

Weather Forecast

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

HYDRA's Crackdown on Illegal Constructions Raises Concerns Among Elite



TPN, Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency, commonly known as HYDRA, has become a focal point of attention in Hyderabad under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Established to combat encroachments and illegal constructions, HYDRA has already made headlines by demolishing several structures across the city, most recently the N Convention Center in Madhapur, owned by Tollywood star Akkineni Nagarjuna.

The demolition of N Convention has not only sent shockwaves through the city's elite but has also reignited discussions about what HYDRA's next target might be. Many in Hyderabad's high society are reportedly on edge, concerned that their properties could be next on HYDRA's list of illegal constructions.

Revanth Reddy had flagged the issue of land and pond encroachments in Hyderabad as early as 2016, during his time in the Assembly. He pointed out that these encroachments were contributing to the shrinking of water bodies, which in turn exacerbated flooding during the monsoon season. Now, as Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy has empowered HYDRA to take decisive action against such encroachments, signaling a no-tolerance policy towards any illegal structures, regardless of the owner's status.

HYDRA, led by Ranganadh, has been granted the autonomy to operate without political interference, allowing it to carry out its mandate effectively. The agency has already identified several illegal constructions, including those belonging to prominent celebrities and business figures. While some cases are currently under judicial review, others are being actively pursued by HYDRA, which has compiled a list of potential targets for demolition.

The demolition of Nagarjuna's N Convention has sparked widespread speculation about HYDRA's next move. Many believe that the agency could target other high-profile properties, including villas and bungalows built in violation of municipal and environmental regulations. The fear of impending demolitions has gripped the city's elite, who are now scrambling to ensure their properties comply with legal standards.

Public reaction to HYDRA's actions has been mixed. While some praise Revanth Reddy and the agency for their bold stance against illegal encroachments, others, particularly those in the real estate and entertainment industries, are anxiously awaiting to see which properties will be targeted next.

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana government has commenced the demolition of actor Akkineni Nagarjuna's N Convention Hall in Madhapur after confirming allegations that the structure encroached upon the Tummidikunta pond. The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRA) led the action, following multiple complaints that the convention center was illegally built on public land.

HYDRA's investigation revealed that the N Convention Center had occupied approximately 3 acres of the 30-acre Tummidikunta pond. Despite previous warnings and halted demolition attempts, HYDRA, under Commissioner AV Ranganathan, has moved forward with the demolition, signaling a strict stance against illegal constructions in Hyderabad.

HYDRA has been actively targeting illegal encroachments in the city, regardless of the owner's prominence. The agency's actions include a planned demolition of the Jawwada Farm House, reportedly linked to KTR, which is currently under legal scrutiny.

HYDRA Demolishes Nagarjuna's N Convention Hall for Pond Encroachment



Court Gives Stay Order On Demolition

TPN, Hyderabad: Actor Akkineni Nagarjuna has approached the Telangana High Court following the initiation of demolition work on his N Convention Center in Madhapur by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRA). The demolition began on Saturday morning after HYDRA officials received multiple complaints alleging that the convention center was built by encroaching on a nearby lake.

In response, Nagarjuna filed a motion petition, which was reviewed by Justice T Vinod Kumar. The court has reportedly issued a stay on the demolition, providing temporary relief to Nagarjuna.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Raghunandhan Rao criticized the court's decision to grant a stay,

arguing that the construction was illegal. He demanded that the government take action to demolish all other illegal properties built on encroached lakes in Hyderabad, asserting the need to protect the city's water bodies.



Commissioner Ranganath Clarifies Demolition of N Convention



TPN, Hyderabad: HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath provided a detailed explanation regarding the recent demolition of the N Convention Center in Madhapur, Hyderabad, which is owned by actor Akkineni Nagarjuna. Ranganath stated that the N Convention was one of several unauthorized structures built within the Tummidikunta pond area, specifically in both the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones.

Case Filed Against BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy Over Illegal Construction at Anurag University

HYDRA's Next Target: Former Telangana Minister Mallareddy?

Hero Nagarjuna Response



TPN, Hyderabad: Tollywood star Akkineni Nagarjuna has expressed strong disapproval of the demolition of his N Convention Center in Gachibowli by the Telangana government, led by Revanth Reddy. The action, carried out by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HYDRA), was taken on the grounds of illegal construction. Nagarjuna, however, condemned the move and vowed to challenge it in court.

In a statement, Nagarjuna expressed his frustration over what he termed an "illegal demolition," especially given that there were existing court orders and stay notices that he believes were disregarded. He emphasized that the demolition was conducted without prior notice and while legal proceedings were still ongoing, which he finds deeply troubling.

Nagarjuna said, "Pained by the unlawful manner of demolition carried out in respect of N Convention, contrary to existing stay orders and Court cases. I thought it fit to issue this statement to place on record certain facts to protect my reputation and to indicate that we have not done any actions in violation of the law. The land is a Patta land, and not even an inch of tank plan is encroached. In respect of the building constructed inside the private land, there is a stay order granted against any earlier illegal notice for demolition."



HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath Clarifies Demolition of Nagarjuna's N Convention

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He confirmed that the demolition was a joint effort involving HYDRA, GHMC, Town Planning, and Revenue department staff. According to Ranganath, the N Convention Center had encroached upon 1 acre and 12 pits within the FTL and an additional 2 acres and 18 pits in the buffer zone. He also noted that the structure was erected without the necessary construction permissions from GHMC. Although attempts were made in the past to secure these permissions, they were ultimately denied.

Addressing recent claims about a High Court stay on the demolition, Ranganath clarified that there was no such stay order in place prior to the demolition. He emphasized that the claim of an existing stay was entirely untrue. However, he acknowledged that the court issued a stay on the demolition after it had already begun, and assured that HYDRA would comply with the court's ruling moving forward.

Ranganath also mentioned that the management of N Convention had made multiple efforts to regularize the building, but these appeals were consistently rejected. He reiterated that the demolition was conducted strictly in accordance with the law, and as a result, the N Convention Center has now been completely razed.

Case Filed Against BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy Over Illegal Construction at Anurag University

A case has been registered against Janagama BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy following allegations of illegal construction at Anurag University Medical College, which is owned by him. The complaint, filed by officials from the irrigation department, claims that the university's medical college was constructed within the buffer zones of Venkatapuram and Nadham ponds in Medchal district.

The complaint led to the registration of a case at the Pocharam IT Corridor Police Station. The police have confirmed that

an investigation is underway to look into the matter and determine the extent of the violations.

This incident comes amidst a broader crackdown on illegal constructions within Hyderabad city limits, spearheaded by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HYDRA). Notably, HYDRA recently demolished the N Convention Center, owned by film actor Nagarjuna, in Madhapur for similar violations related to the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zone regulations.



HYDRA's Next Target: Former Telangana Minister Mallareddy?



TPN, Telangana: Reports are emerging that HYDRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency) may soon turn its focus towards former Telangana state minister Mallareddy. Allegations have surfaced that universities, colleges, and hospitals built by Mallareddy were constructed by encroaching on ponds and canals, prompting HYDRA to investigate these claims.

HYDRA officials have reportedly conducted inspections of the areas

in question, assessing the extent of the encroachments. Sources indicate that preparations are underway to initiate the demolition of these illegal structures if the allegations are confirmed.

This development follows closely on the heels of a case being registered against Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, another prominent figure, over similar accusations. Anurag University, associated with Rajeshwar Reddy, is alleged to have been built in a buffer zone, leading

to legal action. There is speculation that HYDRA may soon take decisive action in this case as well. As HYDRA continues its crackdown on illegal constructions, the focus on Mallareddy's properties signals that the agency is maintaining its commitment to enforcing land use regulations, regardless of the stature or influence of those involved. The potential targeting of Mallareddy's assets underscores the agency's broader mission to address encroachments and protect public lands across Hyderabad.

Government Launches 'SPEED' Initiative to Accelerate Key Development Projects



TPN, Telangana: The Telangana government has unveiled a new initiative called SPEED (Smart Proactive Efficient and Effective Delivery) aimed at fast-tracking the execution of critical development projects across the state. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will personally oversee the progress of 19 major projects under this program, ensuring that each is completed efficiently and on time.

The SPEED initiative includes a diverse range of projects such as the Musi Riverfront Development, satellite town development, metro rail expansion, and the construction of the Regional Ring Road and elevated corridors in Hyderabad. It also covers the development of new airports, Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, and the reorganization of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

In addition to infrastructure projects, SPEED focuses on social and educational initiatives. These include the Mahila Shakti Scheme, the construction of district federation buildings, residential school complexes, and the institutional development of Amma Adarsh Schools Committees. The program also targets healthcare improvements, such as the establishment of 15 new nursing colleges, 28 paramedical colleges, and the promotion of medical tourism.

To ensure the smooth execution of these projects, the SPEED program will involve monthly meetings with officials from relevant departments, where progress will be reviewed directly by the Chief Minister. Each department is tasked with creating specific plans, including detailed timelines, for the projects within their jurisdiction.

A key component of the SPEED initiative is a dedicated online portal managed by the Planning Department. This portal provides real-time updates on the progress of each project, allowing for continuous monitoring and ensuring that all activities adhere to the planned schedules.

The Telangana government's SPEED initiative is designed to eliminate obstacles across various sectors, facilitating the creation of quality infrastructure and driving economic growth throughout the state.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Supports Demolition of Nagarjuna's N Convention

TPN, Hyderabad: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has voiced his support for the recent demolition of the N Convention Center, owned by popular Telugu film actor Nagarjuna. During his visit to Delhi, Bhatti Vikramarka addressed the issue, stating that the demolition was justified as the construction had encroached not only on the buffer zone but also on the pond itself.

