

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

Mostly Sunny

t

H 26 °C

L 23 °C

VIJAYAWADA

Mostly Sunny

t

H 29 °C

L 26 °C

TIRUPATHI

Mostly Sunny

t

H 36 °C

L 26 °C



Cyberabad Police Arrest Choreographer Jani Master in Goa

TPN, Hyderabad: The Cyberabad Police arrested popular choreographer Shaik Jani, alias Jani Master, in Goa on Thursday in connection with a case of alleged sexual assault and threats made against an assistant choreographer.

Authorities had been on the lookout for Jani Master after a complaint was filed by the victim, who accused him of multiple instances of sexual assault and intimidation during shooting schedules. The complaint was initially lodged at the Raidurgam police station, where a 'zero FIR' was registered before the case was transferred to the Narsingi police station for jurisdictional reasons.

Based on the victim's allegations, the police invoked Sections of the POCSO Act, along with other relevant laws, leading to the choreographer going into hiding. After an intense search, Jani Master was located and taken into custody in Bengaluru.

The victim's complaint claims that Jani Master had repeatedly sexually assaulted and threatened her, exploiting his position of power within the film industry. Further investigation into the case is underway as the police proceed with formal charges.

CM Meets with Skill University Board; Anand Mahindra Participates



- Revanth Reddy meets at the Telangana Secretariat
- Rs. 100 crore to be allocated by the government for the university
- Anand Mahindra praises Revanth Reddy's vision

TPN, Telangana: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with the Board of Telangana Young India Skill University at the Telangana Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Minister Sridhar Babu, University Board Chairman Anand Mahindra, Chief

Secretary Shantikumari, and various industrialists and high-ranking officials from different fields. During the meeting, the CM announced that the government would allocate Rs. 100 crore towards the management of Telangana Young India Skill

University. He also called for the establishment of a corpus fund for the university's long-term management and encouraged those interested in the university's development to contribute in various ways. Anand Mahindra praised Revanth

Reddy's initiative to provide skilled youth from Telangana to the global workforce. He expressed admiration for the CM's vision and stated that this was a key reason why he agreed to serve as the chairman of the university's board.

HYDRA Launches Tender Process for Removal of Demolition Waste

TPN, Telangana: HYDRA, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection agency, has undertaken a significant operation to address illegal constructions affecting ponds and water bodies in Hyderabad. This initiative involves the demolition of structures built unlawfully within buffer zones and flood tank limits (FTL). As of September 19, HYDRA has successfully demolished 262 buildings across 23 different locations in and around the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area. These actions are part of a broader effort to reclaim and restore water bodies and

prevent environmental degradation caused by unauthorized constructions.



Following the demolition work, HYDRA is now focused on managing the resultant construction waste. To facilitate this process, the agency is inviting tenders from contractors who are equipped to handle and remove the debris from the demolition sites. The removal of these materials is crucial to ensure the smooth transition of the sites back to their intended use and to maintain environmental standards.

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Electricity Charges Set to Rise Again in Telangana

TPN, Telangana: Steps are being taken to increase electricity charges in Telangana. Electricity distribution companies (discoms) have submitted proposals to the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) to revise charges across three categories. If approved, the revised tariffs could help cover a revenue shortfall of approximately Rs. 1,200 crore, as estimated by the discoms. The final decision will be announced after the ERC conducts a public hearing on these proposals.

Discoms have reported to the ERC that there is a need to raise charges to compensate for the



financial shortfall. This year, the North and South DISCOMs are projected to face a deficit of Rs. 14,222 crore. Out of this amount, they have requested Rs. 13,022 crore from the state government through the budget. To address the remaining Rs. 1,200 crore shortfall, the discoms have submitted tariff revision proposals.

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Minister Tummalala Pushes for Airport in Kothagudem

TPN, Telangana: Minister Tummalala Nageswara Rao has taken a significant step towards boosting infrastructure in Kothagudem by submitting a formal request to Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu. The petition calls for the establishment of an airport in Kothagudem, which would enhance connectivity and promote economic development in the region.

The proposal is seen as a strategic move to improve transportation and cater to the growing needs of the area. The airport, if approved, would mark a major milestone in the development of Kothagudem.



KTR Condemns Arrest of Farmers Ahead of 'Chalo Praja Bhavan' Protest

TPN, Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly condemned the arrest of farmers ahead of the 'Chalo Praja Bhavan' protest, which was organized to pressurize the Telangana government to implement its promise of a farm loan waiver. The protest was aimed at demanding the waiver of crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh, a promise made by the Congress-led government during elections.

KTR expressed outrage over the arrest of farmers and leaders of farmers' unions, alleging that they had been illegally detained by the police. "Are they thieves and terrorists?" KTR asked, criticizing the police actions as undemocratic. He stated that since early Thursday, BRS received reports of police visiting farmers' homes and detaining them,

creating concern and distress among their families.

