


Weather Forecast


HYDERABAD

Mostly Sunny

 H 25 °C  
L 22 °C


VIJAYAWADA

Mostly Sunny

 H 27 °C  
L 24 °C

TIRUPATHI

Mostly Sunny

 H 33 °C  
L 26 °C

JUST NOW

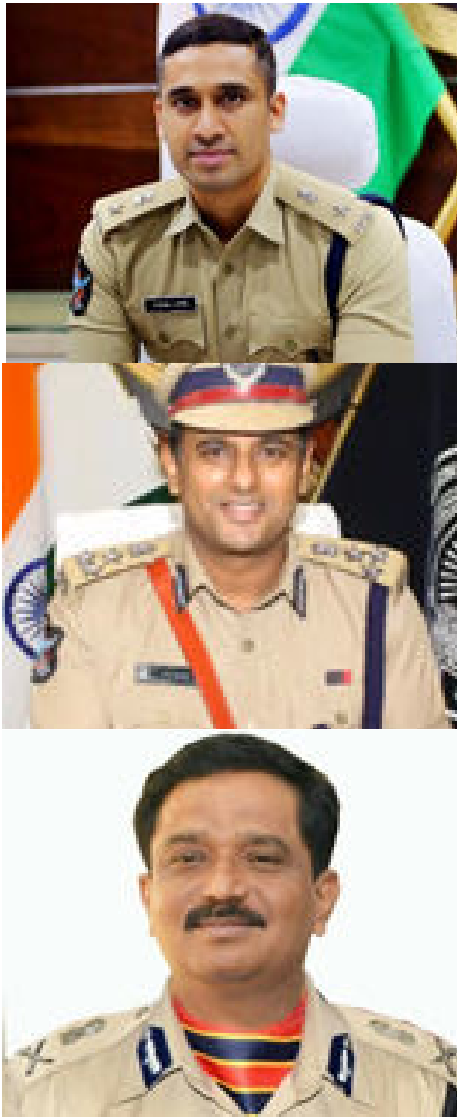
MEA's Randhir Jaiswal refutes CNN's claim of India's role in Bangladesh floods, highlights regular data sharing between nations.

PM Modi to visit Singapore on September 4-5 to strengthen strategic ties; Singapore is India's sixth largest trade partner.

Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency' faces delays with the Censor Board; the actor and CBFC members report receiving threats.

China lacks full invasion capability of Taiwan but threatens with advanced weapons and ship inspections, says Taiwan's defense ministry.

# Kadambari Jithwani Named three IPS officers..



**TPN, Vijayawada:** Mumbai actress Kadambari Jithwani provided an emotional testimony to the police at Novotel Hotel in Vijayawada, where she recounted the harrowing experiences she faced following a rape case against Jindal. The statement was recorded by investigating officer ACP K. Sravanti Roy, who was appointed to probe the case thoroughly.

Jithwani, reduced to tears during the questioning, detailed the events from December 2023, when the rape case was filed, to March 2024, when the case was dismissed. She explained how she and her family were arrested by AP Police at a guest house, describing the ordeal they endured during detention.

The actress claimed that she and her parents were arrested on February 3, 2024, just a day after an FIR was filed. She alleged that they were denied the opportunity to contact a lawyer or relatives both during and after the arrest. Jithwani further accused the police of fabricating evidence, explaining that a document used to justify their arrest was forged. She pointed out that the document claimed an agreement was made in 2018 for a property in Juhu, Mumbai, but the address mentioned was for a flat she purchased only in 2020, and the document itself was created on paper bought in 2023. Jithwani asserted these discrepancies as evidence of forgery.

Actress Jaswani spent over an hour at the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police (CP) office today, where she provided a statement in connection with an ongoing investigation. ACP Sravanti Roy, under the supervision



of CP Rajasekhar Babu, is overseeing the recording of Jaswani's statement. The police are recording her statement using both audio and video methods to ensure comprehensive documentation.

In her statement, Jitwani named three IPS officers—PSSR Anjaneyu, Kanti Rana, and Vishal Gunni—along with two others, as being involved in the case.

The police are now investigating the case with the aid of technology, aiming to uncover the involvement of senior officials in the alleged false implication and illegal detention of Jithwani and her family. The case has attracted significant attention from both Telugu states and Mumbai, with the alliance government closely monitoring developments.

INSIDE..

PAGE 02	Indigenous Plants Key to Environmental Health AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan
PAGE 03	Chandrababu and Pawan Urge Preservation of Telugu Language and Culture
PAGE 04	Cyclone Alert in Bay of Bengal: IMD Predicts Cyclone Formation Within 36 Hours
PAGE 05	Fresh FIR Against Actor Jayasurya Amid Mollywood's #MeToo Reckoning
PAGE 06	PM Modi Apologizes for Shivaji Statue Collapse, Criticizes Opposition
PAGE 07	India Denies Responsibility for Bangladesh Floods, Calls Foreign Reports Misleading
PAGE 08	Nifty Breaks Records Again, Crossing 25,200; Sensex Hits New High Amid Strong Buying
PAGE 09	Never Before Has Defence Been So Important For India-US Ties
PAGE 10	Dr. Sherry Turkle Examines Impact of AI on Human Relationships and Empathy
PAGE 11	Preethi Pal Secures Bronze in Women's T35 100m at Paris Paralympics
PAGE 12	Wall Poster Cinema Announces New Court Drama "Court - State vs A Nobody"

## Hidden Camera Scandal Uncovered in Gudlavalleru Engineering College



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** A shocking incident at Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Andhra Pradesh has sparked all-night protests after a hidden camera was allegedly discovered inside the women's hostel toilet. The camera, reportedly recording videos of students, was allegedly leaked and sold by a senior student from the same college, according to claims made by the students.

The disturbing discovery led to widespread outrage among the student body, with hundreds of students chanting "We want justice" throughout the night. The Andhra Pradesh government has responded swiftly, ordering an inquiry into the incident.

The incident came to light when a group of female students stumbled upon the

concealed camera in their toilet, causing immediate alarm and distress. The discovery led to chaos as students organized a protest that began around 7 pm and continued until this morning.

In response to the outcry, the police arrested a senior student from the boys' hostel in connection with the incident. His laptop and mobile phone were seized, but no leaked videos have been found yet, according to authorities.

The alleged presence of a hidden camera and the potential leak of video clips have left many female students deeply shaken. Some students have expressed fear and discomfort about using the washroom facilities, with a few even avoiding the area altogether.

## CM Orders Investigation into Incident at Engineering College

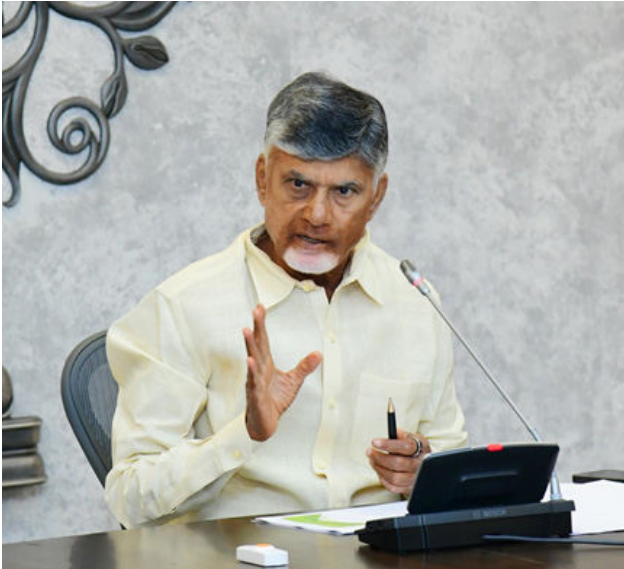
Secret camera found at Gudlavalleru Engineering College, Krishna district.  
CM Chandrababu orders immediate investigation into camera incident.  
Special police team conducts inspection at the college.

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has ordered an immediate and thorough investigation into the shocking incident of a hidden camera discovered in the girls' washroom at Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district. The Chief Minister expressed his anger and concern over the incident, directing district officials to take swift action.

Chandrababu instructed District Minister Kollu Ravindra, District Collector DK Balaji, and SP Gangadhar Rao to conduct a detailed inquiry into the incident, ensuring that all aspects are thoroughly investigated. Minister Kollu Ravindra, along with other officials, including Pedana MLA Kaghya Krishnaprasad and former MP Konakalla Narayana, visited the college to speak with the students and address their concerns.

The Chief Minister also made it clear that if the allegations of secret filming are confirmed, strict action will be taken against those responsible. He urged officials to treat this incident with the seriousness it deserves, likening it to a problem that could affect the daughters in every household. Chandrababu stressed the importance of providing reassurance to the anxious students and their families.

In addition, the Chief Minister ordered an investigation into allegations that the college management ignored the students' complaints about the hidden camera. He warned that any negligence on the part of the college management



or laxity by officials would not be tolerated. He also invited students with evidence to send it directly to him.

## Mumbai Actress Kadambari Jithwani's Emotional Testimony in Vijayawada

2<sup>nd</sup> page





## CM Orders Investigation into Incident at Engineering College

*continued from P-1*

To ensure transparency and timely updates, Chandrababu directed the officials to report on the progress of the investigation every three hours.

Meanwhile, the Krishna District Police have formed a special team to probe the incident, led by CI Ramanamma of Gudivada Crime Branch. The team, which includes five technicians, has already begun its investigation at the engineering college in Gudlavalleru. The district SP announced that they are using advanced equipment, including Non-Linear Junction Detectors (NLJD), to aid in the investigation and assured that the case would be resolved swiftly.

## Mumbai Actress Kadambari Jithwani's Emotional Testimony in Vijayawada

**TPN, Vijayawada:** Mumbai actress Kadambari Jithwani provided an emotional testimony to the police at Novotel Hotel in Vijayawada, where she recounted the harrowing experiences she faced following a false rape case against Jindal. The statement was recorded by investigating officer ACP K. Sravanti Roy, who was appointed to probe the case thoroughly.

Jithwani, reduced to tears during the questioning, detailed the events from December 2023, when the rape case was filed, to March 2024, when the case was dismissed. She explained how she and her family were arrested by AP Police at a guest house, describing the ordeal they endured during detention.

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arrested on February 3, 2024, just a day after an FIR was filed. She alleged that they were denied the opportunity to contact a lawyer or relatives both during and after the arrest. Jithwani further accused the police of fabricating evidence,

explaining that a document used to justify their arrest was forged. She pointed out that the document claimed an agreement was made in 2018 for a property in Juhu, Mumbai, but the address mentioned was for a flat she purchased only in 2020, and the document itself was created on paper bought in 2023. Jithwani asserted these discrepancies as evidence of forgery.

The police are now investigating the case with the aid of technology, aiming to uncover the involvement of senior officials in the alleged false implication and illegal detention of Jithwani and her family. The case has attracted significant attention from both Telugu states and Mumbai, with the alliance government closely monitoring developments.

