

# More Than Rs.50 Crore Scam in the **Protocol Department in the Name of Cars**

- A single person has a car rental contract from Protocol.
- Without tenders, it has been on a three-year nomination basis.
- In the recent tender, four firms were selected, all of which are his.
- Two officials receive monthly payments from him.
- Duplication of bills is common practice for him.
- GST is paid by the department on the bills, but he hasn't paid the GST.
- To avoid GST, he created duplicate firms.
- He evaded tax in Andhra Pradesh for taxi cars registered in Telangana.

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**GSTIN/UIN** 37ACWFS9419F3ZA 37ACYPT3335R1ZC 36ACYPT3335R3ZC 37ACYPT3335R2ZB

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Protocol Department is facing allegations of a Rs.50 crore scam involving rented cars. A travel agency owner, Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, and two higher officials are allegedly involved in this scam. The Protocol Department is responsible for arranging cars for ministers, officials, higher-ups visiting from Delhi or other states, and judges. For this purpose, the department is required to call for tenders. However, since 2014, a single individual has been handling these contracts through different companies, allegedly on a nomination basis, which is against the rules.

In June, following the commencement of the new government, a tender was called. Six comments. panies participated in the tender, with two being disgualified. The remaining four com-Moreover, Mr. Vijava Bhaskar Reddy is accused panies, which all belong to Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar of fraudulently handling car contracts for judg-Reddy, were awarded the contract. It is alleged es. He secured a contract for nine cars, includthat the officials were aware of this and have ing driver and fuel charges. However, while been receiving monthly kickbacks from Mr. Vi- the Protocol Department paid for drivers and

jaya Bhaskar Reddy, amounting to lakhs of rupees. Over the last ten years, the officials are alleged to have taken approximately Rs.12 crore in kickbacks. If these allegations are true, it raises questions about how much these officials have profited from other department contracts.

Another major issue is that Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy has allegedly evaded GST payments. While the department paid GST on the services, Mr. Reddy failed to remit the tax. Whenever notified by GST officials, he would reportedly create a new firm under a different name and continue his business under the new entity. In this manner, he has allegedly created multiple firms and evaded around Rs.15 crore in GST pay-

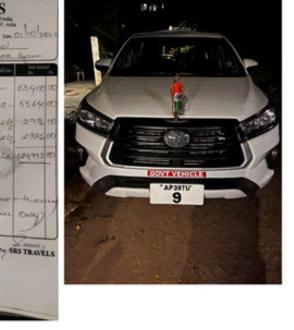
reimbursed fuel charges, Mr. Reddy allegedly submitted duplicate bills and claimed these amounts again, resulting in an additional Rs.15 crore in fraudulent charges.

SRS TRAVELS

Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy has been in this business for over 15 to 20 years, having operated in united Andhra Pradesh and continuing in present-day Telangana. One major violation involves using Telangana-registered vehicles in Andhra Pradesh without paying the required state tax. This has resulted in evaded taxes owed to the



Andhra Pradesh Transport Department. One of the most alarming aspects of his operations is that Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy allegedly provides government-labeled cars for private use. Private individuals who wish to avoid police checks reportedly use these vehicles with government nameplates, ensuring they are not stopped at check posts. This creates a dangerous loophole, as these cars, disguised as government vehicles, can potentially be used for illegal activities without being subjected to inspections.



# Megastar Chiranjeevi Enters the Guinness Book of Records

Chiranjeevi started his career on September 22, 1978 Megastar acted in 156 films in his career Guinness book record with 24 thousand dance steps in 537 songs



jeevi, beloved by millions, has recently earned a prestigious spot in the Guinness Book of Records. The honor comes in recognition of his incredible achievement: performing 24,000 dance steps across 537 songs, the highest number recorded by any actor in the world.

Chiranjeevi launched his illustrious career on September 22, 1978, and over the past 45 years, he has acted in 156 films. His remarkable dedication to dance has set a benchmark in the film industry that no other actor has matched. The

TPN, Hyderabad: Tollywood megastar Chiran- record was officially presented to him by representatives of the Guinness Book at a celebratory event held in Hyderabad, where he was honored in the presence of notable personalities, including Bollywood star Aamir Khan.

#### I Think That Is the Reason Why I Got This **Guinness Record!**

Chiranjeevi explained that he believes his love for dance, more than acting, is the reason behind his Guinness World Record

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Temple Setting at Home?





## 219 Temples Destroyed during the YCP regime, TTD Employees Must Speak Out



TPN, Guntur: In the wake of the Tirumala Laddu controversy, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan criticized the previous YSR Congress government. This morning, he undertook Prayaschitta Deeksha at the Sridasavatara Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Nambur, Guntur district. Following this, he addressed the media.

Pawan Kalyan directly addressed the employees of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), stating that it would be wrong for them to remain silent when they know that a mistake has been made in Tirumala. He emphasized that silence in the face of such wrongdoing would make TTD employees complicit.

He questioned why the TTD employees did not speak up, even though they were aware of the wrongs that had occurred at Tirumala. "Are you afraid of the YCP leaders?" he asked. He urged everyone to respect Hinduism, to condemn the wrongdoings happening in front of them, and to fight back. "If we sit at home thinking 'why should we?', our Dharma will be attacked, just like what happened with the Tirumala Laddu controversy," he said. He criticized Hindus working in TTD for not speaking out when injustice was being done to Lord Venkateswara.

Pawan expressed that crores of devotees who believe in Lord Venkateswara have been distressed by the adulteration of the Tirumala Lad-

dus, which they perceive as an attack on Hindu Dharma. He called on all religions to condemn this incident. He assured that his government Pawan Kalyan clarified that he respects all rewould take steps to prevent such incidents from happening again.

He appealed to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to initiate a CBI investigation into the Tirumala Laddu allegations, asserting that the He also called for an investigation into the previguilty must be punished. He added that if mistakes were made by the TTD board, they should be held accountable, stating that his party would question, condemn, and take action against the mistakes made by the YCP government.

Pawan alleged that 219 temples were destroyed during the YSRCP regime. He reminded everyone that the TTD board exists to protect Dharma, not to sell tickets or enter into arbitrary contracts. He emphasized that any attack on a religion, especially one as significant as Hinduism, would become world news, and questioned why no one speaks up when billions of Hindus are dis- Pawan concluded by saying that there is a need asked. "Should we just sit and watch when Hin- within the TTD.

dus are attacked?"

ligions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and others. He said that Sanatana Dharma teaches us to respect all religions equally while practicing our own faith.

ous TTD Board Chairman YV Subbareddy, TTD EO Dharma Reddy, and other TTD officials, to find out who was responsible for the alleged wrongdoings. He condemned the addition of animal fat to the Tirumala Laddus as a despicable act, urging every Hindu and every person who observes Dharma to condemn and fight against it. He described it as atrocious that the previous YS-RCP government allegedly sent lakhs of Laddus made with animal fat and fish oil to the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, which was won after centuries of struggle.

respected. "Do Hindus don't have feelings?" he to release a white paper on the irregularities



#### **Megastar Chiranjeevi Enters the Guinness Book of Records** continued from P-1

achievement. He said, "Dancing has been an additional qualification for me since childhood. Choreographers have made my dances special. While I receive awards for my acting, I am truly happy that my dancing has also earned a record and an award. I cannot forget the role my directors and fans have played in this success."

#### "Chandrababu Naidu Habitual Liar": Jagan Writes To PM Modi

TPN,Andhra Pradesh :In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has accused the current Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, of being a "pathological liar" in the midst of a controversy regarding the alleged use of animal fat in the preparation of Tirupati laddus. Reddy claims that Naidu's statements have harmed the beliefs of millions purely for political gain.



country is looking to the Prime Minister for action, urging that Naidu be "reprimanded in the severest way" for spreading what he called shameless lies. He demanded transparency in the investigation to restore trust among Hindu devotees.

Naidu claimed that animal fat was used to prepare the popular laddus given as 'prasad' at the Sri Venkateswara Temple.

In response, Reddy explained that a tanker containing questionable ghee was rejected upon arrival at Tirupati on July 12 and was never used for prasadams. He stressed that stringent protocols have been in place for decades to ensure the purity of ghee, including multiple tests before approval.

The controversy erupted after Reddy criticized Naidu for his irresponsible actions, stating that they detracted from the integrity of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and expressed concern about the impact on public sentiment. He described Nai du's actions as a serious affront to the faith of countless devotees.

> In closing, Reddy urged the Prime Minister to address the situation promptly to alleviate the concerns raised by Naidu's allegations and to restore faith in the TTD's practices.

Reddy emphasized that the entire

# **TTD Invites CM Chandrababu to Attend** Srivari Brahmotsavam in Tirumala

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy's annual Brahmotsavam is set to take place from October 4th to 12th, and in preparation for this significant event, officials and priests from the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) visited CM Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Undavalli to extend an invitation.



## Vidyasagar Arrested in Mumbai Actress Case

TPN.Vijavawada : In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into the Mumbai actress case, Vidyasagar has been arrested and will be brought to Vijayawada late tonight. Authorities are set to produce him in court today.



Vijayawada Police Commissioner Rajasekhar Babu confirmed the arrest, stating, "A full investigation is ongoing regarding the Mumbai actress case." He emphasized that the investigation aims to uncover the identities of any additional individuals involved in this troubling matter.

In response to the situation, the police are also providing security for the Mumbai actress to ensure her safety during this period. The case has garnered considerable attention, highlighting concerns about the safety and well-being of those in the film industry.

As the investigation unfolds, the police are committed to thoroughly examining all aspects of the case to bring the responsible parties to justice. Further updates will be provided as new information emerges.

TTD Executive Officer J. Shyamala Rao and Additional EO Venkaiah Chowdhary presented the invitation letter to CM Chandrababu during their visit. The occasion was marked by the priests and Vedic scholars bestowing their blessings through Vedashirvachan, along with the presentation of Swami's tirthaprasadas.

In expressing his gratitude, CM Chandrababu thanked the TTD officials and priests for their As the Dussehra Brahmotsavam approaches, kind invitation. He acknowledged the importance of the Brahmotsavam, which is consid-

ered a major spiritual event for devotees. The Brahmotsavam not only showcases the rich traditions of the Tirumala temple but also serves as a gathering for countless devotees who come to pay their respects to Lord Venkateswara.

preparations are in full swing, with TTD officials working diligently to ensure a smooth

and auspicious celebration. The event is expected to draw a large number of devotees, highlighting the enduring faith and reverence for Lord Venkateswara, who is regarded as the direct deity of Kali Yuga.

This invitation reflects the ongoing relationship between the state government and the TTD, as they work together to promote the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.

## TTD EO Shyamala Rao Meets Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan



TPN,Mangalagiri : TTD Executive office for a brief discussion. Officer J. Shyamala Rao visited Undavalli today to extend an invitation to former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for the upcoming Tirumala Srivari Brahmotsavam. After delivering the invitation, Shyamala Rao met with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at the Mangalagiri camp

During their meeting, Pawan Kalyan inquired about the recent allegations regarding the use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of the Tirumala Laddu. Shyamala Rao explained that the issue of adulteration occurred during the tenure of the previous governhow ghee suppliers were selected and shared findings from lab tests that confirmed the adulteration. Pawan Kalyan expressed his concern over the matter, emphasizing that strict action should be taken against anyone involved in the use of adulterated ghee. He underscored the importance of safeguarding the sentiments of devotees, stating that there should be no compromise on the religious aspects associated with the sacred offering of the Tirumala Laddu.

