



HCL to Launch New Campus in Hyderabad, Create 5,000 Jobs



TPN, Telangana: HCL Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra met with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to discuss this development and invited him to the inauguration ceremony. HCL Technologies is planning to establish a new campus in Hyderabad's Hi-Tech City, which is expected to generate 5,000 additional engineering jobs.

On Friday, September 27, HCL Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra met with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to discuss the new campus and extended an invitation to him for the inauguration ceremony.

During their meeting, the Chief Minister highlighted the state government's efforts to enhance education and skill development initiatives. He expressed optimism that HCL would collaborate with the Young India Skill University to improve educational resources and training for students. Reddy emphasized the government's commitment to partnering with HCL in skill development initiatives aimed at benefiting local youth seeking em-

ployment opportunities in the state.

Revanth Reddy expressed his appreciation for HCL's initiatives in creating job opportunities within the state and confirmed the government's willingness to support and collaborate with the company. The Chief Minister emphasized that a strategic partnership with HCL would not only generate employment for the youth but also significantly boost the state's economic development.

Roshni Nadar Malhotra indicated that HCL is eager to partner in the skill development programs initiated by the state government, aiming to empower young people. She noted that HCL's GUVI platform will focus on enhancing technological skills while also providing job opportunities.

Furthermore, she highlighted that the collaboration with the Telangana government would equip learners with essential industry-relevant skills, thereby nurturing future technologists and skilled professionals.

We Have Demolished N Convention, but Not the Huts

- Ranganath mentioned that there is opposition to Hydra on social media.
- Ranganath said that Hydra means assurance and responsibility.
- Hydra Commissioner expressed that he was saddened to hear about Buchamma's death.



TPN, Hyderabad: Hydra Commissioner Ranganath revealed in a media conference that while the N Convention situated in the buffer zone was demolished, the huts next to it were not. He expressed disappointment, stating that although Hydra had done commendable work in demolishing some illegal buildings, opposition has now emerged, particularly on social media.

Ranganath emphasized that Hydra has only targeted illegal structures, and that the demolition of certain buildings had even been praised earlier. He noted that there is strong resistance to Hydra's operations, especially on social platforms.

The Hydra officials and Musi Riverfront officials also clarified that they are taking action against officials who had granted illegal construction permits. Citing an example, Ranganath explained that government lands in Aminpur had been alienated, and even though a hospital there had been demolished, it was rebuilt illegally. The officials recorded a video showing that no patients were present in the hospital at the time of demolition.

He assured that buildings where people were residing were not demolished. Referring to recent encroachments cleared in Kukatpally Nalla Cheruvu, he noted

that some residents refused to vacate despite advance notice.

Ranganath expressed deep sorrow over the suicide of ****Buchamma****, an elderly woman who took her life out of fear of Hydra's operations. He mentioned that she had been frightened by rumors and misinformation. **"Hydra Means Assurance and Responsibility"**

The commissioner clarified that ****Hydra**** stands for assurance and responsibility. He explained that demolitions are only carried out after giving ample notice to the affected parties. "If we don't act now, we will never be able to protect the ponds and canals," he said, adding that ****Hydra**** was established by the ****Chief Minister**** to safeguard public and government properties. He stressed that Hydra is committed to disaster management and the protection of properties, and it is their duty to ensure a clean and lawful environment, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Ranganath also noted that while Hydra is not intended to harm the poor, there are influential figures behind many illegal constructions. ****Hydra**** has been in operation for two months and continues to be responsible for the protection of properties belonging to the government and people alike.

Harish Rao Gets Emotional Hearing the Sufferings of Hydra Victims



TPN, Telangana: Senior BRS leader and MLA Harish Rao became emotional today after hearing the plight of HYDRA victims who had gathered at the BRS headquarters in Hyderabad. Along with other party leaders, including Sabita Indra Reddy, Harish Rao was deeply moved as the victims recounted their struggles. Many expressed that they had worked hard for years to build their homes, only to see them collapse. Harish Rao assured the victims that the BRS Legal Cell would support them through their ordeal.

Harish Rao Criticizes Revanth Reddy's Actions

Harish Rao strongly criticized Revanth Reddy, accusing him of shedding "crocodile tears" for the poor and middle-class victims while allowing the Godavari water to drain into the Musi River. He questioned whether Revanth Reddy, who is overseeing the demolition of common people's homes, would be willing to send bulldozers to his own family's property.



