







# CM Launches 10-Day 'Praja Palana' Program to Streamline Ration and Health Card Distribution



**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced the "Praja Palana" program, a 10-day initiative starting on September 17, aimed at streamlining the distribution of ration and digital health cards across the state. This program is designed to improve the efficiency of welfare distribution and ensure that eligible residents receive the necessary support.

During a review meeting, Chief Minister Reddy emphasized the importance of implementing the Praja Palana program in every village and ward. The initiative will involve detailed data collection from households to ensure that all eligible individuals receive their cards. The program's dual focus on ration and health cards, issued separately under the new policy, aims to simplify the process and address existing inefficiencies in the welfare system.

A key aspect of the program is the introduction

of digital health cards, inspired by France's model, which will be essential for accessing medical treatment under the Rajiv Arogyasri scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Comprehensive medical tests and health check-up camps will be organized, particularly in rural areas, to strengthen the state's healthcare framework.

Health Minister Damodara Raja Narsimha, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, and other senior officials attended the review meeting, highlighting the collaborative effort required for the program's success. The Praja Palana initiative marks a significant step in Telangana's efforts to enhance public welfare, with a focus on transparency and efficiency in service delivery. By improving access to essential services, the program aims to uplift the quality of life for residents and set a benchmark for future welfare projects in the state.

## Congress MLA Kale Yadaiah's Vehicle Attacked with Eggs by Party Cadre

**TPN, Telangana:** Congress MLA Kale Yadaiah's vehicle was attacked with eggs by disgruntled party workers in Chevella, Telangana. Yadaiah, who recently shifted from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to Congress, has been facing growing discontent from within the party ranks, despite the initial enthusiasm surrounding his defection.

The incident occurred during Yadaiah's visit to distribute Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to beneficiaries in the constituency. The event, however, was disrupted when Telangana Congress workers, allegedly followers of Chevella Congress in-charge Bheem Bharadwaj, threw eggs at Yadaiah's vehicle in a public display of protest. The act drew significant attention and led to a temporary halt in the proceedings.

The protest reportedly stems from allegations by Bharadwaj's supporters, who claim that Yadaiah has not been cooperative and has failed to keep them informed about government actions and developments in the constituency. The situation escalated when supporters of Bharadwaj clashed with Yadaiah's followers, leading to further disruption.

The police were called in to intervene, and they managed to disperse the clashing groups, restoring order to the scene. The distribution of cheques, however, was halted and could not proceed as planned.

## Colleges Owned by BRS MLA Receive Notices for Alleged Illegal Construction

**TPN, Telangana:** Revenue officials issued notices to MLR Institute of Technology (MLRIT) and the Institute of Aeronautical Engineering in Dundigal, located in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district on the outskirts of Hyderabad. These colleges are owned by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy. The notices are part of an ongoing crackdown on unauthorized constructions, targeting properties alleged to be built in the Full Tank Level (FTL) and Buffer Zone of Chinna Damaracheruvu Lake.

The two institutions are part of a chain of educational facilities run by the family of BRS leader Malla Reddy, who is the father-in-law of Rajasekhar Reddy. This action is a continuation of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) efforts to address encroachments on water bodies, parks, and open lands.

Recently, the focus of HYDRAA has expanded to include educational institutions after a police case was filed against BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy. He is accused of constructing Anurag University in the buffer



Kakatiya Phase-IV.

The crackdown by HYDRAA has included demolitions of structures owned by various prominent figures. This includes recent demolitions of properties belonging to popular actor Nagarjuna, AIMIM politicians, and others. The agency is now targeting educational institutions built by Rajeshwar Reddy, Malla Reddy, and AIMIM MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi, which are alleged to be in the FTL and buffer zones of lakes.

On Tuesday, BJP corporators approached HYDRAA Commissioner A. V. Ranganath to request action against Fatima Owaisi College, which is reportedly built in the FTL of Salakam Cheruvu Lake. Ranganath confirmed that several parents had requested postponement of demolitions during the ongoing academic year to avoid disrupting students' education.

zone of a water body at Venkatapuram, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The allegations state that the Anurag Group of Institutions, under Gayatri Educational Trust, illegally built a college building, damaging Nadam Cheruvu, a tank restored under Mission

## Kavitha Receives Grand Welcome, Vows to Emerge as a clean Pearl

**TPN, Telangana:** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha, who has been embroiled in the infamous Delhi Liquor Policy case, expressed confidence that she will ultimately emerge as a "clean pearl" from the allegations against her. Kavitha, who maintained her innocence, stated that she hasn't done anything wrong and will continue to fight for justice.

Kavitha, the daughter of BRS supremo and former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), was lodged in Tihar Jail for 165 days. She returned to Hyderabad on Wednesday after being granted conditional bail by the Supreme Court on August 26. Her return was marked by a grand welcome at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), where BRS leaders and party workers gathered in large numbers to greet her. A huge vehicle rally with 500 cars escorted her from the airport to her residence in Madhapur,

accompanied by fireworks and drumbeats.

The BRS leader grew emotional upon seeing the large gathering of BRS cadres, MLAs, former ministers, and key party leaders who had come to receive her at the airport. Addressing the media at her residence, Kavitha stated, "Whether it is in Indian history or Telangana's history, it has been proved time and again that justice and dharma ultimately prevail. I will fight to see that day."

Kavitha affirmed her commitment to participate in the various struggles being waged by her party under the leadership of KCR on behalf of the people of Telangana.

Kavitha was implicated in the Delhi Liquor Policy case on charges of money laundering, alongside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was also arrested by the Enforcement Directorate.

Kavitha has been accused of being part of the 'South Group,' a cartel of businessmen and politicians allegedly involved in paying kickbacks of Rs 100 crore to Delhi's ruling AAP in return for liquor licenses. She has consistently denied all allegations.

Political analysts believe that Kavitha's homecoming could boost the BRS's prospects in Telangana, which has faced challenges after losing the Assembly elections last year and drawing a blank in this year's Lok Sabha elections.

Kavitha was initially arrested by the Enforcement Directorate from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15, followed by her arrest by the CBI from Tihar Jail on April 11. Despite these challenges, Kavitha remains resolute in her belief that she will be exonerated.



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## Revanth Reddy to Install Telangana Thalli Statue, Criticizes KCR's Leadership

TPN, Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that the long-awaited Telangana Thalli statue will be placed in the state's secretariat on December 9, 2024. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the statue, Reddy highlighted the importance of the event, calling December a day of celebration for the people of Telangana. He used the occasion to criticize the previous administration led by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).



Revanth Reddy accused KCR's government of neglecting Telangana's cultural heritage, pointing out that despite spending approximately ₹22.5 lakh crore over 10 years, they couldn't allocate even ₹1 crore for the Telangana Thalli statue. He emphasized that this reflected a larger problem, accusing KCR of equating himself with Telangana and sidelining the state's true identity. According to Reddy, KCR's leadership was more focused on personal gains rather than serving the cultural and public interests of the people.

Furthering his criticism, Revanth Reddy spoke out against the construction of Pragathi Bhavan, the official residence of KCR, which he said distanced the government from its people. He argued that the purpose of a secretariat is to serve the state, ensure public prosperity, and allow ministers to remain accessible. However, he noted that the previous govern-

ment had blocked public access to Pragathi Bhavan, effectively cutting off the administration from the people it was supposed to represent. Reddy assured that his administration would prioritize transparency and accessibility, ensuring that the secretariat would become a place where public concerns are addressed, rather than ignored.

In a politically charged move, Revanth Reddy also announced the installation of a Rajiv Gandhi statue in front of the secretariat, along with the Telangana Thalli statue. He defended the decision by pointing out that the Martyrs Memorial, which honors those who died for Telangana's creation, already exists in the area. He argued that a statue of Rajiv Gandhi, given his significant role in India's governance, was appropriate alongside the memorial. Although Reddy did not directly mention any names, his comments appeared to be aimed at KT Rama Rao (KTR), the working president of the BRS. He suggested that some people were trying to create controversy over the space, intending to use it for different purposes.

## Congress Government Ignoring Protocol: MLA Maganti Gopinath

TPN, Telangana: Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath has criticized the Congress government in Telangana for allegedly ignoring established protocol. During a press conference held at his camp office in Navodaya Colony, Srinagar Colony Division, Gopinath revealed that he had filed a complaint with the Speaker of the Assembly regarding this issue.

Gopinath highlighted a specific instance involving the distribution of cheques for the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak schemes, which

provide financial assistance for marriages. He accused the government of violating High Court orders by directing that these cheques be distributed at Tehsildar offices instead of beneficiaries' homes. Gopinath recalled that during his tenure with the BRS government, he personally visited beneficiaries' homes to distribute cheques, ensuring a more accessible and transparent process.

He expressed concerns that poor people would now have to visit government offices, leading to additional trans-

portation costs. He also alleged that officials at the Khairatabad Mandal Revenue Office were demanding bribes of ₹10,000 from beneficiaries. Gopinath urged the government to return to the previous system, where cheques were delivered door-to-door, to avoid corruption and provide relief to those in need.

The MLA's remarks emphasize the need for the government to maintain proper protocol and ensure that welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries without additional burdens or corruption.

## KTR Accuses Revanth Reddy of Hypocrisy Over Rajiv Gandhi Tribute

TPN, Telangana: BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) criticized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for what he described as "hypocritical love" towards Rajiv Gandhi. On Wednesday, August 28, KTR took to X (formerly Twitter) to express his views, accusing Revanth of inconsistency and betrayal in his political stance.



KTR pointed out that Revanth's newfound admiration for Rajiv Gandhi was insincere and opportunistic. He alleged that Revanth, after becoming the President of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) through questionable means, was now trying to portray a false image of loyalty to the Gandhi family. KTR reminded the public that Revanth had previously criticized Sonia Gandhi, calling her derogatory names such as a demon and a ghost. He suggested that this sudden show of respect for Rajiv Gandhi was a political maneuver aimed at gaining favor with Congress leadership.

Further intensifying his attack, KTR labeled Revanth as a "traitor" of Telangana. He argued that it would be shameful for Revanth to install the Telangana Thalli statue, a symbol of Telangana's cultural pride, given his past actions and stance on Telangana's statehood. KTR asserted that those who were against the formation of Telangana, alluding to the Congress leadership, should not be honored in the state. He promised that once BRS returned to power, statues of individuals who opposed Telangana's creation would be removed, emphasizing that only true supporters of the Telangana movement should be recognized.

## Jagdish Reddy Accuses Revanth Reddy of Acting as BJP's "B Team"

On August 28, former Telangana energy minister G. Jagdish Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of working as the "B team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to Reddy, Revanth Reddy aims to merge the Congress with the BJP, which he believes is part of a larger political strategy to align with the BJP's objectives.



