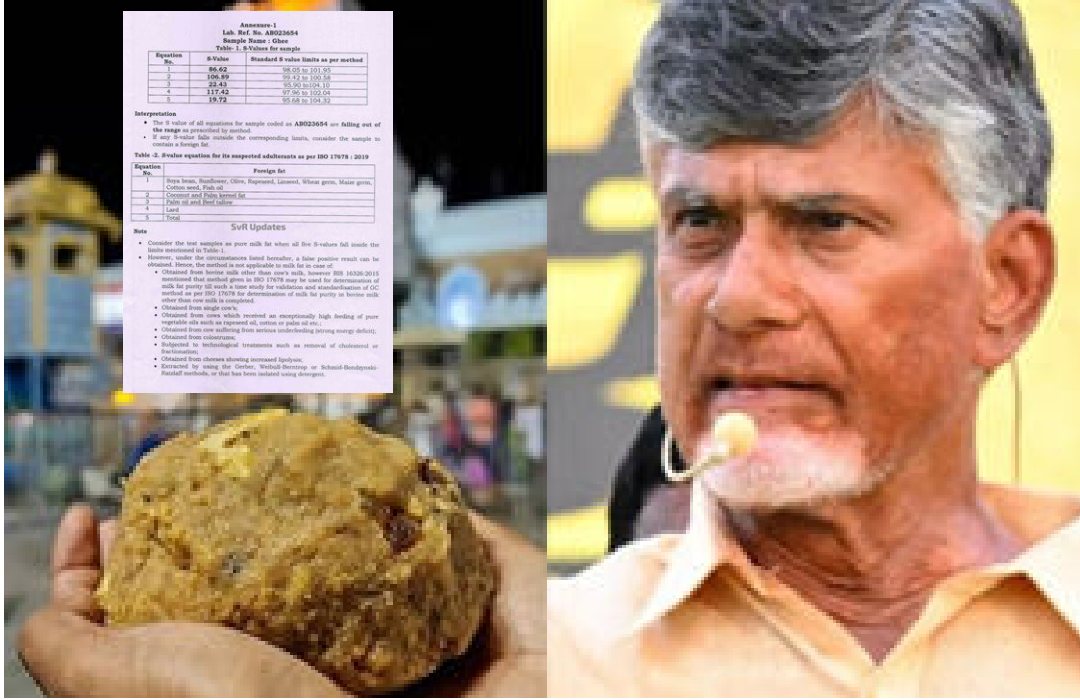


Weather Forecast HYDERABAD VIJAYAWADA TIRUPATHI

Lab Report Sparks Controversy Over Temple Prasadam

Govt Cites Lab Report in Row Over Animal Fat in Tirupati Laddoos

TPN,Andhra Pradesh A recent report from a central government lab has sparked a heated political controversy, with claims that the ghee used in the famous Tirupati laddoos contained traces of animal fat.



YV Subbareddy challenged Chandrababu on allegations

YV Subba Reddy, YCP Rajya Sabha member and a key figure in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), strongly rejected Chandrababu's allegations. He accused Naidu of damaging the sanctity of Tirumala and the beliefs of millions of Hindus.

Chief Minister Naidu Slams YSRCP Over Allegations

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu condemned both the YSRCP and its leader, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, over the findings. Speaking at a legislature party meeting in Amravati, Naidu stated, "Even Tirupati laddoo was made with substandard ingredients... they used animal fat instead of ghee."

God Has Punished Before, but Chandrababu Hasn't Changed

In response to recent comments by CM Chandrababu Naidu regarding the preparation of Tirupati Laddu Prasad, Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, former TTD Chairman during the YCP government, has delivered a sharp rebuke. Chandrababu's remarks suggesting that the sacred prasadam was made with animal oils instead of ghee sparked a statewide debate.

Bhumana recalled that Chandrababu had previously made similar accusations against YSR and was consequently punished, but he has not changed his ways. Bhumana defended the integrity of the prasadam, stating that the preparation is overseen by the holy Sri Vaishnavas, and their practices ensure that the prasadam is made with utmost reverence and purity.



Nara Lokesh and Ram Mohan Naidu Join the Attack

Nara Lokesh, Andhra Pradesh's IT Minister and Naidu's son, also voiced his outrage. "The Lord Venkateswara Temple at Tirumala is our most sacred temple. I am shocked to learn that the Jagan Mohan Reddy administration used animal fat instead of ghee... shame on them," he said.

Congress Demands CBI Inquiry

The Congress party has also weighed in, with the state unit president, YS Sharmila sister of the former Chief Minister YS Jagan, calling for a CBI inquiry. She demanded an investigation to uphold the sanctity of the temple and the faith of millions of Hindus.



TDP Leader Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy

TDP leader Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy expressed outrage, One fiery message aimed at YSRCP stated, "Orei Subbu... What is all this? Do you add beef fat to Tirumala Venkateswara Swami's laddoos? What a disgrace!"

ghee procured at just ₹320 per liter through government tenders. He also criticized the YCP government for not providing lab certification for cow ghee, further questioning the authenticity and purity of the ingredients used.



Vellampalli to join BJP?

Balineni Srinivasa Reddy: "I Endured for So Many Days Just Because of the YSR"

TPN,Mangalagiri : The YSR Congress Party (YCP), under the leadership of Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been facing a series of setbacks. After a disappointing performance in recent elections, the party is in a difficult situation as key leaders continue to leave. Recently, Balineni Srinivasa Reddy also bid farewell to the YCP and is set to join the Jana Sena Party.

he received within the party. He admitted that his candidness about issues might have worked against him, and he criticized Jagan for being indifferent to the concerns of the people. He expressed disappointment that Jagan showed no signs of change, even after electoral losses.

He emphasized that positions are not important to him, but self-esteem is. He also shared that he had previously stepped down from his ministerial post. Balineni made it clear that he is joining the Jana Sena without any conditions and is ready to do whatever Pawan Kalyan asks of him.





Samineni Udayabhanu to Join Jana Sena on 22nd

- Samineni Udayabhanu bids farewell to YCP
- Former MLA visits Jana Sena office
- Reveals he was not given priority in YCP



TPN,Andhra Pradesh : The exodus of key leaders from the YSR Congress Party (YCP) continues. Following in the footsteps of Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, Samineni Udayabhanu has also left the YCP. Udayabhanu announced that he will be joining the Jana Sena Party on the 22nd of this month (Sunday). He also stated that he will bring along his supporters and workers into the Jana Sena fold. His visit to the Jana Sena party office in Mangalagiri drew considerable attention.

Political discussions are abuzz with news that Thota Trimurthulu, a prominent political figure, is considering joining the Jana Sena Party (JSP). This potential shift comes amidst a backdrop of strategic realignments and evolving political alliances in Andhra Pradesh.

Udayabhanu expressed that he felt sidelined in YCP and had lost importance within the party. He clarified that his resignation was motivated by his admiration for the Jana Sena leadership. Meanwhile, it is expected that Balineni Srinivasa Reddy will also join Jana Sena on Sunday. Both leaders are set to officially join the party in the presence of Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan.

AP Govt Prepares to Implement Talliki Vandam and Free Bus Travel Schemes



TPN,Andhra Pradesh : The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated discussions on the implementation of the "Super Six" promises made during the elections. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced that the free gas cylinder scheme will be launched by Diwali. In a recent cabinet meeting, a key decision was made regarding the implementation of free RTC bus travel for women, a major election promise.

The cabinet reviewed which promises should be prioritized. Ministers debated between two popular schemes: free cooking gas and free bus travel for women. Most leaders favored the gas cylinder scheme, and it was decided that three free gas cylinders will be provided per year, starting from the upcoming Diwali.

Following this, the government plans to implement the "Salute to Mother" scheme, which will offer financial assistance of Rs 15,000 per year to the mothers of students attending school. Minister Lokesh recently announced that this program will be executed more effectively than previous government efforts.

The free bus travel scheme for women will be rolled out gradually, likely starting after the financial year. These moves aim to fulfill the promises made to the people, though the timing of implementation may depend on the state's economic conditions.

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has already voiced criticism of these plans, but the government remains focused on realizing its election promises.

Online booking of sand started in AP

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : The Andhra Pradesh govt is set to launch the online booking system for sand starting from September 19. The Department of Mines has been working on the initiative, with the AP Sand Management Portal and App now ready for public use. The employees of various departments across all districts have also undergone training to ensure smooth implementation of the new system.



The online sand booking service was initially slated to commence on September 11. However, due to recent heavy rains in the state, the launch was delayed. Now, with conditions improving, the government is moving forward with the initiative. In a Council of Ministers meeting held today, the final decision was taken,

and the facility is expected to go live by the end of the day. Mines department officials have been in constant communication with district officials to ensure seamless execution.

The state government has also finalized transportation charges for door delivery

of sand. This new system is aimed at providing transparency and efficiency in sand distribution, eliminating previous issues of corruption and shortages.

The move follows a decision by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's Cabinet to revive the free sand policy, scrapping the Revised Tendering System introduced by the YSRC government in 2019. The updated sand policy is expected to streamline the process and make sand accessible to the public without unnecessary delays or costs.

The new online booking facility is part of the government's broader efforts to modernize and digitize essential services for citizens.

Actress Jatwani Meets Home Minister Anitha at Secretariat

TPN,Amaravati: Actress Jatwani met with Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anita at the Secretariat yesterday, thanking her for suspending the IPS officers and other officials responsible for a recent incident in which she faced inappropriate behavior.



During the meeting, Jatwani expressed concerns about high-ranking members of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) being involved in the incident. She alleged that the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) was also complicit and requested justice and protection. Jatwani urged Minister Anitha to ensure that the perpetrators,

regardless of their status, be held accountable for their actions.

In response, Home Minister Anitha as-

sured Jatwani that the matter would be thoroughly investigated. She stated that she had already spoken to the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police regarding the forensic report and case details. Minister Anitha promised that those involved, no matter how influential, would not be spared and would face appropriate punishment.

The meeting is seen as a significant step toward addressing the issue and holding those responsible accountable, as the government continues to take a firm stance on misconduct involving public figures.

Andhra Pradesh to Become a Tourism Hub: Major Initiatives Unveiled

TPN,Rajamahendravaram: Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh announced significant plans for developing Andhra Pradesh as a tourism hub with support from the central government. Speaking at a media conference held at the R&B Guest House in Rajamahendravaram, Minister Durgesh detailed the initiatives ahead of World Tourism Day, to be celebrated on September 27 in Vijayawada under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The government has decided to develop iconic tourist centers across the state, including Srisailam, Akhanda Godavari, Bapatla's beach corridor, and Sangameswaram, with a total investment of Rs. 400 crores through the central government's Sasi scheme. These projects aim to promote eco-tourism, spiritual tourism, and beach resorts, with the first focus on Srisailam, a major eco-tourism destination.

Minister Durgesh also highlighted efforts to develop temple tourism, establishing resorts near popular spiritual sites, and promoting longer stays for pilgrims. The Oberoi Group has already shown interest in setting up resorts in Tirupati, Gandikota, and Picchukalanka.

Additionally, Araku and Lambasingi will be developed as adventure centers, and steps are being taken to enhance tourist attractions like Borra Caves and Rushikonda Beach. These initiatives are expected to position Andhra Pradesh as a major tourism destination over the next five years, supported by various central government schemes.



Nandigam Suresh's Remand Extended for Another 14 Days



- Former MP Nandigam arrested in connection with the attack on TDP office
- Court recently granted two days of police custody
- After the custody period ended, police presented him in court
- Court extended remand until October 3

TPN, Vijayawada: It is known that former YCP MP Nandigam Suresh was arrested in connection with the attack on the TDP office. Recently, Nandigam Suresh was handed over to police custody for two days by the court. After the custody ended, the police presented him in court. The court has now extended Nandigam Suresh's remand for another 14 days, with his remand continuing until October 3. He is currently being held as a remand prisoner in Guntur Jail.

