



### 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.

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# Durgam Cheruvu Encroachments Notice Issued to CM's Brother



TPN, Telangana: The Telangana government has issued demolition notices to several properties near the Durgam Cheruvu lake, including the residence and office of A Tirupathi Reddy, the brother of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The notices were posted on properties within the Madhapur Amar Cooperative Society, stating that these structures are located within the Non-Development Zone of the lake and must be removed within 30 days.

Rangareddy district collector and Serilingampally deputy collector, also targets properties in nearby areas such as Nectars Colony, Doctors Colony, Kavuri Hills, and Amar Society.

The move has sparked concern among residents and businesses in the affected colonies, as they face the prospect of losing their properties if they do not comply with the demolition orders.

Full Tank Level (FTL) of Durgam Cheruvu at the time. Reddy stated that he has no objection to any corrective action that the government may take if it is determined that his property encroaches on FTL land. He emphasized his willingness to comply with the government's broader initiative to address encroachments around the lake.

The land in question is registered under the name of Koteswara Rao, adding another layer to the ongoing investigations into the legality of the properties in the area. The government's actions are part of a larger effort to enforce zoning regulations and protect water bodies from illegal encroachments.

The notices, issued under Section 23(1) of the WALTA (Water, Land, and Trees Act) Act, mandate that the encroaching structures be voluntarily demolished within the given timeframe. Failure to comply will result in the authorities carrying out the demolitions themselves. The crackdown, led by the

### Telangana CM's Brother Responds to Notice

In response to the notice, Anumala Tirupati Reddy, the brother of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, clarified that he purchased his residence in 2015, unaware that the land was classified within the

## SC Lashes Out at CM Revanth Over Remarks on Kavitha's Bail



on behalf of the petitioners.

During the proceedings, the judges made critical comments regarding Revanth Reddy. Revanth Reddy's comments hinting at an alleged deal between the BJP and BRS to secure bail for Kavitha irked the Supreme Court.

"Is this the kind of statement that should be made by a CM?" questioned the bench headed by Justice B R Gavai, adding that such remarks might create apprehensions in the minds of the public. However, the court stated that it was not concerned with criticism of its orders. "We do our duty according to our conscience and the oath we took under the Constitution," the bench added.

TPN, New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has expressed strong disapproval of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent remarks, questioning his respect for the country's highest judicial authority. The court issued a stern warning, asking how the Chief Minister could show disregard for the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court accepted these petitions for hearing, and a three-judge bench consisting of Justice BR Gavai, Justice PK Mishra, and Justice KV Viswanathan conducted the investigation. Senior Advocate Sundaram, along with Independent Public Prosecutor Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi and Menaka Guruswamy, presented arguments

Following these comments, the Supreme Court adjourned the hearing on the Vote-for-Note case to September 2, 2024. The case continues to be a focal point of political tension in Telangana, with the Supreme Court's comments adding a new dimension to the ongoing legal and political battle.

## Kavitha Meets Father KCR After Release From Prison

TPN, Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha, recently released from Tihar Jail, met her father and former Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), at his residence in Eravalli on Thursday. This marks the first meeting between Kavitha and KCR following her release.

Kavitha was granted bail by the Supreme Court in the alleged 'excise policy case' filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED). She had been in custody for five months before walking out of Tihar Jail on Tuesday after the court's order.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Kavitha expressed confidence in her eventual exoneration. "History has time and again proved that



truth will prevail. Even in my case, history repeated itself - truth will prevail, justice will prevail, and we will continue to fight politically and legally. We will go to people and we will fight...India has always stood firmly with justice and truth, and I am very confident that in my case I will come out very clean," she stated.

The Supreme Court, while granting

her bail, imposed several conditions, including prohibiting her from tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses. Kavitha was directed to furnish a bail bond of Rs 10 lakh each in both the CBI and ED cases and surrender her passport. The court noted that the trial is likely to be lengthy, given the involvement of 493 witnesses and numerous documents. The reliance on statements from co-accused, who have turned approvers, was also highlighted by the court.

The CBI and ED have alleged that irregularities were committed in modifying the excise policy, with undue favors extended to license holders, including waivers or reductions in license fees and the extension of L-1 licenses without proper authority approval.

## All 18 Gates of Nagarjunasagar Project Opened to Manage Rising Floodwaters







## All 18 Gates of Nagarjunasagar Project Opened to Manage Rising Floodwaters

**TPN, Telangana:** In response to escalating flood conditions, all 18 crest gates of the Nagarjunasagar Project in Telangana have been opened to release water downstream. The decision to open the gates was made as flood inflows from the upstream Srisaillam dam increased significantly.

The process of opening the gates began on Wednesday afternoon. Initially, two gates were opened for two days. On Wednesday at 1 p.m., four gates were opened, followed by the opening of 12 gates at 3 p.m., and 14 gates at 4 p.m. By 7 p.m., all 18 gates were fully opened, allowing a large volume of water to flow downstream.

Currently, the Nagarjunasagar Project is receiving 181,008 cusecs of water from the Srisaillam dam and is releasing 194,758 cusecs downstream. The situation is further complicated by an additional flood flow of 311,953 cusecs coming from upstream of the Srisaillam project. The coordinated release of water from Nagarjunasagar is crucial to managing the floodwaters and mitigating potential downstream impacts.

# CM Revanth Reddy Proposes Night Safari and Industrial Alignment Near ORR and RRR

**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has instructed higher officials to explore the feasibility of initiating a night safari in the forest areas situated between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the Regional Ring Road (RRR), specifically in the regions spanning between Raviryala and Amangal. This proposal was discussed during a review meeting held at his residence in Jubilee Hills on August 28.

