

**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
H 25 °C L 22 °C	H 27 °C L 24 °C	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.

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# CM Revanth Reddy Directs Formation of Yadagirigutta Temple Board on TTD Lines

TPN, Telangana: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued significant directives for the development of the Yadagirigutta (Yadadri) Sri Lakshminarsimhaswamy Temple, aiming to enhance its management and infrastructure on par with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board.

During a review meeting held on Friday at the Secretariat, attended by CS Shanti Kumari, Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao, and Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Ramesh Reddy, CM Revanth emphasized the importance of developing health, eco, and temple tourism in the state. He advised officials to study the best practices from other states and develop a comprehensive new policy to boost tourism in Telangana.

One of the key decisions made by the Chief Minister was the formation of the Yadagirigutta temple board modeled after the TTD board. CM Revanth instructed officials to expedite the pending works at the Yadagirigutta temple and prepare a detailed plan to address future needs, ensuring that development efforts continue seamlessly.

In particular, CM Revanth ordered the swift completion of the gilding work on the temple's Raja Gopuram and emphasized that the ongoing development projects should not be left incomplete. He also requested a full report on the Yadagirigutta



Temple Development Authority (YTDA) and the overall status of the temple's development.

Additionally, the meeting included discussions on

the development of a new zoo outside Hyderabad to promote health tourism. CM Revanth directed officials to prepare plans for this initiative as part of the broader strategy to boost tourism in the state.

# Target Congress, KCR to Re-Emerge in Public After Kavitha's Bail

TPN, Hyderabad: BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is preparing to re-enter the public domain with renewed vigor, aiming to target rival parties and galvanize support ahead of future elections. Following the recent bail granted to his daughter, Kavitha, in the Delhi liquor scam case, KCR is reportedly planning a district tour to connect with the electorate and address the challenges his party has faced.

The BRS party has been under significant strain after its defeat in the last assembly elections and the subsequent arrest of Kavitha, which was a major blow to the party's morale. Kavitha's five-month incarceration in Tihar Jail, following actions by the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI, further dampened the party's spirits, which was evident in their performance in the Lok Sabha elections held during this period.

Now, with Kavitha out on bail, KCR is poised to take an active role in public life once again. He plans to tour various districts, with a focus on countering the Congress government led by Revanth Reddy, particularly on issues like the perceived inadequacies in the loan waiver scheme for farmers. This tour is also seen as a strategic move to re-energize the BRS cadre, which has been disheartened by recent electoral setbacks.



KCR's return to the public stage, despite efforts by BRS working president KTR, Harish Rao, and other key leaders to maintain the party's visibility, is expected to bring a new level of aggression to the party's campaign. His direct involvement is likely to play a crucial role in shaping the party's future strategy and in rallying support ahead of the next electoral challenges. The political landscape in Telangana could see significant shifts as KCR re-engages with the public, sparking widespread interest in his approach and the potential impact on the state's political dynamics.

# KTR Urges AICC Chief Kharge to Stop 'Bulldozer Raj' in Telangana



TPN, Hyderabad: KT Rama Rao (KTR), the working president of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has called on All India Congress Committee (AICC) President Mallikarjun Kharge to intervene and stop the demolition of 75 houses in Christianpally village, Mahabubnagar town, Telangana. The demolitions took place on Wednesday night without prior notice, according to KTR, who requested Kharge to advise the Telangana government against such actions.

KTR's appeal comes in response to a recent post by Kharge on X, where the AICC chief condemned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state governments for using bulldozers to target Muslim minorities, calling it inhumane and unjust. KTR echoed this sentiment, highlighting the ongoing demolition in Telangana, which, he said, showed "utter contempt for law and judiciary."

He further emphasized the plight of the affected residents, noting that 25 of the demolished houses belonged to physically disabled persons. "Law without due process is not law. It is a modern-day civilizational abomination," KTR wrote, urging Kharge to ensure that Telangana does not become "another Bulldozer Raj."

KTR's post also included a video showing two differently-abled individuals crying as former Mahabubnagar MLA V Srinivas Goud tried to console them.

Kharge had previously criticized the BJP for its actions in Madhya Pradesh, where the police arrested and demolished the home of local leader Shahzad Ali following a violent clash in Chhatarpur district. KTR's message suggests similar concerns over the treatment of minorities and vulnerable communities in Telangana under Congress governance.





## CM Revanth Reddy Unconditionally Apologizes for Remarks on K Kavitha's Bail



**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued an unconditional apology for his controversial remarks regarding BRS leader K Kavitha's bail in a money-laundering case. His apology comes a day after the Supreme Court reprimanded him for suggesting that the bail was the result of a "deal" between ex-Chief Minister K

Chandrasekhar Rao's party and the ruling BJP. The Supreme Court expressed deep concern over Reddy's comments, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect between politicians and the judiciary. The court questioned whether a person holding a constitutional post should make such statements, warning that such remarks could undermine public trust in the judicial process.

On Friday, Reddy took to X (formerly Twitter) to clarify his stance, expressing his highest regard for the Indian judiciary. "I unconditionally express my regret for the statements reflected in the press reports. The remarks attributed to me in such reports have been taken out of context," he wrote, reiterating his respect for the judiciary's independence and its role in upholding the Constitution.

Reddy's initial comments came after Ms. Kavitha was granted bail in the Delhi liquor policy case, where he alleged that the bail was linked to a political deal between BRS and BJP. Earlier this year, when the Enforcement Directorate arrested Ms. Kavitha in Hyderabad, Reddy had labeled the situation a "soap opera," accusing KCR and Prime Minister Modi of orchestrating political dramas in the state.