Nandigam's Name Appears in List of Accused in Woman's Death Case

Meanwhile, in 2021, following the death of a woman named Mariamma in Velagapudi of Tullur Mandal, the police added Nandigam Suresh's name to the list of accused in the case.

The police have filed a PT warrant petition in the Mangalagiri court seeking the arrest of Nandigam Suresh in relation to this case. After reviewing the petition, the court has ordered the police to clarify Nandigam Suresh's role in the matter.

Thota Srinivas Resigns from YSRCP, Set to Join Janasena??



TPN,Vijayawada : In a fresh blow to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), State Additional Secretary Thota Srinivas has resigned from both his party membership and post. Srinivas, while explaining his decision, cited dissatisfaction with the leadership of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as the primary reason for his departure. Srinivas expressed his frustration, stating that Jagan Mohan Reddy's refusal to meet party members and his reliance on a select few for recommendations was a major concern. "Even I could

not meet him unless three people recommended me," he remarked, indicating a lack of accessibility in the party's leadership. He further criticized Jagan's treatment of the Kapu community, claiming that Jagan looked down on them and denied him the chance to be appointed as an MLC under the Kapu quota.

Thota Srinivas also revealed that he had been promised the chairmanship of Durga Temple for a second time, but that promise was not fulfilled.

As a result, he made the decision to leave YSRCP and join Pawan Kalyan's Janasena Party, expressing admiration for Kalyan's ambitions and leadership.

Srinivas announced that he will formally join Janasena on September 22, 2024, in the presence of Pawan Kalyan. He emphasized that he has no personal ambition for office and is committed to following Pawan Kalyan's vision for the future.



If you dare, come to Tirupati and take oath: Nara Lokesh challenge to YV Subbareddy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh : The controversy surrounding the Tirumala Laddu prasadam has intensified as Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh has issued a direct challenge to YV Subbareddy, former chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Lokesh has called on Subbareddy to come to Tirupati and take an oath if he is confident that the accusations made by CM Chandrababu Naidu are false.

The dispute originated when CM Naidu accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YCP) government of using animal fat in the preparation of Tirumala Laddu prasadam, a sacred offering at the Lord Venkateswara Temple. Subbareddy has denied these allegations, asserting that they are baseless and politically motivated.



In response, Nara Lokesh criticized Subbareddy's dismissive attitude and challenged him to prove his claims by taking an oath in Tirupati. "If you dare, come to Tirupati and take an oath," Lokesh challenged Subbareddy during a media brief-

ing at Renigunta Airport. He accused the YCP government of alienating devotees and inflating prices, further alleging that the quality of the prasadam has declined under their tenure.

Lokesh also alleged that the YCP government had been involved in corrupt practices and had not adhered to the legal standards in place during their term. He expressed disappointment over the current administration's handling of the Laddu preparations, claiming that adulterated ghee was used in the sacred prasadam.

The row over the Tirumala Laddu continues to escalate, with both sides exchanging accusations and challenging each other to provide proof of their claims. The outcome of this dispute remains to be seen as the political and religious implications of the allegations continue to unfold.

Johnny Master's Arrest... Nagababu's Interesting Tweets!

TPN, Hyderabad : It is known that the famous choreographer Johnny Master was detained by the police in connection with the alleged sexual harassment of an assistant choreographer. In this context, Janasena leader and Mega brother Nagababu posted interesting messages on the 'X' (formerly Twitter) platform. He made two tweets quoting famous personalities.

Nagababu shared a quote from Sir William Garrow: "No man can be considered guilty of a crime until proven guilty by law."

He also tweeted a quote by Robert Evans: "Don't believe what you hear. There are three sides to every story... yours, the other person's, and the truth."

This has sparked discussions on social media, with many interpreting Nagababu's posts as being in support of Johnny Master. On the other hand, it is known that the Janasena party criticized Johnny after the rape case was filed.



Purandeshwari Supports One Nation-One Election, Criticizes Congress for Abroad Remarks



TPN, Rajahmundry : Following the Union Cabinet's approval of the Jamili elections proposal, BJP MP Daggubati Purandeshwari has expressed strong support for the initiative. The approval, based on the report by the former President Ram Nath Kovind Committee, paves the way for simultaneous elections across the country, a move intended to streamline the electoral process and reduce disruptions to governance.

Purandeshwari, the Andhra Pradesh BJP chief, welcomed the decision, emphasizing that a constitutional amendment will be required to implement the Jamili elections. She highlighted that local elections would be scheduled 100 days after the Parliament and Assembly elections as part of this unified electoral approach. According to Purandeshwari, the Jamili elections will facilitate uninterrupted development by ensuring that electoral cycles do not constantly interfere with governance and policy-making.

Purandeshwari also called on the Con-

gress party to support the Jamili elections, framing it as a measure for the national good. She expressed optimism about the benefits of conducting elections in a unified manner and underscored the potential for accelerated development.

In addition, Purandeshwari took aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticizing his recent remarks made abroad. She accused the Congress of undermining the country's honor by making disparaging comments outside India. Purandeshwari's remarks reflect ongoing tensions between the BJP and Congress, highlighting the political stakes surrounding the One Nation-One Election proposal.

The Union Cabinet's move marks a significant step towards implementing simultaneous elections, with Home Minister Amit Shah committing to advancing the proposal during his tenure. As the country moves closer to this electoral reform, political leaders are gearing up for the broader implications of this change.

Jagan is suffering when he should be happy: Somireddy



TPN, Andhra Pradesh : Senior TDP leader and Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has sharply criticized Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his negative reaction to the influx of investments in Amaravati. According to Somireddy, the investments are a testament to the visionary leadership of former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, but Jagan's administration has been unable to match this progress.

In a recent statement, Somireddy highlighted that under Chandrababu's rule, significant investments were attracted to Amaravati, including interest from international players like Australia and the UAE. He emphasized that high-profile projects are in the pipeline, such as the establishment of XLRI (Xavier School of Management) with an investment of ₹250 crores and a new medical college at SRM University.

Furthermore, Somireddy noted that the Bar Council of India (BCI) has expressed interest in setting up a National Law University, and major corporations like HPCL, NTPC, ONGC, Indian Bank, and SBI are poised to begin operations in Amaravati with a collective investment of ₹300 crores.

Despite these developments, Somireddy criticized Jagan Mohan Reddy for his perceived resentment and inability to handle the situation positively. "While Andhra Pradesh should be celebrating these investments, Jagan is instead suffering and trying to undermine the progress," he said.

Somireddy condemned Jagan for not contributing to investment growth during his tenure, contrasting it with the flourishing investment climate fostered by Chandrababu Naidu. He argued that the influx of investments should be a source of pride and optimism for all Telugus, and expressed frustration over Jagan's negative stance towards the capital's development.

Johnny Master's wife Ayesha announced the sensational decision

- Declaration that she will leave her husband if the allegations are proved
- Ayesha says that her husband is a promoter of talent and not a destroyer
- Johnny Master's wife with no evidence of sexual abuse
- Question why the young woman who complained is not talking

TPN, Hyderabad : Ayesha, the wife of renowned choreographer Johnny Master (Sumalatha), has made a bold statement regarding the recent allegations against her husband. In a recent interview, Ayesha declared that she would leave Johnny Master if the allegations of sexual abuse against him are proven to be true.

Ayesha defended her husband, asserting that Johnny Master has always been a promoter of talent and not a destroyer. She emphasized that there is no evidence supporting the claims of sexual abuse, particularly when the accuser was a minor. "Johnny Master has never harmed anyone; he has always supported those who promote talent," Ayesha stated. She questioned why the young woman who lodged the complaint is not speaking out more clearly about the allegations.

According to Ayesha, the complainant, who came into the film industry from stage shows, had ambitions of rising to prominence as a choreographer or heroine. Ayesha suggested that the young woman might have been driven by a desire for luxury and higher status in the industry.

Ayesha also raised concerns about the lack of evidence and the timing of the complaints. She questioned why the accuser, who once considered herself fortunate to work with Johnny Master, now seems to have changed her stance. Ayesha pointed out that Johnny Master had offered the complainant opportunities and support, including assistance with obtaining an association card in Hyderabad, which she declined.

The allegations have stirred considerable controversy, and Ayesha's comments reflect the ongoing tension surrounding the case. She remains firm in her support of her husband and insists that the accusations are unfounded.

Jagan Holds Series of Meetings with District Leaders Amid Party Turmoil

TPN, Andhra Pradesh : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is conducting a series of meetings with district-wise leaders of his party, the Yuva-jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP), as the party grapples with internal challenges following a significant electoral defeat. The YCP, which now holds only 11 seats in the state assembly and possesses limited influence in the council, is facing a leadership crisis with several prominent figures considering defection.

On Tuesday, Jagan met with leaders from the Nellore district, and on Wednesday, he focused on the Uttar Andhra region, including the Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Parvathipuram Manyam districts. These meetings are part of a broader strategy to assess the current situation in each district, gauge the loyalty of local



leaders, and address potential defections.

The party is experiencing a notable shortage of public representatives in Uttar Andhra, a region that suffered a significant electoral loss. Notably, former minister Botsa Satyanarayana, who was defeated in the recent elections, has been appointed as an MLC and leader of the opposition in the council. Despite this,

there are concerns that additional leaders might be contemplating leaving the party.

During these district meetings, Jagan is reviewing the latest developments and offering strategic suggestions to local leaders. The ongoing sessions aim to stabilize the party's base and prevent further defections. In conjunction with these meetings, Jagan is also making changes to district presidents, a move seen as part of his effort to rejuvenate the party's leadership structure.

The series of meetings are expected to continue for the foreseeable future as Jagan seeks to restore stability and unity within the YCP.



Operation Budameru: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Reviews Flood Control Plan

TPN,Vijayawada: Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu held a review meeting at the Vijayawada Camp Office to discuss "Operation Budameru," aimed at finding a permanent solution to the Budameru flood problem. Officials from the Department of Water Resources, ENC, S.E., Town Planning, Revenue, and Survey departments were present. Minister Ramanaidu emphasized the government's focus on erasing Budameru's reputation as "Bejawada Dukkha Dayani" (Sorrow of Vijayawada), and making the city flood-free, following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision. During the meeting, it was revealed that major encroachments on Budameru's land



have occurred within the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) limits, especially from Vidyadharapuram to Gunadala. Out of 202 acres, around 70 acres have been encroached upon, with 3,051 houses built in these areas. Minister Ramanaidu stated that a detailed report on the extent of encroachments would be presented to the Chief Minister. Plans to increase the capacity of Cheemala Vagu, Kesaravalli, and Enikepadu UTs, and to strengthen ridges from Enikepadu to Kolleru were also discussed. An action plan to widen the Enikepadu Canal and divert floodwaters from Budameru through alternative channels, including Velagaleru Head Regulator, was proposed.



Minister Bhupathi Raju Reviews Andhra Pradesh Railway Development Projects

TPN,Vijayawada:Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Government of India, conducted a review meeting with Railway officials today to assess the progress of railway development works in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting took place at the Divisional Conference Hall in Vijayawada.

Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager of the Vijayawada Division, South Central Railway, welcomed Minister Varma and presented an overview of various railway development projects through a PowerPoint presentation. Key topics included the Kotipalli - Narasapur New Railway Line, with updates on completed bridge constructions and pending land acquisitions necessary for the Amalapuram - Narasapur sections.

During the meeting, Minister Varma emphasized the need to expedite the completion of Rail Over Bridges (RoB) and Rail Under Bridges (RuB). He also discussed the introduction of new Mail/Express trains and the addition of stoppages for popular trains in his constituency, as well as the provision of a new Vande Bharat Express. Additionally, he reviewed the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station works and passenger amenities.

Minister Varma reiterated the Central Government's commitment to advancing regional development in Andhra Pradesh and urged Railway officials to collaborate closely with the State Government to achieve tangible results for the people of the state.

