

## Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 28 °C L 23 °C	H 30 °C L 26 °C	H 34 °C L 26 °C

# Pawan Kalyan: 90 Percent of Budameru Encroached

Pawan Kalyan Donates Rs.6 Crore for Telugu States' Relief Efforts

Rs.1 lakh each to 400 panchayats across Andhra Pradesh.

Budameru encroachment has become a curse for Vijayawada, with 90% of the area occupied.

CM Chandrababu Naidu is working effectively in flood-affected areas despite his age.

He said Relief operations are in full swing, with the involvement of 26 NDRF, 24 SDRF teams, and helicopters from the Navy and Air Force distributing food.

**TPN, Amaravati:** Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has revealed the extensive damage caused by heavy rains and floods across Andhra Pradesh, while addressing the criticisms made by the YCP. Pawan firmly rejected the accusations against the government, explaining that 90% of the Budameru area is encroached upon, which has worsened the flood situation. He also made key comments supporting Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's Hydra policy aimed at flood control and addressing illegal constructions in water bodies.

Pawan highlighted the severe financial situation in AP, stating that the state has suffered enormous losses due to the floods. Roads and crops have been devastated, with 3,312 kilometers of roads completely washed away. The Roads and Buildings Department, as well as the Panchayati Raj Engineering Department, has suffered significant damage, with 233 kilometers of roads in the latter's jurisdiction being



completely ruined. Additionally, Pawan disclosed that farmers have lost crops in 1.69 lakh acres due to waterlogging, while 18,424 hectares of horticultural crops have been damaged.

Pawan further reported that around

60 boats belonging to fishermen were destroyed in the floods. Responding to YCP's comments, he pointed out that Jagan has accumulated more wealth than movie stars and criticized the YCP leaders for sitting at home instead of taking action. He also accused the previous government

of allowing unauthorized ventures in the Budameru area, which are now contributing to the flooding in Jagananna colonies.

"This is not an individual issue but a matter concerning the entire state," Kalyan added, urging YCP leaders to assist in the relief operations before engaging in political discourse. When asked about Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's Hydra initiative, Pawan Kalyan responded saying that "strict action against unauthorized constructions, not just in Telangana but also in Andhra Pradesh. He warned that turning a blind eye to illegal structures would be dangerous". Pawan declared Rs.1 crore each for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Chief Minister's Relief Fund to assist with flood relief efforts. Additionally, Pawan Kalyan also announced financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh each to 400 panchayats across Andhra Pradesh, totalling Rs.4 crore. This financial aid is intended to help panchayats cope with the damages caused by the severe floods.

He mentioned that 29 people have died due to the floods and expressed concern that his presence in the affected areas could hinder ongoing rescue operations.

He provided updates on the relief efforts, stating that operations are ongoing at full capacity. Kalyan reported that staff from the Panchayat Raj department are also actively involved, with 175 teams working in the Vijayawada urban area. Additionally, 900 sanitation workers from unaffected districts have been deployed to assist in the efforts.

Kalyan noted that NTR district has been the hardest hit by the floods, with 26 NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) and 24 SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) teams actively working in the region. He also mentioned the involvement of two Navy helicopters and four helicopters from the Air Force, which are distributing food to affected areas.

## Jagan Blames Chandrababu for Vijayawada Floods, Issues Ultimatum



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has leveled sharp criticism against CM Chandrababu Naidu, blaming him for the severe flooding in Vijayawada. Jagan accused Chandrababu of negligence, claiming that despite early warnings about the rains, no action was taken to prepare for the disaster. He alleged that Naidu stayed in the collectorate only after his own house was affected by the floodwaters. Jagan demanded that Chandrababu issue an apology to the public and provide Rs. 25 lakh in ex-gratia compensation to the families of the deceased.

During a visit to the flood-affected Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Vijayawada,

Jagan interacted with victims and criticized the government's failure in flood forecasting and relief measures. He alleged that Chandrababu diverted Budameru floodwaters towards Vijayawada in the middle of the night to prevent the water from reaching his residence. Jagan further claimed that the CM only took action when his own house was flooded, choosing to stay at the collectorate for public appearances.

Jagan questioned why Chandrababu did not hold a review meeting on the cyclone warnings issued last Wednesday. He emphasized that timely decisions could have minimized the flood's impact, especially with regular updates on water levels from the state's projects and reservoirs. He also demanded that Chandrababu admit his failure and apologize to the affected families.

Jagan called for an investigation into who ordered the lifting of locks on the Velageru regulator on Budameru, which he claims led to Vijayawada's flooding. He alleged that Chandrababu's negligence cost the lives of 32 people and drew parallels to the tragic deaths during the Pushkaram festival in Rajahmundry. Additionally, Jagan demanded Rs. 25 lakh compensation for the families of those who lost their lives, and Rs. 50,000 for each damaged house.

## Those who said Amaravati drowned should be buried: CM Chandrababu

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, currently overseeing flood relief operations in Vijayawada, has strongly criticized the YSR Congress Party (YCP) for spreading what he termed as "toxic propaganda" about the floods. Speaking to the media, he expressed outrage over claims that Amaravati had drowned, stating that such false propagandists should be "buried." He accused the YCP of using fear tactics to scare the public during the flood crisis and called for the excommunication of those engaging in such political manipulation.

Chandrababu questioned the morality of spreading misinformation during times of distress and called those responsible "political criminals" who do not deserve to remain in the state. He also vowed not to relent until they apologize for their actions, comparing their obstruction to "demons" who stand in the way of public service.

Addressing the ongoing issues with Budameru, the Chief Minister stated that the river has caused more problems for Vijayawada than the Krishna River. He blamed the YCP government for allowing encroachments since 2019, accusing them of negligence. Chandrababu announced plans to conduct a survey to identify encroachments along Budameru and other vulnerable areas, such as the Polavaram right main canal banks.

Chandrababu assured flood victims that they will be supported in every possible way, with relief operations proceeding in full swing. He emphasized that quality



food and clean drinking water are being provided to those in need, with 8 lakh water bottles already distributed. He also noted that municipal water is being supplied in several areas.

The Chief Minister confirmed that families of the deceased will receive a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh and revealed that he has spoken to Union Minister Amit Shah, urging him to visit the flood-affected regions. He added that the floodwaters are expected to subside by tomorrow morning but warned that Vijayawada could face further danger if an additional 40,000 cusecs of water flow into the Krishna River.

Chandrababu's comments have added fuel to the ongoing political tension between the TDP and YCP, as the government continues to focus on recovery and relief efforts for the affected citizens.



## NARA LOKESH MONITORED WORKS OF BUDAMERU



**TPN, Vijayawada:** Minister Nara Lokesh has been actively supervising flood relief operations in Vijayawada following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's directive to address the flooding caused by Budameru. Lokesh, responding to the CM's orders, visited the affected areas and inquired with officials about the breaches on both sides of Budameru. He reviewed the necessary steps to fill the breaches and ensure the safety of the residents.

Flood relief efforts continue under Lokesh's supervision, with ministers and MLAs directly participating in the operations across 36 flood-affected wards in Vijayawada. Following heavy rains last night and early this morning, Budameru received a significant inflow of 10,000 cusecs

of water, further exacerbating the situation. During his inspection, Lokesh urged all residents in the Budameru catchment area to remain vigilant as efforts are made to control the flooding. Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishnaprasad confirmed that the embankment of a pond in Kondapalli Shantinagar had broken, raising concerns for nearby residents. He emphasized that people in the affected areas should be cautious and stay informed of developments.

Vasantha Krishnaprasad also reported that food distribution efforts were ongoing in Jakkampudi Colony and Gollapudi Market Yard. He encouraged flood victims in need of assistance to reach out, assuring them of continued support during this challenging time.

## AP NGO Announces Massive Rs.120 Crore Donation for Flood Victims

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a remarkable gesture of support, the Andhra Pradesh NGO JAC has announced a donation of Rs.120 crore to aid flood victims in the state. Following the devastating impact of heavy rains and flooding, particularly in the Vijayawada area, millions of people have been affected. In response, AP government employees have donated their one-day salary to contribute to relief efforts.

The AP NGO JAC presented this substantial donation to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who expressed his gratitude for the employees' generosity. During the event, CM Chandrababu congratulated the AP NGO JAC leaders, acknowledging their commitment to helping those in need. He emphasized that support is pouring in from all sectors and reassured the public that flood victims will not face any shortages in relief.

This significant donation reflects the strong solidarity of AP government employees with those suffering from the aftermath of the floods, further strengthening the ongoing relief efforts across the state.