Harish Rao argued that Revanth Reddy's actions are damaging the future of Hyderabad and its residents.

He further alleged that the Congress government was prioritizing the demolition of poor people's homes while granting permissions for large buildings on the Musi River. Harish Rao demanded that an all-party meeting be held before any further demolitions take place, asserting that only a united approach could provide relief to the victims.

Buchamma's Tragic Death

A HYDRA victim from Kukatpally, Buchamma, reportedly committed suicide, which Harish Rao attributed to the distress caused by Revanth Reddy's decisions. He claimed that Buchamma's death was not a suicide but rather a result of Revanth Reddy's actions, as she was worried about her children's future if their home was destroyed by Hydra. Harish Rao called on Rahul Gandhi to



address the situation in Telangana, contrasting Gandhi's opposition to "bulldozer rule" in Haryana with what was happening in Telangana under the Congress government.

Tensions ran high at Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad when Harish Rao, Sabita Indra Reddy, and other BRS leaders attempted to visit Buchamma's body. The police stopped them, leading to an argument between BRS members and the police, escalating the situation.



Revanth's Government More Tyrannical than Nizam's, Says Eatala

TPN, Hyderabad: Malkajgiri Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Etela Rajender has criticized the Telangana government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, claiming it is implementing a governance style more "tyrannical"

than that of the Nizam era. His remarks come in the context of the HYDRA demolitions across Hyderabad.

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Now, Rs.150 crore sand scam in mining department, says KTR

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Revanth’s Government More Tyrannical than Nizam’s, Says Eatala

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He expressed his discontent over the demolition of houses, which he argued stands in stark contrast to the housing initiatives previously championed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who provided housing pattas to the poor.

Rajender stated, “No government that has made promises to the poor has ever succeeded,” emphasizing that those who bring tears to the eyes of the impoverished will ultimately face dire consequences. Rajender sharply criticized the Congress Party for its “contradictory” stance on housing for the poor.

“While the party claims to support the impoverished by providing homes, it is now demolishing houses, despite the votes cast by those same impoverished individuals,” he added.

He asserted that the time has come for the Congress government to step down, pointing out that it took KCR’s government eight years to reveal its ‘true nature,’ whereas Revanth Reddy’s administration has shown its character in less than six months.

He also noted that 70 poor families who had constructed homes in the Jonnabanda area in Alwal received notices from the Alwal Tehsildar regarding the demolition of their houses.

Now, Rs.150 crore sand scam in mining department, says KTR

TPN, Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday accused the Mining Department under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of being involved in a Rs. 150 crore sand scam. KTR claimed that 1,50,000 tons of sand, valued at Rs. 150 crore, had been diverted using fake documents and receipts, with the culprits falsely claiming that the sand was intended for Hyderabad Metro Water Works.

KTR questioned the possible involvement or knowledge of high-ranking government officials in this scandal, pointing to the scale and complexity of the operation. “A scam of this magnitude could not have taken place without the awareness of higher officials,” he said, stressing the need for a thorough and transparent investigation.

He demanded that authorities take strict action against those responsible for the sand theft and ensure accountability within the department. KTR’s allegations have raised serious concerns about governance and corruption, and he emphasized that transparency must be maintained in handling such cases to restore public trust.

The accusation adds a new dimension to the political tension between the BRS and the current government, with KTR urging for immediate measures to uncover the truth behind the scam.

Revanth Govt Brings Good News for Students



TPN, Telangana: The Revanth Reddy government has brought good news for students studying in government schools. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has provided an opportunity for students to visit tourist and historical places for

free. A new program called ‘Telangana Darshini’ has been introduced in this regard. Government orders have already been issued.

The Telangana Darshini program was conceived to educate students

about historical and touristic places, based on scientific evidence showing that students gain more knowledge by seeing and experiencing things than by simply sitting in a classroom and listening to lectures. CM Revanth, along with Excise and Tourism Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao, unveiled the Telangana Darshini poster.

From second grade to degree-level students, participants are divided into categories, and they will be shown tourist areas in their respective regions. The government has released Rs 12.10 crore for transportation and other expenses. In the first phase, the government aims to take 1 lakh students to tourist

destinations. Committees appointed by nodal officers will coordinate with the concerned departments to organize the program. The procedures related to Telangana Darshini are included in the Government Order (G.O.).

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s determination to preserve the historical buildings that reflect the culture of Hyderabad and develop them as tourist destinations has taken a significant step forward. Representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry have also come forward to support the restoration of several ancient step wells.

