



Weather Forecast

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

JUST NOW

Supreme Court grants bail to Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar with conditions, including restricted entry into CM residence

Indian Navy's P8i Poseidon aircraft arrives in France for its first-ever deployment in Europe, participating in 'Exercise Varuna' from September 2 to 4 in the Mediterranean Sea.

PM Modi claims BJP is the "only party that follows democracy" during the launch of BJP's new membership drive.

BJP fields J&K chief Ravinder Raina from Nowshera, names 51 candidates, including 14 for Kashmir Valley, ahead of upcoming polls.

ICICI denies Congress claim, stating it didn't pay ₹16.8 crore salary to SEBI Chief Ms. Buch after her retirement.

CM Revanth Announces Financial Assistance for flood victims



Telangana has experienced heavy rainfall for two days.

Floods have disrupted people's lives.

CM Revanth Reddy held a review meeting with officials on flood relief.

Financial assistance for families of flood victims

increased from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs.

TPN, Telangana: Telangana has been experiencing relentless heavy rains for the past two days, resulting in widespread flooding across the state. Low-lying areas are particularly affected, with many regions inundated and people's lives severely disrupted. In response to the ongoing crisis, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy convened a review meeting on Monday to assess the flood relief efforts and make necessary decisions.

handle emergency situations efficiently.

In a significant move, the Chief Minister announced an increase in financial assistance for the families of those who have tragically lost their lives due to the floods. The aid amount has been raised from Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, reflecting the government's commitment to providing greater support to the affected families during this difficult time.

CM Revanth Reddy instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive report on the flood damage across the state and submit it to the central government. He emphasized the need to formally request the central government to recognize the situation as a national calamity and provide immediate assistance.

During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy emphasized the need for heightened vigilance in areas where heavy rainfall is forecasted. He directed officials to establish call centers in all district collectorates to ensure swift communication and response. Additionally, the CM ordered the setup of a command control center equipped to

To strengthen the state's emergency response capabilities, CM Revanth Reddy proposed training eight police battalions on the lines of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to be better prepared for future emergencies, particularly during heavy rains.

As part of the broader relief strategy,

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM Revanth Reddy urged him to personally visit the flood-affected areas to assess the situation firsthand. Additionally, the Chief Minister released Rs. 5 crores in immediate assistance to the district collectors of the most severely impacted districts, including Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Mahbubabad, and Suryapet, to support ongoing relief efforts.



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.



KTR Slams Congress for Failing to Manage Telangana Floods

TPN, Telangana: BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday, September 2, criticized the Congress government for its failure to effectively manage the ongoing flood crisis in Telangana. KTR accused the Congress of being indifferent to the suffering of the people and highlighted the efforts of the BRS cadre in providing much-needed relief.

to the challenge, serving those in need. Your tireless efforts are the backbone of our party, proving once again that we are the force that keeps Telangana strong." He urged the BRS members to continue their support for those affected by the floods but also emphasized the importance of prioritizing their own safety as they work to protect others.

KTR also took aim at the Congress government's handling of the rescue and relief operations, specifically questioning the absence of three

senior ministers from Khammam during the crisis. "Where are the three mighty ministers from Khammam? Could they not have sent a rescue helicopter? We had done that more than half a dozen times in our government," he remarked, comparing the current response to the actions taken by the previous BRS government.

Additionally, KTR criticized the Congress government's response to the rising dengue cases in Telangana, pointing out that over 6,000 cases

have been reported since January, with more than 800 new cases emerging in just the past five days. He accused the government of failing to control the spread of the disease, leading to unnecessary loss of life.

"Their failure to combat the spread is costing lives, but instead of taking responsibility, the Congress government chooses to ignore the deaths caused by this crisis. The people of Telangana deserve accountability, not apathy," KTR concluded.

In a post on X, KTR stated, "While the Congress government remains nowhere to be seen, you've risen



CM Revanth Visits Khammam Flood Areas CM said it is our responsibility to solve your problems.

Immediate aid of Rs. 10,000 per family, Rs. 5 lakh for lost members,

Rs. 50,000 for cattle, Rs. 5,000 for sheep/goats.

New houses will be built, and lost documents reissued.