KTR demanded the immediate release of the farmers, questioning why the Chief Minister was so afraid of peaceful protests. "Why are there so many



restrictions on farmers?" he asked. The BRS leader reiterated that the protest was initiated by farmers themselves and was not politically motivated, asserting that the Congress government would eventually have to concede to the farmers' demands.

The BRS has been vocal about the incomplete implementation of the farm loan waiver, claiming that many farmers were yet to see their loans waived. In contrast, the state government claimed that Rs 18,000 crore had been deposited into the bank accounts of 22 lakh farmers to fulfill the waiver commitment. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy acknowledged the challenges faced in implementing the waiver and assured that every eligible farmer would receive the promised benefit.



HYDRA Launches Tender Process for Removal of Demolition Waste

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Contractors interested in participating in this tender process can submit their applications online. The submission window for these tenders will open on September 20 and will remain open until September 27. This timeline allows interested parties to prepare and submit their proposals for consideration.

HYDRA's efforts are part of a larger strategy to address illegal constructions and promote sustainable development in Hyderabad. By clearing these unauthorized structures and managing the associated waste, HYDRA aims to enhance the city's infrastructure and environmental health. This initiative underscores the agency's commitment to maintaining urban spaces that are both functional and environmentally responsible.

Hydra's Next Target: Lake View Apartments

Hydra is currently investigating the large-scale projects known as "Lake View," which are being constructed near local ponds.

While some companies argue that they have not encroached upon the pond areas, Hydra is countering their claims by presenting old maps, some dating back several years, as evidence.

Reports suggest that Hydra is consulting with Baahubali Cranes operators on how to safely demolish these massive buildings, should it be deemed necessary.

As a result of these developments, demand for Lake View Apartments has significantly dropped. Potential buyers are now hesitant, fearing potential demolition or legal issues, and are avoiding purchasing apartments in these areas.

Electricity Charges Set to Rise Again in Telangana

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Among the proposals, the discoms have requested permission to increase the fixed charge per kilowatt from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 for households consuming more than 300 units per month. Additionally, they seek to charge Rs. 7.65 per unit for all industrial categories. The fixed charge for industries is also proposed to rise from Rs. 475 per kilowatt to Rs. 500.

The government currently provides free electricity to households consuming less than 200 units per month under the *Griha Jyoti* scheme. There will be no increase in fixed charges for households consuming up to 299 units. More than 30 lakh households in the state have electricity connections, with over 80% using less than 300 units per month.

The report from the discoms was originally due to the council by November 30, 2023, but was delayed due to the assembly elections. Although the ERC ordered the report to be submitted by January 2024, the Lok Sabha elections further postponed it. As a result, the ERC has imposed a fine of Rs. 21 lakh on the discoms for delays since February.

Telangana Government Announces Dussehra Holidays

TPN, Telangana: The Telangana government has announced Dussehra holidays for schools, from October 2nd to 14th. The Telangana School Education Department has issued orders to this effect. The festival of Dussehra will be celebrated on October 12. According to the order, schools will reopen on the 15th of October.

Before Dussehra, the Bathukamma festival, which lasts for nine days, will be celebrated across Telangana. The festivities will begin with the Engilipula Bathukamma on October 2 and conclude with Saddula Bathukamma on Durgashtami, two days before Dussehra.



Good News for Orugallu Residents... Warangal to Become a Health Hub!

TPN, Warangal: The Minister of Medical and Health, Damodara Rajanarsimha, announced that Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is credited with establishing eight medical colleges in Telangana. He emphasized that Orugallu (Warangal), with its rich history, is being given significant focus in the fields of medicine and health. The goal is to develop Orugallu into a major health hub and a center for super-specialty treatments.

While inaugurating the Narsampet Medical College and Hospital today, along with Revenue and District In-charge Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha highlighted the government's



dedication to making Warangal a key health center. He assured the public that their aim is to ensure no shortage of medical services for the people.

The minister also revealed plans to establish a cancer treatment center in Warangal in the near future. Additionally, trauma centers and an IVF center are being planned. He further stated that efforts are underway to fill vacancies in the medical department, ensuring

there will be no shortage of medical staff. The government has sanctioned Rs 181 crore to Narsampet Medical College, reflecting their commitment to healthcare development.

Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha pointed out that education and healthcare are top priorities under the current government's tenure. He noted that after Hyderabad, the Orugallu region holds significant historical importance, but it has been neglected for about nine years. Now, efforts are being made to develop the region comprehensively.

Rajanarsimha criticized the previous government for ignoring key institutions like Osmania Hospital, stating that under

Revanth Reddy's leadership, necessary repairs and care are being undertaken. He mentioned that hostel buildings have been granted to both Osmania and Gandhi hospitals. The minister also criticized the previous government's failure to act on important issues, saying that unlike the past, Revanth Reddy's administration is taking care of and completing important projects.

