



## Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 28 °C L 23 °C	H 32 °C L 26 °C	H 34 °C L 26 °C

# CM Chandrababu's Review of Flood Situation



**Our aim is to save as many people as possible. Put the elderly and sick in hotels: Chandrababu.**

**Chandrababu conducted an extensive review at the Vijayawada Collectorate.**

**The CM mentioned that the situation is so severe that even boats are being swept away.**

**Orders given to prepare rehabilitation centers for flood victims.**

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** As the unprecedented flooding in Vijayawada continues to affect thousands of residents, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is taking proactive measures to ensure effective flood relief and rehabilitation. In a series of review meetings with top officials and ministers, CM Chandrababu has been regularly monitoring the situation and directing the response efforts to provide immediate assistance to those affected.

monitored.

To streamline the relief operations, CM Chandrababu has assigned division-wise responsibilities to the ministers, each overseeing specific areas to ensure that the response is coordinated and efficient. Additionally, IAS officers have been allotted to manage each division, ensuring that there is strong leadership and accountability at every level of the operation.

In the most recent review meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of delivering essential supplies to flood-affected areas. He ordered that food, water, and milk be delivered to the victims through helicopters, ensuring that basic needs are met. He stressed the need to provide meals to the victims three times a day, with particular attention to the well-being of children and pregnant women, who are to be relocated to rehabilitation centers where their health can be closely

During the review, CM Chandrababu also inspected the flood situation in Ramalingeshwar Nagar and issued specific orders to address the challenges posed by boats getting stuck at the gates of Prakasam Barrage. He made it clear that the top priority is to evacuate victims without any loss of life. While evacuation is critical, the CM also highlighted the importance of ensuring an uninterrupted food supply, suggesting that helicopters be used for food distribution as needed rather than solely for evacuation efforts.

Ministers Parthasarathy and Achchennaidu, who participated in the meeting, criticized the previous administration for failing to address issues related to the Budameru River, which has contributed to the current flooding. They praised CM Chandrababu's quick and decisive response, noting that his actions have instilled confidence among the people. The ministers assured the CM that relief programs have been intensified and that they are working to restore normalcy by the evening.

Meanwhile, authorities continue to be heavily involved in relief operations, moving residents from flooded areas to rehabilitation centers and providing them with necessary assistance. As the flood surge at the Prakasam Barrage remains critical, with water being released downstream, a second danger warning has been issued to keep the public informed and prepared.



## PM Modi assured support to AP and Telangana over Severe floods

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** As heavy rains continue to batter the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that the central government will extend full support to both states in their efforts to manage the flood crisis. The relentless downpour over the past three days has caused streams, rivers, and water bodies to overflow, leading to widespread flooding and significant disruption to public life. The cities of Vijayawada and Guntur, in particular, have experienced the most severe rainfall in over three decades.

In light of the situation, Prime Minister Modi spoke with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu, and Telangana, Revanth Reddy, to discuss the ongoing challenges and the necessary relief measures. During these conversations, PM Modi promised that the central government would assist both states in every possible way to mitigate the impact of the floods.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has canceled all scheduled programs to stay in Vijayawada, where he is continuously monitoring the situation. He is conducting frequent reviews and providing guidance to officials to ensure that relief operations are carried out effectively. Ministers and other public representatives are actively working on the ground to support the affected communities.

Meanwhile, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited the flood-affected areas in Khammam district today, assessed the damage and overseeing the relief efforts.

The central government's commitment to supporting Andhra Pradesh and Telangana comes as a crucial boost to the ongoing efforts to manage the flooding and provide assistance to those impacted by the severe weather. As the situation continues to evolve, both state governments, with the backing of the central government, are focused on minimizing the damage and ensuring the safety and well-being of their residents.

## Venkaiah Naidu Donates to AP and Telangana Amidst Flood Crisis

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** As Andhra Pradesh and Telangana grapple with severe flooding, former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has expressed his deep concern and regret over the devastating impact on the two states. In a gesture of support, Venkaiah Naidu announced a donation from his pension to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, contributing Rs. 5 lakh to each state.



on the dire situation in the two states and requesting immediate assistance. Venkaiah Naidu mentioned that the Prime Minister assured him that central authorities are in constant communication with state officials and that the central government is committed to providing the necessary help.

In addition to his own contribution, his son and daughter have also stepped forward, donating Rs. 2.5 lakh each to support the relief efforts. Venkaiah Naidu issued a statement today confirming these donations and encouraging others to contribute as well.

He also revealed that he had spoken with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, briefing him

Furthermore, Venkaiah Naidu called upon voluntary organizations to step up and assist those affected by the floods, urging collective action to support the people in their time of need.

## Jagan Blames Govt Negligence for Flood Crisis in Vijayawada

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** During a visit to the flood-affected areas of Vijayawada, YCP President Jagan Mohan Reddy criticized the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government for what he described as gross negligence in handling the recent flood crisis. Jagan's visit followed his earlier tribute to his father, YSR, at Idupulapaya.

In Singh Nagar, one of the hardest-hit areas, Jagan interacted with the flood victims and expressed his deep concern over their plight. He claimed that the victims are in a state of disorientation, struggling to find shelter and basic necessities. He accused the government of ignoring the meteorological department's warnings issued on the 28th of this month, which predicted heavy rains due to the cyclone. Jagan alleged that the government's failure to act on these warnings has directly contributed to the severe flooding



and the resulting hardships faced by the people.

Jagan further criticized the government's response, stating that despite the widespread damage, not a single flood victim has received financial assistance. He pointed out that many victims are left without food or shelter and questioned

whether the coalition government was blind to their suffering. He expressed his indignation at the lack of adequate relief efforts, noting that while heavy rains have occurred in the past, the situation could have been managed better with proper systems in place.

He specifically questioned the sufficiency of the government's response, pointing out that only six resettlement camps had been set up for the flood victims, which he argued was grossly inadequate given the scale of the disaster. Jagan emphasized that the response was unacceptable, especially in light of the severity of the flooding in Vijayawada. He called for a more robust and compassionate approach to disaster management, urging the government to apologize to the victims and take immediate action to provide them with the support they desperately need.



# Sleepless Chandrababu Busy with Reviews in the Morning...



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** As Andhra Pradesh grapples with severe flooding caused by heavy rains and a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been tirelessly overseeing the state's disaster response. The Krishna River, swollen by continuous rains in the upper catchment areas, has caused widespread flooding, particularly affecting the Vijayawada and Amaravati regions. The Prakasam Barrage is under severe strain, with inflows recorded at 11,25,876 cusecs, prompting the State Disaster Management Department to issue a second emergency alert.

The situation has been further exacerbated by the overflowing Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs, which have forced officials to release excess water downstream. The floodwaters have inundated large areas, and the intensity of the crisis shows no sign of abating.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been actively involved in the state's flood management efforts. He has been conducting regular reviews of the situation, staying in constant communication with

officials to assess the evolving crisis. On Sunday, Naidu personally toured the flooded areas of Vijayawada by boat, witnessing the extent of the devastation firsthand and speaking with victims to offer them reassurance and support.

Demonstrating his commitment to the relief efforts, Naidu spent the night at the NTR District Collector's office in Vijayawada, where he parked his bus and continued to oversee operations. He conducted late-night reviews with local authorities, ensuring that all necessary measures were being

taken to address the needs of those affected by the floods. Naidu has pledged to remain in the area until the floodwaters recede, personally supervising the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Naidu's presence and hands-on approach have provided some solace to the flood-stricken residents of Andhra Pradesh. His determination to stay on the ground and lead the state's response has been a source of strength for many, as they continue to endure the effects of this natural disaster.

## Prakasam Barrage Outflow Exceeds 11 Lakh Cusecs



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Prakasam Barrage in Andhra Pradesh is experiencing unprecedented water flow as the outflow has exceeded 11 lakh cusecs due to continuous heavy rains. These rains, intensified by a cyclone formed in the Bay of Bengal, have caused widespread flooding across the state, particularly in the Krishna River basin, severely impacting the regions of Krishna, Guntur, and the capital area of Amaravati.

The situation remains critical as the heavy downpour shows no signs of letting up. The entire region, including Vijayawada and Amaravati, is submerged under floodwaters, with many areas still inundated. The National Disaster Management Force has been deployed to Andhra Pradesh, with boats and helicopters on standby to assist in rescue and relief operations.

The intensity of the flood is further compounded by the significant inflows from major reservoirs upstream. At the Srisaillam reservoir, the inflow is recorded at 3,56,024 cusecs, with an outflow of 5,00,397 cusecs. Similarly, Nagarjunasagar is seeing an inflow of 4,61,245 cusecs and an outflow of 4,53,700 cusecs. Pulichintala is also contributing to the flood with an inflow of 3,39,434 cusecs and an outflow of 3,14,434 cusecs. All these combined inflows have led to a dramatic increase in water levels at the Prakasam Barrage.

As of the latest reports, the Prakasam Barrage is handling an inflow of 11,25,876 cusecs, which is being released downstream to prevent overflow and potential breaches. The State Disaster Management Department has issued a second emergency alert, emphasizing the severity of the situation and the need for ongoing vigilance.

## Boat Carrying Flood Victims Capsizes in Krishna District; Search Ongoing

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** A tragic incident occurred in Krishna district as a boat carrying flood victims to a resettlement camp capsized, with eight people on board at the time of the accident. The boat was en route from the flood-affected area of Annavarapulanka when it overturned. Local residents managed to rescue six of the passengers, bringing them safely to shore, while the search continues for the remaining two who are still missing.



The incident took place amid ongoing efforts to evacuate people from flooded areas across multiple mandals in Krishna district. Authorities have been relocating residents to

rehabilitation centers, where they are being provided with essential facilities. Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed across the

district, conducting rescue operations in the flood-hit regions.

In response to the worsening flood situation, the government has appointed special officers in Vijayawada to oversee and monitor the relief and rehabilitation efforts. These officers are working at the field level, ensuring that the victims receive the necessary support and that the evacuation processes are carried out efficiently. A total of eight NDRF and ten SDRF teams have been mobilized to manage the ongoing rescue operations in Andhra Pradesh, with helicopters also engaged in air rescue missions.

## Lorries lined up for kilometers on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada Road

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Severe traffic disruptions have occurred on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway as heavy rains and floods have washed away a section of the road at Garikapadu. The incident has resulted in a massive traffic jam, with vehicles, particularly cargo lorries, lined up for kilometers. Reports indicate that trucks are stuck for up to 3 kilometers, creating a challenging situation for drivers and authorities alike.

The lorry drivers, with no alternative route in close proximity, are forced to wait on the highway, causing them to resort to eating on the roadside as they await further instructions or the clearance of the road. The situation has

become increasingly difficult as more vehicles continue to accumulate behind the blockade.

To manage the situation, police are actively diverting vehicles that reach Kodada towards Miryalaguda in an attempt to ease the congestion. Kodada DSP Sridhar Reddy has appealed to motorists to avoid heading towards Kodada until the situation improves and the roads are cleared. The heavy rainfall has also led to significant disruptions in public transportation. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGS RTC) has canceled a large number of bus services across the Telugu states due to the adverse weather conditions. As of Sunday night,



877 buses had been canceled, with an additional 570 buses canceled since Monday morning. This brings the total number of cancellations to over 1,400 buses.

Buses operating on routes to Khammam, Vijayawada, and Mahabubabad have been

completely suspended, and those traveling from Hyderabad to Vijayawada are being rerouted through Guntur. The flood conditions have severely impacted transportation, with many buses in various districts not running at all or only partially operating.

## Train Services Disrupted Across Telugu States Due to Flooding

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Heavy rains and floods have caused severe disruptions to train services across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, severing key transportation links between northern and southern India. The flooding has resulted in tracks being washed away or submerged in several areas, forcing the South Central Railway (SCR) to take extensive measures to ensure passenger safety.