The Chief Minister emphasized the unique geographic advantage offered by the proximity of an international airport, urban areas, and extensive forest lands. He noted that such a setting could significantly enhance tourism prospects in the region. Drawing inspiration from the Jindal Naturecure Institute in Bengaluru, Reddy highlighted the potential for establishing similar businesses and institutions

that could leverage the natural landscape.

Reddy further suggested that aligning industrial development in the fourth city, Muccherla, with the surrounding forest areas could create a harmonious and visually appealing environment, akin to the Apple Inc. headquarters in the US, which is situated in an apple orchard. This approach aims to integrate industrial growth with natural surroundings, potentially setting a precedent for sustainable development.

Additionally, the Chief Minister proposed encouraging the film industry to utilize the picturesque locations in the hilly areas and forests of Rachakonda for shooting. This could boost both tourism and the local economy by capitalizing on the scenic beauty of the region.



## Telangana to Provide Skill Training to 50,000 Individuals Over Next 4 Years

**TPN, Telangana:** The Telangana government has announced a significant initiative to enhance workforce capabilities by providing skill training to 50,000 individuals over the next four years. This program, part of the state's broader strategy to boost employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, was introduced by IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

During the announcement, Minister Sridhar Babu also launched the "Telangana Entrepreneur Journey for Aspirations and Achieving Success" (TEJAS) program, which aims to empower aspiring entrepreneurs and foster a more robust entrepreneurial ecosystem



in the state. The TEJAS program is designed to equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve business success and contribute to the state's economic growth.

The initiative was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) between the Telangana government and the National Small Scale Industries Corporation (NSIC). The partnership will facilitate access to loans from national banks for small industries, assist in sourcing raw materials, and aid in marketing products, with a particular focus on service utilization at the district level.

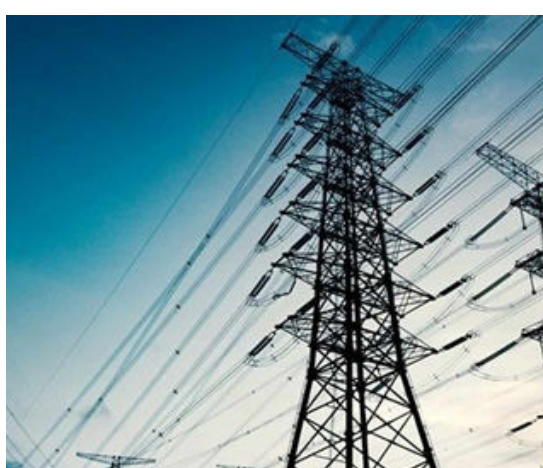
In addition to the skill training initiative, Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's impressive growth in the IT sector. He noted that the state has achieved a growth rate in IT exports that is three times higher than the national average. In the first quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, while national IT exports

increased by 3.3%, Telangana recorded an impressive 11.3% growth.

### Global AI Conference and AI Adoption Report

The announcements were made during a program organized by 'NASCA M' in preparation for the upcoming Global AI Conference, scheduled for September 5-6. During the event, the "AI Adoption 2.0" report was released, signaling a growing focus on artificial intelligence and its integration into various sectors within the state. The report provides insights into the current landscape of AI adoption and its potential to drive further economic growth and innovation in Telangana.

## NLC India Limited Signs 200 MW Green Power Agreement with Telangana



**TPN, Telangana:** On Wednesday, NLC India Limited, a coal ministry enterprise, signed a significant Power Usage Agreement (PUA) with Telangana State DISCOMS. This agreement secures the supply of 200 MW of solar power over the next 25 years under the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) scheme. The deal promises to deliver green power at a competitive and affordable rate.

The solar project by NLC India Limited is slated for commissioning by June 2025. Once operational, it will generate around 1,300 crore units of green energy throughout its lifespan. This substantial output will play a key role in advancing India's

renewable energy targets and assisting Telangana in fulfilling its Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO). Additionally, the project is expected to offset approximately 90 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions.

NLCIL has a long history with Telangana, having supplied over 234 MW of cost-effective thermal power to the state for more than three decades. The new solar project will incorporate state-of-the-art technology, including single-axis trackers and domestically produced high-efficiency solar modules, supporting the Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Make in India) initiative.

## 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.

## ACB Nabs Assistant Registrar for Accepting Rs 1 Lakh Bribe

**TPN, Medchal:** In a significant operation, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Telangana on Thursday arrested Bommala Srinivas Raju, an assistant registrar working at the office of the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Medchal, for accepting a bribe of Rs 1,00,000.



Srinivas Raju was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe from a man in exchange for a favor related to cases filed by Navabharath Cooperative Urban Bank Limited against the

complainant's family members and his friend. The ACB officials, acting on a tip-off, apprehended the officer and recovered the bribe amount from his possession.

The money was found in the dashboard of the accused officer's car, and a chemical test conducted on the contact portion of the car's dashboard yielded positive results, further incriminating the officer. Following the arrest, Srinivas Raju was produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases in Hyderabad.

The arrest highlights the ongoing efforts by the ACB to root out corruption within government offices, ensuring accountability among public servants.

## Anila Vavilla Appointed as New VC & MD of TGREDCO

**TPN, Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Government has appointed Anila Vavilla as the new Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO). The appointment was formalized through official orders issued on Wednesday.

Anila Vavilla will be taking over the position from N Janaiah, who previously held the role. With her new appointment, Anila Vavilla is expected to lead TGREDCO in advancing the state's renewable energy initiatives and furthering its commitment to sustainable energy development.

