swap coincided with Ukrainian Independence Day, a poignant moment for Kyiv as it continues to resist Russian advances in eastern Ukraine while conducting offensives in Russian territory. The exchange was facilitated by the United Arab Emirates, which both countries thanked for its mediation efforts.

"Another 115 of our defenders have returned home today," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced, highlighting the return of soldiers from the National Guard, Armed Forces, Navy, and State Border Guard Service. President Zelenskyy shared photographs of the freed men draped in Ukrainian flags, underscoring the emotional significance of their return on such a symbolic day.

The Ukrainian military had reportedly captured hundreds of Russian soldiers during its incursion into the Kursk region,

which began on August 6. This prisoner exchange reflects the complex and ongoing nature of the conflict, with both sides engaging in numerous such swaps throughout the two-year war.

The Russian Defense Ministry confirmed the exchange, stating that 115 Russian servicemen taken captive during the Kursk incursion had been returned from Ukrainian-controlled territories. The troops are currently receiving "psychological-medical help" in neighboring Belarus before being repatriated to Russia. The ministry also released images showing the men near buses in a field, preparing for their journey home.

The United Arab Emirates played a crucial role in mediating the exchange, with the UAE government announcing its successful intervention in facilitating the deal. This latest prisoner swap is a reminder of the ongoing human cost of the conflict and the international efforts to mediate and mitigate its impacts.

As the war continues, exchanges like this serve as small but significant steps towards addressing the humanitarian consequences of the prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Kamala Harris Slams Trump in Acceptance Speech, Highlights Climate and Diversity Focus



In her acceptance speech for the Democratic presidential nomination, Vice President Kamala Harris drew a clear line between her vision for the country and that of her Republican rival, former President Donald Trump. Addressing the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Harris emphasized her commitment to resist authoritarian influences and uphold democratic values, portraying Trump as a dangerous alternative due to his alleged susceptibility to autocratic leaders.

"I will not cozy up to tyrants and dictators," Harris declared, underscoring her pledge to break decisively from Trump's foreign policy approaches. This statement highlights her intention to offer a distinct contrast in national security and global diplomacy compared to her Republican opponent.

Dr. Sweta Chakraborty, a Climate Surrogate for the Harris campaign, articulated the campaign's focus on addressing climate change and supporting minority communities. Chakraborty noted that

Harris's platform resonates particularly with Indian-Americans and other minority groups. "Kamala Harris is polling a few points ahead of Donald Trump and is expected to gain further traction following the DNC," Chakraborty said. She also highlighted ongoing efforts by South Asians in the climate movement, such as fundraising initiatives under the banner of "South Asians in Climate," which aim to bolster Harris's campaign.

Born in Oakland, California, Kamala Harris's heritage—her father's Afro-Jamaican roots and her mother's Indian heritage—reflects a diverse background that resonates with many in the Indian-American community. Dr. Chakraborty emphasized the significance of having a President of Indian descent, noting that Harris's rise symbolizes the potential for Indian-Americans and other minorities to achieve high office in the United States. "An Indian can make it to the highest elected office in the US, showcasing the limitless opportunities for the Indian diaspora," Chakraborty added.



KEC International Secures Rs 1,079 Crore in New Orders

On August 23, KEC International Ltd., an infrastructure EPC firm part of the RPG Group, announced that it has secured new orders worth Rs 1,079 crore in its Transmission & Distribution (T&D) and Cables divisions.

In the T&D sector, KEC International has been awarded four significant contracts. These include a 765 kV/400 kV transmission line project from a private developer in India, 230/132 kV transmission line projects in Saudi Arabia and

Oman, the upgradation of an existing 400 kV transmission line in the UAE, and the supply of towers, hardware, and poles for projects in the Americas.

Additionally, KEC International has received orders for various types of cables both within India and internationally. These new contracts highlight the company's continued expansion and presence in the global infrastructure market, reinforcing its position in the T&D and cables sectors.

Adani Power Faces \$800 Million in Unpaid Dues from Bangladesh



Billionaire Gautam Adani's power-generating unit is dealing with a significant financial issue as Bangladesh accumulates unpaid dues totaling up to \$800 million. This debt arises from electricity supplied by Adani Power Ltd.'s coal-fired plant located in Jharkhand's Godda district. The situation is compounded by recent turmoil in Bangladesh, where violent protests have led to hundreds of deaths and the ousting of the previous administration earlier this month.

Bangladesh Bank's new Governor, Ahsan H. Mansur, confirmed the outstanding amount in an interview with Bloomberg News. He emphasized the critical nature of the situation, stating, "If we don't pay them, they will stop providing electricity."

Currently, Adani Power has not announced any plans to halt electricity supplies. However, insiders suggest that the company could face increasing pressure from its lenders and coal suppliers if the debt remains unsettled. The situation remains fluid, and the potential financial impact on Adani Power could be significant if Bangladesh fails to address the overdue payments.

The unresolved dues underscore the broader challenges in the energy sector, especially in regions experiencing political instability and economic strain. The issue between Adani Power and Bangladesh highlights the delicate balance between international business operations and local financial conditions.

