



Kaleshwaram Inquiry

Senior Engineers Grilled by PC Ghosh Commission

TPN, Hyderabad: Engineers from the Telangana State Engineering Research Laboratory (TSERL) and the State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) disclosed that the construction of the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project was carried out without the necessary model studies. They reported that no assessments were conducted before or after the construction of the Medigadda barrage, which collapsed on October 21, 2023, due to structural failures.

The commission expressed dissatisfaction with some engineers' inconsistent answers regarding the timing and oversight of model studies. Manoj Kumar, joint director of TSERL, noted significant flaws not only in construction but also in the management of these structures. He emphasized that model studies should have been completed before construction but were only conducted in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2023 based on recommendations from the Central Designs Organization (CDO) and others.

Chief Engineer Sridevi admitted she was unaware of any ongoing model studies during the barrage constructions. When questioned about her oversight role and knowledge of construction timelines, she could not recall specific details, prompting further frustration from Justice Ghosh, who suggested there might be an attempt to mislead the inquiry.

The commission also highlighted the lack of timely action during floods when staff failed to open gates appropriately, resulting in additional



damage. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a critical infrastructure initiative aimed at providing irrigation across northern Telangana. However, recent revelations have raised

concerns about its safety and operational effectiveness, leading to urgent calls for thorough inspections and accountability from those involved in its management and oversight.

Deputy CM Bhatti Begins Tour of America and Japan



TPN, Telangana: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and a team of officials have embarked on a tour of America and Japan. The trip will take place from September 21 to October 4. The Deputy CM aims to invite investments and explore modern methods related to the mining and green power sectors.

On September 24 and 25, the team will participate in the International Mining Expo in Las Vegas, where they will engage with CEOs and representatives from various companies. Following this, they will visit the Hoover Dam and arrive in Los Angeles on September 26. On the 27th, they will examine the battery energy storage system at Edwards & Sanborn, followed by meetings with investors and technical experts on the 28th.

The delegation will then travel to Tokyo, Japan, on the 29th. On the 30th, they will attend a dinner hosted by a local diplomat, followed by a round table meeting with investors. A personal meeting with investors is scheduled for October 1, along with a visit to a green hydrogen plant in Yamanashi. On October 2, they will visit the headquarters of Toshiba and Kawasaki, before heading to Osaka. The tour will conclude with a visit to Panasonic headquarters on October 3, returning to Hyderabad on October 4.

CM Revanth Reddy Reviews Labor and Employment Department



TPN, Hyderabad: In a review meeting with officials from the Labor and Employment Department, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the need to transform ITIs into Advanced Technology Centers. He instructed that there should be no shortage of staff. The Chief Minister called for an upgrade of the syllabus to align with current industry needs. He directed the formation of a committee to recommend changes and seek expert advice.

If necessary, he suggested collaborating with Skill University for support. The Chief Minister also proposed examining the establishment of new Advanced Technology Centers in polytechnic colleges. He instructed officials to identify assembly constituencies without ITIs and submit a report. Measures should be taken to ensure that ITIs or Advanced Technology Centers are present in all 100 constituencies.

Furthermore, he directed the development of policies to bring vocational training ITIs, Advanced Technology Centers, and polytechnic colleges under the purview of Skill University.

CM's Brother-in-Law's Company Entrusted with Rs 1,137 Crore Projects

- KTR alleged that Revanth Reddy's family members were involved in corruption related to the Amrit scheme.
- It is claimed that the CM used his authority to assign work to his brother-in-law's company.
- "Can a company with a profit of Rs.2 crores handle work worth Rs.1,000 crores?" KTR questioned.

TPN, Telangana: BRS Working President KTR alleged that the company owned by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's brother-in-law had been entrusted with projects worth Rs.1,137 crore. Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, KTR accused members of Revanth Reddy's family of being involved in corruption related to the Amrit scheme, a program designed to address municipal hunger with the participation of both central and state governments.

He claimed that the Chief Minister had used his authority to hand over these projects to his brother-in-law's company. "Can a company with a turnover of

Rs.2 crore handle projects worth Rs.1,000 crore?" KTR asked. He expressed anger over the government's failure to disclose details regarding the tenders issued under the Amrit scheme.

He called for the central government to conduct an inquiry into these tenders and demanded the cancellation of all Amrit scheme tenders issued so far. KTR also stated that he has written to the central government about the corruption in these tenders and vowed to expose the irregularities committed by the government.



KTR Pays Tribute to Sitaram Yechury in Hyderabad

TPN, Telangana: At a memorial meeting for CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury in Hyderabad, BRS working president KT Rama Rao reflected on their shared roots as "sons of people's struggles." Rama Rao praised Yechury's unwavering dedication to his ideology, emphasizing that he remained a committed Communist until his last breath. He remarked, "Yechury was truly a son of Hyderabad," noting their common educational background—both attended local schools and graduated from Nizam College.

Rama Rao highlighted Yechury's role as a voice for the underprivileged and quoted him: "When democracy is threatened, even silence is considered complicity." He expressed that whenever he feels lost in the fight for justice, he finds inspiration in Yechury's legacy. The meeting also featured speeches from former Chief Secretary Mohan Kanda and CPI(M) leaders, celebrating Yechury's relentless pursuit of social justice and his significant impact on the community.





BRS MLAs walk out of PAC meet over A Gandhi's chairmanship

The walkout by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting on September 21 in Telangana highlights their protest against the appointment of Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi as PAC Chairman. The BRS legislators, including Prashant Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, and MLCs Satyavathy Rathore and L. Ramana, objected to Gandhi's appointment, labeling it as illegal. Gandhi had defected from BRS to Congress after winning his seat, which caused tensions.



BRS leaders, such as Harish Rao, emphasized that the PAC chairmanship traditionally belongs to the opposition, criticizing the appointment. Additionally, K.T. Rama Rao questioned Gandhi's shift to Congress and his subsequent appointment.

The situation worsened earlier when a clash occurred between Gandhi and Huzurabad MLA P. Kaushik Reddy, leading

to a violent altercation. Gandhi and his supporters were involved in damaging property at Kaushik Reddy's house, resulting in arrests and legal action. This event escalated tensions, with BRS leaders, including Harish Rao, being placed under house arrest to prevent retaliation.

It's Like 'Yatha Raja Tatha Police': Harish Rao

- The ex-minister stated that the behavior of some has tarnished the brand of Telangana Police with corruption.
- He remarked that it appears the police are following the ways of the government in the state.
- He suggested that senior police officers reconsider and take corrective action.



be in vain. Harish Rao urged Telangana's senior police officials to reconsider the situation and take corrective measures. He conveyed these thoughts through a tweet on X.

Governments should be role models for young officers, instilling in them a commitment to work and dedication to public service, he said. However, he lamented that

the current situation makes it seem as though the police are acting like kings in the state.

With KCR's leadership, the Telangana State Police Department has become the top-ranked police force in the country over the past ten years. In this process, many senior Telangana IPS officers have been commended for their experience and contributions.

He expressed concern that if the reputation of the Telangana State Police is damaged due to the actions of a few, the efforts of senior police officers would



BRS Members Conspiring to Undermine PAC: Y Srinivas Reddy

TPN, Telangana: Mahabubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy accused BRS members of conspiring to undermine the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to prevent the financial mismanagement of the last ten years from being exposed. He emphasized that the PAC Chairman was appointed according to the rules, with senior member Arekapudi Gandhi chosen for the role. He pointed out that, in the past, decisions were made at Pragathi Bhavan, and everyone knows how the PAC chairmanship was given to AIMIM. He reiterated that Gandhi's appointment as Chairman was done per the rules, and criticized members for attacking the Speaker during the meeting using inappropriate language. Reddy affirmed that the PAC would thoroughly investigate the financial discrepancies of the last decade, and the

committee would function with integrity.

Ten Years of Neglect and Continued Conspiracies

Yennam Srinivas Reddy further remarked that over the last ten years, the PAC has been ignored, and now the same conspiracies are being repeated. He noted that former PAC Chairmen are still serving as members, and vowed to expose the misuse of public funds. He assured that the PAC stands for the people and claimed that some fear the upcoming report, as it could jeopardize their political future. Reddy concluded by stating that the members were elected according to Assembly Rule 250.

Kodandaram and KTR: Rare Photo Goes Viral

TPN, Telangana: A rare photo of BRS working president KTR and TJS leader Professor Kodandaram has gone viral, capturing a moment from their past during the Telangana movement. After the BRS came to power, Kodandaram was briefly close to the TRS but later distanced himself. He initially received guidance from KCR when he first became Chief Minister.



Following political developments after KCR's tenure, Professor Kodandaram left the BRS and formed his own party, contesting in the 2018 elections without the anticipated success. He later supported the Congress party in 2023, which led to his appointment as an MLC. Currently, he maintains a distance from BRS leaders.

The recent photo of KTR and Prof. Kodandaram sitting together at the memorial service for communist leader Sitaram Yechury at Rabindrabharati has sparked discussion, reflecting their complex political history.

BJP as the Foundation of Divisive Politics: Bhatti

TPN, Telangana: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the BJP is the foundation of divisive politics. He criticized the practice of labeling those who speak out for democracy as traitors or urban naxals and arresting them. Bhatti sharply countered Prime Minister Modi's remarks during his visit to Maharashtra, where he claimed that "Congress is run by urban naxals, a tukde tukde gang."

In a statement released on Saturday, Bhatti highlighted the Congress party's history of sacrifice for the nation, emphasizing its roots in the Gandhi family. He affirmed that the Congress has consistently upheld democratic values. Bhatti strongly condemned Prime Minister Modi's derogatory comments about urban naxals, asserting that labeling the Congress party, which has a long-standing commitment to national integrity, as corrupt or separatist reflects poorly on the Prime Minister.



No Assembly Ticket Without Better Local Body Results: PCC Chief

TPN, Telangana: Telangana PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud has issued a warning that assembly tickets will not be granted in the next election if local bodies do not achieve better results. During a recent media conference, he emphasized the importance of including both old and new candidates in local body elections, prioritizing those who have previously competed and lost. He asserted that party workers and leaders who have contributed significantly should receive priority.



