



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
H 27°C L 23°C	H 28°C L 24°C	H 33°C L 24°C

JUST NOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Mumbai and Palghar on August 30, addressing GFF 2024 and launching development projects.

ED attaches land worth ₹834.03 crore of Emaar India Ltd. and MGF Developments Ltd. under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

AG Noorani, a renowned Supreme Court lawyer and political commentator, passed away at 93. He was an expert in constitutional matters and authored over a dozen books.

Russia has warned France against turning the charges against Telegram CEO Pavel Durov, arrested in Paris, into "political persecution," labeling the arrest as politically motivated.

India and China discussed LAC issues at the 31st WMCC meeting in Beijing, agreeing to maintain peace and intensify contact.

AP Government Orders Special Enquiry on Mumbai Actress Case



ACP Sravanthi Roy Leads Probe

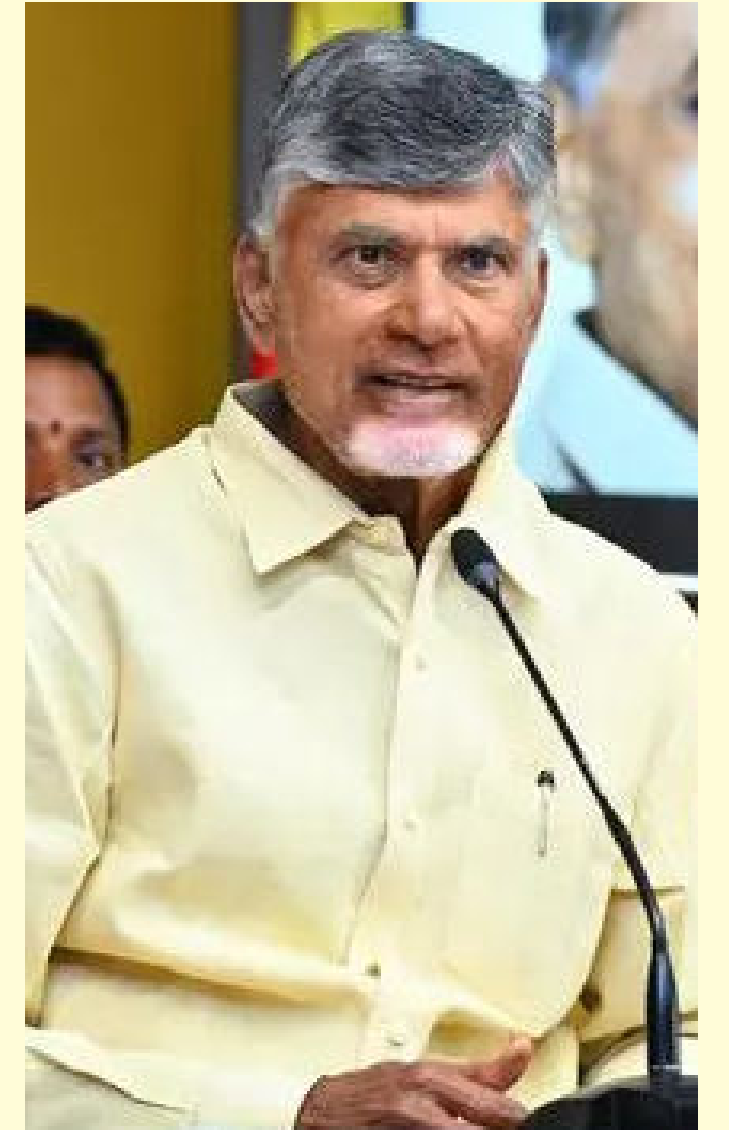
TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh police have officially commenced an investigation into the molestation case involving Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani, which took place during the previous YCP government. The investigation was initiated following orders from the state government, with the NTR Commissionerate police taking charge.

Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu has appointed CCS ACP Shrvanathi Roy as the lead investigating officer for the case. The investigation is centered on the Ibrahimpatnam police station, where a false case was allegedly registered against Kadambari Jethwani. The actress has accused YCP leader Kukkala Vidyasagar of cheating her with false promises of marriage and using the influence of two IPS officers to file a baseless case against her.

Kadambari Jethwani appeared before media channels earlier, recounting the horrific experience she endured for 45 days. In response to her revelations, the government has ordered a thorough investigation to uncover the truth behind the allegations.

The government's swift action reflects

its concern over the accusations that YCP leaders, with the assistance of high-ranking police officers, harassed and molested Kadambari. The investigation has now expanded beyond Andhra Pradesh, with police teams being dispatched to Mumbai to gather information directly from Kadambari's family. The authorities are expected to piece together the events based on the testimonies and evidence collected, which could lead to significant legal actions against the involved IPS officers and YCP leaders.



Amaravati to Be Developed as AI-Driven City

TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced ambitious plans to develop Amaravati as an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven city. During a review of the ongoing works in the Amaravati Capital City earlier today, Naidu emphasized the importance of integrating AI technology into the city's infrastructure and future development.

The Chief Minister urged officials to complete the construction of the Amaravati Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) within the next 90 days. He also instructed that the jungle clearance operations be expedited, noting that 190 porcelains are currently in use for this purpose and that 60% of the work has already been completed.

In a forward-looking move, Naidu directed the officials to create a logo that represents both Amaravati and its AI-driven future. He stressed that the construction of the capital city should incorporate the latest technologies and that there should be no compromise in the quality of the work.

Naidu also reviewed the progress of the Happy Nest residential community, a project being developed by the CRDA. He instructed officials to develop guidelines to mitigate the losses incurred due to the previous government's actions and to ensure the smooth continuation of the project.

Additionally, the Chief Minister reviewed the ongoing Metro Rail projects in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. He urged officials to accelerate the progress of these crucial infrastructure projects, which are expected to play a significant role in the state's urban development.

With these directives, Chandrababu Naidu reaffirmed his vision of transforming Amaravati into a modern, technologically advanced capital that leverages AI to enhance the quality of life for its residents and sets a new standard for urban development in India.

Home Minister Anita Reacts to Mumbai Actress Case



Home Minister Anita has responded to the serious allegations made by Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani, who lodged an online complaint regarding her mistreatment. The Home Minister confirmed that a woman officer has been appointed to investigate the case, ensuring that it is handled with the sensitivity and thoroughness it deserves.

Minister Anita stated firmly that if the investigation reveals wrongdoing, no one, including the authorities involved, will be spared

from accountability. "Justice will be given to the victim," she asserted, signaling the government's commitment to delivering a fair and unbiased resolution to the case.

Addressing related concerns, Minister Anita also clarified the use of Disha Police Stations, which are designed to serve as specialized stations for cases involving women. She noted that while these stations are operational as "Disha PSS," there is no separate law named "Disha."

The government has initiated an investigation into the Jatwani case, which will begin on Friday in Vijayawada.

Some media houses are ignoring the Jindal factor.

The case has progressed, and the investigation has finally started. The victim is set to reveal all the details to the investigation team appointed by the AP Police on Friday in Vijayawada. Our POINT team exposed the case of Kadambari Jatwani, who has suffered brutal harassment from the AP Police, including involvement from IPS officials. After receiving information from POINT, various media outlets



began reporting extensively on the case, even featuring Jatwani in live broadcasts. She revealed that IPS officials were involved and shared her ongoing fear due to the harassment.

The victim has interacted with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and the Home Minister, Mrs. Anita. The government has now formed an investigation team under ACP Sravanthi Roy. The victim has already had a telephonic conversation with the investigating officer,

Sravanthi Roy.

This entire episode centers on the attempt to withdraw the rape case FIR against Sajjan Jindal, which was filed by court order based on Kadambari Jatwani's complaint. However, some media houses, while extensively covering the involvement of the IPS officials, are neglecting the Jindal factor in this case. Nevertheless, ensuring justice for the victim remains the ultimate goal of POINT.



Government to Submit Metro Rail Project Reports to Center; Amaravati Construction to Begin in January

Highlights

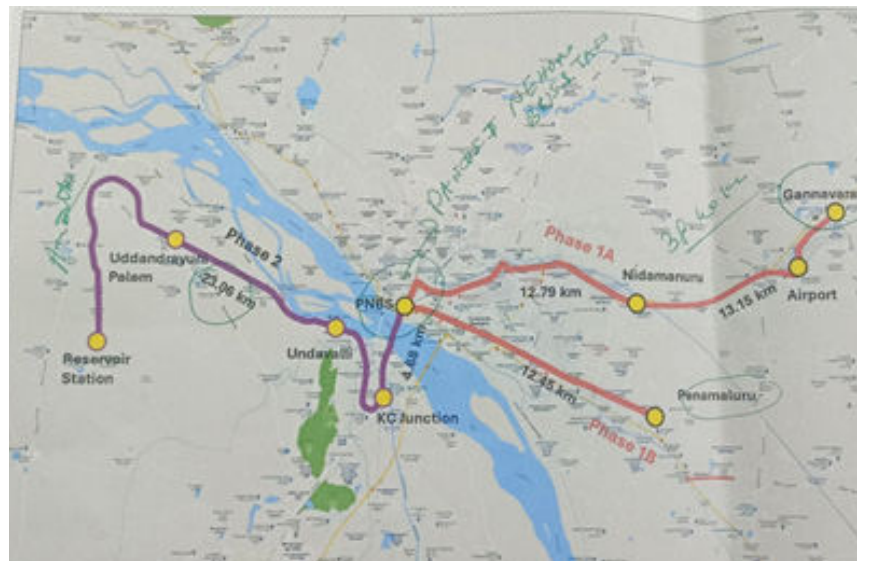
The construction of the CRDA building in Amaravati should be completed as soon as possible.

An exercise is underway to allocate plots in their own villages to those newly acquiring land through land pooling.

One installment of rent funds should be deposited to the farmers before the 15th of next month.

Reports on Metro Rail Projects in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam will be submitted to the Center.

The construction work in Amaravati will commence in full swing from January 1.



TPN, Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is gearing up to accelerate its infrastructure development projects, with plans to submit detailed project reports (DPRs) for Metro Rail projects in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam to the Central Government. This decision was disclosed by Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana following the 37th CRDA Authority meeting.

The Vijayawada Metro Rail project

is proposed in two phases. The first phase includes a 25.95 km stretch from Pandit Nehru Bus Station to Gannavaram Airport, and a 12.45 km line from the bus stand to Penamaluru, with an estimated cost of Rs. 11,009 crores. The second phase will cover 27.80 km from Pandit Nehru Bus Station to Amaravati, projected to cost Rs. 14,121 crores.

Similarly, in Visakhapatnam, the Metro project will be developed in two phases across four corridors. The

first phase will cover 46.23 km across three corridors, including a 34.40 km stretch from Steel Plant to Kommati, with a total estimated cost of Rs. 17,232 crores.

Minister Narayana emphasized that these projects are crucial for future urban growth, considering the expected population increase over the next decade. The government plans to send the phase one estimates of these projects to the Central Government promptly, seeking its support for the

metro's construction.

Additionally, the CRDA meeting discussed the reallocation of plots to farmers who contributed land through pooling for the capital. Minister Narayana assured that these farmers would receive their returnable plots as a priority. The state has already collected 3,550 acres of land through acquisition and pooling.

Regarding the construction of Amaravati, Minister Narayana

announced that the building work would begin in full swing on January 1, 2025. The CRDA office near Rayapudi, comprising 10 floors, will also house various municipal departments, streamlining administrative functions.

Finally, the minister addressed concerns over unpaid rent to farmers who provided land for the capital, promising that Rs. 175 crores in rent funds would be deposited into farmers' accounts by the 15th of next month.

PM Modi Praises Telugu Language on Telugu Language Day



TPN, New Delhi: On the occasion of Telugu Language Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to the Telugu-speaking community, highlighting the significance of the language. In a special tweet posted on X (formerly Twitter), the Prime Minister praised the rich heritage of Telugu.

