

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

Mostly Sunny

t^c

H 26[°] C

L 23[°] C

VIJAYAWADA

Mostly Sunny

t^c

H 29[°] C

L 26[°] C

TIRUPATHI

Mostly Sunny

t^c

H 36[°] C

L 26[°] C

Key Decisions Announced in Telangana Cabinet Meeting

TPN, Telangana: The Telangana Secretariat recently concluded its Cabinet meeting, where several important decisions were approved. The Cabinet addressed a range of issues, from university name changes to infrastructure development and public welfare schemes. Several ministers briefed the media on the outcomes and the government's upcoming plans.

Major University Renaming Initiatives

One of the key decisions involved renaming prominent educational institutions in the state. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, a senior minister, announced that the Cabinet had finalized the new names for three major universities. Chakali Ailamma, a noted figure in Telangana's history, will now be the namesake for Kothi Women's University. In a similar vein, Suravaram Pratap Reddy, a renowned Telugu journalist and leader, will lend his name to Potti Sriramulu Telugu University. Additionally, the Handloom Technology University will be renamed after Konda Laxman Bapuji, a stalwart of the Telangana movement.



Empowerment of HYDRA and Urban Development

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Agency (HYDRA) was given significant powers in this Cabinet meeting. The agency has been authorized to remove structures within Full Tank Level (FTL) areas and buffer zones, and to build ponds and canals within the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Furthermore, 169 new permanent employees and 946 outsourced staff members have been appointed to HYDRA to bolster its workforce. The Cabinet also decided to bring 27 urban local bodies and 51 gram panchayats within the ORR under HYDRA's jurisdiction. This move is seen as part of a larger effort to streamline urban governance and improve the quality of life in these areas.

Infrastructure Projects and Land Allocations

Several important land allocations were approved during the meeting. A 75-acre plot in Manoharabad was allocated for the establishment of a textile park, which is expected to boost the local economy and create job opportunities. Similarly, 58 acres of land in the Madhira constituency's Errupalem area was allocated for an industrial park. Additionally, the Cabinet approved the establishment of a Sports Junior College in Hakeem Pate, providing a new opportunity for young athletes in the region.

SLBC Tunnel and Water Projects

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy provided details about the revised estimate for the ongoing Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel project. With a revised budget of Rs. 4,637 crores, the government has set a target to complete the tunnel work by September 2027. The SLBC project, which aims to provide irrigation and drinking water to the Nalgonda and Nagarkurnool districts, is set to complete 400 meters of tunnel every month. Minister Reddy emphasized the historic significance of the SLBC tunnel and mentioned that it would enable the drawing of Krishna water from the dead storage of the Srisailem project. He also mentioned that the Dindi Balancing Reservoir's pending works would be completed soon.

Fire and Medical Infrastructure

In Mulugu district, the Cabinet approved the establishment of a fire station in the Eturu Nagaram mandal center, with 35 personnel sanctioned for its operation. In a further push to improve healthcare in the region, the Cabinet approved the creation of 433 new posts for the Mulugu Medical College.

The Cabinet will reconvene in the first week of next month to discuss additional issues, including decisions regarding housing schemes like Rythu Bharosa and Indiramma Illu. These housing projects are aimed at providing affordable homes to farmers and other underprivileged communities in the state.

With these comprehensive decisions, the Telangana government has set ambitious goals for infrastructure development, educational reform, and public welfare, signaling a strong commitment to improving the state's overall progress.

Public Welfare and Additional Approvals

The Cabinet also took decisions regarding public welfare. A bonus of Rs. 500 was approved for the "Sanna Vad" workers. Additionally, from January 2025, ration cardholders will receive fine rice as part of the government's ongoing effort to improve the quality of food distribution in the state.

Mallanna Sagar Refutes Congress' Claims Against KLIS: Harish Rao

TPN, Siddipet: Former Minister T. Harish Rao has countered the Congress party's criticisms of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), pointing to the Mallanna Sagar reservoir and other fully operational reservoirs as proof of the scheme's success. During a visit to the Mallanna Sagar reservoir on Friday, Rao questioned Congress's claims, asking, "How can the irrigation department pump 21 TMCft of water into Mallanna Sagar if KLIS is a failure?"



Accompanied by local leaders, including MLCs P. Venkatrami Reddy and Dr. V. Yadava Reddy, Rao highlighted that 90% of the canals under KLIS had been completed, benefiting farmers across four districts. He challenged the Congress party to finish the remaining work if they were genuinely concerned about farmers. Rao emphasized that the

scheme, which brings Godavari water to Siddipet, would be remembered by farmers for generations as a key achievement of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao.

Rao also noted that other reservoirs, such as Annapurna, Ranganayaka Sagar, and Kondapochamma Sagar,

were full, further disproving Congress claims that KLIS was ineffective. He accused Congress of running a "malicious campaign" against KCR and the BRS Party, calling allegations of a ₹1 lakh crore expenditure on KLIS false. The actual expenditure, according to Rao, was ₹93,000 crore.

He criticized the Congress party for engaging in "diversion politics," contrasting it with the BRS government's efforts to redirect water for irrigation. Rao also referenced Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's plans to bring Godavari water to Musi and Hyderabad, noting that Mallanna Sagar would play a central role in these initiatives. He also addressed the delayed release of fishlings into reservoirs, an important issue for the Mudiraj community, a group that the BRS government has historically supported.



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Adulterated Ghee Found in Tirumala Laddu: TTD EO Confirms

TPN, Tirumala: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer J. Shyamala Rao addressed the media concerning the recent controversy over the use of adulterated ghee, allegedly containing traces of animal fat, in the preparation of the sacred Tirumala Laddu. He confirmed that complaints about the laddu's quality had been received for some time, leading to an investigation into the issue.

Shyamala Rao revealed that the ghee used in the laddu, which should have been of 100-point quality, was found to be only 20 points in quality after lab tests.

Choreographer Jani Remanded for 14 Days, Transferred to Chanchalguda Jail



TPN, Hyderabad: The Upparpally court has sent renowned choreographer Jani Master to judicial remand for 14 days in connection with a sexual assault case. He will remain in custody until October 3, following the court's orders.

Jani Master has been at the center of a controversy after allegations surfaced of him sexually assaulting a dancer, sparking widespread discussion in the film industry. He is facing charges under the POCSO Act, as well as Sections 376, 506, and 323(2) of the IPC. The Cyberabad police apprehended Jani Master in Goa and brought him to Hyderabad for further investigation.

After a private interrogation at the Rajendranagar CCS office, Jani Master was presented before the Upparpally court, where the remand order was issued. Subsequently, he was transferred to Chanchalguda Jail. In a related development, Jani Master has applied for bail at the Ranga Reddy court.

During police questioning, Jani Master reportedly denied the allegations. "I have not committed any sexual harassment. Some people have falsely accused me. I will fight legally and prove my innocence," he said, vowing to take legal action against those who he claims framed him.

As part of the investigation, Narsinghi police have already recorded the victim's statement and collected details from her residence. Medical tests have also been conducted. In her statement, the victim alleged that Jani Master raped and assaulted her, forcing his way into her caravan during a shoot. She claimed he harassed her repeatedly to satisfy his sexual desires and threatened to block her career opportunities if she refused. She further stated that he pressured her to marry him.



Adulterated Ghee Found in Tirumala Laddu: TTD EO Confirms

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Samples of the ghee were sent to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) lab in Gujarat on July 6, with the results confirming heavy adulteration. This is the first time in TTD's history that ghee samples were sent to an external lab for testing. The NDDB lab is known for its credibility and expertise.

The tests revealed that the ghee, supplied by AR Foods from Tamil Nadu, was heavily adulterated, including traces of animal fat. Shyamala Rao noted that the ghee was being supplied at rates ranging from ₹320 to ₹411 per kg, which raised suspicions about its purity, as such low prices typically indicate the possibility of adulteration.

In light of these findings, TTD has formed a committee to decide the course of action to be taken against the suppliers. The EO explained that TTD does not have its own laboratory for testing the quality of ghee, which is why the samples were sent to the Gujarat lab.

Relief for CM Revanth Reddy in 'Cash-for-Vote' Case

TPN, New Delhi: In a significant development, the Supreme Court has provided a major relief to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the ongoing 'Cash-for-Vote' case. A Supreme Court bench, consisting of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice K.V. Viswanathan, made sensational comments while hearing a petition filed by former BRS minister and MLA Jagadish Reddy, who had sought to transfer the case to Madhya Pradesh.

Ever since the Congress government came to power in Telangana, the BRS has been attempting to target CM Revanth Reddy, particularly focusing on the banknote case. As part of this effort, Jagadish Reddy filed a transfer petition with the Supreme Court, requesting the case be moved out of Telangana.



The two-judge bench heard the petition today, considering arguments from both sides. The Supreme Court ruled that the notion of Revanth Reddy influencing the trial was purely hypothetical, deeming the petition baseless. The bench observed that

there was no substantial evidence to support the claim that the investigation had been affected, and therefore, refused to transfer the case to another state.

Furthermore, the court stated that if Revanth Reddy interferes

in the investigation in the future, the petitioner could approach the Supreme Court again. It was also clarified that the ACB Director General (DG) need not report to the Chief Minister or Home Minister about the investigation, reinforcing the importance of maintaining transparency.

The Supreme Court also accepted Revanth Reddy's apology regarding previous comments on BRS leader Kavitha bail, acknowledging the importance of public figures being mindful of their statements.

This ruling has come as a setback for Jagadish Reddy, while CM Revanth Reddy has gained significant relief as the case will now proceed without being transferred to another state.

Good News for Singareni Workers: Dussehra Bonus Announcement



TPN, Telangana: Good news for Singareni workers! Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the government aims to bring festive joy to workers' families by distributing

profit shares before Dussehra. He emphasized that Singareni played a crucial role in the Telangana movement.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that there are 25,000 contract workers in Singareni. He announced a total bonus distribution of Rs. 796 crores to employees and workers, which is Rs. 20 crore more than last year. Each worker will receive approximately Rs. 90,000.

For the first time, bonuses will also be extended to contract workers. Bhatti Vikramarka revealed that Singareni is supplying coal to other states, thereby increasing its output. He noted that for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Singareni company has reported a profit of Rs. 4,701 crores.

Tractor Carrying 338 kg of Ganja Worth Rs. 85 Lakh Seized

TPN, Warangal: In a joint operation, the Telangana Anti Narcotics Control Bureau Warangal unit and Hasanparthy police arrested a suspect and seized 338 kg of ganja valued at approximately Rs. 85 lakh, hidden inside a tractor-trolley.