Additionally, Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted the need for collaboration between the government and the party, stating that the government encompasses more than just the Chief Minister and ministers; it also includes the party structure. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to visit Gandhi Bhavan at least once a month and recommended that ministers come twice a week to engage with party cadres and understand their challenges.

Minister Pongileti Srinivas Reddy's Response to KTR's Allegations

TPN, Telangana: Former Minister KTR has alleged that corruption occurred in the Amrit tenders and that the state government misused central government funds. KTR also claimed that Revanth Reddy is stepping down.

As the BRS Party Working President, KTR raised questions about who provided a copy of the tender, stating they are investigating who received the copy. He announced plans to file a defamation suit and take legal action.

On September 20, 2023, the previous government issued tenders worth ₹3,516 crores, which were opened on November 29, 2023—one day before the polling date—with permission from the Election Commission. KTR alleged that three companies, including Andhra Pradesh Pedda Reddy Company, were given contracts unfairly.

He mentioned that they immediately raised concerns in the assembly about three tenders that came to the Chief Minister's attention, instructing officials to cancel and recall them. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, KTR claimed they called for tenders without raising any costs.

Reddy emphasized that Srijana Reddy is not directly related to Revanth Reddy and noted that the candidate who ran against him is Upender Reddy's son-in-law. He accused KTR of making baseless accusations and suggested that if re-tendering occurs, a ₹54 crore reduction should be expected. Reddy criticized KTR's statements, calling them foolish and unsubstantiated.

He challenged KTR, stating, "If you accept my challenge, I will come tomorrow morning. I haven't seen whether the open tender has been posted online." Reddy also remarked that KTR's press conference was filled with lies and insisted that every party's claims should be backed by evidence.

In closing, Reddy called on KTR to present concrete proof of his allegations, challenging him to provide a white paper to support his claims.

"Not Governance, But Misgovernance": Singireddy Niranjan Reddy

TPN, Telangana: At a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad, former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy launched a scathing attack on the current government, accusing it of failing to deliver on key promises and neglecting farmers' welfare.

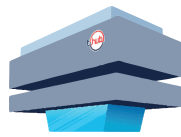
Reddy began by criticizing the government's inaction on the "loan waiver scheme", calling it a hoax. He challenged the ruling party to show a single farmer whose Rs. 2 lakh loan had been forgiven. Despite earlier announcements of a Rs. 49,000 crore waiver, the actual budget allocation has been reduced to Rs. 17,000 crore. According to him, the government has not delivered on its promise and continues to mislead the public.

Turning his attention to the "Rythu Bharosa scheme", Reddy claimed it was a false promise, stating that the government has failed to provide financial support to farmers, even as the crop season is coming to an end. He further criticized the government for not implementing the measures announced in the "Warangal Declaration", including crop insurance, the re-opening of sugar factories, and the establishment of a turmeric board.

Reddy also highlighted the mismanagement of "dairy farmers", noting that Vijay Dairy had not paid farmers for three months, while Heritage Dairy was making profits. He accused the government of conspiring to shift dairy farmers towards private entities like Heritage.

Furthermore, Reddy condemned the "personal attacks" by ruling party members on opposition leaders, instead of addressing the real issues being raised. He warned the government that unless it changes its course, it will face the wrath of the public.

The press conference was also attended by former MP Badugula Lingaiah Yadav and former MLA Shashidhar Reddy, who echoed similar sentiments about the state of governance in Telangana.



Several shops, hotels remain shut over bandh call in Telangana’s Asifabad

TPN, Asifabad: A bandh call in Telangana’s Asifabad district on Saturday, September 21, led to the shutdown of several kiranans, hotels, malls, and other business establishments. The bandh was organized in protest against the attempted rape and murder of an Adivasi woman in Jainoor. RTC bus services also came to a standstill as part of the protest.

The bandh was called by the Adivasi Hakkula Porata Samiti, Tudum Debba, and various student and district unions. Tudum Debba district president stated, “The bandh was announced as per the call of the state leadership to protest the attempted rape and murder of an Adivasi woman in Jainoor.” He further accused

non-tribals, including Muslims, of committing crimes against tribal women and urged for solidarity through the bandh.

In his statement, the Tudum Debba leader warned about violations of the 1/70 Act, which is intended to protect tribal land rights. He stressed the need to strengthen the implementation of the Act in tribal areas and called for dispossession of non-tribals from tribal lands. He also warned that if the government does not enforce the law, tribal communities may advance with the slogan “Mawanate Maa-wa Sarkar” (our area, our rule).

The tribals’ primary demand is the strict implementation of the 1/70 Act and land

transfer regulations that prevent the transfer of lands in the Fifth Schedule areas from tribals to non-tribals.

In response to the bandh, the police deployed pickets across Jainoor to maintain order. Local police confirmed that the situation was under control despite the unrest.

Jainoor has remained tense following the alleged attempted rape and murder of the Adivasi woman by an auto driver. In the aftermath of the incident, several shops and businesses belonging to Muslim minorities were reportedly vandalized by Adivasis, further escalating the situation in the region.



President Murmu to Arrive in Hyderabad on the 28th

TPN, New Delhi: Indian President Droupadi Murmu will visit Hyderabad on the 28th of this month. The President’s Office has confirmed the visit in an official statement. President Murmu will arrive at Hakimpet Airport via a special flight from Delhi at 11:50 AM. She will then proceed to NALSAR University, where she will serve as the Chief Guest at the 21st Convocation, scheduled for 12:20 PM.

Later, at 3:30 PM, she will arrive at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bollaram to inaugurate the Bharatiya Kalamahotsavam 2024. After the event, President Murmu will return to Hakimpet Airport at 5:45 PM to depart for Delhi.

In preparation for her visit, a coordination meeting was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, involving senior officials. The protocol department is overseeing the arrangements, while state and central forces are managing security and monitoring measures. Traffic restrictions are expected in the areas the President will visit on that day.

Tribute to Acharya Konda Lakshman Bapuji on His Birth Anniversary

TPN, Hyderabad: Today marks the birth anniversary of Acharya Konda Lakshman Bapuji, a true role model who selflessly resigned from his ministerial position for the sake of Telangana.

A prominent leader, Bapuji actively participated in numerous movements, from the Indian independence struggle to the second phase of the Telangana movement. He dedicated his life to public service as an MLA, Minister, and Deputy Speaker, tirelessly working to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Telangana.

Acharya Konda Lakshman Bapuji’s immense contributions to the public movement and his unwavering commitment to the dreams of the Telangana people are deeply honored today.



Asaduddin Owaisi Criticizes Bandi Sanjay Over Madrasa Remarks

TPN, Hyderabad: Asaduddin Owaisi, President of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), criticized Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar for his recent remarks about madrasas in India, which he described as fostering Islamophobia.

Owaisi reacted on X, stating, “This person is the MoS for Home and makes sweeping generalizations against madrasas, reflecting his mindset.” He urged every Indian to condemn Kumar’s “hateful statement,” emphasizing the need to combat Islamophobia in the country.

The controversy arose during the inauguration of a girls’ hostel in Jammikunta, Karimnagar district, where Kumar accused

some madrasas of “fostering terrorism” and allegedly training students in dangerous skills, including using AK-47 rifles with broomsticks. He criticized the state government for funding these institutions, alleging their involvement in promoting extremism, although he provided no evidence for his claims.

Kumar also expressed concern over the lack of funding for Shishumandir schools, which he claimed promote Indian Sanatana culture, and criticized the Telangana government for not addressing vacant teaching and sanitation positions in state schools. He called the absence of a dedicated education minister “regrettable,” raising concerns about potential communal tensions.



Minister Ponnam Inspects Double Bedroom Houses in Malakpet

TPN, Hyderabad: BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar conducted an inspection of double bedroom houses in Greater Hyderabad on Saturday. He visited the Pilli Gudisela area in Saidabad Mandal of Malakpet Constituency to review the status of pending works. During the visit, the minister gathered details from officials regarding the progress of the project.

Following the inspection of the housing project, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar also examined the Government Degree College in Chanchalguda. He was accompanied by GHMC Commissioner Amrapali and other senior officials.

In related news, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the government will soon finalize the procedures for implementing the Indiramma housing scheme. He revealed plans to link the Indiramma scheme with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, noting that approximately 82 lakh applications have been received nationwide—23.5 lakh from urban areas and 58.5 lakh from rural areas.

Rajya Sabha MP and New PCC Chief Felicitated at Gandhi Bhavan

TPN, Telangana: YCP Rajya Sabha MP and National President of the BC Welfare Association, R. Krishnaiah, made a surprise appearance at the Congress Party office, Gandhi Bhavan, in Nampally, Greater Hyderabad. His presence surprised many as review meetings for the Congress party in North Telangana districts, chaired by TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, were underway at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday.

During the event, R. Krishnaiah felicitated Mahesh Kumar Goud, who was recently appointed as the BC leader and Congress State President.

R. Krishnaiah, also a Rajya Sabha member, called on the central government to increase BC reservations to 42 percent in local body elections and to conduct a caste census of BCs.

IMD Hyderabad Predicts Heavy Rains for Two Days

TPN, Hyderabad: The India Meteorological Department, Hyderabad (IMD-H), has forecast heavy rains in Hyderabad and parts of Telangana over the next two days. A yellow alert has been issued for several districts, including Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal, Jagtiyal, Rajanna Sircilla, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, and Medak, due to the likelihood of thunderstorms and lightning.

On Friday night, heavy rains lashed parts of Hyderabad, with some areas recording up to 60 millimeters. Bansilalpet received the highest rain-

fall at 68.5 mm, followed closely by Gunfoundry at 68.3 mm. Other areas included Uppal with 67.0 mm, Begum Bazar with 62.8 mm, and Nacharam with 61.3 mm.

According to Telangana weather expert T. Balaji, more rain is expected in the next two hours, particularly in areas like Yaprall, Bollaram, Kapra, Nagaram, and Dammaiguda. Rain will likely spread into Qutbullapur, Bowenpally, Kukatpally, Secunderabad, Malkajigiri, and Neredmet, affecting Central and East Hyderabad as well. Light to moderate rains are anticipated on September 24 and 25, with a return of rainfall on September 27, expected to continue through September 28.

