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# AP Cabinet Meeting Concludes with Key Decisions on Governance and Welfare

**TPN,Andhra Pradesh :** The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, concluded a significant meeting at the State Secretariat, announcing several pivotal decisions that aim to enhance governance and public welfare.

Minister Kolu Parthasarathy briefed the media on the outcomes of the cabinet meeting, highlighting a comprehensive report that will integrate the volunteer and secretariat systems with government departments. With a total of 2.63 lakh volunteers currently in the state, Parthasarathy noted that 1.07 lakh have resigned, raising concerns about the lack of service extensions beyond their original term, which expired on August 15, 2023. He criticized the previous administration for its failure to extend their services, despite claims of the volunteers being integral to governance.

The Chief Minister has directed the concerned department to provide a detailed report, assuring that an appropriate decision will be made regarding the volunteers' future.

In other developments, the Cabinet announced the cancellation of the Rs. 200 monthly allowance given to volunteers for purchasing newspapers, revealing that Rs. 102 crore had been spent during the previous government's term on this initiative. An investigation into these expenditures has been approved.



## Key decisions from the meeting include

- Launching a 100-day door-to-door campaign to explain the government's initiatives.
- Discussion of a new liquor policy, setting the average price of quality liquor at Rs. 99.
- Changing the name of Bhogapuram Airport.
- Introduction of the 'STEMI' scheme focusing on public health.
- Issuing Aadhaar-style 'Apar' identity cards for students.
- A commitment to create 20 lakh jobs over the next five years.
- Establishment of a new corporation within the home department, with a corpus fund of Rs. 10 crores.
- Granting deemed university status to SRM University.
- Steps towards establishing a BITS-Pilani educational institution in the state with an investment of Rs. 1,000 crores.
- Recommendation to the Central government for 33% reservation for Backward Classes in legislative bodies.
- Changing the pattern of rent cards, allowing for tenancy cards to be issued without requiring a farmer's signature.
- Assigning the old agency to construct the diaphragm wall for the Polavaram project.
- Formation of a corporation aimed at the welfare of ex-servicemen. These decisions reflect the government's commitment to addressing pressing issues and enhancing the welfare of its citizens while ensuring efficient governance.

## Shock to Johnny Master.. POCSO case.. Complaint to Women's Commission



**TPN,Hyderabad :** Famous choreographer Johnny Master is facing serious allegations after a female choreographer filed a sexual harassment case against him. The woman lodged a complaint with the Rayadurgam police, accusing Johnny Master of misconduct. Initially, a zero FIR was registered, and the case was transferred to the Narsingi police. He was initially charged under Section 375 for rape and other sections. However, the case was recently filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act due to the age of the victim.

The police have launched a manhunt to arrest Johnny Master, who is reportedly in Ladakh. Four police teams have been dispatched to apprehend him. Meanwhile, women's groups have also filed a complaint against Johnny Master with the Women's Commission, which is expected to respond soon.

Initially, there were rumors that Johnny Master was hiding in Nellore. The Film Chamber of Commerce has addressed the issue and announced that a committee will investigate the matter. Actress Karate Kalyani has also voiced her opinion, labeling it a "love jihad" case. She emphasized that if Johnny Master is found guilty of sexual harassment, he should face consequences.

The police have already recorded the victim's statement. Actress and anchor Jhansi hinted that a famous hero is supporting the victim, with social media speculating that it could be Allu Arjun. The victim is rumored to have choreographed several songs in \*Pushpa 2\*, with reports suggesting Allu Arjun is standing by her through his manager.

## Balineni Srinivasa Reddy resigned to YCP. He may join JANASENA

- Balineni resigned from YCP
- After meeting Pawan, Balineni will announce the date of joining Janasena
- Comment that language should be respected in politics
- Balineni who opposed Jagan's decisions when they were not good

**TPN,Andhra Pradesh:** In a major political development, senior leader and former minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy has resigned from the YSR Congress Party (YCP). He is expected to join the Jana Sena soon, led by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

Balineni, who is a relative of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, has announced that he will meet Pawan Kalyan tomorrow to discuss his next steps. Following the meeting, he will announce the official date of his entry into Jana Sena, leaving the YCP ranks in shock.

Speaking to the media, Balineni made significant remarks, stating, "Politics is different, kinship is different."



He emphasized the importance of upholding values in politics and

mentioned that he had opposed certain decisions taken by Jagan when they weren't right. Having won five times as an MLA and served as a minister twice, Balineni highlighted his dedication to his principles throughout his political career.

He also stressed the importance of respectful discourse in politics and stated that his departure from YCP was due to specific reasons. Balineni expressed his commitment to serving people beyond political lines and reiterated that the people's verdict remains his top priority. The political landscape in Andhra Pradesh is poised for significant shifts as Balineni prepares to align with Pawan Kalyan's JanaSena.

## Govt's Key Decision on Amaravati's Construction to Prevent Flooding

**TPN,Amaravati :** The government has taken a series of significant decisions regarding the construction of Amaravati, the proposed capital of Andhra Pradesh. To finance the ongoing development, the government is seeking a loan from the World Bank and has prioritized addressing the region's challenges. Construction is expected to commence by the end of next month.





# Chandrababu's Key Decision: Rs. 3,000 per Month for the Unemployed

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh** : Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is taking significant steps to address unemployment in Andhra Pradesh. After announcing the Mega DSC and providing job opportunities through private companies, the government has now decided to offer unemployment benefits. As part of this initiative, it has been decided to provide Rs. 3,000 per month to unemployed individuals who have completed Vedic education in the state.

On the 17th of this month, the Commissioner of Taxation issued a circular to district officials, requesting detailed data on those who have pursued Vedic studies. The government is collecting information on how many people with Vedic education are unemployed, how many have found jobs, and the salary they are earning. Since the number of students pursuing Vedic education is relatively small, the government plans to start the unemployment benefit program with them.

While this initiative is not expected to impose a significant financial burden on the government, officials are still working to clarify eligibility criteria. The confusion lies in determining who qualifies for the benefit and who does not. Chandrababu, during his election campaign, promised unemployment benefits, but after coming to power, he was confronted with an empty treasury and pledged government assets. The Chief Minister is now working on implementing the \*Yuvanestham Scheme\* to provide unemployment benefits, leaving the unemployed eagerly waiting for its rollout.



## Govt's Key Decision on Amaravati's Construction to Prevent Flooding

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A critical aspect of the plan involves flood prevention, particularly from the Krishna River. The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has introduced new proposals to protect Amaravati from potential flooding. A plan to strengthen and expand the existing embankments along the Krishna River is in the works, with an estimated budget of Rs. 650 crores.

This project aims to fortify the embankment from Prakasam Barrage to Vaikunthapuram, with some areas requiring the embankment to be diverted inward. At present, 11.43 lakh cusecs of water have reached the Krishna River, highlighting the urgency of these flood prevention measures. Additionally, the Seed Access Road, a four-lane road stretching from Venkatapalem to Sitanagaram, will continue as planned without any land acquisition issues.

The embankment will be strengthened from Venkatapalem to Harishchandrapuram and Vaikunthapuram, as this road is crucial for access to the Secretariat and High Court. CRDA officials believe that expanding the embankment from Prakasam Barrage to Prakriti Ashram in Venkatapalem into four lanes will alleviate traffic congestion, with minimal land acquisition needed for the project.

## YCP Leader Caught in Polavaram Scam, Notices Issued

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh**: Despite years of efforts, the Polavaram project remains incomplete. Every Chief Minister promises to finish the project, but it has been delayed for decades, with multiple governments failing to deliver. Recently, the TDP has accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YCP) government of mishandling the project, alleging misappropriation of funds allocated by the central government during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure.

After coming to power, Chandrababu Naidu's coalition government launched an investigation into the irregularities that occurred during the YCP's rule. One of the key figures caught in the scandal is Murali, the former Special Collector of the Polavaram Irrigation Project. The government has taken disciplinary action against him, issuing notices to explain the illegal transfer of project funds. Murali has been accused of making unauthorized payments, causing a loss of Rs. 19.52 crore to the Andhra Pradesh state exchequer.

RP Sisodia, Special Chief Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Revenue Department, has ordered Murali to provide a written response within ten days regarding these allegations. The investigation is part of a broader probe initiated by the new government to uncover the alleged corruption and mismanagement of the Polavaram project during the previous administration.

In recent years, TDP leaders have repeatedly claimed that the YCP government failed to properly execute the Polavaram project and misused funds. Now, with an inquiry underway, the allegations are being closely examined under Chandrababu's leadership.



## Former YCP MLA Samineni Udayabhanu joins Janasena!



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh** : The YSR Congress Party (YCP), which has been reeling from its defeat in the assembly elections, is facing another setback as former Jaggaipet MLA Samineni Udayabhanu is reportedly set to join the Jana Sena Party. After remaining politically inactive for some time, Udayabhanu is said to have decided to switch parties.

Following the elections, Udayabhanu saw 18 councilors, including the Jaggaipet Municipal Chairman from his constituency, join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), leaving him isolated. Reports suggest that he plans to align with Jana Sena, partly due to his close relationship with Chiranjeevi's family, which has been fueling rumors about his departure from YCP.

The YCP has been hit hard by several defections, with notable leaders like former MP Keshineni Nani, who exited politics altogether, and movie actor Ali, who announced his neutrality. Other leaders like Maddali Giri, Kilaru Roshaiha, Sidda Raghavrao, and former minister Alla Nani have also parted ways with the party, though they haven't yet aligned with other parties.

Udayabhanu, once a close associate of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, now seems poised to bid farewell to the YCP, marking another blow to the party's efforts to regain stability. The official announcement of his switch to Janasena is expected soon.

# AP Cabinet Approves New Liquor Policy, Volunteer System Discussed at Cabinet Meeting

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh** : In a significant meeting lasting around four hours, the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Cabinet approved several key decisions, including a new liquor policy and discussions on the state's volunteer system. The Cabinet resolved that the average price of a quart of quality liquor would be Rs 99. The management of liquor shops will now be entrusted to private individuals, and the sale of all liquor brands will continue as before. A notification regarding liquor shop licenses is expected in the next two to three days, marking the beginning of the new policy's implementation. Volunteer System and Other Key Decisions

The Cabinet also discussed the continuation of the volunteer system at length. There were deliberations on a previous promise to provide an honorarium of Rs 10,000 to volunteers if the ruling party came to power. While it was agreed that existing volunteers would be retained based on the state's needs, opinions differed on reinstating volunteers who had resigned. In other decisions, the Cabinet approved the naming of Bhogapuram Airport after the freedom fighter Alluri Sitaramaraj. A package of relief for flood-affected areas was also sanctioned. The Chief Minister announced that ministers in charge of districts would be appointed soon.