"Telugu is truly a great language. It has made its mark not only in India but across the world. I appreciate all those who are working to make Telugu more popular," PM Modi tweeted in Telugu.

The Prime Minister's message resonates with the cultural pride of the Telugu-speaking population and acknowledges the global influence of the language. His remarks also underscore the efforts of individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting and preserving Telugu language and literature.

Over 15.75 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Sand Available in 39 Storage Centers Across Andhra Pradesh

TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has a substantial stock of 15,75,025 metric tonnes of sand available for consumers across 39 storage centers, according to Mukesh Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary of the Mines and Mining Department. This announcement highlights the state's preparedness to meet the growing demand for sand.

On Thursday, the Department of Mines received 2,275 applications requesting a total of 31,132 metric tonnes of sand. Meena confirmed that sand was supplied to all applicants who placed their bids on the same day, ensuring a smooth and efficient distribution process.

Ministerial Sub-Committee Appointed to Formulate New Liquor Policy in AP

TPN, Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step towards reforming the state's liquor policy by appointing a ministerial sub-committee tasked with formulating a new policy. Excise Chief Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena issued the Government Order (GO) confirming the formation of this sub-committee, which comprises five ministers.

The members of the sub-committee

include Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Nadendla Manohar, Kondapalli Srinivas, Satyakumar Yadav, and Gottipati Ravi. This committee will be responsible for reviewing the existing liquor policy and exploring best practices from other states to develop a comprehensive and effective policy for Andhra Pradesh.

The sub-committee will examine various aspects, including the policies governing liquor shops, bars, beverage companies, and

the procedures implemented by different states. As part of their review, they will also consider reports from officials who have conducted studies on liquor policies in other regions.

Additionally, the sub-committee will gather opinions from various stakeholders, including industry representatives, consumer groups, and social organizations, to ensure that the new policy is well-rounded and addresses the concerns of all

parties involved.

This initiative aligns with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's vision of bringing the best possible liquor policy to Andhra Pradesh. The government aims to balance the regulation of the liquor industry with public health considerations and economic factors, ensuring a policy that benefits both the state and its residents.

Visakhapatnam to Become IT and AI Hub: Minister Nara Lokesh



TPN, Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh State Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has announced a series of ambitious initiatives aimed at transforming Visakhapatnam into a leading hub for Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). During a face-to-face meeting with representatives of the Andhra Pradesh IT Association in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, Lokesh outlined the government's plans to develop a better IT policy, attract renowned companies, and create a robust ecosystem for the IT sector.

Lokesh emphasized that the state is committed to creating 20 lakh jobs within the next five years, with the IT and electronics sectors playing a crucial role in achieving this goal. He revealed that the government is studying successful IT policies from cities like Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Chennai to craft an even more effective strategy for Andhra Pradesh. The minister also hinted at ongoing discussions with the top 10 IT

companies in the country, promising significant investments in the state's IT industry soon.

One of the flagship initiatives announced by Lokesh is the establishment of a world-class AI University in Visakhapatnam, modeled after the Indian School of Business (ISB). This university will anchor the city's development as an AI hub, fostering innovation and education in emerging fields such as robotics, healthcare, and education. Lokesh set an ambitious target to transform Visakhapatnam into a \$100 billion economy over the next five years.

To further boost the IT sector, Lokesh announced plans to bring back skilled Telugu professionals who migrated to other states during the previous regime. The government will launch a skill census program to enhance the capabilities of local youth and align educational outcomes with industry needs. AP universities are being targeted to rank among the top 100 globally.

In addition, the government will focus on enhancing 5G connectivity across the state, improving international air connectivity from Visakhapatnam Airport, and providing better support for women entrepreneurs in the IT sector. Lokesh underscored Andhra Pradesh's key role in contributing to India's \$300 billion electronics sector target.

Mopidevi and Beda Mastan Rao has resigned from Rajya Sabha and YCP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant political development, senior YCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Mopidevi

he enjoys being directly involved in his community, whether he wins or loses. Mopidevi also confirmed that he will be joining the Telugu



Venkataramana, along with fellow MP Beda Mastan Rao, has resigned from both the Rajya Sabha and the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP). The two leaders submitted their resignation letters to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha earlier today, signaling their departure from the party.

Mopidevi Venkataramana announced that he is leaving the YCP, citing various reasons for his decision. He expressed a preference for local politics, stating that

Desam Party (TDP) in the near future, though he emphasized that his decision was not motivated by the pursuit of positions or posts. He mentioned that the specific responsibilities he will assume within the TDP will be revealed soon.

Beda Mastan Rao, who also resigned from the Rajya Sabha alongside Mopidevi, attributed his decision to personal reasons. He stated that he has yet to decide on his future political path and will consult with his supporters and activists before making any decisions about joining another party. Rao expressed his gratitude to YCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and the party members who have supported him throughout his tenure.

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Pithapuram Women to Receive Shravana Masam Gift from Pawan Kalyan



TPN, Pithapuram: In a significant gesture towards the women of his constituency, Deputy Chief Minister and local MLA Pawan Kalyan has decided to distribute sarees and Ammavari Prasad during the auspicious month of Shravana. This initiative, funded personally by Pawan Kalyan, has sparked widespread discussion and appreciation across Pithapuram.

Arrangements are in full swing for the grand Varalakshmi Vratulu Pooja, scheduled to take place on August 30 at the famous Pithapuram shrine. This event, the first of its kind since Pawan Kalyan's victory as MLA, is being closely monitored by Jana Sena leaders, with Party MLC Hariprasada overseeing the entire process.

In addition to organizing the mass Varalakshmi Vratulu Pooja, Pawan Kalyan has made another thoughtful decision. He has arranged for the distribution of

12,000 sarees, along with turmeric and saffron, as prasada to all the women participating in the pooja. These items will be handed out after the completion of the fast at the temple.

The Varalakshmi Vratulu Pooja program will be conducted on the last Friday of Shravana Masam, in accordance with temple tradition. To ensure the event proceeds smoothly, MLC Hariprasada reviewed the arrangements with temple authorities. He emphasized the need for meticulous planning to accommodate the large number of devotees expected to attend, and advised officials to organize the pooja in three separate sessions from morning to afternoon.

This generous initiative by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan is expected to draw a significant number of women devotees, marking a memorable celebration in Pithapuram.

Mopidevi: "What About the Sacrifices I Made for Jagan?"

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Rajya Sabha MP and senior Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) leader Mopidevi Venkataramana has defended his decision to resign from the party amidst criticism from various quarters. Speaking to a media organization on Thursday, Mopidevi responded to detractors who have pointed out that despite losing elections, he was given a ministerial post and an MLC seat. He emphasized that no one is acknowledging the sacrifices he made for party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.



deliberation. According to Mopidevi, this incident planted the seed for his eventual decision to leave the party.

Despite his loyalty and contributions to the YCP, Mopidevi stated that he grew increasingly disillusioned due to the lack of change in the party's leadership. He noted that his resignation comes after a long period of waiting and hoping for a shift in direction, which never materialized.

Mopidevi Venkataramana is expected to officially resign from both the primary membership of the YCP and his Rajya Sabha seat on Thursday afternoon. His departure marks a significant development in the ongoing political realignment within Andhra Pradesh, especially as multiple YCP leaders are rumored to be considering similar moves.

Mopidevi explained that his decision to resign was not a spur-of-the-moment choice but rather the result of long and careful consideration. He mentioned that the moment of dissatisfaction began when he expressed his desire to contest as an MLA, only to be dismissed by Jagan without any

Minister Payyavula Keshav: Jagan Cheated, Can Bills be Paid Without Approval??

TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav has made serious allegations against the previous Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) government, accusing it of widespread irregularities within the finance department. He stated that the current government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, will thoroughly investigate these irregularities and take legal action against those responsible, including YCP leaders and government officials.

Minister Payyavula Keshav expressed astonishment at the way bills were handled and paid during the tenure of the YCP government, alleging that many bills were processed and paid without the knowledge or approval of the then Finance Minister. He described this as a significant deception orchestrated by the YCP administration.

Keshav raised concerns about the actions of government officials who allegedly released these payments while the then Finance Minister was away on district tours, suggesting that this raises many suspicions about the intent and legality of those



transactions. He also questioned the justification behind settling bills from the YCP government's tenure while leaving unpaid bills from the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime, which was in power from 2014 to 2019.

The Finance Minister mentioned that an inquiry is underway to determine whether officials were involved in selectively paying these bills. He noted that there is evidence suggesting that some payments were made under the guise of utilization certificates (UCs), but no clear explanation has been provided by the finance department officials

as to why bills from the TDP era remain pending while those from the YCP government were prioritized.

Payyavula Keshav accused the YCP government of engaging in extensive manipulation, with certain YCP leaders allegedly influencing government officers to act in ways that severely damaged the state's financial health. He emphasized that the current coalition government is committed to uncovering all irregularities that took place in the finance department during the previous administration and ensuring accountability for any wrongdoing.

Alliance Sharing YCP MPs: Who's Making the Move?

TPN, New Delhi: In a significant political development, the Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) is reportedly facing a major setback as a substantial number of its Rajya Sabha members are poised to switch parties. Following the YCP's loss of power in Andhra Pradesh, key leaders are now eyeing a shift to neighboring political parties. With 11 YCP members currently in the Rajya Sabha, reports suggest that around seven of them are prepared to leave the party, signaling a potential realignment in the state's political landscape.



Among those expected to resign from the YCP are Mopidevi Venkata Ramana and Beda Mastana Rao, who are likely to submit their resignations to Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar in Delhi on Thursday. There are also strong rumors that MPs Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, Meda Raghunatha Reddy, R. Krishnaiah, Golla Baburao, and other key leaders may soon follow suit.

If these resignations materialize, the YCP's representation in the Rajya Sabha could dwindle to just four members, namely Jagan's younger brother YV Subbareddy, Vijaya Sai Reddy, Niranjana Reddy, and Parimal Natwani. The remaining MPs are reportedly in talks to join the three-party alliance currently forming in the state.

Sources indicate that four YCP Rajya Sabha members, including Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, Beda Mastana Rao, Baburao, and R. Krishnaiah, are in discussions

to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Additionally, MPs Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, and Meda Raghunatha Reddy are rumored to be leaning towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Furthermore, there are indications that one of the YCP MPs may be sent to the Jana Sena as part of the alliance's strategy.

This exodus of YCP leaders, if it occurs, would significantly weaken the party's position in the Rajya Sabha, reducing it from the fourth-largest party to just four members. Vijayasai Reddy, a senior YCP leader, has already clarified his position regarding the party changes, while TDP leaders anticipate a domino effect, expecting YCP MLCs to follow the MPs in switching allegiances.

Notably, some of the Rajya Sabha members who left the YCP to join the TDP might also have the opportunity to return, indicating ongoing negotiations and strategic planning among the state's major political players.

Government Abolishes Jagan's Special Bureau for Cheap Liquor

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a move aimed at reversing the policies of the previous YCP government, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has dismantled the Special Enforcement Bureau established under Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration. This decision is part of the current coalition government's broader strategy to reevaluate and rectify what they describe as misguided policies of the previous regime, particularly in the excise department.



Now, with the abolition of the Special Enforcement Bureau, those employees have been reintegrated into the main excise department. This restructuring has been well-received by many within the department, particularly in districts like Kurnool, Chittoor, Annamayi, and Anantapur, which are on the Karnataka border and have been hotspots for illegal liquor trafficking.

A senior excise officer pointed out that the Special Enforcement Bureau failed to achieve its objectives, particularly in curbing the illegal inflow of liquor from neighboring states. With the bu-

reau now dissolved and its employees returned to their original roles, there is optimism that the excise department will regain its strength and effectiveness.

Starting October 1, a new liquor policy will come into effect under Chandrababu Naidu's government, with the aim of tightening control over the sale and distribution of alcohol in the state. The decision to abolish the Special Enforcement Bureau and focus on strengthening the excise department is expected to play a crucial role in this new policy.