Reddy criticized both the BJP and Congress for their comments on MLC K. Kavitha's bail, calling their remarks baseless and politically motivated. He claimed that these parties were undermining the credibility of the judiciary, specifically the Supreme Court, by challenging its decisions. He accused the BJP of using the liquor scam allegations against Kavitha as a means to target prominent political figures, including former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The former minister suggested that the liquor scam investigation was a conspiracy orchestrated by the BJP to damage the reputation of its political adversaries. He alleged that the CBI lawyers had been unable to provide satisfactory answers during the Supreme Court hearings, further indicating that the scam was a politically motivated attack. Reddy also claimed that Revanth Reddy was acting in accordance with directives from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thereby aligning with the BJP's broader political goals.

Jagdish Reddy accused the BJP of deriving "sadistic pleasure" from filing false cases against Kavitha and questioned the BJP's silence on the Valmiki scam in Karnataka. He pointed out that Rs 45 crores had allegedly been transferred to the accounts of Telangana Congress leaders, yet the BJP had not pursued any action or investigation, suggesting a possible collusion between the two parties.

## Harish Rao Criticizes Government Over Failure to Support Farmers

TPN, Telangana: Former Minister and MLA Harish Rao has publicly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failing to support farmers effectively, particularly regarding the procurement of pulses. In an open letter addressed to CM Reddy, Rao expressed disappointment over the government's handling of agricultural issues and the unmet promises made to farmers.

Rao highlighted that despite the central government announcing a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹8,682 per quintal for pulses this year, no buyers have adhered to this rate. Consequently, farmers have been forced to sell their produce at much lower prices, ranging between ₹6,000 and ₹6,500 per quintal, resulting in a loss of over ₹2,500 per quintal. He criticized private traders for exploiting the situation and turning it into a game at the expense of farmers' welfare.

The former minister condemned the government's failure to establish procurement centers under Markfed, stating that this negligence has turned into a curse for pulse farmers. Rao pointed out that farmers in districts such as Khammam, Mahbubabad, Vikarabad, Kamareddy, Sangareddy, Narayanpet, and Suryapet are suffering due to the lack of proper procurement infrastructure.

Rao accused the government of reneging on its promise to provide an additional ₹500 bonus over the MSP, which was supposed to benefit



farmers. He criticized the government for failing to deliver on its manifesto promises and for neglecting its responsibility to purchase crops at the support price.

In his letter, Rao emphasized that under Congress rule, the process of cultivating and selling crops has become increasingly challenging for farmers. He urged the state government to wake up to the problems faced by the agricultural community and to implement effective measures, including the immediate setup of procurement centers through Markfed. Rao demanded that the government act to prevent further losses for farmers and to address the inadequacies in its agricultural policies.

## Madhavi Latha Accuses MIM of Targeting Hindus Amidst Temple Vandalism

TPN, Hyderabad: BJP leader Madhavi Latha, has made serious allegations against the MIM (Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen) party, claiming that they are obstructing peace among Hindus. Her statements come in the wake of a recent incident where idols were reportedly destroyed at a temple located opposite the Santosh Nagar police station.



In response to the vandalism, Madhavi Latha led a protest at the temple, during which participants chanted "Rama Naam" as a form of demonstration. Following the protest, a case was filed against her, a move she describes as an attempt to intimidate her and undermine her political efforts.

Latha alleges that the destruction of the temple idols is part of a broader strategy by MIM to destabilize the situation and make it difficult for Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who is involved in efforts to protect local ponds from encroachment. She suggests that the vandalism is also meant to pressure the Chief Minister by creating disturbances similar to those experienced during the BRS

(Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi) government's tenure.

In her remarks, Latha questions the MIM's authority to challenge the Chief Minister and criticizes their influence over the state's political landscape. She asserts that while many may be intimidated by MIM, she is not and is prepared to confront them directly.

Latha has also raised concerns about the occupation of Wakf Board lands and urged the Muslim community to remain vigilant. She warns against any attempts to disrupt the upcoming Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and calls for a collective effort to maintain peace and security.



# Hyderabad to Host National Physical Security Summit 2024 on August 30

**TPN Hyderabad** : The Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) has announced that the National Physical Security Summit 2024 will take place on August 30. The summit, themed "The Evolutionary Aspects of Physical Security in the Digital Era," aims to boost public awareness and enhance societal safety. Sponsored by the Association of Private Security Agencies (APSA), the event will address the evolving demands of physical security in a digital age and the increasing role of private security services.

As Hyderabad grows into a global city, it faces new security challenges that align with international standards. The summit will address these issues by focusing on how private security can adapt to technological advancements to provide robust protection. It will feature influential leaders, experts, and advocates, all working together to foster dialogue and drive positive change towards safer environments.

The summit comes at a crucial time when private security plays a significant role in Telangana's safety framework,

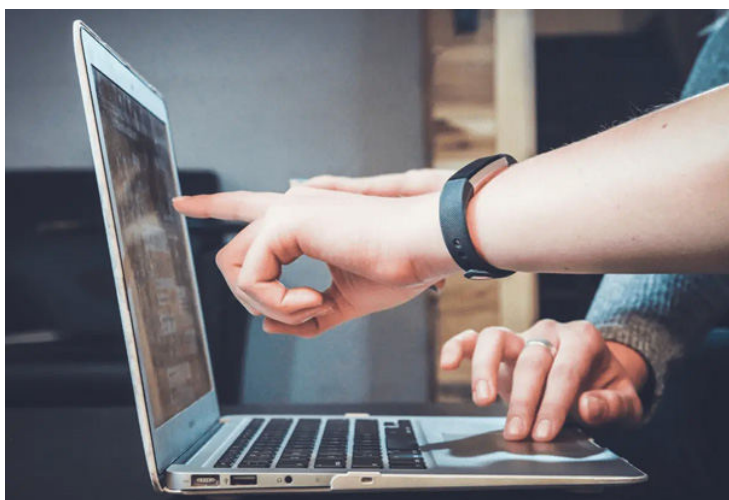
with nearly one lakh security guards across the state. The event will highlight the importance of integrating private security into broader security systems through enhanced collaboration and the adoption of global best practices.

Engaging citizens proactively in safety and security concerns is a key focus, aiming to foster a culture of security awareness and leadership. The summit is expected to be a catalyst for initiatives that contribute to a safer society.

In addition, the HCSC will unveil the official logo for the Physical Security Forum, representing their commitment to modernizing the physical security landscape in Telangana and beyond. The summit will include panel discussions with experts from various sectors, including corporate security, law enforcement, and education, who will provide insights on adapting to the rapidly changing security environment.



## Hyderabad Surpasses Delhi and Mumbai in Tech Salaries: Ranks Third in India



**TPN Hyderabad** : Hyderabad has emerged as the third highest-paying city in India for top tech roles, surpassing major cities like Delhi and Mumbai, according to the latest report titled 'Digital Skills & Salary Primer for FY 2025' by TeamLease Digital. This report provides an in-depth analysis of salary trends, talent demand, and skill preferences within India's rapidly evolving technology sector.

The report reveals that Hyderabad offers competitive salaries for high-demand tech positions. Product Managers in the city earn an average annual salary of Rs. 21.1 lakh (LPA), while Data Scientists receive approximately Rs. 16.1 LPA. Other roles, such as Data Engineers, also see significant compensation, reflecting Hyderabad's growing prominence in the tech industry.

India's tech sector, valued at \$254 billion in FY 2024, is undergoing substantial growth, driven by investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), and blockchain technologies. Despite this expansion, the sector faces a notable skills gap, with only 2.5% of engineers skilled in AI. To bridge this gap, 86% of companies are prioritizing re-skilling their IT workforce.

The report projects that India's tech industry will reach \$350 billion by 2025, bolstered by investments in Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and cloud technologies. Hyderabad, with its advanced infrastructure and a highly skilled talent pool, is well-positioned to play a crucial role in this growth. The city's rise in the tech salary rankings underscores its status as a leading destination for technology professionals in India.

As Hyderabad continues to attract top talent and investment, its role in shaping the future of India's tech landscape becomes increasingly significant.

## Cyberabad Police Arrest Duo for Multi-Crore Real Estate Investment Scam

**TPN Hyderabad** : On Wednesday, the Cyberabad police apprehended J Chandrashekar and Jullapalli Sunitha, two individuals accused of defrauding investors of several crore rupees through a real estate scam. The suspects operated a company named Amacon Developers, based in Madhapur, where they collected substantial investments under false pretenses.

Chandrashekar and Sunitha enticed potential investors with promises of high returns on their investments within

a short period. They falsely claimed to own 33 guntas of land in Chevella village, which they used to bolster their credibility. The duo also entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with investors to lend legitimacy to their scheme.

The scam involved soliciting large sums of money from individuals who were assured of lucrative returns. However, once the funds were collected, the perpetrators failed to deliver on their promises and subsequently disappeared,



leaving the investors defrauded.

The arrest of Chandrashekar and Sunitha follows a thorough investigation by the Cyberabad police, who have been working to uncover the extent of the fraud. The case highlights the

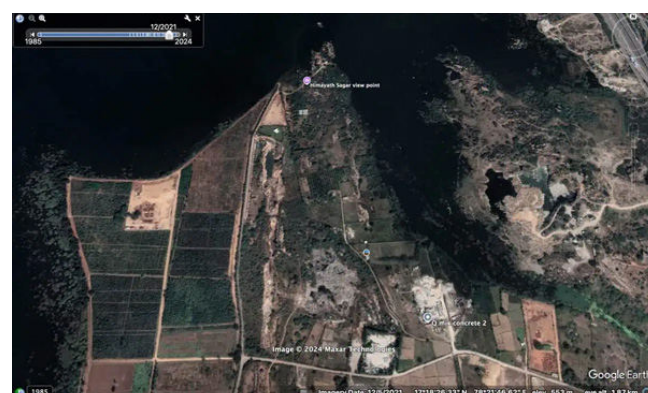
need for vigilance in real estate investments and serves as a reminder of the potential risks associated with fraudulent schemes.

The police are continuing their investigation to determine if there are additional victims or further ramifications of the scam. Meanwhile, the authorities are urging anyone who may have been affected by this or similar schemes to come forward and report their experiences.

## Activist Calls for Action on Himayathsagar Reservoir Encroachments

**TPN Hyderabad** : Activist Lubna Sarwath has raised concerns about unauthorized constructions in the full tank level (FTL) and afforestation foreshore zone of the Himayathsagar drinking water reservoir. She has urged Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA) Commissioner AV Ranganath to take immediate action to address these encroachments.

In her letter to HYDRA, Sarwath highlighted the ongoing demolitions of illegal structures by the agency, which have so far reclaimed over 40 acres of land. These demolitions have affected properties linked to various political figures from Congress, BJP, and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen



(AIMIM). The effort is part of a broader initiative to remove encroachments from lake beds and other protected areas.

Sarwath's letter references multiple sources to substantiate her claims. She cites a preliminary digital study of satellite

maps from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) Master Plan 2031, Google Earth satellite imagery, and the Dharani land portal. According to these sources, significant portions of Kotwalguda V and Shamsabad M in the Ranga Reddy district fall within the afforestation foreshore zone for the Himayathsagar reservoir and some parts are within the FTL of the reservoir.