### 33 Percent BC Reservation in AP

The AP government has made a key decision to provide 33 percent reservation to BCs in the legislatures. The relevant document will be presented by the state cabinet today. A special resolution on this will be sent to the Centre in the upcoming assembly sessions. Additionally, 68 Kapu buildings will be constructed along with BC Bhavans in 26 districts. CM Chandrababu has taken a significant step to provide 33 percent reservation in legislative assemblies to the BCs, who have been the backbone of the Telugu Desam Party since its inception. A cabinet meeting will be held today under the chairmanship

of the Chief Minister, where the relevant document is expected to be approved. CM Chandrababu stated that a resolution on this will be passed and reported to the Centre in the upcoming assembly meetings. CM Chandrababu reviewed the welfare departments of BC and EWS at the Secretariat. He directed officials to revive NTR's foreign education and scholarship schemes that were implemented between 2014-19. Necessary changes in the scheme rules were suggested to ensure that SC, ST, BC, and minority communities benefit more. Steps for the construction of BC Bhavans in 26 districts were also discussed. Chandrababu instructed

ed the release of Rs. 10 crores for the strengthening of BC study circles. Additionally, Chandrababu ordered the reorganization of 56 BC corporations. He directed the immediate release of the state's share of Rs. 38 crores required to provide subsidized loans worth Rs. 100 crores to the BCs from the National Backward Classes Economic Development Organization. He also emphasized the need to clear pending arrears, including Rs. 110 crores for diet charges and Rs. 20.52 crores for cosmetic charges owed by the YSRCP government to the students of Gurukul.



## Chandrababu Naidu Promises Free Gas for Diwali, Highlights Government Initiatives at 100-Day Mark

In a significant meeting marking 100 days since the formation of the coalition government, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to provide free cooking gas to households in celebration of Diwali. The announcement was made during a gathering with alliance MLAs at the CK Convention Hall in Mangalagiri.

During his address, Naidu emphasized the government's commitment to implementing welfare schemes systematically. He reassured flood victims that relief efforts are underway, while also warning that those who engage in misconduct will face legal consequences.

The Chief Minister called for unity among the coalition partners, TDP, Janasena, and BJP, urging MLAs to work collaboratively for the state's development. "A single government with a long-term vision is essential for progress," he asserted, while expressing confidence that the alliance would maintain its coordination moving forward.

Naidu also addressed ongoing misinformation campaigns by YCP leaders, urging alliance members to communicate the



achievements of both central and state governments to the public over the next six days.

In a separate discussion regarding Tirumala, he acknowledged past criticisms over the quality of the famous Tirumala Laddu, emphasizing the importance of using pure ingredients to maintain the sanctity of offerings. Naidu stated that measures

have been taken to enhance the quality of prasada, affirming the need to uphold spiritual standards.

As the government gears up for the upcoming festival season, Naidu's announcements highlight a focus on welfare and development amid ongoing political challenges.

## TDP Leader Buddha Venkanna Accuses IPS Officers of Torturing Heroine in Alleged Conspiracy



TDP leader Buddha Venkanna has made serious allegations against three IPS officers, claiming they tortured Mumbai heroine Kadambari Jatwani under a conspiracy orchestrated from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) during Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration. Venkanna stated that the orders of PSR Anjaneyu were carried out by IPS officers Kanti Rana Tata and Vishal Gunni, leading to severe mistreatment of the actress.

Speaking at a press conference, Venkanna demanded the immediate arrest and investigation of PSR Anjaneyu, asserting that his involvement could uncover deeper issues tied to Jagan's administration. He described the treatment of the heroine as "atrocious" and called for accountability for the errant officials.

Venkanna further criticized the police association for remaining silent on the conduct of the accused officers, stating, "If these officers are not held accountable, they will continue their actions unchecked." He emphasized that both Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan had expressed a desire to avoid factional politics, suggesting that this silence was a barrier to addressing serious misconduct.

The allegations come amidst rising tensions and scrutiny surrounding police conduct in the state, raising questions about oversight and accountability in law enforcement.

## Pawan Kalyan Lauds Chandrababu Naidu's Efforts, Critiques YCP Leadership at NDA Meeting

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan expressed admiration for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's dedication and resilience during a recent NDA legislative party meeting. Speaking in Mangalagiri, Kalyan remarked on the hard work and commitment shown by Naidu, especially in addressing the challenges faced by flood victims.

Kalyan highlighted the government's achievements within the first 100 days, emphasizing that many promises made by the alliance parties are on track to be fulfilled. He praised the timely payment of salaries to government employees, contrasting it with the previous YCP government's record, where delays were common.

Despite facing financial challenges, Kalyan noted that the government had increased pensions, calling it a historic achievement in welfare. He underscored the commitment to support all citizens, including those in panchayats led by YCP leaders, asserting that funds will be allocated without bias.

Reflecting on the recent floods, Kalyan commended Naidu for personally engaging with affected communities, stating, "If CM Chandrababu Naidu is working hard like this, I don't understand how the YCP



leaders can criticize him." He expressed satisfaction with the establishment of rice canteens to provide meals for the poor, criticizing the previous government's decision to close such facilities.

Kalyan assured that all promises made by the NDA alliance will be honored and emphasized the government's ongoing efforts to restore normalcy in flood-affected areas, attributing these successes to the collective efforts of ministers and MLAs.

As the coalition continues to navigate the political landscape, Kalyan's comments reinforce a commitment to unity and proactive governance in Andhra Pradesh.

## YS Sharmila Defends Rahul Gandhi, Slams BJP Leaders as Congress Protests in Vijayawada

YS Sharmila, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president, vehemently criticized BJP and Shiv Sena leaders for labeling Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as a "terrorist." Her remarks came during a Congress-organized dharna in Vijayawada, where she condemned the incendiary comments made by BJP leaders.

Sharmila, alongside party members including Mastan Vali, JD Seelam, and Kolanukonda Shivaji, participated in the protest, chanting slogans such as "Modi Kedi, Modi Kiladi." During her speech, she expressed outrage, questioning, "Will Rahul Gandhi be called a terrorist if he speaks the truth?"

Emphasizing Congress's historical role in India's freedom struggle, Sharmila noted that the party has endured losses, with former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi being victims of terrorism.



She accused the BJP and Shiv Sena of being "religious parties" that incite communal tensions, urging them to address Rahul Gandhi's questions rather than deflecting criticism.

Sharmila's comments highlight the ongoing political tensions as parties gear up for future electoral battles in the state.

## Jagan Appoints Kakani Govardhan Reddy as President of Joint Nellore District YCP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh : YCP president and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken key steps to strengthen the party in Nellore district. Former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has been appointed as the president of the joint Nellore district YCP. Along with this role, Kakani has also been given charge of the Kandukur constituency, highlighting his increased responsibilities within the party.



Additionally, Adala Prabhakar Reddy has been appointed as the YCP Observer for the Nellore Parliamentary Constituency, while MLC Parvathar Reddy Chandrasekhar Reddy will now serve as the Nellore City Assembly Constituency Coordinator.

In other appointments, Anam Vijay Kumar Reddy has been designated as the Coordinator for the Nellore Rural Assembly Constituency, and Anil Kumar Yadav has been assigned as the Party Observer for the Nellore Corporation. Mohammad Khalil Ahmed has been named the General Secretary of the State Minority Cell.

These appointments were announced through an official statement from the YCP's central office as part of Jagan's effort to make field-level changes and strengthen the party's structure across the region.

## Kanaparthi Srinivasa Rao Takes Aim at Vijayasai Reddy, Defends Chandrababu Naidu

TDP State Executive Secretary Kanaparthi Srinivasa Rao has strongly criticized YCP Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy for his recent remarks against former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. In a scathing response, Rao described Reddy as a "cheated accountant" and cautioned him to "keep his mouth under control."

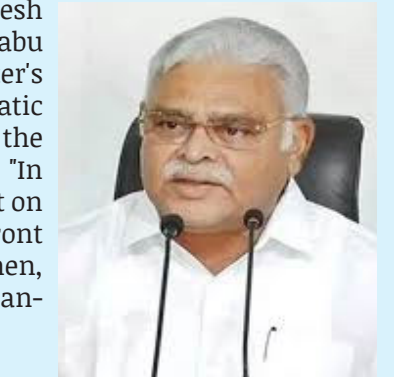


Rao's comments came after Vijayasai Reddy alleged that TDP leaders are fleeing abroad. He countered by asserting that many high-ranking officials from the Jagan Mohan Reddy administration are attempting to escape due to fears of imprisonment. "Officials who served during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure are now respected Central Cabinet Secretaries and Chief Commissioners, while those under Jagan's regime are running away," he stated.

Rao went on to draw a stark comparison between the legacies of Chandrababu Naidu and YS Rajasekhara Reddy, asserting there is a significant difference in their reputations and contributions. The exchange underscores the ongoing political tensions between the TDP and YCP as both parties gear up for future electoral challenges.

## Ambati Rambabu Targets Chandrababu Naidu Over Alleged Illegal Construction

YCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has once again directed sharp criticism at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, questioning the latter's right to speak in a democratic setting. In a recent post on the X platform, Rambabu stated, "In this democracy, locks are put on anyone's mouth. Lock the front of your illegal home. Until then, keep your mouth shut, Chandrababu."



Rambabu's comments come in the wake of similar remarks made by YCP Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy, who accused Naidu of residing in an illegally constructed house on the embankment of the Krishna River. Reddy called for the immediate demolition of what he termed "illegal construction."

This exchange highlights the ongoing political tensions in the state, as the YCP continues to challenge Naidu's governance and integrity. Both leaders have emphasized their concerns regarding the legality of Naidu's residence, framing their critiques within broader discussions about accountability and rule of law in the state.



# Successful Removal of Stuck Boats at Prakasam Barrage

TPN,Vijayawada : The challenging operation to remove a 40-ton boat stuck at the Prakasam Barrage has been successfully completed by the engineers of Bechem Infra. After eight days of intensive effort, the boat was finally brought ashore, overcoming various obstacles that had hindered previous attempts.

The removal process involved connecting two heavy boats with iron gadders and employing two additional boats for enhanced pulling power. The submerged vessel was initially raised using chain pullers, allowing it to be pulled up approximately 10 feet from the riverbed before being maneuvered to the bank.

Engineers faced numerous challenges throughout the operation, including an increase in the boat's weight to 100 tons due to water and sand accumulation.



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Initial strategies, such as using heavy cranes and diving teams to cut the boat, were unsuccessful. However, a new plan was implemented, which proved effective in bringing the boat to safety.

The incident occurred on September 1

when five boats, caught in heavy currents, collided with the barrage gates, damaging counterweights and causing significant obstruction. With the successful removal of this vessel, efforts will continue to extract two more heavy boats still stuck at the site.

## Grand Dussehra Arrangements Underway in Vijayawada with Enhanced Security and Coordination



TPN,Vijayawada : District Collector Dr. G. Srijana has announced comprehensive arrangements for the Dussehra festival, ensuring that devotees can experience quick and hassle-free darshan of Goddess Durga. With a budget of six crores, the preparations are being executed with the help of the Sujana Foundation and various donors, focusing on providing essential services like food and drinking water to attendees.

Over 3,500 police personnel, including NTR district police, have been deployed to maintain tight security and manage traffic flow effectively. The arrangements aim to prevent any disturbances, ensuring a smooth experience for the thousands expected to visit.

In a recent coordination meeting attended by Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chaudhary and representatives from 13 departments, plans were discussed to enhance facilities for devotees based on feedback from past festivals. Specific measures include allocating time slots for darshan, similar to the arrangements at Tirumala, to minimize wait times.