He emphasized that the government is committed to protecting public property and that actions against illegal constructions are taken only after due process, including issuing notices. Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that the government's primary responsibility is to



safeguard public resources, such as ponds and lakes, which have been encroached upon over the years.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that

HYDRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency) was established specifically to prevent such encroachments and to ensure that public lands are preserved. He also pointed out the widespread encroachment of ponds during the decade-long BRS rule, indicating that satellite imagery would be used to expose these violations to the public.

Bhatti Vikramarka assured that the government's actions are transparent and legally grounded, with notices issued before any demolition activities are carried out. This statement underscores the administration's resolve to address illegal constructions and protect public lands from unauthorized developments.

High Court Once Ordered N Convention to be Scrapped



TPN, Medak: The demolition of the N Convention Center, owned by film actor Nagarjuna, has sparked widespread attention, particularly due to allegations that the structure was built by encroaching on the Tammidi pond near Hi-Tech City. In response to these allegations, HYDRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency) took action and began demolishing the N Convention earlier today.

BJP MP Raghunandan Rao has weighed in on the controversy, stating that as far back as 2014, the High Court had ordered the annulment of the N Convention. He

criticized the then BRS government for failing to act on the court's directive, implying that political considerations may have played a role in the inaction.

Raghunandan Rao specifically targeted K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), who served as the municipal minister during that period, accusing him of neglecting the issue despite being in power for a decade. Rao questioned whether KTR was aware of the extent of pond encroachments in the city and criticized both the Congress and BRS leaders for spending time in blame games rather than addressing these illegal activities.

The MP's remarks add to the ongoing debate about the responsibility of past and present governments in managing and protecting public lands from unauthorized constructions. The High Court's previous order and the recent demolition have brought renewed focus on the issue of encroachments in Hyderabad.

KTR targets Telangana govt on Outer Ring Road lease row



TPN, Telangana: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has sharply criticized the Telangana government's stance on the lease of the Outer Ring Road (ORR), accusing the ruling Congress of making unfounded claims. The controversy centers around allegations from Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who claimed that the ORR was leased at an "unreasonably low price" by the previous BRS government.

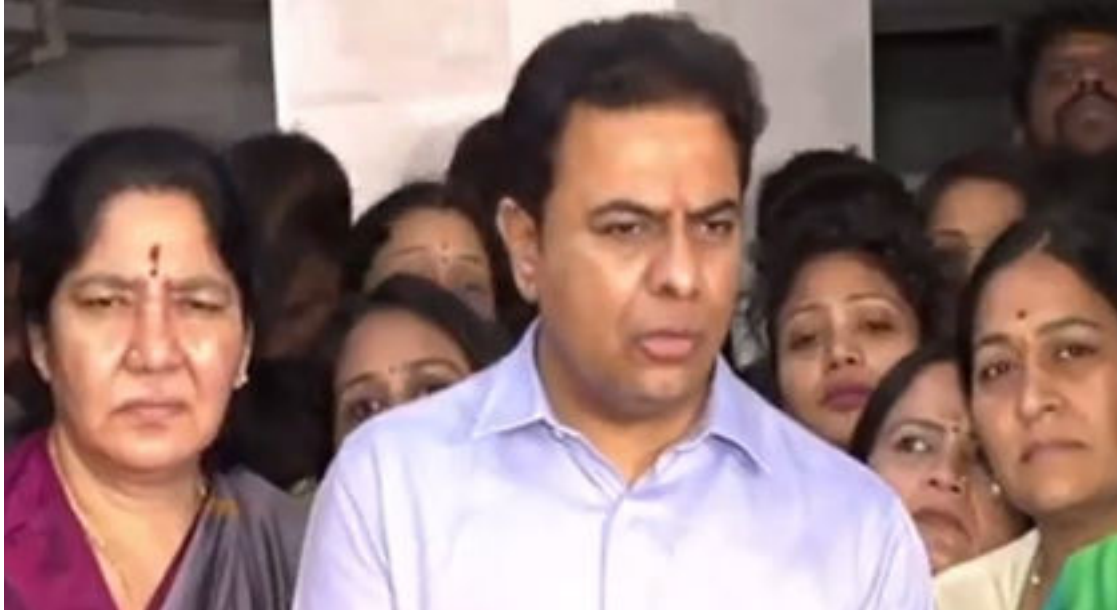
Taking to social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter) on Friday, August 23, KTR defended the decisions made under the previous administration. He responded to Srinivas Reddy's accusations by stating that the BRS government followed all necessary protocols and norms, including those laid out by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)*. He emphasized that the lease was awarded through a transparent process, which determined the final price.

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Congress Women Workers Demand Apology from KTR, Clash with BRS



TPN, Hyderabad: Tensions flared on Saturday, August 24, as Congress women workers clashed with Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) supporters outside the Telangana State Women's Commission at Buddha Bhavan. The confrontation occurred when BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) arrived at the commission office, where Congress women were protesting, demanding an apology from him for his recent remarks about women traveling in TGSRTC buses.