Particularly hard-hit are the major routes passing through Vijayawada and Khammam. In Kesamudram, located in Mahabubabad district, the railway tracks have been destroyed, with overhead lines damaged and significant soil erosion undermining the stability of the rails. In some places, tracks are left hanging due to

the ground washing away beneath them. The situation is similarly dire on the Vijayawada route, where the Rayanapadu railway station is submerged, and floodwaters continue to flow over the tracks, raising concerns about further erosion.

In response to these hazardous conditions, SCR officials have canceled several train services and diverted others to safer routes. A total of 18 trains have been canceled, including prominent services like the Secunderabad-Sirpur, Kagaznagar, Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad, and SMVT Bangalore-Howrah routes. Some trains have been rerouted, such as the Danapur-SMVT Bangalore train, now traveling via Khajipet, Secunderabad,

Sulehalli, Guntakal, and Dharmavaram, and the Ahmedabad-Chennai Central train, which has been diverted through Surat, Jalgaon, Manmad, Dhaund, Wadi, Guntakal, and Renigunta.

These cancellations and diversions have caused significant inconvenience to passengers, with many stranded as authorities work to address the extensive damage. The South Central Railway is continuing to monitor the situation closely, with efforts underway to restore normal services as soon as possible. Passengers are advised to stay updated on the latest developments and prepare for potential delays or further disruptions.

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## TDP vs. YCP: Clash Over Krishna Lanka Retaining Wall Amidst AP Floods



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** As Andhra Pradesh grapples with severe flooding, a political battle has erupted between the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) over the retaining wall built along the Krishna River in Vijayawada's Krishna Lanka area. While the floods have forced many residents to leave their homes and move to rehabilitation centers, the TDP and YCP have taken their fight to social media, with both parties claiming credit for the retaining wall that is reportedly protecting thousands of people from the floodwaters.

The YCP has asserted that the retaining wall was constructed during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, arguing that it has saved 80,000 people from flooding. The party's social media posts emphasize that the retaining wall was a product of Jagan's foresight, highlighting that it was built at a cost of Rs. 474.51 crores to prevent floodwaters from entering homes, even as 12 lakh cusecs of water surged through the Krishna River. The YCP has also shared posts where the people of Krishna Lanka are seen expressing their gratitude towards Jagan, crediting him with safeguarding their lives.

In response, the TDP has launched a "reverse at-

tack," claiming that the retaining wall was actually built during Chandrababu Naidu's regime in 2019. TDP supporters have taken to social media to challenge the YCP's claims, pointing out that while the YCP is taking credit, the project was completed under Chandrababu's leadership. The TDP's official social media accounts have shared visuals and videos of the retaining wall, asserting that the work was finished during Naidu's tenure and accusing the YCP of misleading the public.

The TDP has further criticized Jagan, accusing him of taking credit for a project completed by his predecessor. The party's social media posts have also pointed to the significant electoral loss in the East constituency, where they claim false propaganda by the YCP contributed to their defeat. They argue that the YCP's attempts to rewrite history are not only misleading but disrespectful to the efforts made during the TDP government.

This war of words over the Krishna Lanka retaining wall has become a significant point of contention between the two major political factions in Andhra Pradesh, adding to the already tense atmosphere as the state continues to deal with the devastating effects of the floods.

## Rahul Gandhi Expresses Solidarity with Telugu States Amidst Rains and Floods

**TPN, New Delhi:** AICC leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has expressed deep concern over the ongoing heavy rains and floods in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In a statement, Rahul Gandhi conveyed his thoughts and solidarity with the people of the Telugu states, extending his deepest condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones due to the devastating floods.



Rahul Gandhi also urged Congress leaders and workers in both states to actively participate in the ongoing relief activities, emphasizing the importance of supporting those affected during this difficult time. He acknowledged the efforts of the Telangana government, which he noted is working tirelessly to manage the crisis and begin the reconstruction process.

Furthermore, Rahul Gandhi called on the central government and the Andhra Pradesh

government to quickly announce a comprehensive rehabilitation package for all those impacted by the natural disaster. He stressed the urgency of providing adequate support and resources to ensure that the affected communities can recover and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the floods.

## Rs. 20,000 to be Transferred to Farmers' Accounts in AP?

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The NDA government, which recently took power in Andhra Pradesh, is working to fulfill the promises made during the election campaign. Among these promises is a significant pledge by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu to provide Rs. 20,000 as annual investment assistance to farmers. This initiative, known as the Anadata Sukhibhava scheme, aims to support eligible farmers with financial aid to enhance their agricultural productivity.

Although the state government was officially formed on June 4, there remains considerable uncertainty about the implementation of this scheme. Key questions, such as the exact timeline for the rollout, eligibility criteria, and procedural details, have yet to be clarified. The lack of information has led to growing concern among the farming community and political figures alike.

The government already possesses data on the farmers who benefited from similar schemes under the previous administration. Farmers and their advocates are calling for the immediate use of this existing data to kick-start the Anadata Sukhibha-

va scheme. According to officials, there is speculation that the government may launch the scheme around the Dussehra or Diwali festivals. During a recent review meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reportedly issued directives to accelerate the scheme's implementation.

To streamline the identification of beneficiaries, the government has suggested that farmers' phone numbers be linked to their bank accounts, with an additional recommendation to geo-tag these accounts for better tracking. The Central government is already providing Rs. 6,000 per year to farmers under the PM Kisan Yojana scheme. The state government, under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, plans to supplement this with an additional Rs. 14,000, bringing the total annual assistance to Rs. 20,000.

An official announcement regarding the scheme is expected after the complete list of beneficiaries is finalized. However, until then, farmers and stakeholders are left waiting for further details on the promised financial aid.

## Jagan and Sharmila Pay Emotional Tribute at YSR Ghat

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** On the 15th death anniversary of the late Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy paid an emotional tribute to his father at YSR Ghat in Idupulapaya. Joined by his family, including his mother Vijayamma, Jagan offered special prayers and remembered the legacy of his father. The occasion was marked by deep sentiment as Jagan, reflecting on his father's impact, posted a heartfelt message on social media, saying, "Dad... Miss you."

Jagan and his sister Sharmila arrived in Pulivendula early in the morning to honor their father. Jagan, who has been in Pulivendula for three days, paid homage at YSR Ghat before departing for Vijayawada. Sharmila also visited the memorial, where she participated in special prayers and paid her respects separately from her brother. The tribute saw participation from both Congress and YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders, who gathered to remember YSR's contributions to the state.

Sharmila, in her tribute, emphasized the enduring impact of YSR's development initiatives, stating that the state's progress under his leadership is unforgettable. She expressed disappointment that YSR's visions are not being fulfilled and lamented that there has been no other leader like him. Sharmila pointed out that even after ten years since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the state has not received the special status it was promised, and criticized the stalled development projects, particularly YSR's dream of establishing a steel plant in Kadapa.

In a pointed critique, Sharmila accused both Chandrababu Naidu and Jagan Mohan Reddy of neglecting the development of Kadapa, YSR's home district.



She also criticized Jagan for aligning with the BJP, contrasting it with YSR's stance of opposition to the party during his tenure. Sharmila's remarks highlighted her concerns about the current direction of the state's leadership, drawing a clear distinction between YSR's legacy and the present administration's policies.

## Even though the files are all online.. they spread false propaganda against us

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YCP MP Mithun Reddy has strongly defended himself and his party against allegations related to the Madanapalli files case, where files were burned at the Madanapalli sub-collector's office shortly after the formation of the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh. The incident had sparked controversy, with accusations that followers of former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy were responsible for the arson.

In a recent interaction with the media, Mithun Reddy dismissed these allegations as false propaganda, pointing out that all the files in question were already available online, making the accusations baseless. He expressed frustration over the spread of misinformation despite the digital availability of the documents, suggesting that the incident was being used to unfairly target his party.

Reddy also raised a pertinent question regarding the state's response to the recent floods. He criticized the government for not deploying helicopters for flood relief operations, contrasting this with the swift use of a helicopter to send the DGP to Madanapalli during the earlier incident. His remarks seem to highlight what he perceives as inconsistency in the government's priorities and actions



during crises.

Furthermore, Mithun Reddy took the opportunity to criticize the behavior of some YCP municipal chairmen and councilors who have switched allegiance to the opposition party, TDP. He accused TDP leaders of focusing more on political maneuvering rather than development, and pointed out that they have seemingly forgotten the promises and principles symbolized by the term "Super Six," which was once a key part of their political rhetoric.

Mithun Reddy's comments reflect the ongoing political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, as the YCP faces challenges both from within and from the opposition. His statements also underscore the need for clarity and consistency in handling both political controversies and disaster management efforts.



# Officials unwilling to fulfill duties should resign: Chandrababu

**TPN, Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the officials overseeing flood relief operations, criticizing them for their perceived laxity and inefficiency. During a review meeting following his visit to the flood-affected areas, Chandrababu issued a stern warning, stating that the complacency and laziness that had become ingrained during the previous government would no longer be tolerated under his administration.



Chandrababu emphasized that the actions of the officials should reflect positively on the government, highlighting his own involvement in the relief efforts as an example. He questioned how the officials could afford to be complacent when so many people were suffering. Despite sufficient food supplies being available, he was particularly upset about the delays in distribution, pointing out that such inefficiencies were unacceptable.

During the meeting, one of the ministers raised concerns about certain officials

who were reportedly loyal to YCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy. The minister suggested that these officials might be deliberately obstructing the relief efforts to tarnish the government's image. Chandrababu responded firmly, stating that any officials who were unwilling to fulfill their duties should resign and leave their positions. He made it clear that such behavior would not be tolerated, especially during a time of crisis when the public is in desperate need of assistance.



# The Real Reason Behind the Vijayawada Floods

**TPN, Vijayawada:** The recent floods that submerged the city of Vijayawada have left thousands of residents devastated, with water spreading across vast areas, disrupting lives, and rendering millions as flood victims. While the immediate cause of the flooding was the heavy rains in the Krishna basin, the underlying reasons behind this disaster trace back to years of neglect and poor planning.



Vijayawada's flooding was significantly worsened by the overflow of the Budameru river, which played a critical role in inundating the city. As the rains intensified, smaller rivers and streams in the region swelled beyond their banks, with Budameru becoming a major source of flooding in surrounding areas. Water entered residential settlements, rising rapidly and leaving the city submerged.

However, the roots of this crisis go deeper. The seeds of the disaster were sown two decades ago, with the incomplete and poorly managed Operation Kolleru, which aimed to address issues related to water management in the region. This operation, undertaken 20 years ago, was left unfinished, and the consequences of that neglect are now being felt.

The Budameru area itself has been heavily encroached upon over the years, with construction projects taking over what was once a natural water channel. In 2005, the government undertook a Budameru diversion project intended to alleviate flooding risks, but this work came to a standstill, leaving the city vulnerable. By 2008, the embankment built to prevent Budameru's overflow into Vijayawada had been destroyed, with the area being gradually taken over by housing constructions. Today, there are no remnants of this critical barrier, as the encroached land has expanded from one colony to another. Political leaders from various parties have been implicated in allowing these encroachments, turning a blind eye to the impending

dangers.

With Vijayawada's natural water channels obstructed by these encroachments, Budameru had no proper outlet during the recent heavy rains, leading to the river bursting through and flooding the city as if a dam had broken. This lack of adequate water flow channels directly contributed to the scale of the disaster.

Further compounding the issue was the flooding at Talaprolu in Ibrahimpatnam mandal, where Budameru saw a surge due to the opening of 11 shutters at the Velagaleru Bridge. The shutters were raised 11 feet to release water downstream, inadvertently exacerbating the flooding in Vijayawada. Analysts suggest that if the shutters had not been lifted, the upper areas would have faced severe damage, including the risk of water entering the NTPS plant after the Krishna River flood.

In summary, the Vijayawada floods are not just the result of natural factors but are deeply rooted in years of neglect, poor urban planning, and the failure to complete critical infrastructure projects. The encroachments on Budameru's natural flow path and the halted diversion works have left the city vulnerable to flooding, leading to the severe situation witnessed today. The disaster serves as a stark reminder of the long-term consequences of neglecting environmental and infrastructural concerns.