The formation of the Special Enforcement Bureau under the previous government had generated much debate, particularly regarding its effectiveness in tackling the issue of cheap liquor smuggled from Karnataka. Now, with its dissolution, the focus shifts to how the restructured excise department will handle these challenges moving forward.

YCP's Sinking Ship Says Ganta Srinivasa Rao

TPN, Visakhapatnam: Former minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao has made scathing remarks about the current state of the YCP, likening it to a sinking ship. His comments come on the heels of the resignation of two YCP Rajya Sabha members, Mopidevi Venkataramana and Beda Mastana Rao, who have both signaled their intention to join the TDP.



Ganta Srinivasa Rao, speaking to the media, stated that the YCP would be left virtually empty if the TDP decided to "lift the gates," mass exodus of YCP members to the TDP is imminent. He predicted that more YCP MPs and MLAs would soon abandon the party, holding YCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy responsible for this situation.

Despite the defections and growing discontent within his party, Ganta noted that there has been no change in Jagan's leadership style or approach. He suggested that unless Jagan undergoes a significant transformation in his personali-

ty and political strategy, the YCP might be relegated to the status of the opposition after the next election—if it manages to secure even that.

Ganta also questioned the recent demand for President's rule in Andhra Pradesh, just two months after the coalition government came to power, highlighting internal tensions and the unstable political environment in the state. He further referenced comments made by Jagan's sister, Sharmila, who allegedly remarked that Jagan's mental state was not sound, adding to the mounting criticism against the YCP leader.



Mumbai Actress Heads to Vijayawada Amidst AP Political Scandal



TPN, Vijayawada: The Jaswani episode, which has sparked a major scandal in Andhra Pradesh's political and police circles, continues to unfold as the Mumbai-based film actress is reportedly en route to Bejawada (Vijayawada). The actress has alleged that her family was illegally kidnapped and arrested by IPS officers and other police personnel, accusations that have sent shockwaves through the state.

In response to the seriousness of these allegations, the Andhra Pradesh government has ordered an investigation into the matter. Jaswani, who is currently traveling from Mumbai to Bejawada via Hyderabad, is reportedly coming to Vijayawada to participate in the ongoing inquiry. The Andhra Pradesh Police, in coordination with Mumbai Police, has arranged for her security following her request.

Due to the sensitive nature of the case, the police have kept details of Jaswani's travel itinerary confidential to ensure her safety. While there were earlier reports that she might abandon her journey, it has now been confirmed that she is proceeding with her trip to Bejawada.

The Jaswani case has quickly become a focal point in Andhra Pradesh's political discourse, with widespread demands for accountability and justice. As the investigation progresses, the situation remains tense, with all eyes on the developments expected to unfold upon her arrival in Bejawada.

AICC Member Kolanukonda Shivaji Demands Action in Actress Harassment Case

TPN, Vijayawada: Kolanukonda Shivaji, a prominent member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), has called for the immediate arrest of the police officers and YCP leaders allegedly involved in the harassment and kidnapping of a Mumbai film actress in Vijayawada. Describing the incident as more horrific than the infamous Kolkata doctor's murder case, Shivaji expressed outrage over the actions of the police officers who are supposed to protect citizens but instead subjected the victim and her family to a harrowing ordeal.

In a strongly worded statement, Shivaji emphasized that no one involved in this scandal should be spared, urging the newly elected TDP government to demonstrate its commitment to justice by taking swift and decisive action. He called for the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to thoroughly investigate the case, establish the facts, and ensure that the accused are brought to justice.

Shivaji also highlighted the importance of the TDP government maintaining its reputation as a government of integrity and action, rather than one of inaction and neglect. He stressed that the victim must receive justice, and those responsible for this heinous act should face the full extent of the law.



TPN, Vijayawada: Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former minister Shri Devineni Umamaheswara Rao has launched a sharp attack on the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) government, accusing it of gross misconduct in multiple areas, including the alleged torture of a Mumbai film actress and mismanagement of the Polavaram project.

In his statements, Umamaheswara Rao highlighted a brutal incident involving Mumbai film actress Dr. Jethwani, which he claimed will shake the state and the nation. He alleged that the then Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy, along with his advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy and certain police officers, was deeply involved in this case. According to Rao, YCP leaders had formed a mafia to kidnap Jaganmohan Reddy's friend and torture a woman under a fabricated case in Ibrahimpatnam, detaining her in various locations without any media leaks. He called for a full inquiry into the incident and

Looming Storm Severe Weather Warning Issued for Andhra Pradesh

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Meteorological Department has issued a severe weather warning for Andhra Pradesh, as a surface circulation has formed over the east-central Bay of Bengal. This development is likely to lead to the formation of a low-pressure system, which could result in heavy rainfall across the state over the next four days.

The low-pressure system is currently moving in a west-north-west direction and is approaching the coastlines of South Odisha and Uttarandhra. The disaster management agency has reported that light rains are expected on Thursday in the districts of Annamayi, Srisatyasai, Chittoor, Alluri Sitamaraju, Parvathipuram Manyam, and Srikakulam, due to the system's presence at an altitude of 6 km above sea level. The cyclonic vortex is gradually intensifying and is currently located at a height of approximately six kilometers above the sea surface,

with winds blowing at speeds of 35 to 45 kilometers per hour.

The districts of Kadapa, Anantapur, Nandyala, Kurnool, Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, Palnadu, Bapatla, Guntur, NTR, Krishna, Eluru, West Godavari, East Godavari Ambedkar Konaseema, Kakinada,



Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, and Vizianagaram are also expected to experience light rains. The Meteorological Department has forecasted heavy rains for the northern coastal regions of the state on Saturday and Sunday.

In light of the rough seas and winds reaching speeds of up to 55 kilometers per hour, fishermen have been advised to avoid venturing out to sea. The disaster management agency has also warned that two additional low-pressure systems are expected to form in the Bay of Bengal in September.

While some parts of Andhra Pradesh experienced rainfall on Wednesday, other areas saw intense sunlight. The anticipation of more rains due to the low-pressure system has left the state's residents on high alert, preparing for the potential impact of the looming storm.

Vijayawada Division Weightlifters Shine at All India Railway Weightlifting Championship



TPN, Vijayawada: The weightlifting team from the Vijayawada Division has achieved remarkable success at the All India Railway Weightlifting Championship held in Mumbai from August 24th to 28th, 2024. The team brought home several accolades, including two prestigious medals and the "Overall Championship" Trophy for the South Central Railway (SCR) Zone team.

Kum. Lekha Mallya, a Helper at the Electric Loco Shed of Vijayawada Division, won the



Gold Medal in the Women's 71kg weight category, delivering a stellar performance that set her apart from her competitors. Additionally, Shri Akash Goud, an Assistant in the Train Lighting, Electrical Department of Vijayawada Division, secured the Silver Medal in the Men's 55kg weight category.

The success of the Vijayawada Division weightlifters contributed significantly to the SCR Zone team's victory in the Overall Championship. Their impressive

performances have brought pride and recognition to the Division and the entire South Central Railway Zone.

Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager of Vijayawada Division, SCR, commended both Kum. Lekha Mallya and Shri Akash Goud for their outstanding achievements. He also praised the team for securing the Overall Championship Trophy. Shri Patil emphasized the Division's commitment to providing opportunities and resources to its athletes, ensuring that they continue to excel in their respective sports and bring glory to Indian Railways.

Shri Valleswara B. Thokala, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner of Vijayawada Division, also congratulated the medalists and the SCR Team Manager, Shri M. Murali Mohan, TTI, Tuni Squad, Commercial Branch, Vijayawada, for their impressive performance. He acknowledged the weightlifting team's remarkable achievements and wished them continued success in their future endeavors. The Vijayawada Division's weightlifters have truly made their mark on the national stage, bringing honor to their Division and the South Central Railway Zone.

The Incident Involving Mumbai Film Actress Will Shake the State

demanding strict action against all responsible parties, including Jaganmohan Reddy and his associates. Rao also insisted that the police officers who acted against the rules should be suspended immediately.

Switching focus to the Polavaram project, Umamaheswara Rao criticized Jaganmohan Reddy and current minister Ambati Rambabu, stating that they have no moral authority to speak on the issue. He lauded former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's efforts, mentioning that under Naidu's leadership, a significant portion of the project, including the Diaphragm Wall, was completed in record time. He accused Jaganmohan Reddy of causing significant delays and damage to the project through his decision to implement reverse tendering, which led to the unnecessary reconstruction of the Diaphragm Wall.

Rao further alleged that the YCP government, particularly its MLAs, MLCs, and ministers,

engaged in widespread corruption by looting canal banks within 100 kilometers of Polavaram. He criticized the YCP for failing to care for the residents of Polavaram and accused the government of cheating them out of their rightful compensation in the R&R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) package.

He questioned whether the state government had completed any irrigation or other projects through its reverse tendering practices and demanded answers from Jaganmohan Reddy. He claimed that funds allocated by the central government were misused, with Rs. 3,345 crore being diverted to pay liquor companies instead of being used for the project.

Umamaheswara Rao concluded by expressing confidence that under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, the Polavaram project would be completed swiftly, including the critical Diaphragm Wall, securing the lifeline project for Andhra Pradesh.



SC to Appoint Special Prosecutor for Trial in 2015 Cash-for-Vote Scam



TPN, New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday announced its intention to appoint a special prosecutor to oversee the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote scam case, where Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is an accused. This decision comes in response to a petition that sought the transfer of the trial from Telangana to Bhopal, citing concerns about impartiality given Reddy's current position as both the Chief Minister and Home Minister of the state.

The case has its origins in an incident on May 31, 2015, when Revanth Reddy, who was then a member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), was apprehended by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). He was allegedly caught offering a Rs 50 lakh bribe to Elvis Stephenson, a nominated MLA, in exchange for support for TDP candidate Vem Narendar Reddy in the Telangana Legislative Council elections. Following this, Reddy and several others were arrested by the ACB, though all were later granted bail.

During the hearing, a bench comprising Justices B R Gavai, P K Mishra, and K V Viswanathan deliberated on the petition. The petition argued that the current political scenario in Telangana, where Revanth Reddy holds significant power, could potentially compromise the fairness of the trial.

Senior advocate C Aryama Sundaram, representing Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others, pushed for the trial's relocation, asserting that the Telangana CM's public statements on the case were influencing the judicial process.

The Supreme Court bench, however, expressed reservations about entertaining the petition solely based on these apprehensions. "Only on apprehension, how can we entertain... If we entertain such petitions, we will be disbelieving our judicial officers," the bench remarked. Sundaram responded by underscoring the principle of natural justice, pointing out that a person should not be a judge in their own cause, especially when that person is also responsible for law enforcement in the state.

Acknowledging the concerns raised, the bench decided that an independent public prosecutor would be appointed to conduct the trial. This move is intended to bolster public confidence in the judicial process and ensure that the trial is perceived as fair and unbiased. The bench indicated that it would consult with colleagues from Telangana before passing the order for the appointment of the special prosecutor later in the day.

The plea for transferring the trial to Bhopal is rooted in the belief that Reddy's dual role as Chief Minister and Home Minister of Telangana could enable him to exert undue influence on the proceedings. The petitioners highlighted that a free and fair trial is essential to upholding Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. This includes the right to a trial that is unbiased, impartial, and not influenced by external factors, a cornerstone of the criminal justice system.