During a press conference, Warangal Commissioner of Police Amber Kishor Jha reported that the police acted on specific information regarding the transport of ganja from the Dharakonda area of Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh to Bikanur mandal in Kamareddy district, passing through Bhadrachalam, Mulugu, Hanumakonda, and Siddipet. A check post was established at Anantarasagar Cross Road in Hasanparthy mandal.

While checking vehicles, police discovered K. Lakshmi Narayana (24) from Patakota village in Y Ramavaram mandal, Alluri Sitharama Raju district, hiding 338 kg of ganja packed in 96 packets at the bottom of the tractor trolley. Upon questioning, he

admitted that he was transporting the ganja to Kamareddy district under the direction of K. Narayana from his district.

He has been detained and is currently being interrogated. The police commissioner congratulated the Telangana Anti Narcotics Control Bureau Warangal unit ACP and other team members for their efforts in apprehending the suspect.



Telangana MLA Offers 1.38 Acres of Land for Union Minister Bittu's Head

- Union Minister Ravneet Singh called Rahul Gandhi the "number one terrorist."

- MLA Vedma Bojju made the offer in anger after hearing the Union Minister's comments.

- He promised to give away his property, along with his father's property, if Bittu's head is brought.

- Is This What Rahul Meant by 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan'? BJP Expresses Outrage



TPN, Telangana: Congress Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju made a controversial statement, offering 1.38 acres of land to anyone who beheads Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu. This came in response to Bittu's remark, where he referred to Rahul Gandhi as the "number one terrorist." Vedma Bojju demanded that Ravneet Singh retract his statement. Otherwise, he promised to give his father's property, along with his own, to whoever brought him Bittu's head. He made these comments while speaking to reporters during a protest against the Union Minister's remarks.

The BJP has condemned MLA Vedma's statements, questioning whether this is what Rahul Gandhi meant by "Mohabbat Ki Dukaan" (spreading love). The party expressed concern that such dangerous provocations and criminal incitements have become alarmingly common in the state. In a related incident, the BJP Mahila Morcha protested against Congress MLA Danam Nagender's remarks about BJP MP and Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut. BRS Sirisilla MLA K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) also condemned Nagender's comments on Kangana.

Kaleswaram Commission Questions Dam Safety Authority Officials



TPN, Telangana: Officials from the State Dam Safety Authority and Central Designs appeared before the Kaleswaram Commission, where they faced intense questioning from Chief Chandra Ghosh regarding dam safety protocols. State Dam Safety Chief Engineer Pramila appeared visibly embarrassed as she struggled to respond to the commission's inquiries.

The commission questioned whether dam safety norms were adhered to after coming under the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). They specifically asked the Chief Engineer about the preparation of pre- and post-monsoon reports.

During the proceedings, the Chief Engineer admitted that no monsoon reports were provided before the construction of the three barrages.

When pressed about whether safety norms were followed at the Annaram, Sundilla, and Medigadda barrages, Pramila failed to provide satisfactory answers.

Officials stated that no reports had been received by the state dam safety authorities either before or after the collapse of the structures. The commission further inquired if the State Dam Safety Authority was in compliance with NDSA and Indian dam safety norms.

Senior officials from Dam Safety and Central Designs informed the commission that they had not received complete reports from field-level officials, raising concerns about oversight and accountability in dam safety management.

Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme Stuck in Limbo, Faces Uncertain Future

TPN, Telangana: The Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), once seen as a beacon of hope for the drought-prone southern districts of Telangana, now finds itself mired in uncertainty. Ongoing work on the project has been stalled for the past 12 months, leaving thousands of farmers and residents waiting for the promised water relief.

The project's first phase was inaugurated on September 16, last year, by the then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao, with the commissioning of a major pumping station capable of lifting 3,200 cusecs of water from the backwaters of the Srisailem reservoir. However, this mega pumping unit, along with four others of similar capacity, is now submerged due to unexpected complications. Efforts to dewater the pumping stations are ongoing but have been hampered by the need for higher-capacity machinery, which could extend the process for several months.

Only after the dewatering process is completed can officials begin to assess the extent of the damage to the infrastructure and formulate rehabilitation plans. This task has proven to be a significant challenge, further delaying the project's progress.

PRLIS, originally designed to address water scarcity in over 1,220 villages across six districts, aimed to provide 7.15 TMC of drinking water in its first phase, with



an additional 73 TMC earmarked for irrigation needs in the second phase. The project successfully pumped water from the Srisailem reservoir to the Anjanagiri reservoir before work came to a halt due to the onset of election notifications.

Despite clearing legal hurdles related to the drinking water component, the project has not advanced beyond initial milestones. Allegations have surfaced that the current government is deliberately stalling the project to diminish the achievements of the previous administration.

The project's cost has ballooned from an initial estimate of ₹35,200 crore to an alarming ₹58,086 crore, with ₹31,423 crore already spent, covering nearly 85% of the required work. The Ministry of Jal

Shakti has offered partial funding but has requested a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) pending the resolution of water-sharing disputes with the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-2).

Hopes Fading for Swift Resolution

Once seen as a symbol of progress, the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme now underscores the difficulties of implementing large-scale infrastructure projects. As political and administrative hurdles persist, the local population continues to wait for the much-needed water, and the future of the project remains uncertain.

Bandi Sanjay Writes to CM Chandrababu Over Tirumala Laddu Dispute

TPN, Telangana: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay has raised deep concerns regarding the ongoing controversy surrounding the alleged use of animal fat in Tirumala Srivari Laddu Prasadam, which has become a hot topic in Andhra Pradesh. He expressed his belief that this issue has hurt the sentiments of millions of Hindus. In response, Bandi Sanjay has written a letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, calling for urgent action.

In his letter, Bandi Sanjay highlighted that the incident has deeply disturbed the sentiments of Srivari devotees and Hindus worldwide. He mentioned that, despite earlier complaints about potential harm to the sanctity of Srivari and concerns over the spread of non-Hindu practices, the previous administrations did not take any serious action. He also pointed out that while authorities focused on certain issues, such as red sandalwood smuggling, other serious concerns were ignored. The Union Minister urged the

state government to enact strict laws to ensure the protection of Hindu religious practices at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). He criticized the practice of entrusting TTD's management to non-believers or atheists, asserting that such individuals may propagate non-religious ideologies on Tirumala Hill. He recommended that only religiously committed individuals be employed at TTD and that strict laws be enacted to prevent non-religious people from taking control of TTD operations.

He emphasized that the final decision rests with the state government and urged CM Chandrababu to prioritize the sentiments of Hindus over political interests. Bandi Sanjay concluded by recommending a thorough investigation into the matter and called for strict action against those responsible.



KTR Forms BRS Committee to Address Medical and Health Conditions in Telangana

TPN, Telangana: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has appointed a three-member party committee to investigate the deteriorating medical and health conditions in Telangana. The committee, led by former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. T. Rajaiah, will visit various government hospitals across the state and submit a detailed report to the government.

In addition to Dr. Rajaiah, the committee includes Dr. Sanjay and Dr. Metuku Anand. The decision was announced through a statement released by BRS, highlighting the urgent need for a fact-finding and study committee to examine the current state of healthcare, particularly in light of maternal and child deaths reported at Gandhi Hospital.

The committee's primary task will be to visit hospitals, assess the conditions, and provide constructive suggestions to the state government. Their findings will help guide necessary improvements in the healthcare system. The formation of this committee underscores BRS's commitment to addressing the pressing health concerns in Telangana.



CPI Demands Compensation for Crops Damaged by Water Shortage

TPN, Khammam: The CPI's Telangana Rythu Sangham has called for immediate action from irrigation officials to release water for crops in the NSP ayacut of the district. During a protest rally at the NSP camp area on Friday, state president B. Hemanth Rao criticized the government for its negligence in repairing the breached NSP canal, which has severely affected farmers.

Rao expressed disappointment that, despite 20 days passing since the breach, irrigation officials had not repaired the canal or released water to the fields. He noted that modern technology is available, yet the repairs were delayed, lead-



ing to cracks in paddy fields due to insufficient water.

Approximately 2.5 lakh acres across 16 mandals are cultivated under this ayacut, with farmers having invested between Rs 30,000 and Rs 40,000 so far. Many paddy crops have withered due to the water shortage, prompting the need

for government compensation.

He highlighted that recent rains and flash floods had also damaged crops on 1.25 lakh acres, and the government had not adequately compensated affected farmers. Rao demanded that 3,000 cusecs of water be released from the Palair balancing reservoir into the NSP left canal to ensure that all lands receive adequate irrigation.

NSP Executive Engineer Babu Rao assured the protesters that water would be released starting Saturday and acknowledged the delays in canal repairs due to various reasons. The release of water, he added, would depend on the condition of the canal.

"Avoid Cheap Criticism": Health Minister Warns KTR

TPN, Hyderabad: Telangana Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha has warned BRS Working President KTR to refrain from cheap comments. He accused the BRS of corrupting the Arogya Shri, EHS, and JHS schemes over the past ten years. Rajanarsimha stated that during KTR's tenure, hospitals were not paid their dues, and Arogya Shri patients were denied treatment without package rate revisions. He questioned whether KTR had seen the lawsuit from corporate hospital owners who insulted pensioners seeking treatment under ECH.

Expressing frustration, he noted that the BRS rushed to address these issues just before the elections, as if a decade of neglect was not enough. He advised BRS leaders to avoid making cheap criticisms. Rajanarsimha highlighted that when the Congress government came to power, the health limit, previously set at Rs. 5 lakh, was immediately increased to Rs. 10 lakh. He added that the revision of packages, which had not been completed in ten years, was accomplished within six months under Congress.

Concerns Mount Over Changes to RRR Alignment in Telangana: BRS

TPN, Hyderabad: Former minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy has voiced serious concerns regarding the recent alterations to the alignment of the southern portion of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) in Telangana, accusing the government of engaging in land encroachments that are harming local farmers.

Reddy has alleged that the changes, initiated by the Telangana government, particularly through Madalabu, have caused widespread disruption. He recalled that the earlier Inner Ring Road (IRR) and Outer Ring Road (ORR) were established to redirect national highway traffic away from entering the city. However, under the leadership of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR), the alignment has been modified to incorporate economic hubs, leading to new land-use strategies.

Reddy was critical of the Congress government's handling of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, which aimed to provide financial relief to farmers, especially through loan waivers and support for tenant farmers. He argued that many of the promises made under the scheme have not been upheld, leaving farmers in a state of confusion and uncertainty.

Moreover, Reddy highlighted the central government's commitment of ₹15,000 crore for land acquisition and road construction, which was based on the original alignment. He argued that the crossing at Gollapalli on Sagar Road, a crucial part of the earlier design, has now been bypassed in favor of new routes that disrupt agricultural lands, raising alarm among farmers.

