CM Warns to Officials Citing Kaleswaram Project as an Example

TPN, Telangana : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issued a stern warning to officials, using the Kaleswaram project as an example of why mistakes should not be made in life. Addressing 700 newly selected Assistant Executive Engineers in the Telangana Water and Drainage Department, who were given appointment documents by the CM, he spoke at a program organized at Jalasaudha in Erramanzil.

The CM emphasized that if the quality of work is compromised, projects will not endure. "Projects like Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam have stood the test of time because of their quality. However, the Kaleshwaram project, built just five years ago, has already collapsed," he remarked.

Referring to the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam projects, the Chief Minister pointed out how they continue to provide water to lakhs of acres, even decades after their construction. In contrast, the Kaleshwaram project, touted as a "world wonder" by previous rulers, has failed before its completion.

The Chief Minister questioned who should be held responsible for the failures in Kaleswaram, stressing that if engineers had been more diligent in the field, the collapse could have been avoided. He added that rejecting substandard construction materials would have prevented the project's downfall, urging the new recruits to uphold the highest standards of quality and commitment in their work.

Demand for 50% Reservation for BCs in Local Bodies and Legislatures

TPN, Telangana: A state-level all-party conference, held at Somajiguda Press Club, saw several speakers demanding 50% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies and legislatures in Telangana. Organized by the National BC Welfare Association and the Konda Laxman Bapuji Foundation, the conference aimed to address issues of social justice and caste discrimination.

R. Krishnaiah, National President of the BC Welfare Association and former MP, emphasized that despite some progress, BCs still face invisible discrimination and exploitation. He called for a large-scale movement to secure 50% reservation and address BC issues, stating that achieving BC statehood would be a true tribute to Konda Lakshman Bapuji.

Speakers at the conference, including MLC L. Ramana and former BC Commission Chairman B.S. Ramulu, highlighted the importance of a comprehensive caste census to ensure social justice. Gujja Satyam, National Vice President of the BC Welfare Association, warned that failure to increase BC reservation in local body elections could lead to significant unrest and conflict with the state government.

The conference reiterated demands for the immediate implementation of the BC Declaration promises made by the Congress party during its public meeting in Kamareddy. Participants stressed the need for a united movement to dismantle caste barriers and achieve greater representation and rights for BC communities.

Leaders from various BC caste associations, including the National Convener Gujja Krishna and state president Erra Satyanarayana, also participated in the conference, advocating for enhanced political representation and social justice for the BCs in Telangana.

KTR Alleges Multi-Crore Scam Behind Pharma City Cancellation

TPN, Telangana: BRS Working President and Sirisilla MLA KTR has claimed that a scam worth thousands of crores is behind the cancellation of Hyderabad Pharma City, calling it a "genuine real estate scam." He made these remarks while addressing the media at BRS Bhawan in Rajanna Sirisilla.

KTR accused the Congress party of misleading the public and the judiciary. He recalled that, before the elections, several Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, had announced plans to cancel Pharma City and return the lands to the farmers. However, KTR pointed out that after coming to power, the Congress government did not cancel Pharma City, leading some farmers to seek legal recourse. He questioned the government's intentions, asking if they have acquired even a single acre for their proposed "Fourth City," "Future City," and "AI City" projects. KTR accused the government of attempting to repurpose the Pharma City lands for these projects without any proper land acquisition.

KTR warned that farmers would not remain silent if their lands were diverted for real estate benefits. He urged the government to clarify its stance in court, questioning whether it intends to build Pharma City, which was expected to generate employment for lakhs of people, or repurpose the land for other projects.

He also alleged that the government is planning to profit by diverting the 14,000 acres acquired under the Pharma City project to various real estate ventures, calling it a massive real estate scam. He demanded that the government either continue with the Pharma City project on the 14,000 acres or return the land to the farmers.

High Tension as Officials Conduct Survey in Musi River Catchment Areas

TPN, Hyderabad: A survey is being conducted in the Musi River catchment areas amid heavy police presence, creating high tension among residents. A total of 25 special teams are carrying out the survey across three districts: 16 teams in Hyderabad district, 4 in Rangareddy district, and 5 in Medchal district. The teams, led by revenue officials, are inspecting structures located in the riverbed and buffer zones of the Musi River.

The survey, supervised by Himayatnagar Tehsildar Sandhyarani, covered areas including Chadarghat, Moosanagar, Shankarnagar, and Ibrahim Bagh in Golconda. In Langerhouse Defense Colony, officials marked structures within the riverbed area. The government has identified over 13,000 encroachments and is collecting information to rehabilitate deserving residents. As part of the Musi River beautification project, around 40,000 houses in the vicinity may face demolition.

Residents, however, are resisting the efforts, expressing their determination to stay in their homes. They argue that they have invested their life savings into building their houses and do not want to be relocated to double-bedroom homes, which could take months to provide. Many of these residents are daily wage laborers, and they are concerned about their livelihoods if they are displaced. Some have even criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, warning that his actions may lead to widespread discontent.

CM Revanth Reddy Inaugurates Durgabai Deshmukh Renova Cancer Center

TPN, Telangana: At the inauguration of the Durgabai Deshmukh Renova Cancer Center, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy underscored the hospital's crucial role in enhancing healthcare access for economically disadvantaged populations. He acknowledged the alarming rise in cancer cases and the significant financial strain that cancer treatment places on low-income families. Emphasizing the need for comprehensive and accessible cancer care across Telangana, he called for concerted efforts to eliminate barriers that hinder patients from receiving timely treatment.

In his address, Revanth highlighted a common issue faced by patients: the necessity for basic tests that are often repeated due to inadequate health records. To address this challenge, he announced a pivotal initiative to digitize health profiles for all residents of Telangana. This digital transformation aims to ensure that vital medical histories are easily accessible to healthcare providers, facilitating more effective and personalized patient care.

Revanth expressed confidence in the current Health Minister's capabilities, reinforcing the government's commitment to prioritizing education and health services. He emphasized that improving healthcare infrastructure is essential for the well-being of the population.

lace. The Chief Minister further assured the attendees that his administration would actively engage with the hospital management to evaluate and implement any proposals aimed at improving healthcare delivery in the state.

Chief Minister's speech resonated with a clear message: the Telangana government is dedicated to enhancing healthcare access and quality for all citizens, particularly the underprivileged. By addressing systemic challenges and investing in health initiatives, the government aims to provide equitable medical services, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to receive the care they need.

Authorities Demolish Illegal Building Constructed in Lake

TPN, Hyderabad: In a decisive action against illegal constructions threatening water bodies, authorities in Sangareddy district have successfully demolished a multi-storeyed building erected within a lake using controlled explosives. The demolition took place on Thursday in Malkapur, located about 60 km from Hyderabad, following a complaint from local villagers.

The four-storeyed structure, built without the necessary permissions, had been a point of concern for the community. The building owner had even constructed a ramp and a staircase leading directly to the lake, exacerbating the encroachment. Officials revealed that the construction occurred 12 years ago, with the owner and family frequently visiting the site for weekends, during which a swimming pool was also under development.

This marked the first instance of using explosives for demolition in the ongoing campaign against illegal structures

aimed at reclaiming encroached lands of lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and other water bodies. Thasildar Anita reported that the lake has a Full Tank Level (FTL) area of 3.1 acres, and the building, occupying 250 square yards, was situated within this designated area. Prior to the demolition, the owner was issued a notice regarding the illegality of the structure. Due to the building's location, which made it inaccessible by vehicle, authorities opted for a controlled explosion. Police maintained stringent security measures during the demolition, though a home guard sustained minor injuries in the process.

In response to the recent floods in various districts, including Khammam and Mahabubabad, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed district collectors to identify and demolish buildings constructed within the FTL and buffer zones of lakes. This initiative aims to protect water bodies and prevent future encroachments.

Define FTL of Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu: Telangana HC to HMDA

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court has instructed the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's (HMDA) lake protection wing to issue a final notification defining the Full Tank Level (FTL) of the Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu, a key water body in the region. The directive was issued by a bench led by Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J. Sreenivas Rao while addressing a long-standing writ petition filed in 2005 by a retired Osmania University professor.

The petition sought judicial intervention to combat illegal encroachments in buffer zones of several lakes, including Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu, and raised concerns about the encroachment of buffer zones around 532 lakes and 200 gardens. The court emphasized the importance of public consultation, mandating that authorities consider objections from the public regarding both the buffer zone and the FTL before finalizing the notification.

A key point of contention during the hearing was the actual area of the lake, with discrepancies regarding whether it covers 17.26 acres or approximately 30 acres. The court has directed that the final FTL notification must clarify this issue. The court also stressed the urgency of issuing this notification within three weeks, particularly after a preliminary notification was issued in October 2023.

Additionally, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) was instructed to complete fencing around the lake within six months to protect it from further encroachments and degradation. The case, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), includes 25 implead petitions challenging the lake protection committee's preliminary notification. Local residents have voiced concerns about the shrinking of the lake and its use as a dumping ground, arguing that the committee's assessment does not accurately reflect its current state.

BRS Working President Inaugurates School Building in Kodurupaka

TPN, Telangana: The BRS Working President inaugurated a newly constructed government school building in Kodurupaka, Rajanna Sircilla district, built in memory of his grandparents, the late Lakshmi and Keshava Rao, using his own funds.

Speaking at the event, he expressed his heartfelt sentiments: "Wherever my grandparents are today, I am sure they are very happy. As a grandson of Kodurupaka, I will continue to contribute to the development of this village."

The school building, dedicated to his grandparents' memory, symbolizes his commitment to supporting the educational and overall development of his ancestral village.

SCR Announces Special Train Services for Dasara, Diwali, and Chhat Festivals

TPN, Hyderabad: To accommodate the increased passenger rush during the Dasara, Diwali, and Chhat festivals, the South Central Railway (SCR) has announced special train services connecting various destinations.

The service includes 14 trips of Train No. 07063/07064, running between Kacheguda and Tirupati. Train No. 07063 will operate on Tuesdays—October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, as well as November 5 and 12. Meanwhile, Train No. 07064 will run on Wednesdays—October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, along with November 6 and 13. These trains will stop at Umdanagar, Shadnagar, Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar, Wanaparthi Road, Gadwal, Kurnool City, Dhone, Gooty, Yerraguntla, Cuddapah, Razampeta, and Renigunta stations in both directions.

Additionally, Train No. 07041 from Secunderabad to Tirupati will operate on Wednesdays and Fridays on October 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, and November 1, 6, 8, 13,

and 15. The return service, Train No. 07042 from Tirupati to Secunderabad, will run on Thursdays and Saturdays on October 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31, and November 2, 7, 9, 14, and 16, stopping at stations including Jangaon, Kazipet, Warangal, and more in both directions.

Successful Liver and Kidney Transplants at Osmania General Hospital

TPN, Hyderabad: Osmania General Hospital (OGH) has achieved significant success in organ transplantation over the past two months, performing two cadaver liver transplants and four cadaver kidney transplants, along with several other organ donations.

On August 29, the transplant team conducted a life-saving liver transplant on Dr. Ravi Sundar, a 45-year-old Associate Professor from Suryapet Medical College, who was suffering from acute liver failure due to a viral infection. Despite his critical condition, the surgery was successful, and he has since recovered and been discharged. Another liver transplant was performed on September 18 for Bathina Narender, a 46-year-old farmer from

Siddipet, who is also recovering after the procedure. The Nephrology and Urology departments at OGH collaborated to carry out two cadaver kidney transplants, and in-house organ donations were made from declared brain-dead patients, with one more donation currently in progress. OGH authorities noted that through these organ donations, they also facilitated four cornea donations and skin donations for burn patients.

The liver transplant team was led by Dr. Madhusudhan, while Dr. Manisha Sahai headed the nephrology team. Other notable contributors included Dr. Wasif Ali, Dr. Sudarshan Reddy, and Dr. Abhimanyu Singh, among others.

CM Directs BC Commission to Study Enumeration Process

TPN, Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed the Telangana State Backward Classes (BC) Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on the enumeration procedures for BCs in the state. This directive was given during a recent meeting with the commission's chairman, G. Niranjan, and members, including TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud.

