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ED Summons CM Revanth Reddy in 'Cash for Vote' Case

Court Hearing on October 16



TPN, Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summons to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in connection with the high-profile 'cash for vote' scam. Reddy has been asked to appear before the ED court on October 16, 2024.

On Tuesday, the ACB court at Nampally expressed concern over the absence of the accused during the case's proceedings, with the exception of Mathaiah Jerusalem, who did attend. The legal representatives of Revanth Reddy and other accused, including Uday Simha, Vem Krishna Keerthan, and Venkata Veeraiah, sought exemptions for their clients' absence from the hearing. The court accepted the request but insisted on their mandatory presence during the next hearing.

Coincidentally, the Nampally Metropolitan Criminal Court has also scheduled a hearing on the same date, October 16, directing all the accused in the case, including Revanth Reddy, to be present.

This development comes just days after the Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy, who sought to transfer the trial to a court outside Telangana, citing potential bias. The petitioner argued that since Revanth Reddy holds the Home portfolio, he could influence the investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which falls under the Home Department.

However, the Supreme Court, in its ruling, noted that transferring the case would not alter the investigative agency. The court instructed the Director General of the ACB not to report to the Chief Minister regarding the prosecution of the case and directed the petitioner to approach the court if any evidence of interference emerged.

In a related development, the Supreme Court on August 29 appointed a special prosecutor to oversee the proceedings in the case. This decision followed Revanth Reddy's controversial remarks about the bail granted to BRS MLC K. Kavitha in the Delhi Liquor Policy case, for which he later issued an apology.

The 'cash for vote' scam dates back to May 31, 2015, when Revanth Reddy, then a member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), allegedly offered a bribe of Rs 50 lakh to MLA Elvis Stephenson in exchange for his vote in the Member of Legislative Council (MLC) elections. ACB video footage reportedly shows Reddy and his aides offering the money when law enforcement officers intervened to arrest them.

Revanth Reddy was granted bail on July 1, 2015, and has consistently denied the allegations, claiming that the meeting was about a business deal, not a bribe.

In 2017, Revanth Reddy left the TDP and joined the Congress party. Despite ongoing legal battles, he has risen to become a prominent leader, currently serving as the Chief Minister of Telangana.

The case remains under investigation, with the ED's latest summons marking another significant step in the legal process. All eyes are now on the upcoming October 16 court proceedings, which could further shape the course of this long-standing political scandal.

KAVITHA COMING BACK WITH A BATHUKAMMA BANG

- Kavitha as the Brand Ambassador of Bathukamma
- Speculation Over Kavitha's Participation This Year
- Kavitha's Political Journey: From MP to Controversy
- Anticipation Surrounding Her Return for Bathukamma

TPN, Telangana: Bathukamma is synonymous with Telangana, symbolizing the cultural pride and unique identity of the region. It represents a revolution of self-respect, dating back to the oppressive Nizam era and Razakar atrocities. Interestingly, some areas in Andhra Pradesh, bordering Telangana, also celebrate Bathukamma, keeping the tradition alive.



Bathukamma is deeply connected with the people of Telangana, and this connection is why Chief Minister KCR's daughter, Kavitha, became its de facto brand ambassador. Kavitha, through her Telangana Jagruthi organization, took Bathukamma celebrations worldwide, personally participating in events in various countries.

with the Delhi liquor scam, leading to over five months of imprisonment. During this period, both the party cadre and KCR anxiously awaited her release.

For a decade under BRS rule, Kavitha led Bathukamma festivities, her presence inseparable from the festival. Each year, for a week, she would actively participate, building Bathukammas and organizing grand celebrations. With the festival just ten days away, speculation is rife within the BRS party on whether Kavitha will make her anticipated return this year.

Since securing bail, Kavitha has kept a low profile, staying away from party activities and spending time with her family. With the Bathukamma festival approaching, there is growing anticipation in political circles about when she will reappear.

Kavitha entered politics as KCR's political heir and carved out her own identity through activism and public speaking. Her political rise was meteoric, winning the Nizamabad MP seat and gaining prominence within BRS alongside KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao. Beyond her role as an MP, Kavitha was deeply involved in numerous initiatives across the state. However, her political journey hit a major roadblock when she was arrested in connection

Every year, Kavitha leads the Bathukamma celebrations under the banner of Telangana Jagruthi, her passion and energy setting the tone for the festival. This year, however, uncertainty surrounds her participation, as party members fear criticism from opposition parties, including Congress and BJP. Despite the speculation, BRS leaders remain confident that the festivities will proceed under Kavitha's leadership, and the questions around her involvement will be answered in the coming days.

If HYDRA has law, then why are they sparing Tirupathi Reddy?

Do you exploit the poor because they have no one to support them?

TPN, Telangana: KTR remarked that Tirupathi Reddy seems to be the only one unaffected by the "Ravana Kashtam" of demolitions. He pointed out that the houses of common people are collapsing immediately. KTR also criticized the lack of concern for the common people being crushed under the bulldozers directed by Revanth Reddy.

her books, and 50-year-old Kasturibai lost her livelihood, as her shoe shop was demolished. He further criticized that a house purchased just 72 hours prior to the demolition was also razed to the ground. Even a house that had been moved into only a week earlier, with all necessary papers in place, was torn down like a mere brick.

In a tweet addressing CM Revanth Reddy's brother, Anumula Tirupathi Reddy, BRS Working President KTR expressed his anger over the ongoing demolitions in Hyderabad. He suggested that perhaps Tirupathi Reddy is the only one whose property has not been touched during these demolitions. KTR mentioned that many houses were demolished without delay, while Tirupathi Reddy was criticized for receiving an exemption.

Addressing Tirupathi Reddy, KTR questioned why the Hyderabad authorities claim there's no time to delay the demolition of illegal structures, yet in Reddy's case, the situation is different. KTR pointed out that the authorities had given Tirupathi Reddy a 30-day notice and that he had even obtained a stay order from the court. He concluded by stating that Tirupathi Reddy seems to be the only one not facing any consequences during the current demolitions, while common people are being crushed under the bulldozers driven by his brother, Revanth Reddy.

KTR shared specific examples, stating that Vedashree, an LKG student, lost her home without even being given time to collect



Telangana High Court Issues Notices to Speaker, 10 MLAs



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday issued notices to the Telangana Assembly Speaker and 10 MLAs, including Danam Nageshwar, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, Kadiyam Srihari, Tellam Venkata Rao, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Kale Yadaiah, T. Prakash Goud, Dr. Sanjay, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, and Arekapudi Gandhi. The notices were issued following a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Praja Shanti party president K.A. Paul.

electoral regulations.

A two-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J. Sreenivas Rao, issued the notices under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The petitioner sought to disqualify the MLAs for allegedly violating anti-defection laws, thereby breaching constitutional and

Paul also called for the Election Commission of India to enforce anti-defection laws and declare the actions of the defecting MLAs unconstitutional. He stressed the importance of preventing the commercialization of elected offices, arguing that legislators should not be treated as commodities. Additionally, he requested that the court restrain the MLAs from attending current and future Assembly sessions or exercising their voting rights.

However, the court denied interim relief, noting that the petitioner had not clarified whether the Assembly was currently in session or provided dates for future sessions. The case has been adjourned for four weeks.



TGEJAC demands 51% fitment, passes 42 resolutions

- Implementation of 51% Fitment and Arrears
- Opposition to New Pension Schemes
- Regularization of Contract and Outsourced Workers



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana Gazetted Employees Joint Action Committee (TGEJAC) convened on Tuesday, September 24, and passed 42 resolutions during its maiden meeting at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram. One of their key demands was the implementation of a 51 percent fitment increase, based on the recommendations of the 2nd Pay Revision Commission. The committee, comprising employees, teachers, pensioners, and workers' unions, voiced strong concerns over several issues affecting government employees.

The JAC expressed firm opposition to the Centre's proposed Compensatory Pension Scheme (CPS) and Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), advocating instead for a return to the old pension scheme. Employees were also critical of the current system of salary disbursement through the e-Kuber system, requesting that payments be made via

the treasury department, as was previously the practice. Additionally, the committee called for the immediate release of five pending Dearness Allowances (DA) and payment of arrears dating back to 2022. A major concern raised by the JAC was the unresolved grievances stemming from GO 317, which affected the allotment of cadres. They urged the state government to address these issues promptly.

Another significant demand was for the regularization of all contract and outsourced workers, along with halting future recruitment of such workers. The JAC also strongly opposed the extension of services for retired employees, arguing that it negatively impacts junior employees by delaying promotions and other career benefits.

To address pending compassionate appointments and medical invalidations, the committee called for the formation of a state-level committee. This body would be responsible for streamlining and resolving these long-standing issues.

In his address to the gathering, JAC General Secretary E. Srinivas Rao emphasized that these demands were being presented to communicate the employees' concerns directly to the state government. He reiterated that the resolutions passed were in the best interest of ensuring fair treatment and benefits for all government employees in Telangana.

Bandi Sanjay praises Pawan for speaking powerful words

- BJP MP defends Pawan's comments on Sanatana Dharma
- The Union Minister emphasizes that Sanatana Dharma will not remain silent
- Union Minister of State extends support to Jana Sena

TPN, Telangana: It is known that Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, speaking at the Indrakiladri venue today (Tuesday), made strong remarks stating, "No one should interfere with Hindu Dharma. Do Hindus not have sentiments? Should they just sit and watch while unholy things are being done in temples? If you speak against Sanatana Dharma, we will not remain silent." In response to these comments, Union Minister of State and senior BJP leader Bandi Sanjay has declared his full support for Pawan Kalyan.

Bandi Sanjay expressed that Pawan Kalyan has spoken powerful words and that he will fully back him. "Secularism is a two-way street. It won't work if we think we should remain silent when others strike us. We will not remain like punching bags," commented Bandi Sanjay.

In this context, Bandi Sanjay took to the platform X (formerly Twitter) and quoted a famous verse: "Paritranaya Sadhunam, Vinasaya Cha Dushkritam. Dharmasamsthapanarthaya Sambhavami Yuge Yuge," highlighting his support.



Hydra's Bold Move Against Illegal Constructions



TPN, Hyderabad: Hydra has made a sensational decision to stop banks from providing loans for illegal constructions. In this regard, Hydra Chief Ranganath will meet with bankers in two days. A letter has already been sent to public sector and private banks outlining this directive. Hydra is actively working to prevent the construction of illegal structures in buffer zones and the Full Tank Level (FTL).

In addition, Hydra has ramped up efforts to demolish illegal structures within the state's buffer zones and FTL. Ranganath will provide clear instructions to the banks regarding the cessation of loans for illegal constructions. He has also assembled a legal team to support these initiatives. Hydra has prepared a list of banks that have previously issued loans for buildings and villas that have been recently demol-

ished, emphasizing a serious approach to lending for constructions in pond areas.

Since beginning demolition activities on June 26, Hydra has been moving swiftly. The government has granted Hydra significant powers to act. To date, over 300 encroachments have been dismantled across approximately 30 areas, with 120 acres of encroached land returned to the government. Following complaints about multi-storied constructions encroaching on FTL and buffer zones, Hydra Commissioner Ranganath inspected the affected ponds. The demolition efforts are being conducted using high-reach jaw crushers, JCBs, and bulldozers. Hydra's aggressive actions continue across 27 municipalities and 33 villages within the GHMC ORR, in collaboration with the GHMC.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Inspects Nagarjuna Sagar Canal Works



TPN, Telangana: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy conducted an inspection of the left canal works of Nagarjuna Sagar near Kodada. The digging of the canal has commenced, but water supply to the left canal has been halted for the past twenty days, prompting farmers to demand the immediate release of cultivation water in the canal area. Minister Reddy expressed seriousness regarding the situation, warning irrigation officials that they would face suspension if the work was not completed

promptly.

This year, Suryapet district experienced heavy rainfall for the first time in fifty years, leading to significant challenges. Minister Reddy stated that all necessary measures have been taken, including support from the Chief Minister, to address the issues arising from the rain. The irrigation department is currently being restructured, with plans to hire 700 engineers and 1,800 workers to improve operations.

The previous government had neglected the irrigation department, which contributed to the damage caused by the heavy rains. Approximately 200-300 acres of farmland were significantly affected. Reddy assured that the burial work at Sagar Gandhi would be completed by tomorrow and confirmed that water would be fully supplied to the Sagar Canal by tomorrow evening. He also criticized the opposition for attempting to exploit the situation to provoke farmers.