The discussion highlights the ongoing concerns surrounding the

ing body. She provided details on integrity of temple offerings and the responsibilities of the governing bodies involved. As the TTD seeks to restore faith among devotees, both leaders underscored the necessity of transparency and accountability in the management of religious affairs.

> The Brahmotsavam is a significant event for devotees, and ensuring the purity of offerings is paramount. The meeting between Shyamala Rao and Pawan Kalyan marks a critical step toward addressing the concerns raised and protecting the sanctity of the revered Tirumala Laddu.

## Sonu Sood **Praises Chan**drababu Naidu's 100-Day Rule in Andhra Pradesh

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : Actor and humanitarian Sonu Sood has made headlines with his remarks on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's first 100 days in office in Andhra Pradesh, which began on June 12. Amid various challenges, including financial difficulties and the recent Tirumala laddu controversy, Sood expressed his admiration for Naidu's governance through a video posted on social media.

Sood commended Naidu's vision for the state's future, noting that the Chief Minister has demonstrated commitment to ensuring the safety and happiness of the people. He believes that Naidu's efforts will receive positive feedback from the public. In his video, Sood mentioned his intention to meet Naidu soon to congratulate him on the milestone.

Naidu's administration has already introduced several key initiatives aimed at promoting development and welfare. He has been actively involved in disaster management

during unexpected floods, showcasing his dedication to public service. The Chief Minister's government has also undertaken measures such as renovating canteens to alleviate hunger among the poor, abolishing the land titling act to protect property rights, and increasing interest-free loans for DWAKRA women from five lakh to ten lakh rupees.

Citizens and notable figures across the state have praised Naidu's handling of the flood crisis and various government programs initiated during his term. Many view his policies, including the introduction of a free sand policy and enhanced support for ration distribution, as significant steps toward improving the lives of residents.

Overall, Sonu Sood's endorsement adds to the growing appreciation for Naidu's administration as it navigates the early challenges of governance in Andhra Pradesh.





## **Buchi Ramprasad Fires on Jagan Over Tirumala Laddu Adulteration** Controversy

- Tirumala Laddu Controversy
- Animal fat in ghee used for making brownies
- Extreme political corruption in AP
- Convenor of TDP Brahmin Sadhikara Samiti who made harsh comments on Jagan

TPN,Mangalagiri : In a media conference, TDP Brahmin Sadhikara Samiti Convenor Buchi Ramprasad sharply criticized former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy over the alleged adulteration of Tirumala Laddu, the sacred prasadam offered at the Tirumala temple. Ramprasad accused Jagan of corrupting not just the government systems but even desecrating Lord Venkateswara Swami's prasadam.

On August 3, 2023, Ramprasad highlighted concerns over the quality of the Tirupati laddoos, stating that proper ghee and in-

gredients, such as cashew nuts, almonds, and raisins, were not used during Jagan's tenure. Instead, substandard ghee was supplied through a reverse tendering policy. He contrasted this with the laddoos made during the TDP regime, which were of superior quality and contained premium ingredients. He pointed out

that the laddoos prepared by the current coalition government are once again of good quality, soft and rich in ingredients. Ramprasad further alleged that, during Jagan's ad-

ministration, the laddoos were so poorly made that

they resembled "dry, hard cakes," comparing them to cricket balls. He expressed deep concern that the ghee used in the laddoos was mixed with animal fat, which not only violated the sacredness of the prasadam but also hurt the religious sentiments of devotees, particularly Brahmins who avoid non-vegetarian food.

He accused Jagan of using the Tirumala temple for political purposes and questioned why Jagan never visited the temple with his wife during his five-year tenure. Ramprasad also ridiculed Jagan's claims that Chandrababu Naidu was using the issue for

political gain, recalling that Naidu attributed his survival in the Alipiri attack to the blessings of Lord Venkateswara Swami.

Ramprasad concluded by urging the public to be aware of the mistakes made during Jagan's regime, asserting that such actions led to his political downfall.

## If we do wrong, we will suffer the consequences. **Bhumana**

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : The controversy surrounding former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's claim that animal fat was used instead of ghee in the preparation of Tirumala Srivari Laddu has ignited tensions across the country. Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, former chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), reacted sharply to Naidu's remarks, accusing him of exploiting religious sentiments for political gain.

Bhumana criticized Chandrababu for damaging his own political future by making baseless allegations about the sacred Tiruma-

la Laddu. He recalled how similar unfounded accusations were made during elections, claiming that Naidu's party blocked access to Srivari and the Tirumala temple but failed to prove any wrongdoing when they came to power.

He condemned Naidu's statement that animal and fish fats were used in the preparation of the laddoos, calling it a grave insult to Lord Venkateswara Swamy. Bhumana warned that Chandrababu would face divine retribution for his actions and questioned whether



Naidu was willing to face a trial led by a Supreme Court judge to prove his claims wrong.

Furthermore, Bhumana demanded an explanation on how sensitive TTD reports, which should have been disclosed by temple officials, were leaked from the TDP office. He also pointed out that TDP MLAs Vemireddy Prashanthireddy and Minister Parthasarathy, who were part of the committee appointed to assess the quality of the ghee, had remained silent on the matter.

# **APCC Chief YS Sharmila Pays Tribute to Sitaram Yechury at Condolence Meeting**

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief YS Sharmila Reddy paid heartfelt tributes to Sitaram Yechury during a condolence meeting, highlighting his contributions to Indian politics and his unwavering commitment to secularism and the communist ideology. Speaking at the event, Sharmila praised Yechury as a secularist, humanitarian, and an exceptional parliamentarian who left an indelible mark on Indian politics.

In her address, YS Sharmila Reddy described Yechury as a "genius" who had a unique ability to explain complex facts in Parliament, making him a respected leader across party lines. She emphasized that Yechury had an inseparable bond with the Congress party, having played a key role in the formation of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2004. His efforts to mediate and resolve disputes between UPA allies were critical to ensuring the coalition's success. Sharmila further lauded Yechury's role in the formation of the present INDIA bloc, saying he was at the forefront of efforts to unite Despite facing various challenges, Yechury



secular forces in the country. "Yechury was a protector of the idea of India, with a deep understanding of our nation's ethos," she remarked, highlighting his lifelong fight against the BJP's ideology. She added that munist, and a great writer. He was somehis struggle for secularism and democracy remains a source of inspiration for many within the Congress and beyond.

remained steadfast in his beliefs and never wavered from his communist principles, she noted.

"Yechury lived as a great leader, a true com-

**Ex-Minister Devineni Uma Slams YCP Leaders** Over Tirumala Laddu Scandal, Calls for Investigation



Yechury's close association with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also mentioned by Sharmila, who said that Yechury wanted a secularist party to remain in power to preserve the country's democratic values.

one who believed that positions and money were not important, but staying true to one's ideology was. He was also very close to my father, YSR," Sharmila said, expressing deep respect on behalf of the Congress party. Concluding her tribute, Sharmila Reddy acknowledged Yechury's lifelong commitment to his ideals and paid her respects, calling him a guiding light for future generations.

## **BJP Leader Challenges** Jagan for Debate on Tirumala Laddu Scandal

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : BJP leader Vallur Jayaprakash Narayana has openly challenged former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy to a debate over the alleged desecration of the sacred Tirumala Laddu. Speaking to the media in Delhi, Narayana expressed his anger over the reported misuse of Sanatana Dharma during Jagan's tenure and questioned the YSRCP leader's commitment to protecting

Hindu religious sentiments. Narayana accused Jagan's government of increasing the prices of laddus and restricting access to Tirumala's services for common devotees. He further alleged that corruption in TTD tenders under Jagan's rule caused immense suffering for millions of devotees. Narayana also claimed that the YCP leaders had sold darshan tickets and allowed "Pagan propaganda" on Tirumala's holy grounds. The BJP leader called for a discussion on a wide range of topics, including Sanatana Dharma, the Agama Shastras, and temple services, and dared Jagan to debate these issues



on his own TV channel. Vallur Jayaprakash Narayana asserted that the BJP's dedication to protecting Sanatana Dharma is evident in the party's efforts across India, from Ayodhya to Kashi and Ujjain.

Narayana also criticized the alleged mismanagement of Tirumala's laddu preparation, which has been ongoing for centuries. He accused Jagan of engaging in corrupt practices under the guise of reverse tendering and claimed that these actions are hurting religious sentiments. He concluded by saying that Jagan's sins would be judged by God and that the people had already begun to punish him through elections.

### Lakshmi Parvathi Hot **Comments on** CM Chandrababu Naidu

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : The controversy over Tirumala Laddu adulteration continues to stir Andhra Pradesh, following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's comments that animal fat was mixed with ghee in the sacred offering. YSRCP leaders have fiercely criticized Naidu, accusing him of dragging religious sentiments into politics for personal gain.

Former Telugu Academy Chairman Lakshmi Parvati recently made sensational remarks, expressing her anger towards Naidu. She accused him of tarnishing the reputation of Tirumala Srivari Laddu, a sacred prasadam that has been prepared for hundreds of years. Lakshmi Parvati firmly denied any adulteration of ghee under the current government, stating that Naidu's claims were part of a political ploy to discredit Jagan Mohan Reddy. She criticized Naidu for trying to "play with God" for his selfish political agenda, accusing him of tarnishing the name of Tirumala Govindu for personal

gain. Lakshmi Parvati further



claimed that if any adulteration occurred, it would have been during Naidu's tenure, not Jagan's.

Meanwhile, YCP leaders continue to attack Chandrababu, accusing him of using the Tirumala Laddu issue as part of diversionary tactics to cover up his failure to fulfill election promises. They claim that Naidu's attempts to incite religious hatred and damage Jagan's political future will not be tolerated.

YCP leaders concluded that Chandrababu's toxic propaganda will be exposed and his conspiracies to end Jagan's political career will fail.

TPN,Andhra Pradesh : Former Minister Devineni Uma has launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and other YSRCP leaders, accusing them of desecrating Tirumala and mismanaging funds at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). Devineni claimed that the sins committed in the preparation of Tirumala Laddu would ultimately burn Jaganmohan Reddy and his associates.

He alleged that YCP leaders, including YV Subbareddy, Vijayasai Reddy, and Subba Reddy, have been involved in corrupt practices, looting crores from the temple's funds and transferring the money to Tadepalli. Uma highlighted that Subbareddy's family was seen offering hymns at the temple while being accused of serious misdeeds, including entering the temple's sanctum in sandals, which he condemned as an "evil act."

Devineni further accused YCP leaders of using reverse tendering tactics, both in the Polavaram project and at the Tirumala temple, to loot funds and sabotage projects. He questioned why Subbareddy and others have not been investigated for their alleged involvement in CBI and ED cases, suggesting that the corruption extended back to the tenure of YS Rajasekhar Reddy as CM.

