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High Court Bench in Kurnool, Legal College in Amaravati



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: CM Chandrababu Naidu conducted a review of the Justice Department in Andhra Pradesh today, making several important decisions. Among them was the decision to send a proposal to the Centre for establishing a High Court bench in Kurnool, as proposed by the previous YCP government. Additionally, it was decided to establish a legal college in Amaravati. Several decisions were also taken for the welfare of lawyers.

CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu stated that the necessary proposals for setting up a High Court bench in Kurnool will be sent from the state government to the Centre. He affirmed that the government is ready to fulfill the election promise of establishing a High Court bench in Kurnool. The cabinet will pass a resolution to this effect and send it to the Centre. With this decision, while the current High Court will remain in Amaravati, a bench will also be available in Kur-

nool.

Furthermore, the CM announced plans to move forward with the establishment of an International Law School by the Bar Council of India Trust on 100 acres in Amaravati. He directed officials to expedite the process of setting up a premier institute with international standards in Amaravati, modeled after prestigious institutions like the National Law School of India University in Bangalore and the

India International University of Legal Education and Research in Goa.

On another note, the CM ordered the implementation of the election promise of providing an honorarium of Rs.10,000 per month to junior lawyers. He also suggested that work begin on establishing an academy to serve as a training center for junior lawyers.

Later, officials presented details about the prosecution department. The CM

instructed that efforts be made to increase the conviction rate in registered cases and proven crimes. He emphasized that prosecution should be pursued to ensure that those who commit wrongdoings are held accountable. However, he noted that while legal action should be taken to protect government assets, unnecessary litigation initiated by the government should be avoided to prevent unnecessary disputes.

Jagan Cannot Escape God's Punishment: Nara Lokesh



TPN, Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh stated that after YCP leader Jagan misled the people in 2019, the public believed his words and brought YCP to power. Once in power, Jagan, emboldened by his position, engaged in corrupt practices and commissions, even in the presence of Lord Venkateswara Swamy in Tirumala, a place considered sacred by Hindus.

Minister Nara Lokesh asserted that Jagan's sins have reached a tipping point, and God's judgment will soon catch up with him. Speaking to the media on Monday, Lokesh harshly criticized former CM Jagan and YCP leaders. He claimed that Jagan and his party did unthinkable things in Tirumala and, as a result, were punished in the "court of the people" when they were voted out of power.

Lokesh further added that Jagan should be prepared to face punishment not only in the court of God but also in the court of law. He accused YCP leaders of committing outrageous acts in Tirumala, including adulterating the sacred *Srivari Laddu Prasad*, which is revered by Hindus. Lokesh alleged that Jagan and his associates, who were caught in the controversy over the adulterated *Srivari Laddus*, are now using a fake gang to launch counterattacks against the coalition government.

Additionally, Lokesh accused Jagan's alliance of spreading false propaganda against the government on social media. He claimed that four trucks of AR Dairy ghee, mixed with animal fat, were sent back by TTD officials after a lab report confirmed the ghee was adulterated.

Minister Lokesh revealed that the lab report exposed the presence of animal fat in the ghee used for the *Tirumala Laddus*. Despite this, Jagan and YCP leaders are continuing to attack the coalition government, while the people are witnessing everything. Lokesh concluded by stating that the YCP leaders, who have committed the grave sin of using adulterated ghee for the sacred *Tirumala Laddus*, have caused chaos, and God's punishment will soon befall them.

Bhumana Takes Oath in Tirumala Over Laddu Allegations

TPN, Tirumala: Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has expressed his readiness to take an oath regarding the allegations of malpractice related to the *Tirumala Laddu* during his tenure. Responding to the accusations while in Tirumala, Bhumana stated that he and his team had done nothing wrong in the preparation or distribution of the *laddu prasadam*. The police had advised Bhumana to avoid making any political statements, after which he performed the *harathi* at Tirumala and reaffirmed his innocence.

Before arriving in Tirumala, the police issued a notice to Tirupati MP Gurumurthy, instructing him to refrain from making political remarks. Once in Tirumala, Bhumana took a ritual bath in Pushkarini and later performed the *Camphor Neerajanam* at the temple. While lighting the *harathi*, he reiterated that no wrongdoing had occurred



during his time as Chairman of TTD. Bhumana declared that if any mistakes were made, his entire family would face destruction. As he made these statements, vigilance personnel escorted him aside. Despite this, his supporters chanted the name of Govinda and protested alongside him.

Another former TTD Chairman, Subbareddy, has already stated his willingness to take an oath before Lord Venkateswara to prove his innocence. Additionally, Subbareddy has filed petitions in both the High Court and the Supreme Court, seeking an inquiry into the *Tirumala Laddu* controversy.

Did Vijayawada Mayor Take Money for Jobs?

Now New MLAs Now Taking Over Those Jobs.

- Outsourcing Jobs Issue Becomes a Hot Topic

- Notification and interviews for 120 jobs were completed in March.

- Allegedly, the Mayor and her husband

collected money from candidates.

- The process was halted after the election notification.

- New MLAs are now insisting on appointing their own candidates.

- Meanwhile, the Municipal Commissioner is

caught in the middle of the issue.

- The Mayor has not responded to demands for refunding the money.

TPN, Vijayawada: Outsourcing posts under the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation have become a hot topic. Allegations have surfaced that Mayor Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi took money from candidates in exchange for these jobs. Reportedly, her husband Narendra Kumar and an attender working in her chamber were involved in dealing with the candidates. Allegedly, amounts ranging from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1 lakh were taken from the candidates. While the exact number of candidates who paid is unclear, there is a buzz that many made these payments.



DY CM Pawan Kalyan Reviews Transfers in Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Departments

TPN ,Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan conducted a review today regarding the transfers of officials in the Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Rural Water Supply (RWS) departments. The meeting took place at 11 a.m. in his camp office, where he discussed the com-

pleted transfers with Peshi officials. The review included Project Directors, Zilla Panchayat Officers, the ZP CEO, and D.L.D.O. During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the importance of adhering to rules during the transfer process and noted that appropriately assigning postings

within the parent department represents a significant development.

Pawan Kalyan expressed satisfaction with the adherence to guidelines and regulations, highlighting that appropriate postings were made for individuals in less significant positions.

Officials also presented the Deputy Chief Minister with feedback regarding the transfer process and the news articles related to it. In response, Pawan Kalyan inquired about the issues raised in the articles, and Peshi officials provided explanations for

the decisions made regarding postings. This review reflects the government's commitment to transparency and effective governance within the departments, ensuring that transfers are conducted in accordance with established rules and that officials are appropriately assigned.

YCP have done business even with God



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anitha has issued a strong statement condemning the recent controversies surrounding the sacred Tirumala Laddu. Addressing the public, she emphasized the sanctity of the Tirumala Laddu, stating that it holds immense importance not just for devotees but also as a symbol of faith. She lambasted the opposition, accusing them of exploiting religious sentiments for political and financial gain.

"They have done business even with God," Minister Anitha remarked, referring to allegations of adulteration in the preparation of the sacred laddu. She expressed her outrage, stating that those who taint holy offerings like the Tirumala Laddu would face severe spiritual consequences. "Those who adulterate Prasadam do not have future births," she declared, highlighting the deep cultural and religious offense such actions carry.

Shifting her focus to the broader political situation, Minister Anitha criticized the former government, particularly Chandrababu Naidu, for leaving the state capital in disarray during their five-year rule. "For the past five years, the capital has been in an unknown situation," she said, reflecting on the state's mismanagement under YCP leadership.

Anita also pointed out the massive financial burden inherited by the current YSRCP government, accusing Naidu's regime of plunging the state into debt. "Jagan owes lakhs of crores of rupees," she stated, referencing the economic challenges facing Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's administration.

Minister Anitha's sharp comments come at a time when political tensions are running high, with the laddu controversy and the upcoming Tirupati elections fueling further discord. She urged the public to see through the opposition's tactics and reaffirmed the YSRCP's commitment to safeguarding the sacredness of Tirumala and addressing the state's pressing financial concerns.

Major Developments in Kadambari Jithwani Case: Three IPS Officers Named Accused

TPN ,Andhra Pradesh: In a significant turn of events in the Kadambari Jithwani case, police have identified three Indian Police Service (IPS) officers as accused. The police produced the key suspect, Kukkala Vidyasagar, before a magistrate Yesterday, alongside a remand report detailing the involvement of senior officers.

The remand report categorizes Kukkala Vidyasagar as the primary accused (A1), with IPS officers Sita Ramananjanyulu (A2), Kranti Rana Tatha (A3), and Vishal Gunni (A4) also named as accused. Additional charges have been levied against ACP Hanumantha Rao (A5) and



CI Satyanarayana (A6).

"Vidyasagar was remanded for 14 days, with authorities indicating that his interrogation may reveal crucial details about the case".

The court's actions come as the case involves several non-bailable sections, posing potential legal challenges for the implicated IPS officers. Kanti Rana, one of the officers named, has already sought anticipatory bail from the High Court, which has directed that no action be taken against him until today when a verdict will be announced.

As the investigation continues, the involvement of high-ranking officials raises questions about the case's broader implications and the integrity of the police force. The developments are closely being monitored as more information is expected to emerge in the coming days.

Nadendla Manohar Joins Maha Yaga with Pawan Kalyan Over Tirumala Laddu Controversy

TPN ,Andhra Pradesh: Nadendla Manohar, Minister for Civil Supplies, Food, and Consumer Affairs, participated in the Maha Yaga at the Vaikunthapuram Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tenali, showing his solidarity with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who is protesting the recent Tirumala laddu adulteration incident.

The Maha Yaga was organized as a response to the allegations surrounding the preparation of the sacred laddu prasadam at the Tirumala temple. Manohar emphasized the importance of upholding the sanctity of religious practices and ensuring that the offerings made to the deity are pure and untainted.

During the event, Manohar stated that such controversies not only undermine the faith of devotees but also tarnish the reputation of the revered Tirumala temple. He called for a thorough investigation into the allegations of adulteration and urged the government to take swift action to restore public trust.

Pawan Kalyan, who has been vocal about the laddu issue, reiterated the need for transparency and accountability in the temple administration. The Deputy Chief Minister has been actively advocating for a comprehensive inquiry to address the concerns raised by devotees and stakeholders.

The Maha Yaga aimed to bring



together devotees and political leaders in a collective prayer for the integrity of the temple and the well-being of its followers. As participants chanted mantras and offered their prayers, the event served as a reminder of the significance of faith in the face of controversy.

Through this act of solidarity, both Nadendla Manohar and Pawan Kalyan reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the traditions and values associated with the Tirumala temple and its offerings.

Today Gold Prices in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana



TPN ,Andhra Pradesh: The price of gold in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana varies depending on the type of gold and location. As of Present, the gold prices in these regions are as follows:

In Andhra Pradesh, the prices are:

- 22 carat: ₹6,980 per gram
- 24 carat: ₹7,329 per gram

In Hyderabad, the gold prices are:

- 22 carat: ₹6,962.90 per gram
- 24 carat: ₹7,595.90 per gram

Gold prices are influenced by various factors, including global production rates, currency strength, domestic demand, and the prices of other commodities. As such, consumers are advised to keep these variables in mind when purchasing gold.



Even Pawan can't save him..TDP MLA gives a stern warning to Balineni..!

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In the aftermath of the YSRC's defeat in Andhra Pradesh, several party leaders are reportedly planning to jump ship, seeking to join alliance parties. Among them is former YSRC minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, who is rumored to be aligning with the Janasena Party, led by Pawan Kalyan. However, this move has sparked controversy, with fierce opposition from his political rival in the region.

TDP MLA Damacharla Janardhan, representing Ongole, where Balineni is also a key figure, issued a stern warning. Damacharla, a vocal critic of Balineni during the YSRC regime, accused him of abusing power, filing false cases against TDP members, and slandering TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu. He claimed that Balineni was responsible for 32 illegal cases against TDP leaders in Ongole. Damacharla further alleged that Balineni is seeking to switch parties in a last-ditch effort to evade accountability for his actions, adding that even Janasena leader Pawan Kalyan would not be able to shield him from the corrup-



tion charges.

In response, Balineni dismissed these accusations as politically motivated, aimed at derailing his plans to join Janasena. He questioned why Damacharla was raising these issues now, stating that no allegations were proven during the 100 days since the new government came to power.

The exchange has heightened tensions between the two factions, with Damacharla making it clear that Balineni and his son will not escape scrutiny, regardless of their political affiliations. As political realignments loom in Andhra Pradesh, the rivalry between these leaders is set to intensify further.

This Is the True Colors of Ketireddy: Minister Satyakumar Yadav



TPN, Dharmavaram: AP Minister Satyakumar Yadav shared a video on social media, claiming it shows the "true form" of Dharmavaram's Ketireddy. In his tweet, he explained that Ketireddy, frustrated by his defeat, drove his vehicle into a crowd and attacked people. Minister Yadav further stated that despite attempts to teach the people about the consequences of past mistakes, occupa-

tions, and atrocities, there seems to be no change or realization.

He warned, "If you want to spend your life in jail, we will ensure it happens soon. But we will not tolerate even the slightest harm to the people of Dharmavaram." He added that the consequences of such actions will be severe.

