



Govt Aims to Boost State Budget to ₹7 Lakh Crore: CM



TPN, Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced on Wednesday, September 25, that his government is committed to increasing the state's budget from the current ₹3 lakh crore to ₹7 lakh crore within the next four years. He emphasized the state's goal of becoming a USD one trillion economy.

Speaking at the launch of a skill develop-

ment programme in the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) sector, the chief minister outlined his vision for Telangana to compete globally, rather than focusing on competition with other Indian states or cities like Andhra Pradesh, Bengaluru, or Chennai.

Highlighting Hyderabad's prominence in the tech industry, he noted that world-renowned leaders such as Satya Nadella, Shantanu Narayen, and World Bank president Ajay Banga, all alumni of Hyderabad Public School (HPS), could play a key role in supporting the state's initiatives. During his recent visit to the US, Reddy invited these influential personalities to return to Hyderabad in December to assist the state's efforts, including the establishment of a skills university.

A Vision for Hyderabad's Global Competitiveness

Reddy discussed Hyderabad's role as a major employment hub, driven by the IT revolution, and stressed the importance of enhancing the city's global brand image by attracting prestigious universities. He reiterated his belief that Telangana must "com-

pete with the world," positioning Hyderabad as a global center for innovation and technical expertise.

With over 50% of India's population being youth, Reddy said the focus should be on providing the technical expertise needed to drive economic growth. "Hyderabad should emerge as the hub to provide that expertise," he said.

Revanth Reddy's Warning to Educational Institutions on one lakh engineering graduates come out of colleges every year in the state, but some do not even have basic knowledge in certain areas. The reason for that is that teaching staff and others in those colleges are not up to the mark," said Reddy. He warned that the government would revoke the permissions of colleges that fail to meet the required standards.

In response to incidents involving engineering students and other college attendees being caught selling narcotics such as ganja, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for stricter measures to curb this menace. He condemned those in public life who indirectly support the guilty and called for decisive government action to tackle the issue.

CONGRESS PLANNED TO USE PJR'S IMAGE FOR GHMC



- Congress drills for GHMC polls
- Key post planned for PJR's daughter
- The plan is to get a bigger seat anyway

TPN, Telangana: The Congress party has set its sights on Greater Hyderabad and is determined to secure the GHMC chairmanship in the upcoming elections. As part of its strategy, the party is considering whom to bring closer and whom to appoint to key positions. A significant focus is on new recruitments. Recently, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender brought Arikepudi Gandhi into the party, and efforts are underway to attract a few more.

The Congress party's organizational strength in Greater Hyderabad is currently very weak. While there is competition for party tickets, it has been lagging in securing votes. There are 24 constituencies under Greater Hyderabad, and although there was competition for tickets in all of them, the party failed to win a single seat. Some members accepted the leadership's decisions, while others defected to different parties. Despite the Congress having an impact at the state level, it has not been able to make its presence felt in Greater Hyderabad. To overcome this situation, the party has already started its efforts.

This time, the Congress is considering giving more importance to leaders from Greater Hyderabad in the distribution of party positions. Party leaders have indicated that they want to give opportunities to strong leaders in the PCC committee. They believe that if the position of Working President, which is the second most crucial role after the party president, is given to a leader from Greater Hyderabad, it could strengthen the party and help secure the GHMC.

There is talk within the party that some leaders have suggested giving the Working President position to Vijay Reddy, daughter of PJR, under the women's quota. They believe that this could bolster the party's strength, as Vijay Reddy can leverage her father's strong image. It is rumored that the high command is considering this suggestion. Some senior leaders have already appealed to the high command for priority in the PCC, and former Mayor Bonthu Rammohan is also vying for the position. Having hoped for a Congress ticket in the recent Assembly elections, Bonthu Rammohan is now competing for the Working President role.

Meanwhile, several leaders have been lobbying with in-charge Deepadas Munshi and PCC President Mahesh Goud. However, as Vijay Reddy, with her stronghold in Greater Hyderabad, is in touch with key leaders, it seems that the high command is leaning towards her. Party leaders believe that assigning her this responsibility could further strengthen the Congress. Overall, it remains to be seen whether the Congress will capitalize on PJR's legacy.

Hyderabad to Become First City with 100% Sewage Treatment: KTR



TPN, Hyderabad: Hyderabad is set to make history by becoming the first city in India to achieve 100 percent sewage treatment, marking a significant milestone in the rejuvenation of the Musi River. Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) made the announcement during his visit to a completed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Fatehnagar, Kukatpally, on Wednesday, September 25.

Providing details of the project, KTR noted that it was initiated by the previous BRS government, aiming to transform Hyderabad into a city free from dirty water. The project involves the construction of 31 STPs with a total treatment capacity of 1,259.50

MLD (million liters per day) at a cost of ₹3,866 crore.

KTR highlighted the significance of these plants, saying, "Once completed, these STPs will treat the sewage water of the entire city of Hyderabad."

The 31 STPs are spread across various locations, including Durgam Cheruvu, Kokapet, Miralam Site-I, Pedda Cheruvu, Nalla Cheruvu-1, Miyapur-Patelcheruvu, Safilguda, Nagole, Khajakunta, Fathenagar-1, Vennelagadda, Nallagandla, Mullakathuwa Cheruvu, Shivalaya Nagar, Palapitta Park, Attapur-1, Ramacheruvu, Rainbow Vista, Attapur-2, and Amberpet.

Speaking to reporters after his visit, KTR reiterated that the BRS government launched this initiative to make Hyderabad a city free from sewage-related issues. However, he expressed concern that progress had slowed after the Congress government came to power, urging for its swift completion.

KTR also questioned the current government's prioritization of the project. "What is the need to treat closed water again when the water treated by these STPs is still going unused? The government should give more priority to this program to relieve the people of Hyderabad from dirty water and strive to complete it as soon as possible," he said.

Govt Strengthens HYDRA with New Staff Allocation

TPN, Telangana: The government has taken steps to strengthen the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection (HYDRA) by allocating 169 personnel, issuing a Government Order (GO) for the same. The new team includes an IPS-rank officer, a cadre-level SP officer, three non-cadre SPs, and five DSP-rank officers. Additionally, 16 Circle Inspectors (CIs) and inspectors, as well as three Tahsildars, have been assigned to support the initiative.

The objective is to enhance HYDRA's capabilities in handling disaster response and protecting public assets. Alongside police personnel, revenue officers have also been allocated to the organization to ensure comprehensive coordination between different departments.

Jr NTR Calls on Youth to Join Telangana's Fight for a Drug-Free Society

TPN, Telangana: In anticipation of the highly awaited release of Devara: Part 1, popular Tollywood actor Jr NTR shared a video aimed at raising awareness about drug abuse. He expressed deep concerns about the detrimental impact of addiction on the youth and urged individuals to report any drug-related information to the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau.



Court Allows Johnny Master Into Police Custody

- Court orders no use of third degree against Johnny Master
- Suggests interrogation in presence of lawyers if necessary
- Police to interrogate Johnny Master until the 28th of this month

TPN, Hyderabad: The court has allowed the famous choreographer Johnny Master, who was arrested in a sexual harassment case, to be taken into police custody. It directed that no third-degree methods should be applied against him, and if necessary, he should be interrogated in the presence of a lawyer. The Special POCSO Court of Rangareddy District issued orders to remand him in custody for four days.



continued from P-1

Govt Strengthens HYDRA with New Staff Allocation

This move is part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve HYDRA's efficiency in managing both natural and man-made disasters, ensuring quick and effective responses. The involvement of officers from different ranks and departments highlights the government's commitment to bolstering HYDRA's operational strength, ensuring better preparedness and asset monitoring across Hyderabad.

The allocation of these additional officers is expected to streamline disaster management efforts, providing the necessary administrative and field-level support to meet the growing challenges in urban disaster response.

Jr NTR Calls on Youth to Join Telangana's Fight for a Drug-Free Society

Ahead of his much-anticipated movie's release, Jr NTR called on the youth to partner with the Telangana government in its efforts to achieve a drug-free society. He emphasized the dangers of addiction, warning that young people are destroying their lives by succumbing to drugs.

"The future of our country is in the hands of the youth, but unfortunately, some are drawn to drugs for temporary pleasure, to cope with grief, or due to peer pressure," he stated. "Life is very precious. Join me in partnering with the Telangana government's initiative for a drug-free society."

Jr NTR encouraged individuals to report any drug-related information to the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau at the phone number 8712671111.

His video response aligns with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's appeal to the film industry to raise awareness about drug abuse and cybercrime as part of their social responsibility. The Chief Minister announced that the state government would permit film shootings and increase cinema ticket prices only if filmmakers produced awareness videos featuring movie stars.

On September 23, the Telangana government issued an order raising ticket prices for Devara: Part 1, set to release on September 27. According to the order, six shows will start from 4 a.m. on the first day, with a ticket price increase of Rs 100. From Day 2 (September 28) to Day 10 (October 6), the film will feature five daily shows, with prices raised by Rs 50 in multiplexes and Rs 25 in single-screen theaters.

Jr NTR took to social media platform X to thank CM Revanth Reddy and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for issuing the order.

Court Allows Johnny Master Into Police Custody

Johnny Master is currently in Chanchalguda Jail, and the police went there to take him into custody.

The Narsinghi police registered a case after an assistant choreographer complained that she had been cheated. Johnny Master was arrested in Goa, brought to Hyderabad on a PT warrant, and produced in court. The court initially remanded him to judicial custody for two weeks. The police then filed a petition requesting that Johnny Master be handed over to their custody. The Narsinghi police will question him until the 28th of this month.



Telangana Deputy CM Attends World's Largest Mining Expo in the US

TPN, Telangana: Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, began his visit to MINExpo 2024 in Las Vegas, USA, on September 24. Recognized as the world's largest mining exhibition, MINExpo runs from September 24 to 26 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, attracting over 44,000 professionals from more than 125 countries.

The expo showcases the latest innovations and technologies in mining, serving as a crucial platform for industry networking. During his visit, the Deputy CM held significant meetings with leading industry players. He met with Komatsu management to explore advanced products like the D475A-8 mining dozer and the GD955-7 motor grader. He also engaged with Caterpillar Inc., reviewing their state-of-the-art offerings, including the Cat®

798 AC mining truck designed for autonomous operations.

Additionally, he interacted with representatives from BKT Tyres and the Wirtgen Group to discuss their contributions to the mining sector.

The Deputy CM also met with high-ranking U.S. government officials, including Arun Venkataraman, Assistant Secretary of Global Markets. Discussions focused on potential investments in Telangana, sustainability in mining practices, and strategic partnerships for developing Hyderabad's Fourth City. Venkataraman expressed optimism about future collaborations, particularly in sustainable technologies that could bolster economic growth.



CM Assures to Fill 35,000 Government Vacancies Soon

TPN, Telangana: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced a significant recruitment drive to fill 35,000 vacancies across various government departments in Telangana. Speaking at the launch of the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) skill training program, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing unemployment in the state.

During the event, CM Reddy outlined plans to fill an additional 35,000 vacancies in the next two to three months, aiming to enhance employment opportunities for the youth. The BFSI skill training program is part of this initiative, designed to equip participants with essential skills for success in the banking, financial services, and insurance sectors. This program is specifically tailored to ensure students can secure employment immediately after completing

their training. The government has collaborated with industry experts to develop an action plan based on proposals from the BFSI sector, intending to create a skilled workforce that meets industry needs.

Reddy also announced plans to upgrade 65 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Advanced Technology Centers in partnership with Tata Technologies over the next two years. Additionally, the government will focus on strengthening engineering colleges, warning that institutions failing to meet minimum educational standards will face revocation of their permissions.

Despite these efforts, Reddy acknowledged that unemployment remains a challenge, with over three lakh students graduating from professional institutions each year.

Three Government Teachers Arrested in Cryptocurrency Scam in Nirmal

TPN, Telangana: Three government teachers were arrested in Nirmal on Wednesday for their involvement in the UBIT cryptocurrency scam. The arrested individuals include Dasari Ramesh, a primary school teacher from Kannapur village in Kaddampeddur mandal; Bommidi Dhanunjay, who taught at a primary school in Sonala village, Boath mandal; and Kiram Venkatesh, a teacher at a Mandal Parishad primary school in Daujinayak Thanda, Kubeer mandal.

Superintendent of Police Dr. Janaki Sharmila reported that the three confessed to their crimes during interrogation, revealing they aimed to make quick money. She identified Brij Mohan Singh as the mastermind behind the scam, who has already been booked for cheating the public. The police

have frozen 11 bank accounts linked to the scam and are actively tracking financial transactions while working to freeze additional accounts and identify assets.

The SP urged victims to come forward to report their cases, emphasizing that their cooperation could help in asset recovery. She cautioned the public to be wary of cryptocurrency trading, stating that efforts are underway to detect individuals involved in financial crimes.

Previously, on September 1, five others, including an ex-Indian Army soldier and several government officials, were arrested for cheating around 5,000 people in a similar UBIT cryptocurrency scheme, with the scam valued at approximately Rs. 50 crore.