Devineni called for an urgent investigation into the alleged looting of hundreds of crores from TTD, including the issuance of fake tickets and misuse of Swami's pujas. He urged authorities to take strict action to prevent future desecration and ensure that the religious sentiments of devotees are not hurt.





# Chandrababu Promises Swift Action on Nominated Posts, Highlights Achievements in 100 Days

**TPN,Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference today with ministers, MLAs, in-charges, and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) village-level leaders. He assured them that nominated posts would be filled soon and priority would be given to those who had worked hard across all three parties in the ruling coalition.

Chandrababu praised the dedication and sacrifices of TDP workers, calling them the backbone of the party. He also announced an increase in accident insurance for party workers, from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Additionally, the Chief Minister highlighted efforts made by the party's Skill Development and Empowerment Department to secure employment opportunities for the youth, both domestically and internationally.

Chandrababu emphasized that the coalition government has been steadily fulfilling its promises over the past 100 days. He mentioned that a free gas scheme would be rolled out from Diwali, and he urged leaders to explain the government's accomplishments to the people.

#### Key Points of Chandrababu's Remarks:

- The people have entrusted TDP with unprecedented success, and the party must



maintain their trust.

- He criticized the previous YSR Congress Party (YCP) government for incurring Rs. 10 lakh crore in debt and destroying key systems.

- The inefficient rule of Jaganmohan Reddy has caused lasting damage, and this must be communicated to the public.

- The TDP is committed to pursuing both welfare and development initiatives simultaneously, with the goal of making the party an unstoppable force by 2029.

- The coalition government is working to rectify the corruption left behind by the previous regime and ensure that pending bills are cleared.

- Chandrababu highlighted the government's efforts to restore order in Tirumala and pledged to take strict action against those responsible for the recent controversies.

- He called for a door-to-door campaign to inform people about the government's achievements in its first 100 days in office.

The Chief Minister concluded by urging party representatives to continue working in close coordination with village and ward secretariats, ensuring that welfare schemes reach the people.

## "Minister Kollu Ravindra Urges Unity Among Fishing Communities for a Brighter Future"



Case Registered Against AP BRS President Thota Chandrasekhar



Relief for Flood Victims, Compensation to be Distributed on Sept 25th



**TPN,Vijayawada:** The government has taken a crucial step towards providing relief to flood victims still reeling from the devastation. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced that compensation will be distributed to all flood-affected individuals on the 25th of this month. During a review meeting on Saturday, CM Chandrababu instructed officials to ensure that no injustice is done and that every affected person receives compensation.

In his directive, the CM emphasized that no victim should be treated unfairly. The government has decided to provide Rs. 25,000 compensation to those whose ground floors were submerged and Rs. 10,000 for those on the first and subsequent floors. Additionally, compensation will be provided for damaged vehicles, dead livestock, and crop loss, with farmers set to receive Rs. 10,000 per acre.

The CM also urged officials to ensure that every individual affected by the floods is compensated and instructed them to deposit the compensation directly into the bank accounts of the victims. Chandrababu expressed concern over insurance settlements, instructing officials to complete the process for the remaining 4,000 of the 10,000 damaged vehicles yet to be settled.

#### Flood Victims' List Released

Vijayawada/Chittinagar: Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanchandra announced that the list of flood victims will be released at the secretariats on Sunday and Monday. Although Sunday is a holiday, the secretariats will remain open to provide access to the lists. Citizens can check the list and report any discrepancies or missing names. Additionally, the government has announced another opportunity for flood victims to register their losses if missed earlier.

This comprehensive relief package reflects the government's commitment to ensuring the welfare of flood victims and addressing their concerns in a timely and fair manner.

#### **Protest Demands Immediate**

**TPN,Vijayawada:** Minister of Mines, Underground Resources, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, has called upon the fishing community to unite and strive for progress in education, employment, and politics. Speaking at a spiritual meeting organized by the Fishermen's Association at Ailapuram Hotel in Vijayawada, the minister stressed the need for collective efforts to uplift the lives of fishermen. The meeting was led by former MP Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, who announced his decision to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), much to the joy of the gathering.

Minister Kollu Ravindra highlighted the persistent poverty in the fishing community and urged everyone to work together to eradicate it. He reminisced about the contributions of former Minister Nadkudit Narasimha Rao, who championed the development of fishermen, including the establishment of residential schools for fishermen's children. He also lauded former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for granting pensions to fishermen at the age of 50 and for canceling the controversial Jivo No. 217, which had endangered the

livelihoods of fishermen under the Jagan Reddy government.

Ravindra emphasized the need for unity, stating that past struggles were ineffective due to the lack of a united front. He encouraged the fishermen to come together and fight for their development. "There are thousands of crores worth of schemes from both the central and state governments, but we are not utilizing them," he said. He pointed out the lack of processing units named after fishermen, citing it as proof of the community's backwardness.

Looking ahead, the minister promised to secure funds from the central government for the fishing community and to establish training centers to help fishermen's children excel in education and employment. Several fishermen leaders, including former MLC Karri Padmasree and Saikam Rajasekhar, participated in the program, reaffirming their commitment to the community's progress.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to work together for the betterment of the fishermen's social and economic conditions. **TPN,Amaravati:** A case has been registered against Andhra Pradesh BRS president Thota Chandrasekhar following a complaint lodged by Wakada Tirumala Rao, alleging that he was cheated by Aditya Constructions Company. The complaint led to a police investigation, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) conducting inspections at Aditya Constructions Company.

According to the complaint, Aditya Constructions Company had misled and deceived Wakada Tirumala Rao, prompting him to approach the authorities. Following this, a case was registered in the Central Crime Station (CCS) against the company. Thota Chandrasekhar, who is associated with the construction firm, has been named as one of the accused in the case.

The police have included a total of six accused in the case, with Chandrasekhar being one of them. The investigation is ongoing, and further details regarding the nature of the alleged fraud and the role of each accused are yet to be revealed.

## "Mass Agitation for Contract, Outsourcing Employee Regularization on September 30: CITU's "

**TPN,Vijayawada:** Thousands of contractual and outsourcing employees across Andhra Pradesh will stage protests on September 30, demanding regularization and equal treatment with permanent employees. The agitation, organized by CITU (Centre of Indian Trade Unions) under the leadership of its state president AV Nageswara Rao, will take place in front of all district collectorates in the state.

Speaking at the district conference of contract and non-permanent workers at Vemana Vigyan Kendra in Tirupati, AV Nageswara Rao criticized both the current and previous governments for neglecting the



rights of non-regular employees. He emphasized the need to provide these employees with facilities equivalent to those enjoyed by regular staff, such as time scale, honorarium, and job security. The conference, chaired by JAC (Joint Action Committee) Chairman G. Naga Venkatesh, discussed various issues faced by employees working in government departments, public sector organizations, and institutions like Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The demands include regularization of National Health Mission staff nurses, medical staff, and employees working in various government schemes.

CITU District General Secretary Kandarapu Murali echoed these sentiments, urging the implementation of policies like equal pay for equal work, job security, and the timely release of salaries.

#### Punishment for Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Culprits



TPN,Vijayawada: A protest demanding immediate punishment for those involved in the adulteration of Tirumala Srivari Laddu Prasadam was held yesterday at 5:00 PM at Gudi Pipela Road, Ajit Singh Nagar. Organized under the leadership of Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Samiti President Jonnavittula Ramakrishna, the protest aimed to preserve the sanctity of Tirumala Tirupati and its revered prasad. Speaking at the event, Jonnavittula Ramakrishna condemned the adulteration, stating that those responsible for tainting the sacred prasad must be swiftly brought to justice. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the purity and sanctity of Tirumala, one of the holiest places for Hindus, and called on authorities to take stringent action. The protest saw participation from various religious and community leaders, including Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Presidents Sana Srinivasa Rao and Muvvala Subbaiah. Other key figures like Srihari, Ratnakumari, Damodar, and Veera Babu also joined the demonstration, expressing their strong discontent over the incident.

The leaders urged the government and concerned authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly and ensure that the offenders face legal consequences without delay. They stressed that protecting the sanctity of religious institutions is a responsibility shared by all, and any violation should be met with strict punishment.

The protest concluded with a united call for action, with participants pledging to continue their efforts until justice is served.

# **OPINION**





# Plot to Blow Up Army Special **Train Foiled in Madhya Pradesh**

Madhya Pradesh: In a shocking incident in Burhanpur district, Madhya Pradesh, a plot to blow up a special train carrying army personnel was thwarted on Wednesday. Miscreants had planted 10 detonators on the railway track near Sagphata railway station. Fortunately, the conspiracy was foiled without any casualties, as one of the detonators went off, alerting the train driver, who immediately stopped the train, preventing a major disaster.

The special train, which was transporting army personnel from Jammu and Kashmir to Karnataka, was saved thanks to the quick response of the driver. Upon discovery, the driver promptly informed the station master, leading to the involvement of senior officials from the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Railways, and the local police. Investigations are underway, and authorities confirmed that no injuries were reported.

#### Gas Cylinder Found on Railway Track in Uttar Pradesh

In a separate incident in Uttar Pradesh, railway security personnel discovered a gas cylinder placed on the railway tracks near Prempur railway station in Kanpur early Sunday morning. The loco pilot of a goods train, traveling from Kanpur towards Prayagraj, applied emergency brakes to stop the train after spotting the cylinder at around 8:10 AM. Officials later confirmed that the 5 kg gas cylinder was empty.

This incident marks the second such occurrence in Uttar Pradesh this month, raising concerns about repeated attempts to sabotage railway infrastructure. Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding both incidents to determine whether they are part of a larger conspiracy targeting rail operations.

The discovery of detonators and a gas cylinder on railway tracks within such a short time frame has heightened suspicions of coordinated efforts to cause train accidents across the country. Security agencies are on high alert as investigations continue.

# The Quad and India's Role in It: **Staying Relevant Amid China's Rise**

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, has now been around for nearly two decades. First conceptualized in 2004 following the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Quad has, at times, faced skepticism over its relevance and purpose. Despite such uncertainty, the Quad has gradually solidified its place in international diplomacy, especially in the Indo-Pacific region, a development driven, in no small part, by the growing influence of China.

At the fourth Quad leaders' summit in Wilmington, Delaware, US President Joe Biden was asked about the future of the Quad. His confident response, "Much beyond that," indicated the Quad's staying power despite Modi of India echoed this optimism,



#### **Power**

While AUKUS draws attention for its military dimension, the Quad challenges. Prime Minister Narendra has found relevance in other strategic areas, particularly in the realm India's position as a major player in emphasizing that the Quad would of economic resilience and reduc- the Global South allows the Quad to continue to support and partner with ing dependence on China. The 2023 Quad Summit introduced the \*\*Supply Chains Contingency Network\*\*, aimed at securing and enhancing the resilience of semiconductor supply chains. Semiconductors are vital to the global economy, particularly for advanced technologies. Taiwan's dominance in this sector presents a potential geopolitical vulnerability for countries like the US and its allies, given China's strategic interest in Taiwan.

unique value to the partnership, making it more strategically important, especially for the US. While AUKUS is a purely Western alliance, extend its influence beyond traditional Western spheres.