In conclusion, Shri Narendra A. Patil expressed gratitude to Minister Varma for his involvement and guidance. The meeting was attended by key officials including Shri M.V.S. Ramaraju, Chief Engineer (Construction), Shri Srinivasa Rao Konda, ADRM (Operations), and others.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Prepares for Grand Dasara Celebrations

TPN,Vijayawada:Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyana Chandra has announced that comprehensive arrangements are underway for the upcoming Dasara celebrations at Indrakeeladri hill, scheduled from October 3 to 12, 2024.

In a meeting held on Thursday with officials from various departments, Commissioner Dhyana Chandra detailed the extensive measures being put in place to ensure a smooth and enjoyable festival experience for the public. The arrangements are designed to minimize any potential inconveniences for attendees.

The VMC has planned to provide 35 lakh drinking water bottles and packets, set up 150 temporary toilets, and establish 6 cloakrooms. Additionally, a robust sanitation management system will be in place with 1,400 sanitation workers working in three shifts across 27 areas. A 24x7 control room will be operational throughout the festival, and road patchwork will be completed to ensure the safety and comfort of the devotees, particularly along the path for circumambulation (giri pradakshina).

As part of the preparations, conveyor belts for transporting Bhavani devotees' red cloth and 18 tractors will also be arranged to facilitate smooth festival operations. Commissioner Chandra assured that, as in previous years, all efforts are being made to enhance the overall experience for the thousands of devotees expected to visit.



Minister Narayana Reassures Farmers and Receives Land Pooling Acceptance Documents

TPN,Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Municipal and Urban Development Minister Shri Ponguru Narayana has reaffirmed his support for farmers participating in the land pooling scheme for Amaravati's capital development. Minister Narayana personally visited the homes of farmers who have agreed to contribute their lands, addressing their concerns and collecting acceptance documents.

In a notable visit, Narayana traveled to a farmer's residence situated approximately three kilometers from the center of Rayapudi village in Tullur Mandal, where he received 4.91 acres of land from farmer Mehboob Subhani. This gesture is part of the ongoing efforts to facilitate the development of Amaravati as a major city.

Minister Narayana spoke to the media, emphasizing that farmers have voluntarily contributed 34,000 acres in just 58 days for the capital project. He criticized the previous administration for its delays and inadequate land pooling efforts, noting that the current government has managed to secure an additional 17 acres in the past two days and expects to finalize 21 more acres in Nidamaru, Kuragallu, and Rayapudi



villages.

Narayana also announced improvements in the allocation process for returnable plots. He stated that, unlike the previous lottery system, the government will now offer available flats to those who have contributed land, with the promise of provid-

ing choices to farmers.

The Minister expressed confidence in transforming Amaravati into one of the top five cities in India, reflecting a commitment to significant urban development and improved living conditions for its residents.

Petition Submitted to Minister Narayana on Kondapalli Municipality Issues



TPN,Amaravati: Mylavaram MLA Sri Vasantha Venkata Krishnaprasad met Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana at the Amaravati Secretariat on Thursday to address pressing issues in Kondapalli Municipality.

In his petition, MLA Krishnaprasad highlighted critical challenges facing the municipality, including a shortage of sanitation workers, inadequate staff, and insufficient funding. He emphasized the need for these issues to be addressed to elevate Kondapalli Municipality, which serves a population of approximately 100,000, to an ideal municipality status.

Minister Narayana responded positively to the petition, assuring that the issues will be resolved promptly. He acknowledged the importance of addressing these challenges to improve municipal services and living conditions for residents. During the meeting, Minister Narayana was honored with a shawl and presented with a Kondapalli doll, symbolizing local culture and appreciation. The gesture underscored the collaborative spirit between the local representative and the state government in tackling municipal concerns.

Corruption Allegations Surface Against Junior Assistant at Vijayawada Govt Hospital

TPN,Vijayawada: Shocking corruption allegations have emerged against Arun Kumar, a junior assistant at the Vijayawada Government Hospital (GGH), who has reportedly turned the hospital into a hub of misconduct and illegal activities for over a decade. Despite being promoted from an attendant to a junior assistant, Arun Kumar has continued to work at the hospital, using his position to exploit both staff and the public.

Arun Kumar is accused of a range of serious offenses, including stealing gold ornaments from the bodies of deceased orphans during post-mortem procedures. Instead of securing the jewelry and recording it in the register as required, he allegedly sells the items to private buyers.

The corruption doesn't stop there. Employees in need of fitness certificates from the medical board are reportedly charged one lakh rupees in bribes by Arun Kumar. He has been accused of harassing those who refuse to pay, creating a hostile work

environment.

One disturbing allegation involves Kumar harassing the daughter of a hospital employee. He allegedly promised her a job in exchange for a physical relationship, even making inappropriate phone calls to her late at night.

Arun Kumar is also accused of illicit relationships with multiple female employees at the hospital, using threats and manipulation to exploit them. In addition, he reportedly takes bribes from private hospitals, charging up to five lakh rupees to grant them permission without conducting proper inspections.

Further allegations suggest that he illegally collects Rs. 5,000 from each medical student seeking a fitness certificate, netting over Rs. 7.5 lakh annually. Despite numerous complaints, hospital authorities have reportedly ignored the accusations, allowing Arun Kumar to continue his corrupt practices unchecked.





Stock Markets Rally in First 100 Days of Modi 3.0, Defying Initial Concerns

The stock markets have witnessed strong momentum during the first 100 days of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term, defying early concerns over a possible hike in capital gains tax and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) not winning the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with the overwhelming majority some had predicted. Despite these uncertainties, India's benchmark indices, Nifty and Sensex, have surged to record highs, delivering impressive gains for investors.

The Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government completed 100 days of its third consecutive term on September 17, 2024. Within this short span, the stock market exhibited an impressive performance, with broad-based optimism buoying investor sentiment.

Sensex and Nifty Hit Record Highs

During the first 100 days of Modi 3.0, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged by nearly 6,500 points, representing a gain of over 8.4%. On September 18, 2024, the Sensex closed at 82,948.23, a significant increase from 76,448.23 on June 9, 2024, the day Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time. Meanwhile, the broader Nifty50 index also saw a notable rise, jumping by nearly 2,087 points or 9%, to close at 25,377.55 points on September 18.

This rally has been marked by optimism in the broader market, with sectors across the board performing well. Both Sensex and Nifty reached record highs on September 17, just as the government celebrated 100 days of Modi 3.0. However, the indices ended marginally lower on September 18, likely reflecting profit booking from investors following the substantial gains.

Sectoral Outperformance

Several sectors have stood out during this period. The Nifty IT Index, a key

performer in India's stock market, gained more than 8% between June 10 and September 18, buoyed by optimism around India's thriving tech industry. Another standout performer was the Nifty Healthcare Index, which rose by nearly 17%, driven by strong demand in pharmaceuticals and healthcare services.

Beyond the traditional sectors, defence, electric vehicles (EVs), real estate, and infrastructure stocks saw substantial upticks. These sectors gained momentum following government policy announcements, particularly in defence procurement and electric mobility, which attracted investor interest. The government's updated electric mobility policy, which outlines a roadmap for increasing the adoption of EVs in India, provided a particular boost to EV-related stocks.

Small-cap and mid-cap stocks also performed exceptionally well. The BSE Smallcap Index soared over 15% during the first 100 days of Modi 3.0, while the BSE Midcap Index jumped 10%. This broad-based market rally reflects not only large-cap companies' gains but also the rising confidence in smaller firms and emerging sectors.

Contrast with Modi 2.0

The strong performance of the stock market in Modi 3.0 contrasts sharply with the market's reaction to the early days of Modi 2.0. When Modi returned to power for his second term in 2014, the markets faced significant headwinds, resulting in the Sensex declining by over 2,800 points and the Nifty falling by 1,000 points within the first 100 days.

Several factors contributed to the negative sentiment during Modi 2.0, including concerns about the global economic slowdown, uncertainty in the banking sector, and fears of escalating trade tensions. This cautious sentiment weighed on the Indian stock markets during that period. However, it's important to note

that despite the weak start in Modi's second term, the markets eventually recovered as economic reforms and policies began to bear fruit.

Modi 1.0's Stock Market Success

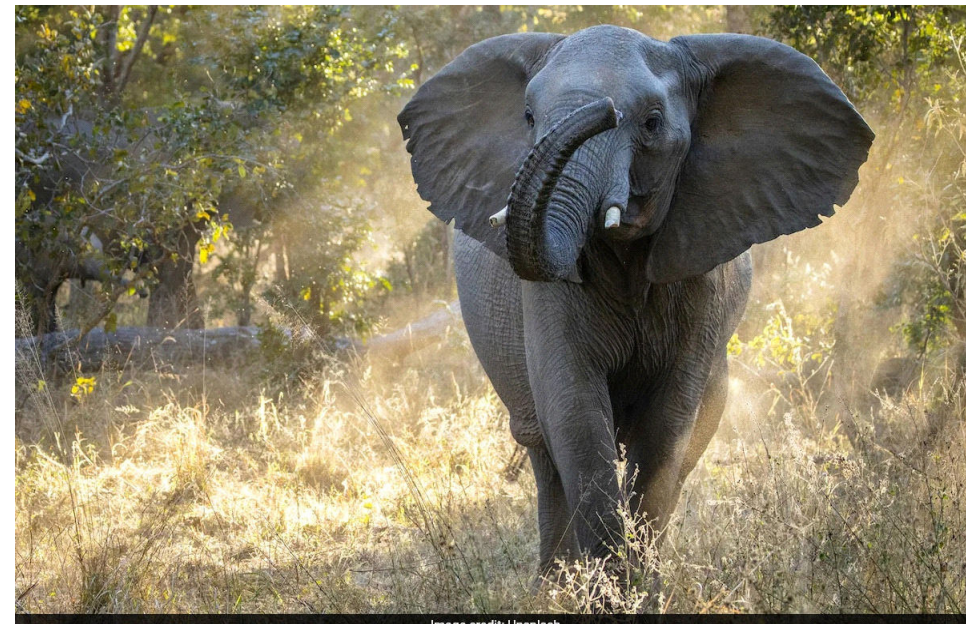
In contrast to Modi 2.0, Modi's first tenure in 2014 triggered a sharp rally in the stock market, similar to the current trend. Between May 26 and September 3, 2014, both Nifty and Sensex posted nearly 11% gains. This surge reflected investor optimism around Modi's promises of economic reforms, infrastructure development, and policies aimed at boosting growth and investment.

The market rally in Modi 1.0 was driven by hopes that his pro-business stance and reformist agenda would stimulate India's economic growth. As a result, investors piled into Indian stocks, pushing the market to new highs.

Outlook for Modi 3.0

The impressive performance of the stock market in the first 100 days of Modi 3.0 suggests that investors are confident in the government's ability to drive economic growth and implement key reforms. Despite concerns over global economic challenges, India's stock markets have shown resilience, benefiting from robust domestic demand and strong government initiatives in sectors such as infrastructure, defence, and electric mobility.

As the government continues to roll out policies and reforms, particularly in areas such as taxation, infrastructure, and energy, investors will be closely watching how these developments impact the broader economy and market performance. While it remains to be seen how the stock markets will perform over the longer term, the initial signs of Modi 3.0 point to continued optimism and confidence in India's economic future.



Zimbabwe To Cull 200 Elephants To Feed Its Citizens Amid Drought

Zimbabwe has made the controversial decision to cull 200 elephants to feed its citizens, as the country grapples with a severe drought that has left nearly half of its population at risk of acute hunger. Tinashe Farawo, spokesperson for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority, announced the move, stating that the elephant population in Zimbabwe has grown beyond the land's capacity, and the culling is part of an effort to provide food to those in need.

The drought in Zimbabwe, one of the worst in decades, has significantly worsened food insecurity across the country. This decision to cull elephants follows a similar move in neighboring Namibia, where the government authorized the culling of 700 wild animals, including elephants, to provide food for citizens facing hunger. Namibia has already distributed over 125,000 pounds of meat from 150 culled animals, according to its Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism.

