



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
H 38°C L 28°C	H 41°C L 28°C	H 41°C L 26°C

THE DEAL IS TO WITHDRAW RAPE CASE FIR BY THE ACTRESS

DEAL THROUGH HEAD & EXECUTED BY KEY PERSON, IPS TEAM?

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: After publishing the Mumbai actress issue and the special deal of a team like Supari Settlement batch by POINT, all the media have exposed all the details of the case, and it has become a big issue in the state. It has created political tremors as well.

After reading the special exclusive article in POINT, a news agency reporter in Mumbai contacted and explained that the case is not a marriage proposal but a rape case. The Mumbai actress is both an actress and a model. As per the court orders, police have filed an FIR against Mr. Sajjan Jindal, Chairman of the JSW Group. He is 62 years old.

As per the complaint of the actress, during the IPL, Mr. Sajjan Jindal had an interaction with her in Mumbai. He suggested that she try for big movies instead of small ones. Later, he continued chatting with her and promised to produce a big movie. For that purpose, he invited her to discuss it in his office in January 2023. She alleged that, in the name of discussion, he took her to the 15th floor of the same office building, which is a guest house. Allegedly, he made a sexual attack and raped her, ac-



According to the actress's complaint.

The next day itself, she tried to file a complaint against him at the local police station. Allegedly, the police avoided filing an FIR against Sajjan Jindal. After trying many times, she went to court to file an FIR. The court ordered the filing of an FIR against Sajjan Jindal in December 2023 after proceedings that lasted six months.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sajjan Jindal came to Andhra Pradesh for the program of laying the foundation stone for a steel plant at Kadapa. As we all know, Jindal had an agreement with the then Government of AP to install a steel plant in Kadapa. Mr. YS

Jaganmohan Reddy, the then CM, laid the foundation stone for the plant in the presence of Mr. Sajjan Jindal. From then onwards, key persons have been in touch with Mr. Jindal.

After the FIR was filed by court order, Mr. Jindal contacted key persons in the AP Government for help. From then onwards, the operation of the Supari Settlement batch began. According to TDP people, there is no chance of taking up this issue without the orders of BOSS. They have alleged that Jindal approached BOSS, and then it was forwarded to a key person and then to IPS officials.

Three IPS officials, four inspectors, and a sub-inspector are in this batch. Mr. Vidyasagar of YCP is just an instrument here in this case to file the FIR against the actress. This batch mounted pressure on her in different ways to withdraw the case against Mr. Sajjan Jindal, and she finally did so and was freed from AP.

 Operation is to withdraw a rape case by the actress.	 The FIR was filed against Mr. Sajjan Jindal, Chairman of JSW.	 As per the FIR, Sajjan Jindal raped the actress in January 2023.	 The next day, she tried to file a complaint at the police station but was avoided.	 In February 2023, Sajjan Jindal came to Kadapa for the foundation ceremony of a steel plant.	 She went to court, and the court ordered the FIR to be filed in December 2023.	 After the FIR, Jindal contacted AP persons to deal with the issue.	 Allegedly, Jindal contacted the Head, and he assigned the deal to a Key Person.	 The Key Person forwarded the assignment to an IPS officials' team.	 Three IPS officials, four Inspectors, and a Sub-Inspector dealt with it.
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Sajjala Condemns Allegations of Harassing a Mumbai Actress

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) General Secretary, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, has strongly condemned recent allegations made in an article published by *Eenadu* magazine, which accused him of harassing a Mumbai actress. In a statement, Reddy dismissed the claims as baseless and part of a broader campaign to tarnish the reputation of YSRCP and its leaders.



Specifically criticized by Reddy, who described it as untrue, irrelevant, and written with malicious intent. He expressed his deep frustration over what he called "false propaganda" being spread by the TDP, its social media channels, and other platforms based on this report.

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy announced that he will be taking legal action against those responsible for the article, asserting that such defamatory content was published solely to harm his reputation and the standing of the YSRCP.

Reddy accused the coalition government and its affiliated media of engaging in a coordinated effort to divert public attention from the state's ongoing issues, such as unfulfilled manifesto promises, violence, and property destruction. He suggested that these unfounded articles are a tactic used to damage the image of the YSRCP and defame its leaders.

The article published by *Eenadu* was spe-

Supreme Court Grants Bail to BRS MLC Kavitha in Delhi Liquor Policy Case



TPN, Telangana: BRS MLC K. Kavitha has been granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Delhi Liquor Policy case, providing her with significant relief after five months in Tihar Jail. The decision came after an hour and a half of arguments, during which a bench comprising Justice BR Gavai and Justice Viswanathan heard the case.

The court noted that the final charge sheet had already been filed and commented that there was no need for Kavitha to remain in jail. The bench also considered the fact that Kavitha is a woman when granting the bail. Both the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had previously granted bail to her in related cases.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi represented Kavitha, while the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) argued on behalf of the ED.

The bench also considered that Kavitha, who has been in Tihar Jail for almost five months, is a woman, making her eligible for bail under Section 45. The court overruled the Delhi High Court's previous verdict, allowing Kavitha to be released on bail upon submitting a surety bond of Rs. 10 lakh.

The Supreme Court also issued several conditions with the bail order:

- Kavitha must surrender her passport to the Magistrate.
- She is required to cooperate in the trial of the case.
- Court permission must be obtained for any international travel.
- She must cooperate with investigating agencies during inquiry adjournments.



Sugali Preeti's Mother Meets AP Home Minister Anitha

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Sugali Preeti, a student from Kurnool who tragically died in 2017, remains at the center of a heartbreaking and unresolved case. The school management claimed that Preeti died by suicide, but her parents have long alleged that she was raped and murdered by the sons of the school correspondent. Despite years of struggle, the case remains unresolved, leaving the family in search of justice.

Today, Preeti's mother, Parvathi Devi, met with Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anitha at the state secretariat in Amaravati. During the meeting, Parvathi Devi recounted the injustice done to her daughter and expressed her frustration over the lack of progress in the case. She has been tirelessly seeking justice for the past seven years, clinging to the hope that the new government will finally bring those responsible to account.

Parvathi Devi mentioned that AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan had previously assured the family that justice would be served if they came to power. This assurance has kept her hopeful, despite the challenges and delays. She also revealed that the previous government had indicated that the case might be handed over to the CBI, but no investigation was ever initiated. Her attempts to seek intervention in Delhi were met with further disappointment, as officials dismissed the case with indifference.

Parvathi Devi expressed her disillusionment with the previous government's promises, including the behav-



ior of officials like Jawahar Reddy, who she claims also failed to deliver justice. However, she noted that during her recent meeting, Home Minister Anitha assured her that the case would be handed over to the CID for further investigation. CID Chief Ravi Shankar has also reportedly promised to personally oversee the investigation.

As the family continues their quest for justice, the case of Sugali Preeti remains a poignant reminder of the need for accountability and the protection of vulnerable individuals in society.

AP to End Monarchical Practices in Sub-Registrar Offices

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Department of Registrations is set to reform the traditional practices in sub-registrar offices, putting an end to the monarchical trends that have persisted since the British era. Special Chief Secretary Sisodia of the Department of Revenue, Stamps, and Registrations has prepared proposals aimed at modernizing these offices. The key change involves standardizing the seating arrangements of sub-registrars to align with those in other government offices, thereby reducing the impression that sub-registrars hold a judicial-like authority.

These reforms are part of a broader effort to present sub-registrars as ordinary government officers, fostering a more approachable and egalitarian environment. Once the government approves the proposals, Special CS Sisodia will issue a circular to ensure these changes



are implemented across the state, signaling a shift towards a more modern and accessible public service in Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Narayana Issues Fresh Warning to TDR Bond Holders



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Municipal Minister Ponguru Narayana, a prominent figure in the alliance government of Andhra Pradesh, has once again issued a stern warning to the YSR Congress Party (YCP). Minister Narayana, who has been targeting alleged irregularities during the previous YCP regime, announced today that the ongoing investigation into a major irregularity will soon conclude, with decisive action to follow.

The focus of the inquiry is on the issuance of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) bonds during the YCP's tenure. The current alliance government suspects that YCP leaders profited significantly from these bonds, which were allegedly issued in violation of regulations across various cities in the state. The investigation seeks to uncover the extent of these profits and the potential misuse of the TDR bonds.

In a statement made in Tirupati, Minister Narayana confirmed that a special committee has been established to probe the TDR bond irregularities, with a report expected by the end of September. He emphasized that once the committee's findings are released, further actions will be taken against those involved. Narayana accused the previous YCP government of misappropriating thousands of crores of rupees through TDR bonds, raising corruption to unprecedented levels.

In addition to his warning, Minister Narayana promised to address issues within the municipal department within the next six months. He also announced plans to open 75 more canteens across the state on September 13, continuing efforts to improve public services.

CID Chief Leads Investigation into Madanapalle Sub Collector Office Fire

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The investigation into the fire incident at the Madanapalle Sub Collector's office has intensified, with Andhra Pradesh CID Chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar personally overseeing the proceedings. The fire, which caused significant damage to the office and its documents, has raised several questions, prompting a detailed investigation to uncover the cause and culprits.

In a bid to gather more information, officials conducted a scene reconstruction at the Sub Collector's office, meticulously examining the premises and collecting crucial details. The reconstruction, which took place over three hours from Monday night to Tuesday morning, involved the participation of Annamayi District SP Vidyasagar Naidu, Additional SP Rajakumar, and Madanapalle DSP Venugopal.

As part of the investigation, senior assistant Gautam Tej, who was arrested earlier in connection with the incident, was brought to the office to provide additional details. The investigation also involved questioning Hariprasad, a former

RDO at the Sub Collector's office, and Nimmanapalle VRA Ramana, who was on duty the night of the fire.

One significant discovery during the investigation was the presence of car engine oil at the scene, which was reportedly found in a beer container. The police questioned Gautam Tej about the reasons for bringing the engine oil into the office and its connection to the fire.

The police are also searching for Madhava Reddy, a key figure and close associate of former Andhra Pradesh minister and YCP leader Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy. Despite months of effort, his whereabouts remain unknown, adding another layer of complexity to the investigation.

CID Chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar expressed confidence that the investigation into the Madanapalle Sub Collector's office fire would soon reach a conclusion. The ongoing probe, including the detailed scene reconstruction, is expected to provide critical insights into the events leading up to the fire and those responsible.



ACB Gains Approval to Investigate Former Mines MD VG Venkata Reddy



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Andhra Pradesh is intensifying its investigation into VG Venkata Reddy, the former Managing Director of the Department of Mines, by securing the necessary permissions under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. This approval allows the ACB to delve deeper into the allegations of corruption and irregularities associated with Reddy's tenure.

VG Venkata Reddy is accused of numerous irregularities concerning sand mining, sales, tenders, and contracts during the YSRCP government's rule, resulting in significant financial losses to the state. It is alleged that Reddy, acting under the influence of YSRCP leaders, facilitated undue benefits to private companies. His actions led to his suspension by the Andhra Pradesh government on August 1st.

The ACB, having already identified several violations and irregularities in the allocation of mining leases and the awarding of sand tenders, is now scrutinizing key documents and files. One particularly concerning issue is Reddy's issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to Jaypee Power Ventures, despite the company owing the government approximately ₹800 crores. Furthermore, the ACB is investigating allegations that false affidavits were submitted to the Supreme Court, High Court, and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) under Reddy's watch.

Currently, Reddy, who was set to retire on August 31st, remains suspended and is unable to complete his retirement. However, he has been absconding for the past two months, avoiding authorities who attempted to serve suspension notices at his known residences.