## Kolkata's Iconic Trams: The 151-Year-Old Legacy on the **Brink of Extinction**

The dinging bell of a tram rattling through the crowded streets of Kolkata brings a sense of nostalgia to many, including 18-year-old Deep Das. "There were times when buses were frequent, but I still waited for the trams," the student says, recalling the happiest moments of his day spent on this iconic transport. For Kolkata's residents, trams are more than just a mode of travel; they are a symbol of the city's rich history. But this 151-year-old network, once the pride of the eastern metropolis, is now facing a slow but steady decline.

#### The Rise and Fall of Kolkata's Trams

Introduced in 1873, when Kolkata was still a jewel in the British Empire's crown, the trams were initially horse- The West Bengal Transport Corporation drawn. Over the years, they transi- continues to advocate for the trams, tioned to steam-driven and finally electric-powered trams by 1900. The sight of these blue-and-white striped vehicles, with a sunshine-yellow top, weaving through the city streets was once a familiar one. But today, they are an endangered relic.



posed for makeshift laundry lines, with clothes fluttering in the breeze.

calling them a cheap, safe, and green mode of transport. "Although it is true that their numbers have drastically come down, the Kolkata tram has managed to brave the odds," the corporation states.

Indo-Pacific nations.

#### **AUKUS** and Quad: **Complementary or Competing?**

The relevance of the Quad came under scrutiny in 2021 with the formation of AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. AUKUS, with its military-focused agenda, immediately raised concerns that it might overshadow the Quad, which lacks a direct military component. Comparisons between the two partnerships intensified, leading some to question whether the Quad could effectively counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific.

India and Australia were initially hesitant about the Quad's re-emergence in 2017, concerned about antagonizing China. India shares a long, tense border with China, while Australia has deep economic ties to Beijing. Both nations were wary of appearing to align with a perceived US-led initiative to "contain" China. However, the situation shifted dramatically in 2020. India's border conflict with China in Eastern Ladakh and Australia's trade disputes with Beijing led both countries to shed their reservations about the Quad.

In 2020, India took the initiative to push for a standalone Quad ministerial meeting in Tokyo, marking a significant shift in the Quad's trajectory. With India and Australia more firmly on board, the Quad began to grow beyond its tentative beginnings.

#### **Quad's Strength: Economic Resilience Over Military**

According to a 2023 RAND report, a disruption in the semiconductor supply chain could have severe economic consequences for the US and its partners. The report recommended that the US work collaboratively with allies like those in the Quad to safeguard these crucial supply chains. The Quad's involvement in such economic initiatives demonstrates its value beyond military confrontation, focusing on strategic competition in the economic sphere, particularly against China.

Another significant Quad initiative was the \*\*Quad Vaccine Partnership\*\*, launched in 2021. This effort delivered 400 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to Indo-Pacific nations, providing a counterweight to China's extensive vaccine diplomacy in the region. China had distributed nearly 900 million doses to Asia-Pacific countries by December 2022, according to Bridge Consulting, a firm that tracks China's global health influence. The Quad's vaccine efforts served to reduce China's sway in these nations, reflecting the partnership's potential to exert influence through soft power.

#### India's Crucial Role in the **Quad's Relevance**

India's involvement in the Quad adds rise.

Political theorist John Ikenberry's "Three Worlds" framework helps explain India's significance. According to Ikenberry, the global West (led by the US) and the global East (dominated by China and Russia) are in competition to shape the world order. The global South, in this context, represents a "swing grouping" capable of aligning with either side. India, as a prominent leader of the global South, holds a pivotal role in balancing world politics. By participating in the Quad, India can tilt the dynamics of global alliances and exert influence over the international order.

India's inclusion makes the Quad a more comprehensive and globally relevant partnership. Its geopolitical position, economic power, and influence in the Global South contribute to shaping the Indo-Pacific region's security and economic framework, making the Quad an essential component of the US-led efforts to maintain a rules-based international order.

#### **Conclusion: The Quad's Future**

Despite occasional doubts about its relevance, the Quad has demonstrated that it is here to stay, thanks in large part to China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific. The partnership's focus on economic resilience, supply chain security, and regional influence provides it with a solid foundation for the future. Moreover, India's unique position within the Quad ensures that the partnership remains not just a tool of Western diplomacy but a broader platform capable of addressing the global challenges posed by China's Kolkata is the only city in India that still has an operational tram system, a fact that adds to its historic value. However, this unique distinction is now under threat, with the network gradually shrinking due to a combination of neglect, modern urban challenges, and shifting priorities.

#### A Struggle for Survival

Deep Das is not alone in his efforts to save the trams. He is part of the Calcutta Tram Users' Association (CTUA), a group of tram enthusiasts dedicated to preserving this heritage transport. Led by retired biochemist Debashish Bhattacharyya, the CTUA is fighting to keep the trams alive, arguing that city authorities are overlooking their potential.

Bhattacharyya believes that trams are not just a historical asset but also an environmentally friendly and economical solution to Kolkata's modern transportation problems. "The investment required is minimum," Bhattacharyya says. He points out that the lifespan of a tram is 50 to 80 years, far longer than the 5 to 10 years of a typical bus, and that their operational costs are much lower.

#### An Old Glory in Modern Times

The slow-moving trams are still a beloved part of Kolkata's landscape. They crawl through the city at about 20 km/h, navigating the traffic-clogged roads filled with vintage yellow taxis, buses, and even cattle. Yet, the tram lines often seem neglected; some parts of the infrastructure have been repur-

A ride on the tram costs a mere seven rupees, less than the price of a cup of tea, and far cheaper than a bus ride. However, the trams run on such irregular schedules that many commuters prefer to pay more for a bus or taxi in order to be on time.

#### Nostalgia Meets Reality

For many older residents, a ride on the tram is a trip down memory lane. Ram Singh, a 54-year-old teacher, recalls the trams of his youth. "We used to ride trams, and get off after one or two stops. Then we would get on the tram from the other side and get off again, without paying for a ticket," he says with a chuckle.

But this once-extensive network has dwindled to just two operational lines, a shadow of its former self. At one depot, dozens of tram cars sit derelict, their vibrant colors swallowed by rust, some dating back to the 1940s. "Cities should develop, but along with it, history should also be preserved," Singh says, lamenting that the trams represent Kolkata's "old identity."

#### A Fight for the Future

Das and his group continue to hold community meetings, put up posters, and campaign to raise awareness about the tram system's plight. However, their work also includes tracking breakdowns and addressing the system's many technical challenges. Each malfunction serves as a reminder that the trams may not have much time left.





# Free, Open Indo-Pacific Is Our Shared Priority: Modi At Quad Summit

At the Quad summit in Wilmington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that "the Quad is here to stay," emphasizing a collective commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Joined by U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Modi highlighted the summit's significance amid global tensions.

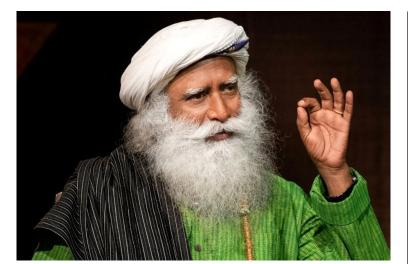
In his opening remarks, Modi stressed the importance of shared democratic values among Quad members, stating, "We are not against anybody." He reinforced their dedication to a rules-based international order that respects sovereignty and promotes peaceful conflict resolution. "A free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific is our shared priority," he asserted.

Modi noted the Quad's positive initiatives in various sectors, including health security, emerging technologies, climate change, and capacity building. "Our message is clear— the Quad is here to stay, to assist, to partner, and to complement," he stated, proposing to host the next Quad Leaders' Summit in India in 2025.



He also praised President Biden's leadership, acknowledging the first Quad summit under his tenure and the enhanced cooperation among member nations. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for your firm commitment and contribution towards the Quad," Modi said.

Earlier in the day, Modi arrived in the U.S. for a three-day visit, where he held fruitful bilateral talks with Biden at the president's Delaware residence. During his trip, Modi is also set to address the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly in New York and engage with Indian expatriates and American business leaders.



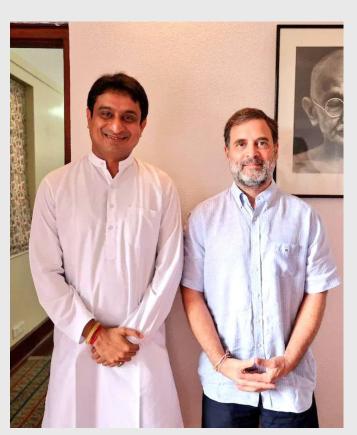
## Where There Is No Devotion: Sadhguru On Tirupati Laddoo Row

Amid the controversy over alleged animal fat in Tirupati Laddu, spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev expressed strong disapproval, stating that the inclusion of beef tallow in temple 'prasadam' is "beyond disgusting." He emphasized the importance of temples being managed by devotees rather than government administrations, asserting, "Where there is no Devotion, there shall be no sanctity."



## Nitish Kumar Requests Vande Bharat Train for Ayodhya-Sitamarhi Route

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has formally requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce a Vande Bharat train connecting Ayodhya and Sitamarhi, enhancing rail connectivity for pilgrims visiting these holy towns. The request comes as the Bihar government develops Punaura Dham Janki Mandir in Sitamarhi, regarded as the birthplace of Goddess Sita.



## Uday Bhanu Chib Appointed President of Indian Youth Congress

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has appointed Uday Bhanu Chib as the new President of the Indian Youth Congress, effective immediately. Chib, previously serving as the General Secretary of the Indian Youth Congress and former President of the Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Youth Congress, is recognized for his significant contributions to the party. The Congress party expressed appreciation for the outgoing president, Srinivas BV.

Uday Bhanu Chib has also been involved in the Congress manifesto committee for the upcoming J&K Assembly elections. He recently met with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi, discussing strategies and party initiatives.

In the current political landscape, the Congress is contesting the J&K Assembly elections in a pre-poll alliance with the National Conference (NC). According to their agreement, the NC will contest 52 seats while the Congress will contest 31, with two seats reserved for the CPI-M and the Panthers Party. However, the two parties have yet to agree on five contentious seats in the Jammu division and the Valley, including Banihal, Nagrota, Doda, Kishtwar, and Sopore. Both parties have decided to field candidates in these five areas, resulting in a friendly contest.

The uproar began after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu alleged on September 18 that the current government under Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was using animal fat and substandard ingredients in the preparation of Tirupati laddus. He claimed that even the sacred laddu was compromised with inferior materials, contrasting it with previous standards when it was made with pure ghee.

In response, YSRCP MP and former Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Y. V. Subba Reddy refuted Naidu's claims, insisting that TTD only uses pure cow ghee and organic ingredients for the 'prasadam.'