Zimbabwe's elephant population is the second-largest in the world, behind Botswana, with more than 84,000 elephants, nearly double the country's estimated capacity of 45,000. The growing number of elephants has created significant pressure on the environment, particularly in light of the ongoing drought. Environment Minister Sithembiso Nyoni recently told parliament that the country's forests and resources cannot sustain the current elephant population, and the resulting resource shortages have intensified human-wildlife conflicts. Elephants, in search of food and water, are increasingly venturing beyond protected parks, bringing them into contact with humans and leading to dangerous confrontations.

In response to this crisis, the government plans to use the elephant meat to alleviate protein deficiencies in some of the most affected regions. Nyoni noted that communities, particularly women, would be organized to help preserve and distribute the meat. Zimbabwe's drought, exacerbated by climate change and El Niño, has devastated crops and livelihoods, pushing the country into further food insecurity.

While the government sees the cull as a necessary step to manage elephant overpopulation and provide much-needed food, the decision has drawn sharp criticism from animal rights advocates and conservationists. Farai Maguwu, head of the Zimbabwe-based Center for Natural Resource Governance, strongly condemned the cull on social media, arguing that elephants have a right to exist and

that future generations should be able to see them in their natural habitats. He called for the culling to be halted, reflecting the broader concern among conservationists that such actions could lead to unsustainable demand for bushmeat.

Keith Lindsay, a conservation biologist and natural resources consultant, echoed these concerns, warning that relying on wildlife to address food insecurity could have long-term consequences for elephant populations and the ecosystems they inhabit. The growing demand for bushmeat could threaten the stability of elephant populations and other wildlife, especially in regions already strained by environmental pressures.

Despite the opposition, Farawo defended the cull as necessary for both human survival and wildlife management. He pointed out that Zimbabwe has not conducted an elephant cull since 1988, and the current situation requires urgent action. The country has been dealing with increasing human-elephant conflicts, with elephants causing significant harm to communities. In recent weeks, several fatal elephant attacks have been reported. Farawo noted that just last week, a woman was killed by an elephant in the northern part of the country, and a similar incident occurred the week before. These tragedies highlight the growing danger posed by elephants encroaching on human settlements.

The decision to cull elephants is part of Zimbabwe's broader strategy to reduce these conflicts while addressing the immediate food needs of its population. According to Farawo, the culling will begin once the necessary paperwork is completed, and it will primarily target regions with dense elephant populations. While the government remains firm in its stance, it acknowledges that the practice is a difficult but necessary measure in the face of mounting challenges.

The culling of elephants has sparked an international debate about the balance between wildlife conservation and human survival. As Zimbabwe moves forward with its plans, the country faces increasing pressure from conservationists and animal rights groups to find alternative solutions to its food security crisis without endangering its wildlife. However, for many in Zimbabwe, the immediate concern is survival, and the government's controversial decision may provide a temporary relief to the pressing issue of hunger in the country.

EY India Responds to Allegations of Employee's Death Due to Overwork

Ernst & Young (EY), one of the Big 4 consulting firms, has responded to criticism following a viral letter from a woman who claimed her 26-year-old daughter, Anna Sebastian, died of "overwork" just four months after joining the company. The firm expressed deep sadness over Anna's death in July 2024 and conveyed its condolences to the family.

"We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family," EY

said in a statement on Wednesday. The company emphasized that it is providing all possible assistance to Anna's family during this difficult time.

The controversy arose after Anna's mother wrote a letter to EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani, which went viral on social media. In the letter, she accused the company of overworking her daughter, leading to her death. She also mentioned that no one from the organization attended Anna's funeral.

According to the letter, Anna was enthusiastic about joining EY, as it was her first job after clearing her Chartered Accountancy exams in November 2023. She joined EY's Pune office in March 2024. "She was full of life, dreams, and excitement for the future. But four months later, on July 20th, 2024, my world collapsed when I received the devastating news that Anna had passed away," her mother wrote.

In its statement, EY emphasized that employ-

ee well-being is of the highest priority for the firm. "We are taking the family's concerns with the utmost seriousness and humility. While no measure can compensate for the loss experienced by the family, we are committed to continuing to support them and will work towards improving our workplace for all employees."

The company reiterated its commitment to providing a healthier work environment for its 100,000 employees across India.



Chandrababu Naidu Claims Animal Fat in Tirupati Laddoos; YSR Congress Denies Accusation

In a heated exchange, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has made shocking allegations that animal fat was used in the preparation of Tirupati laddoos during the tenure of the YSR Congress party, which is led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Naidu's comments were made at a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) legislative party meeting, where he criticized the previous government for compromising the quality of prasad at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati.

According to Naidu, the YSR Congress party's leadership tarnished the sanctity of the revered Tirumala shrine by allegedly using animal fat instead of ghee in the preparation of the iconic laddoos, which are traditionally given as prasad to devotees. He stated, "In the past five years, they contaminated the sacred Tirumala laddu. This revelation has caused concern. However, we are now using pure ghee and striving to protect the sanctity of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD)."

The YSR Congress has vehemently denied these allegations, calling them malicious and politically motivated. Senior YSR Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP YV Subba Reddy responded by accusing Naidu of damaging the faith of millions of Hindus. Reddy described Naidu's comments as "extremely malicious," stating, "No person would speak such words or make such accusations."

In a bold challenge, Reddy offered to take an oath before the almighty regarding the purity of the Tirumala prasad and questioned whether Naidu would do the same with his family. He emphasized that Naidu's comments reflect a desperate attempt to gain political traction at the expense of religious sentiments.

As the exchange escalates, both parties are preparing for upcoming political battles, with the sanctity of Tirumala at the center of their conflict. This controversy highlights the fraught relationship between the two parties in Andhra Pradesh, as they navigate sensitive issues tied to faith and public sentiment.

BJP Lists Abuses Against PM After M Kharge Flags Barbs At Rahul Gandhi

In a significant political exchange, BJP chief JP Nadda has responded to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's recent letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which highlighted derogatory remarks made by BJP leaders against Rahul Gandhi. Nadda's letter references past insults directed at Modi by Congress leaders, accusing them of lacking political decorum.

Nadda specifically cited Sonia Gandhi's controversial "maut ka saudagar" (merchant of death) comment regarding Modi and criticized the Congress party for glorifying such statements. He described the Congress as a "copy & paste" party influenced by Gandhi's approach, asserting that the party has repeatedly insulted the Prime Minister with terms like "snake," "scorpion," and "demon." He also accused Rahul Gandhi of inciting division through his remarks on reservations, pointing out contradictions in his stance.

Meanwhile, Kharge had addressed Prime Minister Modi, calling attention to "objectionable, violent, and indecent" remarks aimed at Rahul Gandhi, including threats and derogatory statements made by various BJP leaders. He emphasized the need for maintaining the integrity and deco-



rum of political discourse in India, which he believes is grounded in non-violence and respect, drawing on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. Kharge expressed concerns over the increasing vitriol in political rhetoric, linking it to the sacrifices made by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi. He urged the Prime Minister to enforce standards of decency among BJP leaders and called for legal repercussions for such in-

flammatory comments to preserve the sanctity of Indian democracy.

This exchange underscores the escalating tensions between the two major political parties in India as they navigate a fraught political landscape ahead of upcoming elections. Both sides appear entrenched in their positions, with calls for greater civility and respect in political dialogue becoming increasingly urgent.

AAP's Atishi To Take Oath As Delhi Chief Minister On Saturday

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that Atishi will be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Delhi on Saturday, following the resignation of Arvind Kejriwal earlier this week. Initially, it was decided that only Atishi would take the oath, but the party later confirmed that her entire council of ministers would also be sworn in during the ceremony.

Atishi, who represents the Kalkaji constituency in the Delhi Assembly, is well-known for holding multiple portfolios within the Delhi government. Her appointment comes at a critical time for AAP as they gear up for upcoming assembly elections, aiming to retain power in the national capital.

In a significant shift, Kejriwal will relinquish his security detail and vacate the official Chief Minister's residence within the next 15 days, choosing to live as a "commoner." This move reflects his commitment to AAP's ethos of simplicity and accessibility.

Atishi joined the Delhi cabinet in March 2023, during a turbulent period for the party following the arrest of senior leader Manish Sisodia in connection with the excise policy case. Sisodia has since been released on bail, and his situation has posed challenges for AAP, making Atishi's leadership all the more vital.

As the face of AAP in the upcoming assembly elections, Atishi faces the challenge of rallying support and continuing the party's initiatives in Delhi. AAP has been vocal about its desire for early elections, with the last assembly polls having taken place in early 2020.

The political landscape in Delhi is poised for a shift as Atishi takes the helm, and her leadership will be crucial as the party strategizes for its campaign and seeks to solidify its position in the region. With the oath-taking ceremony on the horizon, AAP is preparing to make its mark once again in Delhi politics.

Tripura CM Manik Saha Hails 'One Nation, One Election' Decision

Following the Union Cabinet's approval of the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative on Wednesday, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha praised the decision. In a social media post, Saha expressed that this significant move would usher in a transformative era for elections in India.

Saha emphasized that the implementation of simultaneous elections would not only streamline the electoral process but also enhance governance and efficiency in the political landscape. He highlighted the potential benefits, including reduced election-related expenses and minimized disruptions to governance caused by frequent polls.

The Chief Minister noted that synchronizing elections at both the national and state levels could lead to greater voter engagement and increased participation in the democratic process. By simplifying the electoral schedule, Saha believes citizens will have more opportunities to focus on governance and development initiatives rather than being consumed by the election cycle.

Saha's endorsement of the initiative reflects a broader sentiment among leaders who view this plan as a step towards modernizing India's electoral framework. He encouraged his fellow political leaders to embrace this change and work collaboratively to ensure its successful implementation.

Moreover, Saha pointed out that this move aligns with the aspirations of the citizens for a more stable and efficient governance structure. He urged the public to support the initiative, emphasizing that it holds the potential to transform the electoral experience for millions across the country.

As discussions continue around the logistics and implications of the 'One Nation, One Election' plan, Saha remains optimistic about its prospects, believing that it can lead to a stronger and more unified India. The Chief Minister's supportive stance underscores a significant political moment, marking a potential shift in how elections are conducted in the country moving forward.

Union Cabinet Approves Chandrayaan-4 Mission for Lunar Exploration

The Union Cabinet has officially approved the "Chandrayaan-4" mission, aiming to develop and demonstrate essential technologies for landing Indian astronauts on the moon and safely returning them to Earth. This ambitious project is part of India's long-term goal to achieve a manned lunar landing by 2040.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission will focus on key technological advancements required for docking and undocking, landing, and safe return, as well as lunar sample collection and analysis. The total estimated budget for this technology demonstration mission is ₹2,104.06 crore.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will spearhead the mission, overseeing the development of the spacecraft and its launch. The initiative is expected to be completed within 36 months of the Cabinet's approval and will involve collaboration with industry and academic institutions to foster innovation and expertise.

All critical technologies for the mission are planned to be developed indigenously, reflecting India's commitment to self-reliance in space exploration. This mission represents a significant step forward for ISRO as it seeks to expand India's capabilities in human spaceflight and lunar exploration.

The announcement comes as India continues to make strides in its space program, following the success of previous Chandrayaan missions and the recent Mars Orbiter Mission. With Chandrayaan-4, India aims to solidify its position as a key player in the global space community and inspire future generations of scientists and engineers.

The mission's success could open new avenues for research and development in space technology, paving the way for more advanced space exploration endeavors in the future. As India prepares for this historic journey, excitement and anticipation build around the potential discoveries awaiting on the lunar surface.



PM Modi's US Visit: Quad Summit, UN Assembly, and Potential Meeting with Trump



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the United States from September 21 to 23, with a busy itinerary that includes participation in the Quad Summit, attending the UN General Assembly session, and engaging in multiple bilateral meetings. He is also scheduled to meet with top CEOs and business leaders, and will address the Indian community at a diaspora event in New York.

