

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
H 26 °C L 23 °C	H 29 °C L 26 °C	H 36 °C L 26 °C

CID Issues Notices to Former Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar



TPN, Amaravati: The CID officials have intensified their investigation into the Telangana Commercial Taxes Department scam, issuing a notice to former Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar. The investigation revealed that bogus invoices were generated, even though no goods were supplied, contributing to a major fraud.

The CID has named Somesh Kumar as "A5" in the case, alongside other officials involved. Notices have been issued to three additional officers, and their statements will be recorded soon. Those implicated include Kashi Visveswara Rao, Additional Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (A2); Deputy Commissioner Shivaram Prasad (A3); Hyderabad IIT Professor Shobhan Babu (A4); and Planto Technologies (A5), with Somesh Kumar now officially included in the case.

The investigation continues as authorities work to uncover the full extent of the scam.

CM Chandrababu's Tribute to Sitaram Yechury



TPN, New Delhi: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid tribute to CPM General Secretary and former Rajya Sabha member Sitaram Yechury, who passed away recently. He visited Yechury's residence in Vasant Kunj, Delhi, on Friday night, where he placed flowers on the body and offered condolences to the family members.

Chandrababu was accompanied by Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammo

han Naidu, former Rajya Sabha members Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, and Kambhampati Rammo

han Rao. They departed from Vijayawada and landed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport before heading straight to Vasant Kunj along with other party leaders. Speaking to reporters afterward, Chandrababu Naidu reflected on his long association with Sitaram Yechury. He expressed his deep sorrow, saying that he couldn't

digest Yechury's death and that the country had lost a great statesman. Chandrababu praised Yechury for his fight for social justice and his dedication to the welfare of the poor, noting that they had worked together for 40 years, walking side by side in various movements.

Chandrababu Naidu highlighted Yechury's rise from being an ordinary leader within the CPM to becoming the party's General Secretary. He recounted Yechury's journey as a student leader at

Jawaharlal Nehru University, a CPM leader, a General Secretary of the party, and a member of the Rajya Sabha, saying that Yechury's fighting spirit was evident at every stage of his life.

Chandrababu fondly recalled Yechury's friendships across party lines, his ability to greet everyone with a smile, and the many times they shared their thoughts. Despite political differences, Chandrababu noted that Yechury had no enemies.

AP Police Registers FIR in Actress Kadambari Jethwani's Case

Harassment of Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani

- Complaint lodged with AP Police
- Police register case under various sections



TPN, Vijayawada: A significant development has occurred in the harassment case of Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani. The Ibrahimpatnam

police have registered an FIR today in connection with the Jethwani case. Actress Kadambari Jethwani had lodged a complaint with the AP police, alleging that she was illegally detained and subjected to severe harassment.

Following Jethwani's complaint, a case has been registered at Ibrahimpatnam Police Station against Kukkala Vidyasagar and several other individuals. The case has been filed under sections 192, 211, 218, 220, 354, 420, 467, 469, 471, read with 120 (b). Actress Kadambari Jethwani also visited the Ibrahimpatnam police station today to provide further details.

It is noteworthy that several prominent YCP leaders and IPS officers are facing serious allegations in connection with the Jethwani case.

Case of Attack on TDP Office... Police issued notices to YCP MLCs

- Attack on TDP office during the previous government
- YCP leaders facing allegations
- Mangalagiri Police issued notices
- Talashila Raghuram, Lella Appireddy, and Devineni Avinash attended the hearing

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP leaders, who are facing charges related to the attack on the TDP headquarters in Mangalagiri during the previous government's tenure, appeared before the police today for questioning.

YCP MLCs Talashila Raghuram, Lella Appireddy, and YCP leader Devineni Avinash arrived at Mangalagiri Rural Police Station today, accompanied by their advocate, Gavaskar. The investigation has been ongoing for the last three hours.

It appears that the police are questioning them from all angles. However, reports suggest that no matter what questions the

police ask, the YCP leaders are consistently responding with, "We don't know."

Meanwhile, as the investigation continues inside Mangalagiri Rural Police Station, followers of the YCP leaders are gathered outside, awaiting further developments.



Key Post for Anchor Shyamala in YCP: Equal Status with Roja

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: After suffering a shocking defeat in the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) is facing a new crisis, largely driven by high levels of political migration. This defeat has brought the party to the verge of losing many of its members, as several senior leaders, former MLAs, and MLCs have already defected.

It is known that former YSRCP legislator Pendem Dorababu from Pithapuram in Kakinada district recently bid farewell to the party. Despite being a sitting MLA, he did not receive a ticket in the previous election. The YSRCP had fielded former MP Vanga Geetha in the constituency, where Janasena president Pawan Kalyan was contesting from



Pithapuram, prompting Dorababu to leave the party.

Just a few days ago, MLCs Potula

Sunitha, Kalyan Chakraborty, and Karri Padmasree resigned from their posts. Earlier, Rajya Sabha members Beda Mastan Rao and Mopidevi

Venkataramana also left the YCP. In addition, the chairman of Eluru, Jaggaiahpet Municipal Corporation, and several other municipal chairpersons and corporators resigned from the YCP and joined TDP and Janasena.

In response to this exodus, the top leadership of YSRCP has shifted its focus to strengthening the party. The party is prioritizing restructuring efforts at the grassroots level, assigning key responsibilities to former MLAs and ministers. The services of those who campaigned for the party during the previous elections are also being leveraged. New district presidents have already been appointed, and constituency in-charges have been reassigned. Additionally, the party has made

significant changes in its affiliated departments, appointing new in-charges for various roles.

Recently, the party appointed four new official representatives, including former minister RK Roja, former MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, and Jupudi Prabhakar Rao. In this same list, popular TV anchor Shyamala also secured a key position. Shyamala had campaigned for YSRCP during the previous elections, including in Mangalagiri, a constituency now represented by Minister Nara Lokesh. Despite her active role in the past, Shyamala did not hold any official status within the party at that time. However, she has now been given the status of an official party representative.



AP Deputy CM Pawan's Reaction to Port Blair's Name Change



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: It is known that the central government announced on Friday the renaming of Port Blair, the capital of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar, to Sri Vijayapura, as part of the process of changing names associated with British colonial rule.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan reacted to this announcement. Pawan stated that he wholeheartedly welcomes this decision made by the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi.

Pawan Kalyan remarked that the decision to change a name that reflects the colonial rule, which oppressed the country for centuries, is a step that will further honor India's achievements.

He praised the move as commendable, expressing his belief that the decision will help protect future generations from the lingering effects of the colonial legacy. Pawan shared his response on the X platform.

If Such a Situation Arises, We Will Resign from Our Posts

- Rumors of a furnace shutdown
- News of another furnace possibly being stopped today
- Concerned workers



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: TDP state chief Palla Srinivasa Rao has extended his support to the workers of the Visakha Steel Plant. Andhra Pradesh TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao assured that the privatization and closure of the Visakha Steel Plant will not occur under any circumstances. He further stated that if such a situation arises, he is ready to resign from his post. Palla advised the

steel plant workers not to be anxious.

There were reports that a furnace in the Visakha steel industry was shut down yesterday due to a shortage of raw materials. Following news that another furnace might be shut down today, workers have grown increasingly concerned. TDP MP Bharat and Palla Srinivasa Rao joined the workers in their protest, with Palla making the above statements during the occasion.

Meanwhile, labor union leaders blamed the management's decisions for the steel plant's losses. They highlighted that contract workers have not been paid for the past four months.

J. Ayodhyaram, co-coordinator of the Visakha Steel Conservation Samiti, responded by alleging that there is an attempt to lay off 3,000 contract workers. He explained that 2,000 workers are being pressured to take voluntary retirement, and plans are underway to send another 500 workers to other industries.

Fire Accident Near Rajinikanth's Movie Shooting in Visakhapatnam



TPN, Vizag: South Indian superstar Rajinikanth's latest film 'Coolie' is currently being shot in Visakhapatnam. However, a fire broke out near the shooting location of the movie.

Earlier today, while filming was in progress at the container terminal on Visakha Beach Road, a cargo ship arrived at the port carrying a load of lithium-ion batteries. A fire broke out on the ship, causing concern on the sets of 'Coolie' as the shooting was happening very close to the container terminal.

Tensions rose as firemen worked to control the flames. The police are currently investigating the cause of the fire.

'Coolie,' directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, features Rajinikanth in the lead role, while Tollywood king Nagarjuna portrays a powerful gangster named 'Simon.' Nagarjuna's look from the movie 'Coolie' was recently released, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Shruti Haasan, Upendra, Sathyaraj, and others are also part of the cast.

Tribute to Sitaram Yechury by YCP's Vijayasai Reddy



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP Rajya Sabha Member Vijayasai Reddy paid tribute to the late senior communist leader and CPM National General Secretary, Sitaram Yechury. During his visit to meet CPM leaders BV Raghav and Madhu, Vijayasai expressed deep admiration for Yechury's unwavering commitment to fighting for the downtrodden.

Vijayasai praised Yechury as a dedicated warrior who remained steadfast in practicing the principles he believed in until the very end. He also reflected on his own experience working alongside Yechury in Parliament, noting that it was an experience he would never forget. On behalf of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YCP, Vijayasai extended heartfelt tributes to the esteemed leader.

Telugu Pilgrims Stranded in Kedarnath are Safe

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Telugu pilgrims who were stranded during the Kedarnath Yatra are now safe. Officials relocated them to a secure area this morning. Some of the pilgrims had reached Kedarnath but were unable to descend due to adverse conditions.

These devotees contacted Vizianagaram MP Kalishetti Appalanayudu, informing him that they were in danger and unable to make their way down. MP Appalanayudu promptly brought the situation to the attention of Minister Nara Lokesh. Minister Lokesh discussed the issue with Uttarakhand and central government officials. He urged them to take swift measures to ensure the safe return of the pilgrims.

Some of the pilgrims have already reached Guptkashi. Around 20 pilgrims were stranded in Uttarakhand after heavy rains caused weather conditions to deteriorate.

Vijayawada Will Be Back to Normal by Sunday Evening



TPN, Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Minister Narayana announced that future road construction projects will include culverts to prevent water flow from being blocked during floods. He stated that the floodwater in Vijayawada has almost been cleared and the city is expected to return to normal by Sunday evening.

On Saturday, Minister Narayana toured various areas of Vijayawada, including Journalists Colony, Bose Nagar, and Kandrika, using a scooter for inspection. Speaking to the media, he explained that

floodwaters have largely receded in the city and assured that all 32 wards will be back to normal by Sunday evening.

The Minister detailed that fire engines have been deployed in several parts of the city to assist in the cleanup efforts, and he emphasized the government's responsibility to remove all debris that accumulated in homes due to the flooding.

Minister Narayana personally inspected sanitation work in the flood-affected areas, meeting with

residents and inquiring if they faced any issues.

During his visit, local residents raised concerns, pointing out that enumeration had not been done in many areas. In response, Minister Narayana instructed officials to conduct fresh enumeration in those places. He further noted that over 100 roads, including smooth roads and cement roads, have been constructed to help with floodwater drainage. Temporary pipelines have been installed near flooded roads to expedite the drainage process.