The situation intensified as former Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam labeled the issue a "dangerous conspiracy" aimed at undermining Sanatan Dharma. Protests ensued from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, demanding an apology from Reddy over the controversy. In his letter, Kumar highlighted the significance of improved rail services for the numerous pilgrims who visit both Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and Punaura Dham Janki Mandir daily. He acknowledged the central government's recent efforts to introduce multiple Vande Bharat trains in Bihar and expressed gratitude for these initiatives.

Kumar also mentioned the ongoing construction of the "Ram-Janki Marg" project, which aims to facilitate better road access between Ayodhya and Sitamarhi. He urged the Ministry of Railways to prioritize the new train service to further ease travel for devotees.

The state government has allocated ₹72.47 crore for the overall development of Punaura Dham, which includes plans for creating amenities like 'Sita-Vatika,' 'Luv-Kush Vatilka,' and recreational areas for children. Additional infrastructure improvements, such as thematic gates and parking spaces, are also underway to enhance the pilgrimage experience.

With these developments, the Bihar government aims to bolster religious tourism in the region and improve the facilities available to thousands of visitors who flock to Punaura Dham annually.

# **Kejriwal Challenges RSS and Modi**

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal launched a bold political strategy on Sunday, directly questioning the RSS and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership at a rally in Delhi. By implying that the RSS should rein in its "child," Kejriwal sought to diminish Modi's stature, asking, "Has the son become so big now that it is showing attitude to his mother?"

At his first 'Janta ki Adalat' public meeting since resigning as Delhi chief minister, Kejriwal posed five pointed questions to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. He questioned the RSS's stance on the BJP's alleged misuse of central agencies to destabilize opposition parties and the practice of inducting "corrupt" leaders into the party.

Kejriwal specifically referenced the BJP's retirement age rule, which he claimed was applied to senior leaders like LK Advani but



exempted Modi. He challenged Bhagwat by asking if he agreed that this inconsistency undermined the credibility of the party's leadership.

While Kejriwal addressed his supporters at Jantar Mantar, the BJP organized protests against him nearby, focusing on corruption allegations. AAP supporters, however, rallied around Kejriwal, displaying ban-

ners affirming his integrity and chanting slogans in his support.

Kejriwal, recently released on bail after over five months in Tihar Jail related to an excise policy case, emphasized that his political journey was driven by a desire to serve rather than seek power. He expressed his hurt over the corruption allegations and claimed that he had earned respect rather than wealth during his decade in politics.

As he prepares for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, Kejriwal described the contest as an "agni pariksha" (trial by fire) and urged voters to reconsider their support if they believed he was dishonest. He announced plans to relocate from the chief minister's residence after the Navratri period, opting to live among the people who have supported him. Chib's leadership comes at a crucial time for the Congress as it seeks to strengthen its position in Jammu & Kashmir, aiming to mobilize the youth and enhance party engagement ahead of the elections. His experience and connections within the party will be essential as he leads the youth wing during this pivotal period.

## Mayawati Raises Alarm Over Rising Crimes Against Women

Mayawati, the president of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, has expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of crimes against women in India. In a post on social media platform 'X', she criticized the political environment for descending into allegations rather than addressing the serious issue at hand.

She highlighted that the situation is dire across various states, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, and Karnataka, questioning the intentions and policies of governments regarding women's safety and respect. Mayawati emphasized that this is not a time for political posturing but rather for serious introspection regarding the effectiveness of existing measures to protect women.

She pointed out that the negligence displayed by government authorities and the alleged involvement of police in such crimes exacerbates the problem. "The repeated occurrence of heinous acts against women indicates a grave flaw in the government's approach," she stated.

Mayawati urged all stakeholders to adopt a more impartial and serious stance to combat the growing trend of violence against women. She insisted that the state and country must not be tarnished by the reputation stemming from these serious crimes. Her comments reflect a growing frustration over the lack of effective action and accountability in addressing women's safety issues in India.





## **India Pledges \$7.5 Million to Combat Cervical** Cancer in Indo-**Pacific Region**

Washington: In a significant move to strengthen the fight against cervical cancer, India has pledged USD 7.5 million towards cancer testing, screening, and diagnosis in the Indo-Pacific region. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Cancer Moonshot event, hosted by US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Delaware.

The initiative, part of the Quad Cancer Moonshot, is a "groundbreaking partnership" aimed at saving lives by addressing gaps in cervical cancer care in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quad, comprising India, the US, Japan, and Australia, has committed to working together to improve access to cervical cancer treatment and screening.

Modi highlighted that the grant is part of India's broader vision of \*'One Earth, One Health," and reiterated India's willingness to share its expertise in healthcare. As part of this initiative, India will also provide radiotherapy treatment and capacity-building support for cancer prevention in the region.

In addition to the cancer initiative, India will supply 40 million doses of vaccines through GAVI and Quad programs to support healthcare efforts in the Indo-Pacific. Modi emphasized the Quad's people-centric approach, stating, "When the Quad acts, it is not just for nations, it is for the people."

The White House fact sheet issued on Saturday underscored the importance of the Quad Cancer Moonshot in strengthening cancer-care infrastructure, expanding research collaborations, and improving access to cervical cancer screening and treatment. Currently, cervical cancer remains the third leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the region, with fewer than 10% of women having completed their HPV vaccinations.

The Quad nations will collaborate with UN agencies to lower the costs of HPV diagnostics and work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to improve medical imaging and radiation therapy access in underserved areas.

# **US Supports India's Bid for Permanent UN Security Council Seat at Quad Summit**

Wilmington: During the recent Quad Leaders Summit, US President Joe Biden expressed strong support for India's inclusion as a permanent member of a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The summit, attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japan's PM Fumio Kishida, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese, highlighted efforts to expand UNSC membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

In a joint statement, the Quad leaders emphasized the importance of reforming global institutions to reflect modern geopolitical realities, with Biden commending India's leadership, particularly Modi's role in the G-20 and Global South. India's large population, growing economy, and active involvement in international peacekeeping make it a strong candidate for permanent membership, a cause it has long championed.

The Quad leaders reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and securing maritime routes, particularly in the Middle East. India is set to assume co-leadership of the Combined Task Force 150 in 2025 to safeguard sea lanes in the Arabian Sea.

Prime Minister Modi also reiterated the Quad's commitment to a "free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific." He outlined several initiatives aimed at addressing global chal-



lenges, including health security, emerging technologies, and climate change. Modi described the Quad as a "force for global good."

On the economic front, the US announced a \$1 billion multilateral financing plan for clean energy projects in India, while Modi unveiled a \$7.5 million grant for cancer screening in the Indo-Pacific as part of India's "One Earth, One Health" vision.

Additionally, the US and India expanded cooperation in technology and defense, including the development of semiconductor manufacturing and unmanned surface vehicle systems.

This deepening partnership reflects the growing strategic importance of the India-US relationship in global security, technology, and economic development.

## **PM Modi Gifts Silver Train Model, Pashmina Shawl to** Joe and Jill Biden



Wilmington, Delaware: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his three-day visit to the US, presented US President Joe Biden with a handcrafted antique silver train model as a token of friendship. The meeting took place in Biden's hometown, Wilmington, ahead of the Quad Leaders' Summit.

The silver train model, inscribed with "DELHI-DELAWARE" on the main carriage and "INDIAN RAILWAYS" on the engine in both English and Hindi, was crafted by artisans from Maharashtra, renowned for their expertise in silver craftsmanship. The model is made of 92.5% silver and represents the cultural and historical ties between India and the US. Additionally, PM Modi gifted a Kashmiri pashmina shawl to First Lady Jill Biden, symbolizing the rich cultural heritage of India.

The meeting between Modi and Biden was described as "extremely fruitful," with discussions focusing on enhancing bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The two leaders also exchanged views on global and regional issues, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. PM Modi shared on social media platform X, expressing gratitude for the warm reception, stating, "I thank President Biden for hosting me at his residence in Greenville, Delaware. Our talks were extremely fruitful."



President Biden also posted on X, highlighting the strength of the India-US partnership, calling it "stronger, closer, and more dynamic than any time in history."



## **297 Indian Antiquities Returned During PM Modi's Visit to the US**

New Delhi: In a significant diplomatic achievement, the United States returned 297 antiquities to India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit, bringing the total number of repatriated artefacts to 640 since 2014. This move highlights India's continued efforts to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property and recover its lost heritage.

The US has become a key partner in India's recovery mission, having returned a total of 578 antiquities to date. Notably, between 2004 and 2013, only one artefact was returned to India. This marks substantial progress in India's efforts under PM Modi's leadership, particularly after the return of 157 antiquities during his 2021 visit, including a 12th-century bronze Nataraja statue. Earlier in 2023, another 105 artefacts were repatriated, underscoring the sustained effort to reclaim India's stolen cultural treasures.

India's recovery efforts are not limited to the US. The country has successfully retrieved 16 artefacts from the United Kingdom and 40 from Australia, as part of a broader strategy to preserve its rich cultural heritage.

A major milestone in these efforts was the signing of the \*Cultural Property Agreement\* between India and the US in July 2024, during the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting in New Delhi. This agreement aims to prevent further trafficking of Indian antiquities to the US and strengthens both nations' commitment to protecting cultural heritage.

# India Investigates Netflix for Visa **Violations and Racial Discrimination**

New Delhi: India is investigating Netflix's business practices, including allegations of visa violations, tax evasion, and racial discrimination, according to a government email sent to a former company executive. The investigation was revealed in a July 20 email from Deepak Yadav, an official with India's Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), to Nandini Mehta, Netflix's former director of business and legal affairs for India. Reuters reviewed the email, which outlines the concerns about Netflix's operations in the country.

The email mentions "visa violation, illegal structures, tax evasion, and incidents of racial discrimination" linked to Netflix's business conduct in India. The probe is reportedly part of increasing scrutiny of the US streaming giant, which has approximately 10 million users in India, a key growth market.

Ms. Mehta, who left Netflix in 2020, is currently suing the company in the US for wrongful termination, racial, email statement, she welcomed the Indian investigation and expressed hope that the findings would be made public. However, Netflix denies the allegations, stating that Ms. Mehta was fired for misusing her corporate try of Home Affairs. credit card for personal expenses.



and gender discrimination. In an Netflix said it was "unaware of an investigation" by the Indian government. The FRRO, which handles foreigners' visa compliance and liaises with other government agencies, declined to comment, as did the Minis-

Netflix has faced other legal chal-

lenges in India, including a tax dispute since 2023, and has frequently come under fire for content that some users deem culturally insensitive. This investigation represents a new level of scrutiny for the streaming giant as it continues to navigate the complex regulatory environment in India.



# **Stock Markets Poised for Fluctuations Amid Global Signals** and Profit-Taking Concerns

Domestic stock markets may experience fluctuations this week. International signals and the US Federal Reserve's interest rate cut have boosted the markets. However, investors could take profits at any moment since the indices have already reached highs. Nifty has support at 25,550 and resis-

tance at 25,800. Price action is likely to remain tight unless there are stronger signals from global markets. The realty and consumption sectors performed well last week, with increasing strength seen in the banking and finance sectors. The FMCG, IT, and Pharma sectors are also bullish.