Open Letter from Educationists, Including Kodandaram, to CM Revanth Reddy

TPN, Telangana: A group of prominent educationists, including Telangana Jana Samithi chief and MLC Kodandaram, have written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging him to reverse the decision to allot land belonging to Ambedkar Open University in Hyderabad to the Jawaharlal Nehru Fine Arts University.

In the letter, the signatories highlighted that Ambedkar Open University plays a crucial role in providing higher education to underprivileged students at nominal fees. They stressed that the land allocated to this university should not be repurposed for other institutions, as doing so would jeopardize its mission of serving economically disadvantaged students.

The letter emphasized the importance of sustaining Ambedkar University, calling it a vital institution for accessible education. The signatories include MLC Kodandaram, Haragopal, Ghanta Chakrapani, Donthi Narasimha Reddy, and other esteemed figures in the field of education. They collectively appealed to CM Revanth Reddy to reconsider and withdraw the decision, preserving the university’s future and its service to the state’s educational needs.

Johnny Master's Police Custody Ends

Johnny Master arrested on rape allegations and POCSO 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 Rangareddy 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.



Woman Dies by Suicide Amid Demolition Fears in Kukatpally; HYDRA Chief Denies Link

TPN, Hyderabad: A woman in Kukatpally, identified as G. Buchamma, died by suicide on Friday, allegedly fearing the demolition of her house by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA). However, HYDRA Chairman A.V. Ranganath clarified that the agency had no connection to the incident and that her residence was not marked for demolition.

Buchamma and her husband, G. Shivaiah, residents of Yadav Basti in Kukatpally, have three daughters. The couple had transferred ownership of their house to their daughters as dowry, to be shared among them. Recent demolition drives by HYDRA authorities in the vicinity reportedly caused Buchamma to fear that their home would also be demolished, potentially leaving her daughters homeless.



Family members expressed shock over the incident. Buchamma’s daughters told the media that their mother was a woman of courage and character, not someone who would take such an extreme step lightly. Relatives alleged that the stress and anxiety over the possible

demolition led to her tragic decision.

HYDRA Chairman Ranganath emphasized that the agency had merely surveyed the area and had not issued any demolition notices to Buchamma’s residence. “We had

nothing to do with this unfortunate incident. Her house was not marked for demolition,” he stated.

The Kukatpally police have registered a case and are investigating all possible angles. Officials noted that while demolition activities were ongoing in the area, there was no direct action planned against the deceased’s property. “We are looking into the matter thoroughly to understand the circumstances that led to this tragedy,” a police representative said.

The incident has raised concerns among local residents about the communication and procedures surrounding demolition drives. Community members are urging authorities to provide clearer information to prevent fear and misinformation from causing further distress.

Bhainsa gets new SHO as Asifabad remains sensitive post Jainoor violence

TPN, Bhainsa: In a bid to stabilize the communally sensitive town of Bhainsa, G. Gopinath was appointed as the new Station House Officer (SHO) of the Bhainsa police station on Friday. The appointment follows the transfer of the previous SHO, D. Raja Reddy, which officials described as part of a regular process.

G. Gopinath, who brings extensive experience from his work with the Cyberabad police and Hyderabad Task Force, was chosen for the position due to his background in handling sensitive situations. The decision to appoint an experienced officer comes after recent communal clashes in the nearby Jainoor mandal of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district,

which resulted in significant property damage.

The violence in Jainoor erupted during a protest against the sexual assault of a tribal woman, leading to the destruction of 110 shops, 20 vehicles, and 10 houses. To date, 32 individuals have been arrested in connection with the unrest.

With tensions still high in the region, the Nirmal district police hope that Gopinath’s leadership will help restore peace and order in Bhainsa, where communal tensions have often flared up in the past. Authorities are continuing efforts to maintain security and prevent further incidents of violence.

High Court Dismisses Puvvada Ajay Kumar’s Plea in Election Violation Case

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court has dismissed a petition filed by former BRS minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar, seeking to quash an FIR related to alleged election code violations during the 2014 assembly elections.

At the time of the 2014 elections, Puvvada Ajay Kumar contested as a Congress candidate representing Khammam. He was accused of distributing liquor and cricket kits to voters, with the items reportedly confiscated by the Election Commission’s flying squad. This led to the filing of an FIR, and police action was initiated. Kumar, however, denied the allegations, claiming he was not present at the location where the items were seized.