## Telangana Govt to Review Private Security Agencies Act: Deputy CM Bhatti

**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced on Friday that the state government will review the Private Security Agencies Act to ensure better regulation and improved working conditions for private security personnel.

Speaking at the National Physical Security Summit 2024, Deputy CM Vikramarka emphasized the importance of public awareness and vigilance in ensuring a safe society. "A society can be truly safe only when all its citizens take the onus to be conscious of their surroundings and be vigilant towards aspects related to our safety and security. The summit will help enhance the citizens' consciousness towards safety and security," he stated.

The rapid growth of Hyderabad and the increasing urbanization of Telangana have created a pressing need for enhanced physical security, with technology playing a critical role. The private security sector is vital in this regard, with approximately 4,00,000 private security personnel currently operating in Telangana—more than the number of permanent government employees in the state. The Deputy CM noted that around 1,500 security agencies are functional in Telangana, with 500 agencies

already licensed and others in the process of obtaining licenses.

Addressing the gathering, Vikramarka highlighted the role of these agencies in providing both full-time and part-time jobs, contributing significantly to the government's skilling and placement programs. He emphasized that the ongoing summit would be instrumental in reviewing these opportunities and enhancing safety and security across the state.



The Deputy CM also pointed out that the Telangana government is committed to addressing the wage scale issues affecting private security forces in the state. "It is highly concerning that the wages are lower than the recommended minimum scale," Vikramarka said, adding that the government will take measures to ensure that wages are on par with the best minimum wages across India.

He urged all attendees to carry forward the insights gained from the summit to ensure the continued safety of Telangana, and directed government officials to prepare an action plan to achieve these goals. The government will consider the issues raised during the summit and work towards implementing the recommended actions.

## Telangana HC Reserves Verdict on GO 33 and Medical Admissions



**TPN, Telangana:** The Telangana High Court has reserved its decision on a series of petitions challenging the recent amendments to the state's medical and dental admissions rules. The amendments, made through Government Order (GO) Ms No. 33 by the Telangana Health Department on July 19, 2024, revise the eligibility criteria for local candidates applying to MBBS and BDS courses.

Under the revised rules, students must have studied in local educational institutions from Class 8 through Intermediate (10+2) to qualify as local candidates. This change contrasts with the previous rules, which were less restrictive in defining local candidate status for medical admissions.

The petitioners have argued that the new eligibility criteria are overly stringent and disadvantageous to some students. They contend that the amendments could unfairly exclude certain students from

qualifying as local candidates, thereby limiting their chances of securing seats in the state's medical colleges.

On the other hand, the state government has defended the amendments, asserting that they are necessary to prioritize local students in the highly competitive field of medical admissions. The government claims that the revisions ensure local students receive adequate opportunities to pursue medical education in Telangana, an important step to address regional disparities in higher education.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the High Court is expected to deliver its verdict soon, which will determine whether the amended rules will be upheld or modified. The outcome could significantly impact the admissions process for medical and dental colleges in Telangana, as well as set a precedent for future educational policies in the state.

## 26 Crest Gates of Nagarjuna Sagar Dam Reopened Amid Heavy Inflow

**TPN, Telangana:** The Nagarjuna Sagar dam authorities reopened 26 crest gates on Thursday, August 29, to release 3,45,795 cusecs of water, managing the heavy inflow from the upstream Sri Sailam Dam in the Krishna River. The dam's current water level stands at 589.70 feet, just shy of its full capacity of 590 feet.

In a related incident, a woman taking selfies near the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Bank Canal in Vemulapally, Nalgonda District, fell into the canal but was quickly rescued by locals. The incident occurred on Friday morning, and thanks to the swift actions of the bystanders, the woman was safely brought back onto the bridge using a rope.



## TGSPDCL Orders Immediate Removal of Cables from Electric Poles

**TPN, Telangana:** On August 30, Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) Managing Director Mushrraf Faruqui issued a stern directive to cable operators and internet service providers, demanding the immediate removal of unnecessary cables and equipment from electric poles. Faruqui warned that if compliance is not achieved, TGSPDCL will proceed with the removal of the cables itself.

The TGSPDCL's decision follows multiple meetings held on July 27, August 7, and August 28, where operators were informed about the need to remove and properly arrange cables. In the August 7 meeting, cable operators were given one week to address the issue on main roads and two weeks for other areas. Despite these warnings, many operators

have failed to act, leading to significant safety concerns.

The presence of excess cables and telecom equipment on electric poles has led to dangerous incidents in Greater Hyderabad. Problems include electrical short circuits, power outages, and damage to poles, which have started to bend under the extra load. Additionally, maintenance work has been hampered by the disorganized cables.

TGSPDCL has emphasized that ample time was given for compliance to avoid inconvenience to users, but the lack of action has prompted the company to take stricter measures. "If the cable removal process is not completed as agreed upon, our staff will remove them ourselves," asserted CMD Musharraff Faruqui.

## Woman Rescued After Falling Into Nagarjuna Sagar Canal While Taking Selfie

**TPN, Nalgonda:** A woman narrowly escaped a tragic fate after she fell into the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Bank Canal while taking selfies with her family on Friday morning. The incident occurred in Vemulapally mandal, Nalgonda District, as the family, traveling from Hyderabad to Miryalguda, paused to take photos near the canal.

With water levels high due to the reopening of the dam gates, the situation could have turned dire. However, quick-thinking locals at the scene immediately intervened. They used ropes and quick actions to rescue the woman from the fast-flowing canal.

The incident has highlighted the dangers of taking selfies in precarious locations, especially near bodies of water. The woman's family, along with the bystanders, expressed immense relief as she was safely pulled from the canal.