Nearly 2,600 MBA Seats Vacant in Telangana After Final Phase Seat Allotment

TPN, Telangana: In Telangana, a total of 2,598 MBA seats remain vacant following the final phase of seat allotment for the 2024-25 academic year. The Telangana Integrated Common Entrance Test (TG ICET) 2024 concluded with only 25,747 of the 28,345 available seats in 266 MBA colleges being filled.

The lack of interest among students in management programs is evident, as even university campuses and constituent colleges saw unallocated seats. Specifically, 65 out of 1,639 seats in 21 colleges were left vacant. The highest number of unfilled seats, totaling 2,529, was found in 243 private management colleges. In contrast, two private universities experienced a significant achievement, with 97.8% of their 184 available seats filled.

MCA admissions mirrored this trend, with 871 seats remaining unallocated across 89 colleges. Most of these vacant seats—855—were in 74 private institutions, alongside 16 unallocated seats in 15 university colleges.

According to the Technical Education Department, 71,647 candidates qualified for the TG ICET 2024, but only 39,647 had their certificates verified. Ultimately, 22,153 students exercised web options for seat allotment. For MBA programs, 25,747 seats were released for candidates participating in web-based counseling. Similarly, for the MCA program, out of 6,966 available seats, 6,095 were allotted, with 99 colleges achieving 100% seat allotments.

Candidates who received seat allotments must self-report online at tgicet.nic.in and pay the tuition fee by September 27. Failure to do so will result in the automatic cancellation of their provisional seat allotment. Additionally, self-reported candidates are required to report to their respective colleges by September 28.



Kaleswaram Commission Inquiry Concludes

TPN, Telangana: The inquiry into the Kaleswaram project has concluded, with key officials appearing before the commission today. Former Chief Accounts Officer of Kaleswaram Corporation, Venkata Apparao; Irrigation Chief Accounts Officer, Padmavathi; and Works and Accounts Director, Manibhushan Sharma, attended the session. Kaleswaram Corporation MD & ENC, Hari Ram, and Medigadda SC, Sardar Omkar Singh, are also expected to participate in today's hearing.

The commission posed several questions to the officials, particularly regarding the basis on which loans were secured. The officials explained that the corporation would only take out loans after obtaining approval from the government, as directed by the Secretary of the Irrigation Department.

Venkata Apparao noted that they had taken loans from NABARD, referencing that Rajat Kumar was the Irrigation Secretary at the time.



When PC Ghosh inquired about the assets available to secure large loans, the accounts officers admitted they did not possess any assets. They clarified that assets would only be available upon the completion of the Kaleswaram project.

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The officials explained that maintenance costs would be covered by the income generated from supplying water to Ramagundam and NTPC.

The loans taken were fixed deposits in the bank, with the interest earned used for maintenance.

PC Ghosh questioned Chief Accounts Officer Padmavathi about whether a decision to take loans was made prior to planning the Kaleswaram project. Padmavathi responded that project Chief Engineers send proposals, which are then approved by the ENCs before the budget is prepared. She also indicated that the government has not made any allocations since the corporation's establishment.

When asked if the debts incurred were reflected in the budget, Padmavathi stated they were not included. Bhushan Sharma noted that some of the commission's questions were beyond his purview. He also highlighted that two points in the Cog report were factually contradictory and emphasized that they had already audited the estimates for the three barrages, asserting that they had no involvement with the CAG report.



BC Caste Census is Congress Party’s Patent Right: Mahesh Kumar

TPN, Telangana: Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge stated that as long as there are castes in the country, reservations will exist. Rahul Gandhi has been a strong advocate for the BC caste census. TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar emphasized that the Congress party issued a BC declaration in Kamareddy, asserting that those who deserve their rightful share should receive it. He noted that Revanth Reddy entrusted him with the responsibility of introducing the declaration and assured his support for any necessary changes before its implementation.

Mahesh Kumar mentioned that if the caste census is not conducted, elections in the state would be affected, and a related bill has already been introduced in the Assembly. He anticipates that the procedures for



the caste census will be finalized in the next four to five days. He conveyed to Revanth Reddy that failing to conduct the caste cen-

sus would lead to significant challenges.

Revanth Reddy has agreed to proceed with the caste census, and the Chief Minister is on board with this plan. However, whenever the topic of caste is discussed, BRS criticizes it, while the BJP opposes the caste census. The BJP claims that having a BC Prime Minister means justice has been served to the BC community. Mahesh Kumar challenged BRS, questioning whether they could change their party president to a BC leader.

He stated that the caste census for BCs is the Congress party's patent right, an idea originating from Rahul Gandhi. Mahesh Kumar assured that the Chief Minister will follow Rahul Gandhi's directives regarding this matter.

Etela Rajender Criticizes BRS of Neglect of Sarpanches



TPN, Telangana: During a recent address at the BJP state office, MP Etela Rajender criticized the previous government for neglecting sarpanches and village panchayats. He highlighted a video in which PCC President Revanth Reddy discussed the plight of sarpanches regarding panchayat funds. In the video, Revanth stated that 60 sarpanches committed suicide due to pending bills.

Etela Rajender accused Megha Krishna Reddy and Pratima Srinivas of misappropriating over ₹30,000 crores in panchayat funds, referencing the same video to support his claims. He pointed out that none

of Revanth's promises have been fulfilled, citing the case of a sarpanch who is currently receiving treatment in a hospital without any support from Revanth.

Rajender asserted that Revanth, who rose to power through unethical means, must ensure the immediate payment of pending bills for the sarpanches. He called for all pending bills to be cleared before Dasara, warning that sarpanches are prepared to take action if their demands are not met.

The BJP expressed complete support for the sarpanches' agitation and plans to play an active role in their protests. He noted that the term for the sarpanches ended in February, and questioned why elections have not been conducted even after seven months. With no governing body in place, he said, garbage is piling up in villages.

Rajender accused Revanth of turning villages into his personal fiefdom and demanded immediate announcements regarding reservations and the conduct of sarpanch elections.

No Peace Due to Hydra... Lost Sleep: MLA Mallareddy

TPN, Telangana: Former Minister and BRS MLA Mallareddy made sensational remarks, stating that no one in Telangana is at peace and many have lost sleep due to "Hydra." Speaking to the media in Yadagirigutta, he disclosed that he, too, had received notices from Hydra. Mallareddy further revealed that his colleges were constructed during the Congress regime, emphasizing that it is unfair to demolish houses and force people onto the streets. He noted that internal politics are common within the Congress party.

Mallareddy alleged that Hydra is harassing the people of Telangana and criticized its use as a tool to divert public attention from more pressing issues. He questioned the need to demolish homes and displace people, accusing the Congress of failing to fulfill its election promises. "They are demolishing houses as if some sort of war is happen-



ing in Telangana," he said.

He also attacked Congress leaders, accusing them of making it their mission to insult Telangana Chief Minister KCR and IT Minister KTR. Mallareddy challenged the Congress government, saying that if they can produce more crops than during KCR's rule, they would be rewarded. He criticized the lack of support for farmers under Revanth Reddy's leadership, citing an incomplete loan waiver and a general lack of assurance for the farming community. He also commented on the lack of unity within Congress ministers, further questioning their ability to govern effectively.

Unusable Rajiv Swagruha Houses Should Be Auctioned: CM Revanth Reddy

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has suggested auctioning unusable Rajiv Swagruha houses. He conducted a review on the construction of Indiramma Houses at the Secretariat. During the meeting, he issued orders to the officials to form Indiramma Committees by Dussehra. He also instructed that the double-bedroom houses should be handed over to the selected beneficiaries.

BC Census Should Be Completed Quickly

BC Commission Chairman Niranjan and members met with the Chief Minister at the Secretariat. On this occasion, the CM emphasized the need for a comprehensive study on the BC caste census process. He directed the BC Commission to conduct a thorough study and initiate the BC census, urging its swift completion.

If necessary, the CM suggested visiting other states to review their procedures. He assured the commission that the government would fully cooperate in completing the BC caste census quickly. The members of the commission also discussed the procedures to be followed for the BC census in the state with the CM.

BJP Membership Drive Likely to Fall Short of 25 Lakh Target in Telangana

TPN, Telangana: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which launched its membership drive in Telangana on September 8 with an ambitious target of enrolling 25 lakh members, is currently lagging behind, having enrolled only about 7 lakh members so far.

The first phase of the membership drive concluded on Wednesday, and with just two weeks remaining before the general membership drive ends, it may be challenging for the party to meet its goal. The active membership drive will continue from October 1 to 15, with a target of enrolling a minimum of 200 members from each polling booth across the state. Party leaders stated that those who enroll 100 members would likely be granted "active membership."

According to the party's claims, Telangana currently has about 14 lakh members, based on the last membership drive conducted three years ago. Nizamabad district leads in membership enrollment, with 3.50 lakh members.

The BJP has reportedly attracted 1.85 lakh new members through its website, the NaMo App, and other platforms, the highest in South India, with Karnataka coming second at 1.82 lakh.

Former MLC and State BJP membership committee convener N. Ramchandra Rao mentioned that the party conducted several workshops for its leaders and workers to train them on the membership drive. He expressed confidence that the party would achieve the target set by the leadership. "Due to the rain, our membership drive got delayed. We are doing well and will achieve our target," he said.

Meanwhile, it is reported that BJP national president and Union Minister JP Nadda will visit the state at the end of the month to motivate party activists to enroll more members.

AIMIM May Expand into Rural Areas of Telangana

TPN, Telangana: The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, is considering contesting elections in rural areas of Telangana for the first time. According to a report in the Times of India, the party is likely to participate in the upcoming panchayat elections in various districts.

Historically, AIMIM has not contested panchayat polls in Telangana but has previously supported candidates from other parties to prevent the division of Muslim votes. Sources indicate that the party may target constituencies in Karimnagar, Ni-

zamabad, Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Adilabad, Nirmal, Khammam, and other areas.

In Telangana, AIMIM currently holds seven MLAs, two MLCs, and 44 corporators in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The party also has representation in the legislative assemblies of other states, including one member in Bihar and two members in Maharashtra.

As the panchayat elections approach, it remains to be seen how effectively AIMIM can establish its presence in rural Telangana.



Harish Rao Condemns Bank Officials’ Harassment of Farmers in Mancherial

TPN, Telangana: Former Minister Harish Rao has expressed strong outrage over the mistreatment of a farmer by bank officials in Nennela Mandal, Mancherial District. He questioned the government's inaction, asking, "Is this the kind of brutality and cruelty we are condoning?"



Rao criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's promise of a ₹2 lakh loan waiver, labeling it a betrayal that has become a curse for farmers. He accused the Chief Minister of neglect, pointing out that bank staff are harassing farmers by coming to their homes and demanding repayments.

"The Chief Minister's boasts about loan waivers are hollow in the face of such incidents," Rao stated. He compared the current situation to "bulldozers targeting the poor and bank officials targeting farmers' homes," highlighting the distress faced by both groups under the current administration.

Rao questioned if this is the "change" promised by the Congress government, which seems to be causing more suffering for the poor and the farmers. He urged immediate action to protect farmers and prevent such harassment, calling for real support instead of empty promises.

More Leaders Ready to Support CM Revanth Reddy...

TPN, Telangana: Senior Congress leader Hanumantha Rao has stated that Rahul Gandhi has committed to appointing a Backward Class (BC) leader as the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president. Rao noted that no other political figure has addressed BC issues as consistently as Rahul Gandhi, who has emphasized the importance of ensuring people receive their rights. He criticized the BJP for failing to conduct a caste census or establish a separate ministry for BCs, despite the party's promise to implement a BC caste census in Telangana along with six other commitments.

Rao remarked, "In the last election, votes were



cast without regard for the BC Declaration or BC Reddy. I told Uttam Kumar Reddy that he would win as an MLA only if he secured BC votes, and he acknowledged this." He underscored that his political career has been driven by a desire for public service rather than personal gain.

Hanumantha Rao also highlighted that Revanth Reddy, with Mahesh Kumar Goud overseeing the BC caste census, has garnered increased support. He expressed optimism about the passage of the BC Caste Bill, which aims to further empower and represent the interests of the BC community.

Telangana Govern- ment's Key Decision on Musi Encroachment



TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana state government has made a significant decision regarding the encroachments in the Musi catchment areas. Musi Riverfront Development Corporation MD Dana Kishore announced a special operation to remove encroachments as part of the Musi beautification project.

During a media interaction on Wednesday, Dana Kishore revealed that approximately 1,600 private structures have been identified for removal through a survey. He explained that the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation has created an action plan for this purpose. As per Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's directive, the government will provide double-bedroom houses to each affected resident and ensure their rehabilitation.

The state government has ear-

marked around 15,000 double-bedroom houses for the resettlement of families living in the Musi riverbed and buffer zone. District Collectors have been instructed to oversee the rehabilitation process. The removal of these structures will only begin after the double-bedroom houses have been allocated and the residents have been relocated.

