



Development Work in Villages Should Begin Like a Festival: DCM

Development work in every village to start from October 14 to 20.

15th Finance Commission funds and employment guarantee scheme funds should be utilized.

Deputy Chief Minister reviews officials of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department.



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced that Rs.1987 crores from the 15th Finance Commission, along with Rs.4500 crores provided by the central government through the NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), have been allocated to the state, ensuring that there are no funding issues. He directed officials to begin development works in every panchayat starting from October 14. Officials reported that resolutions for employment guarantee works have been passed in 13,326 panchayats, detailing the works to be undertaken and the number of working days required. On this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister also

launched the website and dashboard for monitoring progress. **Started Works Should Be Monitored Regularly**

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for local legislators, MPs, and MLCs to be involved in the process. He suggested that by organizing a ceremony, the villagers would be informed about the funds received and the planned development activities. Officials were instructed to regularly monitor and inspect the ongoing works. Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department Chief Secretary Shashibhushan Kumar, Commissioner Krishna Teja, and other high-ranking officials participated in the meeting.

YCP Leaders Distorting Facts on Tirumala Laddu Issue - CM Chandrababu

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has issued a strong alert to party leaders regarding the spreading of misinformation by the YSR Congress Party (YCP). During a meeting at NTR Bhavan, he emphasized the importance of countering false narratives, particularly concerning the recent Tirumala incident, asserting that YCP leaders are attempting to distort facts. Chandrababu remarked that YS Jagan's absence from Tirumala was due to his reluctance to sign the required declaration.

In response to recent developments in the state, Chandrababu gathered available party leaders to discuss the political landscape. He directed them to remain vigilant, especially following the Jagan government's cancellation of its Tirumala visit and its subsequent success in deflecting the accusations of obstructing the Chief Minister.

Additionally, some TDP leaders expressed their dissatisfaction with police actions regarding the incident involving the burning of Rama's chariot in Anantapur district. They informed Chandrababu that the accused were YSRCP leaders, asserting that political involvement was evident. The Chief Minister stressed the need for thorough investigations and cautioned party leaders to avoid any missteps in the future.

Media representatives also brought complaints against Thiruvuru MLA Kolikipudi Srinivas, alleging that he had threatened and insulted them. Presenting evidence of these threats to Chandrababu, they urged immediate action against the MLA. The Chief Minister assured them that he was aware of the situation and promised to address the issue swiftly.



Jagan's Twitter Fiasco

Why Not Tag the Pope Next?

TPN, Prudhvi: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent antics on X (formerly Twitter) have raised eyebrows ever since his defeat in the recent elections. Once known for his reserved approach to social media, Jagan now seems completely lost, flooding his timeline with lengthy posts that feel more like essays, oblivious to who might actually read them. It's as if Jagan and his team have forgotten what micro-blogging really means.

The latest fiasco? Today, Jagan posted his press meet video five times on his X timeline, tagging nearly 100-150 people in the process. From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to leaders of all political parties, representatives of Hindu groups, NGOs, and media outlets—no one was spared from his spammy desperation.

But the real question is: what's the point? In his posts, Jagan pleaded, "I have presented the important facts about the TTD Laddu Prasad issue. You may please pursue." Pursue what exactly? Jagan seems determined to convince the world that he respects Hinduism, despite his reluctance to sign the TTD Declaration, which merely affirms a visitor's belief in Hinduism before seeking darshan.

Jagan's refusal to sign this simple declaration, yet his insistence on drumming up support, has



many scratching their heads. If he's so bent on proving his sincerity, maybe it's time to tag the Pope for advice on how to handle such delicate matters of faith. After all, Jagan's attempts to garner support seem to be falling on deaf ears across India.

In a nutshell, Jagan's social media strategy is spiraling into a bizarre mix of overcompensation and confusion. Perhaps the next time, he should consider a little less tagging—and a lot more clarity.

Laddu Issue SIT Begins Investigation

TPN, Tirupati: The controversy surrounding the Tirupati Laddu has drawn national attention after it was revealed that adulterated ghee was allegedly used in its preparation under the YSR Congress Party (YCP) government. In response to widespread public outrage, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has appointed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the matter. The SIT commenced its investigation on Saturday after arriving in Tirumala.

Before starting the investigation, SIT officials took part in Srivari Darshan, offering prayers at the temple. Accompanied by temple priests throughout the darshan, they were also given prasadam following the prayer ceremony. The team then proceeded to Padmavati Guest House, where they will be stationed for the next three days to conduct their inquiry.

The SIT is led by Guntur Range Inspector General of Police, Sarvashreta Tripathi, and includes prominent officials such as Tirupati ASP Venkat Rao, DSP Sitarama Rao, DSP Shiva Narayana Swamy,

and CIs Satyanarayana, Uma Maheshwara Rao, and Suryanarayana.

The public has high expectations for the SIT to uncover the conspiracy behind the adulteration of the Laddu's ghee and to hold all those responsible accountable. The team is expected to dig deep into the scandal and ensure that no one involved goes unpunished, restoring the faith of the devotees in the sanctity of the Tirupati Laddu.





Suggestions Invited for Swarnandhra Pradesh@2047 - CM Chandrababu



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chandrababu wants everyone to come together for a bright future. It has been revealed that every opinion will be taken into account, with the goal of increasing the per capita income to Rs. 36 lakhs.

AP Chief Minister Chandrababu called on the people to participate in the realization of Golden Andhra Pradesh. "If you have any ideas toward providing a bright future for Andhra Pradesh, please send us your suggestions for Swarnandhrapradesh@2047." Chandrababu stated in his tweet that people should submit their suggestions to the web portal swarnandhra.ap.gov.in/Suggestions. He mentioned that e-certificates will be given as an appreciation for the cooperation of the people.

He revealed that the journey toward Swarnandhra Pradesh@2047 has begun and that the aim is to achieve a better growth rate by 2047. He explained that every opinion will be valued, and every suggestion coming from the people will be taken into consideration so that together we can build Swarnandhra.

Chandrababu stated that their mission is to provide support from the state so that India's GSDP reaches 2.4 trillion dollars by 2047 and to increase the per capita income to Rs. 36 lakhs.

Key Post for Nagababu as TDP Finalizes Rajya Sabha Members...!!!



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Three representatives will be elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh, with three sitting members from the YCP having resigned. Given the current strength of numbers in the assembly, the alliance is expected to secure three seats, and it appears that a preliminary decision has already been made regarding their replacements—one for Jana Sena and two for TDP.

Chandrababu Naidu, who currently does not have a representative in the Rajya Sabha from TDP, has seen a wave of resignations from YCP leaders following the party's defeat in the assembly elections. With the numerical strength of alliance

members low in both the Rajya Sabha and the Council, there is a concentrated effort on securing YCP seats in these legislative bodies. Resignations from Rajya Sabha members R Krishnaiah, Beda Mastana Rao, and Mopidevi Venkataramana have already taken place, with speculation that another resignation may follow soon.

All three resigned members belong to the BC group and are considered finalists for the Mega Brother designation. It is reported that one seat is assured for Jana Sena, likely going to Mega Brother Nagababu. Initially expected to contest from Anakapalli in the recent elections, Nagababu withdrew when the BJP candidate won the seat. His appointment to the Rajya Sabha now seems certain as part of the political agreement.

From TDP, several candidates are vying for the Rajya Sabha seats. Should TDP secure two seats, former MP Galla Jayadev is considered a strong contender for one of them. Additionally, former MPs Kambhampati Rammohan Rao and Kanakamedala Ravindra are also in the running. There is also consideration for former Union minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju, who belongs to the Kshatriya community and did not secure a cabinet position. If a fourth position is to be filled, it is anticipated that it will be designated for the SC category.

Minister Lokesh Calls for Strengthening Government Schools

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister of State for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh emphasized the need to strengthen government schools during a high-level review with education department officials. He urged a focus on creating minimum infrastructure in these schools, highlighting the importance of leak-proof facilities, access to fresh water, and adequate toilets. The minister also stressed the necessity for additional classrooms and computer labs as per demand.

Commending the performance of the Srikakulam Municipal Elementary School and Akanambattu High School, which he inspected recently, Lokesh noted the commendable handwriting and performance of the students. He pointed out that teachers at the Srikakulam school managed to repair classrooms with just ₹50,000, raising concerns about the declining enrollment in government schools despite substantial investments through centrally-sponsored schemes.

To address this issue, the minister announced that mega parent-teacher meetings would be held statewide on November 14, aiming to enhance school performance and engage all stakeholders from the Chief Minister to local ward members. A quarterly review of school results was also proposed, alongside discussions to strengthen libraries from village to district levels. Lokesh revealed plans for a world-class central library with state-of-the-art facilities in Amaravati.

In addition, Lokesh announced that NCERT books would be introduced for Inter First Year students next year and discussed reforms for government intermediate education, including aptitude tests to prepare students for competitive exams such as JEE and NEET. He highlighted the lack of reviews in intermediate education during the past five years under the YCP government, promising significant changes in the question papers to align with contemporary needs.



Statewide Handloom Exhibitions to Support Weavers - Minister S. Savitha

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: State BC, EWS Welfare, Handloom and Textile Minister S. Savitha announced that exhibitions and handloom bazaars will be organized across Andhra Pradesh to provide economic security to handloom weavers. On Saturday, she inaugurated a Handloom Bazaar at PVP Square Mall in Vijayawada by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

During a press conference, Minister Savitha emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu prioritizes the welfare of handloom workers and the development of the handloom industry. She highlighted how, under the guidance of the Craft Council of Andhra Pradesh, new designs are being created in line with current fashion trends. Weavers are being trained in these designs, as well as in using natural colors for handwoven garments.

"Chandrababu's government is not only focusing on design innovation but also ensuring that weavers have marketing opportunities for their products. The main goal is to improve the livelihoods of handloom weavers," the minister stated.

Minister Savitha personally visited the stalls set up by



weavers from Andhra Pradesh and other states, including Bangalore, Chennai, and Bikaner. She interacted with the stall owners, inquiring about their sales and materials. To promote the handloom sector, the minister purchased a saree from one of the stalls, alongside Handloom and Textile Commissioner Rekharani.

The event saw participation from representatives of the Craft Council of AP, including Ranjana and Sujatha, who supported the initiative aimed at empowering handloom weavers.



Johnny Master's Police Custody Ends

Johnny Master arrested on rape allegations and POC-SO case charges.

The police interrogated him for four days with court permission.

The court has remanded Johnny Master until October 3.

TPN, Hyderabad: Popular choreographer Johnny Master, who was arrested on charges of sexual harassment, has ended his police custody on Saturday. Narsingi police arrested Johnny Master under rape allegations and in connection with a POCSO case. The police filed a petition in Ranga Reddy District Court seeking custody of Johnny Master, and the court granted four days of custody. Johnny Master was interrogated by the Narsingi police

from Wednesday to Saturday.

After the investigation concluded today, he was taken from the police station to the Upparapally court. After the trial, the court remanded him until October 3. Later, the police transferred him to Chanchalguda Jail. The arrest occurred after an assistant female choreographer accused Johnny Master of raping her, leading to the police registering a case and arresting him.



“I Don’t Know What Jagan’s Problem Is Giving the Declaration” - Minister Anita

TPN, Mangalagiri: AP Home Minister Anitha Vangalapudi addressed the media in Mangalagiri, where she criticized former CM and YCP leader YS Jaganmohan Reddy. She clarified that no attempts were made to stop him from coming to Tirupati, nor were any notices issued preventing his visit to Tirumala.

Minister Anitha pointed out that Jagan recently visited many districts without being stopped. She expressed her anger over Jagan’s decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the Srivari Laddu adulteration case, emphasizing that the same police officers who worked with him in the past are part of the SIT. She questioned why they went to court over the vigilance report if they had done nothing wrong. The minister alleged that Jagan canceled his visit to Tirumala because he did not want to go, and that his claims about receiving notices were just a diversion tactic. “Has Jagan ever eaten the Tirumala Laddu?” Minister Anita asked, criticizing Jagan for allegedly getting angry when receiving God’s *akshintalu* (holy blessings). She accused him of discarding *prasada* (holy of-



ferings) wrapped in tissue paper. Minister Anita further questioned why Jagan had a problem with giving the declaration at Tirumala, implying that he doesn’t respect Hindu traditions. She also noted that in the past, Jagan had not included a single Dalit member in the governing council he had formed, yet he now speaks about Dalit entry into temples. “I am a Hindu... Do you dare say what your religion is?” Minister Anitha boldly asked Jagan.