In 2014, Kumar had approached the High Court, challenging the FIR, which resulted in a stay on the investigation. After his political shift from Congress to the BRS, where he went on to become the state’s Transport Minister, the case remained largely dormant for nearly

a decade.

On Friday, Justice K Lakshman rejected Kumar’s petition and directed the police to continue their investigation as per legal protocols. The court’s decision effectively revives the investigation into the alleged electoral offenses, bringing renewed attention to the case that has lingered for ten years.

Despite the ruling, Puvvada Ajay Kumar has consistently maintained his innocence, stating that he had no involvement in the distribution of the confiscated materials. The court’s order marks a significant development in the case that has followed the former minister across his political career.



Bank Account and PAN Card Information Not Required for Family Digital Card



TPN, Telangana: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that there is no need to collect information such as bank account details and PAN card information for the family digital card. In the family digital card, the woman of the household should be recognized as the head. The names of family members and their details will be displayed on the back of the card. The CM conducted a review meeting at the state secretariat regarding the family digital cards.

From the 25th to the 27th of this month, officials visited Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnata-

ka, and Maharashtra and gave a PowerPoint presentation on their study of family digital cards. The officials explained the details collected by those states in the design of the cards, highlighting both the advantages and disadvantages.

On this occasion, Revanth Reddy made several suggestions to the authorities regarding the design of the digital cards. He suggested that the families be identified based on existing data from ration cards, Rajiv Arogyashri, IT, agriculture, and other welfare schemes. The CM emphasized adopting the

best practices from other states in the design and issuance of the cards.

The collection of information for the family digital cards, including which details should be incorporated and how updates will be managed, should be prepared in the form of a report by Sunday evening and submitted to the ministerial sub-committee. Based on the sub-committee's instructions, a comprehensive list should be prepared, and one rural and one urban area in each assembly constituency should be selected for a pilot project.

Those Plots and Houses Were Registered During Congress Regime

TPN, Telangana: Former minister and senior BRS MLA Harish Rao stated that all the plots and houses built in the Musi catchment area were registered during the Congress and TDP governments. He pointed out that the government has been collecting property taxes and electricity bills from the people living there. Speaking to the media, he accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of making thousands of people homeless in the name of beautifying the Musi River.

Harish Rao questioned who gave the authority to demolish homes when people have been living in the river basin for over 40 years. He criticized the government's actions, accusing it of making thousands homeless under the pretext of beautification. According to the Land Acquisition Act of 2013, which was brought in by the Congress, if homes of displaced people are to be taken, compensation should be provided, and new double-bedroom houses should be given.

He suggested that residents should be persuaded to vacate their homes, not forced out through threats. Harish Rao called it foolish to attempt demolitions, especially on weekends, and said that as Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy should support the poor, not bring them to tears. He further criticized that the mass demolitions have left lakhs of people in a state of sleepless anxiety. He assured that BRS will stand by the people if there is any attempt to forcibly evict them.

Houses in Buffer Zone and FTL Should be Removed Permanently

- No one is being forcibly deported from the Musi catchment area.
- If there is a flood in Musi, it is the people who will suffer.
- Dana Kishore said that there have been cases of displacement in the past.

TPN, Telangana: Danakishore said that a help desk has been set up for the displaced. **Musi River Front MD Danakishore** said that the houses within the buffer zone and **FTL** should be removed permanently. He stated that the displaced people will be supported in every way. He also mentioned that they are not forcibly evicting anyone from the Musi catchment area; the people are being moved voluntarily. He held a media conference along with **Hydra Commissioner Ranganath** and other officials. Speaking on the occasion, he said that in the event of a flood in Musi, it is the people who will suffer. Danakishore revealed that there was significant damage due to floods in 1927.

Currently, **Hyderabad** has a population of one crore. He said that the **Musi catchment area** has become dirty and needs to be cleaned. He mentioned that he would take the **MLAs** under the jurisdiction of Musi on a field trip. Steps are being taken to restore the glory of the surroundings of the Musi River. He further stated that by 2030, Hyderabad's economy will reach **250 billion dollars**, and the city should be developed accordingly.

Plans are being made to purify the water flowing into Musi. Danakishore said that **Rs.3,800 crore** is being spent on water treatment. He mentioned that the **Chief Minister** has ordered that clean water should flow in Musi by June 2026. He emphasized that the houses in the buf-

fer zone and **FTL** should be removed at any time. He added that **double-bedroom houses** will be allotted to the residents of Musi, and the displaced will be supported.