The former minister accused Congress leaders of manipulating the new alignment to benefit their own properties, suggesting that these changes increase the value of the leaders' land holdings while dividing farmers' lands and harming their livelihoods. Reddy particularly noted that the alignment near Madugula village had been altered to favor a relative of the chief minister, further fueling accusations of favoritism.

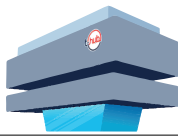
In response to these developments, Reddy has called for a thorough investigation into the alignment changes. He urged central ministers Bandi Sanjay and Kishan Reddy to initiate a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry to examine the motives behind the government's decisions. Reddy emphasized the need for transparency and accountability to protect the interests of farmers and ensure that local communities are not unfairly impacted by the RRR project's alignment modifications.

"Don't Know if KCR's Party Will Exist, But Our Party Will": Sambasiva Rao

TPN, Telangana: CPI MLA Koonanneni Sambasiva Rao participated in the closing meeting of the Telangana Farmers Armed Struggle Week in Gajwel. He expressed concern that KCR's Unity Day and Revanth's Public Rule Day are not being acknowledged. He emphasized that if four and a half thousand communists had not fought, Telangana would not exist. He highlighted that figures like Chakali Ailamma, Doddi Komuraiah, and Mohiddin Gaddar were all communists who sacrificed their lives for Telangana.



Sambasiva Rao stated that ignoring the communist movement when discussing history would be a mistake. He questioned whether KCR's party would still exist but affirmed that the communist party would continue to thrive. He added that despite having given an MLA seat as part of the alliance, the Communist Party would remain dedicated to working for the poor. He challenged Kaushik Reddy and Gandhi to win as MLAs without relying on wrestling as a strategy.



HYDRA Plans to Demolish 20 to 30-Storey Illegal Buildings with Advanced Machinery



TPN, Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Demolition and Removal Authority (HYDRA) is stepping up its efforts to dismantle illegal structures, now setting its sights on buildings as tall as 20 to 30 storeys. So far, HYDRA has successfully demolished over 300 illegal structures across 26 areas in Hyderabad. The largest structure brought down by the authority to date is the Arantastula building, but with the issuance of new tenders, HYDRA is preparing to handle even taller buildings using advanced demolition machinery.

These new machines are expected to enhance the efficiency of the demolition process, especially for high-rise buildings. Alongside this, tenders have been issued for the removal of debris left from the demolition operations. The government has also taken steps to desilt the city's ponds, with plans underway to restore four ponds in the Serilingampally area.

A HYDRA official highlighted that prominent individuals have illegally constructed buildings on ponds and government lands. To prevent these owners from securing court stays, the demolition must be carried out swiftly, often within one to three hours. The official cited the example of the N Convention Center, where a 3D model was used for precise planning before executing the demolition early the next morning.

The official stressed that HYDRA is ensuring it has the right machinery and contractors in place to carry out these demolitions without delay. Contractors are informed of demolitions only four hours in advance and are required to be ready with their vehicles to move anywhere within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits, ensuring swift and effective action against illegal structures.

KTR Accuses Congress Govt of Betraying Farmers Over Loan Waivers

TPN, Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government, accusing it of betraying farmers by failing to deliver on promised loan waivers. KTR warned that the people of Telangana, particularly farmers, would never forget this betrayal, and the chief minister would face significant consequences for what he termed as "deception."

KTR specifically targeted the Congress government for its inconsistent implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme. He highlighted the confusion caused by recent comments from Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, stating that the promises made to support farmers, particularly

tenant farmers, were now being disregarded without explanation. "They made grand election promises about Rythu Bharosa and loan waivers, but now farmers are left in a state of confusion. The government is backing out of its commitments, leaving the farming community in distress," KTR said.

He further criticized the government for failing to deliver on investment support for the Kharif season and not upholding its pledge to guarantee assistance for tenant farmers. KTR accused the Congress of failing to honor the 420 electoral promises made in its manifesto, calling it an act of fraud and deception. "Why make promises you cannot keep? This is nothing but a betrayal of the people, and the government

will have to answer for it," he added.

In addition to his critique of the government's handling of farm issues, KTR also slammed the administration for neglecting the state's healthcare system. He accused the Congress government of failing to care for government employees, pointing to the lack of support for the Employees Health Care Trust, which he said had left nearly 20 lakh families in distress. KTR contrasted the current administration's actions with those of the previous BRS government, which he claimed treated employees like family and ensured their welfare.

KTR's comments have intensified the growing criticism of the Telangana government, with



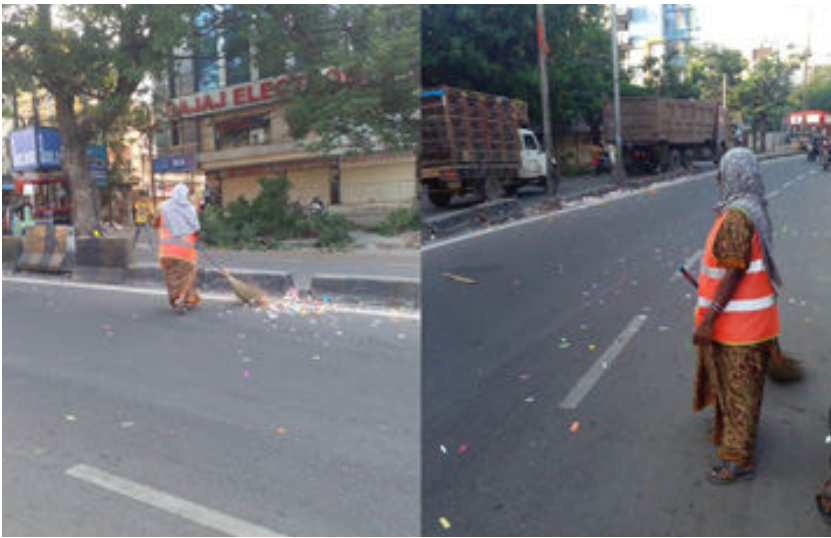
many now questioning the state's ability to fulfill its promises to farmers and government employees.

GHMC Corporators Set for Cleanliness Study Tour

TPN, Hyderabad: As part of Hyderabad's initiative to enhance its civic infrastructure and cleanliness, a group of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) corporators is preparing for a study tour to Indore and several other cities renowned for their cleanliness initiatives.

Scheduled from September 21 to 26, the tour aims to explore successful waste management and sanitation practices that can be replicated in Hyderabad. The GHMC has allocated Rs 1.25 crore for this trip, with each participant's expenses totaling approximately Rs 80,000.

Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi will lead the delegation, which includes 48 corporators from the Congress and BRS parties. Indore, consistently ranked as India's cleanest city under the Swachh Survekshan rankings, is a primary destination due to its acclaimed



sanitation policies and effective waste management systems.

A second delegation, led by Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Reddy, will consist of 47 corporators from Congress and BJP, who will travel to Assam and Guwahati to study

similar practices in those regions. Additionally, 16 corporators from the MIM party will undertake a separate tour.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has emphasized the importance of improving cleanliness standards in Hyderabad and recently instructed municipal officials to closely study Indore's model. The goal is to adopt effective strategies from various cities, focusing on waste segregation, public awareness, and efficient disposal methods.

These study tours are viewed as essential for preparing Hyderabad to improve its cleanliness ranking and overall civic management. The emphasis will be on sustainable urban practices that can help transform Hyderabad into a cleaner, more livable city.

TGSRTC to Roll Out UPI Payments on All RTC Buses After Hyderabad Pilot



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is set to implement UPI payments on all RTC buses soon, following a successful pilot project. This initiative aims to alleviate the challenges faced by conductors in providing change for large currency notes.

Reports indicate that a pilot program for digital payments has already been successfully conducted at the Dilsukhnagar and Bandlaguda bus depots. States such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka have also begun transitioning to UPI payments for buses in a phased approach.

TGSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar has directed RTC officials to adopt digital payment options, including Google Pay, Paytm, PhonePe, credit and debit cards, and other digital methods across all RTC buses.

Additionally, the RTC plans to replace the current TIM machines used by conductors with automatic fare collection system machines in buses statewide.

FIR Filed Over Altercation During Milad Un Nabi Rally in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: The Mangalhat police have registered a case against several individuals for allegedly attacking two local residents during the Milad un Nabi procession on Thursday, September 20. The incident occurred when Suraj Singh was riding his motorcycle for work and got into an argument with a group participating in the procession on Jumerrat Bazaar Road. Mahender Singh, who attempted to defend Suraj, was also reportedly attacked by the procession participants.

Both men sustained injuries and were subsequently taken to Osmania General Hospital for treatment.

Based on Suraj Singh's complaint, the police have filed charges against the accused under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, including 126(2) for wrongful restraint, 115(2) and 118(1) for voluntarily causing hurt with weapons, and 191(2) and 191(3) for rioting.

Four Arrested for Blasting Irrigation Tank Weir in Mancherial

TPN, Mancherial: Four individuals, including the husband of a BRS councilor, were arrested on charges of blasting the surplus weir of an irrigation tank in Chennur on Friday.

Authorities seized a tractor, four gelatine sticks, two mobile phones, a drilling machine, and a motorbike from the suspects. Deputy Commissioner of Police A. Bhaskar detailed the arrests, identifying the accused as Pendyala Laxminarayana, husband of 11th ward councilor Swarnalatha, along with his friends Bheem Madhukar, a driver, and Rasamalla Srinivas, all



from Chennur, and Gogula Danaiah, a stone cutter from ACC Colony in Mancherial.

During the investigation, Laxminarayana confessed that he comm

itted the crime to prevent flooding of certain houses caused by backwaters from the irrigation tank. He revealed that he initially attempted to reduce the height of the weir by hiring Danaiah

On September 16, Laxminarayana detonated the weir using gelatine sticks sourced from Danaiah's shop in Nalgonda. Srinivas, Madhukar, and Danaiah drilled holes in the weir and inserted the explosives to carry out the blast.

SHE Teams Nab 996 Persons Harassing Women During Ganesh Festivities in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: A total of 996 persons were caught harassing women during the recent Ganesh festivities at the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh pandal and other crowded spots in the city.

SHE Team officials stated that the suspects were apprehended for engaging in indecent behavior towards women in public places. Cases were booked, and the individuals were prosecuted. In cases where video evidence could not be captured, the suspects were counseled in the presence of their family members.



For assistance or to report incidents, contact SHE Teams via Dial 100 or WhatsApp at 9490616555.



Tirupati Laddoo Controversy: Protecting Religious Sanctity or Political Agenda?

The Tirupati Laddoo, revered as a sacred 'prasad' by millions of devotees, is at the center of a legal and political storm. A petition in the Supreme Court has raised serious concerns about alleged animal fat in the laddoos distributed at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati. The allegations, primarily concerning the violation of Hindu religious customs, have struck a deep chord with the sentiments of countless devotees. However, the controversy also raises important questions about the management of religious institutions and the intertwining of faith and politics in the public domain.