## Indigenous Plants Key to Environmental Health

### AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

**TPN, Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has emphasized the importance of indigenous plant species in maintaining environmental balance. In a video message today, he urged the public to actively participate in the state's Vana Mahotsava, a tree-planting festival aimed at increasing green cover across Andhra Pradesh.

Kalyan highlighted that the coalition government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to increasing the state's green cover from the current 29 percent to an ambitious 50

percent. He stressed that the selection of plant species for this initiative is crucial, advocating for the planting of native species that are better suited to the local environment and contribute to biodiversity and soil health.

"Indigenous species of plants are friends of the environment," Kalyan stated, noting that these species play a vital role in preserving ecological balance and promoting human health. He warned against the planting of non-native species, such as Conocarpus and others, which have been found to harm underground water resources and

pose health risks. He pointed out that several Indian states, including Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Assam, have banned Conocarpus due to its detrimental effects.

As part of the Vana Mahotsava, which will continue until Kartikam Vanasamaradhana, Kalyan called on citizens to plant and nurture indigenous species such as kanuga, neem, amla, and others. He underscored that these efforts would not only enhance the state's greenery but also protect its ecological integrity for future generations.



## Government appoints Kannayya Naidu as Advisor to Water Resources Department



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Andhra Pradesh government has appointed retired engineering expert Kannayya Naidu as the Advisor to the Mechanical Department of the Water Resources Department. This appointment follows his commendable role in the recent successful installation of a stop lock gate for the Tungabhadra project, which had been washed away by floods. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had earlier praised Kannayya Naidu for his initiative and expertise in handling the situation, acknowledging his significant contribution

during a meeting at the State Secretariat.

As the newly appointed advisor, Kannayya Naidu will be responsible for overseeing the hydraulic gates and handling equipment of various irrigation projects across the state. His role will be crucial in providing expert guidance on the repair and maintenance of gates for these critical infrastructure projects. The government issued the official order for his appointment on Thursday, emphasizing the importance of his contributions to the state's water resources management.

## AP Government Appoints Special Officers for Districts

**TPN, Amaravati:** In a significant move aimed at enhancing governance and ensuring the effective implementation of government programs across Andhra Pradesh, the state government has appointed senior IAS officers as special officers for each of the 26 districts. These special officers will work alongside the district collectors, taking on the responsibility of overseeing the execution of various government initiatives at the district level.

This decision, taken by the newly formed coalition government, is part of its broader strategy to bring government programs closer to the people and reduce the administrative burden on district collectors. The appointment of these special officers is expected to streamline operations and ensure that government schemes are effectively monitored and implemented.

The government issued orders today assigning specific districts to these senior IAS officers, who are already holding various responsibilities within the administration. The appointments are as follows:

- \*\*CCLA Commissioner Jayalakshmi\*\*: NTR District
- \*\*Sasibhushan Kumar\*\*: Eluru
- \*\*Kantilal Dande\*\*: Anantapur
- \*\*Saurabh Gaur\*\*: Visakhapatnam
- \*\*Kona Sashidhar\*\*: Parvathipuram Manyam
- \*\*Babu A.\*\*: West Godavari
- \*\*N. Yuvraj\*\*: Sathyasai District

Additionally, \*\*MM Naik\*\* has been appointed to Chittoor, \*\*Pola Bhaskar\*\* to Nandyal, \*\*Praveen Kumar\*\* to Srikakulam, and \*\*MV Seshagiribabu\*\* to Bapatla. \*\*Kannababu\*\* will oversee Alluri Sitarama Raju District, \*\*Satyanarayana\*\* will take charge of Vijayanagaram, \*\*Suryakumari\*\* will be responsible for Annamaya District, and \*\*Rekharani\*\* for Palnadu. \*\*Veerapandian\*\* will manage Kakinada, while \*\*Harikiran\*\* will be in charge of Nellore, and \*\*Cherukuri Sridhar\*\* will oversee Anaparthi.

Further appointments include \*\*Gandham Chandrudu\*\* for Prakasam, \*\*Chakadhar Babu\*\* for Kadapa, \*\*Harinarayan\*\* for East Godavari, \*\*Balaji Rao\*\* for Konaseema, \*\*Vijayaramaraju\*\* for Krishna, and \*\*Mallikharjuna\*\* for Guntur District.

### Gudlavalleru Engineering College

## Students End Agitation After CM-Ordered Check

**TPN, Gudivada:** The uproar over alleged secret cameras in the girls' hostel washroom at Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district has subsided. Following orders from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, police launched an investigation, conducting thorough inspections of the hostel using electronic devices. Satisfied with the transparent and impartial investigation, the students ended their agitation and agreed to remain in the hostel.

Minister Kollu Ravindra emphasized that no partisan action would be taken against students who raised the allegations and encouraged them to report any harassment to the government.

In the wake of these events, the college declared a holiday for August 31, with students returning home for the weekend. A police team, led by CI Ramanamma, inspected the premises and ensured that security measures, including women constables assigned to each floor, were in place. District Collector DK Balaji assured that the investigation is being conducted fairly.

## Krishna River Swells Amid Heavy Rains, Reservoirs Filled to Capacity



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Krishna River, affectionately known as "Krishnamma," is once again swelling due to heavy rains across the two Telugu states and the upper regions of Karnataka. The surge in rainfall has led to a significant increase in inflow to the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs, both of which are now near

their maximum capacity.

At Srisailem Dam, authorities have responded to the rising water levels by lifting all 10 gates by 10 feet, releasing water downstream. The current inflow to the dam is measured at 2,86,434 cusecs, while the outflow stands at 3,48,235 cusecs. The dam's full water level is 885 feet, and

it is currently at 884.80 feet. The reservoir's total storage capacity is 215.8070 TMCS, with the current storage at 214.3637 TMCS. Power generation is ongoing at both the right and left bank power stations.

Further downstream, the Nagarjunasagar reservoir is also filled to capacity due to the heavy inflow from Srisailem. Officials have lifted 20 gates to release excess water, attracting a large number of tourists eager to witness the breathtaking scenes created by the cascading water.

The scenic beauty of the fully opened gates at both Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar has turned these locations into popular spots for visitors, showcasing the power and grandeur of nature during this monsoon season.





# Chandrababu and Pawan Urge Preservation of Telugu Language and Culture



**TPN, Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu emphasized the importance of preserving the Telugu language and culture during a speech at the Telugu Language Day program held at Tummalapally Kalakshetra in Vijayawada. He stressed that every Telugu person must work diligently to keep the mother tongue alive, warning that the Telugu identity could be at risk if the language is forgotten.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Naidu highlighted the cultural significance of Kuchipudi, a traditional dance form rooted in Telugu heritage, and pledged to take responsibility for its preserva-

tion. He asserted that while English is important for securing jobs, Telugu is essential for understanding and living life, emphasizing that language is a means of communication but also a vital part of cultural identity.

"Language is only communication," Naidu said, "but we must all learn Telugu to save the Telugu language. We will strive to make Andhra Pradesh the number one state in India by 2047 and ensure that every Telugu person can proudly say, 'I am Telugu.'"

Naidu also criticized the previous YCP government's emphasis on English at the expense of Telugu, cautioning that

the survival of the Telugu people could be at stake if the language is neglected. He mentioned plans to review Jivo number 77 and take appropriate action to support the Telugu language.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who also spoke at the event, echoed Naidu's sentiments, expressing his belief that the day will soon come when everyone will proudly declare, "I am Telugu." Several scholars of the Telugu language also addressed the gathering, underscoring the importance of preserving and promoting the Telugu language and culture for future generations.

## Hidden Camera Scandal: Sensitive Issue, Beware of Rumours

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a deeply troubling incident, hundreds of female students at Gudlavalleru College of Engineering in Andhra Pradesh have alleged the discovery of a hidden camera in the ladies' hostel washroom. The shocking claim led to widespread protests within the hostel premises, with the students demanding strict action against those responsible and justice to ensure the privacy and safety of any potential victims.

The incident, which reportedly took place on Thursday evening, has sparked significant outrage across the state. In response, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu quickly took notice of the situation and ordered an immediate investigation, directing officials to provide a detailed report on the matter.

Krishna district Superintendent of Police (SP) Gangadhar Rao is overseeing the investigation. Following preliminary inquiries, police have

taken a senior student into custody. However, SP Rao clarified that no hidden camera has been found, and no incriminating videos have been discovered on the seized mobile phones and laptops.

The sensitive nature of this incident has led to a surge of speculation and political implications, with social media users attempting to link the college administration and accused students to various political parties. Authorities have urged the public to refrain from spreading unverified rumors, emphasizing the potential harm to the lives and dignity of the affected students.

Given the gravity of the situation, there is a strong call for a high-level inquiry to be conducted in an impartial and transparent manner. The Andhra Pradesh government must act swiftly to restore the confidence of the students and ensure their safety and dignity are upheld.

## Will stay with Jagan says Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, a prominent leader of the YSR Congress Party (YCP) and Rajya Sabha member, has firmly denied rumors suggesting that he is planning to resign from the party and his parliamentary position. Addressing the speculation, Bose emphasized that he remains committed to YCP and its leader, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Bose described himself as a man of moral values, stating that he would not step back from his commitment to the party. "I will continue to work under Jagan's leadership," he asserted, dismissing

any notion of his departure from YCP.

He also urged the media to refrain from publishing false news without verifying the facts, cautioning against efforts to damage his political career and moral standing. "I have never even dreamed of leaving YCP," Bose clarified, reiterating his loyalty and dedication to the party.

Bose's statement comes in response to ongoing rumors that have been circulating regarding his potential exit from YCP, which he has now unequivocally denied.

## Jump Jilani Batches are not required for Jagan: Perni Nani

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Senior YCP leader and former minister Perni Nani has made strong remarks regarding the recent resignations of YCP Rajya Sabha members Mopidevi Venkata Ramana and Beda Mastan Rao from the party and their posts. Nani asserted that while Chandrababu Naidu needs the support of other parties to win elections, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy only needs the support of the people.

Nani emphasized that Jagan has always prioritized the backward classes in politics, appointing them to significant positions. He challenged Chandrababu to fill the two vacant Rajya Sabha seats with individuals from the same social groups if he truly supports their cause. Nani also reminded the public that it



was Jagan who enabled a fisherman to enter the council of elders, highlighting Jagan's commitment to uplifting marginalized communities.

Criticizing Chandrababu, Nani accused him of failing to fulfill election promises and resorting to buying MPs to distract people from his shortcomings. He labeled Chandrababu as the "biggest deceiver" who has never won by his own strength, instead relying on temptations and purchases to secure political power.

Nani further questioned why Chandrababu, who insists that anyone wanting to join TDP should first resign, did not resign along with 23 MLAs in the past. He also pointed out the recent instance where mayors and corporators from Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam protested while wearing TDP scarves, yet did not resign from their positions.

