



Telangana to introduce family digital health cards: CM Revanth Reddy

TPN, Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently held a meeting with officials from the Medical and Health Department to discuss the government's plan to introduce family digital health cards. The meeting was attended by prominent figures such as Ministers Damodara Rajanarsimha, Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Government Chief Secretary Shantikumari, alongside senior officials from various departments.

During the review, the Chief Minister outlined the government's proposal to implement a "One State, One Digital Card" system, which aims to streamline access to various welfare schemes, including healthcare and ration benefits. The digital card would consolidate essential information for each family, making it easier for citizens to avail government services efficiently.

As part of the initiative, the government plans to issue family digital cards across the state. These cards would not only provide access to welfare schemes but also include a comprehensive health profile for every family member. This health profile is intended to ensure that individuals' medical histories and health data are readily available, enabling more personalized and efficient healthcare services.

To kickstart the program, CM Revanth Reddy suggested a pilot project that would cover both urban and rural areas in each constituency. This pilot would help test and refine



the system before its statewide rollout. He directed the officials to take the necessary steps to ensure the smooth execution of the pilot project, emphasizing the need to incorporate feedback from both urban and rural communities.

The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of a robust monitoring system to oversee the issuance and usage of these digital cards. He suggested a district-wise approach for tracking the distribution and implementation of the cards, ensuring that eligible individuals receive their digital cards without delay.

Additionally, the CM urged the officials to study similar policies and practices in other states like Rajasthan, Haryana, and Karnataka, which have already implemented digital health or welfare systems. Drawing on their experiences, Telangana could develop a more efficient and effective system that benefits all residents. CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the need to ensure that the digital health cards benefit all eligible families, streamlining access to welfare schemes and improving healthcare services across the state. The initiative is a significant step towards enhancing public welfare and ensuring that health services reach every corner of Telangana.



HYDRA Demolitions in Madhapur

TPN, Telangana: HYDRA has commenced demolition activities in Madhapur, targeting illegal structures in Kavuri Hills Park. The Kavuri Hills Association had previously raised concerns about a sports academy operating within the park.

A HYDRA bulldozer was deployed in the area, following a similar operation in Kukatpally where structures within the buffer zone of Nallacheruvu FTL were also demolished. The staff removed the illegal sheds associated with the sports academy, despite claims from the academy's organizers that they hold a 25-year lease from the Kavuri Hills Association. They allege that the demolitions are occurring unfairly before the lease's expiration.

In Kukatpally's Shantinagar, HYDRA demolished around four acres of unauthorized structures, including commercial sheds and temporary residences. Local businesses, including catering services, were operating in this area, raising complaints that prompted inspections. Following these inspections, authorities concluded that the structures violated buffer zone regulations.

During the operation, 16 commercial sheds and retaining walls in designated survey numbers were destroyed, including five catering sheds and various storage facilities. As demolitions began, traders and residents attempted to halt the process, expressing their grievances, but the authorities proceeded with the operation.

Additionally, HYDRA has set a record with a major operation in Aminpur, where they demolished houses, buildings, and even a hospital over a continuous 17-hour period. This unprecedented day-and-night operation was executed carefully to avoid damaging neighboring properties.



Telangana HC halts HYDRA demolitions around Durgam Cheruvu



TPN, Telangana: The State High Court has directed the Telangana government to consider the objections raised by those affected by the Durgam Cheruvu FTL. Several petitions were filed in the High Court claiming that the determination of the Full Tank Level (FTL) for Durgam Cheruvu in Hyderabad was not done scientifically. A hearing on the matter was held today in the Telangana High Court.

During the proceedings, the High Court ordered the government to take into account the objections of the affected parties. It also instructed the

victims to present their objections to the Ponds Conservation Committee within a week. The High Court further directed that the extent of the FTL be determined within six weeks.

In response, GHMC assured the court that no demolitions would be carried out until the extent of the FTL is confirmed. According to records, the FTL area of Durgam Cheruvu is only 65 acres, while authorities claim it is 160 acres, which the petitioners argue is incorrect. As a result, they approached the High Court for resolution.

Healthcare Failures and Broken Promises: A Decade of Neglect

TPN, Telangana: Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha has come under fire for overseeing a decade of healthcare neglect in Telangana. Despite promises of reform, the state's healthcare system has faced repeated crises, with tragic consequences for the most vulnerable.

In 2017, six infants died within three days at Koti Maternity Hospital, followed by five more infant deaths at Niloufer Hospital over five days.



We Will Give Rs.500 Bonus to Farmers for Kharif

- Minister warns against purchasing grain from border states
- Strict action to be taken against millers if they do so
- Minister assures the government will purchase every grain



TPN, Telangana: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that a bonus of Rs.500 will be given to farmers for their Kharif crops. He warned millers not to buy grain from neighboring states, stating that strict action will be taken if they do.

During a review meeting with officials on grain procurement, he emphasized that the government is committed to

buying every grain produced. He said that 7,139 grain procurement centers are being set up. Separate centers will be established for different grades of rice, including fine rice and coarse rice. He also mentioned that 60.39 lakh acres of paddy have been cultivated during the Kharif season, and the estimated yield is 146.28 lakh metric tonnes of grain.