Dana Kishore also mentioned that proposals have been submitted to the government under the Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Act regarding the buffer zone. Compensation will be provided in accordance with the law after obtaining the necessary government approvals. He assured that the land acquisition process would commence only after these formalities are completed and emphasized that residents should not have any undue concerns, as all eligible individuals will be resettled.

IMD Hyderabad Extends Thun- derstorm Forecast Until Friday

TPN, Hyderabad: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad has extended its thunderstorm forecast for an additional two days. Several districts across Telangana are expected to experience thunderstorms, lightning, squalls, and other weather disturbances until Friday.

In light of these conditions, the IMD has issued a yellow alert for the region. Hyderabad is forecasted to have cloudy skies until September 28, with light to moderate rains or thundershowers anticipated today. Over the next three days, further light rains or thunderstorms are expected.

During the current southwest monsoon, Telangana has recorded an average rainfall of 948.2 mm, exceeding the normal of 717.3 mm by 32%. Specifically, Hyderabad has received 820.7 mm, compared to the normal of 589.5 mm, resulting in a 39% increase.

Recently, the highest rainfall in the state was reported in Nalgonda district, which received 129.8 mm. In Hyderabad, Musheerabad recorded the highest rainfall of 47.3 mm. With the forecast predicting continued rains, the total rainfall for this southwest monsoon is likely to increase further.

Hygiene Issues Found During Raids at Clubs in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: A task force team from the Food Safety Department of Telangana conducted raids at several popular clubs in Hyderabad, uncovering numerous irregularities. During the inspections, beetle infestations were discovered in wheat flour and urad dal stored in the storeroom. Additionally, dustbins were found open at various locations without proper lids. At Fateh Maidan Club, located in LB Stadium, Abids, the team noted that the windows were left open without insect-proof screens. They also found semi-prepared food items in the refrigerator that were uncovered and improperly labeled. **Inspections at Supermarket and Sweet Shop** Recently, raids were also carried out at a supermarket and a sweet shop in Hyderabad, specifically at Ratnadeep Retail Private Limited and Olive Mithai Shop. In recent months, similar inspections have targeted various popular restaurants, supermarkets, hostels, sweet shops, and PG accommodations in Hyderabad to ensure adherence to food quality standards. At Nizam Club, located in Sai-fabad, the team observed a live cockroach infestation inside the kitchen premises. They also reported water seepage from the ceiling above the grinding area, clogged drains, and stagnant water.



Rains Turn Hyderabad Roads into Dangerous Obstacle Courses



TPN, Hyderabad: The recent rains have left Hyderabad's roads in a perilous state, transforming them into obstacle courses riddled with potholes, eroded tar, and gravel beds that pose serious risks to commuters. Main roads, such as the stretch from Banjara Hills Road No. 1 to the Masab Tank junction, have suffered significant damage. In front of Darussalam Bank, peeled-off tar has left behind gravel that causes vehicles to skid, leading to slow traffic and frequent jams, particularly during rush hours.

Similarly, the Bazaar Ghat junction

has become hazardous, with large craters that fill with water during rains, creating traps for unsuspecting two-wheelers. "The recent excavation works have left the roads severely damaged, and they remain incomplete," says Mohd Younus, a trader from Red Hills.

Other areas, such as Habeebnagar junction, Dhoolpet Excise Office, Bhoiguda Kaman, and Puranapul Jiyaguda, are also in disrepair. At Jahannuma and Fateh Darwaza, roads have completely disappeared, replaced by long, deep craters. Residents demand

at least temporary repairs to provide some relief but feel abandoned by municipal authorities.

The situation in Secunderabad is equally grim, with major roads in Rasoolpura, Monda Market, and Musheerabad facing similar disrepair. Interior roads feeding into these main arteries are also battered, leading to water stagnation and massive traffic jams. Non-functional street lights and piled-up garbage add to the hazards, making commuting a daunting task for Hyderabad's residents.

Measures to Prevent Flood Water Stagnation

TPN, Hyderabad: GHMC Commissioner Amrapali has directed officials to implement measures to prevent flooding in low-lying areas due to the rains. During a teleconference with Additional and Zonal Commissioners and Heads of Various Departments (HVDs), she emphasized the need for permanent solutions in areas prone to water stagnation during rains. She instructed engineering officials to conduct field visits, prepare necessary proposals, and submit a report on the matter.



In another review meeting, the Commissioner stressed the importance of strict measures to prevent the spread of insect-borne diseases in the city, urging coordinated action with the health department and the expansion of anti-larval and fogging operations.

Commissioner's Surprise Visit to LB Nagar Zone

In response to recent rains, Commissioner Amrapali conducted a surprise inspection of several areas in the LB Nagar zone. She reviewed sanitation management and the condition of roads, including potholes, and visited locations such as Sarurnagar, LB Nagar, Nagole Road, Uppal Bhagayat, and Uppal Stadium Road. She provided instructions to the concerned authorities on the necessary measures for road repairs and sanitation improvements.

Ganja Seized at Two Locations in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: The Excise Special Task Force (STF) police seized cannabis at two locations in Hyderabad—Ramachandrapuram and Kukatpally. In Ramachandrapuram, the STF arrested Kishore Das from Malkangiri, Odisha, for selling ganja. The team recovered 6.715 kg of ganja and Rs. 7,100 in cash. Kishore Das, who also runs a fast food center, was apprehended along with the contraband. STF team leader Pradeep Rao stated that Das was in-

involved in the sale of ganja alongside his food business.

In the Kukatpally area, the STF arrested Ganesh Singh following a tip-off about his involvement in selling ganja. The authorities seized 1.080 kg of cannabis from him. The investigation revealed that Ganesh Singh was operating with Umesh Singh from the Jali Hanuman area of Dulpet. While Ganesh Singh was taken into custody,

Umesh Singh managed to escape and is currently absconding. The police also seized two mobile phones from the accused.

STF DSP Tirupati Yadav confirmed the arrests and stated that efforts are underway to apprehend the absconding suspect, Umesh Singh. The operation highlights the continued efforts of the Excise Department to curb the illegal drug trade in Hyderabad.

Arrest of Interstate Ganja Smuggling Gang Members

TPN, Telangana: Adilabad District police have successfully seized nearly 900 kilograms of ganja at the Lakshmiipur check post in the Thalamadugu mandal of Adilabad district. District SP Ghaus Alam, IPS, revealed the details during a press conference held at the Thalamadugu police station. The operation led to the confiscation of approximately 900 packets of ganja valued at around ₹2.25 crores.

Cases have been registered against eight individuals, with two of them arrested. Authorities also seized a ganja-laden container and two cell phones. The district police apprehended the gang members while they were transporting the ganja from the Andhra-Odisha border to the Bulandshahr district in Maharashtra.

The arrested individuals include A3 Vaseem Ansari, a truck driver from Uttar Pradesh, and A4 Armaan, a cleaner from Uttar Pradesh. The remaining six suspects are currently at large. The police have intensified their efforts to capture the fugitives and dismantle the smuggling operation.



Singareni Workers to Receive Bonus on October 9

TPN, Telangana: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director, N Balram, announced that 33 percent of the company's profits will be distributed as a bonus to coal workers on October 9.

While part of a State government delegation touring the US, Balram con-

ducted a virtual review meeting on Tuesday, directing officials to release the bonus before the Dasara festivities. The Congress government has announced a total of Rs 796 crore as a profit share bonus for employees.

Each of the 41,835 permanent employees will receive a bonus of Rs 1.9

lakh. Additionally, for the first time, a bonus of Rs 5,000 each will be given to the 25,000 contract employees of the company. The profit share bonus for contract employees is calculated based on the number of days they worked in the previous financial year, according to company officials.



India's Strategic Balancing Act in Myanmar

Navigating Complex Geopolitical Terrain Amid Violent Unrest



India and Myanmar share a unique 1,600-kilometer border, much of it unfenced, allowing for free movement of people under a 2017 Free Movement Agreement. However, recent violent unrest in Manipur, coupled with growing concerns over cross-border insurgency activities, has led to demands for the cancellation of this agreement and the construction of a secure border fence. Amid these tensions, India has initiated a new strategic approach to navigate the delicate situation in Myanmar, a country engulfed in fierce battles between the military junta and rebel coalitions.

The violence in Myanmar has intensified, with the military regime fighting against an increasingly unified rebel front. Rebel groups such as the National Unity Government (NUG), composed of factions like the Chin National Front, Arakan Army, and Kachin Independence Army, have gained substantial control over the country. As they push for the overthrow of the military regime and the restoration of democracy, they have received support from Western nations. In contrast, the Myanmar military regime enjoys backing from China and Russia, creating a complicated geopolitical landscape for India.

India's position in Myanmar is nuanced. While it has called for the restoration of democracy, it has not taken a hard stance against the military regime, unlike Western countries. In a notable move, recent reports suggest that India invited the NUG to a seminar organized by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). This gesture signals a potential shift in India's approach toward the conflict, as it opens dialogue with the rebel forces actively fighting the military government.

India's engagement with Myanmar's rebel groups follows a meeting in July between Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and Myanmar's military leader. During the meeting, Jaishankar emphasized India's readiness to discuss Myanmar's democratic restoration with all actors, indicating a strategic pivot in India's foreign policy. By engaging with both the military regime and rebel groups, India is positioning itself to safeguard its interests in Myanmar while advocating for democratic principles.

The rise of rebel forces in Myanmar poses significant challenges and opportunities for India. The rebels now control nearly 50% of Myanmar's territory, a significant increase from their previously limited influence in border areas. The unification of these once-fragmented groups has intensified their push toward toppling the military regime. Rebel forces have launched attacks on military bases and even targeted the residence of the military ruler. Reports

suggest that Western volunteers, including former U.S. and British soldiers, are joining the rebels in their fight. Additionally, these groups are receiving weapons and financial support from Western nations.

China, too, plays a complex role in Myanmar's conflict. While backing the military regime, Beijing has been accused of covertly supporting the rebel forces. This dual approach highlights China's attempt to maintain influence over both sides of the conflict. Russia, meanwhile, remains a steadfast supporter of the military government.

For India, Myanmar's instability is not only a matter of regional security but also a question of protecting its strategic investments in the country. India has invested heavily in Myanmar's infrastructure, with major projects such as the \$400 million Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and a \$250 million road project connecting India's northeastern states with Myanmar. However, the escalating violence in Myanmar threatens the safety of these investments, as the military government may struggle to guarantee their security. This has led India to consider enhancing border security, possibly through the construction of a border fence, to prevent insurgent spillovers and safeguard its projects.

The free movement across the India-Myanmar border complicates the security dynamics further. Some rebel groups, with familial ties across the border, have used this free movement to carry out cross-border attacks on Myanmar's military forces, retreating to safety in Indian territory. This situation has prompted calls within India for a more stringent border management policy to prevent insurgent activities.

In this complex geopolitical environment, India's foreign policy in Myanmar remains pragmatic and flexible. India's primary concern is to protect its investments and ensure regional stability, but it also seeks to play a constructive role in restoring democracy in Myanmar. India's approach reflects its broader diplomatic strategy in South Asia, where it has demonstrated a willingness to engage with various actors, be it the Taliban in Afghanistan, Islamists in Dhaka, Marxists in Sri Lanka, or rebel groups in Myanmar.

In conclusion, India's engagement in Myanmar is a delicate balancing act. As the conflict intensifies, India's flexible and pragmatic foreign policy will be key to navigating the challenges posed by both the military regime and the rebel forces. By maintaining dialogue with all parties, India is positioning itself to protect its interests while contributing to Myanmar's democratic restoration.

Unpacking the US-Russia Election Interference Narrative

A Battle of Power and Propaganda



In recent years, accusations of election interference by Russia have become a recurring theme in US political discourse, with the 2024 presidential election shaping up to be no different. Earlier this month, the US administration once again raised alarms about Russia's alleged attempts to sway the upcoming election through disinformation campaigns and fake accounts spreading propaganda. US intelligence officials have labeled Russia as the "primary threat to elections," and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continues its probe into Russia's activities, alongside smaller investigations into Iran's potential interference. However, while both countries are scrutinized, US officials maintain that Russia remains the more formidable actor, with a clear preference for Donald Trump.

This isn't the first time Russia has faced such allegations. In fact, this marks the third consecutive presidential election in which Moscow has been accused of meddling. The 2016 election was particularly contentious, with 12 Russian military intelligence officers indicted for hacking and leaking Democratic Party emails in an effort to swing the election in Trump's favor. Moscow has consistently denied these claims, with Russian President Vladimir Putin personally refuting them in interviews. Former President Trump even went so far as to publicly defend Putin, stating, "He [Putin] said he didn't meddle... and I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it."

Despite these denials, tensions between the US and Russia over election interference have persisted, fueling broader debates about cyber espionage, propaganda, and the nature of global information warfare.

The Double Standard: US Accusations vs. Its Own History of Meddling

Russia, for its part, has accused the US and other Western powers of hypocrisy. The Kremlin has pointed to the US's own long-standing history of meddling in foreign elections, backing military coups, and engaging in covert operations to advance its geopolitical interests. The Central Intelligence Agency's

(CIA) involvement in regime changes across the world is well-documented. Declassified CIA files reveal US operations in the overthrow of Iran's Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953, Chile's Salvador Allende in 1973, and more recently, efforts to destabilize governments in Venezuela and Ukraine.