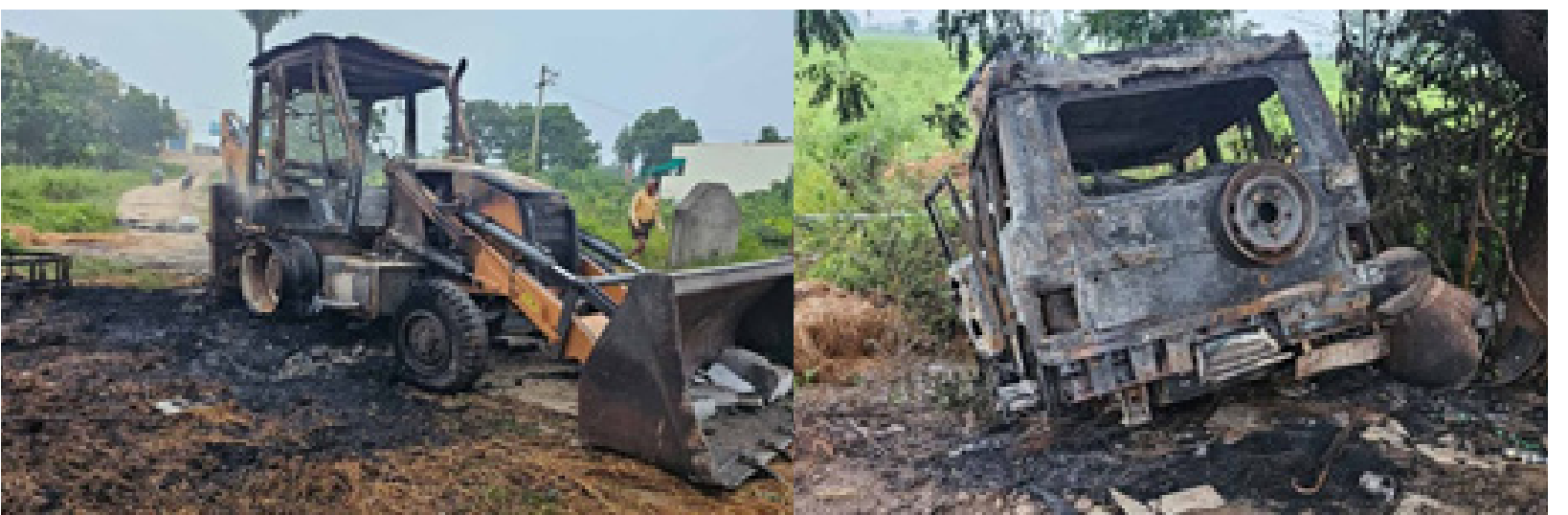
Hearing on Johnny Master's Custody Petition Complete, Judgment Today



TPN, Hyderabad: Arguments on the custody petition of Johnny Master, who was arrested in a sexual harassment case, have been completed in the Ranga Reddy court. The court will announce the verdict today. Yesterday, the Narsingi police filed a petition requesting five days of custody for Johnny Master. The court heard the custody petition today, but after the trial, postponed the announcement of the verdict.

On the 19th of this month, Narsingi police arrested Johnny Master, a female choreographer, in Goa in connection with a sexual harassment case. He was transferred from Goa to Hyderabad under a PT (prisoner transit) warrant. After being produced in the Ranga Reddy court, he was remanded for 14 days.

Clashes in Maddirala House Demolished, JCB Set on Fire



TPN, Suryapet: A violent clash erupted between two groups in Maddirala mandal, Suryapet district, on Monday night, stemming from a longstanding enmity. The conflict escalated after an altercation between two individuals, leading to a series of destructive acts.

According to reports, one

group used a JCB earthmover to demolish a house. In retaliation, the opposing group set both the JCB and a Mahindra Bolero SUV on fire. The situation quickly intensified, raising tensions in the area.

Local police responded promptly to the incident, launching an investigation to uncover

the exact cause of the violence. On Tuesday morning, the atmosphere in Maddirala remained tense, and additional police forces were deployed to prevent further escalation and maintain order.

Authorities have called on residents to remain calm and assured the community that

law enforcement is working to restore peace. The investigation is ongoing, with police determined to identify those responsible and bring them to justice. Further measures are being taken to ensure the safety and security of the area's residents.



Bandi Sanjay Seems to Have Forgotten He's Union Minister, Says KTR



TPN, Telangana: BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticized Union Minister Bandi Sanjay for his delayed response to the AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) scam in Telangana. Rama Rao likened Sanjay's reaction to "a friend finally showing up to a party they were called out for missing - awkward, compelled, and late."

In his statement, KTR questioned the silence of BJP leaders on the issue, despite the involvement of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the alleged scam. He suggested that Sanjay's current actions were out of compulsion after remaining silent on Reddy's behavior, implying a "peculiar relationship" between the two.

Rama Rao highlighted that BJP MLA Alleti Maheshwar Reddy had earlier raised concerns about corruption in the AMRUT scheme, yet Sanjay and the BJP leadership had not taken ac-

tion. "You seem to have forgotten that you are the Union Home Minister. AMRUT is your own Central government scheme. When your own MLA flagged corruption, why did you turn a blind eye?" KTR questioned.

He emphasized that the BRS had exposed the scam with evidence, while the BJP reacted only after the story gained public attention. KTR also questioned the sincerity of Sanjay's statements, pointing out that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an autonomous body that does not need a Union Minister's recommendation to investigate.

In a final jab, KTR remarked that the BJP seemed to be waiting for the next scandal to act. "It seems like you were just waiting for the next scandal to join the fun. Who knows? We're all still trying to figure out 'what this relationship really is' between the BJP and Revanth Reddy," he quipped.

Why don't you demolish Prasad's IMAX?: Eatala to Revanth on HYDRA

TPN, Hyderabad: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Eatala Rajendar launched a sharp critique of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, questioning why the government has not taken any action against establishments like Prasad's IMAX theatre while targeting illegal structures owned by the poor. His comments came amid the ongoing demolition drives led by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA).

Rajendar, the Malkajgiri MP, expressed concern over what he called the selective demolition of structures under the pretext of protecting the environment and restoring water bodies. In a pointed remark, he asked, "Why doesn't the government acquire lands like it did for Pharma City? Why is it treating the homes of the poor like its own ancestral property?"

He further criticized the Congress-led government for allegedly masking its actions with environmental rhetoric. "If the government is truly concerned about the environment and lakes, it should focus on turning the Hussain Sagar lake into a source of drinking water," Rajendar stated. He added that the government must address the poor living conditions of people residing near these water bod-



ies and ensure they have access to essential services like clean drinking water.

Rajendar also raised questions about how several high-profile establishments, including Prasad's IMAX, Paradise Biryani, and Jala Vihar, were allowed to be constructed near the Hussain Sagar lake. He argued that these structures were built on Full Tank Level (FTL) areas of the lake but are being spared from demolition. "The government seems to be targeting the poor while ignoring commercial properties that occupy the same land," he remarked.

Mynampally: More Leader From BRS Will Join Congress

TPN, Telangana: Former MLA and Congress leader Mynampally Hanmantha Rao has warned that there will be major defections from BRS to Congress. Speaking in Narsapur, Medak district, Mynampally stated that many from BRS will join the Congress party soon. "Do not criticize those in that party," he said, "they are also our people."

Arikepudi Gandhi expressed his admiration for Gandhi, stating that his respect for him transcends party lines. He further alleged that during its time in power, BRS purchased MLAs for



Rs. 10 crores each. However, Gandhi claimed that he joined BRS without expecting any financial gain. He also revealed that BRS MLAs remain in

contact with Congress.

Mynampally criticized BRS, asking where Chief Minister KCR was during the Kondagattu bus accident and the Masaipet train accident when BRS was in power. He accused BRS leaders of now invoking the Telangana-Andhra divide after losing power. Mynampally also mentioned the rumors that BRS looted funds during the demolition of the Secretariat, pointing out that the current Secretariat building is leaking. He criticized BRS for having what he called a "criminal mind."

Shock for Jagan... R Krishnaiah Resigns from Rajya Sabha Membership

- **Rajya Sabha Chairman accepts R Krishnaiah's resignation**
- **YSRCP had sent Krishnaiah to Rajya Sabha in 2022**

TPN, Telangana: Telangana BC leader R Krishnaiah has resigned from his Rajya Sabha membership. His resignation was accepted by the Rajya Sabha Chairman. In June 2022, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) sent R Krishnaiah to the Rajya Sabha, sparking discussions about sending a BC

leader from Telangana to the upper house. However, Krishnaiah unexpectedly resigned yesterday.

The YSRCP had 11 Rajya Sabha members, but with the earlier resignations of Mopidevi Venkataramana and Beda Mastan Rao, and now R Krishnaiah, the party's representation has dropped to 8. The Rajya Sabha Chairman issued a bulletin announcing that R Krishnaiah's seat is now vacant.



Why Are You Talking About an Issue Within the Purview of the Court?

TPN, Telangana:

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas criticized KTR, suggesting that his strong words should be toned down. He questioned whether KTR, who has been synonymous with defections during the ten years of BRS rule, can now speak about morals. "You, who brought in sixty opposition MLAs, MLCs, and MPs, are you now talking about defections?" he asked, expressing his outrage to the media.



He questioned who covered the opposition MLAs with a pink scarf at Pragathi Bhavan and who lured and threatened them into joining BRS. He accused KTR of being part of a government that added MLAs daily and eventually called it a "merger."

Srinivas further criticized KTR, asking how someone who consolidated power by absorbing opposition parties could now talk about the constitution and democracy. He pointed out that the people of Telangana have witnessed KTR's and KCR's actions over the past decade. He remarked that if there is any family in the state that lacks shame and politeness, it is the Kalvakuntla family. He accused them of carrying out defections and now pretending to talk about ethics.

Srinivas also emphasized that the issue of defections is within the jurisdiction of the court, and questioned why KTR is even discussing it. He added that the BRS speaks out just to get media attention, even if people criticize them. He warned that the days of BRS's dominance in Telangana are numbered.

He also criticized BRS for focusing their attention on Revanth Reddy, calling it the main occupation of the "BRS gang of thieves." He sarcastically remarked that if BRS engages in defections, it's considered acceptable, but if others do it, it's labeled as wrong. He concluded by stating that despite repeated losses in elections, KTR and his party have failed to gain wisdom.

BJLP Leader Criticizes Congress on Farm Loan Issues

ministers say something entirely different. This clearly shows a disconnect within your party, leaving farmers feeling uncertain.

On the 30th of this month, the BJP will address farmers' issues at Indira Park Dharna Chowk. We will initiate a 24-hour protest, starting at 11 AM on the 30th and concluding at 11 AM on the 1st.

If farmers' assurances are not fulfilled, we will not rest. Tummala Nageswara Rao claims that farmers should negotiate with landowners, but it's evident from his

statements that he is ready to deceive the farmers. Uttam Sannai Nappulu insists that bonuses will be given only to Sanna Vad farmers, while Uttam Kumar Reddy is presenting inaccurate calculations regarding Sanna Vadla. It's important to note that thin rice is not the only crop grown in Telangana; most farmers cultivate Doddu rice.

Thin rice is priced higher in the market than what you are offering. Who would provide you with thin rice at the price you are proposing? What you are offering is not a bonus; it is a mere illusion.

Koonanneni Sambashiva Rao Addresses Issues at Magdum Bhavan

TPN, Telangana: CPI State Secretary and MLA Koonanneni Sambashiva Rao spoke at Magdum Bhavan, highlighting recent developments affecting Singareni workers. He noted that these workers have received an increased profit share, rising from 32% to 33%.

Rao pointed out that the TGBKS community, which had previously been abolished, has now been reinstated. He mentioned that this community had been restricted to Piravis only, and leaders of that community faced legal challenges, resulting in imprisonment. "Is that community still present or not?" he asked.

He also criticized the previous BRS government for allocating some mines to private individuals, stating that Singareni workers had seen their funds redirected to Sidipet and Gajwel. Rao called for a thorough investigation into the alleged corruption

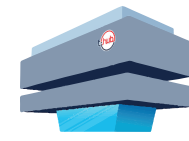


surrounding Singareni during the previous administration. "There were numerous allegations against the former CMD, yet no inquiry was conducted despite his nine-year tenure. Who protected him?" he questioned.

Rao acknowledged that AITUC leaders have started distributing profit shares to workers and urged the government to release a white paper on HYDRA, detailing encroachments on government land around ponds.