TPN, Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited the flood-stricken areas of Khammam today, expressing deep sympathy for the victims and reaffirming the government's commitment to helping those affected by the recent heavy rains and floods. Addressing the flood victims, CM Revanth Reddy acknowledged the tragedy that the floods have brought into their lives and assured them that it is the government's responsibility to be available and assist them in overcoming these difficulties.

During his visit, the Chief Minister, accompanied by several ministers, announced a series of financial assistance measures aimed at alleviating the suffering of those who have lost loved ones, property, and livestock due to the floods. He pledged that financial aid will be provided to

those who have lost dairy cattle, sheep, and goats, and that new certificates will be issued to those who lost important documents in the floods.

The CM also instructed revenue staff to conduct door-to-door assessments of flood damage, with compensation to be provided based on these reports. He announced an immediate financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 for each flood-affected family. Additionally, families who have lost members due to the floods will receive Rs. 5 lakh in compensation, while those who have lost cattle will receive Rs. 50,000, and those who lost sheep and goats will receive Rs. 5,000.

For those who have lost their homes, CM Revanth Reddy assured that new houses will be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He was

joined by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, and MP Raghuram Reddy. He specifically mentioned the plight of hundreds of families living in Rajiv Grihkalpa, who have suffered greatly due to the heavy rains, losing even the most basic necessities. In response, the CM directed the district Collector to ensure that every affected family receives essential supplies, including rice, salt, pulses, and fresh water.

Concluding his visit, CM Revanth Reddy offered words of encouragement to the flood victims, assuring them that the government is fully committed to their recovery and will continue to work hard to restore normalcy in the affected areas.



Minister Sridhar Babu Inspect Kadem Project in Nirmal District

TPN, Telangana: Minister Sridhar Babu and MLA Bojju Patel visited the Kadem project in Nirmal district to assess the ongoing flood situation. During their inspection, the minister inquired about several key factors, including the volume of water being released through the flood gates and the safety measures in place to manage the situation.

Minister Sridhar Babu assured that the authorities have implemented effective measures to address the flood without causing any inconvenience to farmers or the general public. He emphasized that the safety of the people remains the government's top priority.

Additionally, the minister issued a warning to residents in the Godavari catchment area, advising them to avoid entering flood-prone zones, as the gates of the Sriram Sagar project have been opened to release water. The authorities are maintaining vigilance to ensure the situation is handled smoothly.

Venkaiah Naidu Donates to AP and Telangana Amidst Flood Crisis



TPN, Telangana: 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.

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 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.

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.

Train Services Disrupted Across Telugu States Due to Flooding



TPN, Telangana: 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.

Lorries lined up for kilometers on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada Road

TPN, Telangana: 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.



Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Hyderabad only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the POINT's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.



SC Issues Notices to CM Revanth Over Posts on Kavitha's Bail

TPN, Telangana: The Supreme Court has issued notices to Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Chief Revanth Reddy, seeking an explanation regarding social media posts made by the Congress in connection with the bail granted to Kavitha, a prominent political figure in Telangana. The notices were issued after BRS MLA Jagdish Reddy filed a petition alleging that the Congress's posts were questioning the independence of the judiciary.

The controversy arose after Telangana Congress's official social media accounts posted provocative content regarding the Supreme Court's decision to grant bail to Kavitha. The posts insinuated bias, with messages such as "Did Kavitha get bail? Or was it given?" and comments suggesting that "friendship with the lotus" (a reference to the BJP's symbol) was the reason for



her "salvation."

These posts have sparked a legal response, with the Supreme Court taking the matter seriously and requesting an official explanation from the

Telangana Congress. The court has given TPCC Chief Revanth Reddy a two-week deadline to respond to the notices and clarify the Congress's stance on the issue.

Minister Ponguleti Injured While Inspecting Flooded Areas in Khammam

TPN, Telangana: Telangana's Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information, and Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, sustained injuries while inspecting flood-affected areas in Khammam on Monday, September 2. The minister was surveying the inundated regions following the heavy rains that have wreaked havoc across the state.

During his visit, Minister Reddy toured several flood-hit areas, including Pedda Tanda, Sai Krishna Nagar, Nayadupe-

ta, and Jalaganga Nagar, where he listened to the concerns of the flood victims. However, the inspection took an unexpected turn when the minister fell off his bike while navigating the flooded terrain, resulting in injuries.