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Jagan's Five-Year Rule was the Biggest Disaster: Nadendra Manohar

TPN, Andhra Pradesh : AP Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar launched a scathing attack on YCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of negligence during his five-year tenure as Chief Minister. Nadendra said that the recent floods and rains have caused severe damage, affecting lakhs of people. He expressed disappointment over Jagan's criticism of the government at such a time, calling it shameful.

Nadendra praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his leadership during the disaster, stating that at the age of 74, Naidu's experience helped save people from further calamity. In contrast, he described Jagan's rule as the "biggest disaster" the state had faced.

The minister further alleged that the difficulties the people are facing today are



the result of the previous Jagan government's negligence. He criticized Jagan for arriving in Pithapuram with "ten papers in hand like a wise man," and questioned whether Jagan had any real intention to help the people.

Nadendra also questioned Jagan's personal contribution to relief efforts, asking if he had helped any common man with even one lakh rupees from his own pocket. He criticized Jagan for isolating himself from the public during his time as Chief Minister, saying he "hid behind curtains" and was out of touch with the people.

In contrast, Nadendra praised both Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, stating that a true leader must have a responsive mind, something Jagan lacks. He noted that Naidu visited flood-affected areas four times daily, while questioning Jagan's efforts to help people during crises.

Nadendra also vowed to take strict action against those illegally exporting rice meant for the poor, further emphasizing the current government's commitment to the welfare of the people.

Vijayasai Reddy is doing dirty politics: Ganta Srinivas

TPN, Andhra Pradesh : Former minister and TDP leader Ganta Srinivasa Rao has criticized YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, accusing him of engaging in "dirty politics" regarding the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant issue. Ganta expressed his displeasure over Vijayasai's recent tweet, in which he called for the resignation of



Visakha TDP MP Bharat and MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao. Ganta responded by pointing out that both Bharat and Palla have been actively opposing the privatization of the steel plant. Ganta reminded the public that Palla Srinivasa Rao had even gone on a "death march" to protest the steel plant's privatization, demonstrating his commitment to the cause. He criticized Vijayasai Reddy for questioning their dedication and asked why Vijayasai had not resigned earlier if he truly cared about the issue.

Ganta highlighted that he had previously resigned in protest against the steel plant's privatization, submitting his resignation in the proper format, which was later accepted by the Speaker. He questioned why Vijayasai Reddy did not take similar action at the time, casting doubt on his sincerity.

Additionally, Ganta pointed out that when Chandrababu Naidu's government came into power, the Chief Minister immediately focused on protecting the steel plant. He recalled that Union Minister Kumaraswamy was brought to the steel plant, where he clarified that the plant was not part of the private sector.

Ganta strongly criticized Vijayasai Reddy, calling him a "Digajarudu" (a term implying a deceitful politician), and suggested that if Vijayasai was truly honest about his stance on the steel plant, he should have resigned earlier. He urged Vijayasai to stop playing politics with such a sensitive issue and focus on meaningful actions.

The steel plant privatization issue continues to stir political tensions, with leaders from all sides debating the best course of action to protect the plant and its employees.

Notices to YCP MLCs Talashila Raghuram and Lella Appireddy



TPN, Mangalagiri: YSR Congress Party (YCP) Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) Talashila Raghuram and Lella Appireddy have been served notices by the Mangalagiri Rural Police in connection with the attack on the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office. The police, acting under Section 41A of the Criminal Procedure Code, instructed the YCP leaders to appear for an investigation at the Mangalagiri Rural Police Station this afternoon.

The notice comes after the Supreme Court directed the YCP leaders to cooperate with the investigation and ordered them to submit their passports at the police station. Both leaders had sought anticipatory bail from the Supreme Court, fearing possible arrest in connection with the case.

The attack on the TDP office, which occurred recently, has sparked tensions between the two political parties, with allegations and counter-allegations being made. The police investigation aims to uncover the role, if any, of the YCP MLCs in the incident.

Further developments are awaited as both Talashila Raghuram and Lella Appireddy are expected to clarify their involvement and cooperate with the investigation, as mandated by the court.

AE Laxman helping Buddha Venkanna in extorting Temple money

TPN, Vijayawada : YCP leader Pothina Mahesh has accused former MLC Buddha Venkanna of being involved in large-scale corruption at the Vijayawada Durga Ammavari temple. Mahesh claims that alliance leaders have been collecting parking and toll fees at the temple, with Rs. 4 crores allegedly involved in corrupt practices.

According to Mahesh, the alliance is planning to extort even more money in the name of shop rents on Kanakadurga Road. He specifically blamed Buddha Venkanna for demanding a Rs. 5 lakh bribe per shop.

Mahesh further alleged that after the contract for toll collection was completed, the toll fees were supposed to be increased by 10 percent and awarded to a new contractor. However, the current contractor was allowed to continue collecting tolls without any charges. He questioned why the government had failed to collect more than Rs. 2 crores from the contractor and claimed that when the government changed, temple funds began to be looted.

Mahesh also accused Buddha Venkanna of corruption in setting up shops in Kanakadurga Nagar, claiming that rents were reduced by 49 percent even though businesses were running smoothly. He reiterated that Venkanna took Rs. 5 lakh as a bribe from each shop and collected Rs. 4 crores in just three months.

Mahesh also implicated AE Laxman in helping Buddha Venkanna extort money from Ammavari. He demanded an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) into all these allegations.



Eleru, Budameru flood is Jagan's fault: Devineni Uma

TPN, Vijayawada : During his visit to Pithapuram constituency, Former AP CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy faced intense media scrutiny regarding the Eleru project. Jagan explained that development work on the canals was hampered by the need to avoid declaring a crop holiday, which would have forced farmers to stop cultivation. He stated that since the project's water levels were sufficient, no work was undertaken during his administration.

TDP senior leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao criticized Jagan's explanation, alleging that it was a cover-up for his administration's failures. Rao highlighted that Jagan had admitted to not completing the Eleru modernization project initiated by former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over the past five years. Rao further accused Jagan of halting other critical projects, such as the Purushottapatnam lift and Budameru modernization.

In a sharp rebuke, Rao compared Jagan's dishonesty to that of Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels, accusing him of misleading the public to obscure his administration's shortcomings. Rao also criticized Jagan for neglecting the victims of the Annamayya project, asserting that Chandrababu Naidu had been more attentive to their needs.



MLA Dhulipalla Narendra Alleges Illegal Construction by YCP Leader in Guntur



TPN, Andhra Pradesh : Ponnur MLA Dhulipalla Narendra has leveled serious allegations against Ambati Murali Krishna, a YSR Congress Party (YCP) leader, accusing him of violating construction norms in Guntur. According to Narendra, Murali Krishna, who contested as a YCP candidate, is developing a high-rise apartment complex named Green Grace in the city without following proper legal procedures.

Narendra claimed that the construction is being done without the necessary permits, with apartments being sold to consumers under the radar. He further alleged that while permission was granted to build a five-storey structure, a thirteen-storey complex is being erected instead, which violates local building regulations.

Adding to the concerns, the apartment complex is being constructed near a railway track. Railway authorities have established a rule that requires structures to be built at least 75 feet away from railway tracks for safety reasons. However, according to Dhulipalla Narendra, the Green Grace complex is being constructed with only 35 feet of space from the track, raising serious safety issues. Narendra expressed concern over how such large-scale construction could take place in clear violation of the norms and questioned how the relevant authorities could allow these irregularities to continue unchecked.

He demanded an immediate investigation into the illegal construction practices and urged authorities to take appropriate action to prevent further violations. The allegations have sparked concerns among the residents of Guntur, raising questions about the enforcement of building regulations and the safety of such constructions.

The issue is likely to attract further attention, as both the opposition and local authorities may be called upon to respond to these serious allegations.

What Jagan said is correct: Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy



TPN, Andhra Pradesh : In response to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's comments regarding the Eleru floods, TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy criticized the Chief Minister for calling the disaster a "man-made mistake." Somireddy agreed that Jagan was right in calling it a mistake but clarified that the mistake was Jagan's own failure to take necessary actions as the Chief Minister.

Somireddy pointed out that the Eleru overflow was caused by heavy rains, but the state government's precautionary measures prevented any loss of life. He also highlighted that, under Jagan's leadership, only 17,000 cusecs of water flowed to Kakinada. Somireddy alleged that Jagan did not understand basic irrigation terms such as "cusecs" and "TMCS" and lacked knowledge about water inflow and outflow management.

Criticizing Jagan's governance, Somireddy claimed that Jagan ruled from the comfort of his palace and weakened important departments like irrigation and agriculture during his tenure. He also took aim at the then Water Resources Minister, Ambati Rambabu, accusing him of being ineffective and only concerned with entertainment. Further, Somireddy criticized Jagan's visit to the flood-affected areas, alleging that it was nothing more than a publicity stunt. He claimed that Jagan only visited areas where his party's supporters lived and even mocked Jagan for kissing the flood victims during his visit.

The remarks by Somireddy have intensified the political debate over the handling of the Eleru floods, highlighting ongoing tensions between the ruling YSRCP and the opposition TDP.



Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Urges Speedy Completion of Vijayawada Airport Expansion

TPN,Vijayawada: Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has called for accelerated progress on the expansion of Vijayawada Airport. During a review meeting held at the Gannavaram Airport on Saturday morning, Rammohan Naidu, accompanied by State Mines and Mineral Resources Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashauri, Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh, Gannavaram Constituency Legislators Yarlagadda Venkatarao, and senior officials including General Administration Department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar and Joint Collector Geetanjali Sharma, assessed the development work.

Rammohan Naidu expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that only 52 percent of the expansion work has been completed to date. Despite having sufficient funds

and materials, he noted significant delays and stressed the need to complete all works by June 2025. Officials attributed the delays to recent incessant rains but assured that efforts would be intensified to meet the deadline.

The Union Minister recommended establishing a WhatsApp group to monitor progress, with updates posted regularly for his review. He also directed officials to address land issues, court disputes, the construction of a bridge over the Eluru Canal, and the payment of compensation to affected farmers as part of the expansion project.

The meeting included participation from Gannavaram Airport General Manager Ramachari, Director Lakshmi Kant Reddy, Gannavaram Mandal Tehsildar Sivaiiah, and other key stakeholders.



Minister Narayana Inspects Flood Relief Efforts in Vijayawada

TPN,Vijayawada: Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana conducted a comprehensive inspection of flood-affected areas in Vijayawada, including Kandrika, Bose Nagar, and Journalist Colony. Demonstrating hands-on involvement, Narayana personally navigated small roads on a bike, where sanitation and flood relief work were in progress.

Narayana observed the ongoing efforts to pump out floodwater from the Journalist Colony using

heavy machinery. He highlighted that cleaning operations have been ramped up, with hundreds of sanitation workers actively engaged in removing floodwater and silt from streets and drains.

In a media briefing, Narayana reported that floodwaters in Vijayawada have largely receded, with all 32 wards expected to return to normalcy soon. He acknowledged the challenges posed by mud accumulation in homes and emphasized that street cleaning is being

facilitated by fire engines. The minister also addressed concerns about incomplete enumeration in some flood-affected areas, assuring that officials have been instructed to conduct a thorough reassessment.