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## CM Revanth Reddy Warns Against Illegal Collections in the Name of HYDRA



- CM said that there have been complaints that some officials are threatening in the name of Hydra.
- Strict action against those misusing authority to threaten and exploit citizens.
- The ACB and Vigilance departments were directed to target corrupt practices within HYDRA.

**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued a stern warning to officials allegedly involved in illegal collections under the pretext of the HYDRA initiative. On Thursday, the Chief Minister addressed growing concerns and complaints from the public, stating that some officials have been threatening citizens and demanding money in the name of HYDRA, a program aimed at addressing unauthorized constructions and other civic issues.

Revanth Reddy revealed that he had received reports of municipal and revenue officials obstructing and threatening people by misusing the authority

of previously issued notices. The Chief Minister made it clear that such behavior would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against any official found engaging in these illegal activities.

He emphasized that there is no justification for exploiting or scaring innocent people, especially under the guise of an official program like HYDRA. To address the issue, CM Revanth Reddy has instructed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Vigilance departments to focus their efforts on identifying and taking action against those involved in such corrupt practices.

This warning from the Chief Minister comes amid increasing public scrutiny of the HYDRA initiative, with allegations surfacing about the misuse of power by some officials. The CM's directive is seen as a move to maintain the integrity of the program and ensure that it is implemented fairly and without exploitation.

## Etala Rajender: N Convention's demolition known, but poor families' struggles ignored

**TPN, Telangana:** Malkajgiri BJP MP Etala Rajender has voiced strong criticism over the recent focus on the demolition of N Convention, stating that while the media and public attention has been centered on the high-profile demolition, the suffering of hundreds of poor families near Hasmatpet, Alwal, Sarur Nagar, and Safilguda ponds has gone unnoticed.



Speaking to the media on Thursday, Etala Rajender lamented that while the demolition of N Convention has been widely publicized, the struggles of 125 families at Hasmatpet pond and 120 families at Alwal pond have been ignored. He pointed out that these families, who bought small plots of 60 or 40 yards in 1985, are not wealthy but very poor, and they are now facing eviction notices.

Rajender criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of using the protection of ponds as a political tool, while neglecting the impact on the poor who live near these water bodies. He argued that while the N Convention demolition has been promoted on social media, the real issue is the demolition of structures belonging to the poor, who have also been served with notices.

The BJP MP reassured the affected families that they need not worry about the notices, as he believes the issue tran-

scends political parties and concerns the welfare of the poor. He expressed his frustration with what he described as a "drama" being played out under the guise of the HYDRA initiative, warning the government that any attempt to demolish the homes of the poor would be met with strong resistance.

Rajender also accused the Chief Minister of posturing as a champion of justice, while neglecting the real suffering of poor families in the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha area. He warned the government and the HYDRA Commissioner to steer clear of targeting the poor, reiterating his commitment to defending their homes.

The MP's comments come in the wake of increasing tensions over the demolition of unauthorized structures in Hyderabad, with the HYDRA initiative facing criticism for its alleged bias against vulnerable communities. Rajender's remarks highlight the growing concern over the impact of these actions on low-income families who have lived in these areas for decades.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Promises HYDRA-Like Agencies in All Telangana Districts

**TPN, Telangana:** Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has announced that the Telangana government plans to establish agencies similar to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's HYDRAA initiative in all districts across the state. These agencies will be tasked with taking action against illegal constructions, particularly those encroaching on Full Tank Levels (FTLs) of water bodies and nalas.

The announcement was made during an interaction with the media following Prabhakar's participation in the National Sports Day celebrations at the Regional Sports School. The minister em-



phasized the government's commitment to cracking down on unauthorized developments that

threaten the state's water bodies and drainage systems.

In addition to his comments on urban development, Prabhakar also addressed issues related to the sports school, instructing officials to enhance the school's facilities and fill all vacant positions, including the recruitment of new coaches. He assured that the government would provide all necessary support, including a financial grant of Rs 25 lakh to the sports school.

The event was attended by several key officials, including Collector Pamela Satpathy, Additional Collector Praful Desai, and Municipal Commissioner Chahat Bajpai.

## Notices Issued for Encroachments in Durgam Lake FTL

**Dubbaka MLA Prabhakar Reddy's Camp Office Affected**

**TPN, Telangana:** Durgam Lake, located within the Full Tank Level (FTL) boundary, has become the focus of a land encroachment issue involving several prominent figures, including Dubbaka MLA Prabhakar Reddy. His newly established camp office is reportedly within the FTL zone, which has drawn attention following a crackdown by authorities.

Revenue officials, in collaboration with the Hyderabad Metropolitan

Development Authority (HMDA), have issued notices to around 204 residences, including Prabhakar Reddy's office, for illegal constructions within the FTL boundaries. The notices mandate that property owners voluntarily demolish the encroachments within 30 days to avoid further legal action. This move is part of a broader effort to protect water bodies and prevent unauthorized development that could harm the environment.

Durgam Lake, a significant water body, has seen rapid development in recent years, with many political and influential figures setting up properties within the restricted zone. Authorities aim to strictly enforce FTL regulations to prevent ecological damage and manage flooding risks. The response to these notices will determine whether legal challenges arise or voluntary compliance follows.

## Revanth misled Rahul Gandhi also on loan waiver : Harish Rao



**TPN, Telangana:** BRS leader and former Minister T Harish Rao has accused Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of misleading both the public and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi regarding the implementation of the crop loan waiver scheme. In an informal chat with media persons at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Harish Rao stated that the Chief Minister's claims about fulfilling the debt relief promise had created confusion and frustration among farmers.