## Former MP Nandigam Suresh Flees After Bail Rejection

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a significant development, former MP Nandigam Suresh, facing charges in the 2021 attack on the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office, has absconded following the Andhra Pradesh High Court's rejection of his anticipatory bail plea. The case stems from an October 19, 2021 incident where YSR Congress Party (YCP) cadres allegedly attacked the TDP office in Mangalagiri, leading to the registration of multiple cases. Alongside Devineni Avinash and other YCP leaders, Nandigam Suresh was named as one of the accused.

The accused leaders had approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail, hoping to avoid arrest. However, their petitions were dismissed. They further requested an interim order to delay their arrest for two weeks while they planned to appeal to the Supreme Court. This plea, too, was denied, clearing the path for law enforcement to move forward with the arrests.

Acting on the court's decision, the police went to Nandigam Suresh's residence to take him into custody. However, Suresh, having received prior information about the police's arrival, managed to



flee before they could apprehend him. The police, upon reaching his residence, were unable to arrest him, leaving the situation unresolved.

With Nandigam Suresh on the run and the High Court's rejection of bail, authorities are expected to intensify their efforts to locate and arrest him, along with other accused individuals.

## Rajahmundry Hit by Heavy Rain Again

# Low-Lying Areas Flooded



This marks the fourth consecutive day of heavy rains across Andhra Pradesh, leaving residents in many regions struggling with flooding. The ongoing rain has worsened the situation, with areas such as Kambhala pond and Shyamala Center in Rajahmundry being flooded due to the overflowing Godavari River. Other locations, including Ademma Dibba, Tummalova, and Korlampeta, have also been hit hard by the persistent rains since Tuesday night.

Authorities are working to evacuate residents from vulnerable areas and are actively engaged in relief efforts.

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Rajahmundry has once again been inundated by heavy rains, recording 8 cm of rainfall on Wednesday. The downpour, caused by a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal, has led to severe waterlogging in low-lying areas. In response, the East Godavari district administration has declared a holiday for all government and private educational institutions to ensure the safety of students.

The Rajahmundry Sub Collector is on the ground, overseeing the relief operations and ensuring that those trapped by the floods receive the necessary assistance. Despite the ongoing efforts, the relentless rainfall continues to pose challenges, and the situation remains precarious for many residents in the affected areas.

# Support for Flood Victims: Generous Donations Pour In



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been severely impacted by unprecedented floods, leaving many areas devastated. In

response, both state governments have rallied to support the victims. Despite the government's efforts, the scale of the disaster has left the affected people in dire need of

additional support. Governments have called on citizens, organizations, and celebrities to stand by the victims and provide assistance. A helpline and bank account details have been shared for those willing to contribute. The Andhra Pradesh government has urged donors to come forward voluntarily to assist flood victims. A special helpline (79067 96105) has been set up for those seeking more information, and donations can be made via online payments. IAS officer Manazir has been appointed to coordinate food donations at the Vijayawada Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium.

Celebrities from Tollywood have stepped up in a big way, contributing significant amounts to help the flood-affected people in both states. Major donations include:

Pawan Kalyan: Rs. 6 crore (Rs. 1 crore for Telangana and Rs. 5 crore for AP)  
Nara Bhuvaneshwari: Rs. 2 crore (to

both states)

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy: Rs. 1 crore  
Former CJI NV Ramana: Rs. 1 crore  
Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna, Mahesh Babu, Prabhas, Ram Charan, NTR, Allu Arjun: Rs. 50 lakhs each to both states  
Akkineni family, Trivikram, Radhakrishna, Nagavanshi: Rs. 25 lakhs each to both states

Several political, industrial, and film personalities, as well as employees of Telangana and AP, have also pledged their support.

For those wishing to contribute to the flood relief efforts in Andhra Pradesh, the government has provided the following bank details. Donations can be made to the State Bank of India account named CMRF with the account number 38588079208, AP Secretariat branch, using the IFSC code SBIN0018884. Alternatively, contributions can be sent to the

Union Bank of India account named CM Relief Fund, account number 110310100029039, at the AP Secretariat, Velagapudi branch, with the IFSC code UBIN0830798. These donations will aid ongoing relief efforts in the affected regions.

### For donations to the Telangana government:

For those wishing to donate to the Telangana government's flood relief efforts, contributions can be made to the State Bank of India account named CM Relief Fund. The account number 62354157651, and the branch is Secretariat, Hyderabad, Telangana, with the IFSC code SBIN0020077. Your support will help the ongoing relief operations in the flood-affected areas of Telangana.

Support continues to flow in, as the Telugu community rallies to help those in need.

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## AP High Court Rejects Anticipatory Bail for YSRCP Leaders



### Is the Arrest of YCP Leaders Imminent?

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders faced a setback in the Andhra Pradesh High Court as their petitions for anticipatory bail were rejected. The petitions were filed by former ministers Jogi Ramesh, Lella Appireddy, Thalashila Raghuram, Nandigam Suresh, Devineni Avinash, and other leaders in connection with the alleged attack on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's residence.

In response to the rejection, YSRCP's counsel requested the court to instruct the police not to take

immediate action against the leaders for two weeks, allowing them time to approach the Supreme Court for relief. The High Court adjourned the hearing until noon to consider this request.

The case originated from an incident involving an attack on the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri. Rural police had registered cases against several YSRCP leaders, prompting them to seek anticipatory bail. The High Court had earlier issued an interim order preventing any swift action in their cases.

Among those who filed petitions were YSRCP MLCs Lella Appireddy, Thalashila Raghuram, former

MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, party general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Devineni Avinash, and former Bapatla MP Nandigam Suresh. Additionally, former minister Jogi Ramesh filed a separate petition seeking bail in a case involving an attack on Chandrababu Naidu's residence in Undavalli.

After concluding the arguments, the High Court reserved its judgment and announced the decision today, rejecting the anticipatory bail petitions filed by the YSRCP leaders. This ruling opens the door for potential legal action against the leaders unless they secure relief from the Supreme Court in the coming days.

## The Real Story Behind the Gudlavalleru College Controversy

### A Quadrangle of Misunderstandings

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Recent rumors surrounding Gudlavalleru College in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, involving hidden cameras and leaked videos have sparked widespread concern. However, the ongoing investigation has revealed that these allegations are largely unfounded. Instead, the issue revolves around a complex situation involving four engineering students from Seshadri Rao College, Gudlavalleru.

At the heart of the controversy is an engineering student, Vijay (name changed), who has been luring girls into relationships and secretly recording nude video calls with them. Vijay was involved in a romantic relationship with another student from the same college. Recording nude video calls became a routine for him, unbeknownst to his girlfriend. The situation escalated when one of Vijay's friends discovered these videos on his phone, and Vijay subsequently shared this with another friend.

The twist came when a student with a one-sided love for the girl learned of the videos and confronted Vijay. This led to a chain reaction, where the girlfriend, to avoid further complications, suggested that there were more students involved, sparking panic among hostel students. The situation quickly spiraled into spec-

ulation that hidden cameras had been used to record hostel students, and rumors spread that these videos were being sold to boys in the hostel.

Taking the matter seriously, the state government launched a thorough investigation. A team consisting of three IGs—GVG Ashokkumar, PhD Ramakrishna, and M. Ravi Prakash—was deployed to uncover the truth. Additionally, the police seized cellphones, laptops, and other electronic devices from the accused students for further examination. The CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) and C-DoT (Centre for Development of Telematics) were brought in to analyze Wi-Fi routers and investigate the possibility of hidden cameras being used to transmit footage.

However, after extensive investigation, experts and police have so far found no evidence to support the claims of hidden cameras. It appears the entire issue stemmed from a dispute involving the four students. The authorities have concluded that no other students were involved, and no hidden cameras were used. The police department is expected to submit the full report to the government within the next two to three days, clearing the air around the college issue.

This case serves as a reminder of how quickly rumors can spread, creating panic and confusion, even in situations involving a few individuals.

## Illegal Construction of Vijayasai Reddy's Daughter Demolished Amid Anti Encroachment Drive



**TPN, Bheemili:** As the HYDRAA initiative gains momentum in Hyderabad, it has sparked a public outcry in Andhra Pradesh to clamp down on illegal constructions across the state. The ongoing floods have underscored the importance of preserving natural water bodies and adhering to FTL (Full Tank Level) and buffer zones regulations to prevent such disasters.