He expressed concern over the impact of HYDRA policies, stating, "The elderly have been disregarded, and it is mainly the poor who are suffering." He highlighted the closure and sale of many ponds, asserting that 80% of the HYDRA impact affects the impoverished.

Rao emphasized that according to JIVO 58 and 59, any huts built by the poor would be regularized. He concluded by affirming the Communist Party's commitment to serving as a viable alternative in Telangana and noted its growing influence globally, including Sri Lanka, where the President represents the Communist Party.



Young Woman Files Complaint Against Harsha Sai for Alleged Deception



TPN, Hyderabad: Harsha Sai, a popular YouTube content creator from the Telugu states known for his philanthropic videos assisting the underprivileged, is facing serious allegations of deception. A young woman has filed a complaint against Harsha Sai at the Narsing police station, accusing him of cheating her under the pretense of marriage.

The complainant, accompanied by her legal counsel, has alleged that Harsha Sai made promises of marriage, which were not fulfilled, leading to her filing the case. Harsha Sai, who has gained widespread recognition with millions of followers on social media for his charitable acts, now finds himself at the center of a controversy unrelated to his online presence or ongoing projects.

This is not the first time questions have been raised about Harsha Sai's authenticity. He had previously addressed rumors and speculation surrounding his work and personal life, though this new allegation adds a significant layer to the public scrutiny he faces.

As the investigation proceeds, the impact on Harsha Sai's public image and ongoing endeavors remains uncertain. His fans and followers, who have admired him for his social service-oriented content, are keenly watching the developments.

Legal Constructions Along Musi River

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana government has initiated a comprehensive action plan to demolish illegal constructions along the banks of the Musi River. A crucial meeting regarding this was held at the Secretariat, attended by MA&UD Principal Secretary Dhana Kishore, HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali, and several other key officials. The meeting focused on outlining the plan and coordinating efforts for the upcoming demolitions.

Officials have identified approximately 13,000 illegal structures along the Musi River. These constructions have been a long-standing issue, contributing to environmental degradation and obstructing the natural flow of the river. As part of the government's broader plan to restore the river and prevent flooding, these encroachments will be cleared.

In response to concerns from residents, the government has assured that alternative housing will be provided. Residents who lose their homes due to the demolitions will be given double-bedroom houses. This announcement aims to mitigate any potential backlash and ensure that affected individuals are adequately compensated. The authorities have also taken preemptive measures to prevent opposition from residents during the demolition process. The administrative machinery has developed a proactive strategy to address residents' concerns before beginning any demolitions.

Only after providing complete assurance to the residents, the HYDRA bulldozers will commence the demolition operations. The government has made it clear that the well-being of those affected will be a top priority, and that the action plan will be implemented in phases to ensure a smooth transition for the displaced. This move is part of the government's larger commitment to urban development and environmental restoration, particularly in the context of safeguarding Hyderabad's water bodies and improving infrastructure.

Release white paper on HYDRA, CPI urges Telangana govt

TPN, Hyderabad, September 24: Communist Party of India (CPI) Secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao has called on the Telangana government to release a white paper detailing the HYDRA initiative, emphasizing the need for transparency and fairness in its execution. Rao raised concerns about the potential impact of the initiative, particularly on the poor communities living in urban areas such as Greater Hyderabad.

In his statement, Rao suggested that the demolition drives under

HYDRA should be categorized into three groups: the poor, middle class, and affluent, and that demolitions should be conducted accordingly. He cautioned that although HYDRA was launched with "good intentions," it could lead to unforeseen issues if not handled carefully.

Rao recalled that under CPI's leadership, many impoverished families had built homes in different parts of the city. He urged the Congress government to approach these cases with sensitivity, particularly when

dealing with those from low-income backgrounds. He stressed that the government should treat the poor with "compassion" and ensure they are provided with alternative housing before any demolitions take place.

Rao's call comes amid growing concerns from opposition parties over the HYDRA initiative and its potential effects on vulnerable populations. He emphasized the need to differentiate between economic classes when carrying out demoli-

tions to minimize the disruption to those most in need.

The suggestion to release a white paper on the encroachments is seen as a step toward addressing the concerns of affected communities and ensuring transparency in the initiative's goals and implementation. The government's response to these calls for clarification is awaited, as the opposition continues to highlight the potential consequences for the underprivileged.

State CEO Announces Preparations for 3 MLC Seat Elections

TPN, Hyderabad: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana, C. Sudharshan Reddy, has announced the commencement of preparations for the upcoming biennial elections to fill three vacant Member of Legislative Council (MLC) seats in the state. The elections will be held for two teachers' constituencies and one graduates' constituency, as the terms of the current representatives are set to end on March 29, 2025.

The three outgoing MLCs represent the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' constituency, Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Teachers' constituency, and the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Teachers' constituency.

In a video conference with District Election Officers (DEOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs),



the CEO outlined the steps required for conducting the elections. Sudharshan Reddy stressed the importance of adhering to the Election Commission of India's (ECI) guidelines, which mandate the preparation of fresh electoral rolls for both the Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies. The qualifying date for these rolls has been set as November 1, 2024.

The preparation of the electoral rolls will follow the guidelines issued by

the ECI in its circular dated September 5, 2016. The CEO emphasized that a thorough House-to-House verification process must be completed by the end of September 2024 to ensure accuracy in the electoral lists.

Schedule for MLC Elections:

Issue of public notice: September 30, 2024

First re-publication of notice in newspapers: October 16, 2024

Second re-publication of notice in

newspapers: October 25, 2024

Last date for receipt of applications in Form 18 or 19: November 6, 2024

Draft publication of Electoral Rolls: November 23, 2024

Period for filing of claims and objections: November 23 to December 9, 2024

Final publication of Electoral Rolls: December 30, 2024

The Election Commission aims to finalize the electoral rolls well before the end of the year, with claims and objections being resolved by December 25, 2024.

This electoral process comes as Telangana prepares to fill regular vacancies in the state Legislative Council, ensuring a smooth transition of representatives for the Teachers' and Graduates' constituencies.

Heavy Rain Alert in Telangana, Including Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: Officials from the Meteorological Center have issued a significant alert regarding heavy rainfall. Warnings indicate that heavy rain is expected in many districts of Telangana, including Hyderabad, within the next two hours. Residents are advised to be vigilant as rain accompanied by thunder and lightning is forecasted in several areas.



The Meteorological Center reports that heavy to very heavy rain will not only impact Hyderabad but also surrounding districts. Significant rainfall with thunder and lightning is anticipated in Ranga Reddy, Vikarabad, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Sangareddy, Karimnagar, Siddipet,

Medak, and Kamareddy districts over the next 2-3 hours. Residents in these areas should remain alert.

Officials have cautioned the public against unnecessary outings during this period of heavy rain. People are urged to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary. Those engaged in

agricultural work are advised to seek shelter in safe areas and avoid staying under trees or in open spaces.

The Meteorological Center has announced that heavy rains are expected across Telangana for the next four days. A low-pressure system has formed over the West Central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal, influenced by surface circulation centered over the Central Bay of Bengal. As a result, heavy rain with thunder and lightning is likely in various parts of the state. Additionally, winds may reach speeds of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour in many areas.

Hyderabad Airport Expands Direct Flights to Middle East



TPN, Hyderabad: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has bolstered its connectivity with an increased number of direct flights, enhancing links to major Indian metros and popular international destinations such as the Middle East and Southeast Asia. This development is a boon for travelers, with Indian metros now just 2 hours away and international hubs, including the Middle East, reachable within 4 hours.

Operated by GMR, the airport features a single-roof, integrated terminal that simplifies transit for interna-

tional travelers. This improved connectivity has helped position Hyderabad Airport as a key transfer gateway for Central and South India.

In addition to domestic routes, RGIA now offers direct flights to several Middle Eastern destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Riyadh, Doha, and Muscat. Passengers flying to Europe can now take advantage of direct flights to London, with other European cities accessible through one-stop connections. This is a significant improvement, as many travelers previously had to endure layovers in Delhi or Mumbai.

The airport's infrastructure and services continue to evolve with the recent launch of a 'General Aviation' terminal for private aircraft, catering specifically to international and domestic business travelers.

Handling over 25 million passengers and 159,000 tons of cargo annually, Hyderabad Airport is connected to 18 international destinations, served by 20 international and 3 Indian passenger carriers, along with 9 domestic airlines. Additionally, 3 cargo airlines operate from RGIA, enhancing its logistics capacity.

KTR's Harsh Comments on Minister Sridhar Babu

TPN, Hyderabad: BRS Working President KTR launched a sharp attack on Telangana Minister Sridhar Babu. He questioned, "Who went to the houses of ten MLAs, who contested and won from BRS in the last Assembly elections, and bowed? Who was that idiot did that?" KTR made these extreme comments during a speech at Telangana Bhavan, where he predicted that a by-election would soon be held in the Serilingampally constituency.

KTR criticized the defection of Serilingampally MLA Arikepudi Gandhi to the ruling party, referencing an old saying: "When all the ponds are full, all the frogs come out." He implied that since BRS is now in opposition, that is why the Serilingampally MLA switched sides. However, KTR emphasized the support BRS still holds, stating that when a meeting was called for 150 people from the Serilingampally constituency, over a thousand showed up. He claimed this demonstrated the fighting spirit of Serilingampally.

He expressed confidence that if a by-election is held in Serilingampally, the people would make a wise decision. KTR challenged Arikepudi Gandhi to explain what injustice the BRS party had done to him that made him defect. He also accused Sridhar Babu of showing misplaced intelligence by supporting Gandhi's move, despite Gandhi still being a BRS MLA.

KTR questioned Sridhar Babu's claim that the Serilingampally MLA is not aligned with Congress but remains a BRS representative. "If that is true, then who was the person covered Arikepudi Gandhi with congress scarf?" he asked. KTR went on to accuse Sridhar Babu and others of visiting the homes of BRS leaders like Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Kadiam Srihari, and K. Keshavrao, bowing to them and covering their legs with scarves as a sign of submission.

Can A Last-Minute CM Change Really Help Kejriwal And AAP?



In a recent turn of events, Arvind Kejriwal, leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), submitted his resignation as Delhi Chief Minister, signaling a strategic shift ahead of the February 2025 elections. Unlike his earlier resignation in 2013 after just 48 days in office, which was driven by his failure to pass the Jan Lokpal Bill, Kejriwal's recent decision appears more calculated. After a decade in power, including two consecutive terms, Kejriwal is now navigating corruption charges related to the liquor policy case. His aim seems to be to rebuild his public image and regain credibility among Delhi's electorate.

Despite his resignation, Kejriwal appears to be holding on to certain perks of office, such as seeking accommodation in Delhi's prestigious Lutyens Zone. This underscores the challenge he faces in balancing his earlier idealism with the realities of political power. Kejriwal, once celebrated for his activism and anti-corruption stance, now finds himself fighting to clear his name and regain the public trust he once commanded. His life has come full circle, from being a Magsaysay award-winning activist to a politician entangled in allegations of corruption.

In a smart political move, Kejriwal chose not to promote his wife or select a Dalit leader as his successor, both of which could have sparked controversy. Instead, he opted for Atishi, an Oxford-educated leader with a strong track record

of reforming Delhi's government schools. Atishi's understated, approachable demeanor, combined with her policy expertise, makes her an appealing choice. Her focus on initiatives like the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, which provides ₹1,000 per month to women, aims to secure support from the capital's female voters.

The question now is whether this change in leadership will help Kejriwal restore his moral standing in Delhi before the elections. Atishi's appointment might serve as a fresh face for the AAP, while Kejriwal can focus on campaigning and reshaping his image after his recent stint in jail. However, the success of this strategy remains uncertain. While Atishi has projected Kejriwal as the true leader behind the scenes, it is unclear if voters will see his resignation as a sign of accountability or merely a political tactic. If the gamble pays off, Kejriwal could be in line for a fourth term as Delhi's chief minister.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears unruffled by these developments. Party insiders believe that Kejriwal's attempt to reinvent himself will be effectively countered in the coming months. However, there is some concern within the BJP about AAP's decision to change its chief ministerial candidate just before the elections. For the past decade, the BJP has struggled to mount a direct challenge to Kejriwal, with its battles against him often led by figures like Lieu-

tenant Governor V.K. Saxena, who are not politically aligned with the BJP.

While some in the BJP acknowledge their lack of a strong, popular face to take on Kejriwal, party leaders remain optimistic. They point to the 2022 Municipal Council of Delhi elections, where the BJP exceeded expectations despite Kejriwal's claims that they would win only 20 seats. The BJP ended up with 104 seats, while AAP secured 134. This performance has given BJP strategists confidence that they can replicate their success in the upcoming Delhi elections, even without a clear chief ministerial candidate.