India's Creative Industry Booms, Minister Highlights Growth and AI Integration

India's creative industry is now valued at \$30 billion and employs nearly 8 percent of the country's workforce, according to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Speaking at the launch of the 'All India Initiative on Creative Economy (AIICE)' in the national capital, Puri highlighted the sector's significant growth, noting that creative exports surged by 20 percent last year, generating over \$11 billion. This trend points to promising future growth for the industry.

Puri praised the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for creating a platform to facilitate collaboration within the creative sector. He emphasized that the rising appeal of creative industries among Indian youth is driving this expansion, with Bollywood and other regional film industries playing a pivotal role.

The minister declared that India is now the "Content Capital of the World," boasting over 100 million content creators as of 2023. India also leads globally in social media usage, with some of the fastest-growing networks having their largest user bases in the country.



Regarding the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the industry, Puri noted its growing application in newsrooms. AI is used by 41 percent of news teams for creating visual content, 39 percent for social media, and 38 percent for writing articles. He assured that AI is not a threat but an opportunity to reduce costs, expand revenue, and access new markets. However, he stressed the importance

of developing a strong regulatory framework around AI.

Citing the UNCTAD's 'Creative Economy Outlook 2024' report, Puri highlighted that the global creative economy generates over \$2 trillion annually and supports nearly 50 million jobs worldwide. This underscores the sector's significant impact and potential for continued growth.

Indian Stock Markets Rally on US Rate Cut Anticipation

The Indian stock markets maintained their recovery rally this week, buoyed by positive US economic data and global developments. With the US government expected to announce a rate cut—likely in September—Indian markets are projected to react favorably when trading resumes on Monday.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's recent statement that "the time has come" for a monetary policy adjustment led to a significant rally in US markets on Friday. The S&P 500 index approached a new record high, reflecting investor optimism.

Market watchers predict that a potential 25 basis point rate cut in September will have a positive short-term impact on the markets. The longer-term trend will hinge on expectations that the accommodative policy will continue, possibly guiding further rate cuts.

Indian sectors likely to benefit from a Fed rate cut include IT, BFSI, auto, and real estate. Experts suggest that Indian markets will view the rate cuts favorably, given the RBI's tendency to align its interest rate decisions with the US Federal Reserve.

Global factors such as ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas and a drop in crude oil prices also supported the rally. However, inflationary pressures in Japan and the appreciating Yen moderated market gains towards the end of the week.



IT stocks, closely tied to the US market, saw marginal gains as profit booking followed an initial rally. PSU banks fully recovered their previous week's losses, and mid- and small-cap indices outperformed the broader market.

On Friday, Indian equity indices closed flat, with the Sensex up 33 points at 81,086 and the Nifty gaining 11 points to reach 24,823. The broader market trend remained positive, with more stocks gaining than losing. Foreign institutional investors purchased equities worth Rs 1,371 crore on August 22, while domestic institutional investors bought Rs 2,971 crore worth of equities on the same day.

Speculation about a US rate cut continues ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting scheduled for September 17-18. The current US key rate remains unchanged at 5.25 to 5.50 percent.

Indian Space Sector Generates \$2.54 for Every Dollar Invested, Report Reveals



A new report highlights the significant economic impact of India's space sector, revealing that for every dollar generated through investments or revenues, an additional \$2.54 is contributed to the national economy. The preliminary findings of the report, titled "Socio-Economic Impact Analysis of the Indian Space Programme," were released on August 23 during National Space Day celebrations.

Conducted by Econ One and Euroconsult and commissioned by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the study assesses the extensive benefits derived from India's space activities. The report underscores the substantial return on investment, demonstrating the economic multiplier effect of space sector expenditures and revenues.

Steve Boehinger, affiliate executive advisor

at Euroconsult, presented the findings at the National Space Day event in New Delhi. He emphasized that the report's analysis indicates that every dollar of production—not just expenditure—results in an additional \$2.54 being generated for the broader economy.

The report's release marks a significant milestone in recognizing the economic contributions of India's space endeavors. It highlights the broader impact of space investments beyond the immediate sector, showcasing how advancements in space technology contribute to national economic growth and development. The findings reflect the strategic importance of the space sector in driving economic prosperity and underline the value of continued investment in space exploration and technology.



Debt-Free Stocks: A Pillar of Financial Stability and Long-Term Growth

Debt-Free Stocks refer to the shares of companies that have little to no debt on their balance sheets. These companies are considered financially robust and present lower risk to investors. Let's delve into what makes these stocks an attractive investment option and analyze some prominent debt-free companies across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap categories.

Understanding Debt-Free Stocks

Debt-free stocks belong to companies that do not have outstanding loans or debts. Instead of relying on borrowed funds, these companies finance their operations, growth, and expansion through equity, retained earnings, or internal cash flows. This financial strategy provides them with several advantages, making them appealing to conservative investors.

Key Characteristics of Debt-Free Companies

1. Strong Balance Sheet : Debt-free companies usually boast a robust balance sheet, where assets significantly outweigh liabilities.



2. High Cash Reserves : These companies often maintain substantial cash reserves, enabling them to seize growth opportunities without resorting to external financing.

3. Lower Risk : Investing in debt-free companies is generally less risky, as they are not burdened by interest payments or the obligation to repay debt, particularly during economic downturns.