The Mahila Congress, led by state president Sunitha Rao, accused KTR of making derogatory comments about women and insisted on an apology. "He has insulted all women, and now he has come to the women's commission. We will not leave him if he doesn't apologise," stated Sunitha Rao, highlighting the group's anger over KTR's comments. Rao further questioned the sincerity of KTR's apology, saying, "He said it on X, so by saying it on X, is the matter finished?"

KTR's controversial remarks came during a discussion on the Congress government's free travel scheme for women in state-run RTC buses. He had commented that the BRS would have no objection if women took up

activities like knitting or even "break dancing" while traveling in buses, but he emphasized the need to avoid scuffles breaking out in public transport.

After appearing before the commission, KTR addressed the media, stating that he had already apologized for his remarks. "Immediately after I stated those words, I apologized, and I told the Women's Commission the same thing. Again, I told the Women's Commission that I am sorry if anyone's sentiments were hurt," KTR said.

He also condemned the actions of Congress workers, alleging that BRS women leaders were attacked during the protest. "In politics, there should be a culture where if someone has made a mistake, they should have the courage to accept it and apologize. But attacking our party's women representatives is not acceptable. Some women told me that Mahila Congress activists used small articles like nail cutters to attack them," KTR added, denouncing the violence.

The incident has further heightened political tensions between the Congress and BRS in Telangana.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Calls for Action on Lake Encroachment Across Telangana

TPN, Telangana: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has issued a call to action for citizens and local communities across Telangana to actively participate in reporting and addressing the encroachment of lakes and water bodies. This initiative is part of a broader effort to safeguard the state's natural resources and maintain ecological balance.

In his appeal, Minister Prabhakar emphasized the critical importance of protecting lakes and other water bodies, which play a vital role in sustaining the environment and ensuring the well-being of future generations. He highlighted that any encroachment on these water bodies must be reported to the relevant authorities, regardless of the scale of the encroachment or the status of the individuals involved.

Prabhakar urged citizens to be vigilant and proactive in safeguarding their local water bodies. He stated, "If you observe any encroachment or unauthorized activity affecting lakes in your area, please bring this information to the attention of the government. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that these vital resources are preserved."

Ponnam Prabhakar assured the public that the government is committed to taking action against encroachments. "Officials will investigate any reported encroachments and take appropriate measures, regardless of who is involved," he said. This approach underscores the government's dedication to environmental protection and equitable enforcement of regulations.

Addressing the residents of Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts, Prabhakar emphasized the importance of community involvement in the conservation of local lakes. He pointed out that protecting these



water bodies is not only about preserving natural beauty but also about ensuring a sustainable environment for future generations. "We must work together to safeguard our lakes and other natural resources," he urged.

Minister Prabhakar made it clear that the government's efforts to address lake encroachment are driven by a commitment to public welfare and environmental sustainability, not by political motivations. He stressed that the initiative is part of a broader strategy to bring about positive change and effective governance. "This is not about targeting individuals or political parties but about ensuring that our natural resources are protected for the benefit of everyone," he explained.

Furthermore, Prabhakar addressed concerns about the potential for political conflicts in the enforcement of conservation measures. He reassured citizens that the government's actions are focused on achieving tangible results and fostering a culture of environmental stewardship. "We are committed to transformation through responsible governance," he said.

Former MP Madhuyashki Goud's Response to KTR's Allegations

Former MP Madhuyashki Goud has issued a press note responding to recent claims made by K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), Working President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Goud refuted KTR's allegations regarding the ownership and opulence of a farmhouse.

Goud asserted, "I do not have a farmhouse to enjoy royal pleasures like you, KTR. You have a farmhouse in Janwada where you reportedly visit four times a week for leisure. You, who have built properties in violation of the III GO, are maintaining that farmhouse under fictitious names."

He emphasized that he leads a simple life, saying, "I do not possess luxurious farmhouses like yours. I live among the people and lead an ordinary life."

Goud acknowledged owning mango and sapota plantations near Gandipet but clarified that these are modest and include only a small, old house for the watchman's family. "There is no lavish farmhouse there. It is a misunderstanding to think that agriculture and horticulture are not feasible in FTL and buffer zones," he explained.

He criticized KTR for repeatedly claiming that



Goud owns a lavish farmhouse in these restricted zones. "It is shameful that KTR continues to falsely claim that I have a lavish farmhouse in FTL and buffer zones," Goud said.

He concluded by challenging KTR to provide evidence of the alleged farmhouse and urged him to cease spreading falsehoods. "KTR should show where this alleged farmhouse is and how it has been constructed so extravagantly. It is time to stop telling lies and engaging in frivolous talk," Goud stated.