There has been speculation about the possibility of former Union Minister Smriti Irani emerging as the BJP's chief ministerial face in Delhi. However, party leaders downplayed these rumors, noting that Irani has simply been tasked with overseeing the BJP's membership drive in the capital. For now, it appears that the BJP will stick to its usual strategy of entering the election without a designated candidate for chief minister, a tactic that has worked in several other states.

As Delhi heads toward the 2025 elections, both AAP and the BJP are preparing for a high-stakes battle. Kejriwal's decision to step down and introduce Atishi as a new face may shake up the political landscape, but whether it can win over the voters and counter the BJP's momentum remains to be seen.

PM Modi's Diversity Pitch On Recent US Trip



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the U.S. was marked by a significant speech at Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, where he addressed a large and enthusiastic audience. While his addresses to the Indian diaspora in America have become a familiar spectacle since his first official trip in 2014, this occasion held particular importance as it was his first trip after securing a third consecutive term as India's Prime Minister. Modi framed his victory as a historic achievement, marking the first time in six decades that a Prime Minister had returned to power after two full terms.

Modi's speech appeared to serve multiple purposes, including responding to criticism from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, various left-liberal groups, Western NGOs, and sections of the Western media regarding the state of India's democracy, religious tolerance, and freedom of speech. Though he did not directly mention these critics, it was clear that Modi aimed to address the negative narratives circulating in the West.

On the issue of democracy, Modi highlighted the scale and vibrancy of India's electoral process, indirectly countering accusations from Rahul Gandhi and others about the fairness of the 2024 elections. Gandhi had previously made allegations during his U.S. visit that India's elections were not conducted fairly. Moreover, international bodies like V-Dem have criticized India for sliding into what they call "electoral autocracy" and ranked the country poorly in terms of democratic standards. Modi, however, used statistics to underscore the magnitude of India's elections, with nearly double the number of voters as the population of the U.S. and more voters than all of Europe combined. He described this process, involving millions of polling staff, thousands of candidates, and hundreds of media outlets, as a testament to India's "vibrant democracy."

Modi also celebrated India's diversity, which he linked to the broader idea of "Bhartiyata," or Indianness. He made a point to acknowledge the wide array of linguistic and cultural groups present in the audience—Telugu, Marathi, Tamil,

Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Bengali, and Odiya—underscoring that India thrives on unity in diversity. His mention of the Telugu community first may have been a subtle nod to comments made by Rahul Gandhi regarding regional identity, which has been a point of discussion in opposition to the imposition of any single national identity. Modi also announced the creation of the "Thiruvalluvar Chair for Tamil Studies" at the University of Houston, a move aimed at spreading the teachings of the Tamil saint-philosopher Thiruvalluvar.

Regarding freedom of expression, Modi defended India's record by emphasizing the expansion of social and digital media. He suggested that the growth of media platforms in India reflects a society where freedom of speech is flourishing, indirectly countering the accusations from his critics who claim that the Modi regime has stifled free expression in recent years. This was an attempt to rebut claims from opposition parties and NGOs that media freedom has been curbed during his leadership.

Modi also took the opportunity to emphasize his governance model, which he described as "Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi"—development with heritage. This approach was illustrated by the outcomes of his U.S. visit, where India secured a landmark deal to establish a semiconductor fabrication plant, a key step toward advancing India's technological infrastructure, particularly in national security-related industries. In a parallel gesture, the U.S. agreed to return 297 stolen and smuggled antique artifacts to India, blending the themes of technological progress and cultural preservation.

Finally, Modi assured the audience of policy continuity, stressing that his third term would be marked by even more ambitious goals. He framed his re-election as a mandate from the people of India to achieve progress at "three times the strength and three times the speed" compared to previous terms. This assertion of continuity and momentum aimed to reassure both domestic and international audiences that his government would remain stable and focused on growth.

J&K Polls Phase 2: Newbies Can Give A Tough Fight To Legacy Players

Jammu and Kashmir's second phase of voting, scheduled for September 25, will be critical in shaping the future political landscape of the region. With 26 seats up for grabs, the competition features both established political parties and a significant number of independent candidates and smaller parties. Following a decade of unrest, the voter turnout in Phase 1 was an impressive 61.38%, indicating a growing enthusiasm for democratic engagement and a shift away from violence.

Key political players like the National Conference (NC), the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Congress are actively campaigning, promising development and stability. Newcomers such as the Apni Party and the Awami Ittehad Party are also competing, creating a dynamic and unpredictable race. Out of the 239 candidates contesting in this phase, a large number are independents and

candidates from smaller parties, making up 55% of the total.

Prominent candidates include former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from the NC, who is contesting from Budgam and Ganderbal, and BJP president Ravinder Raina, who is defending his seat in Nowshera. Altaf Bukhari of the Apni Party, the wealthiest candidate, is contesting from Channapora. Additionally, Sarjan Ahmad Wagay, a jailed cleric, is contesting two seats, Ganderbal and Beerwah, adding further intrigue to the elections.

The delimitation process has reshaped the electoral map, with five seats eliminated and six new ones created, reflecting the ongoing changes in Jammu and Kashmir's political structure. This phase also includes seven seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST), a demographic shift that the BJP hopes to capitalize on by ap-



pealing to the Pahari-speaking community in Rajouri and Poonch. However, this move has sparked tensions with the Gujjar and Bakerwal communities, which the NC and Congress are trying to leverage.

The legacy parties like the NC and PDP

face challenges from newer parties and independents, who could act as vote-splitters, further complicating the electoral outcomes. With both Jammu and Kashmir seeing high competition, especially in the valley where more candidates are contesting per seat than in Jammu, the political landscape

could shift dramatically depending on how these new players perform.

This phase will set the stage for the final leg of voting on October 1 and will play a crucial role in determining the future of Jammu and Kashmir's political structure.

US-India Semiconductor Partnership

The United States and India have reached a significant agreement to collaborate on establishing a semiconductor fabrication plant in India, marking a crucial step in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities.

According to a White House statement following a meeting between President Joe Biden and PM Modi in Delaware, the proposed facility will focus on producing infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon-carbide semiconductors. This initiative will be supported by the India Semiconductor Mission, alongside a strategic partnership involving Bharat Semi, 3rdiTech Inc., and the US Space Force. This collaboration aims to strengthen India's position in the global semiconductor supply chain, which has become increasingly vital in recent years.

India's strategic geopolitical position in Asia has attracted attention, highlighting the country's potential in the technology sector. Modi has consistently voiced his vision of positioning India as a competitive alternative to China, particularly in manufacturing. This effort is part of a broader strategy to reduce reliance on Chinese manufacturing and to bolster India's own industrial base.

In recent years, India has successfully begun to attract significant investments from multinational companies. Notably, major corporations like Apple and Samsung have started shifting some of their production operations to India, taking advantage of the



country's skilled workforce and favorable economic policies. This trend aligns with Modi's push to create a robust manufacturing ecosystem within India.

The semiconductor collaboration with the US not only signifies a strengthening of bilateral ties but also positions India as a key player in the global tech landscape. As the demand for semiconductors continues to grow, particularly with the rise

of technologies like AI and 5G, this partnership could pave the way for increased innovation and economic growth in India.

Overall, the establishment of a semiconductor fabrication plant in India represents a pivotal moment for both nations, fostering technological advancements and enhancing supply chain resilience in a rapidly evolving global market.

Farmers Should Demand: Kangana Ranaut's Latest Draws Congress Fury



The Congress party launched a strong attack on BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Tuesday following her controversial remarks about the farm laws that were central to the farmers' protests of 2020. This is not the first time Ranaut has faced backlash for her comments; she was previously reprimanded last month after making statements that drew sharp criticism from Congress. Following that incident, she received a clarification, indicating that her views do not reflect the party's stance.

During a press interaction in her Lok Sabha constituency of Mandi, Ranaut expressed her belief that the laws, which were repealed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in November 2021 after widespread and sometimes violent protests, should be reinstated. She stated, "I know this will be controversial... but I feel the farm laws that were repealed should be brought back. The farmers themselves should demand it. They are a pillar of strength for the nation's development and I want to appeal to them—demand the laws back for your own good."

The Congress party quickly responded to her comments, sharing a video of Ranaut's statement and firmly asserting their opposition. In a tweet, they declared that "these black laws will (never be brought back now)... no matter how hard Narendra Modi and his MPs try." This reflects the party's commitment to standing against the controversial legislation, which had sparked significant unrest among the farming community.

Ranaut's comments have reignited discussions around the farm laws, highlighting the ongoing tension between the BJP and opposition parties over agricultural policies. The Congress's swift response underscores their determination to defend the interests of farmers and maintain pressure on the ruling government.

As the political discourse intensifies, it remains to be seen how Ranaut's statements will impact the BJP's standing among farmers, a crucial constituency in Indian politics. The controversy serves as a reminder of the sensitive nature of agricultural policies and the profound impact they have on livelihoods across the country.

Mamata Banerjee Accuses Centre of Withholding PMAY Funds



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the central government of failing to release funds under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for the past three years. Speaking at an administrative review meeting in Bolpur on Tuesday, she stated, "For the last three years, we have not received any funds under PMAY. A total of Rs 1.70 lakh crore of Central funds are due to us. Still, we are trying to allocate as many houses as possible from our limited resources."

Banerjee reassured residents that funds for 11 lakh houses in the district will be released shortly. She also mentioned that expenditures for restoring roads damaged by floods will be covered by development funds allocated to local legislators.

Addressing the ongoing flood situation, Banerjee noted that while conditions have improved, some areas remain affected. She criticized the state's flooding as not merely a result of rainfall, stating, "It is unfortunate that West Bengal does not get flooded just because of the rainfall. The state gets flooded because of the water released from

Jharkhand."

The Chief Minister justified her decision to withdraw the state government's representation in the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC), arguing that it was ineffective given the Damodar Valley Corporation's (DVC) role in the flooding. She expressed her frustration with the DVC's indiscriminate release of water from their barrages without prior notification to the state government.

"I do not want to maintain any connection with any organization that endangers lives by releasing water indiscriminately," she declared. Banerjee further criticized the DVC for prioritizing power generation over its original objective of flood protection, stating that the corporation has repeatedly ignored the state's requests for a more gradual release of water.

This series of statements reflects Banerjee's ongoing struggle for state autonomy and accountability, particularly regarding flood management and housing assistance.

Truth Will Come Out Siddaramaiah Responds to Court Setback in Land Scam Case

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, currently facing prosecution in the alleged MUDA land scam case, expressed his unwavering confidence in the judicial system on Tuesday. He condemned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for engaging in what he termed "revenge politics." In a defiant statement, he declared, "I believe in the law and the Constitution... The truth will finally win."

Siddaramaiah dismissed the land scam allegations as a "sham," responding vigorously to opposition leaders who once again called for his resignation. He attributed these charges to the BJP's inability to counter his welfare initiatives, asserting that their actions were politically motivated. "The BJP and JDS resorted to political retaliation against me because I am pro-poor and fighting for social justice," he stated, bolstered by support from Congress leaders and party members.

The Chief Minister also hinted at potential legal challenges against the Governor's sanction for the investigation, saying, "I will consult with experts on whether such an investigation is allowed under the law... I am confident the investigation under 17A will be cancelled." His legal advisor, AS Ponnanna, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that the High Court had deemed the Governor's order "illegal" and that they were exploring options for judicial review.

Addressing calls for his resignation, Siddaramaiah pointed out the hypocrisy of his opponents, noting, "The leaders asking for my resignation today are the same who opposed schemes implemented by me for the poor and oppressed." He reminded critics that the BJP did not secure a majority on its own, referencing the controversial "Operation Kamala," which he claimed aimed to destabilize elected governments by targeting senior leaders from ruling parties.

In Touch With NIA, Top Cops: Railway Minister On Threats To Rail Safety

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav stated today that the government will take stringent measures against individuals who engage in stone-throwing at trains. His comments followed a recent incident where stones were thrown at the Mahabodhi Express as it approached Mirzapur railway station. "The whole railway staff is fully aware and in touch with the state governments, including state DGPs and Home Secretaries and the NIA. Strict action will be taken against anyone involved in such incidents," Mr. Vaishnav assured reporters.

This heightened focus on security comes on the heels of another alarming incident in Gujarat, where panic ensued at Kim railway station when railway authorities discovered that critical components had been removed from the tracks. Fortunately, the sabotage was detected just before a train was scheduled to pass over the affected rail lines. Investigations revealed that the trackman and two other railway employees had orchestrated the sabotage to gain social media notoriety and secure promotions, even risking lives



in the process.

