

**JUST** NOW

Malayalam director Ranjith resigned as Kerala Chalachitra Academy chief after Bengali actress Sreelekha Mitra accused him of inappropriate behavior in 2009.

**India and Australia** concluded their tenth round of CECA trade talks, focusing on goods, services, and agriculture. The next meeting is in November.

Chirag Paswan was unanimously re-elected as LJP (Ram Vilas) chief for five years at the party's national executive meeting.

A major accident was averted as Dhanbadbound Kisan Express split into two near Seohara in UP's Bijnor due to coupling failure.

# Revanth Reddy's Strong Stand on HYDRA Demolition: No One Will Be Spared

TPN, Telangana: The recent demolition of the N Convention Center, owned by veteran actor Akkineni Nagarjuna, has brought the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) system into the spotlight. This initiative, launched by the Telangana government, is aimed at protecting encroached ponds and demolishing illegal structures in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. With a team of 3,000 personnel, HYDRA has been making waves by taking down buildings and apartments constructed on ponds and their buffer zones.

The partial demolition of N Convention Center in Madapur's Tummidikunta Pond FTL (Full Tank Level) and Buffer Zone brought HYDRA significant attention. The operation, carried out by officials from HYDRA, GHMC, Town Planning, Irrigation, and Revenue Departments, initially led to the removal of several encroachments. However, after Nagarjuna sought legal intervention, the court granted a stay on further demolitions, providing him temporary relief.

Chief Revanth Reddy has made his first public comments on the matter, taking a firm stance against illegal constructions. He unequivocally stated that illegal structures in ponds would not be tolerated under any circumstances, regardless of the pressures or influences exerted by those involved. Reddy emphasized his commitment to freeing Hyderabad's ponds from illegal encroachments, vowing not to show leniency to anyone, including influential individuals with farmhouses



Revanth Reddy drew inspiration from the In the wake of these events, Telangana Congress teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, likening his resolve to demolish illegal structures to the principles espoused by Lord Krishna. He asserted that the demolition of these illegal structures was not a political maneuver or a party-driven agenda but rather a necessary action to uphold his responsibilities as a public representative. Reddy expressed concern that if such illegalities were allowed to persist, it would signify his failure in serving the public.

> Reddy acknowledged that some of those occupying city's water bodies the ponds might have significant influence, either

within the government or in society at large. However, he made it clear that these factors would not deter the government's efforts. He assured that anyone who has encroached upon the ponds would face consequences, no matter how powerful or influential they may be.

Revanth Reddy's comments underscore the Telangana government's unwavering stance on tackling illegal encroachments in Hyderabad, signaling that the HYDRA system will continue its aggressive campaign to restore and protect the

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**HYDRA Achieves Major Breakthrough** with 18 Demolitions in Telangana

TPN, Telangana: The Hydera bad Disaster VIPs. Response and Assets Protection Agency (HY DRA) has made significant progress in tackling illegal encroachments in Telangana. In a key breakthrough, the agency reported demolitions in 18 locations, recovering large tracts of land from unauthorized occupants. The operations targeted both private and high-profile properties, marking an assertive stance by the government against encroachments.

HYDRA has successfully reclai med a total of 43 acres of encroached land, including po ssessions held by prominent re al estate companies and

Lotus Pond, Film Nagar Co-operative

Society (27-06-2024): A park encroachment involving the

construction of a compound wall was removed, reclaiming 0.16 acres. The encroachment was by Gokul Narne.

Mansoorabad, Sahara Estates Road,

Hayathnagar Circle (01-07-2024) An encroachment on a road by fencing meant for road widening was removed, recovering 0.2 acres. This drive was conducted in coordination with the circle town planning department of

MP MLA Colony, Vijaya Cooperative **Housing Society (04-07-2024)** Three encroachments, including two ACC sheet sheds and a compound wall

> on parkland, were removed, reclaiming 0.06 acres.

GHMC.

Mithila Nagar, Road No.12, Banjara Hills (05-07-2024):

Two encroachments, comprising an ACC sheet shed and a compound wall on parkland, were removed, recovering 1.04 acres.

#### **Encroachment Removal Drives Conducted in** Hyd: July - August 2024

Over the past two months, multiple encroachment removal drives were conducted across various locations in Hyderabad, resulting in the recovery of significant public land. These drives were carried out in coordination with local authorities, including the GHMC and revenue department, to reclaim encroached land, particularly in parks, lakes, and government properties.

**BJR Nagar, Film Nagar (14-07-2024)** A Nala encroachment involving an RCC slab was demolished, recovering 5 acres.

#### Mahadevpuram, Gajularamaram (14-07-2024)

An under-construction RCC structure encroaching on park space was removed, reclaiming 0.01 acres.

Bhudevi Hills, Buffer Zone of Pariki Cheruvu, Gajularamaram (23-07-2024) Five encroachments involving basements constructed in a lake area were removed, recovering 1.1 acres.

#### Road No.10, Jubilee Hills, Babylon **Restaurant (27-07-2024)**

A footpath encroachment involving eight steel structures (columns) was removed, reclaiming 0.05 acres.

#### Ameerpet Nala Encroachment (03-08-2024)

Three RCC slab structures encroaching on a Nala were demolished, recovering 0.01 acres.





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#### **HYDRA Achieves Major Breakthrough with 18 Demolitions** in Telangana

Chinthal Cheruvu, Sy.No 329 of Gajularamaram *Village (06-08-2024):* 

A major encroachment involving 54 asbestos sheet roof structures in a lake area was removed, reclaiming 3.5 acres. The encroachment was linked to Sri. Ratnakaram Sai Raju, a local leader of the BRS party.

#### Nandagiri Hills, Road No.69, Jubilee Hills (09-08-2024)

Sixteen ACC sheet sheds encroaching on parkland were removed, reclaiming 0.18 acres. The demolition was opposed by MLA Sri Danam Nagender, who supported the encroachers.

Bhumruq Dowla Lake, Rajendranagar (10-08-2024) Forty-five encroachments, including compound walls, multiple multi-story buildings, were removed,

reclaiming 12 acres. Significant encroachments by Sri. Mohmad Mubeen (MLA, AIMIM party) and Mirza Rahmat Beig (MLC, AIMIM party) were demolished.

Erla Cheruvu, Chanda Nagar (10-08-2024) Three buildings, including a Ground+3 floors structure and two Ground+4 floors buildings encroaching on lake land, were removed, recovering 0.16 acres.

#### Errakunta, Pragathi Nagar, **Bachupally (14-08-2024)**

Three Ground+5 floors buildings encroaching on a lake area were removed, reclaiming 0.29 acres.

Boduppal, Revenue Land, Sy.No 3 (14-08-2024)

A government land encroachment involving an RCC structure was removed, reclaiming 0.03 acres. The drive was conducted with the coordination of the revenue department staff.

#### Gandipet Lake, Khanapur (18-08-2024)

Fourteen encroachments, including multiple buildings and temporary sheds in the lake area, were removed, reclaiming 8.75 acres. Notable demolitions included structures linked to Sri Pallam Anand (Congress Party) and Sri G.V. Bhasker Rao (Ex TTD Member, Kaveri Seeds owner).

#### **Gandipet, Chilukur (18-08-2024)**

TELANGANA

Ten encroachments, including multiple buildings and sheds in the Osmansagar lake area, were removed, reclaiming 6.5 acres. Structures belonging to Sri. Sunil Reddy (BJP), and Smt. Anupama (Pro Kabaddi owner) were among those demolished.

#### Thummidikunta Lake (N Convention), Madhapur (24-08-2024)

Ten encroachments, including large sheds, were removed, reclaiming 4.9 acres. Notable structures belonging to Film Hero Nagarjuna were demolished.

These drives are part of ongoing efforts to protect public lands and prevent illegal encroachments in Hyderabad.

#### Nandagiri Hills Operation and MLA Case

One of the most high-profile operations took place in \*Nandagiri Hills, where acres of land were reclaimed from encroachers. The operation garnered significant attention as a case was registered against Congress MLA \*\*Danam Nagender\*, who allegedly attempted to prevent the demolition. The case highlights the agency's determination to proceed with its operations, regardless of political influence or resistance.

# **Minister** Ponguleti's Stern Warning to **Revenue Officials**



Telangana: Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy delivered a strong message to the officials of the Registrations and Stamps Department during a meeting at MHRD in Jubilee Hills on Sunday. The meeting, attended by Sub Registrars, DIGs, Joint DGs, IG, and Additional IG Stationary Officers, saw the minister expressing his dissatisfaction with the performance of certain officials in the revenue department.

Minister Ponguleti did not hold back, stating that any mistakes made by officials would not be forgiven. He emphasized the need for accountability and urged the officials to bring a good name to the revenue system. He cautioned that if their performance did not improve, serious action would be taken. "There is no excuse if the officials make a mistake. Perform duties with humanity and serve the public," he said.

The meeting included discussions on raising the market value of land across the state and addressing employee concerns and outstanding dues. Recently, officials from the department had toured various states to study different issues related to land registration and revenue generation, and the minister reviewed the reports they had submitted.

Minister Ponguleti made it clear that there would be no tolerance for malpractices, especially regarding the registration of government lands. He warned that the registration of lands to powerful individuals at the expense of the poor would not be tolerated. "The government should give land to the poor, not to those with influence," he emphasized.

He also addressed the issue of promotions, stating that promotions should be based on merit and performance, without interference from any political influences. He expressed frustration with the conduct of some officials, calling it "shameful." Minister Ponguleti assured that constant reviews would be conducted across all departments, and those found guilty of misconduct would face strict consequences.

# **Secunderabad Railway Station** Modernization to Be Completed by 2026

TPN, Telangana: Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, Ravneet Singh Bittu, has provided an update on the Rs 700 crore modernization project for Secunderabad railway station, revealing that the initiative is on track for completion by 2026. As of August 24, approximately 27% of the project has been completed. ambitious redevelopment aims to elevate the station to world-class standards, blending modern architectural elements with traditional features to create a facility comparable to major international airports.

During a press conference held at the Secunderabad station, Singh highlighted the significant progress made by the South Central Railway



(SCR) team. He praised their swift work and commitment to adhering to the project's timeline. The modernization project, initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, includes a comprehensive overhaul of the station's infrastructure and amenities.

The redevelopment will introduce is part of a broader initiative to several key features designed to modernize railway infrastructure enhance passenger experience. These include a spacious roof plaza, a variety of cafeterias, recreational areas, and retail shops that will focus on promoting local products. In addition to these amenities, the upgraded station will incorporate sustainable practices. Green energy solutions such as solar panels and sewage treatment plants will be installed to minimize environmental impact and reduce water pollution.