He concluded by highlighting that the Congress government has introduced transparent transfer policies, a first in Telangana's history. He stressed that the people of Telangana voted for democracy by electing the Congress, and the government is committed to fulfilling the promises it made to the people.

Treatment Given to Thieves Should Be Given to Johnny Master



- Rajasingh advocates for the same treatment for Johnny Master as is given to bullies and murderers.

- An appeal to boycott Johnny Master from the film industry.

- Rajasingh calls for the truth behind Johnny Master's actions to be revealed.

TPN, Hyderabad: BJP leader and Goshamahala MLA Rajasingh has made significant remarks regarding the arrest of popular choreographer Johnny Master. He stated that Johnny Master should receive the same treatment as thieves, bullies, and murderers. Rajasingh urged the Tollywood film industry to expel individuals like Johnny Master, who has been accused of sexually assaulting women.

Johnny Master faces accusations of torturing a young woman, who was his assistant, and pressuring her to convert. Rajasingh emphasized the need for stronger laws to ensure the safety of women. He also called for the real facts surrounding Johnny Master's

case to be brought to light.

Rajasingh further questioned how many individuals Johnny Master may have victimized and how many people he allegedly exploited through "love jihad." He pointed out that there are others like Johnny Master in the film industry, and such individuals tarnish the reputation of the industry. Therefore, he suggested that they should be sidelined.

Choreographer Johnny Master was arrested by the SWOT police in Goa and produced in court there. He is being transferred to Hyderabad on a PT warrant and is expected to be presented before the Upparapally court tomorrow.

High Court Issues Notice to Govt on Legality of 'Mission Chabutra' and 'Operation Romeo'



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court has issued notices to the state government, including the Principal Secretary (Home), the Director General of Police (DGP), and the Hyderabad Police Commissioner, in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the legality of the police operations "Mission Chabutra" and "Operation Romeo." The petition was filed by social activist SQ Masood, who claims these operations are arbitrary, illegal, and discriminatory.

Masood argued that the operations, which involve late-night counselling, random searches, and alleged public harassment, violate constitutional rights guaranteed under Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life and personal liberty). The petitioner urged the court to declare these actions illegal, asserting that they are carried out without legal authority and infringe upon the personal liberties of citizens.

The petition also highlighted that police were imposing restrictions on businesses by forcing shops, hotels, and street vendors to close between 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., which Masood claimed violates Government Order 15 issued by the Labour Department in May 2015. Additionally, he raised concerns about the police conducting unwarranted frisking of commuters, further violating their constitutional rights under Articles 14, 19 (right to freedom), and 21.

The court has sought a response from the government on the legality and constitutionality of these operations. Further hearings on the matter are expected in the coming days.

Relatives of Student Attack Hostel Warden in Mahabubabad

TPN, Mahabubabad: A hostel warden, whose role is to ensure the safety and well-being of students, has caused an uproar in Mahabubabad. The warden's inappropriate behavior led to a violent confrontation with the student's relatives, resulting in a commotion in the area.

In Mahabubabad district, Gade Rukma Reddy, a warden at a private school, allegedly misbehaved with a student. Upon learning about the incident, the student's relatives attacked Rukma Reddy, subjecting him to a physical assault.

The attack occurred on school premises, causing panic among the children. The student's relatives are



demanding immediate action against the warden and his removal from the position. When the assault happened, the warden was reportedly locked in the principal's office. The school management is facing criticism for their handling of the situation, with the student's parents expressing frustration over the perceived protection of the errant warden.

Telangana: 3 Missing TMREIS Students Traced



TPN, Hyderabad: Three Class 10 students from the Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) in Nalgonda district, who had been missing since September 17, have been traced.

According to the police, the students were found returning to Hyderabad after visiting a mall around midnight on Tuesday, September 17. The boys – Abdul Rehman, Taufeeq, and Mujeeb – were brought to Devarkanda police station.

The students had gone missing earlier that day after being reprimanded for bringing alcohol onto the school campus. Despite the school's efforts to locate them, they did not return that night, prompting a search by local authorities and raising concerns among parents and school officials.



Take Action Against Revanth Reddy: Harish Rao's Letter to Mallikarjuna Kharge

- Harish Rao stated that the language used by Revanth Reddy towards KCR is inappropriate.
- The BRS leader protested against the BJP MLA's comments on Rahul Gandhi.
- Question raised as to why no action has been taken against Revanth Reddy's comments.

TPN, Telangana: Former Telangana minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao has written an open letter to AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, stating that the language used by Revanth Reddy against KCR and the BRS was inappropriate. He urged Kharge to take disciplinary action against Revanth Reddy. Harish Rao also accused the Congress of adopting a double standard in addressing the inappropriate and offensive comments made by Revanth Reddy.