In a significant move, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken action against an illegal property owned by Neha Reddy, the daughter of YSR Congress Party (YCP) leader Vijayasai Reddy. The property, located in Bheemili, violated Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. Allegedly acquired during the

YCP's tenure, Neha Reddy had begun construction on the land, flouting CRZ restrictions. However, following YCP's exit from power, the construction was halted amid public backlash.

Today, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) officials initiated the demolition of the illicit structure, starting at 7 a.m. The concrete setup and beams are being dismantled, and the demolition process is expected to continue until evening. This action is seen as part of a broader crackdown on illegal constructions in the state, as authorities work to reclaim encroached land and ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

## TDP Alleges Illegal Sand Mining Continues in Jagan's Own District



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has raised serious allegations of illegal sand mining and transportation in Andhra Pradesh, particularly targeting YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's own district, Kadapa. The complaints stem from the Erraballe sand dock in Veeranyapunapalle mandal, where locals allege that sand is being sold illegally, despite the fixed government rates.

During the previous YCP government's tenure, sand was in high demand, and TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu had promised a free sand policy if his party returned to

power. True to his word, as Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu implemented the free sand policy, setting a price of Rs. 340 per ton. However, allegations have surfaced that in various parts of the state, including Kadapa, the sand is being sold at inflated prices, far beyond the government's fixed rate.

Local residents have complained that around 100 tippers and trucks were illegally transporting sand on Tuesday to areas such as Kadapa, Nandyala, Giddalur, Orvakallu, Kurnool, and Allagadda. They allege that 20 tons of sand are being sold for Rs. 8,000, with an additional Rs. 4,000

charged illegally. Furthermore, it has been reported that individuals managing the sand docks are charging Rs. 500 for slips to transport sand, pushing the selling price of sand to Rs. 80,000 in some areas.

On Wednesday, a dispute broke out between locals and outsiders over sand distribution, with authorities intervening to promise that locals would be prioritized for sand. Despite these assurances, TDP leaders from Kadapa are prepared to lodge formal complaints, accusing YCP leaders of profiting from illegal sand transportation.

## Pawan Kalyan gave a sharp counter to YCP

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Pawan Kalyan, has delivered a sharp counter to the YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders, accusing them of engaging in petty politics during the ongoing flood crisis. Speaking to the media in Amaravati on Wednesday, Pawan Kalyan criticized the YCP leaders for staying home while the state faced devastation, and urged them to join him in visiting the flood-affected areas to address the people's problems.

In response to allegations from YCP leaders that he has not been visiting flood-hit areas, Pawan Kalyan explained that he was advised by officials to avoid visiting the affected regions, as his presence might hinder relief efforts. He emphasized that he refrained from visiting those areas out of respect for the rescue operations. Addressing the criticism head-on, Pawan Kalyan invited YCP leaders to join him on his con-

voy and inspect the flood-affected areas together.

Pawan Kalyan pointed out that the NTR district has been one of the hardest-hit areas in the state and assured that significant relief operations are underway. He highlighted the deployment of 24 State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams and 26 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams actively participating in the flood relief ef-

forts.

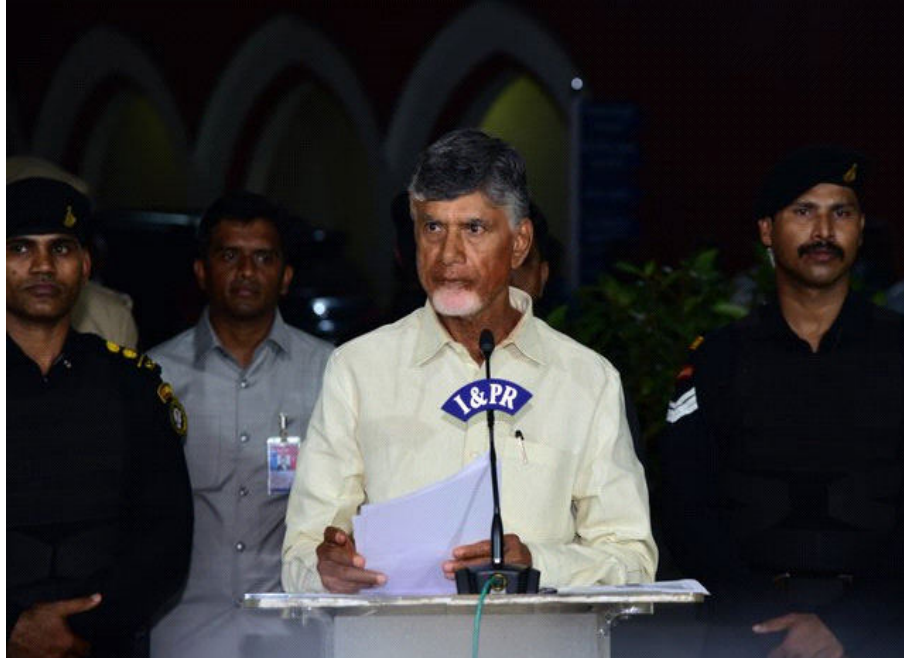
The Deputy Chief Minister's counterattack has intensified the political confrontation, as he called on YCP leaders to stop criticizing and start contributing to the recovery efforts on the ground. His comments serve as both a rebuttal to the YCP's accusations and a call for unified action during the ongoing crisis in Andhra Pradesh.



# Chandrababu Assures: "We Will Clean It" Amidst Flood Havoc

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** An unprecedented disaster has struck the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, leaving them in turmoil. Heavy rains have caused widespread damage, submerging both villages and cities. Rivers and ponds have merged, flooding entire settlements. The capital, Amaravati, is submerged, and areas like Vijayawada are severely affected. Districts such as Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, and Prakasam are under water, forcing authorities to evacuate thousands to safer areas.

The Krishna River, swollen due to rains in the upper catchment, continues to overflow, flooding Budameru and keeping parts of Vijayawada and Amaravati underwater. Residents of Singhnagar, Chittanagar, Sitara, Rajarajeshwari Peta,



Yanamalakuduru, and Jakkampudi remain stranded in floodwaters. The floods have damaged hundreds of vehicles, from cars

and two-wheelers to autos, leaving many vehicles submerged in muddy water, causing a financial burden for owners.

In response to this, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has assured motorists that the government will take full responsibility for cleaning all the vehicles, including bikes, cars, and autos. He also promised to address repairs, stating that the government would engage with bankers and insurance companies to settle insurance claims within 15 days. Naidu emphasized that the government would provide the necessary documentation to facilitate this process in the coming days, alleviating the concerns of motorists and auto drivers who rely on their vehicles for livelihood.

## Vijayawada Faces Another Rain Warning Amid Ongoing Flood Relief

**TPN, Vijayawada:** Vijayawada city devastated by floods and the loss of many lives. While the government has ramped up relief efforts, many victims are still struggling without access to food. Just as the floodwaters began to recede, the weather department issued another grim warning: more rains are expected due to a developing low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal. The administration is now on high alert, as rains have already begun in Vijayawada.

The residents of Vijayawada are anxious, as the city was recently submerged by the overflowing Budameru River, causing widespread tragedy and loss of life. Before fully recovering, the city has been hit by heavy rains again since midnight, disrupting ongoing relief efforts. Continuous rainfall in Vijayawada and Guntur districts since 2:30 a.m. has further complicated the situation. The flood-prone areas, which saw some relief as water levels receded by yesterday evening, are now bracing for another potential disaster.

The streets of Vijayawada remain flooded, with mud and waterlogged homes creating unbearable conditions for residents. Hunger and desperation are palpable, with many victims struggling to survive amid the chaos. With a chance of another low-pressure system forming in the Bay of Bengal on the 5th of this month, further rains are predicted for the next three days across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

## Botsa Satyanarayana Faces Protest from Flood Victims in Vijayawada

**TPN, Vijayawada:** YCP MLC and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana faced backlash during his visit to flood-affected areas in Vijayawada. Visiting Rajarajeshwaripeta this evening, Botsa encountered angry flood victims who protested his late arrival, questioning why he came five days after their homes had been submerged.

The victims expressed their frustration, accusing Botsa and the YSR Congress Party of failing to provide timely help. They alleged that they were being blocked from receiving the aid promised by the government and demanded to know what the YCP had done for them during this crisis.

In response, Botsa acknowledged their grievances, saying, "We are not in power... what can we do?" before leaving the area. His remarks further fueled the people, as the victims continued to express dissatisfaction with him.