TDP Leader’s Protests Outside Minister Satyakumar Yadav’s Office in Dharmavaram



TPN, Dharmavaram: TDP activists staged a protest in front of Minister Satyakumar Yadav’s office in Dharmavaram, demanding the removal of Municipal Commissioner Mallikarjuna. The demonstrators raised slogans insisting that a new commissioner should be appointed, expressing their dissatisfaction with the current administration.

The protest stemmed from the frustration of TDP ranks over the continued appointment of Mallikarjuna, despite Minister Satyakumar Yadav’s previous assurances to address concerns regarding his performance. Protesters argued that the Municipal Commissioner’s actions have negatively impacted local governance and services.

The protest led to significant traffic disruptions in the area, with vehicles being halted in multiple locations, causing inconvenience to commuters. TDP leaders voiced their grievances, emphasizing the need for effective leadership within the municipal

administration to ensure better management of local issues.

The protest highlighted ongoing tensions between the TDP and the ruling government, as activists called for accountability and responsiveness from elected officials. They urged Minister Satyakumar Yadav to take immediate action to resolve their concerns regarding the Municipal Commissioner’s performance.

As the protest continued, TDP leaders reiterated their commitment to advocating for the interests of the residents of Dharmavaram, emphasizing the importance of effective local governance. They urged the minister to listen to the voices of the people and take necessary steps to appoint a commissioner who would better serve the community.

The protest concluded with calls for further action if their demands are not met, signaling a growing unrest among TDP supporters in the region.

Jagan Lacks Courage says Minister Satyakumar Yadav



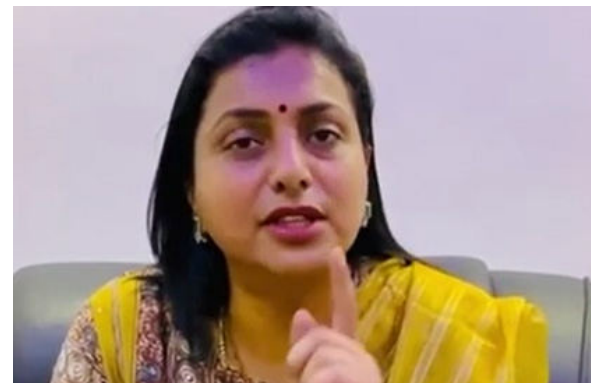
TPN, Andhra Pradesh: BJP Minister Satyakumar Yadav has joined the ongoing controversy surrounding YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s canceled visit to Tirumala, accusing the YCP chief of lacking the courage to sign the religious declaration required at the temple. Jagan had earlier made sensational allegations against the Andhra Pradesh alliance government, claiming that he was prevented from visiting Tirumala by police notices, calling it an attack on democracy.

Speaking to the media in Dharmavaram, Minister Satyakumar dismissed Jagan’s claims, asserting that it was not the government but Jagan’s own hesitation that led to the cancellation of the visit. “Jagan didn’t have the courage to sign the declaration and chose to back out,” the minister remarked, while also condemning Jagan’s accusations about the ghee used in the Srivari Laddu Prasada. Minister Satyakumar also highlighted that after Jagan became Chief Minister, his close allies—YV Subbareddy and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy—were appointed as TTD Chairman, and during their tenure, adulterated ghee was allegedly used in the preparation of Srivari Laddu. He warned that none of those responsible, including Jagan, Subbareddy, Karunakar Reddy, and TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy, would be forgiven by Lord Venkateswara Swamy and would soon face divine retribution. With both TDP and Janasena leaders already refuting Jagan’s allegations, Minister Satyakumar’s remarks add further weight to the political tension, fueling the debate over Jagan’s claims and the state’s religious politics. “The sentiments of crores of Srivari devotees have been hurt, and all those involved in the adulterated ghee case will be punished accordingly,” Satyakumar added, issuing a stern warning.

Jagan is a True Devotee, He Can Visit Tirumala At Anytime - Roja

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former minister and YCP leader Roja defended Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s decision to cancel his visit to Tirumala, asserting that Jagan is a true devotee who can visit Lord Venkateswara temple anytime. This comes in response to allegations by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who challenged Jagan to produce the government notice that allegedly prevented him from visiting. Roja criticized Chandrababu, accusing him of playing political games by spreading misinformation. “Jagan held a press meet and made it clear why he canceled his visit. Chandrababu’s claim that Jagan is afraid to come to Tirumala and sign a religious declaration is baseless,” she said.

Roja also emphasized that Jagan respects all



religions and practices humanity above all. “Jagan reads the Bible, respects Hindu sentiments by worshipping in temples, and shows the same reverence for mosques and Sikh practices. He made this clear publicly,” she added.

Roja alleged that opposition leaders, including those from the BJP, Janasena, and TDP, were creating disturbances ahead of Jagan’s planned visit. “They threatened to stop him at Alipiri and issued notices to YCP leaders and workers. This is nothing but an attempt to create unrest,” she claimed.

Jagan, according to Roja, decided to cancel the visit to ensure peace and avoid tensions. “He wanted a peaceful darshan, but the hostile environment made it impossible,” she said.

Roja further criticized Chandrababu for engaging in “dirty politics” over religious issues and warned that such actions would not go unnoticed by God. “Jagan presented silk clothes to Lord Venkateswara for five years. No one can question his devotion,” she concluded.

YS Sharmila Demands Probe Into ‘Big Man’ Behind Venkata Reddy Mining Scam

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: APCC President YS Sharmila has called for a comprehensive investigation into the mining scam involving former Andhra Pradesh Mines Department MD Venkata Reddy, who was recently arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Venkata Reddy has been accused of irregularities during the previous government, particularly in the looting of state natural resources.

Sharmila, in her sharp response, stated that while Venkata Reddy may be a key player in the Rs. 2,566 crore scam, the “big man” behind the massive looting of thousands of crores is widely known. She emphasized that the investigation should not stop with Reddy but extend to all those involved, especially the powerful figures behind the scenes.

“For five years, the state’s natural resources were plundered. Mining contracts were handed to certain companies, disregarding rules and regulations, and even the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines were violated. The funds that should have gone to the state



treasury were instead funneled into private hands,” Sharmila remarked. She demanded a thorough inquiry into the entire mining scam, insisting that the investigation target not just smaller players like Venkata Reddy but also those who orchestrated the larger scheme. Sharmila called for a CBI investigation to expose the exploitation of natural resources during the previous regime. In her tweet, Sharmila said, “We demand the coalition government to conduct a comprehensive investigation to catch the big whales behind the looting of natural wealth, not just the small fish.” Her statement has intensified political debate, putting pressure on authorities to widen the scope of the probe and ensure accountability at all levels.

First... Ban Jagan, Gottipati’s Strong Counter

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Critics have called for the immediate expulsion of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of making public comments that insult the country’s traditions while failing to adhere to them himself. These remarks follow recent controversies surrounding Jagan’s refusal to follow certain religious customs, sparking outrage across various sections of society.

The critics demand that Jagan retract his statements about “what kind of country we live in,” emphasizing that every religion has its doctrines, and respecting them is integral to being a good citizen. They argue that his remarks reflect a disregard for the core beliefs that define India’s cultural and religious harmony.

“It is sad that Jagan seeks political gains by disrespecting the country’s religious traditions,” one critic said, highlighting how the politician has benefited from the opportunities provided by Indian democracy but now insults the very system that enabled his rise. The critics also pointed out that Jagan’s failure to



follow the traditional declaration required during visits to certain religious sites is an affront not only to India’s cultural values but also to its religious harmony. They claim that Jagan’s actions demonstrate his lack of respect for both the country and its rich traditions. “Why should Jagan remain in India when he shows such blatant disrespect for the country’s traditions?” they asked, calling for immediate action to expel him from the country. The critics insist that India’s values and beliefs must be upheld, and leaders who disregard them should be held accountable for their actions.

Bandi Sanjay Strong Reaction to Jagan’s Comments on Tirumala Declaration



- “Do you have the guts to speak on the terms of Mecca and Vatican?” asks Bandi Sanjay.
- Sanjay claims that these places have rules regarding religious traditions.
- Criticizes Jagan for following in his father’s footsteps.
- Alleges that all houses being demolished by Hydra belong to Hindus.

TPN, Telangana: Reacting to YS Jagan’s comments on the Tirumala Declaration, Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay questioned whether Jagan would have the courage to speak about the rules governing Mecca or

Vatican City. Speaking at the inauguration of Vidyaranya Bhavan at Bandlaguda Jagir, Sanjay claimed that there are special rules in place for religious traditions. He criticized Jagan for his remarks on Hindus and the Tirumala Declaration, alleging that he is attempting to cover up more scandals. Sanjay questioned what harm it would do if Jagan gave a declaration.

“All the Houses Being Demolished Belong to Hindus”

Bandi Sanjay also made sensational allegations, claiming that all the houses being demolished by Hydra belong to Hindus. He criticized Congress, accusing them

of exploiting the situation under the guise of Hydra. While he stated that the BJP is not against Hydra, he emphasized that poor people should not be left homeless due to demolitions in the Musi catchment areas. Sanjay predicted that the Congress Party will face a major defeat in the upcoming local body elections, similar to what happened to BRS. He warned that Telangana might face a situation similar to Sri Lanka. He challenged Congress and BRS, asking if they are prepared for the elections, particularly concerning Gram Panchayat funding. Sanjay expressed confidence that BJP would achieve significant success in the local body elections.



CM Chandrababu Receiving Applications At TDP Central Office



TPN, Mangalagiri: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu interacted with people from across the state at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, receiving petitions and hearing grievances from various communities, including the disabled and students. Naidu patiently listened to the concerns and assured the public that their issues would be addressed. Several individuals also made donations to the Chief Minister's

Relief Fund during the event.

Before the petition collection began, a tribute was paid to the portrait of knight Joshua in honor of his birth anniversary. One of the petitioners, a disabled woman named Tanniru Pamparam from Guntur Town, explained her plight. She informed the CM that her pension had been cut off after the YCP government came to power be-

cause her household consumed more than 300 units of electricity. Pamparam requested the restoration of her pension, as she was struggling to make a living without it.

Another petitioner, Gurpushala Srinivasa Rao from Pamidimaruru village in Palmadu district, described his family's land dispute. He claimed that two acres of land owned by his father's broth-

ers had been encroached upon by YCP leaders, who also threatened violence when asked to return the property.

Additionally, Hindu elders from the Krishnadharm Rakshasa Samiti requested the establishment of goshalas (cow shelters) near Mangalagiri to prevent the smuggling of neglected cows along the Guntur-Vijayawada National Highway.

During the event, several donations were made to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, including Rs. 50,000 each from Aluri Venkata Rao and Aluri Adinarayana of Tullur, Rs. 25,000 from M. Shyamala Rao and K. Rajeshwari, and Rs. 15,000 from K. Harika of Vijayanagar. CM Chandrababu congratulated and thanked the donors for their contributions.

Minister Kollu Ravindra's Sharp Remarks on Jagan's Tirupati Visit Cancellation

TPN, Machilipatnam: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra made fiery comments regarding the cancellation of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Tirupati, accusing the Chief Minister of lacking faith in Lord Venkateswara. Speaking to the media, Ravindra criticized Jagan for blaming the government for his canceled visit, questioning why Jagan was unwilling to sign the Tirumala declaration, a common practice for non-Hindus visiting the temple.



"It is shameful for Jagan to criticize the government when thousands of people, including leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Abdul Kalam, have visited Tirupati by signing the declaration," said Ravindra. He further claimed that Tirupati had suffered desecration during the five-year rule of YSRCP, but under the current government, large numbers of pilgrims have resumed their visits to the temple.

Ravindra strongly denied YCP leaders' accusations that the police issued notices preventing Jagan from visiting Tirupati. "No such notices were issued. We only took preventive measures to avoid mob formation and

maintain law and order," he clarified.

The minister expressed concerns about the growing discontent among Hindu communities due to Jagan's behavior and alleged that the Chief Minister's actions were creating unrest.

Ravindra also responded to comments made by YCP leader Perni Nani, accusing him of corruption. "You and your son have done nothing in the last five years, yet you accuse us of wrongdoing. Didn't you accuse me of murder and put me in jail for 54 days?" he asked, referring to his own imprisonment.