Rachakonda Special Ops Team Seizes 2.3 kg of Hashish Oil from Four Arrested

TPN, Hyderabad: The Rachakonda Special Operations Team (LB Nagar) apprehended four individuals in possession of 2.3 kilograms of hashish oil. The arrested suspects are V. Ranjith Kumar, Bollam Sai Nithin, Bachu Narendra, and B. Sai Krishna, while their associate, Sai, is currently absconding.

According to G. Sudheer Babu, Commissioner of Police Rachakonda, Ranjith planned to sell the hashish oil in the city for easy profit. He enlist-

ed the help of Sai Nithin, Narendra, and Krishna. The four rented a car and traveled to Andhra Pradesh, where they purchased the contraband. Upon their return to the city, they were intercepted by authorities.

Ranjith had previously been arrested by the Excise police in February but resumed his activities after being released from jail. Efforts are underway to apprehend the absconding associate, Sai, from Andhra Pradesh.

Tragic Suicide of Young Lovers

TPN, Hyderabad: A young couple has tragically taken their own lives in Kamareddy District after their families refused to approve their marriage. Sai Kumar (24), from Konapur village in Domakonda Mandal, hanged himself from a tree near a farm. Meanwhile, Veena (22), from Ambarpet in the same mandal, also committed suicide by hanging herself in her home.

The bodies have been transferred to the Kamareddy Government Hospital for post-mortem. The deaths of the couple have cast a shadow of grief over both families.

Domakonda police have registered a case and are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.



PM Modi Embarks on a Strategic 3-Day Visit to the US

Key Discussions on Quad Summit, Bilateral Ties, and Global Challenges



Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for a three-day visit to the United States, set to engage in a range of high-level meetings with global leaders, including US President Joe Biden. During this visit, the Indian leader will address the United Nations General Assembly, participate in the Quad Leaders' Summit, and hold discussions on key bilateral and multilateral issues. The trip is expected to further strengthen India-US relations, expand the Quad's strategic importance, and focus on pressing global concerns like conflicts in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific region.

Day 1: Strengthening India-US Bilateral Ties

Upon his arrival in Philadelphia, PM Modi is set to meet US President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware, Biden's hometown. This bilateral meeting will touch on a variety of issues that are of mutual interest to both nations, including the geopolitical scenarios in Ukraine and Russia, where discussions of a possible peace process may emerge. As the Russia-Ukraine war and the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict continue to affect global stability, India's role in promoting diplomatic resolutions will likely be a key point of the discussions.

Additionally, the two leaders are expected to discuss space collaboration between India and the US. A potential highlight is the announcement regarding Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's participation in the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station. This reflects the growing cooperation between the two nations in space technology and research.

Another significant topic on the agenda is the acquisition of 31 predator drones by India, valued at several billion dollars. While a formal announcement may or may not take place during the visit, the deal emphasizes India's focus on enhancing its defense capabilities amid increasing geopolitical tensions.

Day 2: Quad Leaders' Summit and Engagement with Indian Community

On the second day of his visit, Prime Minister Modi will join US President Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for the much-anticipated Quad Leaders' Summit. The Quad, an informal strategic forum comprising India, the US, Australia, and Japan, has become a vital platform for addressing security and economic challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

One key issue on the agenda is China's increasing military assertiveness and its impact on regional stability. US White House Spokesperson John Kirby emphasized the importance of addressing China's "aggressive military actions" and unfair trade practices. The leaders are expected to discuss tensions surrounding the Taiwan Strait and other strategic challenges posed by China.

In addition to defense and security, the Quad leaders will explore economic collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, and semiconductors—technological domains that have become increasingly vital in the global economy.

Prime Minister Modi will also interact with the Indian diaspora in New York during a special community event, recognizing their significant contributions to the ties between India and the United States. His engagement with the Indian-American community highlights the role of diaspora diplomacy in enhancing the cultural and economic relations between the two countries.

Day 3: Address at the United Nations and High-Level Diplomatic Engagements

The final day of PM Modi's visit will see him addressing the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations General

Assembly in New York on September 23. The summit is being touted as a 'once-in-a-generation' opportunity by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with the theme 'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow.' The event will bring together world leaders to discuss the future course of action for global governance and peace, focusing on the need for multilateral approaches to address present-day challenges, from climate change to ongoing conflicts.

Modi, representing India as the world's most populous nation, will use the platform to share the views and concerns of "one-sixth of humanity," as he emphasized in his departure statement. His speech is likely to focus on India's role in promoting peace, sustainable development, and a secure global future, all while advocating for reforms in global institutions such as the UN.

In addition to his UN address, Modi is expected to meet with other world leaders on the sidelines of the General Assembly, although specific details of these meetings remain under wraps.

Potential Meeting with Former US President Donald Trump

Amid his tightly packed schedule, speculation about a potential meeting between PM Modi and former US President Donald Trump has surfaced. Trump, who has maintained a close relationship with Modi, described the Indian Prime Minister as "a fantastic man" and expressed his intent to meet him during this visit. However, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has yet to confirm if this meeting will indeed take place.

In his departure statement, Modi underscored the importance of both his bilateral talks with President Biden and his engagements at the Quad and UN summits, highlighting the global community's collective responsibility to chart a path towards a secure and prosperous future for all.



Kerala-Born Norwegian Citizen Linked to Lebanon Pager Blasts

The name of Rinson Jose, a 37-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Wayanad, Kerala, has emerged in the investigation of the deadly pager blasts in Lebanon that targeted Hezbollah operatives, killing 12 people and injuring thousands. Jose, who emigrated to Norway for higher studies and later became a citizen, is reportedly connected to a company under scrutiny for its potential involvement in the blasts.

The incident occurred when pagers, allegedly modified to contain explosives, were used in a targeted attack in Lebanon. Initial investigations pointed to a Taiwan-based company, Gold Apollo, as the manufacturer of the pagers. However, the company quickly distanced itself from the events, stating that the specific pager model involved, the AR-924, had been manufactured and sold by BAC Consulting KFT, a Hungarian company authorized to use the Gold Apollo trademark.

Further investigation led Bulgarian authorities to Norta Global Ltd., a company registered in Sofia in 2022, which is owned by Jose. Bulgarian security agency DANS, in collaboration with the interior ministry, initially suspected the company of being involved in the supply of the pagers. However, a day later, DANS clarified that the pagers used in the blast were neither imported, exported, nor manufactured in Bulgaria. They added that neither Norta Global Ltd. nor its owner had engaged in any transactions that could be linked to the incident or terrorism financing.

While Bulgarian authorities ruled out the involvement of Norta Global, the investigation is still active. Meanwhile, in Norway, police in Oslo have opened a preliminary investigation into the matter to further explore Jose's potential connections to the case.

Rinson Jose's background paints the picture of an individual who had gone to Norway to pursue higher education, before working briefly in London and eventually returning to Oslo. His LinkedIn profile indicates that he had worked for nearly five years in digital customer support for DN Media, a prominent Norwegian press group. DN Media confirmed to the Norwegian newspaper *Verdens Gang* that Jose had been on a business trip since the day of the blasts, and they have been unable to reach him since.

Jose's family, who remain in regular contact with him, have expressed shock and confusion over his name being linked to the incident. His relatives, particularly a family member named Thankachen, told the media that they last spoke to him three days before the blasts and have been unable to contact him or his wife since. According to Thankachen, Jose is a "straightforward" person who they believe would never be involved in any illegal activities. His family fears that he may have been unwittingly caught up in the tragic events.

Norta Global Ltd., the company founded by Jose, reported a revenue of \$725,000 (approximately ₹6 crore) last year for consulting activities outside the European Union. Despite the financial success of the company, the recent developments have left his family and acquaintances concerned about his safety and reputation.

As the investigation continues, the authorities in both Bulgaria and Norway are working to clarify the situation and determine whether Jose or his company played any role in the tragic pager blasts. For now, his family remains hopeful that his name will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Manipur Security Adviser Confirms Intelligence on Kuki Militants Entering from Myanmar

TPN, New Delhi: Manipur's Security Adviser, Kuldip Singh, has confirmed the receipt of a critical intelligence report detailing the entry of "900 Kuki militants" trained in jungle warfare and the use of weaponized drones into Manipur from Myanmar. According to the intelligence report, the militants, newly trained in drone-based bombs, missiles, and other projectiles, have entered the Indian state and are believed to be planning coordinated attacks on Meitei villages later in September.

The report, which was sent to senior police officials in districts bordering Myanmar, outlines that the militants have been organized into units of 30 and are scattered around the periphery of Manipur. Sources have suggested that the potential attacks

could be part of an escalating ethnic conflict in the region. Security Adviser Singh emphasized the seriousness of the intelligence, stating, "We believe the report to be 100 per cent correct. You cannot take it lightly."

The ongoing conflict between the Kuki and Meitei communities has already claimed over 220 lives and displaced nearly 50,000 people. Clashes between the two ethnic groups have worsened since earlier this year, with the Kuki tribes primarily residing in the hills surrounding the Meitei-dominated valley. The Meiteis, who fall under the general category, have been pushing for Scheduled Tribe status, while the Kuki tribes, who share close ethnic ties with people from Myanmar's Chin State and Mizoram, have been

advocating for a separate administration within Manipur, citing discrimination and unequal distribution of resources.

The current intelligence report adds to growing tensions in the region. Ethnic armed groups in Myanmar's Chin State have been engaged in combat against the country's military junta, and some of these battles have occurred close to the Indian border. The Manipur government has long blamed the influx of illegal immigrants from Myanmar as one of the root causes of the violence in the state.

This latest development follows a January incident when attacks on police commandos in the border town of Moreh raised concerns

about the involvement of Myanmar-based militants. At that time, Security Adviser Singh had denied any direct involvement from across the border, but he did admit the possibility of militants crossing over, though there was no evidence then.