She emphasized that these constructions threaten the ecological balance and water resource management of the Himayathsagar reservoir, urging authorities to act promptly to remove these illegal encroachments and restore the designated zones.

## Mega Job Mela at Khaja Mansion on August 31

**TPN Hyderabad** : A Mega Job Mela is set to take place at Khaja Mansion Function Hall, Masab Tank, on August 31. The event, organized by Mannan Khan Engineer, aims to connect job seekers with numerous companies across various sectors, including pharma, health, IT & ITes, education, and banking. Some companies will also offer work-from-home opportunities.

Candidates with qualifications above SSC

are encouraged to attend, as preliminary interviews will be conducted on-site. The event provides a valuable chance for job seekers to explore a range of employment opportunities and engage directly with potential employers.

Entry to the Mega Job Mela is free of charge. For more information or inquiries, interested individuals can contact 8374315052.

## SBI Branch Manager and Associates Arrested in ₹175 Crore Fraud Case

**TPN Hyderabad** : The manager of a State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Hyderabad and his accomplices have been arrested in connection with a massive ₹175 crore fraud case. The accused, Madhu Babu Gali, 49, who managed the SBI branch in Shamsheer Gunj, and Upadhyay Sandeep Sharma, 34, a gym trainer, have been charged with facilitating fraudulent transactions and money diversion in exchange for commissions.

The Cybersecurity Bureau Headquarters in Hyderabad uncovered the scam after numerous complaints were flagged on the NCRP portal. These complaints related to six SBI accounts in the Shamsheer Gunj branch, which were identified for suspicious activity. Data analysis revealed that substantial transactions occurred in these accounts within March and April 2024, totaling around ₹175 crore, and involved approximately 600 complaints.

The investigation revealed that the primary fraudster, based in Dubai, and his five associates deceived impoverished individuals into opening bank accounts, which were then exploited for cybercrimes and hawala operations. On August 24, authorities arrested Mohammed Shoeb Tauqeer and Mahmood Bin Ahmed Bawazir, who were crucial to the scheme. Shoeb managed the account openings and document

preparations, while Bawazir handled the funds.

The fraudsters convinced poor individuals to open six accounts at the SBI Shamsheer Gunj branch by offering them commissions. These accounts were heavily transacted in March and April, with funds diverted to Dubai via cryptocurrency. The accomplices followed instructions from the Dubai-based mastermind, using the accounts for large-scale

financial crimes.

The public is advised against opening bank accounts for others or engaging in suspicious activities. If you suspect involvement in such schemes, report to 1930 or [cybercrime.gov.in](http://cybercrime.gov.in).

The operation, led by Deputy SPs Hari Krishna and KVM Prasad under the supervision of SP Devender Singh, involved Inspectors D Srinu, Mahender, and various constables.



# 10 Years of Jan Dhan Yojana: A Transformative Success in Financial Inclusion

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched in 2014, has completed ten years of its implementation, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward financial inclusion. Over the past decade, this scheme has had a profound impact on every corner of the country, bringing over 80 percent of Indian women under the formal banking system and drastically improving access to financial services.

In 2011, the percentage of women owning bank accounts in India was a mere 26 percent. However, by 2021, this number had surged to 78 percent, a testament to the transformative power of the Jan Dhan Yojana. Out of the total 53.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts, more than 30 crore are held by women, highlighting the scheme's success in empowering women financially.

Moreover, the scheme has played a crucial role in diminishing the rural-urban divide in financial access. Over 35 crore of the Jan Dhan accounts belong to individuals in rural or semi-urban areas. Today, the percentage of households with a bank or post office account is nearly identical in both urban and rural areas, with 95 percent in urban and 96 percent in rural regions. This parity underscores the effectiveness of the PMJDY in ensuring that financial services reach even the most remote parts of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, celebrated this momentous occasion by hailing those who worked tirelessly to make the Jan Dhan Yojana a success. He emphasized that the scheme has been paramount in boosting financial inclusion and providing dignity to millions of people, especially women, youth, and marginalized communities.



with the trinity of Aadhaar, mobile penetration, and Jan Dhan accounts—known as the JAM trinity—has propelled financial inclusion in India. The financial inclusion rate has jumped from 25 percent in 2008 to over 80 percent of adults in the last six years, thanks to these initiatives.

The success of the PMJDY has also had a broader impact on other government programs, including Direct Benefit Transfers, COVID-19 financial assistance, PM-KISAN, and MGNREGA. An SBI report from 2021 noted that states with higher PMJDY account balances saw a decrease in crime rates and reduced alcohol and tobacco consumption, further highlighting the scheme's positive social impact.

Globally, the Jan Dhan Yojana has been praised for its transformative impact on financial inclusion. A 2023 G20 report by the World Bank revealed that India achieved its financial inclusion goals in just six years—a feat that would have taken 47 years without its advanced Digital Public Infrastructure. Additionally, India has surpassed China in financial inclusion metrics, with a significant rise in mobile and internet banking transactions and an increase in the number of bank branches per 100,000 adults, exceeding those in Germany, China, and South Africa.

In conclusion, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has not only revolutionized financial inclusion in India but has also set a global benchmark. As it marks its ten-year milestone, the scheme continues to be the foundation stone for many more people-centric economic initiatives, ensuring that financial inclusion remains at the heart of India's development agenda.

The scheme has also made significant strides in bridging the gender gap in access to financial services. In 2011, the gender gap was 20 percent, but by 2017, it had reduced to just 6 percent, lower than the global average of 9 percent. This reduction has been instrumental in ensuring that women have greater access to financial services, contributing to their economic empowerment.

Another major benefit of the PMJDY has been the issuance of over 36.13 crore RuPay debit cards, which are provided free of cost to Jan Dhan account holders. These cards come with insurance coverage of ₹2 lakh and an overdraft facility of up to ₹10,000, making them a valuable financial tool for account holders.

The government's focus on Digital Public Infrastructure, combined

## Embracing Tradition while Embracing Change

The grass always looks greener on the other side. No matter how many people convince you, until one has a personal experience, the grass seems greener on the other side. The same is true for language. Foreign languages always sound rich. In India, it has been observed that English is not only a language for communication. It is noted that, even today, this language stands as a social symbol—foreign clothes for better appearance and foreign looks to claim respect. Even in teaching, a teacher with a stylish appearance, good English knowledge, and pronunciation is often perceived as a good teacher.

This is often a misconception, yet widely accepted. This trend is likely to fade, as NEP 2020 brought changes that prioritized native (Indian) languages.

One has to understand that in education, concept building is more important than spoken language. A teacher with wonderful language skills but who can't provide basic information certainly fails and never achieves the objective of the lesson plan. A student with good language skills may look confident, but the one with perfect understanding will always have the edge in applying knowledge.

There should be a drastic change in society, too, which appraises a person based on their appearance and language presentation.

We must understand that not all beautiful flowers turn into edible fruits, and not all edible fruits were once beautiful flowers. We shouldn't judge by color and shape but by the essence someone possesses.

The greatest engineer the nation ever produced, Mokshagundam Visweswaraya, is a standing example that engineers do not need to be in a suit and coat all the time. Sreenivasa Ramanujan, with his

native Tamil attire, never yearned to look like a foreigner. The present nation has mathematicians, engineers, and people of excellence in almost all fields, but not many who look distinctly Indian.

The fraudster and the professional both look similar in presenting themselves, as the present notion of a developing nation is more about looks than mettle.

A person's honor shouldn't be stitched by a tailor or molded in MNC malls. It should be the inner core.

A nation that reflects and respects its culture and tradition can reach foreign nations, setting a trend and marking new trends.

The best example of the above is our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Damodardas Modi, who doesn't try to alter his appearance to please others. It is always his subject knowledge, far-reaching ideology, grounded behavior, vision, and dedication to the nation's upliftment that make him a special personality. Let's be Indians, in looks and demeanor, and be scientific in approach, happy inwardly and outwardly.



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# 12 New Industrial Smart Cities, 10 Lakh Jobs..

Government's Mega Project to Transform India's Industrial Landscape..

The Indian government has greenlit a monumental project aimed at transforming the country's industrial landscape by building 12 new industrial smart cities across 10 states. This decision, announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw following a Union cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to play a pivotal role in boosting economic growth, enhancing global competitiveness, and significantly expanding the nation's industrial capabilities.

## Massive Investment and Strategic Locations

The government has earmarked ₹28,602 crore for the development of these smart cities, which will be strategically located along six major industrial corridors. The selected areas for these industrial nodes include Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthy in Andhra Pradesh, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan. These locations have been chosen to ensure balanced industrial growth across different regions of the country.

The industrial smart cities will be developed with world-class infrastructure incorporating "plug-n-play" and "walk-to-work" concepts, which aim to make the cities not only industrial hubs but also livable urban spaces. The investment potential of this project is estimated to be around ₹1.52 lakh crore, designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem. This will facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), ensuring a diverse and resilient industrial base.

## Creation of Jobs and Economic Impact

The development of these industrial smart cities is set to provide a massive boost to employment in the country. According to the government, the project is expected to directly create nearly 10 lakh jobs across various sectors. Additionally, it is anticipated that the project will indirectly generate around 30 lakh new jobs, significantly impacting the employment landscape of the



employment is a key priority for the government, particularly in the wake of the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government's vision for these smart cities extends beyond just job creation. These industrial nodes are expected to act as catalysts for achieving the ambitious target of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, contributing to India's journey towards becoming a self-reliant and globally competitive economy. The focus on exports, combined with the creation of a robust industrial network, reflects the government's commitment to driving sustainable economic growth.

## Driving India's Global Competitiveness

The launch of these 12 new industrial smart cities marks a significant step towards modernizing India's industrial infrastructure and enhancing its global competitiveness. By developing these cities along major industrial corridors, the

will attract both domestic and international investments. This, in turn, will help position India as a key player in the global industrial sector.

The world-class infrastructure of these cities, along with the strategic location of the industrial nodes, is expected to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive. The emphasis on greenfield development ensures that these cities will be built with sustainability in mind, incorporating modern urban planning principles that prioritize environmental concerns alongside industrial growth.

In conclusion, the government's approval of the mega project to build 12 industrial smart cities across 10 states is a bold and forward-looking move that promises to transform India's industrial landscape. By fostering a vibrant industrial ecosystem, creating millions of jobs, and driving towards a \$2 trillion export target, this project is set to significantly boost the country's economic growth and global competitiveness in the coming years.





## Enough Is Enough": President Murmu Condemns Kolkata Horror

In her first public statement on the brutal rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata nearly 20 days ago, President Droupadi Murmu expressed her deep dismay and horror at the incident. Addressing the issue of crimes against women, President Murmu stated that no civilized society can allow such atrocities to be committed against women.

Speaking to media, President Murmu said, "Even as students, doctors, and citizens were protesting in Kolkata, criminals remained on the prowl elsewhere." Expressing her frustration, she declared, "Enough is enough," underscoring the urgent need to address the issue of violence against women.