4. Financial Flexibility : Without the constraints of debt, these companies enjoy greater financial flexibility, allowing them to reinvest profits into the business, pay dividends, or pursue mergers and acquisitions.

5. Stable Profit Margins : With no interest obligations, profit margins for debt-free companies tend to be more stable and potentially higher compared to companies with significant debt.

Advantages of Investing in Debt-Free Stocks

1. Safety During Economic Uncertainty : Debt-free companies are less vulnerable to financial distress or bankruptcy during economic downturns, making them safer investments.

2. Consistent Returns : The absence of debt obligations enables these companies to generate consistent returns for investors.

3. Dividend Payouts : Debt-free companies are more likely to pay regular dividends, as they don't need to retain earnings to service debt.

4. Focus on Long-Term Growth : These companies can prioritize long-term growth strategies without the pressure of meeting short-term debt repayments.



Analyzing Debt-Free Companies Across Market Caps

1. LIC India (LIC)



Market Cap : ₹4.3 lakh crore
Overview : LIC, India's largest insurance provider, has a strong balance sheet supported by vast assets under management (AUM).

Debt-Free Status: LIC is essentially debt-free.

Long-Term Potential: With the ongoing growth in the insurance sector, LIC's unmatched reach and consistent revenue streams make it a stable long-term investment.

2. Divis Laboratories



Market Cap : ₹96,000 crore
Overview : A leading player in the pharmaceutical industry, Divis Labs focuses on manufacturing active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

Debt-Free Status : Divis Labs maintains a debt-free balance sheet.

Long-Term Potential : With a strong pipeline of products and a focus on affordable healthcare, Divis Labs is poised for significant long-term growth.

3. ITC



Market Cap : ₹5.5 lakh crore
Overview : ITC is a diversified conglomerate with interests in FMCG, hotels, and more.

Debt-Free Status : ITC operates debt-free, bolstered by strong cash flows.

Long-Term Potential : ITC's focus on expanding its FMCG business and its dominance in the cigarettes market position it as a solid long-term investment.

4. Tata Elxsi



Market Cap : ₹43,000 crore
Overview : Tata Elxsi is a global leader in design and technology services across various industries.

Debt-Free Status : Tata Elxsi operates without debt.

Long-Term Potential : The growing demand for digital solutions places Tata Elxsi at the forefront of innovation, making it a compelling long-term investment.

5. TCS (Tata Consultancy Services)



Market Cap : ₹12.8 lakh crore
Overview : TCS is a global IT services giant with a diversified revenue base.

Debt-Free Status : TCS is debt-free, supported by robust cash generation.

Long-Term Potential : TCS's leadership in IT services and its focus on innovation ensure sustained growth, making it a strong long-term investment.

1. KPIT Technologies



Market Cap : ₹34,000 crore
Overview : KPIT Technologies focuses on automotive engineering and mobility solutions, particularly in EVs and autonomous driving.

Debt-Free Status : KPIT operates debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : With the global shift towards smart mobility, KPIT is well-positioned for significant growth.

2. CDSL (Central Depository Services Limited)



Market Cap : ₹13,000 crore
Overview : CDSL provides depository services for securities in India.

Debt-Free Status : CDSL has a debt-free balance sheet.

Long-Term Potential : The growth of India's stock market and increased retail investor participation make CDSL a solid long-term investment.

3. BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)



Market Cap : ₹7,000 crore
Overview : BSE is Asia's oldest stock exchange and a key player in India's capital markets.

Debt-Free Status : BSE is debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : BSE is expected to benefit from the expanding Indian capital markets and its strategic investments in technology.

4. BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)



Market Cap : ₹72,000 crore
Overview : BEL is a state-owned defense electronics company.

Debt-Free Status : BEL operates without debt.

Long-Term Potential : BEL's strategic importance to India's defense sector and focus on innovation make it a strong candidate for long-term investment.

5. Gillette India



Market Cap : ₹17,000 crore
Overview : Gillette India is a leader in the grooming and oral care segment.

Debt-Free Status : Gillette India is debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : Gillette's strong brand equity and consistent cash flow position it as a reliable long-term investment.

1. Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)



Market Cap : ₹15,000 crore
Overview : IEX is India's premier energy trading platform.

Debt-Free Status : IEX operates without debt.

Long-Term Potential : As India's power demand grows, IEX is well-positioned to capitalize on these trends.

2. Avanti Feeds



Market Cap : ₹6,000 crore
Overview : Avanti Feeds manufactures prawn and fish feeds and is a leading exporter of shrimp.

Debt-Free Status : Avanti Feeds is debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : With rising global seafood demand, Avanti Feeds is poised for growth.

3. Glenmark Life Sciences



Market Cap : ₹6,000 crore
Overview : Glenmark Life Sciences develops and manufactures high-value APIs.

Debt-Free Status : Glenmark operates without debt.

Long-Term Potential : The growing demand for generic drugs positions Glenmark Life Sciences for long-term growth.

4. Finolex Cables

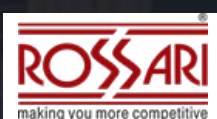


Market Cap : ₹10,000 crore
Overview : Finolex Cables is a leading manufacturer of electrical and telecommunication cables in India.