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of learning from the caste enumeration methods used in other states to ensure that the process in Telangana is efficient and legally sound. He urged the commission to initiate this exercise promptly and assured them of the state government's full support, emphasizing the need for a timely completion.

In February 2024, the state cabinet unanimously approved the proposal for a caste census and allocated Rs. 150 crore to support the initiative. The BC Commission has developed a detailed 53-question survey to gather comprehensive data on the socio-economic and educational conditions of various castes, including minorities. To enhance the survey's effectiveness, the commission is seeking collaboration with research institutions such as the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Centre for Good Governance (CGG), and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES).

The caste census was a key electoral promise made by the Congress party during the 2023 Assembly elections. After their victory on December 7, 2023, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reiterated his commitment to this initiative. The census aims to provide essential data for evidence-based policy-making and the development of social welfare schemes, especially for marginalized communities.

The proactive measures taken by the Telangana government are intended to ensure a thorough and legally compliant caste census. This data will be crucial in shaping policies and programs to support the socio-economic upliftment of BCs and other disadvantaged groups in the state.

BJP MLA Raja Singh Voices Concerns Over Demolition for Musi Beautification

TPN, Hyderabad: BJP MLA Raja Singh has raised concerns regarding the planned demolitions along the Musi River as part of a beautification initiative. He criticized the authorities for marking houses for demolition without clear communication about what will be offered to the residents affected.

Singh emphasized that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should prioritize transparency by engaging with the residents and outlining the compensation or alternatives available to them before any demolitions take place. He expressed that many residents have contacted him, voicing their distress over losing their homes where they have lived and grown up.

The MLA urged the Chief Minister to convene a meeting with the affected residents to provide clarity on their situation and discuss potential solutions. He also called for a meeting with other Hyderabad MLAs to address the issue of the demolitions.

Questioning the necessity of the Musi beautification project, Singh highlighted that if such initiatives weren't previously pursued, there should be a justification for the current actions. He pointed out that there are around 26,000 houses between Narsingh and Nagol at risk and stressed that any demolition process should only commence after ensuring justice for the residents living there.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy's Letter to CM Revanth Reddy

TPN, Telangana: Union Minister Kishan Reddy has expressed significant concerns in a letter addressed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding the government's demolition of houses deemed illegal, particularly those built as far back as thirty years ago. He questioned how individuals affected by these demolitions could voice their grievances and called for accountability among those who illegally sold land.

Reddy emphasized the urgency of the situation, highlighting the detrimental impact on families who find themselves homeless due to sudden demolitions. He argued that the actions taken must be legally justified, as hasty demolitions often dominate news headlines, creating unnecessary panic among citizens.

The minister also raised concerns about the conduct of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA), urging them to engage in dialogue with affected individuals rather than acting aggressively towards the less fortunate. He lamented the painful reality of demolishing buildings that have obtained all necessary permissions and questioned how HYDRA could determine the validity of permissions issued by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

Furthermore, Reddy pointed out the thousands of individuals residing in the Musi catchment area, whose livelihoods depend on the land now under threat. He cautioned against implementing rush policies that disregard the implications for these communities.

He urged the government to consider the decisions made in relation to lending norms set by banking institutions and to address the existing anxiety among the populace regarding demolitions. Reddy noted the confusion stemming from government officials issuing orders without prior announcements and stressed the need for fairness in all decisions. He also acknowledged that, in the absence of government support, many poor families had constructed homes wherever they could, exposing them to the consequences of past administrative failures.

Harish Rao Criticizes Congress for Capitalizing on KCR's Agricultural Success

TPN, Hyderabad: Former Minister T. Harish Rao has asserted that the current Congress government is benefiting from the groundwork laid by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He highlighted that the initiatives implemented during KCR's tenure significantly boosted agriculture and cotton production in Telangana.

In a recent statement on X, Rao shared statistics indicating that Telangana achieved the status of the largest rice-producing state in India for the 2023-24 season, with a production of 168.75 lakh tonnes, surpassing its previous output of 158.77 lakh tonnes in 2022-23, when it was ranked second. Additionally, he noted that Telangana ranked third in cotton production, with 50.8 lakh bales produced in the same period.

Rao emphasized that these accomplishments were not incidental but rather the result of KCR's commitment to advancing agriculture and irrigation. He criticized the Congress government for merely riding on the successes achieved through KCR's vision and policies, asserting that it is KCR's leadership that established Telangana as an agricultural powerhouse.

Chakali Ailamma Jayanti Celebrations at BJP State Office

TPN, Hyderabad: BJP leaders, including Rajya Sabha member Laxman, celebrated Chakali Ailamma Jayanti at the BJP state office. During the event, Laxman praised Chakali Ailamma for her courageous fight against the Nizam and criticized the Congress for allying with MIM, whose leaders are descendants of the Nizam.

Laxman expressed concern that the contributions of heroes like Chakali Ailamma are often forgotten in history. He emphasized that the Congress party would eventually fade away, while the BJP remains committed to preserving the legacy of those who fought against oppression. He mentioned that the BJP organizes events such as Telangana Liberation Day to inspire future generations and honor the heroes who resisted the Nizam's rule.

He also acknowledged the renaming of Kothi Mahila University after Chakali Ailamma but stressed that merely changing the name is not enough. Laxman urged the Congress government to officially commemorate Telangana Liberation Day to truly honor the sacrifices of freedom fighters like Ailamma.

Congress is fully prepared for any by-elections: Kadiyam Srihari

TPN, Telangana: MLA Kadiyam Srihari made critical remarks about the BRS party, accusing it of undermining democratic institutions and practices. He stated that BRS has a history of encouraging defections and merging legislative party factions into its own, thereby compromising the democratic process in Telangana. Srihari highlighted that the BRS, under its current leadership, has resorted to unethical political tactics, which have become a hallmark of its governance.

He claimed that the Congress party is fully prepared for any by-elections and expressed confidence that BRS would not even be able to secure its deposit if elections were held. This indicates the Congress party's strong positioning and readiness to contest against the ruling party. Srihari accused the BRS of becoming synonymous with corruption and illegal activities, eroding public trust in the government.

The MLA also emphasized the Congress party's respect for the judiciary, contrasting it with the BRS's alleged disregard for legal and ethical standards. According to Srihari, the BRS has repeatedly violated democratic norms, weakening the legislative and administrative frameworks of the state. He urged the people to recognize these issues and support the Congress party in its efforts to restore integrity and transparency in governance.

These remarks highlight the deepening political rivalry in Telangana and Srihari's efforts to position the Congress as a credible alternative to the BRS, focusing on ethical governance and respect for democratic institutions.

KTR Warns Officials Misusing Power

TPN, Telangana: Sirisilla MLA and BRS Working President KTR has strongly criticized officials who he claims are acting with the same enthusiasm as Congress party leaders and activists. He warned that those misusing their power with arrogance will face consequences, even if they have retired, stating that he will ensure accountability and recovery.

Speaking to the media in Rajanna Sirisilla district, KTR expressed disappointment over the behavior of certain officials. He pointed out that, under the BRS government, small villages were upgraded to gram panchayats, and 54 new ration shops were established to support local savings societies, providing them with a source of income. However, he alleged that Congress leaders are now acting as if they run the government, with officials aligning themselves with these leaders.

KTR emphasized that no one, including All India Service Officers, police, RDOs, or collectors, is above the law. He stated that those who disregard the law and act arbitrarily will face repercussions. Referring to a recent incident in Andhra Pradesh where officials were suspended, KTR warned that similar action could be taken in Telangana if officials continue to misuse their authority.

He also addressed allegations from Congress leaders that the 54 ration shop positions were sold for lakhs of rupees without transparency. He called on the authorities to release the merit list and clarify the selection process immediately. KTR assured that he will take the matter to the High Court on behalf of the victims if necessary, reiterating that those found guilty of corrupt practices will be held accountable, regardless of their retirement status.

New Developments in Harshasai Sexual Harassment Case

TPN, Hyderabad: The case involving popular YouTuber Harshasai has taken another turn as the young woman who initially accused him of sexual harassment has filed an additional complaint with the police. The latest report indicates that she, along with her advocate, has alleged that they are being subjected to harassment.

Currently, Harshasai is evading arrest on charges of sexual harassment. Authorities are actively searching for him. The initial complaint was filed by a contestant from Telugu Bigg Boss OTT, who stated that Harshasai had sexually assaulted her multiple times. Following her allegations, the police registered a case under various sections, including 376 (rape), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), and 328 (causing hurt by means of poison).

In response, Harshasai's lawyer has claimed that the case was fabricated for monetary gain. Compounding the situation, a separate complaint related to copyright infringement has been filed

by Mega Cinema against the accused. The victim has also reported receiving harassing emails, prompting her to approach the police once again.

As the investigation unfolds, law enforcement is working diligently to gather evidence and bring clarity to the situation.

ASI Surveys Patancheru Darwaza of Golconda Fort

TPN, Hyderabad: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is conducting a survey of the Patancheru Darwaza, a historic doorway of the Golconda Fort, which is currently in ruins. The Indian Army claims that a portion of this structure falls within its jurisdiction. During a recent joint meeting with ASI and Revenue Department officials, Army representatives requested boundary clarification for both parties.

The Patancheru Darwaza is one of eight gates of Golconda Fort, built by the Qutb Shahi dynasty between 1518 and 1687, before the establishment of Hyderabad. Among these gates, four are open to the public, while two are fully controlled by the Indian Army. The Mecca Darwaza is also manned by army personnel, allowing civilian access from the Langer Houz side.

An ASI official mentioned, "We recently visited the site with the Mandal Revenue Officer and Defence officials. The Army has claimed ownership of 108 acres of land, including the Patancheru Darwaza, cannon top, and fort walls. They requested clarity on some open land they assert is theirs."

The Patancheru Darwaza, located near Katora Houz lake, has been neglected, resulting in garbage accumulation at its entrance. However, its moat still retains some water, turning into a green habitat during the monsoon season. This historical structure is one of the last remnants of the fortification dating back to the Qutb Shahi period.

Golconda Fort's history dates back to the 14th century when it was initially a mud fort built by the Kakatiya Kingdom. It later became a prominent citadel under Sultan Quli, who founded the Qutb Shahi kingdom. The fort is known for its impressive architecture and historical significance, serving as a symbol of the region's rich heritage.

Inspection Conducted to Assess and Improve Traffic in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: To tackle the growing traffic congestion in Cyberabad, Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty and Joint Commissioner of Traffic D. Joel Davis conducted an inspection of high-traffic areas on Thursday, September 26.

The inspection began at the JNTU-Yashoda ROB road in Siddhi Vinayak Nagar, Madhapur, where officials evaluated current traffic challenges and explored potential solutions to improve traffic flow. Joint Commissioner Davis stated, "We are committed to taking every possible measure to improve the traffic situation in Cyberabad. The relocation of electric poles along the JNTU-ROB service road is one of the key steps we are implementing to ensure smooth vehicular movement."

Davis emphasized that these efforts, in collaboration with various departments, will significantly reduce congestion and provide long-term benefits for commuters navigating traffic in Hyderabad. The primary goal of the inspection was to assess and implement measures aimed at reducing traffic and enhancing the overall road infrastructure.

The inspection team included GHMC Zonal Commissioner Upender Reddy, TGSPDCL Assistant Engineer Prashanth, Madhapur Traffic Assistant Commissioner Satyanarayana,

and Madhapur Traffic Inspector G. Narsiah. They also reviewed ongoing work to widen the carriageway from Cyber Towers Junction to Yashoda Hospital, a crucial initiative for easing traffic flow.

Additionally, on September 23, top officials, including Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand and MA&UD Principal Secretary Dana Kishore, met with senior representatives from GHMC, HYDRA, HMDA, and both Rachakonda and Cyberabad police to enhance coordination for traffic management during flash floods. They discussed strategies for effective traffic diversions, timely weather notifications, and improved engineering measures to prevent waterlogging and facilitate better drainage, aiming to address Hyderabad's long-term traffic challenges. A joint workshop was proposed to train officials on immediate response strategies, particularly for traffic management during adverse weather conditions.