Purandeshwari Entrusted with Key Responsibilities at the Centre

- Purandeshwari appointed as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentary Steering Committee
- Rajahmundry MP to hold the position for two years
- Orders issued from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha's office

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP BJP Chief and Rajahmundry MP Purandeshwari has been entrusted with key responsibilities by the Centre. She has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women's Parlia-

mentary Steering Committee. Orders to this effect have been issued from the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Purandeshwari will continue in this position until 2026.

With this new appointment, speculations about Purandeshwari being offered a Union Minister's post seem to have come to an end. Additionally, she has been nominated as the Indian regional representative for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee.



What kind of message is being given to the people by reducing the prices of liquor?

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government in Andhra Pradesh is facing strong criticism for its recent decision to cap the price of liquor at ₹99 per 180ml bottle, sparking concerns over the social and health impact of such a move. Critics argue that instead of addressing critical issues such as the rising costs of medicines and educational fees, the government has chosen to prioritize reducing the price of alcohol, sending a questionable message to the public.

This decision has raised alarms among health experts and social activists, who fear that making alcohol more affordable could lead to an increase in alcoholism, domestic violence, and other social issues. Lowering the price of liquor, they argue, encourages excessive consumption, particularly among low-income groups, further straining public health systems.

"The TDP government's focus on capping liquor prices shows misplaced priorities. What message are they sending to the people? Instead of making healthcare and education affordable, they are incentivizing alcohol consumption, which will worsen public health and increase domestic violence,"

said a concerned activist. Opponents of the move also pointed out that this step directly contradicts the pressing need to regulate costs in essential sectors like healthcare and education. With many families struggling to afford life-saving medications and quality education, critics say the government should be focusing on policies that benefit the greater good,



rather than those that could lead to social harm.

This controversial decision has drawn widespread attention, with many questioning the TDP government's priorities under the leadership of former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. As public outrage grows, opposition parties and civil society groups have called for a reconsideration of the policy, demanding that the government instead take meaningful action on critical issues affecting public welfare.

AP Govt Will Fall in 3 Months - Bhumana

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Tirumala laddu controversy, raised by former CM Chandrababu Naidu, has gained significant attention not only in Andhra Pradesh but also on national and international stages. The controversy has further complicated matters for the YSRC, which is already reeling from its defeat in the general elections. Adding to the political drama, the upcoming elections for Tirupati's Municipal Standing Committee have brought more tension to the region.

Former Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, a key leader in the YSRC, has stepped up to address the situation. With the YCP holding a majority in the Tirupati Municipal Corporation, including the mayoral post, Bhumana met with YCP corporators, urging them to remain loyal and ensure victory in the Standing Committee



elections. He expressed concern over alliance parties attempting to sway YCP corporators in the wake of the ongoing laddu controversy, which has been used to further political rivalries.

Bhumana made critical comments, stating that despite various crises, the party remains strong and that no situation can weaken their resolve. Reflecting on past

challenges, he reminded corporators of their loyalty and urged them to secure victory in the elections as a way to repay their commitment to Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He emphasized that Jagan is the most popular leader in the country and predicted that if the promises made to the people are not fulfilled, public anger would be directed at Chandrababu, not YSRC.

In a bold prediction, Bhumana suggested that the Andhra Pradesh government would fall within three months. He assured YCP corporators that despite the hurdles, the party would continue to thrive. With the election for two new deputy mayors approaching, Bhumana took an oath with the corporators, vowing to ensure YCP's victory in the Standing Committee elections on October 4.

Ponnavolu Sudhakar Key Comments On Tirumala Laddu Controversy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YV Subbaredy, the former chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court today, seeking to establish the facts regarding the alleged adulteration of ghee used in the preparation of the sacred Tirumala Laddu Prasadam. Eminent advocate Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy disclosed the details of the PIL.

"We filed a PIL in the Supreme Court to uncover the facts in the Tirumala Laddu case. This propaganda must be stopped. If there is any truth in the claims, it should be brought to light. To know the facts, the SIT or investigation commission that was set up is insufficient. After the Chief Minister mentioned that the ghee used in the laddus contained animal fat, the question arises: will the investigating agency go beyond that and conduct an independent investigation? That's why YV Subbaredy filed a petition today, requesting a committee of food technology experts, along with the cooperation of a retired judge of the Hon'ble Supreme Court." Ponnavolu further explained the purpose behind the petition: "Is the ghee really adulterated, or not? Subbaredy's petition asks for an end to this vicious



campaign if the claims are false. He approached the Supreme Court to ensure that the devotees of Lord Venkateswara, as well as the general public, are made aware of the truth. A PIL has been filed, though the trial date is yet to be determined. We will present our arguments on the day of the hearing," said Sudhakar Reddy. Initially, they considered filing a PIL in the High Court. "The other day,

I approached the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the AP High Court to file a lunch motion petition. He advised us to file a petition, which would be heard on Wednesday. However, given that this issue affects the sentiments of devotees not only in the state but across the country and the world, we decided to take the matter directly to the Supreme Court," said Sudhakar Reddy.

TTD Executive Officer (EO) Shyamala Rao stated that out of 10 tankers supplied by AR Food Tankers, 14 types of tests were conducted, and 4 tankers were found to be adulterated. These 4 tankers were sent back. Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy added, "Shyamala Rao mentioned that TTD does not have a testing lab to confirm adulteration, which has further complicated the situation."

Chandrababu's politics is the same, Pawan Kalyan in TDP Sin - Roja

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Minister and YSR Congress Party leader RK Roja has launched a scathing attack on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as the coalition government marks its 100 days in power. Roja accused Chandrababu of engaging in diversionary politics to cover up the shortcomings and controversies of his administration, particularly highlighting the recent Tirumala Laddu controversy as a ploy to distract from his government's failures. Roja criticized Naidu for not fulfilling key promises, pointing to the ongoing floods, attacks on women, and violence against YCP leaders. She claimed that the Laddu controversy, which alleges the use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of the sacred prasadam, was manufactured to divert public attention. "Chandrababu even brought Lord Venkateswara into his political games," she said, accusing Naidu of using religion for political gain.

Roja also condemned Pawan Kalyan, accusing him of aligning with the TDP and calling his announcement of a "Paaishchita Diksha" (penance) hypocritical. "Pawan himself admit-



ted he is part of TDP's sins," she remarked, suggesting that Pawan Kalyan's actions are politically motivated to support the TDP agenda.

Roja questioned the timing of the Laddu controversy, especially when TTD EO Shyamala Rao had already stated that adulterated ghee was identified and sent back in July. "Why bring it up again two months later? What is the intention behind the Chief Minister's statement now?" she asked, alleging that Chandrababu pressured TTD officials to hold press conferences in order to keep the controversy alive. Roja also pointed out that BJP leaders and current TDP members like Vemireddy Prashanthi and Parthasarathy, who were part of the previous governing council, did not raise any issues about the Laddu's preparation at the time. She dismissed the accusations against TTD as politically motivated to tarnish its image.

Roja's fiery remarks underscore the growing political tensions in the state, with the Laddu controversy becoming a focal point of debate between YSRC and the TDP-led coalition government.



Collector Launches Swarnandhra @ 2047 Mission for Community Input

TPN ,Vijayawada:

NTR District is set to unveil the Swarnandhra @ 2047 vision document on November 1, with the goal of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major growth center for India by 2047. The initiative focuses on both economic and social development. District Collector Dr. G. Srijana has called upon residents to actively participate in this vision-building process.

During an event at the Collector's camp office on Monday, Collector Srijana,

along with Chief Planning Officer Y. Srilata, unveiled posters promoting the Swarnandhra @ 2047 mission. She emphasized that the government is seeking suggestions, advice, and feedback from the public and various stakeholders to shape the vision document.

Residents are encouraged to scan a QR code available on the posters to provide their input by October 5. Collector Srijana urged the public to use their smartphones to share



their views on priority issues, which include high-value agriculture, transforming the food processing industry, fostering a sustainable growth economy, implementing digital governance, prioritizing environmental development policies, and enhancing accessible healthcare through technology and skill development.

To raise awareness about the initiative, the Collector announced that schools, colleges, universities, business and trade associa-

tions, as well as government and private employees, will help disseminate information through the posters. This collective effort aims to engage diverse segments of the community in shaping the future of Andhra Pradesh.

The Swarnandhra @ 2047 mission seeks to create an inclusive and sustainable framework for growth, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard in the planning process.

MLA Venigandla Ramu Inaugurates Safai Mitra Suraksha Vaidya Camp at Gudivada Govt Hospital

TPN ,Vijayawada: Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu inaugurated the Safai Mitra Suraksha Vaidya Camp at the Gudivada Government Area Hospital on Monday morning. This initiative, organized by the Central and State Governments, aims to provide special medical examinations for sanitation workers in various departments, continuing until October 2.

During the inauguration, MLA Ramu praised the invaluable services rendered by sanitation workers, highlighting their tireless efforts to maintain a clean environment for the betterment of society. He emphasized the importance of these workers in uplifting the community and acknowledged their contributions.

"The services of sanitation workers are immeasurable. Their dedication keeps our environment clean, and it is commendable that the Central and State Governments are conducting these safety medical examination camps," MLA Ramu stated. He encour-



aged all sanitation workers in the constituency to take advantage of the medical camp to ensure their health and well-being. Hospital Superintendent Indira Devi confirmed that the Safai Mitra Suraksha Vaidya Camp will remain operational in hospitals until October 2, providing essential health check-ups for sanitation personnel.

The event saw participation from TDP leaders, including Peddu Srikanth, Yarlagadda Sudharani, Polasi Umaiah, and Gudivada

BJP President Yarrapothu Arjun, along with district leaders like Surya Lakshminarayana Gandhi and Gudivada MDO A.V. Ramana. Medical experts from various departments also contributed to the program, reinforcing the collaborative effort to support the health of sanitation workers.

This initiative underscores the commitment to safeguarding the welfare of those who play a critical role in public health and hygiene.

Vijayawada Division Honors Three Employees with 'Employee of the Month' Safety Awards

TPN , Vijayawada : On September 23, 2024, Shri Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager of South Central Railway, presented the prestigious General Manager's 'Man of the Month' Safety Awards to three exemplary employees from the Vijayawada Division. The awards were given in recognition of their alertness and timely actions that prevented unsafe conditions, highlighting the importance of safety in railway operations.

The virtual safety meeting, attended by Shri Narendra A Patil, Divisional Railway Manager of the Vijayawada Division, included Principal Heads of Departments from Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, as well as Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) from the other five divisions: Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Nanded.

During the meeting, the General Manager emphasized the need for regular safety drives and night inspections to identify deficiencies in the system and ensure heightened vigilance to avert potential accidents. Shri Patil congratulated the award recipients for their exceptional commitment to safety. The recipients of the 'Employee of the Month' Safety Awards for August 2024 are:

K. Shyam Kumar, Sr. Tech, Rajahamundry: On August 27, while examining Train No. 12841 (Shalimar-Chennai), Shyam Kumar discovered a broken secondary coil spring on the right side of the leading trolley. His quick action allowed the train to continue at a reduced speed with escort staff, preventing a potential disaster.



Y. Chandra Kumar, Tech-I, Rajahamundry: On August 15, during a rolling examination of Train No. 13351 (Dhanbad-Allappuzha), Chandra Kumar noticed a broken and dangling safety strap from the bio-toilet in Coach No. EC LS 154831. He secured the bio-tank with a GI wire, averting a dangerous situation where the tank could have fallen during transit.

Y. Adinarayana, Pointsman-A, Hamsavaram: On August 9, at 18:56 hrs, while exchanging signals for the UP DBKM/MLPM, Adinarayana spotted flames caused by a hanging iron chain touching the wheels of the fifth wagon from the rear. He promptly exhibited a danger signal, alerting the Train Manager and Loco Pilot, which led to the train being stopped and the issue resolved before it could escalate. The dedication and vigilance of these employees serve as a reminder of the critical role that each individual plays in ensuring the safety of railway operations.

People will see Good Governance Upcoming years

TPN ,Vijayawada: Ganavaram Constituency MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao has assured that the people will experience good governance over the next five years.

On Monday, he visited the villages of Veeravalli and Bandaru Gudem under Bapulapadu Mandal as part of the 'This is a Good Government' program. During the visit, he explained the achievements of the NDA coalition government within its first 100 days and affixed "Good Government" stickers in the villages. He also instructed officials to hold public forums to identify and address the issues faced by the people by communicating with the relevant authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Venkatarao said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu initiated the 'Good Government' program to engage directly with beneficiaries and inform them about the benefits provided during the coalition government's first 100 days. He highlighted that pensions for the elderly and disabled, as well as salaries for government employees, are being disbursed on the first day of every month. He noted that Chandrababu Naidu is the only leader to have increased the state's budget fivefold.



Venkatarao emphasized that his entry into politics was solely to serve the people and promised to work towards the construction of a Kalyana Mandapam in Veeravalli village. He assured the public that he will take responsibility for the development of the villages. He also declared that the people of Bapulapadu Mandal need not seek jobs elsewhere, as the Mallavalli industrial area will soon become a key driver of economic growth in the state.