Despite the incident, Reddy assured the affected residents that the government is committed to taking all necessary precautions to prevent further loss of life and to minimize the inconvenience caused by the floods. He urged officials



to prioritize rescue operations and ensure that no victims are neglected during the relief efforts. Following the accident, doctors provided first aid to Minister Reddy's leg and advised him to rest.

Flood Water in Their Rooms, Tears in Their Eyes: Harish Rao

TPN, Telangana: BRS MLA T Harish Rao has voiced his deep concern over the devastating impact of the recent floods in Telangana, emphasizing the urgent need for the state government to prioritize relief efforts over politics. In a heartfelt post on X, Harish Rao painted a grim picture of the current situation, describing how floodwaters have entered people's homes, leaving them in tears and desperate for help.



"Flood water inside their rooms and tears in their eyes. It is heart-wrenching to see the devastation left by these floods," he wrote, highlighting the widespread suffering and the urgent need for immediate relief. He noted that many affected individuals are frustrated and angry with the government's response, as they await much-needed assistance.

Harish Rao also called for compensation for the farmers who have suffered crop losses due to the floods, demanding Rs. 10,000 per acre. He urged the state government to halt political blame games and demolitions, and instead focus on providing relief to those impacted by the disaster.

He expressed particular concern over the potential spike in viral fevers and the spread of communicable diseases in the aftermath of the floods. He stressed the need for all relevant departments to remain vigilant and proactive in preventing such outbreaks.

Additionally, Harish Rao highlighted the importance of swiftly restoring power supply in affected areas and ensuring that essential services like drinking water and food are made available to the flood victims. His message underscored the critical need for coordinated and compassionate action to address the widespread devastation caused by the floods.

Owaisi Calls for Nationwide Protest Against Waqf Amendment Bill

TPN, Telangana: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly criticized the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and has called for a nationwide protest in response to the proposed legislation. Speaking at a protest gathering in Telangana, Owaisi, along with representatives of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, expressed deep concerns about the bill and its implications for the Muslim community.

Owaisi emphasized that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, introduced by the Modi government, poses a significant threat to the rights and religious practices of Muslims. "We have gathered here today on behalf of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board because of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, that has been brought by the Modi government," Owaisi stated. He announced that the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has decided to launch a nationwide protest to raise awareness about how the bill, in their view, vi-

olates the Constitution.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995, renaming it as the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development Act. Among other provisions, the bill aims to redefine "Waqf" as property endowed by a Muslim who has practiced Islam for at least five years and owns the property. It also seeks to prevent the creation of Waqf-alal-aulad (family Waqf) from denying inheritance rights to women.

The bill proposes to remove Section 40, which grants the Waqf Board the authority to determine if a property is Waqf property. It also introduces reforms such as the filing of accounts by Mutawallis (Waqf managers) through a central portal and restructuring the Tribunal system. Additionally, the bill suggests establishing a separate Board of Auqaf for Boha-



ras and Aghakhani.

The bill was introduced during the budget session of Parliament and was subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further scrutiny. The JPC, headed by MP

Jagadambika Pal, has been gathering input from various stakeholders, including Muslim organizations and Waqf boards.

During the second meeting of the JPC on August 30, several Muslim bodies, including the All India Sunni Jamiyatul Ulama and the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, raised concerns about the bill. Key issues discussed included the concept of "Waqf by Users," which some Muslim representatives argued is a matter of religious faith and practice that should not be interfered with by the government.

The JPC has also sought views and suggestions from the public, NGOs, experts, and other stakeholders as part of its review process. Meanwhile, Owaisi and other Muslim leaders are mobilizing public opposition to the bill, arguing that it threatens the autonomy and religious practices of the Muslim community.

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 recon-

struction 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.

Temporary Halt in Hydra Demolitions Amid Flood Relief Efforts

TPN, Telangana: The Hydra task force, known for its aggressive crackdown on encroachments, illegal buildings, and structures violating Full Tank Level (FTL) guidelines in Hyderabad, has temporarily paused its demolition activities. This break comes in response to the heavy rains currently lashing the state, with the entire Hydra team now focused on flood relief operations.