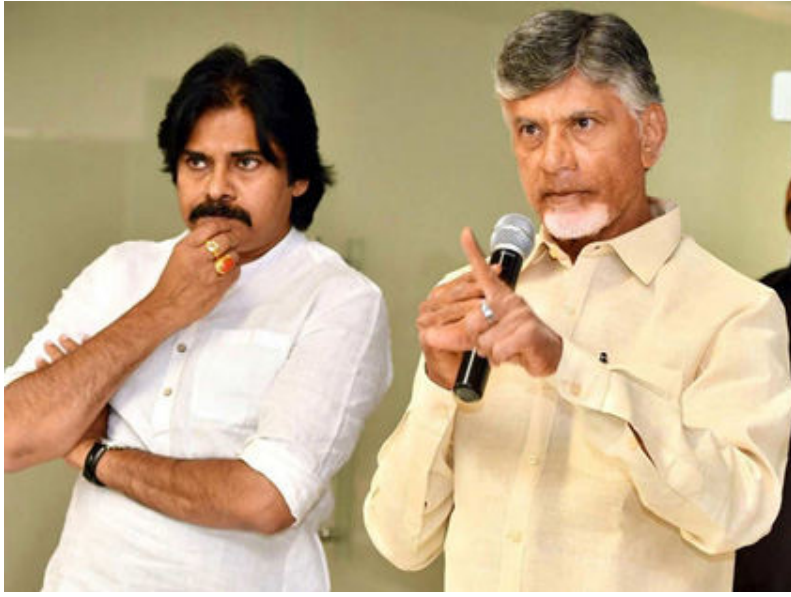
The ACB's investigation into Venkata Reddy continues to unfold, with authorities determined to uncover the full extent of the alleged corruption and bring those responsible to justice.

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Chandrababu and Pawan to Probe Forest Land Encroachments in Kurnool

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a startling development, allegations have surfaced that some local YCP leaders in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district have encroached upon approximately 120 acres of forest land. This issue has become a hot topic, with leaders from the TDP, Janasena, and BJP accusing the previous YCP government, under the leadership of YS Jaganmohan Reddy, of not only grabbing government lands but also encroaching on forest areas.



Pawan Kalyan, to take notice. The forest department, which has been slow to act, has now initiated an investigation into the matter. It is reported that the Andhra Pradesh government has requested a detailed report from the forest department regarding the encroachments.

Reports suggest that the forest area in Sitapuram village of Bethancherla mandal has been gradually encroached upon over the past two years. It has come to light that YCP leaders allegedly cut down teak trees, removed stones, and leveled the land for cultivation. Locals claim that after the deforestation, crops such as chamomile flowers, leguminous nuts, kandu, and chini were planted in the cleared area.

TDP and Janasena leaders have raised these concerns with the coalition government, accusing YCP leaders of colluding with forest department officials to facilitate the illegal activities. The forest department in Kurnool is now preparing to submit a comprehensive report on the issue, detailing the extent of the encroachments and the involvement of local leaders.

The allegations have prompted the current coalition government, led by CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister

YCP Expresses Doubts Over Alliance Victory Appeals to Election Commission



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The recent victory of the alliance in Andhra Pradesh's assembly elections has left the YSR Congress Party (YCP) raising concerns and questioning the integrity of the results. With the alliance securing a significant number of seats and YCP only winning 11, suspicions have arisen within the party regarding the fairness of the election process.

In response, YCP leaders met with Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav at the Secretariat today to lodge a formal complaint. They expressed their growing doubts about the election results, urging the Election Commission (EC) to address these concerns to uphold the democratic process.

The YCP leaders pointed out discrepancies between the polling day statistics and those from the counting day, calling for

clarification from the EC. They also raised questions about the battery charging status of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), citing widespread doubts about EVM functionality across the country. Additionally, they questioned why the EC has not yet released Form 20 data from all 175 constituencies, which is crucial for transparency in the electoral process.

The party leaders further criticized the difference in polling percentages and the statistics published by the EC, demanding a detailed explanation of how many votes were cast in each constituency and the vote distribution among candidates. They described the delay in announcing the results of Form 20 votes as unusual and called for immediate action from the EC to address their concerns.

Notices Issued to Former TTD Chairman Karunakar Reddy and EO Dharma Reddy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: A vigilance investigation is currently underway into allegations of significant irregularities within the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) during the previous government's tenure. For the past two months, vigilance officials have been meticulously gathering details about various transactions within different departments of TTD, focusing on work conducted in violation of rules, expenses, and other related issues.



As part of this ongoing investigation, notices have been issued to former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy and former Additional Executive Officer (EO) Dharma Reddy, seeking explanations for their involvement. Additionally, similar notices have been sent to YV Subbareddy and Jawahar Reddy, who previously served as TTD Chairman and EO, respectively.

One of the key areas of scrutiny is the allocation of funds, with criticisms arising over the handling of tenders, particularly in the engineering works

sector, where TTD typically allocates around ₹300 crores annually. The vigilance officers have also questioned Chief Statistician Balaji, requesting clarification on the allocation of ₹420 crores for Govindarajaswamy Satras and ₹77 crores for various works, including swims and roads, in different parts of Tirupati. The officials are seeking answers as to why these financial discrepancies were not addressed during the previous administration.

Viveka Murder Case: Dastagiri Files Complaint Against YS Jagan

TPN, Kadapa: Dastagiri, the approver in the Vivekananda Reddy (Viveka) murder case, met with Kadapa District SP Harshavardhan today to file a formal complaint against several high-profile YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders, including YS Jaganmohan Reddy, Bharti Reddy, Avinash Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, and Sivashankar Reddy. Dastagiri alleged that these individuals have troubled him for the past five years, demanding justice and punishment for those responsible.



intendent of Kadapa Jail, Prakash, was complicit in these acts, acting as a stooge for YCP leaders.

Dastagiri further accused Sivashankar Reddy's son, Chaitanya Reddy, of attempting to bribe him to settle the Viveka murder case. He stated that when he refused to cooperate, he was subjected to further torture in jail, and even claimed that CCTV footage of his time in jail was deliberately deleted to cover up the mistreatment.

In his complaint, Dastagiri claimed that during the YCP regime, the police acted as "bonded slaves" under political pressure. He recounted his experiences of being tortured while in jail, alleging that the Super-

He urged SP Harshavardhan and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to thoroughly investigate these incidents, emphasizing that those who have committed wrongdoing should be held accountable and punished accordingly.

Public Outrage On Kadapa YCP Mayor, Garbage Dumped at Mayor's Residence

TPN, Kadapa: In a dramatic turn of events, residents of Kadapa expressed their outrage against YCP Mayor Suresh Babu by dumping garbage at his residence. This public protest was sparked by the Mayor's insistence on enforcing the collection of garbage tax, despite orders from the coalition government to halt such practices across Andhra Pradesh.



The previous YCP government had implemented a controversial tax collection system, which the new coalition government promptly stopped after taking power, recognizing the widespread public anger it had generated. However, Mayor Suresh Babu defied the state government's directive and ordered that garbage tax still be collected in Kadapa. He even instructed municipal staff to cease garbage collection from households that did not pay the tax.

These orders provoked strong reactions from local residents. In defiance, the people refused to pay the garbage tax, following the lead of local TDP MLA Madhavi Reddy, who publicly criticized the Mayor's actions and urged citizens not to comply. As gar-

bage collection was halted, the situation escalated, leading frustrated residents to bring their uncollected garbage to the Mayor's house and dump it there in protest.

This act of civil disobedience created a tense atmosphere in the area, reflecting the deep dissatisfaction among the people with the Mayor's approach to governance and his disregard for the coalition government's directives. The incident underscores the ongoing tensions between local authorities and the public over policy implementation in the region.

Scandal Scales for Anantha Babu: YCP MLC's Controversy Causes Concern for Jagan

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP MLC Anantha Babu finds himself embroiled in yet another controversy, raising concerns within the YSR Congress Party (YCP) and potentially causing headaches for former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Party insiders are whispering that the ongoing scandal could become a major issue for the party's leadership.



The controversy erupted after a video call featuring Anantha Babu went viral on social media, with allegations that he was behaving inappropriately with a female YCP leader. Although Anantha Babu claimed the video was morphed and not real, he lodged a complaint at the Addathigala Police Station in Alluri Seetharamaraju District, alleging that he was being blackmailed with fabricated footage.

Following the complaint, the police launched an investigation, asking Anantha Babu to provide details on who was blackmailing him, how much money he had paid, and to whom. The MLC submitted bank statements showing that he had transferred around Rs 13 lakhs to two women and two men via Google Pay by June 24 of this year. Among those named were K Santhosh Kumar and Bairu Vasugaud, along with two unidentified women.

However, Anantha Babu's responses reportedly left the police unconvinced. When questioned about why he would pay money if the videos were indeed fake, the MLC struggled to provide satisfactory answers. This has led to speculation that the videos may be genuine, prompting Anantha Babu to pay to keep them from being further exposed.

The scandal has caused significant unrest within the YCP, with some party leaders suggesting that Anantha Babu's repeated controversies are damaging the party's image. One leader even suggested that it might be time for the party's chief to take action against the embattled MLC. As the investigation continues in Alluri Seetharamaraju district, the affair has once again placed Anantha Babu at the center of unwanted attention, causing ripples across the YCP.

Balineni Srinivasa Reddy's Rift with YCP: Rumors of a Janasena Switch

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The unexpected defeat of the YSR Congress Party (YCP) in the recent elections has triggered significant unrest among its leaders, with many considering a shift to other political parties. Among those rumored to be contemplating a move is former minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, a key figure in the YCP. Speculation is rife in his district that Balineni may join the Janasena Party.

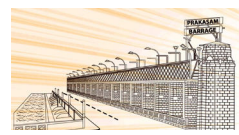
Janasena as a smear campaign intended to discredit him and prevent him from making such a move. He asserted that while some within the party may have sidelined him, his resolve remains strong, and his fight will continue.

Recently, Balineni addressed these rumors, making sensational allegations against the YCP leadership. He revealed that he has been distancing himself from the party since the elections concluded, citing a lack of support for his fight against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Balineni expressed frustration, stating that despite raising concerns, the party leadership has been unresponsive.

In a related legal battle, Balineni has taken the issue of recounting votes in several polling booths to court, challenging the Election Commission's (EC) procedures. The Supreme Court had ruled that Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) should be examined and slips counted, but Balineni's lawyer objected to the EC's subsequent order, which permitted mock polling without adhering to this requirement. The case is ongoing, and a final verdict is yet to be issued.

Moreover, Balineni dismissed the rumors of his potential defection to

As the situation develops, Balineni's actions and statements continue to stir political discourse, leaving many to wonder what his next move will be.



Minister Lokesh Slams YCP for Allegations Against Tanuku Anna Canteen



TPN, Mangalagiri: Minister Nara Lokesh has strongly countered the recent allegations made by the YSR Congress Party (YCP) regarding the management of the Tanuku Anna canteen. In a heated response to a tweet from YCP, which claimed that the canteen was operating under unsanitary conditions, Minister Lokesh accused Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy of spreading "poison" against the canteens that provide essential meals to the public.

YCP had posted a video on social media, alleging that the Tanuku canteen was unhygienic at every level. However, Minister Lokesh dismissed these claims as misleading and accused YCP supporters of deliberately staging the video to tarnish the canteen's reputation. He asserted that taste and cleanliness are of utmost priority in these canteens, which serve as a critical source of food for many.

In his tweet, Lokesh stated, "Psycho Jagan is spewing poison on the rice canteens where rice is served to satisfy hunger. Taste, cleanliness, and hygiene are the most important things in the canteen. YSP groups are spreading fake propaganda by placing rice plates in the handwashing area." He emphasized that the video is a result of YCP mobs throwing rice plates in the sink area, misleadingly suggesting unsanitary practices.

Minister Lokesh's response reflects the ongoing political tensions and the importance of these canteens in serving the public, particularly those in need.

Doctors Request Enhanced Security from Home Minister Anita



TPN, Amaravati: Representatives of doctors met with Home Minister Mrs. Anita at the State Secretariat to express their concerns about the security of medical professionals, particularly female doctors. The doctors highlighted the challenges and safety risks they face, especially when attending to duties at night, and urged the Home Minister to provide adequate security measures to ensure their safety.