The design and development of the new station are being carefully planned to meet passenger needs for the next 50 years, ensuring longterm functionality and efficiency.

This forward-thinking approach across India.

The Central government has allocated over Rs 5,000 crore to the South Central Railway (SCR) under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, targeting the development of 119 railway stations across the network. As part of this scheme, major upgrades are also planned for other key railway terminals in the twin cities, including Hyderabad and Kacheguda. Proposals for these stations are in the final stages of development, further indicating the government's commitment to enhancing railway infrastructure in the region.

#### Etala Rajender Demands Fair **Treatment for Telangana School Workers**



TPN, Telangana: Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etala Rajender addressed the Telangana Government Schools Lunch Workers Union's protest at Dharnachowk, expressing strong support for their demands. Rajender criticized the practice of paying lunch workers with grants for multiple months instead of providing regular, monthly payments. He asserted that it is inappropriate for workers to use their own funds to cook for the children, and emphasized the need for timely adjustments in compensation to match rising prices for essentials like eggs and milk.

Rajender pointed out that prior to Revanth Reddy's election, numerous promises were made, including an increase in salaries for government school cooks. He urged that these promises, including a proposed salary of ten thousand rupees for the cooks, be implemented without delay.

Additionally, Rajender questioned the handling of funds allocated by the Central Government for Basan, accusing the administration of improperly diverting these funds rather than distributing them to the intended beneficiaries. He condemned the notion that these workers are being mistreated and accused of dishonesty. Rajender called for immediate action to ensure that the central government funds reach the workers as promised.

# Warangal Collector Orders Inquiry into Allegations Against DPRO

TPN, Telangana: Warangal Collector Satya Sharada has initiated an investigation The woman APRO reported that she had Ali, following a complaint submitted by T. Sandeep, State General Secretary of the All India Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangam (AIAYS). The inquiry concerns claims that the DPRO made derogatory remarks against a woman setting. Assistant Public Relations Officer (APRO).

According to the representation from Sandeep, the incident took place on August 15 during the Independence Day celebrations. Sandeep alleges that the DPRO insulted the woman APRO and used inappropriate language in fro nt of senior officials. He has called for action under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

into allegations against District Public approached the DPRO to request a copy of Relations Officer (DPRO) Mohammad Ayub Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's speech. During this interaction, she claims the DPRO abused her without any provocation. She also mentioned that the DPRO continued to use derogatory language in the office

> Upon receiving the complaint, the Collector directed the assistant collector to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter and submit a detailed report. The incident has drawn attention from the Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangam, which has been actively involved in advocating for the APRO's cause and seeking

# Gandipet Residents Rally in **Support of HYDRA Demolitions**

TPN, Telangana: On Sunday, August 25, severe water shortages similar to the drought residents of the Gandipet Welfare Association held a rally in support of the Telangana government's Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) demolition drives. The event, held at Rajendra Nagar, was supported by local walker clubs and other organizations.

Participants in the rally emphasized the critical need to protect Hyderabad's water bodies, citing concerns about the dangers posed by encroachment and unauthorized construction near these areas, especially during the summer months. They warned that failure to preserve the lakes could lead to faced by Bengaluru in early 2024.

The HYDRA demolition drives are focused on removing encroachments and illegal constructions in buffer zones around the city's water bodies. On Saturday, the N Convention Centre, owned by Tollywood star Nagarjuna Akkineni, was among the structures demolished for violating these regulations.

The rally underscored the community's commitment to environmental protection and the importance of maintaining the city's water resources.

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## **Greetings to all Telugu People** around the world: PM Modi



TPN, Telangana: In his latest 'Mann Ki Baat' address on Akashavani (Radio) todav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended warm greetings to Telugu-speaking people around the world in anticipation of Telugu Language Day, which will be celebrated on August 29. He expressed his best wishes to all those who cherish the rich heritage and culture of the Telugu language.

During his address, Modi highlighted India's remarkable achievements in the field of space exploration, noting that India made history as the first country to land on the South Pole of the Moon with the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission. To commemorate this historic achievement, he announced that Space Day will be celebrated annually, with this year marking the inaugural celebration. The Prime Minister emphasized the growing interest among the youth in space science, driven by India's recent accomplishments.

Modi also spoke about the increasing involvement of young people in politics, responding positively to his call for more youth to participate in the political process. He noted that the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, which encouraged citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes, shops, and offices, was a resounding success, turning Independence Day into a social festival celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country.

Reflecting on India's freedom struggle, the Prime Minister reminded the nation of the collective efforts made by various groups, even those without political backgrounds, to achieve independence. He urged the nation to rekindle that same spirit of unity and determination in the pursuit of a developed India.

PM Modi's address emphasized the importance of celebrating India's cultural heritage, scientific advancements, and the active participation of its youth in shaping the nation's future.

# **Chandrababu Naidu's Strategy to Reinvigorate TDP in Telangana**



Andhra Telangana: Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has launched a comprehensive strategy to restore the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) to its former prominence in Telangana. In a meeting held at NTR Trust Bhavan on Sunday, Naidu articulated his vision for revitalizing the TDP's presence in the state and outlined key actions to strengthen the party's grassroots network.

During the session, Naidu directed TDP leaders to focus on rebuilding the party from the ground up, following the dissolution of all previous TDP committees in Telangana. He emphasized that the new focus should be on expanding party membership at the village, mandal, and district levels. The Chief Minister made it clear that leaders who effectively enroll a significant number of new members would be given priority within the party's hierarchy. This move aims to re-establish a robust organizational structure and invigorate the party's base.

Naidu underscored his commitment to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, describing them as equally vital to him. Despite the recent exodus of some party leaders, he reassured the attendees that TDP's strength remains intact at the grassroots level. He urged the leaders to honor the trust placed in them by the party's supporters and to work tirelessly to achieve the party's objectives.

As part of a broader reorganization effort, Naidu has already taken decisive steps to overhaul the Telangana TDP. This includes the cancellation of old committees within the state and the establishment of new committees for Parliament and Assembly segments. The restructuring is designed to rejuvenate the party's operations and ensure that it can effectively address the needs and concerns of voters in both Andhra Pradesh and Telan-

The selection of a new president for the Telangana TDP has been a subject of speculation. Naidu indicated that discussions regarding this appointment will continue at NTR Trust Bhavan. In the meantime, he has committed to visiting Telangana for two days each month to directly engage with party workers and support the party's activities. This regular presence is intended to provide ongoing encouragement and reinforce the party's strategic efforts in the state.

# Eleti Maheshwar Reddy Criticizes Revanth Government's 'Hydra' Operations

TPN, Telangana: The recent demolition of the Hero Nagarjuna Convention Center has sparked widespread controversy and raised questions about the Revanth government's use of 'Hydra,' a task force responsible for dismantling illegal structures. 'Hydra' has quickly become a sensation, particularly after its bold actions against several high-profile individuals and properties. The task force reported to the government that it has carried out demolitions at 18 locations, reclaiming 43.94 acres of government land in the process. The arrests connected to Sunil Reddy, including actions involving former Union Minister Pallam Raju, have further intensified public interest.

Amidst this, Eleti Maheshwar Reddy, a political opponent, has voiced sharp criticism of the Hydra operations. He questioned whether the illegal buildings of Congress leaders would also be subject to demolition, implying a selective approach in targeting structures. Reddy specifically accused CM Revanth Red-

dy's brother and Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy of being involved in illegal constructions, alleging that the current demolitions are a diversionary tactic aimed at distracting the public from the contentious issue of loan waivers.

Reddy's criticisms extend to the broader political implications of the Hydra operations, suggesting that the task force's activities are being used to score political points rather than genuinely address illegal encroachments. He called for the release of a white paper detailing the occupied lands across the state, urging transparency in the government's ac-

**POLITICS** 



# Harish Rao Accuses Congress of Using **HYDRA** for Political Vendetta

TPN, Telangana: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA T. Harish Rao has leveled serious allegations against the Congress government, accusing it of using the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) agency as a tool for political vendetta. Speaking at a press conference at the BRS Bhavan on August 25, Rao claimed that the Congress is weaponizing HYDRA to target opposition leaders, particularly those from the BRS party, under the guise of enforcing urban planning laws.

Rao specifically highlighted the case of BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, whose educational institutions have come under scrutiny for alleged illegal constructions. According to Rao, this is part of a broader strategy by the Congress to undermine and coerce opposition leaders. He argued that the accusations against Reddy are baseless, presenting documents to show that the

authorities, including the irrigation and revenue departments. These documents, he said, prove that the institutions do not fall under the buffer zone or the full tank level (FTL) as claimed by the government.

"The HYDRA agency is acting as an exnecessary permissions for Reddy's col- trajudicial authority, demolishing propleges were obtained from the relevant erties without prior notice," Rao said,

accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of indulging in diversion politics. He further alleged that the Congress is trying to financially pressure Palla Rajeshwar Reddy into joining the party by targeting his institutions. Rao pointed to a similar situation involving Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy, who he claimed was coerced into joining the Congress after cases were registered against him for non-payment of taxes related to mining activities. However, according to Rao, no action was taken once Mahipal Reddy switched sides.

Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, who was also present at the press conference, echoed these concerns, accusing Revanth Reddy of conspiring to demolish his medical college. He noted that his institutions, established 25 years ago, had never faced such attacks before. Reddy challenged the government to conduct a public survey to prove any illegal encroachments and reiterated his willingness to remove any encroachments if the government could substantiate its

## **Exodus of BRS MLAs Likely** to Continue Amid Political Shifts in Telangana



TPN, Telangana: The steady exodus of Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) MLAs into the Congress party in Telangana shows no signs of slowing down. Last month, the defection rate reached a notable milestone when Patancheru

Now, reports suggest that another five BRS MLAs are in discussions with the Congress high command. These legislators are reportedly awaiting approval from Telangana Congress leaders, including Chief Minister hopeful and TPCC President Revanth Reddy, to make their move. Sources indicate that three of these MLAs have already received a positive response and are merely waiting for the right moment to officially join the Congress

MLA Mahipal Reddy became

the tenth BRS legislator to

switch loyalties following the

party's loss of power in the De-

cember 2023 elections.

Among the BRS MLAs rumored



to be on the verge of defecting are Zaheerabad MLA Manik Rao, Alampur MLA Vijayudu, and Boath MLA Anil Jadhav. The Congress party, eager to capitalize on the shifting political landscape, is said to be welcoming these leaders without hesitation. In addition to these three, there are also murmurs of MLAs from Greater Hyderabad considering a similar move.