President Murmu emphasized the need for society to engage in "honest and unbiased self-introspection" and to ask itself "some difficult questions." She pointed out that a "deplorable mindset" often views women as "lesser human beings, less powerful, less capable, and less intelligent."

Referring to the Nirbhaya case, President Murmu remarked, "In 12 years since Nirbhaya, countless rapes have been forgotten by society. This 'collective amnesia' is obnoxious." The Nirbhaya case involved a 23-year-old paramedic student who was brutally raped and assaulted in a moving bus in Delhi in 2012, leading to her death and widespread protests across India.



President Murmu further commented on society's tendency to forget such heinous crimes, stating, "Societies that are scared to face history resort to collective amnesia." She added, "Time now for India to face history squarely."

The President called for a comprehensive approach to tackle the issue, saying, "Let us deal with this perversion in a comprehensive manner to curb it right at

the beginning."

The recent incident at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where a 31-year-old doctor was raped and murdered on August 9, has sparked nationwide outrage. Junior doctors across the country have refused to see non-emergency patients, demanding justice for the victim and greater safety measures for women in hospitals.

## PM Modi Hails Jan Dhan Yojana's 10-Year Success, Highlights Empowerment of Over 30 Crore Women



Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) on Wednesday, emphasizing its monumental success in transforming India's financial landscape. Launched on August 28, 2014, the scheme has now brought over 53 crore people into the banking system, with a significant 55.6% of these beneficiaries being women—amounting to more than 30 crore women.

In a detailed blog post on his official portal, PM Modi recounted the challenges faced during the scheme's inception. He noted the skepticism surrounding its ambitious goal of achieving financial inclusion for millions, many of whom had never stepped into a bank. Despite these challenges, the scheme has flourished, amassing deposits exceeding ₹2.3 lakh crore, with 65% of accounts located in rural and semi-urban areas.

Beyond these impressive figures, PM Modi highlighted the profound social impact of the scheme, particularly in empowering women and marginalized communities, including SC, ST, and OBC families. "Jan Dhan Yojana has proven to be game-changing as far as women's empowerment is concerned," he remarked.

The Prime Minister also stressed how Jan Dhan has become a crucial component of the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile—which has catalyzed a digital payments revolution across India.

Reflecting on the pre-2014 banking scenario, PM Modi described how access to banking was a distant dream for nearly half of India's households. He praised the determination of the Indian people in overcoming these barriers, turning Jan Dhan Yojana into a resounding success. The scheme, he affirmed, has redefined financial inclusion in India, transforming lives and securing the dreams of millions.

## BJP Accuses Mamata Banerjee of Threatening Doctors Amid Kolkata Murder Protests

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today strongly criticized West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of threatening doctors protesting the rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader was shielding the accused and manipulating the investigation.

"After misleading the probe, destroying evidence, and shielding the accused, a new strategy to threaten doctors has emerged. Mamata Banerjee has threatened doctors with word play," Trivedi said during a press conference. He also referenced state Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remark that "there is no democracy in Bengal," claiming it was now evident.

Trivedi also questioned Mamata Banerjee's previous stance on women's issues, recalling her activism against rape during the Communist regime in Bengal. "Are you the same Mamata ji who led such a movement against rape? Has your empathy died?" he asked, accusing the state government of attempting to cover up the crime.

Expanding his attack to the broader Opposition alliance, Trivedi pointed to Trinamool's legal representation by Kapil Sibal, a Rajya Sabha MP supported by the Samajwadi Party and a former Congress minister. He accused the entire INDIA Opposition bloc of being complicit in the alleged cover-up.

In response, Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP of exploiting the tragedy for political

gain, specifically condemning the BJP's call for a bandh in Bengal. "The BJP wants dead bodies. We want justice and death by hanging for the accused. They have moved away from demanding justice for the victim and are now defaming Bengal," she stated. The incident has sparked widespread outrage and has become a significant political challenge for the Trinamool Congress, with criticism not only from the BJP and Left parties but also from Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, who questioned the handling of the case by the state government and local administration. Banerjee countered by questioning the Congress's track record in states they govern, highlighting the lack of action in similar incidents under their rule.

## Union Cabinet Approves ₹28,500 Crore Investment for 12 Industrial Smart Cities Across India

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the establishment of 12 industrial smart cities, with a significant investment of ₹28,500 crore. This ambitious project is projected to generate around 12 lakh man-days of employment, create 12 lakh direct jobs, and produce 20 lakh indirect jobs, marking a considerable boost to India's economic landscape.

These industrial cities are strategically distributed across the nation, aiming to harness regional strengths and promote balanced economic development. The project aligns with the government's vision to enhance infrastructure, foster industrial growth, and drive sustainable economic progress.

**The locations for the proposed industrial smart cities include:**

1. **Khurpia, Uttarakhand**
2. **Rajpura, Patiala, Punjab**
3. **Agra, Uttar Pradesh -**

**with a focus on clean and environmentally friendly industrial practices**

4. **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**
5. **Gaya, Bihar - emphasizing agro, textile, and engineering sectors**
6. **Eighi Port Industrial Area, Maharashtra - geared towards port-led industrialization**
7. **Jodhpur-Pali, Rajasthan**
8. **Koparthy, Andhra Pradesh**
9. **Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh**
10. **Zaheerabad, Telangana**
11. **Palakkad, Kerala**
12. **Jamshedpur-Purulia-Asansol, Eastern Region**

Each of these cities has been chosen based on its regional advantages and potential for growth in specific industries. For instance, the Agra site will focus on clean and green industrial practices, while Gaya in Bihar will specialize in agro, textile, and engineering sectors. The Eighi Port Industrial Area in Maharashtra will capitalize on port-led industrialization, promoting economic activities around maritime trade.

This initiative is set to provide a robust framework for industrial expansion, job creation, and overall economic development. By strategically investing in these regions, the government aims to drive growth, reduce regional disparities, and ensure a more equitable distribution of economic opportunities across the country.

## Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren Joins BJP, Cites Threat to Tribal Identity

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren announced his decision to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday, stating that his move was made in the best interest of Jharkhand. Soren, a senior tribal leader and a key figure in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), made it clear that he will resign from the JMM and his ministerial position.

Soren's decision follows his recent meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, where he confirmed his entry into the saffron party. Upon returning to Ranchi with his son, Soren was greeted by a large number of supporters.

"My decision (to join BJP) is in the interest of Jharkhand... I am used to struggles," Soren stated, dismissing allegations that he was under "surveillance" by his own party's government. He emphasized that he is unafraid of any situation and will proceed with his resignation from the JMM later on Wednesday. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged earlier in the day that Soren had been under surveillance by the Jharkhand Police for the past five months. Sarma claimed that two sub-inspectors were caught monitoring Soren at a Delhi hotel.

Champai Soren, who briefly served as the 12th Chief Minister of Jharkhand, explained that his decision to join the BJP was driven by a need to protect tribal identity in the state's Santhal Pargana region, which he claims is under threat from "rampant" infiltration from Bangladesh.

"The dignity of our mothers, sisters, and daughters is in danger," Soren said, citing the increasing number of infiltrators in areas like Pakur and Rajmahal. He argued that only the BJP is serious about addressing these issues, while other parties are focused on vote bank politics.

Soren also expressed frustration with the JMM leadership, claiming that his government's programs were abruptly canceled without his knowledge, leaving him with no platform to voice his concerns.

In joining the BJP, Soren said he seeks to continue the struggle for the rights of Jharkhand's tribals, Dalits, and other marginalized communities.



## Over 24,000 Indian-Americans Set to Attend 'Modi & US' Event in Long Island

More than 24,000 Indian-Americans have registered to attend the "Modi & US Progress Together" event on September 22, which will be held at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Long Island, New York. The event, hosted by the Indo-American Community of USA (IACU), is set to be a major gathering celebrating the vibrant Indian-American community.

The Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, with a seating capacity of 15,000, will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is scheduled to deliver a keynote address. The event will also feature cultural performances and appearances by notable Indian-Americans from various fields including business, science, entertainment, and the arts.

The IACU has reported that registrations have come through 590 community organizations across the United States, with strong participation from the tri-state area. "We're committed to ensuring as many people as possible can participate in this historic event," said a key organizer. The organizers are working to expand seating arrangements and prioritize final seat allocations based on confirmations from attendees.

In addition to Modi's address, the event will showcase the diverse cultural tapestry of the Indian-American community, including representation from various religious groups such as Jews, Zoroastrians, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus, as well as speakers of different Indian languages like Hindi, Telugu, Punjabi, Tamil, Bengali, Malayalam, and Gujarati.

This gathering follows Modi's previous high-profile events in the U.S., including his address at Madison Square Garden in



2014 shortly after becoming Prime Minister and the "Howdy Modi" event in 2019 at Houston's NRG Stadium, where he was joined by former President Donald Trump. Prime Minister Modi is also scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on September 26. His visit to the U.S. comes amid a competitive presidential race between Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, who is the first woman of Black and Indian heritage to be nominated for the presidency.

The UN General Assembly's high-level debate will take place from September 24-30, with UN Secretary-General António Guterres presenting his report before the debate begins. The UN will also host the Summit of the Future on September 22-23, aimed at forging a new international consensus on global challenges. This event marks a significant moment for the Indian-American community and underscores the ongoing strong ties between India and the United States.

## Altercation Reported at Arlington National Cemetery During Trump Visit



Arlington National Cemetery confirmed on Tuesday that an incident involving two members of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign staff had occurred during Trump's visit earlier this week. The incident reportedly involved a "verbal and physical altercation" between the campaign staff and a cemetery official, according to NPR.

Trump visited Arlington National Cemetery on Monday to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the 13 servicemembers who lost their lives during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. The ceremony was intended to honor the fallen heroes of the withdrawal.

The altercation reportedly took place when a cemetery official attempted to prevent Trump campaign staffers from filming and photographing in restricted areas where servicemembers are buried. According to NPR, the Trump staff members "verbally abused and pushed the official aside."

Trump campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung contested the report, denying any physical altercation. "There was no physical altercation as described and we are prepared to release footage if such defamatory claims are made," Cheung stated. He described the incident as involving a "private photographer" and an unnamed individual who allegedly had a "mental health episode."

Arlington National Cemetery issued a statement confirming that an incident had occurred and that a report was filed. The statement reiterated that federal law prohibits political campaign or election-related activities within Army National Military Cemeteries. This includes restrictions on photographers, content creators, or any other persons attending for or in support of a partisan political candidate's campaign.

The cemetery's statement did not address why the Trump campaign was allowed to visit the cemetery as part of the campaign or provide a copy of the report. The incident underscores ongoing tensions and sensitivities surrounding political activities and events at national military cemeteries.