## BJP MLA Parthasarathy Alleges Illegal Leasing of APNGO Office by YCP in Adoni

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Political tensions are escalating in Adoni, Kurnool district, as BJP MLA Dr. Parthasarathy intensifies his criticism of the previous YCP government. Adoni, once a stronghold of the TDP, has shifted into BJP's hands, with Dr. Parthasarathy emerging as a key figure in this transformation.

Dr. Parthasarathy, who accused YCP leaders of extensive corruption during the recent assembly elections, won the Adoni seat as part of the BJP-TDP alliance. He has now taken his campaign against YCP to the next level, focusing on alleged illegal activities related to the leasing of the APNGO office in Adoni town. According to Dr. Parthasarathy, the office was leased for 99 years to Erriswamy, a close associate of former YCP MLA Sai Prasad Reddy, and was then used for illegal

construction without proper permissions.

In a bid to expose these alleged irregularities, BJP leaders, under Dr. Parthasarathy's direction, have put up large flexi banners in the town's main circles. These banners accuse YCP leaders of turning the APNGO office into their party office illegally, highlighting this as an example of the YCP's unchecked actions during their tenure.

Dr. Parthasarathy has vowed to bring all such instances of alleged YCP misconduct to public attention, promising to expose the party's wrongdoings to the people of Adoni. The large banners and flexis have caught the attention of the local population, adding fuel to the ongoing political rivalry in the region.

## YS Sharmila Demands Action in Gudlavalleru College Camera Scandal

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief YS Sharmila Reddy has called for immediate and stringent action following the discovery of hidden cameras in the girls' bathrooms at Gudlavalleru Engineering College. The scandal, which has allegedly resulted in over 300 videos being recorded, has sparked outrage and concern among students and parents.

Expressing her deep distress over the incident, Sharmila stated, "As a mother of a girl child, this incident has made me very nervous. Educational institutions are supposed to teach reading and culture, but this incident has made me wonder what the children are actually being taught. This is living proof of the lack of supervision in colleges and the negligence of the owners."



She emphasized the need for a swift and thorough investigation, advocating for the formation of a high-level committee to be led by senior IPS officers. "This incident is not something that can be brushed aside with a simple investigation. A fast-track inquiry should

be conducted to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice," she urged.

Sharmila also highlighted the importance of maintaining the privacy and dignity of the victims, calling on the police department to ensure that no video recorded in the bathrooms is made public. "Whoever installed these cameras, whether they are the son of a politician or not, should be severely punished. This kind of inhumane act cannot be tolerated."

In her statement, she warned that if no action is taken by next week, she will personally visit the college to speak with the students. "The Congress party stands with the students and promises to fight on their behalf until justice is served," she vowed.

Sharmila's strong response reflects the growing demand for accountability and stricter safety standards in educational institutions across the state.





## Cyclone Alert in Bay of Bengal: IMD Predicts Cyclone Formation Within 36 Hours

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a cyclone alert, revealing that a low-pressure system formed in the Northwest Bay of Bengal, near the coasts of North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha, is expected to intensify into a cyclone within the next 36 hours. According to the latest bulletin from the IMD, this low-pressure area has strengthened significantly and is poised to escalate further. The Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has echoed the IMD's warnings, forecasting moderate to heavy rains across Andhra Pradesh on August 31 and September 1. The APSDMA has also warned of strong winds, with speeds ranging from 45 to 65 km per hour, expected to impact the coastal regions tomorrow. Fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea as it is likely to become rough due to the impending cyclone. Authorities have urged coastal residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions in light of the potential cyclone.

## District Collectors Urged to Review Free Sand Distribution Daily: Mukesh Kumar Meena

**TPN, Amaravati:** Mukesh Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary of the Mines and Mining Department, has directed District Collectors to conduct daily reviews of the free sand distribution initiative, emphasizing the government's priority to ensure smooth implementation. The directive came during a video conference held on Friday, where Meena outlined the state's commitment to maintaining sand availability, especially



during the rainy season, which could lead to increased availability in the later period.

The video conference, held on the orders of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, included discussions on the existing free sand policy and upcoming changes set to take

effect from September 11. District Collectors were instructed to establish district-level command control centers similar to the state headquarters, ensuring efficient monitoring and execution of the sand distribution process.

Meena also assured that a Government Order (GO) for the collection of sand from patta lands would be issued soon. He highlighted the government's plan to implement a unified price for sand across the state, excluding transportation charges. To facilitate this, an online booking system will be made available, allowing citizens to book sand from the comfort of their homes and track their vehicles using GPS. For those in rural areas unfamiliar with the online system, trained employees will be available in the secretariat to assist.

Meena emphasized the importance of transparency, directing District Collectors to regularly issue bulletins to the media about sand availability and prices. He made it clear that Joint Collectors would be held responsible for overseeing sand affairs in their respective districts.

Praveen Kumar, Director of Mines and APMDC MD, stated that the upcoming sand portal will provide comprehensive information and guidance on various aspects of sand distribution. He urged the quick completion of transport vehicle empanelment and noted that the Chief Minister is closely monitoring the sand situation daily, expecting officials to align their efforts with his vision. Kumar also mentioned that customer satisfaction regarding sand transportation has been positive, and third-party feedback is being incorporated to further improve the system.

The video conference was attended by District Collectors, state-level officials from the Mines Department, and Assistant Directors (ADs).



## Kanakadurgamma Temple Sees Record Income from Devotees' Offerings

**TPN, Vijayawada:** The Kanakadurgamma temple on Indrakiladri Hill in Vijayawada has reported significant revenue from the offerings made by devotees over the past 18 days. The temple, which attracts thousands of devotees daily, counted the offerings on Thursday, revealing a total income of ₹2,76,66,261.

Temple officials stated that the average daily income from the temple's hundis (donation boxes) amounted to ₹15,37,014. In addition to the cash offerings, devotees also contributed 523 grams of gold and 7 kilograms and 30 grams of silver. The hundis also contained various foreign currencies, including 327 US Dollars, 98 Qatar Riyals, 35 Australian Dollars, 25 Euros, 10 Singapore Dollars, 10 British Pounds, 5 Canadian Dollars, 5 Saudi Riyals, 2 Kuwaiti Dinars, and 1 Malaysian Ringgit, which together totaled ₹61,260.

In a separate gesture of generosity, a devotee from Vijayawada made a substantial donation towards the temple's food distribution program, Anna Vitarana, by handing over a check. Additionally, another devotee from Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada, donated ₹1,00,000 in the name of Dinesh for the same purpose.

The temple also had the honor of receiving a visit from Telangana State High Court Judge Justice Sreesudha and her spouse. The temple authorities and priests conducted special rituals for the couple and presented them with prasadam, relics, blessings, and a picture of the goddess as a token of their visit. The significant contributions reflect the devotion of the pilgrims and their unwavering support for the temple's activities and services.

## Ramireddy Denies Reports of 10 Rajya Sabha Members Leaving YCP



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YSR Congress Party (YCP) Rajya Sabha member Ayodhya Ramireddy dismissed rumors suggesting that 10 members of the Rajya Sabha are planning to leave the party. He asserted that even if one or two individuals were to leave, it would not cause significant harm to the party. Ramireddy emphasized that those who depart for self-interest will not impact the party's commitment to serving the people. In his statement, Ramireddy highlighted that holding a political post comes with responsibility and requires sacrifice. He acknowledged the challenges of running a political party in the current environment, noting that politics doesn't always allow for everything to go according to plan.

Ramireddy made it clear that he has no intention of leaving YCP, stating that his entry into politics was motivated by a desire to stand by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, regardless of the circumstances. He pointed out that leaders like Mopidevi Venkataramana have been given significant positions such as MLC, Minister, and Rajya Sabha member by the party, and switching parties for personal gain diminishes the value of these roles. He also urged the media to avoid spreading false propaganda or publishing news that could harm the reputation of party members. Ramireddy reaffirmed his belief in Jagan's leadership, describing him as a leader who genuinely cares for the common people and has built the party with their interests in mind.

## TDP Leader Buddha Venkanna Slams YCP Over Jitwani Incident

**TPN, Vijayawada:** TDP leader Buddha Venkanna has strongly criticized the YCP government, calling the recent incident involving Mumbai actress Jitwani a clear example of the anarchy prevailing under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule. In a scathing statement, Venkanna compared the current administration with the previous TDP government under Chandrababu Naidu, highlighting what he perceives as a stark contrast in governance.

Venkanna remarked that the actions of YCP leaders, including Vijayasai Reddy and other ministers, are increasingly becoming evident to the public. He accused Jagan's administration of engaging in widespread anarchy and atrocities, claiming that they have exploited Andhra Pradesh and ruined the lives of innocent women.

The TDP leader expressed particular concern over the alleged involvement of IPS officers in the Jitwani case, questioning the role of police in responding swiftly to a complaint filed by Vidyasagar. He suggested that the entire affair was orchestrated under the watchful eyes of Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, a key advisor to the YCP government, and demanded that former DGP and several top officials, including Vidyasagar, Sajjala, Rajendranath Reddy, and Kanti Rana Tata, be held accountable and detained.



## Actress Jaswani Records Statement at Vijayawada CP Office

**TPN, Vijayawada:** Actress Jaswani spent over an hour at the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police (CP) office today, where she provided a statement in connection with an ongoing investigation. ACP Sravanti Roy, under the supervision of CP Rajasekhhar Babu, is overseeing the recording of Jaswani's statement. The process is expected to continue for another half hour. The police are recording her statement using both audio and video methods to ensure comprehensive documentation.

### Advocate Narra Srinivas

Police have begun recording the statement of Mumbai film actress Jitwani, with her advocate Narra Srinivas revealing significant details. In her statement, Jitwani named three IPS officers—PSSR Anjaneyu, Kanti Rana, and Vishal Gunni—along with two others, as being involved in the case. Advocate Narra Srinivas highlighted that no cases are currently pending against the actress. He accused the police of acting conspiratorially by issuing a notice under Section 41, which he claims should have been used to serve notices instead of arresting her. Furthermore, Jitwani's senior citizen parents were jailed and denied bail. Srinivas pointed out that the police investigation will eventually uncover those behind the conspiracy. He also criticized the agreement presented by complainant Vidyasagar, labeling it as fabricated evidence to wrongfully implicate the actress.



# Fresh FIR Against Actor Jayasurya Amid Mollywood's #MeToo Reckoning

The Malayalam film industry, commonly known as Mollywood, has been thrust into a fresh controversy as another FIR has been registered against actor Jayasurya in the wake of the #MeToo movement. This marks the second FIR against the actor, filed after an actress came forward with allegations of sexual harassment. The Kerala Police confirmed that the case was registered under sections 354, 354A(A1)(I), and 354D of the Indian Penal Code. The initial complaint was lodged in Thiruvananthapuram, and the case will be transferred to the Thodupuzha Police Station for further investigation.

The recent surge in allegations comes in the aftermath of the Hema Committee report, which shed light on the pervasive issue of sexual harassment within the Malayalam film industry. Following the report's release, several women have come forward with harrowing accounts of mistreatment and exploitation, casting a dark shadow over Mollywood.