Former DCM Rajaiah and MLAs Detained by Police Near Gandhi Hospital



TPN, Hyderabad: Former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Tatikonda Rajaiiah, along with Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs Sanjay, Maganti Gopinath, and former MLA Metuku Anand, were detained by police near Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. The leaders were attempting to inspect the hospital as part of a study committee appointed by BRS to assess the conditions of degraded government hospitals in the state.

The police took Dr. Rajaiah and the others to Narayanguda Police Station, preventing them from proceeding with their hospital inspection. The move has sparked outrage within the BRS, with the party's Working



President, K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), condemning the arrests.

KTR criticized the government for obstructing BRS leaders, stating, "Our leaders, who are doctors themselves, are visiting hospitals for public welfare, not for political gains." He called for the immediate release of the detained leaders and questioned the government's fear of transparency regarding public health issues.

KTR emphasized that despite attempts to cover up shortcomings in the state's healthcare system, BRS leaders will continue to expose the flaws and advocate for better public healthcare.



Healthcare Failures and Broken Promises: A Decade of Neglect

continued from P-1

The system's failures did not end there. In 2022, four women tragically lost their lives during family planning operations (DPL), leaving their children orphaned. The government had promised free education, jobs, and housing for the children, but none of these commitments were fulfilled.

The scale of the crisis reached new heights in 2019 when 100,000 dengue-related deaths were reported in just June and July. Maternity and pediatric deaths have continued monthly, with no permanent solutions in sight. Critics argue that the previous government, instead of addressing these recurring issues, wasted valuable time by forming ineffective committees.

Minister Rajanarsimha has also been accused of failing to make healthcare accessible to the poor, as government dispensaries, including the one at Nana Ranu Biddha, have fallen into disrepair. Activists are now calling for a truth-finding committee to expose the deteriorating healthcare infrastructure during Rajanarsimha's 10 years in office.

With the healthcare system severely crippled under his leadership, the people of Telangana continue to suffer from a lack of proper medical care.

Ministers to Attend Gandhi Bhavan Twice a Week

TPN, Hyderabad: From now on, ministers will be available at Gandhi Bhavan every Wednesday and Friday from 11 AM to 2 PM for face-to-face meetings with party members and the public. This initiative, announced by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud, aims to address public issues and enhance engagement with Congress ranks.

Each Wednesday and Friday, one minister will be present at Gandhi Bhavan. The state administration believes this approach will increase enthusiasm within the party, as ministers will be more accessible to the public and regularly interact with party workers and leaders.

Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha will be the first minister to attend this Wednesday, where he will meet with citizens and activists during the designated hours. Going forward, all ministers will follow this schedule.

This initiative is expected to provide valuable insights into grassroots issues and determine whether welfare schemes are effectively reaching villages. Mahesh Kumar Goud suggested this plan when he assumed office as PCC chief and has also requested Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to visit Gandhi Bhavan at least twice a month for direct interactions with party members. Reports indicate that the CM has not yet made a decision regarding this request.

Dairy Farmers Protest Delayed Payments by Dumping Milk

TPN, Adilabad: Dairy farmers protested on Monday by dumping milk on the road, demanding the State-owned Vijaya Dairy clear their pending bills. Gathering at the district center, the farmers expressed frustration over the delay in payments, which has hindered their ability to purchase fodder for their cattle and manage daily expenses.

They reported that officials assured them their bills would be settled within a fortnight, yet no payments have been made to date. The farmers emphasized the urgency of their situation, urging the government to take immediate action to resolve the issue. They called for a commitment to regular payments every fortnight to ensure their livelihoods are not further jeopardized. The protest highlights the financial strain faced by dairy farmers in the region and their reliance on timely payments to sustain their operations.



Mahesh Babu Donates Rs. 60 Lakhs for Flood Relief

TPN, Hyderabad: Actor Mahesh Babu has contributed Rs. 50 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support the victims of the recent floods. He met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills and handed over the cheque. Additionally, on behalf of Asian Mahesh Babu Cinemas (AMB), he donated another Rs. 10 lakhs, bringing the total contribution to Rs. 60 lakhs.

Mahesh Babu was accompanied by his wife, Namrata, during the visit. The Chief

Minister appreciated the actor's generous contribution and praised his timely support for the government's relief efforts. The funds will aid in providing essential relief such as food, shelter, and medical assistance to those affected by the floods.

Mahesh Babu's donation highlights his commitment to helping those in need and sets a positive example of solidarity from the film industry during this crisis.



Govt to Establish 7,139 Paddy Procurement Centres for rainy Season



TPN, Telangana: The State government has announced the establishment of 7,139 paddy procurement centres to support farmers during the 2024-25 rainy crop season. These centres will be operated through Primary Agricultural Cooperatives (4,496), Indira Kranti Patham centres (2,102), and other agencies (541), aiming to streamline the procurement process for farmers.