EOW Arrests Goldfish Abode MD for Alleged Financial Fraud

TPN, Hyderabad: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Cyberabad police has arrested V. Chandra Sekhar, the Managing Director of Goldfish Abode Private Limited, on charges of financial fraud and misappropriation of funds meant for the Zresta Villas Owners' association. This action follows a complaint lodged by S. Vikranth Reddy, Secretary of the Zresta Villas Owners MMACS, who alleged that Chandra Sekhar executed unauthorized villa registrations through his directors from 2020 to 2023.

According to EOW Deputy Commissioner of Police K. Prasad, the complaint indicated that Chandra Sekhar violated the AGP cum Development Agreement and misappropriated approximately ₹6.81 crore collected from villa owners for the Corpus Fund and maintenance charges. In response to the complaint, the EOW registered a case and subsequently arrested the suspect, who was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody.

The investigation revealed that Chandra Sekhar has a history of legal troubles, with seven criminal cases filed against him in the Narsingi police limits and one in Gachibowli. Additionally, the Preventive Detention Act was invoked against him by Narsingi Police.

EOW officials found that Chandra Sekhar executed property registrations for villas within the Zresta Gated Community through his Additional Directors, while personally signing sale agreements. He allegedly collected ₹3,96,38,781 as Corpus Fund and ₹2,85,39,945 as maintenance charges from villa owners between 2021 and 2023, without transferring the total amount to the Zresta Villas Owners MMACS Ltd.

Devadaya Department Issues Alert Following Quality Concerns in Temples

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana Devadayasa Department has issued a statewide alert in response to the revelation that Tirumala Laddu Prasad was found to contain animal fat. This has prompted an immediate quality check of prasads across several major temples in the state. Officials have dispatched samples of ghee and other essential ingredients used in prasadam preparation to laboratories for thorough testing.

In an effort to address concerns that might affect the sentiments of devotees, the Devadayasa Department has mandated inspections in all temples. The Department of Religion has specified that only Vijaya ghee and approved prasadam should be utilized moving forward. The

Telangana Revenue Department has also instructed officials to inspect the quality of various raw materials, including ghee, cardamom powder, cashew nuts, sugar paste, boondi, and others involved in preparing laddus and pulihora.

Following these orders, the Executive Officers (EOs) conducted inspections in various temples, sending ghee samples to a laboratory in Hyderabad for analysis. In addition to routine checks, some temples employ specialized committees to oversee the preparation of prasads. Samples from temples such as Vemulawada, Yadagirigutta, Bhadrachalam, Basara, and Hanumakonda Bhadrakali have already been tested.

Round Table Meeting on DJ and Music Restrictions in Religious Rallies

TPN, Hyderabad: A round table meeting was held at the Command Control Centre, Banjara Hills, chaired by Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand. The meeting focused on the use of DJ music and loud sounds in religious rallies. Attendees included officers from Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda police, GHMC Commissioner Amrapali, Congress Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, BJP MLA Rajasingh, MIM MLAs, and representatives from various parties and religious communities.

Commissioner CV Anand highlighted the growing number of complaints about loud DJ sounds during festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Milad-un-Nabi. He noted that loud music, especially during rallies, is causing distress to elderly residents and raising concerns about potential health risks, including heart attacks. Anand emphasized that DJ music in rallies often resembles public dancing, which many communities find disruptive.

The meeting was called to gather opinions from different groups to address these issues. Anand stated that a comprehensive report would be prepared and submitted to the government, which will then make a decision on regulating DJ music in religious processions. He stressed that uncontrolled DJ sounds can negatively impact public health.

Concerns over the use of adulterated ghee have previously caused significant uproar, especially related to Tirumala Laddu Prasadam, with devotees worldwide expressing outrage. In light of these issues, the state government has taken decisive action, establishing a Special Investigation Agency (SIT) to investigate allegations of adulteration and malpractice associated with Tirumala prasads. Guntur IG Sarva Shrestha Tripathi has been appointed as the Special Officer for the SIT, which includes key members from various police departments.

Film Actor Abhishek Arrested in Hyderabad Drug Case

TPN, Hyderabad: The Anti-Narcotics Control Bureau has arrested film actor Abhishek in Hyderabad as part of an ongoing drug investigation. Abhishek, who is implicated in drug-related cases connected to the SR Nagar and Jubilee Hills police stations, had been evading legal proceedings, resulting in warrants issued for his failure to appear in court.

Reports indicate that Abhishek fled to Goa, where he operated a restaurant while avoiding authorities. However, the Telangana Narcotic Enforcement Wing (TG NYAB) police apprehended him and have since transferred him to the Hyderabad City Crime Station (CCS) for further investigation.

The arrest marks a significant development in the efforts to combat drug-related offenses in the region, with authorities committed to holding individuals accountable for their involvement in the narcotics trade.

The Karnataka Conundrum: Siddaramaiah Faces Legal Setback Amid Political Tensions

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faces a critical challenge as the Karnataka High Court recently rejected his petition challenging Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's sanction to prosecute him in a land scam. This legal setback has opened the door to an investigation into allegations of unlawful allotment of housing plots by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, a case that could disrupt his political future and destabilize his government.

Siddaramaiah was counting on a favorable verdict, but the court's rejection of his petition has sparked political turmoil. The case, now widely referred to as the "MUDA muddle," centers on the alleged improper allotment of 14 housing plots in Mysuru, with reports suggesting the scandal benefited Siddaramaiah's family by approximately ₹56 crore. The court decision allows anti-corruption agencies to investigate under the Prevention of Corruption Act, marking a significant escalation in the case.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna's ruling noted that it was difficult to dismiss Siddaramaiah's involvement in the land deal, indicating that an investigation was necessary. The judgment upheld the Governor's approval of the probe, allowing Right to Information (RTI) activists, who had brought the allegations to light, to pursue the case further. This has emboldened the opposition, with the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) (JD(S)) calling for Siddaramaiah's resignation.

Siddaramaiah, however, has dismissed the calls to step down, vowing to fight the case in court and claiming that the allegations are part of a larger political conspiracy orchestrated by his rivals in the BJP and JD(S). He remains firm in his stance, asserting that he will eventually be vindicated. However, the uncertainty surrounding his future has left his administration on shaky ground.

Congress's Dilemma

For the ruling Congress, the situation presents a significant dilemma. Forcing Siddaramaiah to resign would fuel opposition attacks and possibly destabilize the government. However, allowing him to remain in power could undermine the party's moral standing and lead to further political instability, especially with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar waiting in the wings.

Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah's long-time rival within the party, has not hidden his ambition to occupy the top post. While Shivakumar has publicly expressed support for Siddaramaiah, calling the allegations a BJP conspiracy, there are concerns that the internal power struggle could escalate if the legal issues surrounding Siddaramaiah worsen.

At the heart of Congress's challenge is the potential alienation of Siddaramaiah's strong support base, known as AHINDA, which stands for minorities, backward classes, and Dalits. These groups have traditionally been loyal to Siddaramaiah, and any forced leadership change could fracture the party's voter base ahead of future elections.

The party's high command faces a delicate balancing act. Despite the legal troubles, Siddaramaiah still enjoys considerable support from Congress MLAs. While Shivakumar's influence cannot be overlooked, any attempt to replace Siddaramaiah now may lead to internal dissent and a leadership crisis.

Opposition Gains Momentum

Meanwhile, the opposition, especially the BJP, has seized the opportunity to pressure Siddaramaiah and the Congress government. BJP state president BY Vijayendra, alongside opposition leader R Ashok, has demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation, citing the court's ruling as confirmation of corruption. The BJP has called for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe to ensure an impartial investigation.

JD(S), another opposition party, has also capitalized on the controversy, using the court decision to label Siddaramaiah as corrupt. Social media campaigns have targeted the Chief Minister, with JD(S) dubbing him "Whitener Ramaiah" in reference to the alleged "black spots" of corruption in his political career.

With by-elections looming in three key constituencies—Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur—the opposition is eager to exploit Siddaramaiah's legal troubles. The by-elections, scheduled following the election of three sitting MLAs to parliament, are seen as a litmus test for the Congress government's stability and voter sentiment.

Political analysts warn that while Siddaramaiah remains in office for now, the Congress party will have to tread carefully. "Siddaramaiah will continue as Chief Minister for the time being, but the party must brace itself for potential disturbances," notes political analyst Harish Ramaswamy. The legal battle ahead is likely to impact governance, with social welfare schemes and policy implementation potentially taking a backseat.

The road ahead for Siddaramaiah remains uncertain, as his political future hinges on navigating both legal and intra-party challenges. The Congress, too, faces an uphill battle to maintain its grip on power amid growing opposition pressure and internal fissures.

Are We Already In An AI Bubble?

The question of whether we are in an AI bubble is on many people's minds, and the answer seems elusive. With the global buzz around artificial intelligence, the extraordinary amount of money flowing into the industry, and concerns about whether these investments will pay off, it's a timely topic to explore. This issue also carries significant implications for India, which is rapidly emerging as a key player in the AI space.

The Global Picture: Cooling Hype?

Recent data suggest that the investor frenzy around AI might be slowing down. According to *The Economist*, some of the largest AI companies have seen their stock prices drop by as much as 15% in recent months. What's more startling is that only about 4.8% of American companies are currently using AI in their products or services, down from earlier this year. This statistic is surprising given all the hype around AI's transformative potential.

A recent Goldman Sachs report titled *Gen AI: Too Much Spend, Too Little Benefit?* echoes these concerns. Jim Covello, Head of Global Equity Research, argues that while over $1 trillion is expected to be spent on AI infrastructure and development in the coming years, there is growing skepticism about whether these investments will deliver returns. AI has not yet proved to be a technology that reduces costs in the way previous tech shifts, like cloud computing or automation, did. Instead, developing and running AI systems, especially the large, sophisticated models like OpenAI's GPT-4, is extraordinarily expensive.

The High Cost of AI

Training advanced AI models like GPT-4 requires immense computational power, with estimates suggesting that it consumes enough energy to power 50 American homes for a century. Current costs for training such models can reach as high as $100 million, and future generations could cost $1 billion or more. In addition to training, the operational costs for answering queries or completing complex tasks also rack up, with some reports estimating that summarising financial reports could cost upwards of $223,000. These high costs are raising eyebrows among investors, even though a staggering $95 billion has already been invested into AI startups this year alone.

Entrepreneurial Optimism: Betting Big on AI

Despite these concerns, the entrepreneurial spirit around AI remains undeterred. Mukesh Bansal, a seasoned entrepreneur, recently launched Nurix.ai and secured $27 million in funding, demonstrating the continued belief in AI's potential. This optimism is not isolated; there is a palpable sense that a new wave of AI startups, particularly from India, is poised to make a global impact.

India has already witnessed a boom in Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) companies going global, and AI could be the next frontier. Indian AI startups are not just chasing the hype but are focused on solving real-world problems in industries like healthcare, education, and agriculture. With the proliferation of generative AI tools, powerful capabilities are being placed in the hands of everyday users, democratising access to technologies that were previously reserved for experts or large corporations.

Are We in an AI Bubble?

The juxtaposition of massive spending and skepticism from some quarters with the relentless optimism of entrepreneurs creates a complex landscape. On one hand, there is genuine concern that we are in an AI bubble. The high costs, coupled with unclear immediate benefits, have led many to wonder whether AI can live up to its transformative promise.