Ravindra promised a thorough investigation into the alleged corruption involving Perni Nani, including accusations of land grabbing in the name of housing schemes, stating that the truth would soon come to light.

Chandrababu's Remarks on Tirupati Laddu Are Unacceptable

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Vijayawada West In-charge Velampally Srinivasa Rao has strongly condemned former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his recent comments on the sanctity of the Tirupati Laddu and Lord Venkateswara Swamy. Speaking at a public gathering, Velampally criticized Naidu, stating that any individual at the level of a Chief Minister should take action against wrongdoings, rather than making baseless accusations.



"It is deeply unfortunate that someone who served as Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, mocked the Tirupati *prasada* in a party meeting," Velampally said. He noted that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, during his tenure, provided a clear and brief explanation in response to Naidu's allegations. He also pointed out that EO Shyamala Rao, appointed by Chandrababu himself, had certified the use of high-quality ghee and supplies for the making of the laddus, as stated on the TTD website.

Velampally also questioned why Naidu, who initially spoke about the use of vegetable fat in July, changed his stance in September to accuse the use of animal fat in the laddus. "If Chandrababu Naidu truly believed in

Lord Venkateswara, he wouldn't reduce the sanctity of the temple or its offerings," he added.

Further, Velampally criticized the current government, accusing it of creating division between caste and religion for political gain. He questioned why there were no issues during Jagan's earlier visits to Tirupati, when he walked up the hill for darshan and presented silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on the invitation of TTD officials.

He expressed sadness over the state's current situation, claiming that the coalition government is tarnishing the image of the temple. Velampally called for the people to take notice and urged Chandrababu Naidu to change his mindset, warning that anyone who speaks wrongly about Lord Venkateswara will face consequences.

Buddha Venkanna Criticizes Jagan's Actions Regarding Tirumala Visit

TPN, Vijayawada: TDP leader Buddha Venkanna launched a scathing attack on YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing the Chief Minister of using Tirumala for selfish political gains. Venkanna expressed outrage over Jagan's recent claims that he was denied permission to visit Tirumala, calling the statements "ridiculous."

Speaking to the media, Buddha Venkanna criticized Jagan for alleging that he was denied permission to visit Tirumala at the last moment. He sarcastically remarked, "You can only visit Tirumala if Lord Venkateswara blesses you, not just because you wish to go." Venkanna further added that Jagan's inability to visit the temple was due to the fact that "Venkanna Swamy didn't grant him permission."

The TDP leader questioned Jagan's reluctance to sign the Tirumala declaration affirming his faith in Lord Ven-



kateswara, asking, "Why can't Jagan, who studies the Bible at home, provide a declaration as per the temple's rules?"

Venkanna also criticized Jagan's past behavior, recalling incidents where he allegedly wore sandals while walking around the Tirumala temple. He accused the Chief Minister of trying to divert attention from past controversies, including the ghee adulteration scandal at Tirumala, and pointed out that Jagan was closely connected to YV Subbareddy, who was involved in the case.

"Chandrababu Naidu has the blessings

of Lord Venkateswara. The Lord himself saved Chandrababu from a Maoist attack, while Jagan continues to desecrate the sanctity of Tirumala during his tenure," Venkanna said.

The TDP leader also criticized Jagan for turning every issue into a religious or caste dispute, urging him to "come to his senses and change his ways." He reaffirmed his loyalty to Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh, stating, "If I'm given positions, I will continue to work. My devotion is to the party, Chandrababu, and Lokesh."

Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Orders Unobstructed Water Flow in Drains

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra conducted an inspection of the outfall drain system at the Mill Project in the 46th Division on Saturday morning. During the inspection, he directed officials to ensure the smooth flow of water in all drains across the city, emphasizing the need for continuous monitoring and prompt action.



Commissioner Dhyanchandra urged the public health and engineering departments to regularly clean major, minor, and medium-sized drains. He highlighted the importance of using maps to monitor the cleaning process, particularly for smaller drains, to prevent any obstructions.

The Commissioner further instructed officials to maintain an uninterrupted water flow in outfall drains within the Vijayawada city limits, stressing the need for consistent efforts in maintaining the drainage systems.

Accompanying the Commissioner during the visit were Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. P. Ratnavali, Superintendent Engineer Rammohan, Zonal Commissioner One Ramya Keertana, Executive Engineer ASN Prasad, and other officials from the municipal corporation.

"If You Live, Live Like Jagan" says Perni Nani

TPN, Vijayawada: YCP leader and former Minister Perni Nani responded to the controversy surrounding the Tirumala Declaration. He remarked that if one lives, they should live like Jagan. He noted, "Jagan's grandfather and father converted to Christianity, who doesn't know about them today?" he questioned.

Criticizing Pawan Kalyan's comments about Chandrababu, Nani said, "Pawan praises Chandrababu for worshipping while wearing shoes, and these BJP people accuse me of making noise. Does a person who believes in Hinduism and God worship while wearing shoes? Is there anyone who worships with shoes on? There are numerous videos and photos as proof of this. What do you have to say about God?"

Nani continued, "Chandrababu, who talks about Hinduism, why didn't he shave his head when his mother and father passed away? When my par-



ents died, I shaved my head. What practices are you following? What language are you speaking?"

He further added, "Did Jagan not walk the stairs of Tirumala without faith in Lord Venkateswara? Why talk about others... A film actress visited Tirumala this month. Did you take a declaration from her? Her name reflects her Christian faith, yet there's silence now."

Nani also criticized some individuals from Telangana who came to Tirumala for religious purposes, calling it "hypocrisy." He added, "Do your bhajans in your hospital! You are robbing people in the name of medical bills. You used to do bhajans on trains... Have you ever reduced a single rupee for Hindus in your hospital? We know your hospital partners. How many crores did you steal during the Corona crisis? Talking about Owaisi Hospital... have you given any discounts to Hindus?"

Nani concluded by pointing out the double standards, stating, "There is so much talk today... Even Prime Minister Modi, along with the AP Governor, visited Tirupati. Did they give a declaration? What about the MPs from Hyderabad who were speaking about it? Did they question Modi about bringing a non-Hindu without a declaration?" Nani lashed out.

Will Petrol, Diesel Come Under GST?

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's Interesting Statement



Pune: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, has reignited discussions on the possibility of bringing petrol and diesel under the Goods and Services Tax (GST), emphasizing the need for consensus-building among states. Speaking at the Pune International Centre's (PIC) 14th Foundation Day lecture, Puri highlighted that incorporating fuel under GST has long been advocated and even discussed by senior government officials, including the finance minister.

"I have heard suggestions to bring petrol and diesel under GST. It is something I have been advocating for a long time," Puri remarked, adding that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also mentioned this on multiple occasions.

However, Puri acknowledged the significant challenge in getting unanimous state approval, as petrol and diesel are major sources of revenue, particularly through state-level taxes like Value Added Tax (VAT). He pointed out that many non-BJP-ruled states are reluctant to forgo the additional VAT revenue. "Non-BJP states are not even willing to forego the additional VAT," he said, signaling a major roadblock to the move.

Puri also referenced a 2022 suggestion by the Kerala High Court to bring the issue before the GST Council. Despite this, he noted that the finance minister of Kerala opposed the idea. He further explained that while some BJP-ruled states have reduced VAT on fuel, non-BJP states are less willing to make similar cuts, making it difficult to reach consensus.

India's Energy Security and Future Outlook

In his broader address, Puri touched upon the future of India's energy

security, emphasizing the country's growing role in the global energy market. With India's energy consumption expected to triple over the next two decades, he noted that the country would account for 25 percent of the global increase in energy demand.

To enhance energy security, Puri stressed the need for strategic petroleum reserves, boosting domestic exploration, and reducing reliance on imported fuel. He reflected on India's long history of oil exploration, dating back to the 1880s discovery of crude oil in Digboi, Assam. He also pointed out the government's approval for exploiting one million square kilometers of the sedimentary basin to attract investors.

Addressing the future of energy, Puri identified three primary challenges: availability, affordability, and the transition to renewable energy sources. He spoke of the potential of green hydrogen as a key future fuel but acknowledged that its success depends on technological advancements and local production capabilities.

Geopolitical Risks and Global Oil Markets

Puri also discussed the volatility of global oil markets, warning that while there is no shortage of oil, geopolitical tensions could push up prices. He noted that the traditional dominance of oil cartels may diminish as the world shifts to renewable energy.

In conclusion, Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar, President of PIC, echoed the minister's concerns about India's reliance on fuel imports and the urgent need to focus on renewable energy to ensure long-term energy security.

More Indians Than Ever Are Holidaying Abroad??

The global travel industry is booming, and no nation is contributing to this surge more rapidly than India. As international travel approaches pre-pandemic levels, Indian travelers are making their mark, spurred by a rapidly expanding middle class and a growing desire for global exploration. With a middle class currently comprising 31% of its population, India is witnessing an economic transformation that is expected to see over 1 billion middle-class citizens by 2047. This is creating a robust outbound tourism market that's catching the attention of global destinations.

A Surge in Indian Outbound Tourism

Indian travelers spent an astounding \$33.3 billion on international holidays in 2023, and this figure is expected to climb as more middle-class Indians gain disposable income. The United Nations World Tourism Organization reports that international travel reached 97% of its pre-pandemic level in early 2024, and in regions like Africa and Europe, it has already surpassed that threshold. Indian travelers are playing a significant role in this recovery, and airlines have responded by placing record orders for new planes in 2024 to meet the increasing demand. Many countries have started tailoring their tourism strategies to attract Indian travelers. In April 2024, Japan introduced an e-visa system aimed specifically at boosting Indian arrivals. Dubai, which already sees a large number of Indian tourists, rolled out a five-year, multiple-entry visa in early 2024, while South Africa is simplifying its visa requirements by 2025. Malaysia, Kenya, Thailand, and Iran have gone a step further, eliminating visa requirements

for Indian visitors altogether. These measures appear to be effective. For instance, since Georgia launched its e-visa system for Indian tourists in 2015, demand for holidays in the country has increased by a staggering 600%, according to travel operator Thomas Cook.

European Hesitancy and Visa Challenges

Despite the growing focus on Indian tourists, some European nations have been slower to simplify visa processes. The Schengen zone, covering much of Europe, introduced a "cascade" system allowing Indian visitors with two previous short-stay visas to apply for a two-year, multiple-entry visa. However, for new travelers, the Schengen visa process remains cumbersome, often taking months to complete and requiring significant paperwork. Similarly, Britain's visa process for Indians has been criticized for being unnecessarily complex and at times, humiliating, with rejections often issued without explanation. As a result, many Indian tourists are opting for more accessible destinations, avoiding the lengthy processes required for European and British visas. A key trend among Indian tourists is last-minute trip planning. According to Booking.com, Indians typically plan their holidays just 30 days in advance, compared to 63 days for Americans and 90 days for Brits. The hassle of long visa processes often deters travelers who prefer spontaneous trips, leading them to seek destinations with easier entry requirements.

South-East Asia has become an increasingly popular region for Indian tourists. Budget airlines offering affordable flights to nearby countries have played

a major role in this trend. Vietnam, for example, saw a 231% increase in Indian visitors in 2023 compared to pre-pandemic levels, according to the Vietnam National Authority of Tourism. Other nearby countries like Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia are also experiencing a significant influx of Indian travelers.

The Bollywood Effect

Another major influence on Indian travel trends is Bollywood. Movies and television shows often inspire travel choices for Indian tourists. In 2011, for example, the number of Indian tourists visiting Spain jumped by 40% after the La Tomatina festival, famously featured in the Hindi film *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*. Similarly, Switzerland has long been a favorite destination for Indian tourists, largely due to its frequent appearance in Bollywood films. The Swiss tourist board even offers Bollywood-themed tours to cater to this demand.

Dubai, too, has leveraged the popularity of Bollywood, with superstar Shah Rukh Khan fronting promotional campaigns for the city. Other destinations have followed suit, such as New Zealand, which appointed Bollywood actor Siddharth Malhotra as its brand ambassador in 2015.

A Future of Global Exploration

By 2040, it's estimated that up to 90 million Indians will travel abroad annually, not far behind the 104 million Chinese tourists who traveled internationally in 2019. As Chinese tourists increasingly opt for domestic travel, Indian travelers may soon become the largest outbound tourism market in the world.