Narayana noted that several roads, including the bypass and 100-foot roads, have been damaged by floodwaters. He recommended installing temporary pipelines at affected sites and plans to build culverts to ensure unobstructed water flow in the future.



Minister Kollu Ravindra Hails Molla as First Telugu Poetess at Statue Unveiling Ceremony

TPN, Vijayawada: In a proud moment for the Telugu literary world, a bronze statue of Maha Kavaitri Aathukuri Mollamamba, popularly known as Molla, was unveiled at Tummalapalli Vari Kshetraya Kalakshetra. The event, held on Saturday, saw Minister of State for Excise, Mines, and Geology, Kollu Ravindra, praising Molla as the first Telugu poetess, highlighting her unique contributions to Telugu literature. The statue was inaugurated by Maharaja of Mysore, MP Yaduveera Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Speaking at the event organized by the Andhra Pradesh Kummari Salivahana Sangam, Minister Ravindra described Molla as a "precious gem" of Telugu literature, adding that while Nannayya is celebrated as the first Telugu poet (Adi Kavi), Molla holds the distinction of being the first poetess (Adi Kavaitri). Molla is renowned for her simplified and accessible translation of the Ramayana, written entirely in pure Telugu words, which made the epic more relatable to the common people.

Ravindra used the occasion to encourage young girls to take inspiration from Molla and pursue higher education, emphasizing that educated women are key to shaping the future of the country. He urged the public to preserve and promote the Telugu language and pass it on to future generations, stating that Molla's work serves as a testament to the beauty and richness of Telugu literature and culture.

AP Teachers' Welfare Association Demands Time Scale and Policy Implementation

TPN,Vijayawada: In Vijayawada, the AP Work, Craft & Exercise Teachers' Unity Welfare Association has urged the state government to implement the Minimum Time Scale (MTS) for vocational education teachers working as art, work, and exercise teachers. The call was made by AP JAC Amravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, along with State President Saikam Sivakumari Reddy and Secretary Shankar Neelu Bhagwatula, during the association's state-level conference held on Saturday at the Revenue Services Association meeting hall.

The association leaders demanded immediate action on several fronts:

- ***Implementation of MTS.*** They stressed that the Minimum Time Scale should be applied to vocational education teachers to ensure fair compensation.

- ***Resolution of Pending Dues.***

They called for the prompt settlement of pending ESI and EPF contributions for contract employees, as recommended by the School Education Department under G.O. No. 73.

- ***Support for Vocational Education.*** In light of the new national education policy, they urged the government to enhance vocational education to better develop students' skills in arts and work disciplines.

- ***Part-Time Status Issues.*** The association highlighted concerns about the part-time designation of vocational education teachers, which affects their status and compensation despite working full-time hours.

The Unity Association also called for a comprehensive review and the implementation of resolutions discussed with higher education officials during previous government negotiations.

FIR Filed Against YCP Leader Kukkala Vidyasagar for Alleged Illegal Arrests in Vijayawada

TPN,Vijayawada: In Vijayawada, the Ibrahim Patnam police have filed an FIR based on a complaint lodged by Mumbai film actress Jitwani. The complaint accuses YCP leader Kukkala Vidyasagar of involvement in illegal activities, including the unlawful arrest of NTR district police and his family members.

The case, registered against Vidyasagar, comes amid claims that he and his family were detained illegally. The complaint alleges that Vidyasagar's actions were in violation of legal procedures and rights.

Currently, only Kukkala Vidyasagar has been named in the FIR. The police have indicated that they will conduct a thorough investigation into the roles of all individuals involved, including the police officers who may have been complicit in the alleged illegal arrests. Evidence will be gathered to determine the full extent of the violations and to decide if additional cases need to be registered.

Authorities have assured that the investigation will be comprehensive to ensure justice is served.

Swamandhra Corporation Launches 'Swachhta Hi Seva 2024' to Commemorate Swachh Bharat Anniversary

TPN,Vijayawada: In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission and the 7th year of the Swachhta Hi Seva program, Swamandhra Corporation has announced the launch of "Swachhta Hi Seva 2024." The campaign, themed "Purity of Nature, Purity of Culture," will run from September 17 to October 2, culminating in a grand closing ceremony on Gandhi Jayanti.

During a high-level preparatory meeting, Swamandhra Corporation Managing Director Gandham Chandradu emphasized the program's significance, stating, "This initiative is a testament to our commitment to Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. We aim to make cleanliness an integral part of our daily lives."



Justice Ravinath Tilhari Appointed Chairman of High Court Legal Services Committee

TPN,Vijayawada: Justice Ravinath Tilhari has been appointed as the Chairman of the High Court Legal Services Committee, according to a recent announcement. Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, serving as the Patron-in-Chief of the AP Nyayasevadhikara Sansthan, made the decision regarding this significant appointment.

The appointment was formally announced through a government gazette, marking an important step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen legal services and ensure justice accessibility across the region. Justice Tilhari's new role will involve overseeing the legal services committee, which is tasked with providing legal aid and support to those in need.

This appointment reflects a commitment to enhancing the efficacy and outreach of legal services within the state. Justice Tilhari, known for his extensive legal expertise and dedication to justice, is expected to bring a new perspective and drive to the committee's initiatives. The move is anticipated to bolster the delivery of legal aid services, ensuring a fairer and more equitable justice system for the public.



MEPMA Extends Support to Flood Victims with Comprehensive Services

TPN,Vijayawada: In response to the recent devastating floods, MEPMA, in collaboration with Urban Company, is offering a range of services to assist flood-affected residents in NTR District. MEPMA Director N. Tej Bharat announced these efforts following a meeting with MEPMA RPs and UDC staff at the Municipal Corporation office on Saturday.

Director Tej Bharat highlighted that special service centers have been established in key areas including Bhandari Singh Nagar, Vambe Colony, Bhawanipuram, Payakapuram, and Kandrika Rajarajeswaripet. These centers are equipped to address the needs of flood victims.

The initiative involves the installation of the Self-help in Ridhi app on association members' phones, enabling them to register for various services. Technicians, including electricians, plumbers, painters, carpenters, AC mechanics, and TV technicians, are dispatched to the homes of those in need. Approximately 200 technicians are currently engaged, with additional help arranged from outside areas if required.

The services provided will be billed according to the rates specified in the app. Director Tej Bharat urged residents to utilize these services to repair damaged electronics, wooden items, and complete necessary painting work.

This initiative aims to alleviate the hardships faced by flood victims and support their recovery process.



Journalist Assaulted by Congress Workers in US

After Questioning Sam Pitroda on Bangladesh Hindu Attacks



"It Was a Nightmare, Even Sam Was Shaken," Says the Journalist

In a shocking incident during Rahul Gandhi's recent visit to the United States, a journalist from India Today was assaulted by Congress workers in Dallas, Texas. Rohit Sharma, who had traveled to cover Gandhi's visit, found himself at the center of chaos after raising a question about the ongoing attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government.

Sharma had approached Sam Pitroda, Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC), for an exclusive interview ahead of Gandhi's arrival at the DFW International Airport. The interview seemed to be proceeding smoothly until Sharma posed a sensitive question, asking whether Rahul Gandhi would address the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh during his meetings with US lawmakers.

Before Pitroda could fully respond, a group of 20-30 Congress supporters, who were present at the interview, erupted in protest, calling the question "controversial." The situation quickly spiraled out of control as the Congress workers began harassing Sharma. They grabbed his phone, assaulted him, and forcefully deleted the entire video of the interview.

While Pitroda initially attempted to answer by saying, "It's up to Rahul and the lawmakers to decide what's relevant. I can't speak on their behalf," the situation intensified with the crowd shouting, "Band Karo, Band Karo (Stop it, Stop it)," effectively allowing Pitroda to exit the scene as the chaos unfolded.

"Sam was visibly shaken by the situation and tried to calm everyone down, but things quickly escalat-

ed. One of the men tried to snatch my microphone, but I resisted. Ultimately, they managed to get hold of my phone and stopped the recording," Sharma explained, recounting the incident.

Following this, about 15 Congress workers remained in the room, pressuring Sharma to erase the final question from the recording. Sharma repeatedly argued that his question was valid and ethical, but they continued to insist. The situation worsened as they unlocked Sharma's phone without his permission and went through it to ensure the video was completely erased. Despite Sharma's efforts to protect the footage, they even checked his iCloud, though his phone being in airplane mode prevented any backup.

The entire ordeal lasted for about 30 minutes, with the Congress workers discussing whether they should keep Sharma's phone for four days to ensure the footage would not resurface. However, Sharma stood firm and demanded his phone back, though he refrained from calling the police. "Once I got out, I texted Sam Pitroda about what happened. He offered to re-record the interview the next day, but that never materialized," Sharma said.

Though the incident ended with Sharma recovering his phone, the question was later asked to Rahul Gandhi by another India Today journalist during a Press Club event. The silence of Gandhi and his party on the ongoing violence against Hindus in Bangladesh has been criticized, with the BJP raising concerns about their stance.

This incident highlights a troubling trend of journalists being targeted for doing their jobs. Assaulting and intimidating members of the press is not only unacceptable but poses serious ethical concerns for a party that prides itself on democratic values.



India's New 'Mountain Tank' Zorawar A Game-Changer for High-Altitude Warfare....

In a significant leap towards enhancing its combat capabilities, the Indian Army is set to induct a new air-transportable, 25-tonne light tank, *Zorawar*, designed specifically for high-altitude warfare along the sensitive frontier with China. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Larsen and Toubro, Zorawar is expected to bolster India's military strength in mountainous terrain, marking a major shift in its defence strategy.

The development of *Zorawar* comes as a response to the challenges India has faced in recent years, particularly during the standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh. The difficult terrain and high-altitude conditions of the Himalayan border areas have highlighted the limitations of traditional heavy battle tanks, prompting the need for a lighter, more agile platform capable of efficient operation in such environments.

The lessons learned from the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, especially regarding mobility and quick deployment in various terrains, also informed the development of this new tank. India's frontier with China, marked by high-altitude regions and challenging weather conditions, required a combat platform that could be easily airlifted and deployed in these regions, giving the Army greater flexibility in defending its borders.

On September 13, 2024, the DRDO successfully completed preliminary trials of *Zorawar*. These trials, conducted in desert terrain, saw the tank perform exceptionally well, meeting all intended objectives. The success of the trials marks a "significant milestone" in India's quest for self-reliance in defence technologies, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Developed by DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), the tank is part of India's broader efforts to enhance indigenous defence manufacturing. With plans to deploy around 350 *Zorawar* tanks, mostly in mountainous regions, the platform is set to be a key asset in the Indian Army's high-altitude combat strategy.

Zorawar: Specifications and Capabilities

Named after General Zorawar Singh Kahluria, a historic figure known for his courage and military exploits in Ladakh, the tank lives up to its name. Built in a record time of about three years, *Zorawar* is expected to be ready for induction into the Indian Army within the next three years.

At just 25 tonnes, *Zorawar* is significantly lighter than India's current main battle tank, the *Arjun*, which weighs 58.5 tonnes. This lightweight design makes *Zorawar* highly mobile and air-transportable, allowing it to be deployed quickly to border areas via helicopters. This capability is particularly crucial for India's northern frontier, where the ability to move troops and equipment swiftly is often a decisive factor in maintaining control over sensitive regions.