The involvement of insurgents from both the Kuki and Meitei communities in Manipur's ongoing conflict has been confirmed by police, especially after a recent gunfight in Jiribam district near Assam. Three Kuki militants who were killed in the gunfight were identified as members of the Kuki Liberation Army (KLA), which had signed a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Indian government. Similarly, a member

of the Meitei insurgent group United National Liberation Front (UNLF) was also killed in the skirmish.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently announced progress on securing the India-Myanmar border, revealing that fencing had been completed along a 30-km stretch in Manipur. The government has also approved plans to construct additional fencing and roads along the 1,643-km border between India and Myanmar at an estimated cost of ₹31,000 crore. Additionally, the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which previously allowed border residents to travel up to 16 km into each other's territories without documentation, has been scrapped to prevent further illegal entry from Myanmar.

Atishi Takes Oath as Delhi's Youngest Chief Minister

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi took oath as the new Chief Minister of Delhi today, becoming the youngest leader to hold the top post. This comes days after Arvind Kejriwal was granted bail in the Delhi liquor policy case and subsequently announced his resignation.

Before the swearing-in, Atishi and her cabinet members met with former Chief Minister Kejriwal. Her cabinet includes Mukesh Ahlawat, a first-time MLA from Sultanpur Majra, along with Gopal Rai, Imran Hussain, Kailash Gahlot, and Saurabh Bharadwaj, all of whom took oath as ministers.

The ceremony was a subdued affair, reflecting the somber mood within AAP following Kejriwal's resignation. Atishi is Delhi's third woman Chief Minister, following in the footsteps of Sushma Swaraj (BJP) and Sheila Dikshit (Congress). The Kalkaji MLA, who previously held multiple portfolios in Kejriwal's administration, now faces the challenge of leading the state.



Atishi will need to prove her government's majority in the 70-member assembly during a special session scheduled for September 26-27.

BJP Desperate To Silence Me": Rahul Gandhi Speaks Out On Sikh Remark



New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has responded to the BJP's accusations over his recent remarks on religious freedom during his US visit, accusing the ruling party of being "desperate to silence" him. Gandhi's comments, made during an event in Virginia on September 9, had sparked outrage among BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who accused him of promoting an "anti-national agenda."

During the event, Gandhi spoke about religious freedom in India, specifically addressing a Sikh audience member. "The fight is about whether he, as a Sikh, is going to be allowed to wear a turban in India, or whether he will be able to practice his faith freely," Gandhi said, emphasizing the need for equality and respect for all religions in India. His remarks were interpreted by BJP leaders as an attempt to divide the country along religious lines.

On Saturday, the Karnataka BJP filed a police complaint against Gandhi over the comments. In response, Gandhi took to X (formerly Twitter), defending his statements and challenging the BJP's narrative. He asked the Sikh community, both in India and abroad, whether they found anything wrong in his remarks. He accused the BJP of spreading lies to discredit him.

"The BJP is resorting to lies as usual. They are desperate to silence me because they cannot stand the truth. But I will always speak up for the values that define India: our unity in diversity, equality, and love," Gandhi wrote.

Rajnath Singh Slams Hemant Soren, Calls for BJP Victory in Jharkhand

Itkhor: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, labeling him as the "most corrupt CM" and accusing him of undermining India's democratic values. Singh asserted that it was time to replace Soren and bring the BJP to power in the upcoming assembly elections.

"Hemant Soren has indulged in corruption and played with India's healthy democratic practices. India will never accept a tainted leader," Singh declared while flagging off BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra.' He also claimed that no BJP chief ministers in Jharkhand — Babulal Marandi, Arjun Munda, or Raghubar Das — ever faced corruption charges.

Singh criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of tarnishing In-



dia's image abroad and attempting to provoke the Sikh community during his recent US visit.

He further attacked the ruling JMM-Congress-RJD coalition in Jharkhand, calling them "speed breakers" in the state's development. Singh also accused

the state government of supporting Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators and warned that such actions would not be tolerated.

The Defence Minister urged voters to support BJP, saying, "Let the lotus bloom in Jharkhand to accelerate its growth and development." He highlighted India's progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing that 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in the past decade.

Singh also reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to "one nation, one election," promising a bill in Parliament soon.

This is the third 'Parivartan Yatra' by BJP in Jharkhand, with marches covering 5,400 km across 81 assembly segments before concluding on October 2.

Amit Shah Vows Strong Response to Cross-Border Firing in J&K Rally



Mendhar, Poonch: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing a massive BJP rally in the Mendhar area of Poonch district on Saturday, assured a decisive bullet-for-bullet response to cross-border firing from Pakistan. "The days of cross-border firing are over. Pakistan is now afraid of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Shah declared, emphasizing that any bullets from across the Line of Control (LoC) will be answered in kind, not with dialogue.

Shah also addressed the changing security dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir, noting that previous administrations were afraid of Pakistan. "The situation has completely changed under PM Modi. Our brave Gujar, Bakarwal, and Pahari brothers have always stood as the nation's soldiers during wars with Pakistan," he said.

Shah used the rally to campaign for BJP candidate Murtaza Khan and criticized the Abdullah, Mufti, and Gandhi families, accusing them of monopolizing power in J&K and preventing the growth of democracy. He credited Modi's leadership for holding Panchayat, Block Development Council (BDC), and District Development Council (DDC) elections in J&K.

Highlighting Modi's focus on development, Shah promised multiple welfare initiatives, including free healthcare, enhanced reservation benefits, and improved infrastructure in border regions. He pledged to establish a winter camp office for the Collector in Mendhar, upgrade local schools, and provide laptops and tablets to students.

Shah also vowed to increase recruitment from border areas into the Army and police forces. "We will hold special recruitment camps for the youth in these regions," he announced.

Concluding his speech, Shah urged voters to elect Murtaza Khan, promising prosperity and development for Mendhar and the border areas. "Give PM Modi the chance to bring progress to your doorstep," he said.

Naveen Patnaik Criticizes Law and Order in Odisha After Assault on Army Officer's Fiancée

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik voiced concerns about the safety of women in the state, stating that "women are not safe even inside police stations." His remarks come in the wake of the alleged sexual assault of an army officer's fiancée in police custody. Speaking at the BJD's state headquarters, Sankha Bhavan, Patnaik addressed party leaders from Kendrapara and Gajapati districts, pointing to a lack of law and order.

"It's sad that women are not safe even inside police stations in Bhubaneswar, and government servants are beaten up in Raj Bhavan," he said, referencing a September 15 incident at Bharatpur police station where an army officer was allegedly tortured, and his fiancée was sexually harassed. Patnaik also mentioned the assault on a government employee, allegedly by the governor's son, as further evidence of lawlessness.

As the Leader of the Opposition in the Odisha Assembly, Patnaik called for a court-monitored SIT probe and a judicial inquiry into the incident. He also criticized the BJP for failing to fulfill key election promises, particularly those related to the Subhadra Yojana, pensions, and free electricity.

The BJD accused the BJP of backtracking on a pledge to provide ₹50,000 to women under the Subhadra Yojana and highlighted unfulfilled promises like 300 units of free electricity and a ₹3,500 pension for senior citizens. Patnaik urged party leaders to expose the BJP's "lies" and raise public awareness about these issues.

Babita Phogat Responds to Vinesh Phogat's "Slap" Remark

Haryana: BJP leader Babita Phogat has hit back at her cousin, Vinesh Phogat, for her controversial remarks during the Haryana election campaign. Vinesh, who is contesting from the Julana constituency as a Congress candidate, had criticized the BJP, saying, "This time Congress' symbol of hand will act as a slap. On October 5, this slap will strike in Delhi."

In response, Babita described her cousin's comments as reflective of a "narrow mindset" and advised her to be more thoughtful in her language. "I

agree that such statements have been made with a very narrow mindset, but we should think about our words; we should reflect on them," Babita stated.

Babita, a wrestler-turned-politician, is actively engaging with BJP workers ahead of the assembly elections. Speaking to ANI, she expressed confidence in the BJP's chances, saying that the party is well-prepared to win in Haryana for the third consecutive time. She credited senior BJP leaders, including Biplab Dev, for motivating the party workers with a "mantra of

victory" to help connect with voters and showcase the achievements of the BJP government.

On the other hand, Vinesh Phogat, who recently joined Congress, has been campaigning aggressively against the BJP. Filing her nomination for the Julana seat last week, Vinesh criticized the BJP for failing to address unemployment and alleged disrespect towards the people of Haryana over the past decade. She also played a prominent role in the protests against BJP leader Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh last year.





Indian Embassy Confirms Death of Staff Member in the US

Washington: The Indian Embassy in the United States has confirmed the death of one of its staff members on September 18, 2024. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the embassy expressed its condolences and assured that they are working closely with relevant agencies and the deceased's family to expedite the repatriation of the mortal remains to India.

"With deep regret, we wish to confirm that a member of the Embassy of India passed away in the evening of September 18, 2024,"

the statement read. The embassy has not released further details about the deceased, citing the family's privacy during this difficult time. "We are in touch with all relevant agencies and members of the family to ensure the swift transfer of the mortal remains to India," the embassy added.

In their statement, the Indian Embassy extended their sympathies to the grieving family. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this time of grief," it concluded.

Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh Appointed as New Chief of Indian Air Force

TPN, New Delhi: Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, a distinguished fighter pilot with over 5,000 hours of flying experience, will assume command as the Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 30, following the retirement of Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

Currently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Singh brings nearly four decades of experience in various command, staff, and instructional roles. A graduate of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, and National Defence College, he is also a qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot.

Born on October 27, 1964, Air Marshal Singh was commissioned into the IAF in December 1984. Throughout his career, he has led operational fighter squadrons and front-line air bases, playing key roles in modernizing the force, including managing the MiG-29 up-

grade project in Moscow and overseeing flight tests for the indigenous Tejas aircraft.

Known for his strategic foresight, Air Marshal Singh has been vocal about the need for self-reliance in defence without compromising national security. His leadership will be pivotal in advancing the IAF's modernization agenda, including the procurement of new fighter fleets to address regional security challenges, particularly along the Line of Actual Control with China.

The government confirmed his appointment on September 30, marking a significant leadership transition as the IAF continues to strengthen its capabilities amid evolving security dynamics.

Air Marshal Singh is a recipient of the prestigious Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.



White House Engages Pro-Khalistan Groups Ahead of PM Modi's US Visit

Washington: Just hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in the United States for a three-day visit, the White House held a meeting with Sikh groups sympathetic to the Khalistan movement. The meeting, initiated by the White House, reassured the groups of protection from "any transnational aggression" on US soil, underscoring the commitment to safeguard American citizens.