During a review meeting held at Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute on Tuesday, Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy discussed the 2024-25 action plan with joint collectors and civil supplies officials. He revealed that paddy was cultivated on 60.39 lakh acres during the Vankalam season, with an estimated yield of 91.38 lakh tonnes. The fine variety was grown

on 36.08 lakh acres, producing 88.09 lakh tonnes, while the coarse variety yielded 58.18 lakh tonnes from 23.58 lakh acres.

To support agricultural sustainability, the Minister announced a bonus of Rs. 500 per quintal for farmers starting from the upcoming harvest. Paddy procurement is scheduled to begin in the first week of October and will continue until January. Strict measures will be implemented to prevent irregularities and curb illegal paddy transportation from bordering states. Additionally, 40 lakh tonnes of storage has been arranged in government godowns.

The supply of fine rice through fair price shops will begin in January, with each beneficiary receiving 6 kg of rice.

Telangana Braces for Heavy Rain as IMD Issues Yellow Alert

TPN, Telangana: Telangana is preparing for a significant spell of heavy rain over the next three days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Hyderabad issuing a yellow alert for the state. From September 23-25, several districts, including Hyderabad, are expected to experience downpours accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and squalls.

In Hyderabad, the IMD forecasts cloudy skies until Wednesday, predicting light to moderate rain or thundershowers. A yellow alert has been issued for the city on Tuesday, advising residents to exercise caution as weather conditions may intensify.

Recently, on Sunday, heavy rains impacted Hyderabad and surrounding districts, with Yadadri Bhongir district recording the highest rainfall of 103.3 mm. Golconda

in Hyderabad also saw significant rainfall, with 91.3 mm—the highest recorded in the city that day.

The ongoing southwest monsoon has already delivered substantial rainfall to Telangana, with the state reporting an average of 919 mm, a 31% increase over the normal 703.6 mm. Hyderabad has also experienced above-average monsoon conditions, recording 780.4 mm, a 36% deviation from its typical 575.5 mm. Notably, Nampally has seen a remarkable rise, receiving 920.6 mm compared to its usual 570.8 mm, reflecting a 61% surge.

As the state braces for additional wet weather, the IMD continues to monitor the situation closely, urging residents to remain alert and take necessary precautions during this period of heightened weather activity.



Protest Erupts in Warangal Over Delay in Farmer Loan Waiver

TPN, Warangal: Farmers staged a protest on Monday, September 23, at Wardhannapet in Warangal district, demanding timely assistance under the Telangana government's loan waiver scheme. They accused the State Bank of India (SBI) management of non-cooperation.

The protest took place outside the bank, causing significant traffic disruptions.

One farmer expressed frustration, stating, "Officials leave their offices every 10 minutes, and there's no one to assist us. Each time we visit, we are told to wait, but there's no progress." He noted that only two counters were available for processing farm loans, hindering the waiver process.

Under the loan waiver scheme, loans up to Rs 2 lakh are eligible for forgiveness. While the government claims to have alleviated the debt burden by waiving Rs 31,000 crore in farm loans, many farmers continue to struggle to secure assistance.



Account Categories:

- Loan accounts with 11 or 13-digit Aadhaar numbers: 120,000
- Cases with different names in Aadhaar and loan records: 161,000
- Accounts with errors in details provided by bankers: 150,000
- Accounts without ration cards: 483,000
- Accounts with loans exceeding Rs 2 lakh: 800,000

State Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy clarified that farmers with loans over Rs 2 lakh must repay the excess amount. For in-

stance, a farmer with a debt of Rs 2,30,000 would need to repay Rs 30,000 before the government waives the remaining Rs 2 lakh.

Regarding farmers who have not received their pattadar passbooks due to Dharani-related issues, the Mandal Agricultural Officer (MAO) will verify their cases, allowing for the benefit of the doubt to those who have borrowed for cultivation.

The minister added that a grievance redressal system has been established to address loan issues, unlike during the previous BRS government. He noted, "In 2018, loans for 226,000 accounts totaling Rs 1,400 crore were waived but later returned to the BRS government. No steps were taken to clear loans afterward."

Uttam Kumar also highlighted that from 2014 to 2018, the BRS government waived loans in four phases, amounting to Rs 16,000 crore, but did not disburse funds for loan waivers until 2021, when only Rs 408 crore was released.



KTR Condemns Arrest of BRS Leaders at Gandhi Hospital

TPN, Telangana: BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) took to X to express strong condemnation over the arrest of party leaders at Gandhi Hospital. The three-member fact-finding committee, which was sent to assess the conditions in government hospitals, was detained by the police.

KTR questioned the government’s motives behind these arrests, asking, “Why is the government afraid? Is it because the committee’s findings will reveal the truth about the state’s healthcare crisis?”

He further added, “If the government is not hiding anything, it should allow the BRS fact-finding committee to conduct its investigation. Through the committee’s report, the government can better understand the issues faced by the public and receive suggestions on how to improve public health services.”

Criticizing the Chief Minister’s actions, KTR said, “The CM’s ego is putting the lives of Telangana’s people at risk. I urge him to stop acting irrationally and allow for a constructive dialogue.”