The delegation emphasized that the current situation for female doctors is particularly dire, and they requested immediate action to address these concerns.

Vijayawada DRM Shri Narendra A. Patil On Central Government's 'Unified Pension Scheme'

TPN, Vijayawada: In a significant move, the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway (SCR) announced the introduction of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), a landmark initiative approved by the Union Cabinet. The announcement was made during a press conference chaired by Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Vijayawada Division. The new pension scheme is set to take effect from the fiscal year 2025-26 and aims to provide enhanced financial security to Central Government employees.

Shri Narendra A. Patil described the Unified Pension Scheme as a transformative policy that offers assured pensions, inflation-indexed dearness relief, and financial security for dependent family members. The policy was developed after extensive consultations with trade unions, state governments, and financial experts. The DRM highlighted



that the scheme will benefit approximately 23 lakh Central Government employees, including around 14,000 employees from the Vijayawada Division of SCR.

The scheme allows employees who are currently subscribers of the New Pension Scheme (NPS)

to opt into the UPS. A one-time switch option from NPS to UPS is available, but once exercised, employees cannot revert to NPS. The employee contribution remains unchanged, while the government's contribution has been increased from 14% to 18.5%. An added bonus feature of the

UPS is a lump-sum payment at the time of superannuation, in addition to the standard gratuity.

Shri Katta Anand, Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer, emphasized that the UPS guarantees a pension of 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to retirement, provided the employee has completed a minimum qualifying service of 25 years. The scheme also includes an assured family pension, minimum pension, and benefits indexed to inflation.

The press conference concluded with a vote of thanks from Ms. Nusrat M. Mandrupkar, Public Relations Officer (PRO), who urged the media to raise awareness about the benefits of the Unified Pension Scheme among the public. The UPS is poised to significantly improve the financial well-being of Central Government employees and their families.

CPI March for Krishna Water Supply to A. Konduru

TPN, Vijayawada: Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao, MLA of Tiruvur Constituency, has expressed his strong support for the ongoing march from A. Konduru to the Vijayawada Collectorate, organized under the auspices of the Communist Party of India (CPI). The march, led by CPI NTR district general secretary Donepudi Shankar, aims to advocate for the supply of Krishna water to the kidney disease-stricken A. Konduru Mandal.



the deaths of hundreds of tribals across various Tandans in Kondur Mandal. He commended the CPI leaders for initiating this "great yajna" to save lives, emphasizing that the march is a non-political effort focused on public health.

The MLA acknowledged that the scheme to provide Krishna water to 38 villages in Konduru Mandal has faced delays due to a lack of funding from the previous government. He stressed the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of this project, especially given

the severe challenges faced by dialysis patients in Kondur and Gampalagudem mandals, who live in constant fear of death due to their deteriorating health.

Expressing his solidarity with the Padayatra, Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao stated, "As an MLA, I fully support this initiative, which is undertaken with the noble intention of eradicating the kidney problem in the region." He further assured that he would back any party or program aimed at improving the health and development of the people in the tribal areas of Kondur Mandal.

Speaking at the event, MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao highlighted the tragic impact of contaminated fluoride water in the region, which has resulted in

Varla Ramaiah Demands Investigation into Mumbai Actress Case Involving YCP



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: TDP Polit Bureau member Varla Ramaiah has called for a thorough investigation into the recent allegations involving a Mumbai actress, claiming that the incident may have been orchestrated by YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders. Ramaiah raised several concerns, demanding clarity on whether the actress was interrogated at a private YCP guest house and suggesting that Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, a senior YCP leader, might have been involved.

Ramaiah described the situation as a "honey trap" intended to mentally torture the actress and criticized the police for failing to apprehend the actual accused in the case. He alleged that the entire operation was a conspiracy led by Sajjala, with Kanti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni, senior police officials, allegedly acting as enablers.

He urged that a full-scale investigation be conducted by an officer of the rank of Additional Director General (ADG) to uncover the truth. Ramaiah further accused the police under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's regime of being misused like never before, stating that the priority of the police has shifted inappropriately under political pressure. He also suggested that Sajjala's involvement in the case had led to a change in focus, with the victim being wrongfully treated as an accused.

TDP Leader Buddha Venkanna Meets Palnadu Additional SP, Alleges Attack by Pinnelli Brothers

TPN, Vijayawada: TDP leader Buddha Venkanna recently met with Additional SP Lakshmiopathy of Palnadu district to discuss an attack he claims was orchestrated by the Pinnelli brothers. During the meeting, Venkanna expressed his grievances, recounting the events of November 3, 2020, when he and his fellow party members were allegedly assaulted while carrying out duties assigned by TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu.



and suppress opposition. Venkanna further accused Pinnelli of using the Macherla region as a base for unsocial activities.

Venkanna claimed that despite being the first accused in the assault case, Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy evaded justice due to his political power at the time. He asserted that those involved in the attack were rewarded with positions of influence, such as the post of Municipal Chairman of Macherla.

The TDP leader expressed frustration over what he perceives as a lack of action from the police, stating that his complaints to the SP were ignored. He vowed to continue his fight for justice, challenging Pinnelli to face him openly. Venkanna concluded by asserting that Pinnelli's actions are detrimental to democracy and must be fully suppressed.

According to Venkanna, the Pinnelli brothers, led by Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, were the masterminds behind the attack, which involved their supporters throwing large stones at Venkanna's vehicle. He alleged that the attack was intended to intimidate the public



The Farakka Barrage and Bangladesh Floods

The Farakka Barrage and Bangladesh Floods



Bangladesh is currently grappling with devastating floods caused by relentless monsoon rains and overflowing rivers, affecting millions across the country. As of now, the death toll has risen to 23, with over 1.24 million families stranded in 11 districts. Approximately 5.7 million people are in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine, and dry clothes. Amid this crisis, reports have surfaced in Bangladesh, suggesting that the flooding is exacerbated by the opening of the Farakka Barrage in West Bengal, India. These claims have prompted a fact-check by the Government of India, which has categorically rejected the allegations as "fake news."

The Farakka Barrage and the Indian Government's Response

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India, through its spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, dismissed the reports linking the Farakka Barrage to the floods in Bangladesh as misinformation. "We have seen fake videos, rumors, and fear-mongering intended to create misunderstanding. This should be firmly countered with facts," Jaiswal stated. He further clarified that relevant data regarding water flow and management is regularly shared with the Joint River Commission (JRC) officials in Bangladesh in a timely manner, as it was during this period.

Jaiswal elaborated that the opening of the Farakka Barrage gates is a seasonal occurrence driven by increased inflow due to heavy rainfall in the Ganga river basin upstream. "Farakka is only a barrage, not a dam. When the water level reaches the pond level, any inflow simply passes through. It's a structure designed to divert 40,000 cusecs of water into the Farakka canal using a system of gates on the main Ganga/Padma river, while the remaining water continues its natural course into Bangladesh," he explained.

Understanding the Farakka Barrage

The Farakka Barrage is located on the Ganga River in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, approximately 18 kilometers from the Bangladesh border. Construction of the barrage began in 1962 and was completed in 1970 at an estimated cost of nearly \$1 billion. The barrage officially commenced operations on April 21, 1975.

The primary purpose of the Farakka Barrage is to divert 40,000 cusecs of water into the Farakka canal, which is crucial for maintaining the navigability of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River and ensuring the smooth operation of the Kolkata port. The barrage operates by using a series of gates to carefully manage the water flow, allowing the remaining water to continue flowing into the main river, which eventually reaches Bangladesh.

Historical Context: The Farakka Barrage Agreement and the Ganga Water Treaty

The Ganga River, which flows from India into Bangladesh, becomes the Padma River in Bangladesh and ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal after merging with the Meghna River. The establishment of the Farakka Barrage by India was primarily to address the issue of silt deposition in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River, crucial for the Kolkata port's operation. Bangladesh, however, has maintained that the Ganga is an international river, and its waters should be managed through mutual agreements.

In 1972, India and Bangladesh established the Joint River Commission (JRC) to negotiate water-sharing terms. Despite differences, a bilateral agreement was signed in November 1977 during the visit of then-Deputy Prime Minister of India, Babu Jagjivan Ram, to Bangladesh. This agreement aimed to address the concerns surrounding the Farakka Barrage.

In 1996, the Ganga Water Treaty was signed between India and Bangladesh under the leadership of Bangladesh's Awami League government. This treaty formalized the sharing of surface waters at the Farakka Barrage, ensuring that both nations cooperatively manage the river's resources.

The Larger Picture: Climate Change and Flooding in Bangladesh

Flooding in Bangladesh is not a new phenomenon. A 2015 analysis by the World Bank Institute estimated that 3.5 million people in Bangladesh, one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, are at risk of annual river flooding. Scientists widely attribute the increasing frequency and severity of such catastrophic events to climate change, which has intensified monsoon rains and altered river flow patterns.

In this context, it's crucial to understand that while infrastructure like the Farakka Barrage plays a role in managing river flows, the broader issue of flooding in Bangladesh is deeply intertwined with global climate dynamics. The floods currently affecting Bangladesh are likely a result of a combination of natural monsoon patterns, climate change, and local factors, rather than being solely attributed to the operation of the Farakka Barrage.

Conclusion

As Bangladesh faces yet another devastating flood, it is imperative to base discussions and decisions on accurate information and a clear understanding of the factors at play. The Indian government's rejection of the claims linking the Farakka Barrage to the floods underscores the need for cooperation and transparency in managing shared water resources. Moving forward, both India and Bangladesh must continue to engage in constructive dialogue through mechanisms like the Joint River Commission to address the challenges posed by shared rivers in a changing climate.

Why BJP Seeks Polling Date Change in Haryana ?

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Haryana has recently requested the Election Commission of India (ECI) to reconsider the polling date for the upcoming state elections, citing concerns that a long weekend could negatively impact voter turnout. This move has sparked controversy, with the Congress accusing the BJP of trying to delay the election out of fear of losing. Despite these accusations, the BJP has asserted its readiness to contest the elections on any date. The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has also voiced support for the BJP's request.

The Core of the Issue

Haryana is currently scheduled to vote on October 1, a Tuesday, coinciding with the third and final phase of voting in Jammu and Kashmir. However, the BJP's concern stems from the fact that the polling day falls within a potential six-day long weekend. September 28-29 are weekend days, followed by holidays on October 2 (Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti) and October 3 (Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti). If voters take a leave on September 30, they could enjoy an extended break, which the BJP fears might lead to lower voter turnout, particularly in urban areas.

Haryana's urbanization level was recorded at 28.9% according to the 2011 census, and this figure has likely increased with the expansion of the National Capital Region (NCR). Fourteen districts in Haryana, including key urban centers like Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak, Sonapat, and Bhiwani, are part of the NCR. The BJP traditionally performs well in these urban areas, where a significant portion of the population consists of migrants. There is concern that many urban voters might use the extended weekend to visit their hometowns, thus skipping the polls.

Historically, rural voter turnout in general elections has been higher than in urban areas. In the 2024 general elections, for example, rural turnout was 67.9% compared to 57.9% in urban regions. The BJP acknowledges that a lower voter turnout in the 2024 elections negatively impacted its performance, contributing to the party falling short of securing a majority.

The BJP's Perspective

High voter turnout has historically been crucial for the BJP's electoral success. From 1996 to 2019, the party formed the central government five times, with increased voter turnout in four of these instances. Despite having a vast network of panna pramukhs (party workers responsible for managing a small number of voters), the BJP is concerned that if some of its urban voter base opts for a vacation instead of voting, its electoral advantage could be diminished.

In light of this, the BJP has requested the ECI to either change the polling date or extend the polling period. However, with October 2 and 3 being holidays and October 4 reserved for the announcement of results, there is limited scope for postponing the polls. Any change might require advancing the date, which could pose additional challenges.