Collector Srijana highlighted the importance of a well-organized festival, emphasizing that the entire Dussehra setup will be completed within ten days. The community and officials are united in their efforts to make this Dussehra a memorable and comfortable experience for all devotees.

## Andhra Pradesh Unveils New Sand Management Policy for Permanent Solutions

TPN,Amaravati : In a significant move to address the ongoing sand crisis in the state, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is set to launch the "Andhra Pradesh Sand Management System" today. This initiative aims to prevent illegal mining while ensuring that sand is accessible and affordable for all residents.

Mukesh Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary of the Mines and Underground Department, emphasized that the new policy will eliminate long queues for sand and streamline the booking process. The system will allow residents to book sand directly at their village or ward secretariats, with bookings scheduled between 10:30 AM to 12 PM through secretariats and open for all from 12 PM to 5 PM.

The new portal will provide real-time information on sand availability, transport charges, and supply points across districts. Additionally, it aims to unify transport charges statewide, eliminating inflated prices imposed by middlemen and lorry owners. Only registered vehicles equipped with GPS will be allowed for transportation, ensuring accountability and timely deliveries.

The government has also established a toll-free number and email for residents to report issues related to sand availability. As part of the initiative, a vigilant monitoring system will be implemented to prevent illegal activities, with daily reports from District Collectors ensuring transparency and responsiveness to community needs.

Director of Mines, Praveen Kumar, clarified that sand bookings will be categorized into general and bulk booking, based on the size of the construction project. This comprehensive approach aims to streamline the sand supply chain while meeting the demands of various building projects across the state.

## Andhra Pradesh to Launch 203 Anna Canteens in Major Rollout



TPN , Amaravati : The Andhra Pradesh government is set to launch a significant expansion of the Anna Canteen initiative, with plans to open 203 canteens across the state. The first phase will see the inauguration of 100 canteens, followed by an additional 75 canteens tomorrow, in a program that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will attend.

These canteens aim to provide affordable meals to the public, with tiffin, lunch, and dinner offered for just ₹5. Following the collapse of the previous coalition govern-

ment, the reopening of these canteens underscores the government's commitment to addressing food security and supporting low-income families.

In Visakhapatnam, 25 canteens will be established, although the rollout was initially delayed due to the Model Code of Conduct related to MLC elections. The government is optimistic that this initiative will significantly benefit the community by ensuring access to nutritious meals at minimal cost.

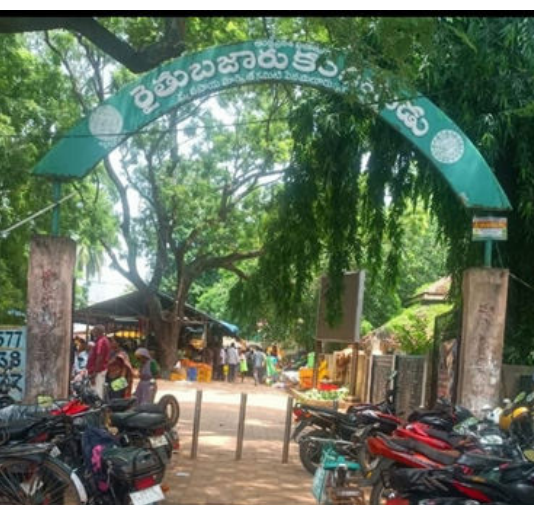
## Brokers Accused of Extortion and Intimidation at Kankipadu Farmer's Market

TPN,Vijayawada : Tensions have escalated at the Kankipadu farmer's market, where shop managers allege that brokers are engaging in extortion and intimidation. According to reports, brokers are demanding high commissions for the sale of essential vegetables, such as tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, and green peppers, while offering minimal compensation—only three rupees per kilogram for tomatoes.

On the evening of September 17, an altercation occurred at the Rythu Bazaar office, with shop managers confronting brokers about their tactics. Notably, brokers Vemuri Rambabu from Punadipadu and Naga-babu from Tadigadapa village have been accused of threatening to remove shop managers from their positions unless they comply with their demands.

Shop managers have expressed their grievances to local legislators, but claim their concerns have gone unheard. Frustrated and fearful for their livelihoods, the managers feel caught in a cycle of intimidation, where brokers and the Executive Officer (E.O.) are allegedly colluding to undermine their authority.

As investigations continue, including a



review of CCTV footage from the market, shop managers are calling for immediate action against the brokers, whom they accuse of turning them into subservient laborers rather than respected vendors.

Local leaders and community members are rallying for accountability, expressing their dismay over the perceived negligence of officials in addressing the ongoing issues at the farmer's market. The situation remains tense as managers seek support against what they describe as tyranny and injustice.

## District Collector Orders Comprehensive Survey of Budameru Canal Encroachments



TPN,Vijayawada : In a proactive move to address the persistent flooding issues caused by the Budameru canal, District Collector Dr. G. Srijana has mandated a thorough survey to assess encroachments across rural, urban, and city areas. This directive aims to provide a permanent solution to the flooding crisis that has affected thousands of families.

During a meeting with officials from various departments, including irrigation, municipal administration, and revenue, Collector Srijana emphasized the urgent need for detailed reports on encroachments, complete with survey numbers at the field level. The recent heavy rains had resulted in approximately 43,000 cusecs of water flooding both rural and urban areas, severely impacting over 200,000 families in the city.

State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has been actively monitoring the situation, conducting inspections, and offering support to the affected communities. To prevent future flooding incidents, "Operation Budameru" has been initiated to explore lasting solutions.

Collector Srijana instructed all relevant departments to collaborate closely to compile the required data and take immediate action against encroachments. The meeting included Joint Collector Dr. Nidhi Meena and key officials, underscoring the government's commitment to resolving this pressing issue.



# Hezbollah Pager Attacks: A New Twist in the Gaza Crisis

In a covert operation that feels ripped from a spy thriller, a series of explosive "pager attacks" has added a new and dangerous dimension to the ongoing Gaza crisis. The sophisticated operation, allegedly carried out by Israeli agencies, targeted Hezbollah members, resulting in the deaths of nine individuals and injuries to over 2,700 civilians and fighters. Even Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, Mojtaba Amani, was injured in the explosions.

According to reports, Israeli intelligence intercepted Hezbollah's supply of pagers, a low-tech communication method the group still uses, and laced over 5,000 devices with explosives. The Taiwanese company, Gold Apollo, which allegedly provided the devices, has denied any involvement in the attack.

Though Israel has not officially claimed responsibility, the attack appears to be more than a tactical operation—it's a psychological strike. Israel and Hezbollah have engaged in a clandestine and complex conflict for years, carefully avoiding full-scale war. The pager attack represents another layer of this covert struggle, demonstrating Israel's ability to infiltrate Hezbollah's infrastructure.

Similar Israeli operations in the past, such as the 2021 assassination of Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh and the recent killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, underscore a broader pattern. These operations aim not just at physical targets but at displaying Israel's ability to strike anywhere, anytime, further destabilizing its opponents' morale and infrastructure.

The attack comes at a time when Hezbollah faces difficult choices. Despite its strength and backing from Iran, the group has largely stayed out of the direct conflict with Israel following the October 2023 Hamas-led attack. This restraint likely stems from two strategic considerations.

First, engaging in a direct conflict in northern Israel would almost certainly trigger a massive Israeli and possibly U.S. military response, leading to heavy casualties and destruction in Lebanon.

Hezbollah, as the dominant political and military force in Lebanon, would be held accountable for such losses.

Second, it is uncertain how far Iran, a crucial Hezbollah ally, would go to support the group in an open conflict. Tehran has yet to respond directly to recent Israeli operations, including the killing of senior Hamas leader Haniyeh. This raises questions about Iran's willingness to commit resources and military support to an all-out war, especially given its focus on maintaining regional stability and avoiding direct confrontation with the U.S.

Hezbollah's cautious approach seems aimed at prolonging the conflict in a way that keeps pressure on Israel without crossing the line into full-scale war. By focusing on small-scale operations and psychological warfare, Hezbollah can create disruptions in northern Israel without risking a catastrophic response.

Yet, even these tactical exchanges carry risks. The rising tensions between Hezbollah and Israel threaten ongoing diplomatic efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza, largely led by the U.S. Israeli hostages remain in Hamas custody, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that military operations will continue until Hamas is destroyed. In this volatile environment, any miscalculation could easily escalate into a broader regional conflict.

The pager attack represents more than just a hit on Hezbollah's physical resources—it's a symbolic victory. By targeting a "low-tech" communication system, Israel has disrupted Hezbollah's ability to coordinate forces and has sown doubt within its ranks about the security of its communications. In the short term, this serves as a significant psychological blow.

For Israel, securing psychological victories against its adversaries can be as important as tactical gains. The ability to penetrate Hezbollah's communications and infrastructure reinforces the notion that Israel remains a step ahead, capable of striking whenever it chooses.



## DMK's Son-Rise: Udhayanidhi Stalin Plays Down Deputy CM Rumors

Chennai: Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and the state's Sports Minister, is rumored to be in line for promotion to the post of Deputy Chief Minister. However, no official announcement has been made, despite widespread speculation. Sources suggest consultations are underway within the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party, with a formal notification expected from Governor RN Ravi's office.

Speculation about Udhayanidhi's rise within the DMK has been circulating for months. In August, senior party sources indicated that the move was being considered to prepare the party for the 2026 Assembly election and strengthen its second-tier leadership. Udhayanidhi played a crucial role in leading the party's successful campaign in the April-June Lok Sabha election, where the DMK-led alliance won all 39 seats in Tamil Nadu.

This isn't his first significant political contribution. Udhayanidhi also had a hand in the DMK's victories in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the 2021 Assembly election, which saw the party secure 133 out of 234 seats. His efforts helped the DMK oust the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and its ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), from power.

Despite his growing presence, Udhayanidhi has been downplaying speculation about his promotion. Speaking to reporters, he stated, "Only the Chief Minister can take that decision," though he acknowledged that some party leaders have expressed their support for his elevation. Party insiders believe Udhayanidhi's potential promotion is also a strategic move to counter the recent political entry of popular Tamil actor Vijay. Known as 'Thalapathy' (commander) to his fans, Vijay launched the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam party last month, marking his foray into Tamil Nadu politics. Vijay's immense popularity and influence over younger voters pose a potential challenge to the DMK in future elections.

The timing of Udhayanidhi's rise, therefore, is being seen as a way to consolidate the DMK's leadership ahead of the 2026 elections and to present a youthful face to the electorate, in contrast to the new political aspirations of Vijay. Predictably, Udhayanidhi Stalin's possible elevation has sparked criticism from opposition parties, particularly the AIADMK. The opposition has accused the DMK of engaging in

dynastic politics, drawing parallels between Udhayanidhi's rise and the political legacy of his grandfather, the late M. Karunanidhi. AIADMK spokesperson Kovai Sathyan claimed that Udhayanidhi's promotion "would signal the end of the DMK" and suggested that the party would split before the 2026 election.

Sathyan also recalled that before the 2021 election, Chief Minister MK Stalin had assured the public that neither his son nor his son-in-law, Sabareesan (who is married to MK Stalin's daughter Senthamarai), would enter politics. However, DMK sources have brushed off these criticisms, arguing that Udhayanidhi was "democratically elected" as an MLA and therefore cannot be accused of inheriting his political role without merit.