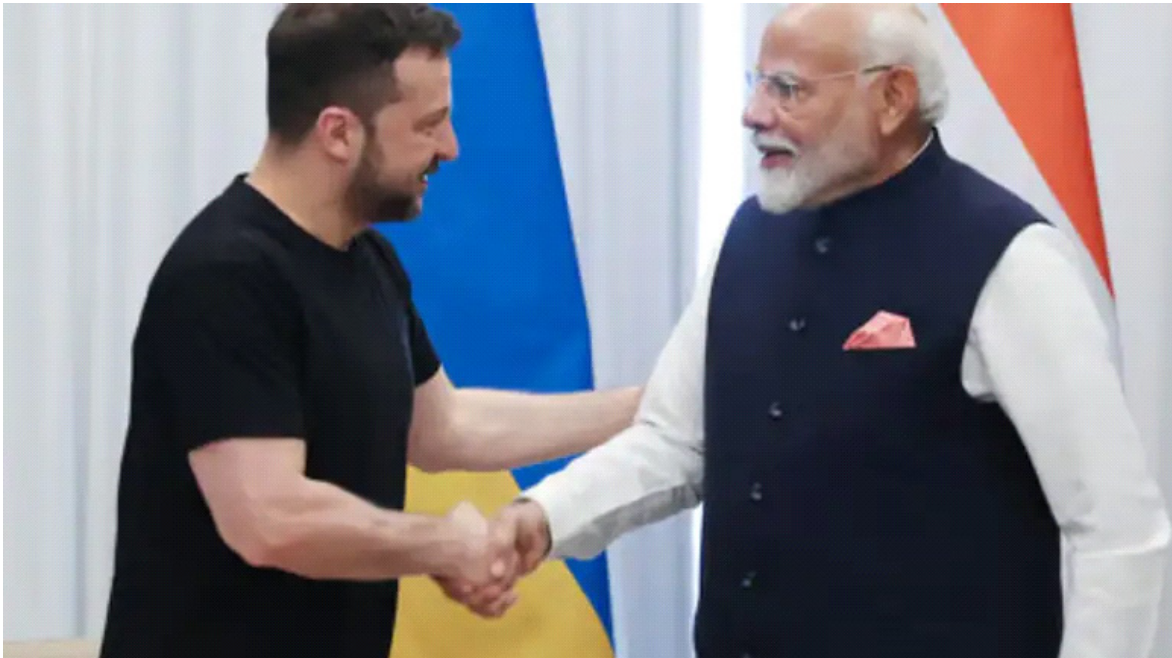
To enhance safety, the Indian Railways has initiated a pilot project called the Rail Rakshak Dal in the North Western Railway (NWR) zone. This new unit is designed to respond quickly to accidents and conduct rescue operations effectively.

In addition to these initiatives, Mr. Vaishnav highlighted significant advancements in railway security, par-

ticularly the Kavach system. "For the security of railways, Kavach is a very big development. On July 16, 2024, the Kavach 4.0 version was finalized by the RDSO, and its first installation was completed from Sawai Madhopur to Kota and Nagda," he explained. The Kavach system, an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) technology, automatically applies brakes if a train exceeds specified speed limits, enhancing operational safety.



Grateful For PM Modi's Support For Ukraine's Territorial Integrity: Zelensky



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky commended Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday for his "clear support" of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two leaders met during the UN Summit of the Future to discuss the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and potential pathways to peace.

In a post on X, Zelensky expressed gratitude for their productive conversation. "This is our third bilateral meeting this year. We are working together to strengthen cooperation across various fields," he noted. He emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration on international platforms, particularly within the UN and G20, and discussed implementing the Peace Formula in preparation for a second Peace Summit.

"I am grateful for Prime Minister Modi's clear support of our sovereignty and territorial integrity," Zelensky wrote, highlighting India's diplomatic position regarding the conflict.

During their meeting, PM Modi reiterated India's commitment to resolving the war through diplomacy and dialogue. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), he

emphasized India's "clear, consistent, and constructive" approach, which prioritizes engagement among all stakeholders.

After the meeting, PM Modi shared a post on X, stating, "Met President Zelensky in New York. We are committed to implementing the outcomes of my visit to Ukraine last month to strengthen bilateral relations. I reiterated India's support for an early resolution of the conflict in Ukraine and the restoration of peace and stability."

This encounter marked the third meeting between the two leaders in just over three months, with both agreeing to maintain close contact, as confirmed by the MEA. Modi's visit to Ukraine in August was particularly significant, as it was the first by an Indian Prime Minister since diplomatic relations were established in 1992, underscoring India's proactive role in promoting peace in the war-torn region.

Despite its neutral stance in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, PM Modi has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution, reaffirming India's commitment to stability in the region.



US-India Ties Strengthened by Modi-Biden Friendship

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti emphasized the "close friendship" between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden, highlighting its significance in the growing ties between the two nations. In an interview with ANI, Garcetti described Modi as the most pro-American Prime Minister in Indian history, while he referred to Biden as the most pro-Indian president the US has seen.

Garcetti noted that their friendship represents the broader relationship between the two countries. "These two leaders exemplify the closeness we share," he stated, underscoring their mutual commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation.

He also discussed the Quad, a strategic forum comprising the US, India, Japan, and Australia, calling it a "powerful platform" for setting a common vision in the Indo-Pacific region. Garcetti highlighted the Quad's role in promoting principles that align with international law, contrasting it with nations that do not adhere to such standards.

The recent sixth Quad Summit, hosted by Pres-

ident Biden in Wilmington, Delaware, saw the participation of PM Modi and other leaders. Garcetti explained that the joint declaration from the summit emphasized cooperation across various areas, including disaster response and supply chain security. He reiterated that the Quad's focus is not on any single nation but on collective goals for a free and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Furthermore, he stated that the Quad aims to address shared challenges and should not be seen as a threat by other countries. "We have committed \$1 billion between the US and India to tackle climate issues affecting nearly 900 million vulnerable people in our countries," he added, reinforcing the Quad's inclusive vision.

Garcetti clarified that the Quad is not a military alliance aiming to project power, but rather a coalition focused on preserving peace and ensuring prosperity. He concluded, "Our initiatives, whether in coast guard cooperation or military interoperability, aim to protect our people while fostering regional stability."

Timing Issues Prevent Modi-Trump Meeting



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump announced plans to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit, but the two did not connect. Modi's brief 55-hour trip was packed with diplomatic engagements, while Trump focused on his election campaign, just six weeks ahead of the polls.

On Saturday, PM Modi attended the Quad summit with President Joe Biden and the leaders of Australia and Japan. The following day, he addressed a large diaspora rally in a New York suburb but had to compete for time as Trump held his own rally in North Carolina.

PM Modi's busy schedule continued into Monday, where he participated in the Summit of the Future and met with various leaders, including Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and Vietnam's Prime Minister To Lam. He also had discussions with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, and Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid.

Speculation surrounded a potential meeting between Modi and Mohammad Yunus, the interim chief advisor of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the summit. However, media reports suggested Modi may have snubbed Yunus by not scheduling a meeting.

When questioned about the missed meeting, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri explained, "The Prime Minister is leaving in a few minutes. The chief advisor of Bangladesh is not here yet, so there hasn't been any possibility of a meeting on this occasion."

Notably, Touhid Hossain, a foreign affairs adviser in the interim Bangladeshi government, spoke at the summit instead of Yunus, who was originally listed as a speaker.

Bangladesh's Army Chief Backs Interim Government



In a significant shift following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, General Waker-uz-Zaman, the army chief of Bangladesh, has expressed unwavering support for the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. This support comes as the country grapples with the aftermath of intense student-led protests that resulted in Hasina's resignation after 15 years in power.

In a recent interview, General Zaman emphasized his commitment to Yunus's administration, stating, "I will stand beside him. Come what may." He outlined plans to implement crucial reforms across the judiciary, police, and financial institutions, aiming for free and fair elections within 18 months.

The general highlighted the need for patience as the country transitions back to democracy, indicating that a timeline of one to one-and-a-half years would be ideal. Both of the main political parties, Hasina's Awami League and the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have pushed for elections within three months of the interim government's establishment.

With the military stepping in to restore order after a surge of violence that claimed over 1,000 lives, Zaman asserted that the armed forces would maintain a non-political stance, emphasizing professionalism within the military. He also noted that allegations of misconduct among military personnel are being investigated, and actions will be taken against any wrongdoing.

Hezbollah Commander Among 6 People Killed In Fresh Israeli Strikes On Beirut



An Israeli airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday killed Hezbollah commander Ibrahim Qubaisi, a key figure in the group's rocket division, along with five others. This attack intensified fears of a full-scale war in the Middle East, especially as Hezbollah has recently faced significant setbacks against Israeli forces.

The airstrike occurred in the Ghobery neighborhood and is part of a broader campaign by Israel, which has intensified its military operations against Hezbollah. This shift comes after nearly a year of conflict with Hamas in Gaza, where Israel has been focused on countering threats from its southern border. The health ministry reported initial casualties of six dead and 15 wounded from the latest strike.

Israel's military has vowed to escalate its attacks on Hezbollah. Military Chief Herzi Halevi stated that "the situation requires continued, intense action in all arenas," reflecting a determination to exert pressure on Hezbollah amidst ongoing hostilities. According to Lebanese authorities, Israel's airstrikes have killed at least 558 people, including many civilians, and injured over 1,800 since Monday.

As the violence escalates, the specter of regional war looms large, drawing in not only Israel and Hezbollah but potentially also Iran and the United States. Calls for diplomatic intervention are growing, with UN human rights chief Volker Turk urging influential states to help de-escalate the situation. U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan expressed hope for a diplomatic solution that could restore peace.



Domestic Stock Markets Hit Record Highs

BSE Sensex Crosses 85,000; Nifty Tops 26,000 with Metal and IT Sector Gains

The streak of record highs in the domestic stock markets continues. For the first time in history, the BSE Sensex crossed the 85,000 mark, and the NSE Nifty crossed 26,000. This rise is attributed to positive signals from global markets and increased buying in IT and metal sector stocks. After a tepid start in the morning, the indices surged to record highs before profit-taking set in, ultimately ending the session flat. Market breadth on the BSE turned in favor of sellers, with 2,036 stocks declining while 1,940 gained. The rupee weakened by 12 paise, settling at 83.67 against the US dollar.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 84,928 in the previous session, opened today at 84,860. It touched an intraday low of 84,716 and an intraday high of 85,163, but eventually lost 14 points to close at 84,914. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,921, hit a low of 25,886, and reached a high of 26,011. It closed with a marginal one-point gain at 25,940. Bank Nifty settled 137 points lower at 53,968.

In the Nifty50, 25 companies gained while 25 declined. The top gainers included Tata Steel, Hindalco, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra, and Adani Enterprises. The biggest losers were SBI Life, Hindustan Unilever, Grasim, Ultratech Cement, and Shriram Finance. The Finance, FMCG, PSU Bank, Private Bank, Realty, Healthcare, and Consumer Durables sectors ended in the red, while Oil & Gas, Pharma, Metal, IT, and Auto sectors rallied.

Nifty's support is at 25,900, and resistance is at 26,000.

SEBI has raised concerns that merchant bankers are not adhering to SME IPO regulations properly and is keeping an eye on the situation. Nifty crossed the 26,000 milestone for the first time in history, taking just 37 sessions to gain another 1,000 points from the 25,000 level. Chalet Hotels clarified that it has no association with Fires Securities. Tata Motors launched the Nexon ICNG and Nexon 45KWh models. Arvind Smart Space shares jumped 16% after Axis Securities gave it a buy rating. JTL Industries is planning a share split and the issuance of bonus shares. The Nifty Auto Index hit record highs, while Tata Power shares gained on Motilal Oswal's buy rating. Shares of HDFC Bank rallied as it plans to sell loans worth Rs 70,000 crore. AstraZeneca Pharma shares surged 17% after CDSCO approved the import and supply of Durvalumab. The market value of Nifty metal stocks has crossed Rs 36,000 crore. Arcade Developers' shares were listed at a 37% premium compared to the IPO price.



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Recommended Stocks:

Hindalco: On Monday, Hindalco's share price increased by ₹28.45 (+4.12%) to ₹719.00. Hindalco is a leading aluminum manufacturing company, heavily influenced by global commodity markets and demand in industrial sectors.



the flagship company of the Adani Group, it is involved in various sectors, including energy and infrastructure, influencing its stock performance.