He recalled that the Congress Party had organized nationwide protests in re-



sponse to comments made by a BJP MLA against Rahul Gandhi, yet no action has been taken against Revanth Reddy's remarks. Harish Rao criticized the Congress, saying, "The Congress party has one rule in Delhi and another rule in the streets."

Harish Rao also argued that Revanth

Reddy's comments were against the spirit of the Constitution and demanded strict action against him within the party. He further alleged that false cases were being filed against BRS leaders and activists with the involvement of the police, and he criticized Telangana's leadership under Revanth Reddy as dictatorial.

BRS Leaders Accuse Police of Colluding with Congress in Attacks



TPN, Telangana: Former Ministers Vemula Prashanth Reddy and Jagadish Reddy, along with MLAs Kaushik Reddy, Vivekananda Goud, Sanjay Kumar, RS Praveen Kumar, and other BRS leaders, have lodged a complaint with the state DGP in Hyderabad, alleging that BRS leaders and activists are being targeted across the state. They claim that lower-level police officers are involved in these attacks, often in collaboration with Congress supporters.

Jagadish Reddy stated that BRS leaders have been attacked in various locations, including Suryapet Tirumalagiri and during a visit to flood-affected areas in Khammam district. He mentioned that Siddipet Harish Rao's camp office was also attacked and accused the ACP and CI of being complicit in the assault on Kaushik Reddy's house. The leaders expressed concern that public trust in the police is diminishing, particularly when Congress leaders' birthday celebrations are reportedly being held at police stations.

The complaint submitted to the DGP seeks to safeguard the integrity of the police force. The BRS leaders criticized the Chief Minister's conduct, suggesting it has led to widespread unrest and undermined confidence in the government. They emphasized that the party remains resolute despite these challenges and rejected attempts to diminish their efforts.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Accuses Madrasas of Fostering Terrorism

TPN, Telangana: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, stirred controversy with his remarks accusing certain madrasas of being "breeding grounds for terrorism" and a threat to national security. Speaking at the inauguration of a girls' hostel block at Sri Vidyaranya Avasa Vidyalayam in Jammikunta, Karimnagar district, on Wednesday, September 19, Sanjay alleged that some madrasas are involved in teaching extremist activities, though he did not provide specific evidence to back his claims.



Sanjay's statement included accusations that certain madrasas are training students to use AK-47 rifles, even employing broomsticks for demonstrations. "Madrasas that provide training in making AK-47 rifles even with the help of broomsticks are breeding grounds for terrorism and pose a danger to the country's security," he claimed, raising questions about the government's decision to fund such institutions, which he alleged are promoting extremism.

In addition to his comments on madrasas, Sanjay Kumar criticized the Telangana government for not providing sufficient support to schools that promote "Indian Sanatana culture and traditions," such as Shishumandir schools. He expressed disappointment over the lack of government funding for these institutions.

Targeting the state government's approach to education, Sanjay also highlighted the ongoing teacher and sanitation worker vacancies in Telangana's schools, accusing the administration of neglect. "Despite thousands of teacher positions and over 20,000 sanitation worker posts remaining vacant, the state has failed to fill these roles," he noted, expressing frustration over the absence of a dedicated education minister in the state cabinet.

Minister Ponguleti Criticizes Opposition Amid Accusations

TPN, Telangana: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy sharply criticized opposition parties for their negative remarks about his government. Speaking to the media on September 18, he expressed frustration that the opposition's criticism stems from their inability to accept the progress made by his administration. Reddy accused the opposition of attempting to deflect attention from corruption committed by previous governments.

He highlighted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration is committed to fulfilling not only the promises made but also those not previously promised. Reddy emphasized the government's dedication to improving education and healthcare. He noted that a survey of Mission Bhagiratha revealed that 53 percent of households are not receiving adequate water supply. Additionally, he pointed out that Rs. 73,000 crores have been allocated to the agri-



culture sector, and Rs. 18,000 crores in farmers' loans have been waived. He assured that all eligible farmers will receive loan waivers.

Reddy also criticized the previous BRS government for failing to take signif-

icant actions during their decade-long rule. He accused them of hindering the Congress's efforts and neglecting the development of Orugallu. Reddy announced that ration cards will be issued to eligible individuals either by the end of this month or in the first week of next month. He stressed the importance of having a vision for development rather than engaging in opportunism.

Regarding education, Reddy highlighted that his government has invested Rs. 650 crores, with plans to build integrated schools in 119 constituencies. Each school, covering 25 acres, will be constructed with a budget of Rs. 110 crores and will include comprehensive facilities. He criticized the opposition for being unable to accept the progress achieved by the government and accused them of living under the illusion that their past mistakes continue to affect current governance.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Criticizes NDA Government's Push for Simultaneous Elections



TPN, Hyderabad: MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, in a speech at Gandhi Bhavan, voiced his criticism of the NDA government's push for simultaneous elections. He pointed out the lack of clarity in the report prepared by former President Ram Nath Kovind's committee regarding consultations and meeting details about the proposal.