On the other hand, it is clear that AI has already made significant advancements, and dismissing its long-term potential could be short-sighted. Even if some investors may be overestimating the speed at which AI can revolutionize industries, the technology's potential to transform sectors like healthcare, logistics, and customer service is undeniable.
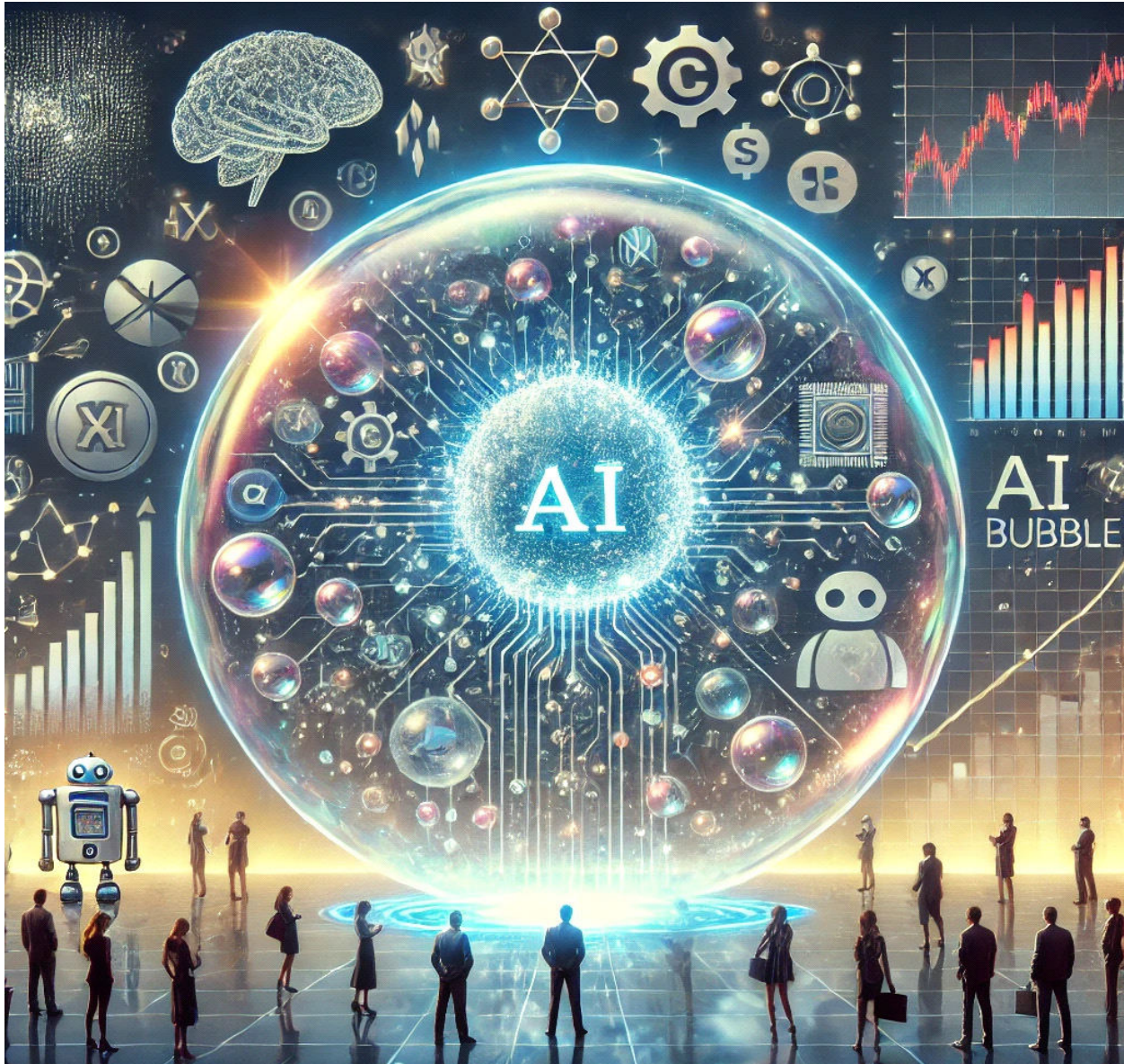
The truth may lie somewhere in the middle. While there may be elements of overexuberance, AI is still in its early stages, and its full potential has yet to be realized. Much like the dot-com bubble of the late 1990s, which birthed the internet giants that dominate today's economy, the AI "bubble" could eventually produce breakthroughs that redefine industries.

What Does This Mean for India?

For India, the question of whether we are in an AI bubble is crucial. The country has the potential to become a global leader in AI, but it must navigate this landscape carefully. While Indian entrepreneurs are betting big on AI's future, they must also be mindful of the high costs and the skepticism surrounding the technology. India's large talent pool, growing tech ecosystem, and government support for AI initiatives put the country in a unique position to capitalize on AI innovations. However, the challenge will be ensuring that these investments are directed toward solving real-world problems and not simply chasing trends.

Conclusion

So, are we in an AI bubble? The evidence suggests that while there is some overhype, we are not in a bubble in the traditional sense. AI's transformative potential is real, but it may take longer and cost more to fully realize than many expect. For India, the focus should be on practical applications that address pressing societal challenges, positioning the country as a global AI leader in the years to come. Whether this current wave of AI investment will pay off remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the AI revolution is just getting started.

PM Launches 3 Supercomputers, Says Science For Self-Reliance Our Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched three indigenously developed PARAM Rudra supercomputers under the National Supercomputing Mission, emphasizing India's commitment to leveraging science and technology for self-reliance. Speaking via video link, PM Modi said that India's vision for progress is driven by technological advancements, and these supercomputers mark a significant step in creating new opportunities in various fields.

Lauding the progress since the launch of the National Supercomputing Mission in 2015, PM Modi highlighted that India's leadership in quantum computing technology is poised to boost industries such as IT, manufacturing, MSMEs, and startups. He underlined the government's focus on making scientific research accessible to benefit the common man.

"Science for self-reliance is our mission," the Prime Minister stated, adding that research, technology, and computing power should serve to empower the poor and ensure inclusive development.

The three PARAM Rudra supercomputers, built at a cost of ₹130 crore, are deployed in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata to support cutting-edge research in scientific fields. PM Modi also inaugurated an ₹850 crore High-Performance Computing (HPC) system dedicated to weather and climate research, calling it a "very big achievement" for India's technological progress.

"Technology is integral to every sector, and our share in the technological revolution must be in terabytes and petabytes, not just bits and bytes," he said, reflecting on India's growing role in global computing.

The supercomputers will support research across various domains. Pune's Giant Metre Radio Telescope (GMRT) will explore astronomical phenomena like Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs), while the Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) in Delhi will advance material science and atomic physics. In Kolkata, the S N Bose Centre will drive research in cosmology, physics, and earth sciences.

The HPC systems, named 'Arka' and 'Arunika,' are specially designed for meteorological applications, improving the accuracy of predictions for extreme weather events such as cyclones, heatwaves, and heavy rainfall.

PM Modi also reaffirmed India's efforts to build a domestic semiconductor ecosystem, ensuring the nation plays a crucial role in the global supply chain. He further noted that preparations for India's Mission Gaganyaan, which aims to establish a space station by 2035, are underway.

BJP's Core Voter Base Did Not Like Alliance With NCP": Devendra Fadnavis

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis acknowledged on Thursday that the BJP's alliance with the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) was initially unpopular with the party's core voter base. Speaking at the India Today Conclave, Fadnavis attributed the BJP's disappointing performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra to poor vote transfers from the NCP.

The BJP-led alliance, which includes Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, managed to win just 17 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state, with the BJP securing only nine, down from 23 in the 2019 polls. Fadnavis admitted that the BJP's "core voter base" was uncomfortable with the alliance, but added that "80 per cent" of the voters have now accepted the necessity of such "political compromises."

"It is true this is the BJP's worst performance in recent general elections. We contested 28 seats but won very few. However, we lost 12 seats by a margin of just 3,000 to 6,000 votes, and we still received the highest number of votes overall," Fadnavis said.

He explained that the BJP's long-standing alliance with Shiv Sena made vote transfers easier, but the NCP, being a former rival, faced challenges in transferring its votes to the BJP. Fadnavis expressed confidence that these issues would not affect the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls.

The senior BJP leader also admitted that the alliance was a difficult decision for the party's base, but necessary for political reasons. "There are compromises that go against what you truly believe, but you still move forward. I can guarantee that at least 80 per cent of our voter base is now convinced of the need to ally with NCP," he said. Fadnavis further stated that discussions over 80 per cent of the state's 288 assembly seats are complete and that "winnability" would be the primary focus in the upcoming elections, likely to be held in November.

CBI Biased: Karnataka Withdraws Agency's Permission to Investigate Cases in State

Karnataka on Friday officially withdrew open consent for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct inquiries within its jurisdiction, citing concerns over the agency's alleged bias. Law Minister HK Patil explained that the decision was driven by the state's dissatisfaction with the CBI's handling of investigations, ruling out any direct connection to the ongoing MUDA land scam involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"We are withdrawing open consent for the CBI investigation in the state due to concerns about their biased actions," Patil said during a press briefing, adding that the move aimed to "control the CBI from taking the wrong path." He emphasized that the state's cabinet stood in solidarity with Siddaramaiah, encouraging him to fight back against allegations.

The decision places Karnataka among a growing list of opposition-ruled states, including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, which have also revoked open consent for the CBI. Without this consent, the CBI now requires specific approval from the state government for each investigation.

This move comes amid heightened tensions between opposition states and the BJP-led central government, with many opposition leaders accusing the BJP of using the CBI to target political opponents ahead of elections. Patil noted that in several cases referred to the CBI by the Karnataka government, the agency failed to file chargesheets or refused to investigate.

False Records Created In Police Station": Agency's Big Claim In RG Kar Case

In a major development in the RG Kar Hospital rape-murder case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has revealed that false records related to the case were created at the Tala Police Station in Kolkata. This revelation comes as part of the agency's investigation into the killing of a 31-year-old junior doctor last month. The CBI also stated that it had obtained CCTV footage from the police station, which has been sent to a central forensics lab for examination.

Abhijit Mondal, the officer-in-charge of Tala Police Station at the time, has been arrested on charges of tampering with evidence. He is currently in judicial custody, along with Dr. Sandip Ghosh, the hospital's former chief, who has been arrested over financial irregularities. The prime suspect in the case, Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer, was also arrested after being seen on CCTV footage entering the room where the doctor's body was found.

The CBI is investigating a possible conspiracy between Mondal, Ghosh, and Roy, highlighting a suspicious delay in seizing key evidence. Additionally, both the High Court and Supreme Court have raised concerns over the 14-hour delay between the discovery of the body and the filing of a police case.

Hemant Soren "Pretending To Be Martyr" After Going To Jail: Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accusing him of "pretending to be a martyr" following his imprisonment on corruption charges. Speaking at a Parivartan rally, Singh urged the public to remove the JMM-led government from power, arguing that a leader involved in corruption cannot guide Jharkhand toward development.

"Hemant Soren is pretending to be a 'martyr' after going to jail on corruption charges. Such corrupt CM cannot lead Jharkhand towards development. Show the exit door to such forces and give two consecutive terms to BJP for unparalleled development of the state," Singh declared.

Singh also accused the current administration of encouraging "infiltration and conversion" for political benefits, contrasting this with the BJP's promise to provide housing for all within three years if voted back into power.

The Defence Minister further advocated for the "one nation, one election" policy, stating that it could save the exchequer ₹4 lakh crore, as frequent elections currently cost around ₹7 lakh crore. Singh also took aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of tarnishing India's image abroad and asserting that India is no longer a weak nation. He warned that any provocation against India would have consequences, referencing the country's actions against Pakistan as an example.

Salute Their Bravery": President Droupadi Murmu Visits Siachen Base Camp

On Thursday, President Droupadi Murmu visited the Siachen base camp, addressing soldiers stationed at the world's highest battlefield. She praised their bravery and resilience in the face of extreme conditions, acknowledging the sacrifices they make to protect the nation. As the supreme commander of the armed forces, President Murmu said she felt immense pride, declaring, "All citizens salute their bravery."

The President highlighted the challenges soldiers face, such as heavy snowfall and temperatures dropping to minus 50 degrees, yet they remain steadfast in their duty. She emphasized that all Indians recognize and respect their sacrifice and commitment.

During her visit, President Murmu, dressed in military attire, paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the Siachen War Memorial. She remarked that the memorial stands as a testament to the courage of those martyred since the launch of Operation Meghdoot in 1984, under which India gained control over the Siachen Glacier.

The President's visit to Siachen marks her as the third Indian president to visit the base camp, following A P J Abdul Kalam in 2004 and Ram Nath Kovind in 2018. She was received by Lt. Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier B D Mishra, upon her arrival at Thoise airfield.