Is Hassan Nasrallah Dead? Who Will Lead Hezbollah Next?

Israel has claimed today that its airstrikes on Beirut killed **Hassan Nasrallah**, the long-time chief of **Hezbollah**, although the group has not yet confirmed his death. If true, this marks a significant development for the militant group, which Nasrallah has led for 32 years, shaping Hezbollah's role both as a political force in Lebanon and a key player in the region's armed resistance against Israel.

Nasrallah's Legacy:

Nasrallah rose to power in 1992 after the assassination of his predecessor, Abbas al-Musawi. Under his leadership, Hezbollah expanded from a militia focused on resisting Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon to a powerful political entity in Lebanon. Nasrallah is revered within Hezbollah for overseeing Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, which bolstered his reputation. His leadership has remained deeply entrenched in opposing Israel, often shaping Lebanese politics through his speeches and Hezbollah's armed activities.



Implications of Nasrallah's Death:

Nasrallah's death would deal a substantial blow to Hezbollah, not only in terms of leadership but also in morale. Despite Hezbollah's deep in-

tegration into Lebanese politics and society, his removal would serve as a potent symbol of Israeli military success. According to Lina Khatib of the **Chatham House Policy Institute**, while Hezbollah is unlikely to collapse

following his death, the group's morale and operational cohesion would be significantly impacted.

Hezbollah's military operations, especially along the Israeli border,

have intensified recently, with the group escalating its attacks following Hamas's October 7 assault on Israel. The potential loss of Nasrallah could alter Hezbollah's military strategy and complicate its ability to maintain momentum in its ongoing conflict with Israel.

Succession and Leadership:

The most likely successor to Nasrallah is **Hashem Safieddine**, his cousin and a senior Hezbollah leader. Safieddine currently oversees the group's political affairs and is part of the Jihad Council. Groomed for leadership, Safieddine has strong ties to both Hezbollah's internal factions and its Iranian backers, making him a suitable candidate to take over. The US State Department designated him a terrorist in 2017, emphasizing his importance within the organization.

As Hezbollah grapples with a potential leadership transition, the group's ability to maintain its operational strength, regional influence, and Iranian backing will be critical to its future.

Surgical Strikes Taught Terror Mentors Biggest Lessons: PM Modi in J&K

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, while addressing a massive rally at M.A. Stadium in Jammu, recalled the 2016 surgical strikes, stating that they have sent a strong message to the "mentors of terrorism." The strikes, conducted deep inside Pakistan on September 28, 2016, in response to the Uri terror attack, demonstrated India's ability to strike within enemy territory, marking a significant shift in the country's counter-terrorism strategy.

"The enemy (Pakistan) knows that if they do any mischief in our country, they will be hit inside their own territory," the Prime Minister reiterated. He emphasized that the surgical strikes had taught the biggest lessons to those who sponsor and support terrorism, affirming that India will act decisively in defense of its sovereignty.

Modi took the opportunity to criticize the Congress Party, accusing it of questioning the military's actions by seeking proof of the surgical strikes. He also criticized Congress for failing to provide adequate resources to the country's defense forces, contrasting this with the BJP's implementation of the One Rank One Pension scheme, benefiting defense personnel and their families.

In his address, the Prime Minister underscored the deep patriotic connection he feels with Jammu and paid tribute to regional leaders like Maharaja Hari Singh, Mehr Chand Mahajan, and Pandit Premnath Dogra. Modi also saluted the martyrdom of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, whose birth anniversary coincided with the day of the rally.



Rally Ahead of J&K Elections

PM Modi's rally comes ahead of the final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, with voting scheduled for October 1 and results to be announced on October 8. Modi expressed confidence that the BJP would secure a majority government in the region, marking the first time Jammu would have a government of the people's choice.

"The people of Jammu are tired of the rule of three families—NC, PDP, and Congress—who have allowed rampant corruption. The people want peace and a better future for their children, and they are voting for the BJP," he said, citing large voter turnout in the previous two phases as evidence of growing support for the party.

Modi further addressed historical grievances of the Jammu region, accusing Congress, NC, and PDP of marginalizing

certain communities and depriving them of their rights. He highlighted that the BJP has provided voting rights to refugees from PoK, as well as the Valmiki and Gorkha communities, which he claimed were previously denied by former governments.

Development and Infrastructure Commitments

The Prime Minister also laid out his vision for the development of Jammu and Kashmir, citing infrastructure projects such as the Jammu Ring Road, AIIMS, and improvements to the airport and railway station. He announced new initiatives, including a ropeway project from Bahu Fort to Mahamaya Temple and tourism development in areas like Surinsar Lake and Gharana wetland.

Modi assured the business community that the region is poised for economic growth, with new industries expected to provide local employment opportunities. He also touted the success of the Golden Card scheme, which has provided free healthcare to thousands of families.

Reiterating his promise to restore full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Modi assured the public that the BJP is committed to eliminating corruption and ensuring equal opportunities for all communities in the region.

The rally ended with Modi raising the hands of BJP candidates contesting in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Udhampur districts, urging voters to elect them in the final phase of the elections on October 1.

Ex-RG Kar Principal Could Face Death Penalty If Charges Proven: Court

Kolkata: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court has denied bail to Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, citing the grave nature of the accusations against him, which, if proven, could attract the death penalty. Ghosh was arrested by the CBI, along with former officer-in-charge of Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, for allegedly tampering with evidence and delaying the filing of an FIR in the rape and murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital.



The incident, which occurred on August 9, saw the postgraduate trainee doctor's body discovered with severe injuries in the seminar hall of the hospital. The CBI has been investigating the case, and the court observed that the probe is actively ongoing.

In the order delivered on September 25, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate S. Dey remarked that the nature of the accusation against Ghosh was severe enough to potentially result in capital punishment if proven. He noted that this type of punishment is reserved for the "rarest of rare" cases, but the allegations in this case meet that threshold.

The court emphasized that releasing the accused on bail would undermine the principle of justice, especially given the seriousness of the allegations. The judge also pointed out that a crime can be committed with the assistance of others, even if the accused was not present at the crime scene. This was relevant to the role of both Ghosh and Mondal in the alleged tampering of evidence.

Both Ghosh and Mondal will remain in judicial custody until September 30, as the court rejected their bail pleas. Ghosh's counsel argued that he had been falsely implicated and that there was no direct involvement in the crime, but the court was not swayed by these arguments.

AAP to Challenge Delhi Civic Body Panel Election in Supreme Court

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has announced that it will file a petition in the Supreme Court on Saturday, contesting the "unconstitutional, illegal, and undemocratic" Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Standing Committee election, senior AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi stated.

The controversy arose after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured the last vacant seat in the 18-member Standing Committee of the MCD unopposed on Friday. Both the AAP and Congress councillors boycotted the election, leading to the BJP's unchallenged victory.

During a press conference, Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP of manipulating the election process, allegedly through the misuse of the powers of the Lieutenant Governor and MCD officials. Atishi asserted that the rules grant the authority to the mayor to set the date and venue for the MCD House meeting, and only the mayor is authorized to preside over such proceedings.

Challenging the BJP, Atishi called for the dissolution of the MCD and fresh elections, asserting confidence that the public would favor AAP if a fair election were held. She emphasized the party's commitment to fighting what it perceives as a manipulation of the democratic process in the civic body.

The political tussle has further escalated the tension between AAP and the BJP, adding to the ongoing conflicts between the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor's office over governance issues in the national capital.

Further developments are awaited as AAP moves to the Supreme Court, seeking intervention in the matter.

Congress Releases Haryana Poll Manifesto

Promises of MSP, Caste Census, Free Electricity, and Jobs

Chandigarh: As Haryana gears up for its state legislative assembly elections on October 5, the Congress Party has unveiled a manifesto packed with key promises aimed at addressing farmers' issues, social justice, and women's welfare. The manifesto, released in the presence of Congress leaders Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Ashok Gehlot, and Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) President Udai Bhan, outlines several ambitious commitments.

Among the most significant pledges are the legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops and conducting a caste census in the state—two major talking points for Congress nationally. The manifesto promises immediate compensation for crop losses, subsidies on diesel for farmers, and the formation of a farmer commission to support the agricultural sector.

Key highlights of the Congress manifesto include:

1. ****Free Electricity and Healthcare**:** The party has committed to providing 300 units of free electricity to every family in Haryana and free medical treatment up

to ₹25 lakhs per family.

2. ****Women's Welfare**:** Drawing inspiration from schemes in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Congress has promised ₹2000 per month to women aged 18-60 and a subsidy of ₹500 on gas cylinders.

3. ****Housing for the Poor**:** The Congress manifesto promises a plot of 200 yards and a two-room house for economically weaker sections in the state.

4. ****Caste Census**:** One of the major promises is to conduct a caste-based survey, which the Congress has been advocating for to ensure fair representation and allocation of resources. They also aim to increase the creamy layer limit to ₹10 lakhs.

5. ****Youth Employment**:** The manifesto vows to create 2 lakh permanent jobs and make the state free of drugs.

6. ****Restoring the Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**:** In contrast to the central government, the Congress promises to restore the Old Pension Scheme, which has been

a major demand among government employees.

7. ****Social Security Pensions**:** The manifesto promises ₹6000 per month to senior citizens, handicapped individuals, and widows under Budhapa Pension, Divyang Pension, and Vidhwa Pension schemes respectively.

In addition to these core promises, Congress has announced plans to build universities in Kurukshetra and Mewat, with a special focus on promoting the Punjabi language. The manifesto also promises to make Haryana safer and provide greater respect for social diversity.

At the launch event, Bhupinder Singh Hooda emphasized that the manifesto was crafted after extensive research, with insights taken from Rajasthan under the leadership of Ashok Gehlot and other states. Haryana's upcoming elections will see voters electing representatives for 90 seats, with results expected on October 8. The 2019 elections saw the BJP emerge as the largest party with 40 seats, while Congress won 30.

3 Soldiers, 1 Policeman Injured in Ongoing Encounter with Terrorists in J&K's Kulgam

Srinagar: In a tense encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, three army personnel and one police officer were injured, a senior police official confirmed on Saturday. The injuries sustained by the security forces are reported to be minor, and all are in stable condition.

The encounter began late Friday night in the Arigam area of Kulgam when security forces, acting on intelligence reports, intercepted the movement of terrorists. Upon reaching the location, the terrorists opened fire, leading to an exchange of gunfire between the security forces and the militants.



Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, VK Birdi, provided an update on

the situation, stating, "The security forces received information late last

night about the movement of terrorists in the Arigam area. As soon as our

forces reached the spot, firing began, which led to an ongoing encounter. Three army personnel and one police officer have suffered minor injuries, but they are in stable condition. The operation is still underway and may take some time to conclude. More details will be available once the operation is over."

The joint operation by the Chinar Corps of the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police continues in the Adigam Devsar area of Kulgam.

This incident comes at a crucial time as Jammu and Kashmir undergoes assembly elections, being held in three phases. The first two phases, conducted on September 18 and 25,

took place across various districts, including Ganderbal, Budgam, Srinagar, Rajouri, Reasi, and Poonch. The third and final phase is scheduled for October 1, with vote counting slated for October 8. These elections are the first in the Union Territory since the abrogation of Article 370 and come after a ten-year gap, marking a significant moment in J&K's political history.

Despite the ongoing conflict, IGP Birdi emphasized that security arrangements have been made in full preparation for the upcoming phase of elections in five districts of North Kashmir. The situation remains tense in Kulgam as security forces work to bring the encounter to a close. Further updates are expected as the operation progresses.

India Warns of "Inevitable Consequences" After Shehbaz Sharif's UN Speech on Kashmir



New Delhi: India issued a strong rebuttal at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) following Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's speech, in which he raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and called for reversing India's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370. India warned that Pakistan's persistent support for cross-border terrorism will "inevitably invite consequences."

India's First Secretary to the UN, Bhavika Mangalanandan, delivered the response, highlighting Pakistan's long history of using terrorism as a state policy. Mangalanandan described Pakistan's involvement in global terrorism, accusing it of orchestrating cross-border attacks and harboring terrorists, including Osama bin Laden. She noted that Pakistan's "fingerprints" can be found on many global terrorist incidents, including the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

"A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade, and transnational crime, has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," Ms. Mangalanandan said, calling Sharif's statements "audacious" in light of Pakistan's own track record.