Despite the halt in demolitions, Hydra Chief AV Ranganath has not taken a break from his duties. Instead, he has been actively touring the low-lying colonies surrounding ponds and other flood-prone areas, marking the locations that have been affected by flooding. This has sparked concern among residents, as Ranganath's actions suggest that once the rains subside, these areas may be targeted for further demolitions.

Hydra teams are currently engaged in Greater Hyderabad's flood relief efforts, with Commissioner AV Ranganath personally overseeing operations in the field. He has been inspecting waterlogged points and



questioning locals about the causes of flooding in their colonies. There is growing speculation that once the immediate flood crisis is over, Hydra may issue notices to these flood-affected areas, potentially leading to future demolitions.

Notices have already been served to several structures within FTL areas, and it appears that Hydra is preparing to extend these actions to other regions as well. Residents who have already received notices have been warned that if they do not vacate their premises within a week, demolitions will proceed.

The current pause in Hydra's activities seems to be only temporary, with plans to resume demolitions in full force once the rains have abated.

Hydra has previously demolished over 200 illegal structures, including the high-profile demolition of Nagarjuna's N Convention. Notices have also been issued to the house of CM Revanth Reddy's brother. Reports suggest that after the rains subside, Hydra may target other significant structures, including Akbaruddin Owaisi's Fatima College and KTR's farmhouse.

Hyderabad Airport Opens New General Aviation Terminal



TPN Hyderabad :The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, Hyderabad, unveiled its new 'General Aviation' terminal on Monday, September 2. Designed to cater exclusively to private aircraft and chartered flights, this state-of-the-art facility aims to streamline the travel experience for business and personal jet passengers. Managed by the GMR group, the terminal is designed to enhance efficiency and comfort for those flying in and out of Hyderabad.

Spanning 11,234 square feet, the terminal showcases Indo-Saracenic-Indo-Gothic styled interiors, providing a unique and elegant aesthetic. It features a private entrance and dedicated car park to accommodate the needs of its high-profile users. Business-class passengers will benefit from a bespoke experience, including direct chauffeur-driven access to and from their aircraft, further enhancing convenience.

The new terminal is equipped with a full range of services typically found in an airport, including multiple lounges, separate arrival and departure corridors, and comprehensive processing facilities. This includes check-in, emigration and immigration, customs checks, hand baggage processing, and security clearance. Additionally, passengers can enjoy duty-free shopping, making it a self-contained facility for all necessary travel functions. The terminal aims to provide a seamless and luxurious travel experience, reflecting the growing importance of Hyderabad as a key hub for both business and leisure travel.

Hyderabad Police Chief Urges Readiness for Upcoming Festivals

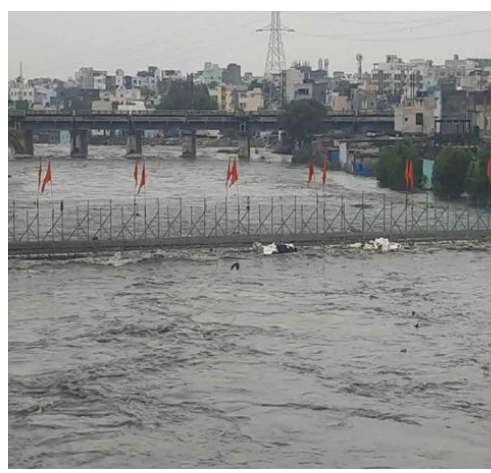
TPN Hyderabad : Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Kothakota Srinivas Reddy has called on police officials to prepare diligently for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi and Milad-un-Nabi festivals. During a meeting at the Integrated Command and Control Center, Reddy emphasized the importance of punctuality, honesty, and strong work ethics among officers. He encouraged them to prioritize petitioners and demonstrate empathy and sympathy towards the public to enhance the department's image.

Reddy motivated the participants by highlighting that dedication and hard work could lead to opportunities for advancement to SP and even IPS ranks. He underscored the critical role of sub-inspectors in managing time effectively and prioritizing various aspects of policing, including crime prevention, detection, bandobast duties, VVIP visits, and implementing routine station house tasks.



For Milad-un-Nabi, Reddy stressed the need for close coordination with organizers, peace committees, and other departments to ensure seamless arrangements. He advised officers to conduct thorough visits to pandals and immersion sites to maintain a peaceful and successful festival environment.