Reddy emphasized that implementing simultaneous elections would require at least 18 constitutional amendments and questioned the feasibility of conducting elections simultaneously in four states. He accused BJP leaders of misleading the public and diverting attention from more pressing issues facing the nation.

Highlighting the complexity of the proposal, Reddy noted that for simultaneous elections to be enacted, 2/3 approval is required from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as support from at least 14 state legislatures. While he acknowledged the potential benefits of simultaneous elections, he stressed the importance of practical considerations, including state approvals and logistical challenges.

Reddy also questioned why the central government did not implement simultaneous elections during recent parliamentary elections, citing that only 10 out of 194 countries worldwide currently practice this system. His remarks call for more thoughtful deliberation before moving forward with such a significant change.

MP Etela Rajender Criticizes HYDRA's Legality and Motives



TPN, Telangana: Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender has made controversial statements regarding the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection (HYDRA), established by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government. During a recent BJP membership registration event in Janagama district and a blood donation camp organized in conjunction with Prime Minister Modi's birthday, Rajender addressed the media, raising concerns about HYDRA's legal foundation.

Rajender claimed that the establishment of HYDRA lacks legal backing and was not discussed with any cabinet minister, suggesting that if HYDRA were to carry significant responsibilities, it should have been debated in the legislature and formalized through legal channels. He implied that Revanth Reddy introduced HYDRA to advance his personal agenda.

Rajender also criticized Reddy's approach to addressing illegal constructions. He accused Reddy of using HYDRA to portray past governments and chief ministers negatively while failing to address the mistakes of officials who issued permits for these constructions. Rajender argued that it is unconstitutional for a Chief Minister to demolish legally permitted constructions after collecting taxes on them for 30 years. He expressed frustration, asserting that Revanth Reddy is acting as if it is his personal domain, rather than acknowledging that previous governments had made efforts to aid the poor and that the buildings in question were constructed with government authorization.



Boxer Nikhat Zareen Joins Police Force as DSP, Submits Joining Report to DGP



TPN, Hyderabad: Indian boxing star and two-time world champion, Nikhat Zareen, has officially assumed her new role as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Telangana. On Wednesday, she submitted her joining report to Director General of Police, Dr. Jitender, who shared the news on social media platform X.

"We are proud to welcome two-time world champion and Olympic boxer @nikhat_zareen as she takes on the role of DSP (Special Police). Hailing from Nizamabad, she reported to me today. Her remarkable achievements in boxing

continue to inspire the people of Telangana, and we look forward to her contribution to the state's law enforcement. #TelanganaPolice," Dr. Jitender stated in his post.

Nikhat Zareen's Exceptional Boxing Career
Born on June 14, 1996, in Nizamabad, Telangana, Nikhat Zareen has carved out an illustrious career in the sport of boxing, earning accolades on both national and international stages.

Her journey began early, quickly rising through the ranks and becoming one of the country's top sporting icons. Among her many achievements, she captured gold at the AIBA Women's Youth & Junior World Boxing Championships in 2011 and followed up with a gold medal at the 2014 Nations Cup International Boxing Tournament in Serbia.

Her winning streak continued with another gold at the 2019 Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Bulgaria and at the Istanbul Bosphorus Boxing Tournament in 2021.

In 2022, Zareen achieved even greater success,

clinching gold at both the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul and the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. These victories cemented her as one of the leading figures in women's boxing and marked her as the first Indian woman to claim a world title outside her home country.

The following year, in 2023, she again struck gold at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships held in New Delhi, further bolstering her reputation. She also won a bronze medal at the Asian Games.

Inspiring Olympic Journey

Zareen made her Olympic debut at the Paris 2024 Games, where she was seen as a strong medal contender. She advanced to the round of 16 with a unanimous 5-0 win against Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer.

However, her Olympic journey came to a halt when she faced China's Wu Yu, the top-seeded flyweight and reigning Asian Games champion. Despite giving her best effort, Zareen struggled to match Wu's speed and

agility, losing the bout by unanimous decision.

Although the Olympics didn't end with a medal, Zareen embraced the experience as a learning opportunity. She remains focused on future competitions and has expressed her determination to bounce back stronger, with her sights set on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Her impressive career continues to serve as an inspiration to young athletes across India, and now, as DSP, she adds another chapter to her already remarkable journey.



Engineering Students Arrested for Drug Dealing



TPN, Hyderabad: Three engineering students have been arrested by the Excise DTF police for their involvement in drug trafficking. The students were caught attempting to sell 30 LSD tablets at No. 37 Madapur Road, Jubilee Hills. The police also seized a bike from the suspects.