India also dismissed any possibility of a "Strategic Restraint Regime" with Pakistan unless the latter eradicates terrorism, stating, "There can be no compact with terrorism." Mangalanandan emphasized that Pakistan's attempts to disrupt the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir through terrorism have been futile, asserting that Pakistan's calls for dialogue were insincere given its actions.

In his speech, Sharif linked the Kashmir issue to regional peace and accused India of military expansion

aimed at Pakistan. However, Mangalanandan countered these claims, pointing to Pakistan's history of destabilizing Jammu and Kashmir through terrorist activities.

India's response also touched upon Pakistan's internal issues, including its human rights violations and the genocide of 1971 in Bangladesh. Mangalanandan called it "ridiculous" for Pakistan to lecture the world on intolerance, given its own persecution of minorities.

Following India's statement, Pakistan responded with a Right of Reply, rejecting India's claims as "baseless and misleading," and reiterated its demand for a referendum in Jammu and Kashmir under UN Security Council resolutions. However, India's position remained firm, asserting that repetition of lies would not change the truth about Pakistan's involvement in terrorism.

India Lifts Ban on Export of Non-Basmati White Rice Exporters Hail Decision as "Game-Changer"

Kolkata: In a significant move, the Indian government has lifted the ban on the export of non-basmati white rice, effective immediately, according to an official notification released on Friday. The ban, initially imposed in July 2023, was aimed at ensuring domestic supply and controlling rice prices in the face of inflationary pressures.

The decision has been widely welcomed by exporters, who have dubbed it a "game-changer" for the agricultural sector. Suraj Agarwal, CEO of Rice Villa, remarked, "India's bold decision to lift restrictions on non-basmati white rice exports is a game-changer for the agricultural sector. This strategic move will not only boost the income of exporters but also empower farmers, who can expect higher returns with the impending arrival of the new kharif crop."

In addition to lifting the ban, the government has also reduced the export duty on parboiled rice from 20 percent to 10 percent, a move that is expected to further enhance the competitiveness of Indian rice in global markets.

Keshab Kr Halder of the Halder Group, a prominent rice exporter who had been advocating for the removal of the ban, also lauded the government's decision, stating that it will rejuvenate the rice export market and bring much-needed relief to farmers and exporters alike.

The removal of the export restrictions comes at a crucial time, as India remains one of the world's largest rice exporters. The ban had raised concerns among international buyers and import-dependent nations, but the recent decision is expected to stabilize global rice supplies and ease international market concerns.

"Article 370 Can Only Be Restored By Government" says Ghulam Nabi Azad

Jammu: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman, Ghulam Nabi Azad, asserted that the restoration of Article 370 can only be achieved by the Government of India, not by any state, taking a dig at the National Conference (NC) and the Congress for their stance on the issue. Speaking to reporters during his campaign in the Kathua district, Mr. Azad highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have already committed to restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Azad pointed out that neither the National Conference nor the People's Democratic Party (PDP) raised the issue of Article 370 or statehood in Parliament, whereas he personally addressed the issue. "The prime minister and the home minister have already said they would restore statehood," he remarked.

Responding to questions about the demands from the NC and Congress for the restoration of statehood and Article 370, Mr. Azad reiterated, "Article 370 can only be restored by the Government of India, not any state."

His remarks came after Congress MP "Rahul Gandhi" warned the "BJP-led Union government", pledging that the opposition "INDIA bloc" would mobilize both inside and outside Parliament if statehood is not restored after the upcoming assembly elections.

Harris Vows To Fix US Immigration System, Trump Says "This Is Bad Timing"

Washington: Democratic presidential nominee "Kamala Harris" has pledged to strengthen border security and fix the US immigration system during her visit to the "US-Mexico border" in "Douglas, Arizona", on Friday. Amid increasing concerns about illegal immigration, Harris emphasized the need for a "pathway to citizenship" for undocumented immigrants while calling for a bipartisan effort to reform the broken system.



"As President, I will work with Congress to create a pathway to citizenship for hardworking immigrants who have been here for years," Harris said. She added that her administration would prioritize solutions over political games, contrasting her approach with former President "Donald Trump".

Harris criticized Trump for not addressing

immigration reform during his presidency, alleging he did little to fix the shortage of border agents and immigration judges or update the asylum system. "The American people deserve a President who cares more about border security than playing political games," she said.

Harris also unveiled plans to target the "global fentanyl supply chain", reduce the flow of chemicals from China, and protect Americans from the drug epidemic.

In response, "Donald Trump" criticized Harris' timing for visiting the border, stating, "She didn't go there for four years. Today, she shows up." Trump further accused Harris of failing to secure the border and betraying her oath, claiming her policies have led to crime and chaos in American cities.

With the "2024 presidential election" fast approaching, Harris and Trump continue to clash over immigration policy, a key issue in the upcoming race. Harris' visit underscores her commitment to reforming the system, while Trump emphasizes his tough stance on border security.

Israel Says Hezbollah Chief Dead: "Will No Longer Terrorise The World"

Tel Aviv: The Israeli military announced on Saturday that the nation is on high alert following its claim of killing Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on Beirut. Israel expressed hope that Nasrallah's reported death would prompt Hezbollah to reconsider its actions, but warned that it would take time to degrade the group's capabilities.

"We hope this will change Hezbollah's actions," said Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani during a media briefing. Despite this, he cautioned that Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, may continue or even escalate its attacks against Israel. "It's safe to assume that they are going to continue carrying out their attacks against us or try to," he added.

Although the Israeli army has not issued new instructions to civilians, Shoshani emphasized that existing home-front readiness guidelines remain in place, keeping much of the country on high alert.

Iran and Hezbollah Response

In the wake of Israel's claims, Iran has reportedly taken precautionary measures, including relocating Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to a secure location. Iranian officials are in constant contact with Hezbollah and other proxy groups in the region to assess their next steps after the reported death of Nasrallah.

Nasrallah, a key figure in Hezbollah, has long been an adversary of Israel, with the group carrying out numerous attacks over the years. The potential repercussions of his death could lead to a broader conflict in the region, and Israeli forces are preparing for possible retaliatory actions.

As tensions escalate, both sides are bracing for further developments, with Hezbollah's response expected to be critical in determining the next phase of the conflict.





India's Quick Commerce Industry Sales Surge Over 280% in Two Years

India's quick commerce industry has seen an impressive growth of over 280% in sales over the past two years, according to a report by financial services firm Chryseum. The Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of the quick commerce sector rose from \$500 million in the financial year 2021-22 to \$3.3 billion in 2023-24, indicating a sharp increase in consumer demand for faster and more convenient delivery options.



Quick commerce, which refers to the rapid delivery of small orders within a limited time frame, is outpacing traditional e-commerce in growth. While India's e-commerce sector grows at an annual rate of 14%, the quick commerce sector witnessed a 73% annual growth rate in the 2023-24 financial year. This surge reflects a significant shift in consumer behavior, with more people prioritizing speed and convenience in their shopping experience.

The report also highlighted that India's quick commerce market, valued at \$3.34 billion in 2024, is projected to grow to \$9.95 billion by 2029, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 4.5%. Despite its rapid expansion, the sector remains relatively untapped, with only a

7% penetration rate of the total addressable market, which is valued at \$45 billion. This leaves a substantial opportunity for further growth, especially as quick commerce begins to surpass the size of the food delivery market.

To capitalize on this potential, quick commerce platforms are increasingly bypassing traditional distributor networks by partnering directly with manufacturers. This strategy allows them to streamline operations, reduce costs, and offer more competitive pricing to consumers. Technological innovations are also playing a crucial role in improving delivery speed and operational efficiency, helping meet the growing demand for instant deliveries.

As India's quick commerce industry continues to evolve, experts predict it will play a major role in shaping the country's retail landscape in the coming years.

Reliance Power to Consider Stake Sale for Fundraising, Board Meeting Set for October 3

Reliance Power Ltd has announced that its board of directors will meet on Thursday, October 3, 2024, to consider a potential stake sale to raise funds. The company disclosed this plan in a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Friday evening.

The board will explore raising capital through various channels, including the issuance of equity shares, equity-linked securities, convertible warrants, preferential issues, rights issues, or foreign currency convertible bonds. The decision will be based on the board's approval of the most suitable option for fundraising.

Reliance Power's shares closed 4.98% higher at ₹46.36 on Friday, compared to ₹44.16 in the previous session, signaling positive market sentiment ahead of the

board meeting.

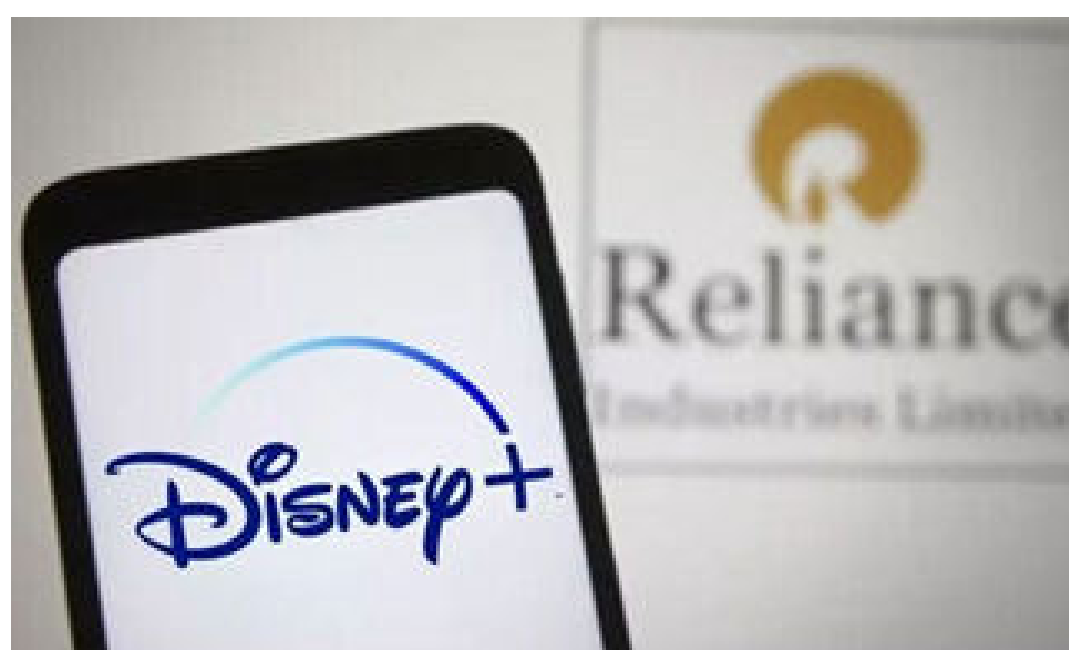
The coal-power-generating company is seeking long-term resources to expand its renewable energy segment and reduce its debt. Reliance Power recently approved the issuance of 46.20 crore preferential shares to raise ₹1,524.60 crore. The funds from this preferential share issue are intended for expanding business operations, investing in subsidiaries and joint ventures, and addressing general corporate purposes.

Reliance Power, along with its subsidiaries, operates a power generation portfolio with a capacity of nearly 6,000 MW. The upcoming board meeting is expected to provide further clarity on the company's fundraising strategies and expansion plans.

Reliance-Disney \$8.5 Billion Merger Moves Forward

RIL Wins I&B Ministry Approval for Channel Transfer

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has granted approval for the much-anticipated \$8.5 billion merger between Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Disney, clearing the path for the transfer of channels held by Viacom 18 Media Pvt Ltd to Star India Private Limited. The approval relates specifically to the transfer of licenses for non-news and current affairs TV channels.



This key approval from the ministry marks a significant step forward in the merger process. However, the deal remains subject to further conditions and clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which will assess the competitive impact of the merger on the media and broadcasting industry.

The merger between Mukesh Ambani-led RIL and Disney is expected to create a powerful entity in India's entertainment and broadcasting landscape, combining assets and resources from both media giants. Industry experts are closely watching the developments, as the deal is poised to reshape the media market in India.

Accenture bets big on Indian talent for technology; CEO Julie Sweet

Global IT giant Accenture is doubling down on its Indian talent pool, with plans to hire more technology professionals in the country, CEO Julie Sweet announced during an investor call. India remains a core component of Accenture's talent strategy, as the company looks to continue its growth trajectory in the upcoming fiscal year 2025.