Musi River swells due to heavy rains in Hyderabad



TPN Hyderabad : The Musi River, a significant tributary of the Krishna River, plays a vital role in Telangana, flowing through Hyderabad and

dividing it into the Old City and New City. Originating from the Ananthagiri Hills in the Vikarabad district, the Musi River traverses various districts before merging with the Krishna River in Nalgonda and eventually emptying into the Bay of Bengal. Along its course, the river is flanked by several notable structures, including the Telangana High Court, City College, Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station, Osmania General Hospital, Salar Jung Museum, and the State Central Library.

Recently, heavy rains have significantly impacted Hyderabad, causing Hussain Sagar Lake, situated at the heart of the city, to fill to its capacity. In response to the increased water levels, authorities

have opened four sluice gates to manage the overflow. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued alerts to residents in areas adjacent to the discharge channels, emphasizing the need for caution.

Since Saturday, continuous rainfall has led to substantial inflows into Hussain Sagar through stormwater drains from Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The lake's water level reached 513.60 meters, just below its Full Tank Level (FTL) of 514 meters. As rain persists, GHMC officials are closely monitoring water levels in both the reservoirs and the Musi River to ensure public safety and manage potential flood risks effectively.

GHMC Issues Show Cause Notice to Sindhura East Court



TPN Hyderabad : On Monday, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) food safety officials conducted an inspection of the Sindhura East Court eatery located in Raghavendra Nagar following a complaint about a cockroach found in a dosa served at the restaurant. The complaint prompted a thorough investigation into the establishment's hygiene and food safety practices.

During the inspection, officials discovered multiple issues related to the maintenance of proper hygiene and sanitation. These included inadequate record-keeping, the presence of expired food items, and improper use of food

colorants. These findings raised significant concerns about the overall cleanliness and safety standards maintained by the eatery.

In response to these violations, the GHMC's office of the Additional Commissioner (Health) issued a show cause notice to the management of Sindhura East Court. The notice demands an explanation from the restaurant's management regarding the observed deficiencies and requires them to address the issues promptly. The establishment has been instructed to provide a detailed response, outlining the corrective measures they plan to implement.

Further action against Sindhura East Court will be determined based on the response to the show cause notice and will proceed according to the provisions outlined in the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. This act regulates food safety and standards to ensure public health and safety in food establishments.

The GHMC's move underscores its commitment to enforcing food safety regulations and ensuring that eateries adhere to high standards of cleanliness and hygiene, thereby safeguarding public health.

Traffic advisory issued in view of Intercontinental Football Tournament at Gachibowli

TPN Hyderabad :The Cyberabad traffic police have issued a traffic advisory due to the Intercontinental Cup 2024 Football Tournament, which will take place at GMR Stadium in Gachibowli on September 3, 6, and 9. During these match days, heavy traffic congestion is expected between 4 pm and 10 pm. The traffic disruptions are anticipated on key routes such as Lingampally to Gachibowli, Gachibowli to Lingampally, and Wipro to IIIT Junction. This could lead to significant delays, so motorists are advised to plan their travels accordingly.



reach Gachibowli.

To help mitigate the traffic issues, the police have suggested alternative routes. For those traveling from Gachibowli Junction towards Lingampally Junction, it is recommended to take a left turn at GPRA Quarters and follow the route via Gopichand Academy, Infosys Wipro Junction, Gopanpally, and University Back Side before reaching Lingampally. This route is expected to be less congested and provide a smoother journey compared to the main roads. Similarly, for those heading from Lingampally towards Gachibowli Junction, taking a left turn at HCU Depot is advised. Drivers should then proceed through Masjid Banda, Botanical Garden, and finally

The advisory is aimed at easing traffic flow and minimizing disruptions caused by the large crowds expected to attend the football matches. Motorists are encouraged to use the suggested alternate routes and allow extra travel time during the specified hours. The traffic police will also be deployed to manage the situation and assist drivers in navigating the affected areas.