Religious Rights and Constitutional Protection

The petition filed by lawyer Satyam Singh is grounded in Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of religion, including the practice and preservation of religious customs. The claim that animal fat was found in the sacred prasad is seen as a gross violation of these fundamental religious rights. Devotees regard the Tirupati Laddoo as a divine blessing, and any suggestion of contamination with non-vegetarian substances, particularly beef and pork, is seen as a severe affront to Hindu customs.

This issue is more than just a matter of religious sensibilities. If proven, it could indicate larger systemic problems in temple management, suggesting negligence or malpractice by those entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the sanctity of one of the holiest Hindu shrines. The petition calls for reforms in the administration of temples, urging culturally sensitive and transparent management practices. This reflects a broader concern among many devotees, who feel that religious institutions are not being managed with the reverence they deserve.

Chandrababu Naidu's Allegations and Political Fallout

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's comments have fueled the controversy, with his accusation that the YSR Congress government was responsible for the alleged use of animal fat in the Tirupati Laddoo. According to Naidu, the previous administration had tarnished the sanctity of the temple by allowing such practices. He cited a Gujarat laboratory report which allegedly confirmed traces of beef tallow, fish oil, and lard in the ghee used to make the laddoos.

Naidu's allegations have predictably drawn

sharp political reactions. The BJP, an ally of Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP), has termed the alleged use of animal fat an unforgivable sin, with some leaders hinting that individuals from other religions within the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board may have been responsible for the lapse. This has further complicated the issue, suggesting a communal angle to the controversy.

YSR Congress' Denial and Charges of Political Diversion

On the other side, the YSR Congress and former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy have dismissed the allegations as baseless and politically motivated. Reddy, along with his party leaders, has accused Naidu of employing diversionary tactics to gain political mileage. Senior YSR Congress leader YV Subba Reddy, who served as the TTD chairman, has gone so far as to accuse Naidu of damaging the sanctity of the temple and playing with the faith of millions of Hindus for political gain.

The political overtones of this controversy cannot be ignored. With both sides trading accusations, the real issue—the religious sanctity of the Tirupati Laddoo—risks becoming a casualty of political brinkmanship. It is essential to separate political rhetoric from the genuine concerns of devotees who are deeply hurt by these allegations.

The Need for Accountability and Transparency

At its core, the Tirupati Laddoo row highlights the need for transparency and accountability in the management of religious institutions. Temples like the Sri Venkateswara Temple are not merely places of worship; they are cultural and spiritual landmarks that hold immense significance for millions of people. Any allegations of malpractice, particularly when it comes to sacred offerings like prasad, must be thoroughly investigated.

The Supreme Court's intervention in this matter is timely and necessary. It must ensure that the religious rights of devotees are upheld while also addressing the systemic issues in temple administration. If the allegations of animal fat being used in the laddoos are proven false, it is important that those responsible for spreading misinformation are held accountable. On the other hand, if there is truth to the claims, immediate corrective measures must be taken to restore the faith of devotees.



Greece's Golden Visa Scheme: A Gateway to European Residency for Wealthy Indians

The Greece Golden Visa Programme has gained significant traction among wealthy Indian investors in recent years, offering an attractive pathway to European residency through real estate investments. This premier residency-by-investment initiative has seen a surge in Indian participation, especially in the wake of major changes to the program introduced in September 2024.

What is the Greece Golden Visa Programme?

Launched to attract non-EU nationals, the Greece Golden Visa Programme provides residency rights to individuals who make substantial financial investments in the country, most commonly through the purchase of real estate. It allows investors and their families to reside in Greece and access the wider Schengen Area, offering visa-free travel across 27 European countries.

Surge in Interest Before 2024 Changes

In July and August 2024, Indian investors moved swiftly to secure Greek properties before the changes to the Golden Visa came into effect on September 1. According to available data, there was a remarkable 37% increase in property purchases by Indian nationals during this period. This rush was driven by the desire to lock in lower investment requirements, as the revised regulations have significantly raised the minimum amount needed for eligibility.

Under the new rules, the minimum investment threshold in Tier I cities such as Athens, Thessaloniki, Mykonos, and Santorini has doubled to €800,000 (approximately ₹7 crore). Meanwhile, in Tier II regions, which encompass all other parts of Greece, the required investment has increased from €250,000 to €400,000. These changes reflect Greece's efforts to streamline its residency-by-investment programme while aligning it with broader economic goals.

Key Features and Benefits of the Programme

The Greece Golden Visa is not just about buying property; it opens doors to a range of benefits for the investor and their family. Some of the major advantages include:

1. Residency Rights: Investors have the right to live in Greece, though there is no mandatory requirement for long-term stays. This flexibility is particularly appealing to those who want European residency without the obligation of residing full-time in the country.

2. Schengen Area Access: The visa grants visa-free travel across the Schengen Zone, allowing investors and their families to move freely within 27 European countries.

3. Family Inclusion: Spouses, partners (including those in legally recognized cohabitation agreements), children under 21, and dependent parents of the primary applicant or spouse are all eligible for residency under the programme.

4. Pathway to Citizenship: After seven years of continuous residency, investors may apply for Greek citizenship, though this process is subject to additional conditions.

Eligibility Criteria and Investment Requirements

To qualify for the Greece Golden Visa, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **Non-EU/EEA Citizenship:** The programme is open to non-EU nationals, making it particularly attractive to wealthy investors from countries like India.
- **Age and Character Requirements:** Applicants must be over 18 years of age, have a clean criminal record, and demonstrate good character.
- **Medical Insurance:** Health insurance valid in Greece is mandatory for both the applicant and their family members.

The most common route to securing a visa is through the purchase of real estate. The updated 2024 requirements stipulate that the minimum investment amount varies by location:

- **€800,000 in Tier I regions** such as major cities and popular tourist destinations.
- **€400,000 in Tier II regions**, covering less developed or rural areas.

Application Process and Legal Requirements

The application process for the Golden Visa is relatively straightforward but requires legal representation from a licensed Greek lawyer. Key documentation includes:

- A valid passport and any previous visas.
- Proof of investment, such as property contracts and bank statements.
- Biometric data for the applicant and family members.
- A clean criminal record, translated into Greek.
- Health insurance valid in Greece.

A lawyer is crucial in facilitating the submission of these documents, ensuring compliance with Greek immigration laws. Many applicants grant their lawyer power of attorney, allowing them to act on their behalf during the process.

Renewal and Permanent Residency

The initial residency permit is valid for five years and can be renewed as long as the investment is maintained. Permanent residency may be granted after seven years of continuous residency, making the Greece Golden Visa an attractive long-term investment option for those looking to secure a stable presence in Europe.

The Appeal to Indian Investors

The Greece Golden Visa Programme has found particular favor with wealthy Indians, who are drawn to the dual benefits of European residency and visa-free travel within the Schengen Area. The recent changes to the investment thresholds have made it even more attractive to those seeking premium properties in Greece's most desirable locations, such as Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini.

As the demand for international real estate continues to rise, the Greece Golden Visa Programme remains a premier choice for Indian investors seeking to diversify their assets, gain European residency, and secure a brighter future for their families. The programme's flexibility, coupled with its wide-ranging benefits, makes it one of the most attractive residency-by-investment schemes in Europe today.

Congress Insults India On Foreign Land": PM Modi's Swipe At Rahul Gandhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress party during his address at the National PM Vishwakarma Programme in Wardha, Maharashtra, accusing its leaders, particularly Rahul Gandhi, of insulting the nation during their foreign visits. He criticized Congress for its alleged anti-national rhetoric, saying, "The spirit of patriotism has died in today's Congress," and characterized the party as being influenced by elements he referred to as the "Tukde Tukde Gang" and "Urban Naxals."

Modi highlighted Gandhi's recent speech in the United States, suggesting that Congress leaders have an anti-national agenda that undermines India's culture and unity. He referenced specific incidents, such as the Congress government in Karnataka placing a Ganesh idol in a police van, to illustrate his point about Congress's perceived disregard for Indian traditions.

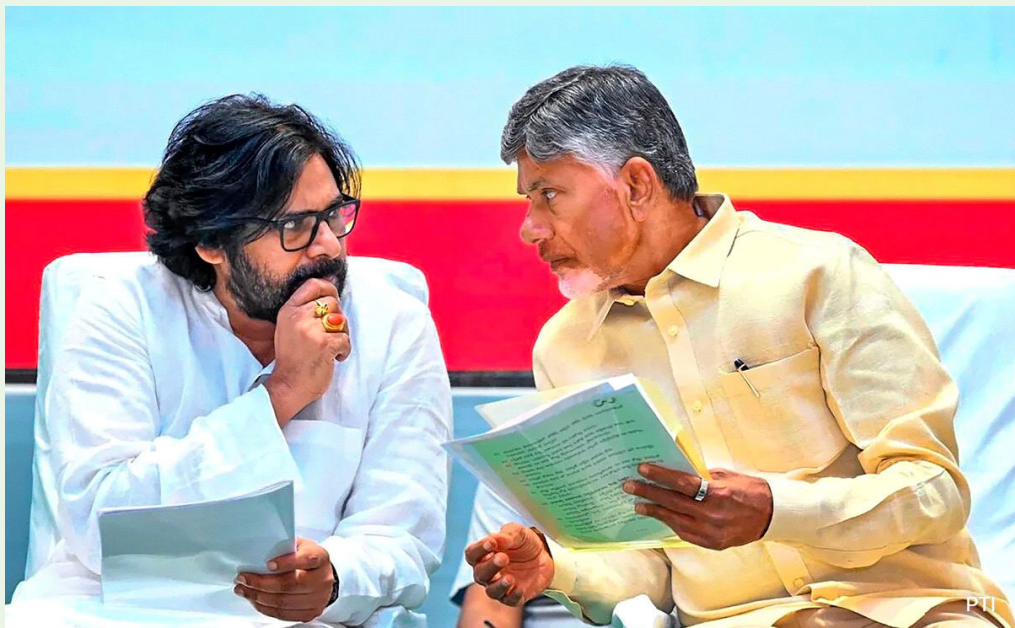
The Prime Minister accused Congress of being synonymous with "lies, deception, and dishonesty," particularly regarding their broken promises to waive farmers' loans in Telangana. He asserted that Congress is the "most dishonest and corrupt party" in the country, with its leadership representing the "most corrupt family" in India.



Modi also addressed the issue of social equity, claiming that the Congress party has historically obstructed the progress of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC). He stated that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has eliminated the "anti-Dalit and anti-backward thinking" that he attributed to Congress, allowing vulnerable communities to benefit from schemes like the Vishwakarma Yojana.