The BJP has also been critical of Udhayanidhi, particularly in light of his controversial remarks about eradicating 'Sanatan Dharma' last year, for which he still faces legal action. The party has used these remarks to question his leadership potential and his ability to handle delicate political matters.

Fueling the speculation further, Tamil Nadu Welfare Minister Raja Kannappan recently referred to Udhayanidhi as the Deputy Chief Minister during a public event. Although Kannappan quickly corrected himself, his slip suggested that Udhayanidhi's promotion may be imminent.

When asked about the rumors of his son's promotion, MK Stalin acknowledged that the demand for Udhayanidhi's elevation within the party had grown but indicated that the timing was not yet right. He remarked that the situation "has not ripened" yet.

A first-time MLA representing the Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni constituency, Udhayanidhi Stalin also serves as the Secretary of the DMK's Youth Wing. He has been credited with rejuvenating the party, particularly through the enrollment of large numbers of young people. His potential elevation to Deputy Chief Minister could signal the DMK's focus on solidifying its leadership transition ahead of future elections.

While speculation continues to swirl around his political future, Udhayanidhi has made it clear that any decision regarding his promotion lies solely with his father, the Chief Minister. As of now, the Tamil Nadu political landscape remains in a state of anticipation, awaiting the next move from the DMK leadership.



## Centre Launches Fast-Track Immigration Programme for Seamless Airport Experience

The Centre has introduced a Fast Track Immigration Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to streamline the immigration process at airports, drastically reducing clearance time from an average of 30 minutes to just seconds. Launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on June 22, the programme utilizes biometric data to provide pre-verified passengers with a seamless immigration experience for both departures and arrivals.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is spearheading this initiative, which has already proven successful in Delhi, with 18,400 Indian passport holders and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders registered. The programme is now being expanded

to major airports, including Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, and Ahmedabad. In total, the FTI-TTP will be implemented at 21 airports across India.

A senior MHA official described the programme as a game-changer for international travel from India. "Eligible passengers can bypass regular immigration queues by utilizing automated e-gates, ensuring a faster, smoother, and more secure immigration process," the official said.

### How It Works

The FTI-TTP system operates through an online portal managed by the Bureau of Immigration, which acts as the nodal agency. Once passengers apply

and undergo necessary verifications, they are added to a 'Trusted Traveller' White List. Biometrics, including fingerprints and facial recognition, are captured at airports or Foreigners Regional Registration Offices.

When the registered travellers reach an e-gate, they scan their boarding pass, passport, and biometrics for authentication. Once the identity is confirmed, the e-gate opens, and immigration clearance is granted automatically, allowing passengers to bypass traditional immigration queues.

### How To Apply

Eligible individuals, including Indian citizens and OCI cardholders, must apply online at [www.ftittp.mha.gov.

in](http://www.ftittp.mha.gov.in). After submitting the necessary details, the Bureau of Immigration verifies the information and schedules a biometric appointment at international airports or nearby Foreigners Regional Registration Offices.

The FTI-TTP registration is valid for up to five years or until the passport expires, whichever comes first. Applicants are required to have a passport with at least six months' validity and must provide their biometrics to complete the registration process.

### Expansion and Future Phases

Currently, the programme is in its first phase, covering Indian citizens and OCI cardholders. In the second

phase, it will expand to include foreign nationals. By automating the immigration process, the FTI-TTP aims to minimize human intervention and create a more efficient, secure system for international travellers.

Officials also provided a helpdesk email (india.ftittp-boi@mha.gov.in) for queries and assistance related to the programme. The FTI-TTP marks a significant step in modernizing India's immigration system, promising quicker and more efficient travel for frequent flyers and international visitors. As the programme expands to more airports, it is expected to enhance India's reputation as a global travel hub by making the immigration process faster and more convenient for all eligible travellers.

# PM Modi On "One Nation One Election" Plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today commended the cabinet's decision to approve the Kovind panel's proposal for "One Nation, One Election." In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he expressed gratitude to former President Ram Nath Kovind for leading this initiative and engaging various stakeholders. Modi remarked, "The Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections. This is an important step towards making our democracy even more vibrant and participative."

The proposal originates from the report of the committee chaired by Kovind, advocating for simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Additionally, the plan suggests that urban body and panchayat elections should occur within 100 days of the general and state elections.

PM Modi has consistently championed the "One Nation, One Election" concept, asserting that it is essential for the country's governance. He has highlighted the disruptions caused by staggered elections, stating, "Elections are held at different places every few months. The effect it has on development work is known to all." This sentiment is echoed by several Supreme Court judges, who have noted the potential resource savings associated



with simultaneous elections.

The Kovind panel's report outlines multiple benefits of conducting elections concurrently. It argues that this approach would "optimise scarce resources" and contribute to a more stable economy. By consolidating elections, businesses would be better positioned to make strategic decisions without the uncertainty of frequent policy changes, the report noted.

The backing of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and support from judicial figures suggest a growing consensus around the feasibility and advantages of this proposal. As discussions continue, the implementation of "One Nation, One Election" could significantly reshape the electoral landscape in India, fostering more efficient governance and a more engaged electorate.

## Union Minister Says His Party Did Not Get Place In Maharashtra Cabinet Due To Ajit Pawar

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale has claimed that his party, the Republican Party of India (Athawale) [RPI (A)], did not receive a promised ministerial berth in the Maharashtra cabinet due to the inclusion of Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in the Mahayuti government. Speaking to reporters in Dahanu on Tuesday, Athawale expressed disappointment that the RPI (A) was denied cabinet positions, as well as leadership roles in two corporations and district-level committees, following Ajit Pawar's alliance with the ruling coalition in July 2022.

Athawale also stated that his party should be allotted 12 seats to contest in the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections and given representation in the state cabinet. He expressed confidence that the ruling Mahayuti alliance would secure 150 to 160 seats in the 288-member assembly.

On the issue of Maratha reservation, Athawale suggested a separate category for Marathas rather than including them under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to avoid opposition from OBC groups. He urged the Maharashtra government to study Tamil Nadu's reservation system and recommended that economically weaker Marathas earning less than ₹8 lakh annually be provided with reservation.

Athawale also voiced his support for the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and highlighted the achievements of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, noting that its initiatives benefit 45% of India's population. He cited the ministry's de-addiction campaign and financial inclusion schemes like Mudra Yojana and Ujjwala Gas Yojana, which have provided benefits to 46 crore individuals and opened 51 crore bank accounts.

# Yogi Adityanath Targets Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath employed shayari to target the Opposition, specifically the Samajwadi Party and the Congress, labeling them "Bhasmasur" for allegedly misusing their power to suppress the populace. Speaking at an event in Ghaziabad, he reflected on the past, saying, "When the Congress was in power at the Centre before 2014 and the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh before 2017, their actions speak volumes. They may make tall claims now, but if you look at their dark deeds, the reality is evident."

Adityanath recited lines that resonate with his critique: "Nazar nahin hai, nazon ki baat karte hain, zameen par chand-sitaron ki baat karte hain, woh haath jodkar basti ko lutne wale, bhari sabha mein sudharon ki baat karte hain." This translates to accusing the opposition of being blind to their own failures while making lofty promises and pretending to seek reform.

Specifically targeting Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Adityanath stated that they have come to Uttar Pradesh solely to mislead the public. "They have only looted and done good for no one except their families. When given power, they have misused it like Bhasmasur," he claimed.

alleged misuse of authority by these leaders. Adityanath accused the previous Congress government of enacting laws that suppressed Hindus, while asserting that the Samajwadi Party supported such actions.

The Chief Minister further criticized the Samajwadi Party for allegedly aligning



with criminals during its rule, quipping, "Aurangzeb's soul has entered them." In response to Yadav's comparison of religious leaders to mafia members, Adityanath highlighted the safety and progress of Hindus under his governance, stating, "Today, daughters are safe, traders are respected, youth have jobs, and farmers are thriving."

This exchange comes amid ongoing criticism from the Samajwadi Party regarding the law and order situation in the state.



## Centre Must Clarify 'One Nation, One Election' Implementation: KTR

Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) called on the Central Government to clarify how it plans to implement the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal. He emphasized that key issues such as conducting a census, delimitation of constituencies, and implementing women's reservation need to be addressed before the 2029 general elections.

Responding to questions from the media about the party's stance on simultaneous polls, KTR stated, "The central government needs to clarify how they plan to implement this. Parliament elections recently concluded, and the next Lok Sabha elections are scheduled for 2029."

KTR raised concerns over whether the Centre plans to abolish state governments before 2029 and hold simultaneous elections or if the plan will be implemented in phases. He stressed that the BRS will be able to take a clear position only after the Centre provides more details.

The Union Cabinet recently approved the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal, as recommended by a panel led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, sparking debates across political circles.

## Nirmala Sitharaman Launches NPS Vatsalya Scheme



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the NPS Vatsalya scheme on Tuesday, designed to help parents save for their children's futures through a pension account. This new initiative allows parents to subscribe online or visit their local bank or post office, with a minimum initial contribution of ₹1,000. Following this, subscribers are required to contribute ₹1,000 annually.

During the launch, Sitharaman emphasized that the National Pension System (NPS) has provided competitive returns while offering individuals a way to save for future income. The NPS Vatsalya scheme builds upon the existing NPS, which has attracted 1.86 crore subscribers over the past decade, amassing an Asset Under Management (AUM) of ₹13 lakh crore.

The scheme is open to children below 18 years of age, and accounts will automatically convert to regular NPS accounts upon reaching adulthood. However, pension payouts will commence only after the

account holder turns 60.

Sitharaman highlighted the impressive returns generated by NPS investments, noting that equity investments have yielded returns of 14%, while corporate debt and government securities have generated 9.1% and 8.8% returns, respectively. The NPS Vatsalya scheme was first announced in the FY25 Budget presented in July.

Major banks, including ICICI Bank and Axis Bank, have partnered with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to promote NPS Vatsalya. ICICI Bank recently inaugurated the scheme in Mumbai, registering several children's accounts to kick off its implementation.

Financial Services Secretary Nagaraju Maddirala assured that the government values subscriber feedback and is committed to refining the pension scheme.

# Donald Trump Will Meet PM Modi Next Week

Former US President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that he will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to the United States. Trump made this revelation while campaigning in Michigan, describing Modi as a "fantastic man" but simultaneously labeling India as a "very big abuser" of trade relations.

During his remarks, Trump highlighted India's high tariffs on imports, stating, "So when India, which is a very big abuser, he (Modi) happens to be coming to meet me next week." Despite his criticism, Trump expressed admiration for Modi and other global leaders, calling them "fantastic."

The meeting will take place as Modi

visits the US from September 21 to 23, where he is scheduled to participate in several significant events, including the fourth Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware. Modi will also address the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which focuses on "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow."

In addition to these engagements, Modi plans to connect with the Indian community during a gathering in Long Island. He will also meet with CEOs of prominent US-based companies to discuss collaborations in advanced fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology, according to the foreign

ministry.

This upcoming meeting will mark the first time Modi and Trump have interacted since their last meeting in February 2020 when Trump visited India. Modi characterized that encounter as a "path-breaking" moment for strengthening India-US relations.