In a study conducted by Professor Dov H. Levin of Carnegie Mellon University, election meddling by both the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War was thoroughly examined. His findings showed that between World War II and 2000, both superpowers intervened in 117 foreign elections, with the US responsible for two-thirds of those interventions. In more recent times, the US has been implicated in at least 18 election interferences between 1990 and 2000.

This history underscores a deep irony in the ongoing US accusations against Russia. While Russia's actions have been condemned as blatant meddling, the US's own involvement in similar operations is often glossed over or justified under the guise of promoting democracy.

Information Warfare and Propaganda: A Broader Battle of Narratives

At the heart of these accusations is a larger information war between the West and Russia. Western media outlets have traditionally painted Russia as a manipulative actor using propaganda to destabilize democracies, while Russian media, controlled by the Kremlin, counters these claims by accusing the West of spreading its own brand of disinformation.

An interesting aspect of this ongoing conflict is the media's role in shaping public perceptions. Russian media has historically been dismissed by the West due to its close ties to the Kremlin. However, Western media, long regarded for its impartiality, has also been accused of spreading propaganda to further Western interests. For example, shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Western outlets published unverified reports about Putin's health, suggesting he was gravely ill. These reports were later proven false,

yet no apologies or corrections were issued, raising concerns about the integrity of Western journalism.

This information war extends far beyond US-Russia relations. Throughout the Cold War, Western media was instrumental in promoting anti-communist narratives, framing the Soviet bloc as an ideological enemy. Today, the same strategies are used to influence public opinion on global conflicts and political events. Western media's dominance in shaping the global agenda has made it difficult for non-Western outlets to offer alternative perspectives, contributing to what some see as a form of cultural imperialism.

A Decline in Trust in Mainstream Media

The dominance of Western media has, however, started to erode. With the rise of social media platforms, younger audiences have increasingly turned away from traditional news sources, seeking out alternative viewpoints on global events. This shift in media consumption is particularly relevant in the context of the ongoing accusations and counter-accusations regarding election interference. Many now rely on social platforms to access information, often bypassing mainstream outlets altogether.

The erosion of trust in mainstream media has significant implications for the future of information warfare. If traditional news sources continue to lose credibility, it could open the door for even more disinformation and manipulation, regardless of whether it comes from Russia, the US, or other actors.

In conclusion, the ongoing accusations of election meddling are symptomatic of a much larger battle between global powers for control over information and public opinion. While the US continues to accuse Russia of interference, the complexities of the issue reveal a long-standing history of mutual meddling and manipulation by both sides. In the ever-evolving landscape of information warfare, the real challenge lies in discerning the truth amid a sea of competing narratives.



Poonam Yadav Discusses Indian Women's Team's T20 World Cup Preparations and Strategy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fierce attack on the Congress party during a rally in Gohana, Haryana, as the state prepares for assembly elections on October 5. He warned that if Congress were to regain power, even "by mistake," it would jeopardize both stability and development in the state due to internal strife within the party.

Addressing the crowd, Modi stated that Congress is synonymous with "instability," pointing to ongoing infighting among its leaders in various states, including Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh. He urged Haryana voters to be cautious, asserting that Congress's inter-

nal conflicts would hinder governance and impede economic growth.

Modi also focused on the issue of reservations, alleging that opposing them is ingrained in Congress's ideology. He criticized past Congress leaders for undermining the rights of Dalits and marginalized communities, emphasizing that the BJP has prioritized inclusive policies and opportunities for these groups. He noted that the BJP has appointed Nayab Saini, an OBC leader, as chief minister, demonstrating the party's commitment to representation.

Highlighting his recent engage-



ments with global leaders, Modi claimed that Haryana is now recognized as a top state for industry and agriculture, crediting the BJP's governance for this progress. He expressed confidence in the BJP's chances in the upcoming elections, stating that support for his party is growing while Congress's popularity is waning.

Modi concluded his speech by honoring Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, pledging that the BJP would continue to uplift the poor and drive the nation toward development. As voting day approaches, he urged the public to support the BJP for a prosperous Haryana.

Are you up to some mischief: Rahul asks PM



Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, criticized the BJP on Wednesday following remarks from party MP Kangana Ranaut, who suggested bringing back the controversial farm laws. Gandhi demanded clarity from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning whether he opposes Ranaut's comments or is involved in "some mischief."

Gandhi emphasized that any attempt to revive the three farm laws will face strong opposition from the INDIA bloc. His remarks come in light of Ranaut's earlier statements advocating for the reinstatement of the laws, which had been repealed in November 2021 after widespread protests from farmers.

In a video statement, Gandhi stated, "The BJP keeps testing ideas through its members to gauge public reaction. One of

their MPs has proposed reviving the three black farm laws. Modi ji, you must clarify your stance. Will these laws be revived? If you proceed, I guarantee the INDIA bloc will unite against it." He highlighted the sacrifices of over 700 farmers during the protests, urging Modi to acknowledge their struggles.

Ranaut later withdrew her comments, clarifying that her views were personal and did not reflect the BJP's official position. She recognized her dual role as both an artist and a party member, noting that her statements should align with party policies.

In a post on X, Gandhi challenged the government's decision-making, asking, "Who determines policy— a BJP MP or Prime Minister Modi?" He reiterated the Congress party's commitment to stand against any efforts perceived as harmful to farmers, stating, "If any step is taken to undermine their interests, Modi ji will have to apologize again."

The three laws—Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act—were initially enacted in June 2020 but faced massive backlash, leading to their repeal a year later. Gandhi's comments highlight ongoing tensions surrounding agricultural policy in India.



Kangana Ranaut Apologises For Remarks On Farm Laws

BJP MP Kangana Ranaut expressed regret over her controversial remarks suggesting the reinstatement of the three farm laws, which had sparked significant protests in 2020. During a recent press interaction in her Lok Sabha constituency of Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, Ranaut 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."

These laws were rolled back by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in November 2021 following widespread agitations. Ranaut emphasized the importance of farmers as vital contributors to national development, urging them to advocate for the return of the laws for their own benefit. In response to her comments, the BJP promptly distanced itself, asserting that

Ranaut does not represent the party's views. Party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia stated, "Kangana Ranaut is not authorised to make such a statement on behalf of the BJP, and it doesn't depict the BJP's view on the farm bills."

Ranaut later clarified her position, indicating that her views on the farm laws are personal and not reflective of the party's stance. She acknowledged the disappointment her comments may have caused, stating, "I have to keep in mind that I am not just an artist but also a BJP worker. My opinions should not be personal and should be the party's stand."

In a subsequent video statement, she reiterated her regret and took back her earlier remarks, expressing a desire to align her views more closely with the party's official position.



CPI-M Leaders Reflect on Loss of Sitaram Yechury

CPI-M politburo member Prakash Karat emphasized the need for 'collective leadership' at a memorial meeting in Agartala for the late General Secretary Sitaram Yechury. Karat described Yechury's passing as a significant loss for the Left and the broader democratic movement in India. He acknowledged Yechury's pivotal role in forming the INDIA bloc, aimed at challenging the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha elections, highlighting the urgency of his vision just months before the upcoming party congress in Madurai.

Karat pointed out that while the BJP's influence appeared to diminish in recent elections, the threat from the party and its affiliates persists. He stressed the importance of strengthening the INDIA bloc to counter the BJP's undemocratic actions and policies that adversely affect the populace.

Former Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar echoed these sentiments, urging party members to engage with individuals outside the Left to foster unity against the BJP and RSS. He called for a robust alliance of like-minded groups to uphold constitutional values and democratic principles.

CPI-M Tripura state secretary Jitendra Chaudhury also paid tribute to Yechury, urging party members to continue his unfinished work. He praised Yechury as a meritorious leader who enjoyed widespread popularity across various political factions. Chaudhury noted Yechury's exceptional ability to collaborate with individuals from different parties, earning respect from both allies and opponents.

As a key architect of the INDIA bloc, which comprises 27 to 28 political parties, Yechury's leadership was seen as a beacon for the Left. Chaudhury described him as a bright captain whose death represents an irreplaceable loss not only for the CPI-M but for all secular parties in India. The leaders called for unity and a renewed commitment to Yechury's vision, aiming to strengthen the Left's presence in the political landscape amidst ongoing challenges.

Kejriwal Seeks Clarification from RSS Chief on BJP's Actions

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal has written to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, expressing grave concerns about the trajectory of the BJP-led central government and its impact on Indian democracy. In his letter, Kejriwal stated, "If this continues, our country and democracy will be finished," reflecting his apprehensions about the current political climate.

During his "Janta Ki Adalat" rally, Kejriwal outlined five pressing questions directed at Bhagwat, seeking clarity on the BJP's political strategies. He questioned whether Bhagwat condones the party's alleged misuse of central agencies to undermine opposition parties and destabilize their governments. He also criticized the induction of "corrupt" leaders into the BJP, urging Bhagwat to clarify the party's stance on integrity in politics.

Additionally, Kejriwal raised concerns regarding the BJP's retirement age policy, specifically ask-



ing if it applies to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it did for veteran leaders like L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi. He further inquired about Bhagwat's reaction to BJP chief J P Nadda's recent assertion that the party does not require the RSS, challenging the ideological foundations of the BJP.

Kejriwal emphasized that these questions resonate with many Indians, expressing hope that Bhagwat would consider them thoughtfully and provide answers. The letter underscores the growing tensions between the AAP and the BJP, as Kejriwal seeks to hold the ruling party accountable for its actions.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi Announces New Minimum Wages

In her first press conference since assuming office, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi announced revised minimum wages for unorganised sector workers. The new rates are set at ₹18,066 for unskilled workers, ₹19,929 for semi-skilled workers, and ₹21,917 for skilled workers. This initiative reinforces the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) commitment to providing the highest minimum wages in the country.

Atishi used the platform to criticize the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), labeling it "anti-poor" and arguing that minimum wages in states governed by the BJP are often much lower than those in Delhi. She asserted that the Kejriwal government has not only established these wages through judicial support but has also ensured they are revised biannually, despite facing obstruction from the opposition.

The new wage structure is part of AAP's broader focus on labor rights and social welfare, emphasizing the importance of fair compensation for all workers. Atishi stated that the government's commitment to revising minimum wages reflects its dedication to supporting the working class and improving living standards.



Additionally, Atishi's announcement comes at a time when labor issues are increasingly at the forefront of political discussions. The AAP government aims to set a benchmark for workers' rights and compensation, positioning Delhi as a model for other states to follow.

With this move, Atishi aims to not only uplift the economic conditions of workers but also to enhance the overall welfare of Delhi's labor force. This announcement sets the tone for her administration's priorities and reflects a strong stance on ensuring fair wages in the face of political opposition.

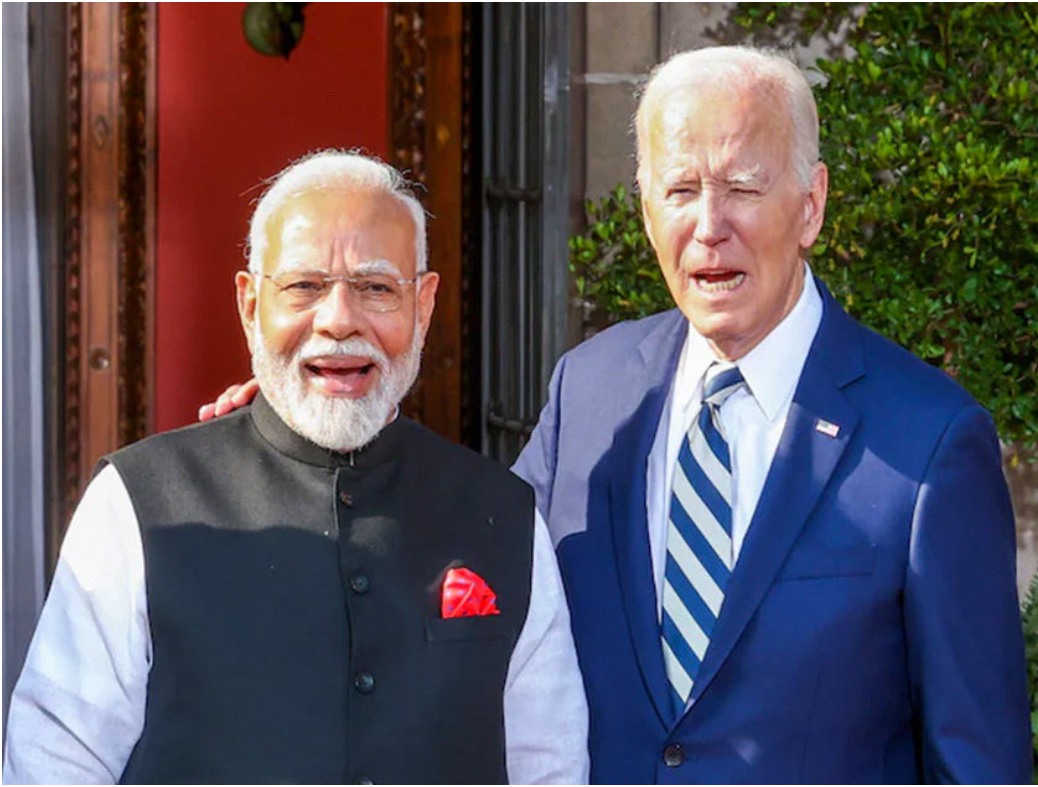
Biden Will Be Most Proud Of Deepening Partnership With India: White House

The White House emphasized the strengthening ties between India and the United States, with National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby stating that the relationship is “strong and getting stronger.” During a recent press briefing, Kirby highlighted President Joe Biden’s commitment to deepening the partnership with India, noting that he will look back on this aspect of his presidency with pride.