## BSR Infra MD Donates Rs.1 Crore to Flood Relief

**TPN, Vijayawada:** As the floods in Vijayawada continue to affect millions, donors are stepping forward to support the relief efforts. BSR Infrastructure MD Balusu Srinivasa Rao has made a significant contribution by donating Rs.1 crore to aid the flood victims. Today, he personally handed over the donation check to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the Viralam taluk.

CM Chandrababu expressed his gratitude to Balusu Srinivasa Rao for his generous donation, sharing his appreciation via social media. He thanked Balusu for his big-heartedness in coming forward to support those affected by the floods.

In addition to Balusu's contribution, Chandrababu also acknowledged other notable donations, including Rs.25 lakhs from film producer Ashwinidat and another Rs.25 lakhs from the Andhra Pradesh branch of the Indian Medical Association (IMA). He extended his heartfelt thanks to both individuals and organizations who have stepped up to help during this difficult time. Chandrababu emphasized that the support from donors is a vital source of relief for the flood victims and expressed his deep appreciation for all the contributions being made to the relief efforts.

## Sharmila Calls for Action on Budameru Encroachments

**TPN, Vijayawada:** APCC President YS Sharmila visited the flood-affected Singh Nagar area in Vijayawada, where she interacted with victims and urged both the central and state governments to provide immediate relief. During her visit, Sharmila emphasized that the Budameru stream was a major cause of the flooding in Vijayawada and called for urgent measures to prevent future disasters.

Speaking to the media, Sharmila expressed concern over the encroachments along Budameru, which she likened to a "hydra," and stressed the need to remove them. She suggested that floodwaters from Budameru should be directed towards Kolleru to prevent similar flooding in the future. She also called for the construction of a returning wall along Budameru to protect the city.

Sharmila acknowledged that it was positive to see Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visiting flood-affected areas and offering support to the victims. However, she stressed that it was his responsibility to ensure such a disaster does not repeat and demanded swift action to protect Budameru and the surrounding areas.

In addition to her comments on the state's role, Sharmila criticized the central government for not responding to the crisis. She accused Prime



Minister Narendra Modi of ignoring Andhra Pradesh, despite becoming PM with the support of its MPs. Sharmila demanded that the floods be declared a national calamity and called for compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs for each flood-damaged house.

Her visit highlighted the urgency of addressing the underlying causes of the floods and ensuring that relief reaches those most affected by the disaster.

# Next-Gen Heroes: Government's Tech-Driven Flood Relief Efforts

**TPN, Amaravati:** Amid the severe flooding caused by continuous rains and overflowing water bodies in Andhra Pradesh, TDP leader and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has garnered widespread praise for his innovative and timely response. As the state faces breaches and inundations in several areas, Naidu has led the relief efforts with a modern and tech-savvy approach, utilizing drones to aid in the crisis.

intended for agricultural purposes have been repurposed to deliver food packets and daily essentials to flood-affected areas. This creative use of technology has gained significant attention and appreciation on social media, with many praising Naidu for his forward-thinking disaster management.

In addition to the drone operations, Naidu is personally overseeing the relief efforts, coordinating the deployment of resources and ensuring that no stone is left unturned in

assisting the flood victims. His commitment was exemplified when he visited a flood-hit area in Vijayawada in the middle of the night to assess the damage firsthand.

The public has responded positively to Naidu's proactive leadership and dedication, recognizing his efforts in harnessing technology to bring relief to those affected by the floods. As the crisis unfolds, his actions serve as a testament to the importance of modern solutions in disaster management.

Under Naidu's leadership, drones initially





## NASA Images Reveal Rapid Development of Egypt's New Capital City



Recent satellite images captured by NASA reveal the significant progress made on Egypt's New Administrative Capital (NAC), a sprawling metropolis being constructed in the desert, 45 kilometres east of Cairo. The project, which was first announced in 2015, aims to address Cairo's overpopulation, traffic congestion, and pollution. The new capital is expected to accommodate over six million residents and is designed to rival the size of Singapore.

The images were taken by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8 in August 2017 and by the OLI-2 on Landsat 9 in August 2024. The first set of images from 2017 showed early traces of construction, while the 2024 images highlight the significant development of the megaproject, including key landmarks and infrastructure.

NASA shared the images on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "Egypt is relocating its capital to a brand-new city in the desert outside of Cairo. #Landsat captured these images of the new capital in August 2017 and 2024, showing the expansion of the city and several prominent landmarks."

The NAC will host government offices, major

financial hubs, and advanced infrastructure. One of the city's most impressive features is a 77-story skyscraper, as well as the Ministry of Defense's facility known as The Octagon. The city also boasts a 10-kilometre-long Green River Park, which will offer walking and biking paths, further cementing the NAC as a modern, sustainable urban centre.

The construction of the NAC is estimated to cost over \$58 billion. The city is already attracting new residents, with more than 1,500 families having moved in. By the end of this year, the population is expected to reach 10,000, with the eventual goal of hosting millions of residents.

Additionally, the city includes a massive sports complex that features Africa's second-largest stadium, likely intended to draw the attention of the Olympic committee in the future.

The decision to relocate Egypt's capital is a bold and visionary step that reflects the country's determination to address the growing challenges posed by Cairo's dense population while building a new city equipped with modern amenities and infrastructure for future generations.

## Brunei's Deep Cultural Connection with India: From Rafi Songs to Roti

Brunei, a small yet wealthy nation in Southeast Asia, has carved a unique place on the world stage with its rich oil reserves, cultural opulence, and historical landmarks. Officially known as Negara Brunei Darussalam, it holds a wealth of records, from being ruled by one of the world's wealthiest and longest-reigning monarchs, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, to showcasing a deep-rooted connection with India, transcending language, history, and culture.

### Historical and Linguistic Bonds

The official language of Brunei, Malay, shares its roots with India. Words like "Bahasa" (language) and "Negara" (nation) trace their origin to Sanskrit, a testament to ancient ties. Even Brunei's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, which was renamed in 1970, incorporates the Sanskrit term "Shri Bhagwan" in honour of the country's former ruler, Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin III.

Historical connections between Brunei and India emerged when British soldier James Brooke, originally from West Bengal, was granted Brunei's territory in 1841. The title of "Rajah," which Brooke adopted, is derived from the Sanskrit word for king. Despite this significant history, India's geopolitical engagement with Brunei has often been minimal.

### Geopolitical Engagement: A Late Start

India's diplomatic relations with Brunei were formalized in 1984, but it wasn't until recent years that active efforts began. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, as part of the Act East policy, signaled a shift in India's approach. Although Brunei's Sultan has made four visits to India, Modi's proactive policies aim to strengthen relations further, especially in light of the growing influence of China in the region.

Brunei, a vital player in the Indo-Pacific with its 161 km coastline along the South China Sea, remains an important partner for India. Oil continues to be the cornerstone of bilateral economic relations. India, a major importer of Brunei's crude oil, imports roughly \$500-600 million worth annually. Meanwhile, Indian exports include automobiles, rice, and spices. Brunei's interactive Energy Hub Museum in Bandar Seri Begawan prominently highlights India's role as a key oil

customer since 2003.

### Cultural Connections: Bollywood's Enduring Influence

Beyond economic and political engagement, India's cultural impact is deeply felt in Brunei. During a visit to Bandar Seri Begawan, Indian influences appeared even in Brunei's culinary scene. At Chop Jing Chew, a historic bakery, the Indian staff prepare traditional Bruneian dishes such as "roti kacang kahwin," blending cultures seamlessly.

Perhaps the most striking demonstration of India's soft power in Brunei is the lasting presence of Bollywood. During a meal at Soto Pabo along the Brunei riverfront, locals greeted me with "Namaste" and serenaded me with classic Bollywood hits. From Mukesh's "Sawan Ka Mahina" to Kishore Kumar's "Zindagi Ek Safar," Bruneians have embraced these tunes as part of their cultural repertoire. The nostalgia-inducing songs of Mohammad Rafi, particularly "Jo Wada Kiya," captured the enduring love for Indian cinema, a phenomenon that resonates throughout Southeast Asia.

In a country where nearly 15,000 Indians work in oil, gas, and construction sectors, Bollywood's emotional connection further strengthens India's cultural footprint. Even boatmen navigating the traditional water village of Kampung Ayer hum Bollywood tunes like "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai," echoing India's long-standing soft power.

### The Road Ahead for India-Brunei Relations

While Prime Minister Modi's visit is a significant step in advancing diplomatic ties, India must continue to deepen its engagement with Brunei. With China's influence growing in the South China Sea, stronger relations with Brunei will bolster India's position in the Indo-Pacific region. The cultural connection, bolstered by the shared love for food, language, and Bollywood, offers a valuable foundation to build upon.