The arrested students—Charan Tej, who studies engineering in Chennai, Kaushik Tu Boti, and Syed Sarfaraz—were taken into custody after their risky decision to sell drugs for easy money jeopardized their futures. The value of the seized drugs is estimated at Rs. 70,000.

A case has been registered against a Chennai-based supplier who provided the drugs to the students. The supplier is currently absconding. Excise Enforcement Director VV Kamalasan Reddy and Assistant Commissioner Anil Kumar Reddy praised the Shirisha team for their successful operation.

Tension Eases in Telangana's Narayanpet Ahead of Milad un Nabi Celebrations

TPN, Narayanpet: Mild communal tensions briefly surfaced in Narayanpet District, Telangana, during preparations for the upcoming Milad un Nabi celebrations. The situation escalated on Thursday when individuals reportedly removed green flags that had been placed for the festivities.

In response to the incident, local authorities swiftly intervened to disperse the gathering and restore order. Police forces acted quickly to bring the situation under control, ensuring calm in the area.

The incident drew attention online, with MBT spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan sharing videos and commenting on the situation. He noted that the Muslim community had rescheduled their Milad un Nabi celebration to avoid any potential conflict, especially considering the recent 10-day Ganesh festival, which concluded with the Ganesh Visarjan on Wednesday.

Rescheduled Milad un Nabi Celebrations

Originally set for September 16 this year, the Milad un Nabi celebrations in Telangana were postponed to Thursday, allowing the Ganesh festival to conclude peacefully. This is not the first time such a rescheduling has occurred, as last year's Milad un Nabi procession in Hyderabad was also postponed due to overlap with the Ganesh immersion festivities.

Today, in Hyderabad, a Milad un Nabi procession is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. As part of a broader initiative, the city will also host year-long events to mark the 1500th anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad's birth. The celebrations will feature seminars, natiya mehfil, and literary competitions, adding a cultural dimension to the religious occasion. The authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, ensuring the celebrations proceed smoothly across the region.

L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail's X Account Hacked

TPN, Hyderabad: In an alarming incident, the official X account (previously known as Twitter) of L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail (@ltmhyd) was hacked in the early hours of Thursday. The hackers posted a message declaring "THIS IS HACKED ACCOUNT!!!!" and made attempts to involve users in a cryptocurrency scam.

The unauthorized tweet contained a token address and encouraged followers to "BUY NOW!" in an effort to artificially inflate its value for financial gain. Additionally, the hackers shared a cryptocurrency wallet address, targeting unsuspecting users with fraudulent schemes.



The post read: "THIS IS HACKED ACCOUNT!!!! INTRODUCING \$HACKED ON SOLANA. For each account we hack, we publish the token address so we can pump it and make profits together.

ugNjBufjn1jeU9U1pPNiUMRbwFTj7UzgTi. BUY NOW!"

In response to the breach, L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail promptly released an official statement, urging users to refrain from clicking on any links or engaging with posts from the compromised account. "Please avoid interacting with any content until further notice. We are addressing the issue and will provide updates soon. Stay safe!" the statement advised.

The incident has raised concerns among followers, and efforts are currently underway to restore the account's security.

Telangana Set to Ban Overage Vehicles in Hyderabad and Other Districts by 2025

TPN, Telangana: The Telangana government is preparing to ban overage vehicles from operating on the roads of Hyderabad and other districts across the state, with the new regulations expected to take effect from January 1, 2025. A vehicle is classified as "overage" if it has been in use for 15 years or more. Such vehicles will be required to be scrapped, and owners may face penalties if they continue to operate these vehicles beyond the designated period.

However, there is an exception for overage vehicles that pass a mandatory fitness test. These vehicles will be granted an extension, allowing them to remain on the road for an additional



3-5 years, provided the owner pays a green tax. This exception, however, does not extend to approximately 10,000 government vehicles.

Large Number of Overage Vehicles in Hyderabad

The report highlights that Hyderabad

alone has a significant number of overage vehicles, including 17 lakh motorcycles, 3.5 lakh cars, 1 lakh goods vehicles, and 20,000 auto-rickshaws. These vehicles may soon face mandatory scrappage if the proposed vehicle scrappage policy, drafted by the Regional Transport Authority, is approved by the government.

This policy is being introduced to promote cleaner air and reduce pollution in the state, and it marks a significant shift in Telangana's approach to environmental sustainability and road safety. The government is expected to release further details on implementation as the policy's approval process advances.

Food Safety Department Raids Supermarket and Sweet Shop in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana Food Safety Department conducted surprise raids on a supermarket and a sweet shop in West Maredpally, Hyderabad, uncovering several violations related to food safety and labeling regulations.

The raids targeted Ratnadeep Retail Private Limited and Olive Mithai Shop. At Ratnadeep, officials discovered that frozen packed food items, including McCain Potato Bites and Heritage Mozzarella Cheese, were not being stored according to the FIFO (First In, First Out) method, a crucial practice to ensure freshness. Additionally, packets of blueberries were missing important labeling details such as the FSSAI license number, logo, importer address, packaging, and use-by dates, all of which are mandatory under food safety laws.