Ahead of this visit, former US President Donald Trump, who is currently campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination, announced that he plans to meet PM Modi during the trip. Despite Trump's claims, the Ministry of External Affairs has not confirmed this meeting as part of the Prime Minister's official schedule. A foreign ministry spokesperson stated, "Many meetings are being fixed and the process is ongoing. At this moment, we can't confirm any specific meet."

During a campaign event in Michigan, Trump praised Modi as "a fantastic man" and expressed enthusiasm about their potential meeting. He also commented on India's economic practices, noting that while Indians are "the sharpest people," the country imposes heavy tariffs on im-

ports, which he described as being "very tough."

As the US approaches the elections on November 5, with postal voting already underway, Trump is running against Democrat candidate Kamala Harris, who is seeking her first term as President. Recent electoral polls suggest that Harris, who has Indian heritage, holds a lead over Trump, especially in crucial swing states like Pennsylvania and Michigan. According to a new poll, Harris leads Trump 51% to 45% in Pennsylvania and 50% to 45% in Michigan, highlighting the competitive nature of the upcoming election.

Modi's visit is significant not only for its diplomatic implications but also in the context of the evolving political landscape in the US. As the Prime Minister engages with global leaders and the Indian diaspora, the potential meeting with Trump could add another layer to the already complex relationship between the two nations.

The outcomes of this visit, particularly discussions around trade and tariffs, could be pivotal as both countries navigate their roles on the world stage, especially in the context of growing global challenges.

Quad More Strategically Aligned, Relevant Than Ever: White House



The upcoming Quad Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, is set to showcase the strengthened strategic alignment and relevance of the Quad coalition, comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. John Kirby, the National Security Council Strategic Communications Director, emphasized the significance of this summit in a recent press briefing, stating, "We believe you'll see... that the Quad is more strategically aligned and more relevant than ever before."

Originally, it was India's turn to host the summit, but at Washington's request, the meeting will take place in the U.S. President Joe Biden will host the leaders of the other three nations—Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia—on September 21.

This summit is particularly noteworthy as it marks the first occasion that Biden will host foreign leaders in his hometown of Wilmington. Kirby highlighted Biden's eagerness to share his community with the leaders, underscoring the personal connections that shape both politics and foreign policy.

During the summit, Biden plans to engage in individual meetings with each of the leaders before transitioning to a plenary session. This gathering will also serve as a platform to discuss pressing issues, including China, which Kirby noted would be "high on the agenda."

Over the past three years, Biden has prioritized rebuilding America's alliances and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region, as seen through initiatives like AUKUS and the trilateral Camp David summit with Japan and South Korea. He also recently held the first-ever US-Japan-Philippines Leaders' Summit, further underscoring the importance of these alliances.

Prime Minister Modi will commence his three-day visit to the U.S. on September 21, attending not only the Quad Summit but also addressing the UN General Assembly's "Summit of the Future." During his visit, he is scheduled to engage with the Indian community in New York on September 22.

As the Quad nations prepare for this pivotal meeting, the focus will be on enhancing collaboration and addressing mutual challenges, solidifying their role as key players in the Indo-Pacific region. The summit aims to strengthen diplomatic ties and showcase the unity of these democratic nations in the face of evolving global dynamics.

Deadly Explosions in Lebanon Heighten Hezbollah-Israel Tensions

At least 32 people have died and over 3,250 others injured following a series of explosions involving walkie-talkies and pagers used by Hezbollah members in Lebanon. The blasts, which occurred over the last two days, have raised concerns of an escalating conflict with Israel.

On Wednesday, a significant explosion in Hezbollah's Beirut stronghold resulted in at least 20 fatalities and over 450 injuries, occurring near a Hezbollah-organized funeral for victims of an earlier blast. The day before, a separate series of explosions involving pagers led to the deaths of 12 people, including two children, and injured approximately 2,800.

Hezbollah has attributed responsibility for these incidents to Israel, declaring the country "fully responsible for this criminal aggression" and pledging revenge. Although Israel has not officially commented, sources allege that Israeli spies remotely detonated explosives in a batch of 5,000 pagers before they were smuggled into Lebanon.

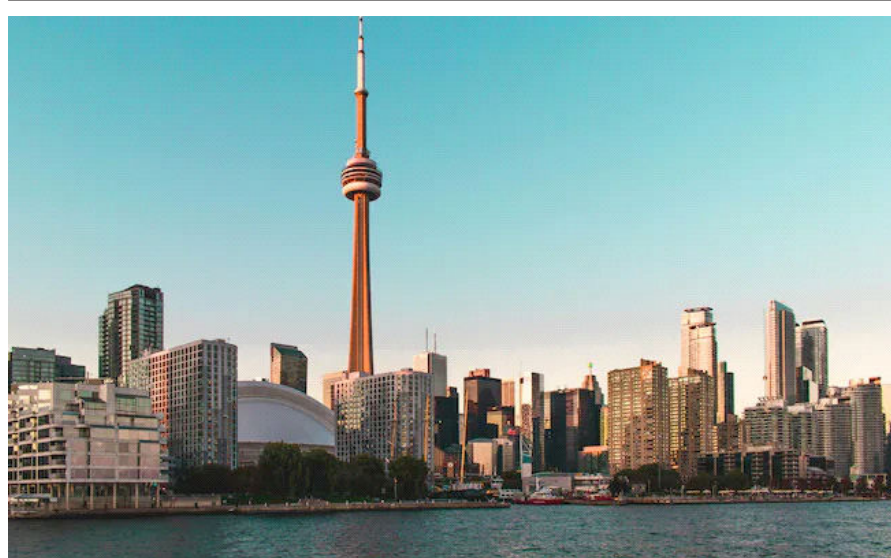
In response to the escalating situation, Hezbollah has engaged Israeli artillery positions with rocket fire. However, the Israeli military has reported no damage or casualties from these exchanges.

The United States has urged all parties to refrain



from escalating tensions in the region. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby emphasized that military operations are not a viable solution to the ongoing crisis. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also expressed concerns, warning that the pager explosions indicate a "serious risk of a dramatic escalation" in Lebanon.

The UN Security Council is set to convene on Friday to address the recent blasts. The situation remains tense as Israel and Hezbollah continue their conflict along the Lebanese border, which has intensified since the war in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, following a Hamas attack on Israeli towns.



Canada Reduces International Study Permits, Impacting Indian Students

In a significant policy shift aimed at decreasing the number of temporary residents, Canada announced a reduction in international student permits and tightened foreign worker regulations. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed that the country will issue 35% fewer study permits this year, with a further 10% reduction planned for next year.

Trudeau emphasized the need for stricter controls, stating, "Immigration is an advantage for our economy—but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." In 2023, Canada approved 509,390 study permits, but this number is projected to fall to 437,000 by 2025. The new rules will also restrict work permit eligibility for some students' spouses and temporary foreign workers.

This decision comes as Trudeau's Liberal government faces challenges in public opinion ahead of upcoming federal elections. Recent statistics show that temporary residents, particularly students and workers, have doubled in Canada, rising from 1.4 million in 2022 to 2.8 million in 2024. The government aims to reduce this figure to 5% of the total population, down from 6.8% in April.

The impact on Indian students could be substantial, as Canada has been a favored destination for Indian nationals. Recent data indicates that approximately 427,000 Indian students are currently studying in Canada, representing a 260% increase from 2013 to 2022. Indian students constitute around 40% of all international students in Canada, and the new restrictions may push many to consider alternatives like the US, UK, or Australia for their studies. With growing concerns about the societal challenges attributed to immigration, including rising housing costs and living expenses, the Canadian government's measures reflect a more cautious approach to international student admissions and temporary worker programs.

India Gets US Court Summons In Alleged Plot To Murder Khalistani Terrorist

The US District Court for the Southern District of New York has summoned the Indian government in response to a civil lawsuit filed by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who alleges a conspiracy to murder him. The summons names several high-profile individuals, including National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, former R&AW chief Samant Goel, R&AW agent Vikram Yadav, and Indian businessman Nikhil Gupta. The court has instructed the named parties to respond within 21 days.

Pannun, who leads the separatist group Sikhs for Justice and holds dual citizenship in the US and Canada, shared the summons on his social media account, which has since been withheld. This legal action follows reports from the Financial Times in November, indicating that US authorities had foiled an assassination plot against him, a claim later confirmed by the Biden administration.

In its initial response, the Indian External Affairs Ministry expressed concern over the lawsuit, stressing that it contradicts government policy. Former spokesperson Arindam Bagchi noted the situation warrants high-level scrutiny. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar confirmed that India is investigating the matter but maintained that it would not disrupt the improving relations between India and the US.

Jaishankar emphasized that the US had shared critical information in good faith and that it had implications for India's own security landscape. US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti also stated that this legal matter would not negatively impact bilateral ties.

Pannun is known for his incendiary rhetoric and threats against Indian officials and institutions, leading to his designation as a terrorist by New Delhi in 2020. The ongoing developments highlight tensions surrounding Khalistani separatism and its implications for international relations between India and the US.





Sensex Hits Record High on Fed Rate Cut; Profit Booking in Midcaps Drags Market, Banks and FMCG Shine

Domestic stock market indices touched fresh highs today. Investors started buying in the morning as the US Fed cut interest rates by 50 basis points. But after reaching the highs, they started taking profits. As a result, mid and small cap indices suffered a huge fall. Shares of many companies are bleeding. Finally, the shares of some companies recovered somewhat. Out of 20 sectors in BSE, 11 indices turned red. Market breadth favors sellers. 2722 shares lost while 1255 gained. The rupee gained 7 paise to settle at 83.67 against the dollar.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 82,948 in the previous session, opened at 83,359 today. Earlier it touched an intraday high of 83,776. After that, profit booking took place and gradually fell to a low of 83,071. In the end, it rose 236 points to settle at 83,184. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 25,487, touched a low of 25,376 and a high of 25,611. A total gain of 38 points closed at 25,415. Nifty Bank jumped 287 points to close at 53,037.

In Nifty 50, 30 companies gained while 20 lost. Shares of NTPC, Titan, Nestle India, Kotak Bank and Tata Consumer were the top gainers. BPCL, Coal India, ONGC, Adani Ports, Shriram Finance are the top losers. Today, IT, media, metal, pharma, PSU Bank, healthcare, oil and gas indices turned red. Bank, auto, finance, FMCG, private bank, realty and consumer durables indices jumped.

Nifty support is at 25400 and resistance is at 25700. Investors can buy shares of IDFC Bank, Ashok Leyland, Gujarat Gas, Zomato and Grasim in the short term.

NSE gives NOC to Siemens to divest energy business. BGR Energy has received a notice worth Rs 18.9 crore from the GST department. FirstSource Solutions has started operations in New Zealand and Australia. India Vicks fell by 10%. Pradeep Phosphate said it has resumed operations at its Goa unit. Talwandi Power has received orders worth Rs.865 crore for the Power Mech project. Airtel's B2B arm has tied up with Cisco. Vodafone Idea shares hit a 15% lower circuit. Shares in the sector fell after the Supreme Court rejected a petition filed by telecom companies seeking recalculation of adjusted gross income. 360OneWam has approved the mobilization of Rs.2250 crore under QIP system. Shares of Britannia and Nazara Tech hit lifetime highs.

STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. IDFC First Bank

IDFC First Bank has been gaining traction due to its robust growth in retail loans and focus on improving asset quality. The bank has been steadily growing its retail and SME loan book, which has helped diversify its revenue streams. The bank has been focusing on reducing its non-performing assets (NPAs) and has shown improvement in its financial ratios. Its digital initiatives and focus on expanding its retail customer base have supported its growth.



2. Ashok Leyland

Ashok Leyland, one of India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers, has benefited from the recovery in the commercial vehicle (CV) market, driven by increased infrastructure spending and the resumption of economic activity. The company has been expanding its portfolio with electric vehicles (EVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs). Its strong market presence in trucks and buses has allowed it to maintain steady growth, with a focus on sustainable transport solutions.