As Brunei and India share a long history, the time has come for both nations to enhance their strategic and economic partnerships, leveraging these deep-rooted ties to navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape.



## Phone Use While Driving Causes More Deaths Than Red Light Jumping: Study

A recent study by the Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre at IIT Delhi reveals that mobile phone use while driving is responsible for significantly more road fatalities than red light jumping. The study, which analyzed government data, found that in 2022, deaths caused by mobile phone use while driving were four times higher than those resulting from red light violations.



The findings were presented at the global conference, "Safety 2024", highlighting the increasing dangers of distracted driving. According to the study, India recorded 61,038 road fatalities in 2022, a notable increase from 56,000 deaths in 2021. Among the most concerning findings was the rise in deaths due to risky behaviors, including mobile phone usage and driving on the wrong side of the road.

### Major Causes of Road Fatalities in 2022:

- **Speeding:** 45,928 deaths
- **Driving on the wrong side:** 3,544 deaths
- **Drunk driving:** 1,503 deaths
- **Driving while using a mobile phone:** 1,132 deaths
- **Red light jumping:** 271 deaths
- **Other reasons:** 8,660 deaths

The study shows a sharp 21% rise in deaths due to behaviors like mobile phone usage and wrong-side driving. In 2022, 1,132 fatalities were linked to mobile phone use, up from 1,040 in 2021. In contrast, red light jumping caused 271 deaths in 2022, up from 222 in 2021.

National highways, which constitute only 2.1% of India's road network, were found to be particularly deadly, recording 45 deaths per 100 km. State highways, by comparison, recorded 23 deaths per 100

km.

### Regional Trends and Recommendations

The study also highlights certain regions with higher fatality rates. According to a national strategy document from the Union Health Ministry, Tamil Nadu, Ladakh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka have the highest road traffic deaths per lakh population. The document recommends targeted interventions in these areas to reduce fatalities.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, emphasized the importance of prioritizing vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and riders of two or three-wheelers. These groups account for 66% of all road traffic deaths in the WHO South-East Asia region.

With mobile phone use contributing significantly to road fatalities, the findings call for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and increased awareness campaigns to curb dangerous behaviors on the road.



## Yogi Adityanath and Akhilesh Yadav Trade Barbs Over 'Bulldozer Justice'

A war of words erupted between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav this week over the controversial practice of using bulldozers to demolish properties of accused criminals in BJP-ruled states.

The exchange began when Yadav, on Tuesday, vowed to redirect these bulldozers to Adityanath's home district of Gorakhpur if the Samajwadi Party wins the 2027 Uttar Pradesh election. Yadav's remark came just hours after the Supreme Court questioned the legality of demolishing buildings simply because they belong

to accused or convicted individuals in criminal cases.

Adityanath, responding on Wednesday, asserted that only those with "bulldozer-like capability" could operate the machines, adding, "Not everyone's hands can fit... it requires both heart and mind." He also took a swipe at Yadav's nickname "Tipu," insinuating that Yadav was attempting to emulate an 18th-century ruler, Tipu Sultan, a figure often referenced in BJP's Hindu-Muslim narrative.

Yadav quickly fired back on X (formerly Twitter), challenging Adityanath to contest future elections under a bulldozer

symbol if he believed so strongly in its effectiveness. He predicted Adityanath's defeat and dismissed the Chief Minister's chances of becoming a prime ministerial candidate, suggesting instead that Adityanath should consider forming a separate party.

Yadav also questioned the legality of the land on which Adityanath's residence is built, hinting at possible regulatory violations. He demanded an apology from the government for the buildings bulldozed so far and sarcastically suggested that the BJP rename itself as "Bhartiya Jogi Party" in line with the Chief Minister's actions.

## Himachal Pradesh Ends Pensions for Disqualified Lawmakers

In an unprecedented move, the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed a new Bill aimed at stopping the pensions of members disqualified under the anti-defection law. The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Amendment Bill 2024 was introduced in the Assembly on Tuesday by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

The bill seeks to tighten the provisions related to allowances and pensions for members of the legislative assembly (MLAs), particularly targeting those who have been disqualified under the anti-defection law. According to the bill, any member of the assembly who is disqualified on grounds of defection will no longer be entitled to receive a pension.

The Chief Minister, while presenting the bill, highlighted the importance of ensuring that public funds are not used to provide benefits to those who have violated the trust placed in them by their constituents and their party. "This amendment is necessary to uphold the integrity of our democratic institutions and ensure that public funds are used judiciously," he said.

The bill received widespread support from the members of the assembly, who agreed that such a measure was necessary to deter defection and maintain the sanctity of the legislative process. With its passage, Himachal Pradesh has become one of the first states in India to introduce such a stringent measure against defectors.

The amendment also reflects a broader trend in Indian politics, where there is increasing pressure to address the issue of political defections, which have often led to instability in state governments. The passage of this bill is seen as a significant step in promoting accountability and transparency within the legislative framework.

The bill is now awaiting the Governor's assent, after which it will become law.

## Tripura Peace Milestone: Insurgent Groups Lay Down Arms

In a landmark development, two insurgent groups in Tripura, the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), have agreed to surrender arms and integrate into the mainstream, following the signing of a historic peace agreement with the central and state governments. This agreement, hailed as a significant milestone, leaves Tripura free from insurgency for the first time in decades.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was

present at the signing, described the day as "historic," noting that the state had endured 35 years of conflict and insurgency. "Today, I'm glad these groups have put down weapons and are walking on the path to peace," he said.

Shah emphasized that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been relentlessly working to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed northeast, free from extremism and conflict. He highlighted the im-

portance of the agreement, stating that 328 members of the insurgent groups will now be integrated into society.

"We have invested ₹ 2,500 crore for the development of this region as well. We are not only signing peace agreements, but also implementing them on the ground," Shah added. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the government has signed 12 significant agreements aimed at bringing peace and prosperity to the northeast, with three specifically

concerning Tripura. According to Shah, these efforts have led to 10,000 people laying down arms and joining the mainstream.

The peace-building process was also significantly supported by Pradyot Manikya Debburman, founder of the Tipra Motha Party, now a key ally of the BJP government in Tripura. The signing ceremony was attended by Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and senior officials from the MHA and the state government.

## CBI Files New Case Against Anil Deshmukh for Allegedly Framing BJP Leaders



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a new case against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, former Special Public Prosecutor Praveen Pandit Chavan, and others, accusing them of conspiring to frame prominent BJP leaders. This development comes after nearly two years of investigation following the submission of alleged evidence by BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.

In 2022, Fadnavis, then the Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra, handed over a pen drive to the state Assembly Speaker, claiming it contained audio and video recordings that implicated Chavan and senior police officials in a conspiracy to falsely implicate BJP leaders. The recordings purportedly show Chavan colluding with high-ranking police officers to fabricate cases against BJP members.

The BJP had accused Chavan of orchestrating false FIRs, tutoring witnesses, arranging cash payments, and instructing investigating officers to target their leaders. The CBI initiated a preliminary inquiry into these allegations, leading to the registration of the case on July 31.

Anil Deshmukh, who resigned as Maharashtra's Home Minister in 2021 after being accused by former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh of setting a monthly extortion target of ₹100 crore from bars and restaurants, is now facing additional legal challenges with this fresh case.

The CBI's investigation into this matter underscores the ongoing tensions between political parties in Maharashtra, with significant implications for the state's political landscape.

## Nitin Gadkari Slams Faulty DPRs, Warns of Risks in Highway and Tunnel Projects

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has issued a stern critique of the practices involved in drafting Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for critical highway and tunnel projects across India. Speaking at the 2nd edition of 'Tunnelling India' organized by FICCI, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister expressed concerns that poor adherence to proper procedures in DPR creation can lead to severe accidents and even tunnel collapses.

"If there is any culprit in this, it is the one who made the DPR," Gadkari stated, pointing out that many companies preparing these reports are run by retired government officers who rely heavily on Google searches rather than conducting thorough field investigations. He emphasized the importance of accuracy in DPRs, given their technical significance.

Gadkari criticized the existing system where DPRs are quickly followed by the issuance of tenders without adequate technical scrutiny. He highlighted that



some companies manipulate the tender process, leading to risks of errors and cost

escalations in the final project. "I have no hesitation in saying that some big companies get these financial and technical qualifications done as per their own calculation," he remarked.

To counter these issues, Gadkari suggested fostering healthy competition and ensuring comprehensive studies before project execution, citing the efficient construction of the Zozila tunnel as an example.