Among the voices emerging from the shadows is actress Sonia Malhar, who recently shared her traumatic experiences from the early years of her career. Sonia, who entered the industry in 2013, recounted an incident on a film set in Thodupuzha that left her shaken. She noted that unlike the usual practice where junior artists are not introduced to the lead actors, she received an unusual amount of respect due to her background in social work. The director even approached her for a handshake, an act that was atypical in her experience. However, this seemingly respectful gesture soon turned into a nightmare when she was assaulted by someone on the set.

Sonia described the incident as a moment of sheer terror. After the assault, the perpetrator offered a half-hearted apology, but the damage had already been done. She faced significant professional setbacks, with payments for her work being delayed and roles that had been promised to her being given to others. The repercussions of speaking out against the powerful figures in the industry were evident, as her career was effectively sabotaged.

Sonia decided to break her silence after hearing similar stories from other actresses, particularly those from outside Kerala. She expressed her shame and disappointment in the industry's failure to protect and respect women, especially those who are not from the state. Sonia emphasized that the silence of many industry members following the release of the Hema Committee report was deeply hurtful. Her decision to come forward was driven by the need to shed light on the systemic abuse that has been perpetuated within the industry for years.

In a related development, on August 28, another FIR was registered against actor and CPI (M)



MLA Mukesh M, following a complaint by actress Minu Muneer. The allegations against Mukesh and Jayasurya are part of a broader pattern of abuse that Muneer has detailed, involving multiple prominent figures in Mollywood. Muneer has accused actors Mukesh M, Jayasurya, Maniyanpilla Raju, and Idavela Babu of both verbal and physical abuse during their film collaborations.

Muneer provided a chilling account of her experiences, including an incident where Jayasurya allegedly hugged her from behind and kissed her forcefully. She also accused Idavela Babu of expressing interest in a sexual relationship with her, and recounted inappropriate suggestions made by Maniyanpilla Raju concerning her hotel accommodation. These allegations have shaken the foundations of the Malayalam film industry, as more and more women come forward with their stories of exploitation and harassment.

The situation has escalated following the resignation of director Ranjith and actor Siddique from their positions in the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), after

facing separate accusations of misconduct. These resignations have further fueled the ongoing #MeToo movement within Mollywood, encouraging more women to speak out.

Ms. Muneer initially shared her allegations on her Facebook page, where she detailed a series of incidents dating back to 2013. She accused several industry figures of abuse, including Mukesh, Maniyanpilla Raju, Idavela Babu, Advocate Chandrasekharan, production controller Noble, and Vichu. The trauma she endured eventually led her to leave the Malayalam film industry and relocate to Chennai, seeking solace and safety away from the toxic environment she had experienced.

As the investigation continues, the Malayalam film industry finds itself under intense scrutiny, with the #MeToo movement gaining momentum in a region where silence and suppression have long been the norm. The courage of these actresses to come forward has sparked a necessary conversation about the treatment of women in the industry, and the hope is that this will lead to significant changes in how such cases are handled in the future.

## PM Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Vadhvan Port, One of India's Largest Deep-Water Ports\*\*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the ambitious Vadhvan Port project in Maharashtra's Palghar district today. Positioned near Dahanu town, Vadhvan Port is set to become one of India's largest deep-water ports, enhancing the country's maritime infrastructure.

The project, with an estimated cost of ₹76,000 crore, is designed to provide direct connectivity to international shipping routes, significantly reducing transit times and costs. Dubbed the "ultimate shipping powerhouse," Vadhvan Port will feature nine 1,000-meter-long container terminals, multipurpose berths, liquid cargo berths, Ro-Ro berths, and a dedicated Coast Guard berth. The port will also be equipped with modern cargo handling facilities and advanced port management systems.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the project will generate significant employment opportunities, stimulate local businesses, and contribute to the economic development of the region. The Vadhvan Port project also emphasizes sustainable development practices, with a strong focus on minimizing environmental impact and adhering to stringent ecological standards.

Once operational, Vadhvan Port is expected to enhance India's maritime connectivity, strengthening the country's position as a global trade hub. The port is projected to become one of the top 10 ports worldwide, creating a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tons (MMT) per annum and serving as a new gateway for India's global trade.

Strategically located as a hub port in the Arabian Sea, Vadhvan Port will forge trade links with regions including the Far East, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and America. The project, which is expected to create 12 lakh job opportunities, is scheduled for completion by 2030.

# Indian Doctors, Especially Women, Feel Unsafe During Night Shifts: IMA Study

A recent study conducted by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has revealed alarming findings regarding the safety of doctors, particularly women, during night shifts. The study, which garnered responses from 3,885 doctors across India, found that one-third of the respondents, the majority of whom were women, felt unsafe or very unsafe while working at night. The study highlights a pressing issue in the healthcare sector, where the safety of medical professionals is increasingly at risk, particularly in the wake of incidents such as the recent alleged rape and murder of a trainee woman doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The survey, which is the largest of its kind in India, was conducted online and included participants from over 22 states. The majority of respondents were under 35 years old, with 61 percent being interns or postgraduate trainees. Women made up 63 percent of the respondents, reflecting the gender ratio seen in some MBBS courses. The findings of the study, compiled by Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Chairman of the Research Cell at Kerala State IMA, are set to be published in the October 2024 issue of IMA's Kerala Medical Journal.

The survey revealed that 24.1 percent of the respondents reported feeling unsafe, while an additional 11.4 percent felt very unsafe during night shifts. The sense of insecurity was particularly pronounced among women and younger doctors, particularly those aged 20-30 years, a demographic that largely consists of interns and postgraduates. This age group reported the lowest sense of safety, indicating a significant vulnerability among those at the early stages of their medical careers.

One of the key issues identified in the study was the lack of adequate duty rooms. According to the survey, 45 percent of respondents did not have access to a duty room during night shifts. Even when available, duty rooms were often overcrowded, lacked privacy, and were sometimes without locks, forcing doctors to find alternative, less secure places to rest. Moreover, one-third of the available duty rooms did not have an attached bathroom, requiring doctors to step outside during late hours to access these facilities. In over half of the instances, the duty rooms were located far from the ward or casualty area, further contributing to the sense of insecurity.

The study also highlighted the broader infrastructure and security issues plaguing

healthcare facilities across the country. Many doctors reported insufficient lighting in hospital corridors, the absence of CCTV cameras, and a lack of trained security personnel. Unrestricted access to patient care areas by unauthorized individuals further exacerbated the risks faced by doctors during night shifts. Some doctors felt so threatened that they considered carrying weapons for self-defense, with one respondent admitting to always carrying a foldable knife and pepper spray due to the unsafe location of the duty room.

Violence and threats, particularly in casualty and emergency rooms, were also commonly reported by the respondents. Doctors frequently encountered verbal and physical threats from individuals who were either drunk or under the influence of drugs. In smaller hospitals with limited staff and no security, these issues were even more pronounced. The study also noted a lack of response from hospital administrators when security concerns were raised, with many dismissing the issues by stating that senior doctors had endured similar conditions.

The IMA study underscores the urgent need for systemic changes to improve the safety and working conditions of doctors, particularly

during night shifts. Suggestions from the respondents included increasing the number of trained security personnel, installing CCTV cameras, ensuring proper lighting, implementing the Central Protection Act (CPA), and restricting the number of bystanders in patient care areas. The provision of basic amenities, such as secure duty rooms with locks, was also emphasized.

Doctors across India have called for the implementation of a Central Protection Law that would prohibit violence in all healthcare settings and enforce stringent security measures akin to those seen in airports. Such a law, they argue, would standardize security across the sector, benefiting both doctors and patients by ensuring a safer working environment and better patient care.

The findings of the IMA study have significant implications for policy changes in the healthcare sector. In response to the Kolkata incident and the broader safety concerns raised by the study, the Government of India has already begun addressing some of these issues. However, the study clearly indicates that much more needs to be done to protect the safety and well-being of doctors across the country.



## Manipur CM N Biren Singh Pledges to Restore Peace in 6 Months, Appoints Emissary for Dialogue



Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has committed to restoring peace in the state within the next six months, amid ongoing ethnic violence between the Kuki-zo and Meitei communities. Singh, who has faced significant criticism and calls for his resignation, outlined his strategy in a recent interview with PTI, where he revealed that he has appointed Dinganglung Gangmei, a Naga MLA and Chairman of the Hill Area Committee, as an emissary to facilitate dialogue between the conflicting groups.

The violence, which has resulted in 226 deaths since May 2023, has seen a gradual reduction. Singh expressed optimism about the resolution of the conflict, emphasizing the importance of dialogue as the only viable solution. "All this can be solved with dialogue. Dialogue is the only way," he stated.

Singh acknowledged the critical role of the Central government in achieving peace, citing the involvement of the Home Ministry and other agencies as essential. "I don't think it will stretch long. Within 5-6 months peace should return. It is our hope and I am also confident," he added.

The conflict's origins are traced back to Singh's first term as chief minister, during which he initiated crackdowns on illegal drug trade and migration from Myanmar. Singh suggested that these actions might have contributed to the current unrest, implying that factions affected by his policies sought to destabilize the state through the Kuki-Meitei clashes.

The chief minister also addressed concerns related to the Meitei-dominated areas of Imphal, which remain calm, in contrast to the unrest in the surrounding hills inhabited by the Kuki community. Singh highlighted the impact of illegal settlements on state demographics, citing satellite images to support his claims.

Singh's tenure has been marred by controversy, including criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's lack of a personal visit to the state. However, Singh defended the central government's involvement, noting that the Prime Minister has been actively engaged through other means.

Regarding internal security, Singh asserted his intolerance for pro-Meitei militant groups like Arambai Tengol, which has been accused of violence against Kukis. Singh emphasized that such groups must refrain from anti-national or communal activities, warning that any deviation would not be tolerated. Despite pressure from various quarters, Singh firmly stated his intention to remain in office, rejecting calls for his resignation. "Why should I resign? Have I stolen anything? Is there a scandal against me?" he questioned, underscoring his commitment to protecting Manipur and its people.

Singh also dismissed demands for a separate administration for Kukis, emphasizing the state's historical unity and his commitment to not allowing its fragmentation. Instead, he proposed enhancing development in the hill areas through autonomous councils and seeking a special package from the central government.

As the situation evolves, Singh's approach reflects a determined effort to address the complex challenges facing Manipur, balancing dialogue, development, and security in a bid to restore lasting peace.



## PM Modi Apologizes for Shivaji Statue Collapse, Criticizes Opposition

In a heartfelt address today in Palghar, Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a public apology for the collapse of the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort. The statue, a 35-foot-tall tribute to the Maratha ruler, fell on August 26, just eight months after its inauguration.