Saudi Arabia's Ultimatum

Saudi Arabia's Warning on Pakistani Begging Crisis

TPN, Nandi: When the name "Pakistan" comes to mind, it used to evoke thoughts of terrorism, but now it brings to mind the country's debt crisis. Pakistan is knocking on every door for loans and is struggling to sustain its government due to lack of funds. The economic situation in the country has become dire, with people suffering from food shortages and many fleeing to neighboring countries. Additionally, many Pakistanis are going to Saudi Arabia under the guise of pilgrimage. However, Saudi Arabia has expressed discontent regarding the behavior of these Pakistani pilgrims.

Recently, during the Saudi National Day celebrations on September 23, Pakistani leaders, including President Asif Ali Zardari, praised Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and discussed strengthening diplomatic ties. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif did not attend the celebrations but sent a video message thanking Saudi Arabia for its financial assistance, as Pakistan is in a severe economic crisis and is seeking loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Saudi Arabia is reportedly ready to assist Pakistan, but the country is facing criticism due to the rising number of beggars, many of whom are believed to be Pakistani. This has caused tension between the two countries, with reports indicating that 90% of foreign beggars in Saudi Arabia are Pakistani. In addition to begging, some Pakistanis have been involved in pickpocketing in sacred areas, leading to complaints from Saudi citizens.

Saudi officials have repeatedly warned Pakistan about this issue, urging the government to take strong action against the trafficking of beggars. In response, Pakistan has initiated investigations and made several arrests, but the situation continues to be a source of embarrassment for both nations. Saudi Arabia has warned that stricter measures may be taken against Pakistani pilgrims if the situation does not improve.

The ongoing economic turmoil in Pakistan has forced its citizens into desperate situations, pushing many to beg abroad, further damaging Pakistan's international reputation.

French President Backs India for Permanent UN Security Council Membership

French President Emmanuel Macron has strongly endorsed India's bid for a permanent seat on a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), alongside Germany, Japan, Brazil, and two African nations. Macron's call for reform comes amid growing global consensus on the need to reshape the UNSC to better reflect current geopolitical realities.

Speaking at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Macron emphasized that the Security Council, often stymied by conflicting interests, needs to evolve. "Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil should be permanent members, as well as two countries that Africa would designate to represent it. New elected members should also be admitted," he said. Macron stressed that these changes would make the UN more effective and representative, ensuring it remains relevant in addressing modern global challenges.

Macron also advocated for limiting the use of veto power in cases of mass atrocities and improving the operational capabilities of the UNSC to maintain international peace and security. He expressed hope that these reforms would enhance the council's decision-making processes.

India's bid for permanent membership has gained increasing global support. US President Joe Biden reiterated Washington's backing during a recent bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also called for better representation of developing countries in the council.

Pakistan Braces for "Transitional Pain" as IMF Approves $7 Billion Loan

Pakistan is preparing for economic "transitional pain" after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a $7 billion loan package aimed at stabilizing the country's faltering economy. The IMF announced an immediate disbursement of around $1 billion as part of the deal, marking Pakistan's 24th IMF bailout since 1958.

Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the challenges ahead, stating that while the loan provides critical relief, the country must implement structural reforms to ensure this is the last IMF program it relies on. "There will be transitional pain, but if we are to make it the last programme, then we have to carry out structural reforms," Aurangzeb said in an interview with Geo News.

The three-year loan program from the IMF is contingent on Pakistan pursuing sound economic policies and reforms to foster more inclusive and resilient growth. Among the required reforms are unpopular measures, including reducing power subsidies and expanding Pakistan's narrow tax base.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday rejected calls for a 21-day ceasefire in the conflict with Hezbollah, ignoring a joint push by the United States, European Union, and several Arab states. The truce proposal followed a week of intense Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah positions in Lebanon, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians.

Netanyahu's office confirmed that the prime minister had not responded to the ceasefire request, which was spearheaded by US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and other global allies. Instead, Netanyahu has instructed the Israeli army to "continue the fighting with full force" against the Lebanese militant group.

The joint call for a ceasefire was issued by Western powers, along with Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, during meetings on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The leaders expressed deep concern over the escalating violence, stating that the situation in Lebanon had become "intolerable" and that it was in the best interest of both Israelis and Lebanese civilians to halt the conflict.

"We call for an immediate 21-day ceasefire across the Lebanon-Israel border to provide space for diplomacy towards the conclusion of a diplomatic settlement," the joint statement said.

Despite these appeals, Israeli military actions intensified, with Israeli army chief Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi instructing soldiers to prepare for a potential ground offensive against Hezbollah. The group, in response, has launched rocket barrages into Israel and claimed to have targeted Tel Aviv with a ballistic missile.

Netanyahu Rejects Truce Call, Orders Full-Scale Fight Against Hezbollah

Indian Embassy in Beijing Requests Indian Nationals to Register for Consular Services

The Indian Embassy in Beijing has issued an advisory urging all Indian nationals, including students, residing in China to register with the mission to streamline and enhance the provision of consular services. This registration will be a mandatory requirement for availing of any future services from the embassy.

The advisory, issued on Thursday, provides options for registration through the embassy's website or by scanning a QR code. Alternatively, individuals can use the direct link [https://www.eoibeijing.gov.in/indian_national_registration] (https://www.eoibeijing.gov.in/indian_national_registration) to access the registration form.

Upon successful submission, a registration document containing the applicant's name, passport number, and registration number will be automatically generated and sent to the registered email ID. The embassy advised Indian nationals to keep this document handy, as it will need to be attached to future applications for consular services, including passport renewals, document attestations, police clearance certificates, and birth or marriage registrations. Failure to attach the registration document may result in delays in the processing of consular services, the advisory warned.

ECONOMY

Domestic Stock Markets Surge to New Highs: Auto and Metal Stocks Lead the Rally

The momentum in domestic stock markets continues as benchmark indices reach fresh highs. Indices started flat on Thursday morning and remained rangebound until the afternoon. However, buying interest picked up as European markets opened and updates on U.S. economic data came through. As a result, the indices reached lifetime highs, with auto and metal stocks standing out. Eleven out of twelve sectoral indices on the NSE gained. On the BSE, market breadth favored sellers, with 2,273 stocks falling while 1,703 rose. The rupee weakened by 4 paise, closing at 83.64 against the dollar.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 85,169 in the previous session, opened at 85,167 today. It touched an intraday low of 85,106 and an intraday high of 85,930, before closing at 85,836, up by 666 points. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty opened at 26,005, touched a low of 25,998, and hit a high of 26,250, closing with a gain of 211 points at 26,216. Bank Nifty jumped by 273 points to settle at 54,375.

In the Nifty50 index, 41 companies gained while 9 lost. Maruti Suzuki, Grasim, Tata Motors, Shriram Finance, and Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. On the other hand, Cipla, ONGC, L&T, Hero MotoCorp, and NTPC were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices rose today except for consumer durables. Auto, finance, bank, media, IT, metal, and PSU bank indices saw gains.

Nifty support is at 26,000, and resistance is at 26,200. Investors can consider buying shares of Vedanta Limited, Grasim, Motherson, GAIL, and Punjab National Bank in the short term.

Paytm shares jumped 5% on heavy trading. Maury Tech has submitted its IPO papers with a valuation of Rs. 1,500 crore. Link Pencil has entered into a joint venture with Japan's Mitsubishi. Krasna Diagnostics acquired shares in Apulki Healthcare. Nifty Bank reached record highs with SBI and Kotak Bank leading the charge. Nifty auto and finance indices also jumped to new highs. Policybazaar shares fell to a one-month low after announcing it would not enter the healthcare sector. CLSA predicts that foreign institutional investment in domestic stock markets will increase, driven by expectations that the US Federal Reserve will further cut interest rates. Alcargo Gati announced a 10.2% increase in its distribution service costs starting in January. Shares of Five Star Business reached a four-month high.

Recommended Stocks:

Vedanta (VEDL): Vedanta's stock surged by 4.77% to ₹502.75 on Thursday, reflecting strong investor confidence. As a leader in mining and natural resources, Vedanta benefits from favorable commodity prices and global demand, making it a resilient stock in volatile markets.

Grasim: Grasim's stock climbed 3.19% to ₹2,747.00, indicating positive sentiment. As a diversified conglomerate with interests in cement, chemicals, and textiles, Grasim has strong fundamentals, and its expansion plans in paints and chemicals bode well for future growth.

Motherson: Motherson's stock rose 3.66% to ₹213.00, driven by optimism in the automotive sector. A global leader in auto components, Motherson is well-positioned to benefit from rising demand in the EV sector and increasing automobile production, attracting long-term investors.

GAIL: GAIL's stock increased by 2.30% to ₹230.77, showcasing stability in the energy sector. As India's largest gas distributor, GAIL's robust infrastructure and growing demand for natural gas make it a solid bet for investors seeking exposure to the energy sector.

PNB (Punjab National Bank): PNB's stock gained 2.09%, closing at ₹107.25. PNB, one of India's largest public sector banks, is capitalizing on improving asset quality and strong banking sector performance, which makes it attractive for those looking for value in financial stocks.

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Sebi's Unified Distilled Filing Formats to Save Rs 200 Crores for Market Ecosystem

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced a new reporting system known as Unified Distilled Filing Formats (UDiFF), which is projected to save the market ecosystem an estimated Rs 200 crores over the next five years. This initiative aims to streamline the process of reporting, significantly easing the burden on brokerages and other market participants.

According to a press release from Sebi on September 26, the UDiFF will reduce reporting requirements by an impressive 90%. This simplification not only benefits established brokerages but also lowers the cost of entry for fintech companies looking to enter the market. By minimizing the complexity of compliance, the initiative is expected to foster greater participation and innovation within the financial ecosystem.

Sebi highlighted the specific advantages of the UDiFF system for various market participants, including Trading Members (TMs), Clearing Members (CMs), and Depository Participants (DPs). The streamlined reporting process is designed to enhance operational efficiency, allowing these entities to focus more on core business activities rather than getting bogged down by extensive paperwork.

The introduction of UDiFF aligns with Sebi's ongoing efforts to promote ease of doing business in the Indian securities market. By creating a more efficient reporting framework, Sebi aims to bolster investor confidence and encourage greater investment in the market.

The anticipated savings and efficiency gains from UDiFF represent a significant step forward for the Indian financial sector. As market participants adapt to this new system, it is expected to drive a shift towards more agile and responsive business practices.

Overall, Sebi's UDiFF initiative is poised to transform the landscape of financial reporting in India, making it simpler and more cost-effective for all stakeholders involved. With these changes, the regulator is not only enhancing operational efficiencies but also paving the way for a more robust and dynamic market ecosystem.

Finance Ministry Supports REITs and E-Commerce in August Economic Review

In the August economic review released on September 26, the Finance Ministry extended its support to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and the e-commerce sector. The ministry highlighted that increased institutional participation and transparency have significantly contributed to the development of best practices within India's commercial real estate market.

The review noted that four existing listed REITs have played a crucial role in driving growth in stabilized commercial assets. The establishment of standardized market valuation processes and comprehensive REIT regulations has facilitated market-based approaches, enhancing overall sector efficiency.

Additionally, the ministry emphasized that legislative measures, including the Real Estate Regulation Act and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, have strengthened investor protection. These regulations, combined with digital land registry records and stringent oversight from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), have created a robust regulatory framework.

The support for REITs underscores the government's commitment to fostering a more transparent and efficient real estate market. By encouraging institutional investment in real estate, the ministry aims to attract more capital into the sector, which can lead to enhanced infrastructure development and job creation.

Furthermore, the review acknowledged the growing importance of the e-commerce industry in the Indian economy. With increasing consumer demand for digital services, the government aims to bolster this sector through supportive policies and regulations.

Overall, the Finance Ministry's review reflects a proactive approach to enhance the regulatory landscape for both REITs and e-commerce. By promoting transparency and investor protection, the ministry aims to build a more resilient economic framework that can support sustained growth in these key sectors.