Harish Rao Urges Release of Funds for Best Available School Scheme

TPN, Telangana: Siddipet MLA and former Telangana Finance Minister T Harish Rao has called for the immediate release of ₹80 crores for the Best Available School (BAS) Scheme, which has been on hold due to the model code of conduct during the recent assembly elections. In a letter addressed to the current Telangana Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Rao emphasized the importance of these funds, which are critical for the education of 25,000 underprivileged students across the state.

Rao noted that in the 2023-24 academic year, the previous BRS government had allocated ₹130 crores for the BAS scheme, with ₹50 crores already released as the first installment. The remaining ₹80 crores, however, were delayed due to the election code and have yet to be disbursed.

He stressed that this delay is particularly detrimental to the students, with 18,000 of them belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) communities and 7,000 to Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. Most of these students come from families facing severe economic hardships, many of whom rely on daily labor for survival.

Harish Rao highlighted the significance of the BAS scheme, which was initially launched in 2007 under then-Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy, supporting 8,000 students at the time. He praised the BRS government's efforts, under Chief Minis-



ter K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), to expand the program significantly, increasing the number of participating schools from 80 to 150 and the number of students from 8,000 to 25,000 annually.

Rao expressed disappointment over the current delay in releasing funds, stressing that the timely distribution of resources is essential for the continued education of these vulnerable students. He urged the Telangana government to act swiftly to ensure that the BAS scheme can continue to provide crucial support to those in need.

Telangana Directed to Pay ₹2,500 Crore to Andhra Pradesh as Loan Settlement

TPN, Telangana: The Telangana government has been instructed to pay ₹2,500 crore to Andhra Pradesh, following a directive from the Department of Expenditure of the Union Finance Ministry. The payment, which was reportedly ordered on Friday, August 23, is intended as reimbursement for money spent from public debt accounts by Andhra Pradesh on projects located in Telangana prior to the bifurcation of the state in 2014.

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, mandates that all loans related to the public debt of the erstwhile unified Andhra Pradesh be shared between the successor states based on their population ratio. However, Andhra Pradesh had contested paying for debts incurred on projects within Telangana, such as the Outer Ring Road in Hyderabad.



The Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led Andhra Pradesh government took the matter to the central government, which ultimately ruled in Andhra Pradesh's favor. The directive obliges Telangana to settle the debt with Andhra Pradesh as per the provisions outlined in the Reorganisation Act.

According to Section 2 of the Public Debt provision in the Act, the allocation of liabilities and contributions between the successor states is to be determined by the Central Government, based on the advice of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Until such allocations are formally ordered, liabilities remain with Andhra Pradesh.

In response to this development, the Congress-led Telangana government is reportedly planning to raise its concerns regarding the Reorganisation Act. Telangana has nominated senior lawyer and former Additional Solicitor General of India, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, as the state's Rajya Sabha nominee, with the intent to address these issues both in Parliament and the Supreme Court.

KTR targets Telangana govt on Outer Ring Road lease row

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"The Congress ministers in Telangana are still in opposition mode, making random statements even after nine months of being in office," KTR posted. He criticized the Congress-led government for what he called "frivolous claims," accusing them of continuing to act as if they were still in opposition rather than governing the state.

KTR went further by issuing a challenge to the state government, urging them to cancel the current Toll, Operate, Transfer (TOT) lease of the ORR if they genuinely believed it was undervalued. He called for fresh bids to be invited for the lease to prove whether their claims hold any merit. "If this is what they actually believe, I demand the government to cancel the TOT lease and call for fresh bids immediately," KTR wrote.

His remarks appeared to be a direct response to Srinivas Reddy's earlier assertion that the ORR had been leased at a "throwaway price" by the BRS government. By demanding immediate action, KTR suggested that failure to act would expose the government's claims as mere political rhetoric aimed at discrediting the previous administration.

Vigilance Department Conducts Inspections, Books 42 Cases, and Levies ₹10.54 Lakh in Fines



TPN, Telangana: The Telangana Vigilance and Enforcement Department conducted a significant inspection on the night of August 22-23, 2024, resulting in the booking of 42 cases for various violations. The route inspections, held in the Ghatkesar area of Medchal-Malkajgiri district and Hasanparthy in Hanamkonda district, were part of a coordinated effort involving the Mines, Transport, and State Tax departments.

The inspections targeted vehicles for violations such as overloading, lack of proper licenses, and missing transit forms. Several vehicles were seized during the operation, and fines totaling ₹10,54,833 were imposed on the offenders.

In a statement posted on 'X' (formerly Twitter), the Director General of the Vigilance and Enforcement Department confirmed the successful inspection, highlighting the teamwork between various governmental agencies to ensure compliance with regulations. The department's efforts aim to curb illegal activities and ensure safe and legal transportation practices within the state.