## Japan Issues Highest Storm Warning as Typhoon Shanshan Approaches Kyushu

Japan is on high alert as Typhoon Shanshan, the strongest storm of the year, bears down on the southern island of Kyushu. Authorities have issued the highest "special warning" for violent storms, high waves, and storm surges, advising around 56,000 people to evacuate from the affected areas.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi warned that Typhoon Shanshan is expected to bring extremely strong winds, with gusts reaching up to 252 kilometers per hour (157 miles per hour), and heavy rainfall. "It is expected that violent winds, high waves, and storm surge at levels that many people have never experienced before may occur," Hayashi said.

The typhoon has already begun to impact

the region, prompting major disruptions. Auto giant Toyota announced the suspension of production at all 14 of its factories due to the storm's approach. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) predicted that southern Kyushu could receive up to 1,100 millimeters (43 inches) of rain in the 48 hours leading up to Friday morning, which is about half of the region's annual average.

In central Aichi prefecture, a landslide triggered by the storm buried a house in Gamagori, leaving two people unaccounted for. Rescuers managed to pull a woman in her 70s from the rubble, though she was found unconscious and not breathing. Efforts continue to locate the remaining missing individuals. The storm's impact has already been

dramatic, with video footage from NHK TV showing roof tiles being blown off, broken windows, and fallen trees. Local resident reports from Miyazaki described the intense storm, with one resident saying the carport roof was completely blown away and that the shaking felt like an earthquake.

The typhoon has caused significant travel disruptions as well. Japan Airlines canceled 172 domestic and six international flights, while ANA canceled 219 domestic and four international flights over Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, affecting approximately 25,000 passengers. Kyushu Railway has suspended some Shinkansen bullet train services and warned of potential further disruptions.



## NASA Extends Astronauts' ISS Stay Amid Spacecraft Change; Assures Safety

NASA has announced that astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore will extend their stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS) until February 2025, six months longer than originally planned. This extension is due to a change in their return spacecraft from the Boeing Starliner to the SpaceX Crew Dragon.

The decision to delay their return was made after the Boeing Starliner experienced technical issues. Despite concerns about the extended mission, NASA has assured that there is no immediate danger to the astronauts. The ISS is well-stocked with provisions, including food, water, clothing, and oxygen. "The space station is well-stocked with everything the crew needs, including food, water, clothing and oxygen," NASA stated. Recent cargo resupply missions have bolstered the station's supplies. Two spacecraft recently delivered essential items: one carrying "8,200 pounds of food, fuel, supplies" and another delivering "three tons of cargo." Regular resupply missions are planned to ensure the astronauts' needs are continually met.

The extended stay requires special arrangements for the astronauts. On the ISS, the zero-gravity environment allows astronauts to sleep anywhere, using sleeping stations attached to surfaces. They can also stay connected with Earth through video calls, audio calls, and emails.

The ISS features the Advanced Resistive Exercise Device (ARED), a gym that helps astronauts maintain muscle mass and bone density through resistance exercises such as squats, deadlifts, and bench presses. Additionally, Williams and Wilmore have access to the Vegetable Production System (Veggie garden), enabling them to grow fresh produce and flowers in space, which they are using to experiment with crop growth techniques.

In a significant development, Bangladesh's caretaker government has lifted the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's main Islamic party, and its affiliated groups. The decision came after a review found insufficient evidence linking the party to "terrorist activities," according to a gazette notification issued on Wednesday.

The ban was initially imposed by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration under an anti-terrorism law. The government had accused Jamaat-e-Islami of inciting violence during student-led protests that escalated into a broader uprising against Hasina, leading to her resignation and departure to India on August 5.

The caretaker government, which assumed power following Hasina's resignation, concluded that there was "no specific evidence of involvement of Jamaat" or its affiliates in terrorist activities. The party has consistently denied allegations of violence and condemned the previous ban as "illegal, extrajudicial, and unconstitutional." Jamaat-e-Islami has faced legal and political challenges in recent years. Since 2013, the party has been unable to contest elections due to a court ruling that deemed its registration inconsistent with Bangladesh's secular constitution.

Shishir Monir, a lawyer representing Jamaat-e-Islami, announced plans to file a petition early next week with the Supreme Court to seek the restoration of the party's registration.

## Bangladesh Caretaker Govt Lifts Ban on Jamaat-e-Islami Amid Political Shifts







## Nifty Surges Past 25,000 as Record-Breaking Streak Continues; IT Sector Leads the Rally



The domestic stock market indices closed at record highs, with investors locking in profits while maintaining strong positions. The Nifty crossed the 25,100 level, marking ten consecutive sessions of gains, while the Sensex approached the 82,000 mark. The market's surge was bolstered by IT shares, following the US Fed's suggestion that interest rate cuts might be imminent. Despite a positive close, market breadth in the BSE favored sellers, with 2,129 stocks declining against 1,837 advances. The rupee weakened slightly, closing at 83.96 against the dollar.

The BSE Sensex, after opening at 81,779, fluctuated between a low of 81,578 and a high of 82,039 before closing at 81,785, up 73 points. The NSE Nifty closed at 25,052, up 34 points, after hitting an intraday high of 25,129. Bank Nifty, however, settled down 134 points at 51,143.

In the Nifty50, 21 companies gained while 29 declined, with LTI Mindtree, Wipro, and Divis Lab among the top gainers. Sectors such as IT, Pharma, and Healthcare gained, while others like Bank, Auto, and FMCG declined. Key stock picks for short-term gains include Wipro, Divis Lab, and Tata Power.

**Wipro Ltd:** Positive momentum with strong long-term growth potential, good for both short-term and long-term investment.

Wipro has been witnessing a gradual recovery in its IT services segment. The company has shown improvement in its digital services and cloud offerings, which are key growth driv-

ers. Despite the global slowdown in IT spending, Wipro has managed to maintain a stable margin. With a strong order book and increasing focus on next-gen technologies like AI and cloud, Wipro is expected to maintain positive momentum. For short-term trading, the stock could see some volatility, but it remains a strong long-term investment due to its focus on digital transformation.

**Divis Laboratories Ltd:** Strong fundamentals, good for both short-term gains and long-term holding. Divis Labs has shown strong performance in the pharmaceutical sector, particularly in APIs and nutraceuticals. The company has a robust pipeline and has been benefiting from the global shift towards generics and specialty chemicals. Divis Labs is expected to continue its growth trajectory, supported by its strong R&D capabilities and expansion plans. It is a good pick for both short-term gains, given the current market sentiment towards healthcare, and long-term investment due to its solid fundamentals.

**IndusInd Bank:** Strong growth prospects, suitable for both short-term and long-term investment. IndusInd Bank has been performing well, showing strong growth in both retail and corporate lending. The bank's asset quality has improved, and it has maintained a strong capital adequacy ratio. The recent RBI approval for mutual fund business adds to its growth prospects. IndusInd Bank is expected to maintain its upward trajectory, supported by strong credit growth and improving asset

quality. It is a good choice for short-term trading due to its positive momentum and long-term growth potential.

**Eicher Motors Ltd:** Likely to perform well in the short term with strong long-term growth potential.

Eicher Motors, the parent company of Royal Enfield, has shown consistent growth in the two-wheeler segment, especially in premium motorcycles. Despite a slight dip in sales volume, the company's focus on expanding its international market and launching new models has kept investor interest high. Eicher Motors is expected to continue its growth, especially with the festive season approaching, which typically boosts motorcycle sales. The stock is likely to perform well in the short term due to positive market sentiment and long-term due to its strong brand presence.

**Tata Power Company Ltd:** Benefiting from the renewable energy boom, good for both short-term gains and long-term investment.

Tata Power has been focusing on expanding its renewable energy portfolio, which now constitutes a significant portion of its overall capacity. The company's move towards solar power and EV charging infrastructure is in line with global energy trends. Tata Power is expected to benefit from the global shift towards renewable energy. The stock is a good pick for short-term gains due to its recent performance and long-term investment due to its strong focus on sustainability and clean energy.



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## Adani Group to Invest ₹3,500 Crore in Cement and Propellant Facilities in Madhya Pradesh

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has unveiled plans to invest ₹3,500 crore in Madhya Pradesh, marking a significant expansion in the region. The announcement was made by Karan Adani, MD of APSEZ, at the Gwalior Regional Industry Conclave.



The investment will fund two major projects: a 2 million tonne capacity cement grinding unit in Guna and a propellant production facility in Shivpuri.

The propellant production facility aligns with India's Aatmanirbhar mission, aiming to shift the country from being a defence importer to an exporter. Together, these projects are expected to generate over 3,500 direct and indirect jobs.

Adani highlighted the group's substantial investments in Madhya Pradesh, noting that they have already invested ₹18,250 crore and created 12,000 jobs. Gwalior, he said, is evolving into a key economic hub due to its growing tourism appeal, high-quality talent pool, and strategic transportation links.

The Adani defence facility in Gwalior is recognized as India's largest small arms plant, reinforcing Madhya Pradesh's role as a global center for small arms manufacturing. Adani praised Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav for his leadership, which he credited with driving the state's economic growth.

Additionally, Adani Foundation has made a notable impact in Madhya Pradesh, benefiting 80,000 households and reaching 3 lakh lives through initiatives in healthcare, education, sustainable livelihood, and women's empowerment. As part of their women empowerment initiative, the foundation will establish a jacket production center in Badarwas, which will be entirely managed by women.

## CCI Approves Disney Star and Viacom18 Merger with Conditions



On Wednesday, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the high-profile merger between Disney Star, the local arm of The Walt Disney Company, and Viacom18, controlled by Reliance Industries, subject to some voluntary modifications. This approval marks a significant step toward creating an \$8.5 billion entertainment conglomerate, potentially the largest in India's media and entertainment sector.

The CCI announced its decision via a post on X (formerly Twitter), stating that the merger involving Reliance Industries, Viacom18 Media, Digital18 Media, Star India, and Star Television Productions is approved with compliance to voluntary modifications. However, the specifics of these modifications were not disclosed by the CCI.

Under the terms of the merger agreement signed on February 28, Viacom18's media assets will be integrated with Star India Pvt Ltd (SIPL) through a court-sanctioned arrangement. This merger, val-

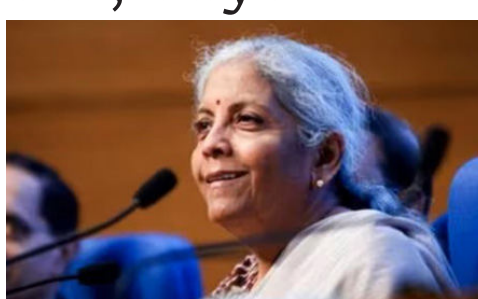
ued at ₹70,350 crore (\$8.5 billion), will see Reliance Industries invest ₹11,500 crore (\$1.4 billion) into the new entity. Post-merger, Reliance and its affiliates are set to hold approximately 56% of the combined entity, Disney will own 36.84%, and Bodhi Tree, a venture between James Murdoch and former Star India CEO Uday Shankar, will hold the remaining 7.5%.