Despite its light weight, *Zorawar* is a formidable machine. It is equipped with the Cockerill 3105 turret, featuring a 105-millimetre calibre gun, capable of firing anti-tank guided missiles. Additionally, machine guns can be mounted on the tank, enhancing its versatility in combat. One of the standout features of *Zorawar* is its ability to fire at high angles of elevation, enabling it to serve a dual role as limited artillery in mountainous regions where firing angles are critical.

A Critical Asset for High-Altitude Warfare

One of the key strengths of *Zorawar* is its suitability for high-altitude operations. The tank has been specifically designed to perform in the difficult conditions of India's northern borders, where weather can be harsh and the terrain unforgiving. The ability to be airlifted and deployed in high-altitude areas gives the Indian Army a strategic advantage, allowing it to maintain a strong presence in regions where heavy tanks would struggle to operate.

In addition to its operational capabilities, *Zorawar* represents a significant achievement in India's defence manufacturing. The tank's development is part of a broader push by India to reduce its reliance on foreign defence imports and bolster its indigenous production capabilities. The success of *Zorawar* will not only strengthen India's military capabilities but also enhance its standing as a defence manufacturing hub.

Future Prospects

As *Zorawar* moves closer to full deployment, it is expected to play a pivotal role in India's border defence strategy, particularly along the frontier with China. The tank's versatility, combined with its ability to be deployed rapidly in high-altitude regions, will provide the Indian Army with a critical asset in maintaining security and deterring aggression.

With its lightweight design, advanced weaponry, and modular construction, *Zorawar* is a game-changer in India's military arsenal, ensuring that the Army is better equipped to face the unique challenges of high-altitude warfare. As India continues to modernize its military and push for greater self-reliance in defence technologies, *Zorawar* stands as a testament to the country's growing capabilities in this vital sector.

Experts Warn Of Scammers Using 'Deepfakes' Of Famous Doctors On Social Media

Experts are raising alarms about the growing use of AI-generated "deepfake" videos featuring famous doctors to promote dangerous and unverified health cures on social media. These videos, shared widely on platforms like Facebook and Instagram, exploit the trusted reputations of well-known doctors to advertise fake treatments for serious conditions, such as diabetes, while discrediting proven medications.

One notable example involves the use of British TV presenter Michael Mosley's likeness in deepfakes, even though he passed away earlier this year. These videos falsely claim that metformin, a widely prescribed diabetes medication, could be deadly, urging viewers to instead try untested "natural" remedies. Experts are concerned that such misinformation, spread under the guise of trusted figures, could seriously endanger people's lives.

British doctor John Cormack, who collaborates with the British Medical Journal (BMJ) on the issue, highlighted the risk: "A lot of these media doctors have spent a great deal of time creating an image of trustworthiness, so they are believed even when they make incredible claims." This manipulation of public trust makes it easier for scammers to fool people, especially older audiences, into believing and acting on the dangerous advice in these videos.

Artificial intelligence expert Henry Ajder noted that doctor deepfakes have surged in popularity this year, as advancements in AI make it easier to convincingly replicate the appear-



ance and voice of well-known personalities. These deepfakes often target individuals who are familiar with the doctors from daytime television, creating a false sense of credibility.

Some victims of these scams have begun to fight back. French doctor Michel Cymes, a frequent TV personality, took legal action against Facebook's parent company Meta after discovering his image was used in scam videos promoting false health cures. British doctor Hilary Jones, also a regular on UK television, hired an investigator to track down deepfakes that misused his likeness to sell products like fake blood pressure cures and weed gummies. Despite efforts to remove these videos, Jones lamented that they reappear almost immediately under different names. The use of deepfakes isn't limited to trust-

worthy figures. Controversial health personalities, such as French researcher Didier Raoult and Australian naturopath Barbara O'Neill, have also been targeted. In some cases, videos falsely advertise products linked to these figures, while others spread bizarre claims like O'Neill's death from a miracle oil sold online. O'Neill's husband expressed frustration, noting that scammers are exploiting her name to sell products she never endorsed.

Experts like Frederic Jurie, an AI specialist, explained that recent advances in generative AI have made it easier to produce highly convincing deepfakes. This technology allows algorithms to model and recreate images with stunning accuracy, making it difficult to distinguish real from fake. However, detecting deepfakes remains an ongoing challenge.

PM Modi's Mega Election Rally in J&K's Doda Today Amid Tight Security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to address a massive election rally today in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, marking the first visit by a sitting prime minister to the region in 42 years. The last such visit occurred in 1982.

To ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the rally, multi-tier security has been deployed across the twin districts of Doda and Kishtwar, with special focus around the event venue at Doda's stadium.

Union Coal and Mines Minister and BJP election in-charge for Jammu & Kashmir, G Kishan Reddy, emphasized the significance of the visit, saying, "Prime Minister Modi's presence in Doda will mark a historic moment and is expected to invigorate the party's campaign ahead of the Assembly elections."

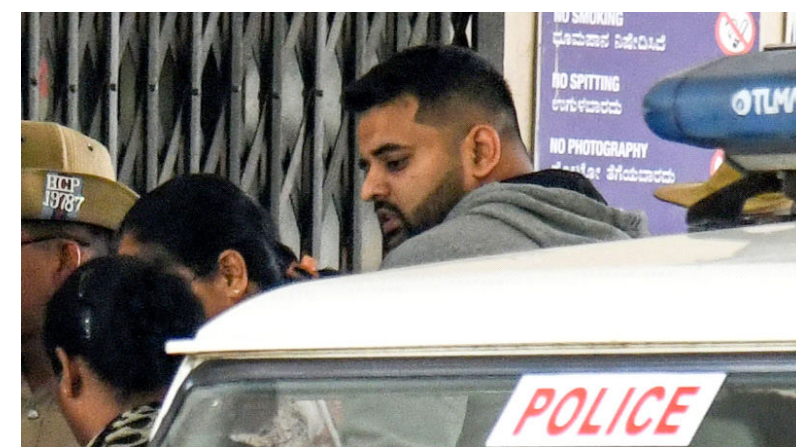
Voting for eight Assembly seats in the Chenab Valley districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban is scheduled for September 18. BJP leaders believe Modi's rally will energize party supporters and strengthen the prospects of its candidates across the Union Territory.

The BJP is contesting all 43 Assembly seats in the Jammu division, where the party previously held 25 seats. This election is particularly significant as it is the first Assembly election since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.

Voting will take place in three phases on September 18, 25, and October 1, with results to be declared on October 8. Home



Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have also addressed rallies in the region to bolster the BJP's campaign.



Chargesheet Filed Against Ex-MP Prajwal Revanna in Second Sexual Assault Case

Bengaluru police have filed a chargesheet in a special court against former MP Prajwal Revanna in connection with a second case of rape and sexual assault. Revanna, who is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Jail, is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) for four separate cases, officials said on Friday.

The second case against Revanna was registered by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on May 1, after a 44-year-old former member of the Hassan Zilla Panchayat accused him of repeatedly raping her.

According to police, the SIT conducted a comprehensive investigation, interrogating over 120 witnesses, including victims and key witnesses. A detailed 1,691-page chargesheet was submitted to the special court, containing collected evidence and expert opinions.

Revanna was arrested by the SIT on May 31 upon his arrival at Bengaluru Airport from Germany, in connection with a case registered at Holenarasipura Town Police Station. He was remanded to custody the following day.

The former Hassan Lok Sabha MP had failed to retain his parliamentary seat in the recent elections. The cases of sexual abuse came to light after pen drives containing explicit videos allegedly involving Revanna were reportedly circulated in Hassan ahead of the Lok Sabha polls on April 26.

Following the allegations, the JD(S) party suspended Prajwal Revanna. The ongoing investigations are being closely monitored, and further developments are awaited in this high-profile case.



India's Solar-Powered Pseudo-Satellite: A Game-Changer for Defence and Surveillance

India is set to enhance its defence and surveillance capabilities with a solar-powered plane that can fly for up to 90 days continuously. Developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru, the High-Altitude Platform (HAP) is an autonomous, unmanned aircraft that operates at altitudes of 17-20 km. Capable of both day and night operations, HAP is also referred to as a High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) when equipped with a payload.

The final version of this solar-powered aircraft will have a wingspan comparable to that of an Airbus 320 but will weigh only as much as a regular motorcycle. A smaller prototype with a 12-metre wingspan has already completed a successful 10-hour test flight, demonstrating key performance metrics like flight endurance of over 8.5 hours and an altitude of nearly 3 km above sea level. According to Dr. L Venkatakrishnan, head of the HAPS Program at NAL, the aircraft offers a cheaper, more versatile alternative to satellites for continuous surveillance. "It is a potent solar-powered eye in the sky," he said, adding that the final version is expected to carry a payload of up to 15 kg.

The aircraft can play crucial roles in intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and battlefield communications, especially during force mobilization. NAL aims for 90-day operational endurance, offering India a unique asset for monitoring its borders.

India's HAPS program adds to global efforts in developing similar technologies, with the Airbus Zephyr currently holding the record for the longest continuous flight at 64 days.

PM Modi Welcomes New Calf 'Deepjyoti' at His Lok Kalyan Marg Residence

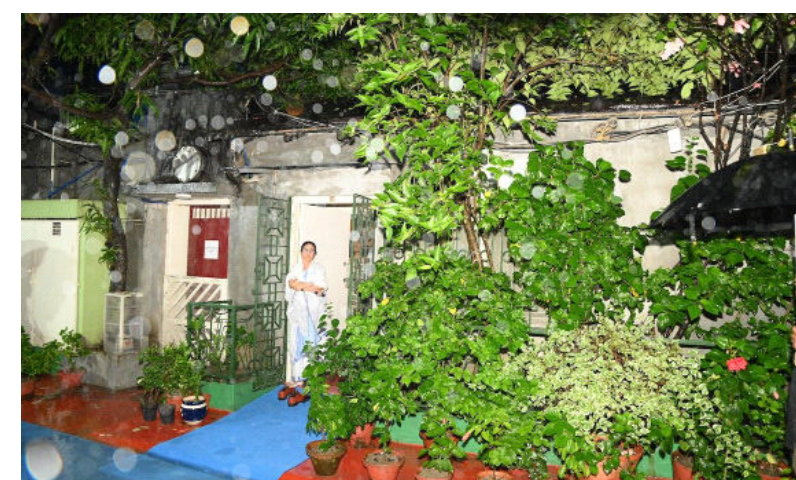
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a new addition to his residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg—a calf named 'Deepjyoti.' In a post on X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi shared the news that a cow, or "Gau Mata," at his residence recently gave birth to a calf.

PM Modi expressed his joy in a heartfelt post, referencing ancient scriptures. "It is said in our scriptures - 'Gaavh Sarvasukh Pradaah' (Cows bring all happiness). A new member has auspiciously arrived at the Prime Minister's residence premises. The beloved cow has given birth to a new calf, on whose forehead there is a mark of light. Hence, I have named it 'Deepjyoti'," he wrote in Hindi.

The Prime Minister shared a video montage showing his interactions with Deepjyoti, in which he is seen carrying the calf, sitting with it at his home temple, and taking it for a stroll in the garden. The visuals highlight a tender and serene moment of Modi bonding with the calf in his residence.