Similarly, at Olive Mithai Shop,

officials found that packed food items, including Namkeen, Mixture, and Chakodi, lacked proper labels. Key details such as the FSSAI license number, logo, and manufacturer information were missing. Sweets packed and sold on-site were also found to be in violation of labeling regulations.

The Food Safety Department is expected to take strict action against both establishments for these lapses, with penalties likely to be imposed to ensure compliance with food safety standards.



TGRTC Buses to Ply to and from UPSC Exam Centers Between September 22-29

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana Government State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced special bus services for candidates appearing for the UPSC exams 2024, which are scheduled between September 20-22 and September 28-29.

In a press release, TGSRTC assured candidates of a hassle-free commute to and from various examination centers on the specified dates. Special help desks have been set up at multiple bus stations to guide candidates to their destinations.

Communication centers have also been established at Koti and Rathifile bus stations for additional assistance. Candidates can reach out to Koti's help desk at 9959226160 and Rathifile's help desk at 9959226154 for more information.



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 2019, 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

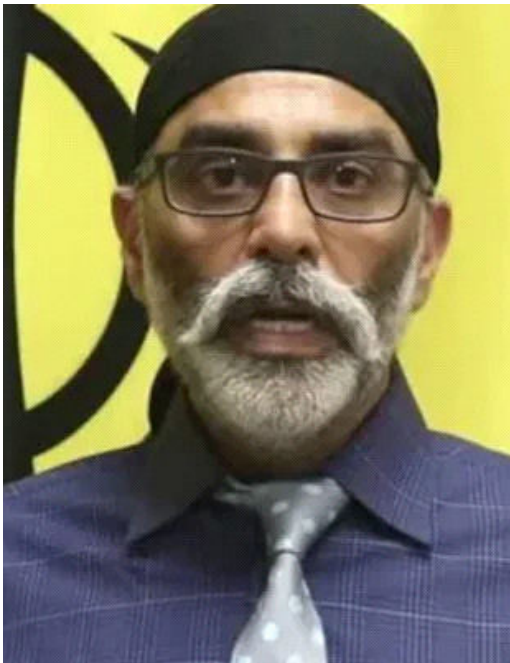
The US District Court for the Southern District of New York has summoned the Indian government in response to a civil lawsuit filed by Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who alleges a conspiracy to murder him. The summons names several high-profile individuals, including National Security 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 83.69 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.



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.



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.



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 advantage



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.

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.

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

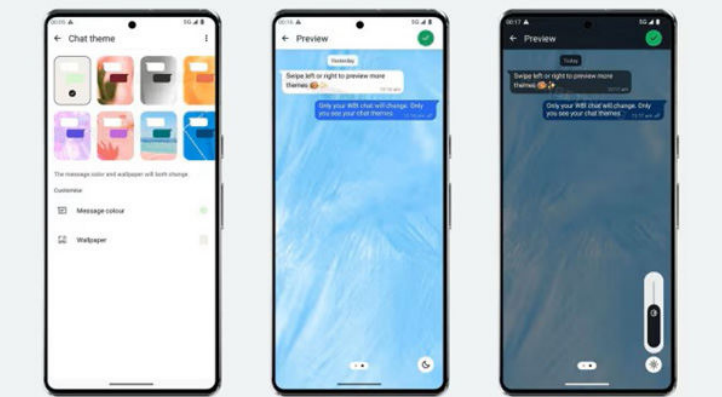


Apple has announced the expansion of its Apple Intelligence suite, introducing new language support for iPhone and other devices. Set to roll out in 2025, the newly added languages include German, Italian, and regional versions of English (specifically for India and Singapore). This expansion follows 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.

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.

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.

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.