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## Ganesh Utsav Samithi Requests Free Power for Pandals, CM Revanth Reddy Responds



**TPN, Telangana:** Members of the Ganesh Utsav Samithi have appealed to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to provide free power supply to Ganesh pandals during this year's Ganesh Navratri festivities. The chief minister responded positively, advising them to apply for the free power supply but also cautioning that unauthorized power consumption would result in action.

During a review meeting at the Dr. BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Thursday, August 29, Revanth Reddy directed the police to create a detailed security plan, ensuring no issues arise during the Ganesh idol immersion on September 16 and 17, which coincides with Milad-Un-Nabi celebrations.

DGP Jitender and Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Srinivas Reddy briefed the chief minister on the deployment of a 25,000-strong police force for security. Additionally, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu encouraged the use of eco-friendly idols, while MLC AVN Reddy urged the government to promote clay idols and enforce strict measures against disruptive behavior during the festivities.

## Uttam Kumar Reddy Criticizes BRS Government's Handling of Irrigation Projects

**TPN, Telangana:** Uttam Kumar Reddy recently criticized the BRS government's management of irrigation projects, contrasting it with the achievements of the previous Indiramma government and highlighting the contributions of Sonia Gandhi.



Reddy commended \*Minister Sitakkane\* for gaining a positive reputation in the state and underscored that the \*Godavari Lift Irrigation\* project was initiated by Sonia Gandhi. He accused the BRS government of dismantling the irrigation department and mishandling the \*Kaleswaram project\*, alleging that the project was marred by corruption and commission-based malpractices.

Reddy emphasized that only the Indiramma government could effectively provide water to every acre in the state. He criticized the previous BRS administration for allegedly \*wasting ₹1.81 lakh crore\* on irrigation projects without substantial results. He accused the BRS government

of \*burdening Telangana with exorbitant debts\* and mismanaging funds.

Reddy also mentioned recent developments, including talks with \*Chhattisgarh State\* and the appointment of a Principal Secretary to oversee land acquisition. He committed to completing the pending projects and \*spending ₹17,500 crore\* to ensure their timely completion. Reddy expressed confidence that Telangana will implement state-of-the-art irrigation technology and plan to showcase these achievements at Sonia Gandhi's inauguration in 2026.

## We will see the end of that party: Bandi Sanjay

**TPN, Telangana:** Union Minister Bandi Sanjay launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of being a "drama company" and playing political games under the guise of dismantling Hydra. Speaking at a public event, Sanjay questioned the Congress's selective approach to the Hydra demolitions, asking why no action has been taken against Owaisi's educational institutions, which he claimed have encroached on Sakalam pond.



Sanjay accused Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of being afraid of Owaisi, stating, "If the BJP government had come to power in Telangana, we would have bulldozed each building belonging to Owaisi." He also announced plans to launch the Praja Sangrama Yatra from Pata Basti, aimed at countering what he described as Owaisi's "anarchies" and ensuring the security of Hindus in the state.

The Union Minister also criticized Congress's recent initiatives, including the loan waiver survey, calling it a diversion tactic. "Why survey again when banks already have all the details of who is still eligible?" Sanjay questioned, accusing the Congress of creating unnecessary drama to distract the public from its failures.

Sanjay did not spare the BRS either, accusing the party of committing atrocities against Scheduled Tribes (STs) and attacking

BJP activists during the Praja Sangrama Yatra. He condemned the BRS's "anarchy" and vowed that the BJP would not let the party go unchecked.

Addressing rumors of a possible merger between BRS and BJP, Sanjay firmly denied any such plans, stating, "There is no question of merging with BRS... We will see the end of that party." He concluded by setting a clear goal for the BJP: to form a government in Telangana by 2028.

## Rajgopal Reddy Calls Congress Minister Uttam Kumar 'CM'

**TPN, Telangana:** Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy inadvertently addressed Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy as the "Chief Minister" during a review meeting on irrigation project works under the Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha segment on Friday.



Unfazed by the slip-up, Raj Gopal Reddy continued, confidently expressing his belief that Uttam Kumar Reddy would indeed become the Chief Minister in the future, despite having missed the opportunity this time. "I have moles on my tongue, and people say that whatever I say happens in reality," he remarked, attributing Uttam Kumar's rise to ministerial office to the blessings of the people of Nalgonda.

During the comments, Uttam Kumar Reddy was seen smiling and nodding in approval as Raj Gopal Reddy spoke.

Raj Gopal Reddy further requested the minister to take steps to redesign the Bunanigani, Pillaipally, and Dharma Reddy canals by widening them to expand the ayacut under these canals. He urged officials to submit proposals with a forward-looking vision.

## This is Selective Enforcement, Why no action Against CM's Brother's Property??

**TPN, Telangana:** BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has raised sharp questions about the selective enforcement of demolition orders by HYDRA, particularly targeting the Telangana government's apparent inaction against the illegal construction of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother, Tirupati Reddy, at Durgam Cheruvu in Hyderabad.

Speaking to the media, Praveen Kumar criticized the demolition of houses belonging to the poor in Mahabubnagar while high-profile illegal constructions in Durgam Cheruvu remain untouched. He stressed that HYDRA, the agency responsible for such demolitions, should ensure equal justice for all, rather than applying different standards to the poor and the wealthy. "It is good to want to protect the environment, but in this name, there should not be justice for the poor and justice for the rich," he remarked.

Praveen Kumar expressed shock at the recent demolition of homes in the Palamuru Blind Colony, questioning how the Chief Minister could remain indifferent while such incidents occur. He urged that the same police force, which was used to dismantle the colony, should also be deployed to demolish Tirupati Reddy's illegal construction.