This development comes amid growing concerns in India that Canada and the US are providing shelter and asylum to Khalistani separatists, who are banned in India for their involvement in terrorist activities. While the US has not commented on harboring such individuals, Canada has defended it as "freedom of speech." In response, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasized that supporting separatism or violence cannot be equated with freedom of expression.

The meeting at the White House was attended by Pritpal Singh of the American Sikh Caucus Committee and representatives from the Sikh Coalition and the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF). "We will hold them to their assurances to safeguard our community," Pritpal Singh said, thanking US officials for their vigilance in protecting Sikh Americans.

This marks the first time that the US National Security Council has engaged directly with Sikh separatist groups. The meeting occurred shortly before PM Modi's participation in the Quad Summit in Delaware and the 'Summit of the Future' event at the UN General Assembly in New York.

Additionally, US Congressman Adam Schiff recently introduced the 'Transnational Repression Reporting Act 2024,' aimed at addressing cases of transnational repression against individuals on US soil.

Secret Service Found Guilty of Security Failures in Trump Assassination Attempt

Washington: An internal review has revealed critical security lapses by the US Secret Service in preventing an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania on July 13, resulting in one death and multiple injuries. The review, released on Friday, identified failures in utilizing key security measures, such as technology that could have detected the attacker who flew a drone over the rally site hours before the incident.

The report highlighted poor coordination between the Secret Service's advance team and state and local law enforcement. Despite standard protocol, local police snipers were not positioned on a rooftop near the rally. The Secret Service's failure to communicate effectively with local authorities was further underscored when rally attendees noticed the suspect climbing onto a nearby roof and alerted police. However, Trump's protective detail was unaware of the police search for the suspicious individual.

Former Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle, who resigned following widespread outrage, faced intense scrutiny from lawmakers over the agency's inability to secure the rooftop and protect Trump adequately. Acting Director Ronald Rowe acknowledged "a lack of clarity" in security planning and coordination during a news briefing.

"It's important that we hold ourselves accountable



for the failures of July 13th, and that we use the lessons learned to ensure we do not have another failure like this again," Rowe said.

In response to the attack, the Secret Service has ramped up security for Trump, who has now faced two assassination attempts in recent months. On Sunday, a man was arrested at the Trump International Golf Club in South Florida after a Secret Service agent spotted a rifle barrel protruding from a fence.

Following these incidents, the US House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill to enhance Secret Service protection for presidential candidates and their running mates.

Iran Unveils New Missile and Drone Amid Rising Middle East Tensions

Tehran: As regional tensions escalate following the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, Iran showcased a new ballistic missile and an upgraded attack drone at a military parade on Saturday. State media reports confirmed the unveiling of the Jihad missile, a solid-fuel weapon with a range of over 1,000 kilometers, developed by Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Additionally, Iran introduced the Shahed-136B drone, an upgraded model of the Shahed-136, featuring an extended operational range of more than 4,000 kilometers. These military advancements come at a time when Iran is facing accusations from Western governments of supplying weapons, including drones and missiles, to Russia for its war in Ukraine, claims that Iran has consistently denied.

The parade, held in Tehran and attended by new President Masoud Pezeshkian, also commem-

orated the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. In his speech, Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's growing defense capabilities and reiterated calls for Islamic unity against Israel, labeling it as a "bloodthirsty, genocidal usurper."

The region has been increasingly volatile since the Hamas attack on Israel, with Iranian-backed Hezbollah forces in Lebanon clashing with Israeli troops along the northern border. Israel's recent air strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut have resulted in the deaths of 16 members of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force.

Western nations, including Britain, France, Germany, and the United States, have imposed fresh sanctions on Iran, accusing the country of providing ballistic missiles for Russia's military efforts in Ukraine. The Middle East remains on edge as conflict continues to spread, further complicating international diplomacy in the region.



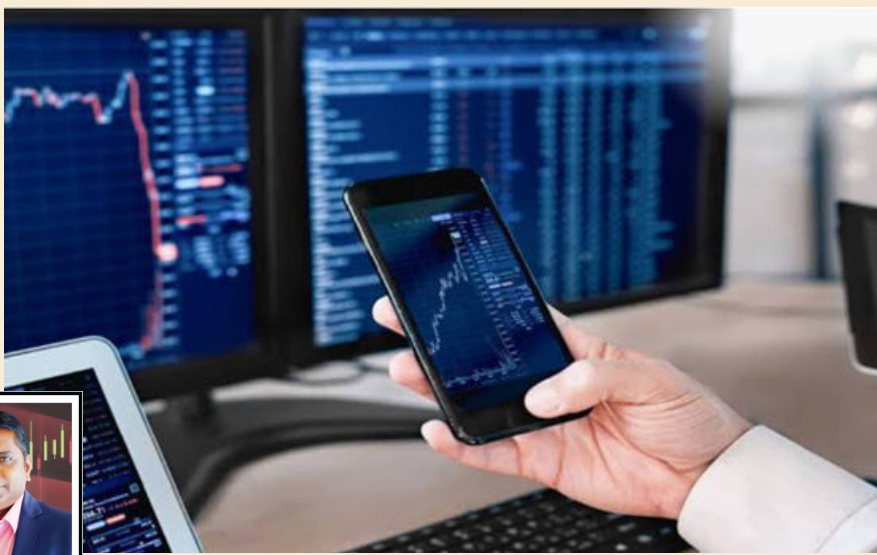


What Changed for the Indian Stock Market Overnight-7 Key Takeaways

As global markets rally and the Indian equity market looks poised for a positive start, several key developments have shaped the market landscape overnight. From the Federal Reserve's actions to China's lending rates, here's a breakdown of how these factors could influence the Sensex and Nifty 50 in the short term.

The US Federal Reserve's Monetary Easing: A Global Catalyst

The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut rates by 50 basis points has sent ripples through global markets, leading to a significant rally. The Dow Jones Industrial Average crossed the 42,000 mark for the first time, while the S&P 500 surged past 5,700. This easing cycle has bolstered investor confidence, with stocks like Nvidia, Advanced Micro Devices, and Microsoft seeing substantial gains. The Fed's move is expected to continue boosting liquidity in the market, creating favorable conditions for equity investors globally, including in India.



by inflation concerns, remains a critical area for investors to watch.

Bank of England Holds Rates

The Bank of England's decision to hold interest rates at 5.0% signals caution amidst a volatile global economic environment. By also deciding to run down its stock of British government bonds, the Bank of England is walking a tightrope between curbing inflation and supporting growth. For Indian markets, this decision may have indirect effects, particularly on global liquidity and how international investors allocate capital.

US Job Market and Home Sales Send Mixed Signals

US jobless claims unexpectedly dropped last week, with new applications for unemployment benefits falling to 219,000. This suggests resilience in the US labor market, which could further fuel market optimism. However, US existing home sales declined by 2.5% in August, more than expected, signaling that parts of the economy, particularly the housing market, are still cooling. For Indian investors, this dual narrative underscores the importance of watching for cues from the broader US economy, particularly as the Indian market is often reactive to global shifts.

India Poised for Positive Momentum, But Caution Remains

The Indian stock market seems well-positioned for gains, driven by favorable global cues, particularly from the US Federal Reserve's rate cut and record highs in global indices. Asian markets are rallying, and Gift Nifty signals a strong opening for Sensex and Nifty 50. However, underlying challenges, such as inflationary pressures in Japan and China's steady lending rates, suggest that caution is still warranted.

Indian investors should be mindful of these global factors as they could influence both short-term gains and long-term market sentiment. While the outlook appears optimistic, the current volatility in certain global sectors, such as housing and supply chain disruptions, may temper expectations for sustained growth in the Indian equity markets

Telecom Subscribers Decline Amid Tariff Hikes

The impact of recent mobile phone service tariff hikes was clearly reflected in July, as major telecom operators—Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea—reported a loss in customer base, contributing to an overall decline in the country's telecom subscribers.

In early July, these companies increased their mobile service plan rates by 10-27%, with Airtel and Vodafone Idea significantly raising their entry-level rates to ₹199 for 28 days of validity. This marked a substantial increase, more than doubling their prices over the last 2-3 years.

Contrastingly, state-run BSNL emerged as the only telecom provider to add new subscribers, leading the market in net customer additions, as highlighted in the



monthly subscribers report released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

The trend indicates that as prices rise, customers are increasingly sensitive to their mobile expenses, leading some to reconsider their subscriptions. The situation poses a challenge for the leading private

players as they navigate consumer pushback against higher rates.

Market analysts are closely monitoring these developments, as the ongoing price adjustments could influence future subscriber trends and competition within the telecom sector. The regulatory environment will also play a crucial role in shaping the industry's landscape as companies seek to balance profitability with customer retention.

This decline in subscriber numbers highlights the need for telecom providers to reassess their strategies, particularly in a market where consumer loyalty can quickly shift in response to pricing changes. As the sector continues to evolve, how these companies respond will be pivotal in maintaining their market positions.

India to Retaliate Against EU Steel Tariffs Amid Trade Loss

In response to the European Union's steel tariffs, which have led to a substantial trade loss of \$4.41 billion from 2018 to 2023, India has officially notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its decision to retaliate. This announcement comes after a 9 percent decline in India's goods exports in August, highlighting the impact of these tariffs on Indian trade.

The EU's tariffs fall under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) mechanism, which allocates export quotas for 26 steel products. The Indian government did not specify the exact measures it will implement but indicated that the retaliation will include an increase in tariffs on selected products imported from the EU. New Delhi emphasized its right to implement these measures immediately, should it choose to do so.

This move marks a significant escalation in trade tensions between India and the EU, further complicating international trade

relations. India's action signals its commitment to protecting its steel industry from what it perceives as unfair trade practices. The proposed tariff increases could lead to further retaliation from the EU, deepening the trade skirmish.

As both parties navigate this contentious issue, the implications for global steel markets and bilateral trade agreements remain uncertain. The Indian government's stance underscores the challenges faced by countries in balancing domestic industry interests against international trade obligations.