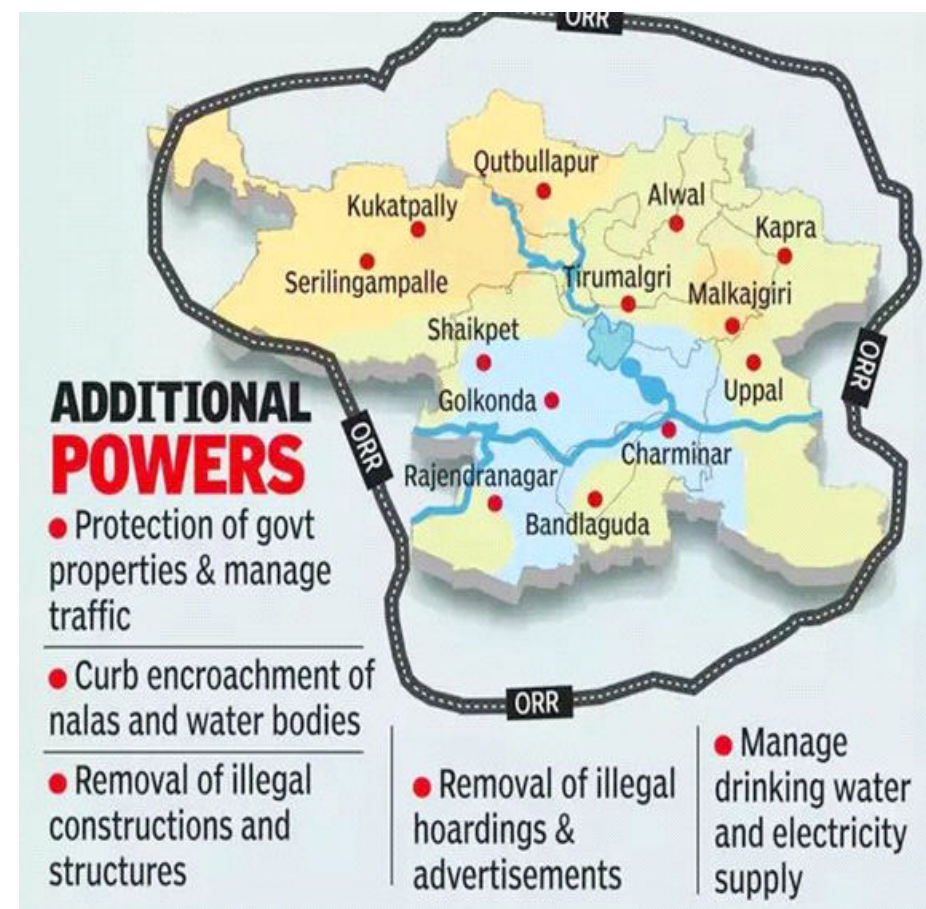
The plea further argued that the current situation in Telangana poses a risk to this principle. It claimed that most of the prosecution witnesses have already been examined, but the involvement of Reddy in the state's administration could lead to undue pressure on these witnesses. There is a concern that they might be coerced into altering their testimonies or retracting their statements, thereby compromising the integrity of the trial.

The petitioners also raised the issue of the jurisdiction of the special ACB court in Telangana, which is currently handling the case. Revanth Reddy had previously challenged this jurisdiction, but his plea was dismissed by the Telangana High Court on June 1, 2021. He subsequently approached the Supreme Court, which had deferred the hearing of his separate petition on the matter until February 2024.

The cash-for-vote scam has been a significant controversy in Telangana politics. In July 2015, the ACB filed a charge sheet against Revanth Reddy and others under the Prevention of Corruption Act and section 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. The ACB claimed to have collected substantial evidence against the accused, including audio and video recordings of the alleged bribery attempt. Additionally, the bureau recovered an advance amount of Rs 50 lakh, further strengthening their case.

As the trial moves forward, the Supreme Court's decision to appoint a special prosecutor is seen as a critical step in ensuring that justice is served without prejudice or bias. The case continues to be closely watched, given its potential implications for the political landscape in Telangana and the broader issues of corruption and governance in India. The apex court's orders in this matter will likely set a significant precedent for how similar cases are handled in the future, particularly when high-ranking officials are involved.

More Powers to HYDRA: Next Target Fixed as Encroachment Crackdown Expands



TPN, Hyderabad: The HYDRA initiative's relentless crackdown on illegal encroachments continues to intensify in Hyderabad, with the state government now planning to expand its scope and authority. Following a series of notices issued to encroachers, including those involved in constructions around Durgam pond, the Telangana government has decided to empower HYDRA with greater responsibilities.

Recently, a notice was served to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother, further highlighting HYDRA's no-nonsense approach. In response to complaints of corruption linked to HYDRA, CM Revanth Reddy has taken a serious stance, directing Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari to enhance HYDRA's role in protecting public properties.

During a high-level meeting, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari announced plans to entrust HYDRA with the full responsibility for the eradication of encroachments within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) area. This includes the protection of all ponds, parks, canals, and government-owned land. Moving forward, all notices and enforcement actions related to these public properties will fall under HYDRA's jurisdiction, consolidating these responsibilities within a single department.

In line with this decision, the government is also addressing the need for additional personnel and resources for HYDRA to effectively carry out its expanded duties. The Municipal Department has been instructed to finalize the procedures for implementing these changes and to ensure that HYDRA has the necessary support to enforce the removal of encroachments within the ORR.

This move comes in the wake of orders from the State High Court mandating the removal of encroachments from ponds and the protection of public properties. The government's latest efforts aim to strengthen HYDRA's operational capacity, ensuring that all public lands and resources within the ORR are safeguarded against illegal encroachments.

The expanded powers of HYDRA are expected to significantly bolster the government's ability to protect public properties and maintain the integrity of Hyderabad's urban landscape. The initiative, already known for its rigorous enforcement, is set to become even more formidable as it targets the next phase of encroachments.

Outsourcing Scam Rocks I&PR Department: Allegations of Massive Corruption During Jagan's Tenure

TPN, Amaravati: The Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department of Andhra Pradesh has come under intense scrutiny following revelations of a major outsourcing scam that allegedly occurred during the tenure of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government. The department has been accused of rampant corruption, with officials reportedly taking bribes amounting to Rs. 3 crores during the recruitment of outsourced employees.

According to sources, Vijaykumar Reddy, who served as a commissioner during this period, is at the center of the controversy. His team, already accused of looting funds through advertisements, outdoor ads, and CCTVs, is now alleged to have extorted between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 4 lakhs from

individuals seeking jobs in the I&PR Department. Over 300 outsourced employees were reportedly recruited during this period, with positions being sold to party-affiliated individuals for hefty sums.

Outsourcing employees, some of whom have started to speak out, claim that they were not only charged large amounts for their jobs but were also paid salaries based on the bribes they paid rather than their skills or qualifications. The situation has led to widespread discontent among the department's employees, who are now calling for a thorough investigation.

Vigilance Investigation Underway

In light of these allegations, a vigilance investigation has been initiated. Notices have been issued to several senior officers suspected of being involved in the corrupt recruitment practices. The investigation is expected to reveal the full extent of the financial irregularities and bring those responsible to justice.

Call for Asset Investigation and Action Against Corrupt Officials

Amidst the scandal, there have been growing calls for a detailed inquiry into the assets of high-ranking officials within the I&PR Department. Employees are demanding that the government investigate the sudden and significant increase in wealth among certain officials over the

past five years. Questions have been raised about how these officials, who once traveled modestly, are now leading luxurious lifestyles, allegedly funded by illicit earnings.

Journalists and department staff are also urging the State Information Minister, Parthasaradhi, to take decisive action against the officials involved. They are advocating for these officials to be placed on leave rather than merely being transferred, to ensure that their misconduct is fully exposed.

Despite promises made in the assembly to address corruption, there is a growing demand for the minister to deliver on these commitments and restore integrity to the department.

Karnataka High Court: Governor Can Independently Sanction Prosecution of CM

TPN, Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has ruled that Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot can independently sanction the prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. The court's ruling clarifies that the Governor's decision to grant prosecution sanction does not require the advice or approval of the state cabinet.

This ruling came during a hearing on a petition filed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking to overturn the Governor's order. The petition argues that the Governor's sanction is illegal since it was made without the cabinet's approval. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Siddaramaiah, contended that the Governor did not apply proper judgment or consider the necessary legal points before granting the sanction.

In response, the single judge Bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna pointed out that the sanctioning of prosecution is an independent decision by the Governor, who "need not fall back on the advice of the ministers." This clarification from the court emphasizes the constitutional powers of the Governor in such matters.

Singhvi further argued that the sanction is subject to judicial review, stating that



the decision negates the mandate of the people and was made without input from the Chief Minister. The court acknowledged these points and indicated that the issue would continue to be examined in the ongoing hearings.

The case centers around allegations of irregularities in land allocation by MUDA, specifically involving compensatory land parcels allegedly allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife, BM Parvathi. Activists have claimed that the allocation of 14 premium

sites in Mysuru to Parvathi as compensation resulted in a significant loss of ₹45 crore to the state exchequer.

The Governor's consent for prosecution was granted on August 17, following which Siddaramaiah filed a petition challenging the order. The High Court took up the matter for hearing on August 19, and the next hearing is scheduled for Saturday. Until then, the relief from prosecution granted to Siddaramaiah by the court remains in effect.



Crisis-Hit Himachal Pradesh CM and Ministers Defer Salaries for Two Months

Shimla: In the wake of a severe financial crisis exacerbated by devastating landslides, flash floods, and heavy rains, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu and his ministers have decided to defer their salaries and allowances for the next two months. This move is aimed at helping the state manage its strained finances as it grapples with the aftermath of natural disasters that have caused significant damage over the past year.

The decision, made after a Cabinet discussion, also calls on all MLAs to consider taking similar pay cuts. "This is just a small amount... but it is symbolic," Chief Minister Sukhu told reporters, emphasizing the importance of collective effort during these challenging times.

The initiative has received support from key figures in the state government, in-

cluding Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh, who described it as a "good initiative to overcome financial troubles." The state's financial situation has been dire, with the recent monsoon causing severe damage to infrastructure and public property.

In just the past month, nearly 30 people have died, and dozens are still missing due to floods triggered by cloudbursts in Kullu, Mandi, and Shimla districts. Between June 27 and August 9, over 100 people lost their lives in rain-related incidents, and the estimated damage amounts to ₹ 842 crore. This includes extensive damage to roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure, which will be costly and time-consuming to rebuild.

The crisis has also severely impacted the state's economy, particularly the tourism sector, as 280 roads had to be closed,

and water and electricity supplies were disrupted. The situation is further compounded by a revenue shortfall linked to Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation from the central government, which the state claims is between ₹ 2,500 and ₹ 3,500 crore.

Additionally, the restoration of the old pension scheme, a key election promise by the ruling Congress, has increased state expenditure by ₹ 2,000 crore.

Despite some financial aid from the central government and other states, the Chief Minister has expressed concerns that the ₹ 9,000 crore needed under the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment programme has not yet been released by the central government. The state continues to call for additional financial support to address the extensive damage and support the ongoing recovery efforts.

"How Dare You...?": Himanta Sarma Slams Mamata Banerjee Over Remarks on Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has strongly rebuked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her recent comments linking the unrest in Bengal to potential turmoil in other states, including Assam. Banerjee's remarks were made in the context of the widespread outrage following the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

In a fiery post on X (formerly Twitter), Sarma lashed out at Banerjee, saying, "Didi, how dare you threaten Assam? Don't show us red eyes. Don't even try to burn India with your politics of failure. It does not suit you to speak divisive lan-

guage." Sarma's response was in reaction to Banerjee's warning that unrest in Bengal could spread to other states, thereby destabilizing the country.

Earlier in the day, while addressing a public gathering in Kolkata, Banerjee had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using his party to incite violence in Bengal, particularly in the wake of the tragic incident involving the trainee doctor. She warned, "If you burn Bengal, Assam, North-East, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Delhi too



shall burn! We will topple your chair." Banerjee's comments were seen as a direct challenge to the central government's handling of the situation.

The rape and murder of the woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College have sparked nationwide outrage, leading to multiple protests demanding justice for the victim. The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum also held a protest rally in Kolkata, adding to the growing calls for action against those responsible for the heinous crime.