In addition to the video, PM Modi posted several photographs of the calf, calling it "truly adorable" and welcoming it as the newest member of his household.

The prime minister's post on social media received a warm response, with many praising the affection shown to the new calf and emphasizing the cultural reverence for cows in India.



'I'm Requesting, Please Come And Talk': Mamata Banerjee To Doctors

The standoff between protesting doctors and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continued as discussions were stalled over the demand to live-stream their meeting. The doctors insisted on live-streaming the talks, while Ms. Banerjee refused, citing the ongoing Supreme Court case involving RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

"I am requesting, please come and talk as you requested. I will sign the minutes of the meeting, but live-streaming can only happen with Supreme Court permission," Banerjee said.

Earlier, Ms. Banerjee made a surprise visit to the protest site to address the doctors staging a sit-in outside Swasthya Bhavan, the state health department's headquarters. The doctors began their protest after a trainee doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College last month. The protests have intensified, with demands for action against senior officials and improved security for healthcare workers.

During her address, Banerjee urged the doctors to return to work, assuring them that their demands would be considered. She promised justice for the victim, "Tilottama" (a pseudonym for the rape victim), and urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to expedite the case.

Despite her conciliatory tone, the doctors continued to insist on a "transparent" meeting, demanding live-streaming of discussions. "We welcome Mamata Banerjee's visit, but we want a transparent meeting over our five demands," said a protesting doctor. The doctors have been demanding the resignation of several senior officials, including the Kolkata Police Commissioner and the Health Secretary, citing a "threat culture" in government healthcare institutions. The situation remains tense, with the protest ongoing.

Congress Criticizes Noida District Magistrate Over Social Media Post on Rahul Gandhi



The Congress party on criticized Noida District Magistrate Manish Verma after an inappropriate comment directed at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was posted from the official X (formerly Twitter) handle of the Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate. The party demanded immediate action against the officer for the "unacceptable comment." In response, a statement was issued from the same handle, claiming that the comment was posted by "anti-social elements" who had misused the district magistrate's ID card. "Taking this seriously, legal action is being taken, and an FIR has been filed. The cyber cell is investigating the matter," the statement added. A copy of the FIR was also shared on the handle.

Earlier, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh condemned the post, describing it as "inappropriate and unacceptable." He argued that such

incidents reflect the increasing politicization of India's bureaucracy in recent years. Ramesh said, "Immediate action must be taken against this officer who has brazenly violated all rules and norms." Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete shared a screenshot of the deleted comment, which read in Hindi, "You should think about yourself and your Pappu," a reference to Rahul Gandhi. Shrinete criticized the district magistrate's language and thoughts, stating that such comments demonstrate the administrative staff's bias. Congress leader Pawan Khara also expressed his disapproval, questioning whether IAS officers were now being directed to make political comments under BJP rule. The post from the district magistrate's handle has since been deleted, but the controversy continues as the Congress demands accountability.

US Accuses RT of Covert Influence Activities, Imposes New Sanctions

In a significant development regarding the ongoing border tensions between India and China, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has announced the withdrawal of troops from four areas in Eastern Ladakh, including the contentious Galwan Valley. This announcement was made on Friday, signaling a potential easing of the military standoff that has persisted since 2020.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning confirmed that disengagement has been achieved in these key areas, leading to a "generally stable" border situation. This update follows recent high-level talks between Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in St Petersburg, Russia, on the sidelines of a BRICS security officials' meeting.

Mao Ning emphasized that the disengagement of troops in the Western sector of the China-India border, including Galwan Valley, marks a positive step toward stabilizing the situation. She also highlighted that both nations have committed to working on enhancing bilateral relations and addressing remaining friction points.

The talks between Doval and Wang, who are designated Special Representatives for the India-China border negotiations, focused on the progress of recent consultations and the implementation of agreed-upon measures to improve relations. The two officials agreed on the need to boost mutual understanding and trust, enhance communication, and create favorable conditions for bilateral ties.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's statement echoed sentiments expressed by Wang, who



stressed the importance of unity and cooperation between the two ancient civilizations amid global turbulence. Wang expressed hope that both countries will pragmatically handle their differences and work towards a stable and sustainable relationship.

On Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India stated that Doval had conveyed the necessity of peace and respect for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to Wang. The MEA's press release indicated that India and China have agreed to expedite efforts to achieve full disengagement at remaining friction points in Eastern Ladakh.

This development comes two weeks after recent diplomatic talks between the two countries, during which both sides agreed to enhance communication through diplomatic and military channels to resolve outstanding issues. Despite some progress in disengagement, a complete resolution of the border dispute remains elusive, with ongoing tensions stemming from the severe clash in Galwan Valley in June 2020. The announcement of troop withdrawals and the commitment to stabilize relations offer a glimmer of hope for the normalization of ties between India and China, which have been strained due to the prolonged standoff.



Trump and Kamala Harris Campaign in Battleground States Amid Intensified Migrant Controversy

In a heated presidential campaign season, both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris are focusing their efforts on key battleground states as a racially charged controversy over Haitian migrants escalates. Trump, 78, is scheduled to rally in Nevada later today, where he will address economic issues such as inflation, a key concern for voters. Trump, who has ramped up his rhetoric on illegal immigration, has made controversial claims about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio. He promised "large deportations" from the city, which he alleged is being adversely affected by Haitian immigrants. The claims have been accompanied by inflammatory statements about Haitians allegedly harming local wildlife and committing violent crimes.

Authorities in Springfield have been forced to evacuate schools for a second day due to threats linked to the heightened tensions. The FBI is investigating threatening calls directed at the local Haitian community center.

In contrast, Kamala Harris, who recently delivered a strong performance in a debate against Trump, is campaigning in Pennsylvania, a crucial swing state. Harris, 59, has focused on portraying herself as a unifying leader who can move beyond the divisiveness of the Trump era.

The debate on Tuesday saw Harris receiving praise, including from some Republicans, for her performance. Meanwhile, Trump is doubling down on his hardline stance on immigration, attempting to pivot away from economic issues where his campaign has struggled.

President Joe Biden, who has endorsed Harris after stepping back from his own campaign, condemned Trump's inflammatory rhetoric, stating that there is "no place in America" for such divisive statements.

The campaign season is marked by a near dead heat in opinion polls with just seven weeks until election day. Trump's campaign is also under scrutiny for its association with far-right figures, including Laura Loomer, whose controversial views have drawn criticism even from some of Trump's supporters.

As the election approaches, both candidates are working to consolidate their positions in the battleground states that will determine the outcome of the race.

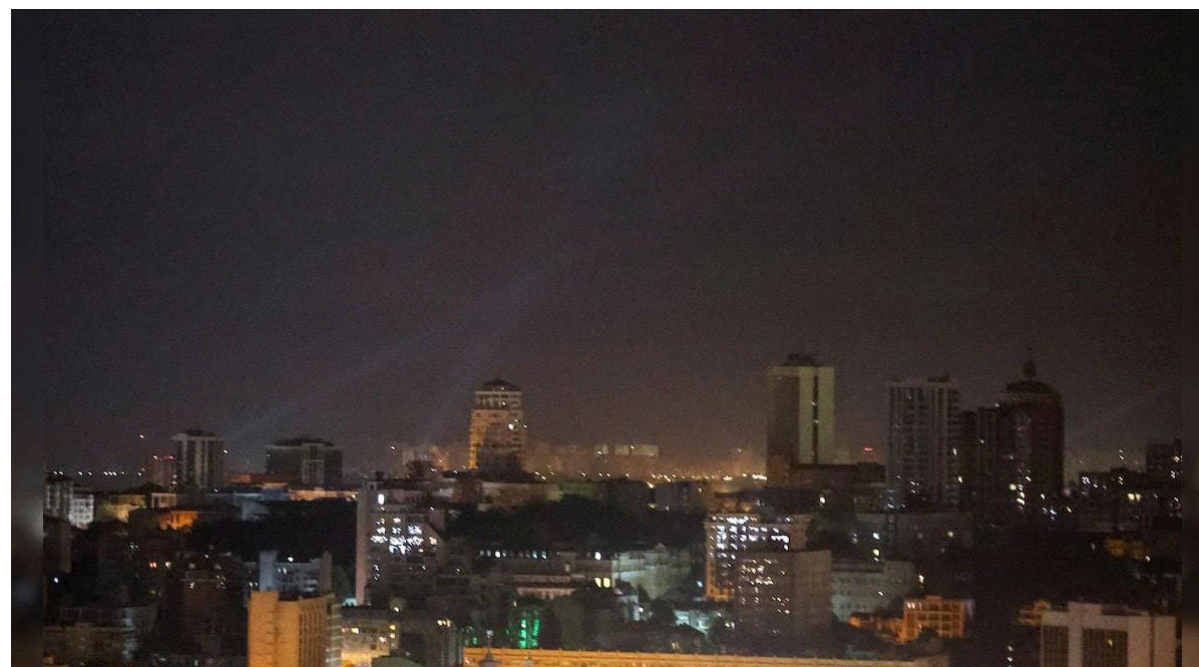
Russia Launches Massive Drone Attack on Ukraine; Kyiv Shoots Down 72 of 76 Shahed Drones

Russia has intensified its aerial assault on Ukraine, launching a significant drone attack overnight on Kyiv and other cities. Ukrainian air defenses successfully intercepted 72 out of 76 Shahed drones over 12 regions in central, southern, and eastern Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian Air Force.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is scheduled to visit the United States later this month, reiterated his call for enhanced air defense systems and long-range capabilities. "We need more capabilities to strengthen the air shield, air defense, and long-range capabilities to continue protecting life and our people," Zelenskyy stated on Telegram.

While there were no immediate reports of casualties, the strikes caused damage across various parts of Ukraine. In Kyiv, drone fragments fell on a municipal building in the Obolon district, though no fires were reported. The governor of the Kyiv region noted damage to private homes and commercial properties, as well as shattered windows in high-rise residential buildings.

The southern Odesa region also experienced significant damage, including several fires ignited by debris that impacted commercial and residential buildings. Air alerts were issued for three to five hours throughout the night, with



Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirming that air defense units were actively engaged.

The conflict, now spanning nearly 31 months, has seen Russia's forces launch thousands of drones and missiles, causing extensive civilian casualties, infrastructure damage, and disruptions to power supplies. Moscow maintains

that its long-range attacks are intended to diminish Ukraine's military capabilities, despite widespread destruction and civilian impacts. As Ukraine continues to bolster its defenses, international support and additional military aid remain critical to its efforts in countering the persistent and escalating threats from Russia.

China Announces Troop Withdrawals in Eastern Ladakh, Border Situation Reportedly Stable

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drawals and the commitment to stabilize relations offer a glimmer of hope for the normalization of ties between India and China, which have been strained due to the prolonged standoff.



RBI Imposes Penalties on Hewlett Packard and Two Other NBFCs for KYC Non-Compliance



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied monetary penalties on three non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for regulatory lapses and non-compliance with various RBI directives. The penalties, issued between September 3 and September 11, 2024, were imposed on Hewlett Packard Financial Services (India) Private Limited, SMFG India Credit Company Limited, and Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance Limited.