"We are hiring primarily in India, with a focus on technology talent," Sweet said. Out of Accenture's 7.7 lakh global workforce, over 300,000 employees—around 57%—are based in India. The company's net addition of 41,484 employees during the 2025 fiscal year included more than 24,000 new hires in the August quarter alone, indicating a robust hiring push in the country.

Accenture's fiscal year follows a September-August calendar, and for FY 2025, the company expects revenues between \$16.8 billion and \$17.4 billion for the first quarter, driven largely by growth in technology and continued investment in its Indian workforce.

Generative AI and Growth Focus

Accenture has also positioned itself as a leader in Generative AI (GenAI), securing GenAI bookings worth \$1

billion in the fourth quarter of FY24-25. The company reported full-year bookings of \$81 billion, with 125 client bookings over \$100 million each, further cementing its leadership in transformative technologies.

"We are accelerating our leadership in Generative AI, which we believe will be the most transformative technology of the next decade," Sweet stated. She added that Accenture's strategy and continued investments in AI and technology will drive strong growth in fiscal 2025.

With a record 310 Diamond clients—Accenture's largest business relationships—the company expects to continue its momentum, driven by new technologies and an expanding talent base, especially in India.

IDFC FIRST Bank Announces Completion of IDFC Ltd Merger

IDFC FIRST Bank has officially completed its merger with IDFC Limited, with the merger becoming effective from October 1, 2024. The bank announced the news on Friday after receiving all necessary approvals from shareholders and regulatory bodies.

As part of the merger, shareholders of IDFC Limited will receive 155 shares of IDFC FIRST Bank for every 100 shares of IDFC Limited they hold, as of the Record Date set for October 10, 2024. The credited shares are expected to be issued on or before October 31, 2024, subject to the completion of regulatory processes and approvals.

The merger simplifies the corporate structure of IDFC FIRST Bank by eliminating the holding company setup, aligning the bank's shareholding structure with other leading private sector banks in India. Notably, the bank will now operate with no promoter holding, ensuring that it remains a professionally managed institution.

The merger also brings financial benefits, with approximately ₹600 crore of cash and cash equivalents flowing into IDFC FIRST Bank as part of the



amalgamation.

Speaking about the merger, V. Vaidyanathan, MD & CEO of IDFC FIRST Bank, said, "The announcement of the merger today between IDFC FIRST Bank and IDFC Ltd brings closure to the intense work over the last two years. IDFC FIRST Bank will now have a simplified corporate structure with no promoter holding."

The completion of this merger marks a significant milestone in IDFC FIRST Bank's journey, positioning it for continued growth and streamlined management in the Indian banking sector.

Adani Enterprises' Joint Venture April Moon Retail Acquires 74% Stake in Cococart Ventures for ₹200 Crore

Adani Enterprises Ltd announced on Friday that April Moon Retail Private Ltd (AMRPL), a joint venture of its step-down subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL), has acquired a 74% stake in Cococart Ventures Private Ltd (CVPL) for ₹200 crore. The acquisition was formalized through a series of agreements, including a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA), Share Subscription Agreement (SSA), and Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), all signed on September 27, 2024.

As part of the transaction, AMRPL will acquire 36.96% of CVPL's equity through the purchase of 1,473,518 shares under the SPA. Additionally, AMRPL will secure another 37.04% equity by purchasing 1,476,471 shares under the SSA, giving it a controlling 74% stake in the company.

This strategic acquisition is aimed at enhancing the retail operations of the Adani Group, signaling its entry into the retail and food & beverage sectors. Cococart Ventures, founded in 2020, has seen significant growth, operating cafés and engaging in the buying, selling, and trading of goods in both



retail and wholesale markets across India. CVPL reported a turnover of ₹99.63 crore in FY23, up from ₹51.61 crore in FY22 and ₹6.89 crore in FY21.

The acquisition is expected to be completed by October 31, 2024, with AMRPL partnering with CVPL's current shareholders, Karan Ahuja and Arjun Ahuja. The joint venture will focus on expanding CVPL's business activities and formalizing a governance framework for shared management responsibilities.

Adani Enterprises Ltd's shares closed at ₹3,131.15, registering a 0.32% increase on the BSE following the announcement.



NETANYAHU'S UN MAPS LABEL INDIA AS 'BLESSING', IRAQ AND IRAQ AS 'CURSE'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered a high-profile speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which has since garnered significant international attention. Central to his presentation were two striking maps of the Middle East that painted a stark geopolitical divide. Holding these visuals at the UN podium, Netanyahu categorized nations as either a "Blessing" or a "Curse," with the two classifications appearing to align closely with Israel's political and strategic alliances.

On one side, Netanyahu's green-colored "Blessing" map featured countries that either had normalized relations with Israel or were seen as potential allies. India, Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia were highlighted in this category, reflecting Israel's evolving diplomatic landscape. In contrast, his "Curse" map showed Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen cloaked in black, portraying them as bastions of instability and sources of violence in the region. The Israeli leader did not mince words as he squarely blamed Iran and its allies for ongoing conflicts throughout the Middle East.

The Black Map: Iran as the 'Curse' of the Middle East

During his speech, Netanyahu focused much of his rhetoric on condemning Iran's influence in the region. He attributed the violence in Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen directly to Tehran's financial and military backing of groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis. These groups, he argued, act as Iranian proxies, destabilizing the region and presenting a direct threat to Israel's security.

"If you strike us, we will strike you," Netanyahu warned Iran, making it clear that Israel is prepared to act decisively to defend itself. He also justified Israel's military actions in Lebanon and Gaza as necessary responses to Iranian aggression. This combative stance has been a cornerstone of Netanyahu's foreign policy, with Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional activities consistently cited as existential threats to Israel.

While Netanyahu's address appealed to his domestic base and aligned with Israel's current security concerns, it drew sharp criticism from other quarters. Diplomats from several nations, including many from Arab countries, walked out of the UN General Assembly hall in protest as Netanyahu began his speech.

The Green Map: Allies and Potential Partners



In contrast to the ominous depiction of Iran and its allies, Netanyahu presented a green-hued map featuring countries he described as "blessings" — nations either already allied with Israel or in the process of normalizing relations. The list included Egypt, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia, as well as India, signaling Israel's expanding network of partnerships.

India's inclusion in this group highlights the country's growing rapport with Israel under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Historically a strong supporter of Palestinian self-determination, India has pivoted in recent years, deepening its defense, technological, and economic ties with Israel. Modi and Netanyahu have cultivated a personal rapport, and both countries have found common ground in areas such as counter-terrorism, agriculture, and cybersecurity.

Meanwhile, Egypt's presence on the "Blessing" map came as little surprise. Since the signing of the 1979 peace treaty, Egypt has maintained a formal, albeit often cool, relationship with Israel. However, in recent years, cooperation between the two countries has strengthened, particularly in areas of security and energy. Egypt remains a key player in mediating conflicts in Gaza, and both countries have shared interests in combating Islamist extremism.

Saudi Arabia: A Complex Relationship



Perhaps the most complex figure on Netanyahu's "Blessing" map was Saudi Arabia. For months, the Biden administration had been working to broker a historic normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which many viewed as a potential game-changer for Middle Eastern diplomacy. Such a deal, which was seen as being on the horizon before the October 2023 eruption of hostilities between Israel and Hamas, included the prospect of the U.S. entering into a defense treaty with Saudi Arabia. In return, Saudi Arabia would normalize relations with Israel, while Israel would grant concessions to the Palestinians.

However, Saudi Arabia has consistently maintained that any normalization with Israel must be predicated on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has complicated these negotiations, casting doubt over the feasibility of a near-term agreement. Despite this, Netanyahu's inclusion of Saudi Arabia in the "Blessing" category suggests that he remains optimistic, or at least publicly hopeful, about future diplomatic developments.

The Palestinian Question: A Notable Absence



What was perhaps most conspicuous about both of Netanyahu's maps was the complete erasure of Palestine. There was no reference to the existence of Palestine in either the green "Blessing" map or the black "Curse" one. The absence of Palestine from the visual narrative symbolized what many see as Netanyahu's ongoing refusal to seriously engage with the two-state solution — a point that was echoed by Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi in his response to Netanyahu's speech.

Safadi, speaking to reporters, warned that Netanyahu was driving the region toward open war by rejecting a two-state solution. He offered Jordan's guarantee of Israel's security if Netanyahu would agree to the creation of an independent Palestinian state. "He is creating danger because he simply does not want the two-state solution," Safadi said, accusing Netanyahu of undermining prospects for peace.

Ranveer Allahbadia's YouTube Channels Restored After Cyberattack: What He Said

Influencer and podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, popularly known as BeerBiceps, has successfully restored his YouTube channels after they were hacked a few days ago. The cyberattack led to the deletion of all his videos and the renaming of his channels, causing significant disruption to his content and his connection with his audience.

In a video update following the restoration, Ranveer expressed his gratitude to YouTube for their swift action. "Hey guys. Want to update you all that our channels have been restored. Thanks to the YouTube Global and YouTube India team. Very grateful to them, very grateful to you all. Thank you so much for supporting us through this very testing period," he said.

The hack, which occurred around 11:30 pm on September 25, led to both channels being renamed to "@Elon.trump.tesla_live2024" and "@Tesla.event.trump_2024." They featured content related to Tesla CEO Elon Musk and US presidential candidate Donald Trump. After the breach, YouTube disabled the channels, temporarily displaying a "404 not found" error page to visitors.

Reflecting on the ordeal, Ranveer revealed that it made him reconsider his future on the platform. "There was a moment when I felt that I finally have to switch to being a full-time entrepreneur. No more YouTube. But God has other plans," he shared.

In addition to updating his followers, Ranveer took the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. He stressed that cyber safety is essential, especially for those active on



digital platforms. "I hope this is a reminder for you all to focus much more on your cybersecurity needs. It's something we have been very serious about, and then this happened. Cyber safety is a very serious topic. It's the need of the hour. Educate yourself on this topic," he urged.

Addressing rumors that the hacking incident might have been a publicity stunt, Ranveer firmly denied the speculation. "I also want to tell you guys that this is not a marketing or a PR stunt. My work is my dharma. This is my faith. I would not mess around with the image of my work in such a way," he clarified.

With his channels now back online, Ranveer plans to continue creating content while prioritizing cybersecurity to avoid future incidents.

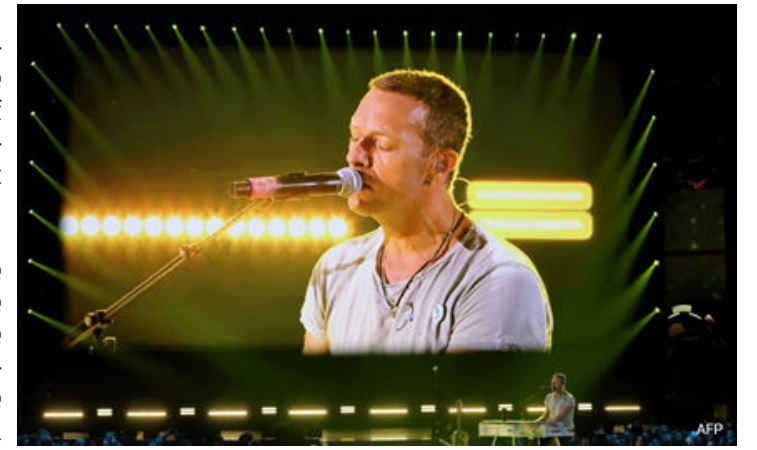
BookMyShow CEO Summoned Over Alleged Black Marketing of Coldplay Concert Tickets

Mumbai : The CEO and co-founder of BookMyShow, Ashish Hemrajani, along with the company's technical head, have been summoned by Mumbai Police in connection with allegations of black marketing of tickets for Coldplay's upcoming concert in Navi Mumbai. The British rock band is scheduled to perform at DY Patil Stadium on January 18, 19, and 21, 2025.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai Police initiated a probe following a complaint by advocate Amit Vyas, who accused BookMyShow of enabling the resale of concert tickets at exorbitant prices. According to Vyas, tickets originally priced at ₹2,500 were being sold for as much as ₹3 lakh by third parties and influencers. The complaint alleges that the platform deceived the public and Coldplay fans by facilitating this resale.