The event saw the participation of Veeravalli Sarpanch Pilla Anitha, Bandaru Gudem Sarpanch Ammadi, MPTC Sivannarayana, Veeravalli Party President Surendra Mohan Banerjee, along with leaders Alla Gopalakrishna, Bachula Bose, Vemulapalli Srinivasa Rao, Chalamalasetty Ramesh Babu, Putta Suresh, Medepalli Rama, Lanka Ajay, Joji Pratap, and several others from Jana Sena, BJP, and other party activists.

Guntur District Job Fraud: Scammer Collects ₹1 Crore from Victims

TPN ,Guntur: A job scam has been unearthed in Guntur district, where a fraudster reportedly collected over ₹1 crore from at least ten individuals by falsely claiming to provide jobs in the railway and district court. The accused, identified as Gunji Srinivasa Rao from Chilakaluripet, is alleged to have exploited job seekers' hopes for employment.

Victims of the scheme have come forward and lodged complaints with the Superintendent of Police (SP), detailing how they were duped. According to reports, Rao promised them job placements in exchange for hefty sums, which he claimed were required for processing their applications and securing their positions.

The police are currently investigating the case and have urged others who may have fallen victim to similar schemes to come forward. Authorities are working to track down Rao and recover the lost funds for the victims. The incident has raised concerns about job scams in the region, prompting officials to caution the public against engaging with individuals who make unrealistic job promises.

Did Vijayawada Mayor Take Money for Jobs?

The job notification was issued in March, and interviews were conducted. However, the process was halted when the election notification was announced. The candidates who had paid money approached the Mayor to inquire about the jobs. She allegedly assured them that the positions would be given after the elections, but there has been no response regarding refunds of the money collected.

Now, the issue has resurfaced. There are 120 outsourcing jobs available in various departments such as Engineering, Parks, Water & Sewerage, Lab Technicians, Data Entry Operators, and the Health Department.

With the change in government and new MLAs in place, the MLAs of Vijayawada West, East, and Central have informed the Municipal Commissioner that they want all the jobs to be filled by their recommended candidates. According to reports, the Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Mr. Narayana, has advised the MLAs to take responsibility for 50% of the jobs, leaving the rest to the Commissioner's discretion. However, the MLAs are reportedly insisting on filling all the positions with their party members.

Meanwhile, those who paid the Mayor for jobs are now putting pressure on her to either refund the money or provide the promised positions. The Municipal Commissioner is under pressure to resolve this issue.



The Tyranny of Overwork: The Tragic Death of an EY Employee

In a tragic incident that has sparked nationwide outrage, a 26-year-old chartered accountant employed by EY in Pune died earlier this week, reportedly due to overwork and extreme stress. Anna Augustine had been with the global consulting firm for just four months when the relentless demands of her job took a fatal toll on her physical and mental health.

Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, in a heart-wrenching letter to EY's India chairman, Rajiv Memani, wrote about the extreme work pressure her daughter faced. "She worked tirelessly at EY, giving her all to meet the demands placed on her. However, the workload, new environment, and long hours took a toll on her physically, emotionally, and mentally," she said. Anna's managers reportedly assigned her tasks at odd hours, allowing themselves the luxury to watch cricket matches, while dismissing her pleas for rest as they insisted working nights was "normal."

The Modern Rat Race

Anna's story reflects a growing crisis in modern workplaces where unending work hours have become synonymous with productivity. Young professionals, particularly in finance, consulting, and law, are expected to work relentlessly, often at the cost of their health. In a culture where long hours are normalized and even celebrated, many are pushed to the brink of burnout.

This toxic work culture is not limited to individual organizations but is deeply entrenched in society. Leaders across industries often promote an unhealthy ideal of hard work. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for instance, has taken pride in working around the clock with minimal sleep, even though he concedes that such a lifestyle is not for everyone. Similarly, Infosys founder Narayana Murthy recently suggested that young people should work at least 70 hours a week to boost productivity.

While the value of hard work is undeniable, the focus on the sheer

number of hours worked, rather than the quality or content of the job, is leading to a crisis. White-collar workers, particularly in sectors like finance and consulting, now find themselves caught in a grueling grind once associated with blue-collar labor.

Overwork in White-Collar Jobs

The tragic case of Anna Augustine is not an isolated incident. In May 2024, a 35-year-old associate at Bank of America died after working multiple 100-hour weeks. Despite work-hour restrictions introduced in the banking industry a decade ago following the death of a sleep-deprived intern, long hours and unreasonable demands remain the norm across many sectors.

A Wall Street Journal investigation revealed that "long hours and deference to bosses' commands, no matter how unreasonable, are the norm industrywide." Novice workers are often at the receiving end of this grueling work culture, where they are expected to prove their worth by sacrificing their well-being.

Even beyond finance and consulting, overwork is taking a toll in unexpected areas. In European football, elite players like Manchester City's Rodri have expressed concerns about the increasing number of matches they are expected to play each season. Rodri, who could play up to 75 matches in the 2024-25 season, said, "It is too much. Not everything is about money or marketing. It is about the quality on show."

The Broader Crisis of Exploitative Work Practices

The crisis extends far beyond corporate offices and football stadiums. In traditional, rural settings, young brides and pregnant women are often burdened with unpaid household labor, drawing a grim parallel to the exploitation faced by overworked professionals like Anna. This back-breaking work often goes unnoticed but is no less destructive to the health and well-being of those who endure it.

At the heart of this issue is an insatiable greed for profits, which trickles down from the highest levels of corporate power. Supervisors and managers are incentivized to extract the maximum output from their workers, pushing them to the point of exhaustion. Arun Maira, former chairman of Boston Consulting Group (BCG), aptly summarizes this crisis, noting that "the social and business culture of greed for more wealth, in which they are all locked, will not be easy to change. But it must be changed to make the world better for everyone."

A Future of Increased Pressure

The future of work seems poised to exacerbate these issues further. As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more integrated into workplaces, the pressure on human workers to keep up with AI's unrelenting productivity will only increase. Unlike human beings, AI doesn't need rest or care, making it a more cost-effective and "productive" alternative to human labor.

This shift towards AI-driven productivity could eliminate the need for companies to invest in the physical and mental well-being of their employees, further undermining the value of human workers. As AI becomes more prevalent, the anti-human nature of certain managerial practices will likely intensify, leading to a workplace culture where burnout and overwork are not only normalized but expected.

Conclusion

Anna Augustine's death is a tragic reminder of the devastating effects of modern work culture. As companies chase profits and productivity, the well-being of employees is increasingly being sacrificed. While leaders in business and politics often promote the virtues of hard work, the reality is that many workers are being pushed to their limits. Without meaningful changes to the way work is structured and valued, more lives will be at risk in the pursuit of corporate goals.

First India-US Semiconductor Fabrication Cooperation Of Its Kind A Reality

Strategic Partnership

In a historic development, India and the United States have launched their first-ever semiconductor fabrication plant cooperation, marking a major milestone in the India-US strategic technology partnership. The collaboration, focused on national security, advanced telecommunications, and green energy applications, was hailed by US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a breakthrough moment comparable to the civil nuclear deal between the two nations.

The semiconductor fabrication plant, or "fab," will focus on manufacturing advanced materials such as infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide semiconductors. These materials are essential for next-generation communications, sensing, and power electronics, which are critical for both national security and commercial applications in sectors such as railways, telecom infrastructure, data centers, and green energy.

The project, which will be supported by India's Semiconductor Mission, is a joint venture involving Indian companies Bharat Semi and 3rdiTech, along with the US Space Force. This cooperation represents the first-ever technology partnership between the US military and Indian businesses for semiconductor technology, making it a landmark moment in tech diplomacy between the two countries.

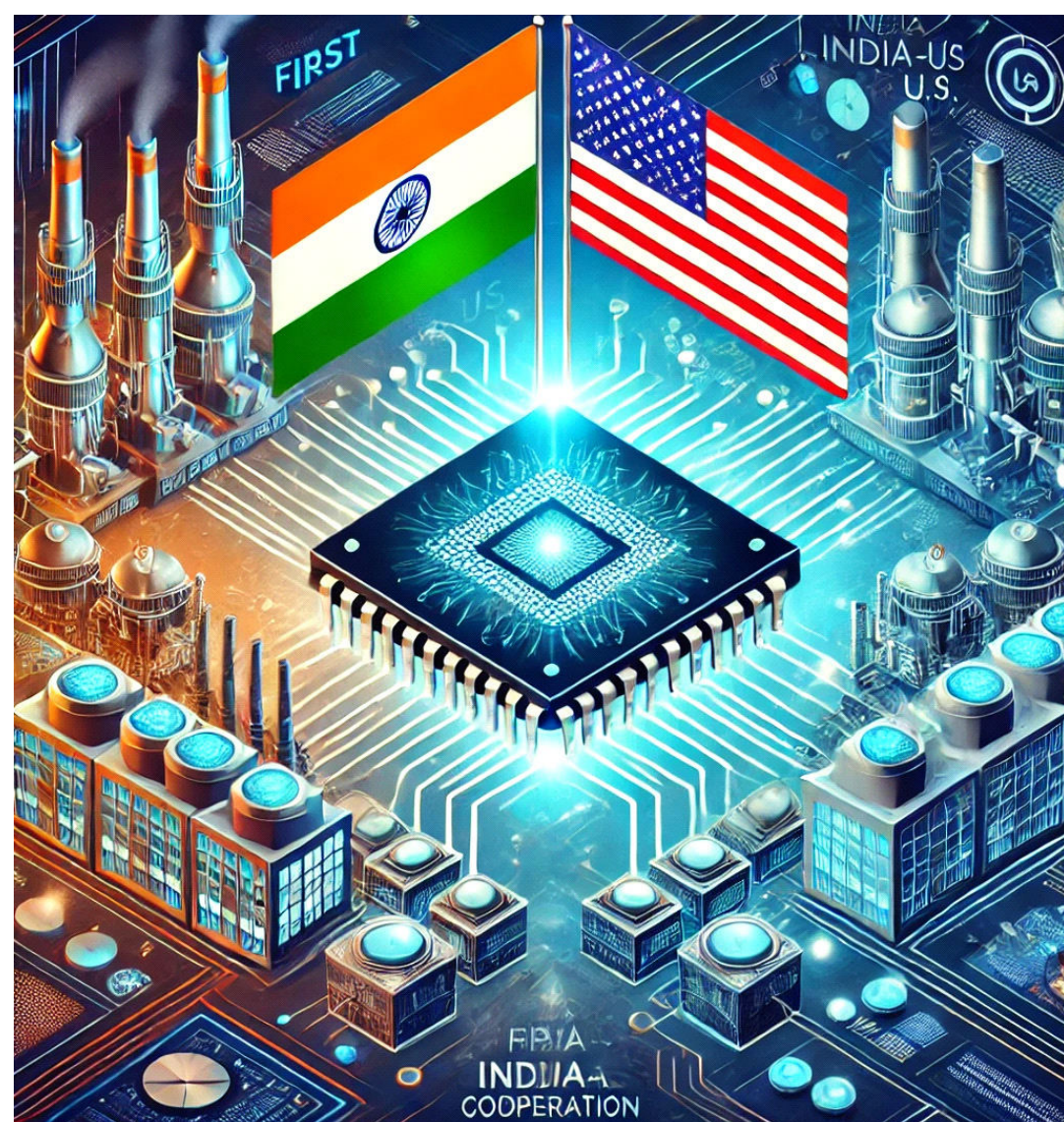
A Watershed Moment for India-US Relations

The new semiconductor fab, titled "Shakti", will be India's first national security semiconductor facility and one of the world's first multi-material fabs. It will focus on three main technology areas: infrared semiconductors, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide. These are crucial components for modern warfare, as well as emerging commercial needs in green energy and telecommunications.

PM Modi's vision of transforming India from a "chip-taker" to a "chipmaker" aligns with this project. India currently imports approximately \$1 billion worth of semiconductors annually for national security purposes, but with the establishment of this fab, India is set to reduce its dependence on imports and develop its semiconductor manufacturing capabilities domestically.

This collaboration marks a significant leap in India's semiconductor ecosystem, allowing the country to join a select group of nations with the capability to manufacture advanced semiconductors onshore. It also enhances India's position as a "net security provider" in the region by becoming a "net technology provider."

A Key Pillar of the India-US



The semiconductor fab is a testament to the success of the "Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies" (ICET), which was launched in January 2023 as part of PM Modi's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) vision. The project highlights India's growing role in the global semiconductor supply chain, particularly in high-tech manufacturing sectors that are crucial for both national security and economic growth.

This fab is not just India's first, but also a key asset in the broader Quad partnership between the US, India, Japan, and Australia, further deepening ties in the Indo-Pacific region. The collaboration has been compared to the historic civil nuclear deal, signifying its importance in strengthening India-US relations.

Advancing India's Technology and Security Goals

The development of this semiconductor fab comes as part of a broader push by India and the US to enhance their technological collaboration, with a particular focus on semiconductors. Both countries have signed multiple agreements related to critical technologies, including the "Commerce to Commerce MOU" and the "Strategic Trade Dialogue".

India's ambition to become a leader in semiconductor fabrication has been supported by the US, with this project marking the first true semiconductor fabrication partnership between the two nations. Previous collaborations involved only testing and assembly, but this fab elevates India's position in the semiconductor industry, allowing for full-scale chip fabrication.