KT Rama Rao Credits SNDP for Preventing Major Flooding in Hyderabad

TPN Hyderabad : Former Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao stated on Monday that the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP), implemented by the previous BRS government, played a crucial role in protecting Hyderabad from major flooding despite recent heavy rains. Rama Rao highlighted that the SNDP, introduced by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, effectively addressed the city's long-standing flooding issues. The programme's success was evident as low-lying areas of Hyderabad did not experience the typical waterlogging that often accompanies heavy rainfall. This positive outcome was widely recognized by residents of flood-affected areas, who credited the SNDP for shielding them from severe water damage.



Rama Rao emphasized that prior to the implementation of the SNDP, heavy rains and floods frequently inundated Hyderabad's low-lying areas. The KCR government's foresight in identifying and addressing this problem led to the conception of the SNDP, which involved significant investments in improving stormwater and sewage infrastructure. The initiative included 60 major projects costing Rs. 985 crore, aimed at

bolstering the city's drainage systems and preventing flooding. This proactive approach ensured that Hyderabad remained relatively unaffected by the recent downpours, without any need for financial aid from the central government.

The SNDP focused on the rapid development of 36 critical drainage channels that had previously been prone to overflow with minor rainfall. The lack of waterlogging during recent heavy rains underscored the effectiveness of the SNDP.

Rama Rao commended the efforts of the team of engineers and various departments involved in the programme, acknowledging their contribution to safeguarding the city from flood damage. He praised the transformative impact of the SNDP on Hyderabad's infrastructure, attributing the success to the collective dedication of all stakeholders.

BRS spokesperson Putta Vishnuvardhan Reddy also highlighted the benefits of the SNDP on social media, noting reduced water stagnation and flooding in Hyderabad. The positive feedback from citizens on social media further reflected the appreciation for the previous government's efforts in enhancing the city's infrastructure.

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



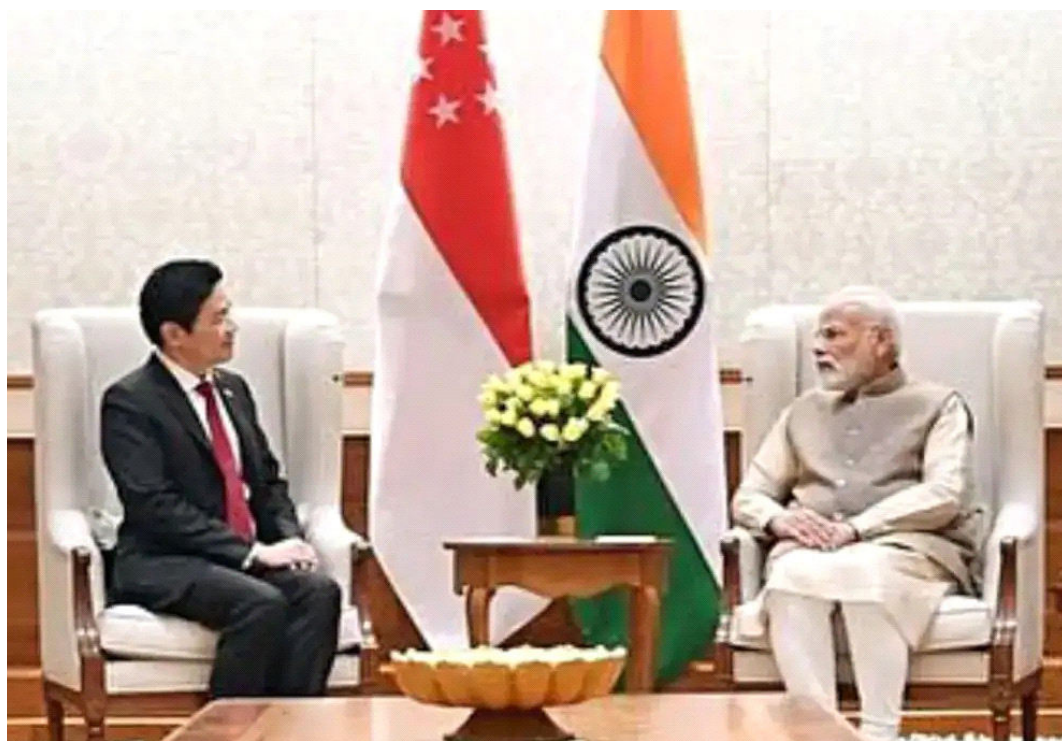
rights and its handling of Bell John's complaints. Congress has yet to respond to Chandrasekhar's remarks, adding to the mounting pressure on the party.