Congress Discloses Election Spending: Rahul Gandhi and Others Receive ₹70 Lakh Each



In a recent disclosure to the Election Commission, the Congress party revealed its spending on candidates for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. According to the report, Congress provided ₹70 lakh each to several leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, who contested from Wayanad in Kerala and Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Rahul Gandhi, who successfully retained his seat in Rae Bareilly and won in Wayanad, was among those receiving the ₹70 lakh allocation. The only Congress candidate to receive a higher amount was Vikramaditya Singh, who was allotted ₹87 lakh. Despite the substantial funding, Singh lost the Mandi seat in Himachal Pradesh to BJP's Kangana Ranaut.

Other notable Congress leaders who received ₹70 lakh included Kishori Lal Sharma, who defeated BJP's Smriti Irani, K C Venugopal from Alappuzha, and Manickam Tagore from Virudhunagar. Congress candidates Radhakrishna from Gulbarga and Vijay Inder Singla from Anandpur Sahib were also given ₹70 lakh each.

Senior Congress figures Anand Sharma and Digvijay Singh received ₹46 lakh and ₹50 lakh, respectively, though both lost their contests.

The Congress party's disclosure follows changes to election expenditure limits. In January 2022, the government raised the limit for Lok Sabha election expenses to ₹95 lakh from ₹70 lakh and for assembly elections to ₹40 lakh from ₹28 lakh. For larger states, the limit now stands at ₹90 lakh, while for smaller states, it is ₹75 lakh.

The 2024 Lok Sabha elections were conducted in seven phases, with results announced on June 4. The Congress party's 'part election expenditure statement' has been submitted for both the parliamentary and legislative assembly elections held earlier this year.

Mamata Banerjee clarifies 'if Bengal burns' remark, 'did not threaten doctors'



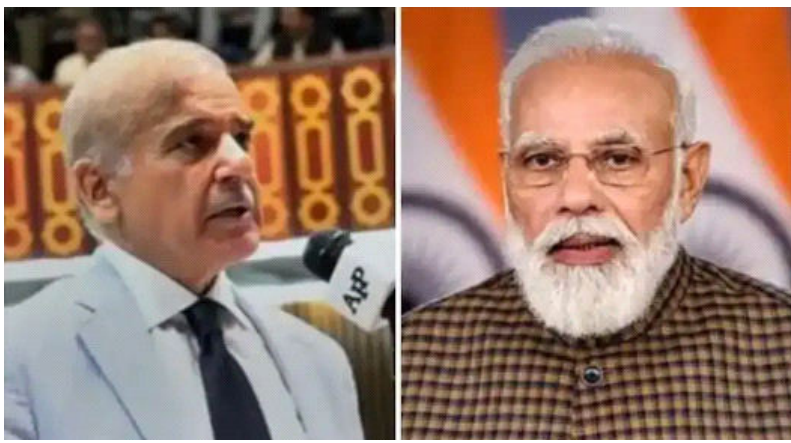
Kolkata, August 30, 2024: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has strongly refuted allegations that she threatened doctors who are protesting against the recent rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. The accusations, leveled by the BJP, have sparked a heated political exchange, with Banerjee dismissing the claims as part of a "malicious disinformation campaign" against her.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Banerjee clarified her stance, stating, "Let me most emphatically clarify that I have not uttered a single word against the [medical etc.] students or their movements. I totally support their movement. Their movement is genuine. I never threatened them, as some people are accusing me of doing. This allegation is completely false." She reiterated her support for the doctors' demands for justice and emphasized that her criticism was directed at the BJP, accusing them of attempting to create anarchy in West Bengal with the backing of the central government.

Addressing the ongoing protests during the foundation day event of the Trinamool Congress's students' wing, Banerjee urged the protesting doctors to gradually return to work, highlighting the Supreme Court's establishment of a National Task Force to ensure doctors' safety on duty. She also cautioned that while the state government has not taken action against the protesting doctors, registering FIRs could have severe consequences for their future careers.

The controversy escalated after BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi accused Banerjee of using "word play" to threaten the doctors, interpreting her remarks as an attempt to intimidate them. However, the Chief Minister dismissed these claims, asserting that her government's approach is rooted in compassion and a desire to nurture future doctors with a "human outlook."

Pakistan Invites PM Narendra Modi to SCO Heads of Govt Meeting in Islamabad



Pakistan has officially extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of Government meeting, scheduled to be held in Islamabad on October 15-16. The announcement was made by Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during a weekly press briefing.

The meeting will be preceded by a ministerial gathering and multiple rounds of senior officials' discussions, focusing on financial, economic, socio-cultural, and humanitarian cooperation among the SCO member states. According to Baloch, invitations have been sent to the heads of all SCO member countries, with some confirmations already received.

"An invitation has also been sent to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi," Baloch stated. She noted that further details regarding which countries have confirmed their participation will be shared in due course.

Despite the formal invitation, analysts believe that Prime Minister Modi is unlikely to attend the meeting in person. Relations between India and Pakistan have been strained, and it is anticipated that India may be represented by a ministerial delegation rather than its head of state. Past SCO Heads of Government meetings have often seen India represented by ministers rather than the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Modi had previously missed the SCO's 24th annual summit of heads of state held in Kazakhstan on July 3-4 this year, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar representing India in Astana.

Pakistani analysts view the invitation as a standard diplomatic protocol rather than a political maneuver. "Extending invitations to PM Modi and other member states is a compulsory protocol for the host country. Pakistan has followed this protocol. However, I do not anticipate PM Modi visiting Islamabad," said political analyst Kamran Yousof.

In a reciprocal gesture, Pakistan's then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India for the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting last year.

The upcoming SCO meeting in Islamabad is expected to provide a platform for member states to discuss and advance regional cooperation, despite the existing geopolitical tensions.

Israeli Troops Kill Five Palestinians in Major West Bank Operation

In one of the most significant military operations in the West Bank in recent months, the Israeli military reported the killing of five Palestinian fighters hiding in a mosque in Tulkarm on Thursday. The operation, which began early Wednesday morning, involved hundreds of Israeli troops supported by helicopters, drones, and armored personnel carriers. The targeted cities included Tulkarm, Jenin, and areas in the Jordan Valley.



The raid has led to widespread disruptions, including a complete network outage at Jawwal, a major telecommunications provider in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian health authorities reported at least 12 Palestinian deaths resulting from the operation.

In Jenin, Israeli bulldozers moved through deserted streets while drones hovered overhead. Troops searched ambulances and blocked access to the main hospital in the city to prevent fighters from using it as a refuge.

Among the five fighters killed in Tulkarm was Muhhammad Jabber, also known as "Abu Shujaa," who was reportedly the head of a militant network in the Nur Shams refugee camp. In response, the Islamic Jihad's armed wing claimed their fighters ambushed an Israeli infantry force, claiming direct hits on military vehicles.

The clashes in the West Bank have intensified since the onset of Israel's conflict with Hamas in Gaza nearly 11 months ago. Israel has accused Iran of providing support and weapons to various factions in the region, leading to increased operations in the West Bank. Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz emphasized the necessity of the operation, describing it as part of a broader effort to counter threats from multiple fronts, including potential destabilization efforts by Iran.

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Mumbai Overtakes Beijing as Asia's Billionaire Capital, Reveals Hurun List

In a striking revelation from the 2024 Hurun India Rich List, Mumbai has ascended to the position of Asia's "billionaire capital," surpassing Beijing. According to the list, India's financial hub now boasts a total of 386 billionaires, an increase of 58 from the previous year. The Hurun data highlights that Mumbai is not only home to 25% of India's richest individuals but also leads the region in billionaire concentration, overtaking Beijing. Following Mumbai in the list of wealthy cities are New Delhi and Hyderabad.

New Delhi, which ranks second, has seen its billionaire count rise to 217 with the

addition of 18 new ultra-rich residents. Hyderabad has made a notable leap, surpassing Bengaluru for the first time to become the third-highest city in terms of billionaire residents. Hyderabad's billionaire tally now stands at 104, up by 17 from last year. Bengaluru follows closely with 100 billionaires, securing the fourth position. The list also features Chennai with 82 billionaires, Kolkata with 69, Ahmedabad with 67, Pune with 53, Surat with 28, and Gurugram with 23. Earlier this year, the Hurun Global Rich List 2024 recognized Mumbai as "Asia's billionaire epicentre." The city not only outpaced Beijing in billionaire numbers,

with 92 billionaires compared to Beijing's 91 but also saw a significant increase in its ultra-wealthy population. Mumbai added 26 new billionaires, collectively worth \$445 billion, while Beijing experienced a decrease of 18 in its billionaire count.

Mumbai's rapid rise in billionaire numbers has made it the third-largest city globally in terms of billionaires, trailing only New York, which leads with 119 billionaires, and London, which has 97.

The Hurun list underscores Mumbai's growing prominence on the global wealth stage, reflecting its robust economic growth and status as a major financial and business hub.



India Commissions Second Nuclear Submarine INS Arighaat, Enhancing Nuclear Deterrence

India has marked a significant milestone in its naval defense capabilities with the commissioning of its second nuclear submarine, INS Arighaat, at a ceremony held in Visakhapatnam today. The Arihant-class submarine is set to bolster India's nuclear triad, strengthen its nuclear deterrence, and contribute to regional strategic balance and peace.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who attended the commissioning event, hailed the achievement as a testament to the Indian government's commitment to achieving self-sufficiency in defense, also known as "aatmanirbharta." Singh emphasized that the commissioning of INS Arighaat reflects the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration to enhance India's defense capabilities through indigenous efforts.

The construction of INS Arighaat involved advanced design and manufacturing technologies, extensive research and development, and the use of special materials. The Defence Ministry highlighted that the submarine features indigenously developed systems and equipment, designed and integrated by Indian scientists, industry experts, and naval personnel.

"The technological advancements undertaken indigenously on the new submarine make it significantly more advanced than its predecessor, INS Arihant," the Defence Ministry stated. With both INS Arihant and INS Arighaat now in service, India's capability to deter potential adversaries and protect its national interests is expected to be significantly enhanced.

Singh praised the Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and the industrial sector for their collaboration and hard work in achieving this new capability. He noted that the project has also provided a boost to the country's industry, including micro, small, and medium enterprises, creating numerous jobs in the process.

"Today, India is surging ahead to become a developed country. It is essential for us to develop rapidly in every field, including defense, especially in today's geopolitical scenario," Singh said. He underscored the need for both economic prosperity and a robust military, stressing that the government is working diligently to ensure that Indian soldiers are equipped with top-quality weapons and platforms made domestically.

Kamala Harris Launches \$50 Million Ad Campaign Against Trump with 'Fearless' Spot

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris unveiled a major \$50 million advertising campaign on Tuesday, aimed at energizing her campaign against Republican rival Donald Trump. The campaign's centerpiece is a one-minute advertisement titled "Fearless," marking Harris' first significant ad expenditure since she consolidated Democratic support following President Joe Biden's exit from the race and endorsement on July 21.

The ad campaign is designed to leverage the momentum Harris has gained since becoming the presumptive Democratic nominee. It seeks to capitalize on her strengthened support base and increased backing from major donors, while also engaging younger voters who were less enthusiastic about Biden's candidacy. The advertisement begins with childhood images of Harris and traces her journey through her roles as a prosecutor, attorney general, and U.S. vice president. The narrative highlights Harris' steadfast

commitment to fearless leadership. "The one thing Kamala Harris has always been: fearless," the ad asserts. Recent public opinion polls have shown Harris narrowing the gap with Trump, despite the former president still leading in some national surveys. The new ad campaign will be broadcast across television, streaming services, and social media platforms in key battleground states in the weeks leading up to the Democratic National Convention, scheduled to start on August 19.