"We are giving houses worth Rs.30 lakh to the residents of Musi."

Danakishore revealed that if any of the displaced have degrees, they are being compensated at double the market rate. Houses worth **Rs 25 lakh to Rs 30 lakh**



are being provided to Musi residents. The **East and West Corridors** will be built next to the Musi Riverfront. It was revealed that **55 km long corridors** will be constructed, and with the construction of these corridors, traffic will also reduce. People were urged to contribute to the modernization of Musi. Business opportunities will increase, and parking facilities and parks will be constructed along the riverfront. He clarified that they are only vacating those who are eligible for compensation. Danakishore made it clear that any illegal buildings on the riverfront will be removed.

Hydra Commissioner's Key Comments on Owaisi Hospital and Janwada Farmhouse

TPN, Hyderabad: Hydra Commissioner Ranganath made significant comments regarding Owaisi Hospital and Janwada Farmhouse. Hydra officials and Musi Riverfront officials held a media conference today. During the conference, a media representative questioned the situation surrounding Owaisi Hospital.

A media representative asked why, despite Owaisi Hospital being under FTL (Full Tank Level), there are criticisms that Hydra and the government are hesitant to demolish it. The representative pointed out that there are claims the government is giving six months' time in the name of not disrupting the academic year due to fear of Owaisi. However, demolitions are being carried out in areas inhabited by poor and small families without hesitation.

In response, Ranganath stated that complaints have been received against Owaisi College, Mallareddy College, and Palla Rajeshwar Reddy College. He clarified that they are giving time to everyone, taking into consideration the academic future of the children. He assured that action will be taken once the academic year concludes.

When the media representative pressed further, asking whether Owaisi is challenging Hydra and the government, Ranganath refrained from commenting on the matter.

Ranganath emphasized that their primary targets are the major offenders. He acknowledged that there might be smaller individuals in villas, but insisted that influential figures are behind them.

Ranganath also addressed concerns regarding the Janwada Farmhouse, stating that it falls under the jurisdiction of 111 G.O. and not under Hydra's purview. Therefore, he declined to comment further, asserting that they will only speak on matters within their scope of authority.

JP Nadda asks BJP Telangana unit to enroll over 50 lakh members

TPN, Telangana: BJP National President and Union Health Minister JP Nadda has called on the Telangana unit of the party to intensify its membership drive and enroll over 50 lakh members in the next 15 days. Nadda issued the directive during a review of the ongoing membership drive in the district on Saturday.

Nadda highlighted that the BJP received 77 lakh votes in Telangana during the last Lok Sabha elections, suggesting that enrolling 50 lakh members should not be a difficult task. He emphasized the importance of grassroots participation and urged leaders to focus on enrolling as many members as possible at the booth level.

"I want you to complete the target in the next 15 days. Leaders enrolling more persons will be rewarded with party posts," Nadda said, motivating party workers to achieve the goal swiftly.

This membership drive comes as part of the BJP's efforts to strengthen its base in Telangana ahead of upcoming elections. The party is aiming to build on its growing influence in the state, and the membership drive is seen as a crucial step in expanding its voter base.



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

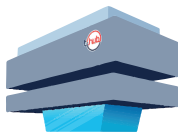
at Bandlaguda Jagir, Sanjay claimed that there are special rules in place for religious traditions. He criticized Jagan for his remarks on Hindus and the Tirumala Declaration, alleging that he is attempting to cover up more scandals. Sanjay questioned what harm it would do if Jagan gave a declaration.

"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.



Eviction Begins in Bastis Along Musi River Banks

TPN, Hyderabad: The eviction of residents living along the banks of the Musi River, particularly in Moosa Nagar and Shankar Nagar near Chad-erghat, began on Saturday. The move, part of the Musi River Development Plan, is aimed at relocating the residents to newly built 2BHK flats in Saidabad and Chanchalguda. Revenue and police officials were on-site, overseeing the evacuation of over 120 households.

Mohd Iqbal, an auto driver from Shankar Nagar, and his wife, a domestic worker, packed their belongings and prepared to shift. However, Iqbal expressed concern about resistance from locals already living in the new flats. “When we went to move in on

Friday, we were attacked by locals who said we couldn’t enter. We don’t know what will happen today,” Iqbal said.