Bharat Semi and 3rdiTech have emerged as national champions in this endeavor, becoming the first Indian companies to integrate design and manufacturing (IDM) of semiconductors onshore. This partnership showcases the success of the ICET initiative and the "Atmanirbhar" vision, making Bharat Semi and 3rdiTech pioneers in India's semiconductor industry.

Conclusion

The launch of the first-ever India-US semiconductor fabrication plant is a groundbreaking moment in the India-US partnership. The collaboration underscores India's growing technological capabilities and strategic importance, particularly in national security and emerging industries such as green energy and telecommunications. As India moves closer to becoming a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing, this project will play a crucial role in shaping the future of India-US relations and global technology diplomacy.



India's Global Leadership: PM Highlights Opportunities and Unity

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's rising global stature during his address to the Indian diaspora in New York, stating, "the world listens when India speaks." He underscored India's role as a prominent voice for the Global South, recalling his earlier assertion that "this is not the era of war," which resonated internationally.

Highlighting the Voice of Global South Summit held in January 2023, Modi showcased India's commitment to fostering unity among developing nations to address common challenges. He articulated that true power lies in sharing knowledge, caring for wealth, and protecting the vulnerable.

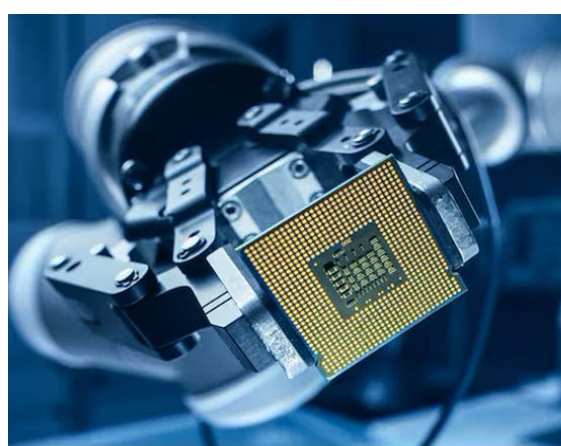
Modi noted that India has transformed from a follower to a leader on the global stage, introducing the concept of digital public infrastructure (DPI) to the world. He proudly stated that India's 5G market has surpassed that of the United States in just two years and is now advancing towards 'Made in India' 6G technology.

Describing India as a land of opportunities, he emphasized the country's proactive approach in creating avenues for growth. Over the past decade, 250 million people have been lifted out of poverty, thanks to a shift in mindset focused on empowerment and financial inclusion, with over 500 million people connected to the banking system.

With India now the fifth largest economy, Modi expressed a collective aspiration for it to soon rank third. He celebrated India's youthful demographic, noting recent achievements like winning gold in the Chess Olympiad.

Looking ahead, Modi introduced the vision for Modi 3.0, encapsulated in the acronym 'PUSHP': Progressive, Unstoppable, Spiritual, Humanitarian, and Prosperous Bharat. He emphasized that India's aim is not merely to increase its presence globally but to enhance its impact through cooperation, declaring, "We don't seek supremacy but aim to illuminate the world."

Historic India's first Semiconductor Fab Agreement



In a groundbreaking move, US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of a semiconductor fabrication plant aimed at enhancing national security and advancing technology in India. This collaboration focuses on manufacturing infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide semiconductors for critical applications in communication, power electronics, and green energy.

The fab, a product of a strategic partnership between Indian companies Bharat Semi and 3rdiTech, along with the US Space Force, represents India's first dedicated facility for these advanced technologies. This partnership marks a pivotal moment in US-India relations, akin to the historic civil nuclear agreement, as it is the first time the US military has engaged in a technology partnership of this nature with India.

The facility, named Shakti, stands out as one of the world's first multi-material fabs specifically for national security, focusing on essential areas of modern warfare: advanced sensing, communication, and high-voltage power electronics. These technologies are also crucial for commercial sectors, including telecommunications, railways, and data centers.

Prime Minister Modi's vision of transforming India from a chip-taker to a chip-maker is now closer to realization, as this fab will become a national asset, aiding India in its goal to be a net security provider in the region. Currently, India imports semiconductors worth \$1 billion annually for national security purposes.

The agreement is part of a broader initiative, including multiple cooperation deals between India and the US, emphasizing critical technologies and semiconductors. Unlike previous projects that focused on testing and assembly, this venture signifies a leap into true chip fabrication—considered the ultimate achievement in semiconductor technology.

Sitharaman Responds Over CA's Death Remarks



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has addressed the controversy surrounding her comments on the death of a 26-year-old chartered accountant, Anna Sebastian Perivayil, allegedly due to work pressure. Her remarks, which suggested that inner strength to handle stress comes from divinity, drew backlash from various social media users and opposition leaders, who deemed them insensitive.

In response to Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, who accused her of victim-shaming, Sitharaman clarified that she referenced this incident during a talk at a university near Chennai. She explained that she did not name Anna or the firm involved and emphasized that her intention was to highlight the need for inner strength, particularly for students facing demanding careers.

"I spoke about the importance of institutions and families supporting children," Sitharaman stated, asserting that there was no intent to victim-shame. She also noted that the Union Labour Ministry is conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Anna's death and the alleged exploitative work environment.

During her address, Sitharaman remarked, "What should families teach is that whatever you study and the job you do, you should have the inner strength to handle that pressure. This can be achieved through divinity." She urged that educational institutions incorporate elements of spirituality to help students build resilience and progress.

Gadkari Jokes About Athawale's Cabinet Resilience

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari playfully teased his cabinet colleague Ramdas Athawale during an event in Nagpur, suggesting that while the government may not guarantee a fourth term, Athawale's role as a minister is assured. "What is definitely guaranteed is that Ramdas Athawale will become a minister," Gadkari quipped, with Athawale present on stage. He later clarified that he was just joking.

Ramdas Athawale, leader of the Republican Party of India (RPI), has held a ministerial position three times and expressed confidence in maintaining that streak if the BJP secures re-election. Speaking at a press conference, Athawale emphasized that his party, RPI (A), part of the ruling Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra, should be allocated 10 to 12 seats in the upcoming assembly elections.

Athawale outlined his party's aspirations to contest on its symbol and requested three to four seats in the Vidarbha region, specifically targeting constituencies like north Nagpur, Umred, Umardhed, and Washim. He mentioned that the RPI-A has identified 18 potential seats, which it will present to its coalition partners shortly.

In his remarks, Gadkari supported Athawale's request, indicating that the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP should



allocate four seats each from their shares to RPI (A). Athawale also expressed concerns over not receiving a ministerial position in the state, which he attributed to the involvement of Ajit Pawar's NCP in the coalition government. He claimed that promises made to his party, including cabinet roles and chairmanships of corporations, had not been fulfilled.

The elections for the 288 assembly seats in Maharashtra are anticipated to take place in November. Currently, the BJP holds the largest number of seats with 103 MLAs, followed by the Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, and others. As the election approaches, seat-sharing agreements within the Mahayuti alliance will be crucial for each party's strategy.

Mayawati Urges Dalit Leaders to Reject Congress in Haryana Elections

As Haryana Assembly elections approach, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national president Mayawati has called on Dalit leaders to sever ties with the Congress and other parties she labeled as "anti-Constitution, anti-reservation, and anti-SC, ST, OBC."

Mayawati criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks made abroad, claiming he suggested that reservation should be abolished. She emphasized that Congress and similar caste-based parties have historically opposed reservation policies, which are crucial for the upliftment of marginalized communities.

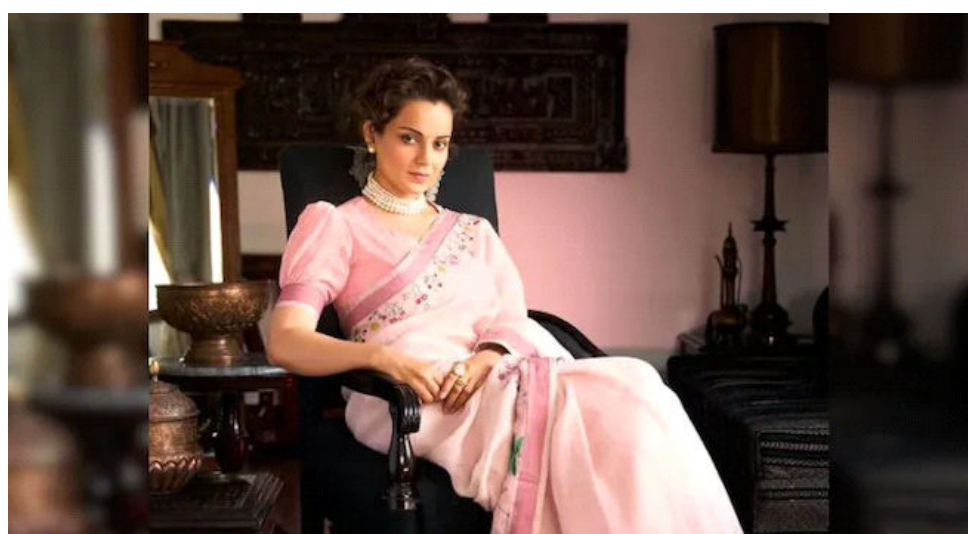
In her address, Mayawati underscored the importance of solidarity among Dalit leaders and urged them to recognize the detrimental impact of aligning with parties that do not support their rights. She called for a united front to protect the interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes in the face of perceived threats to reservation policies.

The BSP president's comments reflect a broader strategy to consolidate Dalit votes in the upcoming



elections, positioning her party as a defender of social justice and reservation rights. By emphasizing the opposition to Congress and other mainstream parties, Mayawati aims to rally support from the Dalit community and reinforce the BSP's relevance in Haryana's political landscape.

Her statements serve as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for representation and rights within the socio-political framework of India, particularly as the election draws near. Mayawati's call to action seeks to inspire Dalit leaders to prioritize their communities' needs and reject alliances that undermine their interests.



Congress Legal Action Against Kangana Ranaut's Claims

The Congress party has reacted strongly to BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's allegations that the Himachal Pradesh government improperly transferred disaster relief funds to Sonia Gandhi. Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh warned Ranaut to either retract her statement or face legal repercussions. "If Kangana does not withdraw her statement, we will sue for defamation. It's unfortunate that she made such remarks against a leader of Sonia Gandhi's stature," Singh said.

He dismissed her claims as baseless and

challenged Ranaut to provide evidence to support her allegations. "I challenge her to show proof of even Re 1 being diverted, or apologize to Sonia Gandhi for her unfounded accusations," he stated. Singh criticized Ranaut's credibility, referring to her previous reprimand by the BJP for her controversial comments about the farmers' protests. "It seems she has ignored the warnings from her party's leadership," he added.

Ranaut's specific charge claimed that the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh "takes loans and gives it to

Sonia Gandhi," which, according to Singh, undermines the transparency of fund allocation from the central government. He condemned her remarks as defamatory and demanded she produce evidence within a week or face a criminal defamation case.

During a membership drive, Ranaut attacked the Congress government, suggesting it had regressed the state. She argued that disaster funds should go directly to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, rather than being diverted to what she called the "Sonia Relief Fund."



PM Hosts Roundtable with Top Tech CEOs in New York

New York: Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a high-profile roundtable with leading American technology CEOs in New York, focusing on innovation, collaboration, and India's rapidly expanding tech ecosystem. The event, part of PM Modi's three-day visit to the United States, took place at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel, with participation from prominent CEOs such as Google's Sundar Pichai, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, and Adobe's Shantanu Narayen.

The roundtable, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Engineering, brought together leaders in cutting-edge sectors like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology. The discussions highlighted the global impact of these technologies and India's growing role in the technology space.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Modi shared, "Had a fruitful roundtable with tech CEOs in New York, discussing aspects relating to technology, innovation, and more. Also highlighted the strides made by India in this field. I am glad to see immense optimism towards India."

According to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the meeting provided an opportunity for deep discus-

sions on the evolving global technology landscape and how these innovations are benefiting people worldwide, including in India. CEOs explored how AI, quantum computing, and biotechnology are poised to revolutionize the global economy and human development.

During the discussions on AI, Prime Minister Modi emphasized India's commitment to promoting 'AI for All,' driven by ethical and responsible usage. He reassured the tech leaders of India's strong stance on protecting intellectual property rights and fostering an environment that supports technology-driven innovation. Modi encouraged the CEOs to capitalize on India's growth potential, noting the country's trajectory towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

The roundtable also explored opportunities to invest in India's burgeoning startup ecosystem, which is rapidly advancing innovations in technology. Startups were highlighted as a key entry point for American companies looking to contribute to India's tech-driven growth and develop new solutions.

MIT Professor Anantha Chandrakasan, who chaired the session, expressed gratitude to PM Modi and the CEOs for their participation, reaffirming MIT's commitment to using technology for global good.

Modi Engages Indian-Americans at Nassau Coliseum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a vibrant gathering of tens of thousands of Indian-Americans at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, where chants of "Modi, Modi" resonated throughout the venue. The event showcased the strong connection between the Indian diaspora and their homeland, with attendees expressing their enthusiasm as they awaited the Prime Minister's arrival.