Congress Workers Attack MLA Sunitha Lakshmareddy’s Residence



TPN, Medak: In the wake of an attack by Congress workers, former minister Harish Rao left Hyderabad for Narsapur to visit the residence of BRS MLA Sunitha Lakshmareddy in Medak district. On Sunday night, Congress workers allegedly attacked her residence in Gomaram village, Shivvampeta mandal, causing damage with bricks and stones. The incident occurred during Vinayaka immersion, when local Congress leaders reportedly blocked the event and burst fire-crackers in front of the MLA’s house.

When Manideep Goud, who was inside the residence, questioned their actions, he was assaulted. The attackers continued hurling bricks at the house. BRS leaders arrived and confronted the Congress members, leading to a heated argument. Police eventually dispersed both groups. BRS leaders condemned the attack as cowardly.

MLA Sunitha Lakshmareddy expressed her distress, stating the attack was deliberate and demanded a case of attempted murder be registered. She warned that if BRS workers are targeted, further unrest will follow. BRS supporters organized a protest rally against the attack.

Harish Rao Condemns Attack on MLA Sunitha Lakshmareddy’s Residence

TPN, Telangana: Siddipet MLA Harish Rao strongly condemned the attack on the residence of BRS MLA Sunitha Lakshmareddy in Medak district. The incident occurred late at night, allegedly led by Congress workers, who attacked the house with bricks and stones. Harish Rao visited the site to inquire about the details and spoke to the police officials, demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack.

Harish Rao criticized the Congress party for orchestrating the attack, which took place when the MLA was not at home. He condemned the actions of the “Congress goons” who launched the assault on sleeping individuals in the middle of the night, calling it a cowardly act. He emphasized that such attacks would not instill fear in the BRS party, nor would they weaken their resolve.

Rao further demanded that the Con-

gress workers involved be arrested and that strict cases be registered against them. He assured the BRS workers that the party leadership stands firmly with them, vowing to support them in the face of any adversity. “These petty attacks will not deter us. We will continue to support the BRS workers and fight back against such lawlessness,” Harish Rao stated.

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) also weighed in, asserting that the Congress party’s attempts to damage the morale of strong leaders like Sunitha Lakshmareddy would fail. He expressed solidarity with the BRS party’s “60 lakh family” and assured that the leadership would stand by every member, from activists to public representatives. KTR called for strict action against those responsible and urged the government to register cases against the attackers.



Case Filed Against HYDRA by Ex-Congress Leader at SHRC

TPN, Hyderabad: On Monday, September 23, former Congress leader Judson Bakka filed a complaint with the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), raising concerns about the rehabilitation of individuals rendered homeless due to recent demolition drives conducted by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Agency (HYDRA) in Hyderabad and nearby districts.

The complaint highlights the demolition of homes in Manemma Colony, Ramnagar, where low-income residents were displaced. Bakka emphasized that the Telangana government should prioritize their rehabilitation.

Another incident detailed in the complaint involves a demolition drive in Adarsh Nagar, Christianpally, Mahbubnagar district. Bakka claims that the affected residents were not given any prior notice before the demolition, despite holding patta documents confirming their ownership. The properties were

demolished under accusations of land encroachment, according to his complaint.

The complaint accuses the Telangana government of violating basic human rights by neglecting to provide adequate notice before demolitions, particularly concerning the homes of poor individuals.

Judson Bakka, a former AICC member, turned rebel against Revanth Reddy and was expelled from Congress in April 2024 for alleged anti-party activities. Since then, he has been a vocal critic of the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government.

R. Krishnaiah Set to Leave YCP and Join BJP?

TPN, Telangana: In the wake of the recent assembly elections in Telangana, the YSRCP is facing significant turmoil, with several key leaders departing the party. Reports indicate that R. Krishnaiah, the state member and national leader of the BC Welfare Association, may soon leave YCP to join the BJP.

The BJP, which adopted a BC-centric slogan during last year’s elections, aims to strengthen its position by incorporating influential leaders like Krishnaiah into its ranks. Discussions between Krishnaiah and BJP national leaders have reportedly been productive, with indications that he may be offered a key role within the party.

Krishnaiah’s history with the RSS and ABVP spans nearly a decade, fostering strong relationships with various leaders in those organizations. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah extended birthday wishes to him on the 13th of this month, further fueling speculation about his imminent move to the BJP.

As the political landscape shifts in Telangana, the BJP hopes to bolster its voter base by welcoming Krishnaiah and reinforcing its commitment to the BC community.



BRS Leaders Push for 42% BC Reservation, Meet Justice Eshwaraiah

TPN, Telangana: BRS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fighting for 42% reservations for backward classes (BC) in Telangana and urged the Congress government to conduct a caste census as promised in its election manifesto. This resolve was made during a meeting with former National BC Commission Chairman, Justice V. Eshwaraiah, at his residence on Monday.

Justice Eshwaraiah noted that increasing BC reservations to 42% in Telangana is achievable, provided the government is sincere in its efforts. He shared his views with key BRS leaders, including Council Opposition Leader S. Madhusudhanachari, former Minister V. Srinivas Goud, and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra.

The discussions focused on the Congress party’s Kamareddy Declaration, which pledges 42% reservations for BCs in local bodies, and the necessity of a comprehensive caste census. They also examined the legal provisions related to these issues and strategized on how to achieve them.