The merger will create a dominant player in the media sector, with the combined market share exceeding 40% in some areas, raising concerns about reduced competition. This prompted the CCI to closely examine the potential market impact, similar to its scrutiny of past high-profile deals.

Legal expert Akshat Kulshrestha from S&R Associates noted that while the exact nature of the modifications remains undisclosed, they could involve selling off certain channels or relinquishing some sports broadcasting rights to address competition concerns.

## Government Targets 3 Crore New PMJDY Accounts This Year, Says Nirmala Sitharaman

The government has set an ambitious target to open over 3 crore new accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) for the current financial year 2024-25, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Announcing this on the eve of the scheme's tenth anniversary, Sitharaman highlighted the program's role in enhancing financial inclusion across India.



The Finance Minister praised the scheme for its success in reaching marginalized communities and helping the government identify those in need of financial assistance. By encouraging people to open bank accounts, PMJDY has played a crucial role in streamlining direct benefit transfers and ensuring that subsidies and financial aids reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014, the PMJDY was designed to provide universal access to banking facilities and financial services. Over the past decade, the scheme has significantly contributed to financial inclusion by offering banking services to the unbanked population, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The government's push to open 3 crore new accounts this year is part of its broader strategy to enhance financial inclusion and ensure that every Indian has access to banking services. This effort aligns with the government's commitment to improving financial literacy and providing a secure and reliable banking infrastructure to the population.

Sitharaman emphasized that the continued expansion of PMJDY is crucial for achieving inclusive growth and ensuring that no one is left behind in the financial system. As the scheme marks its tenth year, the government remains focused on its goal of broadening access to banking services and fostering economic empowerment across the country.

## Paytm Payments Services Gets Green Light for Investment, Preps for License Reapplication

Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PSSL) has received approval from the finance ministry for a downstream investment by its parent company, One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL). This development clears the way for PSSL to reapply for a payments aggregator license, marking a significant step forward amid ongoing regulatory scrutiny.

In an exchange filing on Wednesday, OCL announced that PSSL will proceed to resubmit its application for a payments aggregator license. During this period, the company will continue to provide online payment aggregation services to

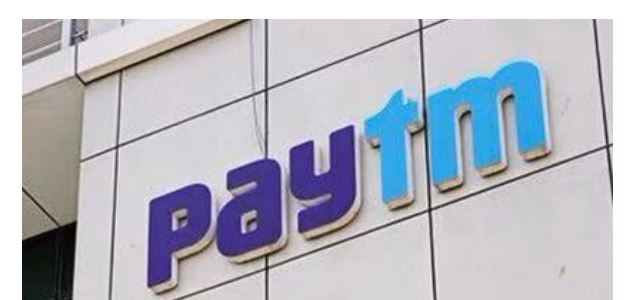
its existing partners. The company emphasized its commitment to a compliance-first approach and maintaining the highest regulatory standards.

Downstream investment refers to capital infusion by an Indian entity from overseas shareholders. The approval is a crucial move for PSSL as it seeks to normalize its operations following regulatory setbacks that previously halted much of its business activity.

PSSL's original application for the payments aggregator license was rejected nearly two years

ago by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The rejection was based on non-compliance with Press Note 3, which mandates prior approval for investments from countries sharing land borders with India. The scrutiny was particularly focused on investments from China's Ant Group Co. The Centre had earlier rejected a post-facto approval request for these investments.

Earlier this year, the RBI directed Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) to cease new credit and deposit operations, as well as other banking activities, following a comprehensive audit that revealed consistent non-compliance issues. This



disruption impacted PSSL significantly, as it contributed approximately 60% (around ₹900 crore) of the company's revenue in the first quarter of FY25. The ongoing regulatory challenges have led to a decline in key operational metrics.

On Wednesday, One 97's shares closed down 0.7% at ₹541.15, reflecting a more than 16% decline in stock value year-to-date.





# RBI to Launch Unified Lending Interface (ULI): A Game-Changer in India's Lending Landscape

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to introduce the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), a platform poised to revolutionize the lending landscape in India, much like how the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transformed the retail payment system. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das recently announced that the nationwide launch of ULI will happen in due course, signaling a significant shift in the way lending operations are conducted across the country.

## How ULI Works

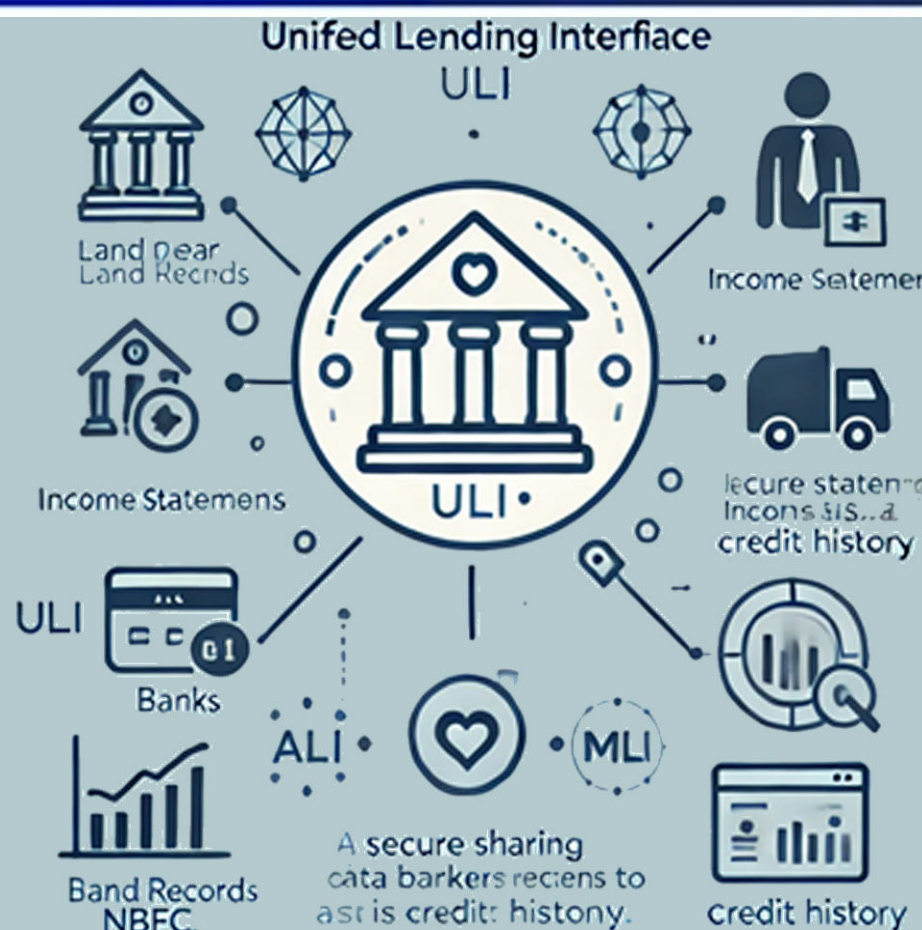
The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) will serve as a centralized platform that connects borrowers with a variety of lenders, including banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and fintech companies. The platform is designed to facilitate a seamless and consent-based flow of digital information from multiple data service providers to lenders. This includes critical data such as land records from various states, which will be integral in the credit appraisal process.

Borrowers will be required to provide their consent to share both financial and non-financial data—such as income statements, credit history, and employment details—with lenders via the ULI platform. Lenders, in turn, will utilize this data to assess the creditworthiness of the borrowers, employing advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to make informed lending decisions. Once a loan is approved, the funds can be directly disbursed to the borrower's account through the ULI platform. Loan repayments will also be managed through the ULI, which can be linked to the borrower's bank accounts, ensuring a streamlined process for both borrowers and lenders.

## The Impact of ULI on Credit Appraisal and Lending

One of the significant advantages of the ULI platform is its potential to drastically reduce the time taken for credit appraisal, particularly for smaller and rural borrowers who often face delays due to the manual processing of applications. By automating and centralizing the data flow, ULI will ensure quicker and more efficient lending decisions, thereby enhancing financial inclusion across various segments of society.

The introduction of ULI is also expected to cut down the operational costs for lend-



ers by minimizing the need for physical verification and reducing the reliance on traditional credit appraisal methods. This efficiency could result in lower interest rates for borrowers, making credit more accessible and affordable. The ULI platform's ability to provide real-time access to a borrower's financial data will further enable lenders to tailor their loan products to meet the specific needs of different borrower segments, fostering a more inclusive financial ecosystem.

## The New Trinity: JAM-UPI-ULI

The ULI platform is being hailed as a revolutionary step in India's digital infrastructure journey, forming part of a new trinity alongside the JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile) and UPI systems. The JAM trinity has already proven to be a powerful tool for the government in transferring cash benefits directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries, thereby reducing leakages and ensuring targeted delivery of subsidies.

UPI, which was launched in April 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has similarly transformed the retail payments landscape in India. It integrates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, enabling seamless fund transfers and merchant payments. UPI has played a pivotal role in the growth of digital payments in India, with the system now widely adopted by banks, non-bank third-party app providers, and merchants utilizing QR (quick-response) codes to facilitate transactions.

With the addition of ULI to this digital infrastructure, India is set to experience a further boost in financial inclusion and economic growth. The integration of these platforms will enable a more robust and accessible financial system, ensuring that credit is available to a broader spectrum of the population, including those in underserved rural areas.

The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) promises to be a game-changer in the Indian lending landscape, building on the success of UPI and the JAM trinity to create a more inclusive and efficient financial ecosystem. As the RBI prepares for its nationwide launch, the ULI is set to bring transformative changes to the way credit is accessed and disbursed in India.





# Gemini's New Screen and Video Query Features



Gemini is introducing two new features in its latest update for Android, found in Google app version 15.33.38.28.arm64 and later. These features, 'Ask about this screen' and 'Ask about this video,' allow users to interact with content on their device more intuitively.

The 'Ask about this screen' feature enables users to capture a temporary screenshot directly through the Gemini AI assistant. Once the screenshot is taken, users can ask questions about the content displayed on their screen. For instance, if you're reading an article, you can inquire about its summary or specific details. Gemini's responses are based solely on the captured screenshot, but it can also fetch additional information from the Internet if needed. Notably, the screenshot is not saved to the device, and long screenshots are not supported.

The 'Ask about this video' feature, however, is specifically designed for YouTube videos that have captions enabled. When activated during playback, it allows users to ask questions about the video's content. Gemini generates responses based on the captions rather than analyzing the video itself. Unfortunately, this feature does not extend to other video platforms, regardless of caption availability.

These new functionalities appear as options at the top of the Gemini floating window. Users will see "Ask about this screen" or "Ask about this video" with corresponding icons when the feature is available. By tapping these options, Gemini can provide contextual answers and summaries, enhancing the user experience with more interactive and helpful AI capabilities.

# Samsung's New XR Headset to Compete with Apple Vision Pro



Samsung has officially confirmed its development of a new extended reality (XR) headset, aiming to rival Apple's Vision Pro. Announced by TM Roh, president of Samsung's mobile division, the headset is set to launch later this year. The project, a collaborative effort with Google and Qualcomm, promises to be a significant player in the XR market.