With local body elections on the horizon, the Congress high command is intensifying efforts to weaken BRS's position by attracting its sitting MLAs. Out of 39 BRS MLAs, 10 have already joined Congress as of last month, and another five are expected to follow soon. This strategy is part of a broader plan by the Congress to strengthen its foothold across Telangana and assert dominance in the upcoming local elections, potentially reshaping the political dynamics in the state.

#### Etela Rajender to Revanth Reddy: It's Not Good to Pose as a Hero He expressed con-



task force. While Rajender acknowledged that it is commendable to remove illegally built structures belonging to the wealthy and powerful, he cautioned against extending these actions to target ordinary citizens.

Rajender emphasized that the Congress party has a long history, spanning over a hundred years, and that its legacy predates the leadership of Revanth Reddy. He pointed out that decades ago, during Congress rule, house plots were allocated on Full Tank Level (FTL) lands in various areas, including Cheruvulu, and that homes and layouts were legally approved. Rajender criticized the current government for targeting these homes, arguing that they were established without causing harm to the residents.



cern for the residents of Saheb Nagar and Nakka Sagar, who fear that their homes might be demolished. Rajender made it clear that while he does not oppose the Hydra task force or its list of illegal

structures, he urged Revanth Reddy to reconsider actions that might harass and terrorize ordinary people. He recalled that when the BRS party came to power, there were attempts to demolish homes in Ayyappa Nagar Society, but the public's resistance led to a halt within days.

Rajender accused the current administration of lacking the courage to address the real issues faced by the people and of diverting attention through these demolition drives. He challenged Revanth Reddy to focus on more significant issues, such as the ponds buried by the government, including Bathukamma Kunta and others in Karimnagar, and called for transparency through a white paper on the allocation of titles in FTL lands.

# **HYDERABAD**

## **Owaisi Questions State Government** on Demolition of Government **Buildings in FTL Areas**



TPN Hyderabad: AIMIM chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi has raised concerns about the state government's ongoing HYDRA demolition drive, questioning whether the authorities will also target government buildings constructed on Full Tank Level (FTL) areas. Speaking to reporters on Sunday, August 25, Owaisi challenged the Congress-led government to address the issue of structures built on critical water bodies, such as those around Hussain Sagar.

Owaisi's remarks come in the wake of the government's crackdown on unauthorized constructions encroaching upon FTL zones. The HYDRA demolition initiative aims to remove illegal structures threatening water bodies and floodplains. However, Owaisi has called for transparency and equal application of demolition policies, highlighting that several government offices are also situated in these sensitive

The AIMIM leader questioned whether the government would extend its demolition efforts to include prominent locations like Necklace Road, which also fall within the FTL zones around Hussain Sagar Lake. By raising these points, Owaisi is urging the state administration to ensure that the enforcement of demolition laws is impartial and comprehensive, covering all structures that potentially impact the city's water management and environmental balance.

The state government has yet to respond to Owaisi's queries, and the debate continues over the balance between urban development and environmental preservation in Hyderabad.

#### **Gujarat Duo Arrested for Defrauding 74-Year-Old Doctor of ₹1.6 Crore**



TPN Hyderabad :The city's cyber crimes police have arrested two individuals from Gujarat for scamming a 74-year-old doctor out of ₹1.6 crore. The suspects, Sagar Goradhanbhai Prajapati (27) and Parmar Kirit Nathubhai (33), allegedly deceived the victim by posing as Mumbai police officers. They informed her via video call that she was involved in a money laundering case and threatened her with arrest by Hyderabad police if she didn't comply.

The fraudsters sent the doctor fake legal documents, including letters from the Reserve Bank of India, the Supreme Court, and the Central Bureau of Investigation, to add credibility to their claims. Fearing arrest, the doctor transferred ₹1.6 crore to their account.

Upon investigation, police discovered that the account used by the scammers had previously been linked to multiple cases of similar cybercrimes. A case has been registered against the accused, and further investigations are ongoing.

# **Hyderabad Marathon Draws** 25,500 Participants

TPN Hyderabad : The 13th edition of the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon on Sunday drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 25,500 participants, making it one of the most eagerly anticipated events in the city. Officially recognized as a World Athletics Label Race, the marathon saw residents line the streets in large numbers, cheering on runners across various categories. The marathon featured elite, half, and full marathon races, which were flagged off by prominent including Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, Jayapal Reddy of NMDC, TV Naarayan from IDFC FIRST Bank, and Rajesh Vetcha, the Race Director.

At the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Gachibowli, where the marathon



concluded, winners their prizes. In the elite

Chief Minister A 02:39:24, followed closely by Janeth Revanth Reddy awarded the Jepkosgei Kiptoo and Alemitu Haroye, who finished second and women's category, Sheila Chebet third, respectively. For the men, secured first place with a time of Hammington Kimayo claimed the

top spot with a time of 02:26:06, narrowly ahead of Ezekiel Kipkorir and Feleke Dersema Tulu, who finished in second and third place.

The 10K Run, another highlight of the marathon, was also flagged off by a distinguished panel, including Olympian Nikhat Zareen and several key figures from NMDC, IDFC FIRST Bank, and Hyderabad Runners. The top Indian finishers in the elite marathon included Ashvini Madhan Jadhav and Srinu Bugatha, who achieved impressive times of 03:09:46 and 02:29:25, respectively. The marathon showcased a high level of participation and competition, reaffirming its status as a significant event on the running calendar and a celebration of fitness and community spirit.

# Gachibowli Stadium Set for **Intercontinental Cup Kickoff**



TPN Hyderabad : The revamped Gachibowli Athletic Stadium in Hyderabad is ready to host the three-nation Intercontinental Cup, starting on September 3. Originally built in 2002, the multipurpose stadium has a rich history, including the Afro-Asian Games in 2003 and the AFC Challenge Cup, where India secured a semi-final win over Myanmar, leading to a spot in the 2011 Asian Cup final.

International football returns to Gachibowli thanks to efforts by All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The Chief Minister, known for his passion for sports, has provided substantial support to ensure the tournament's success.

The Telangana government has invested over Rs 15 crore in upgrading Gachibowli Stadium ahead of the Intercontinental Cup. Renovations include new dressing rooms, officials' rooms, and 18,000 new bucket seats, all set to welcome players, officials, and spectators. The stadium will host matches featuring India, Syria, and Mauritius, which will take place during the FIFA international window.

Syria is currently the highest-ranked team among the participants at 93rd in the FIFA rankings, followed by India at 124th and Mauritius at 179th. India, the 2023 champions, will aim to defend their title. The Indian squad, under head coach Manolo Márquez, is scheduled to arrive in Hyderabad on August 31 for their preparatory camp.

This tournament marks the fourth edition of the Intercontinental Cup. India won the inaugural edition in 2018 in Mumbai and reclaimed the title in 2023. North Korea won the title in 2019 in Ahmedabad. The upcoming matches at Gachibowli are highly anticipated as the teams prepare for a competitive series.

# **Gandipet Residents Rally** in Support of HYDRA **Demolition Drives**



TPN Hyderabad: On Sunday, August 25, residents of the Gandipet Welfare Association led a rally in Rajendra Nagar to show their support for the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) demolition drives. The rally, joined by local walker clubs and other organizations, emphasized the critical need to protect the city's water bodies from encroachment and illegal construction.

Participants expressed concern about the potential dangers posed by building activities near water bodies, particularly during the dry summer months. They warned that unchecked encroachment could lead to severe water shortages, drawing parallels to the drought-like conditions experienced by Bengaluru earlier in 2024.

The HYDRA demolition drives, which target illegal structures in buffer zones around Hyderabad's water bodies, have been ongoing. Recent demolitions include the N Convention Centre, owned by Tollywood star Nagarjuna Akkineni, along with several other properties found in violation of regulations. The rally's participants urged authorities to continue their efforts to prevent further encroachments and ensure the preservation of Hyderabad's vital water resources.

# **Hyderabad Police Implement Regulations for Ganesh Festival**

TPN Hyderabad : As the Ganesh festival nears, Hyderabad police have introduced regulatory measures to ensure public order and safety from September 7 to September 17. The new guidelines require those installing Ganesh idols to obtain prior police clearance before setting up pandals and initiating immersion processions.

Applicants must submit their clearance requests, including No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from property owners and verified electrical connections from TGSPDCL, via the official police website by September 6.

To regulate noise, the use of loudspeakers will be limited to two box-type speakers per pandal. Both organizers and equipment suppliers must obtain police clearance. Additionally, loudspeakers and public address systems are prohibited between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM, in compliance with Supreme Court guidelines.

Organizers are responsible for crowd management and safety at Ganesh Mandaps. They must appoint volunteers with identity badges to manage queues and supervise worship activities, such as lighting lamps and performing Aarthi.



residences where Private are not publicly accessible are exempt from these regulations. Organizers experiencing with the Intimation Form or other documentation are encouraged to visit their local police station for help or contact the Hyderabad City Police helpline at 8712665785.

The Hyderabad Police also emphasize the importance of timely submission of required forms and certificates. Final arrangements will be reviewed in meetings between organizers, station house officers, and divisional assistant commissioners before the festival begins.

In addition to these measures, the GHMC will distribute 3.10 lakh ecofriendly Ganesh idols to promote environmentally responsible celebrations.



# Why Regional Films Dominated the National Film Awards This Year

Film Awards marks a significant shift in Indian cinema, reflecting the growing recognition and appreciation of diverse narratives beyond the traditional Bollywood sphere. This year's awards celebrated the best of Indian cinema from 2022, with regional films taking center stage, showcasing their ability to capture audiences' imaginations across the

Rishab Shetty's performance in the Kannada film \*Kantara\* earned him the Best Actor award, while the movie itself was recognized as the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. The Best Actress award was shared by Nithya Menen for her role in the Tamil film \*Thiruchitrambalam\* and Mansi Parekh for the Gujarati film \*The Kutch Express\*. In a testament to the strength of regional cinema, the Malayalam film \*Aattam\* won Best Feature Film, while Pavan Raj Malhotra was awarded Best Supporting Actor for his role in the Haryanvi film \*Fouja\*. Neena Gupta took home the Best Supporting Actress award for her performance in the Hindi film \*Uunchai\*.

The success of regional films at the National Film Awards underscores the shift in the Indian film industry, where regional cinema is increasingly challenging Bollywood's dominance. Films from different states are now commanding attention and drawing large audiences across the country, regardless of language. This trend is particularly evident with the rise of South Indian films, which have gained pan-India appeal through high-quality dubbing and compelling storytelling. Movies like \*Baahubali\*, \*KGF\*, \*Pushpa: The Rise\*, and \*RRR\* have transcended linguistic barriers, becoming massive hits nationwide.