Modi expressed his remorse directly, stating, "The moment I landed here, I first apologised to Shivaji over the statue collapse. I also apologise to the people who were hurt by the collapse." He further added, "Those who consider Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as their deity and have been deeply hurt, I bow my head and apologise to them. Our values are different. For us, nothing is bigger than our deity."

The statue, which was erected to honor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legacy in

maritime defense and its historical link to the modern Indian Navy, collapsed due to what critics say were neglected warnings about the risk posed by rusting nuts and bolts.

The incident has sparked a major controversy, with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance accusing the ruling government of corruption and mismanagement regarding the statue's construction. They have demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. In response to the controversy, Shinde expressed his willingness to apologize a hundred times, stating, "I am ready to put my head at the feet of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj."

In his speech, Prime Minister Modi also took a swipe at the Opposition,

particularly referencing the ongoing legal battles involving Veer Savarkar. "Our values are different, we are not those people who keep abusing and insulting the great son of Mother India, the son of this land, Veer Savarkar," Modi remarked. His comments appeared to be a veiled criticism of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is embroiled in a criminal defamation case filed by VD Savarkar's grandson, Satyaki Savarkar. Gandhi faces allegations of making false statements about the Hindutva ideologue during a speech in London.

The Prime Minister's statements come amidst a backdrop of heightened political tension and public outrage over the statue's collapse. The controversy has intensified scrutiny of the ruling administration's handling of the situation and their broader political strategy.

## Omar Abdullah Defends NC-Congress Alliance, Promises PSA Revocation if Elected

In a recent address at the National Conference (NC) headquarters Nawa-i-Subah, NC Vice President Omar Abdullah defended the party's pre-poll alliance with the Congress for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. Abdullah acknowledged the difficulties involved in the decision, noting that the alliance required the NC to forgo several seats it believed it could win independently.

"This is not only our fight, but of the whole Jammu and Kashmir. If we have to undo the wrongs done to us, it will not only benefit us, but every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. We are fighting this battle collectively for Jammu and Kashmir," Abdullah said. He emphasized that the collaboration with the Congress, despite its challenges, was essential to effectively



counter the BJP's influence.

Abdullah explained that the alliance was crucial for competing effectively in key areas like Jammu, Poonch, and Rajouri, where both parties could jointly present a stronger challenge. "That is why we gave the Congress some seats from the NC's kitty," he added.

The impact of the alliance was further underscored by former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad's recent announcement that he would not campaign for his party's candidates due to health reasons. Abdullah noted that Azad's withdrawal signified the immediate effects of the alliance, as it could potentially influence the Democratic Progressive Azad Party's (DPAP) campaign efforts.

In his statement, Azad mentioned that his health issues prevented him from participating in the campaign and advised his party candidates to consider withdrawing if they felt his absence would hurt their chances. "The unforeseen circumstances have forced me to step back from the campaign trail," Azad said, emphasizing that the candidates had the freedom to decide their course of action.

## Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren Joins BJP, Cites Humiliation and Policy Differences



In a significant political development, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with a large contingent of his supporters. The announcement was made during a ceremony in Ranchi, where Soren was welcomed into the party by senior BJP leaders including Babulal Marandi, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Himanta Biswa Sarma, and others. Soren, a veteran politician and a prominent tribal leader known as the "Jharkhand Tiger" for his role in the state's creation, expressed deep emotion during his induction. "I am committed to delivering justice to the people. I nurtured JMM with my sweat and blood but was humiliated and insulted. I am compelled to join the BJP. I am now proud to be a member of the world's largest political party. I was not in a position to tolerate humiliation and snooping," Soren said.

Soren's departure from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has been framed as a response to what he described as surveillance and disrespect from his former party. He specifically mentioned being placed under surveillance by the Jharkhand government in Delhi and Kolkata as a catalyst for his decision. The move also underscores his

belief that the BJP is better positioned to protect tribal identity and address issues like infiltration in Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana.

The 67-year-old leader had resigned from his position as an MLA and a minister in the Jharkhand Cabinet just days before joining the BJP. In a letter addressed to JMM Chief Shibu Soren, Champai Soren outlined his grievances with the party's current leadership and policies, stating that the party had deviated from its founding principles and had failed to address critical issues concerning tribal communities.

"My decision (to join BJP) is in the interest of Jharkhand... I am used to struggles," he noted in the letter, emphasizing that his departure was not an easy choice. He also criticized other political parties for allegedly ignoring the issue of infiltration for the sake of vote bank politics.

Champai Soren had served as Jharkhand's Chief Minister from February 2, 2023, until his resignation on July 3, 2023. His resignation paved the way for Hemant Soren to assume the office of Chief Minister on July 4, 2023. Earlier this month, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had announced Soren's move to the BJP, praising him as a "distinguished adivasi leader of the country."



# Prime Minister Modi to Make Historic Visit to Brunei and Singapore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a historic visit to Brunei and Singapore in the first week of September, marking the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Brunei. The visit will take place from September 3-4, followed by a trip to Singapore on September 4-5, as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). During his visit to Brunei, Prime Minister Modi will celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Southeast Asian nation. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal highlighted that this trip will be a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. In Singapore, Modi's visit will be at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart. The Singapore leg of the trip is expected to further bolster the strategic and economic cooperation between the two nations. This trip underscores India's commitment to enhancing its relationships in the region and marks a notable achievement in Indian foreign diplomacy.



## Ajit Doval Meets Sri Lankan President to Discuss Bilateral Economic Ties During Colombo Security Conclave

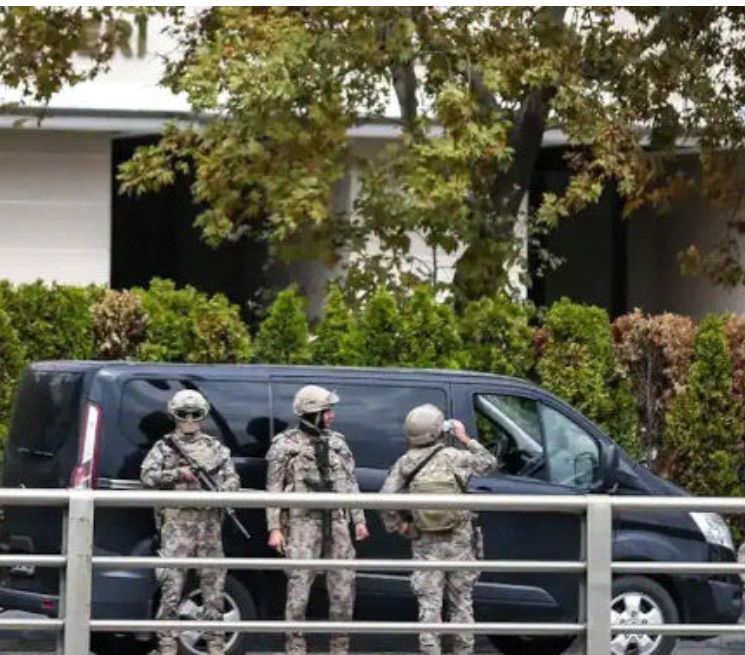
National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval met with Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo this morning, as part of his visit to attend the Colombo Security Conclave. The meeting focused on the ongoing economic collaboration between Sri Lanka and India, as confirmed by the President's Media Division (PMD). Doval, who arrived in Colombo on Thursday, engaged in discussions with President Wickremesinghe about the strengthening of economic ties between the two countries. Senior Adviser to the President on National Security, Sagala Ratnayake, also participated in the meeting. The Colombo Security Conclave, which convenes today, includes National Security Advisers and Deputy NSAs from India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius. Bangladesh and the Seychelles hold observer status at the conclave. The conclave addresses critical issues such as maritime security, counter-terrorism, and cyber security, with a focus on regional strategic concerns. India has been highlighting its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean during these discussions. The meeting between Doval and Wickremesinghe underscores the ongoing commitment of both nations to enhancing their economic and security collaboration amid a rapidly evolving regional security landscape.

## Swing States to Watch in 2024: Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Others Poised to Decide the Election

As the 2024 U.S. presidential election draws near, the outcome is expected to hinge on eight critical swing states, according to the latest Cook Political Report ratings. These states, crucial in determining whether Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald J. Trump will secure the 270 electoral votes necessary for victory, are set to play a pivotal role in the election. Among the key battlegrounds, Pennsylvania remains a focal point. With 19 electoral votes, Pennsylvania was vital to Joe Biden's 2020 win, and the state is expected to be fiercely contested once again. In 2020, Biden narrowly won Pennsylvania by 1.2%, and current polls show Harris with a slim lead of less than 1% over Trump. Georgia, which holds 16 electoral votes, is another critical battleground. Once a Republican stronghold, Georgia's landscape shifted in 2020 with Biden's narrow victory. Polls for 2024 indicate Trump holds a slight edge of less than 1%,



making Georgia a significant target for both campaigns. North Carolina, also with 16 electoral votes, remains highly competitive. Trump won the state by 1.3% in 2020, but both parties are gearing up for a tight race in this battleground. Current polling data is insufficient to predict the outcome with certainty. Michigan, which carries 15 electoral votes, saw Biden win by 2.8% in 2020. The state is a key focus for the 2024 election, with Harris currently holding a 2% lead in polls. Michigan's blue-collar voters, who were instrumental in Biden's victory, will again be a critical demographic.



## Turkey Arrests Over 100 Suspected Islamic State State Members in Latest Anti-Terror Raid

In a significant anti-terror operation, Turkey has arrested more than 100 suspected members of the Islamic State (IS) group this week, authorities announced on Friday. This latest mass detention is part of an ongoing crackdown against the jihadist organization, which has previously claimed responsibility for several high-profile attacks in the country. The arrests were carried out in various locations across Turkey, including the capital, Ankara, and the country's largest city, Istanbul. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya confirmed the operation via a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. This week's arrests bring the total number

of detained IS suspects to 119, following a similar operation in early August that resulted in 99 arrests. Since June 2023, Turkish authorities have apprehended over 3,600 individuals linked to the terror group. The recent surge in arrests comes amid heightened security concerns in Turkey, which has been targeted by IS in several major attacks. Notably, in 2017, a nightclub shooting in Istanbul claimed dozens of lives. Additionally, two of the attackers involved in the deadly assault at Moscow's Crocus City Hall in March 2024, which resulted in 145 fatalities, had spent time in Turkey before traveling to Russia, according to local authorities.