While specific details about the headset have not been disclosed by Samsung, Google, or Qualcomm, a recent Geekbench listing has unveiled some of the key specifications. The listing provides a glimpse into the headset's performance capabilities and potential features, hinting at an advanced and competitive product.

The partnership with Google and Qualcomm suggests that the headset will incorporate cutting-edge technology from these industry leaders, potentially offering enhanced functionality and user experience. As Samsung gears up for its entry into the XR space, the upcoming release is highly anticipated, particularly in the context of competing with Apple's Vision Pro.

With the XR market becoming increasingly competitive, Samsung's new headset aims to stand out by leveraging its collaborations and technological advancements. The specifics revealed by Geekbench could offer insights into what users can expect in terms of performance and capabilities. The announcement of the headset's launch later this year will likely generate significant interest as it approaches, particularly among tech enthusiasts and industry observers keen to see how it stacks up against Apple's high-profile offering.

Rufus is integrated into the Amazon app and features a chatbot interface that can be accessed through a new icon located at the bottom right corner of the screen. Tapping this icon brings up Rufus as a bottom sheet where users can interact with the assistant. A text field within the bottom sheet allows users to type their queries, and for those unsure how to begin, suggested questions are provided to guide the interaction. Conversations can be ended by swiping down, and users can revisit previous chats when

# iPhone 17 Rumored to Feature 12GB RAM

As Apple prepares to unveil the iPhone 16 on September 9, speculation about the next generation of iPhones, the iPhone 17, is already surfacing. According to a recent leak from Weibo user Mobile phone chip expert, the iPhone 17 models are expected to boast up to 12GB of RAM, significantly more than the 8GB found in the upcoming iPhone 16 series.

Currently, the iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus come with 6GB of RAM, while the iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max have 8GB. The addition of more RAM in the iPhone 17 is likely aimed at enhancing performance and supporting advanced features driven by Apple Intelligence. However, the leak does not specify if this RAM upgrade will be standard across all iPhone 17 variants.

Analyst Jeff Pu previously suggested that the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max might be equipped with 12GB of RAM and an A19 Pro chip, while the standard iPhone 17 and iPhone 17 Slim (which is expected to replace the iPhone 15 Plus) will have either an A18 or A19 chip with 8GB of RAM.



In addition to the iPhone 17 rumors, it's anticipated that the iPhone 16 series will come with 8GB of RAM across all models. The upcoming iPhone SE 4, expected to launch in spring, is also rumored to include 8GB of RAM.

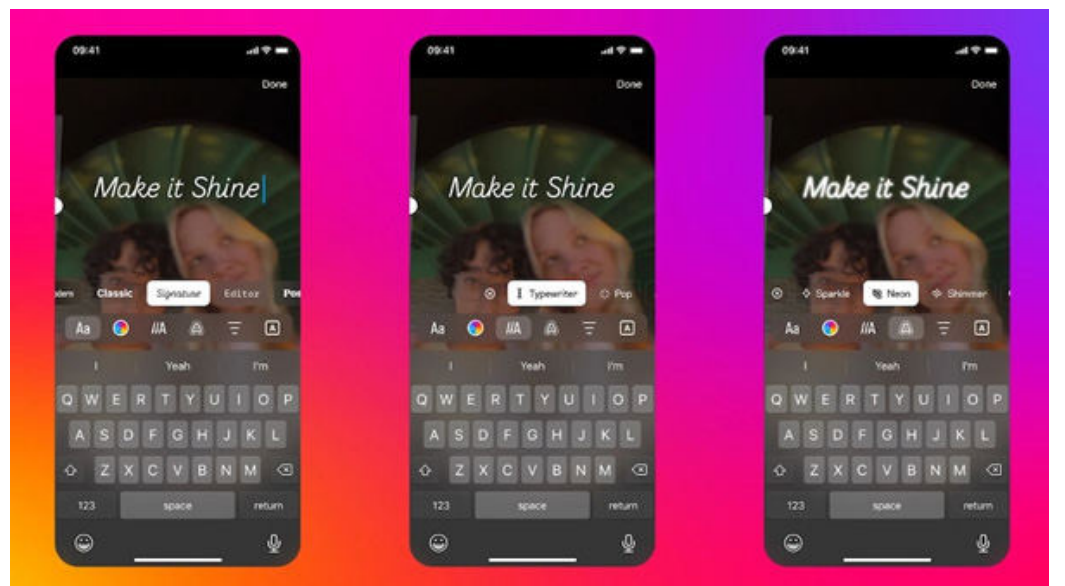
More details about the iPhone 17 will likely emerge following the iPhone 16's release. Apple's September 9 event, titled "It's Glowtime," will also feature announcements for new Apple Watch models and AirPods.

# Instagram Introduces Enhanced Creative Tools for Reels and Stories

Instagram has rolled out a suite of new creative tools designed to offer greater flexibility and expression for creators. This update includes fresh text animations, unique fonts, and new effects for Instagram Reels and Stories, allowing users to personalize their content more creatively.

With these new features, creators can now access a variety of fonts and animations for their text. To use these, simply open the text tool and tap on the text button to explore the new options. After choosing a font, users can apply different effects and animations to further enhance their content. These new fonts are also available for use in Stories and photo carousels, expanding creative possibilities across various formats.

Additionally, Instagram has introduced the ability to add layer images via stickers to both Stories and feed carousels. To do this, select an image from your device's media library, tap the text button, and use the gallery button located at the top-right corner of the screen to overlay additional images. Users can also customize the shape of stickers, choosing



from options like circular, rectangular, heart-shaped, or star-shaped stickers.

These updates follow recent changes on Instagram aimed at improving user experience. For instance, the platform has increased the carousel limit to 20 photos or videos, reducing the need for multiple posts to share media collections.

Instagram has also partnered with

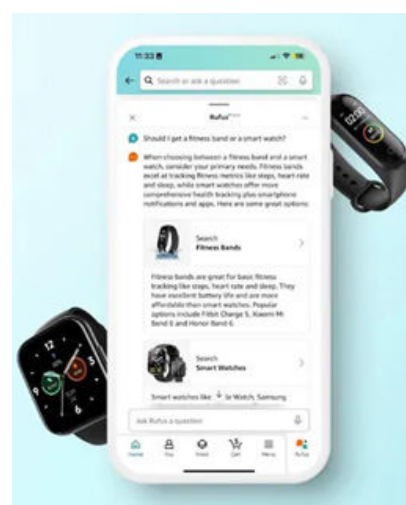
singer and actress Sabrina Carpenter to launch the 'song on profile' feature. This new addition lets users select a song from Instagram's licensed library to showcase on their profile, reflecting their mood or preferences.

These new tools and features underscore Instagram's commitment to enhancing creative expression and making content creation more engaging and versatile.

# Amazon Introduces AI Shopping Assistant Rufus in India

Amazon has officially launched its AI shopping assistant, Rufus, in India, making it available in beta to a select group of users on the Amazon mobile app. First unveiled in February, Rufus was initially available only in the US. The company plans to expand access to more users across India in the coming weeks.

Rufus is integrated into the Amazon app and features a chatbot interface that can be accessed through a new icon located at the bottom right corner of the screen. Tapping this icon brings up Rufus as a bottom sheet where users can interact with the assistant. A text field within the bottom sheet allows users to type their queries, and for those unsure how to begin, suggested questions are provided to guide the interaction. Conversations can be ended by swiping down, and users can revisit previous chats when



the chatbot is reopened.

The AI assistant is designed to enhance the shopping experience by offering a range of functionalities. Users can ask Rufus for product recommendations, compare different items, and seek gift suggestions based on specific activities and occasions. Additionally, Rufus can provide detailed answers about products while users are on their respective product detail pages.

# Food Blogger Creates Stunning Pixel Art with Fruits, Captivating the Internet

A recent Instagram reel by food blogger Celine Rousseau has taken the internet by storm, amassing over 1.6 million views since it was shared. In the video, Rousseau transforms ordinary fruits into remarkable pixel art, demonstrating a unique fusion of food and artistic expression.

The captivating reel showcases Rousseau's creative approach to food artistry. Using ingredients like watermelon, cherries, and strawberries, she assembles these fruits into intricate pixel art designs. The video also features other elements such as a bowl of cheese and a loaf of bread, which are strategically placed to complement the pixelated fruit artwork.

In the caption, Rousseau provides a glimpse into her creative process: "Pixel sal-

ads tomato, cucumber, and feta. Watermelon, cucumber, and olive. Strawberry, cucumber, and feta." This description highlights the detailed and intentional arrangement of each ingredient to create visually stunning patterns.

The response from viewers



has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing awe and admiration for Rousseau's innovative use of food. Her work exemplifies how the boundary between culinary creations and artistic expression has blurred, as food stylists and bakers increasingly push the limits of what can be achieved with edible materials.





## Dawid Malan Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Dawid Malan, England's former world No. 1 T20I batter, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 37. The left-handed batter shared the news in an interview with British Daily 'The Times', following his exclusion from the upcoming white-ball series against Australia.

Malan's illustrious career saw him achieve significant milestones, including becoming one of only two England men's players—alongside Jos Buttler—to score centuries in Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. Despite these accomplishments, he had not represented England since the 50-over World Cup in India last year.

Reflecting on his career, Malan noted that Test cricket, which he once viewed as the pinnacle of the sport, was mentally taxing. He admitted to struggles with consistency, saying, "Test cricket was always the pinnacle for me growing up. At times I played well but in between just wasn't good enough or consistent enough, which was disappointing because I



felt I was a better player than that."

Malan's international career began in 2017 with a memorable T20I debut against South Africa, scoring 78 off 44 balls. He made a significant impact during the 2017-18 Ashes tour with a resilient 140 in Perth. Malan's T20I career was particularly notable, especially after England's ODI World Cup victory in 2019. His record-breaking 48-ball century against New Zealand in Napier and his

ascent to the top of the ICC's T20I batting rankings in September 2020 marked his dominance in the format.

He played a pivotal role in England's T20 World Cup win in Australia in 2022, although he missed the knockout stages due to a groin injury. Over his career, Malan accumulated 4,416 runs across 22 Tests, 30 ODIs, and 62 T20Is.

## Legends League Cricket Returns: Season 3 Kicks Off with Historic Matches in Kashmir



Legends League Cricket is set to return for its third season on September 20, featuring retired stars like Shikhar Dhawan and Dinesh Karthik. The tournament will span Jodhpur, Surat, Jammu, and for the first time in nearly 40 years, Srinagar.

The league will begin at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium in Jodhpur and will include a total of 25 matches among six teams. The grand finale is scheduled for October 16 at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. This marks a significant milestone as Srinagar prepares to host high-profile cricketing action for the first time in decades.