Debt-Free Status : Finolex is debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : The growing infrastructure development and urbanization in India make Finolex Cables a strong long-term investment.

5. Rossari Biotech



Market Cap : ₹5,000 crore
Overview : Rossari Biotech is a specialty chemicals manufacturer.

Debt-Free Status : Rossari Biotech is debt-free.

Long-Term Potential : The expanding specialty chemicals market, driven by demand in end-user industries, makes Rossari Biotech an attractive long-term investment.

Conclusion

Debt-free stocks offer a compelling investment opportunity for those seeking stability, consistent returns, and lower risk. Companies with strong balance sheets and no debt obligations can focus on growth and innovation, making them solid choices for long-term portfolios. Whether in large-cap, mid-cap, or small-cap categories, these debt-free companies present reliable investment options that can help build a resilient and prosperous financial future.

OpenAI Taps Ex Meta Executive for Strategic Role



OpenAI has announced the hiring of Irina Kofman, a former executive from Meta Platforms Inc., to lead its strategic initiatives. This move is part of OpenAI's ongoing effort to strengthen its team with experienced professionals from major tech companies.

Kofman has recently joined the artificial intelligence startup and will be directly reporting to Mira Murati, OpenAI's Chief Technology Officer. Her initial focus will be on enhancing the company's safety protocols and preparedness strategies. According to a company spokesperson, her role will be pivotal in addressing these critical areas.

Before joining OpenAI, Kofman spent five years at Meta, where she served as a senior director of product management specializing in generative AI. During her ten-

ure at Meta, she was instrumental in advancing the company's AI capabilities, which aligns with the strategic objectives of her new role at OpenAI.

Kofman's extensive background in AI and product management is expected to bring valuable insights and expertise to OpenAI's ongoing projects. Her experience in developing and managing AI products will be crucial in navigating the complex landscape of AI safety and ensuring the robustness of OpenAI's initiatives.

This latest addition to OpenAI's team underscores the company's commitment to leveraging top talent to drive innovation and maintain leadership in the AI sector. By bringing on board veterans like Kofman, OpenAI aims to fortify its position and address emerging challenges in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.

YouTube Introduces AI Chatbot to Help Recover Hacked Channels

YouTube has announced a new AI chatbot designed to assist creators in regaining access to their hacked channels. Launched on August 21, the support assistant aims to guide users through the process of re-securing their login credentials and recovering their accounts following a breach.

Currently, the AI chatbot supports only English and is available to a limited number of creators who can access specific troubleshooting features. YouTube plans to



expand this feature to a broader user base in the near future.

The introduction of this AI-driven support is a significant step in enhancing account security and recovery for YouTube creators, addressing a common issue of hacked channels and ensuring a smoother recovery process.

Viral Video of Seven Suns Explained as Optical Illusion

A recent video showing seven suns in the sky has gone viral on social media, captivating viewers with its unusual celestial display. Filmed on August 18 by Ms. Wang from the 11th floor of a hospital in Chengdu, Sichuan, South-West China, the footage appeared to show seven suns aligned in the sky, creating a striking and otherworldly scene.

The video quickly garnered attention, with many speculating about a possible rare cosmic event. However, recent reports clarify that the phenomenon was not due to an astronomical occurrence. Instead, it was an optical illusion caused by light refracting through multiple layers of glass in the hospital window.

The layered structure of the window panes created the illusion of several suns by splitting and scattering the sunlight in a way that mimicked the appearance of multiple suns. This type



of effect, known as a "sundog" or "parhelion," can sometimes occur when light interacts with ice crystals in the atmosphere, but in this case, the illusion was purely a result of the window's construction.

The video serves as a reminder of how

easily our perceptions can be altered by natural and man-made optical effects. While the seven suns may not be a real celestial phenomenon, the viral footage has sparked interest and curiosity, demonstrating the power of visual illusions to capture the imagination.

Amazon Worker Claims ₹3 Crore Salary for Minimal Effort

A recent revelation by a senior Amazon employee has sparked widespread discussion after he confessed to earning over ₹3 crore annually while reportedly contributing minimal work. In a candid post on the anonymous forum Blind, the employee, who holds the position of Senior Technical Program Manager, shared that he has been receiving a substantial salary without making significant contributions to the company for the past 18 months.

The employee, who transitioned to Amazon following a layoff from Google, admitted he joined the company with the intention of doing as little work as possible. He described his strategy of eventually getting placed on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) to exit the company while still benefiting financially. During his time at Amazon, he claimed to have resolved just seven support tickets and developed a single automated dashboard, which, contrary to his claim of taking three months, was actually created in three days us-



ing an AI chatbot, ChatGPT.

According to the employee, a significant portion of his workday is consumed by meetings, where he primarily focuses on rejecting requests from other teams. He noted that he spends his time ensuring that his team is minimally involved in integration tasks, thereby shifting most of the workload onto others.

His confession highlights a controversial aspect of corporate work culture, raising questions about accountability and productivity. The employee's comments have ignited a debate on the effectiveness and transparency of performance management systems within major tech companies.