The growing influence of regional cinema is also reflected in box office trends. In 2023, the share of box office collections for regional films in India's total box office collections rose from 40.3% in the June 2023 guarter to 56.8% in the June 2024 quarter. In contrast, the share of Hindi films dropped from 41.3% to 35.1% during the same period. This shift highlights how regional films are not only gaining critical acclaim but also proving to be commercially successful, challenging the longstanding Bollywood hegemony.

One of the key factors contributing to the rise of regional

The dominance of regional films at the 70th National films is the accessibility brought about by OTT platforms, smartphones, and affordable 4G internet. These technological advancements have democratized content consumption, allowing viewers to access films in multiple languages with ease. The quality of dubbing and subtitling has improved, enabling regional films to reach wider audiences beyond their native linguistic regions. South Indian films, in particular, have benefited from this trend, with their dubbed versions finding success in northern India and other parts of the country.

> Nithya Menen, who won the Best Actress award, reflects on the evolving landscape of Indian cinema, noting that language is no longer a significant barrier for audiences. "Regional films are a huge part of the country's movie industry. I feel language is definitely important. People connect to languages they are more comfortable with," Menen said. She added that the popularity of South Indian commercial films in northern India is largely due to effective dubbing, which has helped reduce language barriers.

> The rise of regional cinema has also led to a crosspollination of talent across different film industries in India. Actors like Yash, Prabhas, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan, and Junior NTR have become household names beyond their home states, gaining large fan followings across the country. These stars have not only achieved commercial success but have also set new trends, influencing popular culture in regions far from their own. Internationally, regional content is also gaining recognition on platforms like Netflix and Prime Video. The global success of \*RRR\*, which won an Oscar for Best Original Song with "Naatu Naatu," is a testament to the universal appeal of wellcrafted regional films.

> As regional films continue to rise in prominence, the Indian film industry is witnessing a shift in the dynamics of demand and supply. With audiences increasingly seeking diverse and authentic narratives, regional films are stepping up to meet this demand, offering fresh perspectives and stories that resonate with viewers across India and beyond. The dominance of regional films at this year's National Film Awards is a clear indication that the future of Indian cinema lies in embracing its rich cultural and linguistic diversity.

## What Led SEBI To Ban Anil **Ambani From Market And** Impose Fine?



Anil Ambani, once regarded as one of India's most flamboyant and influential industrialists, has recently found himself at the center of a significant controversy that has led to severe repercussions from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Known for his high-profile lifestyle and his once-mighty business empire, Ambani's downfall has been the subject of much public and media scrutiny. The latest chapter in this saga comes in the form of a 222-page report from SEBI, which accuses Ambani and his associates of orchestrating a fraudulent scheme to siphon off funds from Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) during the period of 2018-19.

The SEBI investigation was triggered by multiple complaints that alleged financial irregularities at RHFL, a company under the umbrella of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG). The complaints pointed to the diversion of funds under the guise of loans, which were disbursed to various privately held companies with little to no financial standing. According to SEBI's findings, these loans were part of a larger scheme devised by Ambani to move funds out of RHFL, thereby defrauding the company's investors and destabilizing its financial standing.

SEBI's report provides a detailed account of the mismanagement and fraudulent activities that took place under Ambani's leadership. It notes that Ambani and his management team approved loans amounting to thousands of crores of rupees to companies with negligible assets, cash flows, or revenues. These companies, which were often connected to Ambani himself, were in no position to repay the loans. Despite this, the loans were approved and disbursed with alarming speed and without following due diligence, reflecting a clear disregard for corporate governance and financial responsibility.

The regulator's report is particularly scathing in its description of the cavalier approach taken by Ambani and his team. SEBI points out that even after the RHFL Board explicitly instructed the company in February 2019 to halt the disbursement of further General Purpose Working Capital (GPC) loans, the management continued to approve and disburse loans worth thousands of crores of rupees. These actions were taken with impunity and under the direct supervision of Ambani, who, as Group Head, approved the transactions despite knowing that the borrowers were credit-unworthy.

The investigation revealed that many of the loan applications were left incomplete, with authorized signatories merely signing the last page of blank forms. In several instances, loans were disbursed on the same day the application was received, further highlighting the lack of due process. The internal memos that accompanied these loans often documented deviations from standard procedures, such as the waiver of field investigations, the absence of customer ratings, and the failure to create necessary securities or escrow accounts.

As the financial health of RHFL deteriorated due to these dubious loans, the company's share price plummeted, leaving investors in the lurch. In March 2018, RHFL's shares were trading at around ₹59.60, but by March 2020, as the extent of the fraudulent activities became apparent, the share price had collapsed to a mere ₹0.75. Today, more than 9 lakh shareholders find themselves holding shares that are practically worthless, a stark reminder of the devastating impact of the fraudulent scheme orchestrated under Ambani's watch.

In response to these findings, SEBI has taken stringent actions against Anil Ambani and his associates. The regulator has barred Ambani and 24 other entities, including former key officials of RHFL, from participating in the securities market for a period of five years. Additionally, SEBI has imposed a penalty of ₹25 crore on Ambani and has prohibited him from holding any position as a director or Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) in any listed company or any intermediary registered with the regulator during this period.

SEBI's report and subsequent actions are likely to have far-reaching consequences. The findings may prompt other law enforcement agencies to initiate their own investigations into Ambani and others implicated in the scheme. The downfall of RHFL, once a prominent player in the financial sector, serves as a cautionary tale of how the reckless actions of a few individuals can lead to the collapse of an entire enterprise, leaving investors and the broader financial ecosystem to bear the brunt of their misdeeds.

The collapse of Anil Ambani's business empire, once celebrated as a symbol of entrepreneurial success, is now a subject of public discourse, with SEBI's report adding a new chapter to the story of a man who once stood at the pinnacle of India's corporate world. The regulatory actions against Ambani mark a significant moment in Indian corporate history, underscoring the importance of transparency, accountability, and the rule of law in the functioning of markets. As the dust settles on this latest development, the repercussions for Ambani and his associates will likely resonate for years to come.



# PM Modi Promises Tough Action on Crimes Against Women Amid Kolkata Outrage

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today assured strict action in cases of crimes against women, addressing the nation amid widespread outrage over the recent rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata. Speaking at the 'Lakhpati Didi Sammelan' in Maharashtra's Jalgaon, PM Modi emphasized the government's commitment to women's safety, calling such crimes "unforgivable."

"The security of women is very important. I will once again tell every state government that crimes against women are unforgivable. No matter who the culprit is, they should not be spared," PM Modi stated. His remarks come as the country grapples with the brutal crime in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, which has sparked nationwide protests and a fierce political battle between the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and BJP leaders over women's safety.

During the event, PM Modi also highlighted his government's efforts to empower women through the "Lakhpati Didi" initiative, which supports self-help group members in earning an annual household income of ₹1 lakh or more. "We are strengthening laws to ensure stringent punishment for those perpetrating crimes against women," the Prime Minister asserted.



PM Modi took the opportunity to underscore the progress made under his administration, particularly in supporting women entrepreneurs. He noted that while less than ₹25,000 crore in loans were given to women self-help groups before 2014, the figure has surged to ₹9 lakh crore over the past decade.

The Prime Minister also advocated for continued support for Maharashtra's

the state's future prosperity to political stability. "Maharashtra is the shining star of a developed India. The future of the state lies in more investment and job growth." PM Modi concluded, urging the public to back the government for sustained development.

The incident in Kolkata has brought the issue of women's safety back into the spotlight, with PM Modi's statements reflecting a nationwide demand for justice BJP-led Mahayuti government, linking and stricter measures to protect women.

# Chirag Paswan Re-Elected as LJP President, Talks Polls and Caste Census



Union Minister Chirag Paswan was reelected as the president of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for a five-year term during the party's national executive meeting held in Ranchi on Sunday. The decision was made unanimously, reaffirming Mr. Paswan's leadership within the party founded by his late father, Ram Vilas Paswan, one of India's most prominent Dalit leaders.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Paswan, who the BJP for Vidhan Sabha polls in Jharkhand

serves as the Minister of Food Processing Industries, revealed that the party discussed strategies for the upcoming assembly elections in Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, the LJP (Ram Vilas) may either contest the polls in alliance with its national partner BJP or independently, depending on the strength of its state units.

"In the 2014 elections, we had a tie-up with

and contested the Shikaripara seat. If there is a respectable seat-sharing arrangement, we may go with an alliance or else we can go alone in the polls," Mr. Paswan stated.

Mr. Paswan also advocated for a nationwide caste census, emphasizing the importance of accurate data for government policies. However, he cautioned against making the census results public, warning that it could create societal divisions.

"We have always emphasized that we want the caste census to be conducted... It will ensure that the government has correct numbers. However, I do not want the figures of the census to come out in public. That may create a rift," he remarked.

The party passed a special resolution thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his initiatives benefiting the SC-ST community. Addressing the issue of the "creamy layer" within the SC community, Mr. Paswan reiterated his opposition, citing ongoing issues of untouchability and discrimination even decades after India's independence. Mr. Paswan's reelection and the party's discussions signal a significant step as they gear up for the upcoming assembly elections, where their alliances and strategies will be closely watched.

# PM Modi Hails Introduction of Unified Pension Scheme for Central Government Employees

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the the new scheme. Central Government's introduction of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) on Saturday, highlighting its importance in securing the financial future of government employees. The scheme was approved during a Union Cabinet meeting led by PM Modi.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi expressed pride in the nation's government employees, stating, "We are proud of all the government employees who work hard for the progress of the country. The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) ensures dignity and financial security for these employees. This step reflects our government's commitment to their welfare and secure future."

The UPS, a significant policy move by the BJP-led central government, guarantees both Assured Pension and Assured Family Pension. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that approximately 23 lakh central government employees would benefit from

"Today the Union Cabinet has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees, providing for the assured pension...50 percent assured pension is the first pillar of the scheme... the second pillar will be assured family pension," Minister Vaishnaw stated. He also mentioned that employees would have the option to choose between the National Pension System (NPS) and the new UPS.

The assured pension will be 50 percent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation for those with a minimum qualifying service of 25 years. For shorter service periods, down to a minimum of 10 years, the pension will be proportionate.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also lauded the UPS, noting that it would provide financial security to central government employees and their families.



"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister @narendramodi today has approved the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees, which is a significant move that promises an assured pension for central government employees," he said.

The official release further mentioned that there will be inflation indexation on assured pension, assured family pension, and assured minimum pension under the UPS, with Dearness Relief based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW).