## India Denies Responsibility for Bangladesh Floods, Calls Foreign Reports Misleading

The Indian government has vehemently denied allegations that the recent flooding in southeastern Bangladesh was caused by the opening of a dam on the Gumti River in Tripura. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has dismissed these claims as "factually not correct" and accused foreign media reports of presenting a "misleading narrative." Responding to a CNN report suggesting that the floods in Bangladesh were a result of water released from India's Dumbur dam, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that the report ignores facts provided by the Government of India. "We have seen the CNN report on the flood situation in Bangladesh. Its narrative is misleading and suggests that India is somehow responsible for the floods. This is factually incorrect and

disregards the facts detailed in our press releases," Jaiswal stated during a media briefing. The CNN report indicated that residents of Feni, a city in southeastern Bangladesh near the India border, had accused Indian officials of releasing water from the Dumbur dam without prior warning. However, the Indian government has previously stated that the flooding in Bangladesh was primarily due to heavy rains and the overflow of rivers, not the operations of the dam in Tripura. The MEA has reiterated that the Dumbur dam, located over 120 kilometers upstream from the Bangladesh border, is a low-height structure used for power generation. The dam's operations, according to the ministry, are far from the



affected areas in Bangladesh and have not contributed to the current flood situation. "Heavy rainfall has affected Tripura and adjacent areas in Bangladesh since August 21, and data indicating

rising water levels was communicated to Bangladesh until August 21 at 1500 hours," Jaiswal explained. He noted that a power outage due to flooding caused temporary communication issues, but efforts were made to

maintain contact through other means. The Indian government emphasized its commitment to resolving water management issues through bilateral consultations and technical discussions, given the shared concern of flooding on common rivers between the two nations. "As two countries sharing 54 common cross-border rivers, river water cooperation is a crucial part of our bilateral engagement. Floods on these rivers impact people on both sides, and resolving these issues requires close mutual cooperation," the MEA statement concluded. The ongoing flooding in Bangladesh has already resulted in significant damage, with at least 23 reported dead and large areas of the country inundated.





## Nifty Breaks Records Again, Crossing 25,200; Sensex Hits New High Amid Strong Buying

Domestic stock markets ended with gains on Friday. Records are being broken consecutively. NSE Nifty crossed 25200 level for the first time. Moreover, it recorded the best rally since the index was established in 1996. 12th consecutive session of gains. And this year it has touched new highs 54 times. BSE Sensex also rose for the 8th session in a row. Investors continued to buy despite mixed signals internationally. Indices are running higher with investments in heavyweights. Market breadth on BSE has turned in favor of buyers. 2179 stocks advanced while 1751 stocks declined. The rupee ended flat at 83.87 against the dollar.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,134 in the previous session, opened at 82,637 today. It touched an intraday low of 82,256. The index closed at 82,365, up 231 points after hitting an intraday high of 82,637. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,249 and touched a low of 25,199 and a high of 25,268. It eventually jumped 83 points to close at 25,235. Nifty Bank gained 198 points to settle at 51,351.

In Nifty50, 41 companies gained while 9 lost. Shares of Cipla, Bajaj Finance, M&M, Divis Lab and NTPC were the top gainers. Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Coal India and Reliance Industries lost. Today, except for FMCG and media, all the sector indices rose. Auto, IT, metal, pharma, realty and healthcare indices



gained more.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Safhal Helicopters signed an airframer contract. The two companies will jointly develop the high power 'Aravalli' engine. Zydus Lifestyle has received a warning letter from the US FDA regarding a plant in Vadodara. However, the company's scopolamine transdermal system drug has been approved. RVNL got orders worth Rs.200 crore. Mahindra Group and Cintrex have entered into an MoU to explore opportunities in anti-drone solutions for civil and military operations. Board of NLC India has approved to form a joint venture with Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam for renewable energy project. Natco Pharma has filed an application with the USFDA for a generic version of Tabrecta, which is used to treat lung cancer. India Ratings and Research has upgraded the rating of Vedanta Commercial Papers from Ind A1 to Ind A1 Plus.



## Adani Ports to Acquire 80% Stake in Astro Offshore for \$185 Million



Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) announced on Friday its decision to acquire an 80% stake in Astro Offshore, a company specializing in offshore support vessels, for \$185 million. This strategic move marks a significant expansion of APSEZ's footprint in the maritime industry.

Astro Offshore operates a fleet of vessels that provide essential support services to offshore oil and gas operations. By securing a majority stake in the company, APSEZ aims to strengthen its position in the offshore support sector, which complements its existing portfolio of port operations and logistics services.

The acquisition aligns with Adani Ports' broader strategy to diversify its business interests and leverage synergies between its various operations. This investment is expected to enhance APSEZ's capabilities in the offshore support domain and contribute to its growth objectives.

APSEZ's acquisition of Astro Offshore underscores its commitment to expanding its business across different segments of the maritime industry. The deal is poised to provide APSEZ with greater access to offshore support services, which are crucial for the energy sector, particularly in regions with substantial offshore exploration and production activities.

This move comes as part of APSEZ's ongoing efforts to bolster its portfolio and strengthen its market presence. By integrating Astro Offshore into its operations, APSEZ is expected to enhance its service offerings and tap into new revenue streams in the maritime sector.

Overall, the acquisition represents a strategic investment by Adani Ports, positioning it for continued growth and success in the offshore support and maritime services industry.

## India's GDP Growth Slows to 6.7% in April-June, Still Leads Major Economies



India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth decelerated to 6.7% in the April-June quarter of the fiscal year, marking the lowest rate since the 6.2% recorded in January-March 2023. This slowdown from 8.2% in the same period last year is primarily attributed to weaker performance in the agriculture sector, according to data from the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Despite the dip, India continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in Asia. For comparison, China's GDP growth for the same quarter was 4.7%. The agricultural sector saw growth slow to 2% from 3.7% year-on-year.

On a positive note, the manufacturing sector's growth accelerated to 7% from 5% the previous year. Additionally, the 'financial, real estate, and professional services' segment experienced a deceleration to 7.1% from 12.6% a year ago.

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist at Kotak Mahin-

dra Bank, stated that despite the softer-than-expected Q1 FY25 GDP growth, Gross Value Added (GVA) remains robust, with non-farm growth staying strong. She maintained a GDP growth forecast of 6.9% for FY 2025, supported by rural demand and government spending, while monitoring potential weaknesses in urban demand and private investment.

The utility services sector saw significant growth, with electricity, gas, water supply, and other services expanding by 10.4% compared to 3.2% a year prior. The construction industry grew by 10.5%, up from 8.6% the previous year. Conversely, the trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting services sector experienced a slowdown to 5.7% growth from 9.7% a year ago.

In summary, while India's GDP growth has slowed, the economy remains dynamic with various sectors showing resilience.

## PM Modi Highlights India's Fintech Achievements at Global Fintech Fest 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised India's rapid and expansive adoption of fintech at the Global Fintech Fest 2024, asserting that the country's progress in this sector is unmatched globally. Speaking at the event in Mumbai, PM Modi highlighted the government's efforts to foster fintech growth through policy measures, resulting in over \$31 billion in investments and a 500% increase in fintech startups over the past decade.

"Fintech has significantly democratized financial services," Modi said. "From the time when our cultural richness amazed visitors to now witnessing our fintech diversity, India's progress is evident everywhere—from airports to street food vendors." He emphasized how fintech is bridging the financial service gap between rural and urban areas.

The Prime Minister also underscored



the social impact of India's fintech revolution, noting that loans exceeding ₹27 lakh crore have been disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, the world's largest microfinance program.

This achievement, he attributed to the availability of affordable mobile data and the widespread use of zero-balance Jan Dhan accounts.

Modi highlighted that over 53 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, connecting a population equivalent to Europe with the banking system over the past decade. He praised the synergy of Jan Dhan, Aadhar, and Mobile in transforming digital transactions in India. "Today, half of the world's digital payments occur in India. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) stands as a global example of fintech innovation, ensuring 24/7 banking services across the country, regardless of location or weather," he added.

Overall, PM Modi's address showcased India's fintech sector as a global leader in digital financial inclusion and technological advancement.

## Adani Ports to Acquire \$185 Million Stake in Astro Offshore

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone announced on Friday its plan to acquire an 80% stake in Astro Offshore for \$185 million. This strategic move is aimed at expanding Adani Ports' fleet and diversifying its operations beyond its core port activities. The acquisition is expected to be finalized within a month without needing regulatory approvals.

Astro Offshore operates a fleet of 26 vessels, including barges and workboats, and serves prominent clients such as NMDC and Larsen & Toubro. By integrating Astro Offshore into its portfolio, Adani Ports will enhance its existing fleet of 142 tugs and dredgers and gain access to a roster of high-profile



customers.

This acquisition aligns with Adani Ports' strategy to strengthen its market position against competitors like JSW Infrastructure and Gujarat Pipavav. The move reflects the company's commitment to expanding its operations and reinforcing its leadership in the sector.

The deal represents a significant step in Adani Ports' broader strategy to diversify and grow its business beyond traditional port operations.

## India's Forex Reserves Surge to Record USD 681.7 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves reached a new all-time high of USD 681.688 billion in the week ending August 23, 2024, marking a substantial increase of USD 7.023 billion, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This rise follows a previous increase of USD 4.546 billion to USD 674.664 billion in the week prior.

The previous record for forex reserves was USD 674.919 billion, achieved on August 2, 2024. For the week ending August 23, the value of foreign currency assets—a major component of the reserves—rose by USD 5.983 billion to reach USD 597.552 billion. These assets reflect fluctuations in the value of non-US currencies, including the euro, pound, and yen.

Gold reserves also saw a significant increase, rising by USD 893 million to USD 60.997 billion. Ad-



ditionally, the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased by USD 118 million, bringing their total to USD 18.459 billion. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) grew by USD 30 million to USD 4.68 billion during the same period.

This record-high level of forex reserves underscores India's strong financial position and resilience in managing external economic pressures. The steady increase in reserves reflects a positive trend in India's foreign exchange management and economic stability.



# Never Before Has Defence Been So Important For India-US Ties



The US-India defence relationship is rapidly expanding, adapting to evolving regional and global security demands. This includes safeguarding supply chains, advancing critical and emerging technologies, and enhancing cooperation in cyber, space, and new dimensions of battlespace dominance. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the US from August 23-26 highlighted these shifts, aiming to bridge bilateral gaps in these critical areas. The visit underscored a clear trend: while major defence deals continue to strengthen traditional security ties, both nations are increasingly emphasizing emerging strategic elements to integrate the security partnership with a purposive intent towards making the Indo-Pacific region free and open.

## The Indo-Pacific Arena

As the Indo-Pacific remains central to regional and global security, enhancing partnership in this region is key to shaping a regionally favorable security architecture. Towards this, the visit provided an opportunity for steps in increasing supply chain security as well as enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean. Among the highlights was a new agreement to expand and strengthen operational coordination between India and the US by placing Indian liaison officers at US commands. The agreement is a step up for regional security coordination and domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific for India, complementing an earlier initiative to host US officers at the Information Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR) in India. It also overcomes the capacity limitations of India, indeed any country, to solely monitor the vast expanse of the Indo-Pacific on a real-time basis. Beyond the Indo-Pacific, placing Indian liaison officers at the other 10 Combatant Commands could usher new vistas in information sharing.