Turning his attention to the state of education under the current administration, Praveen Kumar criticized the weakening



of gurukuls (residential schools) during Revanth Reddy's tenure. He pointed out that the education department has been without a minister for nine months, questioning whether the Chief Minister has even conducted a review of the state of gurukuls.

Praveen Kumar accused the Congress government of being driven by revenge rather than focusing on the welfare of the people. He highlighted the plight of poor students who are unable to pay fees due to the government's failure to reimburse them. He also criticized the government for setting aside insufficient funds under the student guarantee scheme and demanded an increase in the mess charges for Gurukul students, pointing out that the government spends more on prisoners' food than on students.

## Harish Rao Criticizes Congress for Halting Development in Telangana

**TPN, Telangana:** Former Minister and MLA, Harish Rao, has strongly criticized the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of deliberately hindering the state's development by cancelling numerous ongoing projects. He highlighted the recent cancellation of 34,511 works, valued at ₹10,000 crores, which were sanctioned under the Special Development Fund (SDF) in 33 districts. This, he argued, is a prime example of the Congress's failure to prioritize the welfare and progress of the state.

Rao emphasized that many of these projects, covering vital sectors like Panchayat Raj, Municipal, Roads-Buildings, and Irrigation, had already commenced and were in various stages of completion. However, the government not only suspended several of these works but also ordered an interim halt on ongoing projects. This abrupt decision, he said, has brought development activities in many villages to a standstill, directly impacting the process of infrastructure creation in both rural and urban areas.

He further added that this policy shift has caused job losses for many people who were dependent



on these projects. "This anti-development agenda has severely affected livelihoods across the state," Rao remarked, criticizing the Congress for having no clear vision to initiate new projects or complete the ones already approved.

The MLA also took aim at the Congress's selective allocation of funds, labeling it a partisan move. He noted that while the previous Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government, led by KCR, had distributed SDF funds across all constituencies, the Congress had sanctioned ₹10 crores each only to constituencies where Congress MLAs had been elected. "Not a single rupee has been allocated to areas where Congress did not win.

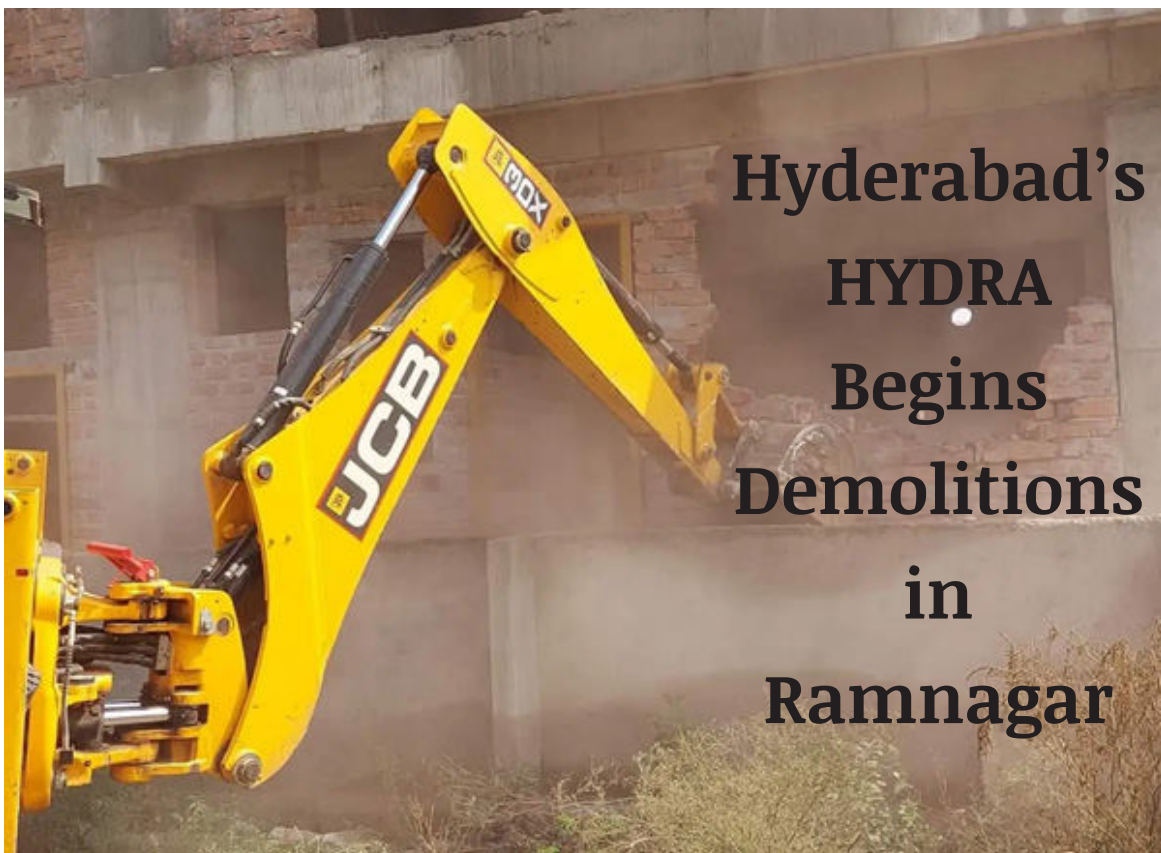
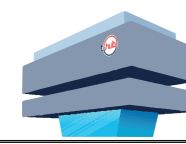
This blatant favoritism is a grave injustice to the people of Telangana," Rao said.