On September 3, 2024, Hewlett Packard Financial Services (India) Private Limited was fined ₹10.4 lakh for failing to comply with Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and other applicable regulations for systemically important non-deposit-taking NBFCs. The penalty followed an inspection by the RBI based on the company's financial position as of March 31, 2022.

On September 4, 2024, SMFG India Credit Company Limited (formerly Fullerton India Credit Company Limited) was penalized ₹23.1 lakh for vi-

olations related to RBI's Information Technology (IT) and cybersecurity guidelines. A control gap assessment in April 2023 revealed the company's failure to monitor outsourced vendors properly, conduct security audits, and retain critical audit logs.

Finally, on September 11, 2024, Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance Limited was fined ₹7.9 lakh for non-compliance with the RBI's liquidity risk management framework. The company failed to disclose its Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) on its website, did not submit customer data to credit information companies, and did not provide loan sanction letters in the vernacular language to vehicle loan borrowers.

In all cases, the RBI clarified that these penalties were based on compliance deficiencies and were not reflective of the validity of transactions or agreements undertaken by the companies. Further actions may be taken if required.

Boeing Strike Threatens to Worsen Global Jetliner Shortage



Boeing's first strike in 16 years is raising concerns that it could worsen the already severe global jetliner shortage, further impacting airfares and forcing airlines to extend the use of older aircraft. The strike began at midnight on Friday, as Boeing's West Coast workers walked out after rejecting a contract deal. Production of Boeing's best-selling 737 MAX has been halted as a result.

Boeing's Chief Financial Officer, Brian West, warned that a prolonged strike could hurt the company's output and disrupt its recovery. With Boeing being a key player in global aviation, industry executives fear this could exacerbate existing supply issues caused by parts shortages, recruitment challenges, and maintenance delays.

"A strike could have an impact on production levels, which could exacerbate some of the supply shortages," said Ross O'Connor, CFO of Irish leasing company Avolon.

The jetliner shortage has already been pushing airfares higher, and experts warn that the imbalance between demand and supply could persist for some time. Rob Morris, global head of consultancy at Cirium Ascend, suggested that it might not be additional supply that corrects the situation, but rather a softening of demand due to higher airfares.

While Boeing halts production, European competitor Airbus is also struggling to meet its delivery targets for the year. The combined difficulties of both major manufacturers are leaving airlines with little choice but to keep older jets flying longer, increasing the average fleet age and complicating efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

The airline industry remains committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, but experts warn that using older aircraft longer will delay progress towards that goal.

EU Unlikely to Order Breakup of Google's Adtech Business for Now

European Union (EU) antitrust officials are expected to refrain from ordering a breakup of Google's adtech business, despite earlier threats, due to the complexity of such a move. The EU's competition regulators are preparing a decision to address Google's anti-competitive practices within its adtech operations, which could include a hefty fine but not the drastic measure of breaking up the company, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Last year, Margrethe Vestager, the EU's antitrust chief, hinted at the possibility of splitting up Google's highly profitable adtech division, marking what would have been the most severe penalty ever imposed on the tech giant. The breakup could have forced Google to divest key parts of its advertising business, including its sell-side tools, DSP, and ad exchange, AdX, due to conflicts of interest with its ad buying tools, such as Google Ads and DV360.

However, the breakup is unlikely to



be part of the EU's forthcoming ruling, primarily because of the complexities involved in implementing such a drastic measure. Regulators are reportedly considering keeping the option open for a later stage if Google's anti-competitive behavior persists.

The European Commission's decision is expected in the coming months, though it may not be finalized before Vestager's departure from office in November. Google has already faced

significant financial penalties, having been fined €8.25 billion (\$9.14 billion) by EU regulators over the past decade for various antitrust violations.

Google's adtech business, which generated \$237.85 billion in revenue in 2023, remains under intense scrutiny worldwide, including a separate antitrust case in the U.S. brought by the Department of Justice, accusing the company of attempting to monopolize key ad markets.

Indian Stock Markets Surge to New High Amid Global Rate Cut Optimism

The Indian stock markets reached new all-time highs this week, buoyed by global rate-cut optimism and a positive outlook for domestic corporate earnings. The European Central Bank (ECB) lowered its deposit rate by 25 basis points to 3.50% to stimulate sluggish growth, adding momentum to global markets. Industry experts have noted that the anticipation of favorable monetary policies worldwide has provided a significant boost to investor sentiment.

The US Federal Reserve is set to announce its interest rate decision on September 18 following a two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. The outcome of this meeting is expected to be a key driver of market direction globally, with a particular focus on how it might impact domestic indices.

Indian markets showed resilience this week, recovering from the negative impact of SEBI's deadline for Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) disclosure norms and lingering fears



of a US recession. Despite volatility, both Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) and FIIs maintained positive flows, driven by a strong monsoon season and expectations of higher demand during the upcoming festive period.

On Thursday, the Sensex and Nifty indices reached new intraday highs of 83,116 and 25,433, respectively, with major sectors such as auto, IT, PSU, and pharma leading the gains. Ana-

lysts also highlighted the importance of foreign portfolio investor (FPI) flows, crude oil price movements, and upcoming policy decisions by the RBI and the US Federal Reserve in shaping future market trends.

Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, noted that the Nifty index continues to sustain above its 21-day exponential moving average, indicating a strong market trend moving forward.

CCI Accuses Samsung, Xiaomi of Colluding with Amazon and Flipkart

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has accused major smartphone brands, including Samsung and Xiaomi, of colluding with e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart to launch products exclusively on their platforms, violating Indian antitrust laws. According to regulatory reports seen by Reuters, this alleged practice of exclusivity has hurt competition and led to the prioritization of certain listings and steep discounts, undermining other companies.

The CCI's investigation, which spanned over 1,027 pages for Amazon and 1,696 pages for Flipkart, found that the Indian units of smartphone companies like Samsung, Xiaomi, Motorola, Realme, and OnePlus were involved in exclusive phone launches on these platforms, which constituted a breach of competition law. The report also implicated other brands like Vivo and Lenovo in similar practices on Flipkart.



The findings suggest that these companies worked closely with Amazon and Flipkart to give preferential treatment to certain products, which harmed the interests of small retailers and distorted the competitive landscape. G.V. Siva Prasad, additional director general of the CCI, emphasized that such exclusivity goes against free and fair competition and ultimately disadvantages consumers.

The investigation also revealed that both Amazon and Flipkart downplayed these allegations during the

probe, though officials found that the practice of exclusive launches was widespread.

As major players in India's smartphone market—Samsung and Xiaomi together hold nearly 36% of the market—these findings could result in significant legal and compliance challenges for the companies. India's e-retail market is expected to reach \$160 billion by 2028, making these developments a serious concern for Amazon and Flipkart, who are facing increased scrutiny from regulators and small retailers alike.



MISSION MAUSAM: A VITAL LEAP IN WEATHER FORECASTING AND MANAGEMENT FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

As climate change accelerates, weather patterns around the globe are becoming increasingly unpredictable. India, with its vast geographical diversity and significant population, is particularly vulnerable to these shifts. From devastating floods to prolonged droughts, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, leading to widespread economic damage, agricultural losses, and human suffering. In this context, India's ambitious new initiative, *Mission Mausam*, represents a timely and crucial step towards enhancing the country's weather forecasting and management capabilities.

The mission, spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, aims to significantly improve India's ability to predict and manage weather events, leveraging cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and machine learning. Over the next five years, Mission Mausam will expand observational networks, develop new technologies, and improve weather models to provide more accurate and localized forecasts. It promises to be a game-changer for India's disaster management and long-term climate resilience.

Why Mission Mausam is Needed

At the heart of Mission Mausam is the need to address the inherent challenges in tropical weather forecasting. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has long struggled to predict small-scale weather events with high precision due to limitations in the country's current observation and modeling infrastructure. According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the horizontal resolution of India's Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models is currently at 12 kilometers. This makes it difficult to forecast localized weather phenomena, such as isolated thunderstorms or cloudbursts, with accuracy.

Moreover, observational data in India is sparse both spatially and temporally. This data gap hampers the ability to predict high-impact weather events, especially in regions with complex topography like the Himalayas or the coastal areas. As the atmosphere becomes more chaotic due to rising global temperatures, extreme weather events like flash floods, cloudbursts, and localized droughts are becoming harder to predict using existing tools.

Expanding Observation Networks and Technological Capabilities

One of the key pillars of Mission Mausam is the expansion of India's observation network. This will involve increasing the number of Doppler radars by 150%, installing 10 new wind profilers, and setting up a similar number of radiometers. These tools are essential for monitoring atmospheric conditions and providing real-time data on weather patterns.



A critical component of the mission is the establishment of a "cloud chamber" at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune. This facility will allow scientists to artificially develop clouds in a controlled environment, enabling them to study the physical processes occurring within clouds in unprecedented detail. Understanding cloud dynamics is key to improving weather models and developing technolo-

gies like cloud seeding, which can be used to artificially induce or suppress rain.

By enhancing the horizontal resolution of its weather models from 12 kilometers to 6 kilometers, Mission Mausam aims to generate highly localized forecasts down to the panchayat level. This will allow for more precise predictions of weather events in small communities, which are often the most vulnerable to extreme weather.

Weather Management: A Critical Frontier

One of the most exciting aspects of Mission Mausam is its focus on weather management technologies. The mission aims to develop tools that can artificially enhance or suppress weather events like rain and hailstorms. For instance, in drought-prone areas, cloud seeding could be used to induce rain, while in flood-prone regions, it could help suppress rainfall.



Cloud seeding has been used in several countries, including the United States, China, and the UAE, to manage weather events. The process involves dispersing substances like silver iodide or dry ice into clouds to encourage the formation of rain or snow. However, its effectiveness and environmental impact remain subjects of ongoing research. In India, cloud seeding has been attempted in states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, but it has not yet achieved widespread success.

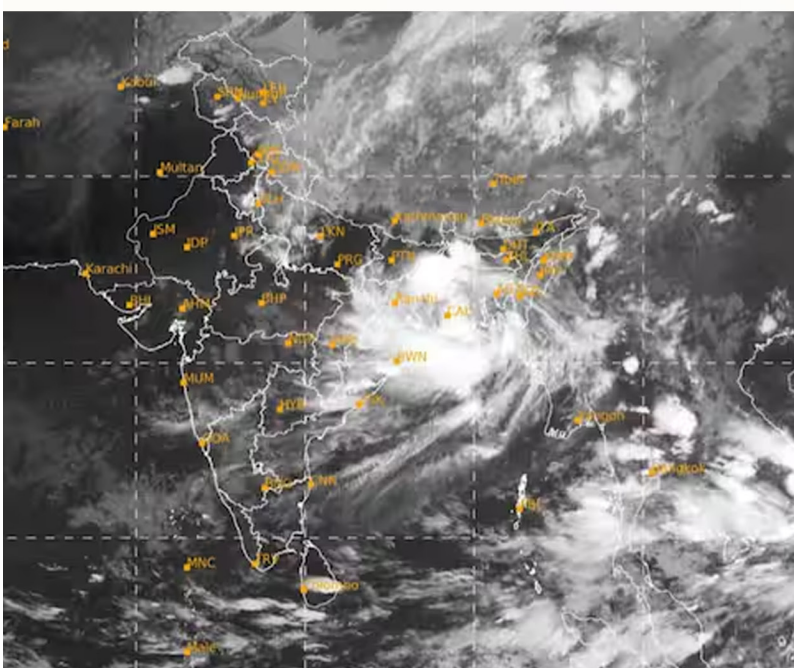
Mission Mausam aims to advance cloud seeding technologies and other weather management techniques over the next five years, potentially allowing India to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events in a more proactive and controlled manner.