He also commented on the significant influence government officers wield in decision-making processes. "I feel that we run the government... our joint secretary, undersecretary are guides and philosophers," Gadkari said, underscoring how bureaucratic decisions often dictate project outcomes without ministerial oversight.

Gadkari's candid remarks highlight the need for stricter procedures and accountability in the development of critical infrastructure projects in India.

## Sam Pitroda Praises Rahul Gandhi, Sees Him as a Future Prime Minister

Sam Pitroda, a long-time confidant of the Gandhi family and Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, has described Rahul Gandhi as more intellectual and strategic compared to his father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Speaking at a media conference, Pitroda praised Rahul Gandhi as a "custodian of the idea of India" and asserted that the current Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha possesses all the qualities of a future prime minister.

Pitroda dismissed the BJP's criticism of Rahul Gandhi, especially regarding his remarks during foreign visits, as "bo-gus." He emphasized that it is the job of

an opposition leader to critique the government, both at home and abroad, and argued that criticizing the government should not be conflated with criticizing India.

Discussing the similarities and differences between Rajiv and Rahul Gandhi, Pitroda noted that while Rajiv was more of a "doer," Rahul is a thinker and strategist. He highlighted the personal challenges Rahul has faced, including the assassinations of his grandmother and father, shaping him into a resilient leader with a deep commitment to India's future.

Pitroda also pointed out that Rahul Gandhi's image has been unfairly tarnished

by orchestrated media campaigns but believes that the Bharat Jodo Yatra and other initiatives have helped the public see the true nature of his leadership.

When asked if he sees Rahul Gandhi as a future prime minister, Pitroda responded affirmatively, praising his character, education, and commitment to democracy. However, he emphasized that the ultimate decision rests with the people and the Congress party.

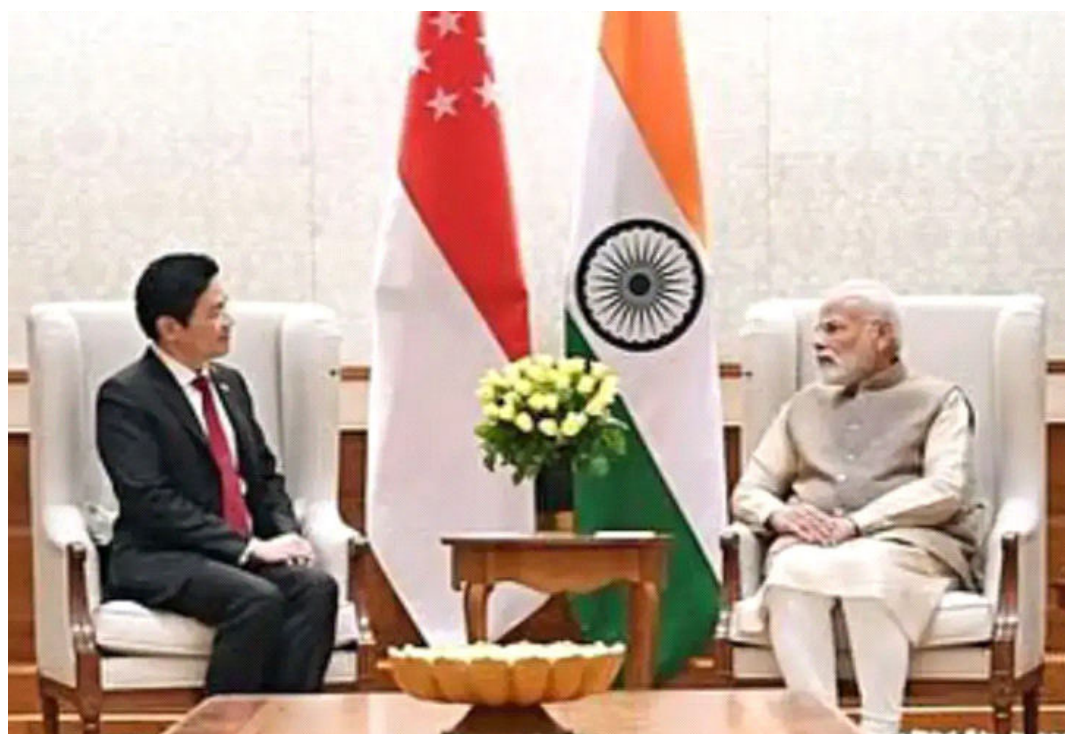
Pitroda concluded by highlighting the significance of the upcoming elections, suggesting that the results will reflect the Indian people's preference for democracy, the Constitution, and justice.

## PM Modi's Singapore Visit: Strengthening Bilateral Ties and Strategic Partnerships

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Singapore for a significant two-day official visit aimed at further enhancing the strategic partnership between India and Singapore. This visit marks PM Modi's first official trip to Singapore since his re-election for a third consecutive term, and it coincides with the recent swearing-in of Singapore's new Prime Minister, Lawrence Wong.

The visit follows a historic trip to Brunei, part of New Delhi's 'Act East' policy, and underscores the importance India places on its relationship with Southeast Asia. "I look forward to my discussions to deepen our Strategic Partnership with Singapore, particularly in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, and sustainable development," PM Modi shared in a post on X, ahead of his arrival. Accompanied by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and other top officials, PM Modi's visit comes six years after his last trip to Singapore in 2018. According to Secretary East, Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar, "This visit is of great significance as it's his visit early in his term, and also as the new Prime Minister Lawrence Wong has taken oath recently and Singaporeans are excited to welcome PM Modi."

During his stay, PM Modi is set to meet with Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and three generations of Singapore's leadership, including Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. The visit will also feature engagements with top CEOs and business leaders, with a particular focus on building synergies in the



semiconductor sector.

The visit is expected to result in the signing of several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing cooperation in areas such as manpower skilling in the semiconductor industry, maritime cooperation, trade, investment, digitisation, sustainability, health, and advanced manufacturing. These agreements are anticipated to provide better opportunities and skills for India's youth, further strengthening the economic ties between the two nations.

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the evolving nature of India-Singapore relations, stating, "India and Singapore's bilateral ties have been extremely strong in the last two decades. Given the trans-

formation underway in India and the changes in the world, they need to become more contemporary."

Singapore, India's largest trading partner in ASEAN, has been a long-term investor in India, with an accumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of USD 160 billion since 2000. In the last financial year alone, Singapore invested \$11.77 billion in India, reflecting the robust economic ties between the two nations.

As India and Singapore look towards the future, PM Modi's visit is poised to set the stage for the next chapter of their vibrant bilateral relations, building on a dynamic strategic partnership that encompasses shared history, people-to-people ties, and a commitment to mutual growth and development.



## Indian Diaspora Group Launches "Indo American Votes Matter" Campaign

As the United States approaches its November 5 presidential elections, a prominent Indian-American group has launched a campaign aimed at increasing the political participation and policy influence of the Indian-American community. The non-profit Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) announced the "Indo American Votes Matter" campaign, highlighting the critical role that this vibrant and growing immigrant minority can play in shaping the nation's future.

The FIIDS emphasized that Indian-Americans, numbering approximately 4.5 million across the United States, are concentrated in key swing states such as Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. These states are crucial in determining the outcome of the presidential election, and the Indo-American vote could prove decisive in many closely contested races.

Khanderao Kand, chief of policy and strategy at FIIDS, underscored the importance of the Indian-American community's participation in the upcoming elections. "With a sizable population in swing states crucial to the presidential elections, Indian-Americans have a unique opportunity to make an impact," Kand stated. He urged both the Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to take the community's policy issues and preferences seriously. As part of the campaign, FIIDS plans to conduct a comprehensive survey of Indian-Americans to gather their views on both domestic and global policy matters important to them.

## Donald Trump's New Book "Save America" Becomes Amazon Best-Seller Hours After Release

Former President Donald Trump's new book, titled *"Save America"*, was released on Tuesday, September 3, and has already become an Amazon best-seller. Despite its hefty price tag of \$92.06, the book quickly soared to the No. 1 spot in Amazon's 'Presidents & Heads of State Biographies' category and ranked 13th overall. *"Save America"*, which is available only in hardcover, was initially listed by its publisher, Winning Team Publishing, at \$99. The book features a collection of pictures, anecdotes, and personal recollections from Trump's time in office and his ongoing presidential campaigns. The cover showcases an iconic image of Trump at a Pennsylvania rally following an assassination attempt, captured by Associated Press photographer Jose Luis Magana.