As Modi prepares for this visit, the discussions are likely to address not only trade issues but also broader geopolitical concerns, reflecting the ongoing importance of the India-US partnership on the global stage. The dynamics of this relationship will be further examined during their meeting, especially in light of Trump's critical remarks on trade practices.



## India's Major Space Push: Approval for Venus, Moon, and Space Station Missions

The Union Cabinet has approved a significant investment of ₹31,772 crores for various space missions, setting the roadmap for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) until nearly 2040. Key projects include the Chandrayaan-4 mission, a mission to Venus, enhancements to the Gaganyaan program with the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), and the development of a new rocket named Soorya.

ISRO Chairman Dr. Somanath expressed enthusiasm over these approvals, stating, "India's ambitious space vision and roadmap have now been given the wings to fly high." The approvals come within 100 days of the new government taking office, marking a proactive step in advancing India's space capabilities.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission aims to demonstrate technologies for safely returning to Earth after a lunar landing, including sample collection and analysis. This multi-stage mission has been allocated ₹2,104 crores and is expected to be completed within 36 months, laying the groundwork for a planned Indian moon landing by 2040.

In a continuation of its planetary exploration efforts, ISRO will also develop the Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), building on the success of its Mars mission in 2013. With a budget of ₹1,236 crores, VOM aims to study Venus' surface and atmospheric processes, launching in March 2028.

The cabinet also approved the first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS-1) as part of the Gaganyaan program. This initiative will enhance India's human spaceflight capabilities, with ₹20,193 crores allocated to the Gaganyaan and BAS missions, targeting completion by December 2029.

To support these ambitious goals, the cabinet has greenlit the development of the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), named Soorya. With a budget of ₹8,239 crores, Soorya will significantly increase payload capacity and reusability, crucial for future missions, including potential crewed lunar landings by 2040.

This comprehensive approval signals India's commitment to leveraging space technology for national development and global leadership in space exploration.

## Joe Biden's Five-Decade Political Career

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr., the 46th President of the United States, has navigated a remarkable political journey spanning over five decades. His ascent to the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has been marked by personal hardships, political victories, and a steadfast commitment to public service.

Born on November 20, 1942, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Biden grew up in a working-class family that faced financial struggles. His father, Joseph Sr., worked as a car salesman after his initial business failed, while his mother, Catherine, instilled strong moral values in him. The family later relocated to Claymont, Delaware, where Biden attended Archmere Academy and developed leadership skills. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1965 with degrees in history and political science and earned a law degree from Syracuse University in 1968.

Biden's personal life has been marked by tragedy. He married Neilia Hunter in 1966, and they had three children: Beau, Hunter, and Naomi. In 1972, shortly after Biden was elected to the Senate, a car accident claimed the lives of Neilia and Naomi. Biden contemplated resigning to care for his surviving sons but chose to continue his political career.

In 1977, he married Jill Jacobs, an educator, and they have a daughter, Ashley. Biden faced another profound loss when Beau, who served as



Delaware's attorney general, died from brain cancer in 2015. Beau's legacy significantly influenced Biden's decision to run for president.

Biden entered politics shortly after law school, winning a Senate seat in 1972 at age 30, making him one of the youngest senators in U.S. history. Over his tenure, he focused on foreign policy, criminal justice, and drug policy. He chaired both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, playing a vital role in shaping U.S. policies, including the 1994 Crime Bill.

In 2008, Biden became Barack Obama's running

mate, contributing to the administration's efforts during the financial crisis and in passing the Affordable Care Act.

Biden's road to the presidency was challenging, with previous runs in 1988 and 2008 ending unsuccessfully. He entered the 2020 race as a moderate candidate and secured the Democratic nomination amid a tumultuous political climate characterized by a pandemic and social unrest.

Biden focused on unity and systemic change, selecting Kamala Harris as his running mate—marking a historic milestone as the first woman and first woman of color in the role. He won the election on November 7, 2020, with 306 electoral votes, despite facing challenges to the results.

At 78, Biden became the oldest president in U.S. history. While his age raised concerns regarding his cognitive abilities, he remained committed to his agenda, including significant legislative efforts.

Biden's presidency has been defined by his response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery. His administration passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, providing essential relief to millions. He also signed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modernize critical infrastructure.

## Ukrainian Drone Attack Triggers Massive Explosion at Russian Arsenal

A significant Ukrainian drone strike on a military arsenal in Russia's Tver region caused a massive explosion, described as earthquake-sized, prompting the evacuation of nearby towns. The attack occurred on Wednesday and was reported by war bloggers and various media outlets.

Unverified videos and images on social media captured a large fireball shooting into the sky, accompanied by multiple detonations near a lake approximately 380 km (240 miles) west of Moscow. NASA satellites detected intense heat in an area of about 14 square kilometers (5 square miles), and earthquake sensors recorded what appeared to be a small quake.

Pro-Russian military blogger Yuri Podolyaka confirmed the strike, stating, "The enemy hit an ammunition depot in the area of Toropets," noting that fires and explosions were ongoing. However, Russian state media provided limited coverage, reflecting strict military censorship.

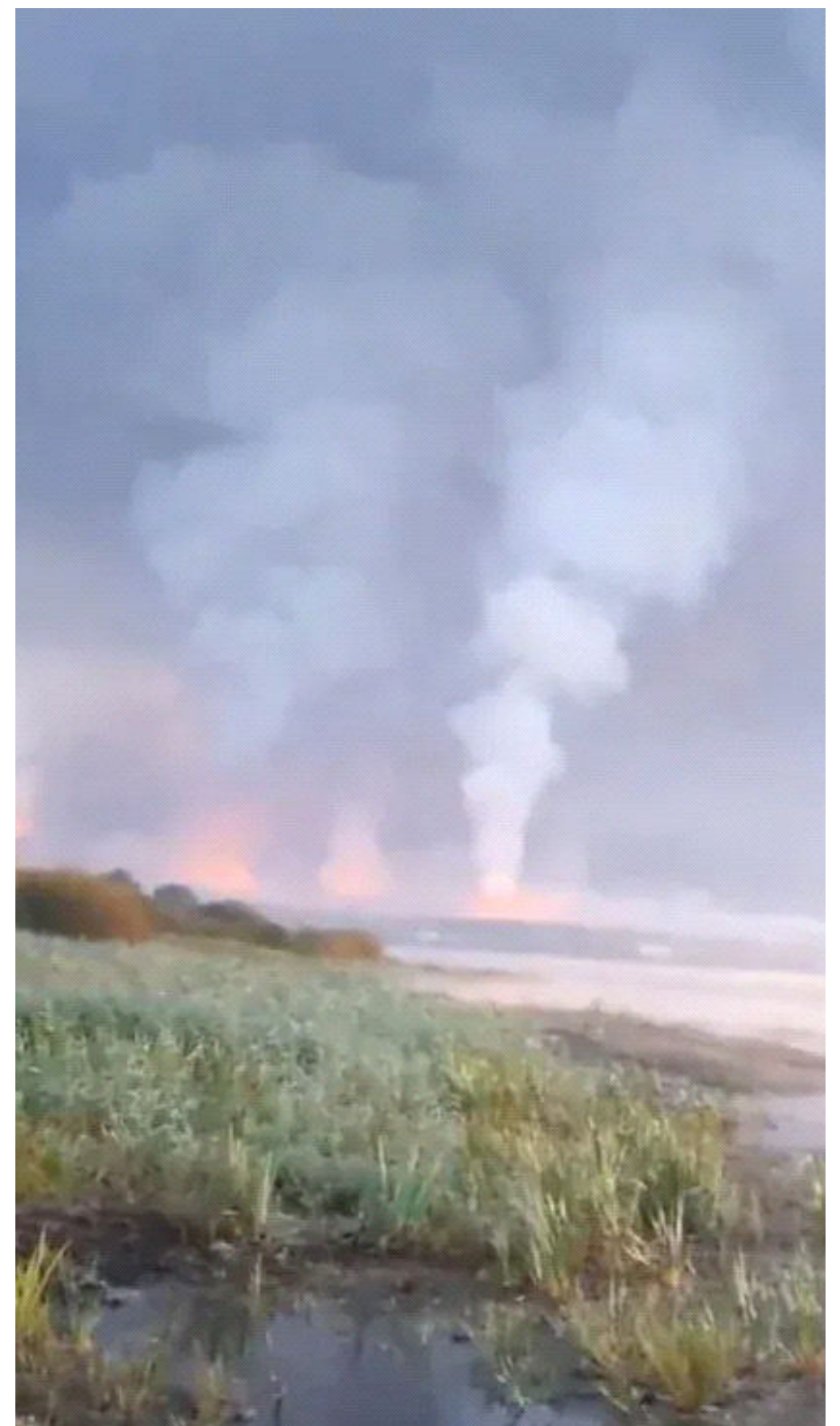
Igor Rudenya, the governor of Tver, reported that Ukrainian drones had been intercepted and that some residents were evacuated, but he did not specify what was burning. Eyewitness Irina mentioned explosions and fires erupting, prompting evacuations from the town of Toropets.

A source within Ukraine's SBU state security service indicated that the drone attack targeted a warehouse containing missiles and artillery ammunition. As of now, there are no confirmed reports of casualties.

The scale of the explosion, as estimated by experts, suggests the detonation of around 200-240 tons of high explosives. Residents in Toropets expressed concern in online forums, with many inquiring about the status of their homes in nearby Kudino, a village severely impacted by the blasts.

Some war bloggers raised questions about how the drones could breach a facility believed to be well-fortified. Reports from 2018 indicated that Russia had been constructing an arsenal in Toropets designed to withstand missile strikes and even small nuclear attacks.

Social media reactions from Russians included frustration over the apparent negligence regarding the ammunition storage. In response to the drone attacks, Russia claimed to have shot down 54 drones across multiple regions, while Ukraine reported downing 46 of 52 drones launched by Russia that night. The ongoing conflict continues to see significant military actions on both sides.





# Markets Slip Amid IT Sell-Off as Banking and Finance Sectors Offer Support

## Investors Eye US Fed Rate Decision

Domestic stock market indices lost on Wednesday. The indices, which continued to be rangebound since morning, touched intraday lows in the afternoon. After that they recovered a bit and reduced the losses. Investors are worried about the US Fed's decision to cut interest rates. As a result, IT shares were sold. As a result, the indexes fell. However, shares of banking and finance sectors gained support. Market breadth on BSE is in favor of sellers. 2437 stocks lost while 1527 rose.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 83,079 in the previous session, opened at 83,037 today. It touched an intraday low of 82,700, peaked at 83,037. It eventually closed down 131 points at 82,948. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,402 and touched a low of 25,285 and a high of 25,482. It lost a total of 41 points to close at 25,377. Bank Nifty rose 561 points to settle at 52,750.

In Nifty50, 17 companies gained while 33 lost. Shares of Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Nestlé India and HDFC Bank were the top gainers. TCS, Infi, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Wipro are the top losers. Today bank,



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finance and private bank indices rose. IT, auto, media, metal, pharma, realty, healthcare, oil and gas indices turned red.

Nifty support is at 25300 and resistance is at 25450. Investors can buy shares of Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, SBI, SBI Life and Motherson in the short term.