Harish Rao alleged that Revanth Reddy's statements about the loan waiver did not align with the actual disbursement figures, leading to a significant trust deficit and a lack of transparency. He offered to host Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Telangana and show him the ground reality, particularly in the Chief Minister's native village of Kondareddyballi, to illustrate the discrepancies between Revanth's claims and the situation on the ground.

The former Minister criticized the way Revanth Reddy handled the loan waiver issue, describing it as a betrayal that left farmers feeling deceived. He referred to the Chief Minister's recent conversations with the media, dubbing them "cheat chats," where, according to Harish Rao, Revanth spread more falsehoods than facts.

Harish Rao also recalled a controversy sparked by Revanth Reddy's earlier remarks about handing over the responsibility of collecting electricity dues in Hyderabad's Old City to the Adani Group. Although Revanth mentioned this during a casual media discussion, the backlash from BRS prompted him to deny any such move on the floor of the State Assembly.

Harish Rao's comments reflect ongoing tensions between the ruling BRS and the Congress-led government in Telangana, particularly regarding issues of governance and transparency.

## Do You Lack the Courage to Demolish Owaisi's Properties?: Eleti Maheshwar Reddy

**TPN, Telangana:** BJP Legislative Party Leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy has launched a scathing attack on the HYDRA initiative and its Commissioner, Ranganath, questioning why properties in Hyderabad's old city, particularly those associated with the Owaisi family, have not been targeted for demolition. Speaking at a media conference on Thursday, Reddy criticized the perceived bias in the actions of HYDRA and accused the government of lacking the courage to take action against Owaisi's properties.

Reddy expressed his anger over the selective enforcement of demolitions, particularly in relation to structures in areas where Hindus reside. He questioned whether Commissioner Ranganath is working with an agenda or seeking a promotion, drawing a parallel to previous instances where political favors were granted, such as KCR's appointment of Venkatrami Reddy as an MLC.

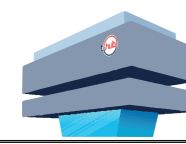
He further accused the government of being lenient towards the Owaisi family, particularly in the case of the Salkam pond, where Owaisi's buildings were spared under the pretext of protecting students' futures. Reddy pointed out the inconsistency in this approach, questioning why the same consideration was not given to institutions like KLR Institutions and Palla Rajeshwar Reddy's colleges, which were also subjected to demolition.

Reddy also referenced previous statements made by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who acknowledged complaints about illegal collections under the name of HYDRA. He used this to highlight what he perceives as the flawed and biased execution of the HYDRA initiative.

Reddy concluded by challenging the government to prove its commitment to impartial governance by taking action in the old city and against the properties of the Owaisi family. He accused the state of being under the control of the Majlis party and questioned the government's courage to confront this issue head-on.







## IMD Issues Red Alert for Extremely Heavy Rains in Telangana

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad has issued a red alert for Telangana, forecasting extremely heavy rains on Friday and Saturday. The weather department has also announced a yellow alert for Sunday, due to expected very heavy rainfall in various districts across the state. Additionally, a yellow alert is in effect for today, anticipating thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls.

The heavy rainfall is expected to begin tomorrow and may persist until September

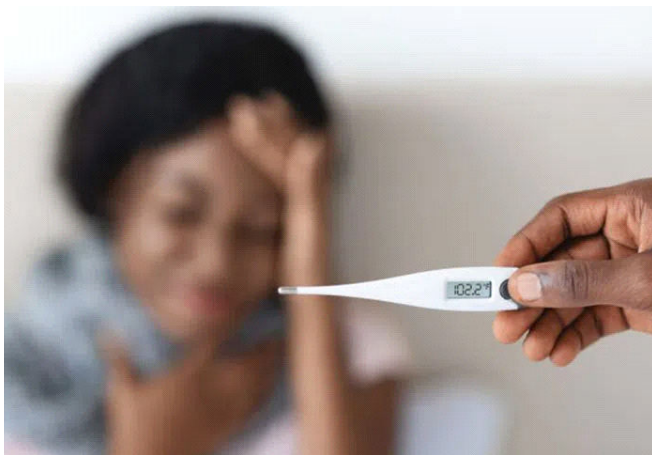
2. In Hyderabad, the IMD has predicted a generally cloudy sky, with moderate to heavy rains and thundershowers from Friday through September 1. This forecast indicates a significant increase in rainfall for the city and surrounding districts.

During the current Southwest monsoon season, Telangana has recorded an average rainfall of 627.6 mm, exceeding the normal 558.6 mm by 12 percent. Hyderabad has received 511.5 mm of rain, compared to the normal 450 mm, reflecting a 14 percent

deviation. Notably, Nampally in Hyderabad has experienced the highest deviation, with 592.6 mm of rainfall against the normal 445.5 mm, marking a 33 percent deviation.

The predicted extremely heavy rains for Friday and Saturday are expected to further elevate the total rainfall figures for the city and other regions in Telangana. The ongoing monsoon season has already seen significant deviations from average rainfall, and the additional precipitation could impact local infrastructure and daily life.

## Hyderabad Grapples with Mystery of Negative Dengue Tests Amid Rising Cases



A perplexing medical mystery is emerging in Hyderabad, where numerous patients with classic dengue symptoms—high fevers, dropping platelet counts, and body aches—are testing negative for the disease. This baffling trend has left healthcare providers and the Telangana State Public Health department searching for answers. Patients who exhibit dengue-like symptoms but test negative are categorized as 'suspected dengue,' yet there has been no concerted effort to investigate whether another viral agent might be causing these symptoms. Neither the Public Health department nor the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) has initiated comprehensive testing or genomic sequencing to identify potential new pathogens.