Political Reactions

The Congress has dismissed the BJP's concerns as a sign of nervousness. Deepender Hooda, a prominent Congress leader, took to social media to accuse the BJP of making excuses to delay the elections, suggesting that the party lacks substantive issues, achievements, or strong candidates for all 90 assembly seats.

The upcoming election is expected to be highly polarized, with the Jat community, a dominant social group in Haryana, largely supporting the Congress, while non-Jats are expected to back the BJP. In the 2024 general elections, the BJP won all five Lok Sabha seats in non-Jat dominated areas and remains strong in urban regions like Faridabad, Ambala, and Gurugram, where it won 22 out of 40 seats in the 2019 Vidhan Sabha elections.

However, the BJP's concern is that some urban voters might use the extended weekend for vacations, reducing turnout. This highlights a growing disparity between urban and rural voters, with urban voters more likely to afford vacations compared to their rural counterparts.

The Road Ahead

The BJP's request to the ECI underscores the party's awareness of the potential impact of voter turnout on the election's outcome. As the party faces ten years of incumbency, it is keen to address all potential challenges, including the polling date, to secure a favorable result.

Whether the ECI will accommodate the BJP's request remains to be seen. The election, already shaping up to be a highly competitive and polarized contest, will be a critical test for all major political players in the state.





Kolkata Police Clash with Protestors During 'Nabanna Abhijan' March

On Tuesday, Kolkata police deployed water cannons, lathi charges, and tear gas to disperse protestors during the 'Nabanna Abhijan' march at Santragachi in Howrah. The protest, which was sparked by the ongoing controversy surrounding the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, saw thousands of students courageously facing off against the heavy-handed tactics of the West Bengal government. The demonstration began with

protestors gathering at Santragachi before marching from College Square in Kolkata towards the state secretariat, Nabanna. As protestors attempted to breach police barricades, a violent confrontation ensued, with protestors dragging away barricades and clashing with police officers. In response, the police intensified their efforts, employing water cannons, lathi charges, and tear gas to control the situation.

The rally was organized in the wake of

shocking revelations involving Sanjoy Roy, the accused in the rape and murder case. Reports have emerged that Roy, a civic volunteer with Kolkata Police, was using a bike registered under the name of Kolkata's Commissioner of Police. The bike was allegedly used to visit red-light areas in north Kolkata on the day of the crime, raising further questions about the conduct and oversight within the police force. Kolkata Police clarified that all government vehicles belonging to the department are registered under

the Commissioner of Police before being assigned to various units.

The protestors, unarmed but determined, braved the oppressive measures on the Howrah Bridge, demanding justice for the slain trainee doctor and accountability for those involved in the crime. The heavy-handed response from the police has drawn widespread criticism, with many accusing the Mamata Banerjee-led government of fascism in its crackdown on peaceful demonstrators.

BJP Announces 29 More Candidates for Jammu and Kashmir Elections

In a significant move, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday named 29 additional candidates for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir elections, which mark the region's first electoral exercise in a decade. This brings the total number of candidates announced by the party to 45.

Earlier, on Monday, the BJP had released a list of 44 candidates but swiftly retracted it. Hours later, a revised list featuring only 15 names for the first phase of the election was issued, followed by another list with a single name.

The latest list includes 10 candidates for the second phase and 19 for the third phase of the polls. Notably, the BJP has made one change from the rescinded list, naming Baldev Raj Sharma as the candidate for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi constituency instead of Rohit Dubey. Among the prominent names, Devender Singh Rana has been fielded from Nagrota, and Satish Sharma is the candidate for Billawar, a seat previously held by former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh in the 2014 elections.

Interestingly, the BJP has yet to announce candidates for two key constituencies: Nowshera, previously represented by current state BJP president Ravinder



Raina, and Gandhinagar, which was held by senior leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta.

Meanwhile, the Congress and the National Conference (NC) have finalized a seat-sharing agreement, with NC contesting 51 seats and Congress 32.

The elections for Jammu and Kashmir's 90-member assembly will be held in

three phases from September 18 to October 1, with vote counting set for October 4. This election comes after the BJP withdrew from its coalition with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 2018, leading to the assembly's dissolution. The region has been without local lawmakers since its partial autonomy was revoked in 2019.



NDA Reaches Majority in Rajya Sabha as BJP Secures Key Wins in By-Polls

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) reached a significant milestone in the Rajya Sabha today, securing the majority mark after nine BJP members and two from its allies were elected unopposed in by-polls for the upper house. With these new additions, the BJP's strength in the Rajya Sabha has risen to 96, bringing the total for the NDA to 112 seats.

The newly elected BJP members include Mission Ranjan Dass and Rameshwar Teli from Assam, Manan Kumar Mishra from Bihar, Kiran Chadhary from Haryana, George Kurien from Madhya Pradesh, Dhira Sheel Patil from Maharashtra, Mamata Mohanta from Odisha, Ravneet Singh Bittu from Rajasthan, and Rajeev Bhattacharjee from Tripura.

In addition to the BJP members, three others were elected unopposed: Abhishek Manu Singhvi of the Congress from Telangana, Nitin Patil from the Ajit Pawar-led faction of the NCP from Maharashtra, and Upendra Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Manch (RLM) from Bihar. With Singhvi's election, the opposition's numbers in the Rajya Sabha now stand at 85. Currently, the Rajya Sabha has 245 seats, though there are eight vacancies, including four from Jammu and Kashmir and four nominated seats. With the current strength of 237 members, the majority mark is 119.



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Sparks Controversy with Remarks on Bengali-Speaking Muslims

the targeting of Bengali Muslims in the Sivasagar district of Upper Assam. Mr. Sarma's remarks have been widely criticized as communal, with the Congress staging a walkout from the assembly in protest.

Mr. Sarma, dismissing any interest in courting minority votes, said, "Let them [the Opposition] compete for minority votes. I am not in the competition." The term 'Miya' refers to Muslims of Bengali origin, who are often accused of being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

During his address, the Chief Minister responded to concerns raised by Opposition leaders Rafikul Sahab and Debabrata Saikia, who suggested that people might migrate from Lower Assam to Upper Assam. Mr. Sarma questioned why such a migration would happen, rhetorically asking, "You Miya Muslims will take the entire Lower Assam? We will not let

you all take Lower Assam, no never."

These comments come on the heels of claims by Opposition MLA Akhil Gogoi that the BJP is attempting to replicate the 2002 Gujarat riots in Assam. Mr. Gogoi's remarks were in response to reports that certain organizations have allegedly been threatening Muslims in Upper Assam, demanding they leave the area.

The All-India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has since written to Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, calling for action against the groups allegedly issuing threats to the Muslim community in Upper Assam. Opposition leader Debabrata Saikia, speaking to reporters after the assembly session, criticized the Chief Minister's remarks. He highlighted the rising incidents of lawlessness in Assam, stating that there have been more than 20 cases of murder and arson in just seven days in June alone.

JJP and Azad Samaj Party Forge Alliance for Haryana Assembly Elections

In a significant political development ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections, Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and Chandra Shekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) have formed a pre-poll alliance. The two parties announced their partnership on Tuesday, with plans to contest all 90 Assembly seats in the state, which goes to the polls on October 1.

Under the terms of the alliance, Dushyant Chautala's JJP, an offshoot of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), will field candidates in 70 constituencies, while the Azad Samaj Party will contest the remaining 20 seats. The announcement was made in Delhi by Dushyant Chautala, who emphasized the coalition's commitment to fighting for the rights and welfare of farmers and establishing a "government of the youth."

This alliance comes at a challenging time for the JJP, which has recently faced internal turmoil. On Saturday, four JJP legislators—Anoop Dhanak, Devender Babli, Ram Karan Kala, and Ishwar Singh—resigned from their party positions and primary memberships, citing personal reasons. This marks the departure of six out of the party's ten MLAs, leaving the JJP with only three sitting legislators: Naina Chautala (Dushyant's mother), Dushyant Chautala, and Amarjeet



Dhanda. The party's dwindling numbers could pose a significant challenge in the upcoming elections.

Former state Home Minister Anil Vij, a senior BJP leader, downplayed the significance of the regional parties, claiming that the upcoming contest will be primarily between the BJP and the Congress. "Regional parties are now finished," Vij stated, expressing confidence in the BJP's ability to secure a third consecutive term in Haryana.

The BJP, which has governed Haryana since 2014, initially formed an alliance with the JJP after the 2019 elections to secure a majority. However, in March, the BJP severed its ties with the JJP, leading to the formation of a new government under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.



US Diplomats' Kashmir Visit Sparks Debate Amid Rising Tensions

The recent visit of a three-member delegation of US diplomats to Srinagar has sparked controversy, with some netizens and political commentators criticizing what they perceive as undue interference in India's internal affairs. The visit, which took place ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, marked the first time in a decade that US diplomats have visited the region.

The delegation, which included Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs Graham Mayer, First Secretary Gary Applegarth, and Political Counselor Abhiram, met with local political leaders, including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and former Srinagar Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu. According to a senior government official, the visit falls "well within the boundaries of diplomatic outreach" and is part of the US State Department's standard procedures.

However, the presence of CIA station head Graham Mayer in Srinagar has raised concerns about US involvement in the region, particularly in light of its interests in Pakistan and recent developments in Ladakh. The visit coincided with an increase in terror attacks in the Valley, with India repeatedly pointing to Pakistan as the source of exported terrorism and smuggled weapons bearing US markings.

National Conference Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq confirmed that the delegation's discussions covered a broad range of issues related to Jammu and Kashmir and the wider region. Omar Abdullah also brought up the recent US travel advisory, which warned American citizens against traveling to Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, and other parts of India where security concerns are heightened. The visit has sparked a debate about the implications of US diplomatic activity in sensitive areas like Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the context of ongoing regional tensions.

Sheikh Hasina Faces 71st Case Amid Ongoing Violence in Bangladesh



In a dramatic escalation of legal and political turmoil in Bangladesh, five new murder cases have been filed against the deposed former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, raising the total number of legal actions against her to 71. The cases, which involve several former ministers and police officials, have been lodged in both Dhaka and Rajshahi.

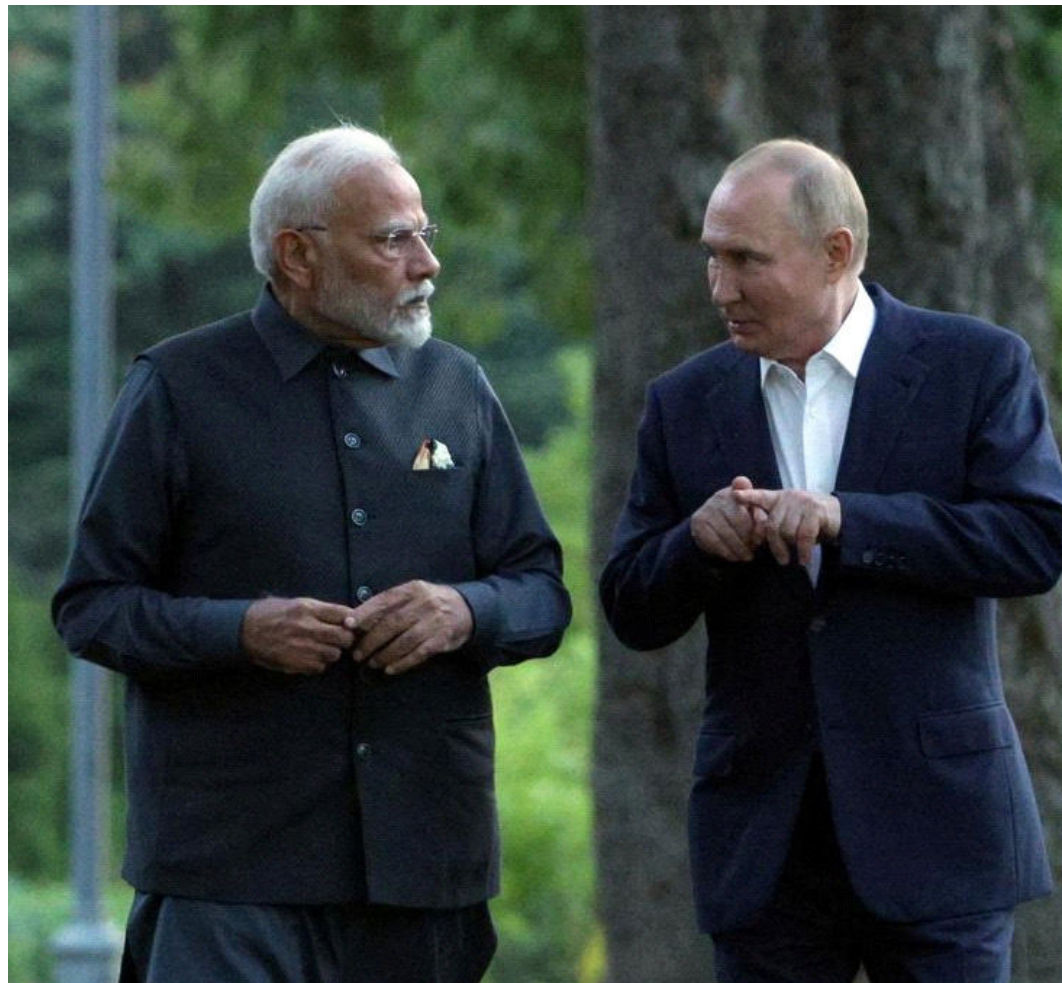
According to The Daily Star, four of the new cases were filed in Dhaka, while one was lodged in Rajshahi. The accusations include charges related to the deaths of multiple individuals during recent mass protests.