Siemens: Siemens' stock increased by ₹151.55 (+2.18%) to ₹7,089.95. Siemens is a global leader in engineering and technology solutions, with its stock price reflecting strong performance in industrial automation and energy solutions.

SIEMENS

Powergrid: Powergrid saw its share price rise by ₹9.45 (+2.77%) to ₹350.60. Powergrid Corporation of India is a major electric power transmission company, and its stock is closely tied to infrastructure and energy demands.



Adani Enterprises: Adani Enterprises' share price rose by ₹56.50 (+1.86%) to ₹3,100.45. As



REC: REC's share price gained ₹6.00 (+1.11%) to ₹548.50. REC Ltd, a public infrastructure finance company, funds power projects, and its stock is driven by developments in the energy and infrastructure sectors.



Adani Joins UNEZA: A Step Towards Sustainable Energy

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) have officially joined the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA), as announced on September 24. This strategic move positions both companies as pioneers in India's renewable energy sector, making them the first in their respective fields to become part of this global alliance.



Established during COP28, UNEZA aims to unite leading utilities and power firms worldwide in the quest for renewable energy integration. The alliance promotes the development of energy grids equipped for renewable sources, enhancing electrification efforts and advocating for clean energy solutions.

As a member of UNEZA, AGEL is committed to several key initiatives. The company will focus on expanding clean power infrastructure, bolstering energy security, and enhancing energy efficiency. These efforts are essential for achieving a sustainable energy future, particularly in the context of India's ambitious climate goals.

On the other hand, AESL will intensify its initiatives aimed at developing reliable grid infrastructure specifically designed for the transmission and distribution of green energy. This alignment with UNEZA underscores AESL's commitment to

facilitating the seamless integration of renewable energy into the existing grid system, a critical component for achieving a carbon-neutral future.

The participation of Adani companies in UNEZA reflects a growing recognition of the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling climate change and promoting sustainable practices within the energy sector. By joining forces with global leaders, Adani aims to leverage shared knowledge and best practices to accelerate the transition toward a more sustainable energy ecosystem.

This development is a significant milestone not only for Adani Group but also for India's overall commitment to sustainable development. As the world increasingly shifts toward renewable energy, initiatives like UNEZA play a crucial role in guiding industries toward cleaner, more efficient energy solutions.

In summary, Adani's involvement in UNEZA signifies a proactive approach to addressing the challenges of climate change while fostering innovation and sustainability in the energy sector.

Moderation in Retail Loan Growth: TransUnion CIBIL Report

A recent report from TransUnion CIBIL has indicated a notable slowdown in the growth of retail loans across various products for the quarter ending June 2024. This trend is particularly evident in small-ticket loans, which have experienced a marked decline in origination volumes.

According to the report, the consumer credit landscape has faced significant challenges, with origination volumes for credit cards and home loans witnessing sharp decreases. Specifically, the credit card segment recorded a negative growth of 9 percent, while home loans experienced a staggering decline of 30 percent in the first quarter of FY25. These figures reflect a cautious approach among consumers, likely influenced by rising interest rates and economic uncertainties.

The slowdown in retail loan growth sug-



gests that borrowers are becoming more selective, potentially opting to delay major purchases or seeking alternative financing options. This trend may also point to an overall tightening of consumer sentiment, as individuals navigate the complexities of the current economic climate.

Additionally, the decline in small-ticket loans—a category often favored by first-time borrowers and those with limited credit histories—highlights a broader hes-

itance in consumer spending. This could have implications for sectors reliant on consumer credit, including retail and housing.

TransUnion CIBIL's findings serve as a critical indicator for lenders and policymakers, signaling the need to reassess lending strategies and approaches to meet changing consumer demands. Financial institutions may need to explore innovative products and flexible lending solutions to encourage borrowing and stimulate growth in the retail loan segment.

As the market adjusts to these dynamics, it will be essential for stakeholders to monitor trends closely and adapt accordingly. Understanding consumer behavior and preferences will be crucial for fostering confidence and facilitating a more robust lending environment in the months to come.

India's Economic Growth Forecast: Optimism for 2024

Moody's Analytics has updated its economic outlook for India, projecting a growth rate of 7.1 percent in 2024, an increase from the earlier estimate of 6.8 percent. This positive revision highlights the resilience of the Indian economy following a robust post-pandemic recovery, which saw a growth rate of 7.8 percent in 2023.

For 2025, Moody's maintains its growth forecast at 6.5 percent, indicating stability in the economic landscape. Looking further ahead, the agency anticipates a slight acceleration to 6.6 percent in 2026, a notable shift from its previous projection of 6.2 percent for that year made in June. This suggests a growing optimism about the underlying strengths of the Indian economy.

Moody's Analytics emphasized that the



strong rebound in 2023 laid a solid foundation for continued growth, although the economy is expected to experience a gradual slowdown in the coming years. The projected rates reflect both the challenges and opportunities facing India as it navigates global economic uncertainties and domestic factors.

Key drivers of this growth include increased consumer spending, infrastructure investments, and robust service sector performance. The government's

continued focus on reforms and initiatives aimed at boosting economic activity will also play a crucial role in sustaining growth momentum.

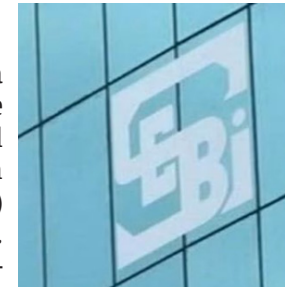
While the forecast presents a positive outlook, it also underscores the need for India to address potential risks, such as inflationary pressures, geopolitical tensions, and global economic fluctuations. Policymakers will need to remain vigilant and responsive to these challenges to ensure that the economy remains on a growth trajectory.

In summary, Moody's Analytics projects a vibrant economic future for India, with 7.1 percent growth anticipated in 2024 and stable rates beyond that. The optimism reflects a combination of strong past performance and proactive governance aimed at fostering sustainable development.

SEBI Study Reveals High Loss Rates Among Individual F&O Traders

A recent study by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has highlighted the challenging landscape for individual traders in the equity futures and options (F&O) segment. The findings reveal that nearly 93 percent—approximately 9 out of 10—individual traders incurred losses, with the total aggregate loss exceeding Rs 1.8 lakh crore between FY22 and FY24.

The study underscores a stark contrast between the performance of individual traders and that of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and proprietary traders. While the majority of individual traders faced significant losses, FPIs and proprietary trading firms managed to secure substantial profits during the same period. This disparity raises questions about the strategies employed by different groups in the F&O market.



The F&O segment is known for its high volatility and risk, often attracting novice traders who may not fully understand the complexities involved. The SEBI report indicates that many individual traders engage in high-leverage trading, which can amplify losses and lead to devastating financial consequences. The aggressive nature of F&O trading, coupled with insufficient risk management, appears to be contributing factors to the widespread losses among retail investors.

In contrast, FPIs and proprietary traders often utilize advanced strategies and extensive market research to inform their trading decisions. These institutional players are typically better equipped to navigate the complexities of the F&O market, resulting in a more favorable outcome.

The findings of the SEBI study serve as a crucial reminder for individual traders about the inherent risks associated with trading in the F&O segment. It underscores the importance of education, disciplined trading strategies, and effective risk management practices to mitigate potential losses.

As the market continues to evolve, the data suggests that individual traders may benefit from seeking guidance and developing a deeper understanding of market dynamics before participating in high-stakes trading environments.

Devendra Fadnavis and the 'TINA' Factor in Maharashtra Politics



A Look Ahead to the 2024 Elections

As the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections draw near, the political landscape in the state is growing increasingly charged. On one hand, Uddhav Thackeray is urging the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance to declare its Chief Ministerial candidate, while also making overtures to Muslim voters—marking a significant shift from the ideology of his father, Balasaheb Thackeray. On the other, the ruling Mahayuti alliance, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its partners, is grappling with seat-sharing challenges while expediting welfare schemes to secure their electoral stronghold.

Amid this political swirl, Devendra Fadnavis stands as a pivotal figure in Maharashtra's political narrative. Whether overseeing the implementation of key welfare schemes like the Ladli Behan Yojana, navigating internal alliance tensions, or addressing public criticism related to controversies like the Chhatrapati Shivaji statue collapse in Sindhudurg, Fadnavis remains unwavering in his resolve. His role as Deputy Chief Minister has been marked by a relentless focus on policy-driven governance, making him a critical player in Maharashtra's political future.

Despite frequent criticism and controversies, Fadnavis has successfully positioned himself as the most credible leader ahead of the upcoming elections. This credibility underscores the growing perception of Fadnavis as the "There Is No Alternative" (TINA) factor for Maharashtra's leadership, making it increasingly difficult for opposition parties to present a viable alternative to his leadership.

A Policy-Led Development Model

Fadnavis's political success is built on a foundation of policy-driven development, a model that has resonated with both urban and rural constituencies in Maharashtra. Historically, Maharashtra has been known as a progressive, entrepreneurial state. However, the early 2000s saw an economic stagnation that impacted infrastructure, agriculture, and employment. Delays in critical infrastructure projects and a lack of investment dampened the state's overall growth, both in urban centers and rural areas.



Fadnavis's tenure as Chief Minister, beginning in 2014, marked a significant turnaround for Maharashtra. With strong backing from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Fadnavis initiated a series of infrastructure and development projects that revitalized the state's economy. Large-scale projects in industries such as manufacturing, information technology, and infrastructure attracted domestic and foreign investments, while his administration also made concerted efforts to drive rural development—an area often overlooked by previous administrations.

Transforming Rural Maharashtra

One of Fadnavis's most notable achievements has been his focus on rural development, ensuring that Maharashtra's villages were not left behind in the state's economic resurgence. His flagship initiative, the *Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan*, focused on water conservation by creating farm ponds on demand and revitalizing traditional water bodies. This project addressed the acute water scarcity that plagued many parts of the state and benefited over 100,000 farmers by conserving millions of liters of water. The scheme's success has been so significant that it is now being considered for replication in other states.



In addition to water conservation, Fadnavis oversaw the completion of 21 long-pending irrigation projects in the drought-prone Vidarbha region. The ₹34,000 crore Water Grid project in Marathwada is also expected to solve long-standing water challenges, giving a new lease on life to the region's agricultural sector. These rural-focused projects have solidified Fadnavis's reputation as a leader who does not solely focus on urban-centric growth but is equally invested in improving the lives of rural residents.

Boosting Industrial Development and Employment

Fadnavis's leadership has not only been about agricultural reforms; it has also involved generating employment in underdeveloped areas.



One key initiative was the Surajgad Steel Plant in Gadchiroli, which has promised to create significant economic opportunities for Maharashtra's tribal communities. Similarly, the establishment of the Rail Coach Plant in Marathwada is expected to generate jobs and spur local economic growth.

Infrastructure Development: A Game Changer

Perhaps the most iconic of Fadnavis's achievements is the *Samruddhi Mahamarg* or the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway. This massive infrastructure project connects Vidarbha, Marathwada, and Mumbai, revolutionizing Maharashtra's agricultural economy by creating a direct trade route between the state's farming regions and urban markets. The highway has significantly reduced travel times, boosted trade, and improved market access for rural farmers. While the project faced opposition from certain farming groups, Fadnavis's administration ensured that those affected were compensated fairly. His creation of a dedicated "war room" to monitor the project's progress was an innovative solution that ensured timely completion of the project.



Urban infrastructure also received a substantial boost under his leadership, with major metro projects transforming public transport in Pune, Nagpur, and Mumbai. Other projects like the Thane-Borivali underground route and the Coastal Road project from Worli to Nariman Point are expected to ease urban traffic congestion, further enhancing the quality of life in Maharashtra's urban centers.

The TINA Factor: Why Fadnavis Stands Apart

What makes Devendra Fadnavis the "There Is No Alternative" (TINA) factor in Maharashtra is his ability to deliver on transformative policies that have yielded tangible results for both urban and rural constituencies. His leadership has revitalized Maharashtra's economy, improved infrastructure, and created jobs across the state, making him the undisputed leader heading into the 2024 elections.



With a proven track record and widespread popularity, Fadnavis stands as a formidable force in Maharashtra politics. As the elections approach, it is clear that the question is not only who will win but whether any other political leader can match his policy-driven success. For now, it seems there is no alternative.

TikTok Bans Russian State Media Outlets

TikTok has officially banned the accounts of Russian state-owned media outlets RT and Sputnik, citing their involvement in “covert influence operations.” This move is in line with the platform’s community guidelines, which aim to prevent deceptive practices that seek to manipulate users.