The issue is exacerbated by the frequent negative results from dengue tests, leading many individuals to incorrectly believe they are not infected. This misconception results in many patients not adhering to prescribed treatments, potentially leading to severe complications. There are two main types of dengue diagnostic tests: NS1 and IgM. These tests sometimes yield negative results if performed at inappropriate times; NS1 antigens are typically detectable from the third day of infection, while IgM antibodies appear after 5 to 6 days.

Senior physicians advise against ignoring dengue-like symptoms despite negative test results. They caution that rapid tests might contribute to the high incidence of false negatives and emphasize the importance of following medical guidance. Key recommendations include avoiding NSAIDs like aspirin and ibuprofen, using paracetamol to manage fever, and ensuring proper hydration. Steroids are ineffective in treating dengue, and papaya leaf juice does not offer relief. Platelet or blood transfusions are only necessary if platelet counts fall below 15,000 to 20,000. Importantly, antibiotics and anti-malarials are not suitable for dengue treatment. Adherence to these guidelines and timely testing is crucial for managing suspected dengue cases effectively.

## Rules being formed for HYDRA to protect all lakes in Hyderabad: CS

Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari announced on August 29 that guidelines are being prepared to fully transfer the responsibility of safeguarding lakes, parks, canals, and other government properties under the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to the newly established Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection (HYDRA). This decision follows a high-level meeting aimed at addressing the Telangana High Court's recent orders concerning the removal of encroachments on lake beds and the preservation of government property.

The court has questioned the government's selective approach to demolishing encroachments, prompting the Chief Secretary to detail the measures being taken. According to Santhi Kumari, 72 teams have been organized under HYDRA, and additional officers and staff from the Police, Survey, and Irrigation Departments will be quickly assigned to bolster these teams. The aim is to enhance HYDRA's powers and resources for protecting government sites, lakes, and other properties.

To streamline operations and avoid confusion, the Principal Secretary of the Municipal Department has been instructed to ensure that all eviction notices related to encroachments are issued solely by HYDRA

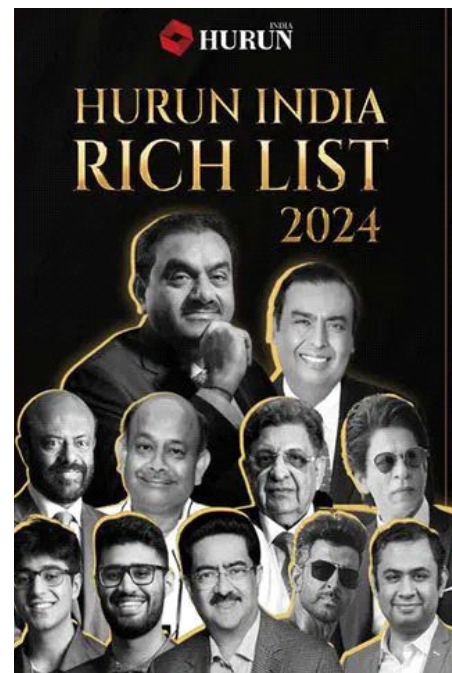


within ORR limits. Notices and actions under various laws, including those from the GHMC and Irrigation Department, will now fall under HYDRA's jurisdiction.

The Chief Secretary also noted that HYDRA will soon oversee the conservation of key lakes, such as Gandipet and Himayat Sagar, previously managed by the Water Board. Since its inception, HYDRA has reclaimed

43.94 acres of encroached land within ORR limits and demolished 18 properties.

The Forum for Good Governance has recommended expanding HYDRA's mandate statewide and creating similar bodies to protect the interests of the poor and middle class, highlighting the need for broader oversight and anti-corruption measures.



## Hyderabad Rises to Third on Hurun India Rich List 2024

Hyderabad has achieved a notable milestone in the Hurun India Rich List 2024, securing a place among the top 10 Indian cities for the first time. With 17 entrants, the city has surpassed Bengaluru, moving to the third position in terms of ultra-wealthy individuals, while Mumbai and New Delhi occupy the top two spots. The report, released on Thursday, highlights Hyderabad's growing prominence in India's wealth landscape, with 18 billionaires and a total of 104 ultra-wealthy residents.

Leading the billionaire list in Hyderabad is Murali Divi and his family, with a net worth of ₹76,100 crore. Other prominent figures include P. Pitchi

Reddy with ₹54,800 crore, PV Krishna Reddy with ₹52,700 crore, and B. Parthasaradhi Reddy and family with ₹29,900 crore. These individuals contribute to Hyderabad's robust showing on the list.

Nationally, the Hurun report documents 1,539 ultra-wealthy individuals, a substantial increase of 220 from the previous year. The number of billionaires in India has surged by 29 percent, surpassing the 300 mark for the first time and reaching a total of 334 billionaires. The combined wealth of these billionaires amounts to ₹159 lakh crore, with a new billionaire being added every five days last year.

## Hydra Takes Criminal Action Against Officials for Illegal Constructions in Ponds

In a major move, Hydra has paved the way for criminal action against officials who permitted illegal constructions in pond areas. Hydra Commissioner Ranganath has formally recommended to the Cyberabad Commissioner to file criminal cases against five officials who previously worked in the Municipal, HMDA, and Survey Departments in the Cyberabad region.