The Nifty IT index fell 3 percent. Stocks belonging to this sector fell as much as 5%. BSE shares soared 16.96% today to a record high. Finally ended at Rs.3844. The Central Government intends to make changes in the Income

Tax Act. It is known that preparations are being made to remove 122 outdated sections, sub-sections and deductions. Heritage Foods has approved setting up a new ice cream manufacturing unit in Telangana. NSE has announced a record date to issue one bonus share for every four shares. November 2 was selected. Jupiter Wagons declared an interim dividend of Rs. India Wix jumps 9% on the back of US Fed meeting SBI Carts has approved the mobilization of Rs.5 thousand crores through NCDs. Lupine has a deal with Takeda. Tata Power gets 400 MW hybrid project. ICICI Bank hits lifetime high

### 1. Bajaj Finance

Bajaj Finance is a leading player in the consumer lending space, and it has consistently delivered strong financial results. The company has a well-diversified portfolio, including personal loans, consumer durables, and SME loans. With the festive season approaching, demand for consumer finance is expected to rise. Bajaj Finance has been benefiting from an increase in retail credit demand. Its digital transformation initiatives have helped maintain its competitive edge in the sector.



### 2. HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank is one of India's largest private sector banks and continues to be a market leader in retail and corporate banking. The bank's strong asset quality, large customer base, and focus on digital banking have contributed to its consistent performance. HDFC Bank has been growing its loan book steadily, with strong demand across retail and corporate segments. Additionally, the bank is poised to benefit from the recovery in economic activity.



### 3. State Bank of India (SBI)

SBI, India's largest public sector bank, has been performing well, with strong credit growth and improving asset quality. The bank's focus on retail loans and its dominant position in the Indian banking system make it a key player. SBI has been seeing strong growth in its home loans and personal loan segments. The bank's digital initiatives have also improved customer acquisition and service.



### 4. SBI Card

SBI Card is one of India's largest credit card issuers and has shown strong growth in its customer base. The company is benefiting from increasing consumer spending and the shift towards digital payments. With the festive season approaching, credit card spending is expected to rise, which bodes well for SBI Card. The company has also been focusing on expanding its co-branded card offerings.



### 5. Motherson Sumi (Motherson)

Motherson is a leading automotive components manufacturer with a strong presence in both domestic and international markets. The company has been benefiting from the recovery in the global automotive industry. Motherson's focus on electric vehicle (EV) components and expanding its global footprint position it well for future growth.



## India's Oil Firms Face \$900 Million Stuck in Russian Dividends



India's public sector oil companies are grappling with a significant financial challenge, as approximately \$900 million in dividend income from their Russian investments remains trapped due to complications in repatriating the funds. The issue stems from a lack of a viable mechanism to transfer this money back to India or utilize it in bilateral trade following the restrictions imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Companies like ONGC Videsh (OVL), Oil India (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation's arm Bharat PetroResources (BPRL) are affected, with their dividend payments from Russian upstream oil projects stuck in their Moscow bank accounts. These funds, currently being credited in roubles, have become increasingly difficult to access due to the evolving geopolitical landscape.

The accumulating dividends are primarily held in Commercial Indo Bank Limited (CIBL), an affiliate of the State Bank of India (SBI). As restrictions on payment channels remain in place, the Indian firms have struggled to find an effective solution to repatriate the earnings. This situation not only hampers the financial health of these companies but also affects India's overall energy security and economic relations with Russia.

## RBI Unlikely to Cut Rates in 2024 Amid Food Inflation Concerns

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not expected to ease the benchmark policy rate in 2024, primarily due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding food inflation, according to State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman C.S. Setty. As central banks worldwide, including the US Federal Reserve, prepare for potential interest rate cuts, Setty emphasizes that the RBI will remain cautious, particularly regarding food price fluctuations.

In a recent interview with PTI, Setty explained that while the Fed's rate cut could influence global monetary policy, the RBI must prioritize domestic factors, specifically food inflation, before making any decisions about lowering interest rates. "Our view is that a rate cut this calendar year may not happen. We may have to wait until the fourth quarter of 2025, unless we see significant improvement in food inflation," he stated.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, is set to convene from October 7 to 9 to evaluate interest rates. As of now, retail inflation has risen slightly to 3.65% in August, up from 3.54% in July. Although this figure remains below the RBI's target median of 4%, food inflation is concerning, with the food basket experiencing a price increase of 5.66% in August.



## Adani Group Denies Kenyan Report

Adani Group has issued a statement today refuting a report from local Kenyan media suggesting that the company made comments regarding the Kenya Airports Authority and its approval process. The group called the claims "entirely false."



In its statement, dated September 18, Adani Group expressed concern over a report published by \*The Standard (Kenya)\*, stating, "We have come across a report claiming that the Adani Group made a statement regarding the Kenya Airports Authority and the approval process of a proposal. We would like to clarify that this report is entirely false." The company emphasized that it has not made any such statements or engaged with the media on this issue.

Adani Group urged media outlets to confirm information through official channels to prevent the spread of misinformation. The company's statement highlighted its commitment to transparency and accurate reporting.

## SEBI Employees' Demands Met with Regulatory Committee

Employees of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have received a positive response to their demands for a better work environment and a fair performance-tracking system. According to sources, SEBI has committed to forming a committee, including whole-time members, to address these concerns. This move suggests a resolution may be on the horizon, as SEBI appears to be accommodating some of the employees' requests.

The dispute began escalating when SEBI issued a press statement on September 4, which triggered intensified protests from employees. Following the backlash, SEBI withdrew the controversial statement. Employees had been voicing their grievances for weeks, culminating in silent protests that lasted three days after the statement was released. They specifically requested intervention from SEBI's whole-time members to address their issues.



## Export Growth Shows Promise Amid Rising Imports In India

India's total exports during the April-August 2024 period are estimated at \$328.86 billion, reflecting a robust growth of 5.35%, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released on Tuesday. In contrast, total imports for the same period reached approximately \$375.33 billion, showing an increase of 7.20%.

Merchandise exports specifically amounted to \$178.68 billion, compared to \$176.67 billion during the same timeframe last year, marking a modest growth of 1.14%. However, the merchandise trade deficit widened



significantly, reaching \$116.64 billion this year compared to \$99.16 billion last year.

In August alone, India's total exports (including both merchandise and services) reached \$65.40 billion. Of this, merchandise exports were recorded at \$34.71 billion, a decline from \$38.28 billion in August 2023.

Notably, non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports saw growth, totaling \$135.75 billion in the April-August 2024 period, up from \$128.95 billion during the same period last year. Conversely, non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery imports increased to \$186.25 billion from \$177.13 billion in the previous year.





# CABINET APPROVES 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' PUSH AMID OPPOSITION RESISTANCE



In a significant move towards the implementation of simultaneous elections across India, the Union Cabinet has cleared the government's proposal for the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative. This plan, which seeks to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, urban bodies, and panchayats, has garnered widespread debate across the political spectrum.

The proposal, based on the recommendations of a panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, aims to hold simultaneous elections starting from 2029, with a timeline of 100 days for panchayat and urban body polls. The panel also includes prominent figures such as Home Minister Amit Shah and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, and has proposed provisions for a 'unity government' in cases where elections result in a hung verdict or no-confidence motions are passed.

While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly backed the initiative, highlighting its inclusion in both the 2019 and 2024 election manifestos, the proposal has faced staunch opposition. Key parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, and Trinamool Congress, have voiced strong concerns over the practicality and constitutional implications of such a move.

## Advantages of 'One Nation, One Election'



Proponents of the simultaneous election system argue that it will overhaul the electoral process and governance in India by optimizing resources and improving voter convenience. The Kovind-led panel noted that 32 political parties and notable judicial figures, including former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts, have expressed support for this measure.

The panel outlined several advantages, including a more streamlined electoral process, which it believes will ease the voting experience for the public. Additionally, it argues that the synchronization of elections would lead to faster economic growth by reducing uncertainty caused by frequent elections. With businesses and industries often held back by shifting political policies, the government claims that a unified election schedule would result in greater stability for corporate decision-making and production cycles.

Another key point raised by the panel was the disruption caused by frequent elections. It pointed out that supply chains and production cycles are often affected when migrant workers take leave to return to their home states to cast votes. By aligning elections across the country, this disruption could be minimized.

Furthermore, the government emphasized that simultaneous elections would prevent policy paralysis and eliminate the "atmosphere of uncertainty" brought about by continuous electoral cycles.

## Government's Stance and Roadmap



Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav confirmed that the government plans to implement 'One Nation, One Election' in a phased manner. A unified voter list will be created, and elections across all levels of government will be synchronized.

Vaishnav noted that initial discussions on the matter have been positive, with 80% of respondents indicating support for the proposal during preliminary consultations. "There is widespread support for this system," he told reporters, emphasizing the government's commitment to moving forward.

Anurag Thakur, a former Union Minister, underscored that India held simultaneous elections prior to 1962 and pointed to the potential savings in resources and deployment of security forces. He stressed that by avoiding multiple elections, India could fast-track its development goals.

sues. "This is not going to succeed... the people will not accept it," Kharge said while releasing the Congress manifesto for the upcoming Haryana elections.

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram also voiced his concerns, arguing that the current constitutional framework does not permit simultaneous elections. Chidambaram warned that implementing such a system would require at least five constitutional amendments, which he suggested would be challenging to achieve.

Other opposition leaders have raised concerns about the potential implications of simultaneous elections on regional issues. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a fierce critic of the proposal, has characterized it as a threat to the country's democratic structure, stating that it is an attempt to consolidate power and promote autocracy under the guise of democracy.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a key player in the opposition-led INDIA alliance, has promised to scrap the proposal if the bloc wins the next general election. Additionally, regional parties have highlighted concerns over limited resources, making it harder to focus on local issues during election campaigns dominated by national agendas.

## Challenges Ahead

One of the major hurdles to implementing 'One Nation, One Election' is the need for significant constitutional amendments. To push the proposal through, the government would require a two-thirds majority in Parliament, as at least six constitutional amendments would be needed to bring the plan to life.

Moreover, the cost of procuring electronic voting machines (EVMs) for a simultaneous election has been flagged as a potential issue. The Election Commission has estimated that the cost of acquiring EVMs could reach ₹10,000 crore every 15 years.



## Opposition Pushback

Despite the government's optimism, opposition parties remain highly critical of the proposal. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has been one of the most vocal opponents, dismissing the plan as impractical and accusing the government of attempting to divert public attention from pressing is-

## Conclusion

The debate over 'One Nation, One Election' marks a crucial juncture in Indian politics. While the government champions the move as a step toward more efficient governance and economic growth, opposition parties view it as a threat to democratic principles and federalism. As discussions continue, the future of India's electoral process hangs in the balance, with the outcome likely to shape the country's political landscape for years to come.





## Royal Enfield Launches Women's Riding Gear and Lifestyle Apparel

Royal Enfield has introduced an exciting new range of lifestyle apparel and riding gear specifically designed for women, starting at ₹990. This collection aims to empower female riders and create a supportive community around motorcycling.

This sustainable jacket is crafted from 75 repurposed PET bottles and 100% recycled materials, promoting eco-friendliness without compromising on style.

Equipped with CE Level 2 SAFE TECH armor for maximum protection at shoulders, elbows, and back. Made from breathable polyester mesh, it features multiple pockets, reflective elements, and holds a CE CLASS A certification.