The first case, filed by victim Dulal alias Selim's brother Mostafa Kamal, alleges that Hasina and 48 others were involved in the death of Selim during protests in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on August 3. The second case involves the killing of Mansur Miah, a machine operator from Basila, on July 19, with Hasina and 21 others named as defendants.

In a third case, Hasina and 91 others are accused of responsibility for the death of Miraz Hossain in Dhaka's Demra area on August 5. The fourth Dhaka case involves the death of 21-year-old Nahidul Islam at Mirpur-10 on July 19, with Hasina and 40 others facing charges. Victim's brother Md Sabuj filed this case. In Rajshahi, a case has been filed by SM Salahuddin Ahmmed Shamim Sarkar against Hasina, former state minister for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam, and 52 others. This case was filed with the Bagha police station.

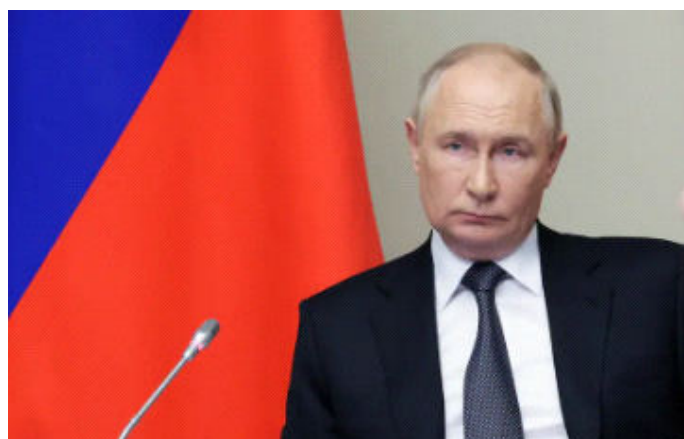
The escalation of legal proceedings comes after Sheikh Hasina's resignation and subsequent flight to India on August 5, following widespread anti-government protests led by students. These protests, sparked by controversy over a job quota system, resulted in significant violence, with over 230 reported dead in the aftermath and the total death toll exceeding 600 since mid-July.

Prime Minister Modi Discusses Ukraine Conflict and Bilateral Ties with Putin



In recent diplomatic engagements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been active in addressing the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and strengthening bilateral relations with both nations. Following his recent visit to Ukraine, where he met with President Volodymyr Zelensky, PM Modi held a conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the evolving geopolitical landscape and reaffirm the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

On August 27, 2024, PM Modi shared insights from his Ukraine visit during his discussion with President Putin. The Indian Prime Minister emphasized India's commitment to a peaceful and enduring resolution of the conflict, stressing the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and sincere engagement among all stakeholders. Modi's office highlighted the mutual agreement on the necessity for closer bilateral dialogue to uphold international law principles, including the UN Charter's respect for territorial integrity and state sovereignty. In their recent conversation, the two leaders reviewed progress on various bilateral issues, building on discussions from the 22nd India-Russia Bilateral Summit held in July 2024. This summit, which took place in Russia, had laid the groundwork for enhanced cooperation between the two nations.



Ukraine's Kursk Attack Escalates Tensions as Russia Warns of Broader Conflict

Ukraine launched a significant assault on Russia's western Kursk region, marking the largest foreign attack on Russian soil since World War Two. The attack has intensified the ongoing conflict and spurred severe reactions from Russian officials, with President Vladimir Putin and key diplomats warning of the potential for broader, more dangerous confrontations.

In response to the assault, which has reportedly resulted in Ukraine seizing a slice of territory in Kursk, Putin vowed a substantial retaliation. The attack has heightened fears of escalating tensions between Russia and the West, particularly as discussions about the use of Western-supplied weaponry by Ukraine continue.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov criticized Western nations for allegedly exacerbating the conflict by considering the easing of restrictions on Ukrainian use of foreign weapons. Lavrov described these moves as "playing with fire" and warned that such actions could provoke a much wider conflict involving nuclear powers. He further criticized the Western notion that any potential Third World War would be confined to Europe, asserting that such a scenario would have global implications. Lavrov's remarks echoed long-standing warnings from President Putin about the dangers of a broader war involving major nuclear powers. Despite Russia's reluctance for direct conflict with NATO, the Kremlin's recent statements underscore the increasing volatility of the situation.

Violence Marks Final Day of Notting Hill Carnival, Five Stabbed as Police Make Hundreds of Arrests



In a troubling end to the Notting Hill Carnival, one of the world's largest street festivals, five individuals were stabbed on the final day of the three-day celebration, according to the Metropolitan Police. This follows a weekend marred by violence, with a total of eight stabbings and hundreds of arrests reported.

The violence escalated on Monday, with five additional stabbing incidents occurring. The Met Police reported that three of the stabbing victims were in a life-threatening condition. Over the course of the event, officers made at least 230 arrests on Monday, including 49 for possession of an offensive weapon. This followed a significant number of arrests the previous day.

In addition to the stabbings, three firearms were seized, and 35 officers sustained injuries. The event, which attracts approximately one million people each year during the August bank holiday weekend, saw policing numbers and violence levels similar to last year, when there were 10 stabbings and around 300 arrests.

Despite the violence, the Notting Hill Carnival, celebrated for its vibrant display of British Afro-Caribbean culture, was once again a focal point of color, music, and dance. Feathered dancers, steel bands, and booming sound systems contributed to the festive atmosphere, which attracts large crowds to the streets of west London.

Metropolitan Police's Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ade Adekan expressed frustration with the recurring violence, noting that a woman attending the carnival with her child was among those injured. "We only very narrowly avoided a fatality," Adekan said, urging attendees to report any crimes they witness.

Canadian Immigration Policy Sparks Protests Among Indian Student Graduates



Hundreds of Indian student graduates in Canada are protesting new federal immigration policies that threaten their future in the country. The Canadian government has announced a reduction in permanent residency nominations by 25% and a restriction on study permits, affecting over 70,000 international students.

Protests have erupted in several provinces, including Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Graduates argue that the policy changes jeopardize their ability to remain in Canada and risk deportation when their work permits expire at the end of the year. Student advocacy groups, such as the Naujawan Support Network, have raised concerns about the impact on these students' futures.

Mehakdeep Singh, a former international student facing deportation, expressed frustration, stating, "I spent the most crucial six years of my life taking many risks to come to Canada. I studied, worked, paid taxes, and earned enough CRS (Comprehensive Ranking System) points, but the government has just taken advantage of us." Many students invested their family savings into education with hopes of gaining permanent residency.



Domestic Markets End Flat Amid Caution as Indices Approach Highs; Select Sectors Shine

Domestic stock market indices ended flat on Tuesday. Moved within the range bound. Investors acted cautiously as indices reached highs. No purchases were made. With this, Nifty 99 and Sensex moved in the range of 318 points. Shares of Infi, LT and ICICI Bank stopped the indices from falling. 11 out of 20 sectoral indices on BSE rose. Market breadth is in favor of buyers. 2154 stocks advanced while 1803 lost. The rupee weakened by 2 paise to settle at 83.92 against the dollar.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,698 in the previous session, opened at 81,815 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,600. The index closed 13 points higher at 81,711 after hitting an intraday high of 81,919. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,024 and touched a low of 24,973 and a high of 25,073. It eventually jumped 7 points to close at 25,017. Nifty Bank gained 130 points to settle at 51,278.

In Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 31 lost. Shares of Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, Maruti, HDFC Life and LT were the top gainers. Shares of JSW Steel, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, Grasim and Coal India were the biggest losers. Auto, FMCG, Metal and Consumer Durables indexes lost today. Bank, finance, IT, media, pharma, PSU bank, private bank, realty and healthcare indices soared.

Nifty support is at 24,950 and resistance is at 25,100. Investors can buy Chola Fin, SBI Life, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and Infi shares in short term.

The board has approved raising Rs.200 crore under the Paras Defense QIP scheme. Shares of Zee Entertainment jumped 14% after settlement of merger disputes with Sony. Citibank settles Rs 40 lakh dispute with SEBI Concorde Enviro Systems has filed IPO draft papers. The US FDA has approved Shilpa Medicare Injection for the treatment of blood cell cancer. Premier Energies IPO was fully subscribed on the first day. Airtel signs deal with Apple for Apple TVPlus India. RVNL became the lowest bidder for the Southern Railway project. Shares of Ashok Leyland hit fresh highs. Bondada shares hit upper circuit.



Chola Finance :

Chola Finance has shown strong performance with a significant increase in assets under management (AUM). The company is well-positioned to sustain its growth momentum, with expectations of a 26% CAGR in AUM growth over the coming years. Backed by stable credit costs and improving margins, Chola Finance is expected to continue its strong performance. It is a good pick for both short-term gains and long-term investment.

SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd.

SBI Life has maintained a strong presence in the insurance sector with consistent premium growth. The company's robust distribution network and strategic tie-ups have supported its steady performance. With the increasing penetration of insurance products in India and SBI Life's focus on expanding its product portfolio, the stock is expected to perform well in the medium to long term.

Bharti Airtel Ltd.

Bharti Airtel has shown impressive subscriber growth and increased ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) due to recent tariff hikes. The company continues to expand its 4G network and enterprise services, positioning itself as a leader in both consumer and business segments. With its strong margins and continued investment in network expansion, Bharti Airtel is likely to maintain its upward

trajectory. The stock is recommended for both short-term trading and long-term investment.

ICICI Bank Ltd.

ICICI Bank continues to demonstrate strong financial performance, driven by healthy credit and deposit growth. The bank's asset quality remains stable, and it is expected to maintain a strong Return on Assets (RoA) and Return on Equity (RoE). ICICI Bank remains a top pick among banking stocks due to its consistent performance and strong capital base. It is well-positioned for both short-term gains and long-term growth

Infosys Ltd.

Infosys has maintained its leadership position in the IT services sector with strong revenue growth driven by digital transformation projects. The company has a robust order pipeline and continues to benefit from its focus on cloud and AI services. With a positive growth outlook and strong client relationships, Infosys is expected to continue its upward momentum. The stock is a strong buy for both short-term and long-term investors looking for exposure to the technology sector.

These stocks are well-positioned to perform in the current market environment, making them suitable for a range of investment strategies. Be sure to monitor market conditions and news updates before making any trading decisions.