The list of officials facing potential criminal charges includes:

- Nizampet Municipal Commissioner
- Chandanagar Municipal Deputy Commissioner



- HMDA APO
- Bachupally MRO
- Medchal-Malkajgiri District Surveyor

This decisive action aims to hold accountable those responsible for allowing illegal constructions in sensitive areas, reflecting Hydra's commitment to preserving public resources and upholding the law.

## Telangana Pollution Board Promotes Eco-Friendly Ganesh Idols at School Workshop

On Thursday, the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) conducted a workshop on eco-friendly Ganesh idols at Government High School Tulsinagar (Ajahampura), Amberpet, Hyderabad. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the environmental impact of traditional Ganesh idols and promote the use of clay idols as a sustainable alternative.

Project Officer K. Sattaiah addressed the students, emphasizing the importance of using clay Ganesh idols for puja. He highlighted the environmental harm caused by immersing Plaster of Paris idols in water bodies, which can lead to pollution and negatively affect aquatic life. Sattaiah explained that clay idols, on the other hand, do not harm the environment and can be safely immersed in water.

In addition to advocating for clay idols, Sattaiah encouraged students to compost



water bodies. He stressed that non-biodegradable materials should never be introduced into clean water sources, as this contributes to pollution.

The Head Master of Government High School Amberpet, Peddireddy Venkat Reddy, along with students, participated actively in the workshop. The event

encourage sustainable practices during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

By fostering a deeper understanding of eco-friendly practices, the TGPCB aims to ensure that traditional festivals can be celebrated in a way that minimizes environmental impact and protects natural resources.





## 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.

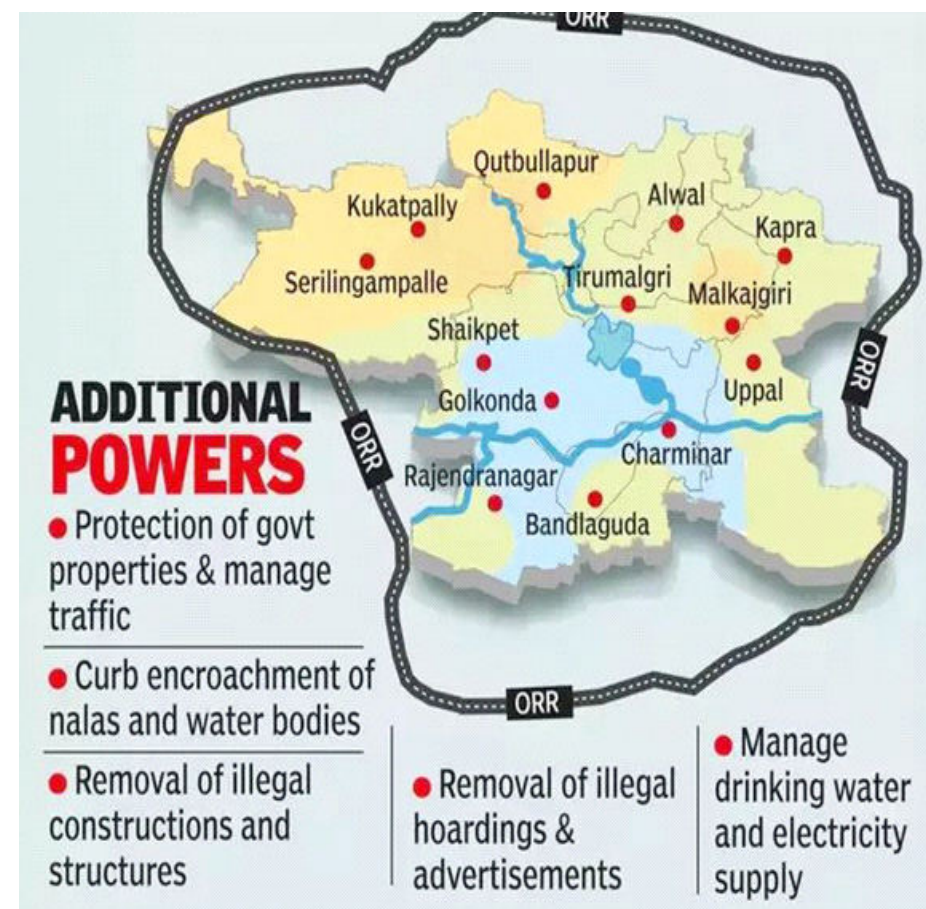
The plea further argued that the current situation in Telangana poses a risk to this principle. It claimed that most of the prosecution witnesses have already been examined, but the involvement of Reddy in the state's administration could lead to undue pressure on these witnesses. There is a concern 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

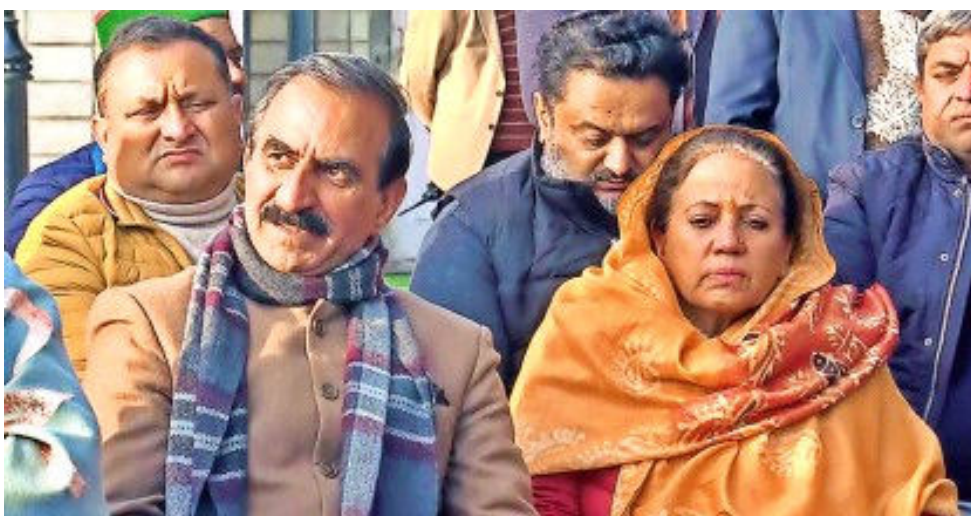


the decision negates the mandate of the people and was made without input from the Chief Minister. The court acknowledged these points and indicated that the issue would continue to be examined in the ongoing hearings.