At the heart of the visit were steps to strengthen the Major Defence Partnership (MDP) and provide fresh momentum to joint production, including the reigniting of the Defense Trade and Technology Initiative (DTTI). Under the US-India Roadmap for Defense Industrial Cooperation, an agreement to jointly produce jet engines, unmanned platforms, munitions, and ground mobility systems was signed. Leading up to the third summit of the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) to be held in September in the US, discussions to expand co-operation in the areas of undersea and space-related collaborations were timely.

## What Is SOSA?

One of the most significant outcomes of the visit was the signing of the Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA), which makes India the 18th country to enter into this agreement with the US. It reflects a shared long-term vision to seamlessly integrate the defence industrial ecosystems of both nations while safeguarding

supply chains from future disruptions. SOSA complements the Major Defense Partnership (MDP) and the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). Notably, the visit aimed to reinvigorate the DTTI, a co-production initiative launched with high expectations, but that had lost momentum. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment will host a DTTI meeting in the coming months, bringing together government and private stakeholders from both countries' defence industries. The DTTI's primary goal is to integrate the defence industrial bases of the US and India, promoting bilateral co-development, co-production, and co-sustainment efforts.

## Diaspora As A 'Living Bridge'



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's reference to the Indian diaspora in the US as a 'living bridge' now resonates within the context of the growing India-US defence relationship. This June marked the first anniversary of the US-India INDUS-X Initiative, which aims to build a defence innovation bridge between the two countries under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET). By connecting researchers, investors, and defence tech companies from both nations, INDUS-X outlines a strategy to harness private capital for defence innovation.

India and the US are swiftly adapting to the evolving global security landscape, responding to new threat perceptions with increased innovation and cooperation in advanced domains. The second US-India Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue (AD3) held this year underscored the importance of coordination in emerging defence areas, including space, cyber, and artificial intelligence, while identifying critical sub-sectors for potential industrial collaboration.

## The Next Goals

The Defence Minister also visited the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Memphis, accompanied by a delegation from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), signalling a potential pathway for co-learning and development. In a boost to India's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capabilities, India secured the purchase of sonobuoys from the US in the lead-up to the visit. The acquisition and co-production of General Atomics' MQ-9B remotely piloted aircraft systems and the joint production of GE F414 jet engines in India are the next major goals for both nations.

Rajnath Singh's visit managed to underline once again that defence is the main driver when it comes to shaping the trajectory of US-India bilateral engagement.







## Dr. Sherry Turkle Examines Impact of AI on Human Relationships and Empathy

Dr. Sherry Turkle, a professor at MIT specializing in the social studies of science and technology, has highlighted the emerging concept of "artificial intimacy" in recent discussions. In a podcast episode titled "How Our Relationships Are Changing in the Age of 'Artificial Intimacy'" by Ted Radio Hour, Turkle explores how advancements in AI are influencing human emotional connections.

Over the past three years, AI has progressed rapidly, becoming increasingly sophisticated and more human-like in its interactions. This technological leap has

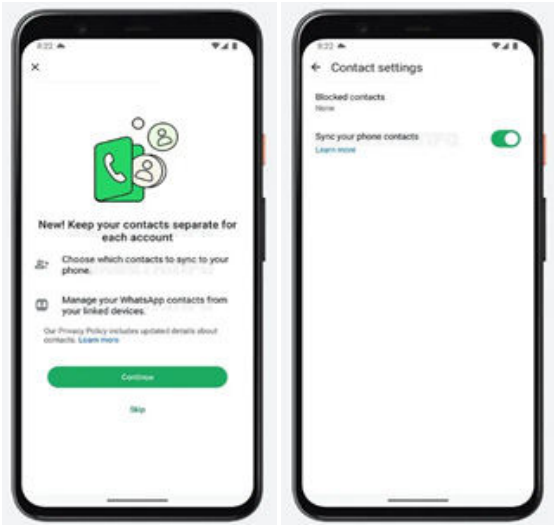
sparked interest among psychologists and sociologists in understanding how people form emotional bonds with AI, including chatbots and avatars. Turkle has been at the forefront of studying these phenomena, focusing on how individuals are developing genuine emotional attachments to artificial entities.

Turkle cautions that while AI's growing capabilities offer new ways to interact and connect, they also pose significant risks to our traditional understanding of human relationships. She warns that these artificial interactions could poten-

tially impact our ability to empathize and relate to others in meaningful ways. The rise of artificial intimacy challenges us to reconsider what constitutes genuine emotional connection and empathy in an era where technology increasingly mediates our social experiences.

By examining these trends, Turkle aims to shed light on the broader implications of AI on our social and emotional lives, urging a critical reflection on how these technologies might reshape our understanding of empathy and human connection.

## WhatsApp for Android Testing New Contact Sync and Chat Management Features



WhatsApp for Android is working on a new privacy-related feature aimed at enhancing contact management and chat organization. According to feature tracker WABetaInfo, this update introduces advanced options for syncing address book contacts across different devices. The feature, found in WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.24.18.14, allows users to selectively sync contacts for different accounts on the same device, building on the existing multi-account functionality that enables two WhatsApp accounts without needing parallel apps.

The upcoming contact syncing feature is designed to give users greater control over how their address book contacts are managed when

using WhatsApp on multiple devices. The new user interface will include an option labeled "Keep your contacts separate for each account," which lets users manage their contact lists separately for each linked account.

Additionally, WhatsApp is developing a new chat management shortcut that will enable users to mark all chats as 'read' at once. This feature is intended to simplify the process of clearing unread message notifications. Currently, this shortcut is still in development and is not yet available to beta testers, including those using the Google Play Beta program. It is expected to be included in a future update of WhatsApp for Android.

## Unusual Cooling in Atlantic Ocean Near Equator Puzzles Scientists



A significant cooling of the Atlantic Ocean near the equator this summer has left scientists perplexed. The cold patch, which began forming in early June after a period of unusually warm surface waters, has since started to return to normal temperatures. The rapid drop in temperature, spanning several degrees north and south of the equator, was particularly surprising as it deviates from the typical fluctuations between warm and cold phases observed in the region.

Franz Tuchen, a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Miami, has been monitoring the situation and noted the extraordinary nature of the rapid cooling in a recent blog post. Similarly, Michael McPhaden, a senior scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has expressed confusion over the event, acknowledging that the underlying processes remain unclear.

In early 2023, sea surface temperatures in the eastern equatorial Atlantic peaked at over 30 degrees Celsius, the highest since 1982. However, by June, temperatures plummeted to around 25 degrees Celsius by late July. Initially, it was hypothesized that this cooling could develop into an Atlantic Niña, a regional climate pattern that typically affects rainfall distribution in Africa and Brazil. However, with the cold patch now warming, this scenario seems unlikely.

The cause of the cooling remains a mystery as traditional explanations, such as stronger trade winds or equatorial upwelling, do not seem to apply. McPhaden noted that although strong winds appeared west of the cold patch, they were insufficient to explain the drastic temperature drop. Scientists are now exploring alternative factors like atmospheric heat fluxes or shifts in ocean and wind currents but have yet to identify a definitive cause.

## X Experiences Outage: Over 37,000 Reports of Disruptions in U.S

Social media platform X experienced significant outages on Thursday afternoon, with over 37,000 reports of disruptions from U.S. users, according to Downtdetector.com. The website tracks real-time service interruptions by aggregating status reports from multiple sources, including user submissions.

The outage began around 3:54 pm ET (7:54 pm GMT), impacting users across the country. The platform had previously faced a similar issue in April, raising concerns about its reliability and infrastructure.

Downtdetector's data highlights the extent of the disruption, with a surge in reports indicating widespread service issues. The nature and cause of the outage have yet to be officially confirmed by X, leaving users frustrated and seeking answers.

As X investigates the issue, users are advised to monitor official channels for updates and to report any ongoing problems. The incident underscores the platform's vulnerability to technical issues and the need for robust systems to handle user demand and ensure consistent service.



## Google Gemini App Adds Google Keep and Tasks Extensions for Pixel 9 Users

Google has introduced new extensions for its Gemini app, available exclusively on the Pixel 9 series of smartphones. The newly added Google Keep and Google Tasks extensions are designed to enhance functionality and streamline the use of Google's apps for Google Workspace users. While these features are active on the latest Pixel models, there is no information yet on when they might be available for older Pixel devices or other Android smartphones.

The company has published support documentation detailing how to use these extensions. To access them, users need a Google Workspace account and a Pixel 9 series phone. After signing into the Gemini app with their Workspace account, users can navigate to the Extensions page in the account menu to activate Google Keep and Google Tasks. Once enabled, users can interact with these extensions by typing '@' followed by the extension's name in Gemini's text field.



The Google Keep extension allows users to create notes and lists by specifying a name or based on conversations with Gemini. It also offers features for recommending activities, outlining topics, or detailing steps for tasks. However, it does not support modifying, deleting, sharing notes, or adding images to notes.

The Google Tasks extension enables users to set reminders and tasks by providing details such as date, time, and task name. Reminders can also be set based on interactions with Gemini, such as booking movie tickets ahead of a release date.

## Zomato Unveils New Features Ahead of Zomato District Launch

Food delivery platform Zomato has introduced several new features recently, enhancing its offerings beyond food delivery. These updates include options for ticket reselling and streamlined corporate food orders, reflecting the company's expanding scope of services.

The new features come in anticipation of the launch of Zomato District, a dedicated app designed to handle restaurant reservations, concert ticket purchases, and other "going-out" activities. This move aligns with Zomato's strategy to cater to evolving lifestyle needs in India, as outlined by Deepinder Goyal, Zomato's co-founder and CEO.

The company aims to integrate these functionalities to provide a comprehensive platform for various aspects of dining and entertainment. Zomato District will further this goal by offering a specialized space for managing reservations and tickets, marking a significant step in Zomato's diversification strategy..







## Preethi Pal Secures Bronze in Women's T35 100m at Paris Paralympics

India's Preethi Pal earned a bronze medal in the women's T35 100m race at the Paris Paralympics on August 30, 2024. She clocked a personal best of 14.21 seconds, marking a significant achievement as India's first medal in para-athletics at these Games.

In the T35 classification, which includes athletes with coordination impairments like hypertonina, ataxia, athetosis, and cerebral palsy, Pal faced tough competition. China's Zhou Xia won gold with a time of 13.58 seconds, while her compatriot Guo Qianqian secured the

silver with a time of 13.74 seconds.

The 23-year-old Pal's performance highlights her exceptional skill and determination. Her bronze medal not only adds to her personal achievements but also brings recognition to Indian para-athletics on a global stage.

The T35 category is designed for athletes who experience significant coordination challenges, and Pal's success is a testament to her hard work and resilience in overcoming these hurdles. Her achievement is a proud moment for

India, showcasing the country's growing presence and competitive spirit in para-athletic events.

With this medal, Pal joins a distinguished group of athletes who have made their mark in para-athletics, and her success in Paris is expected to inspire many others. The attention garnered by her achievement underscores the increasing prominence of para-athletic events and the extraordinary capabilities of athletes competing at the highest levels despite their physical challenges.