Saifuddin Shafi, MIM corporator from Old Malakpet, tried to reassure the evictees, reminding them that they were being given legal ownership documents (‘pattas’), transport assistance, and access to better living conditions. “This is the best we can offer,” Shafi stated, emphasizing the improved quality of housing compared to their current situation.

Among those relocating was the 17-member Pandey family from Vinayaka Veedhi. Harinath Pandey, who built his 100-square-yard house

two decades ago, and his family loaded their belongings onto a Bole-ro pickup truck to move to the new flats in Saidabad. Despite having lived through a Musi flood three years ago, Harinath’s wife Malathi appeared resigned to the eviction. “What can be done? They just asked us to shift,” she said, expressing her helplessness.

While the relocation was aimed at providing better housing, some tenants faced challenges. Musthari, a tenant in the basthi, voiced her difficulties in finding affordable housing after paying Rs 2,000 per month in rent. “We haven’t eaten properly for three days. We’re with our kids and luggage on the road. We don’t know what to do,” she lamented.



The eviction also impacted migrant workers, many of whom had been living in the area due to affordable rents. Migrant women from Bihar, engaged in local labor, quietly shifted their belongings as part of the eviction process.

As the eviction continues, the dis-

placed residents, like birds forced from a disturbed tree, will need to find new shelter as they adjust to life in the new housing complexes provided under the government’s development plan. The Musi River Rejuvenation and Beautification project continues to reshape the lives of those living along its banks.

High Court Questions Fresh Notification on Group-I Recruitment

TPN, Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Friday questioned the state government and the Telangana Public Service Commission (TSPSC) about the issuance of a fresh notification for Group-I recruitment, despite the court’s earlier directive for a re-examination. Justice Pulla Karthik also sought clarification on the increase in the reservation quota for Scheduled Tribes (ST) from 6% to 10% in this recruitment process.

The court was hearing two petitions: one filed by Satta Shekhar, challenging the TSPSC’s decision to cancel the Group-I notification issued in April 2022 and questioning the need for a new announcement, and another contesting the enhancement of ST reservations.

Senior counsel Jonnalagadda Sudheer, representing the petitioners, argued that the original 503 vacancies in the April 2022 notification should be limited to candidates who had already applied and participated in the preliminary exam, which was later cancelled. He also opposed TSPSC’s addition of 60 new vacancies, claiming it would unfairly increase competition and requested a separate notification for these new positions.

Sudheer further criticized the state’s decision to raise ST reservations from 6% to 10%, arguing that it was unfair to implement such a significant policy change mid-process.

In defense, special counsel S. Rahul Reddy, representing the state, emphasized that the TSPSC, as a constitutional body, has the authority to cancel examinations, issue new notifications, and add vacancies to provide more opportunities for candidates. He also explained that the increase in ST reservations aligns with government policy aimed at benefiting marginalized communities.

The court has postponed the hearing until September 30, seeking further clarifications from the state and the TSPSC on these issues.

Hyderabad Police Bans DJ Music for Navaratri and Dasara Celebrations

TPN, Hyderabad: In light of public complaints and safety concerns, the Hyderabad police have banned the use of DJ music systems during the upcoming Navaratri and Dasara celebrations, which will take place between October 3 and October 12. The ban follows a recent Telangana High Court order that restricts loud music between 10 PM and 6 AM.

The decision was expedited after a generator fire during the Milad-un-Nabi festival raised additional safety concerns. DJ music providers have been instructed not to supply sound systems for events

such as ‘dandiya gatherings’ during the festive season, as per directives issued by Goshamahal Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Kotla Venkat Reddy.

The police had initially planned to impose the ban during the recently concluded Ganesh festival but decided to act sooner due to increasing public complaints about noise pollution and health risks associated with loud music systems. Beyond the health and environmental factors, the ban also stems from operational issues faced by the police. Loud music hampers internal communication among officers

using walkie-talkies, complicating coordination during large gatherings or processions. “Officers often miss important instructions due to loud music, which can lead to confusion and delays in managing crowds,” noted an official from the Hyderabad police.

During meetings held with political leaders, public representatives, event organizers, and other stakeholders, the majority supported the decision to enforce the ban. The police believe the move will lead to better management of the festivals and ensure public safety.

Man Arrested with Mefhentermine Injections in Asifnagar; 150 Vials Seized

TPN, Hyderabad: The Central Crime Station (CCS) police on Friday arrested a 22-year-old man, Syed Affan, in Asifnagar for possession of Mefhentermine injections. Affan, an air conditioning technician, was found with 150 vials of the drug, which were promptly seized by the authorities. The accused has been handed over to the Drug Control Administration (DCA) team for further investigation.