Building Climate Resilience

As the climate crisis intensifies, India must build greater resilience to the growing threats posed by extreme weather. Mission Mausam represents a bold and necessary step in that direction.

By improving short to medium-range weather forecasts by 5-10%, enhancing air quality predictions, and enabling panchayat-level forecasts, the mission will significantly strengthen India's ability to prepare for and respond to weather-related disasters.

Mission Mausam is a vital initiative that addresses India's pressing need for improved weather forecasting and management in the face of climate change. As extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, having the tools and technologies to accurately predict and manage these events will be crucial for safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and expanding observation networks, Mission Mausam promises to usher in a new era of climate resilience for India.





Man's Encounter with '124-Year-Old' Crocodile Leaves Internet Stunned



A video of TV personality Robert Alleva's encounter with a 124-year-old Nile crocodile has taken the internet by storm. Alleva, co-host of *Kings of Pain*, shared the breathtaking footage on Instagram, showing his daring interaction with the crocodile, named Henry, at the Crocworld Conservation Centre in South Africa. Henry, believed to be the oldest known crocodile in the world, has lived since 1900 and is soon to celebrate his 124th birthday.

In the video, Alleva can be seen carefully placing his feet on one of Henry's legs, causing the massive reptile to scream. However, the crocodile remained calm as Alleva then placed his hand on its scaly body. "I haven't felt scared in a long time. This is amazing," Alleva remarked during the encounter.

Alleva's post, captioned with a mix of awe

and excitement, revealed that meeting Henry had been a long-time wish. "Be careful what you wish for!! I was as intimidated as I was fascinated," he wrote, praising the Crocworld team for the opportunity.

The video has amassed over 4 million views and sparked intense debate. While many viewers applauded Alleva's bravery, others expressed concern about the potential dangers. One user commented, "That thing is a living dinosaur and it's huge," while another cautioned, "Playing with monsters means wanting to go down in history in a tragic way."

Despite the divided opinions, the encounter has captured the attention of wildlife enthusiasts worldwide, with many calling it a privilege to witness such a rare and ancient creature.

American Content Creator Shares How Moving to India Transformed Her Life

Kristen Fischer, an American content creator at SkyFish Development, has captured the internet's attention with her reflections on how relocating to India has profoundly changed her life. Fischer, who has lived in Delhi for two years, shared her transformative journey on social media, detailing the various ways her lifestyle has adapted since moving to the vibrant and diverse country.

"My life has changed in many ways since coming to India. It definitely took an adjustment time coming here, but now I love my life in India and wouldn't have it any other way," Fischer explained.

Key Changes in Kristen Fischer's Life:

1. Adopting a Vegetarian Diet: Fischer embraced a plant-based diet, aligning with India's widespread vegetarian culture. She cited both ethical and health reasons for the shift.

2. Wearing Traditional Indian Clothing: She now regularly dons lightweight cotton kurtas, which are well-suited to Delhi's warm climate.

3. Using Public Transport: Fischer has become accustomed to Delhi's metro system, praising its efficiency compared to public transport in the U.S.

4. Daily Chai Consumption: A fan of Indian tea, Fischer has made chai a staple in her daily routine, enjoying it as a refreshing break.

5. Sending Her Kids to Private School: Fischer highlighted that private schools in India are more affordable and provide a high standard of education for her children.

6. Eating with Her Hands: Initially hesitant, she now enjoys eating Indian food with her hands, feeling it enhances the overall experience.



7. Using Hindi Regularly: Learning Hindi has become a necessity, and Fischer now uses the language in her daily interactions.

8. Performing Household Chores Manually: She has adapted to doing chores without the gadgets commonly used in the U.S.

9. Using a Bidet: Fischer now prefers using a bidet for its cleanliness and convenience, remarking, "I am never going back."

Fischer's video, which has garnered over 1.7 million views, has sparked appreciation from viewers, who praised her for embracing the contrasts between life in India and the U.S. Many found her insights both enlightening and relatable, applauding her willingness to adapt to a new culture.

Gen Z's Favorite Social Media Platforms: Insights

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, providing platforms for everything from personal connections to news consumption, content creation, and even career development. For Gen Z—defined as those born between the late 1990s and early 2010s—social media plays a particularly crucial role in shaping communication and entertainment habits.

According to 2023 data from the Pew Research Center, YouTube stands as the most popular social media platform among Gen Z, with a significant 93% of U.S. adults aged 18-29 using it. Instagram follows closely, with 78% of this demographic engaging on the platform. Facebook, Snapchat, and TikTok also rank highly, each favored by over 60% of Gen Z users. The platforms that attract fewer, but still significant, percentages include Pinterest, Reddit, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, WhatsApp, and BeReal.

Among U.S. adults aged 18-29, social media usage is led by YouTube, with 93% of this demographic engaging on the platform. Instagram follows with 78%, while Facebook is used by 67%. Snapchat and TikTok are also popular, with 65% and 62% of users, respectively. Pinterest sees engagement from 45%, and Reddit is used by 44%. X (formerly Twitter)



ter) has 42% of this age group, while both LinkedIn and WhatsApp each have 32% usage. BeReal is less popular, with 12% of adults in this age group using the platform.

Social media also plays a significant role in how Gen Z and other Americans consume news. Half of U.S. adults report getting news from platforms like TikTok, X, Facebook, and Instagram. However, the way users encounter news varies across these platforms. On Facebook and Instagram, news is often shared by friends and family, while TikTok users are more likely to get news from influencers or unfamiliar sources. X, by contrast, tends to feature more news from media outlets and journalists.

Why Planes Always Board From the Left Side: The Historical Reason

Ever wondered why passengers always board planes from the left-hand side? This practice, while not widely considered by travelers, has deep historical roots dating back to the days when humans traveled by boat. TikTok creator Dougie Sharpe recently shared an insightful explanation of the tradition, revealing that it stems from the way ships were designed and operated.

In a viral video, Sharpe explained, "The reason we always load and unload planes from the left-hand side is a hold-over from when humanity moved on boats." During ancient times, ships loaded and unloaded cargo and passengers from the left-hand side, which became known as the "port side." This standardization simplified logistics, allowing ships to dock consistently at ports around the world with the correct equipment on the proper side.

As aviation technology evolved, this maritime tradition carried over into modern air travel. En-

gineers designing airports and airplanes adopted the same boarding approach, maintaining the left side for passenger entry. "When humanity transitioned from boats to aeroplanes, engineers just held the concept over," Sharpe explained.

Aviation experts have also confirmed this historical connection. Michael Oakley, managing editor of *The Aviation Historian*, noted that many aviation practices, including the boarding process, have origins in maritime traditions. He pointed out that just as ships have a "port side" for boarding, airplanes follow the same principle.

This historical tidbit has resonated with many, sparking online discussions. One commenter noted, "These are my favourite types of practices that have lasted thousands of years." The term "starboard," referring to the right side of ships and planes, also has a maritime origin, further linking aviation to its nautical past.



Dubai Princess Sheikha Latifa's Touching Tribute to Father Goes Viral

Dubai Princess Sheikha Latifa MDR Al Maktoum recently shared a heartfelt tribute to her father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Prime Minister of the UAE, on Instagram. The emotional post, captioned "There is no one like you, Father," was originally written in Arabic and accompanied by a video highlighting special moments between the father and daughter. The post quickly went viral, garnering over 57,000 views and drawing widespread praise from the online community.

The video reflects the close bond between Sheikha Latifa and Sheikh Mohammed, who also serves as the ruler of Dubai and the vice president of the UAE. Sheikha Latifa is one of Sheikh Mohammed's 26 children, and the tribute emphasized her deep affection and admiration for her father.

Online Reactions to the Post

The Instagram post has sparked a wave of positive responses, with many users applauding the emotional message and reflecting on the strong father-daughter bond. One user commented, "Beautiful see-



ing the golden hearts and compassion all of you give selflessly to make life better for all. Your Father and Fazza are two extraordinary men Latifa, you are also such an inspiration, beautiful soul."

Another user wrote, "A proud daughter of a legendary leader," while others praised Sheikh Mohammed's leadership and his role as a father. One commenter added, "The greatest world leader and amazing father, not only to his children but also to many of us in this beautiful land."

The touching tribute has resonated with people worldwide, celebrating both the personal and public legacy of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Devoted Dog Follows Owner to Hospital, Refuses to Be Separated

In a heartwarming display of loyalty, a dog refused to be separated from its owner as they were transported to the hospital in an ambulance. The touching moment, captured in a viral video, shows the determined dog chasing the ambulance carrying its owner, prompting the compassionate ambulance crew to allow the devoted pet inside.



The video, which has garnered over 8 million views, was filmed by a passing motorcyclist and highlights the incredible bond between the dog and its owner. The footage captures the dog running tirelessly after the ambulance, unwilling to let its owner out of sight. The ambulance crew, moved by the dog's determination, eventually let the loyal companion join its owner for the rest of the journey.

The video has touched hearts across social media, with many praising the crew's kindness and the dog's unwavering loyalty. One user shared a similar experience, commenting, "Had a call this week where we spent more time catching and returning the dog than getting the patient in the ambulance. The patient wouldn't leave till their dog was safe."

Another user recalled a heartbreaking memory of a German Shepherd running after an ambulance carrying their deceased sister, while others expressed admiration for the compassion displayed in the moment.

This viral story serves as a reminder of the deep bond between humans and dogs, showing how acts of kindness can bring comfort in even the most stressful situations.



Harmanpreet Singh's Brace Hands India 2-1 Win Over Pakistan

India's men's hockey team secured a 2-1 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in a thrilling final group stage match of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024, held in Moqi, China. With this win, India remains unbeaten as they advance to the semi-finals of the tournament.

Pakistan took an early lead in the eighth minute, thanks to a well-placed goal by Ahmad Nadeem. However, India's captain Harmanpreet Singh quickly turned the tide, leading his team from the front with two crucial penalty corner goals in the first half, sealing India's comeback.

Despite Pakistan's strong start, India dominated the remainder of the game, controlling possession and keeping the pressure on their rivals. Harmanpreet's sharp finishing from set-pieces ensured that India maintained their winning momentum heading into the knockout stage.

This victory has reinforced India's position as one of the favorites in the



tournament, with Pakistan, Korea, and India having already secured their spots in the semi-finals. The final semi-finalist will be decided between Malaysia and China, who are

still in contention.

India now looks forward to continuing their strong form as they aim for the Asian Champions Trophy title.

Morne Morkel's Goal as India's Bowling Coach



Morne Morkel, India's new bowling coach, is focused on maintaining and refining a well-established system, ensuring players feel at ease despite high expectations. Morkel, who recently replaced Paras Mhambrey, joined the team in Chennai ahead of the home Test series against

Bangladesh.