In a statement on its website, TikTok announced that it has removed accounts linked to Rossiya Segodnya and TV-Novosti, the parent organizations of RT and Sputnik, respectively. The company emphasized that these accounts had been attempting to covertly influence audiences, which violates its policies. As a result, users will no longer have access to content from these Russian news organizations on the platform.



ed.

Previously, these accounts faced restrictions in the European Union and the United Kingdom. TikTok clarified that under its state-affiliated media policy, content from these outlets was already ineligible for the “For You” feed, aiming to limit foreign interference in global discussions. Additionally, their accounts had been labeled as state-controlled media to inform users about the nature of the content being present-

The recent ban aligns with broader efforts to combat disinformation from Russian media. Just days prior, Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, announced a similar ban on RT, following accusations from the Biden administration that the outlet operates as an extension of Moscow’s intelligence agencies.

Truecaller Introduces Automatic Spam Protection for iPhone Users

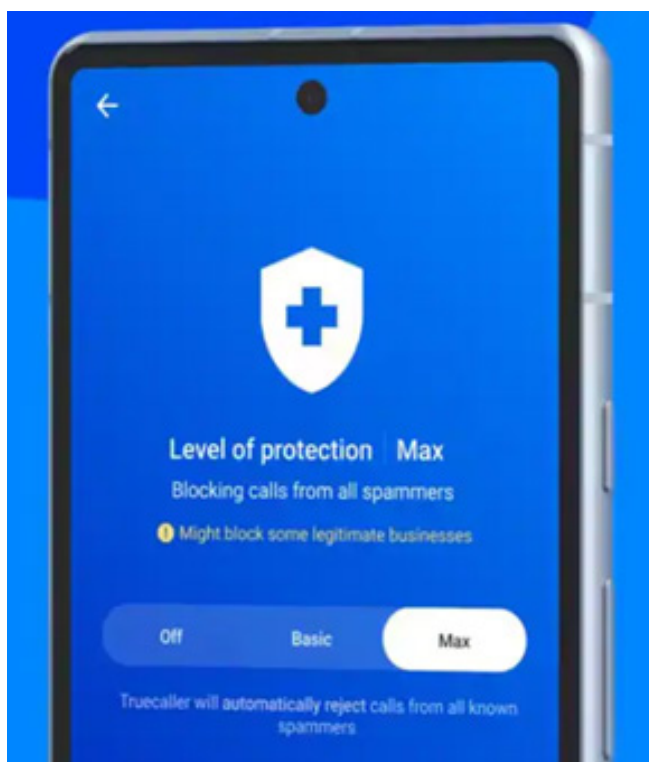
Truecaller has launched a highly anticipated automatic spam blocking feature for iPhone users with the recent update supporting iOS 18. This new functionality allows Truecaller to automatically intercept and block calls identified as spam, offering a significant enhancement to spam protection on Apple devices, similar to what Android users have enjoyed for some time.

With this update, users no longer need to manually decline spam calls; Truecaller will handle the blocking automatically. Even if a spam call is rejected, it will still appear in the user’s call log as a missed call, ensuring that no important notifications are overlooked.

Alan Mamedi, co-founder and CEO of Truecaller, expressed excitement about the update on X (formerly Twitter), stating, “We hope the customers will be so happy that they will finally say ‘Truecaller works on iPhone.’” He acknowledged that while the iOS app had been performing decently over the past two years, this new feature aims to meet user expectations regarding security and functionality.

This automatic blocking feature will be available to all Truecaller premium subscribers. Interestingly, users can take advantage of a pricing strategy that allows them to add a family member on an Android device to their plan for just ₹25 per month, even if that family member uses an iPhone.

Due to previous limitations imposed by Apple on call blocking, Truecaller had faced chal-



lenges in providing comprehensive spam protection for iPhone users. However, the enhancements in iOS 18 have paved the way for improved functionality, allowing users to effectively combat the issue of unwanted calls that has long plagued many iPhone users.

Overall, this update represents a significant step forward for Truecaller on iOS, delivering much-needed relief to users frustrated by spam calls. With the new features, Truecaller aims to enhance user experience and solidify its position as a leading tool for call management and spam protection on all platforms.

Google Photos Introduces New AI Video Editing Tools

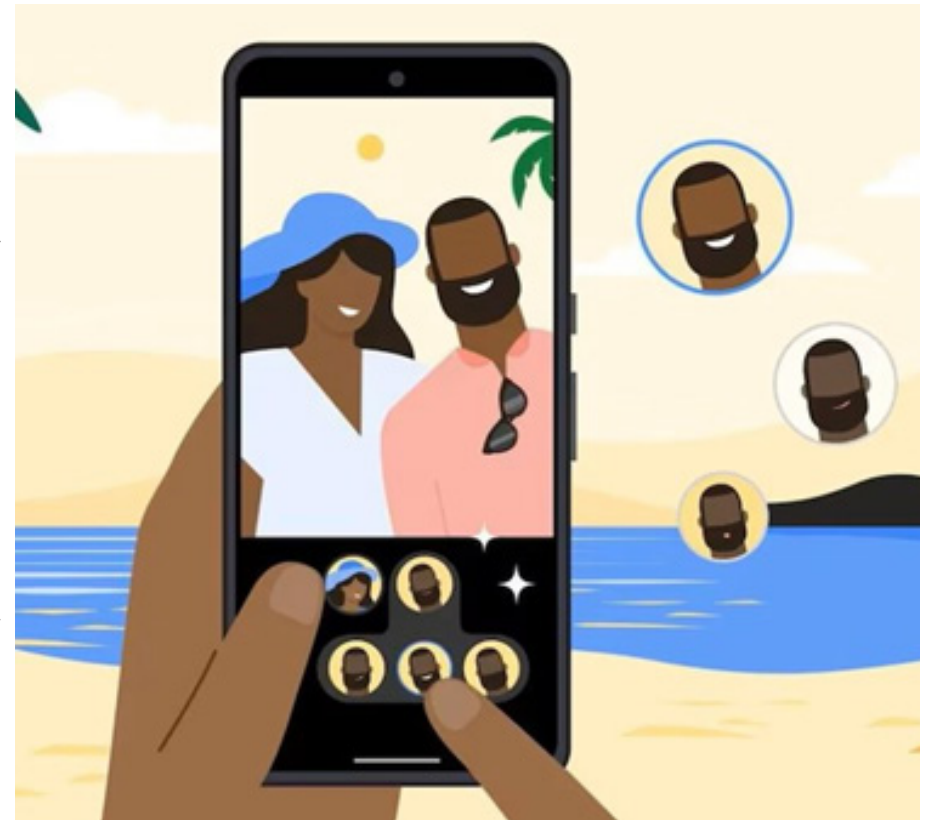
Google Photos has rolled out a significant update, introducing new AI-powered video editing features on both Android and iOS platforms. This update includes several new editing tools designed to enhance user experience, particularly for Android users, who will receive exclusive access to some of these features.

One of the key additions is an updated trim tool that allows users to cut specific parts of their videos with precision, down to individual frames. This feature is particularly useful for those who want to highlight particular moments in their videos when sharing with friends.

Another notable enhancement is the auto-enhance button, which optimizes video quality by improving brightness, contrast, and overall lighting. With this update, users can now perform color correction and stabilize videos with just a single tap, making it easier to achieve professional-looking results.

Additionally, a new speed tool has been introduced, enabling users to easily speed up or slow down video playback. This feature allows for the addition of slow-motion effects to specific shots, letting viewers savor important moments for longer.

AI-powered video presets are also part of this up-



date, available on both Android and iOS. These presets simplify video editing by automatically applying effects based on contextual awareness. Users can select presets for various functions, including trimming, lighting adjustments, and speed control. The AI also enables dynamic motion tracking, which allows the software to zoom in on subjects during crucial moments or apply slow-motion effects seamlessly.

As part of ongoing improvements, Google Photos is also rearranging video editing tools to enhance accessibility for users. This update comes shortly after the introduction of other AI features, such as Descriptive Queries and the AI-powered Ask Photos functionality, demonstrating Google’s commitment to improving user experience through innovative technology.

Telegram to Share User Data with Authorities

Messaging app Telegram has announced a significant shift in its data-sharing policy, with CEO Pavel Durov stating that the platform will provide user IP addresses and phone numbers to relevant authorities in response to valid legal requests. This change, detailed in a post on Telegram, aims to deter criminal activities on the platform.

The decision comes in the wake of Durov’s recent arrest in France, where he faces allegations of complicity in the dissemination of child sexual abuse materials. This marks a notable departure from Telegram’s historically lax approach to government requests for data, as the app has been known for its resistance to takedown demands and has often ignored requests for information about suspected criminal activities.

In addition to changing its data-sharing policy, Telegram has implemented measures to conceal problematic content from search results. Durov explained that the platform is employing artificial intelligence and a team of moderators to enhance its content moderation efforts.



The legal troubles for Durov stem from charges filed by French authorities, which portray him as leading a company that has been uncooperative with law enforcement in investigations related to organized crime. While Durov denies these charges, he has been ordered to stay in France during the ongoing investigation.

Under Durov’s leadership, Telegram has faced scrutiny from governments worldwide, from the European Union to authoritarian regimes in Russia and Iran. While the app has been a tool for activists organizing protests, it has also become a space for extremist groups and conspiracy theorists. Notably, white supremacists in the U.S. have used Telegram to plan coordinated attacks.

Influencer dresses up as Spider-Man to beg for money in Mumbai

An unusual incident at Kalyan Junction in Mumbai has captured significant attention after an influencer donned a Spider-Man costume and posed as a beggar to create viral content. Spider-Man, a beloved superhero from Marvel Comics, has seen a surge in popularity in India, particularly following the success of films like *Spider-Man: No Way Home*.

The viral video, shared by the Instagram user @shaddyman98, features the influencer sitting beneath the stairs of the bustling railway station in

his iconic red and blue suit, reaching out to train passengers for money. The caption reads, “Spider-Man ko dedo bhai koi” (Please give alms to Spider-Man), clearly aimed at drawing in curious onlookers and generating social media engagement.

As the video circulates online, reactions have been mixed. While many viewers found the act entertaining and humorous, others raised ethical concerns regarding the appropriateness of staging such a scene in a public space. Some applauded

the creativity and boldness of the influencer, arguing that it highlights the lengths to which content creators will go to achieve viral fame.

Critics, however, voiced discomfort over the implications of blending humor with a serious social issue like begging, questioning whether this form of content undermines the struggles faced by those in genuine need. The performance sparked discussions about the moral responsibilities of influencers and the impact of social media culture on public perception.





India to Host Germany for Hockey Series in New Delhi



The Indian men's hockey team is set to face Germany in a thrilling two-match series at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on October 23 and 24. Hockey India made the announcement on Tuesday, generating excitement among fans and players alike. The last encounter between these two hockey powerhouses was in the semi-finals of the Paris Olympics, where Germany narrowly defeated India 3-2. Following that, India clinched the bronze medal by beating Spain in the third-place play-off, adding to the anticipation of this upcoming series.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm for the matches, stating, "This bilateral series against Germany will be a remarkable showcase of world-class hockey." He highlighted the historical significance of the rivalry, noting that both teams have a rich legacy in the sport. The series presents a unique opportunity for fans to witness a high-stakes competition between two of the world's most formidable hockey nations.

HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh echoed this sentiment, stating, "The India-Germany hockey rivalry has always been a thrilling contest. Our players are eager to compete against such a strong side, and I believe this series will help both teams refine their skills and strategies ahead of future international tournaments." He also emphasized the importance of this Indo-German collaboration, which not only fosters sportsmanship but also strengthens ties between the two nations.

German Hockey Federation President Henning Fastrich shared his excitement, remarking that "India has always been a special place for hockey." He added that the German team is looking forward to playing in front of passionate Indian fans, calling it a fantastic opportunity to enhance sporting relations while preparing for upcoming global events.

With the series just around the corner, both teams are gearing up for what promises to be an exciting display of skill and determination on the hockey field.

BAI Rewards Para Shuttlers for Paris Paralympic Success

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a total cash reward of ₹50 lakh for the para shuttlers who earned medals at the recent Paris Paralympics. This announcement comes in recognition of the outstanding achievements of Indian para athletes, who secured five medals at the event, including one gold, two silver, and two bronze.