In the backdrop of these developments, industry stakeholders and analysts will closely monitor the situation, as the outcome could influence not only India-EU relations but also broader global trade dynamics. The next steps from both sides will be critical in determining the future trajectory of trade in steel and other affected sectors.

Finance Minister Reviews Capital Expenditure for Housing and Urban Affairs

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a review meeting on September 20 to evaluate the budgeted capital expenditure of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. During the meeting, she emphasized the importance of meeting the capital expenditure target for the current fiscal year, ensuring that the allocated budget of ₹28,628 crore is fully utilized.



A significant focus of the discussion was the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme, which is vital for addressing the affordable housing crisis in urban areas. Sitharaman urged officials to accelerate progress under the PMAY(U) to effectively meet the growing housing needs of urban India.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Finance Ministry highlighted the Finance Minister's commitment to enhancing urban infrastructure. It stated, "FM Sitharaman underscored the importance of accelerating progress under PMAY(U) to meet the housing needs of urban India." The Minister also stressed the need for improved urban transport systems, urging officials to adhere to capital expenditure targets for initiatives like the Metro Rail and the Regional Rapid Transit Sys-

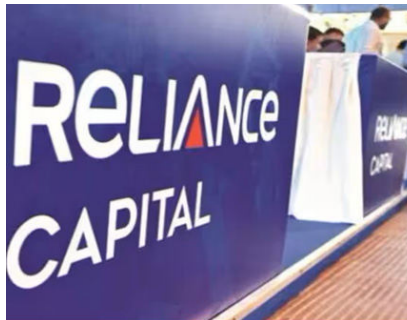
tem (RRTS).

This review comes as part of the government's broader strategy to enhance urban living conditions and transportation systems, recognizing their crucial roles in the nation's development. By meeting these expenditure targets, the Ministry aims to foster growth and provide essential services to urban populations.

As the fiscal year progresses, the Finance Ministry's push for timely and effective use of funds will be vital in driving the success of housing and urban development initiatives. With a focus on both housing and transportation, the government seeks to create a more sustainable and efficient urban environment for its citizens.

Hinduja Group Seeks ₹4,300 Crore through High-Yield Bonds with Barclays Capital

The Hinduja Group is in the process of raising approximately ₹4,300 crore (around \$515 million) with the assistance of Barclays Capital, aimed at funding the acquisition of a bankrupt financier. This initiative represents the second phase of the group's fundraising efforts, as reported by Mint.



cured commitments for the bond issuance. The funds have been placed in escrow and will be released once the required regulatory clearances are obtained.

The successful completion of this funding is contingent upon receiving the necessary regulatory approvals from key authorities, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

In total, the Hinduja Group is looking to secure ₹7,300 crore (approximately \$873 million) in debt to facilitate the acquisition, which has already been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). However, the process has faced delays attributed to regulatory hurdles and financing challenges.

According to sources, the capital for this initiative has been raised by 360One, while Barclays Capital has already se-

The Hinduja Group's move to raise funds through high-yield rupee bonds underscores the ongoing trend of Indian firms seeking alternative financing routes amidst a complex regulatory landscape. As the group navigates these challenges, the outcome of this fundraising effort will play a crucial role in its acquisition plans and overall growth strategy.

As discussions continue around market trends, the financial community is keenly observing how these developments unfold, especially in light of recent news related to the Angel Tax and changes in income tax slabs, which could influence investment sentiment moving forward.





INDIA'S BID FOR A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL: KEY OBSTACLES



India has long aspired to join the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a permanent member with veto power, advocating that its growing economic and political influence on the global stage warrants such a position. Despite decades of persistent lobbying and support from several key players, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Russia, India's dream of securing a permanent seat on the UNSC remains elusive. Experts point to four significant challenges India must overcome to realize this ambition.

►► 1. China's Opposition



Among the five permanent members of the UNSC, China is the only nation that firmly opposes India's bid for permanent membership. China, already a dominant force in Asia and the sole Asian representative on the council, views India as a direct competitor for regional and global influence. This geopolitical rivalry is compounded by ongoing border tensions between the two nations, with China being unwilling to endorse New Delhi's position.

Moreover, China's discomfort is not limited to India alone. Japan, another strong contender for a permanent seat on the council and a close ally of the United States, also faces opposition from Beijing. While China has hinted that it might support India if New Delhi withdraws its support for Japan's bid, India remains committed to the unity of the G-4, a group of four nations — Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan — that mutually support each other's quest for permanent UNSC membership. China's calculated resistance to both India and Japan's bids continues to be a formidable obstacle.

►► 2. Disagreement on Membership Without Veto Power



Another stumbling block to India's permanent membership is the debate over whether new members should be granted veto power. Several coalitions, including Uniting for Consensus (UfC), led by countries like Italy, Pakistan, and South Korea, argue that the UNSC should be reformed by increasing the number of non-permanent members rather than adding new permanent members with veto power.

The UfC contends that a greater number of non-permanent members would make the Security Council more accountable and representative of global regions, providing a more balanced approach to decision-making. However, India remains firm that any new permanent members, including itself, must be given veto power, as currently enjoyed by the existing P-5 (the US, UK, Russia, China, and France). India is reluctant to settle for a "half-measure" that could undermine its long-term goal of full membership with equal privileges.

►► 3. Western Concerns Over India's Alignment with US Priorities



Although the US has expressed verbal support for India's permanent membership in the UNSC, there are growing concerns within Western circles about India's alignment with US strategic priorities, particularly in light of the war in Ukraine. Historically, India has pursued a non-aligned foreign policy, maintaining an independent stance on several critical international issues. For instance, India's decision to abstain from voting on UN resolutions condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine raised questions about its reliability as a partner in the eyes of the West.

Prominent US-based South Asia expert Ashley Tellis argued in *Foreign Affairs* magazine that while India and

the US share strategic interests, their positions often diverge on key geopolitical matters. He pointed to India's reluctance to criticize Russia — a long-time ally — over its aggression in Ukraine, contrasting it with the West's more unified response. This fence-sitting on critical global issues has raised doubts in Washington about how a veto-wielding India might behave in future UNSC decisions.

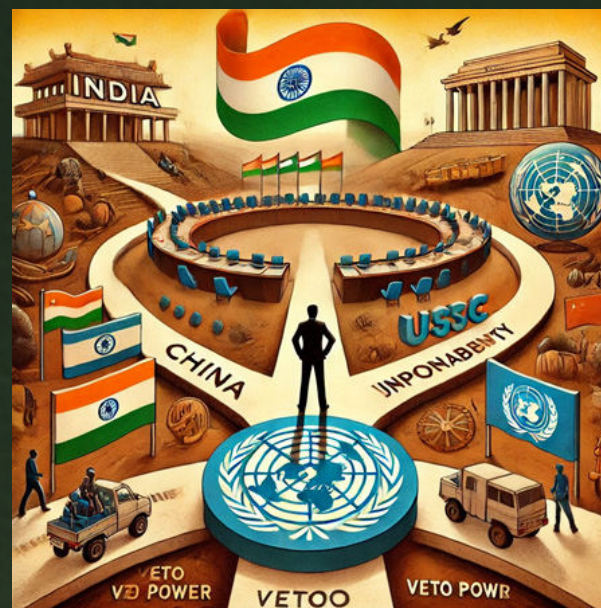
Given the current geopolitical landscape, particularly in the wake of the Russian-Ukrainian war, it remains uncertain whether the US and its Western allies will push for reforms that grant India a veto in the UNSC.

►► 4. Regional Rivalries and Instability

India's quest for a permanent UNSC seat is also complicated by its regional dynamics. Despite its economic and political influence in South Asia, India faces significant challenges to its leadership in the region. The enduring rivalry with Pakistan continues to be a major issue, but concerns also extend to other neighbors, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

Bangladesh, under its current leadership, has drifted away from India on several strategic matters, while there has been growing friction with Nepal and Sri Lanka over various issues, including economic and political ties. This instability in India's backyard weakens its claim to global leadership and raises questions about its ability to maintain regional harmony — a key aspect of its aspiration for UNSC membership.

►► Conclusion: The Road Ahead for India



While there are compelling arguments for reforming the UN Security Council to better reflect the realities of the 21st century, India still faces significant hurdles in its bid for permanent membership. Its ongoing rivalry with China, disagreement over veto power, concerns from Western powers about its alignment, and regional instability all contribute to its current predicament.

To bolster its chances, India will need to address these issues head-on. Strengthening ties with neighboring countries, resolving regional disputes, and aligning more closely with global democratic values could improve its standing. Additionally, addressing domestic challenges such as political intolerance, economic inequality, and improving infrastructure would help enhance India's global image.

Ultimately, while India's growing influence cannot be ignored, its path to securing a permanent seat with veto power on the UNSC will require a combination of diplomatic agility, regional stability, and internal reform.

Blinkit, Zepto to face CCI scrutiny after complaints from local retailers

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.

Early Insights on the Upcoming iPhone 17 Series

Apple recently unveiled the iPhone 16 series at its “It’s Glowtime” hardware launch event on September 9, and while these models have just hit the market in India and beyond, details about the anticipated iPhone 17 series have already emerged. Set to debut in the latter half of 2025, the iPhone 17 lineup is rumored to feature significant enhancements, particularly in display technology.

Market analyst Ross Young, from Display Supply Chain Consultants, hinted in a now-deleted post on X (formerly Twitter) that the successors to the iPhone 16 and iPhone 16 Plus—expected to be named the iPhone 17 and the newly designed iPhone 17 Slim—will support upgraded displays with refresh rates ranging from 1Hz to 120Hz. This would be a notable advancement, as Apple’s current non-Pro models still utilize 60Hz displays, while competing budget Android devices often offer higher refresh rates.

Apple first introduced the 120Hz ProMotion display with the iPhone 13 Pro models in 2021, and recent models have included LTPO AMOLED screens that allow features like the always-on display. If Young’s predictions hold true, the iPhone 17 series would mark a significant milestone as it would be the first non-Pro models to incorporate this high refresh rate technology.

In addition to improved display features, the iPhone 17 Pro models are rumored to come with enhanced specifications, including a reported 12GB of RAM and a



vapour chamber cooling system for better performance management. Moreover, these Pro versions are expected to feature a new 2nm chipset, developed by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), which promises to enhance processing capabilities.