The Prime Minister further criticized the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra for failing to support cotton farmers, accusing them of indulging in corruption instead of empowering the agricultural sector. He highlighted the initiatives taken by the previous government under Devendra Fadnavis, stating that efforts were made to strengthen the textile industry in Maharashtra.

Time for a Sanatana Dharma Rakshana Board: Pawan Kalyan Amid Tirupati Laddoo Row



Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has proposed the establishment of a 'Sanatana Dharma Rakshana Board' to address issues related to temples across the country. His comments follow the ongoing controversy surrounding the alleged use of animal fat in the famed Tirupati laddu, a sacred offering at the Tirumala temple.

In a post on X, Kalyan expressed deep concern over findings indicating that substances such as fish oil, pork fat, and beef fat were mixed into the prasa-

dam, which has sparked widespread outrage among devotees. He criticized the previous YSR Congress government for failing to address these grave concerns and emphasized the need for stringent actions against those responsible.

"This matter sheds light on numerous issues related to temple desecration, land disputes, and other dharmic practices," he stated, asserting that now is the time to consider a national-level board to oversee temple-related issues

across India.

Kalyan called for a comprehensive national debate involving policymakers, religious leaders, the judiciary, and the media to unite against what he termed the "desecration of Sanatana Dharma." He urged all stakeholders to come together to safeguard religious sentiments and ensure respect for Hindu traditions.

The controversy was intensified by comments from Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, who shared a video of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu discussing the use of animal fat in the preparation of Tirupati prasadam. Lokesh expressed shock over the findings, asserting that the use of animal fat disrespects the religious sentiments of countless devotees.

Adding to the allegations, TDP spokesperson Anam Venkata Ramana Reddy claimed that lab reports confirmed the presence of animal fats in the ghee supplied to the temple, which he argued offends the Hindu community.

As the controversy continues to unfold, Kalyan's call for a dedicated board reflects a growing demand for accountability and preservation of religious practices in the state.

Mamata Banerjee's Big Move Against INDIA Ally-Ruled Jharkhand

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has attributed the devastating floods in the state to what she describes as a "man-made disaster," specifically blaming the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for the release of water from Jharkhand reservoirs. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she criticized the DVC for its "unprecedented, unplanned, and unilateral" discharge of nearly 500,000 cusecs from the Maithon and Panchet dams, resulting in severe flooding across South Bengal.

Banerjee noted that the floods have affected over 1,000 square kilometers, impacting nearly 5 million residents, causing significant damage to crops, infrastructure, and homes. She warned that if this approach continues, the West Bengal government may sever ties with the DVC altogether. The Chief Minister stated that the state is currently experiencing the worst floods since 2009, calling the situation a product of sheer neglect.

On Wednesday, Banerjee claimed that



both the DVC and the Jharkhand government were effectively offloading their water problems onto Bengal, stating that

the release of water was a tactic to protect their own interests. Following her statements, the West Bengal government enacted measures to seal its borders with Jharkhand, halting the entry of heavy vehicles in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the floods.

In response, BJP leaders have criticized Banerjee's actions. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma accused her of deflecting blame from her own government's failures and using the situation for political gain. BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari further alleged that Banerjee is trying to distract from a recent high-profile crime in Kolkata by threatening to cut ties with the DVC.

The Union Power Ministry has stated that all water releases from the dams were made in consultation with the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee, which includes representatives from both West Bengal and Jharkhand, and emphasized that the decision to release water was not taken lightly.

AAP Demands Govt Accommodation for Arvind Kejriwal

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has formally requested government accommodation for outgoing Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, asserting that he is entitled to it as the convener of a national party. During a press conference on Friday, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha announced that the party would be writing to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, hoping for a swift response within one or two days.

Kejriwal, who resigned earlier this week, is expected to vacate his official residence within 15 days. Chadha emphasized that all national party leaders are entitled to two essential resources: an office and accommodation to operate from Delhi. AAP achieved national party status following the Gujarat assembly elections in 2022, where it secured several seats and a notable vote percentage.

The Centre had previously provided AAP with an office after a prolonged struggle and court intervention, allowing the party to relocate to its new office on Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane in Mandi House just last month.

Chadha urged the Centre to act without delay or political bias, asserting that Kejriwal's entitlement to government accommodation is a rightful demand. He pointed out that other leaders of national parties, including BJP President JP Nadda, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and BSP leader Mayawati, have all been granted government accommodation in the capital.

The party's national secretary will draft the letter to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, with Chadha expressing hope that the request would not require legal action. He noted that Kejriwal would soon relinquish all official privileges following his resignation, emphasizing that he does not own property or a personal residence.

As the leader of a national party, Kejriwal's need for government accommodation is framed as a matter of rights according to existing laws, and AAP remains committed to ensuring that he receives this support from the government.



PM Should Have Set a Different Example": Priyanka Gandhi on Kharge's Letter

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed her disappointment over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's lack of response to a letter from Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, instead allowing BJP President JP Nadda to issue an "inferior and aggressive" reply. In her remarks, Priyanka highlighted the toxicity in current political discourse, emphasizing that the Prime Minister should have set a more respectful example.

Kharge had written to Modi on Tuesday, urging him to "discipline" BJP leaders for their "objectionable and violent" statements directed at Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The Congress president pointed out specific instances where BJP figures, such as Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu, labeled Gandhi a "number one terrorist." He also cited a comment from Sanjay Gaikwad, an MLA from BJP ally Shiv Sena, who offered ₹11 lakh to anyone who would cut off Gandhi's tongue in response to his remarks about scrapping the reservation system.

In his response, Nadda not only deflected the criticisms but also brought up past insults directed at Modi by Congress leaders. He took a jab at Rahul Gandhi, asserting that the party was attempting to relaunch a "failed product" that voters have repeatedly rejected.

Maldives Expresses Gratitude to India for Budgetary Support

Maldives Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer has expressed his appreciation for India's financial assistance, following the Indian government's decision to extend budgetary support through the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill. In a post on X, Zameer highlighted that this gesture underscores the strong friendship between the Maldives and India.

The State Bank of India (SBI) subscribed to the USD 50 million Treasury Bills issued by the Maldivian Ministry of Finance for an additional year after the previous subscription matured on September 19. This marks the second such rollover in 2024, following an earlier extension in May.

Zameer thanked External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for this critical support, noting that it aligns with the Maldives' fiscal consolidation efforts amid ongoing economic challenges. The Maldivian government is reportedly highly appreciative of India's assistance, which was discussed during Zameer's meeting with Jaishankar in August.

The Indian High Commission emphasized the

importance of the Maldives as a key maritime neighbor under India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. The recent financial support reflects India's commitment to aiding the Maldives, particularly in times of need, and aligns with India's broader vision of security and growth for all in the region.

Despite recent tensions following the election of President Mohamed Muizzu—who initially called for the removal of Indian military personnel—the Maldivian government has recently adopted a more conciliatory approach. This shift comes after a series of high-level visits, including Jaishankar's visit in August, where he signed agreements on capacity building and inaugurated six community development projects.

The evolving relationship between the Maldives and India highlights the significance of their partnership, with both nations looking to enhance collaboration for mutual benefit. As diplomatic efforts continue, the Maldives hopes to strengthen ties with India, ensuring continued support for its development and stability.



China and India: Partners for Development, Not Rivals



China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, emphasized the cooperative potential between the two largest developing nations during a recent press conference. He stated that both countries share the responsibility of enhancing the livelihoods of their populations and have reached significant consensus under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Highlighting historical ties, Xu recalled the five principles of peaceful coexistence established in the 1950s, which he described as foundational for international relations. He asserted that China and India should be seen as developmental partners rather than competitors, providing a roadmap for improving bilateral relations.

Xu acknowledged India's initiatives such as "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India) and "Make in India," noting that these efforts aim to position India as a global manufacturing hub. He expressed China's commitment to modernizing its economy while offering new opportunities for cooperation, inviting Indian commodities into the Chinese market and encouraging

Indian businesses to invest in China.

The ambassador praised India's economic reforms under Modi, acknowledging the complexities involved in reforming a nation of 1.4 billion people. He reiterated China's desire to share its modernization experiences with India to foster mutual growth.

Recent diplomatic engagements, including meetings between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian officials, signal a desire to improve bilateral relations. The two countries have been addressing border issues, with Jaishankar reporting that 75% of disengagement problems along the Line of Actual Control have been resolved.

While acknowledging past tensions, Xu reaffirmed that both nations can enhance their partnership, citing a shared vision for peace and development. The ongoing dialogue aims to establish a stable and cooperative relationship that benefits both nations and promotes regional stability.

India Joining UN Security Council With Veto Power

For decades, Indian politicians have asserted that the nation deserves a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). As an aspiring superpower, India argues that it has been unfairly excluded from this high table. Despite support from several international dignitaries and coalitions advocating for UNSC reforms, experts remain skeptical about imminent changes.

India faces four major challenges in its pursuit of a UNSC seat. Among the five permanent members—the US, UK, France, and Russia have historically backed India, but China remains a significant obstacle. As India's regional competitor, China is unlikely to endorse New Delhi's candidacy, especially amid ongoing border disputes. Furthermore, China has shown discomfort with Japan's bid for a permanent seat, fearing that

supporting India might bolster Japan's position.

Some factions propose that India could secure UNSC membership without veto power. However, India firmly believes that any new permanent member must possess veto rights, making this proposition unacceptable to New Delhi.

While the US has, in principle, endorsed India's candidacy, doubts linger regarding its actual support. Historical patterns suggest reluctance among permanent members to extend veto powers, fearing a shift in the balance of influence.

India's leadership is challenged by regional dynamics, particularly in South Asia, where tensions with neighbors like Pakistan and China complicate its standing.



Jammu And Kashmir Phase 1 Polling Turnout Didn't Reach 2014 Election Level

In the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections, voter turnout has not only disappointed but has also failed to match the 2014 assembly election figures. This election marks the first assembly polls in a decade, yet the anticipated surge in participation did not materialize. According to the Election Commission, a voter turnout of 61% was recorded for the 24 seats contested, a drop from the 66% seen in 2014 despite various challenges, including calls for boycott from separatist groups.

Factors such as improved security and the absence of boycott calls were expected to encourage higher voter participation. Notably, the participation of the Jamaat-e-Islami was also seen as a potential boost. However, the results indicate that in several constituencies, especially in South Kashmir, voter turnout has decreased compared to 2014.

For instance, in the Pampore assembly seat, turnout fell from 47% in 2014 to just 42%. Similarly, the Rajpora seat in Pulwama recorded a slight decrease, from 47% to 45%. The DH Pora seat saw a significant drop from 77% in 2014 to 65% this year, while Dooru's turnout declined from 63% to 57%. In Shangus, Anantnag, the voting percentage plummeted from 67% to 52%.