Hemrajani and the company's technical head have been summoned to record their statements on Saturday as part of the ongoing investigation. The EOW has already taken Vyas' statement and has identified brokers allegedly involved in the ticket scalping.

The controversy has sparked political reactions, with the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) calling for a thorough investigation. Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Anand Dubey expressed concerns over a "nexus" involved in the black marketing of tickets and called for Maharashtra



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's intervention to ensure fair practices. Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Ram Kadam stated that those involved in the black marketing scheme should face jail time.

BookMyShow had earlier faced a technical crash when tickets for Coldplay's concert went on sale on September 22, leading to widespread disappointment among fans. The demand was so high that the band added a third show for their "Music of the Spheres World Tour 2025" in Mumbai.

As the probe continues, the incident raises broader concerns about ticketing practices for high-demand events in India.

Leopard Beaten to Death After Attacking Homeguard Jawan in UP's Bijnor

Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh: In a shocking incident, a leopard was allegedly beaten to death by villagers in Amannagar village of Bijnor district, Uttar Pradesh, after it attacked a home guard jawan. The incident took place on Friday evening, according to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Gyan Singh.

The home guard jawan, identified as Surendra, had gone to a tubewell located behind his house with his children—Disha (20), Reshu (14), and Deepanshu (18)—when the leopard, which was resting on a mango tree, suddenly pounced on him.

In a desperate bid to save their father, the children exhibited remarkable bravery. Disha reportedly grabbed the leopard's legs from behind, while Reshu and Deepanshu struggled with the wild animal for nearly 10 minutes. Their courageous efforts helped protect Surendra from further harm.

Hearing the commotion, locals quickly gathered at the scene and attacked the leopard with sticks,



leading to its death on the spot.

DFO Gyan Singh confirmed the details, stating that the forest department was immediately informed of the incident. A post-mortem examination of the leopard, conducted under the supervision of Ranger Rajneesh Tomar, revealed that the deceased animal was a female, approximately three years old.

The forest department has initiated action in the case, and infor-

mation regarding the incident has been shared with senior officials. Further steps are being taken in accordance with departmental protocols.

This incident highlights the ongoing conflict between humans and wildlife in areas where their habitats overlap, posing a danger to both. The authorities are yet to issue a formal statement regarding further measures to prevent such incidents.

Bangladesh 'Super Fan' Tiger Robi Suffers From Tuberculosis

Hospitalized During India-Bangladesh Test in Kanpur

Bangladeshi cricket superfan, known as Tiger Robi, required medical attention during the second Test match between India and Bangladesh at Kanpur's Green Park Stadium. Robi, who was seen dressed in his signature bright yellow tiger-like face paint, was carried out of the stadium by medical and security personnel after reportedly fainting due to heat exhaustion.

Initially, Robi alleged that he had been assaulted by local fans during the lunch break, but later retracted this claim. Kanpur police confirmed that no assault had taken place, and it was instead a case of heat exhaustion exacerbated by his ongoing health issues.

Robi, who suffers from tuberculosis, arrived in India on a medical visa for treatment of the illness. Tuberculosis is a serious lung condition, and Robi had been experiencing health complications prior to the match, including dehydration and loose motions. According to police, he had already visited a local hospital the day before the match.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander, quoted by PTI, explained that Robi's hospitalization was primarily due to his health condition. "Robi has reportedly been suffering from tuberculosis, a serious illness that mainly affects the lungs, and has come to India for his treatment," said Chander.

The incident occurred during the first session of the match, with Robi waving a Bangladeshi flag from an unauthorised



section of the stadium, which had been closed due to structural concerns. This reportedly led to a confrontation with Indian spectators, but security personnel quickly intervened. The police official later clarified that Robi fainted due to the heat, and there had been no physical assault.

Despite his health issues, Robi had previously attended the first Test match in Chennai, where he allegedly directed vulgar insults at Indian cricketer Mohammad Siraj. However, the language barrier (Bengali) meant that most people did not react in Chennai. In Kanpur, where more people understood the language, tensions escalated further, leading to the intervention of security personnel.

Robi was taken to Regency Hospital in Kanpur, where he was treated and later discharged. Further checks on his visa and travel activities within India are reportedly underway.

Delhi Launches Anti-Dust Campaign to Tackle Winter Air Pollution

In a proactive effort to address the severe dust pollution that contributes to the deteriorating air quality during winter, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday unveiled a comprehensive 14-point guideline for construction sites. The initiative, part of the city's 'Winter Action Plan', is designed to curb the dust generated by construction activities, a major factor in Delhi's pollution crisis.

Starting from October 7, these guidelines will be strictly enforced across all construction sites, with penalties imposed on violators. Repeat offenders may face a complete halt to their construction activities, Minister Rai warned during his press conference.

Key Measures in the 14-Point Guideline:

- 1. Enclosing Construction Sites:** All construction sites must be surrounded by tin sheets to prevent dust from spreading into the surrounding areas.
- 2. Dust Prevention:** Materials like sand, gravel, and soil must



be covered, and construction debris should not be left uncovered to avoid dust from spilling onto roads.

3. Water Sprinkling: Regular water sprinkling on construction sites is mandatory to suppress dust emissions.

4. Clean Tires for Transport Vehicles: Vehicles transporting construction materials are required to have clean tires before leaving the site to prevent dirt and dust from spreading on roads.

5. Health and Safety Measures for Workers: Workers on construction sites must be provided with dust masks and health kits at all times to safeguard their well-being.

6. Monitoring Compliance: The Delhi government has deployed 523 teams from 13 different departments to monitor construction sites and ensure adherence to these new guidelines.

The anti-dust campaign will run from October 7 to November 7, during which construction activities will be closely monitored to ensure compliance. These efforts are part of a broader strategy by the Delhi government to improve the city's air quality during the winter months, a period known for hazardous pollution levels due to various factors, including construction dust and crop stubble burning in neighboring states.

"We are determined to tackle dust pollution head-on, as it is a significant contributor to the declining air quality in Delhi," said Mr. Rai. He emphasized that both private and public construction projects must adhere to these rules.

With these measures, the Delhi government hopes to mitigate dust pollution and ensure cleaner air for residents during the critical winter period.

Rain Threatens India's World Test Championship Final Hopes

India's bid to secure a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final has taken a hit as rain and a wet outfield have disrupted the second Test against Bangladesh at Green Park Stadium. With only 35 overs bowled on Day 1, Bangladesh reached 107/3, while Indian pacer Akash Deep shone with two key wickets. However, the second day was washed out entirely, and weather forecasts remain unfavorable.

India currently leads the WTC standings with a percentage points (PCT) tally of 71.67 after 10 matches, putting them in a strong position to qualify for their third consecutive WTC final. A 2-0 series win over Bangladesh would have significantly eased India's path, leaving them needing just three wins from their remaining eight matches.

However, if the second Test

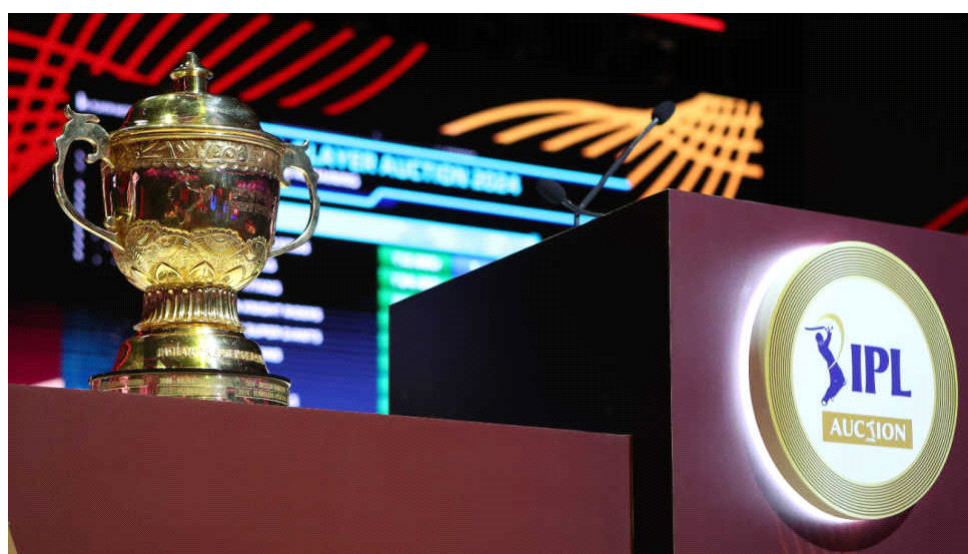
ends in a draw due to persistent rain, India's route to the WTC final becomes much more challenging. A drawn Test would mean India needs to win five out of their next eight Test matches to guarantee a place in the final, depending on the results of other top contenders.

This would raise the stakes for India's upcoming home series against New Zealand, where a 3-0 sweep is crucial to reduce the pressure of winning away games in the five-match Border-Gavaskar series against Australia. India has a dominant record at home, but the requirement of a clean sweep will still be a significant task. While India has enjoyed recent success in Australia, winning their last two series Down Under, repeating such a feat with WTC qualification at stake adds additional pressure.

Should the second Test against Bangladesh result in a draw, India's margin for error in the WTC race narrows significantly. The team will likely need to secure at least two wins against Australia on their home soil, a challenge that has proven difficult for most teams.

For now, the Indian squad is hoping for improved weather conditions in Kanpur to resume play. Every session lost to rain makes India's journey to the WTC final more complicated, despite their strong start to the match. Akash Deep's early impact has given India a foothold, but the outcome of the Test remains uncertain.

The Indian camp remains focused on winning the current series, but the looming WTC qualification battle will heavily influence their strategies going forward, especially with tougher matches on the horizon.



IPL Governing Council to Finalize Auction Retention Rule

The IPL Governing Council is set to meet on Saturday evening, ahead of the BCCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for Sunday, with a key agenda item being the finalization of the player retention rule for the upcoming IPL 2025 mega auction. After consultations with IPL team owners, it appears that the board is leaning towards allowing **five player retentions** and **one Right to Match (RTM) option** per team.

This decision comes after months of deliberations, which began with a meeting in July involving the 10 IPL franchise owners. High-profile franchises such as **Mumbai Indians** and **Chennai Super Kings** are expected to make crucial decisions regarding their top players, with CSK's long-time captain **MS Dhoni** being one of the notable names under discussion for retention.

The upcoming mega auction, likely to be held in the **second week of November**, could also see the venue being announced during the meeting. Whether the retention and auction decisions will be immediately made public remains uncertain, as they may be tabled for further discussion during Sunday's AGM.

The IPL 2025 auction will be a significant event, marking the end of the three-year player cycle. The last mega auction, held in 2022, allowed teams to retain up to four players, but with the cycle closing, there has been ongoing debate among franchises about whether to increase the retention cap. While some teams are pushing for the retention of up to eight players, others are content with the proposed five-player retention limit.

Similar to previous auctions, the IPL 2025 auction is expected to be a **two-day event**, given its scale and importance in shaping team rosters for the next few seasons. Fans and teams alike are eagerly awaiting the official announcements regarding both retention rules and the auction schedule.

BCCI AGM Focuses on ICC Representatives, No Immediate Successor for Jay Shah

The 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), scheduled for Sunday, will primarily focus on electing two representatives to attend the International Cricket Council (ICC) meetings, with the topic of finding a successor to current BCCI secretary Jay Shah not being on the official agenda.

The AGM comes at a crucial time as the ICC is set to hold a conclave in Dubai following the conclusion of the Women's T20 World Cup, which will end on October 20. Jay Shah, who is expected to take over as ICC chairman on December 1, will continue as BCCI secretary until that time, ensuring his presence during the ICC discussions. Shah has often represented India in ICC meetings since the end of Sourav Ganguly's tenure as BCCI president, with his most recent appearance being in Colombo in July.

While the BCCI president Roger Binny holds the position of Alternate Director to represent the board at ICC meetings, he has rarely assumed this role. With a year left in his term, it remains to be seen whether Binny will continue as Alternate Director or if a new representative will be nominated during the AGM.

Though the selection of Shah's successor is not on the official agenda, informal discussions are expected to take place among members about potential candidates for the role. Two names being floated are Anil Patel, secretary of the Gujarat Cricket Association, and Rohan Jaitley, son of the late Arun Jaitley and president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association. Patel is currently seen as the frontrunner, but an official ratification of the successor is expected to take place at a Special General Meeting (SGM), the date of which may be revealed post-AGM.