Poor Sleep Linked to Increased Health Risks



Research from Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) highlights the negative impact of poor sleep on health, revealing that inadequate rest can lead to elevated levels of fatty triglycerides, abdominal fat, and an increased risk of stroke, heart disease, and other conditions.

The study, published in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, involved 30 participants with a body mass index (BMI) over 25, categorizing them as overweight. The researchers measured the time difference between melatonin onset—a hormone released in response to darkness—and the participants' average sleep timing.

Participants were divided into two groups based on how long they slept after melatonin onset. Those who

slept less time had worse health outcomes compared to those who slept longer. Poor sleep was linked to higher levels of fatty triglycerides and abdominal fat in men, and greater resting heart rates, glucose levels, and overall body fat percentages in women.

Brooke Shafer, a postdoctoral researcher at the Sleep, Chronobiology and Health Laboratory at OHSU School of Nursing, emphasized the importance of good sleep hygiene. Simple practices like reducing screen time before bed and adhering to a consistent sleep schedule can significantly enhance overall health.

These findings reinforce the critical role of sleep in maintaining health, underscoring the need for effective sleep habits to mitigate risks associated with poor sleep.

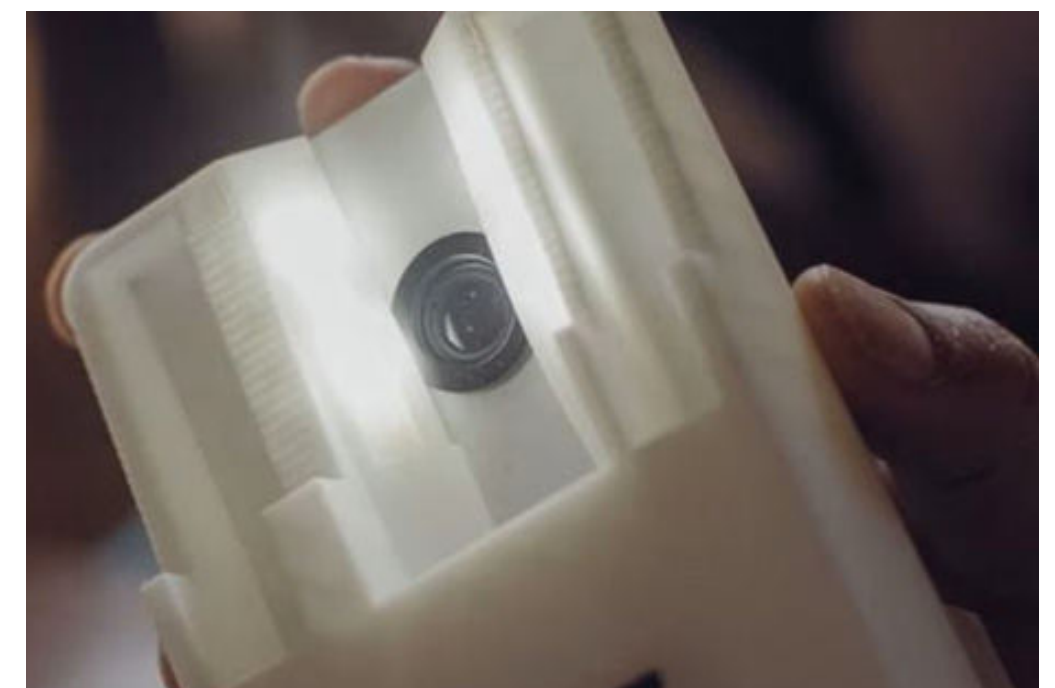
New App Identifies Malaria-Carrying Mosquitoes

In Uganda, where identifying mosquito species is crucial for malaria control, health workers traditionally had to collect mosquitoes from remote areas and send them to labs for identification. This process, though vital, is labor-intensive and time-consuming. However, a new app called VectorCam is revolutionizing this task.

Developed by bioengineers from Johns Hopkins University, VectorCam enables users to identify malaria-carrying mosquito species using just a smartphone

and a low-cost camera lens. This app is particularly useful in recognizing mosquitoes from the Anopheles genus, which are known to transmit malaria.

With VectorCam, the process of mosquito identification is simplified. Users can capture a photo of a mosquito and the app will analyze the image to determine its species. This innovation streamlines data collection and provides real-time insights, aiding local health authorities in their efforts to manage and control malaria spread more effectively.



Shikhar Dhawan Retires from Cricket



Shikhar Dhawan announced his retirement from both domestic and international cricket on Saturday. The left-handed batsman shared an emotional farewell message on social media, expressing gratitude to fans and supporters for their unwavering encouragement throughout his career.

Dhawan, who last played for India in 2022 during an ODI series against Bangladesh, had seen his position in the team taken over by younger players like Shubman Gill in recent years. In his message posted on X (formerly Twitter), Dhawan reflected on his journey, saying, "I am standing at a point where when I look back, I only see memories and a new life when I look forward."

He continued, "It was always my dream to play for India, and I got to live it. I am thankful to my family, my childhood coaches, and my teammates. I got a new family, fame, and love. But it is said that to move forward, you need to flip the pages." Dhawan revealed his decision to retire with a sense of peace, acknowledging his successful career and the opportunities he had.