In his sharp criticism of the nine-month-old Congress government, Rao described the suspension of funds as a curse for the state's development. He argued that Congress's approach reflects bankrupt politics and questioned its moral responsibility toward the state. "A government is a continuous process. The needs of the people do not change when a new administration comes in.

Yet, the Congress government is showing its inability to even manage the projects sanctioned by the previous administration," Rao lamented.

Rao concluded by calling on the Congress government to stop engaging in "selfish politics" and focus instead on the state's development. He urged the administration to release the funds for the halted projects and ensure their timely completion, warning that failure to do so would further damage its already fragile reputation. "This government must understand that its responsibility is to the people of Telangana, not to its political interests," Rao stated.





## Hyderabad's HYDRA Begins Demolitions in Ramnagar

**TPN Hyderabad** : The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRA) commenced demolition operations in Ramnagar, Adikmet division, on Friday, August 30. This action followed an inspection by HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath, who identified illegal structures encroaching on a local drain in Manemma Colony.

Ranganath's inspection led to a directive for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) revenue officials to compile a report on the encroachments. Subsequently, HYDRA officials carried out the demolitions, focusing on commercial establishments rather than residential properties, ensuring no homes were affected.

HYDRA Commissioner AV Ranganath emphasized that the demolitions were undertaken in response to multiple complaints from local residents about obstructions to roads and drainage systems. The cleared areas are expected to improve access and restore proper stormwater drainage.

In related developments, Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari announced on August 29 that HYDRA's responsibilities would be extended to cover all government lands, lakes, and parks within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) area. This expansion follows a high-level meeting to address the Telangana High Court's recent orders regarding encroachments and preservation of government properties. The court had questioned whether the demolition actions were

selective. Chief Secretary Kumari revealed that 72 teams under HYDRA will soon include officers and staff from various departments, such as Police, Survey, and Irrigation, to enhance operational efficiency. The Chief Secretary also noted that notices for eviction will now be solely issued by HYDRA within ORR limits, aiming to streamline the process and reduce confusion caused by overlapping responsibilities of different departments.

Additionally, HYDRA will take over the conservation of major lakes like Gandipet and Himayat Sagar from the Water Board, expanding its mandate to include full tank levels, nala encroachments, and the protection of government vacant lots and parks.

## Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy Announces Plans for New Zoo Park Near Hyderabad



**TPN Hyderabad** : Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to plan a new zoo park on the outskirts of Hyderabad, as part of a broader review of the state's SPEED (smart, proactive, efficient, and effective delivery) projects. This announcement came during a meeting at the state secretariat on August 30, where Reddy discussed various development initiatives.

The new zoo park will be an addition to the existing Nehru Zoo Park, which has been a significant attraction since its inauguration on October 6, 1963. The Nehru Zoo Park, located near Mir Alam Tank in Bahadurpura, occupies 380 acres and took four years to build

after construction began on October 26, 1959. It is situated next to the Miralam Tank bund, an ancient 200-year-old arch dam.

Currently, the Nehru Zoo Park is home to 2,240 animals, including 664 mammals from 55 species, 1,227 birds from 97 species, 341 reptiles from 38 species, and 8 amphibians from 2 species. Its natural landscape attracts numerous migratory and resident birds. The park also offers an animal adoption program that helps fund maintenance and supports global wildlife conservation efforts.

In addition to planning the new zoo park, the review meeting covered other key areas, including the drafting of a new tourism policy. Officials were tasked with studying successful models from other states and focusing on eco-tourism, temple tourism, and health tourism. The development of heli-tourism was also considered, with potential public-private partnerships (PPP) being explored to enhance resources where needed.

## Cyberabad Police Recover 2,696 Stolen Phones; 570 Returned in Last 25 Days

**TPN Hyderabad** : The Cyberabad police have successfully recovered 2,696 stolen mobile phones over the past six months, with 570 of these devices—valued at ₹1.5 crore—retrieved in just the last 25 days. The recovered phones were returned to their respective owners on Friday, August 30.



According to a press release from the Cyberabad police, the recovery breakdown is as follows: 101 phones were retrieved by the Madhapur Central Crime Station (CCS), 87 by Rajendranagar CCS, 100 by Shamshabad CCS, 95 by Medchal CCS, 97 by Balanagar CCS, and 90 by the Information Technology Cell.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Narasimha encouraged Hyderabad residents to report lost mobile phones either at their nearest police station or through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, available online at [www.ceir.gov.in](http://www.ceir.gov.in). This portal is accessible across all states and union territories.

He emphasized the importance of mobile phones in daily life, noting that they often contain critical information.

Despite widespread awareness, he pointed out that many people are not fully informed about how to protect their devices from misuse after theft.

In a broader context, Telangana has made significant strides in mobile phone recovery. From January to July this year, the state police recovered 21,293 mobile phones, making Telangana the second highest in mobile phone recovery rates in the country. The recovery was achieved with an impressive rate of 102 phones per day. The Hyderabad Police Commissionerate led this effort, recovering 3,808 phones, followed by Rachakonda Commissionerate with 2,174 devices. Since the CEIR portal's launch on April 19, 2023, 37,000 mobile phones have been recovered across 780 police stations in the state.

## Osmania University Teachers Seek Age Extension and CPS Resolution

**TPN Hyderabad** : On Friday, the Osmania University Teachers Association (OUTA) called on the State government to extend the retirement age for university teachers from 60 to 65 years. The request was made during a meeting with MLC Prof. Kodandaram, where OUTA members discussed several pressing issues affecting university faculty.

The OUTA highlighted that while the previous administration had raised the superannuation age for all government employees and non-teaching university staff from 58 to 61 years, teaching staff had been excluded from this increase. They argued that extending the retirement age for teachers is crucial to align their terms with those of other government employees.