While the recent parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed a record-breaking turnout, raising hopes for robust participation in the assembly polls, the first phase's turnout suggests otherwise. Political parties campaigned vigorously, yet their efforts did not translate into increased votes in many areas.

The second phase of polling is scheduled for September 25, followed by the third phase on October 1. Votes will be counted on October 8, as all eyes remain on the future turnout and its implications for the region's political landscape.





Sensex Breaks 84,000 Mark, Nifty Touches New High Amid US Fed Rate Cut Boost

Domestic benchmark indices broke old records on Friday. New ones are created. BSE Sensex broke the 84,000 mark for the first time. And Nifty has touched 25700 level. Positive signals were received from the international markets as the US Fed cut interest rates by 50 basis points. In the morning, indices started running as domestic investors along with foreign institutional investors took up purchases. After reaching lifetime highs, they suddenly fall. European markets rallied well after the opening. With this, the wealth of investors in BSE has increased by Rs.6 lakh crore. In the NSE, all the sector indices were hit.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 83,184 in the previous session, opened at 83,603 today. It touched an intraday low of 83,187. The index rose by 1000 points in the afternoon and crossed the 84000 mark for the first time. The index, which had fallen briefly before European markets opened, soon recovered to touch an intraday high of 84,694. Finally ended at 84,544 with a gain of 1359 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,525, touched a low of 25,426 and a high of 25,849. The total rose by 375 points to close at 25,790. Bank Nifty jumped 755 points to settle at 53,793.

In Nifty50, 44 companies gained while 6 lost. M&M, ICICI Bank, JSW Steel, LT, Coal India were the top gainers. Grasim, SBI, NTPC, IndusInd Bank and Heromoto were major losers. Today, except for PSU Bank, all sector indices rose. Bank, auto, finance, FMCG, metal, private bank and realty indices rose more.

Nifty support is at 25550 and resistance is at 25800. Investors can buy shares of JSW Steel, LT, DLF, Escort and Mankind in short term.

Tatasteel commissions largest blast furnace in Odisha. Bharat Forge has transferred 50% stake in Refoo Drive to Kalyani Power Train Limited. Adani Ports and Roriks Holdings have entered into an MoU. Wonderla Holidays has launched an amusement park in Bhubaneswar. Lemon Tree Hotels has signed a license agreement for a 40-room hotel in Jammu and Kashmir. TCS has opened a new office in Warsaw, Poland. Bharti Airtel lost 16.94 lakh users on a monthly basis. But added 12.52 lakh new users. Reliance Jio lost 7.85 lakh people and gained 19.11 lakh people. Banned Axis Capital Limited from debt merchant activities.

1. JSW Steel

JSW Steel is one of India's largest steel producers and has been benefiting from strong domestic and international demand for steel. The company's focus on capacity expansion and improving operational efficiencies has contributed to its solid performance. The company has been ramping up its capacity to meet rising demand, both domestically and internationally. The push for infrastructure development globally, particularly in India, continues to drive steel demand.



2. Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

L&T is a major player in the infrastructure and construction space, with a diversified business model that spans multiple sectors including heavy engineering, defense, and IT services. The company has been benefiting from India's infrastructure boom and increased government spending on projects. L&T's order book remains robust, and the company's ongoing focus on executing large infrastructure projects both domestically and internationally bodes well for its growth prospects.



LARSEN & TOUBRO

3. DLF

DLF, a leader in India's real estate sector, has been benefiting from strong demand in both residential and commercial properties. The company's financial performance has improved significantly as the real estate sector recovers from past slowdowns. DLF has seen a revival in demand for luxury housing and commercial spaces, particularly in metro cities. The company's ongoing projects and a positive outlook for the real estate sector add to its attractiveness.



4. Escorts Kubota

Escorts Kubota is a leading manufacturer of agricultural and construction equipment in India. The company has been showing steady growth due to rising demand for farm equipment, driven by favorable monsoon conditions and strong rural income growth. Escorts has been expanding its product portfolio and focusing on innovation in its farm equipment, which has supported its growth. The company's strategic tie-up with Kubota also adds to its international growth potential.



5. Mankind Pharma

Mankind Pharma is a major pharmaceutical company in India, with a strong presence in domestic healthcare and FMCG markets. The company's focus on expanding its product offerings and geographical reach supports its long-term growth prospects. Mankind's efforts to grow its portfolio, particularly in high-growth therapeutic segments such as cardiovascular and anti-diabetic drugs, make it a key player in the pharmaceutical space. Additionally, its foray into over-the-counter (OTC) healthcare products boosts its revenue diversification.



SEBI Bans Axis Capital from Debt Assignments Over Violations

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed restrictions on Axis Capital Limited (ACL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Axis Bank, barring it from accepting new assignments as a merchant banker, arranger, or underwriter in the debt segment. This action comes in response to alleged violations of regulatory norms related to non-convertible debentures (NCDs) issued by Sojo Infotel, for which ACL served as the merchant banker.



According to SEBI's findings, ACL was accused of providing guarantees or indemnities concerning the redemption of NCDs, disguising these actions as underwriting. Such practices are prohibited under existing regulations, as they pose significant risks to the financial system and could disrupt the orderly functioning of the market.

SEBI's investigation highlighted concerns about the integrity of the underwriting process and the potential for such violations to undermine investor confidence and market stability. By acting outside its permitted scope, ACL risked not only its reputation but also the broader integrity of the financial markets.

The regulator's order emphasizes the need for strict adherence to established guidelines in the capital markets. By restricting ACL's activities,

SEBI aims to reinforce compliance and maintain a level playing field for all market participants.

As a result of this ruling, ACL is currently prohibited from engaging in any new assignments until further notice. The implications of this restriction could affect the company's operations and its ability to participate in future debt offerings.

SEBI's actions underscore its commitment to upholding regulatory standards and ensuring that financial institutions operate within the legal framework designed to protect investors and maintain market order. The ongoing scrutiny of merchant banking practices reflects the regulator's proactive approach to safeguarding the financial system against potential risks.

RuPay BOBCARD Users Can Convert Purchases to EMIs via UPI

RuPay BOBCARD credit card holders can now easily convert their purchases into equated monthly installments (EMIs) by scanning a QR code through UPI (Unified Payments Interface) apps. This new feature allows users to link their RuPay credit cards to popular platforms such as Amazon Pay, BHIM, CRED, Google Pay, Paytm, and PhonePe.



card users.

With this option, users can convert any UPI transaction into EMIs at both online and offline merchants that accept UPI payments. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced this feature in April 2024, aiming to enhance the payment flexibility for RuPay credit

BOBCARD Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, is one of the first entities to implement this feature for its credit card users, paving the way for other banks to adopt similar functionalities. As more institutions follow suit, RuPay credit card holders can expect increased convenience in managing their purchases.

Adani Group Set to Acquire 46.64% Stake in ITD Cementation India

The Adani Group is poised to acquire a 46.64% promoter stake in ITD Cementation India, as reported by the Economic Times. This strategic move, valued at ₹5,888.57 crore (approximately \$700 million), aims to bolster Adani's in-house civil engineering capabilities and expand its extensive portfolio, which includes airports, highways, ports, power plants, and real estate projects.



An agreement between the involved parties was reportedly reached earlier this week, with an official announcement anticipated soon. However, the details remain unverified. ITD Cementation India, a well-established engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) company, has a history dating back to pre-independence India. As of the June quarter, its current promoter, Italian-Thai Development Public Co, held a 46.64% stake in the company.

In July, ITD Cementation informed stock exchanges of the promoters' intentions to divest their stakes, although they were still in the preliminary stages without definitive agreements in place.

This acquisition reflects Adani Group's ongoing expansion efforts and commitment to enhancing its capabilities in the infrastructure sector. The company has not yet responded to requests for comments regarding this deal. Similarly, Italian-Thai Development and ITD Cementation have remained silent on the matter.

With the infrastructure sector in India experiencing significant growth, this acquisition could position the Adani Group favorably to leverage new opportunities. As infrastructure development continues to be a priority for the Indian government, the synergies gained from this acquisition could prove valuable in fulfilling various project requirements and expanding the Adani Group's operational footprint in the EPC domain.

Government Aims to Reduce Logistics Costs to Single Digits by 2030

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the government's ambitious plan to reduce logistics costs to single digits by 2030. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to enhance India's logistics performance, which has seen significant improvements over the past decade.

India's position in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) has notably advanced, climbing 15 ranks to reach 39 in 2023. This upward trajectory reflects the government's efforts to streamline logistics and transportation systems across the country. An analysis of LPI data highlights that India has excelled in international shipments, now ranking 22 out of 139 economies, a significant improvement from its previous rank of 44 a decade ago.

Despite these advancements, high logistics costs continue to pose a challenge for the Indian economy. The government recognizes that reducing these costs is crucial for enhancing competitiveness and attracting investment. Minister Gadkari emphasized that achieving lower logistics costs will not only benefit businesses but also contribute to overall economic growth.

The government's approach to achieving this goal includes investing in infrastructure development, promoting multimodal transportation, and leveraging technology to optimize logistics operations. Initiatives such as the National Logistics Policy aim to create a more efficient logistics ecosystem by integrating various modes of transport and improving connectivity.



By addressing logistical inefficiencies and reducing costs, the government aims to bolster India's standing in global trade and support the nation's economic ambitions. As logistics costs are a key factor in determining the competitiveness of industries, the government's commitment to this goal is expected to have far-reaching implications for businesses across the country.

With a focus on sustainable practices and innovative solutions, the government seeks to transform India's logistics sector, making it a vital component of the nation's economic framework. The successful implementation of these plans will be crucial in determining the future trajectory of India's logistics performance and overall economic health.

SRI LANKA ELECTIONS 2024: A CLOSE LOOK AT THE 5 KEY CANDIDATES AND THEIR STANCES



Sri Lanka is set to hold a pivotal presidential election on Saturday, marking a critical moment in the country's efforts to recover from its worst-ever economic crisis. The island nation is currently under the leadership of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is seeking re-election. The election will determine the nation's future path as it grapples with reforms aimed at stabilizing its fragile economy.

Ranil Wickremesinghe: The Incumbent Leader



At 75 years old, Ranil Wickremesinghe is looking for a fresh mandate after taking office in July 2022, following the resignation of his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, amid widespread protests. Wickremesinghe, a seasoned politician and leader of the United National Party (UNP), is running as an independent candidate. His leadership is credited with restoring calm in a country reeling from severe shortages of food, fuel, and medicine, as well as helping stabilize the economy through tough decisions and international support.