# Floodwaters Engulf Manthena Ashram in Undavalli



**TPN, Vijayawada:** The Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Prakriti Ashram in Undavalli was engulfed by floodwaters as heavy rains, fueled by a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, continued to batter Andhra Pradesh. The unrelenting rains have caused the Krishna River to swell, resulting in widespread flooding in the region. The situation is particularly dire in Vijayawada and Amaravati, where floodwaters continue to inundate the area.

The Krishna River's raging floodwaters, fed by heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas, have shown no signs of receding. The Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs are overflowing, forcing officials to lift the gates and release the excess water downstream. This has significantly increased the inflow at the Prakasam Barrage, where a second emergency alert has been issued by the State Disaster Management Department. The current inflow and

outflow at the barrage are recorded at 11,39,351 cusecs, indicating the massive volume of water being managed.

The flooding has severely impacted the Manthena Ashram near Undavalli Karakatta, with knee-deep water inundating the vehicle parking area. Cars were seen half-submerged, and the entire ashram premises were flooded. Upon receiving the distress call, police, disaster management teams, and firefighters rushed to the scene to assist those inside the ashram.

The rescue operation was particularly challenging due to the presence of many elderly residents in the ashram. Rescuers used ropes to safely evacuate the residents as a precautionary measure. The authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, with efforts underway to ensure the safety of all those affected by the floods.

# Prakasam Barrage Closed to Vehicular Traffic

**TPN, Vijayawada:** Officials have halted vehicular traffic on the Prakasam Barrage due to the ongoing flooding in Andhra Pradesh. A "No Entry" sign has been posted for vehicles, restricting access to the barrage as a safety measure. This decision comes in the wake of continuous heavy rains and the resulting floods from the upper catchment areas, which have significantly raised water levels in the Krishna River.

The situation at the barrage has been exacerbated by minor damage sustained to its gates, caused by boats that were washed away and struck the structure during the flood. The authorities became particularly concerned when floodwaters accumulated near the stranded boats, drawing public attention and leading some

people to stop their vehicles to observe the situation.

In response to the growing danger, officials have prohibited vehicles from crossing the barrage. With fluctuating flood levels, the authorities have also issued a second emergency warning, releasing water downstream to manage the rising water levels. Currently, the water level at Prakasam Barrage is recorded at 24.4 feet, and about 500 cusecs of water are being diverted to the canals.

To further alleviate the pressure, all 70 gates of the barrage have been opened, allowing the floodwaters to flow into the sea. The situation is being closely monitored by the authorities, who are taking every precaution to ensure public safety and prevent any further damage to the infrastructure.



# Warning: Incessant rains expected again!



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The state of Andhra Pradesh is once again on high alert as fresh warnings of heavy rainfall have been issued, adding to the woes caused by the recent floods. Despite ongoing recovery efforts in the flood-hit areas, the Visakha Meteorological Department has cautioned that the state could face another 24 hours of heavy to very heavy rains, particularly in certain districts where the red alert will remain in effect for an additional day.

In light of these warnings, precautionary measures have been intensified in the coastal districts, with authorities on high alert to mitigate potential damage. The Visakha Meteorological Department's latest update indicates that moderate rains are likely in many parts of the south coast and some areas of the north coast over the next 24 hours.

The ongoing storm activity in the Vidarbha and Telangana regions is contributing to this adverse weather. The

storm system is currently centered approximately 135 km north-northeast of Ramagundam and 170 km southeast of Wagdha. The meteorological department predicts that the system will weaken into a severe low-pressure area within the next 12 hours as it moves northwest.

Over the past 24 hours, Aruku in Alluri Seetharamaraju district recorded the highest rainfall, with 3 cm reported. The department has also warned of gusty winds ranging from 35 to 45 kilometers per hour along the coast, with potential gusts reaching up to 55 kilometers per hour. Given these conditions, the Weather Center has strongly advised fishermen to avoid venturing out to sea today (Monday) due to rough sea conditions.

Residents in the affected regions are urged to stay informed and take necessary precautions as the state prepares for another round of potentially severe weather.

# Controversy Surrounds Netflix's 'IC 814'

*The Kandahar Hijack' Amid Allegations of Historical Distortion*



Netflix's latest web series, **\*IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack\***, has become the center of a heated controversy, drawing sharp criticism for allegedly distorting the facts surrounding one of India's most harrowing terrorist incidents. The series, directed by Anubhav Sinha, is a dramatised retelling of the 1999 hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC 814, an event that remains etched in the collective memory of the nation. Since its release on August 29, the series has not only garnered significant attention for its portrayal of the hijacking but also sparked outrage over its representation of the terrorists involved.

## **The Incident: Hijacking of IC 814**

On December 24, 1999, Indian Airlines Flight IC 814, carrying 154 passengers and crew, was hijacked by five terrorists just 40 minutes after it took off from Kathmandu, Nepal. The hijackers, later identified as members of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), diverted the plane to Kandahar, Afghanistan, which was then under the control of the Taliban. The hijacking led to an eight-day-long crisis that tested the Indian government's resolve and exposed the complexities of dealing with international terrorism.

The terrorists demanded the release of three high-profile militants: Maulana Masood Azhar, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar. Under immense pressure to save the lives of the hostages, the Indian government ultimately agreed to the terrorists' demands. Then-External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh personally escorted the militants to Kandahar, a move that remains controversial to this day, raising questions about the effectiveness and ethics of negotiating with terrorists.

## **The Series: IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack**

The release of **\*IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack\*** has been met with widespread criticism, primarily on social media platforms. The controversy revolves around the series' portrayal of the terrorists, who are depicted using the names "Shankar" and "Bhola." This creative decision has sparked accusations that the filmmakers are attempting to obscure the real identities of the hijackers and their affiliations with Islamic extremist groups.

Critics argue that by assigning Hindu names to the terrorists, the series is engaging in a form of historical

revisionism that whitewashes the true nature of the incident. Hashtags such as #BoycottNetflix and #BoycottBollywood began trending on X (formerly Twitter), with users expressing outrage over what they perceive as a deliberate attempt to vilify the Hindu community while downplaying the terror inflicted by the actual hijackers.

Adding to the controversy, it has been noted that the names used in the series are reminiscent of the nicknames the hijackers reportedly used among themselves during the incident. A statement from the Union Home Ministry, issued in the immediate aftermath of the hijacking in January 2000, detailed how the terrorists addressed each other with names like "Chief," "Doctor," "Burger," "Bhola," and "Shankar" inside the plane. The government revealed that the hijackers - Sunny Ahmed Qazi, Shakir alias Rajesh Gopal Verma, Mistri Zahoor Ibrahim, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, and Ibrahim Athar - used these nicknames to mask their real identities.

## **Government Response and Public Sentiment**

The growing public outcry has not gone unnoticed by the Indian government. In response to the controversy, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has summoned Monika Shergill, the content head of Netflix India, to address the concerns raised by the series. The government's involvement underscores the sensitivity of the issue and the potential impact such media portrayals can have on public sentiment and historical narratives.

Despite the controversy, **\*IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack\*** has emerged as one of the most-watched series on Netflix since its release. This paradox highlights the complex relationship between content creators, historical events, and audience perceptions in the digital age. While some viewers may appreciate the dramatic retelling, the backlash serves as a reminder of the importance of accuracy and sensitivity when dealing with real-life tragedies.

The series continues to spark debate, with some defending it as a work of fiction inspired by true events, while others insist that it crosses the line by distorting history. As the controversy unfolds, it remains to be seen how Netflix and the filmmakers will respond to the criticisms and whether any changes will be made to address the concerns of the public and the government.

## Hema Report Sparks Moment of Reckoning in Malayalam Film Industry

The Malayalam film industry is at a critical juncture as women artists courageously share their #MeToo stories, empowered by the release of the Hema Committee Report. This report, which has laid bare the widespread sexual misconduct within the industry, has emboldened many to speak out against powerful figures who have long evaded accountability. The revelations have finally spurred the Kerala Police into action, leading to the first criminal case being registered in response to these allegations.

The fallout from these revelations has been swift. On August 27, under immense pressure from women artists and civil society, the entire executive committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Actors (AMMA), including its president, veteran actor Mohanlal, resigned. This mass resignation followed a series of high-profile exits, beginning on August 25 when director and Kerala State Chalachitra Academy chairman Ranjith and AMMA general secretary actor Siddique stepped down amid serious allegations of sexual misconduct. Bengali actor Sreelekha Mitra accused Ranjith of sexual misconduct, while Malayali actress Revathy Sampath alleged that Siddique had raped her.

The situation escalated further on August 26, when the police registered a non-bailable case against Ranjith based on Mitra's complaint in Kochi. The investigation will be conducted by a seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), which notably includes four women IPS officers. This team was formed following the release of the Hema Committee Report on August 19. The involvement of female officers has been a crucial factor in encouraging more women to come forward with their stories. Social media has become a powerful platform for these women, as more allegations continue to surface against prominent figures in the industry. Names such as actor and CPM legislator M. Mukesh, AMMA joint secretary Baburaj, directors Sreekumar Menon and Thulasidas, and actors Jayasurya, Shine Tom Chacko, Edavela Babu, and Maniyanpillai Raju have all been implicated.

The Hema Committee Report is a landmark document that sheds light on the deeply entrenched issues of sexual harassment and gender inequality in the Malayalam film industry. The three-member committee, led by former Kerala High Court judge K. Hema, was established in 2017 in the wake of the assault on leading actress Bhavana Menon. The report was commissioned by the Kerala Chief Minister at the behest of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), a group formed in response to the assault and subsequent investigations that implicated actor Dileep. The report, submitted to the Kerala government in December 2019, was only released on August 19, 2024, after years of delays and under intense pressure from various quarters.

The findings of the Hema Committee confirmed the long-standing fears and experiences of many women in the industry. The report documents severe cases of sexual harassment, discrimination, and exploitation at the hands of influential figures. These revelations have sparked a wider conversation about the need for systemic change in the Malayalam film industry, which, like many others around the world, has been plagued by a culture of silence and impunity.

However, the path to justice remains fraught with challenges. Survivors face societal stigma, industry backlash, and the potential loss of work, making it incredibly difficult to come forward. The power dynamics at play, with accused figures often enjoying vast fan bases and political connections, further complicate the pursuit of justice. The delayed release of the Hema Committee Report, despite its critical importance, reflects an apathetic government response that has only exacerbated the survivors' struggles.

The Left government in Kerala, particularly with the involvement of two-time CPM MLA Mukesh, is now under scrutiny. Both the opposition Congress and BJP have called for Mukesh to face legal action and resign from his position. The question remains whether the momentum generated by the Hema Committee Report and the #MeToo movement in Kerala will lead to meaningful and lasting reform within the industry.



## Elon Musk Reveals How X Algorithm Shapes User Feeds

Elon Musk, the owner of social media platform X (formerly Twitter), provided insights into how the platform's algorithm influences the content users see on their feeds. In a post on Monday, Musk explained the core principle behind X's algorithm: "If you interact with content, you want to see more of that content." This means that user engagement—such as likes, comments, and shares—directly impacts the algorithm's decisions on what content to prioritize in a user's feed.

Musk highlighted the importance of sharing content as a key signal for the algorithm. "One of the strongest signals is if you forward X posts to friends, it assumes you like that content a

lot because it takes effort to forward," he wrote. The algorithm interprets the act of sharing as a strong endorsement, leading to more similar content appearing in the user's feed.

However, Musk acknowledged a significant limitation in this approach. The algorithm currently fails to discern the intent behind user interactions, particularly when the motivation is negative. "Unfortunately, if the actual reason you forwarded the content to friends was because you were outraged by it, we are currently not smart enough to realize that," Musk admitted. This means that even content shared out of anger or disagreement can inadvertently lead to more of that type of

content being shown.