Justice Eshwaraiah emphasized that reforms like increasing reservations are possible when governments are genuinely committed to public welfare. The BRS leaders vowed to create awareness, especially among the youth, and continue their efforts until the reservation is implemented in Telangana’s local bodies.

Several senior BRS leaders, including MLCs Shambirpur Raju and L. Ramana, were also present at the meeting.

Telangana BJP Urges CM to Rescue Struggling Dairy Farmers

TPN, Telangana: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday, September 23, urged Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to take immediate action to save dairy farmers.

BJP leader Gudur Narayan Reddy claimed that dairy farmers were being forced to sell their cattle to slaughterhouses as they could no longer afford to feed them. “The milk producers have been facing hardship as they have not been paid for the milk procured by government-owned dairy firms for the past three months,” he said.

Narayan Reddy added that buffaloes and cows had become weak because farmers could not afford fodder. He noted that previously, the government-owned Vijaya Dairy Development Company had paid farmers every fortnight, but payments had stopped in the last three months for reasons “best known to the company.”

Addressing the media, the BJP leader said that most farmers were struggling, as the loan waiver scheme had not reached them and the government had not paid them under the Rythu Bharosa scheme. This, he argued, had deprived them of the financial means to sustain their livelihoods.

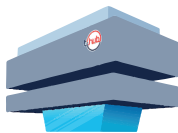
“Farmers have been waiting for three months for their payments and are now losing hope of receiving the money,” Narayan said. “The situation has deteriorated to the point where they have no choice but to sell their cattle to slaughterhouses.”

Gongadi Sunita Mahender Reddy Critiques Komatireddy Venkata Reddy

TPN, Hyderabad: At Telangana Bhavan, former MLA Gongadi Sunita Mahender Reddy addressed the ambitions of Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy, suggesting that his dreams of dismantling the BRS are misguided. She noted that family disputes within the Reddy clan have surfaced, urging him to focus on resolving these personal issues first. While she expressed respect for Komati Reddy, she criticized his manner of speaking as inappropriate.

Sunita also mentioned his brother, Rajagopal Reddy, who contested the Munugodu constituency as a BJP candidate, and called for support to help him succeed. She accused Komati Reddy of lacking values and making reckless statements. Additionally, she referenced a recent meeting involving KTR, Harish Rao, and SIB Chief Prabhakar Rao, questioning the purpose of their discussions, especially regarding water supply issues to areas like Tapaspalli and the Nawabupeta Reservoir in Gundala Mandal.

Sunita emphasized the need for transparency about Congress’s promises and demanded the construction of the sanctioned medical college, which is reportedly being shifted from Yadadri to Kuntisaku.



Singareni High School Student Selected for 43rd Sub Junior Badminton Championship

TPN, Hyderabad: D Premdeep Goleti, a student of Singareni High School, has been selected to represent the Adilabad joint district team in the 43rd Sub Junior Ball Badminton Championship 2024. The prestigious tournament will be held in Rohtak, Haryana, from September 25 to 29.

The selection of Premdeep for the national-level competition has been widely celebrated. Mr. M Srinivas, Bellampally Area General Manager, Singareni School Correspondent Reddy Malla Tirupathi, Adilabad Joint District President Lion Narasingam, and Sharp Star Ball Badminton Association President Vanga Mahender expressed their congratulations.

Secretary Marina Venkateshwarlu, along with B Santosh, Masadi Ravi Teja, PET Bhaskar, and senior players Harilal, U Shankar, Gujja Mallesh, Srinivasa Reddy, K Mallesh, RV Ramakrishna, Kundarapu Naresh, and Marina Chander, also extended their best wishes to Premdeep.

This achievement is a proud moment for Singareni High School and the Adilabad joint district, as Premdeep prepares to compete on the national stage in Haryana.

Fake Liquor Seized in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: In a major operation, authorities in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills have seized fake liquor being manufactured and sold in bars. Workers employed in these bars were found to be involved in collecting empty bottles of expensive liquor brands, refilling them with counterfeit alcohol, and selling them to unsuspecting customers.

The fake liquor was being marketed as premium brands, with bar staff claiming that it had been sourced from Delhi and Goa. The counterfeit alcohol was primarily being sold to affluent customers in upscale areas such as Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills.

This illegal activity has raised concerns about public health and the integrity of businesses in the area. The authorities have intensified their investigation to trace the supply chain and apprehend all those involved in the production and distribution of the fake liquor. Further action is expected as the investigation progresses, with a focus on preventing such activities in the future.

Efforts to Resolve Traffic Issues in Hyderabad Coordination Committee Formed

TPN, Hyderabad: In a bid to address Hyderabad's growing traffic problems, a new initiative has been launched with the formation of a coordination committee. This committee will operate across the three police commissionerates in the city and aims to streamline efforts to manage traffic more effectively.

The coordination committee will include the three police commissioners from the respective commissionerates. Beyond traffic management, the committee will also focus on resolving other civic issues that impact daily life in the city.