ASHOK LEYLAND

3. Gujarat Gas

Gujarat Gas is a key player in the city gas distribution business, and it has been benefiting from the rising demand for clean energy solutions in India. The company's focus on expanding its pipeline network and customer base is driving growth. The company is expanding into new areas, including industrial, residential, and automotive sectors, which supports its long-term growth outlook. Government policies encouraging the use of natural gas are also beneficial for Gujarat Gas.



GUJARAT GAS

4. Zomato

Zomato continues to be volatile, but it remains one of India's leading food delivery platforms. The company has been investing in expanding its service offerings and improving operational efficiencies, which has driven revenue growth. Zomato's push into other areas like grocery delivery and partnerships with restaurants has helped diversify its revenue streams. However, concerns over profitability remain in the near term.



5. Grasim Industries

Grasim, part of the Aditya Birla Group, has a diversified business model spanning cement, chemicals, and the upcoming paints business. The company's growth in the chemicals and cement sectors has been solid, and its entry into the paints business offers a new growth avenue. Grasim's foray into the paints industry has garnered attention, and its strong presence in the cement business continues to drive steady revenue growth.



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Strong Growth in India's Direct Tax Collections

India's net direct tax collections have experienced a significant boost, rising by 16.12% to reach Rs 9.96 lakh crore by September 17 in the current financial year. This marks an increase from Rs 8.58 lakh crore during the same period in FY24, as reported by the income tax department on September 18.



The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) outlined that the total net direct tax collection includes Corporation Tax (CIT) contributing Rs 4.53 lakh crore (after refunds), Personal Income Tax (PIT) at Rs 4.15 lakh crore, and Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs 26,154 crore (also net of refunds).

Additionally, the government has issued direct tax refunds total-

ing Rs 1.06 lakh crore up to September 17 in the 2024-25 financial year. This reflects a remarkable increase of 56.49% compared to Rs 63,538 crore issued during the same timeframe in 2023-24.

These robust tax collection figures are vital for the government's fiscal strategy, enabling it to work towards its fiscal deficit target of 4.9% for FY25, as set in the July budget. Healthy tax revenues not only facilitate government spending but also enhance financial stability, reinforcing the country's economic framework.

HDFC Bank Plans Major Loan Sale to Boost Liquidity

India's largest private lender, HDFC Bank, is on track to finalize a significant loan sale exceeding Rs 9,000 crore (\$1.08 billion) by the end of September, marking its largest loan sale to date, according to three anonymous sources familiar with the situation.



The planned sale comes after HDFC Bank's merger with its parent company, Housing Development Finance Corp, in July 2023. This merger substantially increased the bank's mortgage loan portfolio, but it also brought in a comparatively smaller volume of deposits. Consequently, HDFC Bank is facing pressure to enhance its deposit base or moderate its loan growth to maintain a balanced financial position.

While HDFC Bank did not respond to Reuters' request for comment, the loan sale is seen as a strategic move to manage liquidity effectively. By selling off these loans, the bank aims to free up capital that can be used for other lending

activities or to bolster its deposit reserves. This strategy is crucial for sustaining growth and ensuring that the bank meets regulatory requirements.

The loan sale is part of HDFC Bank's broader strategy to navigate the challenges posed by its expanded portfolio post-merger. As the bank looks to optimize its balance sheet, the success of this transaction will likely play a pivotal role in shaping its financial landscape moving forward.

Investors and analysts will be closely monitoring the outcome of this sale, as it reflects HDFC Bank's ability to adapt to the changing market conditions and manage its resources effectively.

OMCs to Delay Fuel Price Cuts Despite Crude Oil Fluctuations



Global benchmark Brent crude oil fell below \$70 per barrel on September 10—the first time since December 2021—but has since risen to over \$74 per barrel in the past nine days. Despite this recent fluctuation, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are not expected to immediately pass on these benefits to consumers or resume daily price revisions for petrol and diesel, according to a senior official from the petroleum ministry. The official noted that international crude prices remain highly volatile.

The recent decline in oil prices had sparked speculation that OMCs—Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)—might lower retail prices for fuels and revert to their previous practice of daily price updates. This practice was suspended over two years ago when oil prices soared to multi-year highs due to several factors, including the geopolitical instability following the Russia-Ukraine war.

Currently, OMCs are closely monitoring market conditions before making any pricing decisions. The petroleum ministry's official indicated that any changes would depend on sustained trends in international prices and overall market stability.

India's Economy to Grow 6.7% Annually, Eyes Third Largest Global Economy by 2030-31

S&P Global projected on September 19 that the Indian economy will grow at an annual rate of 6.7 percent from now until 2030-31, positioning India to become the world's third-largest economy. Abhishek Tomar, Head of S&P Global India Leadership Council, emphasized that India's medium-term prospects are robust, with ample opportunities across various sectors, including trade, agriculture, and artificial intelligence.

Tomar noted that likely structural reforms and rising energy demands will further fuel this growth trajectory. He highlighted the advantages of India's young and dynamic workforce, which is well-equipped to influence the global economic landscape.

For the current fiscal year, S&P Global has forecasted a growth rate of 6.8 percent. The Indian economy demonstrated resilience by expanding by 6.7 percent in the first quarter, driven by steady performance in manufacturing and a resurgence in the services sector.

The optimistic outlook reflects confidence in India's ability to capitalize on its demographic advantag-



es and sectoral opportunities. The ongoing focus on reforms, coupled with increased investments in key industries, is expected to create a conducive environment for sustained growth.

As the global economy faces uncertainties, India's resilience and adaptability may serve as a stabilizing force. The positive forecast not only reflects the potential for economic expansion but also underscores the importance of strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing productivity and innovation.

Overall, S&P Global's assessment paints a promising picture of India's economic future, suggesting that with continued reforms and investment, the nation is well on its way to achieving significant milestones in the coming years. This growth trajectory is expected to elevate India's standing in the global economy, making it a key player on the world stage.

RBI Unlikely to Cut Rates Despite US Fed's Decision, Economists Predict

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely to respond to the recent U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to reduce the policy rate by 50 basis points on September 18, according to a Moneycontrol poll involving 17 economists. The median forecasts from the poll indicate a mere 15 percent probability of a rate cut during the upcoming October meeting.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Chief Economic Advisor at SBI, noted that the RBI is likely to maintain its independence from U.S. interest rate trends, focusing instead on domestic economic conditions. This perspective suggests that the RBI may prioritize its own economic indicators over international influences.

SBI's outlook anticipates no changes in interest rates throughout 2024, predicting that the first rate cut will occur during the February 2025 policy meeting. This stance reflects a cautious approach, as the RBI seeks to navigate the complexities of the domestic economy while remaining vigilant to external economic pressures.



The RBI's reluctance to adjust rates in response to U.S. policy shifts indicates a commitment to its long-term goals and an emphasis on domestic stability. Economists believe that the central bank will continue to monitor inflation, growth, and other economic indicators closely before making any decisions regarding interest rates.

The RBI's current policy framework is designed to support sustainable economic growth while managing inflation, and any potential rate cuts will depend on evolving economic conditions rather than external pressures. As such, the central bank remains focused on fostering a stable economic environment, with its policies reflecting a tailored approach to India's unique economic challenges.



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.

14 Dead, Over 300 Injured As Walkie-Talkies Explode In Hezbollah Units Across Lebanon, Israel’s spy agency Mossad planted explosives inside pagers imported by Hezbollah months before Tuesday’s detonations, Hezbollah has claimed.



The Strategic Blow

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 Fakhri-zadeh 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.

Hezbollah’s Dilemma

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.

A Delicate Balancing Act

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.

A Psychological Victory for Israel?

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.

The broader implications of the pager attack remain uncertain. While Hezbollah’s communication network has been compromised, the long-term impact on the group’s operational capability is yet to be seen. The ongoing tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, combined with the unresolved Gaza crisis, suggest that the conflict could spill over into 2025 and beyond.

For now, both sides continue their strategic dance—avoiding full-scale war but engaging in increasingly sophisticated and symbolic skirmishes. Whether this delicate balance can be maintained or whether another operation will spark a broader conflict remains to be seen. In the meantime, the region braces for what could come next.





A Milestone for the World's Largest Radio Telescope

The Square Kilometer Array (SKA), poised to become the world's largest radio telescope, has achieved a significant milestone by conducting its first observations. This marks the operational readiness of certain components of the facility, even as construction continues.

SKA is an ambitious project that integrates a vast network of thousands of radio antennas, with 197 located in South Africa and over 130,000 in Australia. When fully operational, SKA will function as a single, powerful unit, vastly enhancing our ability to study the universe.



The initial observations signal exciting progress, suggesting that researchers will soon be able to utilize this groundbreaking technology to explore cosmic phenomena in unprecedented detail. This monumental facility aims to delve

into critical questions about the universe, including the formation of stars and galaxies, the nature of dark matter, and the potential for extraterrestrial life.

As the project advances, scientists and astronomers worldwide eagerly anticipate

the insights that SKA will provide, which could transform our understanding of the cosmos. With its unprecedented scale and capabilities, the SKA represents a leap forward in radio astronomy, promising to unlock the secrets of the universe for years to come.

Quest for Glowing Skin: Extreme Beauty Trends Worth the Risk

In the quest for flawless skin, beauty enthusiasts are turning to increasingly bizarre and extreme trends. From using human and animal by-products to ancient remedies, the pursuit of "glow" has led to questionable practices that raise eyebrows—and health concerns.

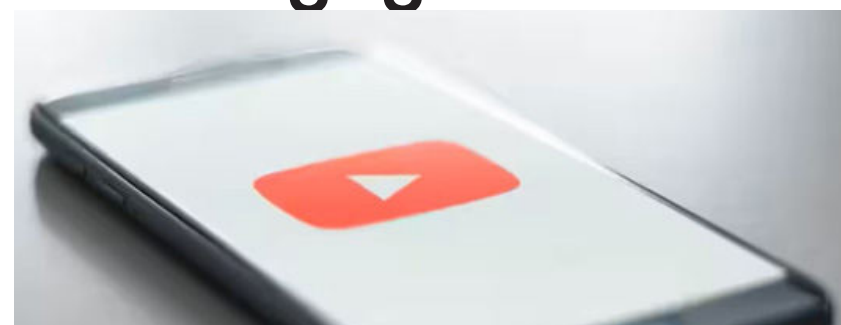
Experts like Dr. Sneha Shah, an ophthalmologist and aesthetic surgeon, caution against many of these methods, which often stem from outdated practices relying solely on natural resources. While some treatments, such as vampire facials, may have proven benefits, others, like period blood facials or "moon masking," pose significant risks of bacterial contamination and infection, warns Dr. Manali Padhye.

Young individuals like Srijanee Dutta express disgust at extreme practices, yet many still experiment with ingredients like snail mucin after discovering their benefits. However, unconventional beauty hacks, such as using lubricants as makeup primers or hot pepper masks, can lead to breakouts and allergic reactions.

Experts emphasize that many of these bizarre treatments, including breast milk, placenta, and even semen masks, lack scientific support and can be detrimental to skin health. As the internet continues to promote extreme skincare trends, it's crucial to prioritize safety and effectiveness over sensationalism in the pursuit of beauty.



YouTube Introduces Communities and Hype Button to Enhance User Engagement



YouTube has unveiled a new feature called Communities, aimed at boosting engagement on the platform. This feature, announced on Wednesday, allows users to post in a YouTube Community and interact directly with channel owners. The rollout will begin with select channels before becoming widely available in 2025.

The Communities feature enables channel owners to create a forum-like environment, allowing subscribers to respond to posts and engage more deeply without needing to switch to external platforms like Facebook or Discord. However, channel owners will need to enable this feature themselves and will also be responsible for moderating content through a new Community Hub tool.

Additionally, YouTube has introduced a 'Hype' button, designed to support emerging creators with fewer than 500,000 subscribers. This feature allows viewers to "hype" videos, which helps them rise on a platform-wide leaderboard showcasing the most hyped content of the week. Viewers can hype a video up to three times a week within seven days of its publication, providing a significant boost to visibility for smaller channels.