## Nitesh Kumar Shines at Paris Paralympics, Qualifies for Semifinals

Olympics on Friday, decisively defeating China's Yang Jianyuan in straight games in his second men's singles SL3 Group A match. Kumar, a 29-year-old IIT Mandi graduate who sustained permanent leg damage in a 2009 accident, dominated the match with scores of 21-5 and 21-11, securing his place in the semifinals.

With this victory, Kumar has achieved two consecutive wins, guaranteeing a top-2 finish in his four-man group. The top two players from each group advance to the semifinals. Nitesh, from Karnal district in Haryana, will face Thailand's Bunsun Mongkhon in his final group A match.



In contrast, competitors Manasi Joshi and Manoj Sarkar did not fare as well. Joshi, the 2019 World Champion, experienced a narrow defeat in her second women's singles SL3 Group A match, losing 21-10, 15-21, 21-23 to Ukraine's Oksana Kozyna. She had previously lost to Indonesia's Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh.

Manoj Sarkar, the Tokyo bronze medallist, also suffered a second consecutive defeat, going down 19-21, 8-21 to Bunsun in his Group A match. He had previously lost to Nitesh and will compete against Yang later.

The SL3 class is designated for athletes with severe lower limb disabilities and requires play on a half-width court.

On Thursday night, Nitesh and Thulasimathi Murugesan lost their mixed doubles SL3-SU5 group stage match 15-21, 8-21 to Indonesia's Ramdani Hikmat and Oktilla Ileani Ratri. Similarly, Suhas Yathiraj and Palak Kohli were defeated 15-21, 9-21 by France's Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in their mixed doubles match.



## Day 1 of Pakistan vs Bangladesh Test Abandoned Due to Rain

The opening day of the second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh was abandoned due to persistent rain at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday. Heavy rain throughout the day prevented the toss from taking place, leading to the cancellation of the day's play.

Both teams are struggling in the World Test Championship standings, with Bangladesh currently in 7th place and Pakistan in 8th, just above the last-place West Indies. This Test is crucial for both sides as they look to improve their positions in the standings.

The ongoing weather conditions have created uncertainty for the remainder of the match, and the cricket boards will be monitoring the forecast closely to determine if play can resume on the following days.

The absence of play on Day 1 has been a setback for both teams, who are eager to make an impact and gain valuable points in the World Test Championship race. Fans and officials will be hoping for a change in the weather to allow for play to commence and for the teams to showcase their skills on the field.

## Avani Lekhara Wins Second Paralympic Gold, Mona Agarwal Claims Bronze

Avani Lekhara made history on Friday by becoming the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold medals. Competing in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) event, Avani scored an impressive 249.7, surpassing her previous record of 249.6 set at the Tokyo Paralympics. Her victory was complemented by Mona Agarwal, who secured a bronze with a score of 228.7.

At just 22, Avani Lekhara, who became wheelchair-bound after a car accident left her paralyzed below the waist at age 11, has now achieved remarkable success in shooting sports. She was the first Indian woman to win medals in shooting at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021, and her continued excellence has set a new benchmark in the sport.

The SH1 category in shooting includes athletes with impairments affecting their arms, lower trunk, legs, or those with no limbs. In the qualification round, Avani placed second behind Iryna Shchetnik, who set a Paralympic qualification record with a score of 627.5. Avani scored 625.8, demonstrating her competitive edge.



final secured her a bronze medal.

The achievements of Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal highlight India's growing prominence in Paralympic sports and the incredible talent emerging from the country.

Mona Agarwal, who began shooting in 2022 and is competing in her first Paralympics, qualified for the final with a score of 623.1, finishing in fifth place. Her strong performance in the

## Iga Swiatek Dominates Ena Shibahara to Reach US Open Third Round

Iga Swiatek, the world number one, delivered an impressive performance to advance to the third round of the US Open on Thursday. Swiatek dispatched Ena Shibahara with a commanding 6-0, 6-1 victory in just 65 minutes. The Polish star, aiming for her second US Open title to complement her four French Open wins, showed a sharp turnaround from her first-round match where she appeared less focused.

Swiatek's match was a display of dominance from the outset as she won the first seven games before Shibahara managed to hold serve briefly in the second set. Despite the solitary game win by Shibahara, who was competing in a Grand Slam main draw for the first time, Swiatek remained untroubled and closed out the match efficiently.

Reflecting on her performance, Swiatek attributed her improved focus to a mental reset. She mentioned that her initial struggles in the first round were due to difficulties in maintaining concentration and setting high expectations. The 23-year-old took advantage of her practice sessions to find her rhythm and make better decisions on the court.





# Wall Poster Cinema Announces New Court Drama "Court – State vs A Nobody"



Nani, celebrating the success of his blockbuster *\*Saripodhaa Sanivaaram\**, continues to make waves with his production company Wall Poster Cinema in collaboration with Prashanti Tipirneni. The latest addition to their lineup is an intriguing court drama titled *\*Court – State vs A Nobody\**.

The film will star Priyadarshi in the lead role as a lawyer, marking a significant role in his career. The debutant Ram Jagadeesh will direct the film, bringing fresh perspectives to the courtroom genre. The title of the movie hints at a gripping narrative centered around legal battles and justice.

The title poster of *\*Court – State vs A Nobody\** features Themis, the Goddess of Justice, holding a sword with pigeons flying around her, symbolizing the contrast and complexity of the judicial process. This striking imagery sets the tone for the film's exploration of legal and societal themes.

The film was officially launched today in Hyderabad, with the core team present for the announcement. Production for *\*Court – State vs A Nobody\** is set to begin in September. The technical team includes music director Vijai Bulganin and cinematographer Dinesh Purushothaman, who are expected to contribute significantly to the film's creative vision. This new project adds to Nani's impressive portfolio of content-rich films and continues Wall Poster Cinema's commitment to producing engaging and thought-provoking cinema.

## Kareena Kapoor's Teaser The Buckingham Murders Showcases a Gripping Detective Role



The teaser for Kareena Kapoor's upcoming film *\*The Buckingham Murders\** has significantly elevated audience anticipation for this mystery thriller. It presents Kareena Kapoor in a captivating new role as a detective, delivering a performance brimming with suspense and intensity. This portrayal marks a notable departure from her usual roles, as she steps into the shoes of a detective sergeant for the first time in her career.

The teaser reveals Kareena in a powerful and intense scene, notably featuring her covered in blood. This particular moment from the teaser left a deep and lasting impact on the actress, which lingered long after the filming was completed. Kapoor's immersion in this intense role has been profound, reflecting in the raw emotion and complexity she brings to the character.

Historically known for her portrayal of light-hearted, girl-next-door characters, Kareena Kapoor's role in *\*The Buckingham Murders\** signifies a bold shift into a more serious and challenging territory. The transformation is not just about the character but also about the emotional and psychological depth that comes with it. The impact of the intense scenes and the demanding nature of the role made it a memorable experience for her, one that resonated with her for days after shooting wrapped up.

If you thought *\*Mirzapur\** Season 3 had wrapped up for good, think again! Divyenndu Sharma, famous for his role as Munna Tripathi (Munna Bhaiya), is making a surprise return to the Prime Video web series with a bonus episode set to release today, August 30. The announcement was made on Instagram with a promo video and the caption, "Bawaal hone wala hai, kyunki bonus episode aa raha hai."

In the promotional clip, Divyenndu Sharma teases his comeback, saying, "Hum kya gaye, pura bawaal mach gaya. Suna hai humare loyal fans bohot miss kiye humko. Season 3 me kuch cheezein miss kiye aap. Wo hum khoj ke le aaye hain, just for you, Munna Tripathi ke suajanya se. Kyuki hum karte pehle hain, sochte baad me hain." [There has been a havoc ever since I went away. It seems my loyal fans really missed me a lot. There were certain things you all missed out on in Season 3. I have found them just for you. Because I always act before I think.]



Divyenndu's character, Munna Tripathi, was notably absent from the third season after being killed by Guddu Bhaiyya (Ali Fazal) in the previous installment. This special episode promises to fill in the gaps and bring back the beloved character.

In a previous interview with NDTV's Abira Dhar, Divyenndu shared an interesting fan encounter during filming in

Scotland, highlighting the global reach of *\*Mirzapur\**.

Season 3 of *\*Mirzapur\** premiered on July 5 and features a stellar cast including Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, Vijay Varma, Shweta Tripathi, Rasika Dugal, and Isha Talwar. The bonus episode is eagerly awaited by fans who have missed Munna Tripathi's unique charm.

## Mathu Vadalara 2 Teaser: Humor, Thrills Promise's an Entertaining Sequel

Director Ritesh Rana, known for launching Sri Simha Koduri with the hit film *\*Mathu Vadalara\**, is back with the sequel *\*Mathu Vadalara 2\**. This time, the film not only retains the original team but also expands the story's scope with a larger cast, promising an even more engaging experience.

The teaser opens with a comedic touch featuring Vennela Kishore, who plays a celebrity expressing his frustrations in a press meet, reminiscent of real-life scenarios involving successful directors. Sri Simha and Satya reprise their roles as agents who find themselves venturing into robbery to boost their income. Their performances are expected to deliver double the laughs, while Ritesh Rana promises to add double the thrills to the sequel.

The teaser highlights Rana's distinct style with the inclusion of Vennela Kishore and TV serial episodes, which add a unique flavor to the film. The addition of actors Sunil and Faria Abdullah brings further value to the movie. Notably, Kaala Bhairava's background music and Suresh Sarangam's cinematography are already receiving



praise for enhancing the film's appeal.

Produced by Clap Entertainment and Mythri Movie Makers, *\*Mathu Vadalara 2\** is set to release on September 13th. The teaser effectively sets high expectations for the sequel, blending humor and excitement to keep audiences eagerly anticipating its debut.

## IIFA 2024: Vicky Kaushal Joins Shah Rukh Khan and Karan Johar as Host

Vicky Kaushal is set to join Shah Rukh Khan and Karan Johar as a host for the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA). Announcing his involvement on Instagram, Vicky expressed his excitement, stating, "Come and experience an epic event and take back some unforgettable memories. Watch me host and perform this year at the #IIFA Awards 2024!"

In a statement from the IIFA team, Vicky Kaushal highlighted the significance of IIFA in his career. He described the event as a "remarkable celebration of cinematic excellence" and noted the magic he feels each time he steps onto the IIFA stage.

Shah Rukh Khan also shared his enthusiasm about hosting this year's IIFA Festival. He remarked, "IIFA is a celebration of Indian cinema that resonates across the globe, and being part of its journey has been amazing. I look forward to bringing the energy, passion, and grandeur of IIFA to life once again for an unforgettable



celebration of Indian cinema this September."

The IIFA gala will take place from September 27 to 29 at Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. The festivities will kick off with IIFA Utsavam on September 27, showcasing the vibrant South Indian film industries. The prestigious IIFA Awards will follow on September 28, and the festival will conclude with the exclusive, invitation-only IIFA Rocks event on September 29.