In a subsequent post, Musk reaffirmed his commitment to "freedom of speech" on the platform, declaring, "Long live X. Long live freedom of speech." He further escalated his ongoing feud with Brazil's Chief Justice Alexandre de Moraes, writing, "I'll cage fight the dictator in Brazil if I have to." This remark was aimed at Moraes, whom Musk has previously criticized as a "tyrant" and a "dictator."

The conflict between Musk and Moraes began in April when Musk announced plans to unsuspend accounts linked to the January 2023 Brazilian Congress attack in Brasilia, despite a court order

to keep them blocked. Moraes responded by launching an investigation into Musk, accusing him of spreading fake news, obstructing justice, and inciting criminal activities. In retaliation, Moraes ordered Brazilian internet service providers to block access to X, imposed daily fines on users attempting to bypass the ban with VPNs, and froze the finances of Musk's company, Starlink, in Brazil.

Musk has continued to use X as a platform to criticize Moraes, accusing him of undermining democracy in Brazil. The feud illustrates the broader tensions surrounding free speech, censorship, and the role of social media platforms in shaping public discourse.

## Congress Releases Second List of Six Candidates for Jammu and Kashmir Polls

The Congress party has released its second list of six candidates for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The announcement came shortly after the party's Central Election Committee convened to finalize the candidates, as part of its alliance with the National Conference.

In this list, JKPC chief Tariq Hameed Karra has been fielded from Central Shalteng. Other candidates include Mumtaz Khan from Reasi, Bhupender Jamwal from Mata Vaishno Devi, Iftikhar Ahmed from Rajouri (ST), Shabbir Ahmed Khan from Thannamandi (ST), and Mohammad Shahnawaz Choudhary from Surankote (ST). These constituencies are scheduled to go to the polls in the second phase of the three-phase assembly elections.

This brings the total number of candidates declared by the Congress to 15. The party had previously issued its first list of nine candidates, including party general secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir from Dooru and former JKPC chief Vikar Rasool Wani from Banihal.

The elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held in three phases on September 18, September 25, and October 1, with the counting of votes scheduled for October 8. The Congress, in alliance with the National Conference, has finalized a seat-sharing arrangement where the National Conference will contest 51 seats and the Congress 32 seats. One seat each has been allocated to the CPI(M) and the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP).

## AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan Arrested by ED Over Delhi Waqf Board Allegations



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday in connection with alleged irregularities in appointments to the Delhi Waqf Board and the leasing of its properties, which are reportedly worth ₹100 crore. The arrest followed a dramatic raid on Khan's Delhi residence, where the ED was accused of insensitivity.

Khan posted a video on social media platform X, revealing that his mother-in-law, a cancer patient recently operated on, was disturbed

by the raid. Khan claimed the ED was harassing him and his party, saying, "They want to break our party... we will not get scared."

Visuals from the raid showed Khan asking an officer why they were present if not to arrest him. A woman, believed to be Khan's wife, expressed frustration over the repeated searches, stating, "She has cancer... I will take you to court if anything happens to my mother."

Khan is the fourth high-profile AAP leader to be arrested by a central agency in recent years, following

the arrests of Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam. AAP leaders have criticized the ED's actions, accusing the agency of acting on behalf of the ruling BJP to harass political rivals. The charges against Khan date back to 2016, when the CBI filed a case. AAP leaders argue that the ED's continued pursuit of Khan, despite a lack of evidence, is politically motivated, especially with Delhi Assembly elections approaching early next year.

## Manipur Conflict Escalates: Drone Attacks and Intermittent Firing Reported

Tensions in Manipur have escalated sharply, with intermittent firing reported between Sekmai in Imphal West and Phailen village in Kangpokpi district. The state government has ordered the police chief to conduct combing operations in the foothills as violence continues to surge. In a significant development, Koutruk village, located 20 km northwest of Imphal, came under attack by alleged Kuki militants using rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) deployed via high-tech drones, according to Manipur Police. Authorities suspect the involvement of highly trained professionals, raising concerns about the sophisticated nature of the attacks.

Drones reportedly dropped at least seven explosives, targeting houses in Koutruk, resulting in significant damage to homes and vehicles, including a construction truck that was set ablaze. While visuals from Koutruk show extensive fire damage, some social media posts claim that the fire was caused by a short circuit and a cooking gas cylinder, later extinguished by Kuki volunteers. Displaced villagers have sought refuge in a local school, reporting ongoing attacks aimed at driving them out of their homes through constant firing and arson.

The Director General of Police has placed all district Superintendents of Police on high alert, instructing them to initiate combing operations in the foothills. The conflict is deeply rooted in ethnic tensions, with the Kuki tribe dominating Kangpokpi district and the surrounding hills, while the Meitei community holds sway in Imphal Valley. A recent attack in Koutruk claimed the life of a 31-year-old Meitei woman and injured ten others, including two policemen and a local TV reporter. Kuki civil society groups allege that Meiteis initiated the violence, with claims that audio tapes implicate Chief Minister N Biren Singh in the crisis. As the situation deteriorates, political and ethnic tensions continue to fuel the conflict, leaving the region on edge.

## Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' Faces Delays Amid Controversy and Censorship Issues

Actor Kangana Ranaut expressed frustration over the postponement of her upcoming film \*Emergency\*, which was originally slated for release on September 6. The film, in which Ranaut portrays former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has been delayed after failing to secure approval from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

Ranaut took to X (formerly Twitter) to voice her disappointment, stating, "It's hugely demotivating and unjust." She criticized the perceived double standards in censorship, noting that while OTT platforms can showcase extreme content without consequence, nationalist films like hers face significant hurdles.

The actor-turned-politician also referenced a podcast where she discussed the censorship challenges, likening the situation to an "emergency" imposed on her film. "I'm quite disappointed in our



country... They've stalled my certificate, but I'm determined to release an uncut version of the film. I'll fight in court," she asserted.

Ranaut's remarks came in response to BJP leader Amit Malviya's criticism of the web series \*IC 814 - The Kandahar Hijack\*, which has sparked controversy for altering the names of the hijackers to 'Bhola' and 'Shankar.'

Adding to the controversy, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) sent a legal notice to the CBFC, claiming the film's trailer misrepresents historical facts and could incite communal tensions. The party alleged that the film spreads misinformation and promotes hatred, particularly against the Sikh community.

Ranaut, who is also the director, writer, and co-producer of \*Emergency\*, remains resolute in her commitment to releasing the film, despite the challenges.

## Supreme Court Grants Bail to Former AAP Leader Vijay Nair in Delhi Liquor Policy Case

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Vijay Nair, former communications in-charge of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The court emphasized that liberty is "sacrosanct," and upheld the legal principle that "bail is the rule and jail is the exception."

The bench, comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti, noted that Nair had been in jail for 22 months in a case where the maximum punishment is seven years. The justices remarked that pre-trial incarceration should not be used as a form of punishment, signaling the court's concern over prolonged detention without trial. Nair was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on November 13, 2022. His bail plea had previously been denied by the trial court on July 29, and the Delhi High Court had also refused bail on July 3, 2022, to Nair and other co-accused in the case. The money laundering charges against Nair stem from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR, which was filed after Delhi's Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena recommended an investigation into alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

## Expelled Congress Leader Vows to Fight Kerala Unit's Alleged 'Casting Couch'

Simi Rose Bell John, recently expelled from the Kerala Congress, has vowed to take her allegations of a "casting couch" within the party's state unit directly to Sonia Gandhi. Speaking to the media on Monday, Bell John declared, "I am not afraid... I will fight," after her expulsion last week amid claims that only those close to senior leaders receive opportunities within the party.

Bell John's accusations have sparked significant controversy, especially as they coincide with ongoing sexual assault allegations against several senior members of Kerala's film industry. The Congress' state unit expelled her on Sunday, claiming her allegations aimed to defame and harass other women leaders and workers. The party also accused her of colluding with political adversaries, a charge Bell John has vehemently denied, challenging the party to produce evidence. Bell John referenced the current scandals in

Mollywood, including accusations against prominent figures like M Mukesh, a CPI(M) MLA, and suggested she is fighting for the women of Kerala. Meanwhile, the Congress has been critical of the ruling CPIM, with Leader of the Opposition VD Sathesan accusing Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of protecting those involved in sexual misconduct.

Senior BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar criticized Congress for its alleged double standards, pointing out the contrast between the party's public stance on women's



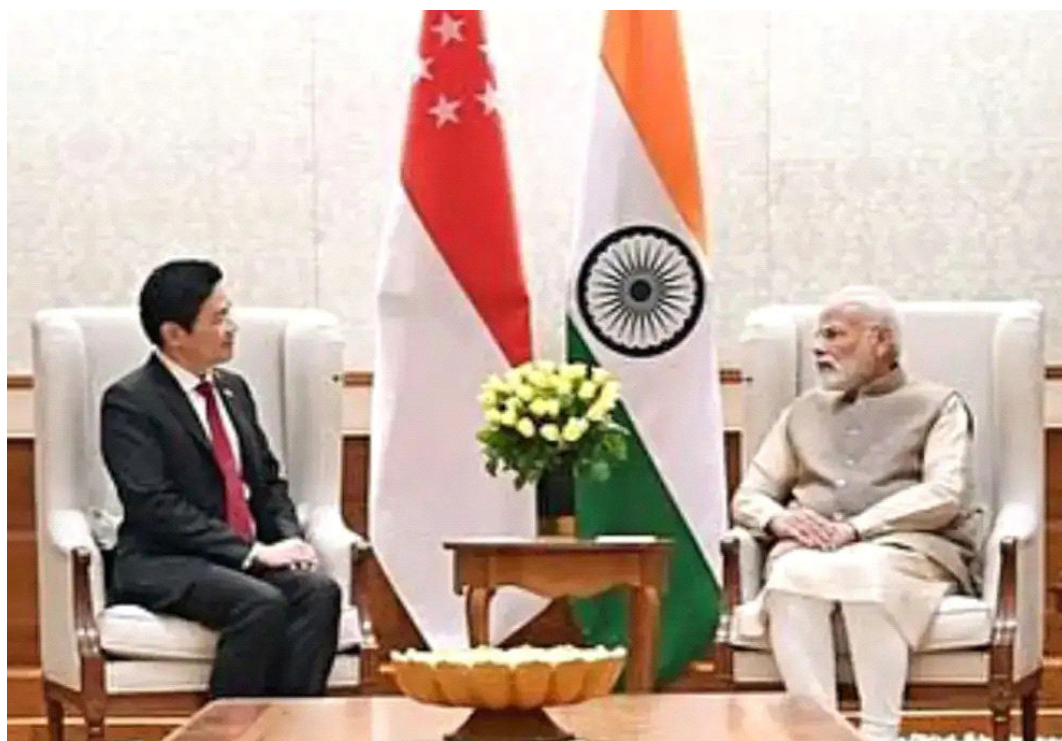
rights and its handling of Bell John's complaints. Congress has yet to respond to Chandrasekhar's remarks, adding to the mounting pressure on the party.

## PM Modi to Visit Singapore to Strengthen Bilateral Ties and Boost Trade Relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on an official visit to Singapore on September 4 and 5, aiming to further enhance bilateral ties between the two nations. The visit, which follows a high-level roundtable between top ministers from both countries, is expected to significantly boost cooperation in various sectors, including trade, investment, and semiconductors.

"Ties between India and Singapore are poised to take off to an entirely new level of cooperation," the Ministry of External Affairs stated during a special briefing ahead of the Prime Minister's visit. This marks PM Modi's first visit to Singapore in six years, underscoring the importance of the trip in strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary East of the Ministry of External Affairs, highlighted the significance of the visit, particularly in terms of trade and investment. Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN and a major source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In the last financial year alone, Singapore invested \$11.77 billion in India, making it the sixth-largest trade partner worldwide.



During his two-day visit, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to address a group of CEOs, emphasizing India's growth story and the potential for further investment. The visit will also coincide with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore, set to be celebrated in 2025, as well as the 10th anniversary of their strategic partnership.