Over his career, Dhawan played 34 Tests, 167 ODIs, and 68 T20Is for India. His most notable performance was in ODIs, where he scored 6,793 runs at an average of 44.11. In Tests, he accumulated 2,315 runs at an average of 40.61.

Manish Narwal Confident India Will Exceed Tokyo Paralympics Medal Haul

On Saturday, pistol marksman Manish Narwal expressed strong optimism about the Indian shooting team's prospects at the upcoming Paris Paralympics. Narwal, who clinched gold in the 50m pistol (SH1) at the Tokyo Paralympics, believes that the rigorous training the team has undergone will significantly enhance their chances of surpassing their Tokyo medal tally.

The Indian shooting contingent, comprising ten athletes including rifle shooter Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal, will compete at the Chateauroux Centre near Paris starting August 30. The team is eager to build on the success of the Tokyo Games, where India

secured two gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

"Our preparations have been intense, and we are eager to give our best shot in Paris," Narwal stated before the team's departure. He emphasized the goal of not only matching but exceeding their previous performance, aiming to bring home an even greater number of medals. Narwal, who will be competing in the 10m air pistol event in Paris, expressed confidence that the hard work and dedication of the athletes will translate into success on the international stage. With the team's focused training and strong determination, expectations are high for a standout performance at the Paris Games.



Nicholas Pooran Powers West Indies to Victory



Nicholas Pooran delivered a standout performance with an unbeaten 65 from 26 balls, leading the West Indies to a seven-wicket win over South Africa in their T20 international match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy Stadium on Friday. In the first game of a three-match series, the West Indies won the toss and chose to field, making a strong start by limiting South Africa to 42-5 in the first eight overs. Seamer Matthew Forde played a key role, dismissing Ryan Rickelton (4) and captain Aiden Markram (14).

Despite the early struggles, South Africa fought back with a solid innings from Tristan Stubbs, who scored 76 off 42 balls, including three sixes. Patrick Kruger also contributed with 44 from 32 balls, helping South Africa recover to 174-7 by the end of their 20 overs. The match was delayed for over an hour due to heavy rain, but conditions improved, allowing for better batting.

The West Indies' response was aggressive from the start. Openers Alick Athanaze (40) and Shai Hope (51) added 84 for the first wicket before Athanaze was dismissed by keeper Markram off Otneil Baartman. Pooran then took control, including hitting four consecutive sixes off Burger in the 12th over. Although South Africa made some progress by removing Hope and Rovman Powell (7), the West Indies chased down the target with 13 balls to spare.

Mushfiqur Rahim's 191 Puts Bangladesh in Strong Position Against Pakistan

In a gripping encounter on the fourth day of the first Test in Rawalpindi, Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim played a spectacular innings, scoring 191 runs and putting his team in a promising position for a potential victory. Rahim's knock was the cornerstone of Bangladesh's first innings total of 565, marking their highest Test score against Pakistan. This performance allowed Bangladesh to secure a first-innings lead of 117 runs over the hosts.

Pakistan, who had declared their innings at 448-6, began their second innings with a challenging task. By the end of the day's play, the home team had managed to reach 23-1, trailing by 94 runs. Abdullah Shafique was unbeaten on 12, while captain Shan Masood was at nine.

Rahim's innings not only highlighted his individual brilliance but also set a demanding target for Pakistan. The Test match is delicately poised, and Bangladesh's chances of securing their first-ever Test victory against Pakistan are now more tangible than ever. With two days left in the match, the final result remains uncertain, adding to the excitement of this closely contested encounter.



KL Rahul Reflects on 'Koffee With Karan' Controversy



KL Rahul has broken his silence on the controversy that erupted following his appearance on the popular TV show "Koffee With Karan" in 2019. The Indian cricketer, who appeared on the show with teammate Hardik Pandya, faced severe backlash for their comments, leading to their suspension by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The incident caused both players to return from their tour in Australia prematurely.

In a recent podcast with Nikhil Kamath, featuring Kriti Sanon and Badshah, Rahul shared his experience of the fallout. He described how the controversy left him deeply scarred and profoundly changed him. "I used to handle trolling well, thinking I didn't care. But after that interview, I was exposed to intense trolling, and it completely changed me," Rahul said. He reflected on how the situation affected his confidence and personal growth.

Rahul admitted that being suspended from the team was a harsh experience for him. "I had never been suspended or punished in school. The whole experience was overwhelming and hard to process," he explained.

Currently, Rahul is preparing for the Duldeep Trophy 2024 and hopes to make a return to the Indian cricket team for the upcoming series against Bangladesh. There is also speculation about whether he will be retained by the Lucknow Super Giants for the next Indian Premier League (IPL) season, but no decision has been confirmed yet.



PSG Thrash Montpellier 6-0 in Mbappe's Absence

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) delivered a dominant performance, beating Montpellier 6-0 on Friday night at the Parc des Princes, showcasing their strength despite the absence of Kylian Mbappe. PSG coach Luis Enrique hailed the display as "perfection" after seeing goals from Bradley Barcola (twice), Marco Asensio, Achraf Hakimi, Warren Zaire-Emery, and Lee Kang-in.