While the iPhone 16 series has introduced some incremental hardware improvements, the anticipated changes in the iPhone 17 lineup suggest that Apple is gearing up to offer a more competitive product in the evolving smartphone market.

Why Biscuit-Tea Is Bad for You

For many, enjoying a hot cup of tea with biscuits is a daily ritual, but this seemingly harmless combination might have hidden health risks. Dietitian Manpreet Kalra warns that the biscuit-tea duo can disrupt hormonal balance and lead to various health issues.



Many packaged biscuits are laden with refined sugar. Excessive sugar intake can cause spikes in blood sugar levels, promote inflammation, and contribute to hormonal imbalances. This may lead to weight gain and insulin resistance over time.

Biscuits often contain maida, a refined flour that can harm your gut microbiome. A disrupted gut can result in inflammation and hormonal signaling issues, potentially leading to digestive problems and weight gain.

Commonly used in processed biscuits, palm oil is associated with several health concerns. It may contribute to lipid profile imbalances and inflammation, increasing the risk of insulin resistance.

Instead of relying on the biscuit-tea combo, consider these hormone-balancing herbal teas:

Ideal for those with hypothyroidism, this tea helps regulate hormone levels. Beneficial for individuals with diabetes, it aids in blood sugar regulation. Particularly useful for women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), it may help balance hormones.

This combination can relieve constipation and improve digestion. Known for promoting hair growth, this tea may also help prevent hair fall.

By opting for these healthier alternatives, you can support hormonal balance and enhance your overall well-being. It’s time to reassess your beverage choices and prioritize your health over comfort.

Google Chrome Enhances Security with Biometric Authentication

Google Chrome, a widely used browser with billions of users, allows individuals to conveniently store information such as usernames and passwords for various websites. However, the increasing prevalence of information-stealer malware, like StealC, has raised concerns about the safety of saved credentials. These threats have successfully targeted user data, leading to unauthorized access to sensitive information.

In response to these security risks, Google is reportedly developing a new feature for the Android version of Chrome that will enhance password security through biometric authentication. This innovative feature aims to require users to verify their identity using biometric data—such as fingerprints or facial recognition—before their saved login credentials are automatically filled in.

By implementing biometric authentication, Google Chrome will



add an extra layer of protection for users’ sensitive information. This means that even if a malicious actor gains access to a device, they would still need to bypass biometric security to access saved passwords. This could significantly reduce the risk of unauthorized logins and improve overall user confidence in the security of their stored credentials.

This feature reflects a growing trend in digital security, where biometrics are increasingly used to verify user identity. It addresses the critical need for stronger security measures in an era where cyber threats are evolving and becoming more sophisticated.

While Google has not yet announced an official release date for this feature, its development indicates a proactive approach to tackling security concerns. Users can look forward to a more secure browsing experience that combines convenience with enhanced protection.

As threats like StealC continue to pose risks, adopting stronger security measures is essential. By integrating biometric authentication, Google Chrome aims to safeguard user data, helping to ensure that sensitive information remains protected in the face of evolving cyber threats. Inflammation, further linked to heart disease.

Stolen Customer Info from Star Health Exposed via Telegram Chatbots

Stolen customer data, including sensitive medical reports, from Star Health, India’s largest health insurer, has been made publicly accessible through Telegram chatbots. This alarming revelation comes shortly after Telegram’s founder faced criticism for enabling criminal activity on the platform.

A security researcher alerted Reuters to the situation, revealing that a purported creator of the chatbots claimed millions of private details were for sale. Users could request samples of this data simply by interacting with the chatbots, which had been operational since at least August 6.

Star Health, with a market capitalization exceeding \$4 billion, has reported the unauthorized data access to local authorities. In a statement, the company asserted that

an initial review indicated “no widespread compromise” and that “sensitive customer data remains secure.”

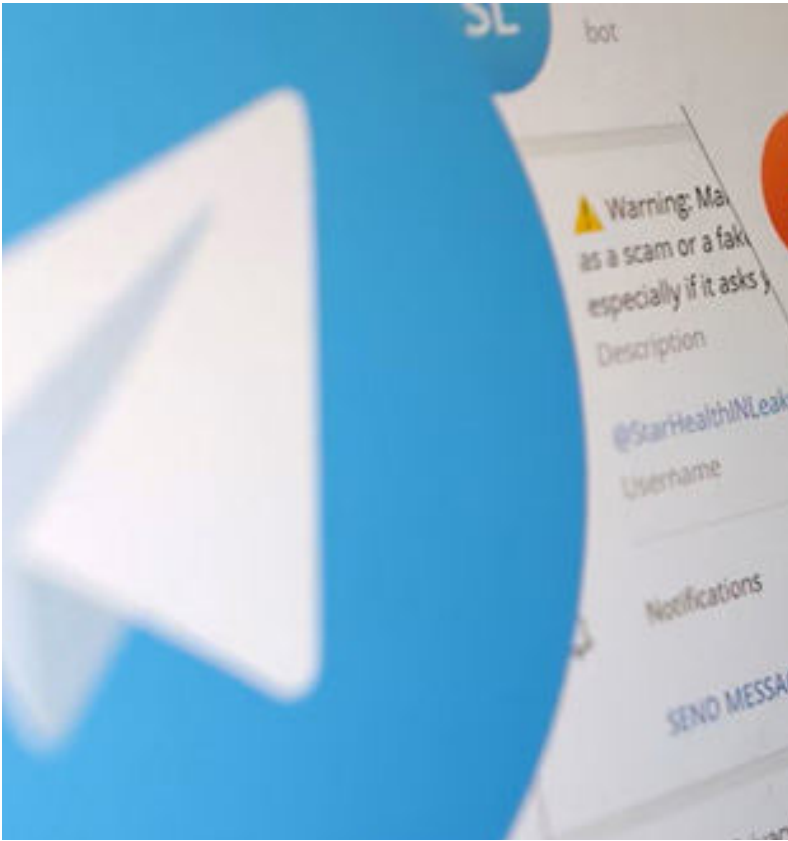
Using the chatbots, Reuters was able to download documents containing personal information such as names, phone numbers, addresses, tax details, ID copies, test results, and medical diagnoses. The ease with which stolen data can be shared highlights Telegram’s ongoing struggles with content moderation, especially following the recent arrest of founder Pavel Durov in France, which raised further scrutiny of the app.

The creator of the chatbots, who operates under the alias “xenZen,” claimed to possess 7.24 terabytes of data from over 31 million Star Health customers. While some data is

available for free through the chatbots, bulk data can be purchased. During testing, Reuters managed to download over 1,500 files, some dated as recently as July 2024.

Following the report, the chatbots were labeled “SCAM” and marked as suspicious. Telegram’s spokesperson, Remi Vaughn, confirmed that the bots were taken down within 24 hours of the report. Vaughn emphasized that the sharing of private information on Telegram is prohibited and that moderators actively work to remove harmful content.

This incident underscores the significant challenges companies like Star Health face in safeguarding customer data in an increasingly digital landscape.



Ashwin Stars as India Dominates Bangladesh in 1st Test



Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin made a significant impact on Day Three of the first Test against Bangladesh at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, taking three crucial wickets as India reduced the visitors to 158/4 before early stumps due to bad light. With two days remaining, the match hangs in the balance, with India firmly in control, aiming to claim six wickets before Bangladesh can chase down the daunting target of 515 runs.

Bangladesh's captain, Najmul Hossain Shanto, is currently at the crease, unbeat-

en on 51, while Shakib Al Hasan supports him with five runs. The final session began with openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam looking to build on their initial 56-run partnership. However, the duo could only add six runs before Jasprit Bumrah struck, enticing Zakir into a drive that was expertly caught by Yashasvi Jaiswal in the gully.

Ashwin faced some early aggression from Islam and Shanto, who hit him for three boundaries. Yet, Ashwin turned the tide by getting Shanto to flick a catch to Shubman Gill at mid-wicket, and shortly after, he

dismissed Mominul Haque with a delivery that curled away to hit off-stump. Shanto, meanwhile, displayed impressive form, reaching his fifty off just 55 balls with a six over backward square-leg.

As the innings progressed, Ashwin struck again, removing Mushfiquir Rahim, who failed to keep his drive down, allowing K.L. Rahul to take a stunning diving catch at mid-on. Shortly after, the players were forced off the field due to poor visibility, leading to an early end to the day's play, which was dominated by India's bowlers.

Shakib Al Hasan Sets Record as Bangladesh's Oldest Test Player



Shakib Al Hasan has made history in Bangladesh cricket by becoming the oldest player to participate in a Test match for his country. At 37 years and 181 days old, he achieved this milestone during Day 3 of Bangladesh's first Test against India in Chennai, surpassing the previous record held by left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who played his last Test at 37 years and 180 days in 2008.

A stalwart of Bangladeshi cricket for over a decade, Shakib continues to demonstrate his value as one of the game's top all-rounders. His longevity and consistent contributions have played a pivotal role in the team's development and success over the years.

Despite Shakib's personal achievement, the match has been challenging for Bangladesh, as they faced a formidable Indian side. On Day 3, Shubman Gill showcased his prowess by scoring his seventh Test fifty, while Rishabh Pant was approaching his twelfth fifty, helping India reach 141 for 3 after 40 overs. With their total lead exceeding 350 runs, India looked poised for a commanding victory.

Earlier in the match, India's Jasprit Bumrah dismantled Bangladesh's batting lineup, claiming 4 wickets for 50 runs. The visitors were dismissed for just 149 runs in their first innings, failing to build a solid response to India's substantial total. Experienced players like Shakib, who managed to score 32 runs, and wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das, with 22 runs, struggled to make an impact as Bangladesh found themselves on the back foot.

While Shakib's record is a testament to his dedication and skill, the team will need to regroup quickly as they navigate the remaining days of the Test. With their backs against the wall, Bangladesh aims to find a way to challenge the dominant Indian side in the remainder of the match.