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.

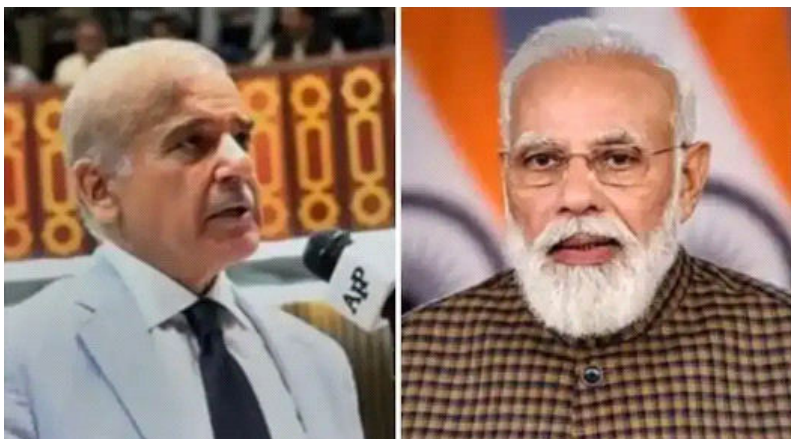
In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Banerjee clarified her stance, stating, "Let me most emphatically clarify that I have not uttered a single word against the [medical etc.] students or their movements. I totally support their movement. Their movement is genuine. I never threatened them, as some people 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.

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

## 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.

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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.



## 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.





## 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.

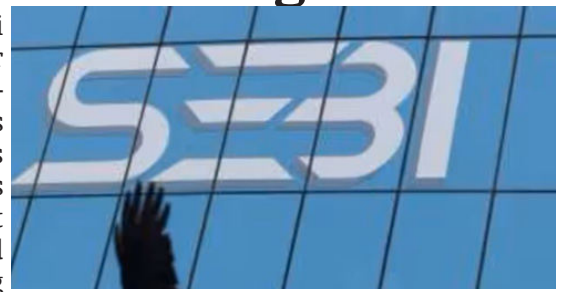
**5. Hero MotoCorp:** Strong brand presence, good long-term, but short-term volatility expected. Hero MotoCorp continues to maintain its leadership in the two-wheeler market, with strong demand for its products, especially in the rural markets. However, recent news about tax issues and supply chain disruptions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



PhonePe

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

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.

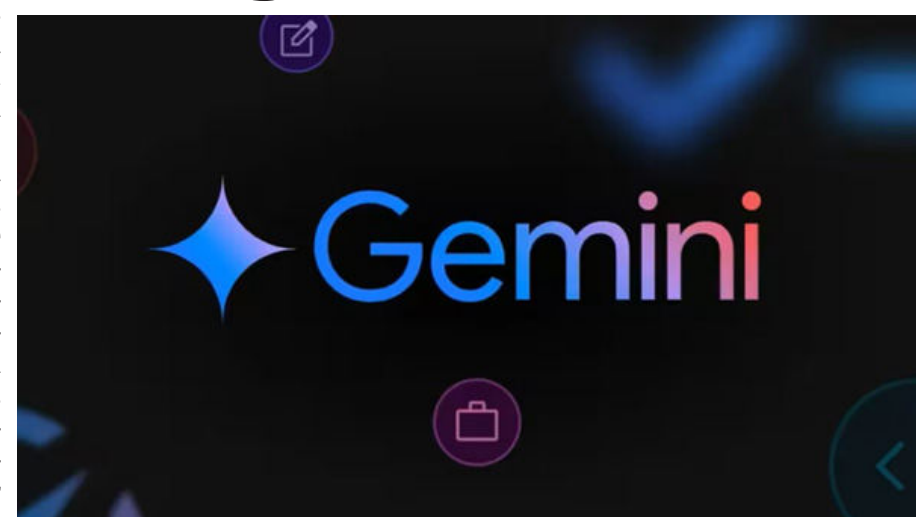
These findings have significant implications for archaeology and forensic science. They imply that preserved brains might be more frequently encountered than once believed, offering valuable information about ancient human life and environments. Morton-Hayward's research encourages archaeologists to 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-

attention 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 Hurrira
- 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.