In addition to the age extension, the teachers also urged the government to address the long-standing Central Pension Scheme (CPS) concerns that have been pending resolution. They requested MLC Prof. Kodandaram to escalate these issues to the Chief Minister for prompt action.

The meeting underscored the need for the government to take immediate steps to address these issues, ensuring that the benefits and working conditions for university teachers are improved in line with their counterparts in other government sectors.



## Rangareddy School Students Protest Over Poor Food and Conditions



**TPN Hyderabad** : On August 30, students from a government school in Rangareddy district staged a protest, calling on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to address critical issues regarding their school's food and facilities. The demonstrators, primarily girls, raised several grievances, including a lack of clean drinking water, verbal abuse from teachers, and the poor quality of food provided.

The students reported that the rice served at the school was infested with worms, while teachers were given curry, creating a stark contrast between the meals for staff and students. The situation has led to a bizarre practice where students are reportedly told to bring their own curry if they want it.

In their protest, the girls also expressed frustration over being threatened with failure in their Class 10 exams if they complained about the problems. This fear of academic repercussions has compounded their distress and highlighted the dire conditions they are enduring. The protest underscores significant issues within the school system and raises concerns about the welfare and treatment of students. The students' appeal to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy aims to prompt immediate action to rectify the situation and ensure that the school environment meets basic standards of hygiene and respect.

The situation has drawn attention to broader issues affecting government schools in the region, including the need for improved oversight and accountability to ensure that students receive proper care and support.

## AIMIM Reschedules Events to Avoid Clash with Milad-un-Nabi

**TPN Hyderabad** : The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has rescheduled its upcoming events to avoid a conflict with Milad-un-Nabi celebrations next month. Traditionally, AIMIM holds a public religious meeting the day before Milad-un-Nabi, which celebrates the birth of Prophet Muhammad. However, this year, Milad-un-Nabi coincides with Ganesh Visarjan on September 17, prompting the party to adjust its schedule.

In response to the overlap, the AIMIM has moved its Milad-un-Nabi celebrations to September 19. The party's public meeting, titled 'Jalsa Rahmath ul lil Alamin,' will now take place on September 20 at Darussalam grounds. Additionally, the Kul Hind Naatiya Mushaira is scheduled for September 21, also at the same venue.

AIMIM General Secretary Ahmed Pasha Quadri explained the change, stating that it was made to accommodate other festivals in the city. He encouraged the public to attend the rescheduled Milad-un-Nabi events, which will feature scholars from various countries.

The police are monitoring the situation closely to ensure smooth celebrations. They have already engaged with Muslim community leaders to ensure peace and order during the Milad-un-Nabi festivities. Officials are particularly attentive to the Markazi Milad Julooos, a key procession associated with the celebrations, to manage any potential conflicts and maintain harmony in the city.







# 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 Fadnis. 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.



## EAM S Jaishankar: "Era of Uninterrupted Dialogue is Over"



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has indicated a significant change in India's approach to its relationship with Pakistan, emphasizing that the "era of uninterrupted dialogue" has ended. Speaking at a private event in Delhi this week, Jaishankar delivered a stark warning to Pakistan, asserting that "actions have consequences" for those supporting terrorist activities against India.

Jaishankar's comments mark a shift from India's previous diplomatic posture, highlighting a more assertive stance towards Pakistan. "The issue is... what kind of relationship can we contemplate with Pakistan," he said in response to questions about the future of bilateral ties. He made it clear that India is prepared to respond to developments across the border, whether they are positive or negative.

His remarks come against a backdrop of ongoing tensions between the two nations, particularly concerning border disputes in Jammu and Kashmir and accusations of Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism. Jaishankar has previously criticized Pakistan for its "almost industry-level" sponsorship of terrorism. During a visit to Singapore in March, he condemned Pakistan's use of terrorism as a statecraft tool, asserting that India will no longer ignore these issues in pursuit of dialogue. Jaishankar's comments also come as Jammu and Kashmir prepares for its first Assembly elections in a decade, starting on September 18. Regional parties like the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have advocated for renewed dialogue with Pakistan in their election manifestos. The PDP, led by former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has called for "diplomatic initiatives between India and Pakistan," while the NC, led by Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, seeks similar engagement.

In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has criticized these calls for dialogue, with Home Minister Amit Shah questioning whether Congress and its leaders support "nurturing terrorism" through their alignment with the NC and PDP.

Jaishankar's statement reflects a broader policy adjustment by New Delhi, emphasizing that while India remains open to resolving disputes through dialogue, it will not overlook terrorism or tolerate actions that undermine its security. The recent comments underscore India's determination to hold Pakistan accountable while navigating its complex bilateral relationship.

## 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.



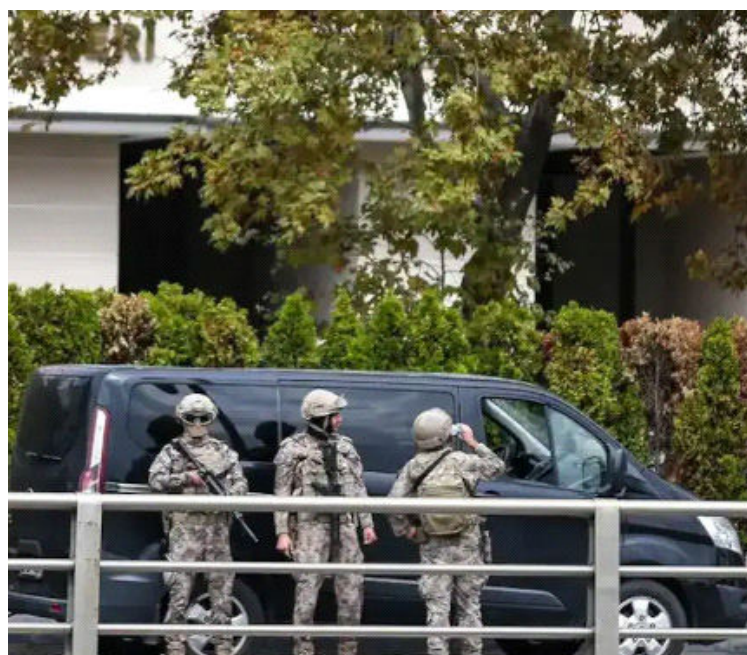
## Ajit Doval Meets Sri Lankan President to Discuss Bilateral Economic Ties During Colombo Security Conclave

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.