Hetmyer, Shepherd and bowlers deliver stunning win for Guyana

The Guyana Amazon Warriors kicked off their home leg of CPL 2024 with an impressive 30-run victory against the St Kitts and Nevis Patriots at Providence Stadium on Friday. Batting first, the Warriors struggled to find their rhythm, finishing with a modest total of 137 runs, largely thanks to standout performances from Shimron Hetmyer, who scored 63 off 33 balls, and Romario Shepherd, who contributed an unbeaten 34 off 22.

The Warriors faced early setbacks, losing openers Tim Robinson and Kevin Sinclair for ducks, courtesy of a brilliant bowling display by Ashmead Nedd, who recorded figures of 4 for 25. Kyle Mayers then struck a critical blow by dismissing Shai Hope for just seven runs, leaving the Warriors in a precarious position. Amidst the turmoil, Hetmyer showcased his exceptional talent, dominating the Patriots' bowling attack until he was trapped LBW by Tabraiz Shamsi when the team total was only 83.

Shepherd's late cameo added crucial runs but the Warriors' innings faltered as they struggled to build momentum. The target of 138 runs was seen as below par, even with the pitch's challenging conditions and the hint of dew settling in.

However, the Warriors' bowlers delivered a remarkable performance in the powerplay, restricting the Patriots to just 27 runs. Moeen Ali stood out with the ball, taking 2 wickets for just 9 runs, effectively exploiting the spin-friendly conditions. While Evin Lewis fought valiantly, scoring 49 off 46 balls, he lacked support as wickets tumbled around him.

As the pressure mounted, Lewis fell to Dwaine Pretorius, and young Shamar Joseph (3 for 9) quickly wrapped up the tail, securing a comprehensive win for the Warriors. This match showcased the Warriors' bowling prowess and Hetmyer's explosive batting, setting a positive tone for the remainder of the tournament.



Rashid Khan Achieves Historic Five-Wicket Haul on His Birthday

In a remarkable display of skill, Rashid Khan made history on Friday by becoming the first cricketer in the 53-year history of ODI cricket to take a five-wicket haul on his birthday. Turning 26, Rashid's stellar performance helped Afghanistan secure their first ODI series victory against South Africa, winning the second match by a significant 177 runs.

Bowling first in Sharjah, Afghanistan set a challenging total of 311/4, thanks to a spectacular century from opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who scored 105 runs off 110 balls. He was supported by half-centuries from Azmatullah Omarzai (86 not out) and Rahmat Shah (50), establishing a solid foundation for their innings.

In response, South Africa's chase began promisingly with a 73-run opening partnership, but they quickly faltered. Rashid Khan's exceptional bowling figures of 5 wickets for just 19 runs in 9 overs decimated the South African batting lineup, leading to their collapse at 134 all out in just 34.2 overs. This performance marked Rashid's fifth ODI five-wicket haul, underscoring his status as one of the game's premier bowlers.

This victory also set a new record for Afghanistan, representing their biggest win by runs in ODIs, surpassing their previous best of 154 runs against Zimbabwe. The triumph gave Afghanistan an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, following their six-wicket victory in the first ODI earlier in the week.

Gurbaz's century broke Ahmad Shahzad's record for the most centuries by an Afghanistan batter, while Omarzai's explosive innings featured five boundaries and six sixes, contributing significantly to Afghanistan's imposing total.

As South Africa lost their way after a strong start, they were unable to capitalize on their early momentum, with Rashid Khan's spin proving too difficult to handle. This victory not only showcases Afghanistan's growing prowess in international cricket but also cements Rashid Khan's legacy in the sport.



Gill and Pant Shine in India's Dominance Against Bangladesh

India's Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill displayed exceptional form on Day Three of the first Test against Bangladesh at MA Chidambaram Stadium, each scoring centuries that not only bolstered India's position but also instilled confidence in the team's management ahead of a demanding Test season. Gill's unbeaten 119 and Pant's 109 put Bangladesh firmly on the back foot as India pushed towards a potential series lead.

This match marked the first time the two young stars partnered in a Test setting, following their history of leading India at the Under-19 level. With their stand-out performances, they alleviated any doubts regarding their respective roles within the squad. Gill was under pressure to solidify his position at No. 3, while Pant needed to demonstrate that his unique style of play remained intact.

Together, the duo forged a formidable 167-run partnership, expertly navigating the Bangladesh bowling attack and lifting India to a commanding total of 287/4. This left Bangladesh facing a daunting target of 515 runs, a formidable challenge that highlighted India's dominance in the match.



Netflix to Premiere Nani's Blockbuster "Saripodhaa Sanivaaram" on September 26

Natural Star Nani's latest film, "Saripodhaa Sanivaaram," has become one of the biggest hits in Telugu cinema this year. Directed by Vivek Athreya, the movie debuted on August 29 and has enjoyed a remarkable box office run, recently crossing the Rs. 100 crore mark and joining the elite club of successful films.

Exciting news for fans: "Saripodhaa Sanivaaram" is set to make its OTT debut on Netflix next week. The film will premiere on September 26, available in multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. This rapid transition to the OTT space, occurring less than a month after its theatrical release, is noteworthy, especially given the film's success.

Netflix shared the announcement via social media, stating, "Ippati dhaaka @NameisNani rendu kaalle choosaru... moodo kannu choodataniki meeru ready ah? #SaripodhaaSanivaaram is coming to Netflix on 26th September in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi!"

"Saripodhaa Sanivaaram" stars Priyanka Mohan alongside Nani, with SJ Suryah playing the antagonist. The film is produced by DVV Danayya and features music composed by Jakes Bejoy, adding to its appeal.

Prime Video Teases *Be Happy* with New Poster



Ahead of International Daughter's Day, Prime Video has released an exciting new poster for Abhishek Bachchan's upcoming film *Be Happy*, featuring his co-star Inayat Verma. The duo, who previously worked together in Netflix's *Ludo* (2020), showcases their chemistry once again. The vibrant poster captures Abhishek and Inayat engaged in aerial silks, a stunning and complex dance form, as they flash joyous smiles with their arms spread wide. Accompanying the image, the caption reads, "All set to waltz right into your hearts. Be Happy on Prime. Coming Soon."

The announcement garnered positive reactions on social media, with Aamir Ali posting fire and red heart emojis, while music composer Harsh Upadhyay shared similar enthusiastic emojis. Varun Dhawan also showed his support by liking the post, highlighting the excitement surrounding the film.

Earlier in March, Prime Video unveiled the first poster, which showcased a touching father-daughter relationship between Abhishek and Inayat. In the image, Abhishek is seen wearing an apron, lovingly braiding Inayat's hair as she prepares for school. The accompanying caption provides insights into the film's storyline, stating, "Unfold the journey of a single father and his talented daughter who aspires to perform on the country's biggest dance reality show." It emphasizes the lengths a father will go to fulfill his daughter's dreams while seeking true happiness.

The film has already stirred anticipation within the industry, with actor Kunal Kapoor expressing his excitement through two black heart emojis in the comments. Filmmaker Farah Khan also chimed in, saying, "Can't wait," further adding to the buzz surrounding *Be Happy*. As the release date approaches, fans eagerly await what promises to be a heartwarming tale of love and ambition.

NTR's Hindi Debut in War 2: A New Chapter



Actor Jr NTR is set to make waves in Bollywood with his upcoming action thriller, *War 2*, directed by Ayan Mukerji. Starring alongside Hrithik Roshan, NTR began shooting for the film earlier this year and recently shared his thoughts on this exciting new venture.

Initially, NTR expressed some reservations about entering the Hindi film industry, as this was his first experience in Bollywood. However, once he got started, he quickly recognized the similarities between the Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil film industries. "I realized we are all one, and there are no differences as such," he stated, highlighting the camaraderie he felt during the filming process.

NTR also expressed high expectations for *War 2*, describing it as a potential "masterstroke" and emphasizing that it will be "phenomenal." Although he kept specifics under wraps, his enthusiasm for the project is palpable, hinting at exciting developments to come. The film is scheduled for a worldwide release in 2025, generating considerable anticipation among fans.

In the meantime, NTR is focused on his upcoming film *Devara*, directed by Koratala Siva, which is set to hit theaters on September 27. This film features a stellar cast, including Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan, adding to the excitement surrounding NTR's diverse roles this year.

With both *War 2* and *Devara*, Jr NTR is poised for a remarkable chapter in his career, bridging regional cinema and Bollywood, and his journey is sure to captivate audiences across the country.

Ridley Scott's Gladiator 2 Set for November Release

Ridley Scott's highly anticipated sequel, *Gladiator 2*, is set to hit theaters on November 15, marking a significant return to the franchise 24 years after the original film's release. In a recent interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Scott hinted at even more excitement, revealing that he is already developing ideas for *Gladiator 3*. "I'd rather get on into Gladiator III. There's already an idea," he shared, suggesting that the saga will continue beyond the upcoming film.

The original *Gladiator*, released in 2000, starred Russell Crowe as Maximus, a once-favored commander turned gladiator, who seeks revenge against Commodus, played by Joaquin Phoenix. The film culminated in a dramatic showdown between the two, resulting in their deaths. The movie was a monumental success, earning five Oscars from 11 nominations, along with two Golden Globes and numerous BAFTA awards, lauded for its compelling storytelling and powerful performances.

Gladiator 2 takes place two decades after the original, focusing on Lucius (Paul Mescal), the nephew of Commodus. To shield him from the Roman Empire's influence, his mother, Lucila, sends him to Numidia in northern Africa. The plot unfolds as Lucius returns to the iconic arena where he once witnessed the fierce battle between Maximus and Commodus as a child.



No Salman Khan Cameo In Ajay Devgn's Singham

Ajay Devgn's highly anticipated film *Singham Again* is set for a Diwali 2024 release, but recent rumors about a cameo by Salman Khan have sparked considerable speculation online. Reports suggested that Khan would reprise his beloved character, Chulbul Pandey, from the *Dabangg* franchise in Rohit Shetty's latest installment in the cop universe. However, Bollywood trade analyst and film critic Taran Adarsh has categorically dismissed these claims as "false news."

In a detailed note shared on Instagram, Adarsh addressed the swirling rumors directly, stating, "CHULBUL PANDEY IN 'SINGHAM AGAIN'? FALSE NEWS... It seems the rumour mills are working overtime." He reassured fans that *Singham Again* will not feature Salman Khan or his iconic character.