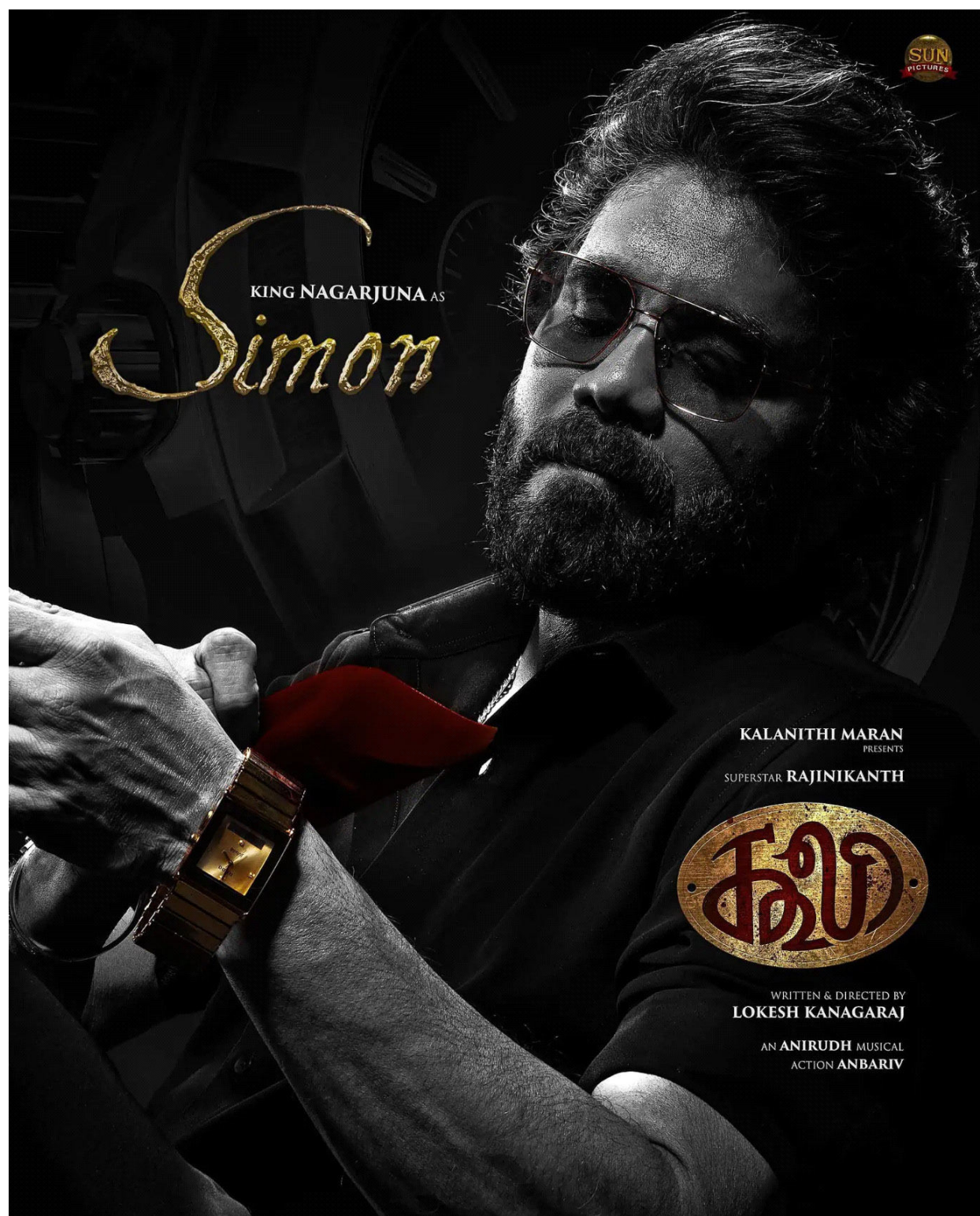
Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli struggled against the formidable net play and deep tosses of Nitesh and Thulasimathi, quickly falling behind. The first game ended in just 14 minutes, with Suhas and Palak unable to counter the aggressive play of their opponents.

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:

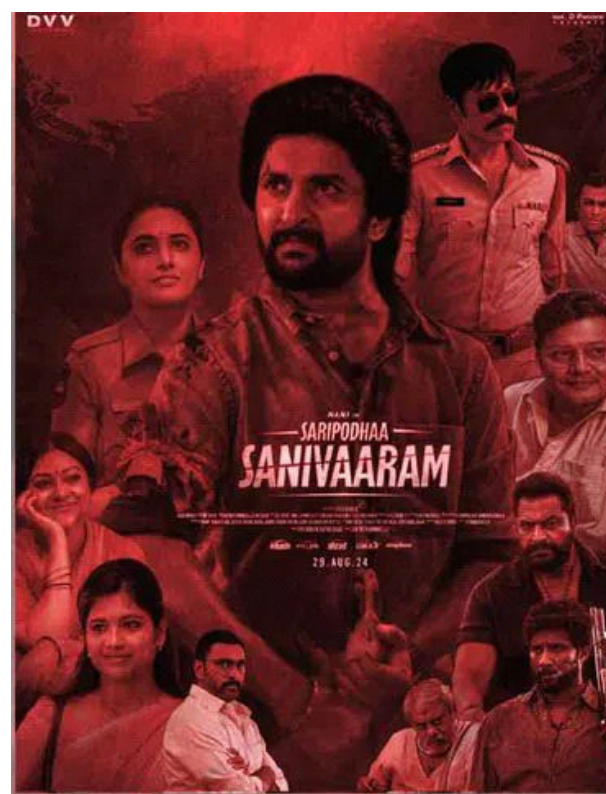
### Nani's Fiery Vow and the Clash Against a Ruthless Cop

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.

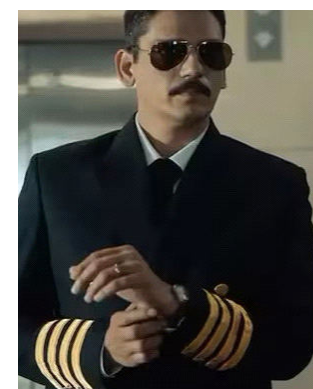
## IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack – A Riveting and Realistic Thriller on Netflix

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.