#### Kiren Rijiju Criticizes Rahul Gandhi's Remarks on Miss India Pageant, Calls Them "Juvenile"

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has sharply criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent comments regarding the absence of Dalits and Adivasis in the Miss India beauty pageant, describing the remarks as something that could only come from a "bal buddhi" (juvenile mind).

At the Samvidhan Samman Sammelan in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, where he advocated for a caste census. Mr. Gandhi claimed that India's functioning is hampered by the lack of participation from the "90 percent" of its population, including Dalits, Adivasis, and OBCs. He specifically pointed out the Miss India pageant, suggesting that it does not include representatives from these communities.

"I have checked the list of Miss India, which did not have any Dalit, Adivasi, or OBC women... No one will show the cobbler or plumber. Even top anchors in the media are not from the 90 percent," Mr. Gandhi stated.

In response, Mr. Rijiju, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs and an MP from Arunachal Pradesh, criticized Mr. Gandhi for his "childish wit" and accused him of attempting to divide the nation. Mr. Rijiju highlighted that India has its first tribal President, Droupadi Murmu, an OBC Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and a record number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members in the Cabinet.

"Now, he wants reservations in Miss India competitions, films, sports! It is not only an issue of 'Bal Buddhi,' but people who cheer him are equally responsible too!" Mr. Rijiju remarked on social media. He further asserted that the government does not select Miss India contestants, athletes for the Olympics, or actors for films.

Mr. Gandhi had preemptively countered accusations that his push for a caste census might be seen as divisive, stating that the BJP could use such rhetoric against him. Home Minister Amit Shah has indicated that the decadal census will be conducted at an appropriate time, with an announcement to be made when decided.

The exchange underscores the ongoing political tension between the Congress and the BJP over issues of representation and inclusion in various sectors of Indian society.

#### **Prashant Kishor Criticizes** Tejashwi Yadav's Development Claims in Bihar



In a sharp exchange of words, Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor has countered Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav's criticism of Bihar's development under the current "double-engine" government. Mr. Yadav, Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly, had accused the BJP of neglecting the public's concerns, claiming Bihar leads in negative indicators such as unemployment, poverty, and crime. He further described Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as a "tired chief minister" and accused the BJP of being "power-hungry."

Prashant Kishor, however, dismissed Mr. Yadav's statements on development as "laughable," pointing out that the RJD had been in power for 15 years and questioning Mr. Yadav's understanding of economic terms like GDP. Kishor remarked, "If Tejashwi Yadav discusses development, it is laughable... He does not know what GDP and GDP growth are, and is talking about the development story of Bihar."

Kishor also highlighted the inconsistency in Mr. Yadav's stance on crime, noting that when Tejashwi Yadav served as Deputy Chief Minister just six months ago, he did not express similar concerns. "If today Nitish Kumar joins Mahagathbandhan, Bihar will again start looking great to him," Kishor added, emphasizing the political opportunism he perceives in Mr. Yadav's remarks.

Prashant Kishor, who was once an advisor to Nitish Kumar but has since parted ways, plans to contest the Bihar assembly elections in 2025 with his new outfit, Jan Suraaj. The former strategist has been vocal in his criticism of both the BJP and RJD, positioning his party as a fresh alternative in Bihar's political landscape.

Bihar's demand for a special economic package continues, with the Union Budget 2024 announcing a ₹58.9-crore growth package for the state.





## Pentagon Reports ISIS-K Network Behind Abbey Gate Attack "Degraded but Not Eliminated

Three years after the devastating suicide bombing at Afghanistan's Abbey Gate that killed 13 U.S. service members and approximately 170 Afghan civilians, the network behind the attack, identified as ISIS-K, has been significantly weakened but not fully dismantled, according to the Pentagon's civilian commando chief.

Christopher Maier, the Assistant Secretary for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, stated in a brief interview after a meeting with reporters on Friday that "a lot of allied and partner disruptions" have reduced ISIS-K's capability to conduct similar attacks. However, he acknowledged that the network remains active.

President Joe Biden had vowed on the day of the attack outside Hamid Karzai International Airport that "we will not forgive, we will not forget, we will hunt you down and make you pay." Maier indicated that the U.S. is in the process of fulfilling that promise, noting that significant progress has been made in disrupting the network responsible for the attack. "We have made significant dents in this network that conducted the Abbey Gate attack," Maier said.

The attack, which occurred three years ago next Monday, was a significant blow during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, an operation widely criticized for its chaotic execution despite the successful evacuation of 124,000 Afghans. The event has been a focal point for Republican criticism of Biden's foreign policy, with former President Donald Trump labeling the withdrawal as "the worst humiliation in the history of our country" during his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in July.

Trump, who negotiated a February 2020 agreement with the Taliban that set a timeline for U.S. troop withdrawals, has blamed Biden—and, by extension, Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee to succeed him—for the way the withdrawal was handled.

During his discussion with reporters, Maier suggested that the Abbey Gate attack was likely the result of a coordinated effort involving multiple individuals supported by ISIS-K's infrastructure. Since the attack, U.S. and allied forces have reportedly disrupted several plots connected to the network. "Some of the recent plots that have been foiled point to direct support from some of these partners," Maier noted, referring to Central Asian countries that have become more vigilant against threats emanating from Afghanistan. However, he did not specify which countries were involved.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is expected to release its review of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan early next month, which will likely include further details on the Abbey Gate attack and its aftermath.

# Andhra Pradesh Woman Goes Missing in Kuala Lumpur After Footpath Collapse

A 45-year-old woman from Andhra Pradesh, India, has gone missing in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, after being swept away into a sewage drain when the footpath she was walking on suddenly collapsed. The woman, identified as Vijayalakshmi from Animiganipalle village in Chittoor district, was walking with her husband and son when the ground beneath them gave way. While her family managed to escape the collapse, Vijayalakshmi was tragically swept into the underground sewer.

Rescue operations were launched immediately by civic authorities in Kuala Lumpur and are ongoing. However, as of Saturday evening, there was no sign of Vijayalakshmi. The authorities are continuing their search in the hopes of locating her.

Vijayalakshmi was known for frequently traveling to Malaysia and Singapore for business purposes. The incident has sparked concern both in Malaysia and back home in India.



The Chief Minister, along with Minister updates on the ongoing rescue efforts.

In response to the tragedy, Andhra for Human Resource Development (HRD) Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Nara Lokesh, is closely monitoring the Naidu has directed officials from the situation and coordinating with local Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu authorities in Malaysia. The incident (APNRT) Society to ensure that the search has left Vijayalakshmi's family and operations are conducted effectively. community in shock, as they await

## Elon Musk Criticizes Zuckerberg Over Instagram Child Exploitation Amid Durov's Arrest

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has publicly criticized Meta Founder Mark Zuckerberg, asserting that Zuckerberg should be held accountable for what Musk describes as a "massive child exploitation" issue on Instagram, rather than Pavel Durov, the founder of Telegram, who was recently arrested in France.

Musk's comments came in response to Durov's arrest, which involves multiple charges related to his platform Telegram. Durov faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Musk, reacting to the news on X, questioned the lack of legal consequences for Zuckerberg, accusing him of prioritizing censorship and providing governments with backdoor access to user data on his platform.

"Instagram has a massive child suffered," Zuckerberg said at the time. exploitation problem, but no arrest for Zuck, as he censors free speech and gives governments backdoor access to user data," Musk posted. He further criticized European censorship laws, stating, "It's 2030 in Europe and you're being executed for liking a meme." Musk emphasized the importance of supporting free speech, particularly in countries with heavy censorship.

In February, Zuckerberg apologized to victims of online child sex abuse during a Senate hearing on Capitol Hill. He expressed regret for the suffering of affected families and pledged continued investment in efforts to combat online exploitation. "I'm sorry for everything you have all been through. No one should go through the things that your families have philosophies.

Musk has previously criticized Meta for its approach to advertising. In May, he described Meta as "super greedy" in claiming credit for advertisers' campaigns, contrasting it with his own platform's approach. "We are terrible at claiming credit, and Meta is super greedy at claiming credit," Musk remarked.

The ongoing rivalry between Musk and Zuckerberg is well-documented. The two tech giants were once set for a highprofile "cage fight," dubbed the "fight of the century," but the event was ultimately cancelled. Their contentious relationship continues to be a source of public and media interest, reflecting deeper tensions between their respective companies and

# Former Bangladesh Minister Gazi Arrested in Ousted Government Crackdown

Bangladesh's former textile and jute minister, Golam Dastagir Gazi, was arrested late Saturday night in Dhaka as the police intensify their crackdown on officials and ministers from the ousted Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina. The 76-year-old Gazi was detained around 3 am from a residence in the Piergoli area of the capital, as reported by The Daily Star.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police apprehended Gazi and transported him to the Detective Branch (DB) office, as confirmed by The Dhaka Tribune. Gazi was held at the DB office due to extensive damage at the local police station from recent unrest. The area around his location was reportedly besieged by a crowd following news of his presence there.

The exact charges for Gazi's arrest have not been disclosed by authorities. However, a murder case involving 105 individuals, including Gazi and former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been filed at Rupganj police station in Narayanganj. Gazi, a former MP from Rupganj-1 constituency in Narayanganj, was elected in January on the Awami League's boat symbol.

In related developments, a Dhaka court has placed Salman F Rahman, private industry affairs adviser to Hasina, former law minister Anisul Huq, former social welfare minister Dipu Moni, and two others under various terms of remand for interrogation in connection with four separate murder cases. Former chief whip ASM Feroz and Major General Ziaul Ahsan, a former army officer, are also on remand in murder cases.



political turmoil. Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests over quota reforms in Bangladesh. Since Hasina's departure, most leaders of the Awami League have gone into hiding, and many party members have been detained by the new interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, which assumed power on

The crackdown on former officials and ministers reflects the new interim government's effort to address allegations of misconduct and to stabilize the political situation following Hasina's controversial resignation.

# **Netanyahu Warns of Continued** Military Action Against Hezbollah Following Strikes in Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that the recent military strikes in Lebanon were "not the final word" in Israel's campaign against the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. In a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Netanyahu stated that the recent actions were part of a broader strategy to weaken Hezbollah and ensure the safety of Israeli

"We are striking Hezbollah with surprising, crushing blows," Netanyahu declared. "This is another step towards changing the situation in the north and safely returning our residents to their homes. And, I repeat, this is not the final word."

Netanyahu outlined the impact of the Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) recent operations, stating that thousands of "short-range rockets" intended to target civilians and Israeli forces in the Galilee region had been destroyed. Additionally, he highlighted that the IDF successfully intercepted all drones launched by Hezbollah at a strategic target in central Israel.