Kicking off his speech with "Bharat Mata ki Jai!" Modi noted the global reach of the term "Namaste," crediting Indians living abroad for its widespread recognition. He reflected on his previous community events in the U.S., recalling gatherings in Madison Square Garden in 2014, San Jose in 2016, Houston in 2018, and Washington in 2023, highlighting the ongoing relationship between India and its diaspora.

Modi emphasized the pivotal role of the Indian community in the U.S. as a bridge between the two nations, stating, "You all have come seven seas apart, but nothing can ever take the love of India away from your hearts and souls." He acknowledged the diverse backgrounds of Indians who have settled in the U.S. and become citizens while underscoring the common sentiment that unites them: love for India.



"This sentiment is what keeps us united, and this is our biggest strength, no matter where we go in the world," he declared. Modi further articulated that this shared sentiment contributes to the Indian community's identity as peaceful and law-abiding global citizens. He expressed pride in the Indian diaspora, which helps the world recog-

nize India as the "Vishwa-Bandhu," or a global friend.

The event, filled with cultural performances and a strong sense of community, served to reinforce the bond between India and its citizens abroad, showcasing the enduring pride and affection that Indian-Americans hold for their homeland.

Modi Meets Palestinian President Amid UNGA Discussions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel on Sunday, addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. During the meeting, Modi expressed "deep concern" for the situation and reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people. This dialogue took place on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), highlighting India's longstanding advocacy for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

India has consistently condemned violence in the region, including the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. Despite this, India has voiced concerns about the humanitarian situ-

ation in Gaza and has taken steps to provide aid. Recently, India allocated \$2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees as part of its humanitarian efforts.

Earlier in the day, Modi held bilateral meetings with Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. In discussions with the Crown Prince, Modi reviewed and sought to enhance India-Kuwait relations, focusing on their historical ties and strong people-to-people connections. With PM Oli, Modi aimed to strengthen cooperation in various sectors of the expanding India-Nepal partnership.

Additionally, Modi participated in a roundtable discussion with top U.S. tech leaders at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), emphasizing India's growth potential and the importance of fostering collaboration and innovation across diverse sectors.

This visit marks Modi's second leg of a three-day trip to the United States, which included participating in the Quad Summit and holding discussions with U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Modi is also scheduled to address the 'Summit of the Future' at the UNGA later today, further highlighting India's active role on the global stage.

Escalation in Lebanon: Israeli Strikes Kill 182 Amid Ongoing Conflict

Israeli air strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon on Monday resulted in 182 fatalities, marking the deadliest incident since the outbreak of the Gaza conflict on October 7. This surge in violence comes after Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, drawing Hezbollah and other Iran-backed groups into the fray.

The Israeli military reported targeting over 300 Hezbollah sites, while Hezbollah responded with rocket fire aimed at northern Israel. The Lebanese health ministry confirmed that the air strikes had also injured 727 people, including many women and children. Civilians in southern towns and villages were urged to evacuate, as Israel warned that its military operations would continue.

In southern Lebanon, the strikes led to widespread displacement, with many fleeing to schools converted into shelters or camping in the streets. Witnesses described heavy explosions, particularly around the ancient city of Baalbek.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari emphasized the



intent to conduct extensive and precise strikes on what he termed "terror targets" throughout Lebanon, urging civilians to move away from potential targets. This military escalation is seen as part of Israel's strategy to change the "security balance" in the north, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hezbollah's leadership indicated readiness for further military engagement, declaring a "new phase" in its confrontation with Israel. Following recent air strikes that killed key Hezbollah com-

manders, the group retaliated with rocket attacks, escalating tensions further.

International leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, have expressed concern over the potential for a wider conflict. The UN chief warned that Lebanon could become "another Gaza," highlighting the urgent need for diplomatic efforts to prevent a catastrophic escalation. The humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, with thousands displaced and ongoing violence affecting civilians on both sides.



India Probes Netflix for Alleged Visa Violations and Discrimination

India is investigating the business practices of Netflix, focusing on allegations of visa violations, tax evasion, and racial discrimination within its local operations. This information emerged from a July 20 email from Deepak Yadav, an official at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), addressed to Nandini Mehta, a former director of business and legal affairs for Netflix India.

In the email, Yadav detailed concerns regarding Netflix's conduct in India, stating, "We have received certain details regarding the stated company's conduct, visa violation, illegal structures, tax evasion, and other malpractices." Mehta, who left Netflix in 2020, is currently pursuing a lawsuit in the U.S. against the company for alleged wrongful termination, as

well as racial and gender discrimination—claims that Netflix has denied.

While Mehta expressed support for the Indian investigation, hoping for transparency in the findings, she did not elaborate on the specifics of the government's allegations. The FRRO and India's home ministry have not responded to media inquiries regarding the investigation.

Netflix, which has around 10 million subscribers in India, has increasingly focused on local content, collaborating with Bollywood actors and producers. However, the streaming giant has faced backlash over certain portrayals in its shows, prompting it to add disclaimers to a series amid public outcry regarding sensitive themes.



Markets Hit Record Highs Led by Telecom and Banking Stocks

Auto and PSU Banks Shine, IT Drags

Domestic stock market indices reached new record highs, driven by gains in telecom and banking shares. While the markets opened strong, a slight dip in the afternoon was followed by renewed buying as investors anticipated improvements in the European economy. The BSE Sensex rose 384 points to close at 84,928, after hitting an intraday high of 84,980. The NSE Nifty gained 148 points to settle at 25,939, with Nifty support at 25,850 and resistance at 25,950.

Bank Nifty jumped 312 points, closing at 54,105. In Nifty50, 34 stocks advanced, led by Bajaj Auto, Mahindra & Mahindra, ONGC, and SBI Life, while 16 stocks, including ICICI Bank, Divis Lab, and Wipro, declined. Notably, Airtel shares surged to a record high of Rs. 1,752, boosted by Jefferies' forecast for market share growth.



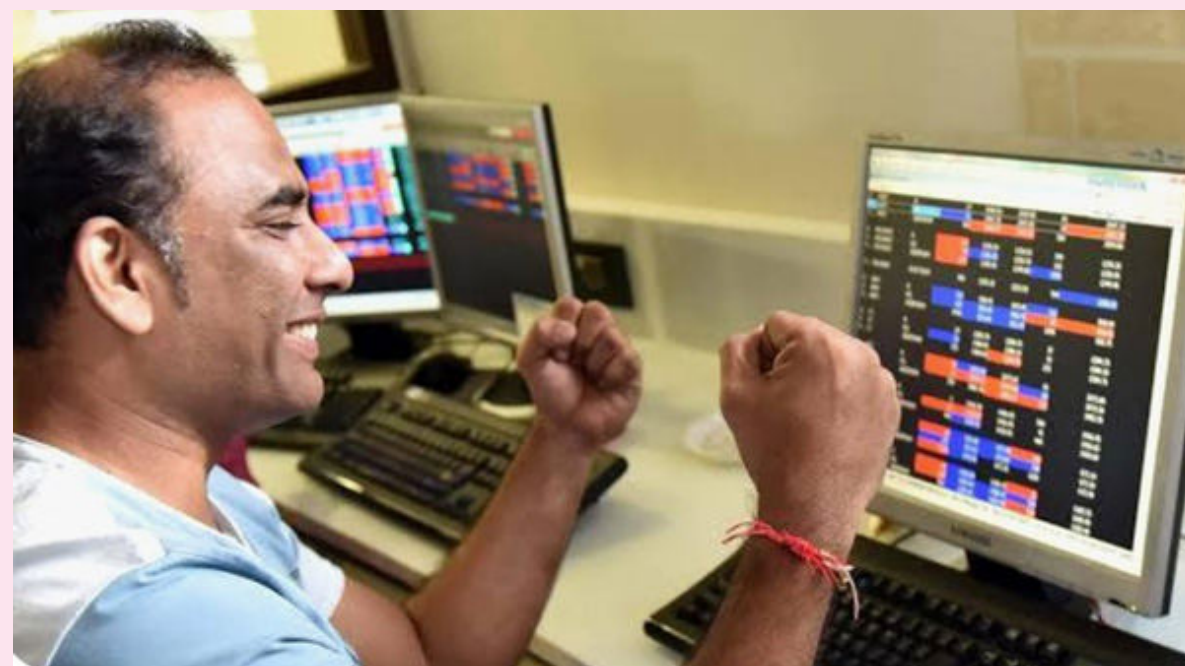
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European stocks also rose on the back of expected economic improvements in key markets like Germany and France. Sectorally, IT was the only laggard, while Auto, PSU Bank, Realty, and Consumer Durables showed strong performance.

Other notable moves included Glenmark Pharma hitting a one-week high, NBCC securing orders worth Rs. 1,261 crore, and Mankind Pharma shares reaching record highs after a Rs. 10,000 crore fund-raising announcement. Bajaj Healthcare signed a deal with a European firm, and Samvarthan Motherhood shares hit a lifetime high after raising Rs. 4,938 crore under a QIP scheme.

1. SBI Life Insurance

SBI Life has consistently delivered strong results due to its leadership in the insurance sector. The company benefits from its wide distribution network, strong brand presence, and increasing demand for life insurance products in India. The life insurance sector in India is expected to grow significantly, especially as awareness around financial protection rises. SBI Life has been able to capitalize on this



trend, showing strong financials and growth in premium collections.

2. HDFC Life Insurance

HDFC Life, another leader in the life insurance sector, has seen steady growth in premium collections and market share. The company's focus on a diverse product portfolio and digital transformation has helped drive growth. Like SBI Life, HDFC Life is benefiting from increasing demand for life insurance and retirement products. The company's digital initiatives are improving customer acquisition and operational efficiencies.



3. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

BPCL, one of India's largest oil marketing companies, has been impacted by fluctuating crude oil prices and global economic uncertainties. However, the company remains a key player in India's energy sector, with a solid refining and marketing infrastructure. The decline in crude oil prices and potential deregulation in fuel pricing could benefit BPCL in the long term. Additionally, government reforms in the energy sector may provide further support for the company's future growth.



4. Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL)

ABFRL, a leader in India's fashion retail sector, has been expanding its presence across the country through its popular brands such as Louis Philippe, Van Heusen, and Pantaloon. The company has shown solid growth in revenue as consumer demand rebounds post-pandemic. ABFRL is capitalizing on rising demand for branded apparel, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas. The company's strategy of expanding its e-commerce presence and launching new collections is driving growth.



5. CG Power and Industrial Solutions

CG Power has shown strong recovery and growth, supported by demand in the industrial and power sectors. The company is a major player in the electrical equipment sector, with a growing focus on renewable energy solutions and electrification projects. The company's focus on high-margin products, cost control, and expanding its footprint in renewable energy infrastructure has driven its stock performance. The increasing demand for electrification and infrastructure projects bodes well for CG Power's future.



Adani Godda plant seeks speedy link to Indian power grid



With the new interim government in Dhaka signaling a potential review of its 2017 agreement with Adani Power, the company is actively exploring alternative strategies to sell power in India. A key component of this strategy involves its 1,600 MW thermal plant located in Godda, Jharkhand, which has been supplying its entire output to Bangladesh.

In a significant development, the plant has received approval to connect to the Indian grid through a substation in Lakhisarai, Bihar. This connection would allow Adani Power to diversify its market and potentially mitigate the impact of any changes in its agreement with Bangladesh.

However, this connection will not be operational immediately. Adani Power Jharkhand Ltd (APJL), the subsidiary responsible for the project, must first construct a 130-km transmission line and develop additional infrastructure at the Lakhisarai substation. APJL has indicated that this process could take a considerable amount of time, delaying the integration of its power supply into the Indian grid.

The move reflects Adani Power's proactive approach to ensuring a stable market for its energy production, especially in light of the uncertain political landscape in Bangladesh. By expanding its potential customer base to include India, the company aims to secure a more reliable revenue stream.

As the situation evolves, all eyes will be on how quickly APJL can complete the necessary infrastructure and whether the interim government in Bangladesh will make any significant changes to its existing agreements with Adani Power. This development could have far-reaching implications for both the Indian energy market and Adani Power's business strategy moving forward.

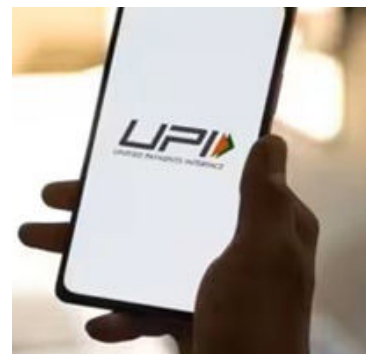
UPI Users Strongly Oppose Proposed Transaction Fees, Survey Reveals

A recent survey conducted by LocalCircles has highlighted a significant backlash among users of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) against the proposed introduction of transaction fees. The survey found that a striking 75% of respondents stated they would stop using UPI if fees were imposed on transactions. Only 22% of users expressed a willingness to bear such charges.

This resistance marks a slight increase from a previous survey conducted in March 2024, where 73% of users indicated they would reject transaction fees. The findings reflect a growing sentiment among UPI users, who value the service's current fee-free model that has contributed to its widespread adoption across India.

gests that users prioritize the cost-free nature of UPI transactions, which has played a crucial role in driving financial inclusion and encouraging digital payments, particularly among smaller merchants and rural populations.