Trump promoted the book on his Truth Social platform, urging his followers to secure their copies. "My new book comes out TODAY! Have you gotten your copy? I hand-selected every

photo, from my time in the White House, to our current third campaign for President of the United States. A MUST HAVE on U.S. History, especially for America First Patriots," Trump wrote.

According to excerpts obtained by the Associated Press, the book includes photos of Trump with notable figures such as Tiger Woods, Angela Merkel, and Kim Jong Un. Trump also uses the book to defend his controversial 2018 meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki and to criticize figures like Mark Zuckerberg.

Amazon describes *"Save America"* as providing an unparalleled look into Trump's four years as the 45th President of the United States, while also offering a vision for his potential next term. The book highlights Trump's major accomplishments, including historic trade negotiations, tax cuts, international diplomacy, and border security.

## Zelensky Calls for "New Energy" in Ukrainian Government Amid Major Cabinet Reshuffle

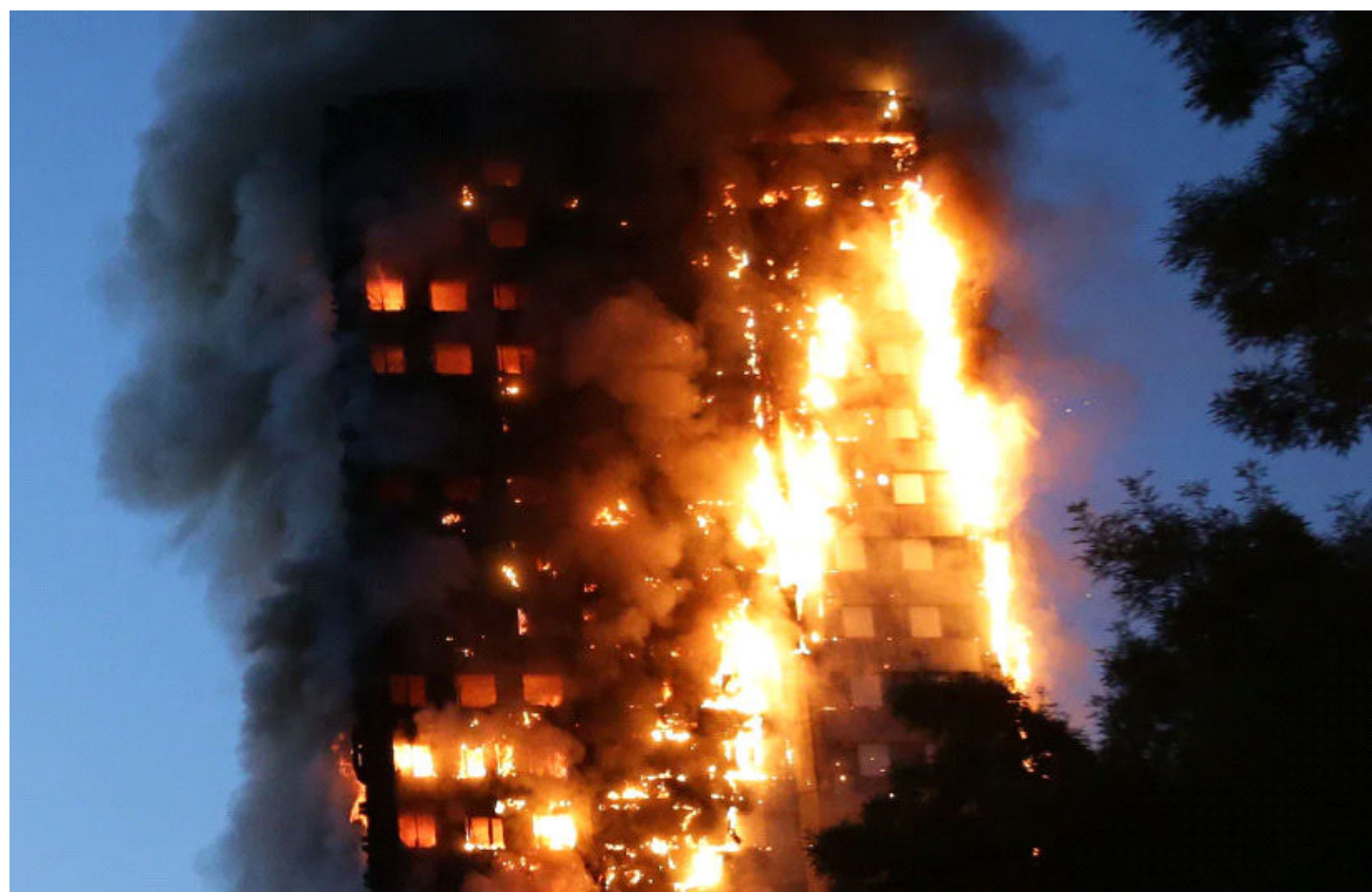
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced a major government reshuffle on Wednesday, citing the need for "new energy" to strengthen the country in various areas. The reshuffle includes the resignation of Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, one of the most senior ministers in Zelensky's administration, as well as several other key officials.

"We need new energy. And these steps are related to strengthening our state in various areas," Zelensky stated when asked about the reshuffle and Kuleba's future. He expressed gratitude to the ministers and the entire Cabinet team for their service to Ukraine over the past four and a half years, noting that some had served even longer.

The reshuffle is one of the most significant changes in Kyiv's government since Russia's invasion of Ukraine two and a half years ago. Kuleba, who has been the face of Ukrainian diplomacy during the war, has held the position of foreign minister since 2020. Throughout the conflict, he has played a critical role in garnering Western support for Kyiv and advocating for sanctions against Moscow. A source close to the presidential office told AFP that Zelensky and Kuleba "will discuss and decide" the foreign minister's future role in the coming days.



## Grenfell Tower Fire Report Reveals Systematic Failures and Calls for Accountability



The final report on the Grenfell Tower fire, which claimed 72 lives in 2017, has delivered a damning verdict on the "decades of failure" by the UK government, construction industry, and building material firms. The fire, which spread rapidly through the 24-storey block in west London due to highly combustible cladding, has been described as a preventable tragedy resulting from incompetence, dishonesty, and greed.

The blaze, which began in a faulty freezer on the fourth floor in the early hours of June 14, 2017, quickly engulfed the building, reaching the top floor in less than 30 minutes. The final report, marking the conclusion of a two-part independent inquiry led by retired judge Martin Moore-Bick, has harshly criticized those responsible for the refurbishment that led to the installation of dangerous materials.

Moore-Bick stated that all 72 deaths were "avoidable" and that the victims were "badly failed." The report condemns the firms involved in supplying the cladding and insulation products, accusing them of "systematic dishon-

esty" in manipulating testing processes and misleading the market.

The London Fire Brigade (LFB) also faced severe criticism for its "complacent" response and failure to adapt its training and procedures in light of previous fires. The "stay-put" advice given to residents, which is now considered to have cost lives, was especially scrutinized. Many residents, including whole families, became trapped in their homes due to this guidance.

The report has reignited concerns for thousands still living in buildings covered with similar cladding, leaving them fearful of another disaster. Although the government announced measures in 2022 to address the removal of such materials, the ongoing risks were highlighted by a recent fire in Dagenham, east London, where over 80 people were evacuated from a partially remediated building.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in response to the report, pledged that his government would ensure that such a tragedy "cannot occur again," and promised to carefully consider the report's recommendations.



## SEBI Dismisses Claims of Toxic Work Culture as “Misguided”

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has addressed recent allegations from its employees regarding a purported toxic work environment, labeling the controversy as “misguided” and suggesting that it might have been influenced by “external elements.”

In a statement released on September 4, SEBI contended that the complaints from junior officers, who initially expressed dissatisfaction over Housing Rent Allowance (HRA), were possibly driven by external influences. The regulatory body emphasized that these officers, despite their grievances, had been performing to high standards, which is expected given their roles in a major financial regulator.

SEBI asserted that the junior staff's claims of being “underpaid” were unfounded, given that the total compensation for entry-level Grade A officers is approximately ₹34 lakh per annum. The regulatory body argued that this compensation is competitive, even when compared to the corporate sector. The recent demands for additional perks and automatic promotions were described as disproportionate, potentially adding an extra ₹6 lakh per annum to their cost-to-company (CTC).



The release further noted that SEBI's staff members, especially those at the junior levels, are already well-compensated and that their dissatisfaction regarding work culture and salary was misguided. The regulatory body suggested that these issues were being used as leverage to negotiate better financial terms.

SEBI emphasized its commitment to high performance and accountability standards. The regulator maintains that it holds its employees to stringent performance metrics and that the current compensation structure is both fair and competitive.