The visit is expected to result in the exchange of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in areas such as digitization, skill development, sustainability, health, advanced manufacturing, and connectivity, further solidifying the dynamic and evolving partnership between India and Singapore.

## Scaramucci: Melania Trump Secretly Supports Kamala Harris

In a surprising revelation, former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci has claimed that Melania Trump is secretly rooting for Democrat presidential candidate Kamala Harris in the upcoming election. During an interview on the MediasTouch podcast, Scaramucci suggested that the former First Lady is more enthusiastic about a Harris victory than even he is, citing her alleged disdain for her husband, former President Donald Trump.

Scaramucci's remarks come amid Melania Trump's noticeable absence from Donald Trump's political campaign rallies. She has been largely out of the spotlight, attending only a few fundraising events and one rally where an assassination attempt on Trump took place.

When asked about Melania's potential support for Kamala Harris, Scaramucci responded, "Maybe Melania Trump. That could be the only person I think of. Because she hates [Trump]." He further mentioned that his own wife shares a similar sentiment, jokingly adding that even the podcast host is "nicer to Trump than Melania is."

Donald Trump has dismissed Scaramucci's claims, labeling his former aide as a "bitter man" who holds a grudge. Despite the controversy, Melania Trump has remained focused on her son Barron's education, spending most of her time in New York. She is reportedly more concerned with family matters and personal milestones than with Donald Trump's 2024 presidential campaign.

Melania is also set to release her memoir, \*Melania\*, on October 1, which her office describes as a "powerful and inspiring story" of a woman who has "forged her own path" and "defined personal excellence."

## Cabinet Approves ₹26,000 Crore Deal for 240 Aero-Engines for Su-30MKI Jets

The Cabinet Committee on Security has sanctioned a significant procurement proposal for the Indian Air Force (IAF), approving the acquisition of 240 aero-engines for its Su-30MKI fighter jets at a cost exceeding ₹26,000 crore. This decision, made on September 2, will see the engines supplied by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the Buy (Indian) category.

The delivery of these AL-31FP aero-engines will commence in one year and is expected to be completed over the next eight years. The engines are crucial for maintaining and enhancing the operational capabilities of the Su-30MKI, one of the IAF's most strategically important aircraft fleets.

The Defence Ministry highlighted that the engines will feature more than 54% indigenous content, thanks to the indigenisation of key components. They will be manufactured at HAL's Koraput division, reflecting a significant boost in domestic defense production capabilities.

"The supply of these aero-engines by HAL will ensure the continued operation of the Su-30MKI fleet and bolster the country's defense preparedness," the ministry stated. This procurement aligns with the government's push to enhance indigenous defense production and self-reliance in military technology.

The Su-30MKI is noted for its versatility and strategic value, making this procurement a critical step in sustaining the IAF's operational readiness and technological edge in the region.

## Iraqi PM Declares ISIS No Longer a Threat, Signals End to US-Led Coalition's Mission

Baghdad: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani has declared that the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group no longer poses a significant threat to Iraq. His remarks came during a meeting with Major General Kevin C. Leahy, commander of the US-led coalition against ISIS in Iraq, and US Ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski, according to a statement from al-Sudani's media office, reported by Xinhua.

The Prime Minister stated that the remnants of ISIS have been reduced to gangs being actively hunted by Iraqi forces in remote areas of the country. The discussions emphasized the progress of technical dialogue between Iraq and the US-led coalition, focusing on ending the coalition's mission in Iraq. The mission is expected to transition to a framework of bilateral



relations between Iraq and coalition member states.

Additionally, the meeting addressed ongoing cooperation in training, sharing expertise, and intelligence collaboration with Iraqi security forces.

This development follows the January 25 announcement by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry that Iraq and the United States agreed to establish the High-Level Military Committee. This committee will oversee the conclusion of the international coalition's mission in Iraq, with a shift towards developing comprehensive bilateral relations across political, economic, cultural, security, and military dimensions.

## Bharat Space Collective: A New Era in Indian Space Technology Collaboration

In a groundbreaking move, four of India's leading space technology companies—Kawa Space, Azista Industries, Kepler Aerospace, and Dfy Gravit—have joined forces to establish the Bharat Space Collective (BSC). This pioneering organization is poised to revolutionize space technology development and deployment, with a special emphasis on creating solutions that address global challenges, particularly those outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The formation of the Bharat Space Collective marks a significant shift in the Indian space industry's operations. By pooling their

expertise and resources, the BSC aims to elevate India's status on the global stage, transitioning from a participant in the space race to a leader capable of delivering world-class space products and services.

"We are proud to announce the formation of the Bharat Space Collective, marking a transformative leap forward for India's space industry," said Kris Nair, Chairman of Bharat Space Collective and Founder of Kawa Space. "At the heart of this initiative is the power of collaboration. By harnessing each other's strengths, we are not just building products; we are creating new categories within the space industry itself."

The BSC's mission is centered on collaboration over competition. Inspired by the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) philosophy of using space technology for global betterment, the Collective aims to scale this approach into the commercial sphere, ensuring India remains at the forefront of space exploration and application.

"The Collective's products span both upstream and downstream sectors, addressing major use cases in the UN SDG Goals," explained Navneet Singh, CEO of Kepler Aerospace. "The BSC will also add partners in sustainability in space and launch services in the coming months."

## Indian Navy's P8i Poseidon Aircraft Joins France for 'Varuna' Exercise

Paris: In a landmark deployment, an Indian Navy P8i Poseidon aircraft has landed at France's Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube, marking the first-ever deployment of such an aircraft in Europe. The P8i is in France to participate in the Indo-French bilateral naval exercise 'Varuna,' scheduled from September 2 to September 4 in the Mediterranean Sea.

The exercise, which began in 1993 and was named 'Varuna' in 2001, is a key element of the strategic partnership between India and France. It aims to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies through advanced tactical drills. This year's edition is significant as it involves the participation of the Indian Navy's P8i Poseidon, a maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft designed by Boeing for the Indian Navy.

"This deployment comes 63 years after the Indian Navy's Alize aircraft, which operated from the erstwhile INS Vikrant, last flew at

Hyeres Airbase," said a spokesperson from the Indian Navy, highlighting the historical significance of the occasion.

INS Tabar, another key asset of the Indian Navy, has also arrived in Toulon to participate in the exercise, which will feature guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and helicopters from both navies.

The P8i Poseidon, part of the Indian Navy's 12-strong fleet, is instrumental in coastal patrolling, maritime surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, and other critical operations. Since its induction in 2013, the fleet has logged over 35,000 flight hours, playing a crucial role in maintaining security in the Indian Ocean Region.

The Varuna Naval Exercise underscores the deepening defense ties between India and France and their shared commitment to ensuring security, safety, and freedom in global maritime domains.





# Market Rally Continues Amid Mixed Sectoral Performance BSE Sensex Hits Record High, Select Stock Picks Recommended

The stock market indices showed positive momentum, with the NSE Nifty rising to a fresh high of 25,333, marking its 13th consecutive session of gains. The BSE Sensex also touched a new peak at 82,725, driven by strong performances from Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance. Despite the overall gains, market breadth on the BSE indicated a mixed sentiment, with 2,255 stocks advancing while 1,782 declined. The rupee weakened slightly by 5 paise, closing at 83.92 against the dollar.



The BSE Sensex, which opened at 82,725, saw an intraday low of 82,440 before closing at 82,559, up 194 points. The NSE Nifty, after opening at 25,333, closed at 25,278, gaining 42 points. Nifty Bank also rose by 88 points to settle at 51,439. Among the Nifty50, 27 companies ended in the green, while 23 saw losses. Top gainers included Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, and SBI Life, while Hindalco, Dr. Reddy's, and Tata Motors were among the major losers.

Sector-wise, finance, FMCG, IT, PSU Bank, and Oil & Gas indices were up, while auto, media, metal, pharma, and realty sectors saw declines.

Investors are advised to consider short-term buys in Heromoto, ITC, IndusInd Bank, SBI, and Adani Enterprises, with Nifty support at 25,300 and resistance at 25,450.

In corporate news, Maithon Alloys will begin production at its new West Bengal plant next week. Ramakrishna Forgings is selling its subsidiary to Yatra Online for Rs.128 crore, and Hindware's board approved raising Rs.250 crore through a rights issue. Other notable developments include RailTel's order to Techno Electric for edge data centers and NBCC receiving orders worth Rs.182 crore.



Here's an analysis of Hero MotoCorp, ITC Ltd., IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India, and Adani Enterprises based on the latest market trends:

## 1. Hero MotoCorp (HEROMOTOCO)



Hero MotoCorp has been experiencing fluctuations in its stock price due to mixed sentiments in the auto sector. The company has been focusing on expanding its electric vehicle portfolio, which could drive long-term growth. However, near-term concerns such as rising input costs and competitive pressures may impact margins.

enhancing its digital capabilities, which could support future growth. However, any macroeconomic headwinds could pose risks to its asset quality.

## 4. State Bank of India (SBI)



SBI, the largest public sector bank in India, has been benefiting from strong credit growth and improving asset quality. The bank's large customer base and extensive reach make it a stable investment. Recent financial results have shown significant improvement in profitability and asset quality.

## 2. ITC Ltd.



ITC has shown resilience due to its diversified business model, which includes FMCG, hotels, paperboards, and agri-business. The FMCG segment has been performing well, and the recent focus on scaling up its non-cigarette business is paying off. ITC is a solid investment for both short-term and long-term due to its strong fundamentals, attractive valuation, and dividend yield.

## 3. IndusInd Bank



IndusInd Bank has been showing a steady recovery post-COVID, with improvements in asset quality and loan growth. The bank has been focusing on strengthening its balance sheet and

## 5. Adani Enterprises (ADANIENT)



Adani Enterprises has been one of the more volatile stocks in the market due to its aggressive expansion and the controversies surrounding the group. However, the company has been diversifying its business, focusing on infrastructure, green energy, and airports, which could offer long-term growth potential.

## Retail Investors Propel Indian Stock Market Growth with Surge in Female Participation

Retail investors are increasingly dominating the Indian stock market, with significant growth in female participation. According to Tirthankar Patnaik, chief economist at the National Stock Exchange (NSE), at least 2.2 crore of the 10 crore registered investors on the NSE are women, marking a substantial increase in female engagement.



Since 2015, the number of female investors has surged 6.8 times, reflecting a broader trend of rising investor participation. Patnaik highlighted that approximately 69 percent of investors are under 40, indicating a growing interest among younger demographics. This increase in retail investor strength has contributed to the Nifty index's consistent growth, even amidst foreign institutional investor (FII) sell-offs and geopolitical uncertainties.

Indian households now contribute to 35 percent of total trading volumes, with monthly Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) inflows surpassing ₹23,000 crore, underscoring the significant role of retail investors in market dynamics.

The NSE has surpassed 10 crore unique registered investors, with a total of 19 crore client codes on the exchange. Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer at NSE, noted the remarkable pace of growth, with the in-

vestor base expanding by one crore within just over five months, following the achievement of the nine-crore milestone in February.

This growth is attributed to improved Know Your Customer (KYC) processes, increased financial literacy through investor awareness programs, and ongoing positive market sentiment. The investor base, which first reached one crore 14 years after the NSE's inception, has more than tripled in the past five years, driven by digitization, financial inclusion, and strong market performance.

Overall, the rise in retail and female investors highlights a dynamic shift in India's investment landscape, contributing to the robust growth of the stock market.

## UPI Transactions Surge to Record Highs Amid Growing Adoption

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) continues its impressive growth, with August 2024 setting new records. According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI processed a staggering 14.96 billion transactions in August, marking a 41 percent increase year-on-year. The total transaction amount reached ₹20.61 lakh crore, a significant 31 percent YoY growth.



The daily average transaction volume stood at 483 million, with the average daily transaction value reaching ₹66,475 crore. This marks the fourth consecutive month that UPI transactions have exceeded ₹20 lakh crore.

In comparison, July 2024 saw UPI transactions amount to ₹20.64 lakh crore across 14.44 billion transactions. The daily average volume and amount were 466 million transactions and ₹66,590 crore, respectively.