The survey results signal a clear message to stakeholders considering fee structures for such charges.



UPI transactions: any attempt to monetize the service could lead to significant user attrition. As digital payments continue to evolve in India, understanding user preferences and maintaining the current fee-free model will be vital for sustaining the momentum UPI has achieved.

UPI has become a cornerstone of digital payments in the country, facilitating billions of transactions every month. Its convenience, speed, and lack of fees have made it a favorite among consumers and merchants alike. The prospect of introducing transaction fees poses a threat to its user base and could hinder further growth.

Many respondents expressed concerns that implementing fees would undermine the very essence of UPI as an accessible and user-friendly payment solution. The overwhelming opposition sug-

In conclusion, the strong resistance from UPI users to proposed transaction fees highlights the need for careful consideration by policymakers and financial institutions. As UPI remains a vital part of India's digital economy, keeping it accessible and affordable will be essential for its ongoing success.

SEBI Key Financial Changes Taking Effect from October 1, 2024

Starting October 1, 2024, several important changes in personal finance will come into effect. It's essential to stay informed about these updates to manage your budget effectively. Here are seven key changes:

1. Aadhaar Card Update: Individuals will no longer be able to use their Aadhaar enrollment ID when applying for a Permanent Account Number (PAN) or filing income tax returns. According to the Income Tax Act, anyone eligible for an Aadhaar number must quote it on their PAN application and income tax returns.

2. Bonus Shares Trading: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new framework that allows bonus shares to be eligible for T+2 trading. This change will streamline the process and reduce the time between the record date and when bonus shares can be credited and traded.

3. Small Savings Schemes: The Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines to regularize



improperly opened accounts under National Small Savings (NSS) schemes via Post Offices. Accounts that do not comply will need to be submitted for regularization, affecting various categories, including minor PPF accounts and Sukanya Samridhi Accounts opened by grandparents.

4. Securities Transaction Tax (STT): Effective October 1, the STT on futures and options trading will increase. The tax on option sales will rise from 0.0625% to 0.1% of the premium. For example, selling an option with a ₹100 premium will incur an STT of ₹0.10 instead of ₹0.0625.

5. Indian Railways Ticket Checking Drive:

In anticipation of increased passenger traffic, Indian Railways will initiate a special drive against ticketless travel. This initiative aims to enhance ticket-checking procedures and curb unauthorized travel.

6. Post Office Accounts Interest Changes:

Major changes will impact interest rates for small savings accounts under the National Small Savings schemes. Account holders should review these updates, as they may affect the interest earned on their savings.

7. Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024:

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) will implement this scheme, allowing taxpayers to settle ongoing disputes, including appeals pending in higher courts, as of July 22, 2024.

Staying informed about these changes will be crucial for effective financial planning and compliance.

Vodafone Idea Secures \$3.6 Billion Network Equipment Deal

Vodafone Idea (Vi), the debt-ridden telecom operator, has finalized a significant \$3.6 billion agreement with major suppliers Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung for the provision of network equipment over the next three years. This deal marks a crucial milestone in the company's ambitious capital expenditure (capex) plan, which totals \$6.6 billion.

According to a press release from Vi, the capex initiative aims to enhance the company's network infrastructure significantly. One of the primary goals is to expand 4G population coverage from 1.03 billion to 1.2 billion people, thereby improving service availability in underserved regions. Additionally, the plan includes the launch of 5G services in key markets, responding to the increasing demand for faster and more re-



liable connectivity.

The investment is also designed to accommodate the rapid growth in data consumption, ensuring that Vi can meet the needs of its users as digital services continue to evolve. This strategic move is vital for the company as it seeks to strengthen its position in a highly competitive telecom market, where consumer expectations for network performance are continually rising.

Vi's focus on expanding its network capabilities comes at a critical time, given the increasing pressure from competitors and the need to improve its financial standing. The partnership with leading technology providers like Nokia, Ericsson, and Samsung is expected to facilitate the modernization of its network infrastructure and support the deployment of advanced technologies.

This deal not only demonstrates Vi's commitment to enhancing its service offerings but also highlights the importance of strategic partnerships in driving growth and innovation within the telecom sector. As Vodafone Idea embarks on this transformative journey, stakeholders will be keenly observing how these changes will impact its market position and overall performance in the coming years.



Sri Lanka's New President Anura Kumara Dissanayake: What's at Stake for India?



Sri Lanka has made history by electing leftist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake as its new president. In a resounding rejection of the established political dynasties, the people have turned away from figures like the Rajapaksas, Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Sajith Premadasa, who many believe played a role in the country's severe economic collapse.

Dissanayake, popularly known as AKD, won 42.3% of the vote (5.7 million votes) in the second round of counting in the country's first-ever second preference vote count. He defeated Sajith Premadasa of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), who garnered 32.8% (4.5 million votes). Wickremesinghe, who had served as president since the economic crisis peaked in 2022, came in a distant third with just 17.3% of the vote. Namal Rajapaksa, son of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, secured a mere 2.4%.

This victory marks a significant shift in Sri Lankan politics. Dissanayake, leader of the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the National Peoples Power (NPP) alliance, had secured only 3% of the vote in the 2019 presidential election. His triumph reflects the deep distrust Sri Lankans now have in the political elite, which they hold responsible for the country's economic downfall.

■ A Pragmatic Leftist Leader

Dissanayake, despite his Marxist roots, is seen as a pragmatic leader with a deep understanding of Sri Lanka's economic realities. His political career began in the 1990s as a student leader, when he became involved with the JVP, a party historically known for its radical left-wing ideology and violent uprisings in the 1970s and 1980s. Over time, however, the JVP tempered its hardline stance, and Dissanayake's rise within the party reflects a shift toward a more flexible, practical approach to governance.

Dissanayake became a Member of Parliament in 2000 and eventually ascended to leadership of the JVP in 2014. His ability to connect with rural and working-class citizens, combined with his tenure as agriculture minister, gave him an edge over the political elite, particularly during the country's economic crises in the 2010s and early 2020s.

Amid skyrocketing inflation, severe food, fuel, and medicine shortages, and swelling debt, Dissanayake's anti-corruption platform and promises of political reform struck a chord with Sri Lankans, particularly the youth, who were fed up with the existing political system.

■ Challenges Ahead for Dissanayake

Dissanayake's victory is both an opportunity and a challenge for his party, the JVP. This is the first time they are in power, and their lack of governing experience could pose difficulties both domestically and internationally. As Sri Lanka faces the monumental task of rebuilding its economy, Dissanayake will need to navigate uncharted waters while managing the expectations of an electorate that is desperate for change.

His presidency will also be closely watched by international

players, especially India and China, both of whom have vested interests in Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean. Over the past 15 years, Sri Lanka has gravitated towards China, awarding it several lucrative projects, including the development of Colombo's airport and the controversial Hambantota Port, which sits along a crucial shipping lane. China's growing influence has been a concern for India, which shares deep historical and cultural ties with Sri Lanka.

■ India's Stakes in Sri Lanka

India has invested millions of dollars in aid and loans to help stabilize Sri Lanka, its closest neighbor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to congratulate Dissanayake on his victory, expressing his desire to strengthen India-Sri Lanka cooperation. In response, Dissanayake thanked Modi and echoed the sentiment of strengthening ties.

Historically, however, the JVP has been skeptical of India, particularly during the late 1980s when the party protested against Indian imports, including essential medicines. India is also concerned about the Tamil population in Sri Lanka, as Dissanayake's party has had a complex relationship with Tamil nationalism and the LTTE. The JVP opposed the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord and the implementation of the 13th amendment, which aimed to grant more autonomy to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

Most Tamils did not vote for Dissanayake, as they perceive his party to be apathetic toward their political demands. Whether Dissanayake will reach out to the Tamil minority now that he is in power remains to be seen, and India will be closely monitoring his actions in this regard.

■ Geopolitical Realities

Despite his leftist ideology, Dissanayake has shown a willingness to engage with India and adapt to the geopolitical realities of the region. Earlier in 2024, he met with Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, signaling his openness to maintaining strong ties with India.

However, Dissanayake's domestic focus on economic recovery could lead to some friction with Indian interests. One area of concern is India's wind power project in northern Sri Lanka, which is strategically important due to its proximity to Tamil-majority areas. Any disruption to this project could open the door for Chinese influence, something India would want to avoid.

■ Conclusion

Anura Kumara Dissanayake's presidency marks a significant turning point for Sri Lanka. His ability to balance domestic reforms with the complex geopolitical landscape of South Asia will determine not only his success but also the future of India-Sri Lanka relations. As both countries navigate this new political chapter, India will need to leverage its diplomatic channels to ensure its interests in Sri Lanka are protected, while supporting the island nation's recovery and stability.



WhatsApp Introduces Customizable Themes in New Update



WhatsApp, the popular messaging platform owned by Meta, is making waves with its latest beta update (version 2.24.20.12) for Android, which introduces a highly anticipated feature for user personalization. This update allows users to select a 'default theme' for their chats and chat bubbles, offering a variety of design styles to enhance their messaging experience.

The new feature is expected to significantly expand the customization options available within the app, enabling users to personalize the appearance of their chat interfaces. According to WABetaInfo, a reliable source for WhatsApp updates, users will be able to choose colors for chat bubbles and select wallpapers from a predefined set of themes. This design is intended to ensure that the chosen wallpaper complements the bubble colors, resulting in a cohesive and visually appealing interface.

Additionally, the update will include options for dark and light modes, allowing users to

adjust brightness settings for comfortable viewing in low-light environments. This added flexibility caters to user preferences, making the app more adaptable to various lighting conditions.

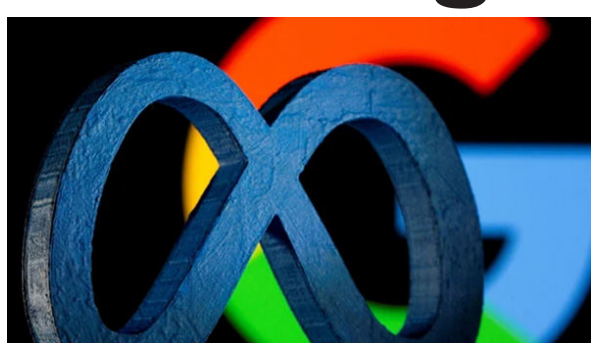
While the feature is still under development and not yet available for beta testers, users can look forward to a selection of preset themes and the ability to apply custom wallpapers that align with their chosen styles. However, specific details on the official rollout date remain unclear.

WhatsApp's focus on personalization reflects its commitment to enhancing user experience and staying competitive in the messaging app landscape. As this feature progresses, it promises to bring a fresh aesthetic to conversations, making chats not only functional but also visually appealing.

Stay tuned for updates as WhatsApp prepares to unveil this exciting new customization option in the near future!

Facebook could not compete with Google

During a recent US Justice Department antitrust trial, former Facebook advertising executive Brian Boland testified about Meta Platforms Inc.'s 2018 deal with Google. He revealed that Facebook had determined it could not effectively compete with Google's dominance in online display advertising, a decision stemming from the search giant's monopolistic control over the technology in that space.



Boland, who led Facebook's advertising technology efforts from 2009 to 2019, explained that Facebook initially sought to directly challenge Google in the display ad market. The Facebook Audience Network was designed to enable marketers to run ads across Facebook, Instagram, and other websites and apps. However, by 2017, Facebook recognized that Google's monopolistic position made competition increasingly difficult.

A July 2017 strategy memo highlighted concerns about Google's influence, stating, "Google sits between us and the impressions we want to buy." This arrangement allowed Google to utilize its advertising tools to favor its own interests, effectively enabling the company to "cherry pick the best supply" of ad impressions.

Boland expressed that having Google act as an intermediary posed significant challenges for Facebook, as it created a layer between the social network and advertisers. He elaborated that Google's advertising exchange provided it with a "last look" advantage in online auctions, allowing the company to decide after an ad had been auctioned whether it wanted to purchase it. Boland likened this practice to Google being able to select the best apples from a crate before anyone else could buy them.

The trial, overseen by Judge Leonie Brinkema, will determine whether Google illegally monopolized advertising technology markets. Boland's testimony underscores the challenges Facebook faced in competing against a dominant Google, revealing insights into the competitive landscape of online advertising.

iPhone 16 Pro Users Report Touchscreen Issues

Apple's recent iPhone 16 series launch has been met with excitement, but some users of the iPhone 16 Pro are reporting frustrating touchscreen problems. According to a report from 9to5Mac, many users are experiencing unresponsive screens where taps and swipes are ignored, affecting everyday actions like scrolling and typing.



The issue appears to stem from a software bug rather than hardware faults. Specifically, it may be linked to the iOS touch rejection algorithm. With the iPhone 16 Pro's thinner bezels, users may inadvertently touch the edges of the display while holding the device, leading to unintentional touch rejections. This problem seems to be more prevalent when the phone is used without a case, which can leave the edges more exposed.

Feedback on social media platforms, particularly Reddit, reveals that many users are encountering these issues. One iPhone 16 Pro Max user expressed frustration, noting, "It has never happened on any other iPhone model but it happens regularly on my 16 Pro Max." Another user echoed similar sentiments, saying, "Taps and swipes not registering constantly. Typing is just way worse."