Wickremesinghe has emphasized the need for continued economic reforms, positioning himself as the leader who can maintain law and order, strengthen democracy, and push Sri Lanka towards a stronger export economy. However, he faces a significant challenge in this election, where 38 candidates are vying for the presidency.

Sajith Premadasa: The Opposition Leader

Sajith Premadasa, 57, heads the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), a centrist party that broke away from Wickremesinghe's UNP in 2020. Premadasa, the son of former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, has been a vocal critic of the current government's approach to the IMF bailout programme. He advocates for adjustments to the \$2.9 billion deal, proposing tax reforms to ease the burden of the cost of living on the public.

His platform includes a blend of interventionist policies and



free-market reforms, aimed at reducing poverty and economic inequality in Sri Lanka.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake: The Rising Marxist

At 55, Anura Kumara Dissanayake has gained momentum with his anti-corruption stance and pro-poor policies. He leads the People's Liberation Front (PLF) and is contesting under the National People's Power (NPP) coalition. Though his party holds only three seats in parliament, Dissanayake has garnered significant support, with pre-election surveys showing him leading with 36% of voter preference.



Dissanayake advocates for stronger state intervention and a more closed-market approach to protect local industries and workers, positioning himself as the candidate for those disillusioned by mainstream politics.

Namal Rajapaksa: The Rajapaksa Dynasty's New Face

Namal Rajapaksa, 38, represents the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), the party founded by his uncle Basil and associated with the powerful Rajapaksa family. As the son of former President Mahinda Ra-



japaksa and nephew of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Namal's entry into the race is seen as an attempt to unite the SLPP and challenge Wickremesinghe's bid for re-election.

However, Namal faces an uphill battle, as the Rajapaksa family's legacy has been marred by public dissatisfaction following the 2022 crisis that saw Gotabaya Rajapaksa flee the country.

Nuwan Bopage: The People's Candidate

Nuwan Bopage, 40, is the candidate of the Peoples' Struggle Alliance (PSA) and hopes to tap into the public anger that toppled Gotabaya Rajapaksa two years ago. With a strong anti-corruption platform, Bopage is focused on pro-poor policies and opposes Sri Lanka's current alignment with the IMF programme.



As a relatively new face in national politics, Bopage aims to represent the aspirations of ordinary Sri Lankans, especially those who participated in the massive protests that changed the country's leadership in 2022.

The Road Ahead

The 2024 presidential election will shape the future of Sri Lanka's economic and political landscape. With voters set to choose between continuity under Wickremesinghe or a new direction from a range of opposition candidates, the outcome will determine whether the country remains on its current reform path or moves towards a different approach to recovery.



In the coming days, all eyes will be on these key candidates as Sri Lanka prepares for one of its most consequential elections in recent history.

Amazon Launches AI Video Generator for Ads



Amazon has unveiled a new artificial intelligence (AI) video generator tool designed to create advertisements, allowing advertisers to produce engaging video content using just a single product image. Announced on Thursday, this tool aims to simplify the ad creation process by generating “content-rich” videos that highlight the product’s unique selling propositions and features. Currently, these AI tools are available to select advertisers in the U.S. on a beta basis.

The AI Video Generator, part of Amazon Ads, is touted for its ability to create visually appealing video ads that can capture customer interest. The videos can range from six to nine seconds in length, produced at a resolution of 720p and 24 frames per second. Each video takes up to five minutes to generate and provides users with four variations to choose from.

In addition to the video generator, Amazon has introduced a new live image capability for its existing

AI image generator, aimed at enterprise clients. This feature allows users to create short, animated campaign images, reminiscent of looping GIFs that often appear in online advertisements.

While Amazon demonstrated the live image feature, specific details about the video generator remain sparse. An Amazon spokesperson indicated that the generated ads follow a structured template consisting of two scenes, complete with headlines, background music, and a call to action. Advertisers can also customize the soundtrack, and the brand logo appears in the upper-right corner of the frame.

However, it remains unclear whether users can provide natural language prompts for specific instructions or if there are options for editing generated videos. As Amazon continues to innovate in the advertising space, these tools could provide a significant advantage for brands looking to enhance their marketing efforts.

Blinkit to already cross 300 Apple iPhone 16 deliveries, CEO says

As Apple enthusiasts flocked to the flagship stores in Delhi and Mumbai this morning for the eagerly awaited iPhone 16 series, many customers were relieved to discover that they could skip the long lines. Quick commerce apps like Blinkit and BigBasket are providing fast delivery options for the new devices, with Blinkit promising deliveries in about 10 minutes.

Blinkit is particularly making waves, nearing 300 deliveries across India. Co-founder and CEO Albinder Dhindsa announced this milestone on X, stating, “We started delivering iPhones at 8 AM - and we’re going to cross the 300 mark in a couple of minutes. Today is going to be one crazy day!”

Customers inquired about financing options, and Dhindsa confirmed that EMI options are available, making it even easier for buyers to secure the latest iPhone.

The iPhone 16 series, available in select cities including Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru, starts at ₹79,900 for the base model. Blinkit has partnered with Unicorn Stores, an authorized Ap-



ple retailer, for these quick deliveries, marking their third consecutive year of collaboration for launch day sales.

This innovative approach allows customers to avoid the hassle of physical queues while still accessing the latest technology promptly. With rapid delivery options gaining traction, the convenience factor for tech enthusiasts continues to rise, reflecting a broader trend in consumer behavior favoring speed and efficiency.

TikTok Users Controversial Trend of Eating Dirt for Health Benefits



A surprising trend has emerged within the health and wellness community, with TikTok users advocating for the consumption of dirt as a remedy for various ailments. This peculiar practice, dubbed “geophagy,” claims to improve gut health, skin conditions, and even aid in weight management. Fertility and hormone coach Stephanie Adler is a prominent voice in this movement, encouraging her followers to explore the potential benefits of eating organic soil. In a viral TikTok video, she asserted that just one teaspoon of biodynamic soil contains more microorganisms than there are humans on Earth.

In tandem with this trend, e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Etsy have started selling edible clay and soil products, ranging in price from ₹900 to ₹2,200. These products, which come in forms like powders and clay chunks, are marketed with promises of anti-aging benefits, enhanced skin health, and balanced oil production. One vendor on Amazon markets edible red clay for \$11.99 (about ₹1,002), touting its ability to unclog pores, tighten skin, and promote a healthy complexion.

Interestingly, some recent research supports the idea that consuming dirt could have genuine health benefits. A 2019 study highlighted the role of soil in shaping the human gut microbiome, which is essential for overall health. Historically, humans have consumed soil as a supplement to their diets, and certain types of soil have been used for detoxification and medicinal purposes.

Moreover, studies suggest that certain compounds found in dirt may help absorb body fat, offering potential weight loss benefits. Experts from the University of Helsinki noted that direct contact with natural soil can alter skin microbiota, fostering a healthier balance of microorganisms and possibly preventing immune system disorders.

Social media users lack control over data used by AI

A recent report from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has raised significant alarms about the data management practices of major social media companies, including Meta Platforms, TikTok, and Twitch. The report, released on Thursday, critiques these platforms for their lack of transparency and inadequate user data controls, particularly regarding the use of artificial intelligence systems.

The FTC’s analysis scrutinized how companies manage user data, concluding that many have “woefully inadequate” data retention and management policies. Notable platforms such as YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Snap, Discord, and Reddit were also evaluated, although specific practices were not disclosed in the report.

In response, Discord argued that the report inaccurately conflates various busi-



ness models, pointing out that it did not offer advertising during the study period. Similarly, a spokesperson for X noted that the report reflects practices from 2020 and emphasized that the platform has since improved its data privacy measures. They claimed X takes user data privacy seriously and provides options for users to control their data sharing.

The FTC highlighted how social media companies collect data through various tracking technologies and data broker

partnerships. Chair Lina Khan emphasized that while these practices are profitable, they pose serious risks to user privacy and safety, exposing individuals to threats such as identity theft and stalking.

Data privacy, especially concerning minors, remains a critical issue in legislative discussions. The U.S. House of Representatives is currently reviewing bills aimed at mitigating social media’s impact on younger audiences. In a proactive step, Meta has introduced enhanced parental controls for teen accounts.

The report also noted that social media companies not only gather information on active users but also collect data on individuals who do not use their services. This includes age, gender, income, and other personal information, often without clear consent or awareness from the users.

How Ultra-Processed Foods Impact Heart Health

Emerging research indicates that ultra-processed foods can have detrimental effects on heart health. These highly manufactured products often contain numerous ingredients and additives such as artificial flavors, colors, preservatives, and sweeteners, along with unhealthy fats, sugars, and salt. Regular consumption of these foods is linked to increased LDL (bad) cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, and obesity—major risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

Ultra-processed foods are typically rich in trans fats and saturated fats, which can raise LDL cholesterol and lower HDL (good) cholesterol. This imbalance contributes to plaque buildup in arteries, increasing the risk of atherosclerosis, a condition that narrows arteries and restricts blood flow. The high sugar content



commonly found in these foods further exacerbates obesity and inflammation, increasing the likelihood of heart disease.

Many ultra-processed foods, such as packaged snacks and ready-to-eat meals, contain excessive sodium. A diet high in salt is strongly associated with hypertension (high blood pressure), which can damage arteries and elevate the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Additionally, high salt intake can cause fluid reten-

tion, further stressing the heart and increasing the risk of heart failure.

Ultra-processed foods are calorie-dense and nutrient-poor, leading to weight gain and a higher risk of obesity. Obesity is a significant risk factor for heart disease and is closely linked to metabolic syndrome—a cluster of conditions that includes high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and abnormal cholesterol levels.

These foods often contain artificial additives that can trigger chronic inflammation and oxidative stress in the body, damaging blood vessel linings and promoting arterial plaque buildup.

Recent studies suggest that ultra-processed foods negatively affect gut health, which is increasingly recognized as vital for heart health. Disruptions in gut bacteria can lead to systemic inflammation, further linked to heart disease.



Vikram Rathour Joins Rajasthan Royals as Batting Coach

Rajasthan Royals have announced the appointment of Vikram Rathour as their new batting coach, further strengthening their coaching staff. This move follows the arrival of cricketing legend Rahul Dravid as head coach, marking a significant development for the franchise. Dravid, who recently concluded a successful tenure with the India men's team culminating in T20 World Cup victory, will reunite with Rathour, who previously served as a batting coach under Dravid in the Indian setup.

Despite a brief international playing career, Rathour has been instrumental in shaping the future of Indian cricket, particularly in nurturing emerging batting talent. Dravid expressed his enthusiasm for Rathour's appointment, highlighting the duo's shared history and mutual understanding. "Having worked closely with Vikram for many years, I can confidently say that his technical expertise, calm demeanor, and deep understanding of Indian conditions make him a perfect fit for the Royals," Dravid stated. He emphasized their strong rapport and past successes, hoping to replicate that at Rajasthan Royals.