## 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 Vadodra. 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 cooperation 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

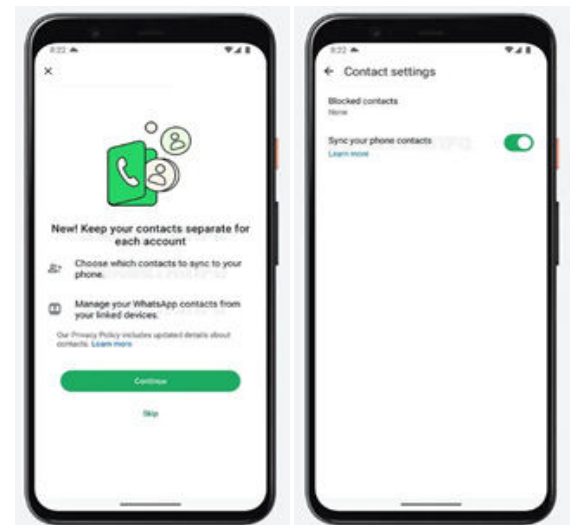
sparked interest among psychologists and sociologists in understanding how people form emotional bonds with AI, including chatbots and avatars. Turkle has been at the forefront of studying these phenomena, focusing on how individuals are developing genuine emotional attachments to artificial entities.

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



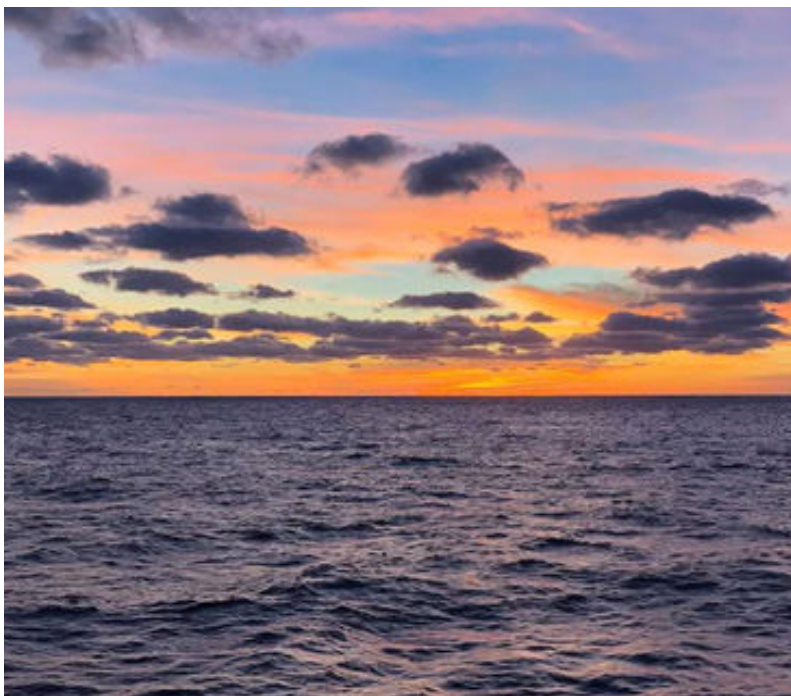
WhatsApp for Android is working on a new privacy-related feature aimed at enhancing contact management and chat organization. According to feature tracker WABetaInfo, this update introduces advanced options for syncing address book contacts across different devices. The feature, found in WhatsApp beta 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.

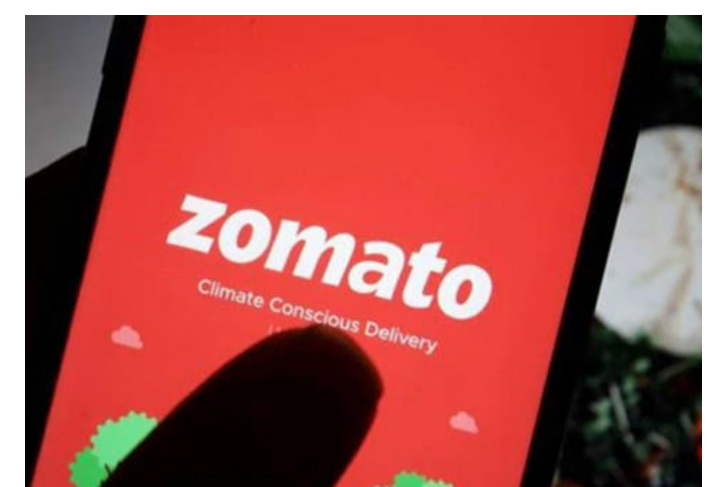
The Google Tasks extension enables users to set reminders and tasks by providing details such as date, time, and task name. Reminders can also be set based on interactions with Gemini, such as booking movie tickets ahead of a release date.

## 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 hypertonia, 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.

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



final secured her a bronze medal.