Some users who upgraded to iOS 18 on older models, like the iPhone 15 Pro, reported similar touchscreen issues. They indicated that the problems often arise in apps that require scrolling, such as

Reddit and Twitter, but could be temporarily resolved by force-closing and reopening the apps.

The community is hoping for a quick over-the-air fix, as many find the touchscreen issues increasingly disruptive to their user experience. With the popularity of the iPhone 16 series, Apple may need to address these concerns swiftly to maintain customer satisfaction and uphold its reputation for quality.

As users continue to report these issues, it remains to be seen how Apple will respond and if a software update will resolve the touchscreen problems that are affecting many iPhone 16 Pro users.

Introducing "Golden Lettuce": A Vitamin A-Enriched Innovation

If you love lettuce in your salads, sandwiches, and burgers, you'll be excited to hear about a groundbreaking development: "golden lettuce." Scientists have genetically engineered this new variety to be rich in vitamin A through a process called bio-fortification. This method aims to enhance the nutrient density of food crops without compromising the qualities that consumers prefer, as noted by the World Health Organization (WHO).



Using advanced biotechnological techniques and high light intensity treatments, researchers have increased the levels of beta-carotene in the lettuce leaves by up to 30 times. This process involves creating new storage areas for beta-carotene without interfering with essential functions like photosynthesis. Beta-carotene is the primary precursor of vitamin A in our diets and offers several health benefits, including antioxidant properties, immune support, and cognitive enhancement. The high beta-carotene content gives this lettuce its distinctive yellow color.

Micronutrient deficiency, often referred to as hidden hunger, remains a significant challenge in many countries. Vitamin A deficiency, in particular, can lead to serious health issues, in-

cluding xerophthalmia, and affects children in malnourished populations worldwide. The authors of the study highlighted that incorporating micronutrients like vitamin A through dietary supplements or food fortification can be a viable solution, though often unaffordable in many cases.

This innovative development is considered a major advancement in improving nutrition through the biofortification of vegetables like lettuce, chard, and spinach, all while preserving their characteristic flavor and aroma. The research findings were published in the *Plant Journal*, emphasizing the potential of golden lettuce to address nutritional deficiencies without sacrificing taste.

For the latest in food news, health tips, and recipes, stay connected with us on social media platforms.

Pakistani singer and social media influencer Rabeeca Khan has captivated and stirred controversy with her breathtaking mid-air birthday photoshoot, which has quickly gone viral. To mark her 20th birthday, Khan took a bold leap into the skies, quite literally, by hanging from a crane while donning a vibrant orange dress and surrounded by matching balloons.

The stunning visuals initially left her 8 million Instagram followers in awe, with many questioning whether the gravity-defying stunt was the result of heavy photo editing. In the images, Khan appears to float effortlessly, seemingly supported only by the balloons, creating an ethereal effect that has garnered both admiration and skepticism.

Influencer Dangles From Crane For 20th Birthday, Leaves Internet Stunned

The caption accompanying the pictures reads, "Goodbye teens, hello twenties! Let the adventures begin," signaling a new chapter in her life. While many fans celebrated her creativity and daring spirit, others criticized the safety of such a stunt and expressed concern over the message it might send to her younger audience.

Despite the mixed reactions, Khan's photoshoot has undoubtedly sparked conversations about boundaries in creative expression and the lengths influencers go to capture attention on social media. The

striking visuals have not only showcased her adventurous side but also highlighted the growing trend of extravagant birthday celebrations among young influencers.

As Rabeeca Khan embarks on her twenties, she continues to push the envelope with her content, blending her musical career with her influence in the digital space. Whether loved or critiqued, her audacious birthday celebration has certainly made an impression, leaving fans eager to see what adventurous endeavors she will pursue next.



PV Sindhu brings in Anup Sridhar as coach for European swing



PV Sindhu is setting her sights on winning a medal at the upcoming Asian Games and potentially continuing her journey to the next Olympics, according to her father, PV Ramana. He shared that Sindhu has resumed training at the Gachibowli stadium in Hyderabad and plans to compete in the Arctic Open in Finland from October 8-13.

Sindhu is currently not training in Bangalore, as the future of her training camps remains uncertain. "Since no camps have started, we

have begun training in Hyderabad," Ramana explained. This shift reflects her dedication to getting back into competitive form after a challenging experience at the recent Paris Olympics, where she exited in the pre-quarters against eventual silver medallist He Bingjiao, finishing her first Games without a medal.

Having previously secured an Olympic silver in 2016 and a bronze in 2021, Sindhu's focus is now on making a strong comeback. Her

training regime is critical as she prepares for the Asian Games, a significant event that could pave the way for her aspirations in the Olympics.

Sindhu's commitment to her sport is evident as she navigates this transitional phase. With a renewed training plan in place, she aims to refine her skills and regain her competitive edge. As she embarks on this journey, the support from her family and fans will play a vital role in her success.

Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Yuki Bhambri reached the men's doubles finals



In a thrilling display of resilience, the unseeded Indian tennis pair of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth staged a remarkable comeback at the Hangzhou Open, overcoming a first-set drubbing to secure a spot in the men's doubles final. After a challenging start that saw them lose the first set 0-6, they rallied to win the next two sets 6-2, 10-4, in a gripping match that lasted one hour and 11 minutes.

Facing off against the third-seeded duo of Ariel Behar from Uruguay and Robert Galloway from the USA, Jeevan and Vijay showcased their tenacity and skill on the court. Their impressive performance not only turned the match around but also marked a significant upset in the

tournament.

Next, Jeevan and Vijay are set to compete against the unseeded German team of Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens, who advanced to the final after receiving a walkover from Rinky Hijikata of Australia and Mackenzie McDonald of the USA.

Meanwhile, at the Chengdu Open, another Indian player, Yuki Bhambri, teamed up with Albano Olivetti of France to secure their place in the final as well. The third-seeded Indo-French duo edged out the experienced pair of Ivan Dodig from Croatia and Rafael Matos from Brazil, winning 6-3, 7-6 in a fiercely contested match that lasted one hour and 31 minutes.

South Africa beat Afghanistan in third ODI



South Africa denied Afghanistan a series sweep with a seven-wicket win in the third and final cricket ODI. Aiden Markram's unbeaten 69 led South Africa to 170-3 with 17 overs to spare in the one-day international after Afghanistan collapsed for the first time in the series and was bowled out for 169 in 34 overs.

Afghanistan won the series 2-1. An inexperienced South Africa was dismissed for 106 and 134 in the first two games, but Markram paced the chase well on yet another slow wicket at Sharjah Cricket Stadium with a gritty 67-ball innings. "Feeling very happy with the series

win," Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi said. "I would be more happy if we would have won this match." He called the three runouts of his team's batters "a big reason why we didn't finish on top." Afghanistan was missing its ace leg-spinner Rashid Khan because of a hamstring injury.

Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who made a century in the last game, held the innings together by contributing 89 runs in 94 balls after Afghanistan chose to bat first. But none of the other top eight Afghan batters could score more than 10 with three of them run out.

No. 9 batter AM Ghazanfar made a whirlwind 31 not out off 15 but South Africa always looked in control through the disciplined bowling of Lungi Ngidi, Nqabayomzi Peter and Andile Phehlukwayo, who all picked up two wickets each.

South Africa finally got used to the conditions in the United Arab Emirates as their pace bowlers Ngidi and Phehlukwayo were well supported by some superb fielding. Ngidi tested the batters upfront through his cutters and slow balls and pinned debutant opener Abdul Malik leg before wicket inside the power play.

Ngidi then had Rahmat Shah run out when Gurbaz's drive clipped his fingers in the follow through and hit the stumps at the non-striker's end. Shahidi was run out while going for a second run and Ikram Alikhil met a similar fate when he went too far down the wicket before Gurbaz sent him back as Afghanistan slipped to 113-5 in the 22nd over.

South Africa should have dismissed Mohammad Nabi on 5 but captain Temba Bavuma didn't go for the television referral against Bjorn Fortuin's arm ball before the spinner had Nabi caught behind in his next over.



India Chess Veteran After 20-Year Wait For Olympiad Gold Ends

Veteran chess player D Harika has finally realized her dream of winning the prestigious Chess Olympiad title after a long wait. The Indian men's and women's teams made history on Sunday by clinching their maiden titles, achieving a rare clean sweep of gold medals against Slovenia and Azerbaijan in the final matches in Budapest.

At 33, Harika showcased her technical prowess, playing confidently on the top board, while 18-year-old Divya Deshmukh excelled by defeating Govhar Beydullaeva, securing her individual gold medal on the third board. Harika expressed her emotional connection to the victory, stating, "I have been playing for 20 years to see the gold medal, and I am glad we finally achieved it."

Despite feeling her own performance was not satisfactory, Harika emphasized that the team gold overshadowed any per-

sonal disappointment. "We managed to come back strongly after setbacks," she added, proud of her younger teammates' contributions.

Divya, fresh off winning the World Junior Girls' Chess Championship, played a pivotal role in the women's team's success. Reflecting on the journey, she said, "It started off well, but we faced setbacks. I'm proud of how we handled it and fought back for this gold medal." With an impressive 9.5 points from 11 games, Divya's performance earned her the individual gold medal for her board.

Tania Sachdev, who contributed by playing on board five, remarked on the emotional significance of the victory, especially after narrowly missing out on gold in previous Olympiads. Vantika Agrawal also made her mark with a stellar 7.5 out of nine games, securing another individual gold for her board.



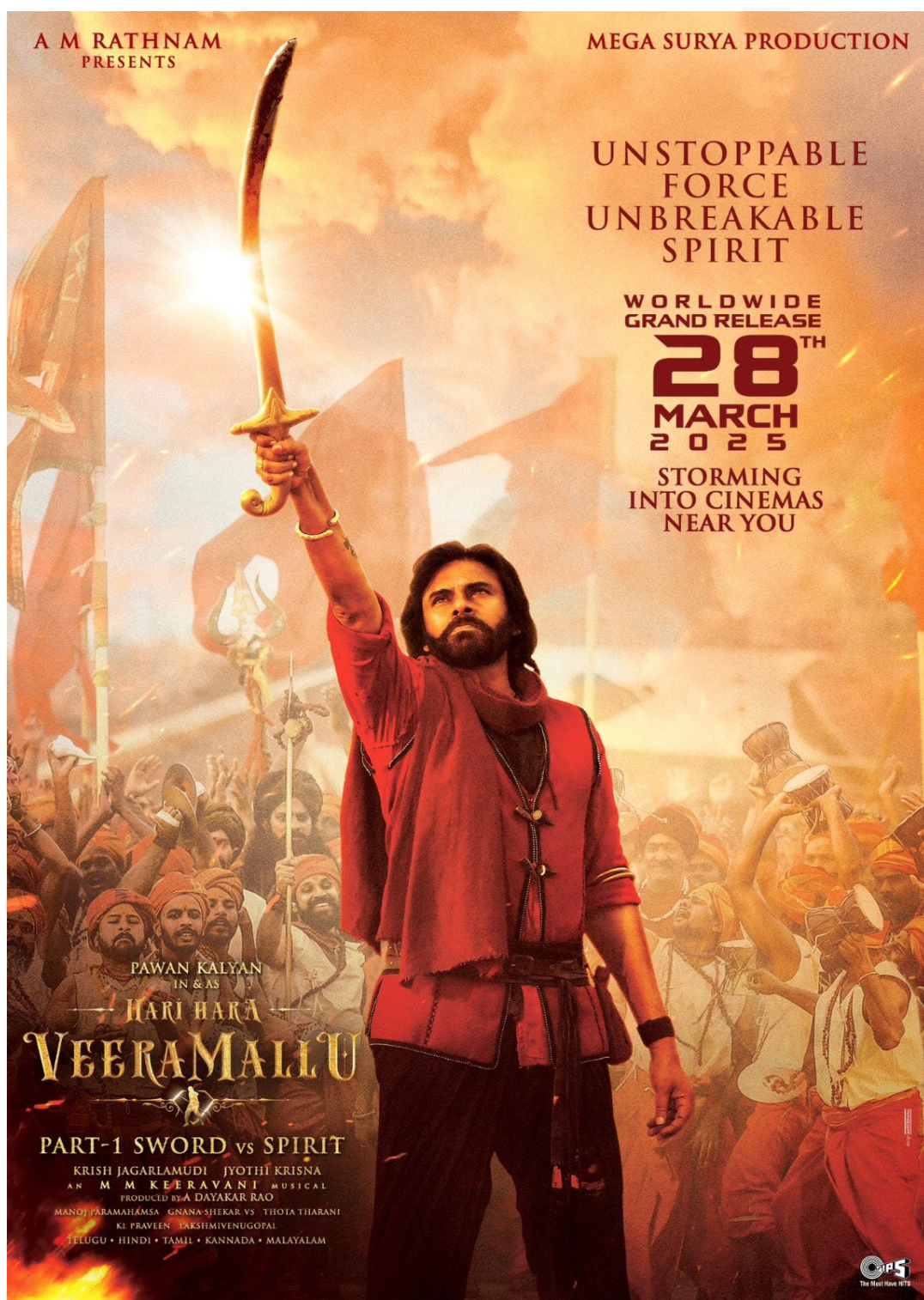
Marseille Shocks Lyon with Last-Minute Victory

Marseille staged a stunning comeback to defeat Lyon 3-2 away from home, despite being reduced to ten men early in the match on Sunday. The dramatic finish came in the 95th minute when Jonathan Rowe scored the winning goal, propelling Marseille to second place in Ligue 1, level on points with Paris Saint-Germain but with an inferior goal difference.