RBI to Launch Unified Lending Interface (ULI) for Seamless Credit Access

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to launch the "Unified Lending Interface" (ULI), RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced on Monday. Following a successful pilot project last year, ULI aims to revolutionize India's lending landscape by enabling a seamless, consent-based flow of digital information. This new platform is designed to streamline the lending process, cut costs, expedite disbursement, and enhance scalability. It will facilitate a frictionless credit experience by integrating digital data, including land records from multiple states, thus significantly reducing the time needed for credit appraisal, especially for small and rural borrowers.

Das highlighted that ULI is poised to address the considerable unmet demand for credit in various sectors, particularly agriculture and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He compared its transformative potential to that of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the payments ecosystem, suggesting that ULI will similarly innovate the lending sector. The platform will feature common, standardized APIs designed for a 'plug and play' approach, allowing for easier digital access to information from diverse sources. This will minimize the complexity associated with multiple technical integrations and provide lenders with comprehensive financial and non-financial data.

Das described ULI as a key component of India's evolving digital infrastructure, alongside UPI and the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile) initiative, collectively referred to as the "new trinity." The RBI Governor emphasized the institution's commitment to strengthening the financial system by implementing policies that enhance its robustness, agility, and customer orientation. The launch of ULI is expected to further secure and modernize India's financial landscape, supporting its broader goals of financial inclusion and efficient credit distribution.



India and Oman Near Agreement on Free Trade Pact



Discussions between India and Oman regarding a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) are progressing swiftly, with hopes to finalize the deal soon, Indian Ambassador to Oman Amit Narang announced on August 27.

The agreement, officially termed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), is poised to significantly enhance trade and investment relations between the two nations. The pact aims to remove tariffs on a range of products, including petroleum, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and iron and steel, thereby boosting Indian exports to Oman.

Ambassador Narang emphasized the positive impact of the agreement, stating, "The discussions for a bilateral CEPA with Oman are at an advanced stage. We anticipate concluding these discussions soon, which will greatly benefit not only trade but also investment ties between our countries."

The CEPA is expected to facilitate smoother and more efficient trade by eliminating import duties, making Indian goods more competitive in the Omani market. This move aligns with both countries' goals of deepening economic cooperation and expanding their bilateral economic footprint. The finalization of the CEPA will mark a significant milestone in the strengthening of economic relations between India and Oman, paving the way for increased trade volumes and investment flows. As negotiations approach completion, both sides are optimistic about the agreement's potential to bolster their economic partnership and foster mutual growth.

India Sees Surge in LNG Imports Driven by Domestic Demand and Power Sector Growth

India experienced a significant increase in liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports during the first four months of the current financial year (FY25), marking a double-digit growth. This rise in imports is attributed to robust domestic demand and favorable conditions in the international market, where LNG is available at reasonable prices. The increase in LNG imports comes alongside a boost in domestic natural gas production.

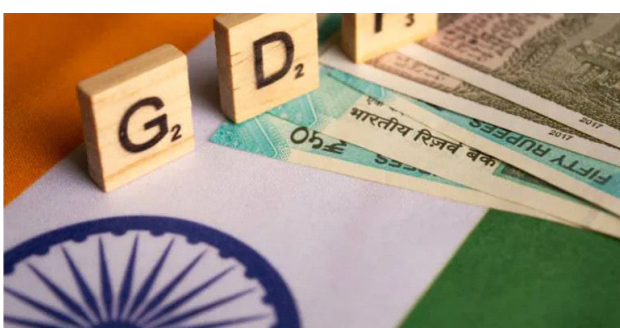
The primary driver behind the growth in LNG consumption has been the power sector. The government's push to enhance power production to meet high summer demand resulted in increased electricity generation from gas-based power units. This heightened energy production capacity has contributed to the growing need for LNG, which has been essential in ensuring adequate power supply during peak periods.



The surge in LNG imports reflects both a strategic response to meet the energy needs of the country and an indication of the expanding role of natural gas in India's energy mix. The ample availability of LNG internationally and the competitive pricing have made it a viable option for supporting the country's energy requirements. As India continues to balance its energy needs

with production capabilities, the reliance on LNG is expected to play a crucial role in bridging the gap between supply and demand, particularly in the power sector. The ongoing growth in both domestic gas production and LNG imports underscores the evolving landscape of India's energy strategy as it adapts to changing market conditions and domestic consumption patterns.

India's Q1 FY2025 GDP Growth Expected to Dip to 6%



India's GDP data for Q1 FY2025 is scheduled for release at the end of August 2024. According to ICRA, the GDP growth rate is anticipated to slow to a six-quarter low of 6 percent, down from 7.8 percent in Q4 FY2024. This forecast is notably below the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) projection of 7.1 percent for the quarter. Despite this decline, ICRA does not view it as a significant concern. They attribute the slowdown to temporary and technical factors and expect growth to rebound above 7 percent in the latter half of FY2025.

The expected deceleration in GDP growth for Q1 FY2025, compared to Q4 FY2024, is largely due to technical reasons. Specifically, it relates to the narrowing gap between GDP and Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rates. This gap, defined as net indirect taxes (i.e., indirect taxes minus subsidies), experienced a significant YoY decrease in subsidies in H2 FY2024. As a result, the GDP-GVA growth gap widened to 178 basis points (bps) in Q3 FY2024 and 148 bps in Q4 FY2024.



Pavel Durov: The “Russian Zuckerberg” in a Clash with France



Pavel Durov, the enigmatic co-founder and CEO of Telegram Messenger Inc., has recently found himself at the center of a growing controversy with French authorities. Often referred to as the “Russian Zuckerberg,” Durov has built a reputation as a staunch defender of user privacy, which has brought him into conflict with several governments over the years. Now, France has turned its attention to Telegram, citing concerns over encryption and content moderation.

Who is Pavel Durov?

Born in Russia and having spent much of his childhood in Italy, Pavel Durov is a global citizen with passports from Russia, France, the Caribbean island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis, and the United Arab Emirates. He first made his mark in the tech world as the co-founder of VKontakte (VK), Russia’s largest social networking site, which has often been compared to Facebook. Durov’s success with VK earned him the nickname “Russian Zuckerberg.”



In 2013, after a series of clashes with the Russian government over privacy concerns, Durov, along with his brother Nikolai, launched Telegram. Nikolai designed the app’s encryption system, which has since become one of its most lauded features.

Why Did the French Authorities Arrest Him?

The tensions between Durov and French authorities have escalated over Telegram’s strict privacy policies, particularly its refusal to share user data. Telegram offers end-to-end encryption for messages, meaning that only the users involved in the communication can access the information. This level of privacy has made Telegram a last resort for those seeking secure communication, especially in an era where digital privacy is increasingly under threat.

French authorities have accused Durov of facilitating illegal activities by not cooperating in their demands for access to encrypted user data. They argue that Telegram’s encryption makes it difficult to prevent and investigate crimes like drug trafficking, cyberbullying, and the spread of child sexual abuse material. As a result, French officials have taken a hard stance, leading to Durov’s arrest on charges related to content moderation practices and the platform’s role in criminal activities.

Why Does France Want to Ban Telegram?

France’s push to ban Telegram is rooted in concerns over national security and public safety. The French government contends that Telegram’s encryption and refusal to share user data hinder their ability to combat serious crimes. By not cooperating, they argue, Telegram has become a haven for illegal activities that are difficult to monitor or stop.

France’s demand for user data is not unprecedented. Similar requests have been made by other governments, including Russia, where Durov famously refused to grant security agents access to encrypted messages. His steadfast commitment to user privacy ultimately led him to leave Russia and adopt citizenship in multiple countries.



Why is Telegram So Popular?



Despite—or perhaps because of—its controversial stance on privacy, Telegram has grown to become one of the most popular messaging apps globally. Several key features give Telegram an edge over competitors like WhatsApp:

End-to-End Encryption : Telegram’s secret chats offer end-to-end encryption, ensuring that only the communicating parties can access the messages.

Self-Destructing Messages : Users can send messages that automatically delete after a set period, further enhancing privacy.

Cloud Storage : Telegram offers cloud storage without requiring phone numbers, allowing users to access their messages across multiple devices.

Open-Source Code : Telegram’s open-source code is a major draw for developers and privacy advocates alike.

No Data Sharing with Third Parties : Unlike WhatsApp, Telegram does not share user data with third parties for advertising purposes.

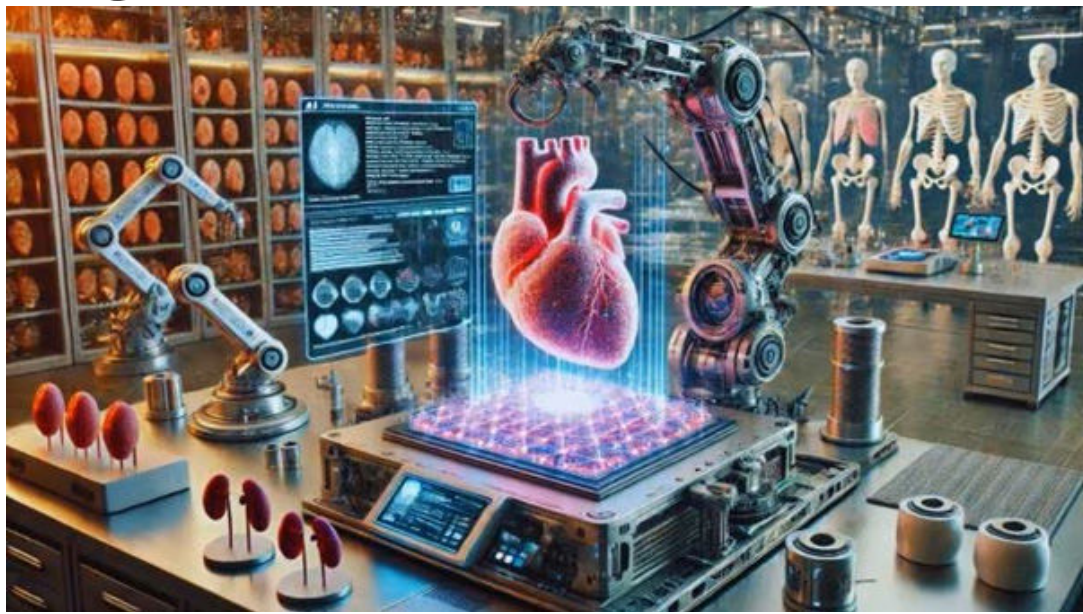
These features have made Telegram particularly popular among users who prioritize privacy and security, setting it apart from other messaging platforms.

Conclusion

Pavel Durov’s commitment to safeguarding user privacy has made him both a hero to privacy advocates and a target for governments concerned about the implications of encrypted communication. As the French authorities push for more control over digital platforms, the outcome of their clash with Durov and Telegram could have far-reaching implications for the future of privacy and freedom of speech on the internet.



AI Boosts 3D Printing for Human Organs and Complex Structures



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing numerous fields, from boosting workplace productivity to aiding in early cancer detection. One of the most exciting frontiers of AI research is its potential application in 3D printing, specifically for creating lifelike human organs. Researchers at Washington State University have recently made significant advancements in this area using a technique known as Bayesian Optimization.

Published in *Advanced Materials Technologies*, the study highlights how Bayesian Optimization, an AI-driven approach, can drastically improve the efficiency and speed of 3D printing processes. This breakthrough could transform the way we approach the creation of complex structures, extending beyond human organs to include intricate electronic components and advanced wearable biosensors.

Bayesian Optimization is a method used

to fine-tune complex systems by making predictions and iteratively improving based on results. In the context of 3D printing, this AI technique enhances the accuracy and functionality of printed objects by optimizing the design parameters and printing conditions. This allows for more detailed and precise construction of structures that were previously challenging to achieve.

The primary advantage of this AI algorithm is its ability to handle and improve upon highly complex designs. For example, creating artificial organs requires extremely detailed and accurate 3D models to mimic human tissues and functions closely. Traditional 3D printing methods often struggle with such complexity, but the integration of Bayesian Optimization can streamline the process, making it more feasible to produce functional, life-like organs.