The primary goal of this effort is to ensure better coordination between various departments and stakeholders, leading to more efficient problem-solving. The committee will regularly discuss and devise solutions not only for traffic but also for other pressing urban challenges, ensuring smoother day-to-day functioning in Hyderabad. This move is seen as a significant step toward improving the overall infrastructure and quality of life in the city.

KTR Criticizes Congress for Broken Promises

TPN, Hyderabad: KTR, the Working President of the BRS, has condemned Congress for deceiving even influential individuals with false promises. He emphasized that under KCR's leadership, the Asara pension scheme has provided much-needed reassurance to elders in the state. The BRS has implemented a Rs. 2,000 pension, enabling

families to care for their loved ones with affection and respect.

KCR has taken significant steps to enhance the dignity of senior citizens by improving the pension system. However, KTR pointed out the failures of the Revanth government, which promised an increase to Rs. 4,000 but has not delivered

even the pensions that were previously established. This neglect has affected the elderly, causing frustration among the community.

In recent events, the impact of these broken promises was highlighted in Gadwal, where citizens expressed their dissatisfaction with the current administration.

KTR's statements underline the BRS's commitment to the welfare of the elderly and its determination to uphold the promises made by KCR's government. The contrast between the BRS's initiatives and the Congress party's failures has become increasingly apparent, raising concerns about the future of welfare programs in the state.

Sarpanches Protest Against Congress Government Over Long-Pending Bills



TPN, Hyderabad: Tensions flared at the Martyrs Memorial in front of the Secretariat as former sarpanches protested against the sta

te government, demanding the clearance of long-pending bills. The demonstration saw protesters raising slogans and insisting that

their issues be addressed promptly. Leaders from the Telangana Sarpanch Sangam met with the Governor to highlight the delays in bill payments. When police attempted to disperse the crowd, heated exchanges occurred, resulting in the detention of several sarpanches who refused to leave.

Organized by the Sarpanches Joint Action Committee (JAC), the gathering included numerous former sarpanches from across the state. Many participants expressed frustration, as they had used their personal funds for development projects in their villages. With the government delaying payments, creditors were demanding repayment with interest, putting im-

mense pressure on these leaders, said S. Yadaiah Goud, president of the Sarpanches JAC.

“Many sarpanches' families are struggling. The state government, which should assist them, seems indifferent to their hardships,” Goud added.

The JAC members urged that the state conduct panchayat elections only after resolving the pending bills. They called on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to intervene and address their legitimate concerns. On September 13, JAC members also protested outside the Panchayat Raj Commissioner's Office, blocking vehicle access to the premises.

Bandi Sanjay Accuses Congress, BRS of Distracting Public from 'Amrit' Scheme



TPN, Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has accused the Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) parties of creating distractions regarding the 'Amrit' scheme to divert public attention from their own failures. He alleged that both parties are engaged in a political drama, accusing each other of corruption, which undermines the true purpose of the scheme aimed at improving urban infrastructure across the country.

Shri Bandi Sanjay emphasized that the Amrit scheme, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, focuses on enhancing the quality of life

in cities by developing essential infrastructure. He accused Congress and BRS of deflecting scrutiny from the scheme's implementation by exchanging allegations of corruption, rather than addressing the pressing issues related to urban development.

Calling for an investigation by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), Sanjay urged that potential corruption within the scheme be uncovered. He emphasized that the public should see through the political theatrics of the opposition and recognize the government's genuine efforts to foster development.

The minister also criticized Congress for failing to deliver on its six key guarantees, suggesting that the ongoing political drama serves as a smokescreen to hide their shortcomings. He encouraged the public to remain vigilant and focus on the government's initiatives, which are aimed at improving their quality of life, rather than getting caught up in the distractions created by the opposing parties.

This statement comes amidst growing political tensions as parties prepare for upcoming elections, with urban development and infrastructure taking center stage in public debates.

TGSRTC to Launch 70 New Metro Deluxe Buses in Hyderabad



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is set to expand its fleet by adding 70 new Metro Deluxe buses, supplementing the existing 55 buses already operating in Hyderabad. These new buses will serve key routes, including Uppal, Mehdiapatnam, Secunderabad, ECIL, Jagadgirigutta, and LB Nagar.

The new Metro Deluxe buses will be deployed on high-demand routes, such as Ibrahimpatnam, with buses running at intervals of 15-20 minutes to improve frequency. Currently, these buses cover major routes like Uppal-Mehdiapatnam, Secunderabad-ECIL, Koti, and Abdullahpurmet, enhancing connectivity for commuters across the city.

Unlike the City Ordinary and Metro Express buses, which are part of the Mahalakshmi scheme that allows women to travel for free, all passengers, including women, will need to pay fares on the new Metro Deluxe buses. The Mahalakshmi scheme, which benefits approximately 14 lakh women passengers daily, will not apply to these buses.

TGSRTC plans to introduce the Metro Deluxe buses in phases to create a new revenue stream. The decision follows a sharp 70% decline in ticket revenue after the launch of the Mahalakshmi scheme, with only 30% of passengers currently paying for their tickets.