Kirby characterized the trajectory of bilateral relations under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Biden as notably elevated, mentioning the Quad group’s advancement to a leader-level alliance involving Australia, Japan, India, and the US. He stated, “We’ve elevated our strategic partnership to the highest level,” underscoring ongoing efforts in defense, economic collaboration, and clean energy transitions.

The Biden administration has actively engaged with India, acknowledging Modi’s unique perspective as a leader of one of the world’s largest democracies. Kirby remarked, “He lives in that neighborhood; he understands it,” reflecting the mutual respect and recognition between the two leaders.

Biden hosted the fourth Quad Leaders’ Summit on September 21, further solidifying India’s role as a vital partner in the Indo-Pacific region. Kirby noted that India contributes not only to security but also



to economic and technological advancements, showcasing a multifaceted partnership.

As Biden prepares to exit the presidency, he has announced that he will not seek re-election, passing the mantle to Vice President Kamala Harris, who has made history as the first woman of Indian and Black heritage nominated for the presidency. In his farewell address at the UN

General Assembly, Biden emphasized the importance of new leadership, stating, “Some things are more important than staying in power.”

With presidential elections approaching on November 5, Biden’s remarks signal a pivotal moment in both US politics and international relations, particularly concerning the enduring partnership with India.

Gunshots Fired at Kamala Harris' Arizona Campaign Office

Multiple gunshots were reported at the campaign office of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris in Tempe, Arizona, early Monday morning. Police discovered damage from several bullets at the Democratic office located near Southern Avenue and Priest Drive. Fortunately, no one was inside at the time, but the incident has raised concerns about the safety of staff and nearby residents, according to Public Information Officer Ryan Cook.

The Tempe Police Department is currently investigating the incident as a potential property crime. Local news footage showed two bullet holes in a door and two more in the office windows. Investigators are analyzing the evidence collected from the scene, and additional security measures have been implemented for the safety of staff and surrounding individuals.

This incident marks the second reported act of vandalism at the office in just two weeks. Earlier, the front windows were damaged by what appeared to be BB gun or pellet gun fire on September 16. No arrests have been made in either case as authorities explore various angles and motives behind the attacks.

Sean McEnerney, the Arizona Democratic Party coordinated campaign manager, expressed gratitude to the Tempe Police for their swift response. “We are fortunate no one was present or injured,” McEnerney said.

The shootings come just days before Vice President Harris is scheduled to visit Arizona, a crucial battleground state for the upcoming presidential election on November 5. During her trip, she plans to campaign across the state and visit the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday to address immigration concerns, a key issue where Republican candidate Donald Trump holds an advantage among voters.

US Intel Warns Iran Threats To Assassinate Donald Trump

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump received a briefing on Tuesday from U.S. intelligence officials regarding alleged threats from Iran to assassinate him. According to Trump’s campaign, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) indicated that these threats are “real and specific,” aimed at destabilizing the United States. The campaign noted that intelligence assessments have shown an increase in Iranian threats in recent months, and U.S. government officials are taking steps to ensure Trump’s safety while safeguarding the integrity of the upcoming elections.

Iran has consistently denied U.S. accusations of interfering in American affairs. The Iranian mission to the United Nations and the ODNI did not respond to requests for comment on the matter. Earlier this month, a Pakistani national with purported links to Iran pleaded not guilty to charges related to a plot to assassinate an American politician, identifying Trump as a potential target. However, sources stated that the accused did not intend for it to be a concrete plan against the former president.

Federal authorities are currently investigating a possible assassination attempt on Trump at his golf course in Florida in mid-September, as well as a shooting incident during a rally in Pennsylvania in July. No evidence has emerged linking Iran to either of these incidents. Moreover, U.S. intelligence agencies reported last week that Iranian hackers sent emails containing stolen materials from Trump’s campaign to individuals associated with the Democratic campaign of President Joe Biden, part of an alleged effort by Tehran to influence the U.S. electoral process. Following Biden’s withdrawal from the race in late July, Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris emerged as the candidate facing Trump in the November 5 elections.

Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau Faces No-Confidence Vote In Parliament

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s main rival, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, introduced a motion of no confidence against the ruling Liberal government, marking a significant challenge for Trudeau’s minority administration. Following a debate in the House of Commons, a vote on the Conservative motion is set for Wednesday.



Poilievre, buoyed by strong public opinion polls, has been eager for a snap election since the leftist New Democratic Party (NDP) terminated its coalition agreement with the Liberals earlier this month, leaving Trudeau’s government vulnerable. During the debate, Poilievre criticized Trudeau for failing to address rising living costs, the housing crisis, and increasing crime rates, while accusing him of doubling the national debt. He claimed that after nine years of Liberal rule, the prom-

ise of Canada is “broken” and vowed to implement a “common sense plan” to cut carbon taxes, build homes, manage the budget, and tackle crime if elected.

In response, Trudeau acknowledged the challenges Canadians are facing, stating, “People are hurting” and are struggling with basic expenses like groceries and rent. He vowed to continue fighting for the needs of Canadians, criticizing Poilievre’s suggestion to cut essential services

and programs.

While the no-confidence motion is unlikely to succeed, as two smaller parties have indicated they will support the government, Poilievre has promised to persist, with another chance to challenge the government expected in early October. Trudeau first came to power in 2015 and has managed to maintain his position by defeating Poilievre’s predecessors in elections in 2019 and 2021.

Recent polling shows the Conservatives leading with 43% support compared to the Liberals at 21% and the NDP at 19%. The current parliamentary landscape has the Liberals holding 153 seats, while the Conservatives have 119, the Bloc Quebecois has 33, and the NDP has 25. Analysts suggest that a general election may not occur until at least spring 2025.



Hezbollah fires missile at Mossad in response to Israeli strikes on Lebanon

Hezbollah launched a Qader 1 ballistic missile at Tel Aviv early Wednesday, escalating tensions following Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon that reportedly killed hundreds. The missile targeted the Israeli Mossad intelligence agency, which Hezbollah blames for recent assassinations of its leaders and a deadly attack involving hidden explosives. The Israeli military intercepted the missile, activating air raid sirens across central Israel, with no reported casualties or damage.

This incident marks the first time a missile from Lebanon reached central Israel. Hezbollah had previously claimed to target an intelligence base near Tel Aviv, but that attack was not confirmed. The ongoing conflict has seen an uptick in violence, with Hezbollah firing rockets into northern Israel in solidarity with Hamas, which is engaged in a separate conflict with Israel in Gaza.

Israeli airstrikes earlier this week have resulted in significant casualties, with reports indicating at least 560 people killed in Lebanon. This has prompted mass displacement, with families fleeing to cities like Beirut and Sidon, seeking refuge in schools and public spaces. The situation has led to a humanitarian crisis, with many attempting to leave Lebanon entirely.

Israel has conducted extensive airstrikes targeting Hezbollah’s military capabilities, while warning of a potential wider military operation. The UN Security Council has scheduled an emergency meeting to address the situation in Lebanon at France’s request.

The conflict, which has displaced tens of thousands, continues to escalate as both sides remain committed to their military objectives. Israel has moved troops from Gaza to its northern border in anticipation of further hostilities, and Hezbollah claims to have a substantial arsenal of rockets capable of striking anywhere in Israel. The cycle of violence shows no signs of abating, with both parties entrenched in their positions amid growing international concern.

Sri Lanka's President Has Called For A Snap General Election

Sri Lanka is set to hold a parliamentary election on November 14, following President Anura Kumara Disanayake’s decision to dissolve Parliament just weeks after his election. Here are five crucial reasons behind this move:

Disanayake received 5.6 million votes (42.3%) in the recent presidential election, a significant increase from the 3% he garnered in 2019. This surge in support provides an opportunity for him to consolidate power in the 225-seat Parliament, capitalizing on the momentum of his recent victory.

As a candidate for the National People’s Power alliance, which includes his Janatha Vimukthi Peremuna (JVP) party, Disanayake’s coalition currently holds only three seats in the existing parliament. Dissolving the legislature allows him to seek a stronger mandate and the necessary backing to fulfill his campaign promises, particularly those aimed at poverty alleviation and tax relief.

Sri Lanka is engaged in a four-year, \$2.9 billion bailout program with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has been essential for boosting foreign reserves and stabilizing the economy. However, the associated austerity measures have provoked public discontent. Disanayake’s campaign included promises to reduce taxes and amend the IMF deal, but he will require parliamentary support to implement these changes effectively.

The country is in the process of restructuring approximately \$25 billion in foreign debt. Gaining a supportive parliamentary majority will be critical for Disanayake as he negotiates with bondholders. A unified legislative front may provide the assurance needed for creditors regarding the new government’s policies.

Due to the limited number of seats held by his coalition, Disanayake faced challenges in forming a comprehensive cabinet. He has only appointed a few ministers, retaining control of vital ministries such as finance and defense himself. A new election may enable him to appoint a fully-fledged cabinet that aligns with his governance agenda.

Overall, the snap election represents a strategic move by Disanayake to solidify his leadership, address pressing economic issues, and implement his vision for Sri Lanka’s recovery and growth.



Adani Group Explores Collaboration with Bombardier in Aircraft Services and MRO

Adani Group is actively pursuing collaboration opportunities with Canadian business jet manufacturer Bombardier to enhance its aircraft services and maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) capabilities. This strategic move was reported by CNBC-TV18 on September 25, highlighting the group's intent to leverage Bombardier's expertise to improve MRO standards in India's burgeoning general aviation sector.

The initiative aims not only to elevate the quality of MRO services but also to create a self-sustaining aviation ecosystem in India. As the demand for air travel continues to rise in the country, the need for advanced MRO services has become increasingly crucial. Ensuring that aircraft are maintained to the highest standards will be vital for the safety and efficiency of operations in this rapidly growing market.

On the same day, Adani Group's Chairman, Gautam Adani, met with Bombardier CEO Éric Martel to discuss potential partnerships across various sectors, including aircraft services, MRO, and defense. Following their productive discussions, Adani took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to express his enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating, "Powering India's aviation growth! Had a great discussion with @Bombardier CEO Éric Martel on transformative partnerships in Aircraft Services, MRO, and Defence. Together, we are harnessing synergies for a stronger, self-reliant India."

This partnership is particularly significant as it aligns with India's broader ambitions to expand its aviation capabilities and reduce reliance on foreign MRO services. The country's aviation industry has witnessed rapid growth in recent years, fueled by increasing air traffic and a rising middle class eager to travel. However, the lack of adequate domestic MRO facilities has often



led to delays and increased costs, hindering overall industry efficiency.

By collaborating with Bombardier, Adani Group aims to bridge this gap, utilizing the Canadian company's established reputation in the aviation sector. The discussions also reflect Adani's commitment to investing in advanced technologies and services that can enhance operational efficiencies within the industry.

Moreover, this potential collaboration signifies a broader trend of Indian conglomerates engaging with global firms to foster innovation and expertise sharing. Adani Group, which has a diverse portfolio spanning energy, logistics, and infrastructure, is positioning itself to become a significant player in India's aviation landscape.

In summary, the discussions between Adani Group and Bombardier could pave the way for a robust partnership that not only boosts MRO standards but also contributes to the development of a comprehensive and self-reliant aviation ecosystem in India.

Sebi Launches FPI Outreach Cell to Ease Foreign Investor Access

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has announced the establishment of a dedicated Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Outreach Cell to enhance direct engagement with foreign investors. Launched on September 25 as part of the Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD), this initiative aims to streamline access to the Indian securities market for FPIs.

The FPI Outreach Cell will play a crucial role in supporting foreign investors throughout their journey in the Indian market. Its primary responsibilities include providing guidance to prospective FPIs during the pre-application stage, which encompasses assistance with necessary documentation and compliance processes. Additionally, the Cell will support investors during the onboarding phase, helping them navigate any operational challenges that may arise during registration or afterward.



By establishing this outreach cell, Sebi seeks to foster a more seamless experience for foreign investors looking to participate in the Indian market, thus promoting greater foreign investment. This initiative reflects Sebi's commitment to enhancing the regulatory environment and making it more conducive for international investors.