Indian Bank to raise Rs 5,000 crore via infrastructure bonds

State-owned Indian Bank announced on September 26 that its board has approved a plan to raise Rs 5,000 crore through long-term infrastructure bonds to finance various projects. This approval allows the bank to issue additional bonds on top of the Rs 5,000 crore it has already raised in the current financial year (FY25).

According to a regulatory filing, the fund-raising will occur in one or more tranches during the current or upcoming financial year. The proceeds will be used for financing or refinancing infrastructure projects and affordable housing, in compliance with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines and other relevant regulations.

In recent months, several state-run banks have turned to infrastructure bonds as a funding source. For instance, Bank of Baroda successfully raised Rs 5,000 crore earlier this month at a coupon rate of 7.26 percent per annum through long-term 10-year infrastructure bonds. Similarly, the State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs 10,000 crore through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance back in June.

The initiative by Indian Bank aims to strengthen its balance sheet while supporting the government's push for infrastructure development and affordable housing projects, which are crucial for economic growth. By tapping into the bond market, Indian Bank is positioning itself to meet increasing financing needs in these sectors, enhancing its role in the broader economic landscape.

Overall, the decision to raise additional funds through infrastructure bonds reflects the bank's commitment to contributing to India's infrastructure goals, while also ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks. This move is expected to attract investor interest and support sustainable development initiatives across the country.

HDFC Bank Sells Housing Loan Portfolio Amid Regulatory Pressures

HDFC Bank Ltd. has taken significant steps to lighten its credit load by selling a housing loan portfolio worth approximately 60 billion rupees ($717 million). This move comes in response to increasing regulatory pressures within the banking industry.

The sale was executed through private deals with around half a dozen state-controlled banks, as reported by sources familiar with the transactions, who requested anonymity due to the confidential nature of the information. Additionally, the bank has offloaded a car loan portfolio valued at about 90.6 billion rupees, which was securitized into a fixed income product known as pass-through certificates. These discussions to sell the car loan pool were previously reported in late August by Bloomberg, indicating nego-

tiations with roughly a dozen local asset management companies.

These transactions highlight HDFC Bank's strategy to reduce its retail loan portfolio as regulatory scrutiny intensifies regarding credit-deposit ratios. This ratio measures the proportion of a bank's deposits that are being lent out, and it has become a focal point for regulators, especially as credit growth has outpaced deposit growth in India.

The bank's efforts are further underscored by its recent merger with Housing Development Finance Corp., which has also contributed to the pressures on its credit-deposit ratio. By offloading these loan portfolios, HDFC Bank aims to improve its financial metrics and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

As India's largest bank by market value, HDFC Bank's actions reflect a broader trend in the banking sector to adapt to changing regulatory landscapes. This proactive approach not only helps the bank manage its risk exposure but also positions it for sustainable growth in an evolving market.

SHOULD HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS BE FREED FROM STATE CONTROL?

The question of whether Hindu religious institutions should be freed from state control has sparked significant debate in India. This issue recently gained renewed attention following controversies such as the discovery of beef and fish oil in the Tirupati Laddu, one of the most sacred offerings in the country. The broader discussion revolves around the extent of government involvement in the administration of Hindu temples and their vast wealth, which some view as discriminatory compared to the relative autonomy enjoyed by religious institutions of other faiths.

The Financial Power of Temples

Temples like the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Kerala's Sabarimala Temple, and Maharashtra's Shirdi Sai Baba Temple are among the wealthiest religious institutions in the world, attracting millions of devotees and generating enormous revenue. The Centre for Policy Studies estimated that Hindu temples collectively hold assets worth around ₹5 lakh crore. Religious tourism, driven largely by pilgrimages to these temples, contributes approximately 2.32% to India's GDP, according to a 2019 study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).

Despite this immense financial clout, Hindu temples remain under significant government control. For example, the Tirupati temple, controlled by the state since 1933, generates an annual revenue of ₹3,000-₹4,000 crore, while the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple has generated around ₹29,000 crore since coming under government supervision in 1922. These figures reflect the substantial wealth managed by the state, raising concerns about whether government intervention is necessary or appropriate.

Roots of State Control

State control of Hindu temples dates back to British colonial rule. The British, recognizing the economic power of these temples, implemented measures to manage their administration, primarily to safeguard temple wealth and align it with colonial interests. This system of control persisted post-independence, with the Indian government expanding its authority over temple administration. Laws like the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1959 granted the government powers to appoint trustees, manage properties, and direct how temple funds should be allocated.

The rationale behind this intervention was to prevent mismanagement, corruption, and ensure that temple wealth contributed to public welfare in areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. However, this control has sparked controversy, with many Hindus questioning the fairness of this arrangement, especially when religious institutions belonging to other faiths are not subject to similar scrutiny.

A Question of Equality and Religious Freedom

One of the primary arguments against government control of Hindu temples is the apparent disparity in how different religious institutions are treated. While Hindu temples are subject to strict government oversight, mosques and churches are managed by community boards, such as the Waqf Board for Muslims and diocesan authorities for Christians. These institutions enjoy significant financial autonomy, a privilege that Hindu temples do not share.

Critics argue that this difference amounts to religious discrimination and violates Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of religion. Hindu leaders and devotees have taken the matter to court on several occasions, though judicial rulings have largely upheld the government's right to intervene in temple administration.

The issue has also become politically sensitive. Hindu groups view state control of temple revenues as a sign of bias against the majority religion in a supposedly secular democracy. They question why Hindu institutions are the only ones under such strict government oversight, while religious institutions of minority communities remain largely free from state intervention.

Striking a Balance

In most democracies, religious institutions manage their own finances without state interference. For instance, in the United States and the United Kingdom, religious organisations, whether temples, churches, mosques, or synagogues, operate autonomously. India's unique approach to temple management raises questions about whether the state is genuinely maintaining a secular stance or perpetuating a system of unequal treatment between religions.

As renowned advocate Fali S. Nariman pointed out, *"While the state may regulate secular activities, the moment it interferes with the religious essence of an institution, it steps onto dangerous ground where constitutional rights can be trampled."* This sentiment resonates with many who believe that government control of Hindu temples infringes on religious freedom and undermines the community's right to manage its sacred institutions.

Conclusion

The debate over state control of Hindu temples remains complex, rooted in India's colonial past and the challenge of balancing religion and governance in a secular democracy. With growing demands for temple autonomy, the question persists: Should Hindu religious institutions be granted the same freedom as their counterparts from other faiths, or does the government's role in managing temple wealth serve a necessary public good? As this debate continues, it raises important questions about religious freedom, equality, and the role of the state in modern India.
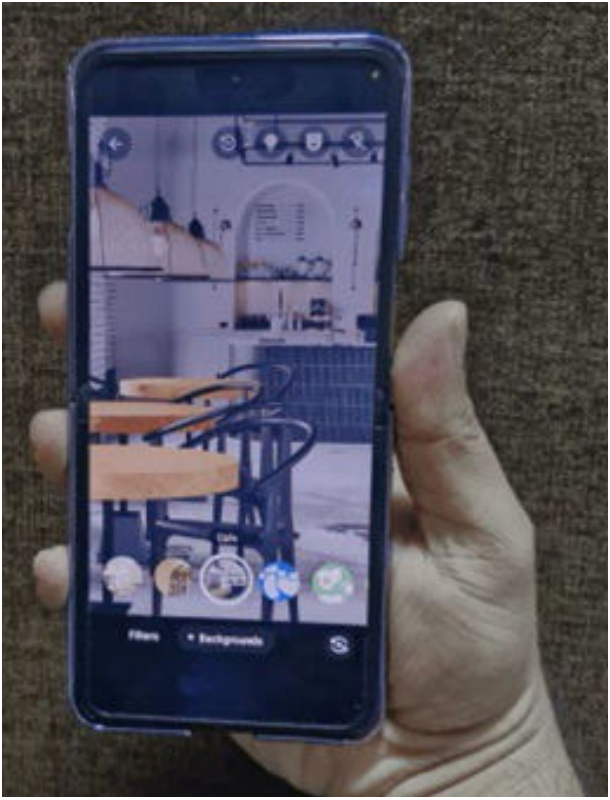
WhatsApp Introduces New Camera Effects for Photo and Video Editing

WhatsApp, the widely used messaging platform owned by Meta, is currently testing an exciting new feature that allows users to apply various effects directly to their camera. This update, first reported by WABetaInfo last month, aims to give users more creative control over their photos and videos, reducing the need for third-party editing applications.

The new camera effects include a selection of customizable backgrounds and filters, accessible directly from the app's camera interface. To try out this feature, users can easily open a chat within WhatsApp, tap the camera icon located in the bottom bar, and then select the newly introduced "wand-like" icon. This action will bring up a new screen filled with options for image filters and video backgrounds, making it simple to enhance visual content before sharing.

This development reflects WhatsApp's

ongoing effort to evolve and compete with other social media platforms that already offer robust editing tools. By integrating these effects, WhatsApp not only enriches the

user experience but also encourages more dynamic interactions among users. With the ability to customize images and videos on the fly, users can express themselves in more unique and engaging ways.

Moreover, the feature aligns with the growing trend of personalization in digital communication, where users seek to share more than just text. With these new tools at their fingertips, users can elevate their messages and create standout content that reflects their individual style and creativity.

As this feature continues to be tested, it is anticipated that it will roll out more broadly in the near future. Whether you're looking to add a playful touch to a selfie or create a visually striking video message, WhatsApp's new camera effects promise to enhance your communication in a fun and innovative way. Keep an eye out for this feature in your app updates!

Privacy Complaint Over Firefox User Tracking

Vienna-based advocacy group NOYB (None Of Your Business) announced on Wednesday that it has filed a complaint with the Austrian data protection authority against Mozilla. The complaint alleges that the Firefox browser is tracking user behavior on websites without proper consent.

NOYB, founded by privacy activist Max Schrems, claims that Mozilla has enabled a feature known as privacy preserving attribution (PPA) that effectively turns the browser into a tracking tool for websites. This feature was reportedly activated by default, which NOYB argues violates users' rights under EU privacy laws.

A spokesperson for Mozilla defended the PPA feature, stating, "Mozilla's limited test of PPA is a part of our effort to improve invasive advertising practices by providing technical alternatives." They emphasized that the technique is designed to prevent any party, including Mozilla, from identifying individuals or tracking their browsing activities.
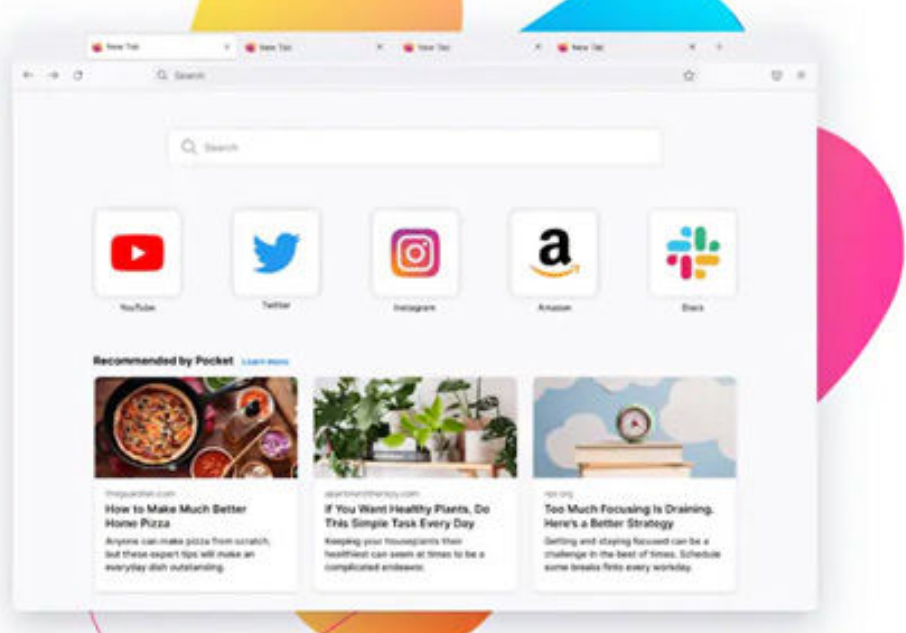
However, NOYB contends that even though this method may be less invasive than unrestricted tracking, it still undermines user consent and rights. Felix Mikolasch, a data pro-

tection lawyer at NOYB, criticized Mozilla's approach, saying, "It's a shame that an organization like Mozilla believes that users are too dumb to say yes or no." He stressed that users should have the option to choose whether to participate in such tracking, calling for the feature to be turned off by default.