Nifty Hits Record High as Indices Rally; Reliance Drives Gains Amid Mixed Market Sentiment



Domestic stock market indices rallied. NSE Nifty gains for 11th session in a row. Recorded a new high. The indices which started off stagnant in the morning picked up after a while due to mixed signals internationally. In the afternoon, they again slipped into losses. Reliance ended at record highs as a rally took place again as the AGM began. But BSE market breadth is in favor of sellers. 2510 stocks fell while only 1435 rose. Investors are advised to invest in selected stocks.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,785 in the previous session, opened at 81,822 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,682. The index closed at 82,134, up 349 points after hitting an intraday high of 82,285. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,035 and touched a low of 24,998 and a high of 25,192. It eventually jumped 99 points to close at 25,151. Nifty Bank gained 9 points to settle at 51,152.

In Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. Top gainers are Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Britannia, BPCL, Bajaj Finance. Shares of Grasim, M&M, JSW Steel, Eicher Motors and Kotak Bank were major losers. Today, media, metal, pharma, private bank, realty and healthcare indices turned red. Oil and Gas, Consumer Durables, PSU Bank, IT, FMCG, Finance, Auto and Bank indices rallied.

Nifty support is at 25,150 and resistance is at 25,300. Investors can buy shares of PFC, IOC, Birla Soft, BPCL, Heromoto in short term.

Infosys has announced that it will expand its collaboration with Nvidia for AI-based innovations in the telecom sector. NBCC has sold commercial space worth Rs.1220 crore in Delhi. TCS has entered into a partnership agreement with Primark. It is learned that the promoter has sold Indigo shares worth Rs.11000 crore. Adani Group will invest Rs.3500 crore for two new projects in Madhya Pradesh. Genus Power Infra has won the smart meter project worth Rs.4469 crore. Shares of TV18 and Network 18 rallied today with the merger of Reliance and Disney. Moody's has raised India's GDP growth rate to 7.2 percent from 6.8 percent in 2024. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani disclosed key decisions in the AGM meeting. Bonus shares will be issued to the investors in the ratio of 1:1. Updates on Jio Cloud, Jio Calls AI, Jio Cinema. A blueprint to become one of the top-30 companies in the world has been unveiled.

1. Power Finance Corporation (PFC): Stable with potential for steady gains; good for both short-term and long-term. PFC has been showing strong performance with a consistent rise in its financial metrics. The company benefits from being a key player in financing power projects in India, and its stock has been resilient in the current market conditions. It has a healthy dividend yield, making it attractive for income-focused investors.

2. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC): Potentially volatile in the short term

but has strong long-term prospects. IOC is showing mixed signals, with a recent slight increase but some volatility expected due to global oil price fluctuations. The company's long-term plans include significant investments in refining and green energy, which could provide growth in the future.

3. Birla Soft: Stable with potential for short-term gains if it breaks resistance. Birla Soft has been performing well, with solid growth in its digital transformation services, particularly in the BFSI and manufacturing sectors. The stock has been relatively stable with support around ₹620 and resistance at ₹650.

4. BPCL: Solid long-term outlook; watch for short-term movements based on oil prices. BPCL has recently been in the news due to its plans for massive investments in refining and fuel marketing. The company is also focusing on expanding into green energy, which aligns with global trends.

5. Hero MotoCorp: Strong brand presence, good long-term, but short-term volatility expected. Hero MotoCorp continues to maintain its leadership in the two-wheeler market, with strong demand for its products, especially in the rural markets. However, recent news about tax issues and supply chain disruptions could cause some short-term volatility.

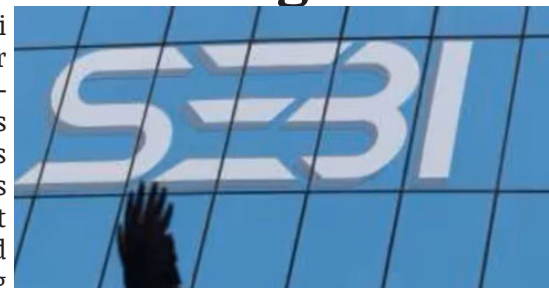


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Sebi Proposes New Mechanism for Handling Client Funds in Stockbroking

On August 29, Sebi whole-time member Ananth Narayan highlighted that stockbrokers manage approximately Rs 2 lakh crore in client funds daily, earning an implicit annual interest of around Rs 12,000 crore. Speaking at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, Narayan noted that unlike scheduled commercial banks, stockbrokers lack the comprehensive capital and regulatory protections banks have.

This statement comes in the wake of Sebi's discussion paper released on August 28, which proposed an ASBA-like mechanism for the largest brokerage firms, known as Qualified Stock Brokers. The new proposals aim to shift the handling of float money away from brokerage firms by eliminating the need for investors to park their funds with brokers to trade in stocks.



The suggested changes are significant as they would potentially impact how brokerage firms manage and benefit from client funds, reducing their ability to earn interest from this float money. The initiative reflects ongoing efforts by the capital market regulator to enhance transparency and investor protection in the financial markets.

For further updates, investors and market participants should monitor developments related to this proposed mechanism and its implications for stockbroking practices.

Mukesh Ambani Welcomes Disney to Reliance, Promises New Era in Entertainment

At Reliance Industries' annual general meeting (AGM) on August 29, Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced the beginning of a transformative era in India's entertainment industry with Disney's entrance into the Reliance family. Ambani emphasized the merger's potential to revolutionize content creation and digital streaming in India.

The merger, valued at \$8.5 billion, combines Reliance's media assets with Disney's, aiming to deliver unparalleled digital entertainment at affordable prices. Ambani described this strategic move as a major step in integrating high-quality content with cutting-edge streaming technology.

Shares of Reliance Industries closed 1.51% higher at ₹3,040.85 following the AGM, contributing to record highs in domestic indices. Ambani's remarks on the merger highlighted a digital-first strategy designed to cater to diverse consumer tastes, promising a broad range of world-class digital entertainment.



The merger deal, recently approved by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), includes the integration of Reliance's Viacom18 and Disney Star, among other assets. CCI's approval marks one of the largest deals in the media and entertainment sector.

Ambani expressed excitement about the partnership, welcoming Disney to the Reliance group and comparing the media expansion to Jio's impact on retail. He stressed that the new venture would be a pivotal growth driver for Reliance's ecosystem, positioning the company to lead in both digital and content spaces.

With the deal now finalized, Reliance and Disney are set to reshape India's entertainment landscape, promising innovative and affordable content solutions for consumers.

PhonePe Launches PG Bolt for Seamless In-App Payments

PhonePe has introduced PhonePe PG Bolt, a cutting-edge payment gateway designed to offer merchants and customers a superior payment experience. With a remarkable 99% success rate and transaction times of just 1 second, PG Bolt aims to revolutionize in-app payments by providing a fast, convenient, and reliable solution.

PG Bolt features a one-click, PIN-less payment process using UPI Lite, Wallets, and EGVs, streamlining transactions and enhancing customer satisfaction. Unlike other payment solutions that require multiple steps and phone permissions, PG Bolt simplifies the payment journey, reducing transaction failures, payment funnel drop-offs, and cart abandonment.

Merchants integrating PG Bolt can offer a wide range of payment options, including UPI Lite, bank accounts, electronic gift cards, Rupay credit cards, and wallets, catering to diverse customer needs. This



PhonePe

broad suite of payment methods, combined with PhonePe's extensive user base, helps merchants boost conversion rates and drive business growth.

Ankit Gaur, Head of PhonePe Payment Gateway and Online Merchants, highlighted that PG Bolt represents a major advancement in creating a seamless payment environment. The solution is expected to significantly improve customer experience and contribute to business success.

Nykaa, a leading beauty and lifestyle retailer, is an early adopter of PG Bolt. CTO Rajesh Uppalapati praised the solution for addressing drop-offs and improving payment success rates, enhancing the overall retail experience.

By partnering with multiple banks, PG Bolt ensures robust payment processing and aligns with PhonePe's mission to advance the digital payments ecosystem in India.

Bharti Airtel to Shut Wynk Music, Partners with Apple for Streaming Services

Bharti Airtel is set to exit the music vertical and shut down its Wynk Music app, as confirmed by sources. This move follows the company's announcement of a strategic partnership with Apple for video and music streaming services. Airtel will absorb all Wynk Music employees into its broader organization.

An Airtel spokesperson confirmed the impending closure of Wynk Music, stating that the app would be shut down within the next couple of months. The company, which launched Wynk Music in 2014 and grew its user base to over 100 million subscribers, will integrate its music employees into other parts of the company.

The strategic partnership with Apple will bring significant changes. Airtel will now offer Apple Music to its customers, with exclusive offers avail-



able to Wynk Premium users. Additionally, Apple TV+, Apple's video content platform, will be accessible through Airtel's video streaming service, Xstream.

The spokesperson highlighted that Airtel users will benefit from special offers on Apple Music, while Wynk Premium subscribers will receive exclusive deals related to Apple services. This partnership aims to enhance Airtel's service offerings in the competitive digital content market.

Airtel's business-to-customer portfolio, which includes Airtel Wynk, Airtel Thanks, and Xstream, boasts over 220 million active users. The company's decision to shut Wynk Music reflects a shift in focus towards integrating its services with Apple's established platforms, positioning itself strategically within the streaming industry.



No, Modi's Ukraine Visit Wasn't About 'Ditching' Russia



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Poland and Ukraine has sparked debates, especially among pro-West lobbies in India. These groups interpret the visit as a strategic shift in Indian foreign policy, aimed at rebalancing its relationships with Russia and Central Europe. They view it as an attempt to correct India's perceived silence on Russia's actions in Ukraine, which they argue has been at odds with India's principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

However, this perspective is both shallow and ideologically driven. India's engagement with Central and Eastern Europe has been consistent and robust, as evidenced by high-level visits and partnerships with countries like the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. The notion that India has avoided engaging with these countries due to its ties with Russia is misleading.

Complex Realities of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict



The Russia-Ukraine conflict is a multifaceted issue that cannot be reduced to a simple case of aggression by one party. While Russia's actions in Ukraine are concerning, it's important to remember that the history of international relations is filled with similar aggressions by Western powers. India's foreign policy must be guided by its national interests, not by the double standards that some might wish to impose.

An objective analysis of the Ukraine conflict reveals layers of complexity, involving historical legacies, geopolitical tensions, and national security concerns. India cannot afford to take a simplistic or one-sided view of this conflict, especially when the West's own record on respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity is far from perfect.

Multilateralism and Global Cooperation



Modi's visit to Ukraine should not be seen as an attempt to distance India from Russia. Rather, it reflects India's broader interest in global stability and cooperation. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has disrupted not only European security but also global economic ties, particularly in trade, technology, and energy. The collapse of multilateralism, evidenced by the breakdown of dialogue between the US and Russia, is detrimental to India's interests.

India's approach to the conflict has been measured and diplomatic, avoiding direct confrontation with any party while seeking to maintain its strategic partnerships. Russia was informed about Modi's visit to Ukraine, and there were no indications that India would act against Russian interests. In contrast, the US has openly pressured India to reduce its ties with Russia, particularly in defense.

India's Balanced Approach

The reasons behind Modi's visit to Ukraine are diverse. It reflects India's willingness to play a constructive role in resolving the conflict, consistent with Modi's message that "today is not an era of war." The visit also served to address rising criticism from the US and Ukraine after Modi's recent embrace of Putin in Moscow.

During his visit to Ukraine, Modi showed personal empathy towards President Zelenskyy, but India's stance on the conflict remained unchanged. India did not endorse Zelenskyy's 10-point peace plan and continued to advocate for a diplomatic solution that involves all stakeholders. The joint statements made during the visit avoided direct criticism of Russia, reflecting India's nuanced position.

India has managed to engage with Ukraine without compromising its relationship with Russia. The diplomatic success of this approach is evident in the fact that India has maintained its strategic autonomy while navigating the complex dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In conclusion, Modi's visit to Ukraine should not be misconstrued as a shift away from Russia. Instead, it underscores India's commitment to balanced diplomacy, ensuring that its national interests are protected while contributing to global peace and stability.