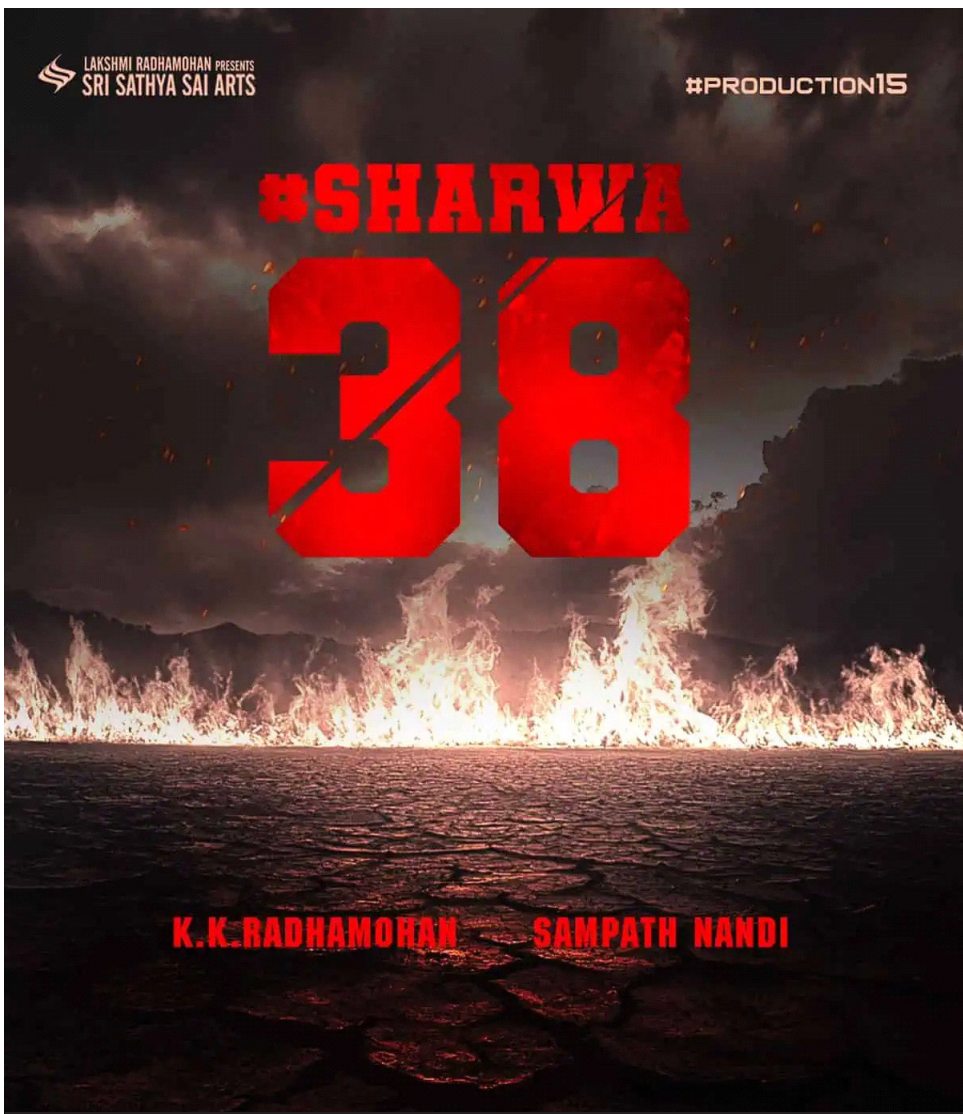
Kanguva New Poster Revealed

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.



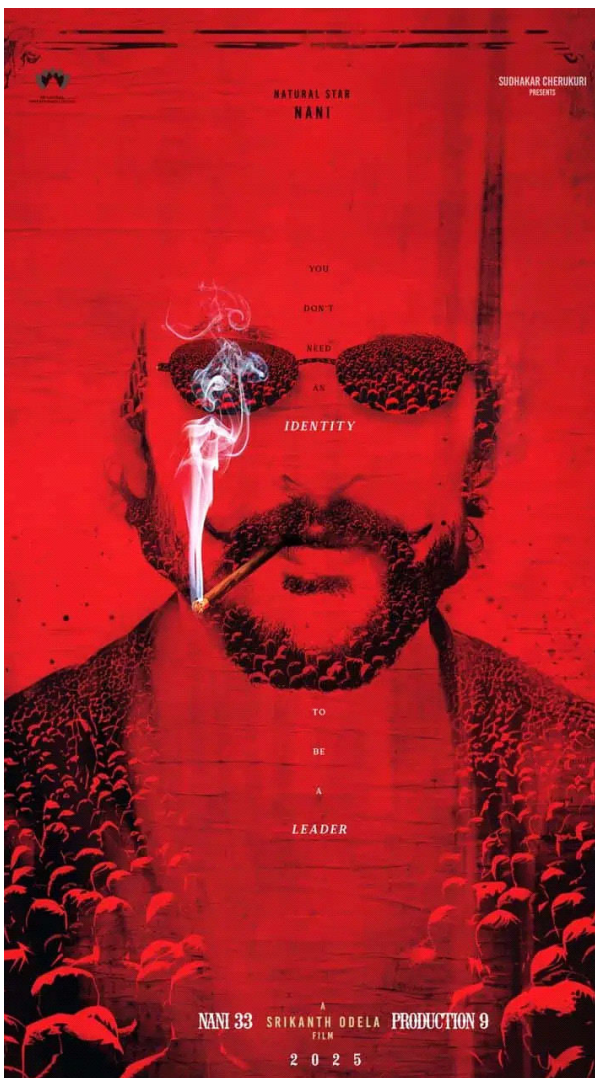
Sharwa Teams Up with Director Sampath Nandi for Ambitious Film #Sharwa38

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, Muskkaan 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.