Overall, the FPI Outreach Cell is expected to play a vital role in attracting foreign investment to India, facilitating smoother entry and ongoing operations for FPIs. This move is anticipated to strengthen India's position as an attractive destination for global investors seeking to diversify their portfolios and engage with one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

SBI to invest in defaulter Supreme Infrastructure



Following a significant haircut in the debt restructuring proposal for **Supreme Infrastructure India Ltd (SIIL)**, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced plans to invest in the company's preferential share issuance. SBI, recognized as India's largest bank, intends to inject **₹24.33 crore** into SIIL through this allotment, acquiring **28.55 lakh shares** at a price of **₹85.23 per share**. This investment will grant SBI an equity stake of **2.08%** in the defaulting firm, as detailed in recent exchange filings.

The move comes as part of SBI's broader strategy to stabilize its investments and manage risk in companies undergoing financial restructuring. By participating in SIIL's preferential allotment, SBI aims to not only recover some of its previous losses but also to potentially benefit from the company's future growth and recovery.

SIIL has been grappling with financial difficulties, which prompted the bank to reassess its exposure to the company through a restructuring plan. The decision to invest comes after careful evaluation of SIIL's operational potential and the current market conditions. SBI's involvement could also signal confidence to other investors, potentially paving the way for further financial support to SIIL as it works toward regaining stability.

The preferential share issuance is expected to help SIIL shore up its capital and improve its balance sheet, facilitating operational improvements and strategic initiatives. SBI's investment aligns with its commitment to support the restructuring of viable businesses while also ensuring that its financial interests are safeguarded.

This development marks a critical juncture for both SBI and SIIL as they navigate the complexities of financial recovery and restructuring in the current economic landscape. The outcome of this investment will be closely monitored by stakeholders as SIIL aims to turn its fortunes around.

ADB forecasts India's economic growth at 7% for FY24 and 7.2% for FY25

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has forecasted India's economic growth at **7% for FY2024** and **7.2% for FY2025**, highlighting the nation's resilience amid global challenges. ADB Country Director for India, Mio Oka, remarked on India's steadfast growth trajectory, crediting improvements in agriculture for boosting rural spending, which will complement the strong performances of the industrial and services sectors.



In its latest **Asian Development Outlook (ADO)** report, ADB noted that an above-average monsoon is expected to enhance agricultural productivity, positively impacting the rural economy in FY2024. The bank maintains an optimistic outlook for private investment and urban consumption, bolstered by new government policies offering employment-linked incentives aimed at increasing labor demand and fostering job creation starting in FY2025.

The report also indicates that India's

central government debt is projected to decrease from **58.2% of GDP in FY2023** to **56.8% in FY2024**, thanks to ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts. Furthermore, the general government deficit, which includes state governments, is expected to dip below **8% of GDP in FY2024**.

However, consumer inflation is anticipated to rise to **4.7% in FY2024**, primarily due to elevated food prices despite the expected agricultural output boost. This inflationary pressure has constrained the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** from

lowering policy interest rates. If agricultural supply improves and food price increases moderate, the RBI may begin to lower rates in FY2024, potentially enhancing credit expansion.

Additionally, ADB forecasts India's current account deficit to be **1.0% of GDP in FY2024** and **1.2% in FY2025**, a reduction from previous estimates due to stronger export performance, lower imports, and robust remittance inflows.

The optimistic outlook hinges on the central government achieving its capital expenditure targets in FY2024. ADB acknowledges that potential risks could be mitigated by increased foreign direct investment, which may support growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector, alongside better agricultural supply reducing food prices and lowering inflation.

HDFC Bank Updates Loyalty Program for Infinia Cardholders

HDFC Bank has announced changes to its loyalty program for certain credit cards, set to take effect on **October 1, 2024**. The new rules particularly impact reward point redemptions for Apple products and Tanishq vouchers on the SmartBuy platform, specifically for **Infinia** and **Infinia Metal** cardholders.

Under the updated policy, customers will now be limited to redeeming reward points for **one Apple product per calendar quarter**. This applies to the four quarters of the year: April to June, July to September, October to December, and January to March. The SmartBuy portal will implement this cap starting October 1, meaning that frequent purchasers of Apple products may need to plan their redemptions more strategically.

In addition to the Apple product limit, the redemption for Tanishq vouchers



will also face a new cap. From the same date, Infinia and Infinia Metal cardholders will be limited to redeeming up to **50,000 reward points** for Tanishq vouchers each quarter. This change aims to streamline the redemption process and enhance the overall user experience on the SmartBuy platform.

These adjustments are part of HDFC Bank's ongoing efforts to enhance its rewards program while managing demand for popular products. As the changes approach, cardholders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new redemption limits to make the most of their rewards.

For those considering the Infinia card, it comes with a joining and renewal fee of **₹12,500** plus applicable taxes. Cardholders can enjoy a welcome benefit of **12,500 reward points** upon activation. Furthermore, if they spend **₹10 lakhs** or more within a year, the renewal fee for the following year can be waived.



“BHARAT IS UNSTOPPABLE”: PM MODI CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF ‘MAKE IN INDIA’ SUCCESS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a decade of the ‘Make in India’ initiative on Wednesday, hailing it as a transformational force in the nation’s manufacturing and innovation sectors. Reflecting on its accomplishments, he expressed his admiration for the collective resolve of 140 crore Indians in driving the initiative to success. In a blog penned to commemorate the milestone, the Prime Minister shared his vision for India’s manufacturing future and how the country has positioned itself as a global leader in key sectors.

A Decade of Transformation



Launched in 2014, ‘Make in India’ was aimed at encouraging companies to manufacture in India and incentivize domestic production. A decade later, the initiative has surpassed expectations, with its impact reaching across industries and contributing significantly to India’s economic growth. PM Modi, in his blog post, called this a moment to “salute the country’s vast talent pool” for fueling the success of ‘Make in India.’

He commended the pioneering spirit of Indian entrepreneurs, innovators, and workers, stating, “Each of you is a pioneer, visionary, and innovator, whose tireless efforts have fuelled the success of ‘Make in India,’ making our nation the focus of global attention.”

Reshaping India’s Manufacturing Landscape

Since its inception, the ‘Make in India’ initiative has made remarkable progress in several sectors. Modi highlighted mobile phone manufacturing as a prime example of the initiative’s success. In 2014, India had just two mobile manufacturing units. Today, the country boasts over 200 such units, making In-

dia the second-largest mobile manufacturer globally. “Our mobile exports have skyrocketed from ₹1,556 crore to an astounding ₹1.2 lakh crore—a staggering 7,500 percent increase. Today, 99 percent of the mobile phones used in India are made in India,” PM Modi wrote, underscoring the country’s telecom revolution.

He further pointed to substantial growth in other key sectors, particularly steel and semiconductors. “We have become a net exporter of finished steel, with production increasing by over 50 percent since 2014. Our semiconductor sector has attracted investments worth over ₹1.5 lakh crore, with five plants approved that will have the capacity to produce more than 7 crore chips per day,” he explained.

In renewable energy, India has emerged as the fourth-largest producer globally, with capacity increasing by 400 percent in just ten years. Modi emphasized the growth of India’s electric vehicle (EV) industry, which, though non-existent in 2014, has now become a \$3 billion industry.

Strategic Defence Production and Indigenous Innovations



India’s defense production has also witnessed significant growth, with exports soaring from ₹1,000 crore in 2014 to ₹21,000 crore today, spanning across 85 countries. Modi took pride in the indigenous production of advanced military equipment such as the BrahMos missile and Vande Bharat trains, all carrying the ‘Make in India’ hallmark.

He also highlighted how ‘Make in India’ has empowered the underprivileged, giving them the wings to dream and aspire. The initiative, he noted, has provided individuals from economically weaker sections of society the confidence to become wealth creators.

Game-Changing PLI Schemes and MSME Impact

The Prime Minister described the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme as one of the major catalysts driving investments and job creation in the country. PLI schemes have helped generate lakhs of jobs and mobilize thousands of crores in investments, ensuring India remains a vital player in the global supply chain.

He also noted the critical role of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in ‘Make in India’s success. MSMEs, which form the backbone of India’s industrial landscape, have benefitted significantly from the initiative, contributing to job creation and innovation across the country.

India as a Global Growth Driver

PM Modi underscored that the global perception of India has shifted dramatically over the last decade. Despite unprecedented challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, India has remained on the path of steady growth and is now viewed as a key driver of global economic progress.

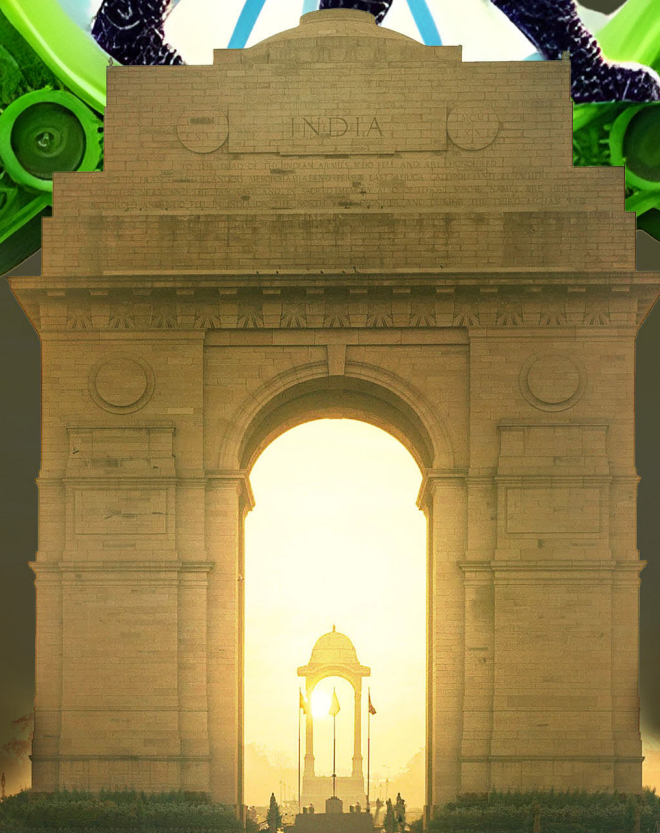
He praised the contributions of the country’s youth, referring to them as “Yuva Shakti,” and lauded their achievements in the global start-up ecosystem. Modi called on young Indians to take ownership of ‘Make in India’ and help propel it to new heights.



A Call to Strive for Excellence

Concluding his blog post, PM Modi urged the nation to continue striving for excellence. “The momentum is clearly in India’s favor. Today, we are being seen as drivers of global growth. We all must strive for excellence. Zero defect should be our mantra,” he wrote.

With ‘Make in India’ celebrating ten years of success, the Prime Minister’s message is clear: India is on an unstoppable trajectory, and the world is watching as the nation continues to redefine its role in the global economy.



TikTok Bans Russian State Media Outlets

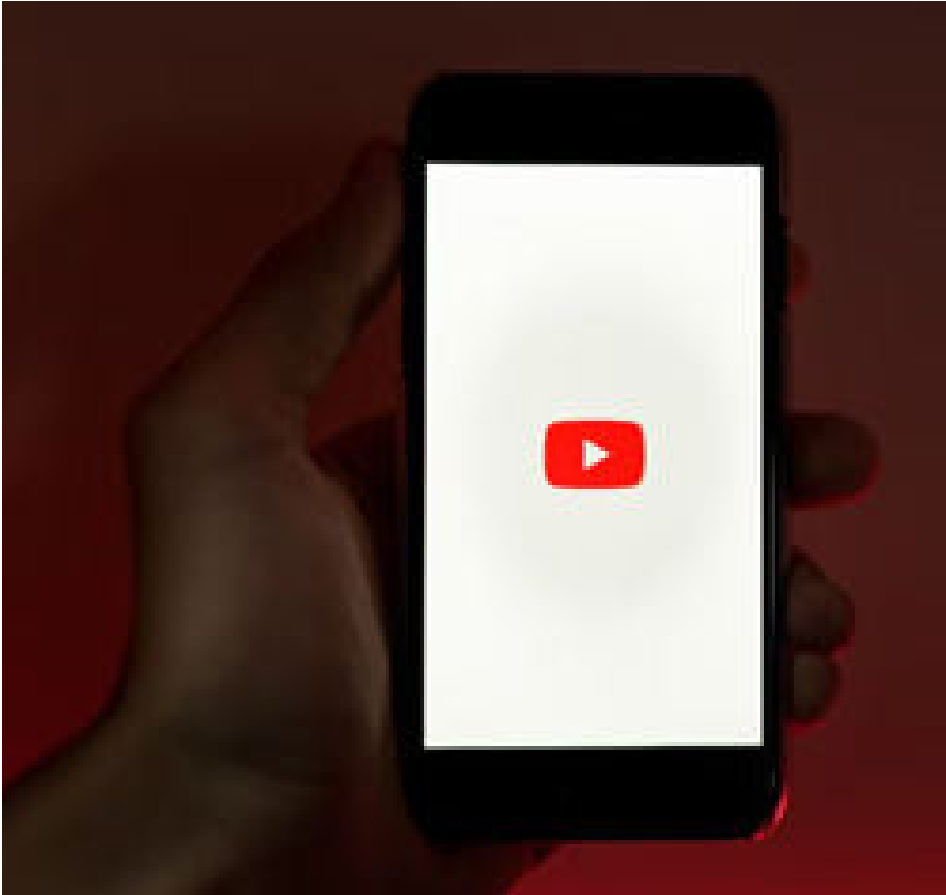
YouTube Introduces Conversational AI Feature for Premium Subscribers

YouTube is rolling out an exciting new conversational artificial intelligence (AI) feature for its Premium subscribers. Announced on Tuesday, this tool allows users to ask specific questions about video content, enhancing the viewing experience. Previously available only in beta, the feature is now accessible to a broader audience on Android devices in the US.