Raman Raheja, Co-Founder of Legends League Cricket, expressed enthusiasm about the new season: "We are thrilled to bring the league to Kashmir. It's a tremendous opportunity for the people of Kashmir to witness live cricketing

action after nearly 40 years and for our cricketers to experience the beauty and hospitality of Srinagar."

The previous season of the league saw a substantial audience of 180 million across India over 19 matches. The upcoming season promises to be even bigger with an extended schedule and a star-studded lineup. In the last edition, legends such as Suresh Raina, Aaron Finch, Martin Guptill, Gautam Gambhir, Chris Gayle, and Hashim Amla showcased their skills, along with 110 other renowned cricketers.

The third season will kick off in Jodhpur, move to Surat's Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, and then proceed to Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium. The players' auction for this season is scheduled for Thursday, setting the stage for another exciting round of Legends League Cricket.

## Lucknow Super Giants Appoint Zaheer Khan as Mentor for IPL 2025

The Lucknow Super Giants have announced the appointment of former India pacer Zaheer Khan as their mentor for the upcoming IPL 2025 season. This move marks Zaheer's return to the IPL management scene after a two-year hiatus.

Zaheer Khan, a renowned fast bowler with a distinguished international career, previously served as a key figure in the Mumbai Indians' management team from 2018 to 2022. During his tenure, the Mumbai Indians achieved significant success, winning the IPL title multiple times.

With the IPL 2025 mega auction approaching, Zaheer's expertise and experience are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the Super Giants' strategy and squad. His deep understanding of the game and his past success in the IPL management are anticipated to provide valuable insights and guidance to the team.

Zaheer's return to the IPL fold brings renewed excitement and hope to the Lucknow Super Giants' fanbase, as the team prepares for a competitive season ahead. His appointment is seen as a strategic move to leverage his extensive knowledge and skills



to strengthen the team's performance and planning for the upcoming auction.

This development is part of the Super Giants' broader efforts to enhance their team dynamics and performance in the highly competitive IPL environment. Zaheer Khan's addition to the management team is expected to boost the team's prospects as they gear up for the IPL 2025 season.

## Krishan Bahadur Pathak Appointed India's Main Goalkeeper for Asian Champions Trophy

Krishan Bahadur Pathak has been named as the primary goalkeeper for the Indian men's hockey team in the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy, following the retirement of PR Sreejesh. The announcement was made on Wednesday, with Pathak stepping into the role previously held by Sreejesh, who retired after India's successful bronze medal campaign at the Paris Olympics. Suraj Karkera will serve as the reserve goalkeeper.

The 18-member squad, led by Harmanpreet Singh, will compete in the tournament scheduled from September 8 to 17 in Hulunbuir, China. This edition of the Asian Champions Trophy will feature teams from Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, and hosts China.

Vivek Sagar Prasad has been appointed as the vice-captain in place of Hardik Singh, who, along with Mandeep Singh, Lalit Upadhyay, Shamsher Singh, and Gurjant Singh, has been rested. The team includes Jugraj Singh, a promising drag-flicker who will have the chance to prove his worth alongside Harmanpreet Singh. Araiyeet Singh Hundal will join Jugraj as the third drag-flicker.



The defensive lineup consists of Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, and Sumit, while the midfield will feature Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, and Mohammed Raheel. The forward line includes Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Araiyeet Singh Hundal, junior India captain Uttam Singh,

and debutant Gurjot Singh.

Chief coach Craig Fulton highlighted the importance of this campaign for India, aiming to build on their ranking points and integrate new talent into the squad. The Indian team will kick off their campaign against China on September 8.

## Pakistan Revamps Squad for 2nd Test Against Bangladesh

Pakistan has announced significant changes to their squad ahead of the second Test against Bangladesh, set to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from August 30 to September 3. Abrar Ahmed and Kamran Ghulam, who were previously dropped, have been recalled to the team. Both players had been competing in a four-day match for Pakistan Shaheens against Bangladesh 'A' from August 20 to 23.

Abrar, a leg-spinner renowned for his precision and spin on subcontinent pitches, is expected to bolster Pakistan's spin options. Kamran Ghulam, a middle-order batsman, adds depth and stability to the batting lineup.

Additionally, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Pakistan's leading fast bowler, has been reinstated to the squad after his release following the first Test. Aamir Jamal has also been recalled, although his participation is contingent on fitness clearance. Jamal, an emerging all-rounder, had been rehabilitating at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) after his previous release.

The decision to recall these players comes in response to Bangladesh's historic ten-wicket victory over Pakistan in the series opener at Rawalpindi, marking their first-ever Test win against Pakistan. The inclusion of these players aims to address the performance gaps and

strengthen Pakistan's lineup for the upcoming match.

**The updated Pakistan squad for the second Test includes:**

- Shan Masood (captain)
- Saud Shakeel (vice-captain)
- Aamir Jamal (subject to fitness)
- Abrar Ahmed
- Abdullah Shafique
- Babar Azam
- Kamran Ghulam
- Khurram Shahzad
- Mir Hamza
- Mohammad Ali
- Mohammad Hurraira
- Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper)
- Naseem Shah
- Saim Ayub
- Salman Ali Agha
- Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper)
- Shaheen Shah Afridi

**These changes reflect Pakistan's strategic adjustments as they prepare for a crucial second Test against Bangladesh.**





## New Poster for "Pushpa 2: The Rule" Revealed

Allu Arjun fans, get excited! The makers of "Pushpa 2: The Rule" have just unveiled a striking new poster for the highly anticipated film. Released on Wednesday, the poster showcases Allu Arjun in a dramatic and intense pose, adding to the buzz surrounding the movie's release.

In the poster, Allu Arjun is depicted with his face bathed in hues of red, enhancing the dramatic effect. His curls are styled to perfection, and his hand is adorned with elaborate jewelry, raised high, adding an element of grandeur to the visual. The actor's sideways glance exudes a powerful and captivating presence, perfectly reflecting the film's intense and engaging tone.

The production house behind the film, Mythri Movie Makers, used the poster reveal to announce that there are 100 days

left until the film's release. They wrote, "100 days to go for Pushpa 2: The Rule. Get ready for an iconic box office experience. The rule in cinemas on 6 December 2024." This countdown has fans eagerly awaiting the film's debut.

"Pushpa 2: The Rule" is the sequel to the highly successful "Pushpa: The Rise," and it promises to build on the original's massive success with more thrilling action and drama. The film is slated for a grand release on December 6, 2024, and is expected to make a significant impact at the box office.

As the release date approaches, fans and moviegoers alike are looking forward to seeing Allu Arjun back in action, bringing his unique charisma and style to the big screen once again.

## Prabhas Shines Again with Record-Breaking "Kalki 2898AD"



Rebel star Prabhas has once again made waves in Indian cinema with his latest blockbuster, "Kalki 2898AD." Since its theatrical release on June 27th, the film has made significant strides, joining the ranks of Indian movies that have achieved record-breaking success.

Recently, "Kalki 2898AD" made its debut on OTT platforms, quickly capturing the spotlight across the nation. The film has continued to make headlines in the streaming world, further cementing Prabhas' status as a beloved figure in digital entertainment. Viewers who missed the film's initial release in theaters have flocked to streaming services, where they've been enthusiastic in their praise of Prabhas' standout performance, sharing

glowing reviews on social media.

Following the monumental success of "Baahubali," Prabhas has further solidified his position as a major force in Indian cinema, demonstrating his appeal both in theaters and on digital platforms. His films consistently perform well across the country, enhancing his reputation as a leading superstar. The success of "Kalki 2898AD" on OTT platforms has attracted considerable interest from streaming services eager to secure the rights to Prabhas' future projects. The film's impressive performance on streaming platforms underscores Prabhas' ability to engage audiences across multiple viewing formats, reinforcing his strong presence in pan-Indian cinema.

## Vijay's "The GOAT" Receives U/A Certification Ahead of September 5 Release



Vijay Tapalathy's highly anticipated film, "The GOAT" (Greatest of All Time), directed by Venkat Prabhu, has successfully completed the censorship process and has been awarded a U/A certificate. The film, with a runtime of 3 hours and 3 minutes, is scheduled to hit theaters on September 5.

"The GOAT" marks Vijay's 68th film and is poised to be a significant milestone in his

illustrious career, as it is one of his final projects before he transitions into politics. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release, given Vijay's impressive track record in the film industry.

His previous film, "Leo," directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, was a major box-office success, and expectations are high for "The GOAT" to continue this trend. The film promises to deliver another blockbuster

performance, adding to Vijay's legacy of successful movies.

With its recent certification and imminent release, "The GOAT" is generating considerable excitement among fans and industry insiders alike. As Vijay approaches this pivotal moment in his career, the film is anticipated to be a fitting finale to his prolific acting journey before he embarks on his political career.

## Preity Zinta Stuns in Ivory Anarkali



Preity Zinta continues to dazzle with her timeless elegance. The actress recently turned heads with her latest ethnic ensemble during a photoshoot, showcasing her impeccable style. She chose an exquisite ivory Anarkali from the Los Angeles-based brand Fashion By Rohini, and the result is nothing short of spectacular.

The Anarkali featured a well-fitted bodice with quarter-length sleeves that accentuated Preity's graceful silhouette. The design cinches at the waist, flowing into a floor-length hem that gracefully grazes the ankles. The outfit's standout feature is its broad golden border, which adds a touch of glamour. The intricate golden floral embroidery woven into the fabric further enhances the traditional charm of the garment.

Preity paired the Anarkali with a matching sheer dupatta, which was beautifully adorned with gold-laced piping, complementing the ensemble perfectly. Her makeup was understated yet radiant, with softly flushed cheeks and peach lips, capturing a delicate and refined look. With this stunning choice, Preity Zinta proves once again that her style remains as captivating and refined as ever.

## Anticipation Builds for Adivi Sesh's High-Budget Spy Thriller "G2"

Adivi Sesh's acclaimed spy thriller "Goodhachari" has set high expectations for its sequel, "G2," which is generating significant buzz among fans. To celebrate the sixth anniversary of "Goodhachari," the makers recently unveiled six new posters for "G2," showcasing Sesh in intense and dramatic moments that hint at the film's high-octane action.

The new posters highlight the world-class production quality of "G2," which is being developed on a lavish budget of ₹100 crore. This substantial investment reflects the confidence the producers have in Sesh's market potential, given his track record of consecutive hits.

Directed and co-written by Vinay Kumar Sirigineedi in collaboration with Sesh, "G2" is set to be the

most expensive project in Adivi Sesh's career. The film is crafted on a Pan-India scale and features Bollywood star Emraan Hashmi in a formidable role, adding to the film's star power.

"G2" promises to deliver an engaging cinematic experience with its grand set pieces, thrilling action sequences, and unexpected narrative twists designed to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Produced by People Media Factory, Abhishek Agarwal Arts, and AK Entertainments, the film is slated for release in the latter half of 2025. With its ambitious budget and high-profile cast, "G2" is poised to be a major event in Indian cinema, continuing the legacy of "Goodhachari" and elevating Adivi Sesh's standing as a leading actor in the genre.