Ancient Human Brains: New Study Reveals 12,000-Year Preservation

Recent research reveals that human brains can endure for up to 12,000 years, with over 4,400 preserved specimens discovered across various archaeological sites. Led by forensic anthropologist Alexandra L. Morton-Hayward from the University of Oxford, this study challenges the belief that brain preservation is a rare phenomenon, suggesting that ancient brains might be more common than previously thought.

Morton-Hayward and her team examined historical data and categorized preserved brains into five types based on their preservation methods: freezing, drying, tanning, saponification (the formation of grave wax), and a fifth, less understood category. Remarkably, nearly a third of these brains did not fit into any known category, pointing to a mysterious preservation process that could explain their exceptional longevity.

The research found that brains preserved by unknown methods tend to last significantly longer than those preserved through established techniques. Most of these exceptionally durable brains were discovered in wet environments like shipwrecks and lake beds. The team hypothesizes that unique brain chemistry and post-mortem changes might contribute to their extraordinary survival. This study, published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, suggests that future archaeological digs might reveal even more preserved brains.

Among the known preservation methods, fro-



zen and dehydrated brains typically last shorter periods compared to those preserved through tanning or saponification. The "unknown" category consistently shows the longest-lasting specimens, indicating that further investigation into these mysterious preservation methods could yield new insights into ancient human remains.

These findings have significant implications for archaeology and forensic science. They imply that preserved brains might be more frequently encountered than once believed, offering valuable information about ancient human life and environments. Morton-Hayward's research encourages archaeologists to carefully examine skulls during excavations, as hidden preserved brains could provide new insights into our past.

Google Gemini Adds Gems and Imagen 3 Features

Google has announced that its Gemini apps will soon incorporate two new advanced features: Gems and the image generation capabilities of Imagen 3. This update, revealed in a blog post, was initially previewed at Google I/O earlier this year. While Gems will be exclusive to paid Gemini users, Imagen 3 will be available to all users, including those on the free tier, though with some usage limits.

Gems are essentially specialized mini chatbots tailored to focus on specific topics, offering more targeted and precise responses. Users can create their own Gems or utilize pre-made ones designed for roles such as Learning Coach, Brainstormer, Career Guide, Writing Editor, and Coding Partner. These customizable AI agents aim to assist with tasks like project brainstorming, event planning, or crafting social media posts. Gems will be accessible in multiple languages across desktop and mobile devices in over 150 countries.

Imagen 3, Google's latest image generation



AI tool, enhances the ability to create images in various styles, including photorealistic landscapes, textured paintings, and whimsical scenes. This new model introduces the capability to generate images of people, which was previously restricted to avoid biased and harmful content. Google has implemented safeguards and watermarking through SynthID to prevent misuse and reduce the risk of deepfakes. However, Imagen 3 will not support the creation of identifiable individuals, depictions of minors, or excessively violent or sexual content.

Additionally, the update hints at possible inline editing features for generated images, though such edits will be made through text prompts. Overall, these enhancements aim to broaden the functionality and safety of Google's AI offerings.

From Delivery Boy to Model: Instagram Star's Inspiring Career Journey

An Instagram user has captured widespread attention with a viral video chronicling his remarkable career transformation. Sahil, a freelance fashion model, recently shared his unconventional professional journey, which has now amassed 4 million views and garnered a flood of supportive comments.

In the eye-catching reel, Sahil takes viewers through his past jobs, revealing a series of roles that paint a picture of perseverance and diverse experiences. He starts by recounting his two years working as a Swiggy delivery agent, followed by a year as a chef at Burger King. His career then continued at "Mangao Mart" for eight months before he made the leap to professional modeling.

The video's caption, "Delivery boy to sales executive to MODEL," succinctly captures the essence of his journey. On his Instagram page, Sahil not only

showcases his modeling work but also shares fashion tips and insights from his career.

The response to his post has been overwhelmingly positive, with many users expressing admiration and drawing inspiration from his story. Comments on the video highlight Sahil's journey as a testament to hard work and dedication. Some users praised his transition, saying things like, "Proud of you buddy. Keep going," and "Bro stopped serving from restaurants and serves with his face as a model."

Others were moved by his ability to reinvent himself, noting, "Dreams require dedication to come true," and "It's commendable that you are willing to put in the hard work." His story resonates with many who are navigating their own career paths, proving that persistence and adaptability can lead to unexpected and rewarding opportunities.



Professor by Day, Black Metal Star by Night: The Dual Life of China's Liu Yao

In a captivating revelation, Dr. Liu Yao, a 41-year-old professor at Shandong University, has been unveiled as the lead singer of the renowned black metal band Zuriaake. By day, Liu is a distinguished academic specializing in materials science, boasting over 80 published papers and numerous patents. By night, he transforms into a prominent figure in the Chinese heavy metal scene.

Dr. Liu's academic career has been marked by significant achievements. After completing his postdoctoral research in 2012, he joined Shandong University, a top-ranked institution. Over the years, he advanced from lecturer to associate professor, earning a tenured position and a role as a doctoral supervisor by 2020. His



scholarly contributions include 14 papers featured on the covers of prestigious journals.

Simultaneously, Liu Yao has been the driving force behind Zuriaake, a band established in Jinan in 1998. The band is celebrated for its unique blend of black met-

al and original poetry, and its members maintain an enigmatic presence by performing in straw rain capes, bamboo hats, and veils. Their lyrics, deeply rooted in Chinese culture and mythology, add a distinct layer to their music.

The contrast between Liu's academic achievements and his intense musical persona has intrigued and fascinated many. Social media users have expressed awe at his ability to balance two such disparate worlds, with comments highlighting his dual identity as both a scholar and a rock star. Liu Yao's dual life exemplifies a rare and intriguing blend of intellectual rigor and artistic expression, captivating the imagination of both academic and music communities alike.

Python's Near-Fatal Strike: Zookeeper's Shocking Encounter Caught on Camera

Internet users were left horrified after watching a recent video featuring Jay Brewer, an American YouTuber and founder of Reptile Zoo Prehistoric Inc., facing a near-catastrophic encounter with a python. Brewer, known for his engaging reptile content, shared a heart-stopping moment from his zoo, showcasing his close call with a massive python.

In the video, Brewer is seen confidently handling the giant snake within a contained area. However, the situation takes a dramatic turn when the python, seemingly out of nowhere, lunges towards Brewer's face with astonishing speed. The unexpected strike leaves viewers on edge as Brewer's quick reflexes prevent a potentially disastrous injury.

Brewer's calm demeanor is evident as he expertly manages the snake's aggressive behavior, but the incident serves as a stark reminder of the unpredictability and danger associated with handling



large reptiles. The caption accompanying the Instagram video highlights the intensity of the encounter: "A VERY VERY CLOSE CALL. This big girl struck at me as soon as I turned my eyes away. Snakes aren't just sneaky; they are also very smart."

The footage has garnered widespread at-

tention and shock from the online community, underscoring the risks faced by those who work closely with dangerous wildlife. Brewer's narrow escape has sparked discussions about the inherent dangers of handling such powerful creatures and the importance of maintaining constant vigilance.



India's Para Badminton Stars Shine on Day 1 of Paralympics 2024"

India's para badminton players made headlines on the opening day of the Paralympics 2024 with impressive performances. Sukant Kadam and Suhas Yathiraj delivered dramatic victories in their men's singles SL3 matches. Their strong starts mark a promising beginning for India in para badminton.

In contrast, India's para badminton women's singles competitor Manasi Joshi experienced a narrow defeat. Joshi, competing in the SL3 category, was edged out by Indonesia's top seed Qonita Syakuroh in a closely contested third game decider.

The day's action in para badminton also saw an all-India clash in the mixed doubles category. Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan emerged victorious over compatriots Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli. However, the excitement was tempered by a subsequent loss for the duo of Sivarajan Solaimalai and Nithya Sre Sivan.

Later in the day, para archery will take center stage, highlighted by 17-year-old Sheetal Devi, who has gained recognition for her remarkable achievements despite being armless. Additionally, para cycling will feature prominently as Jyoti Gaderiya competes in the Women's C1-3 3000m Individual Pursuit event, aiming to secure a qualifying spot.

Overall, India's journey at the Paralympics 2024 began with a mix of triumphs and challenges, setting the stage for a dynamic and competitive series of events. For detailed schedules and medal tallies, refer to the official updates on India's Day 1 performance.



Jacob Oram Joins New Zealand as Bowling Coach for Test Series Against India



New Zealand has appointed former pacer Jacob Oram as their bowling coach for the upcoming three-Test series against India, which is part of the World Test Championship cycle. Oram, who will assume the role on October 7, brings extensive international experience, having participated in three Cricket World Cups and four T20 World Cups.

Oram's appointment comes as the Blackcaps prepare for a challenging series, with the first Test scheduled to take place in Bengaluru from October 16-20. The series will continue with matches in Pune (October 24-28) and Mumbai (November 1-5).

At 46, Oram's previous coaching stints include serving as the bowling coach for New Zealand during the recent T20 World Cup in the Americas, as well as with the women's team during the 2022 World Cup in New Zealand. His experience and expertise are expected to be valuable assets for the Blackcaps as they gear up for the high-stakes series against India.

Djokovic Advances to US Open Third Round After Djere Retires

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.

Pakistan Hockey Players Banned for Life After Seeking Asylum

Three Pakistan hockey players—Murtaza Yaqoob, Ihtesham Aslam, and Abdur Rahman—along with physiotherapist Waqas, have been banned for life by the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for attempting to seek asylum in Europe. The incident came to light after the players and the physiotherapist, who were in the Netherlands and Poland for the Nations Cup last month, vanished without the PHF's knowledge.

PHF Secretary-General Rana Mujahid revealed on Thursday that the individuals had used the same Schengen visas issued for the tournament to travel to Holland and seek political asylum. The situation emerged after the team returned home, and the players informed the PHF that domestic issues prevented them from attending a training

camp for the Asian Champions Trophy.

Mujahid described the episode as "disappointing" and expressed concern about its impact on the PHF's future visa applications for international events. The PHF Congress has approved the lifetime bans and instructed the PHF president to work with the Pakistani consulate to secure their return for disciplinary actions. The interior and foreign ministries have been notified for further steps.

Mujahid acknowledged that while the PHF has faced financial difficulties, including delays in travel allowances and subsistence payments, these challenges do not excuse the players' actions or the negative impact on Pakistan's reputation in international hockey.



Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan Win Opening Match at Paralympics

India's Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan made a strong start in the badminton mixed doubles (SL3-SU5) at the Paralympic Games, easily defeating country-mates Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli in their opening group stage match. The Indian duo won decisively with scores of 21-14, 21-17 in just 31 minutes.