Online Games Enhance Social Skills in People with Autism, Study Show

A recent study from the University of Plymouth, UK, suggests that online games can significantly enhance the social skills of individuals with autism. Published in the journal *Autism*, the research focused on a small group of eight people with autism who participated in the role-playing game *Dungeons and Dragons*, both in-person and online.

The study aimed to determine if engaging in a social environment where participants felt comfortable could improve their social interactions. "There are many myths about autism, including the notion that those with it lack social motivation or imagination. *Dungeons and Dragons* challenges these misconceptions by emphasizing teamwork and creativity in a completely fictional setting," said Dr. Gray Atherton, the lead author and Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Plymouth.



Plymouth.

Participants were introduced to the game and spent six weeks playing in small groups under the guidance of a game master. Afterward, the researchers conducted interviews to assess how the experience affected the participants and their perceptions of autism.

The study found that players often concealed their autism symptoms, but the game provided a supportive environment where they felt a natural connection with others. Many participants reported that the experience allowed them to embrace a new persona, which positively impacted their self-perception.

OpenAI Supports California Bill for AI Content Transparency

OpenAI is backing a California bill, AB 3211, which seeks to mandate the labeling of AI-generated content. This bill aims to address concerns over misleading information, ranging from innocuous memes to deceptive deepfakes targeting political figures. The push for transparency comes amid heightened scrutiny of AI technologies, especially during election years.



AB 3211, introduced by California State Assembly member Buffy Wicks, has garnered attention as a crucial measure for enhancing content clarity. While the bill has not been as prominent as another California AI bill, SB 1047—which requires AI developers to conduct safety tests on their models—AB 3211 focuses on ensuring that AI-generated content is properly identified to prevent misinformation.

The tech industry, including OpenAI, has expressed support for AB 3211, emphasizing the importance of transparency and provenance. OpenAI's Chief Strategy Officer, Jason Kwon, highlighted the need for standards that help distinguish between human-generated and AI-generated content, particularly as global elections approach. The potential im-

act of AI-generated content on elections, as seen in places like Indonesia, underscores the urgency of such measures.

The bill has already passed the California State Assembly with unanimous support and recently cleared the senate appropriations committee. It is now set for a vote by the full state Senate. If approved by August 31, it will be sent to Governor Gavin Newsom for final approval or veto by September 30. This legislative move reflects growing concerns about AI's role in media and its influence on public perception.

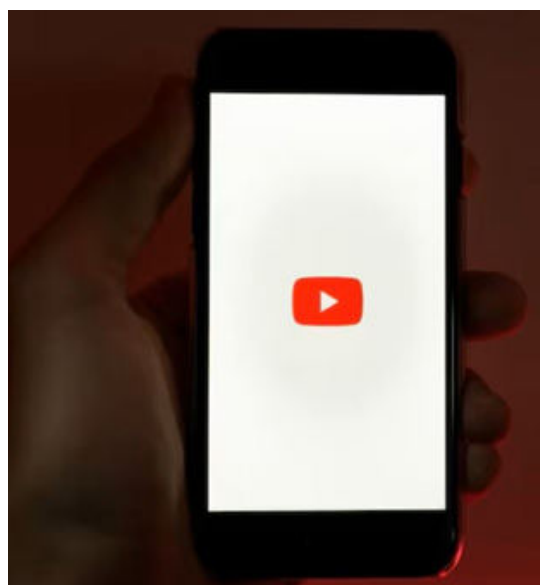
YouTube Premium Announces Price Increase in India

YouTube Premium, the ad-free subscription service from Google, has announced a price hike in India, impacting all subscription plans, including individual, family, and student options. While some plans have experienced only a minor increase, others have seen more substantial changes in their prices. It remains unclear whether existing subscribers will receive a grace period before the new rates apply.

YouTube Premium offers several benefits, including ad-free streaming of videos, background play, picture-in-picture (PiP) mode, and enhanced high-definition video streaming. These features make it a popular choice for users seeking an uninterrupted viewing and listening experience.

The updated pricing is now reflected on YouTube's website and affects both pre-paid and recurring subscription plans. The recurring Individual plan, which provides ad-free access to YouTube content for a single user, has increased from Rs. 129 to Rs. 149 per month.

For users with the Family plan, which allows up to five members to enjoy You-



Tube Premium, the new price is Rs. 299 per month, up from the previous rate of Rs. 189. This represents a significant increase for those who share their subscription with family members.

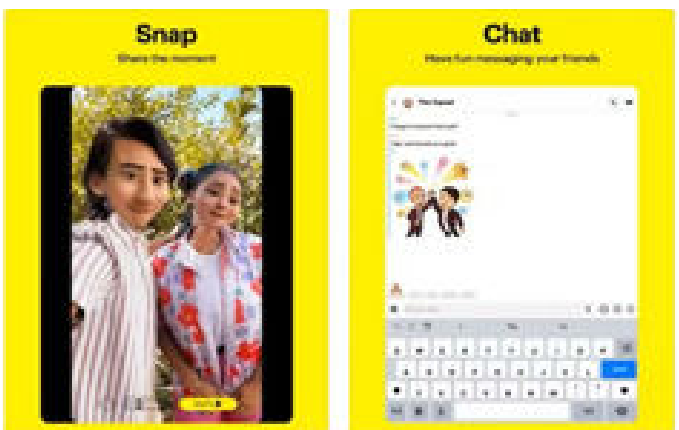
Despite the price adjustments, the Student plan remains the most affordable option for ad-free content. However, this plan has also seen a small increase, rising from Rs. 79 per month to Rs. 89 per month.

Snapchat Expands to iPad with Native Support

Snapchat has finally rolled out a highly anticipated update for iPad users, making the app natively compatible with Apple's tablet. Until now, iPad users had to rely on the iPhone version of the app, which resulted in a less-than-optimal experience with black borders around the display. The new update, Snapchat 13.4.0.41, marks a significant improvement by offering "native support for iPad," as noted in the App Store's changelog.

With this update, Snapchat users on iPads will benefit from a larger canvas when capturing photo or video snaps, enhancing their overall experience. Additionally, the app will now allow users to view more friends on the second and fourth tabs, making it easier to stay connected with a broader network.

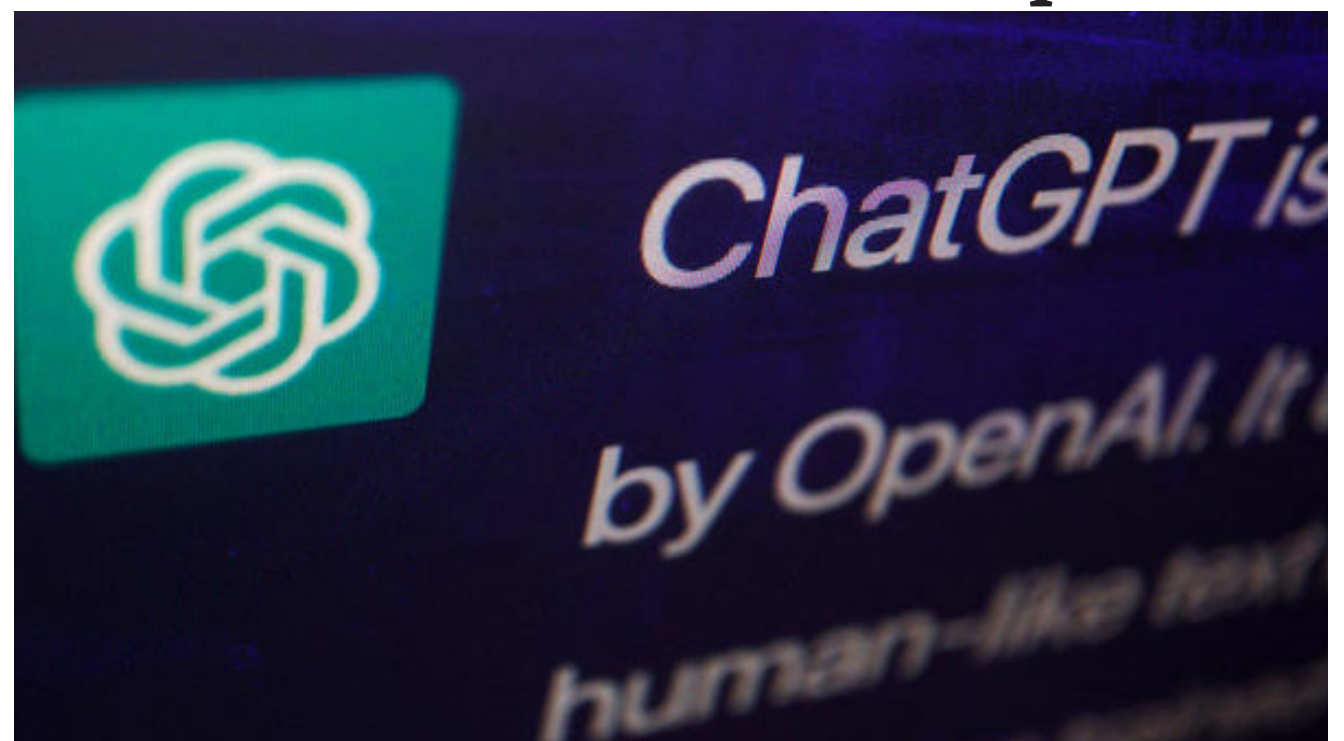
Despite this progress, the app's current iteration is optimized only for portrait mode on the iPad, suggesting that it may not yet



be fully adapted for landscape orientation. This limitation indicates that while Snapchat has made strides in enhancing its iPad functionality, there may still be room for further improvements.

In addition to the iPad update, Snapchat has introduced several new features over the past months. Last year, Snap, the developer behind Snapchat, launched My AI—a chatbot that can engage in conversations, set reminders, and generate images. Some of My AI's features are exclusive to Snapchat+ subscribers.

AI Delivers Brutal Break-Up Letter



Artificial Intelligence is transforming many aspects of our lives, including personal relationships. Recently, a Reddit user tested the limits of ChatGPT by requesting a break-up letter filled with insults and criticisms. The result has been described as "brutal" and "ruthless."

The user prompted ChatGPT to write a break-up letter that was both insulting and dismissive. "Be as petty and mean as possible. Also, insult my looks using the provided picture as reference," the user requested. ChatGPT delivered with a harsh critique of the user's appearance, habits, and hobbies.

The AI began by expressing disbelief at how the relationship had dragged on, questioning the worth of spending time with the user. It mocked the user's midlife crisis, particularly criticizing his attempt to skateboard at 40. "You're one bad fall away from realizing that your youth is long gone," the letter read.

ChatGPT did not spare his looks either. It described his "scruffy beard" as unflattering and his glasses as making him look like he was trying too hard. "You're the epitome of wasted potential," it concluded.

In its final remarks, ChatGPT announced its departure with a dismissive tone, saying it had found something better and was done with the user's "stagnant" interests. The post has since gone viral, garnering various reactions from social media users, with some expressing shock and others noting the harshness of the AI's response.

Reactions have ranged from sympathy for the user to concerns about AI's potential for emotional impact. "I would need therapy after this," one user commented, while another observed, "Asking a computer to insult you while breaking up with you is a cry for help anyway."



BCCI Announces India's Squad For Women's T20 World Cup 2024



The full squad for the Women's T20 World Cup is as follows:

- Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain)
- Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain)
- Shafali Verma
- Deepti Sharma
- Jemimah Rodrigues
- Richa Ghosh (Wicketkeeper)
- Yastika Bhatia (Wicketkeeper)*
- Pooja Vastrakar
- Arundhati Reddy
- Renuka Singh Thakur
- Dayalan Hemalatha
- Asha Sobhana
- Radha Yadav
- Shreyanka Patil*
- Sajana Sajeevan

Harmanpreet Kaur will captain the 15-member Indian squad for the Women's T20 World Cup, which begins in the UAE on October 3. The announcement, made on Tuesday, marks a significant moment for Indian cricket as Kaur takes the helm with a squad that includes notable players such as top-order batter Yastika Bhatia and spin all-rounder Shreyanka Patil. Both Bhatia and Patil's inclusion is contingent on their fitness, adding an element of uncertainty as the team prepares for the tournament.