YouTube's goal with these new features is to keep users engaged on its platform while facilitating better interactions between creators and their audiences. The Hype button also aims to provide a monetization avenue for creators by potentially allowing viewers to purchase additional hypes in the future.

Apple Sees Surge in Pre-Orders for iPhone 16 in India Ahead of Launch

Apple is experiencing a significant increase in pre-orders for its 'Make in India' iPhone 16, set to launch on September 20. Analysts report strong demand, particularly for the iPhone 16 Pro models, attributed to their competitive pricing compared to the previous 15 series.

The new iPhones will be available at Apple retail locations and authorized sellers across India, including Apple BKC in Mumbai and Apple Saket in New Delhi. According to Tarun Pathak, Director at Counterpoint Research, the base iPhone 16 model is seeing robust pre-order demand, and with attractive financing options, the new series is poised to break previous sales records.

Industry experts highlight that the push for local manufacturing is benefiting Apple, as the iPhone 16



iPhone 16



models are being assembled in India for simultaneous release alongside global markets. Prabhu Ram from CyberMedia Research notes that Apple's growth is fueled by the premiumization trend in the Indian smartphone market, with older models like the iPhone 14 and 13 also expected to see increased sales during the festive season.

Driven by the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, Apple's iPhone exports from India reached approximately \$5 billion from April to August this fiscal year, marking a 50% increase compared to the same period last year. The iPhone 16 Pro's strategic pricing is anticipated to attract more consumers, enhancing upgrade rates in the market.

Apple Intelligence Will be Available in German, Italian and More Languages

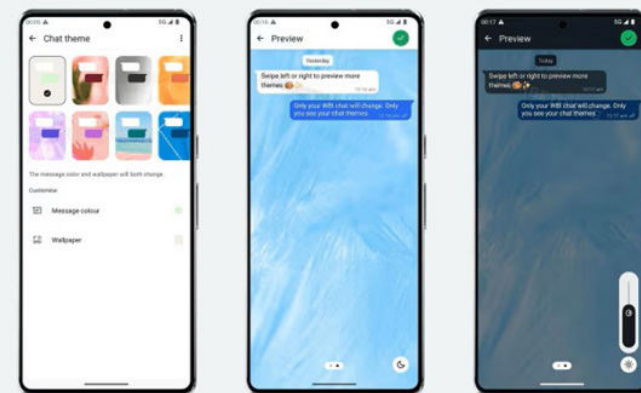


Apple has announced the expansion of its Apple Intelligence suite, introducing new language support for iPhone and other devices. Set to roll out in 2025, the newly added languages include German, Italian, and regional versions of English (specifically for India and Singapore). This expansion follows the initial release of Apple Intelligence, which was available in US English with the iOS 18 developer beta.

The AI features will be included in the upcoming iOS 18.1 update, scheduled for next month. However, the AI suite is currently not accessible, and only a few features—like writing tools, the Clean Up tool, and web page summarization—will be available at launch. Other functionalities, including an AI-enhanced Siri and the Image Playground, are expected to debut later next year.

In addition to the newly announced languages, Apple Intelligence will eventually support Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish. However, users in China and the European Union will not have access to these AI features. The entire iPhone 16 series, as well as the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max, will be compatible with the Apple Intelligence suite.

WhatsApp Introduces Custom Chat Themes in Beta Testing



WhatsApp, the widely-used instant messaging platform with over a billion users in India, is currently testing a new feature that allows for custom chat themes. This functionality, spotted in the beta version of the app, aims to enhance user experience by enabling customization of chat windows.

According to WABetaInfo, a reliable source for WhatsApp updates, the custom chat themes feature is accessible in WhatsApp version 2.24.20.12 beta for Android. Users will have the option to select from a variety of preset themes, allowing them to change the visual style of their conversations. This move is likely to appeal to users looking for more personalization options within the app.

Android Authority, which has successfully activated some of these themes, reports that there are several color presets available, although not all themes can be accessed at this time. The introduction of custom chat themes reflects WhatsApp's commitment to enhancing its platform and keeping up with user preferences in an increasingly competitive messaging landscape.

By allowing users to tailor their chat interfaces, WhatsApp aims to create a more engaging and personalized messaging experience. This feature not only adds a fresh aesthetic to conversations but also provides an opportunity for users to express their individuality through their chat settings.



Ashwin and Jadeja's Heroics Rescues India After Mahmud's Early Strikes



On Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh, Ravichandran Ashwin (102*) and Ravindra Jadeja (86*) orchestrated a remarkable recovery for India, combining for an unbroken seventh-wicket partnership of 195 runs. Their efforts helped India reach 339 for six after a shaky start, largely thanks to young pacer Hasan Mahmud's impressive spell.

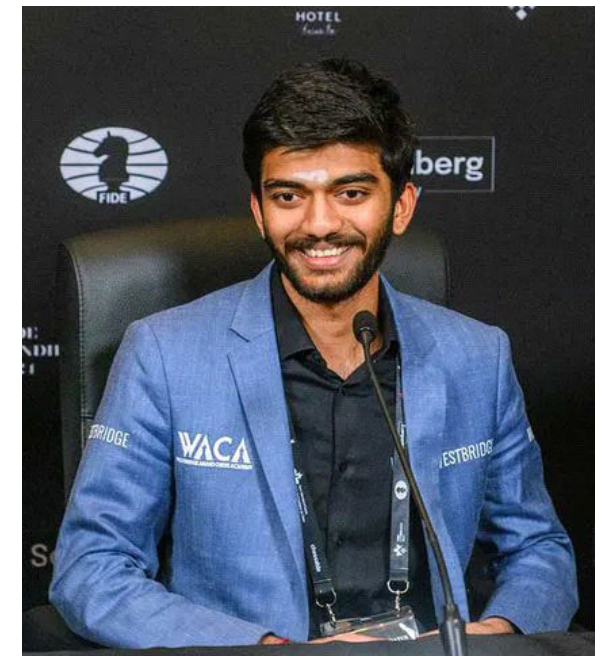
Mahmud, making his Test debut, showcased his skills with figures of 4 for 58, dismantling the Indian top order and leaving them reeling at 144 for six. He claimed key wickets, including those of Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Virat Kohli, who all fell to poor shot selection. Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul also contributed to the woes before Ashwin and Jadeja stepped in.

Playing at their home ground in Chennai, Ashwin looked in sublime form, effortlessly dispatching the Bangladesh bowlers. He scored his sixth Test century, reaching the milestone with a single off Shakib Al Hasan, much to the delight of the crowd. Ashwin's aggressive stroke play included a stunning ramp shot and a powerful slog sweep, showcasing his mastery.

Jadeja, while taking a more cautious approach, supported Ashwin brilliantly. He played a vital role in stabilizing the innings, rotating the strike and finding gaps. Jadeja's knock included a flurry of boundaries, further frustrating the Bangladeshi bowlers.

The day began with Bangladesh winning the toss and opting to bowl, a decision that initially paid off as they capitalized on early dismissals. However, the partnership between Ashwin and Jadeja shifted the momentum back towards India, highlighting the home side's resilience.

As the day closed, the spectators were treated to a display of skill and determination, reminding everyone why India is so formidable at home. Ashwin and Jadeja's stand not only saved the innings but also set a solid foundation for the next day.



India Triumphs Over China in Chess Olympiad

In a thrilling seventh round of the 45th Chess Olympiad, India's Dommaraju Gukesh showcased exceptional skill under pressure, leading the men's team to a victory over third-seeded China. Gukesh's impressive win against top Chinese Grandmaster Wei Yi was the highlight, as he navigated a complex game to claim victory in 80 moves, despite facing a strong comeback from his opponent.

Meanwhile, the Indian women's team also continued their winning streak, defeating a formidable Georgia side 3-1. Vaishali Rameshbabu and Vantika Agarwal both achieved victories with black pieces, while Dronavalli Harika and Divya Deshmukh secured draws, contributing to the team's seventh consecutive win.

With this round, both Indian teams maintained their unbeaten status, accumulating 14 points and remaining at the top of the standings. Arjun Erigaisi's 100% win record came to an end with a draw against Bu Xiangzhi, but he remains undefeated. R Praggnanandhaa also drew his match against Yu Yangi, while Pentala Harikrishna, stepping in for Vidit Gujarathi, held his own against lower-rated Wang Yue.

As the tournament progresses, India's strong performances in both the open and women's sections solidify their positions as top contenders. The anticipation builds as fans look forward to more exciting matches ahead in this prestigious event.

Dulip Samaraweera Banned from Cricket for 20

Dulip Samaraweera, the former Sri Lankan cricketer, has been banned from holding any position within Cricket Australia or any State or Territory Association, including any W/BBL teams, for a period of 20 years. This decision comes after the Cricket Australia Conduct Commission found him guilty of a serious breach of the Code of Conduct.

The investigation revealed that Samaraweera engaged in inappropriate behavior that violated section 2.23 of Cricket Australia's Code of Conduct. The incidents in question occurred while he was employed as the head coach of Cricket Victoria (CV). Samaraweera resigned from this role in May, just two weeks after his appointment, citing internal policy issues that hindered his preferred coaching appointments.

Cricket Victoria CEO Nick Cummins commented on Samaraweera's resignation, explaining that his specific coaching requests could not be accommodated due to established internal policies. Following discussions, Samaraweera



chose to step down from the position rather than continue in a role that did not align with

his expectations.

In a statement released on Thursday, Cricket Australia emphasized its commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all players and employees. The CA Integrity Department is responsible for investigating complaints under its Integrity Codes and Policies, which apply to both Cricket Australia and State & Territory Associations. The Conduct Commission is tasked with addressing matters referred by the Integrity Department, highlighting the organization's dedication to player welfare and accountability.

During his brief international career from 1993 to 1995, Samaraweera played in seven Test matches and five T20 Internationals. However, his recent actions have overshadowed his past contributions to the sport. This long ban serves as a stern reminder of the importance of upholding professional standards within the cricket community and ensuring a respectful environment for all involved.

Mitchell Marsh Hails Adam Zampa Ahead of 100th ODI

As Adam Zampa prepares to play his 100th One Day International (ODI) against England, Australian captain Mitchell Marsh has praised the leg-spinner's remarkable journey and impact on the team. Speaking at a press conference, Marsh highlighted Zampa's growth as both a player and an individual, calling the milestone a significant achievement in modern cricket.

Marsh acknowledged the ups and downs in Zampa's career, noting his resilience and commendable performance over the last four to five years. "The person he's become, and more importantly, the cricketer he's evolved into, is something we're really grateful for," Marsh said, emphasizing Zampa's role as one of Australia's premier ODI bowlers.

Zampa has proven to be a go-to player for the team, particularly in high-pressure situations, showcasing his ability to thrive in crucial moments. Marsh described him as essential to the squad's success, reflecting on how Zampa has embraced challenges throughout his career.

With 169 wickets in 99 ODIs and best figures of 5/35 against New Zealand, Zampa has established himself as a key player. He also boasts a strong T20I record, ranking just behind Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga in the T20I bowlers' rankings.

Expressing his ambition to continue playing ODI cricket, Zampa acknowledged the evolving landscape of the format but affirmed his dedication to representing Australia. He recognizes the growing opportunities in franchise cricket but remains focused on the significance of ODIs in a cricketer's journey.

Manchester City Arrives in India for Champions 4-in-a-Row Trophy Tour

Premier League champions Manchester City have touched down in New Delhi as part of their Champions 4-in-a-Row Trophy Tour, celebrating their historic achievement of winning the Premier League four consecutive times in the 2023-24 season. The team has brought along the coveted Premier League trophy, as well as the Club World Cup and Community Shield trophies, allowing fans in India to engage with the club's recent successes.

Accompanying the trophies is former Manchester City and England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips, who expressed excitement about reconnecting with fans in India. "We're really looking forward to visiting India as part of the Club's Champions 4-in-a-row tour. Last year's visit was fantastic, and we can't wait to bring the trophies and interact with our loyal fan base again," he stated.