Nitesh Kumar, who won the gold medal in the men's singles SL3 category, will receive a reward of ₹15 lakh. Silver medalists Suhas Yathiraj (men's singles SL4) and Thulasimathi Murugesan (women's singles SU5) will each be awarded ₹10 lakh. Bronze medal winners Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5) and Nithya Sre Sivan (women's singles SH6) will each receive ₹7.5 lakh.

This year's Paralympics marked a historic achievement, with Thulasimathi, Manisha, and Nithya becoming the first Indian women shuttlers to win medals at these Games. BAI Secretary-General Sanjay Mishra highlighted the consistent performance of Indian para badminton players on the global stage, stating that the cash rewards are one way to acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

"BAI is committed to developing and promoting para-badminton across the country," Mishra noted. He emphasized that the association is undertaking numerous initiatives to support these athletes and help them achieve greater success in the future.

In light of the busy tournament schedules, BAI plans to organize a virtual interaction session with the medal-winning players. This session will provide an opportunity for the association to congratulate them and discuss their ongoing needs for further development in the sport.

Security Measures for India-Bangladesh Test Match in Kanpur

Elaborate security arrangements are being implemented for the upcoming second Test match between India and Bangladesh, scheduled to take place at the International Green Park Stadium in Kanpur on September 27. A senior official announced on Tuesday that a "fool-proof" security plan has been established to ensure the safety of both teams and the attending spectators.

The heightened security comes in the wake of tensions surrounding protests organized by the Akhilesh Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha. An FIR was filed against 20 members of the group for allegedly obstructing roads to conduct a 'havan' protest against reported atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander confirmed that the police have requested a substantial deployment of officers, including senior-ranking officials, to manage security effectively during the match.

"We are thoroughly reviewing our security measures to ensure a safe environment for all involved. We are confident of securing an adequate police presence to meet all requirements," Chander stated. The police are coordinating with various central and state agencies, including the Intelligence Bureau (IB), to gather and share information regarding any potential threats.



To enhance security, the Green Park stadium and nearby Hotel Landmark have been organized into distinct sectors, zones, and sub-zones. Control over these areas has been assigned to officials of varying ranks, including DCP, additional DCP, and ACP, with DCP (East) Shrawan Kumar Singh appointed as the nodal officer overseeing the entire event.

In addition to the security measures, traf-

fic diversions have been instituted around the stadium to facilitate smooth movement and ensure the safety of fans and players.

The FIR against the protestors includes charges under various sections, such as unlawful assembly, rioting, and obstruction of public ways. The named individuals include Rakesh Mishra, Vikas, Atul, and several others, with around ten remaining unidentified.

India's Historic Third Place Finish at Asia Pacific Padel Cup



In a groundbreaking achievement, India's padel team has secured third place in the Asia Pacific Padel Cup, held in Bali, Indonesia. This tournament marks India's inaugural appearance in such a competition and is also the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific region. The event has not only provided a platform for emerging padel nations but also showcased the growing popularity of the sport across the continent.

Despite falling short of reaching the finals, the Indian team displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the tournament. In the bronze medal match, they faced off against Malaysia, delivering a strong performance that culminated in a decisive 3-0 victory. This win not only earned them a medal but also highlighted their potential in a sport that is rapidly gaining traction.

The team's journey to the podium was filled with valuable learning experiences, as they competed against seasoned opponents. Their ability to adapt and improve was evident, showcasing the depth of talent within Indian padel. The players exhibited excellent teamwork and strategy, which proved crucial in their successful matches.

The success of the Indian padel team in Bali is a significant milestone for the sport in the country. It is expected to inspire more players to take up padel and contribute to its development at the grassroots level. With increasing support and recognition, padel is poised for growth in India, and this tournament has set a strong foundation for future competitions.

As the team returns home with a bronze medal, they carry not just a trophy but also the experience and confidence gained from competing on an international stage. The Asia Pacific Padel Cup has been a pivotal moment for Indian padel, and the players are eager to build on this momentum as they look ahead to future tournaments.



Sudheer Babu's Jatadhara Set for Mahashivratri 2025 Release

Sudheer Babu's highly anticipated film *Jatadhara*, a supernatural epic, is scheduled for release on Mahashivratri in 2025. The film's recently unveiled second poster offers a mesmerizing glimpse into its mythical universe, featuring Sudheer Babu in a powerful and enigmatic avatar that radiates supernatural energy. This captivating imagery has piqued audience interest, sparking speculation about his character and the film's intricate narrative.

Produced by Prerna Arora in collaboration with Sudheer Babu Productions, *Jatadhara* aims to push the boundaries of Indian cinema by merging elements of mythology, fantasy, and drama. Expressing his enthusiasm for the project, Sudheer Babu stated, "Stepping into the world of *Jatadhara* is an unforgettable experience. The script beautifully intertwines our rich mythological heritage with scientific elements." He emphasized the film's strong narrative and commended the entire team's dedication, particularly praising producer Prerna Arora's vision and her commitment to assembling a talented cast and crew.

The excitement surrounding *Jatadhara* continues to grow, especially with hints of a major Bollywood heroine joining the cast, along with a prominent A-list actress set to portray the female antagonist. These revelations have significantly elevated expectations, positioning the film as a potential genre-defining blockbuster.

With pre-production nearing completion and filming slated to begin soon in Hyderabad, *Jatadhara* promises to deliver a visually stunning and emotionally engaging cinematic experience. The new poster serves as a testament to the project's ambitious scale, aiming for a pan-India release in 2025.

Following his recent success with *Harom Hara* and with his upcoming film *Maa Nanna Superhero* set to release on October 11th, Sudheer Babu is poised to deliver another captivating performance in *Jatadhara*. The blend of mythology, fantasy, and drama makes this film one of the most eagerly awaited cinematic events of the year.



Bigg Boss Tamil: A New Era with Vijay Sethupathi

Since its launch, Kamal Haasan has been the enduring face of Bigg Boss Tamil, guiding contestants and audiences alike through the ups and downs of the reality show. However, the upcoming season marks a significant shift as Vijay Sethupathi steps in to replace the iconic actor-filmmaker. This change comes as Haasan takes a break from his hosting duties, allowing the show to embrace a fresh perspective.

With Sethupathi at the helm, the eighth season promises to be a reboot, offering an opportunity for the show's creators to revamp its format. Known for his casual demeanor and engaging personality, Sethupathi is expected to bring a new energy that could resonate well with both contestants and viewers. This season aims to capture the laid-back charm of its new host, setting the stage for a more relaxed and relatable experience.

The makers have confirmed that Bigg Boss Tamil Season 8 will premiere on October 6, airing on Vijay TV. This launch

date has generated excitement among fans eager to see how Sethupathi's unique style will influence the dynamics of the show. His ability to connect with audiences through humor and authenticity may open new avenues for interactions within the house, creating a different atmosphere for contestants and viewers alike.

As the show evolves, it will be interesting to see how Sethupathi balances the traditional elements of Bigg Boss with his own approach to hosting. The change not only brings a fresh face but also allows for innovative twists in the format that could enhance viewer engagement.

In summary, the transition from Kamal Haasan to Vijay Sethupathi marks a pivotal moment in Bigg Boss Tamil's journey. With the new season on the horizon, fans are eager to witness how this shift will unfold and what surprises await in the house. As anticipation builds for October 6, one thing is clear: Bigg Boss Tamil is ready for a new chapter.

Mani Ratnam Wraps Up Shooting for Thug Life

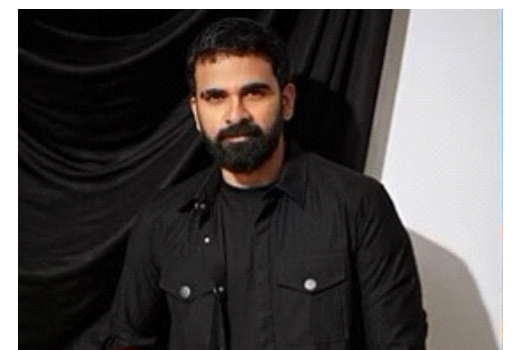
One of the most intriguing aspects of Mani Ratnam's recent projects, particularly the Ponniyin Selvan duology, has been the remarkable efficiency with which he brought his cinematic vision to life. Throughout various promotional events, it was highlighted that Ratnam and his dedicated team completed the shooting for both parts of this historical epic in just 120 days. This impressive feat of meticulous planning and swift execution has sparked renewed interest as the makers of Ratnam's upcoming film, *Thug Life*, have announced that shooting for the movie has officially wrapped up.

The announcement was made via a post that celebrated the completion of filming, generating excitement among fans and industry insiders alike. Ratnam's ability to maintain a brisk shooting schedule while ensuring high production quality has become a hallmark of his filmmaking style, and *Thug Life* appears to be no exception.

Set against a vibrant backdrop, *Thug Life* promises to deliver the engaging storytelling and intricate character development that Ratnam is renowned for. While specific plot details remain under wraps, the film is expected to blend action and drama, exploring themes of morality and resilience within the context of contemporary society.

Ratnam's previous works have consistently showcased his knack for crafting compelling narratives that resonate with audiences, and *Thug Life* is anticipated to continue this tradition. The quick turnaround from shooting to post-production will likely keep the momentum going, as fans eagerly await the film's release.

As the industry watches closely, this swift completion of *Thug Life* adds another layer to Ratnam's legacy as a filmmaker capable of harmonizing speed and artistry. With an impressive cast and the director's signature storytelling flair, *Thug Life* is poised to be one of the most anticipated releases in the coming months, further solidifying Ratnam's status as a master of Indian cinema.



Ashok Selvan denies being a part of Dhanush's next directorial Idli Kadai

Dhanush recently revealed that his fourth directorial venture and 52nd film as an actor will be titled *Idli Kadai*. While rumors circulated about Ashok Selvan being cast as Dhanush's brother, he took to X (formerly Twitter) to clarify that he will not be a part of the project.

A tweet suggested that Ashok would portray Dhanush's sibling, with Arun Vijay set to play the antagonist and Nithya Menen in the lead female role. The report also mentioned that filming is currently underway in Theni, with the next schedule planned for Chennai.

In his retweet, Ashok expressed his admiration for Dhanush, stating, "I love @dhanushkraj sir and am an ardent fan. I look forward to working with him in the future but would like to clarify that I am not part of #IdliKadai." His fans appreciated his honesty, with comments ranging from support to disappointment. One user wrote, "Good, you clarified," while another expressed sadness with broken heart emojis. Some fans even suggested they were eager for a reunion between Ashok and Ajith Kumar after their collaboration in *Billa 2*.

As for *Idli Kadai*, Dhanush shared a concept poster that showcases a roadside eatery under a starry night sky, featuring a shopkeeper and another man. Dhanush not only directs but also stars in the film, which includes music by GV Prakash Kumar, cinematography by Kiran Koushik, and editing by Prasanna GK. The film is produced by Aakash Baskaran of Dawn Pictures, alongside Dhanush's own Wunderbar Films.

Gladiator 2 Trailer: Bigger, Bloodier, and More Intense

The new trailer for *Gladiator 2*, directed by Ridley Scott, promises an epic cinematic experience that is grander, bloodier, and more intense than its acclaimed 2000 predecessor. Running 146 seconds, the promo opens with a sweeping shot of a turbulent sea beneath ominous clouds. A character reflects, "It is an art, choosing gladiators," as we catch a glimpse of Lucius Verus, played by Paul Mescal, wounded and confined in a ship's hold. Denzel Washington's character, Macrinus, asserts, "They are usually prisoners of war," hinting at the harsh realities of gladiatorial life in ancient Rome.

The trailer quickly shifts tone, showcasing the chaos of a burning Rome with the arrival of Marcus Acacius, portrayed by Pedro Pas-



cal. Despite the turmoil, Lucius Verus refuses to surrender. Under Macrinus's guidance, he learns to harness his anger, setting the stage for his journey to greatness. The narrative reveals that Lucius is the son of the legendary Maximus Decimus Meridius, famously played by Russell Crowe in the original film. This connection adds a compelling layer to the story, as Lucilla, played by Connie Nielsen, encourages her son: "Take your father's strength. His name was Maximus. And I see him in you."

As the trailer unfolds, viewers are

treated to glimpses of intense action sequences, promising a thrilling blend of drama and spectacle. With its powerful performances and grand visuals, *Gladiator 2* aims to capture the essence of its predecessor while elevating the stakes for a new generation.

Set to be one of the most anticipated films of the year, *Gladiator 2* combines historical epic storytelling with high-octane action, ensuring fans are in for a monumental cinematic experience. As excitement builds, the film is poised to redefine the epic action genre once again.