While Netanyahu did not specify the exact nature of the strategic target, Israeli media reports suggested that the intended target was the headquarters of the Israeli Mossad spy agency near Tel Aviv. This claim underscores the high stakes and strategic significance of the recent military engagements.

The escalation follows ongoing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, which have resulted in increased violence and crossborder attacks. The IDF's actions are part of a larger effort to disrupt Hezbollah's capabilities and reduce the threat posed by the group to



Israeli security.

Netanyahu's comments reflect a broader strategy of demonstrating military strength while preparing for potential further actions if necessary. The Israeli government appears determined to continue its operations until it achieves its objectives of neutralizing the immediate threat posed by Hezbollah and restoring stability to the northern regions of Israel.

The situation remains fluid, with ongoing military activities and diplomatic responses shaping the future course of the conflict. As Israel continues its campaign, both regional and international observers are closely monitoring the developments and the potential implications for regional security and stability.



# **ECONOMY**

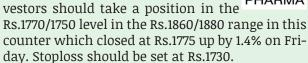
# **Domestic Markets Poised for Gains Amid Positive Global Monetary Signals**



omestic stock market indices are showing Diffestic stock market had been signs of rising this week. US Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has sent positive signals saying that the time has come for a rate cut. Central banks around the world are likely to follow his lead. This will increase the equity markets. Nifty support is at 24750 and resistance is at 24900. Metal, consumer durables, commodities and PSU bank shares rose last week. Bullishness is seen in IT, Telecom and Healthcare shares this week.

#### Stock recommendations

Sun Pharma: These shares have been in a long-term uptrend. After a slight consolidation, they hit lifetime highs. Delivery and trading volume are increasing significantly. Investors should take a position in the



Bharti Airtel: Shares are consolidating after hitting lifetime highs. Shares bounced back at key support level of Rs.1450. Friday closed at Rs.1506 with a gain of 1.4%. Momentum investors can take a position in the Rs.1480/1490 range with a target price of Rs.1550/1620. Stoploss should be set at

Rs.1450.

**M&M:** This counter which has been in a long uptrend is currently undergoing a correction.

Shares have reached a key support level. In these shares which closed at Rs.2759 on Friday, investors bought Rs.2740 at the level of Rs. A position should be taken with a target price of 2850/2900. Rs. Stoploss should be placed at 2710.

**ICICI Bank:** These shares, which have ICICI Bank been in an uptrend for a long time,

are currently consolidating. The last two sessions ended in gains as major support was found at Rs.1160 level. In this counter which closed at Rs.1203 with a gain of 1.04% on Friday, investors can consider taking a position in the range of Rs.1190 with a target price of Rs.1250/1290. Stoploss should be set at Rs.1170.

**Steel:** These shares, which have been moving sideways for a few days, have



been rallying for two weeks. Gradually moving towards lifetime maximum. Relative strength is also increasing. In this counter, which closed at Rs.941 on Friday, investors at the level of Rs.930/920 will buy Rs. A position should be taken with a target price of 990/1040. Stoploss should be set at Rs.890.

Market Update: Sensex, Nifty Rise; **Primary Market Activity Booms** 

The stock market continued its upward trajectory **L** this week, building on the gains from August 16. The BSE Sensex rose by 649.37 points (0.81%) to close at 81,086.21, while the Nifty increased by 282 points (1.15%) to finish at 24,823.15. The broader market indices also saw gains, with the BSE 100, BSE 200, and BSE 500 rising by 1.26%, 1.31%, and 1.53%, respectively. BSE Midcap and BSE Smallcap indices grew by 1.96% and 3.39%. The markets are approaching alltime highs set earlier this month.

The Indian Rupee appreciated by 7 paise to Rs 83.89. The Dow Jones also had a strong week, gaining 515.32 points (1.27%) to close at 41,175.08, buoyed by a 462-point rise on Friday.

In the primary markets, Saraswati Saree Depot Upcoming IPOs include Premier Energies Limited, Limited's shares debuted at Rs 200 and closed at Rs 180.10 on Friday, reflecting a 12.56% gain on the BSE of Rs 160. Interarch Building Products Limited's IPO, which opened on August 19 and closed on August 21, was heavily oversubscribed, receiving 93.81 times overall subscription. Orient Technologies Limited's IPO, open from August 21 to 23, was also oversub-



scribed by 154.87 times.

which will open on August 27 and close on August 29. This issue includes a fresh issue of Rs 1,291.4 and an 11.21% gain on the NSE from its issue price crore and an offer for sale of 3.42 crore shares, with a price band of Rs 427-450. Premier Energies, an integrated solar cell and module manufacturer, reported strong financials and is expanding its capacity. Investors are advised to consider this opportunity for medium to long-term investment.

India's Imports from Vietnam Surge Amidst Trade Dynamics

Tndia's imports from **⊥**Vietnam have surged, driven mainly by electrical machinery and parts. Between January and July 2024, imports increased by 17% to \$5.8 billion compared to the same period last year. Notably, imports of electrical machinery and parts from Vietnam jumped 43% from January to May 2024, according to data from

the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights that this trade rise is partly due to Chinese firms redirecting their supply chains through countries like Vietnam and Mexico. The survey suggests that East Asian economies, including Vietnam, are boosting their exports by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) from China. This strategy reflects a broader trend of re-routing global supply chains to diversify trade routes and mitigate geopolitical risks.

Amidst this growing trade, the Indian Steel Association (ISA) has raised concerns about the impact of imports on the domestic steel market. The ISA has called for an investigation into the influx of hot-

rolled flat products from Vietnam, arguing that these imports are affecting domestic steel prices. Consequently, on August 16, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry initiated an anti-dumping probe into imports of "hot-rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel, not clad, not plated or coated, of a thickness up to 25 mm and width up to 2100 mm" from Vietnam.

This investigation aims to address concerns over fair trade practices and protect the interests of the Indian steel industry from potentially unfair competition. As global trade dynamics continue to evolve, such measures are crucial for maintaining balance in domestic markets and ensuring that trade policies adapt to changing international economic conditions.

**New UPS Balances Fiscal Costs** and Employee Expectations



The recently approved Unified Pension ■ Scheme (UPS) by the Cabinet is seen as a strategic move to balance the fiscal costs with the expectations of government employees. Economists believe the new scheme addresses concerns about the financial implications of pension reforms while meeting the aspirations of central government employees.

Economist N.R. Bhanumurthy explained that the UPS provides a more predictable return compared to the New Pension Scheme (NPS), which had left many employees uncertain about their future benefits. The UPS is designed to address these uncertainties while managing the fiscal impact, especially for state governments that have been grappling with the financial burden of reverting to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

The new scheme aims to strike a balance

between the government's fiscal responsibilities and the social security needs of employees. By offering assured returns, it alleviates some of the apprehensions associated with the NPS and the substantial fiscal costs incurred by states adopting the

However, Bhanumurthy noted that the overall fiscal impact of the UPS remains uncertain until it is clear whether all state governments will adopt the scheme. The final cost will depend on the level of participation across states and the scheme's implementation details.

In summary, the UPS represents a compromise between managing fiscal costs and addressing employee concerns about pension security. Its effectiveness will ultimately depend on broader adoption and implementation by state governments.

# Nifty 50 Maintains Uptrend; Key Levels and Support Zones in Focus

The Nifty 50 index maintained a positive trend for movement in the Nifty 50 reflects investor confidence ■ seven consecutive days as of August 23, managing to stay above the 24,800 mark. Experts suggest that if the index continues to hold this level, the next key target could be the 24,950-25,000 zone in the upcoming sessions, with potential for some intermittent consolidation. Immediate support for the Nifty 50 is noted in the 24,700-24,600 range. Meanwhile, the Bank Nifty is expected to edge closer to the 51,500 level, with support around the 50,700-50,800 range.

On August 23, the Nifty 50 closed at 24,823, marking a rise of 12 points. In contrast, the Bank Nifty fell by 52 points, ending the day at 50,933. The trading session saw approximately 1,254 shares decline, while 1,116 shares advanced on the NSE.

Osho Krishan, Senior Analyst at Angel One, provided insights into the current market outlook and strategy. According to Krishan, the sustained positive and market stability. The index's ability to remain above the 24,800 level suggests a bullish sentiment, with the potential to reach higher targets if the trend continues. However, he also cautions about potential consolidation around the 24,950-25,000 zone, advising investors to monitor these levels closely.

For the Bank Nifty, the anticipated upward movement towards 51,500 indicates strong sectoral performance, though the index might experience some resistance and support fluctuations in the interim. The support levels at 50,700-50,800 will be crucial in determining the near-term direction for the Bank

Overall, the market remains positive, with key levels and support zones playing a significant role in shaping the near-term outlook for both the Nifty 50 and Bank Nifty indices.





# Janmashtami 2024: Celebrating the Birth of **Lord Krishna** and the Vibrant Dahi **Handi Festival**

the country, especially in regions like Mathura and Vrindavan, which are closely associated nickname 'Makhan Chor' (butter thief). with Lord Krishna's life.

#### Significance of Janmashtami

The festival of Janmashtami holds profound spiritual significance for Hindus. According to Hindu tradition, Lord Krishna was born on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (waning phase of the moon) in the month of Bhadrapada. His birth is seen as a divine event that brought hope, love, and righteousness to the world. Krishna's life and teachings, as nar- **Timing and Rituals** rated in the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures, continue to inspire millions.

prayers, and sing bhajans in praise of Lord Krishna. Temples are beautifully decorated, and joy. In places like Mathura, believed to be Krishna's birthplace, and Vrindavan, where he spent his childhood, the celebrations are esfrom across the country.

#### Dahi Handi: A Unique Celebration

While Janmashtami marks the birth of Krishna, the Dahi Handi ritual, which takes place a day later, adds a distinct and lively dimension to the celebrations. This year, the Dahi Handi festivities will be observed on August 27, Tues-

Dahi Handi is particularly popular in Maharashtra, where it is also known as Gopalakala.

**T**anmashtami, one of the most cherished The event involves the hanging of an earthen and widely celebrated festivals in India, pot (handi) at a considerable height, filled with commemorates the birth of Lord Krishna, dahi (curd), butter, ghee, sweets, and other believed to be the eighth incarnation of Lord treats. Teams of young men, known as Govin-Vishnu. This year, Janmashtami falls on August das, form human pyramids to reach and break 26, Monday, and is marked by fervent devotion, the handi, mimicking the playful and miselaborate rituals, and vibrant festivities across chievous behavior of young Krishna, who was known for his love of butter, earning him the

> The ritual is not just a fun-filled activity but also a reenactment of the tales from Krishna's childhood. According to legend, Krishna, with his friends, would form human pyramids to reach the pots of butter that his mother, Yashoda, would hang out of their reach. The Dahi Handi event symbolizes this divine playfulness and celebrates community spirit, teamwork, and perseverance.