UPI's rapid expansion is fueled by the addition of up to 60 lakh new users each month, boosted by innovations such as the RuPay credit card on UPI and international launches. The NPCI aims to achieve 1 billion UPI transactions per day in the near future.

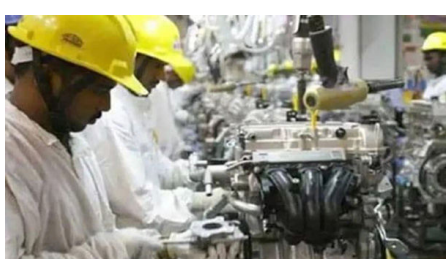
For the April-July 2024 period, UPI transactions totaled nearly ₹81 lakh crore, reflecting a 37 percent year-on-year increase. The platform has processed 3,729.1 transactions per second, a 58 percent surge from 2022's figures, surpassing global competitors like China's Alipay, PayPal, and Brazil's PIX.

India now leads globally in digital transactions, with over 40 percent of payments being made digitally, predominantly through UPI. Dilip Asbe, CEO of NPCI, anticipates UPI could reach 100 billion transactions in the next 10-15 years, supported by credit growth and ongoing innovations.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has emphasized the central bank's commitment to making UPI and RuPay globally recognized, highlighting the positive response from various jurisdictions.

## India's Manufacturing Growth Slows to Three-Month Low in August

India's manufacturing growth eased to a three-month low in August, as demand softened significantly, according to a private-sector survey released on Monday. The HSBC final India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, dropped to 57.5 in August from 58.1 in July, falling short of the preliminary estimate of 57.9. Despite this decline, the index remained above the 50-mark, which indicates expansion rather than contraction, and has been above this threshold since July 2021.



orders and output also mirrored the headline trend, with some panellists citing fierce competition as a reason for the slowdown," Bhandari noted.

Despite the slowdown, cost pressures eased to their lowest level since March. However, output price inflation remained close to July's near 11-year high. Resilient demand enabled firms to pass on increased costs to clients, resulting in a modest deceleration in the pace of output price inflation while still improving profit margins for manufacturers.

Overall, while the manufacturing sector continues to show growth, the recent data underscores a cooling in the pace of expansion, influenced by softened demand and competitive pressures.

The slowdown in growth is attributed to weaker demand. The output and new orders sub-indices, which measure demand, both fell to seven-month lows. Additionally, international demand grew at its slowest pace since January, although it remained robust.

Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, highlighted that some companies reported a slowdown due to intense competition. "New or-

## Nomura Lowers India's FY25 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.7%

Global brokerage Nomura has revised down its FY25 GDP growth forecast for India to 6.7%, from its previous estimate of 6.9%, citing weaker performance in Q2 and soft indicators for Q3. This new projection is notably lower than the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 7.2%.



India's GDP growth slowed to 6.7% year-on-year in the second quarter of FY25, a decrease from 7.8% in the previous quarter and slightly below the expected 6.8%. Nomura attributes this slowdown primarily to reduced government spending related to the elections, despite a rise in private consumption and fixed investment. In contrast, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth increased to 6.8% in Q2, up from 6.3% in Q1, resulting in a negative gap between GDP and GVA.

"Early data for Q3 presents a mixed outlook," Nomura noted. "Urban consumption

remains weak, industrial indicators are soft, and government revenue expenditure is lower. However, rural growth and public capital expenditure are showing signs of improvement."

The adjustment in Nomura's forecast reflects concerns over the current economic conditions, particularly the impact of lower government spending and mixed signals from various economic sectors. The contrasting trends in urban and rural growth, along with varying indicators of industrial performance, highlight the complexities facing India's economic landscape as it heads into the latter half of FY25.

## India's Russian oil imports soften in August as refinery maintenance season weighs on demand

India's crude oil imports from Russia, its largest oil supplier, experienced a sequential decline in August from July's near-record levels, according to ship tracking data and industry experts. This reduction comes amid softer oil demand ahead of the refinery maintenance season and a probable decrease in the availability of Russian oil for export.

In August, India's imports of Russian crude dropped by 14.5%, or 0.31 million barrels per day (bpd), to 1.80 million bpd. Despite this decrease, Russian oil still represented a significant 39.9% of India's total crude oil imports for the month, based on provisional data from Kpler, a commodity market analytics firm. India's overall crude oil imports also fell by a comparable amount—0.32 million bpd—to 4.52 million bpd.

Oil market analysts anticipate that India's oil imports, including those from Russia, may remain subdued in September due to ongoing main-



tenance shutdowns at several refineries. However, a recovery is expected in October as these refineries resume operations, coinciding with the festival season, which typically sees an uptick in fuel demand.

Viktor Katona, head of crude analysis at Kpler, noted, "Russia's oil exports have also decreased by 350,000 bpd, indicating reduced availability of Russian oil, lower intake by India, and overall reduced oil movement."

This trend reflects the complex dynamics of global oil markets and supply chains, highlighting the interplay between refinery maintenance schedules, seasonal demand fluctuations, and geopolitical factors affecting oil availability and pricing.





# Pawan Kalyan's Special 56th Birthday as Andhra Deputy CM

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Today marks a significant milestone in the life of actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan as he celebrates his 56th birthday. This year's celebrations hold special meaning for his fans, as Pawan Kalyan has recently assumed the role of Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, a position that highlights his influential role in the state's government.

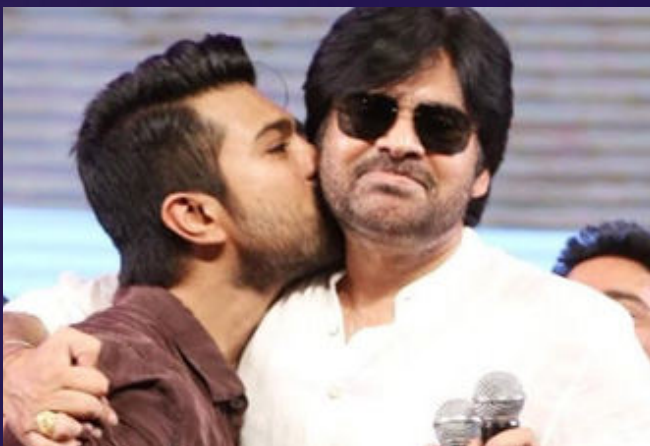
Pawan Kalyan's birthday is traditionally a day of grand

celebrations among his fans, who have supported him unwaveringly throughout his journey in both cinema and politics. However, this year, the festivities are even more exuberant as they honor not only the "Powerstar" but also the powerful Deputy Chief Minister who played a pivotal role in shaping the current government. Pawan's party, Janasena, allied with the TDP and BJP in the recent elections, securing 21 MLA and 2 MP seats, marking a remarkable comeback after the 2019 general elections.



## Megastar Chiranjeevi's Heartfelt Wishes

As the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Pawan Kalyan's birthday has drawn attention from various quarters. On this special occasion, Megastar Chiranjeevi, Pawan's elder brother, extended his heartfelt wishes. Chiranjeevi praised Pawan as a leader of integrity, honesty, and commitment, expressing confidence that Pawan is the right person to bring about significant changes in the lives of the people of Andhra Pradesh. "Happy birthday to all the people of Andhra!" Chiranjeevi added, sharing a picture with his wife Surekha alongside the message.



## Ram Charan's Tribute to Pawan Kalyan's Leadership

Celebrities from the realms of cinema, politics, and various other fields have also taken to social media to extend their birthday wishes to the Janasena chief. Ram Charan, another prominent figure in the family, conveyed his wishes on 'X' (formerly Twitter), expressing admiration for Pawan's dedication, compassion, and leadership in advocating for social justice. "Your selfless work and commitment to serving the needs of the underprivileged in Andhra Pradesh is inspiring," Charan wrote, wishing his uncle continued strength and blessings.



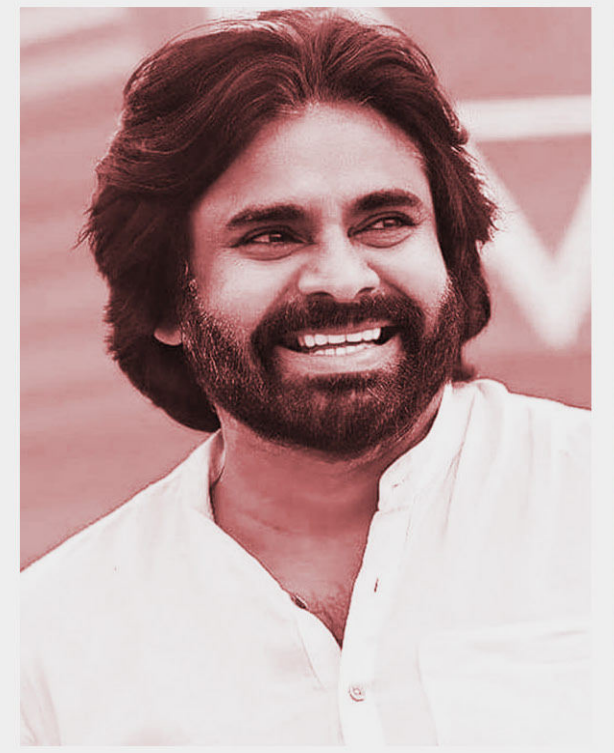
## CM Chandrababu Naidu's Congratulations

Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, also joined in the celebrations, congratulating Pawan Kalyan on his birthday. Naidu expressed his hope that Pawan would continue to cross milestones as a committed leader in public life, commending his transition from a beloved film star to a powerful political figure. "I hope that he will prosper for a hundred years with good health and God's blessings," Naidu tweeted.



## Minister Nara Lokesh's Appreciation for the "Real Hero"

Minister Nara Lokesh further added to the outpouring of affection for Pawan Kalyan, describing him as a "real hero" on the X platform. Lokesh celebrated Pawan's achievements both in cinema and politics, emphasizing his role in the restructuring of Navyandhra as Deputy Chief Minister. "Happy birthday to the real hero Pawan Kalyan... wishing him a hundred years of health and prosperity," Lokesh wrote, calling Pawan his "God-given elder brother."



## Sweden Issues New Screen Time Guidelines for Children



On Monday, Sweden's Public Health Agency announced new recommendations advising parents to completely restrict screen time for children under two years old. For kids aged two to five, screen time should be limited to a maximum of one hour per day. Children between six and 12 years old should have no more than one to two hours of screen time daily, while teenagers aged 13 to 18 should be restricted to two to three hours a day.

Public Health Minister Jakob Forssmed emphasized the need for these guidelines, highlighting concerns over the extensive use of screens among Swedish teens. On average, adolescents aged 13 to 16 spend about six and a half hours daily on screens outside of school hours. Forssmed pointed out that this excessive screen time leaves little room

for physical activity, social interactions, or sufficient sleep. He also noted a significant "sleep crisis" in Sweden, with over half of 15-year-olds not getting adequate rest.

The new guidelines also include recommendations for better sleep hygiene, advising that screens not be used before bedtime and that phones and tablets be kept out of bedrooms at night. Research cited by the health agency links excessive screen use to poor sleep quality, depression, and body dissatisfaction.

In addition to these recommendations, Sweden's government is exploring the possibility of a ban on smartphones in primary schools, reflecting growing concerns about the impact of digital media on children's well-being.

## Ancient Egyptian Observatory Unearthed in Buto



Archaeologists have uncovered a remarkable 2,500-year-old astronomy observatory in Buto, Egypt, believed to be the largest of its kind from the sixth century BCE. This significant find was made during an excavation of a temple complex dedicated to Wadjet, the protector goddess of Lower Egypt.

The observatory, spanning approximately 850 square meters (a quarter of an acre), is part of the Temple of Buto, a mud-brick structure once dedicated to Wadjet. This temple was significant during a transitional period in Egyptian history marked by political upheaval and the rise of foreign rulers. The observatory's role was likely crucial for recording and observing astronomical events, which held both religious and practical importance in ancient Egyptian society.