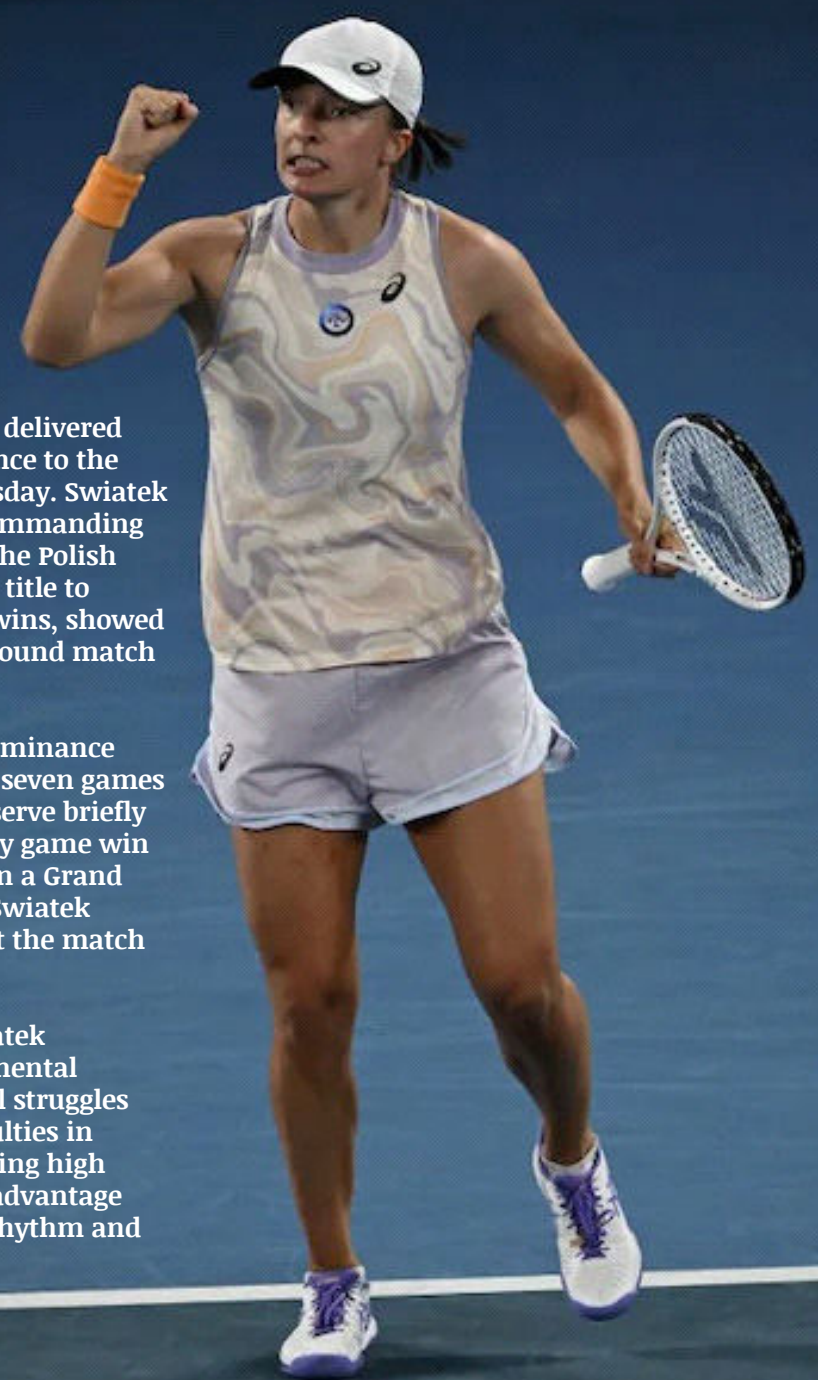
The achievements of Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal highlight India's growing prominence in Paralympic sports and the incredible talent emerging from the country.

## 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.

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

Director Ritesh Rana, known for launching Sri Simha Koduri with the hit film *\*Mathu Vadalar\**, is back with the sequel *\*Mathu Vadalar 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 Vadalar 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.

## Kamal Haasan's \*Indian 2\* Faces Legal Trouble Over Premature OTT Release



Kamal Haasan's film *\*Indian 2\** is encountering legal issues concerning its streaming release. According to Pinkvilla, the Multiplex Association of India has issued a legal notice to the film's team, alleging a breach of the mandated streaming timeline. The film, which premiered in theatres on July 12, began streaming on OTT platform Netflix on August 9, well before the required eight-week period.

The Multiplex Association of India has a guideline stipulating an eight-week gap between a film's theatrical release and its OTT debut. Producers who fail to adhere to this rule risk losing their screenings in major national multiplex chains, such as PVRInox and Cinepolis. The *\*Indian 2\** team had previously agreed to these terms, which allowed the film to be shown in these multiplexes.

A source informed Pinkvilla, "The Multiplex Association of India requires a strict 8-week OTT window for Hindi films. Producers who do not comply face losing their release in top multiplex chains like PVRInox and Cinepolis. *\*Indian 2\** had agreed to these guidelines, but the Hindi version is now streaming on Netflix before the stipulated September 6 date, causing dissatisfaction among industry leaders." Directed by Shankar, *\*Indian 2\** continues the story of Senapathy, portrayed by Kamal Haasan, who returns to fight corruption in India. The film also stars Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh, Priya Bhavani Shankar, and Kajal Aggarwal, who will reprise her role in *\*Indian 3\**.

## Mirzapur Fans Get a Surprise: Divyenndu Sharma Returns in Bonus Episode

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. Kyunki 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.

## 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 #IIFAawards2024!"

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.