According to a press release from the Hyderabad police, Mefhentermine is often misused by individuals, es-

pecially gym-goers, seeking instant muscle growth. However, the drug poses significant health risks, including systemic hypertension (high blood pressure) and anxiety. In some cases, it can cause severe complications, and there is a potential for intoxication, which may even drive individuals to criminal behavior.

Authorities have urged the public to be cautious and aware of the dangers posed by such drugs, emphasizing the health and legal consequences of their use.



HMWSSB Launches 90-Day Sewage Cleaning Drive from October 2



TPN, Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) announced a 90-day sewage cleaning drive, set to begin on October 2. The initiative is aimed at addressing the city’s recurring sewage issues and reducing the number of complaints by 30-40%. HMWSSB Managing Director Ashok Reddy explained that the board is not only focusing on reducing complaints but also identifying long-term

unsolved sewage problems to provide permanent solutions. “Most of the complaints we receive are related to sewage issues,” Reddy said.

In addition to cleaning efforts, the board plans to launch an awareness campaign to educate the public on proper sewage management practices at the community level.

HMWSSB Executive Director Mayank Mittal high-

lighted the importance of sewage management to maintain city cleanliness. “No matter how big the projects we undertake, people will always evaluate our performance based on drinking water supply and sewage management,” Mittal said.

He further emphasized the board’s plan to construct more pits to improve groundwater levels and reduce the city’s reliance on tanker water supplies.

Software Engineer Dies by Suicide in Miyapur After Domestic Dispute

TPN, Hyderabad: A 28-year-old software engineer, P. Sindhura, tragically died by suicide on Friday after jumping from the ninth floor of a multi-storied building in Miyapur. Sindhura, a resident of Kondapur, was employed at a software firm in Madhapur and lived with her husband and in-laws in the apartment complex.

According to the police, Sindhura had been reportedly upset over frequent arguments with her husband in recent days. Unable to cope with the ongoing domestic tension, she took the extreme step. She sustained severe injuries from the fall and died on the spot.

The Miyapur police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. Further details are awaited as they continue to probe the circumstances leading up to her death.

College Fined Rs 2 Lakh Over Poor Sanitation After 100 Students Fall Ill

TPN, Hyderabad: Sri Chaitanya Akshara College in Madhapur was fined Rs 2 lakh by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Friday following a mass food poisoning incident that left 100 students ill. The GHMC cited poor sanitation in the college kitchen, lack of a fire safety system, and absence of a trade licence as reasons for the hefty penalty.

The incident unfolded after students reportedly consumed contaminated food served at the college on September 27. Shortly after the meal, many students began experiencing symptoms of food poisoning, such as fever, body aches, and vomiting. According to reports, around 200 students were affected, sparking panic and unrest on the campus.

An anonymous letter circulating on social media from a student claimed that the college administration was preventing them from contacting their parents, adding to the outrage. The letter urged the college to declare “sick holidays” for the



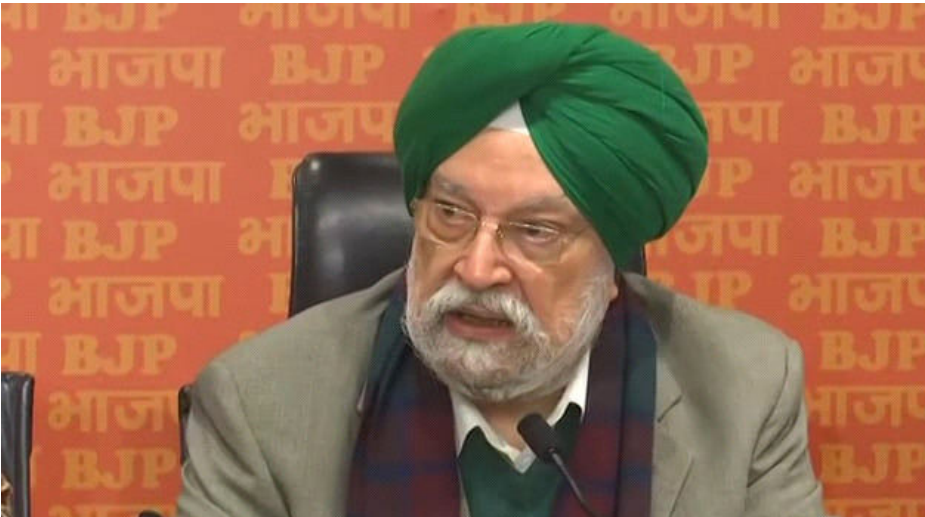
affected students.