Among the notable discoveries are a sloping stone sundial, used to measure time based on the sun's position, and three stone blocks intended to track the Sun's location. Additionally, five flat limestone blocks mounted

on long slabs feature inclined lines for measuring the angles of the sun's rays, helping monitor its movement throughout the day.

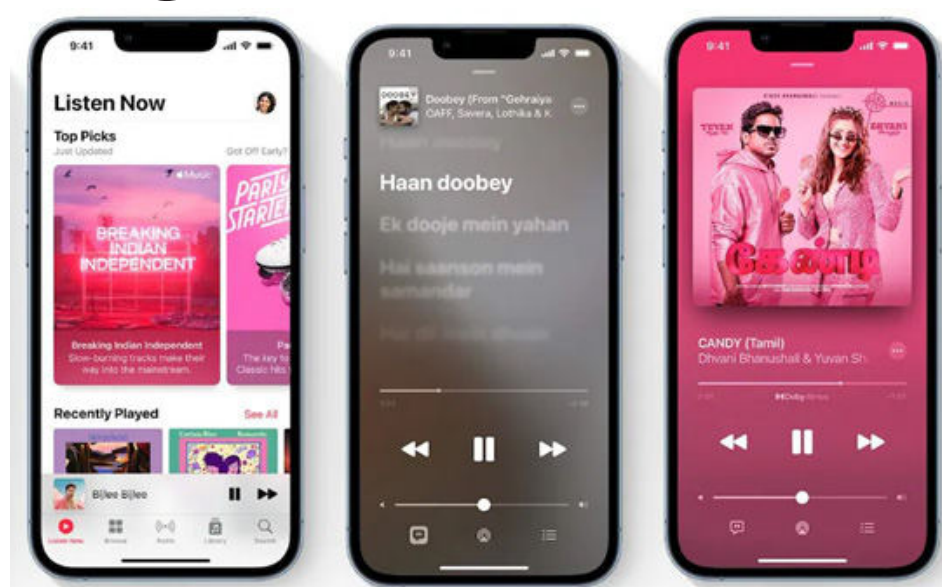
The excavation also revealed an observatory tower made of stone, a platform in a large hall inscribed with records of sunrises and sunsets, and various inscriptions related to time and astronomy. The hall was adorned with images of sky deities, including Horus, who is depicted with celestial symbolism—reflecting the temple's dual role in both religious and astronomical practices.

This discovery not only sheds light on the sophisticated astronomical knowledge of ancient Egyptians but also underscores the intertwining of religious beliefs with scientific inquiry. Smaller artefacts such as beaded necklaces, amphorae covers, and pottery provide additional insights into the daily life and rituals associated with the temple.

The Buto find is a significant addition to our understanding of ancient Egyptian astronomy and cultural practices, with further details expected as excavation continues.

## Apple Partners with Airtel to Boost Streaming Services in India

Apple's collaboration with Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest telecom provider, aims to significantly enhance the reach of Apple Music and Apple TV+ in a competitive content market. The partnership will offer free music and video streaming to Airtel's 281 million customers, marking a substantial opportunity for Apple to grow its services in India, a market where it has previously focused more on manufacturing.



Airtel's move to integrate Apple Music into its offerings comes as the company plans to shut down its Wynk Music app, transitioning its users to Apple's platform. This shift will likely expand Apple Music's presence in India, where it currently holds only a modest share compared to rivals like Spotify and Gaana. As part of the deal, Airtel is expected to pay Apple a reduced per-user fee, lower than the standard \$1.20 monthly charge for Apple Music and Apple TV+ in India.

Despite Apple's efforts, its streaming services have struggled to match local competitors. Apple TV+ will now be featured in Airtel's packages, potentially increasing its visibility. However, Apple TV+ has faced challenges in India, where it has fewer

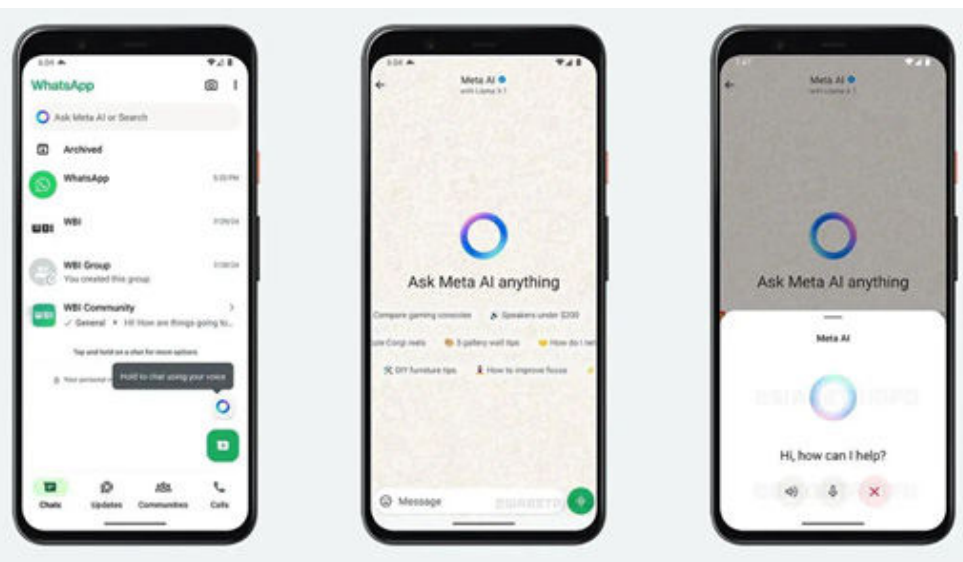
than 1 million users, compared to market leaders Disney+ Hotstar and Netflix, which have 38 million and 10 million users, respectively.

The move aligns with Apple's broader strategy to boost its global service revenue. In the US, Apple Music is available through Verizon data plans, and Apple TV+ is included in Comcast's streaming bundles. In India, Apple Music will replace Wynk's premium service, aiming to boost customer loyalty and enhance Airtel's distribution strength.

Overall, while Apple is making strides to increase its footprint in India, its growth in the video streaming segment remains limited compared to local giants and competitors.

## WhatsApp to Introduce Voice Mode for Meta AI on Android

WhatsApp for Android is set to roll out an exciting new feature: Voice Mode for its in-app Meta AI chatbot. According to reports from feature tracker WABetaInfo, this update will enable users to engage in two-way voice conversations with Meta AI, enhancing the interactive experience of the chatbot.



The Voice Mode feature was initially reported last month, and recent updates indicate that the interface for this feature is now visible. Currently, the feature is found in WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.24.18.18, though it is not yet accessible to beta users.

Screenshots shared by WABetaInfo reveal that the Meta AI Voice Mode can be activated by long-pressing the Meta AI button located above the New Chat icon. Users may also engage the feature by tapping on a waveform icon next to the text field within the Meta AI chat. The interface includes a bottom sheet with a circular aura icon likely representing the voice mode, alongside icons for speaker, mute,

and disconnect.

The feature is expected to support ten different voices, which might include variations in accents, tonalities, and genders, though it remains unclear if multiple languages will be supported.

This new addition places WhatsApp in competition with other AI-powered communication tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT Voice Mode and Google's Gemini Live, both of which are available only to paid subscribers. If WhatsApp successfully launches this hands-free feature, it could be the first to offer such capabilities for free, potentially setting a new standard in the industry.

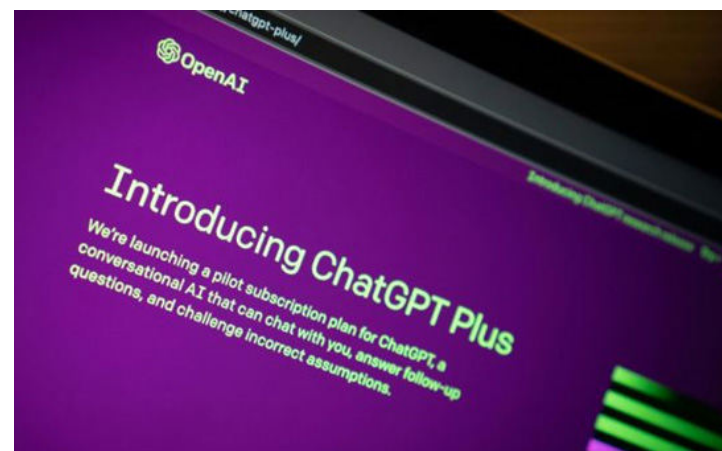
## OpenAI and Anthropic Partner with US AI Safety Institute for Model Testing

OpenAI and Anthropic will collaborate with the US AI Safety Institute to ensure the safety of their upcoming AI models before they are publicly released. This agreement, detailed in a press release dated August 29, 2024, involves pre-release access to major new models from both companies. The US AI Safety Institute will evaluate these models for capabilities and safety risks and work with the companies to develop methods for risk mitigation.

The US AI Safety Institute, part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the US Department of Commerce, was established following an executive order by President Joe Biden in October 2023. This order mandates safety assessments for AI models, aiming to set rigorous standards for AI development.

Under the new agreement, the US AI Safety Institute will conduct collaborative research with OpenAI and Anthropic to identify potential safety improvements. The UK AI Safety Institute will also be involved, providing additional feedback and insights.

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, expressed enthusi-



asm about the partnership, stating, "We are happy to have reached an agreement with the US AI Safety Institute for pre-release testing of our future models." Jason Kwon, OpenAI's chief strategy officer, emphasized their commitment to safety best practices, noting, "We strongly support the U.S. AI Safety Institute's mission and look forward to working together to inform safety standards for AI models."

This initiative marks a significant step towards enhancing AI safety and ensuring that new models are thoroughly vetted for risks before being made available to the public.

## Sumit Nagal Withdraws from Davis Cup Tie Against Sweden Due to Injury

India's top singles player, Sumit Nagal, has withdrawn from the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to a persistent back injury. The Davis Cup tie, scheduled to be held on September 14-15 in Stockholm on an indoor hard court, will see Nagal's absence as a significant setback for the Indian team.

Nagal, who recently faced Tallon Griekspoor in the first round of the US Open, took to social media to express his disappointment. He revealed that the back issue, which has troubled him for several weeks, has led doctors to advise a two-week rest period. This advice has unfortunately left him with insufficient time to prepare for and compete in the Davis Cup tie. The same injury also caused him to withdraw from the US Open doubles event.

"I was really looking forward to representing the team in the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden," Nagal stated. "However, due to my back issue, I have to prioritize my recovery to prevent further damage and ensure a strong finish to the season. I'm



deeply disappointed to miss this tie but will be cheering for the team from home."

Nagal, who reached a career-high ATP ranking of 68 in July, has recently fallen to 82 in the latest rankings. His absence is a significant blow to the Indian squad, which will now rely on reserve player Aryan Shah, who

has been promoted to the main team, while Manas Dhamne has been placed on standby. In related news, former national champion Ashutosh Singh has been appointed as the new coach of the Indian national team, marking a new chapter for the squad as they prepare for the Davis Cup tie without their top-ranked player.

## Suryakumar Yadav to Miss Duleep Trophy Opener Due to Injury



India's Suryakumar Yadav will miss the opening round of the Duleep Trophy, starting September 5, due to a hand injury sustained last week. The injury occurred during the final match for Mumbai in the Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament in Coimbatore, where Suryakumar did not bat on the last day of play.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed Suryakumar's unavailability for the Duleep Trophy. He was initially set to play for India C in the first-round clash against India D at Ananthapur from September 5-8. Currently, Suryakumar is undergoing treatment at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the other fixture of the tournament will see India A facing off against India B at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.



## Indian Shooters Sweep 10m Air Rifle Medals at World Deaf Shooting Championship

At the 2nd World Deaf Shooting Championship 2024 in Hanover, Germany, Indian shooters Dhanush Srikanth, Shourya Saini, and Mohammed Murtaza Vania dominated the 10m Air Rifle men's event, securing all three podium positions on Day Two of the competition.