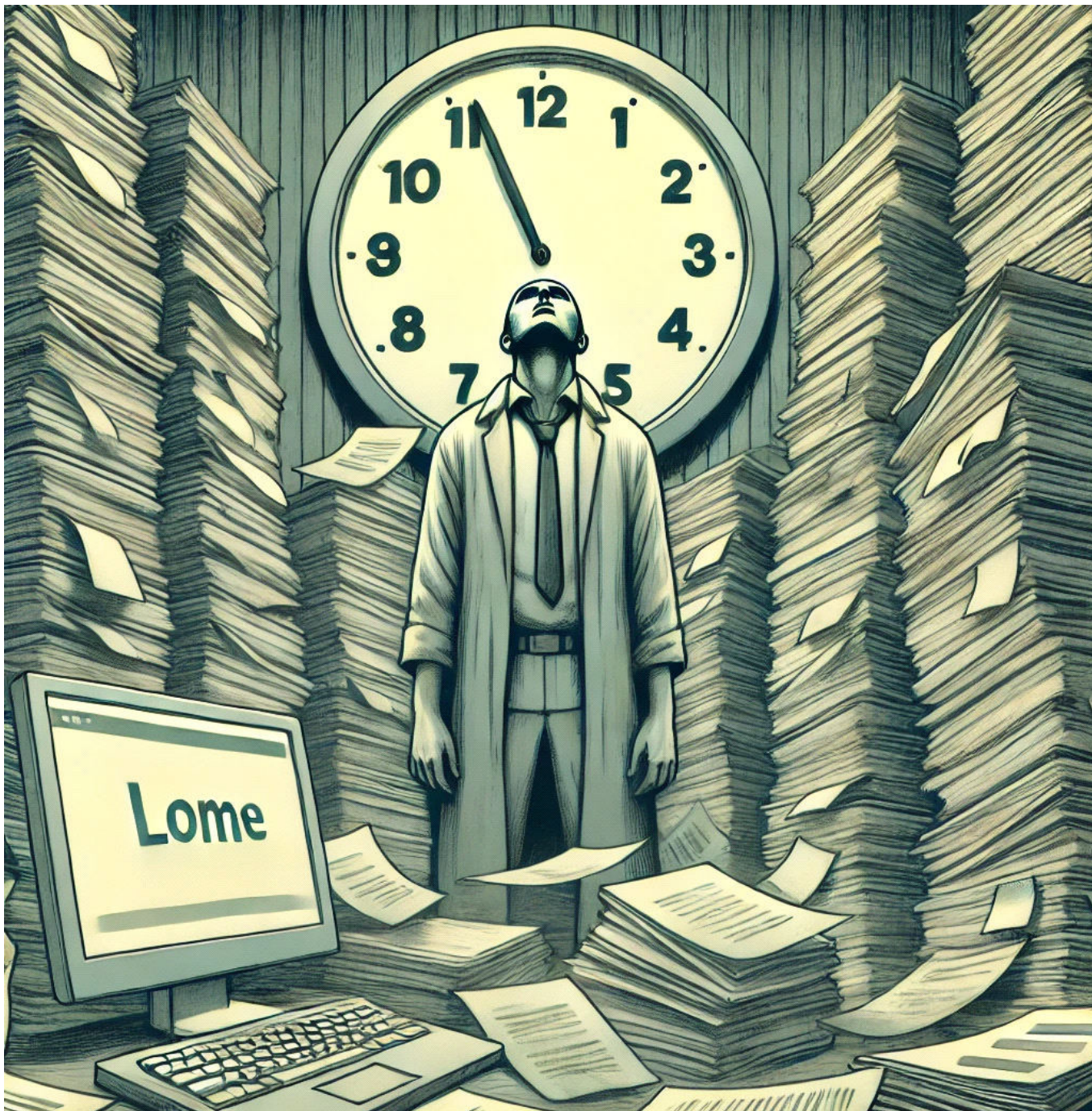


Cyberabad SOT Seizes 12 Kilograms of Ganja-Laced Chocolates

TPN, Hyderabad: In a significant operation, the Cyberabad Special Operations Team (SOT) apprehended a man involved in selling ganja-laced chocolates on the outskirts of the city. The arrested individual, identified as Tamk Issar Singh (55), is a resident of Jagadgirigutta and originally from Punjab. According to the police, Singh had been transporting these drug-laced chocolates from Punjab and distributing them primarily to construction workers in the city's outskirts.

During the raid, the SOT team seized 12 kilograms of ganja-laced chocolates, which were packed in 64 separate packets. The illegal chocolates were reportedly being sold to laborers at various construction sites, raising concerns about the spread of drugs in vulnerable communities. DCP Special Operations Team, D. Srinivas, stated that Singh had been operating this racket for some time, bringing in the contraband from Punjab and targeting laborers working on the city's periphery. Authorities are continuing their investigation to trace the supply chain and identify any other accomplices involved in this illegal trade.

The Cyberabad police have intensified their crackdown on drug-related activities in the region, aiming to curb the supply and distribution of illegal substances in Hyderabad.



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.