Nitesh Kumar, 29, from Karnal district in Haryana, and Thulasimathi Murugesan, a veterinary science student from Tamil Nadu who clinched a mixed bronze at the Asian Para Games

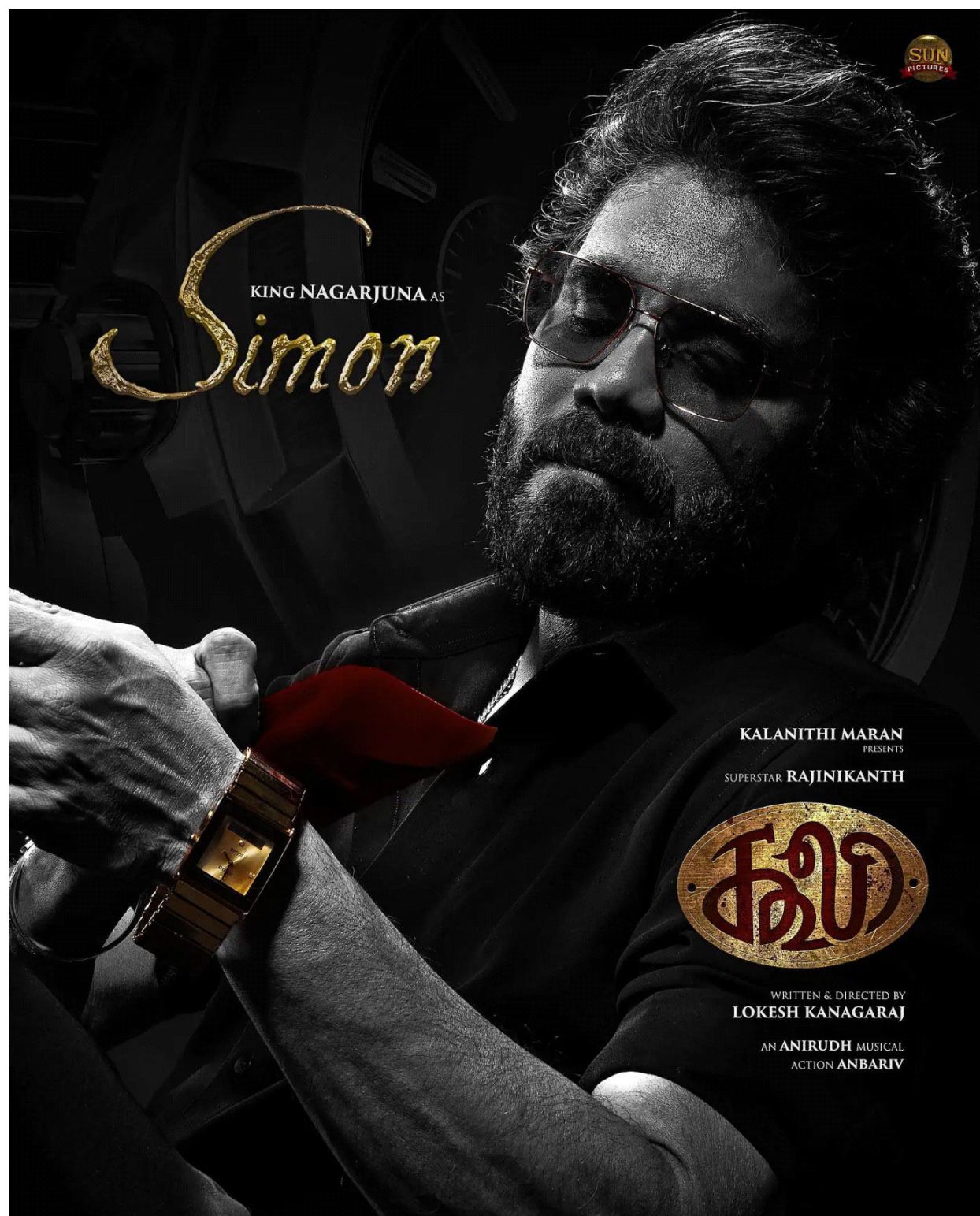
in Hangzhou, demonstrated their skill and coordination. Their performance was particularly dominant in the first game, where they built a comfortable lead of seven points at one stage.

Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli struggled against the formidable net play and deep tosses of Nitesh and Thulasimathi, quickly falling behind. The first game ended in just 14 minutes, with Suhas and Palak unable to counter the aggressive play of their opponents.

The second game mirrored the

first, with Palak unable to keep pace with her senior partner, resulting in further point losses. The match highlighted the different classifications of the players: SL3 players, like Nitesh and Suhas, have moderate impairments on one side of the body, affecting either both legs or the absence of limbs, while SU5 players, like Thulasimathi and Palak, face significant impairments in their upper limbs.

Overall, Nitesh and Thulasimathi's impressive performance sets a positive tone for their campaign at the Paralympic Games.



First Look of Nagarjuna in Coolie Revealed

Superstar Rajinikanth is currently collaborating with acclaimed director Lokesh Kanagaraj on an action thriller titled *Coolie*, produced by Sun Pictures. The film features a star-studded cast, including Nagarjuna in a prominent role.

To celebrate Nagarjuna's birthday, the makers released his first look as Simon from *Coolie*. This striking appearance highlights Nagarjuna's sharp style, featuring him adjusting his watch while sporting stylish shades and a rugged beard. His intense stare completes the look, making it one of his most compelling portrayals to date.

In addition to Nagarjuna, the cast includes Sathyaraj, Soubin Shahir, Upendra, Shruti Haasan, and Mahendran in significant roles. The film boasts a soundtrack by Anirudh Ravichander and cinematography by Girish Gangadharan. With such a talented team behind it, *Coolie* promises to be a highly anticipated release.

Saripodhaa Sanivaaram:

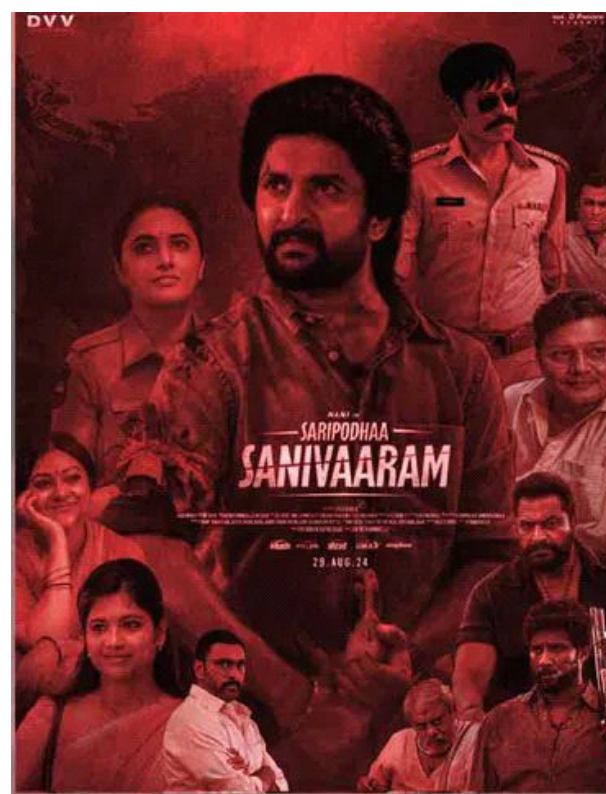
Nani's Fiery Vow and the Clash Against a Ruthless Cop

In *Saripodhaa Sanivaaram*, the plot centers on Surya (played by Nani), a young man with anger issues who makes a peculiar promise to his mother: to limit his fighting to Saturdays. This unusual vow becomes central to the story's development. Surya's vow contrasts sharply with the oppressive regime of Inspector Dayanand (S.J. Suryah), a cruel officer who abuses his power over the villagers of Sokulapalem, fueling his harshness with personal vendettas against local MLA Kurmanand (Murali Sharma).

The film's first half introduces Surya's character, his promise, and the brutal dynamics between Inspector Dayanand and the villagers. As Surya's conflicts with Dayanand intensify, the narrative builds suspense, leading to a dramatic interval bang that sets the stage for the film's second half.

In the latter part of the film, Surya escalates his battle against Dayanand, aiming to expose the inspector's true motives to MLA Kurmanand. The story balances intense action with moments of comedy and emotional depth, keeping viewers engaged. The film explores whether Surya's efforts will bring relief to the oppressed villagers and how his personal struggle intertwines with the broader conflict.

Nani delivers a compelling performance, portraying Surya's internal struggle and determination with authenticity. S.J. Suryah's portrayal of the villainous inspector is both chilling and memorable. The supporting cast,



including Priyanka Mohan, Sai Kumar, and Murali Sharma, enhances the film's impact with their strong performances.

Director Vivek Athreya, known for his distinctive storytelling, continues his trend with this film. The soundtrack by Jakes Bejoy, combined with the cinematography by Murali G and editing by Karthik Srinivas, adds to the film's overall excellence.

Samyuktha's Intense Prep for Swayambhu



Actress Samyuktha is pushing her limits for her upcoming pan-India period drama *Swayambhu*, starring alongside Nikhil Siddhartha. To prepare for her role, she is undergoing rigorous training in horse riding, archery, and parkour. Samyuktha recently shared a glimpse of her horse riding lessons on Instagram, describing the experience as "spiritual" and "enriching."

In her post, Samyuktha expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to explore new skills. She noted the beauty of synchronizing with the horse and embraced each challenge as a growth opportunity. *Swayambhu* tells the story of an emperor who ushers in a golden age in history and is directed by Bharat Krishnamachari and Aadithya Bahudhanam.

In addition to *Swayambhu*, Samyuktha will appear in an action thriller directed by Charan Tej Uppalapati, featuring Kajol, Prabhu Deva, Naseeruddin Shah, and others. The film, a revenge drama, follows Maya (Kajol) on her quest for vengeance.

She will also star in *Ram*, an action thriller written and directed by Jeethu Joseph, marking the first installment of a two-part series. The film features Mohanlal as Ram Mohan, a R&AW agent tasked with stopping a terrorist group with nuclear weapons.

Samyuktha made her debut in the Malayalam film *Popcorn* in 2016 and has since appeared in several notable films, including *Kalki*, *Edakkad Battalion 06*, *Bheemla Nayak*, *Bimbisara*, *Gaalipata 2*, *Vaathi*, and *Virupaksha*.

The Buckingham Murders Sparks Excitement with Title Reveal and Teaser

The buzz around *The Buckingham Murders* is heating up with the release of its latest teaser and the reveal of the first song title, "Sada Pyaar Tut Gaya." While details about the track remain under wraps, the excitement among fans is palpable.

The newly released teaser offers a gripping preview of the film's dark and intense storyline. It opens with a harrowing scene of a young child's murder in a park, leading to widespread protests and public outrage. This disturbing incident sets the stage for Kareena Kapoor's role as a determined detective who dives deep into the case to uncover the truth behind the heinous crime.



This film marks Kareena Kapoor's first collaboration with acclaimed director Hansal Mehta, who is known for his compelling storytelling. In addition to her acting role, Kareena is also serving as a producer, marking her debut as a producer in this project. The film represents another high-profile collaboration between Kareena Kapoor and Ekta R Kapoor, following their successful partnership on *Veere Di Wedding* and *Crew*.

Scheduled for a cinematic release on September 13, 2024, *The Buckingham Murders* boasts a stellar cast, including Ash Tandon, Ranveer Brar, and Keith Allen. Directed by Hansal Mehta, the film is written by Aseem Arrora, Kashyap Kapoor, and Raghav Raj Kakker. It is a Mahana Films and TBM Films production, presented by Balaji Telefilms and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R Kapoor, and Kareena Kapoor.

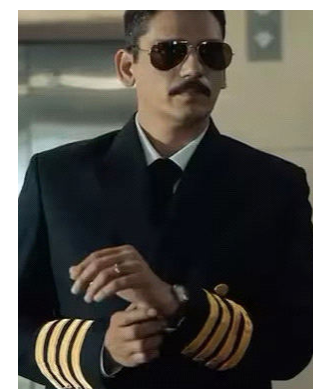
IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack – A Riveting and Realistic Thriller on Netflix

In *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, a gripping new Netflix series, the understated heroism of Captain Sharan Dev (Vijay Varma) shines through amid a harrowing hijack scenario. The series, directed and co-created by Anubhav Sinha, explores the real-life 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane, offering a fresh take on the genre by blending intense drama with a compelling human touch.

The narrative kicks off with Captain Dev's calm response to a clogged toilet pipe on the hijacked plane, showcasing his stoic professionalism and setting the tone for his character's heroism. Despite the dire circumstances—being forced to fly across multiple countries by terrorists with dwindling fuel—Captain Dev remains focused on saving his 180 passengers.

The series doesn't just focus on the plane's plight but also delves into the political and

bureaucratic responses to the crisis, enriching the storyline with layers of tension and urgency. The portrayal of the hijackers, led by the menacing Inspector Dayal (S.J. Suryah), contrasts sharply with the determined crew, including flight attendant Indrani (Patralekhaa), who adds depth to the narrative with her personal struggles.



IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack excels in balancing factual accuracy with dramatic storytelling. Sinha and his writing team, including Trishant Srivastava and Adrian Levy, ensure that the series remains grounded while delivering edge-of-your-seat excitement.