"Coming here, this is a set-up that operates by itself," Morkel told BCCI.tv. "My goal is to protect and enhance it in small ways." He emphasized that the senior players would take charge while the coaching staff provides necessary

support and advice.

Morkel's appointment was recommended by head coach Gautam Gambhir, with whom he worked during the IPL for Lucknow Super Giants. Connecting with players on a personal level is important to Morkel, who believes in building strong relationships to help players thrive under pressure. "I've played against and connected with some of the guys during the IPL," he said, adding that getting to know the team's strengths and weaknesses is key.

Morkel was impressed by the professionalism of the players during his first interactions. "I was blown away by how they went about things... It's a good sign, and hopefully, we can build on that," he remarked.

Talking about his appointment, Morkel shared, "It was a special moment... The first person I called was my dad." The South African legend feels ready for the challenge and is eager to impart his experience to help India succeed.

Duleep Trophy: Tilak Varma Put India A in Command

Tilak Varma and Pratham both scored smooth hundreds, propelling India A to a commanding position against India D after the third day of their Duleep Trophy match on Saturday.

Varma, keen to keep himself in the spotlight for future India selections, scored an unbeaten 111 off 193 balls (9x4), while Pratham impressed with 122 off 189 balls (12x4, 1x6). India A declared their second innings at 380 for three, securing a substantial overall lead of 487. In response, India D managed to score 62 for the loss of Atharva Taide, chasing a target of 488. Ricky Bhui (44) and Yash Dubey (15) were at the crease at stumps.

Pratham, who started the day at 59, continued his fluent play, reaching his century in 149 balls before falling to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar close to the end of the morning session. Pratham and Varma added 104 runs for the second wicket.

Varma, once touted by Rohit Sharma as India's next all-format player, held his ground, remaining unbeaten on 60 at lunch after bringing up his fifty in 96 balls. India A went to lunch at 260 for two, having started the day at 115 for one.

After the break, India A lost Riyan Parag for 20, but Varma found a solid partner in Shashwat Rawat, who contributed an unbeaten 64 off 88 balls (7x4). The fourth-wicket duo added 116 runs, further strengthening India A's grip on the match.



Mumbai City FC Stages Dramatic Comeback to Draw 2-2 with Mohun Bagan

Mumbai City FC mounted a thrilling second-half comeback to secure a 2-2 draw against Mohun Bagan in the opening match of the Indian Super League (ISL) in Kolkata on Friday. Mohun Bagan squandered a two-goal lead, with defensive frailties costing them dearly for the second time in two weeks, reminiscent of their Durand Cup final defeat.

The match began with a stroke of misfortune for Mumbai City as their long-serving foreign player Tiri scored an own goal in the ninth minute, giving his former team Mohun Bagan an early lead. Mohun Bagan extended their advantage in the 28th minute when debutant Alberto Rodriguez netted a fierce strike, putting the Mariners comfortably ahead. However, the second half saw Mumbai City FC fight back, with Tiri making amends for his earlier own goal by scoring for his current team in the 70th minute.



Afghanistan, New Zealand Cricketers Keep Busy Amid Test Venue Fiasco

The one-off Test match between Afghanistan and New Zealand, scheduled at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium in Greater Noida, ended without a single ball being bowled. Persistent rain for three out of the five days and a poorly managed outfield prevented any play from taking place. Despite having clear skies on some days, the stadium's facilities could not prepare the field in time, leading to heavy criticism. The match was officially abandoned on Friday, with the umpires having no choice due to the conditions.

With no on-field action possible, both teams found ways to stay active. Afghanistan's coach Jonathan Trott revealed that his players focused on gym sessions to prepare for their upcoming one-day series against South Africa in the UAE. Trott explained that he wanted the team to stay sharp and ready for their next challenge in Dubai.

New Zealand cricketers, meanwhile, turned to hallway cricket in their hotel to keep themselves engaged. Head coach Gary Stead mentioned that players also focused on gym sessions to maintain fitness ahead of their upcoming Test matches in Asia, including three in India and two in Sri Lanka. Stead expressed disappointment, as the abandoned match hindered their preparations for their next Test.

Both teams stayed focused on future goals despite the frustrating venue situation.



Lionel Messi Set to Return After Two-Month Layoff

Lionel Messi is poised to make his return for Inter Miami on Saturday, following a two-month absence due to an ankle injury. Inter Miami coach Gerardo Martino confirmed on Friday that Messi has recovered and is available for the upcoming match against the Philadelphia Union.

"Yes, he is fine," Martino said. "He trained on Thursday and is in the plans for the game. After training, we will figure out the strategy for him, but he is available."

Messi, who injured his right ankle during the Copa America final on July 14, where he led Argentina to victory over Colombia, has missed eight Major League Soccer (MLS) games for Inter Miami as well as Argentina's World Cup qualifiers this month.

Inter Miami, currently leading the Eastern Conference and overall MLS standings, will be boosted by the return of their star player. "To get back the best player in the world to our team, which was already on a good run, we are all very happy with this situation," Martino added.

Messi's return is highly anticipated as he looks to contribute to Miami's push for more success in the MLS.



New Trends in Movie Promotions: NTR Take the Lead

Movie promotions are evolving, with filmmakers exploring fresh approaches to capture audience attention. Traditionally, Telugu movie promotions involved interviews hosted by popular anchors like Suma, journalists, or social media influencers. However, a new trend is emerging where people from within the film industry are hosting these interviews.

Recently, prominent directors such as Sandeep Reddy Vanga and Anil Ravipudi conducted interviews with the cast and crew of *RRR*, and Harish Shankar hosted an interview with the team behind *Acharya*. This same promotional strategy is being applied for Jr NTR's highly anticipated film *Devara*. With the release just around the corner, Jr NTR, director Koratala Siva, and co-stars Saif Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor have been engaging in a series of interviews and shows to promote the film.

In a unique twist, trending young heroes Siddhu Jonnalagadda and Vishwak Sen, both self-con-

fessed fans of Jr NTR, recently interviewed Tarak and Koratala Siva as part of the promotions. Screenshots of this exciting interview have surfaced on social media, sparking anticipation for the full conversation. This interview is significant because Jr NTR had earlier supported Siddhu and Vishwak by attending their movie events, and now, they have reciprocated by promoting *Devara*.

In addition to these interviews, *Devara*'s team was also interviewed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga. Jr NTR and Alia Bhatt took part in a cross-promotion for *Devara* and Alia's upcoming film *Jigra* in a special interview with Karan Johar. The team also appeared on *The Kapil Sharma Show*, further amplifying the promotional efforts.

With the entire *Devara* team leaving no stone unturned, the film's promotional campaign is generating massive hype nationwide, creating significant anticipation ahead of its release.



Pragya Jaiswal's Bold Leopard Look Sets the Internet Ablaze

Pragya Jaiswal is making waves with her latest sizzling photoshoot, where she stuns in a daring leopard print ensemble. Known for her striking beauty and impeccable sense of style, the actress has turned up the heat, captivating her fans with her bold fashion choices.

In the photoshoot, Jaiswal confidently flaunts her toned figure, wearing a leopard print bra, paired with oversized pants and a matching shirt. Her loose, flowing hair and sensual poses accentuate her fierce look, while the midriff-baring outfit adds an extra layer of boldness and confidence to her ensemble.

She captioned the photoshoot, "Cat's out of the bag," perfectly encapsulating the alluring and fearless energy she exudes in the images.

Pragya Jaiswal, who was last seen in the film *Khel Khel Mein*, has generated significant buzz with this photoshoot, leaving fans eager to see what her next project will be. Her daring look has broken the internet, further establishing her as a fashion icon in the industry.

What's Next for Puri Jagannadh? Is There Any Hope Left?

Puri Jagannadh, once celebrated as a maverick director in Telugu cinema, continues to spark anticipation among his fans, despite delivering several back-to-back flops. Unlike other directors who fall out of favor after repeated failures, Puri's fanbase remains hopeful, eagerly awaiting his comeback. This unique attachment to Puri's films sets him apart from others, like Srinu Vaitla, who have experienced similar career dips without generating the same level of anticipation.

Before every release, be it Vijay Deverakonda's *Liger* or Ram's upcoming *Double iSmart*, there's a renewed sense of optimism that Puri will finally bounce back. Yet, time and again, his films have not only

failed but have often turned into larger disappointments than expected. With this repetitive cycle of high hopes followed by crushing defeats, many are beginning to question whether there's still hope for Puri or if it's time to move on.

Looking at the trajectory of his recent films, the pattern of failure seems hard to ignore. The creative spark that once defined his films feels lost, and each new release only amplifies the skepticism surrounding his career. Yet, Puri remains a beloved figure, and fans hold on to the dream of him delivering another iconic hit.

For Puri to make a true comeback, it would take something close to a miracle at this point.



But if he manages to pull it off, it will undoubtedly bring immense joy to his loyal supporters. Until then, the question lingers: is there hope left for Puri, or have we seen the last of his glory days? Only time will tell.

Varun Tej Unveils His Massiest & Ferocious Look in 'Matka'

Varun Tej is set to captivate audiences with his most intense and mass-appealing character yet in the upcoming film *Matka*. In a newly released working still from the final shooting schedule, Varun Tej is seen donning a fierce look, sporting a red *kanduva*, reminiscent of the iconic style popularized by his uncle, Power Star Pawan Kalyan. The still, shot on a set representing Old Vizag in Hyderabad, reveals Varun in a striking, retro mass avatar with curly hair, highlighting the character's raw intensity and power.

This fierce new look indicates the ferocious nature of his role in *Matka*, where he will portray four distinct avatars, representing the character's evolution over 24 years. The transformation promises to be a visual treat for fans, with each look marking a different phase in the protagonist's journey.

Directed by Karuna Kumar, *Matka* is a Pan India film produced under the banners of Vyra Entertainments and SRT Entertainments. With this schedule, the film's shooting is nearing completion. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Nora Fatehi play the leading ladies, further adding to the film's excitement.

Varun Tej's portrayal in *Matka* is anticipated to be one of his most dynamic performances, and the film is already generating immense buzz ahead of its release.

Mathu Vadalaru 2 Grosses ₹5.3 Crore on Opening Day

The much-anticipated *Mathu Vadalaru 2*, starring Sri Simha Koduri and Satya, has made an impressive start at the box office, grossing ₹5.3 crore worldwide on its first day. Directed by Ritesh Rana, the hilarious entertainer has drawn strong crowds, especially among the youth, thanks to positive word-of-mouth and enthusiastic reviews.

Produced by Clap Entertainment in association with Mythri Movie Makers, *Mathu Vadalaru 2* has performed beyond expectations, securing a robust opening for a film of its scale. The film is poised to capitalize on the long weekend, with Monday being a holiday due to Milad un-Nabi and Tuesday marking the Ganesh Nimajjan holiday, ensuring steady footfall in theaters.

The film is also seeing significant success overseas, grossing over \$300K on its first day, including premiere screenings. With strong momentum, the film is expected to cross half a million dollars over the weekend and is projected to come close to \$1 million by the end of its theatrical run.

With the combination of strong domestic and international box office performance, *Mathu Vadalaru 2* is shaping up to be a major hit for its makers.