Nagarjuna's N Convention Demolished by HYDRA Despite High Court Stay Order

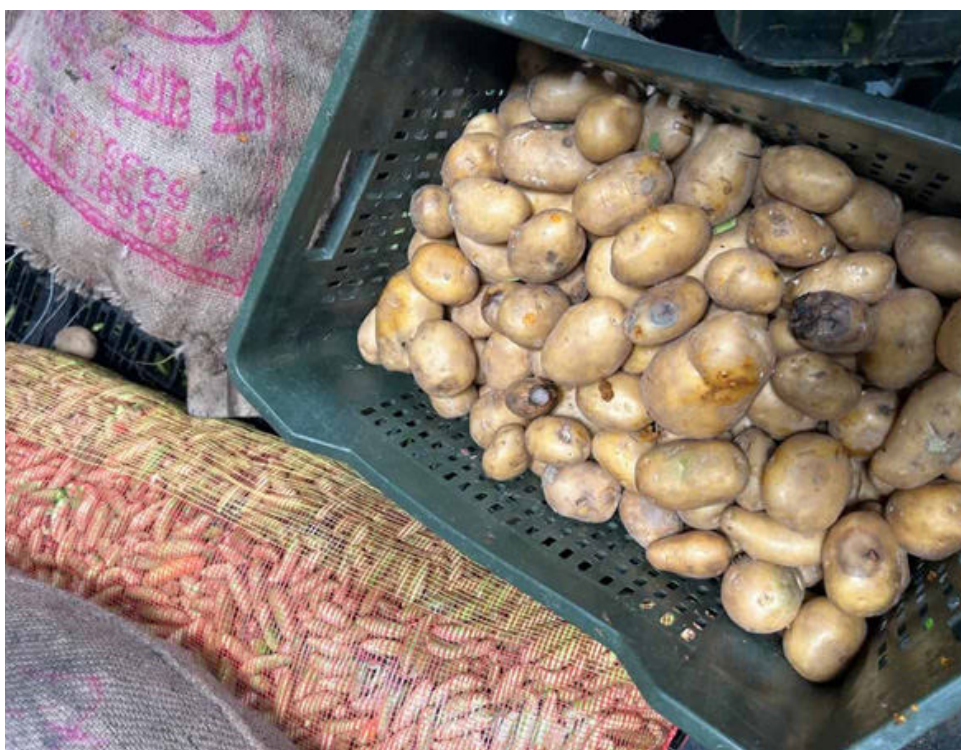
TPN Hyderabad : Tollywood actor Akkineni Nagarjuna expressed strong disapproval following the demolition of his N Convention venue by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) team on August 24. Nagarjuna claimed he was not given prior notice about the demolition, which he described as unlawful and conducted in disregard of existing stay orders and ongoing court cases.

In a statement on X, Nagarjuna clarified that the property in question is situated on Patta land, not encroaching upon any designated tank plan areas. He emphasized that the demolition was carried out based on misinformation and that the building was constructed on private land with a stay order

in place against previous demolition notices.

Nagarjuna's statement came in response to HYDRA's claim that the N Convention was built within the Tammidi Kunta buffer zone and the Full Tank Limit (FTL) area. According to reports, the property allegedly encroached upon 1.12 acres within the FTL and 2 acres in the buffer zone. Despite Nagarjuna's appeal to the Telangana High Court, he did not receive relief from the legal proceedings.

HYDRA has been active in targeting illegal constructions within the FTL and buffer zones of Hyderabad's lakes. Earlier in the week, similar actions were taken against unauthorized structures around Gandipet Lake.



Food Safety Raids Target Hyderabad Hostels Amid Hygiene Concerns

TPN Hyderabad : In response to rising food hygiene concerns, Hyderabad's food safety department conducted raids on hostels from August 21 to August 24. Following orders from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), inspections covered 28 private and government residential schools and colleges across various city zones. The raids focused on kitchen conditions, cooking utensils, food storage, sanitation, and overall hygiene.

Raids were carried out in multiple zones: four hostels in LB Nagar, six in Charminar, five in Khairatabad, five in Serilingampally, four in Kukatpally, and four in Secunderabad. This follows earlier surprise inspections by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) earlier this month, which highlighted similar issues across ten government hostels, including two in Hyderabad.

The inspections revealed numerous irregularities, including inflated student counts, unsanitary conditions in kitchens and washrooms, inadequate drinking water, poor lighting and ventilation, and failure to maintain proper food menus. Issues like the neglect of providing daily eggs and milk were also noted.

City Police Commissioner Reviews Ganesh Chaturthi Preparations



TPN Hyderabad : With Ganesh Chaturthi approaching in less than a month, City Police Commissioner Kothakota Sreenivasa Reddy convened a coordination meeting on August 24 to address various issues related to the festival. Representatives from the Bhayyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi and the Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Samithi attended the meeting, raising concerns about potholes, inadequate illumination, vehicle availability for mandapam organizers, and arrangements for food and water during the immersion night.