Dhanush Srikanth set a new world record in deaf-shooting with an impressive 632.7 in the qualification round, followed by a 251.7 in the final to clinch gold. His performance left Shourya Saini, who finished with a silver medal scoring 249.9, in second place. Mohammed Murtaza Vania secured the bronze with a score of 226.2.

The success continued with additional medals in the women's 10m Air Rifle event. Mahit Sandhu earned silver while Natasha Joshi took bronze, contributing to India's growing medal tally. India's strong performance in the championship extends beyond Day Two. The squad, consisting of 16 members, had already won four medals on the first day, including one gold, two silver, and one bronze.



## India Shines on Day 4 of Paris Paralympics: Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal Win Medals

On Day 4 of the Paris Paralympics, Indian athletes made notable strides with Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal securing silver and bronze medals, respectively. Shuttle player Suhas Yathiraj also advanced to the gold medal match for the second consecutive Paralympics.

Preethi Pal, a farmer's daughter from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, clinched her second bronze of the Games in the 200m T35 category with a personal best of 30.01 seconds. She had previously won a bronze in the 100m T35 event. Preethi, who faced significant physical challenges from birth, made history as the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics, following Avani Lekhara's achievements in Tokyo 2020.

Nishad Kumar, hailing from Una, Himachal Pradesh, won silver in the men's high jump T47 category with a season-best jump of 2.04 meters. This marks his second consecutive silver at the Paralympics, having previously secured the same medal in Tokyo with a jump of

2.06 meters. He narrowly missed gold, which went to Townsend Roderick of the USA with a jump of 2.12 meters.

In badminton, Suhas Yathiraj, the Tokyo Games silver medallist, reached the men's singles SL4 final by defeating compatriot Sukant Kadam 21-17, 21-12. Yathiraj is poised to become the first Indian shuttle player to win back-to-back medals at the Paralympics.

Manisha Ramadass also ensured a medal by reaching the women's singles SU5 semifinal, setting up an all-Indian clash with Thulasimathi Murugesan.

However, the shooting events did not yield medals for India. Avani Lekhara, fresh from her gold in the 10m air rifle standing SH1, failed to qualify for the final in the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH1) event, finishing 11th.

India currently holds the 27th spot in the medal standings with seven medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze) after Day 4 of the Paralympics.

## India Secures Second Gold at Paralympics 2024 with Nitesh Kumar's Victory

India celebrated its second gold medal of the Paralympics 2024 thanks to Nitesh Kumar, who triumphed in the Men's Singles SL3 para badminton final. Kumar's outstanding performance continues India's strong showing in the tournament, adding to the nation's medal tally and inspiring athletes and fans alike.

Earlier on Day 5 of the Paris Paralympics, Yogesh Kathuniya had secured India's first medal of the day by clinching a silver in the men's discus throw F56 Final. Kathuniya's achievement highlighted India's competitive edge in track and field events, setting a high standard for the rest of the day's competitions.

The excitement continues as badminton stars Suhas Yathiraj and Thulasimathi Murugesan are set to compete in their respective gold medal matches later in the day. Both athletes have been pivotal in India's badminton success, and their upcoming matches are highly anticipated.

In the shooting arena, Nihal Singh and



Amir Ahmad Bhat will participate in the P3 mixed 25m pistol SH1 qualification precision event. Their performances are eagerly awaited, as they aim to add to India's medal count in this precision shooting discipline.

Archery also promises thrilling action with star archer Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar competing in the mixed team compound open quarterfinals. Their skills and strategic play will be crucial as they strive to advance further in the tournament.

## SA20 2025: Sunrisers Eastern Cape to Start Season Against MI Cape Town

The third season of South Africa's premier T20 league, SA20, will kick off with a match between defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape and MI Cape Town at their home ground, St. George's Park in Gqeberha, on Thursday, January 9, 2025. The season's final will return to the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on February 8, marking the second time the venue will host the concluding match in the league's history.

The opening day will also feature a clash between the Pretoria Capitals and Durban Super Giants at Kingsmead. The first Saturday of the season will host a double header, starting with Paarl Royals facing the Sunrisers in the afternoon, followed by Joburg Super Kings taking on MI Cape Town at Newlands in the evening.

The league will consist of 30 matches, after which the top four teams will advance to the playoffs. Gqeberha will host Qualifier 1 on February 4. For the first time, post-league games will take place at SuperSport Park in Centurion, with the Eliminator on February 5 and Qualifier 2 on February 6. The final will be played on February 8, following a day's break.

The upcoming season will see the addition of notable international players. Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, who has joined the Durban Super Giants, will be participating after opting out of a New Zealand Cricket central contract. Meanwhile, Paarl Royals will bolster their lineup with the inclusion of 39-year-old former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik and England's Joe Root.





# Controversy Surrounds 'Emergency' Release Due to Religious Concerns

The release of Kangana Ranaut's film *'Emergency'*, originally set for September 6, has been postponed again, with government sources citing concerns over religious sentiments as the primary reason. The film, where Ranaut plays former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has faced objections from several Sikh organizations that claim it inaccurately represents Sikh history and culture.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), a leading Sikh body, has issued a legal notice to the film's producers, demanding the removal of scenes deemed offensive. This demand has led to the film's delay as it awaits certification from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

Ranaut, who is also the film's co-producer and director, has expressed frustration over the ongoing delays, labeling the situation as "hugely demotivating and unjust." She has drawn comparisons between her film and the Netflix series *'IC814: The Kandahar Hijack'*, which has also faced criticism. Ranaut argues that the real issue lies in the censorship applied to films based on historical facts, contrasting it with the freedom allowed on OTT platforms for content featuring



violence or nudity.

In a related controversy, Anubhav Sinha's series *'IC814'* about the 1999 hijacking has come under scrutiny for its portrayal of hijackers' names. The Indian government has summoned Netflix India's content chief, Monika Shergill, to address the matter,

signaling the seriousness with which these issues are being treated.

Ranaut criticized the perceived selective censorship on social media, claiming that while freedom is granted for anti-national expressions and historical distortions, films that focus on national integrity face unjust barriers.

## Nandamuri Balakrishna's 50-Year Celebration Draws Big Crowds Despite Rain

The grand event celebrating Nandamuri Balakrishna's 50 years in the film industry is in full swing at Novotel, with the venue packed despite heavy rains. The celebratory atmosphere was heightened by notable attendees, including the celebrated actor Chiranjeevi and Undi MLA Raghu Rama Krishna Raju (RRR).

During the event, a notable moment occurred as Balakrishna, the guest of honor, posed for photos alongside Chiranjeevi and RRR. The scene captured Balakrishna's wide smile and his warm reception of RRR, reflecting the camaraderie among the stars. Chiranjeevi, known for his friendly



demeanor, was seen engaging in a lively conversation with RRR, playfully referring to him as "the famous R R R" in a nod to his popular identity.

The trio's interaction was a highlight of the evening, showcasing the mutual respect and admiration they hold for each other. RRR, who appeared in high spirits, participated enthusiastically in the celebration, adding to the event's

festive atmosphere.

The celebration marks a significant milestone in Balakrishna's illustrious career, commemorating his contributions to the film industry over five decades. The turnout, despite the challenging weather, underscores the immense popularity and respect Balakrishna commands in the industry.

## Salman Khan Resumes Filming for Sikandar After Rib Injury



Salman Khan has returned to the set of *'Sikandar'* following a brief hiatus due to a rib injury, according to Pinkvilla. The film, directed by AR Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, had seen a temporary pause in production as Khan recovered. Now, the superstar is back, and the movie's team is working hard on designing elaborate sets representing Dharavi and Matunga, with an estimated budget of ₹15 crore. After 45 days, the cast and crew are set to relocate to a Hyderabad palace for the next phase of filming. *'Baahubali'* star Sathyaraj will play the antagonist in the film, adding to the excitement surrounding the project. Khan has already completed filming a fight sequence abroad on an aircraft, with additional action scenes, including an aerial fight and two other sequences, planned for the upcoming shooting schedule. The film's action sequences are being choreographed by directors known for their work on Tom Cruise's *'Mission Impossible'* franchise. A few months ago, Salman Khan shared a post on Instagram featuring a photo with AR Murugadoss and Sajid Nadiadwala from the *'Sikandar'* set. The image, which showed the trio reviewing something on a laptop, was accompanied by a note announcing the film's Eid 2025 release. Khan's former girlfriend, Sangeeta Bijlani, expressed her enthusiasm for the project in the comments, writing, "Wohooo... sooo looking forward to this..."

## Vijay's 'GOAT' Set for Record-Breaking Release



Vijay's upcoming film *'GOAT (The Greatest of All Time)'* is poised to be the biggest Tamil cinema release of 2024. As Vijay gears up for a political career, this film is anticipated to break box-office records, surpassing even his own previous successes. AGS Entertainment, the film's producers, have strategically minimized promotions, relying on Vijay's star power to drive ticket sales. Early indications suggest this approach is proving successful, with the film expected to have a blockbuster opening.

Advance bookings have already amassed nearly Rs 5 crore within a day of opening, as reported by Sacnilk. The film is generating considerable buzz with strong upward trends in ticket sales, and its release on September 5 is expected to achieve impressive numbers in Tamil and Telugu markets. The film will also debut in Hindi, further expanding its reach as a major pan-Indian release.

Internationally, *'GOAT'* is making significant waves in pre-sales, with major openings planned in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. The film is set to premiere in 700 screens and 4,000 shows on its first day, benefiting from a clear schedule with no major competing releases.

## New Poster for *'The Buckingham Murders'* Heightens Anticipation

The buzz around *'The Buckingham Murders'* continues to build with the release of a new, compelling poster. This highly anticipated film, which has already garnered significant attention with its global premiere at the BFI London Film Festival 2023 and its showcase at the Mumbai Film Festival 2023, is a collaboration between Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ekta R Kapoor, and Hansal Mehta.

The film's initial reveal included a captivating teaser and the first song, "Sada Pyaar Tut Gaya," both of which generated considerable excitement for this mystery thriller. Now, as the grand trailer launch approaches, the makers have unveiled a striking new poster that features Kareena Kapoor Khan in a dramatic and intense new look.

The poster's raw intensity and Kareena's gripping expression set the stage for what promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience. Scheduled for a grand trailer release tomorrow, the poster has already amplified anticipation and excitement among fans and critics alike.

With its intriguing premise and high-profile collaboration, *'The Buckingham Murders'* is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about films of the year. The latest poster adds a layer of suspense and allure, ensuring that the upcoming trailer launch will be eagerly awaited.



## Boman Irani's 'The Mehta Boys' to Open Chicago South Asian Film Festival

The 15th Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) will kick off with the premiere of *'The Mehta Boys'*, directed by Boman Irani, on September 20, 2024. This marks Irani's directorial debut and the film explores the complex dynamics between a father and son who must spend 48 hours together despite their strained relationship.

Co-written by Irani and Alexander Dinelaris Jr., known for his Oscar-winning script for *'Birdman'*, *'The Mehta Boys'* features a talented cast including Avinash Tiwary, Shreya Chaudhry, and Puja Sarup. Following the screening, the festival will host an engaging discussion with Boman Irani, Dinelaris, Tiwary, Chaudhry, producer Danesh Irani, and executive producer Ankita Batra.

On September 21, Irani and Dinelaris will also conduct a master class on the film's writing process, offering insights into their creative collaboration.

Boman Irani, celebrated for his roles in films such as *'Munna Bhai MBBS'*, *'3 Idiots'*, and *'Khosla Ka Ghosla'*, is making his directorial debut with this project. The film is produced by Irani Movietone LLP and Chalkboard Entertainment LLP, with Irani, Danesh Irani, Vikesh Bhutani, and Shujaat Saudagar at the helm.

The CSAFF, running from September 19 to September 22, 2024, celebrates 15 years of showcasing South Asian cinema. The festival remains a vital platform for presenting diverse and compelling narratives from South Asian filmmakers, reflecting the richness and impact of the region's cinematic contributions.