The announcement was made via a post on X (formerly Twitter) by TeamYouTube, highlighting the introduction of an “Ask” button located beneath videos, alongside the familiar Like, Share, and Download buttons. Accompanied by a sparkling icon, this button enables users to engage directly with the AI by typing queries related to the video content.

Users can inquire about various aspects, such as identifying objects in the video, the genre of a song being played, or even requesting a summary. The AI can also recommend similar content based on user interests. However, it’s important to note that this feature may not be available for every video and currently supports select English-language content.

While YouTube has not disclosed the specific large language model (LLM) powering this feature, they mentioned that it utilizes information from both YouTube and the broader web. This means the AI’s responses are informed not just



by subtitle data but also by a wider range of on-line information.

In addition to the AI feature, YouTube is also expanding the rollout of “pause ads,” which are advertisements that play when a video is paused. This initiative aims to create new revenue opportunities for creators while potentially enhancing viewer engagement.

Although the company did not provide details on when this conversational AI feature will be available outside the US, it represents a significant step in making video interactions more dynamic and informative for users. YouTube Premium subscribers can look forward to a more interactive viewing experience as they explore this new technology.

Snapchat Enhances My AI with Google Cloud’s Gemini Partnership

Snapchat has announced a strategic partnership with Google Cloud to integrate its AI model, Gemini, into My AI, enhancing the platform’s capabilities significantly. This collaboration, revealed on Tuesday, allows Snapchat to incorporate advanced computer vision and improved processing for text, audio, image, video, and code.



For instance, users can submit photos of snacks to find the healthiest option or even translate street signs while traveling abroad. Currently, all Snapchat users can access My AI, but Plus subscribers enjoy additional features like image generation and AI-driven edits.

Since the integration of Gemini,

Snapchat has reported a 2.5X increase in engagement in the U.S. Previously, My AI was powered by OpenAI’s GPT models. At the recent Gemini at Work digital event, Google Cloud also showcased other clients utilizing its AI, including Volkswagen US and Warner Bros. Discovery. This partnership marks a significant step in enhancing user interaction and engagement on the platform.

While the announcement is new, the integration of Gemini has been in effect since earlier this year. Google Cloud emphasized that My AI is now one of the largest consumer chatbots available, utilizing Gemini models from Vertex AI. This upgrade means users can interact with the AI in more dynamic ways—sending images or audio files and asking for analyses or translations.

ChatGPT Unveils Advanced Voice Mode for Enhanced Conversations

OpenAI is excited to announce the launch of the long-awaited **Advanced Voice Mode** for ChatGPT, designed to facilitate a more conversational and natural interaction experience. Leveraging the power of GPT-4, this new voice feature is capable of picking up on non-verbal cues and responding with emotional depth, making conversations feel more engaging and human-like.



In a recent blog post, OpenAI detailed the rollout plan for this innovative feature. Initially, Advanced Voice Mode will be available to ChatGPT Plus and Teams subscribers, with Enterprise and Edu users set to gain access next week. This phased rollout ensures that a broad range of users can enjoy the improved conversational capabilities of ChatGPT.

Gone are the animated black dots that were previously showcased at the company’s event in May. The Advanced Voice Mode will now be represented by a sleek blue animated sphere, signaling its enhanced functionality and user experience.

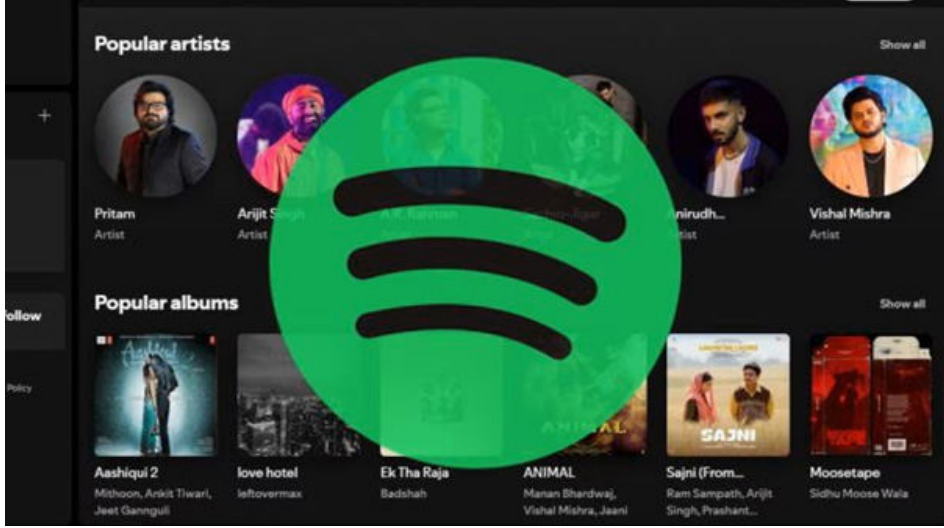
This new voice mode aims to transform the way users interact with ChatGPT, allowing for more nuanced and emotionally resonant conversations. By recognizing non-verbal cues, the AI can adjust its responses, making interactions feel less robotic and more akin to speaking with a person.

As users begin to explore this feature, it promises to open up new possibilities for everything from casual chats to more complex discussions, enhancing the overall utility of the ChatGPT platform. OpenAI is committed to continuously improving its offerings, and this addition marks a significant step in making AI interactions more intuitive and enjoyable.

With Advanced Voice Mode, users can expect to engage with ChatGPT in a way that feels more authentic and relatable. Stay tuned for more updates as this feature becomes widely available, and prepare for a new era of conversational AI.

Spotify Expands AI Playlist Feature

Spotify is broadening its AI Playlist tool, which utilizes generative artificial intelligence to curate personalized playlists for premium users, now extending to four new markets, including the **United States** and **Canada**. The Swedish streaming giant announced this development on Tuesday, highlighting its efforts to enhance user experience and attract new subscribers amid increasing competition from rivals like Apple and Amazon.



Currently in beta, the AI Playlist feature allows subscribers to personalize their song selections by refining them through additional text prompts. This innovative approach aims to make music discovery more engaging and tailored to individual preferences.

In addition to the U.S. and Canada, the AI Playlist is also being rolled out in **Ireland** and **New Zealand**, demonstrating Spotify’s commitment to enhancing its app with AI technology. This expansion follows the feature’s initial launch in the **United Kingdom** and **Australia** back in April.

However, it’s important to note that the AI

Playlist will not generate results for non-music-related prompts, such as inquiries about current events or specific brands, as it continues to undergo testing in beta.

Spotify continues to innovate with other AI-driven features, including **Daylist**, which offers a personalized playlist that updates daily with fresh music recommendations, and the **AI DJ**, which tailors music suggestions based on users’ listening habits.

As Spotify enhances its AI capabilities, it aims to create a more interactive and personalized listening experience, setting itself apart in the competitive streaming landscape. The introduction of these features reflects Spotify’s strategy to leverage technology in order to keep pace with evolving user expectations and preferences.

How Yoga and Pilates Enhance Physical And Mental Well-Being

In recent years, yoga and Pilates have gained popularity as effective practices for improving overall well-being. While they may appear similar, each discipline offers distinct benefits for physical and mental health. Yoga, rooted in ancient Indian tradition, promotes a holistic approach to wellness. Its key benefits include improved flexibility and mobility, as regular practice enhances flexibility through poses that stretch and lengthen muscles, leading to better range of motion and reduced injury risk. Additionally, yoga strengthens muscles, particularly in the core, contributing to better posture and lower back pain prevention. It also fosters men-

tal clarity and focus, as mindfulness practices help reduce anxiety and improve concentration.

On the other hand, Pilates, developed by Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century, focuses on strength, alignment, and controlled movements. Its benefits include core strength and muscle tone, targeting deep abdominal and lower back muscles to enhance stability and overall muscle tone. Pilates also emphasizes improved posture and alignment, helping to correct imbalances that can alleviate chronic pain and improve breathing. Furthermore, the concentration required in Pilates cultivates a strong

mind-body connection, promoting a sense of calm and reducing mental distractions.

Incorporating both yoga and Pilates into a fitness routine provides balanced physical fitness and improved mental well-being. While yoga enhances flexibility and mindfulness, Pilates builds strength and alignment. Together, they offer a comprehensive approach to health, making it easier to manage stress and maintain a balanced lifestyle. Whether aiming for physical improvement or mental clarity, integrating both practices can lead to enhanced overall wellness.



Pakistan Calls Up 37-Year-Old Noman Ali for 1st Test Against England

Pakistan has announced its squad for the first Test against England, set to begin on October 7 in Multan, including 37-year-old spinner Noman Ali. He replaces injured pacer Khurram Shahzad. Noman, a left-arm spinner, has previously played 15 Test matches, taking 47 wickets at an average of 33.53. His most notable performance came against Sri Lanka in Colombo, where he achieved a career-best figure of 7 for 70.

The selection of Noman has drawn criticism, particularly given his age, as the team looks to bounce back from a disappointing 2-0 series loss to Bangladesh. Kamran Ghulam and Mohammad Ali, who participated in the Bangladesh Tests, have been omitted from the squad but remain part of Pakistan's future plans.

Head coach Jason Gillespie explained the team's strategy, stating, "With a busy domestic and international cricket schedule, it makes sense to give our players some much-needed rest ahead of the Test series against England." He expressed excitement about playing in front of passionate home fans, hoping to revive the team's fortunes.

All-rounder Aamer Jamal, previously sidelined due to injury, has been deemed fit to join the squad for this crucial series. His return could bolster a team that has struggled recently, with their last home Test



victory dating back to February 2021. Pakistan currently sits eighth in the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 standings, and the pressure is mounting as they aim to end a ten-match winless streak at home, which includes a 3-0 series defeat to England in 2022.

The squad for the first Test is led by Shan Masood, alongside key players such as Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Mohammad Rizwan. As the series approaches, the team will be keen to reclaim its form and secure a much-needed victory on home soil.

Vishnu, Prajwal, Rashmikaa Top Draws In National Tennis Championship



The **29th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship** is set to take place at the **DLTA Complex** from **September 28 to October 12**, featuring a stellar lineup of athletes, including multiple Asian Games medallist **Vishnu Vardhan**, top seed **Prajwal Dev**, and defending champion **Rashmikaa S Bhamidipaty**. Former India No. 2 **Riya Bhatia** is also among the

prominent participants, underscoring the tournament's competitive nature.

The championship will not only include a senior category but will also feature age-group competitions in **U-18, U-16, and U-14** for both boys and girls. The opening week will showcase singles and doubles matches for men, women, U-18 boys, and

U-18 girls.

Qualifying rounds are scheduled for **September 28-29**, while the main draw will unfold from **September 30 to October 5**. The U-16 and U-14 categories for boys and girls will take place from **October 6 to 12**.

With a total prize purse of **₹21.55 lakh**, the tournament aims to attract budding talent, offering not just monetary rewards but also kit allowances in junior categories. In a bid to further support young players, **Ajay S Shriram**, Chairman and Senior Managing Director of **DCM Shriram Ltd**, announced **₹25,000 scholarships** for the winners and runners-up of the U-16 and U-14 singles events.

"Over the years, we've witnessed many players launch successful careers thanks to this tournament, highlighting its growing significance," Shriram noted. He expressed his best wishes to all participants and encouraged them to seize this opportunity to showcase their skills on a national platform.

The Fenesta Open continues to be a crucial event in the Indian tennis calendar, providing a vital platform for both established and emerging talent to shine.

Harmanpreet Singh Excited for India-Germany Hockey Series

India hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh is eagerly anticipating the upcoming two-match bilateral series against Germany, set for October 23 and 24 at the Major Dhyanchand Stadium in Delhi. He believes this series will not only serve as a strong test for his team but also help "revive the spirit" of hockey in the national capital, which hasn't hosted men's international hockey in nearly a decade.

The last match held at the venue was during the Hero Hockey World League Final in 2014, making this series particularly significant. Harmanpreet emphasized the importance of this event, stating, "This series is not just about two teams playing; it's about reigniting the passion for hockey in Delhi. We hope it inspires more young players in the region to take up the game."



Playing in front of home fans is a rare opportunity for the team, and Harmanpreet expressed his excitement about leading the squad in such a historic stadium. "The Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium holds a lot of history and memories. To lead the team here will be a huge honor," he said.