In response, authorities committed to addressing these issues by providing necessary resources, including

cranes, road repair services, lighting installations, and measures to prevent electrocution. Additionally, they pledged to supply tuskers and other heavy vehicles and to conduct tree-pruning as needed.

The commissioner emphasized adherence to court orders and requested that the utsav samithis complete and submit the intimation forms distributed during the meeting. He assured that all efforts would be made to ensure a smooth and trouble-free festival for devotees. The commissioner also called for cooperation from various departments to ensure the successful execution of the festival plans.

Gang of Thieves Arrested in Hyderabad, Valuables Worth ₹8.8 Lakh Recovered

TPN Hyderabad : On Friday, August 23, the Task Force (North) team, in collaboration with the Begumpet police, apprehended a four-member gang of thieves involved in diverting victims' attention to steal their belongings. The operation resulted in the recovery of gold and silver ornaments, cash, and mobile phones valued at ₹8.8 lakh.

The arrested individuals include Irfan

from North East Delhi, Mohd Feroz from Borabanda, and Shakir along with his wife Rubi, both from Uttar Pradesh. Irfan, identified as the gang's kingpin, orchestrated the thefts, primarily targeting passengers at crowded bus and railway stations.

The modus operandi of the gang involved creating distractions to steal. Mohammed Feroz would pose as an auto-rickshaw driver, while Shakir

and Rubi would already be seated in the auto as passengers. When a victim boarded the auto, Feroz would hire them as additional passengers. Irfan would then board the vehicle as a passenger and, during the journey, the gang would seize the opportunity to steal the victim's bags and valuables.

Following a complaint lodged by a victim, the Task Force launched an investigation which led to the

arrest of the gang members. They were subsequently handed over to the Begumpet police for further legal proceedings.

This operation highlights the Task Force's commitment to tackling organized crime and safeguarding public safety by dismantling criminal networks involved in such deceptive and theft-related activities.

Women's Commission Takes Action Over Rakhi Tying Incident Involving KTR

TPN Hyderabad : The Telangana Women's Commission has taken swift action after a controversial incident involving K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) during his visit to their office. Six members of the Commission tied rakhis to KTR, sparking outrage from the Chairperson, Narella Sharada, who had previously instructed members to maintain impartiality on the premises.

Sharada expressed her dissatisfaction with the members' actions and directed the Secretary to issue notices to all six individuals involved. KTR had visited the Commission office as part of an official inquiry, and the rakhi ceremony took place during this visit. This event was seen as a violation of the Commission's impartial stance.

Adding to the controversy was the use of mobile phones to secretly record videos of the rakhi tying, despite a strict no-phone policy within the office. The videos, which were filmed and later shared, intensified the Chairperson's concern. Sharada highlighted that such actions could harm the credibility and integrity of the Commission, which is meant to operate with fairness and



transparency.

The Commission has now launched an internal inquiry into the incident. Legal advice is being sought to determine the next steps, with the Chairperson signaling that strict action may be taken against the six members depending on the outcome of the investigation.

Sharada emphasized that maintaining the Commission's reputation is of utmost importance and warned that any behavior undermining its impartiality would not be tolerated. The Women's Commission is prepared to impose severe consequences if deemed necessary after receiving legal guidance.



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

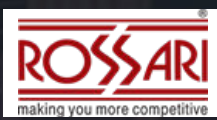


Market Cap : ₹10,000 crore
Overview : Finolex Cables is a leading manufacturer of electrical and telecommunication cables in India.

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.

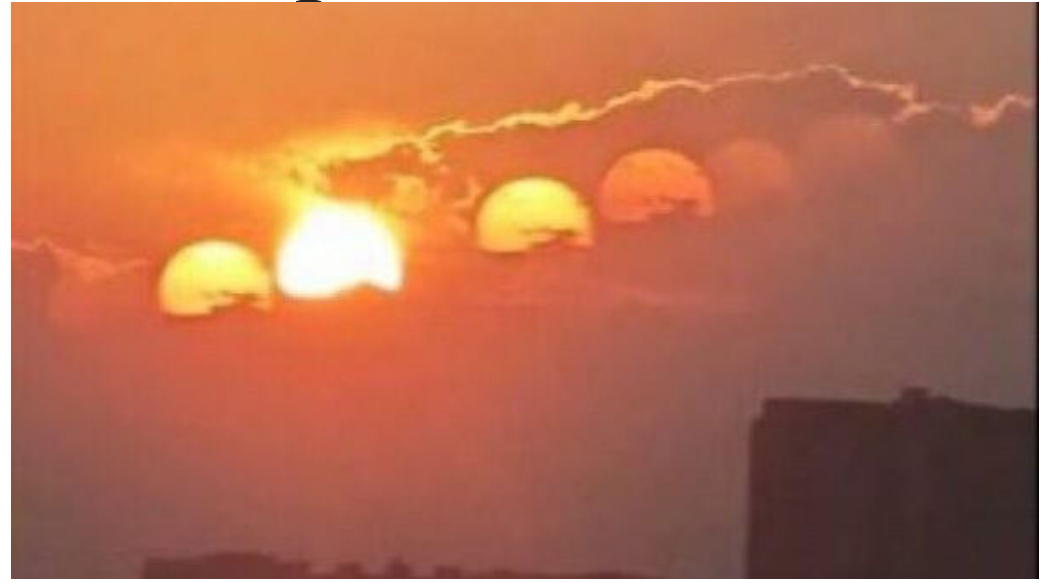
The introduction of this AI-driven support is a significant step in enhancing account security and recovery for YouTube creators, addressing a common issue of hacked channels and ensuring a smoother recovery process.