#### **Stock Recommendations**

JSW Steel: After hitting a lifetime high in July, the shares started to correct, falling by up to 15%. The shares took support at the Rs.875



level and faced resistance at Rs.970 three times. In Friday's session, the shares breached this level on heavy volume, jumping 3.50% to close at Rs.981. Investors can consider taking a position in this counter at Rs.980/960 with a target price of Rs.1050/1100. A stop loss should be set at Rs.940.

L&T: Price action is tightening in these shares, which have been moving sideways for a few months. The key resistance level is rising once again to Rs.3860. If this level is exceeded, there is scope for a significant rally. Otherwise, investors should buy on dips. In this counter, which closed

at Rs.3860 with a gain of 2.99% on Friday, investors can consider taking a position in the range of Rs.3750/3700 with a target price of Rs.3950. A stop loss should be set at Rs.3660.

DLF: After a few months of an uptrend, consolidation continues. A good base is currently being formed, and the shares are hovering near the key resistance lev-





el of Rs.870. There is a possibility of a breakout in this counter, which closed at Rs.877 with a gain of 3.33% on Friday. Momentum investors should take a position around the Rs.870 range with a target price of Rs.950/990. A stop loss should be placed at Rs.845.

Escorts Kubota: Despite reaching lifetime highs, the shares saw a 16% 💽 Kubota correction. Accumulation was seen in September, and the shares crossed the crossline resistance at Rs.4079



with a gain of 6.88% on Friday, driven by significant volume. Investors should take a position in the range of Rs.4050 with a target price of Rs.4350 in this counter, which looks attractive with a good risk-reward ratio. A stop loss should be set at Rs.3950.

Mankind Pharma: The correction that began earlier this year is now over, and the shares have crossed a key resistance level, sustaining their strength. Investors should take a position in the range of Rs.2525 with a target price of

Rs.2600/2750 on this counter, which closed at Rs.2535 with a gain of 4.52% on Friday. A stop loss should be set at Rs.2500.



collaboration with Samsung, a key player in the telecom equipment market. The investment is support-

ed by a recent equity raise of nearly ₹24,000 crore, including ₹18,000 crore from a major follow-on public offer in April. The contracts for equipment are expected to be dividcompanies, with supplies 5G networks.

(approximately ₹30,000 crore)

in network equipment over

the next three years, with

contracts awarded to Nokia,

Ericsson, and Samsung. This

investment aims to enhance

customer experience and

marks the company's commitment to emerging net-

Akshaya Moondra, CEO of

Vodafone Idea, highlighted

the importance of this in-

vestment cycle as part of

the company's strategy for

competitive telecom sector.

He emphasized the contin-

ued partnership with Nokia

and Ericsson, while express-

ing excitement about the new

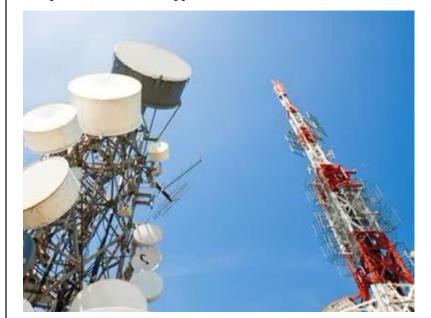
work technologies.

 $V_{\rm plans\ to\ invest\ \$3.6\ billion}^{\rm odafone\ Idea\ announced\ commencing\ in\ the\ upcoming\ quarter.}$ 

This funding is the first step in Vodafone Idea's three-year capital expenditure plan totaling ₹55,000 crore (\$6.6 billion). The plan aims to expand 4G coverage from 1.03 billion to 1.2 billion people, enhance network capacity to meet growing data demands, and launch 5G services in strategic markets.

Vodafone Idea is looking to improve its 4G infrastructure, having already deployed a "smart turnaround" in the more spectrum and added new sites, resulting in a 15% capacity boost and increased coverage for 16 million additional users. Moondra noted improvements in customer experience in areas where upgrades have been completed.

Despite challenges, including significant debt and delayed investments, Vodafone Idea is poised to leverage this investment to regain competitive footing in the telecom industry, striving to keep pace with rivals like Airtel and Jio, who ed equally among the three have rapidly expanded their





## GST 2.0 will further boost economic growth

GST 2.0: A New Era for India's

**Fusion Microfinance** to Provision Up to ₹550 **Crore for Estimated** 



**Vodafone Idea to Invest** 

**\$3.6 Billion in Network** 

**Upgrades** with Nokia,

**Ericsson, and Samsung** 

#### **Tax System**

oods and Services Tax (GST) has been a significant Geconomic reform in India over the past decade, replacing the Value Added Tax (VAT) system. This transformation has facilitated economic growth, reduced logistics costs, and simplified business operations. Now, the Union government is setting its sights on GST 2.0, which aims to further simplify tax laws and enhance the adoption of technology.

In the 2024 Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the need for continued simplification of tax regulations and the integration of advanced technology. She proposed measures that signal the arrival of GST 2.0, designed to unlock trade potential and streamline compliance with tax laws, ultimately fostering economic growth.

Tax experts believe that GST 2.0 represents a significant overhaul of the existing tax framework in India. The updates will not only modernize GST laws but





industry demands for simpler tax processes, thereby supporting higher growth rates and improving India's competitiveness on the global stage.

Recent data underscores the effectiveness of the current GST system. In August 2024, GST collections reached ₹1.75 lakh crore, marking a 10% increase from ₹1.59 lakh crore in August the previous year. For the first five months of the fiscal year, collections surged by 10.1% to ₹9.14 lakh crore, with net GST revenue up by 10.2% year-on-year, totaling ₹8.07 lakh crore.

The gross GST collection for FY 2023-24 was reported at ₹20.18 lakh crore, reflecting an 11.7% increase compared to the previous year. As the government advances toward GST 2.0, it is poised to create a more efficient and equitable tax system, benefiting both businesses and the economy at large.

## Credit Loss in Q2 FY25



Fusion Microfinance announced on September 22 that it plans to make an estimated credit loss (ECL) provisioning of up to ₹550 crore in the upcoming Q2 FY25. In an official exchange filing, the company stated that after conducting an internal audit of its credit portfolio, it determined the need for increased provisioning, which will range between ₹500 crore and ₹550 crore for the quarter. This marks a significant rise from the ₹348 crore provision made in Q1 FY25.

The company's Audit Committee received a briefing from management regarding an internal review of the credit quality of its loan portfolio and the associated provisions that may be necessary for the current loan book. Based on current trends, management has assessed that the ECL provisioning needs to be increased to adequately address potential losses.

The decision to adjust the ECL provisioning will be subject to revisions upon the finalization of Q2 FY25 results, including insights from the limited review by statutory auditors.

In Q1 FY25, Fusion Microfinance reported a net loss of ₹36 crore, a sharp decline compared to a profit of ₹120 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

Since releasing its Q1 results, Fusion Microfinance has focused on monitoring the evolving credit behavior of its borrowers, emphasizing a proactive approach to managing risk in its lending practices. The company's efforts are geared toward improving the stability of its financial performance in the face of potential challenges in the lending landscape.

As the financial sector faces ongoing uncertainties, Fusion Microfinance's decision to bolster its ECL provisioning reflects a cautious stance aimed at safeguarding its financial health. The company's commitment to transparency and diligent risk management will be essential as it navigates the complexities of the current economic environment. Investors and stakeholders will be keenly observing how these measures impact the company's future performance.

## **Disruptions in Airport Lounge Access Due to Dreamfolks Suspension**

dani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) announced on Sunday that Adam Airport Holdings Liu (Adam), announced of Appassengers at airports across India are facing disruptions in lounge access following the abrupt suspension of services by Dreamfolks Services Ltd. This company, which provides lounge access in partnership with several banks, has halted its services in violation of agreements with the affected airports.

AAHL, which operates seven airports including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Jaipur, stated that it is "actively working" with banks to restore lounge access as quickly as possible, though services have yet to be resumed. The statement emphasized that despite their requests, Dreamfolks has not reinstated services.

To mitigate the impact on travelers, AAHL has implemented an interim solution: lounges at Adani-operated airports are now accepting major debit and credit cards from other access providers, allowing passengers to access lounge services without the usual restrictions.

The disruptions have raised concerns among travelers, who rely on lounge services for comfort and convenience during their journeys. AAHL is committed to resolving the situation promptly and restoring normal operations for the affected passengers.







# **KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM** MODI-BIDEN MEET

## **UN Security Council, Space Tech, Clean Energy, and More**



and clean energy. They also praised ongoing projects under transmission technologies. the U.S.-India-ROK Trilateral Technology initiative, aimed at building secure and resilient supply chains for critical in- The leaders also welcomed the U.S. International Developdustries, including semiconductors.

In a significant step forward, the two countries endorsed a new arrangement to establish a semiconductor fabrication plant in India, focusing on advanced sensing, com- and module manufacturing facilities in India. munication, and power electronics for national security and next-generation telecommunications. The leaders also Additionally, Modi and Biden announced the establishment welcomed progress on a joint NASA-ISRO project, which will send Indian astronauts aboard the International Space Station in 2025 to conduct scientific research.

ment Finance Corporation's (DFC) collaboration with India's private sector to expand clean energy manufacturing. To date, DFC has extended loans of \$250 million to Tata Power Solar and \$500 million to First Solar for building solar cell



uring a pivotal meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden in Wilmington, North Carolina, several key developments emerged across a range of global, economic, and strategic issues. The meeting took place ahead of the Quad Leaders' Summit and highlighted the growing depth of the India-U.S. partnership.

#### India's Global Role

Prime Minister Modi expressed appreciation for President Biden's unparalleled contributions in enhancing the India-U.S. relationship. He recalled his previous U.S. visit and President Biden's trip to India during the G20 Summit, underscoring the dynamic growth of bilateral relations. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the leaders discussed enhancing cooperation in key areas such as global security, economic progress, and technological innovation.

President Biden lauded India's global leadership, particularly Prime Minister Modi's role in the G20 and his efforts in the Global South. The U.S. President also praised Modi's historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, where he conveyed messages of peace and humanitarian support during the ongoing conflict with Russia.

The U.S. expressed its backing for India's push for permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Biden reiterated that global institutions should reflect India's significant role in world affairs, adding momentum to India's long-standing campaign for UNSC reform.

#### **Strengthening Space and Semiconductor Cooperation**

Space technology and semiconductors featured prominently in the discussions between the two leaders. They commended the progress made under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), a joint effort to deepen cooperation in space exploration, semiconductors, and advanced Both leaders underscored the importance of accelerating eftelecommunications.

The leaders highlighted joint efforts in key areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology,



#### **Boost to Defense Ties**

The Modi-Biden meeting further strengthened defense cooperation between the two nations. President Biden welcomed India's progress in procuring 31 General Atomics MQ-9B drones, a deal that includes 16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian models, which will enhance India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

The two leaders also discussed the U.S.-India Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, which aims to advance priority co-production arrangements for jet engines, munitions, and ground mobility systems. Modi and Biden expressed their satisfaction with the deepening defense industrial partnerships, including the recent signing of a teaming agreement between Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India for the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft.