Apart from these elections, the AGM will also cover important administrative matters such as ratifying the induction of representatives from the Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) and the General Body, appointing sub-committees including the Cricket Committee, and approving the annual budget for the 2024-25 season.



FIFA Bans Argentina Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez for "Offensive Behaviour"

Buenos Aires*: Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez has been handed a two-match ban by FIFA for "offensive behaviour" and "violating principles of fair play," the Argentine Football Association (AFA) confirmed on Saturday. The 32-year-old, who plays for Aston Villa, was found guilty of misconduct during two separate incidents in recent World Cup qualifiers.

Martinez faced disciplinary action for a controversial celebration after Argentina's victory over Chile in a World Cup qualifier on September 5. He was seen holding a replica of the Copa America trophy to his groin, an act that FIFA deemed a violation of its code of conduct. This incident echoed a similar display during the 2022 World Cup, when Martinez made an inappropriate gesture with the Golden Glove trophy after Argentina's win over France in the final.

In addition to these incidents, Martinez was sanctioned for striking a TV cameraman's equipment with his gloves following Argentina's 2-1 defeat by Colombia on September 10.

The Argentine Football Association expressed their strong disapproval of FIFA's ruling, stating, "The Argentine Football Association expresses its absolute disagreement with the decision taken by the FIFA disciplinary committee." As a result of the ban, Martinez will miss Argentina's upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela on October 10 and Bolivia on October 15.

Liam Livingstone Equals England Great England Shatter Multiple Records vs Australia

England all-rounder Liam Livingstone produced a sensational final-over blitz in the fourth ODI against Australia at Lord's, equaling a special record held by the legendary Andrew Flintoff. Livingstone hammered seven sixes during his quickfire knock of 62 off 27 balls, tying Flintoff's record for the most sixes in an innings at Lord's in ODIs. Flintoff achieved the feat with seven sixes in his iconic 123-run knock against the West Indies in 2004.

Livingstone's explosive innings featured a brutal assault on Australia's premier pacer Mitchell Starc, as he

smashed four sixes and a four in the final over, yielding 28 runs in total. His powerful hitting helped England finish with 312/5 in their rain-shortened 39-over innings, marking their highest score against Australia at Lord's. 12 sixes hit by England in their innings are the most by any team in an ODI at Lord's. England's 312/5 is their highest total against Australia at the iconic venue.

Australia won the toss and opted to field first. England got off to a solid start with a **48-run opening stand** between **Phil Salt** (22) and **Ben**

Duckett (63). **Harry Brook** starred with the bat, contributing a blistering 87 from 58 balls, including **11 fours** and a **six**. Brook forged crucial partnerships, first with Duckett (79-run stand) and then with **Jamie Smith** (75-run stand).

Livingstone's stunning cameo, supported by Brook's knock, took England past the 300-mark. **Adam Zampa** (2/66) was the pick of the bowlers for Australia, while **Mitchell Marsh**, **Glenn Maxwell**, and **Josh Hazlewood** claimed a wicket each.

In response, Australia started well with a 68-run opening stand between **Travis Head** (34) and skipper **Mitchell Marsh** (28). However, England's bowlers, led by **Matthew Potts** (4/38) and **Brydon Carse** (3/36), quickly dismantled the Australian lineup. Australia was bowled out for **126** in just 24.4 overs, giving England a comprehensive **186-run victory**.

With the win, England leveled the five-match series at **2-2**, setting up an exciting decider. **Harry Brook** was named the **Player of the Match** for his outstanding contribution with the bat.





Cinema Legends & Rising Stars Shine at IIFA Utsavam 2024

The Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi was ablaze with glamour as the IIFA Utsavam 2024 brought together cinema legends and rising stars from the South Indian and Bollywood film industries. The star-studded event saw icons like **Chiranjeevi**, **Balakrishna**, and **Venkatesh** sharing the stage, enthralling the audience with their magnetic presence.

The night also featured appearances by Bollywood royalty **Aishwarya Rai** and musical maestro **AR Rahman**, alongside acclaimed actors **Vikram**, **Nani**, and **Samantha**. Visionary director **Mani Ratnam**, and celebrated actresses like **Suhasini**, **Raashi Khanna**, **Rakul Preet**, and **Kriti Sanon** added to the evening's glitter and grace.

The gathering of such immense talent from both South Indian cinema and Bollywood made IIFA Utsavam 2024 a truly memorable and spectacular celebration of cinematic excellence.



IIFA Utsavam 2024: Samantha Ruth Prabhu Shines as 'Woman of the Year in Indian Cinema'

Abu Dhabi: It was a night of celebration and glamour as actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu was honored with the prestigious 'Woman of the Year in Indian Cinema' award at the IIFA Utsavam 2024. Held on Friday, the event brought together some of the biggest stars from South Indian and Bollywood cinema, all under one roof. Samantha's win highlights her incredible success and growing influence in the industry.

A video shared on IIFA Utsavam's official Instagram account captured the moment when Samantha accepted the award from actor Vicky Kaushal, radiating joy and grace. For the special occasion, Samantha wowed the audi-

ence in a stunning green shimmering dress, further solidifying her status as a fashion icon.

IIFA Utsavam, a three-day extravaganza celebrating the best of southern cinema—Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada—kicked off with a grand start. The second day will feature Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Vicky Kaushal, and Karan Johar as hosts for the IIFA Awards night, adding even more star power to the event.

Additionally, the legendary Rekha is set to make a highly anticipated return to the IIFA stage after many years. Performances from Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon,



Ananya Panday, Janhvi Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal are sure to add extra sparkle to the gala.

The three-day celebration will conclude on September 29 with IIFA Rocks, an exclusive, invitation-only event featuring live performances from artists like Honey Singh, Shilpa Rao, and Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy.

Samantha's win at IIFA Utsavam 2024 marks yet another milestone in her stellar career, as she continues to make waves across Indian cinema.

IIFA Utsavam 2024: Chiranjeevi Honored with Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema Award

Megastar Chiranjeevi was bestowed with the prestigious 'Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema Award' at the inaugural edition of the IIFA Utsavam 2024, a special event celebrating the best of Southern cinema—Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada. The award honored his immense contributions to the film industry over more than four decades. The award was presented by Hindi cinema icons Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar, marking a momentous occasion in Indian cinema.



The official IIFA Instagram handle shared a clip of the heartwarming moment, writing, "An iconic moment at IIFA Utsavam 2024! Chiranjeevi receives the Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award from the legendary Javed Akhtar. A celebration of excellence, legacy, and the magic of storytelling."

Chiranjeevi, who made his debut in 1978, has acted in over 150 films, with memorable performances in hits such as *Swayam Krushi*, *Rudraveena*, *Indra*, *Tag-*

ore, *Gang Leader*, and *Aapathbandavudu*. In recent years, he has continued to captivate audiences with roles in *Waltair Veerayya* and *GodFather*. His most recent release was *Bhola Shankar* in 2023, and fans eagerly await his next project, *Vishwambhara*.

The IIFA Utsavam 2024, held at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, celebrates the excellence of Southern film industries. The event will continue with the second day focusing on Hindi films and the third day dedicated to the

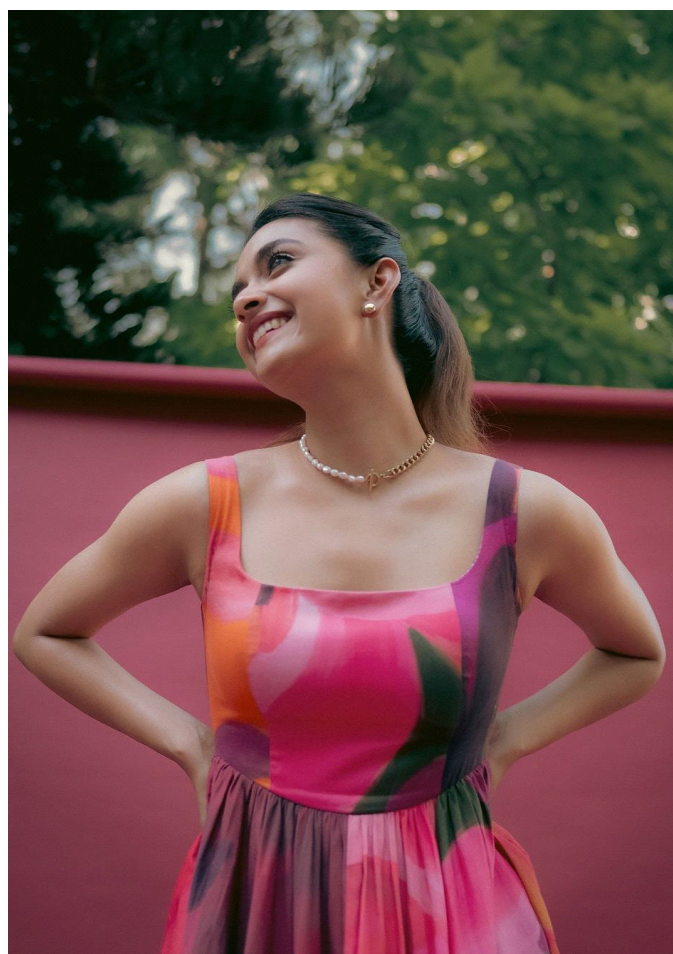
Music Awards. Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Vicky Kaushal, and Karan Johar are set to entertain audiences with their hosting, while performances from Shahid Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, and Rekha are highly anticipated.

The recognition of Chiranjeevi's extraordinary career at such a prestigious event further cements his legendary status in Indian cinema, as fans and industry peers celebrate his remarkable contributions to storytelling and entertainment.

Keerthy Suresh Twirls into Barbie Dreamland Bliss!

Keerthy Suresh is setting fashion goals with her latest Barbie-inspired look! The actress turned heads as she donned a stunning pink gown, complete with red heels, a sleek ponytail, and a statement golden necklace. Her radiant smile and graceful twirls in the gown have left fans mesmerized, as she effortlessly channels her inner Barbie.

Keerthy shared these captivating pictures while promoting her upcoming film, *Raghu Thatha*, and they have since gone viral, garnering widespread admiration. Fans have been quick to shower her with praise, appreciating both her elegance and charm in this playful, glamorous ensemble.



Devara' 1st Day Collections: Huge Opening for NTR Jr's Latest Blockbuster



The much-anticipated film *Devara*, starring **NTR Jr.** and directed by **Koratala Siva**, had a massive opening day, riding high on the expectations set after NTR Jr.'s last blockbuster, *RRR*. Produced by **Mikkilineni Sudhakar** under the banner of Yuva Sudha Arts' and presented by 'NTR Arts', *Devara* had already built significant hype thanks to its promotional content, including hit songs and trailers.

Despite receiving mixed reactions on its release day, the movie has performed exceptionally well at the box office. *Devara* had a staggering theatrical business valued at **₹174.4 crores**, and to break even, it needs to collect a share of **₹175 crores**. On the first day alone, the film raked in a whopping **₹90.7 crores**, setting new records and showcasing NTR Jr.'s star power.

With just **₹84.3 crores** left to break even, *Devara* is well on track to achieve this milestone over the weekend, making it a strong contender for one of the year's biggest box-office successes.

Ram Charan's 'Game Changer' Drops 2nd Single Promo, Fans Go Wild



The excitement surrounding **Ram Charan** and **Director Shankar's** much-anticipated film *Game Changer* has reached a fever pitch with the release of the second single promo, titled *Raa Macha Macha*. Produced by **Dil Raju** under **Sri Venkateswara Creations**, the movie's soundtrack is composed by the renowned **SS Thaman**.

The promo, which dropped today, showcases Ram Charan's electrifying hook step,

leaving fans in a frenzy and eagerly awaiting the full song's release on **September 30**. The film's music has already garnered attention, with fans celebrating the release of each track. The song promises to be a chartbuster, adding to the growing buzz around the film.

Fans are already in celebratory mode after the release of the promo, further hyping up the big release of the full song later this month. *Game Changer* is set to

hit theaters on **December 20**, and expectations are sky-high for this massive collaboration between Ram Charan and Shankar.

The promotional campaign for the film has been gaining momentum, with the hashtag **#RaaMachaMacha** trending on social media. With the release of this catchy promo, fans are now eagerly counting down to the movie's grand release, which promises to be a spectacular year-end treat.