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.

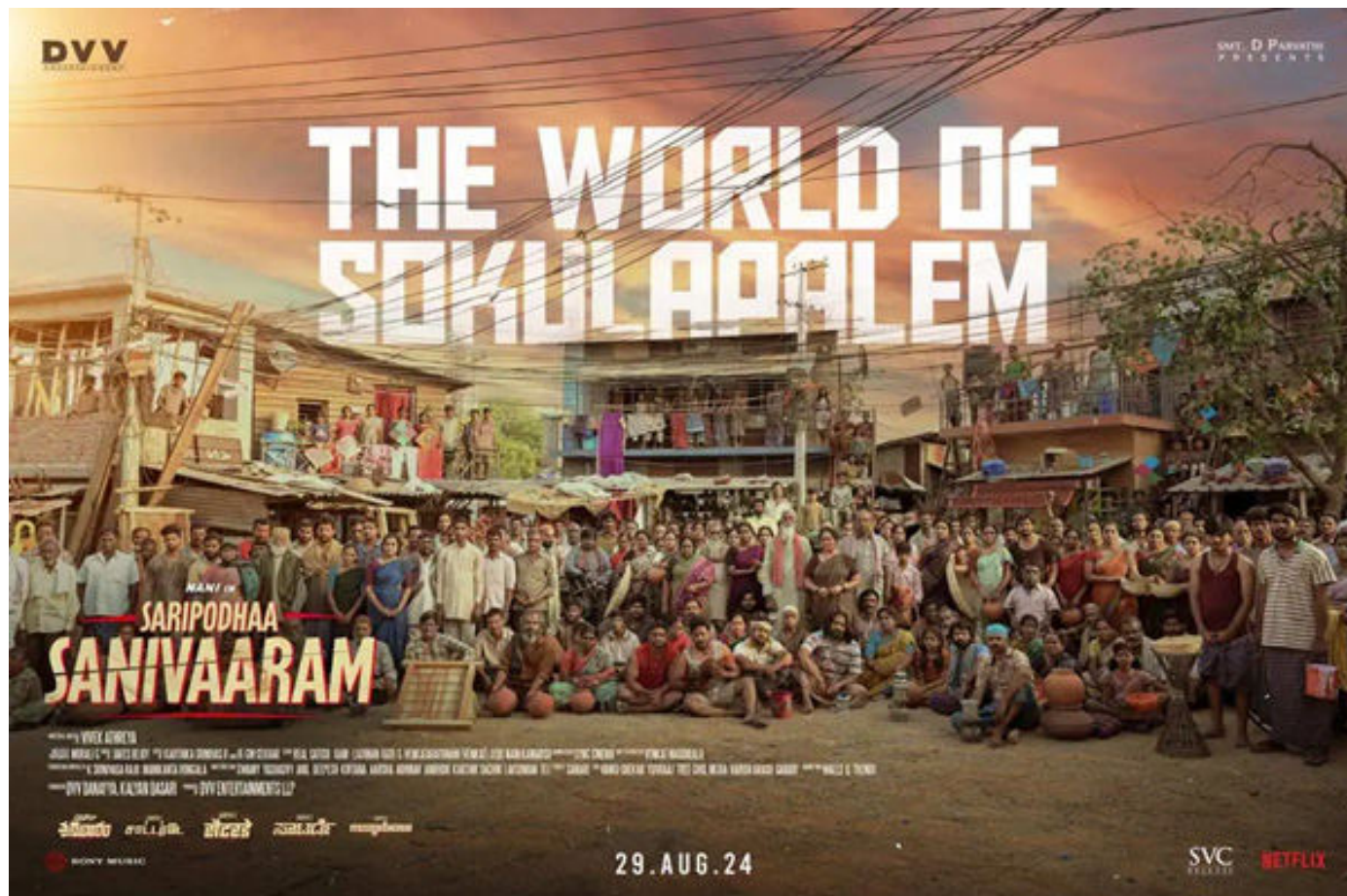
Adding to the anticipation, the filmmakers have now released a new poster showcasing Kareena Kapoor in a striking and intriguing look, further amplifying excitement for the film. Kapoor's fresh appearance in the poster hints at a gripping and dynamic role, promising to captivate viewers when the film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