A key highlight of the tour will be a fan event on September 22 at Vegas Mall, where supporters can gather to watch Manchester City's upcoming match against Arsenal FC. Wright-Phillips emphasized the significance of this fixture, noting, "Our latest visit coincides with an important Premier League match against Arsenal, which fans can enjoy together at a special screening."

Manchester City is riding high after a memorable season, currently leading the Premier League table with 12 points from four matches. With stars like Kevin de Bruyne and Erling Haaland in top form, the team aims to continue their winning streak.

In addition to celebrating their titles, Manchester City is committed to community engagement during the tour. They will be offering a free coaching course aimed at upskilling local grassroots coaches, promoting healthier life-



styles through football. This initiative aligns with the club's goal of impacting over 150 community coaches in five cities, ensuring that their legacy extends beyond the pitch.

As Manchester City celebrates its achievements and connects with fans, the Champions 4-in-a-Row Trophy Tour serves as a testament to the club's global reach and commitment to grassroots development in the sport.



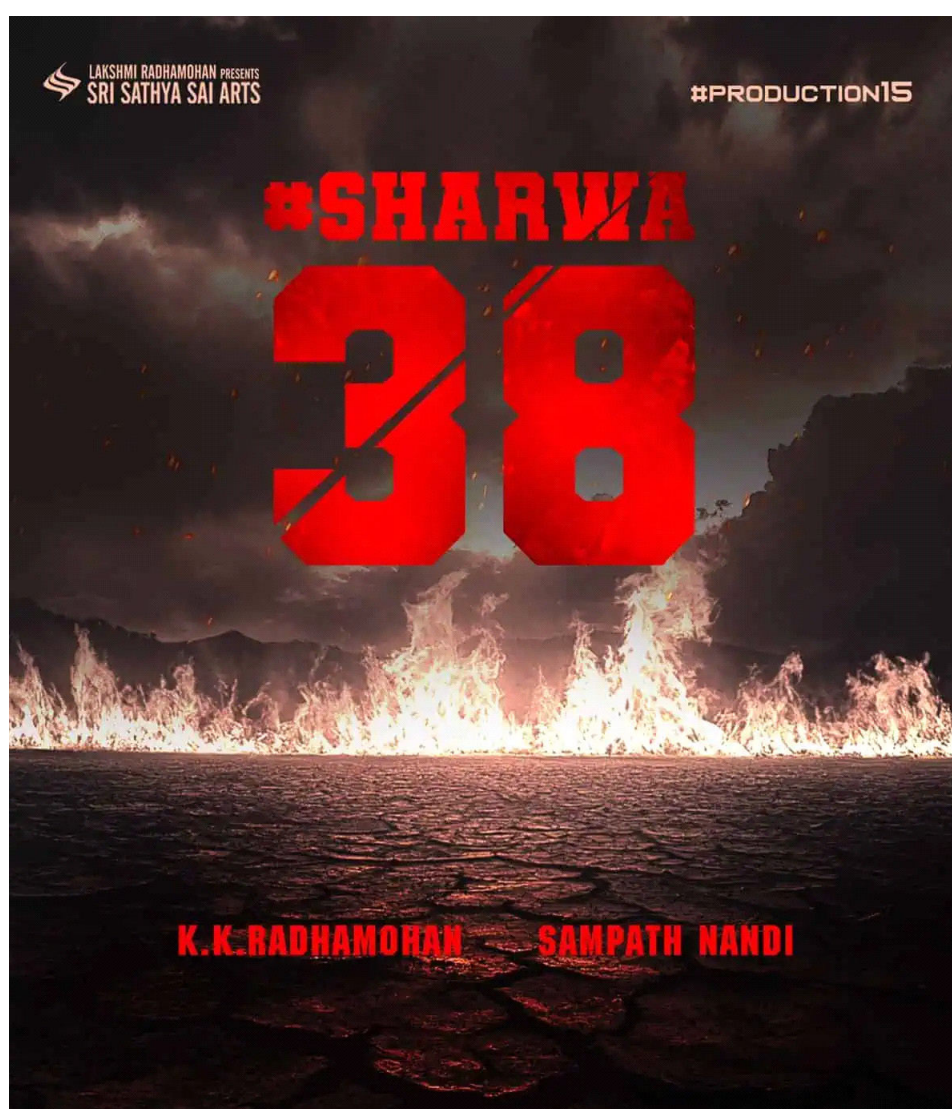
Kanguva New Poster Revealed

The excitement for the upcoming film *Kanguva* has intensified with the release of a brand new poster showcasing lead actor Suriya alongside antagonist Bobby Deol. Originally set for an October release, the film's debut has been rescheduled to November 14, 2024. This strategic move avoids a clash with Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina's *Jigra*, which was also slated for October.

The film's latest poster, unveiled on Thursday, teases a gripping tale of "the battle of pride and glory," promising audiences a cinematic experience filled with intense drama and action. The caption emphasizes the film's impact, stating, "Kanguva's mighty reign storms screens from 14-11-24."

Fans are eagerly anticipating the release as the new date approaches, and the marketing campaign ramps up. With the combination of Suriya's star power and Bobby Deol's formidable presence, *Kanguva* is set to be a major highlight of the November release calendar. The film's storyline and visual aesthetics captured in the poster hint at a grand narrative that will resonate with audiences, making it one of the most anticipated films of the year.

Mark your calendars for November 14, as *Kanguva* promises to deliver a thrilling experience that fans won't want to miss.



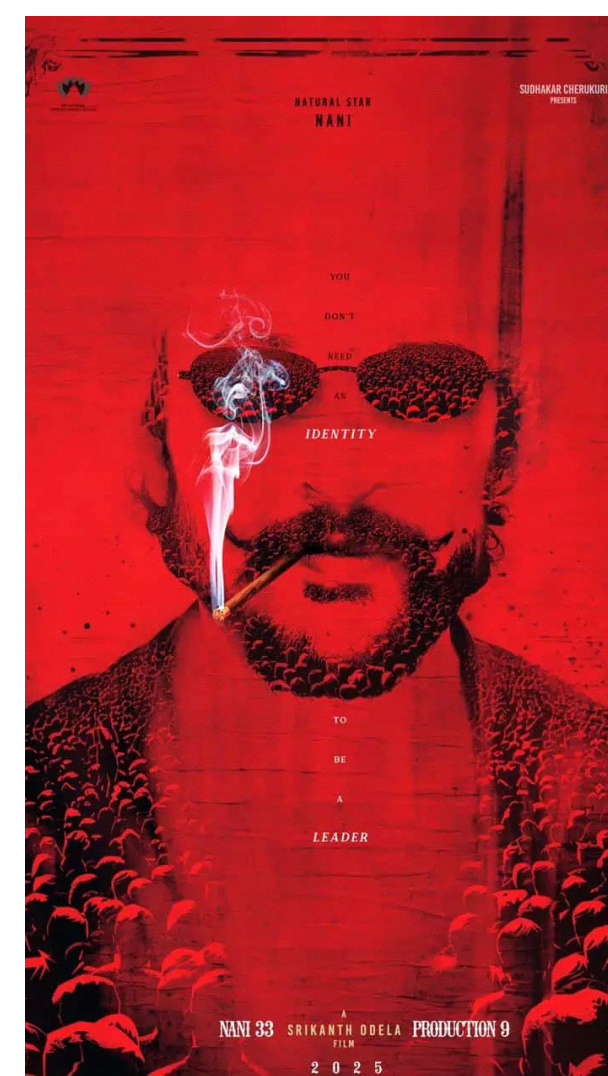
Sharwa Teams Up with Director Sampath Nandi for Ambitious Film #Sharwa38

Charming Star Sharwa is set to collaborate with director Sampath Nandi on an exciting new project, officially titled #Sharwa38. This film marks the first Pan India venture for both the actor and the director, produced by KK Radhamohan under the Sri Sathya Sai Arts banner.

The film is set in rural North Telangana during the late 1960s, tackling a rarely explored theme of fear and violence in Indian cinema. Described as raw and intense, #Sharwa38 promises gripping action and emotionally charged sequences, highlighting a darker narrative that is expected to resonate with audiences.

Sharwa will undergo a complete transformation for his role, revealing a side of him that fans have never seen before. The announcement poster, featuring flames in a desolate landscape, has already sparked curiosity and excitement around the project.

Cinematography will be handled by Soundar Rajan S, while music will be composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. Further details regarding the cast and crew are anticipated soon, making #Sharwa38 one of the most awaited films in the upcoming cinematic landscape.



Nani and Director Srikanth Odela Set to Make Odela 2

Natural Star Nani is reuniting with director Srikanth Odela for their highly anticipated project, *Nani-Odela 2*. Following the success of *Dasara*, which grossed over 100 crores and marked Odela's directorial debut, this new film promises to create an even greater impact.

Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, *Nani-Odela 2* aims to build on the duo's previous success. Srikanth Odela shared his excitement on social media, reflecting on the journey since *Dasara* and expressing his commitment to delivering "100 times the impact" with this new venture. He emphasized the dedication that has gone into the project over the past year and a half.

Nani echoed Odela's enthusiasm, stating, "This one's madness is back in my life. Be prepared to be blown away." Fans can expect an action-packed announcement video soon, teasing the intriguing concepts that the duo is set to explore in *Nani-Odela 2*. With their proven track record, anticipation is high for what this collaboration will bring to the screen.

Ananya Panday's Call Me Bae Renewed for Season 2: Bae Is Here to Stay



Ananya Panday's series *Call Me Bae* premiered on Prime Video on September 6 and has quickly gained acclaim from both audiences and critics. Following its successful debut, the show has officially been renewed for a second season, as announced by the creators on Instagram. The announcement video featured the catchy phrase, "Bae is here to slay, Bae is here to stay," alongside clips of the ensemble cast, signaling that Season 2 is already in the works.

Karan Johar, the producer of *Call Me Bae*, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming season, stating, "We're stoked to announce that we're working on developing the second season." He highlighted the first season as a "game-changer," expressing gratitude for the love and appreciation the show has received globally. Johar emphasized the joy of witnessing the show's journey from script to screen and the overwhelming positive re-

ception from viewers. The first season's ensemble cast included Vir Das, Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Vihaan Samat, Muskaan Jaferi, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Lisa Mishra, and Mini Mathur, many of whom are expected to reprise their roles in the upcoming season.

Call Me Bae follows the titular character, Bella, who leaves her luxurious lifestyle behind to navigate life as a journalist in Mumbai. As she makes new friends and grapples with her journalistic duties, viewers are treated to her journey of self-discovery and adaptation in the bustling city. Currently, *Call Me Bae* is available for streaming in multiple languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, on Prime Video. With the announcement of Season 2, fans can look forward to more engaging stories and character development as Bella's adventures continue.

Sandeep Vanga Setting Star-Couple For Spirit

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan has shared her eagerness to collaborate with her husband, Saif Ali Khan, on-screen once again. Speaking at a press event ahead of the "PVRINOX Celebrates 25 Years of Kareena Kapoor Khan Festival," she expressed her excitement for Saif's upcoming Telugu debut in *Devara: Part 1*, which premieres on September 27.

Kareena noted that Saif's entry into Telugu cinema has generated significant buzz, and she hopes for a project together soon. The festival, celebrating her 25-year career, will take place from September 20 to 27 across 30 cinemas in 15 cities. Saif was thrilled to hear about the festival, expressing

his interest in watching *Omkaara* and *Ashoka* during the event.

As a mother, Kareena revealed that her two sons, Taimur and Jeh, have yet to see her films. She joked about introducing them to her work, suggesting that *Jab We Met* might be a good starting point, while acknowledging that *Omkaara* could be a bit shocking for them.

Discussing her son Taimur, she shared that he is aware of his family's fame but insists he is not famous yet, focusing instead on his love for football. Kareena remains hopeful that one day her children will appreciate her film legacy.