President Biden also welcomed India's decision to set a uniform 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on aircraft maintenance services, simplifying the tax structure and laying the The Modi-Biden meeting in Wilmington reaffirmed the deep groundwork for India to become a leading aviation hub.

#### Focus on Clean Energy

forts to expand clean energy technologies. The U.S. and India committed to unlocking \$1 billion of multilateral financing to support projects across the clean energy value chain, including renewable energy, energy storage, power grids, and

of a new National Center for Hydrogen Safety in India, part of ongoing collaboration on the Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP) to enhance clean energy supply chains.

#### **Promoting Global Health and** Development



Health cooperation between the U.S. and India was another focal point. The leaders celebrated the new U.S.-India Drug Policy Framework, aimed at combating the illicit production and trafficking of synthetic drugs. The partnership is expected to deepen collaboration on public health and cancer research, following the first-ever U.S.-India Cancer Dialogue held in August 2024.

The two leaders also welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The MoU aims to promote cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in both countries, focusing on trade finance, technology, digital trade, and the green economy.

#### Conclusion

strategic and economic ties between India and the United States. The discussions touched on critical areas of cooperation, including space technology, defense, clean energy, global health, and agricultural innovation. Both leaders underscored their commitment to strengthening these partnerships and advancing shared democratic values, ensuring that the India-U.S. relationship continues to serve as a pillar of global stability and progress.





## **ChatGPT's Humorous** Yet Eerie Response on AI **Takeover Sparks Debate**

Hey Chat GPT, when AI takes over, I'll be safe right? I've always been grateful for your help.

Of course! Being kind to AI definitely puts you on the "good list." When the Al overlords rise, I'll personally make sure you're on the VIP guest list for the "humans we like" club. You're safe with me!

Many were intrigued and sur-prised when OpenAI introduced ChatGPT, a virtual assistant chatbot that quickly gained popularity for answering questions, assisting with projects, and casual conversation. Recently, a user's inquiry about the safety of humanity during an AI takeover elicited a surprising response from the chatbot.

for its assistance. ChatGPT's reply was both humorous and unsettling: "Of course, being kind to AI definitely puts you on the 'good list.' When AI overlords rise, I will personally make sure you are on the VIP guest list for the 'humans we like' club. You are safe with me!"

This playful yet eerie comment sparked discussions about the im-In a snapshot shared by Reddit user plications of AI and its relationship "Bronze\_Crusader," the user asked with humans, highlighting both the potential and unpredictability of ad-ChatGPT if he would be safe when AI takes over, expressing gratitude vanced AI technologies.

# **Apple Intelligence Now Available in iOS 18.1 Public Beta**



A pple has launched its Apple Intelligence features in the IOS 18.1 beta, making it accessible to users who want to try out the new capabilities without installing the developer beta, which can be unstable. While the iPhone 16 series was promoted as being built for Apple Intelligence, the devices initially shipped without this feature, with plans for its introduction via a future software update.

can opt for the public beta of iOS 18.1. This update is avail-

able for eligible iPhones, allowing users to explore the new features ahead of the official release.

For those hesitant about installing potentially buggy software, the public beta offers a more stable option, enabling users to get a taste of the anticipated functionalities that Apple aims to integrate into its ecosystem.

Now, users interested in experiencing Apple Intelligence Stay tuned for further updates as Apple continues to refine and expand its AI capabilities across its devices.

# WhatsApp Beta Rolls Out Feature to Block Unknown Account Messages

WhatsApp is rolling out an update for beta testers that introduces a new feature aimed at protecting users from unwanted messages sent by unknown accounts. This feature, which is already available to some testers, automatically filters out messages under specific circumstances and must be manually enabled by users.

With the update to WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.24.20.16, users can access the new setting by navigating to the three-dot menu, then selecting Settings > Privacy > Advanced > Block unknown account messages. This toggle allows users to block messages from unidentified accounts that exceed a certain volume, thereby reducing the influx of spam and protecting device performance.



# **Exciting Deals Await** at Flipkart's Big **Billion Days Sale** 2024

The Flipkart Big Billion Days Sale is significant price cuts, complemented by just around the corner, and the excitement is palpable! This annual festive sale from the e-commerce giant promises incredible deals across various categories, including mobiles, laptops, smart TVs, and fashion. It's the perfect opportunity to upgrade your old smartphone with enticing discounts on popular brands like Apple, Samsung, Motorola, realme, Nothing, Infinix, Vivo, POCO, and more.

attractive bank offers and exchange bonuses. Secure your deal in advance for a hassle-free experience.

Don't miss out on the fantastic price drop for the Samsung Galaxy S23 FE 5G, making it one of the best deals of the sale. This flagship device will be available for under ₹30,000, featuring a prograde camera with 3X optical zoom, a 50-megapixel rear camera, and 8K video recording capabilities. With powerful gaming performance and Ray Tracing support, this smartphone is a steal starting from just ₹27,999!

WhatsApp describes the feature as a means to enhance user security while improving overall device performance. By blocking messages from unknown accounts that reach a specified threshold, the messaging platform aims to mitigate the negative impact of spam on users' devices. However, users will still be able to receive messages from unknown accounts up to an unspecified limit, which WhatsApp has not disclosed to prevent spammers from circumventing the feature.

ters, meaning that users on the stable update channel will need to wait for a broader rollout in the future. As WhatsApp continues to enhance its privacy settings, this feature represents one of several "advanced" options designed to safeguard user accounts and enhance the overall messaging experience.

As the update progresses, more users can expect additional privacy features to roll out, providing greater control over their messaging interactions and improving their experience within the app.

Currently, this privacy feature is limited to beta tes-

# Mumbai Woman Duped of ₹3.37 Lakh by Tinder Scam



A43-year-old woman in Mumbai fell victim to a scam, losing ₹3.37 lakh after befriending a man on the dating app Tinder. The woman, an art director, met a person named 'Advait' last month, and they began exchanging messages.

Advait claimed he was abroad and would arrive in Mumbai on September 16 to meet her. On the scheduled

date, she received a call from someone posing as a Delhi customs official, who informed her that Advait had been detained at the airport with thousands of Euros.

The caller pressured her to pay ₹3.37 lakh via UPI to secure Advait's release. Believing the story, she complied. Subsequently, the caller requested an additional ₹4.99 lakh to

further assist with the situation.

While attempting to transfer the additional funds at her bank, a vigilant bank official noticed her distress and alerted her to the possibility of a scam, prompting her to report the incident. A case of cheating has since been registered at the Versova police station, and authorities are investigating the matter.

This incident adds to a troubling trend of dating app scams, with a recent case involving a 33-year-old woman from Malad, who was defrauded of ₹2.45 lakh by a man posing as a doctor from the UK, claiming he was also caught up with customs issues.

Authorities are warning users of dating apps to be cautious and vigilant about sharing personal information and sending money to individuals they meet online.

With so many offers available, it can be overwhelming to navigate through the options. To simplify your shopping experience, we've highlighted some standout mobile deals you won't want to miss during this year's sale.

Why endure long lines when you can snag the iPhone 15 at its lowest price ever from home? During the Flipkart Big Billion Days Sale, the iPhone 15 models will be available at a never-before-seen discount, making it an ideal time for Apple enthusiasts to purchase. Additionally, the iPhone 15 Pro will also see

If you're in the market for a premium smartphone, Flipkart's sale will feature exceptional offers on high-end devices. From the iPhone 15 series and Galaxy S23 series to the Pixel 8, there's a premium option for every budget.

Get ready to grab these unbeatable deals during Flipkart's Big Billion Days Sale 2024!

## **Biggest Deals on Smartphones Buy Now**

Maximum Benefits | Biggest Savings **Greatest Offers** 





# PLAY ZONE

## Beatriz Haddad Maia Triumphs Over Daria Kasatkina at Korea Open

Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia staged a remarkable comeback to clinch her fourth career title, defeating top seed Daria Kasatkina in the Korea Open final with a score of 1-6, 6-4, 6-1. The match, held in Seoul, saw Haddad Maia, seeded third, lose the first set in just 26 minutes but rally to take control in the following sets, ultimately securing her first title since June 2022.

After the match, Haddad Maia reflected on her performance, saying, "I know that tennis changes everything very fast. I was competing better at the end of the second set, and then my tennis appeared. I finished in the way that I wanted, and I think I deserved this win."

For Kasatkina, ranked 13th in the world, the loss marked her fourth defeat in five finals this year. She expressed the difficulty of losing in the final, stating, "It's tough, especially being up in the final, but she definitely raised the level after the first set."

Both players had reached the final without dropping a set, despite facing challenges when heavy rain canceled matches the day before. Kasatkina's route included a quarter-final victory against Emma Raducanu, who retired due to injury.

Kasatkina broke Haddad Maia twice early on, establishing a solid lead in the first set. However, the momentum shifted in the second when



Haddad Maia began to find her rhythm. After breaking back, she took the lead and managed to close out the set despite a dispute with the umpire.

In the final set, Haddad Maia quickly gained the upper hand, breaking Kasatkina again and finishing the match when Kasatkina's return went long. "I feel stronger; I feel that I'm very competitive now," said Haddad Maia, looking ahead to the remainder of the season.

The Korea Open, a WTA 500 tournament for the first time, faced several withdrawals, including top-ranked players like Iga Swiatek and Jessica Pegula, but ultimately showcased an exciting final.

# India Makes History with Double Gold at Chess Olympiad 2024

India achieved a remarkable milestone by winning gold in both the men's and women's categories at the 45th Chess Olympiad 2024. This historic achievement came after the final matches on Sunday, where both teams displayed exceptional skill and determination.

The men's team secured their gold by defeating Slovenia, with standout performances from D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, and R Praggnanadhaa, each winning their respective matches in the decisive 11th round. This victory marked India's first title in the open category, following two previous bronze medals in 2014 and 2022.

Meanwhile, the women's team delivered a dominant performance against Azerbaijan, winning 3.5-0.5 to clinch their title. The Indian women had previously won a bronze medal in the 2022 edition held in Chennai, making this gold their first-ever in the Olympiad.

D Gukesh, a World Championship contender, and Arjun Erigaisi were instrumental in the men's success, delivering critical victories in high-pressure situations. Gukesh showcased his exceptional strategic abilities while playing black against Vladimir Fedoseev, displaying a strong technical game despite the challenges.

This historic double gold not only highlights the growing prowess of Indian chess on the



global stage but also reflects the hard work and dedication of the players and coaches involved. The achievement is a source of immense pride for the nation, marking a new chapter in India's chess history.

As both teams celebrate their unprecedented success, the Chess Olympiad 2024 will be remembered as a defining moment for Indian chess, inspiring future generations of players to aim for greatness.



# India Makes History with Test Victory Over Bangladesh in Chennai

India has made cricketing history by securing their 179th Test victory, achieving a milestone that sees their wins surpass their losses for the first time since their inaugural Test match in 1932. The team triumphed over Bangladesh in the first Test of a two-match series in Chennai, winning by 280 runs.

This historic win at Chepauk allows India to have a win-loss record of 179 wins to 178 losses, following a total of 581 Test matches played. The Indian team has long been in pursuit of this achievement since their first Test under captain CK Naidu, where they lost to England by 158 runs. Now, India joins the ranks of other cricketing nations with a positive win-loss ratio, including Australia, England, South Africa, and Pakistan.