Once a popular choice among users for its privacy features, Firefox has seen its market share dwindle to low single digits compared to competitors like Google Chrome, Apple's Sa-

fari, and Microsoft's Edge.

In light of these allegations, NOYB is urging Mozilla to better inform users about its data processing practices, implement an opt-in system for the PPA feature, and delete all unlawfully processed data of affected users. This complaint follows NOYB's recent actions against Alphabet for similar tracking issues related to its Chrome browser, highlighting ongoing concerns about user privacy in digital environments.

Truecaller Launches Auto-Block Spam Feature

Truecaller has rolled out an exciting new feature for iPhones running iOS 18, called "Auto-Block Spam," aimed at simplifying the process of managing unwanted calls from scammers and telemarketers. According to the "What's new" section on the Truecaller App Store preview, the feature automatically declines all spam calls for Premium users.

Previously available on Android, the Auto-Block Spam feature effectively stops spam calls identified by Truecaller. When a spam call is blocked, it won't ring on the user's device and will be logged as "Fraud" or "Scammer" in the call history. This feature is particularly valuable for users who want to avoid the nuisance of constant unwanted calls.

To activate the Auto-Block Spam feature, users can navigate to the "Protect" option within the app. They have the flexibility to choose between

blocking "Top Spammers" or "All Spammers," allowing Truecaller to effectively filter out unwanted calls based on user preferences.

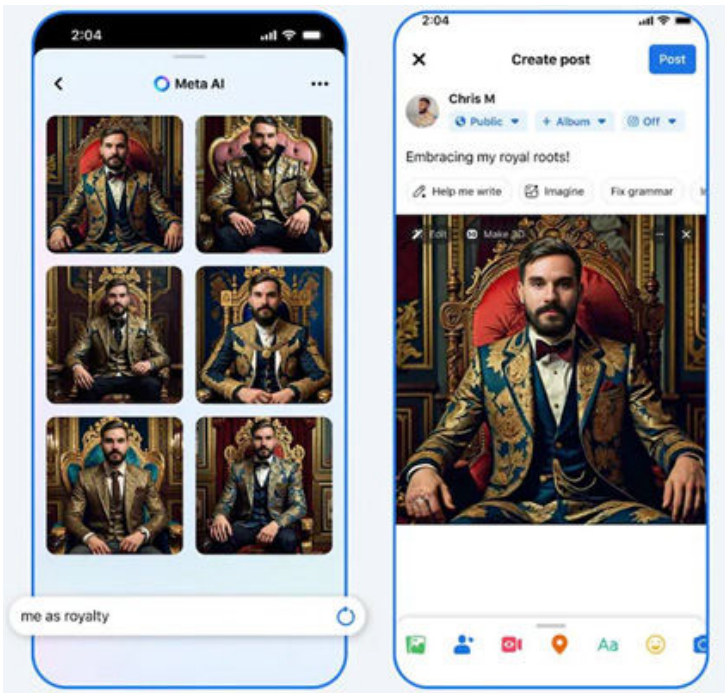However, it's important to note that this feature is exclusively available to

Truecaller Premium subscribers. Premium membership comes with additional perks, including priority customer support, an ad-free experience, and Live Caller ID on iOS. To access Auto-Block Spam, users must ensure they are using the latest version (13.12) of the app from the Apple Store.

With the increasing number of spam calls, Truecaller's new feature provides an effective solution for managing these unwanted interruptions. The Auto-Block Spam function represents a significant step forward in user privacy and convenience, allowing iPhone users to focus on important calls without the distraction of scams and telemarketing.

As the feature becomes available for iPhone users on iOS 18, Truecaller continues to enhance its offerings, making it a valuable tool for those seeking a streamlined communication experience.

Meta Rolls Out AI-Powered 'Imagine' Feature to Facebook, Instagram

During the recent Meta Connect event, the company showcased several groundbreaking AI features that promise to enhance user experiences across its platforms. Among the highlights was the introduction of a new voice chat feature and expanded capabilities for the Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses. Additionally, Meta rolled out its experimental 'Imagine' feature to Facebook, Instagram, and Messenger, allowing users to reimagine their profile pictures in various AI-generated styles.

Previously unveiled earlier this year, the 'Imagine' feature enables users to create images from text prompts or by providing existing images for AI reinterpretation. However, one limitation was that users could not utilize their own profile pictures in this process. That is set to change, as Meta announced that all Facebook and Instagram users will now have access to this feature, enabling them to generate posts and Stories.

With 'Imagine,' users can ask the AI to envision them as characters such as superheroes, royalty, or astronauts. The resulting images, while not intended to be hyper-realistic, will have a distinct digital flair, complete with AI-generated watermarks to signify their origin.

Furthermore, users can now personalize their Instagram DMs and Messenger chats with AI-generated themes, elevating the customization options beyond simple background colors and chat bubbles.

Meta is also exploring a recommendation feature that will leverage the 'Imagine' capabilities to generate images based on users' profile pictures. These AI-generated images will be tailored to reflect users' interests and current trends, appearing in their Instagram and Facebook feeds. If users find an image appealing, they can easily share it on their feed or Stories, and have the option to modify the suggested image with just a tap.

Overall, these innovations underscore Meta's commitment to integrating AI technology into its social media platforms, making for a more engaging and personalized user experience.

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024 Starts From Today

The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2024 sale kicked off for Prime members in India on Thursday, offering a plethora of discounts across a wide range of products. This festive season sale features attractive deals on smartphones, tablets, earphones, smartwatches, smart TVs, and more, making it an excellent opportunity for shoppers to upgrade their tech and home appliances.

The sale is especially advantageous for those looking to invest in large appliances. Discounts are available on essential items like washing machines, refrigerators, and air conditioners. The anticipation is building, as the sale will open to all Amazon users on September 27, expanding access to these enticing offers.

In addition to direct discounts, shoppers can take advantage of various financial benefits. Amazon is providing a 10% bank discount on purchases made with SBI Debit and Credit cards, with savings of up to Rs. 29,750. Additionally, buyers can enjoy rewards worth Rs. 10,000 and no-cost EMI options on select items, making it easier

to manage expenses during the festive season.

For even more savings, customers using the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card can receive up to 5% cashback on their purchases. However, it's essential to note that these offers are subject to terms and conditions.

Among the most sought-after deals are those on refrigerators, where Amazon presents a diverse selection. Shoppers can choose from single-door, double-door, and convertible models, catering to various needs and preferences. For those mindful of energy consumption, there are options available based on different capacities, ensuring buyers can find the perfect fit for their households.

As the sale continues, customers are encouraged to explore these exciting offers and make the most of the Great Indian Festival 2024. Whether upgrading tech gadgets or essential home appliances, the event promises significant savings and a delightful shopping experience.

MS Dhoni's IPL 2025 Status Uncertain

Former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni has not yet confirmed his participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, according to a report by *The Indian Express*. While multiple sources suggest that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are poised to retain Dhoni regardless of the retention rules, the question of his availability remains unresolved. CSK officials stated, "We are yet to hear from him," emphasizing that clarity will emerge only after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announces its final decision on player retention.

The IPL 2025 mega auction is anticipated to take place at the end of November or early December, bringing excitement and uncertainty for franchises. This auction is particularly significant, as it will likely allow teams to retain up to five players, although the Right to Match (RTM) option will not be available this time around. This retention strategy could greatly benefit franchises like the Mumbai Indians, enabling them to keep their core players such as Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, and Hardik Pandya.

With the BCCI expected to release detailed auction rules in the coming days, anticipation is building among teams and fans alike. Past IPL mega auctions have historically shifted player dynamics significantly, and this one is expected to do the same. The previous major auctions occurred in 2014 and 2018, each reshaping team compositions following four-year intervals.

As Dhoni's status remains in limbo, fans are eagerly awaiting news. His long-standing association with CSK and impact on the IPL make his decision pivotal not only for the franchise but for the league as a whole. The cricket community will be watching closely for updates in the lead-up to the auction.

India vs Bangladesh 2nd Test Likely to Be Called Off Amid Weather Forecast

As the Indian team prepares for the second Test against Bangladesh, starting Friday at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium, they might consider fielding three spinners. After a dominant 280-run victory in the series opener in Chennai, where they led the series 1-0, the Rohit Sharma-led side is contemplating changes to adapt to the conditions.

In the first Test, India opted for a pace attack featuring Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Akash Deep. However, with the Kanpur pitch characterized by black soil, local hero Kuldeep Yadav could replace Akash Deep in the lineup. Kuldeep's experience and spin bowling prowess may prove crucial, especially against a Bangladesh side that can struggle against quality spin.

Weather conditions will play a significant role in the upcoming match, as forecasts indicate cloud cover for the first three days. According to Accuweather, rain could impact Day 1, with a 100% prediction of cloud cover and a 65% chance of precipitation in the morning. The forecast mentions potential thunderstorms, which could lead to interruptions in play.

Given these weather uncertainties, India may need to adjust their strategies accordingly. Spinners tend to thrive in humid and overcast conditions, and the Indian team's decision to field three spinners could provide them with an edge if the weather permits play.

The team management will closely monitor the conditions leading up to the match, weighing the benefits of including an additional spinner against the risks posed by the weather. With the series on the line, the players are expected to focus on executing their game plans and maintaining their momentum from the first Test. Fans are eager to see how the conditions unfold and how the Indian team adapts to secure a series victory.

Shreyanka Patil Set to Shine in Women's T20 World Cup

After a thrilling six-run victory over Mumbai Indians in the 2024 Women's Premier League (WPL) Eliminator, RCB assistant coach Malolan Rangarajan praised Shreyanka Patil for her match-winning performance, taking 2 wickets for just 16 runs. In the final, she continued her stellar form, claiming 3 wickets for 12 runs, leading RCB to their first WPL title.

Shreyanka attributes her competitive spirit to her childhood, saying, "I've always hated losing. I push myself to try harder, regardless of the situation." Despite a rocky start in the tournament—where she only took two wickets in her first four games and dealt with an injury—she bounced back impressively, finishing as the leading wicket-taker with 11 wickets in four matches.

Reflecting on her journey, Shreyanka expressed gratitude for the support she received from her teammates and coaches, particularly from captain Smriti Mandhana. "They backed me up, and that encouragement helped me thrive," she said. The crowd's warm reception upon her return to Bengaluru also motivated her, making her feel connected to her fans.

Shreyanka's experience in WPL has significantly enhanced her skills. Playing alongside international stars like Ellyse Perry allowed her to learn and grow.

She described a pivotal moment during the Eliminator, where a positive vibe and encouragement from teammates shifted the game in RCB's favor.

Looking forward, Shreyanka is eager to build on her experiences as she prepares for the Women's T20 World Cup. Although she faced disappointment in the overseas draft, she remains focused on improving her batting and excelling as an all-rounder.

Her cricket journey began at age ten at her father's academy, where she honed her skills. With dedicated practice and the guidance of her coach, Shreyanka is committed to making her mark in international cricket.

Shakib Al Hasan Announces T20I Retirement

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan announced his retirement from T20 International cricket on Thursday, just before his team's second Test against India at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur. This decision marks the end of an illustrious chapter for the veteran cricketer in the shortest format of the game.

Shakib has been a cornerstone of Bangladesh cricket, having participated in every edition of the T20 World Cup since its inception in 2007. He leaves the format as the all-time highest wicket-taker in T20 World Cup history, with an impressive 50 scalps. His contributions have not only been significant in terms of statistics but also in inspiring younger players and elevating the profile of Bangladesh cricket on the world stage.

During a press conference ahead of the second Test, Shakib reflected on his journey in T20 cricket, expressing gratitude for the experiences and memories he's gained. He also outlined his future plans, stating that he intends to focus on the Test and ODI formats. Shakib emphasized his commitment to helping the national team succeed in these longer formats, where he believes he can still make a meaningful impact. His retirement from T20Is leaves a gap in the squad, as he has been a crucial player in various tournaments.