The Ashtami Tithi, the eighth lunar day, begins at 3:39 am on August 26 and ends at 2:19 am on On Janmashtami, devotees observe fasts, chant August 27. Devotees begin the celebrations with midnight prayers, which are believed to be the exact time of Krishna's birth. The rituals conand the atmosphere is charged with devotion tinue through the night and into the next day, culminating in the Dahi Handi event.

The Dahi Handi festival has evolved over the pecially grand, drawing thousands of pilgrims years, with many communities organizing competitions with cash prizes, adding an element of excitement and challenge to the tradition. It is not uncommon to see these events draw large crowds, with participants and spectators alike enjoying the festive spirit.

> Janmashtami and Dahi Handi together embody the essence of devotion, joy, and community spirit. As devotees across India prepare to celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna and partake in the vibrant Dahi Handi festivities, these traditions continue to bring people together, reminding them of the enduring legacy of Lord Krishna's life and teachings.





# **Apple to Launch iPhone 16 Series and New Devices on** September 20

Apple is preparing to unveil ed to have slightits new iPhone 16 series on ly larger displays, September 20, according to a Bloomberg report. This event crease from previwill also feature new models ous versions, and of the Apple Watch and Air- will come with Pods, all equipped with updated features. The upcoming as and larger batteries. AddiiPhone 16 lineup is expected to replace the iPhone 15 series, which debuted a year ago.

Independent.

worst fears.

Titanic Newspaper

Found After 112

Years Sells for £34

in the North Atlantic, resulting in the deaths of

over 1,500 people. The disaster left only around

700 survivors, many of whom were saved from

The Daily Mirror's coverage includes a harrow-

ing description of the scene outside the White

Star Line's offices, where lists of survivors were

posted. The paper depicted the heartbreak of

families as they read the lists, realizing their

The auctioned newspaper featured a two-page

spread with photographs of victims, including

Titanic's captain, Edward Smith. The auction

house highlighted the emotional weight of the

newspaper, emphasizing its focus on the fam-

ilies affected by the disaster, making it a mov-

ing artifact of maritime history.

The Daily Mirror

with a 0.2-inch in-

enhanced ultra-wide camertionally, these models might introduce a dedicated 'capture' button for easier photo-taking.

The iPhone 16 series is rumored The new devices are also exto include four models: the iP-pected to feature advancehone 16, iPhone 16 Plus, iPhone ments in on-device AI technol-16 Pro, and iPhone 16 Pro Max. ogy and an upgraded version The Pro models are anticipat- of Siri, which could boost Ap-

ple's competitive edge in the smartphone market. While the iPhone 15 Pro models are slated to receive support for new Apple Intelligence features later this year, all four iPhone 16 models are likely to support the latest AI enhance-

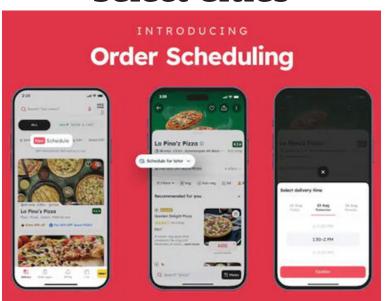
In a notable shift, the iPhone

16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max are set to be assembled in India, highlighting Apple's efforts to diversify its manufacturing base. As the launch date approaches, anticipation is growing for these new products, which aim to offer enhanced features and performance to Apple's tech-savvy consumer base.





# **Zomato Unveils 'Order** Scheduling' Feature in **Select Cities**



omato has introduced a new feature called 'Order Sched-Luling' that allows customers to place food orders up to two days in advance. This development was shared on Saturday, August 24, by Zomato CEO and founder Deepinder Goyal via his official X (formerly Twitter) account. Currently, the feature is available at approximately 13,000 restaurants across Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Lucknow, and Jaipur. However, it is important to note that this service is only applicable to orders exceeding ₹1,000.

Goyal explained the selection of these cities, noting that the chosen restaurants are known for maintaining high stock levels and consistent kitchen preparation times. The intent is to ensure a reliable and timely delivery experience for customers. He also mentioned that Zomato plans to expand this feature to more cities and restaurants in the future, with the goal of making it accessible regardless of the order value.

The introduction of the 'Order Scheduling' feature is expected to provide customers with greater flexibility and convenience when planning their meals. By enabling advance scheduling, Zomato aims to enhance the overall dining experience and accommodate the varying needs of its user base. As the feature becomes more widely available, it could potentially revolutionize how people approach meal planning and food delivery.

**Woman Feeds** 

Massive Alligator in

**Viral Pond Video** 

# Features with Chat Themes and Enhanced Privacy **Options 7**hatsApp is

WhatsApp Expands



match the background. Screenshots from the beta version show a menu with two rows of themes, offering a variety of aesthetic options.

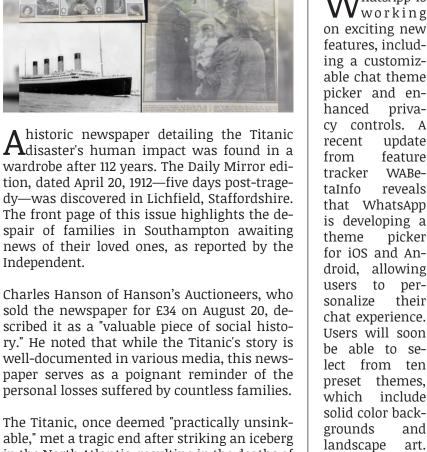
theme

will also change

all participants in a chat.

Additionally, WhatsApp is working on new privacy features, including a username and PIN system. This will enable users to communicate without sharing their phone numbers, enhancing privacy and reducing unwanted contact. The username feature will allow users to start conversations more discreetly, while the PIN will protect users from unknown senders, adding an extra layer of security.

These updates reflect WhatsApp's commitment to improving user experience through customization and enhanced privacy controls. As these features move closer to release, users can look forward to a more personalized and secure messaging experience.



the color of the lifeboats that were launched half-empty due to chat bubbles to a widespread belief in the ship's invincibility. Southampton, the home port of many Titanic crew members, experienced significant loss.

Each

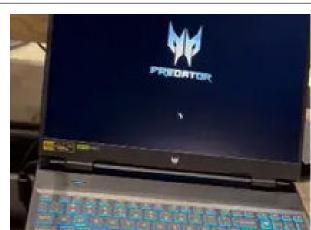
While the theme picker is currently still in development and not yet available to beta testers, it represents a significant shift in how users can customize their chat environments. The feature will allow individuals to set personal themes for their chats, though these themes will only be visible to the user who applies them, unlike other platforms like Instagram and Messenger, where themes affect

#### A recent viral video shows a woman standing in a pond Affeeding a massive alligator, sparking widespread reactions online. The video, shared on Instagram by Gabby, an animal rescuer and owner of Bellowing Acres Alligator Sanctuary, captures her interacting with Bella, a large and aggressive alligator.

Known for her fearless approach to handling alligators, Gabby appears in the video trying to calm Bella before feeding her. As Gabby wades into the water, Bella approaches cautiously. Gabby uses a stick to manage the alligator's movements, ensuring it remains calm during the feeding process.

The daring nature of the video has captivated viewers, generating numerous comments and discussions on social media about the risks and bravery involved in such encounters. Gabby's experience with alligators and her efforts to handle them safely continue to draw attention and intrigue from the online community.

# Bengaluru Man **Receives Laptop** in 13 Minutes In **Flipkart**



n a remarkable delivery feat, a Bengaluru Lresident received his laptop in just 13 minutes thanks to Flipkart's new quick commerce service, \*\*Flipkart Minutes\*\*. The service, recently launched in select Bengaluru neighborhoods, aims to compete with established platforms like Blinkit and Swiggy Instamart by offering rapid delivery of goods.

On August 22, Sunny Gupta, who shared his experience on X (formerly Twitter), detailed his extraordinary delivery time for an Acer Predator laptop. Gupta initially reported that

his order was delivered in 7 minutes. However, he later updated that the tracking page had adjusted the delivery time to 12 minutes, resulting in a total delivery time of 13 minutes.

Flipkart Minutes' impressive speed underscores the platform's commitment to revolutionizing quick commerce and setting a new benchmark in the e-commerce industry. The rapid delivery capability highlights the potential for e-commerce platforms to significantly enhance customer satisfaction through swift







## Mark Wood Ruled Out of Sri Lanka Test Series Due to Injury

England's fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the remainder of the Test series against Sri Lanka due to a muscle strain. Wood sustained the injury during the first Test at Old Trafford in Manchester. He suffered a right thigh muscle strain on the third day of the match and was unable to bowl on the final day. Scans confirmed the extent of the injury, as announced by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on August 25.

In Wood's absence, Leicestershire's tall fast bowler, Hull, has been called up. Standing at 6ft 7in, Hull was a standout performer for Leicestershire and played a crucial role in their One-Day Cup win in 2023. Recently, he made his debut for the England Lions, where he impressed by taking 5 for 74 in a match against Sri Lanka, leading the Lions to a seven-wicket victory.

England won the opening Test of the series by five wickets, and the second Test is scheduled to begin at Lord's on August 29. The team will be looking to continue their strong performance without Wood's contribution.

## Fatima Sana Appointed Pakistan Captain for Women's T20 World Cup



The Pakistan Cricket Board has announced 22-year-old Fatima Sana as the new captain for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in the UAE from October 3-20. Sana takes over the leadership role from Nida Dar, who has been struggling with form recently.

Nida Dar, aged 37, has faced challenges with her performance, with the team under her leadership experiencing defeats in T20I and ODI series against England, as well as a semi-final exit in the Women's Asia Cup last month. Despite her demotion from captaincy, Dar remains in the squad and will provide experience to the team.

The new captain, Fatima Sana, is stepping into the role with a promising career ahead of her. The squad for the World Cup retains at least 10 players from the previous edition of the tournament, ensuring continuity within the team.

This change in leadership reflects the team's strategy to revitalize their performance and approach in the global competition. Fans and analysts will be watching closely to see how Sana's leadership influences Pakistan's campaign in the upcoming tournament.

# Bangladesh Secures Historic Test Victory Over Pakistan

The Bangladesh cricket team has achieved a significant milestone by securing its first-ever Test victory against Pakistan. In a country grappling with political turmoil, this historic win has provided a much-needed moment of joy and pride. The Bangla Tigers' triumph came in the opening Test of a two-match series held in Rawalpindi, where they clinched a commanding 10-wicket victory.