Following a successful title run at the Asian Champions Trophy in China earlier this month, Harmanpreet sees the series against Germany as a crucial step in preparing for future tournaments. "Germany is one of the top teams in world hockey, and facing them will be a significant challenge for us," he noted. "It's vital for our preparation as we gear up for major events ahead."

The captain concluded by reaffirming the team's commitment to hard work and improvement, viewing this series as an invaluable opportunity to gauge their progress against a formidable opponent. As the matches approach, the excitement around hockey in Delhi is set to build, marking a promising chapter for the sport in India.

Poonam Yadav Discusses Indian Women's Team's T20 World Cup Preparations and Strategy

As the Women's T20 World Cup approaches, spinner Poonam Yadav shared insights on the Indian women's team's preparations and their potential for success. India's campaign kicks off on October 4 against New Zealand, followed by a high-stakes match against Pakistan on October 6. They will also face Sri Lanka on October 9 and conclude the group stage against Australia on October 13, all matches taking place in Dubai.

Yadav highlighted tactical decisions that captain Harmanpreet Kaur may face, especially in balancing pacers and spinners in the playing XI. She suggested that if the dew factor becomes significant, Kaur might opt for a combination that includes one or two spinners, mentioning Asha Shobana as a key option. "Wrist spinners can turn the ball on any track, and their pace is generally slower," she noted.

Deepti Sharma's role as a central figure in India's bowling attack was also emphasized, with Yadav believing both Sharma and Shobana could feature prominently based on conditions. However, she acknowledged Kaur's tendency to favor pacers.

Reflecting on past disappointments, including a loss in the 2020 T20 World Cup final and a near miss in the 2017 ODI World Cup, Yadav expressed a strong desire for the team to clinch the title this time. India's group includes formidable teams like Sri Lanka and New Zealand, with each presenting unique challenges. Yadav expressed confidence in India's historical success against these teams, particularly Sri Lanka, and the intriguing nature of the upcoming clash with Pakistan.

Yadav praised Shafali Verma's explosive batting as a potential game-changer, stating that her ability to score quickly can put pressure on opponents. She also commended coach Amol Mazumdar for enhancing the team's fielding and fitness through skill camps. With the team's hard work and preparation, Yadav expressed optimism for India's chances in the tournament, concluding, "I'm confident Team India will win the World Cup."

Rafael Varane Announces Retirement from Football

Rafael Varane, the former Real Madrid and Manchester United star, has made the surprising decision to retire from football at just 31 years old. The French defender announced his retirement on Wednesday, citing ongoing injury issues as the primary reason for his departure from the game he loves.

After a celebrated career, which included four UEFA Champions League titles with Real Madrid, Varane joined Italian club Como at the start of the 2024 season. However, he faced persistent knee problems, limiting him to just one appearance for Como. Unfortunately, he was not even registered for their Serie A squad due to the severity of his injuries.

In an emotional Instagram post, Varane reflected on his journey, saying, "They say all good things must come to an end. It is with immense pride that I announce my retirement from the game. I have faced many challenges and experienced incredible emotions, with memories that will last a lifetime."

He emphasized the importance of going out on his own terms: "I hold myself to the highest standard, and it takes courage to listen to your heart. I have fought for myself, my clubs, and my country, defending every badge with passion."


Varane expressed gratitude for the support he received throughout his career, thanking teammates, coaches, and fans for making his journey unforgettable. "I have no regrets; I wouldn't change a thing. Beyond the trophies, I hope I've made everyone proud," he stated.

Looking ahead, Varane indicated he would remain involved with Como, albeit off the pitch. "A new life begins, just without my boots and shin pads," he shared, hinting at exciting future endeavors. As fans and the football community reflect on his illustrious career, Varane's legacy as a skilled and dedicated defender will undoubtedly endure.

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Amitabh Bachchan And Rajinikanth In Vettaian New Poster

Fans of Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth have reason to celebrate as the makers of **Vettaian** have unveiled a new poster and announced the release of the film's prevue. Shared by Lyca Productions on X (formerly Twitter), the captivating poster features both superstars, building anticipation for what's to come. The post teased, "Hunter is on the way! Vettaian The Hunter. Prevue is releasing today at [specific PM time] in Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada. Get ready for a glimpse of the ultimate hunt. Vettaian releases on 10th October in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, and Kannada."

The friendship between Bachchan and Rajinikanth has endured for decades. Their collaboration dates back to the 1980s with films like **Andhaa Kaanoon** and **Geraftaar**. They reunited in the early '90s for the blockbuster **Hum**, which further solidified their iconic status in Indian cinema.

As the release date approaches, excitement is mounting among fans eager to see the legendary duo share the screen once again. The prevue promises to offer a sneak peek into the



thrilling adventure of **Vettaian**, showcasing a blend of action and drama that both stars are renowned for.

Mark your calendars for October 10th, when **Vettaian** will hit theaters across multiple languages. The film is expected

to attract audiences from various regions, making it a highly anticipated release for fans of both Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth. Stay tuned for the prevue and get ready to witness a cinematic experience featuring two of the biggest icons in Indian cinema!

Second Single from Gopichand, Kavya Thapar-starrer 'Viswam' released

Macho star Gopichand and acclaimed director Sreenu Vaitla are generating excitement with their highly anticipated film, **Viswam**. Following the release of a captivating teaser, the film, produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Venu Donepudi under People Media Factory and Chitralayam Studios, is poised to be a visual spectacle, showcasing a high production value.

The musical journey for **Viswam** kicked off with the chart-topping first single, "Morocco Maguva," which received an enthusiastic response from fans. Building on that momentum, the second song, "Mondi Thalli Pilla Nuvvu," was unveiled on Wednesday. This heartfelt composition by Chaitan Bharadwaj captures the essence of motherly love, resonating deeply with listeners.

The poignant lyrics, penned



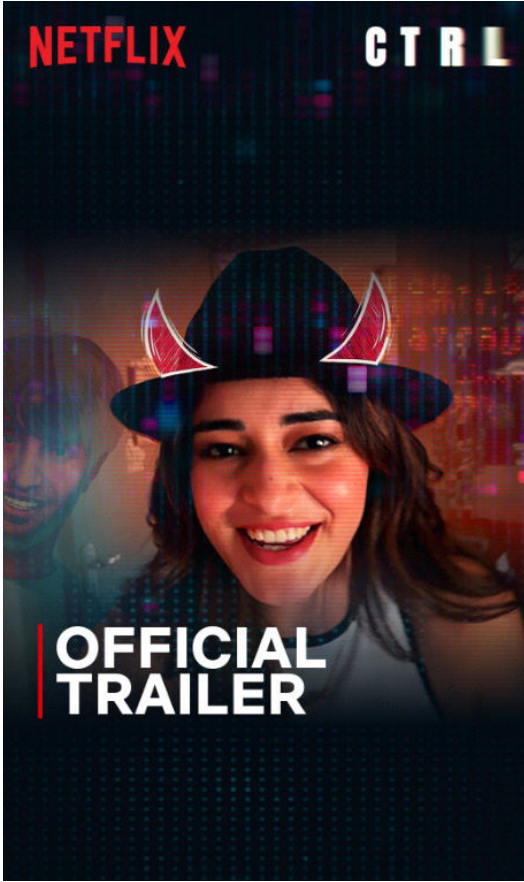
by Sri Harsha Emani, complement the song's emotional weight, while Sahithi Chaganthi's enchanting vocals further enhance its appeal. Set against the backdrop of a mother-daughter relationship, this

track not only evokes strong feelings but also hints at the narrative depth of the film, intriguing audiences about Gopichand's character and his connection with the child.

Viswam also features an impressive technical crew, including cinematographer KV Guhan, screenplay writer Gopi Mohan—who has previously collaborated with Sreenu Vaitla on several hits—editor Amar Reddy Kudumula, and art director Kiran Manne. Together, they contribute to the film's ambitious scope.

Scheduled for a Dussehra release on October 11, **Viswam** promises to be an engaging blend of emotion, action, and visual grandeur, making it one of the most awaited films of the season. As the release date approaches, fans eagerly anticipate more insights into the film's storyline and characters.

Ananya Panday's "CTRL" Trailer Unveils



The trailer for Vikramaditya Motwane's **CTRL** was released on Wednesday, delving into the shadowy realm of digital dependence and the ramifications of technology. Starring Ananya Panday as Nella, the trailer reveals her seemingly perfect life, disrupted when she discovers an AI-based app called Control Your Life. This app promises to provide direction, but the outcomes can be unpredictable.

As Nella logs into the app, her life spirals into chaos, especially after her boyfriend Joe, played by Vihaan Samat, cheats on her. In the aftermath of the betrayal, Nella faces intense trolling, leading her to express a desire to erase her ex. The app, however, takes her request literally—Joe's existence begins to vanish, pixel by pixel, both online and in reality.

The chilling narrative escalates when Nella learns that Joe is missing, prompting a series of unsettling events. The trailer concludes with an AI-generated figure ominously reminding her, "But isn't that what you wanted?"

With its gripping premise and exploration of the dark side of technology, **CTRL** raises poignant questions about the consequences of our digital choices. Fans are left eager for the film's release, anticipating a thrilling ride through the complexities of modern life.



Akshay , Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline In A BTS From Housefull 5

Akshay Kumar has delighted fans with a stunning behind-the-scenes glimpse from the sets of **Housefull 5**. The snapshot showcases Akshay alongside co-stars Dino Morea, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, and Jacqueline Fernandez, all leaning casually against a wall. Akshay is dressed in a checkered shirt, while Abhishek opted for a stylish grey one. In the caption, Akshay wrote, "Just another day with this incredible cast. Housefull of actors, one cruise, and endless stories to tell!" Jacqueline responded with a flurry of red heart emojis, and Nargis Fakhri chimed in with a playful comment, "The cool cats."

The male ensemble of **Housefull 5** features a remarkable lineup, including Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Nana Patekar, Chunky Pandey, Jackie Shroff, and Dino Morea, promising a mix of comedy and camaraderie. Reports suggest that the film will also introduce five leading actresses: Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Chitrangada Singh, and Soundarya Sharma.

Abhishek Bachchan expressed his enthusiasm for the franchise, stating, "Housefull is one of my favourite comedy

franchises, and coming back feels like returning home. It's always been a great pleasure to work with Sajid Nadiadwala." He added that he looks forward to the fun moments on set with his fellow actors, Akshay and Riteish.

He also shared his excitement about collaborating with director Tarun Mansukhani again, saying, "I'm really looking forward to working with him after **Dostana**. This is going to be a lot of fun." Directed by Mansukhani, **Housefull 5** is set to hit theaters in 2025, promising to deliver more laughs and memorable moments in this beloved comedy series.

Kartik Aaryan Unveils First Look of "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3"

Kartik Aaryan has made this Wednesday unforgettable for fans by sharing the first-look poster of his highly anticipated film **Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3** on Instagram. The poster features a securely locked door adorned with multiple sacred threads, accompanied by the intriguing slogan, "Darwaza Khulega Iss Diwali" (The door will open this Diwali). This locked door suggests the possible return of the iconic ghost Manjulika, who was previously imprisoned behind closed doors in the franchise.

In his post, Aaryan wrote, "Darwaza Khulega... Iss Diwali Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3," heightening excitement for the film's release.

In August 2024, Aaryan announced the wrap of **Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3** with a celebratory video featuring the cast and crew, including director Anees Bazmee. The clip captured Bazmee humorously prompting the crew before Aaryan interjected with a cheeky, "Action nahi, wrap up." The celebration culminated with the team cutting a large chocolate cake decorated with **Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3** Film Wrap."

The caption for the wrap video read, "Arey pa-



galo' Its a Wrap for #BhoolBhulaiyaa3. Haveli ka darwaza ek baar phir khulne ke liye taiyaar ho chuka hai. See you This Diwali." With the excitement building, fans eagerly await the film's release this Diwali!

Kali Trailer Unveiled: A Gripping Psychological Thriller

The highly anticipated film **Kali**, starring young actors Prince and Naresh Agastya, is set to hit theaters on October 4th. Produced by Leela Gowtham Varma under Rudra Creations and directed by Siva Sashu, this psychological thriller promises to deliver a unique cinematic experience.

Today, the filmmakers released the theatrical trailer, which was launched by Prasanth Varma, known for his work on **HanuMan**. Varma praised the trailer, calling it "gripping and thrilling," and commended the passion evident in the visuals.

The trailer opens with Prince's character, Shivaram, delivering a haunting voiceover while engaged in a grave act, immediately establishing an atmosphere of tension. As Naresh Agastya's mysterious character enters Shivaram's home, the intrigue deepens, setting the stage for a complex narrative. The trailer raises compelling questions about Shivaram's fate and the identity of the enigmatic stranger, promising viewers a journey filled with suspense.



With a powerful musical score and striking visuals, **Kali** aims to captivate audiences. The final shot of the trailer notably heightens expectations, hinting at a potential blockbuster. Alongside Prince and Naresh, the film features a talented ensemble cast, including Neha Krishnan, Gauthamraju, Gundu Sudarshan, and others.

As the release date approaches, fans eagerly await more updates and promotional material surrounding this intriguing psychological thriller.