The "Olympico" derby kicked off chaotically, with ex-Marseille defender Duje Caleta-Car putting Lyon ahead early on. However, Marseille equalized through Pol Lirola before Ulisses Garcia scored to give them the lead with less than ten minutes remaining. Rayan Cherki looked to have salvaged a point for Lyon with a goal in the third minute of added time, only for Rowe to seal the win with a powerful strike from the edge of the box two minutes later.

The match was intense from the start, with Marseille's Leonardo Balerdi receiving a yellow card within the first 30 seconds for a heavy tackle. He was then sent off after just five minutes for a second yellow when he fouled Alexandre Lacazette. Marseille coach Roberto De Zerbi expressed support for Balerdi, stating, "He made a mistake and he knows it... we dedicate this victory to him."

Despite their numerical advantage, Lyon struggled to capitalize. They were awarded a penalty for handball in first-half stoppage time, but Lacazette's shot was saved by Geronimo Rulli, who denied him a follow-up as well.



Pawan Kalyan's "Hari Hara Veeramallu" Set for March 28, 2025 Release

Pawan Kalyan's fans have been in a state of anticipation, longing for his next film since "Vakil Saab." Although "Bro" was released, it primarily focused on Sai Tej, leaving Pawan's supporters eager for more. The excitement surrounding his upcoming projects has intensified, especially with the announcement of three films currently in production.

Recently, the shooting schedule for "Hari Hara Veeramallu" kicked off, marking a significant moment for fans. The production team confirmed that Pawan Kalyan was actively involved in this shooting schedule, further fueling hope and enthusiasm among his followers. To add to the excitement, the makers officially announced that "Hari Hara Veeramallu" will be released in two parts, with the first installment set to hit theaters on March 28, 2025.

This dual-part film has already generated

a lot of buzz, and fans are eagerly awaiting more details about the storyline and additional cast members. Pawan Kalyan's return to the screen has always been a momentous occasion, and this film is no exception. The anticipation is palpable, as fans reminisce about his previous roles and the impact he has had on the industry.

As Pawan Kalyan continues to build momentum with these new projects, fans are hopeful that "Hari Hara Veeramallu" will meet their expectations and deliver the thrilling experience they've been craving. With the release date now set, the countdown has begun, and excitement is mounting. The passionate fan base is rallying together, sharing their hopes and expectations for this long-awaited return. As the film industry gears up for this major release, Pawan Kalyan's fans stand ready, hearts beating with anticipation for what's to come.

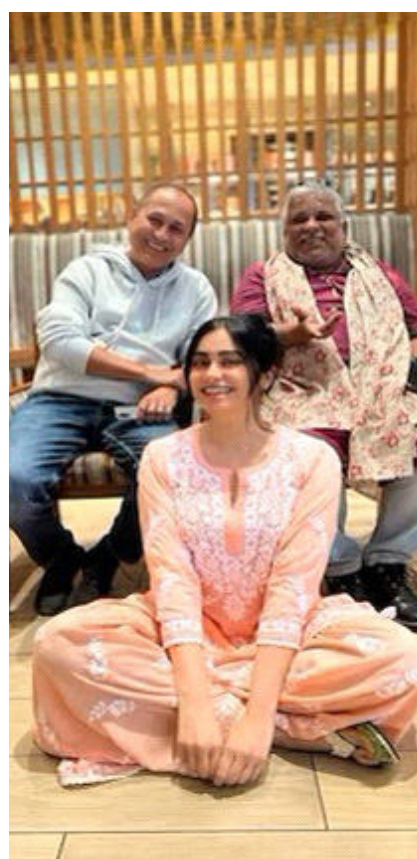
Adah Sharma Returns for The Kerala Story Sequel

Following the immense success of "The Kerala Story", which became the highest-grossing female-led film with a box-office collection of Rs 378 crore, the team is set to launch a sequel. This installment will explore the controversial Hema Committee report, continuing its narrative in Kerala.

Director Sudipto Sen and producer Vipul Shah aim to create a worthy sequel, with Adah Sharma reprising her role as the film's lead. Having become the face of the original film, Sharma has garnered a significant fan following. The sequel will also feature a well-known older actress in a parallel role, although details about the cast remain confidential.

The filmmakers are maintaining strict secrecy during the pre-production phase. Reports suggest that the sequel will be announced directly with its trailer, and all involved actors have signed non-disclosure agreements to keep details about the storyline under wraps.

The Hema Committee report, which serves as the basis for the sequel, has stirred significant political and social controversy in Kerala. It allegedly implicated high-profile individuals in sexual assault cases, making it a highly sensitive topic.



Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2: The Rule New Poster Hints at Epic Release

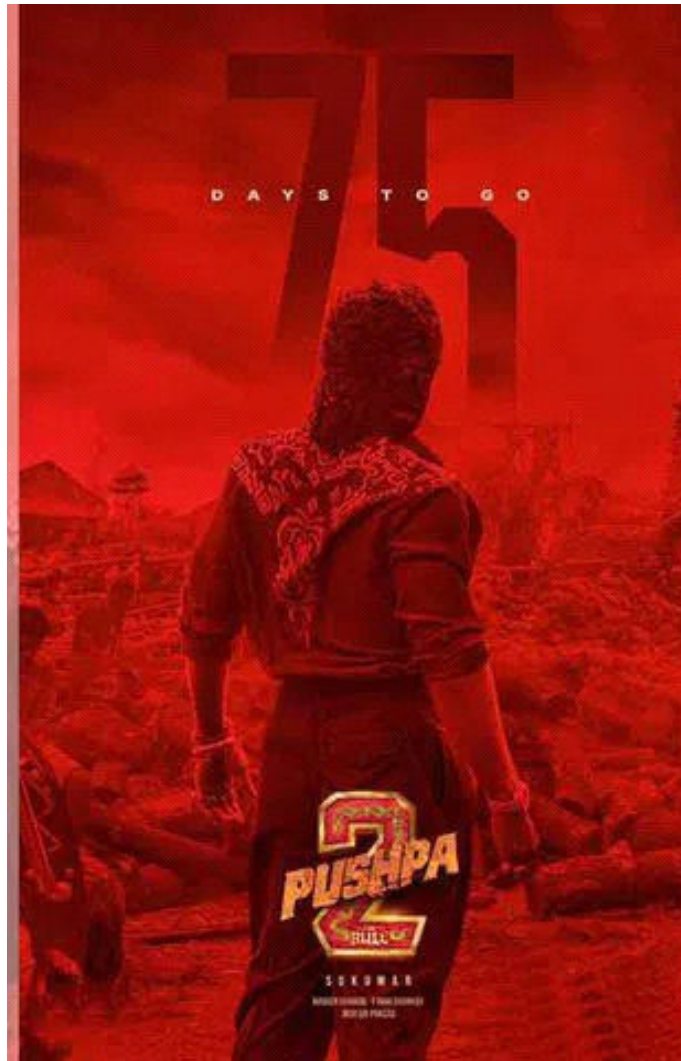
As excitement builds for "Pushpa 2: The Rule", the makers have unveiled a striking new poster featuring Allu Arjun. Released on Monday, the poster showcases Allu with his back to the camera, gazing over ruins, set against a crimson monochrome backdrop. Accompanying the image is the text, "75 days to go."

The official Instagram post declared, "75 DAYS for the world to witness Pushpa and his matchless aura on the big screens. #Pushpa2TheRule will mark an unprecedented chapter in Indian Cinema. THE RULE IN CINEMAS ON 6th DEC 2024."

Directed by Sukumar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, "Pushpa 2" is one of the most anticipated films of the year. With a thrilling teaser and captivating songs already released, fans are eagerly awaiting this mega entertainer, promising to break records upon its release.

The film stars Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil alongside Allu Arjun, and features music from T-Series. December 6 will also see a box-office clash with Vicky Kaushal's "Chhaava", which stars Rashmika as well. While "Pushpa 2" continues the fictional saga from the 2021 hit "Pushpa: The Rise", "Chhaava" is a period drama based on Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj's life, directed by Laxman Utekar.

As both films gear up for release, audiences can expect a thrilling showdown at the box office.



Sathyam Sundaram Trailer: Karthi and Arvind Swami Set for an Emotional Journey

Almost six years after his acclaimed directorial debut with "96", C Premkumar is set to release his sophomore Tamil film, "Meiyazhagan". As the release date approaches, the makers have launched an intriguing trailer that aims to captivate the audience's imagination and enthusiasm.

"Meiyazhagan" features a compelling cast led by Karthi and Arvind Swami. The trailer hints at an emotional roller-coaster, exploring the contrasting lives of its two main characters. Karthi portrays a fun-loving villager, while Arvind Swami plays an urban man burdened by his past. His character returns to his village after many years, setting the stage for a reunion that promises to be both heartfelt and complex.

Upon his return, Arvind Swami's character is welcomed by his lively brother-in-law, who is completely at ease in the village setting. This dynamic creates a rich backdrop for exploring themes of family, nos-



Sundeep Kishan's Project 'Majaka' Set to Break Records

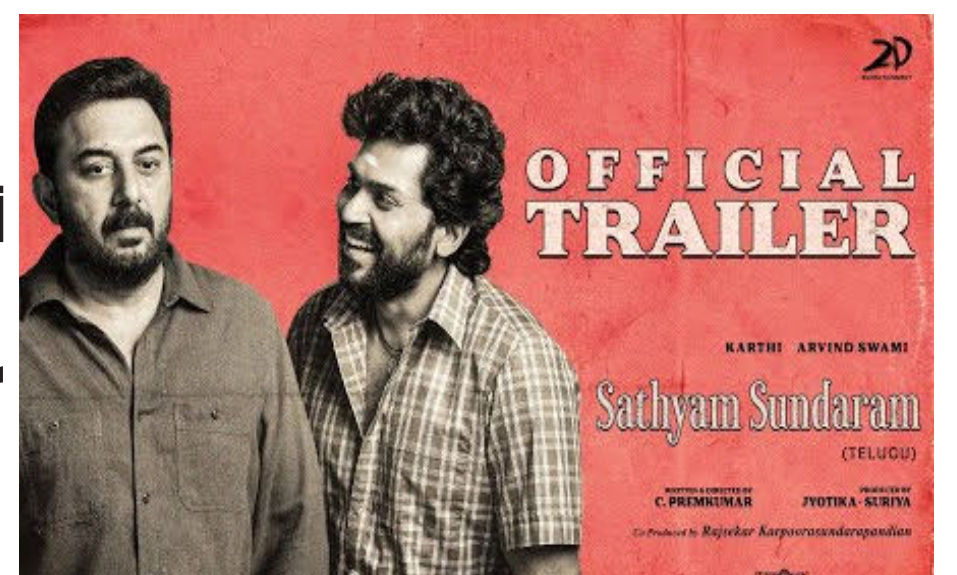
Tollywood actor Sundeep Kishan is gearing up for his next big venture, "Majaka", directed by Trinadha Rao Nakkina. This film is poised to be a game-changer for Kishan, as it is set to have a budget that could exceed Rs. 30 crores, marking the highest budget for a solo film in his career.

Following the success of his recent film "Raayan", Sundeep Kishan's popularity has soared, allowing him to command a higher fee for his upcoming projects. For "Majaka", he is reportedly asking for Rs. 6 crores, a significant increase that reflects his growing stature in the competitive Tollywood landscape. This jump in remuneration highlights the correlation between an actor's box office performance and their financial expectations in the industry.

Director Trinadha Rao Nakkina, known for his commercial hits, is coming off the success of "Dhamaka", which resonated well with audiences and performed admirably at the box office. With both Kishan and Nakkina experiencing a career high, "Majaka" is generating considerable excitement among fans and industry insiders alike.

As production gears up, the film's ambitious budget and the strong partnership between Kishan and Nakkina have raised expectations for its success. The collaboration promises a blend of talent and creativity, making "Majaka" one of the most awaited films in Telugu cinema.

The industry is keen to see if this dynamic duo can replicate their previous successes and deliver a blockbuster. With buzz building around "Majaka", fans are eagerly anticipating news and updates as the project progresses, hoping it will mark a significant milestone in Sundeep Kishan's career.



algia, and the clash between rural and urban lifestyles.

The film aims to delve into the emotional intricacies of relationships, showcasing how past experiences shape individuals differently. With its blend of humor and heartfelt moments, "Meiyazhagan" is poised to resonate with audiences looking for a poignant narrative.

As excitement grows, fans of both Karthi and Arvind Swami are eagerly anticipating the film's release. Given C Premkumar's previous success, expectations are high for "Meiyazhagan" to deliver a memorable cinematic experience.

With the trailer now out, the buzz surrounding the film continues to build, leaving audiences curious about how the story will unfold. As the release date draws near, "Meiyazhagan" is becoming one of the most anticipated films in Tamil cinema this year.