Manchester United held to 1-1 draw by FC Twente in Europa League opener

Manchester United kicked off their Europa League campaign with a 1-1 draw against Erik ten Hag's former club, FC Twente. The match saw United take an early lead, thanks to Christian Eriksen's impressive strike, marking his first European goal for the club.

United's dominance was evident in the first half, but the tide turned when Bart van Rooij's industrious play led to a goal from Lammers, leveling the score midway through the second half. This equalizer injected confidence into the Eredivisie side, prompting a more open contest as United sought to regain control.

Zirkzee nearly netted his first European goal for United after a clever exchange with Diogo Dalot, forcing a sharp save from Twente's goalkeeper, Lars Unnerstall. Shortly after, Harry Maguire's header from Eriksen's corner deflected wide, despite a goal-kick being awarded.

In response to the mounting pressure, Ten Hag made a pivotal triple substitution. Mason Mount made his long-awaited return after a month out, joining Rasmus Hojlund and Kobbie Mainoo on the pitch to inject fresh energy into the United lineup.

Update on Ram Charan's Gamechanger

Fans of Telugu cinema have been eagerly awaiting updates on the upcoming film *Gamechanger*, starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar. To quell the anticipation, the makers have finally announced an exciting development: the second single from the film will be released on the 28th of this month. This announcement came with a vibrant new poster, much to the delight of fans.

Titled "Raa Macha Macha," the upcoming track promises to be a significant addition to the film's music lineup. The lyricist for this catchy number is Anantha Sriram, who has previously delivered memorable lyrics in various films. The promotional teaser for the song will also drop on the same day, building further excitement around the project.
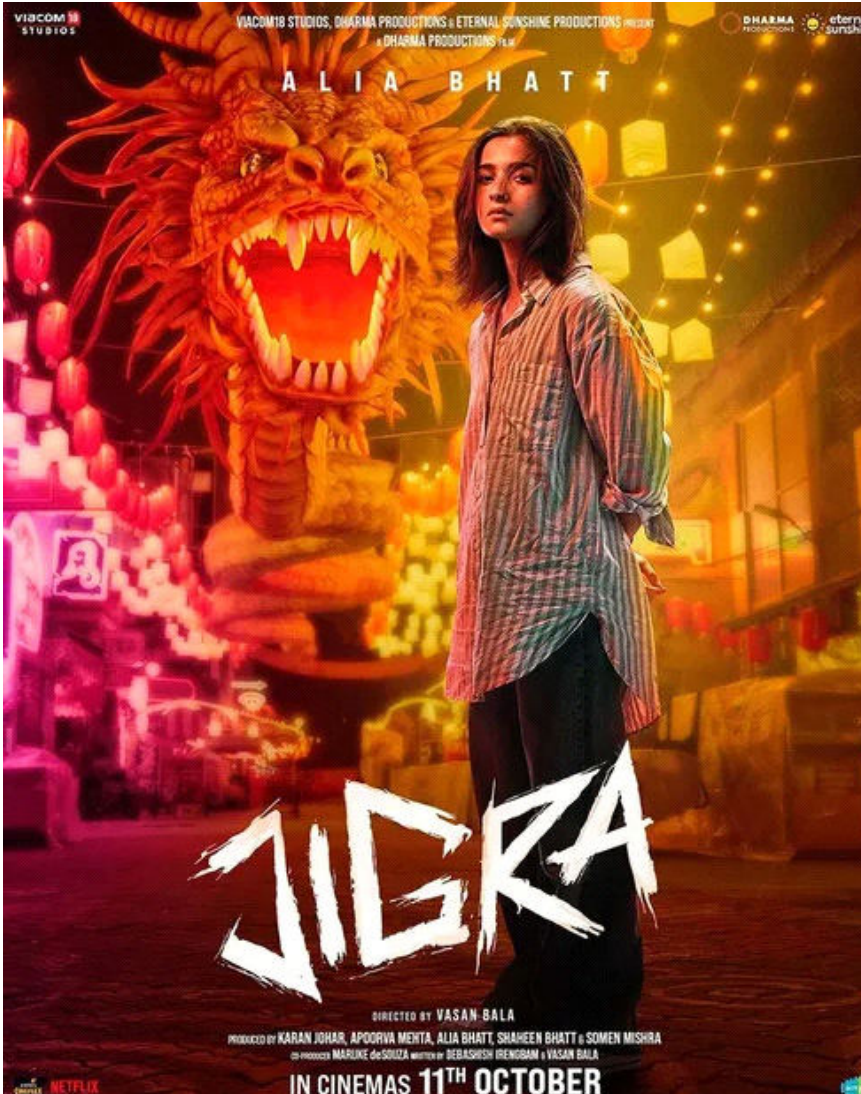
The film's first single, "Jaragandi," was released earlier and has already generated a lot of buzz among fans. With the release of the second single, the team hopes to elevate the film's hype even more, capitalizing on the momentum gained from the initial song.

Produced by Dil Raju, *Gamechanger* is one of the most anticipated releases in the Telugu film industry. While the team has not yet confirmed an exact release date, they are eyeing a launch in the second or third week of December. This timing could position the film well for the holiday season, potentially attracting larger audiences.

As fans count down the days to the second single's release, the excitement for *Gamechanger* continues to build. With a stellar cast and a highly regarded director at the helm, expectations are high for both the music and the film itself. Stay tuned for more updates as the release date approaches!

Alia Bhatt's Jigra Trailer

The trailer for Alia Bhatt's much-anticipated film *Jigra* dropped on Thursday, offering a gripping glimpse into a world that is both beautiful and brutal. Set against a backdrop of emotional turmoil, the trailer captures the essence of a dark and intense narrative filled with love and determination.

The story begins with Satya, played by Alia Bhatt, receiving a distressing phone call from her brother Ankur (portrayed by Vedang Raina), who finds himself imprisoned in a foreign land. The tension escalates as Ankur faces the harsh realities of prison life, while Satya embarks on a perilous quest to secure his freedom. Her journey showcases her unwavering resolve, as she contemplates drastic measures, including a harrowing act of self-harm, to expedite Ankur's release on medical grounds.

Satya's path is fraught with challenges that test her limits. From traversing vast oceans to battling adversaries in dense forests, she navigates a labyrinth of obstacles, fueled solely by her unwavering courage, or as the title suggests, her "jigra." The trailer is filled with heart-pounding moments that highlight her relentless spirit and the lengths she will go to for family.

In a poignant moment at the end of the trailer, Satya states, "I never said I am the right person. I am just Ankur's sister," encapsulating her fierce loyalty and the complexities of her character. This powerful line resonates deeply, emphasizing that love can drive one to extraordinary lengths, even when the odds are stacked against them.

With its captivating storyline and Alia's compelling performance, *Jigra* promises to be an emotional rollercoaster that explores the bonds of family amid adversity. Fans eagerly await its release, ready to experience this intense journey alongside Satya.

Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga Shine at UK Premiere of Joker

Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga stole the spotlight at the UK premiere of *Joker: Folie à Deux*, where they reprised their iconic roles as the Joker and Harley Quinn. The event was a star-studded affair, with both actors making a memorable entrance on the red carpet, accompanied by director Todd Phillips.

Moments from the premiere were shared on the official Instagram account of Warner Bros Pictures, capturing the excitement surrounding the film. In one delightful video, Phoenix and Gaga were seen sharing a warm hug, a moment that showcased their camaraderie and enthusiasm for the project. The accompanying caption read, "Joker and Harley. Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga reunite on the red carpet in London. #JokerMovie," perfectly encapsulating the energy of the evening.

As they interacted with fans and the press, both actors exuded charisma, drawing attention to their roles in this highly anticipated sequel. Phoenix, who won an Academy Award for his portrayal of the Joker in the first film, expressed his excitement about returning to this complex character. Meanwhile, Lady Gaga, who has been eagerly embraced by fans for her portrayal of Harley Quinn, shared her thoughts on stepping into this iconic role, adding depth and flair to the character.
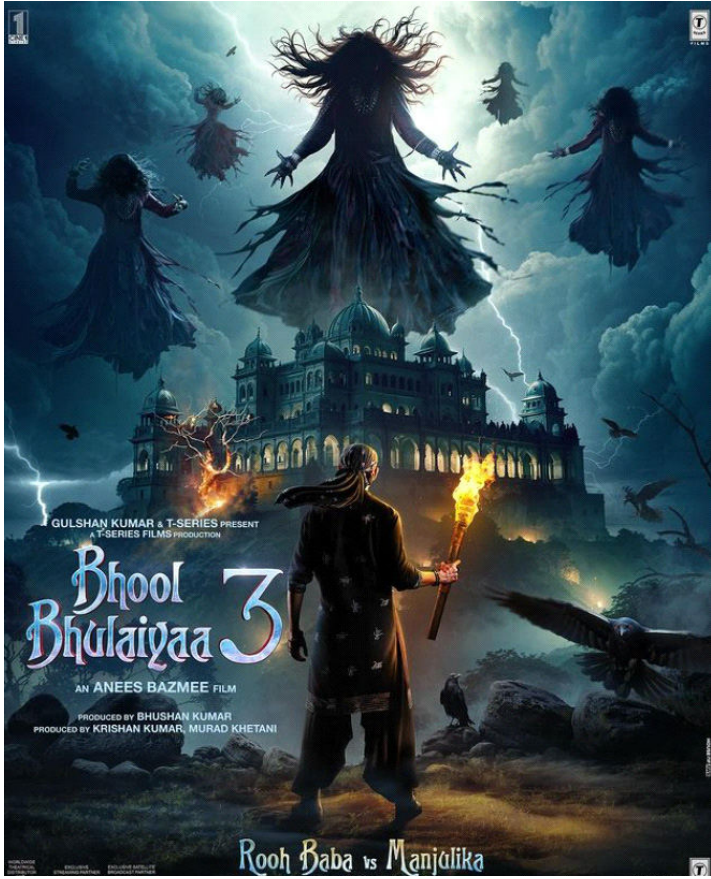

Kangana Ranaut's Film 'Emergency' Set for Release

Kangana Ranaut's film *Emergency* will be allowed to release following recommended cuts from the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The Bombay High Court addressed concerns over historical inaccuracies and potential misrepresentation of the Sikh community in the movie, which depicts the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975.

Initially scheduled for a September 6 release, the film faced backlash, leading to a petition from co-producer Zee Entertainment Enterprises seeking a censor certificate. The court emphasized the need for the CBFC to make a decisive ruling on the film, urging them to uphold creative freedom while also considering public sentiments.

Justice BP Colabawalla highlighted that audiences are discerning, and it is not solely the CBFC's role to protect public order. The court's directive is for the CBFC to finalize its assessment, allowing the film to move forward if adjustments are made.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 Teases Fans with New Poster

The anticipation for *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* is reaching new heights, especially after the makers released an intriguing new poster on Thursday. This latest reveal features the iconic silhouette of Manjulika soaring in the sky, while Kartik Aaryan's Rooh Baba shines a beacon of light in the darkness. The accompanying caption adds to the excitement, stating, "Rooh Baba Vs Manjulika...Iss Diwali #BhoolBhulaiyaa3 #YeDiwaliBhoolBhulaiyaaVaali."

Fans are buzzing with excitement at the prospect of this epic clash. The film stars not only Kartik Aaryan but also features Vidya Balan reprising her role as the hauntingly memorable Manjulika, alongside Triptii Dimri. Both actresses have taken to social media to share the poster, amplifying the enthusiasm among their followers.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 marks the third installment of the beloved horror comedy franchise, which originally captivated audiences in 2007 with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, starring Akshay Kumar as psychiatrist Aditya Srivastava. That film was well-received, particularly for Vidya Balan's critically acclaimed performance as Manjulika/Avni, a character that showcased her incredible range as an actress. The first film also included notable performances from Shiney Ahuja, Amisha Patel, Paresh Rawal, Manoj Joshi, Rajpal Yadav, and the late Vikram Gokhale.