The objectives for Rathour and Dravid mirror those they pursued in their coaching roles for India. Since India's last T20 World Cup win in 2007 and the end of an ICC Trophy drought in 2013,



both men have faced challenges. Similarly, the Royals, having claimed their only IPL title in 2008, have also underperformed over the years. However, under captain Sanju Samson, the team has shown promise, coming close to their second title in 2022 when they finished as runners-up to the Gujarat Titans.

Rathour expressed his excitement

about joining the Royals, stating, "It's a privilege to be part of the Royals family. The opportunity to work again with Rahul and alongside a talented group of young cricketers is hugely exciting. I look forward to contributing to the team's vision and working toward developing top-class players for the Royals." With this new coaching partnership, the Royals aim to build a formidable team for future IPL seasons.

Travis Head's Century Leads Australia to Victory Over England in 1st ODI

Travis Head's outstanding performance, featuring a career-best 154 not out, propelled Australia to a seven-wicket victory over England in the first one-day international at Trent Bridge. Chasing a target of 316 runs, Australia reached 317-3 with six overs to spare, marking their 13th consecutive ODI win against all opponents and taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Australia's victory was aided by Marnus Labuschagne's surprising success with the ball after losing the toss. England appeared set for a huge total at 201-2, with Ben Duckett nearing a century at 95. However, Labuschagne, bowling as a part-time leg-spinner, caught Duckett off his own bowling and quickly dismissed Harry Brook for 39, who was captaining England for the first time. Labuschagne finished with impressive figures of 3-39, helping to dismantle England's batting line-up, which lost its last six wickets for just 59 runs.

Adam Zampa, marking his 100th ODI appearance, also contributed signifi-



cantly, taking 3-49 in his full quota of overs. Labuschagne later showcased his batting prowess, partnering with Head for an unbroken 148-run stand, scoring 77 not out off 61 balls.

Despite nearly getting caught early in his innings, Head went on to achieve his sixth ODI century from 129 balls, featuring 20 fours and five sixes. He surpassed his previous highest ODI score of 152 against England in Melbourne two years ago, reaching 150 with a spectacular six off Liam Livingstone.

After winning the toss, England had strong contributions from Duckett and Will Jacks, who scored brisk fifties. However, after Jacks was dismissed for 62, England's innings fell apart. Captain Brook admitted their total was below par, while Australia's captain, Mitchell Marsh, praised the team's resilience amid illness affecting several players, including fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. The series continues at Headingley on Saturday.

Bumrah Shines as India Dominates Bangladesh in Opening Test

Jasprit Bumrah's exceptional bowling left Bangladesh's batting lineup in disarray, as India established a commanding 308-run lead by the end of the second day's play in the opening Test. Bumrah took 4 wickets for 50 runs, partnering effectively with Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19), and Ravindra Jadeja (2/19) to dismiss Bangladesh for just 149 in their first innings, in response to India's 376.

After securing a 227-run lead, India faced a rocky start in their second innings, losing skipper Rohit Sharma (5) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) early, with the score at 28. Rohit edged a delivery from Taskin Ahmed to gully, while Jaiswal fell to an expansive drive off Nahid Rana.

Despite the early wickets, Shubman Gill stabilized the innings alongside



Virat Kohli, adding 39 runs for the third wicket. Gill showcased impressive stroke play, including a standout boundary through covers. However, Kohli's leg-before dismissal to spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz late in the day slightly dampened India's progress.

Bumrah's incisive bowling was the

highlight, as he claimed the first breakthrough by dismissing Shadman Islam, who fell victim to an in-cutter. This set the tone for the Bangladesh innings, with Bumrah also taking the wickets of Mushfiquir Rahim, Taskin Ahmed, and Hasan Mahmud.

Bangladesh's middle-order struggled, with Litton Das (22) and Shakib Al-Hasan (32) forming a brief partnership before their dismissals. Litton's unnecessary slog sweep off Jadeja was caught by substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel, while Shakib's reverse sweep deflected off his boots to Rishabh Pant.

Akash Deep quickly added two more wickets, hastening Bangladesh's collapse. Despite a few moments of resistance, they ultimately faltered, with India's bowlers capitalizing on their timid approach.



Yuzvendra Chahal Shines With Successive Five-Wicket Haul For Northamptonshire

Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal showcased his exceptional bowling skills by taking a five-wicket haul in his second consecutive match for Northamptonshire, leading the team to a convincing nine-wicket victory over Leicestershire in the English County Championship. Chahal's performance was pivotal, as he followed up his earlier figures of 4/82 with an impressive 5/134, totaling a remarkable nine-wicket match haul.

After bowling Leicestershire out for 316, Northamptonshire set a modest target of 137 runs. The team comfortably chased this down in just 30.3 overs, losing only the wicket of Gus Miller, who scored 11 runs. Skipper Luke Procter anchored the innings with an unbeaten 68, while George Bartlett contributed a solid 54 not out to secure the win.

Leicestershire resumed play on the final day at 69/4, and Scott Currie and Tom Scriven fought back with a strong partnership. Currie notably reached a century, scoring 120 runs before Chahal ended his innings, marking his fifth wicket of the match. Chahal's bowling proved crucial in dismantling Leicestershire's middle and lower order, with key dismissals including that of captain Lewis Hill, who managed just 14 runs, and Liam Treadwell for 2 runs.

Despite conceding runs during a challenging 110-run partnership between Currie and Scriven, Chahal remained determined and eventually claimed Currie's wicket, leaving Leicestershire reeling at 303/9. The innings concluded shortly after, with Saif Zaib adding to the bowling success by dismissing Louis Kimber.

In his previous outing, Chahal had delivered another stellar performance with figures of 5/45 and 4/45 against Derbyshire, contributing significantly to Northamptonshire's 133-run victory. With these back-to-back stellar performances, Chahal continues to prove his value in the County Championship and remains a key player for his team.



Inoka Ranaweera Named in Sri Lanka's T20 World Cup Squad

Sri Lanka has included experienced spinner Inoka Ranaweera in their 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024. The 38-year-old left-arm orthodox spinner last represented Sri Lanka during their unbeaten run in the T20 World Cup Qualifier earlier this year.

Ranaweera replaces pace bowler Kawya Kavindi in a squad that largely maintains the core that led to their Asia Cup triumph. Veteran Chamari Athapaththu continues as captain, steering a team that has shown impressive form recently, including series victories in England and South Africa.

The selectors have placed their trust in 18-year-old opener Vishmi Gunaratne, who demonstrated remarkable maturity during the South Africa tour. Middle-order batter Kavisha Dilhari, also noteworthy for her performances in that series, joins the squad alongside Harshitha Samarawickrama, who was named Player of the Match in the Asia Cup final against India.

Sri Lanka is placed in Group A alongside cricketing giants India, Australia, Pakistan, and New Zealand. They will begin their World Cup journey on October 3 against Pakistan, aiming to build on their recent successes and make a strong impact in the tournament.



Grand ANR Centenary Celebrations Under Akkineni Family



- Akkineni Nageswara Rao's postal stamp released on the occasion of his centenary.

- 600 fans gifted clothes. - Megastar Chiranjeevi received the ANR Award from Amitabh Bachchan on October 28.

- Akkineni Nagarjuna expressed his pleasure in celebrating the ANR-100 Film Festival in 31 cities.

On the centenary of Natasamrat, Padma Vibhushan Akkineni Nageswara Rao, the Film Heritage Foundation organized the "ANR 100 - King of the Silver Screen" film festival in association with the NFDC-National Film Archive of India. The festival commenced grandly with the screening of ANR's iconic film *Devadasu* in the presence of fans and family members. The festival includes screenings of *Devadasu* (1953), *Missamma* (1955), *Mayabazaar* (1957), *Bharya Bhartulu* (1961), *Gundamma Katha* (1962), *Doctor Chakraborty* (1964), *Sudigundalu* (1968), *Prem Nagar* (1971), *Premabhishekam* (1981), and *Manam* (2014) across the country. The Film Heritage Foundation and Annapurna Studios have jointly taken the initiative to restore these 10 masterpiece movie prints in 4K. Audiences are enjoying these classics in excellent quality.

Today (Friday), Akkineni Nageswara Rao's centenary celebrations were grandly organized by the Akkineni family. Tributes were paid to the statue of ANR at Annapurna Studios. Akkineni's fans from both Telugu states thronged Annapurna Studios to pay their respects to the legendary actor. Akkineni's family members had lunch with the fans. On this occasion, 600 fans were given clothes. Akkineni Nagarjuna spoke at a media conference organized for the occasion. He said, "Father laughed and taught us life. That's why we keep smiling when we think of his name. Thanks to Shivendra. They are going to watch some more films along with *Devadasu*. The black and white prints they make are amazing. The audience will have a wonderful experience. This festival is being held in 31 cities. Shivendra mentioned there is fantastic response in the North, which brings me great joy. The Goa International Film Festival is doing a chapter in my father's name, and I am very happy about this



Nagarjuna expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thanks to Postmaster General BS Reddy. It is a great pleasure to release my father's stamp on this centenary day. Thank you so much to everyone who came to this celebration. In celebration of his centenary, my father's senior fans in the two Telugu states have organized good programs like blood donation and food donation. Thank you very much to all of them. Your love will never be forgotten. We give the ANR Award every two years. This year, we have decided to give the ANR Award to Chiranjeevi. Chiranjeevi became very emotional upon hearing this. He said it was a great honor to receive the award during the year of ANR's centenary. He added that there is no greater award than this. Amitabh Bachchan will present the award at the function we are hosting on October 28. Thank you all."

Murali Mohan expressed his gratitude and said, "I thank Akkineni's family members for giving us the opportunity to participate in ANR's centenary celebrations. I have been a fan of Akkineni since childhood and am lucky to have had the opportunity to act with him. Nageswara Rao was a very dedicated actor, and I am fortunate to have acted in the first film produced under their banner. He is credited with bringing the film industry to Hyderabad, and his legacy will stay with us forever."

Venkat Akkineni said, "On the day of my father's centenary, the government released a postal stamp. Bapu drew that photo, and it perfectly captures my father's essence. We are grateful for this honor. Cabinet Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Chandrasekhar have planned the release today. Thank you very much to them."

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thanks to Nagarjuna and the Akkineni family for giving me this great opportunity. The festival is being celebrated in 31 cities across the country, and today is a historic day. Akkineni's 10 classic films will be seen by audiences across the country over these three days. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this rich heritage."

This year's ANR Award goes to Megastar Chiranjeevi