While the college administration is providing medical treatment to the ill students, their efforts to manage the situation discreetly have led to public outcry. Several student unions have organized protests outside the college, demanding accountability for the substandard food and calling for immediate action against those responsible.

Authorities are closely monitoring the health of the affected students, and further action is expected as investigations continue into the incident.

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."

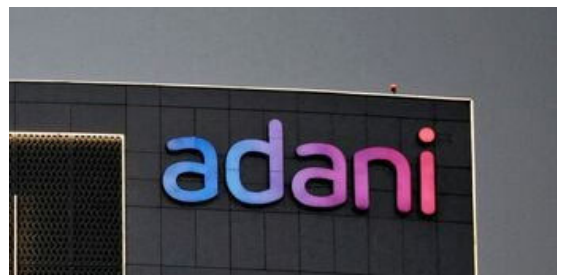
The completion of this merger marks a significant milestone in IDFC FIRST Bank's journey, positioning it for continued growth and streamlined management in the Indian banking sector.

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.

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.

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.

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

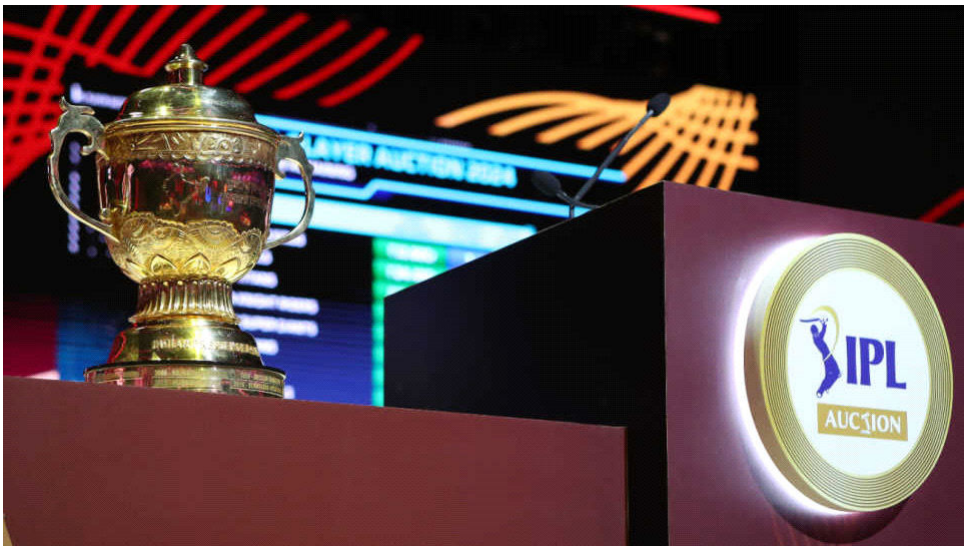
ends in a draw due to persistent rain, India's route to the WTC final becomes much more challenging. A drawn Test would mean India needs to win five out of their next eight Test matches to guarantee a place in the final, depending on the results of other top contenders.

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,

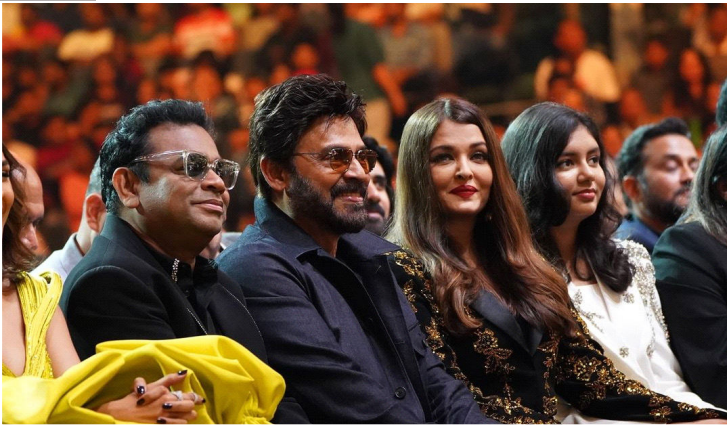
Ananya Panday, Janhvi Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal are sure to add extra sparkle to the gala.

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's 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.