These high-abrasion Poly Lycra leggings include CE Level 2 knee protectors and CE Level 1 hip protectors, designed for a pre-curved fit and comfort, complete with two back pockets. Constructed from high-quality, abrasion-resistant leather, these boots feature a rubber sole, TPR ankle protector, and a removable, washable inner sole for convenience.



Made from 100% polyester air mesh, these gloves offer TPR knuckle protection and a comfortable rubber sponge palm. A full-finger style that combines safety with ventilation and a stylish design.

Designed for safety and comfort, these

helmets blend durability with sleek aesthetics. Yadvinder Singh Guleria, Chief Commercial Officer at Royal Enfield, stated that this collection is about more than just gear; it encourages women to embrace their passion for motorcycling and adventure, fostering a sense of freedom and community.

## Snapchat Introduces Account Toggle for Users Over 16



Snapchat has introduced a new feature allowing users over 16 to easily switch between personal and public accounts. This update enables users to control their profile visibility, choosing whether to share it with approved friends or a broader audience.

The announcement was made during the sixth annual Snap Partner Summit, held in Santa Monica, California, on September 17. The new, simplified profile design aims to enhance user experience by providing more flexibility in managing privacy settings.

With this feature, Snapchat users can better tailor their social interactions, promoting a safer and more personalized environment on the platform.

## Food Packaging Chemicals Found In Human Bodies In New Study

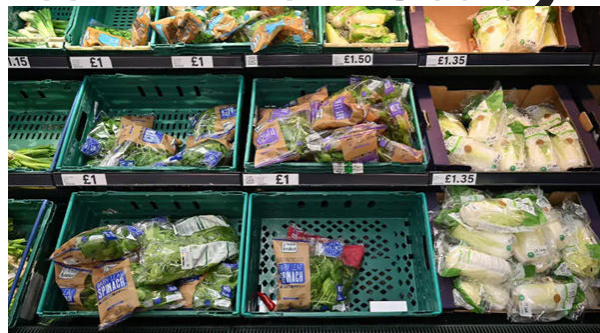
A recent study reveals that over 3,600 chemicals used in food packaging or preparation have been found in human bodies, raising significant health concerns. Led by Birgit Geueke from the Food Packaging Forum Foundation, the research identifies about 100 of these chemicals as "high concern" for human health.

Among the well-known offenders are PFAS and bisphenol A (BPA), both of which have faced bans due to their hazardous effects. However, many of the chemicals detected in this study remain poorly understood in terms of their health implications. Geueke emphasizes the need for further research into how these substances migrate into food.

The researchers previously catalogued around 14,000 food contact chemicals (FCCs) that can migrate from packaging made of materials like plastic, paper, glass, and metal. Additionally, chemicals can originate from other stages in food production, such as conveyor belts and kitchen utensils.

Surprisingly, the study discovered 3,601 FCCs in existing biomonitoring databases, constituting nearly a quarter of all known FCCs. Geueke cautions that the study does not definitively link these chemicals to food packaging, as other exposure sources could be at play.

High-concern chemicals include multiple PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," which



have been detected in various human tissues and are associated with serious health issues. BPA, a hormone-disrupting chemical banned in baby bottles in many countries, was also identified, along with phthalates, linked to infertility. Oligomers, byproducts of plastic production, are particularly concerning due to their unknown health effects.

While the study couldn't determine the concentration levels of these chemicals, Geueke warns about their potential interactions, citing samples with up to 30 different PFAS. To minimize exposure, she recommends reducing contact time with packaging and avoiding heating food in its original containers.

Duane Mellor, an expert in evidence-based medicine, praises the study's thoroughness but notes it does not quantify exposure levels or explore other environmental sources. He advises the public to seek better data and reduce unnecessary chemical exposure. Meanwhile, the European Union is moving towards banning PFAS and BPA in food packaging.

Black alkaline water is regular water infused with minerals like fulvic acid, which gives it a distinctive black color and raises its pH, making it more alkaline. Fulvic acid, found in soil and plants, may offer health benefits such as improved nutrient absorption and antioxidant properties. This water is marketed as a health drink with claims of detoxification, better digestion, and enhanced hydration.

Black alkaline water contains fulvic acid, rich in trace minerals, electrolytes, and amino acids essential for various bodily functions. These nutrients can enhance nutrient absorption, allowing cells to utilize vitamins and minerals more effectively.

Thanks to its mineral content and alkaline nature, black alkaline water may provide superior hydration compared to regular water. The presence of electrolytes helps maintain fluid balance, especially after physical exertion or during dehydration, potentially allowing the body to retain fluids more efficiently.

Fulvic acid in black alkaline water has antioxidant properties that help neutralize free radicals. These unstable molecules can damage cells and contribute to aging and diseases like cancer. Consuming this water may offer protective effects against oxidative stress.

## Is Black Alkaline Water Actually Good For Us

Fulvic acid is linked to better digestive health by promoting beneficial gut bacteria growth. This enhances digestion and nutrient absorption. Additionally, fulvic acid may aid the body's detoxification processes by binding to toxins and heavy metals, helping to eliminate them through urine and sweat.

Some believe that alkaline water helps restore a balanced pH level in the body, countering the effects of an overly acidic diet. Although the body regulates pH naturally, drinking alkaline water may offer temporary relief from acid-related

conditions.

The combination of fulvic acid, trace minerals, and antioxidants can help strengthen the immune system. These components support cellular health and reduce oxidative stress, both crucial for maintaining strong immunity and improving recovery from illnesses.

While black alkaline water is generally safe and may offer some benefits, it's essential to note that many health claims lack robust scientific support. Always consult a healthcare professional for personalized advice.

## Swiggy Launches 'Project Next' for Delivery Partners



Swiggy has introduced a new initiative, "Project Next," designed to help its delivery partners transition from "blue collar" to "white collar" roles. This program aims to provide better career opportunities for delivery partners while simultaneously expanding Swiggy's restaurant network, particularly in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

As part of "Project Next," qualified delivery partners will take on the responsibilities of sales executives. This initiative is a collaboration with the "Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship," Government of India, under the broader "Swiggy Skills" program. By empowering delivery partners to manage and onboard new restaurants, Swiggy seeks to enhance its presence in growing markets.

Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy Food Marketplace, highlighted the unique strengths of delivery partners in his LinkedIn announcement. He noted that these partners are familiar with local areas and understand the needs of restaurant partners, making them ideal candidates for the new roles. "This program provides a clear path for delivery partners who want to build a career with Swiggy," Kapoor said.

In just five weeks since the launch, Project Next has successfully transitioned 100 delivery partners into sales executive positions, resulting in the onboarding of nearly 360 new restaurants. The initiative aims to expand further, with plans to transition hundreds of additional delivery partners across more than 150 growing markets, including Vadodara, Amritsar, Nashik, Agra, and Dharwad.

Kapoor shared a success story about a delivery partner named Pawan, who has been with Swiggy for three years and has recently moved into a sales executive role. This change allows Pawan to explore new opportunities while contributing to Swiggy's growth.

With Project Next, Swiggy is not only focusing on career advancement for its delivery partners but also enhancing its restaurant network, setting the stage for future growth in various markets.

## The Rise of UPI and Its Security Challenges



The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has transformed digital transactions in India since its launch, making it incredibly simple to send and receive money—often likened to the ease of texting a friend. This revolutionary platform has streamlined daily financial activities for millions, but it has also inadvertently created opportunities for cybercriminals.

With UPI, transactions occur instantly and seamlessly, which is a major convenience for users. However, this immediacy can be exploited by scammers who seek to steal money from unsuspecting victims. Unlike traditional banking methods that require multiple layers of authentication, UPI transactions can be completed with minimal verification, making it easier for cybercriminals to operate without needing access to banking credentials.

Criminals use various tactics to exploit UPI's convenience. Phishing attacks, for instance, involve deceiving users into providing personal information or access to their accounts. Some scammers even pose as legitimate service providers, tricking individuals into sharing sensitive details that can lead to unauthorized transactions.

## Kohli and Gautam Gambhir Discuss Past Rivalry in Exclusive Interview



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) generated excitement on Wednesday with a teaser for a candid interview featuring former India captain Virat Kohli and head coach Gautam Gambhir. In the teaser, they aim to address the long-rumored rift between them and put to rest the sensational stories that have circulated.

Kohli and Gambhir, who have a history of on-field altercations—especially during the Indian Premier League (IPL)—have now united as coach and player for Team India, signaling a reconciliation of sorts. The BCCI shared the teaser on X, inviting fans to gain insight into the minds of these two cricketing greats. “A Very Special Interview. Stay tuned for a deep insight on how great cricketing minds operate,” the post read.

In the 1 minute, 40 second video clip, which has garnered over 185,000 views, Kohli remarked, “We have come a long way to put an end to all the masala.” Gambhir, laughing, responded, “That’s a good start to the conversation.”

The two cricketing icons reflected on their past encounters, with Kohli inquiring about Gambhir’s mindset during heated moments on the field. “When you’re batting and engaging in a bit of chat with the opposition, did you ever feel it might take you out of your zone?” Kohli asked. Gambhir cheekily replied, “You’ve had more altercations than I have. I think you can answer that question better than I can.”

Kohli humorously added, “Main to ye dhund raha hun ki koi meri baat se agree kar jaye. (I’m just looking for validation.)” This lighthearted banter set a relaxed tone for their discussion.

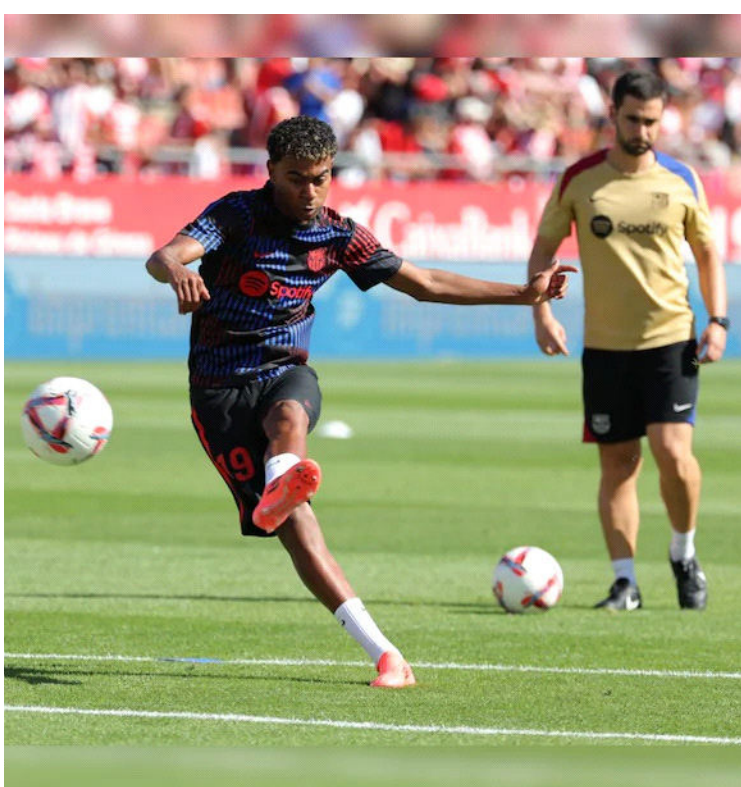
## Lamine Yamal Leads Barcelona's Champions League Ambitions

As Barcelona prepares to face Monaco in their Champions League opener on Thursday, the Catalan giants aim to revive their European glory nearly a decade after their last title. Under new coach Hansi Flick, Barcelona seeks to re-establish itself among Europe’s elite after years of struggle. Last season showed promising signs as they reached the quarter-finals for the first time in four years.