Enrique praised the entire squad, saying, "We had 16 stars tonight, all the players who took part. Sixteen stars in attack and defense, that is perfection." The win continues PSG's strong start to the season, with the reigning Ligue 1 champions scoring 10 goals in their first two matches, signaling a bright future despite Mbappe's departure.

The lineup featured a mix of youth and experience, including two teenagers and eight players aged between 18 and 25. Notably, 19-year-old Joao Neves, a summer signing from Benfica for up to 69.9 million euros, made his first start. Another young recruit, 19-year-old Desire Doue, who joined from Rennes for an initial 50 million euros, made his debut as a substitute.



The Buckingham Murders Sparks Excitement with New Poster and Release Date

The upcoming film *The Buckingham Murders* has been a focal point of excitement since its announcement, particularly due to the collaboration between acclaimed actress Kareena Kapoor and renowned producer Ekta R Kapoor under the direction of Hansal Mehta. This highly anticipated project has captured the imagination of audiences, and the recent teaser has only fueled the buzz, receiving widespread praise and significantly boosting interest.

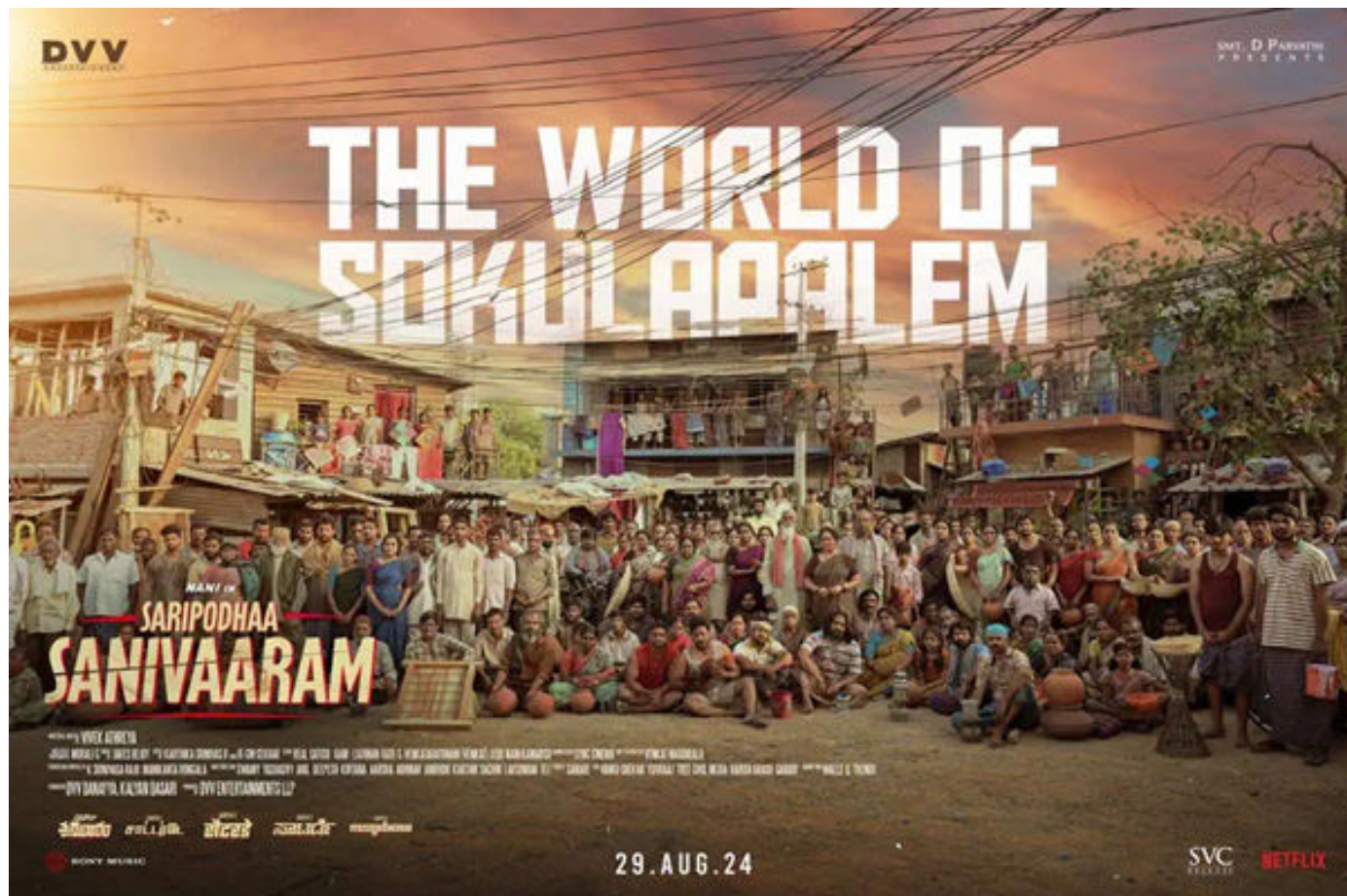
Adding to the anticipation, the filmmakers have now released a new poster showcasing Kareena Kapoor in a striking and intriguing look, further amplifying excitement for the film. Kapoor's fresh appearance in the poster hints at a gripping and dynamic role, promising to captivate viewers when the film hits theaters.