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.

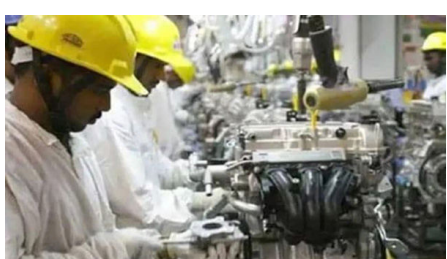
For the April-July 2024 period, UPI transactions totaled nearly ₹81 lakh crore, reflecting a 37 percent year-on-year increase. The platform has processed 3,729.1 transactions per second, a 58 percent surge from 2022's figures, surpassing global competitors like China's Alipay, PayPal, and Brazil's PIX.

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.

Pranjal 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.



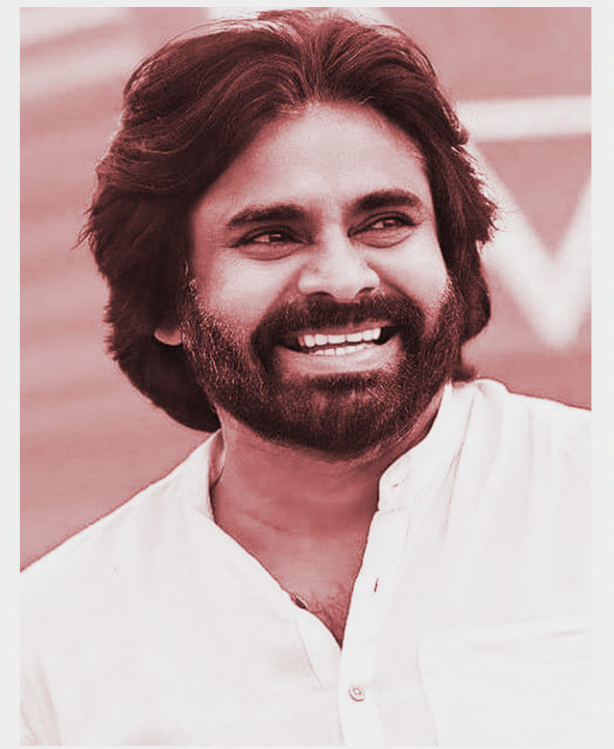
CM Chandrababu Naidu's Congratulations

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.

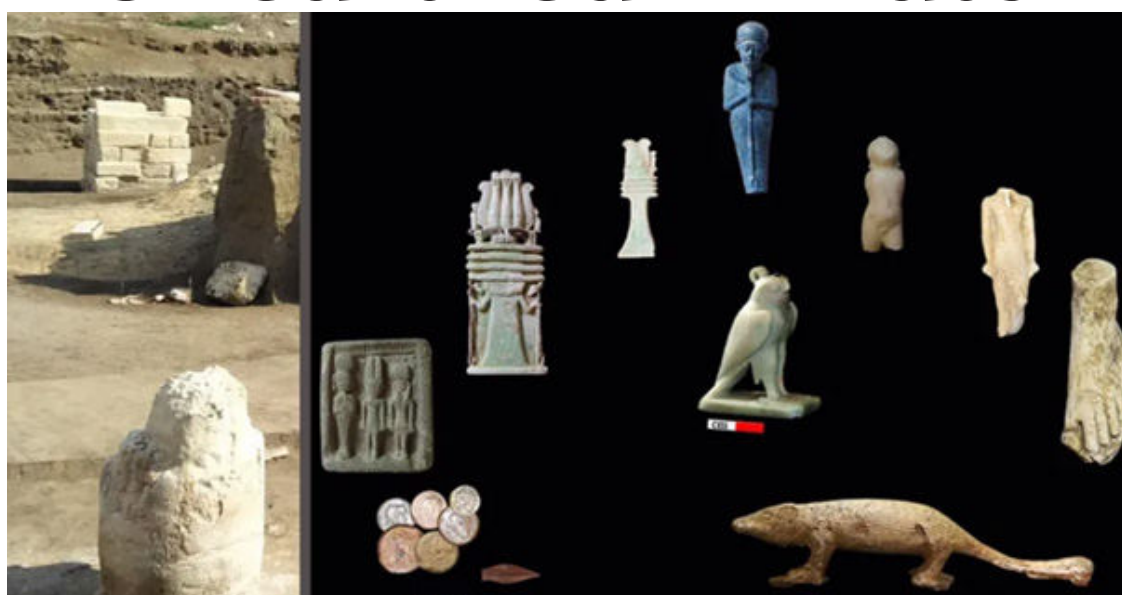
Public Health Minister Jakob Forssmed emphasized the need for these guidelines, highlighting concerns over the extensive use of screens among Swedish teens. On average, adolescents aged 13 to 16 spend about six and a half hours daily on screens outside of school hours. Forssmed pointed out that this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