Prior to this match, Bangladesh had faced Pakistan in 13 Test encounters, with 12 resulting in losses and one in a draw. This victory marks a major breakthrough for the team and highlights their growing prowess in international cricket. The win is not only a testament to the team's skill and determination but also a significant boost for Bangladeshi cricket amid challenging times.

The series will continue with the second Test, and fans are eagerly anticipating whether Bangladesh can maintain their winning form. This landmark achievement in Test cricket has been celebrated widely, offering a beacon of hope and unity for the nation.



## Rohit Sharma Honors Shikhar Dhawan's Retirement

India's Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma paid tribute to his longtime opening partner, Shikhar Dhawan, following Dhawan's retirement announcement on Saturday. Sharing nostalgic images from their Team India and junior cricket days on social media, Rohit expressed his admiration and gratitude for Dhawan's contributions to the game.

In his post, Rohit reflected on their journey together, writing, "From sharing rooms to sharing lifetime memories on the field. You always made my job easier from the other end. THE ULTIMATE JATT." This heartfelt message highlighted the strong bond and camaraderie that developed between the two cricketers over the years.

Dhawan, known for his explosive batting and key role in India's top order, has been a significant figure in international cricket. His decision to retire marks the end of an era for Indian cricket fans who have witnessed numerous memorable innings and significant contributions from him. Rohit's tribute underscores the deep respect and friendship between the two players, who have not only been teammates but also close friends. Their partnership on the field has been marked by numerous successes and has contributed greatly to India's cricketing achievements.

# Lewandowski Secures Barcelona Win Over Athletic Bilbao

Robert Lewandowski overcame a series of missed chances to secure a 2-1 victory for Barcelona against Athletic Bilbao in La Liga on Saturday. Despite hitting the woodwork twice and squandering several opportunities, the 36-year-old striker managed to find the back of the net with a decisive goal in the 75th minute, clinching the win for Barcelona.

Teenage sensation Lamine Yamal initially put Barcelona ahead with a deflected shot. However, Athletic Bilbao equalized before half-time when Oihan Sancet converted a penalty. The match remained level until Lewandowski's pivotal strike, which delivered Barcelona's second consecutive victory under new coach Hansi Flick.

Barcelona's win underscores the team's strong start to the season, with Lewandowski playing a crucial role despite his earlier frustrations. The victory solidifies their position in the league and highlights the effectiveness of Flick's tactics early in his tenure.





# Lakshya Sen Heads to Austria for Comprehensive Physical Assessmen

India's badminton star Lakshya Sen has traveled to Austria for a thorough physical assessment as he gears up for upcoming BWF tournaments. Sen, who narrowly missed an Olympic medal in Paris, is focused on optimizing his fitness and performance. The 22-year-old from Almora will undergo a detailed evaluation at the Red Bull Athlete Performance Centre in Salzburg.

The assessment aims to enhance Sen's physical condition and overall game. Vimal Kumar, Sen's coach, confirmed to PTI that the athlete has left for Austria to utilize the renowned sports institute's facilities. "Lakshya is heading to Austria for a comprehensive physical assessment and training regimen. He will be there for a week before returning," Kumar said.

This trip underscores Sen's commitment to reaching peak form as he prepares for the competitive badminton circuit. The results of this assessment will be crucial for refining his fitness strategy and ensuring he is in top shape for future challenges.





# Indraganti and Krishna Prasad's New Comedy Film 'Sarangapani Jathakam' Unveiled

Director Mohanakrishna Indraganti and producer Sivalenka Krishna Prasad have announced their third collaboration, titled \*\*'Sarangapani Jathakam'\*\*. This upcoming family entertainer, featuring Priyadarshi in a comedy-centric role, has generated excitement with its stylish title poster.

The film promises to deliver a rollercoaster of humor and plot twists, a hallmark of the genre. Indraganti, known for his creative storytelling influenced by Jandhyala and EVV Satyanarayana, aims to bring the same engaging comedy to this project. Producer Krishna Prasad is renowned for crafting films that cater to family audiences, and Indraganti's work has consistently aligned with this genre of healthy, family-friendly comedy.

Set against a backdrop of palmistry and horoscopes, \*\*'Sarangapani Jathakam'\*\* is already shaping up to be a promising addition to both their filmographies. With about 10% of production left to complete, the film features an ensemble cast including



Vennela Kishore, Viva Harsha, Naresh VK, Tanikella Bharani, and Srinivas Avasarala. The film's leading lady, Roopa Koduyur, plays a significant role, and the project boasts a technically advanced approach.

The soundtrack, composed by Vivek

Sagar, will feature four songs with catchy tunes, enhancing the film's appeal. PG Vinda, known for his work as Director of Photography, is also part of the team. With their successful previous collaborations, the duo is optimistic about achieving another hit with this latest venture.

# Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love & War' to Begin Shooting in October

Bollywood director Sanjay Leela
Bhansali's highly anticipated film
\*\*"Love & War"\*\* is gearing up for its
shoot, with production set to begin
in the first week of October. The film
stars real-life couple Ranbir Kapoor and
Alia Bhatt, alongside Vicky Kaushal,
and promises to deliver a compelling
narrative based on the dynamic
relationships between the characters.

According to a Pinkvilla report, Bhansali will first focus on shooting sequences featuring Ranbir Kapoor alone. Following this, he will turn his attention to the scenes that showcase the friendship between Ranbir and Vicky Kaushal. The schedule has been carefully crafted to accommodate the availability of the star cast.

Alia Bhatt, who is currently committed to YRF's female spy universe film
\*\*'Alpha'\*\*, is expected to join the
\*\*'Love & War'\*\* team in December or early January. She will begin filming for \*\*'Love & War'\*\* after wrapping up



\*\*'Alpha'\*\* by the end of November or early December.

The film's structure will reflect various facets of the characters' relationships: Ranbir Kapoor will be featured in action scenes, while his interactions with Vicky Kaushal will explore their friendship. The romance between Vicky Kaushal and Alia Bhatt will be a key element, alongside the romance and drama between Ranbir and Alia. The

film will also delve into the complex dynamics involving all three actors, focusing on their shared conflicts.

As anticipation builds for this starstudded project, fans are eager to see how Bhansali's vision unfolds on screen. The film's unique blend of action, romance, and drama is set to make \*\*'Love & War'\*\* a major highlight in Bollywood's upcoming releases.

## Nivetha Thomas Stars in Family Drama '35-Chinna Katha Kaadu' Releasing September 6



Actress Nivetha Thomas is set to star in the upcoming family drama \*\*\*35-Chinna Katha Kaadu'\*\*, which will release on September 6. The film explores complex family dynamics, focusing on the conflict between two siblings with differing life perspectives.

In \*\*\*35-Chinna Katha Kaadu'\*\*, Nivetha plays a central role as a middle-class woman navigating her personal dreams and family responsibilities. The movie highlights how these conflicting views impact relationships and personal lives. The cast also includes Priyadarshi, Vishwadev, Gautami, and Bhagyaraj. It will be released in Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam.

Presented by Rana Daggubati, the film is produced by Suresh Productions, S Originals, and Waltair Productions, with a modest budget. Directed by Nanda Kishore Emani, the film aims to offer an emotionally engaging experience.

Nivetha Thomas began her career as a child actress in the serial "My Dear Bootham" and later played Jayaram's daughter in "Veruthe Oru Bharya." She has since appeared in Tamil and Malayalam films like "Chaappa Kurish," "Thattathin Marayathu," and "Poraali." Her Telugu film debut came with "Gentleman" in 2016, followed by hits such as "Romans," "Jilla," "Papanasam," "Ninnu Kori," "Jai Lava Kusa," "118," "Brochevarevarura," "V," and "Vakeel Saab," the Telugu remake of "Pink."

Nivetha also featured in "Darbar" as Rajinikanth's daughter and "Saakini Daakini," a Telugu remake of the Korean film "Midnight Runners," directed by Sudheer Varma.

# Kabir Khan Reflects on Success with Salman Khan and Sequels

Filmmaker Kabir
Khan has shared
insights into why his
collaborations with
Bollywood superstar
Salman Khan have
resonated so strongly
with audiences. In
an interview with
IANS, Khan discussed
the success of their
films, including \*\*\*Ek
Tha Tiger\*\*\* (2012) and
\*\*\*Bajrangi Bhaijaan\*\*\*
(2015), which are

among the highest-grossing Indian and Hindi films of all time.

Khan attributes the popularity of these films to the compelling stories and characters they created, noting, "We have been lucky that people have liked the stories and characters that we have created." He acknowledges Salman Khan's massive fan base but emphasizes that the films' success also comes from the strong narratives they delivered.

Khan, who recently won the Best Director award at the 2024 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for \*\*\*Chandu Champion'\*\*, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to tell impactful stories. "I think I was fortunate that I made those



films at a time where the stories we worked on clicked with the audiences," he said.

Regarding the potential sequel to \*\*'Bajrangi Bhaijaan'\*\*, Khan stated that not every blockbuster needs a follow-up. He firmly believes that a successful film does not always warrant a sequel, reflecting his stance on maintaining originality in his work. "I am the first person to say that every blockbuster does not need a sequel. That is why I have not made sequels in my life," Khan explained.

Khan's remarks highlight his commitment to storytelling and his perspective on the film industry's approach to sequels.

# Vijay Deverakonda Celebrates 7 Years of 'Arjun Reddy' with BTS Pictures

Vijay Deverakonda, renowned for his role in \*\*'Arjun Reddy'\*\*, marked the film's seventh anniversary by sharing behind-the-scenes photos on social media. The actor posted images with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, reflecting on the film's impact and their collaborative journey.

In one photo, Vijay and Sandeep are seen intently observing a monitor, while in another, Sandeep is captured focusing on Vijay's intense portrayal of his character. Vijay, who played a doctor in the film, appeared in his character's attire, bringing a sense of nostalgia to the occasion.

Vijay expressed his sentiments with a heartfelt caption: "Give the people 'The Sandeep Vanga #ArjunReddy full cut' for the 10 years anniversary @ sandeepreddy.vanga! I cannot believe it is 7 years already, remember so many moments as if it was last year."

Fans quickly flooded the comments section, showing their enduring love for the film. One user remarked, "Arjun Reddy is not a movie. It's an emotion." Others expressed a desire for a sequel or re-release, with comments such as, "We want Arjun Reddy 2 please. VD sir," and "We want Arjun Reddy again in theatres to re-release."



The film, which also starred Shalini Pandey, remains a significant part of Vijay Deverakonda's career and continues to hold a special place in the hearts of its audience. The celebrations underscore the lasting impact \*\*'Arjun Reddy'\*\* has had on fans and its continued relevance in Indian cinema.