Scheduled for release on September 13, 2024, *The Buckingham Murders* is set



to be a major cinematic event. With its star-studded cast and the creative team behind the project, expectations are high for a compelling and memorable film. As the release date approaches, the anticipation continues to build, making it one of the most eagerly awaited films of the year.

Nani's New Film: Saripodhaa Sanivaaram Set for a 2 Hour 50 Minute Run



Saripodhaa Sanivaaram is generating buzz as one of the most anticipated films, featuring Natural Star Nani in the lead role and directed by Vivek Athreya. This film marks the second collaboration between Nani and Athreya, following their first project, *Ante Sundaraniki*. The team has confirmed that *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* will run for 2 hours and 50 minutes.

The runtime of *Ante Sundaraniki* was around 2 hours and 56 minutes, which received criticism from some audiences and reviewers for its length. With *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram* approaching a similar duration, there may be concerns about the film's pacing. However, the filmmakers are optimistic that this time,

viewers will remain engaged throughout.

Saripodhaa Sanivaaram is set to be an intense action drama with elements of romance. This film represents a departure for Vivek Athreya, who is venturing into the action genre for the first time. The cast includes Priyanka Arul Mohan and SJ Suryah, adding to the film's appeal.

Scheduled for release on the 29th of this month, the film is expected to offer a blend of gripping action and heartfelt storytelling. Fans are eager to see how Athreya's new direction and Nani's performance will resonate with audiences.

SS Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu Tease New Project

SS Rajamouli is teaming up with Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu for their upcoming film, tentatively titled *SSMB29*. This will mark Mahesh Babu's 29th film, and while official details are still under wraps, speculation about the project is already buzzing.

Recent developments have fueled excitement among fans. TP Vijayan, who is collaborating with Rajamouli on the film, recently posted an image of golden eagle wings. This has led to widespread speculation that the film's title or theme may be connected to this imagery. Additionally, an old video resurfacing of Rajamouli discussing a dream project named *Garuda* has further stoked the rumors. The mythical bird, Garuda, could potentially be linked to the new film, sparking intrigue about its possible storyline or symbolism.

Although no official announcements have been made regarding the title, cast, or specific details, the early hints and imagery have created a buzz in the industry and among fans. The collaboration between Rajamouli, known for his grand storytelling, and Mahesh Babu, a



leading star in Telugu cinema, promises to be a major cinematic event.

As anticipation builds, more information is expected to be revealed in the

coming months. Fans and industry watchers are eagerly awaiting further updates on *SSMB29*, hoping for confirmation of the title and additional details about the film's direction.

Ruhani Sharma Responds to Online Criticism After Agra Leak



Actor Ruhani Sharma has expressed her distress following the online leak of intimate scenes from her upcoming Hindi film *Agra*. In a heartfelt note shared on Instagram, Sharma addressed the negative reactions and judgment she has faced since the film's scenes went viral. The film, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight in 2023, has been the subject of controversy and trolling, particularly targeting Sharma for her involvement in the intimate scenes.

Sharma, who had initially held back from commenting, chose to speak out after feeling overwhelmed by the situation. She wrote, "It's heartbreaking to see our months of hard work, dedication, and passion being disregarded in this way. Creating an art film is an intense journey filled with countless challenges, sleepless

nights, and unwavering commitment." She highlighted the swift judgments and objectification she has faced, emphasizing the effort that went into the film.

Calling *Agra* a "labour of love," Sharma defended her role and the film's artistic choices. She noted that the film's international acclaim, including its Cannes premiere, speaks to its quality and the team's dedication. "What's even disheartening is how quick some are to judge without understanding the blood, sweat, and tears that go into bringing such a project to life," she added.

Sharma concluded by asking for respect for the film and its artistic intent. She underscored that art often challenges viewers and evokes deep emotions, rather than simply providing comfort.

Taapsee Pannu Discusses Challenges of Being an Outsider in Bollywood

Taapsee Pannu, who proudly identifies as an outsider in the film industry, has navigated a career marked by both triumphs and challenges while maintaining a commitment to diverse film roles. Known for her willingness to experiment with her choices, Taapsee has openly discussed the difficulties faced by outsiders, who lack industry connections, in establishing themselves in Bollywood.

In a recent interview with ANI, held in conjunction with the release of her Netflix film *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba*, Taapsee addressed the concept of forming cliques within the industry. She acknowledged that while the presence of such groups is a reality, it also has its merits. "One thing that is really good about kids who come from film families,



the so-called nepotism products, is that they stay together, stick together, and support each other," Taapsee said.

Her comment reflects the often-discussed dynamics between insiders and outsiders in Bollywood, highlighting how industry connections can play a significant role in career advancement. Despite facing tougher odds, Taapsee's career is a testament to her resilience and determination to carve out a space for herself through her talent and relentless effort.

By continually pushing boundaries and speaking candidly about the industry's inner workings, Taapsee Pannu remains a notable figure, championing the cause of those striving to make their mark without the advantage of established connections. Her journey underscores the ongoing conversation about nepotism and the hurdles that many face in the competitive world of cinema.