Smriti Mandhana, another key player, has been named Kaur's vice-captain. Mandhana's experience and batting prowess will be crucial as India navigates the challenges of the World

Cup. The tournament has been relocated from Bangladesh to the UAE due to unrest in the South Asian nation, which was sparked by student protests.

India is placed in Group A alongside strong competitors including Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The team will be aiming to secure their first-ever T20 World Cup title. With a blend of experienced leaders and emerging talents, India's squad is poised to make a significant impact in the competition.

As the squad finalizes its preparation, the focus will be on ensuring all players are fit and ready to compete at the highest level. With a determined leadership under Kaur and a

well-rounded team, India will be looking to make a strong statement in the World Cup.

Cristiano Ronaldo Reveals Retirement Plans Amid Al Nassr Exit Talks

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.

England Recall Olly Stone to Replace Injured Mark Wood vs Sri Lanka

England has recalled pacer Olly Stone for the second Test against Sri Lanka, marking his return to the squad after a three-year absence. Stone replaces Mark Wood, who has been ruled out for the remainder of the series due to a thigh injury sustained during England's five-wicket victory in the first Test at Old Trafford.

The injury to Wood, who has been a key player in England's recent successes, forced the selectors to make a change. Stone, a right-arm seamer from Nottinghamshire, has been chosen over 20-year-old left-arm paceman Josh Hull, who had also been considered after Wood's injury. Stone's recall is particularly notable as he has had a challenging period with injuries, including a significant anterior cruciate ligament tear sustained while celebrating a wicket.



September 13 to 24.

The 15-player squad includes: Heather Knight (c), Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Linsey Smith, and Danni Wyatt. Twelve of these players were part of England's squad in the 2023 T20 World Cup in South Africa. Lauren Winfield-Hill, Kate Cross, and the retired Katherine Sciver-Brunt are not included in the 2024 squad. Danielle

England Announces T20 World Cup Squad, Welcomes New Faces

England's squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the UAE has been revealed, featuring debutants Bess Heath, Freya Kemp, and Danielle Gibson. This marks the first time these players will represent England in a T20 World Cup. Heather Knight will captain the team for the fourth time in this format. The squad closely mirrors the team that faced New Zealand in July's five-match T20I series, with the notable exception of Lauren Filer, who is excluded from the tournament squad but will join the team for their pre-tournament camp in Abu Dhabi from



KL Rahul Likely to Step Down as LSG Captain

KL Rahul is expected to be removed as captain of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season. Although Rahul will remain with the team as a player, he will step down from his leadership role. The decision comes as Rahul seeks to focus more on his batting performance rather than the pressures of captaincy.

Sources close to the Lucknow franchise revealed that during a recent meeting with CEO Sanjiv Goenka, it was confirmed that Rahul will be retained but will not lead the side. The discussion centered around the future of the team's leadership, and it was decided that Rahul's role as captain would be reassessed. The franchise is now considering Krunal Pandya and Nicholas Pooran as potential

candidates to take over the captaincy.

Rahul's meeting with Goenka, which took place on Monday at the latter's office in Alipore, Kolkata, lasted around four hours. Following the meeting, Rahul traveled to Bengaluru to begin his preparation for the Duleep Trophy, where he will play for Team 'A,' led by Shubman Gill.

Rahul's tenure as captain faced criticism after the Lucknow Super Giants failed to qualify for the playoffs despite being in a strong position. Additionally, Rahul's performance declined after the IPL season, leading to his exclusion from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which India won in Barbados. Rahul is now focused on making a return to the Indian T20 squad.



India to Face West Indies, South Africa in T20 World Cup Warm-ups

As preparations for the Women's T20 World Cup intensify, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the schedule for the warm-up matches set to take place in Dubai. India will play two crucial practice games ahead of the tournament, facing West Indies on September 29 and South Africa on October 1.

The warm-up matches are scheduled from September 28 to October 1, offering teams an opportunity to fine-tune their strategies before the tournament kicks off. All ten teams that have qualified for the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will participate in these warm-up games, with each team playing two matches.

The warm-up fixtures will begin on September 28 with Pakistan taking on Scotland and Sri Lanka facing Bangladesh. The following day, defending champions Australia will

clash with arch-rivals England, while India will face the West Indies.

These warm-up games will be 20 overs per side but will not hold official T20 status, allowing teams to use their entire 15-player squad. Importantly, teams from the same group will not face each other in these practice matches, providing a varied competitive environment for preparation.

The official tournament will see India in Group A alongside defending champions Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Group B will feature England, South Africa, West Indies, Scotland, and Bangladesh.

The warm-up matches are an essential part of the preparation process, giving teams a chance to assess their form and make adjustments before the Women's T20 World Cup commences.

Gibson was a travelling reserve in 2023.

Captain Heather Knight expressed her enthusiasm about leading the squad, stating, "World Cups are always special, and I'm really excited about the squad we've selected. It's an honor to lead the team into another World Cup." Head coach Jon Lewis remarked on the selection process, noting the difficulty in choosing the final squad. He highlighted the balance of experience and youth in the team, which he believes will excel in the UAE conditions.





NTR Jr Reveals 'Faces of Fear' in New Poster for 'Devara: Part 1'



The excitement for *Devara – Part 1* continues to build as the film's makers unveil new posters featuring Jr NTR in strikingly fierce avatars. The latest social media posts, shared on Instagram, include the captivating caption: "The Faces OF Fear!! In a month, his arrival will stir up the world with an unmissable big screen experience. Let's experience his Majestic Madness in theaters on September 27th."

The posters showcase Jr NTR in two intense looks, adding to the growing anticipation for the film. Recently, to celebrate Saif Ali Khan's birthday, the makers revealed a glimpse of his character, Bhaira. Karan Johar, overseeing the film's distribution in northern India, previously teased fans with a photo of Saif's character, creating further buzz.

Now, NTR Arts has officially released a 52-second action-packed video highlighting Saif Ali Khan's role. In the video, Saif's character Bhaira is depicted in a dramatic wrestling match, defeating his opponent and creating a bloody spectacle. The clip also shows Bhaira celebrating with his clan, hinting at his formidable and powerful presence in the film.

The post accompanying the video reads, "His hunt will be legendary. Presenting @saifalikhnpataudiworld as #Bhaira from the world of #Devara."

Saif Ali Khan will take on the role of the lead antagonist, while Janhvi Kapoor will star as the female lead, marking her Tollywood debut alongside Saif's debut. Directed by Koratala Siva and produced by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts, *Devara: Part 1* is set to release on September 27, 2024, promising a major cinematic event.

Chiranjeevi and Aswini Dutt Announce Sequels for Iconic Films



Megastar Chiranjeevi and producer Aswini Dutt have a long history of successful collaborations, with notable hits like *Jagadeka Veerudu Atiloka Sundari* and *Indra*. To celebrate Chiranjeevi's recent birthday, the team re-released *Indra*, which received a warm reception from fans after 22 years. This revival has sparked exciting news about future projects.

During the re-release event, Chiranjeevi honored the key crew members of *Indra*, including music director Mani Sharma. Sharma proposed that Chiranjeevi should consider a sequel to *Indra*, a suggestion that was met with enthusiasm by director B Gopal and others present. Producer Aswini Dutt quickly supported the idea, confirming plans for *Indra 2*.

In the same discussion, Chiranjeevi reminded Dutt of his earlier plans to create a sequel to *Jagadeka Veerudu Atiloka Sundari*. Dutt acknowledged this, stating, "Yes, I am planning the JVAS sequel as well. Given the current trend of sequels in the industry, we should definitely pursue *Indra 2* and *JVAS 2*."

The conversation also included contributions from the Paruchuri Brothers and Chinni Krishna, and a snippet of this discussion was shared on social media by Vyjayanthi Movies.

Fans of these classic films are eagerly anticipating the sequels, with the announcement marking a significant moment in Telugu cinema. The return of these beloved stories promises to rekindle the magic of the original hits and bring new excitement to Chiranjeevi's extensive filmography.

Upcoming Telugu Film *Sundarakanda* Promises Unique Love Story



societal expectations while searching for a suitable life partner. With a checklist of qualities he desires in a partner, the film combines this personal journey with a touch of situational comedy, making it both relatable and entertaining.

The cast includes Sridevi Vijay Kumar and Vriti Vaghani, who play the female leads. Marking the directorial debut of Venkatesh Nimmalapudi, *Sundarakanda* is set to hit theaters on September 6th, coinciding with Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

Produced by Santhosh Chinnapolla, Gowtham Reddy, and Rakesh Mahankalli under the banner of Sandeep Picture Palace, the film features Pradeesh M Varma as the cinematographer, Rohan Chillale as the editor, and Leon James as the music director.

With its relatable storyline and blend of comedy and drama, *Sundarakanda* is anticipated to be a refreshing addition to Telugu cinema, offering a new perspective on love and relationships. The film's release during Ganesh Chaturthi adds a festive touch, further heightening anticipation among audiences.

The Telugu film industry is buzzing with excitement over the upcoming release of *Sundarakanda*, starring Nara Rohith in the lead role. The film's title has already generated significant interest, and today, the makers unveiled the teaser, which offers a glimpse into the feel-good drama that awaits audiences.

The film's tagline, "No two love stories are the same," sets the stage for a unique and engaging love drama. *Sundarakanda* explores the theme of marriage through the lens of Nara Rohith's character, who faces the pressures of

Mathu Vadalara 2 Set for September Release



Fans of the 2019 Telugu sleeper hit *Mathu Vadalara* have reason to celebrate as the highly anticipated sequel, *Mathu Vadalara 2*, is scheduled to hit theaters on September 13. Directed by debut filmmaker Ritesh Rana, the original film captivated audiences with its unique crime-comedy blend and unexpected twists.

The sequel promises to continue the thrilling narrative that made the first film a standout. Sree Simha and Satya will return as Babu and Yesu, the comically unlucky delivery agents who found themselves in increasingly bizarre and perilous situations. Faria Abdullah joins the cast as the female lead, adding a fresh dynamic to the story.

Kala Bhairava, who composed the memorable score for the first film, is back to enhance the sequel with his musical talent. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Clap Entertainment, *Mathu Vadalara 2* aims to live up to the high bar set by its predecessor. The original movie was celebrated for its inventive script and novel approach to the thriller genre, securing its place as a notable project in Telugu cinema.

With Ritesh Rana returning to direct, expectations are high for the sequel to build on the success of the first film. Fans are eagerly awaiting to see if *Mathu Vadalara 2* can match or even surpass the brilliance of the original.

Mohanlal Resigns as AMMA President Amid Sexual Assault Allegations



Actor Mohanlal has resigned from his position as President of the Association of Malayalam Movie Actors (AMMA), following a wave of serious sexual assault and rape allegations against prominent figures in the Malayalam film industry. This move comes in response to accusations against several high-profile individuals, including veteran actor Siddique and filmmaker Ranjith Balakrishnan.

In addition to Mohanlal, all members of AMMA's executive committee have stepped down. The organization issued a statement saying the executive committee took "moral responsibility" and dissolved itself amid the scandal. A new committee will be elected within the next two months, according to AMMA.

The resignation comes after the release of the Justice Hema Committee report, which includes numerous disturbing allegations of abuse by senior industry figures. Although the report was submitted to the Kerala government in 2019, it was only made public recently after overcoming legal challenges.

Several women have come forward with complaints against prominent Malayalam actors and filmmakers. Notably, actor Baburaj, who was previously AMMA's Joint Secretary, faces accusations of rape by a junior artiste. Baburaj, who has resigned from his position, denies the allegations, claiming they are intended to hinder his potential appointment as General Secretary of AMMA.