Barcelona’s previous campaign ended in disappointment when they were eliminated by Paris Saint-Germain, despite a strong first-leg performance. The 6-4 aggregate defeat led to the sacking of coach Xavi Hernandez after a trophyless season. However, Flick’s arrival has revitalized the team, with five consecutive wins in La Liga.

A key player in this resurgence is 17-year-old Lamine Yamal, who has quickly become a pivotal part of the squad. Since making his debut at just 15 years old in April 2023, Yamal has demonstrated exceptional talent, scoring twice in a recent 4-1 victory over Girona, a team that had previously dominated them.

Girona coach Michel Sanchez praised Yamal, stating, “Lamine is a difference-maker... he is already one of the best players in the world at 17.” Comparisons to Lionel Messi, Barcelona’s all-time great, have inevitably surfaced, adding pressure to Yamal’s young shoulders. Nonetheless, his performances in both domestic and international competitions, including key contributions to Spain’s Euro 2024 success, highlight his potential.



## Harry Kane Shines as Bayern Munich Crushes Dinamo Zagreb 9-2

Harry Kane showcased his goal-scoring prowess by netting four goals in Bayern Munich’s remarkable 9-2 victory over Dinamo Zagreb in their Champions League opener. The match highlighted Bayern’s attacking dominance, even as they initially faced setbacks with two early goals disallowed from Jamal Musiala and Serge Gnabry.

With a comfortable 3-0 lead at halftime, Bayern appeared to ease off, which allowed Zagreb to make a surprising comeback. Marko Pjaca’s backheel pass set up Bruno Petkovic, who pulled one back for the visitors. Just five minutes from time, Takuya Ogiwara nutmegged backup goalkeeper Sven Ulreich to make it 3-2, raising hopes for a dramatic finish.

However, Bayern quickly regained control when Kane tapped in from close range, restoring a two-goal cushion. The momentum shifted further as Olise scored again after a brilliant buildup from Musiala. Kane then converted two more penalties, bringing his tally to four and pushing the score to 7-2.

Bayern wasn’t finished yet; Leroy Sane curled a stunning shot into the bottom corner from the edge of the area, and substitute Leon Goretzka added a header from Kimmich’s corner, sealing the unprecedented 9-2 victory. This result marked Bayern as the first team in Champions League history to score nine goals in a single match.

“It was an amazing game. We had a really good first half. But we must learn from the start of the second half,” Kane reflected. Coach Vincent Kompany praised his team’s composure amid the two Zagreb goals, acknowledging, “We still have a lot of work to do.”

## Ricky Ponting Appointed Head Coach of Punjab Kings

Australian cricket legend Ricky Ponting has been named the head coach of Punjab Kings, taking over from compatriot Trevor Bayliss. The appointment comes as Punjab aims to revitalize its underperforming IPL franchise. Ponting, who has a successful coaching background with the Delhi Capitals over the past seven years, signed a four-year contract with Punjab, emphasizing the need for time to build a competitive squad.

An IPL source confirmed to PTI, “Ponting signed the contract yesterday and it is for four years. He will need that much time to build the squad. Ponting will take a call on the rest of the support staff.” During his tenure with the Capitals, Ponting transformed the team into a formidable opponent, although they fell short of securing the IPL title, reaching the final in 2020.

Punjab Kings have never clinched the IPL trophy since the league’s inception in 2008, and their co-owners are hopeful that Ponting, a World Cup-winning captain, can lead them to success. The franchise’s only final appearance was in 2014, and they have been frequently criticized for their inconsistent performance and constant changes in management. In the past seven seasons, Punjab has failed to finish in the top five and ranked ninth out of ten teams earlier this year.



## Liverpool Triumphs Over AC Milan in Champions League Opener

Liverpool kicked off their Champions League campaign in spectacular fashion, securing a 3-1 victory against AC Milan at San Siro, coinciding with manager Arne Slot’s 46th birthday. The Reds showed resilience after an early setback, with Christian Pulisic giving Milan a surprise lead.

Liverpool responded decisively, with central defenders Ibrahima Konate and Virgil van Dijk each finding the net before half-time. The team’s solid defense and attacking prowess set the stage for an exciting match.

As the second half began, Liverpool maintained

their momentum, with Diogo Jota coming close to extending the lead shortly after the restart. Milan pressed for a way back into the game and sought a penalty after a tussle between Cody Gakpo and Alvaro Morata in the box, but their appeals were quickly dismissed by the officials.

Liverpool struck again in the 67th minute with a swift counterattack. Gakpo led the charge, delivering a perfect ball for Dominik Szoboszlai, who expertly volleyed home off the post, bringing the score to 3-1. In response to the growing deficit, Milan made substitutions, bringing on Darwin Núñez and Luis Díaz to bolster their attack.





## Kareena Kapoor Khan Teams Up with Prabhas in Upcoming Film Spirit

The Indian film industry is increasingly embracing pan-Indian cinema, where talents from both North and South India unite, creating exciting collaborations for audiences. This trend has gained significant popularity, and fans are thrilled to see fresh on-screen pairings, particularly when renowned actors from different film industries come together.

In the latest buzz, Kareena Kapoor Khan, one of Bollywood's most prominent stars, is reportedly set to join forces with South Indian superstar Prabhas in the highly anticipated film **\*\*Spirit\*\***. This project, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, is expected to be a big-budget spectacle and one of the costliest films in Indian cinema.

Prabhas will take on a groundbreaking role as a police officer for the first time, while Kareena is poised to play his co-star. Their collaboration is generating excitement, given their impressive careers and massive fan bases. The combination of Kareena's Bollywood charisma and Prabhas's South Indian fame promises to create a captivating cinematic experience.

While discussions in Telugu film circles suggest that Kareena has signed on for a significant role, fans are still awaiting an official confirmation from the film's makers. The anticipation surrounding this pairing underscores the growing trend of cross-industry collaborations, which continue to draw audiences eager for innovative storytelling and diverse performances.

As the film industry evolves, projects like **\*\*Spirit\*\*** highlight the importance of unity in Indian cinema, showcasing talent from different regions and breaking traditional barriers. With the potential of this collaboration, fans are eager to see how the dynamic between Kareena and Prabhas unfolds on screen.

In conclusion, the expected teaming of Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prabhas in **\*\*Spirit\*\*** is a testament to the exciting changes in the Indian film landscape, promising fresh narratives and a celebration of diverse talent. As details emerge, fans will be eagerly watching for the official announcement and the film's eventual release.

## Anticipation Builds for MAD Square with New Single Release



The sequel to the hit film **\*MAD\***, titled **\*MAD Square\***, is generating significant buzz among fans following the original's massive success. The beloved trio of Narne Nithin, Ram Nithin, and Sangeeth Shoban, known for their hilarious antics, have won the hearts of audiences, setting high expectations for the follow-up.

As the makers gear up for the sequel's promotional campaign, they have announced the release of the first single on September 20. The **\*MAD\*** gang will don traditional attire in the promotional material, adding an intriguing twist to their usual style.

Returning to the project is music composer Bheems Ceciroleo, who is set to deliver another catchy soundtrack that promises to become a chartbuster. Cinematography will once again be handled by Shamdat Sainudeen, ensuring a visually appealing experience for viewers. Kalyan Shankar is at the helm, crafting what is expected to be another masterful comedy entertainer that fans have come to love.

Haarika Suryadevara of Sithara Entertainments, who made a successful debut as a producer with the first installment, is back to produce the sequel. She is joined by Sai Soujanya of Fortune Four Cinemas and Srihara Studios, with Suryadeva Naga Vamsi presenting the film. This collaboration of experienced talent bodes well for the project, heightening anticipation for its release.

## Upendra's UI A Teaser into a Surreal Cinematic World

The highly anticipated Kannada film **\*UI\***, featuring Upendra, has been making waves since its announcement, and excitement reached new heights on Monday when Kiccha Sudeep unveiled the first look at a grand ceremony in Bengaluru. Joined by renowned producer Allu Arvind and superstar Shivarajkumar, Sudeep presented a captivating 116-second teaser that offers a glimpse into the film's surreal universe.

The teaser begins with a striking disclaimer: "This is not the AI world. This is the UI world," setting the tone for an experience unlike any other. Audiences are immediately transported into a visually stunning landscape bathed in shades of purple. The camera gracefully ascends, providing a bird's-eye view of a rich terrain dotted with hillocks, a serene water body, and an array of intriguing structures.

As the teaser progresses, it reveals a bustling street filled with traders, each with an air of peculiarity that adds to the film's unique atmosphere. The visuals become increasingly surreal, building up to the introduction of a formidable force that promises to drive the narrative forward. With a staggering budget of Rs 100 crore, **\*UI\*** is touted as a pan-Indian film, aiming to set new benchmarks in the entertainment industry. This ambitious period action film has been in development since the mid-2000s, with the creators expressing confi-



dence that it will redefine cinematic standards.

Fans are eager to see how this innovative project unfolds, as the teaser has already sparked significant interest and discussion. With its intriguing premise and high production values, **\*UI\*** is poised to be one of the standout films in the Kannada film industry, and audiences are eager for more insights as the release date approaches.

## Vishwak Sen and Meenakshi Chaudhary Shine in Mechanic Rocky's New Track

Get ready to be enchanted by the latest musical offering from **\*Mechanic Rocky\***, featuring the charismatic Vishwak Sen and the delightful Meenakshi Chaudhary. The film's second single, "Oo Pilla," is a vibrant, catchy tune that promises to have you humming along in no time.

In contrast to the film's soulful first single, "Oo Pilla" provides a heartwarming glimpse into the budding romance between Rocky and Priya. Composed by Jakes Bejoy, known for his impressive soundtrack in **\*Saripodhaa Saniyaaram\***, this track captures a perfect blend of youthful exuberance and tender emotions.

The evocative lyrics, penned by Krishna Chaitanya, convey the protagonist's excitement at reuniting with his college crush. After missing the opportunity to express his feelings during their B-Tech days, Rocky is thrilled to reconnect and embark on a romantic journey with her. Nakash Aziz's soulful vocals elevate the song, infusing it with charm and warmth.

Visually, the song is a feast for the eyes, with the undeniable chemistry between Vishwak Sen and Meenakshi Chaudhary lighting up the screen. Their effortless connection enhanc-



es the romantic essence of the song, making it even more captivating for audiences.

"Oo Pilla" stands out as a celebration of love and nostalgia, capturing the essence of youthful romance. As fans eagerly await the film's release, this track is sure to become a favorite, resonating with anyone who has experienced the joy of reconnecting with someone special. With its infectious melody and heartfelt lyrics, "Oo Pilla" is a musical gem that beautifully complements the narrative of **\*Mechanic Rocky\***.