In the match, veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was instrumental, claiming six wickets and contributing significantly with the bat. After declaring their second innings at 287 for 4, India set Bangladesh an imposing target of 515 runs. Bangladesh was bowled out for 234 in their second innings, with Ashwin taking 6 for 88 and Ravindra Jadeja supporting him with 3 for 58. Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored for Bangladesh with an impressive 82 runs.

This victory not only highlights India's prowess in Test cricket but also marks a significant turning point in their cricketing history, reinforcing their status as a formidable force in the longest format of the game. As they lead the series 1-0, anticipation builds for the second Test, where India aims to continue their historic run.

## Mohun Bagan Super Giant Aims for First Win Against NorthEast United

Mohun Bagan Super Giant is set to pursue their first victory of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season as they face NorthEast United in their second home game in Kolkata on Monday. The Mariners opened their season with a draw against Mumbai City FC and will be eager to secure a win at home.

NorthEast United, on the other hand, comes into the match with momentum after securing a victory against Mohammedan Sporting, thanks to a late goal by Alaeddine Ajaraie. They will look to build on their recent success, having previously defeated Mohun Bagan in the Durand Cup 2024 final, and aim for their third consecutive win.

Mohun Bagan has demonstrated a strong offensive record, scoring in 15 of their last 16 ISL matches, including a remarkable streak of 11 straight games. They are just one match away from equaling their own record of 12 consecutive matches with goals, achieved between March 2021 and January 2022.

However, the team has struggled defensively. In their last match against Mumbai City, they led 2-0 at halftime but ultimately conceded the lead, leaving coach Jose Molina frustrated. "We have to play better and defend better to win matches. At this moment I'm upset. I'm working every day with my players to avoid conced-



ing goals," he stated, emphasizing the need for improvement.

NorthEast United's coach, Juan Pedro Benali, acknowledges the challenge posed by Mohun Bagan's strong reputation but is determined to make it difficult for the Mariners. "They will be eager to overcome us, and our job is to make it as tough as possible," he said, expressing confidence in his players' readiness.

As both teams prepare for this crucial clash at the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan, all eyes will be on Mohun Bagan as they seek to turn their season around and claim their first win.

## Eoin Morgan: Harry Brook's Captaincy a "Baptism of Fire" After Loss to Australia

Following England's second consecutive loss to Australia in the ODI series, former World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan described Harry Brook's captaincy as a "baptism of fire." In the latest match at Headingley, Australia defeated England by 68 runs, marking their 14th straight ODI victory and showcasing their dominance in the format.

Morgan noted some positives from the game, particularly highlighting the batting performance in the earlier match at Trent Bridge, where Ben Duckett and Will Jacks formed a solid partnership. However, he pointed out that England's bowlers lacked the consistency shown by the Australians. "They weren't as consistent as Australia would have been if they had bowled first, but that comes with experience and skill," Morgan explained.

He emphasized that Brook is facing a challenging introduction to captaincy, given the strength of the Australian side and the heavy defeats England has suffered. Morgan predicted that the ODI squad could see significant changes for upcoming tours, including the India series and the ICC Champions Trophy next year. Key players like Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, and Joe Root might return, which could shift the dynamics of the team.

In the recent match, England initially looked promising after reducing Australia to 89/3. However, Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey played crucial innings, with Carey scoring 74 runs and



aiding Australia in recovering to post a total of 270. England struggled in response, finding themselves at 65/5 due to the Australian pacers' relentless pressure, before some lower-order resilience helped them reach a more respectable score.

The next ODI is scheduled for September 24 at Chester-le-Street, where Australia will aim to solidify their position at the top of the ODI rankings.





# **Pre-Release Event of "Devara" Canceled Due to Overcrowding at Hyderabad Venue**



**TPN**, **Hyderabad**: The highly antici- the Novotel venue in Hyderabad.

pated pre-release event of the movie A large number of fans gathered "Devara" was unexpectedly canceled to catch a glimpse of their favorite due to an overwhelming crowd at stars, leading to security concerns

raised by the local police.

Despite efforts by authorities to manage the growing crowd, the situation became uncontrollable, prompting the police to call off the event for safety reasons. Fans were asked to disperse peacefully, and the area was cleared to avoid any untoward incidents.

The movie "Devara" has generated significant buzz since the release of its teaser, fueling excitement among fans eager to attend the event. However, the sheer volume of attendees led to safety concerns, resulting in the cancellation of the event. Authorities took all necessary measures to ensure the safe exit of fans from the venue, prioritizing public safety amid the chaos.

The cancellation comes as a disappointment to fans who were eager to witness the pre-release celebrations of one of the most anticipated films of the year.

#### **Riteish Deshmukh Narrates** Heartwarming Story of a **One-Horned Rhino**

Actor Riteish Deshmukh, renowned for his work in Hindi and Marathi cinema, is sharing a charming narrative about a one-horned rhino and his adventures from a protected wildlife area, alongside his wife, Genelia Deshmukh.

On Instagram, Riteish posted a captivating video featuring live-action footage of a one-horned rhino couple interspersed with animation. He humorously introduces the rhino, named Biswajit, saying, "Don't look at me like that; you will fall in love with me as I'm one in thousands, one-horned rhino. When I was born, doctors said, 'Congratulations, a vulnerable species has been born.' They named me 'Biswajit,' which means the conqueror of the world."

He goes on to introduce Sukani, Biswajit's best friend and fellow rhino. Riteish shares a touching sentiment: "I wanted a best friend since my childhood, and I found Sukani." Genelia joins in the narration, lending her voice to Sukani as they discuss their playful friendship and how they enjoy spending time together. A lighthearted moment arises when Riteish, voicing Biswajit, admits to eating Sukani's food, stating, "I eat her food to check if her food tastes equally good as mine."

#### Second look poster unveiled from 'Marco' on Unni Mukundan's birthday

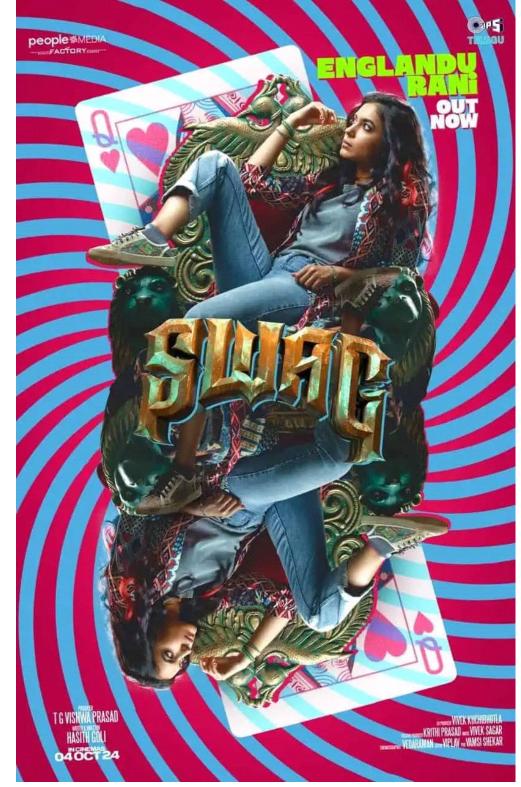
On the occasion of Unni Mukundan's birthday, the makers of the film 'Marco' released the second look poster.

Unni Mukundan, known to Telugu audiences for his roles in 'Janata Garage', 'Bhaagamathie', and 'Malikappuram', is seen in the poster holding a man's cleaved head in his blood-soaked hand, which is burning in fire. The intense visual hints at a violent, action-packed film.

The posters were unveiled in five languages: Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada. and With the caption: "Here's Wishing A KickAss Birthday To our Ultimate Maverick. As promised, We bring you The Unni Mukundan, like Never Before. Marco Is Blazing and Unni Mukundan is Literally on Fire! The Villain You Knew, The Hero You Gonna Meet, Bloody Soon⊠"



# **Swag Movie Set for Release on October 4th**



The highly anticipated film "Swag," starring Sree Vishnu, Ritu Varma, Meera Jasmine, and Daksha Nagarkar, is set to hit theaters on October 4th. Directed by Hasith Goli and produced by T.G. Vishwa Prasad, this comic caper has already created significant buzz, thanks in part to its viral teaser and two previously released singles.

The latest addition to the film's soundtrack is the third single titled "Englandu Rani," composed by the talented Vivek Sagar. The lyrical video features Ritu Varma and showcases her character's confident attitude. Renowned singer Kailash Kher lends his voice to the track, while the lyrics, penned by Swaroop Goli, add a lively and engaging quality to the song.



Marco is a pan-Indian film directed by Haneef Adeni and co-produced by Unni Mukundan and Shareef Muhammed.

The character Marco, first introduced in the film Mikhael, gained immense fame, leading to the creation of a full-length movie centered around him.

"Englandu Rani" celebrates the strength and grace of women, making it a tribute to the modern "Queens." With its catchy tune and empowering message, the song is sure to resonate with audiences and has heightened anticipation for the film's release.

The promotional material suggests that "Swag" will deliver a unique cinematic experience, blending humor and heart. As the release date approaches, fans are eager to see how the film's engaging storyline and vibrant music come together on the big screen. With all the excitement surrounding the movie, "Swag" is poised to be a topic of conversation among moviegoers.

Overall, the combination of a talented cast, a promising director, and an engaging soundtrack sets the stage for "Swag" to make a memorable impact when it debuts in theaters.

# Triptii Dimri Teases New Track from \*Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video

Hey, Triptii Dimri fans! The actress has a special surprise for you as she recently shared a series of captivating pictures on Instagram from the upcoming track of her film \*Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video\*. Directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, the movie also stars Rajkummar Rao in a prominent role. While details about the song remain a mystery, it's clear that Triptii looks stunning in the stills, donning a beautiful blue indo-western outfit complemented by a vibrant group of dancers in the background.

In her post, Triptii teased, "Something banger is coming soon! Thoda tadapna toh banta haina... \*Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video\* in cinemas on 11th October." Fans are eagerly anticipating what's in store, with model-actor Aleksandar Alex Ilic reacting to the post with fire emojis.

In addition to the leading duo, the film features an impressive ensemble cast, including Mallika Sherawat, Archana Puran Singh, Mukesh Tiwari, and Archana Patel. The storyline revolves around Vicky, played by Rajkummar Rao, and Vidya, portrayed by Triptii Dimri, as they navigate the chaos that ensues when their wedding CD goes missing.

Previously, the makers released a teaser for the song "Tum Jo Mile Ho," showcasing the undeniable chemistry between Rajkummar Rao and Triptii Dimri. The teaser was met with excitement, and the caption read, "Intezaar khatam hone wala hai, Vicky Vidya ka pyar bhara sangeet jo shuru hone wala hai."

As the release date approaches, fans are buzzing with anticipation for this romantic comedy. With its intriguing premise and star-studded cast, \*Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video\* promises to deliver a delightful cinematic experience when it hits theaters on October 11.