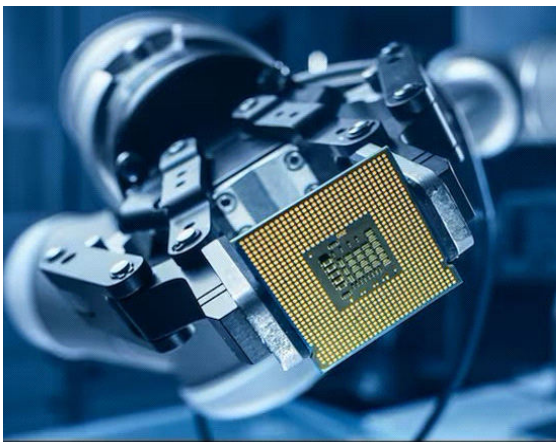
Modi noted that India has transformed from a follower to a leader on the global stage, introducing the concept of digital public infrastructure (DPI) to the world. He proudly stated that India's 5G market has surpassed that of the United States in just two years and is now advancing towards 'Made in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

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 start-up 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.

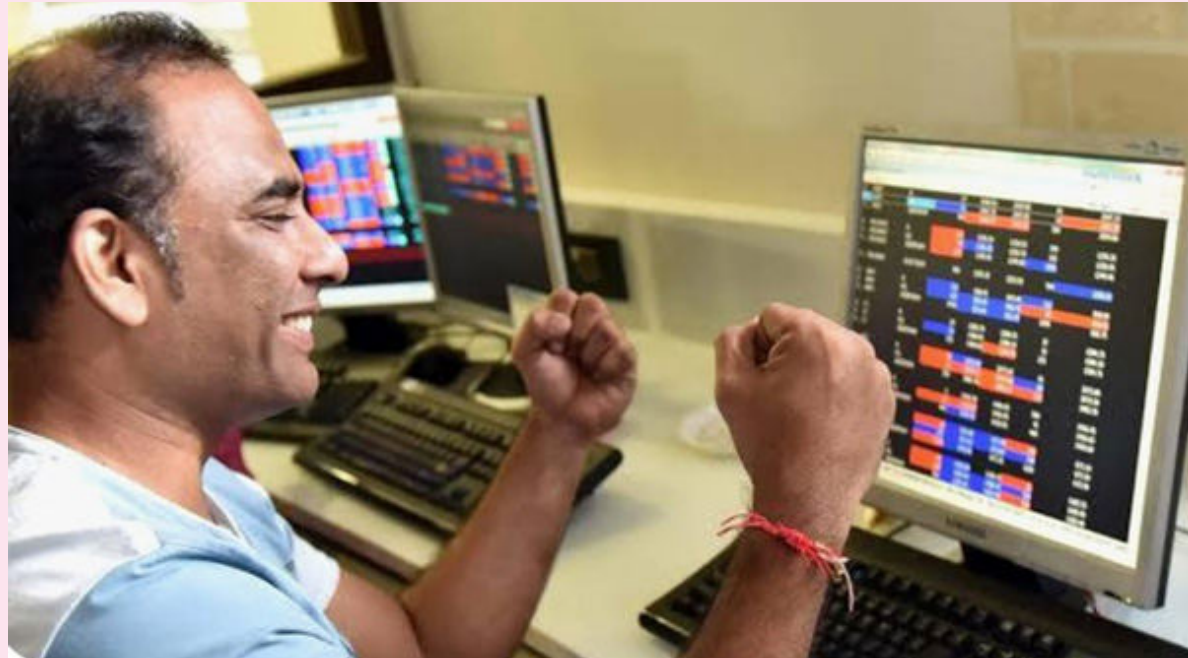


European stocks also rose on the back of expected economic improvements in key markets like Germany and France. Sectorally, IT was the only laggard, while Auto, PSU Bank, Realty, and Consumer Durables showed strong performance.

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 Motherson 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.

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-

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.

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 Samriddhi 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, Ngqabayomzi 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 Beydulla-yeva, 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.

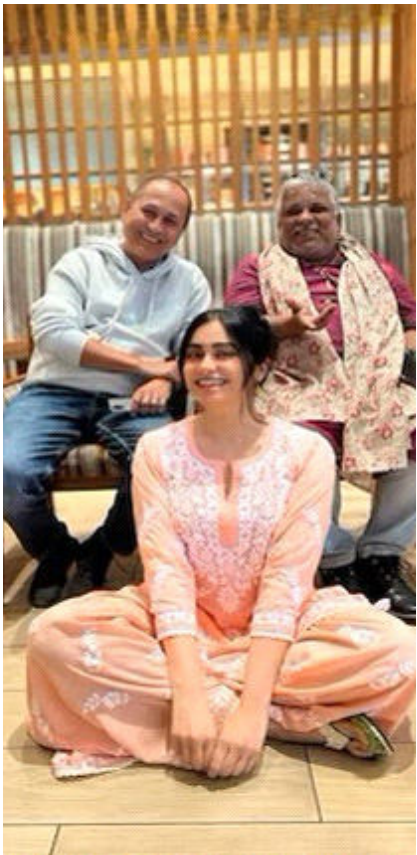
Adah Sharma Returns for The Kerala Story Sequel

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, nostalgia,

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.



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.