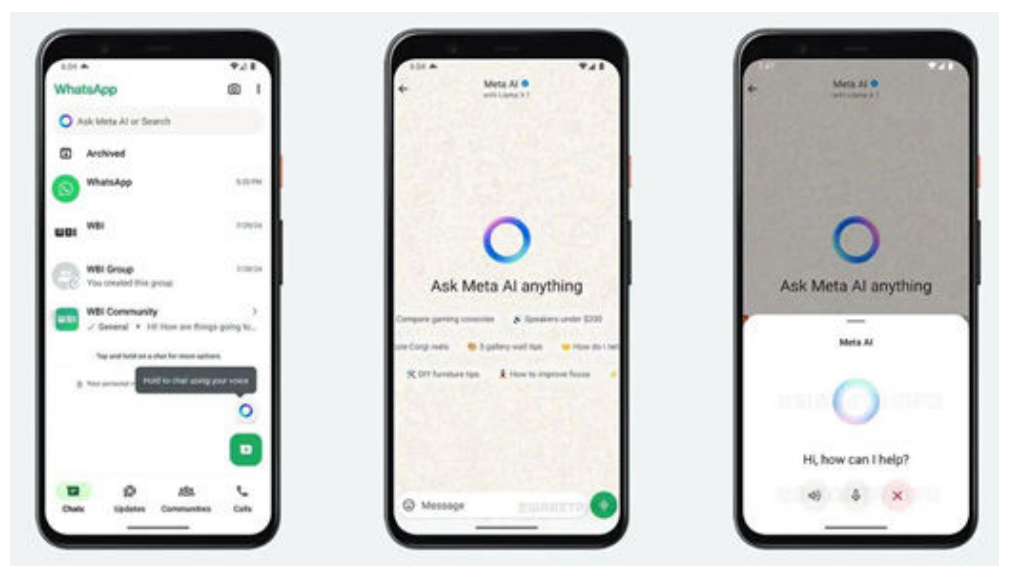
than 1 million users, compared to market leaders Disney+ Hotstar and Netflix, which have 38 million and 10 million users, respectively.

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.

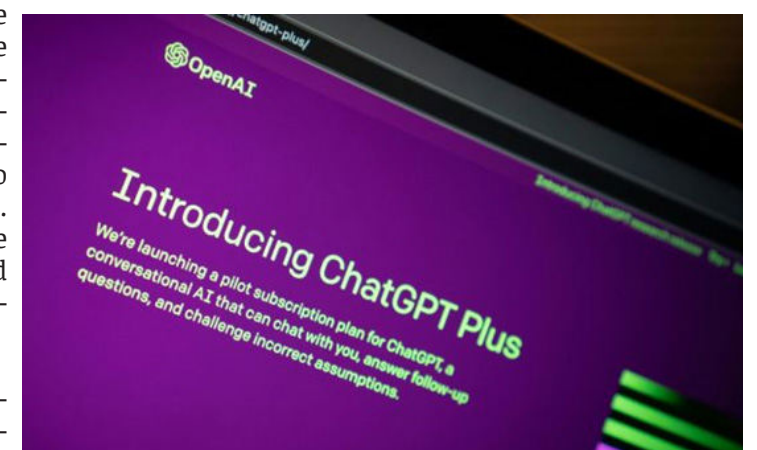
OpenAI and Anthropic Partner with US AI Safety Institute for Model Testing

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. Shuttler 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 shuttler 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.