This clarification from SEBI comes amidst ongoing discussions about work conditions and employee satisfaction within the organization. The regulatory body remains focused on its mandate to oversee and regulate the financial markets effectively while addressing employee concerns through appropriate channels.

## Women's Investment Surge: Sitharaman Highlights Growth

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted a significant rise in women's participation in the mutual funds market during her keynote address at the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) event titled 'Women Rising: The Unseen Barriers in Power, Politics & Otherwise' in Chennai on September 4. Sitharaman noted that the share of women in mutual funds has surged to 21% in 2023, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

She emphasized that women from remote areas are increasingly engaging in investments in addition to savings. Citing AMFI data, Sitharaman revealed that 72% of women investors are now making independent investment decisions, reflecting a growing trend towards financial self-sufficiency among women.

Sitharaman also pointed out that the Jan Dhan Yojana has played a crucial role in enhancing financial independence for women. Out of the 53 crore Jan Dhan accounts, 55% are held by wom-



en, showcasing the program's impact on women's financial inclusion.

Furthermore, the minister highlighted the remarkable growth in the use of fintech channels by women investors over the past five years, underscoring the increasing integration of technology in financial decision-making and investment.

## India Misses Export Opportunities as Global Trade Shifts

According to the World Bank, India has experienced a decline in jobs directly and indirectly linked to international trade over the past decade. The report highlights India's missed opportunity to capitalize on the export potential created by China's retreat from labor-intensive manufacturing sectors.

The World Bank economists observed a decrease in India's share of global exports in labor-intensive industries such as apparel, leather, textiles, and footwear. In contrast, nations like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Poland, Germany, and France have seen an increase in their global export share in these significant job-creating sectors, growing by up to 2 percent from 2015 to 2022.

This decline in India's export share in these sectors suggests that the country has not fully leveraged the shifting global trade dynamics to its advantage. The shift away from labor-intensive manufacturing by China presented an opportunity for other countries to fill the gap, but India has not managed to capture a larger portion of this



market.

The report underscores the need for India to enhance its competitiveness in global trade, particularly in sectors that are crucial for job creation. Addressing this issue could help India regain lost ground and improve its position in the international market.

In summary, while global competitors have made gains in labor-intensive sectors, India's export performance has lagged, signaling the need for strategic adjustments to better align with evolving global trade trends.

## Foreign Portfolio Investors Face Pressure Over Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Rules

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are facing a significant challenge as they navigate the complex and evolving policy landscape surrounding beneficial ownership (BO) disclosure while also racing against a tight deadline to liquidate their holdings in the Indian equity market. This predicament comes in the wake of their pending application with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for an exemption from the BO disclosure requirements outlined in SEBI's circular dated August 24, 2023.



their investment strategies effectively.

The SEBI circular mandates granular BO disclosure for certain FPIs, specifically those with substantial concentration in a single Indian corporate group or those whose total equity Assets Under Management (AUM) in Indian markets surpass specified thresholds. This policy has created a challenging scenario for many FPIs, as they grapple with the intricacies of compliance while trying to manage

The current situation underscores the difficulties FPIs face in adapting to rapidly changing regulatory requirements while simultaneously managing the practical aspects of their investment portfolios. As SEBI's circular continues to influence the regulatory environment, FPIs must navigate these requirements carefully to avoid potential penalties and to ensure compliance while addressing their strategic investment decisions.

## Households to Become Major Net Lenders to Economy, Says RBI Deputy Governor

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Michael Patra highlighted a significant shift in financial dynamics, noting that with rising incomes, households are poised to become the primary net lenders to the economy. This observation reflects a trend where increased household savings are expected to play a crucial role in the economic landscape.



According to Patra, the rise in household financial savings is part of a broader economic cycle, where income and expenditure flows are balanced by saving and investment activities. In the economic model, transactions involving goods, services, compensations, and taxes are counterbalanced by the flows of saving and investment, representing the transfer of lendable resources between different sectors.

In India, the household sector traditionally accumulates surplus savings that exceed its investment needs. These excess savings are then channeled into lending to other sectors of the economy. This trend indicates that

households are not only recovering financially but are also set to play a more prominent role in financing economic activities through their savings.

As the household sector strengthens its financial position, it will contribute significantly to economic growth by providing additional resources for investment and development. This shift underscores the importance of household savings in maintaining economic stability and supporting ongoing growth initiatives.

## Reliance Industries Secures ₹3,620 Crore for 10 GWh Battery Manufacturing Capacity

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd has won ₹3,620 crore worth of incentives to establish 10 GWh (gigawatt-hours) of battery manufacturing capacity under the Union government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for advanced chemistry cells. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Heavy Industries on Wednesday, noting that Reliance was the successful bidder among seven competitors for the tender issued in January. Six companies had been shortlisted for the financial evaluation of their bids.

The remaining five bidders have been placed on a waiting list according to their rank. These include ACME Cleantech Solutions Private Ltd (1st), Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Private Ltd (2nd), Waaree Energies Ltd (3rd), JSW Neo Energy Ltd (4th), and Lucas TVS Ltd (5th).

Advanced chemistry cells are cutting-edge technologies designed to store and convert electric energy efficiently. The PLI scheme aims to bolster the electric mobility and battery storage ecosystem in India.



Reliance's new 10 GWh capacity will complement the 5 GWh of battery capacity it secured in 2022, when the government allocated 30 GWh of capacity. During that auction, Ola Electric Mobility was awarded 20 GWh, while Reliance and Rajesh Exports each received 5 GWh.

The 2022 auction initially aimed to award 50 GWh to four winners with an outlay of ₹18,100 crore. However, one bidder, which had posed as Hyundai Motors, had its bid canceled, leaving its 20 GWh capacity unawarded. This unawarded capacity was subsequently rebid in the latest round.





# China's Chip March is A Growing Concern for the US

China's rapidly advancing semiconductor industry is causing alarm in Washington, especially after Huawei launched its Mate60 Pro smartphone, which featured advanced chips despite US-imposed restrictions. The Biden administration, confident in the protective measures established through the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, was surprised to see China produce a 7-nanometre (nm) chip—an achievement thought to be out of their reach. These developments mark a growing concern for the US as China continues its drive toward self-reliance in semiconductor technology, critical for both economic and military purposes.



## US Efforts to Contain China's Chip Growth

The US has been attempting to curb China's rise in the semiconductor sector by restricting its access to advanced technology. Export controls and sanctions on companies like Huawei have been part of the strategy to maintain US technological supremacy. The CHIPS and Science Act was enacted to bolster domestic semiconductor production while limiting China's ability to advance its chip-making capabilities. However, despite these efforts, China continues to narrow the gap, causing concern among American policymakers.

Kishore Mahbubani, a former Singaporean diplomat, suggests that the US's containment strategy is flawed. He argues that China has become more integrated into the global economy than the US, making it difficult to isolate China without negatively impacting global trade and technological ecosystems.



## The Growing Importance of Semiconductors

Semiconductors are vital components in everything from smartphones to advanced military systems, making them the foundation of modern technology. As highlighted by Chris Miller in his book \*Chip War\*, semiconductors play a pivotal role in maintaining military and economic power. The US once led the world in chip design and manufacturing, but competitors like Taiwan, South Korea, and China have since made significant advancements, challenging America's dominance in this field.

The semiconductor industry, expected to reach \$611.2 billion by 2024, is dominated by a few key players. Taiwan's TSMC produces around 90% of the world's advanced logic chips, while South Korea leads in memory chip production. With China's growing capabilities, the US fears that it could lose its technological edge, a prospect with significant national security implications.



## China's Rapid Advancement and US Decline

Over the last few decades, China's semiconductor production has grown exponentially. While the US dominated the industry in the 1990s, its share of global production has since fallen from 37% to 12%. In the same period, China's share grew to 15%. In response, the US passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which provides heavy subsidies to domestic manufacturers to reinvent the American chip industry.

Despite these efforts, China continues to make strides toward self-reliance in semiconductor production. Recent US restrictions, including a deal with the Netherlands to limit the export of advanced chipmaking technology to China, have not halted China's progress. In fact, China is investing billions into its chip-building initiatives to reduce its dependence on foreign technology and protect itself from future sanctions.

## The Global Chip War

The semiconductor battle between the US and China is not just a bilateral issue but a global contest involving many key players. The stakes are high, with both nations recognizing that the future of technology, military power, and economic prosperity rests on who controls the semiconductor industry. As China eats away at the US's tech supremacy, it is clear that this chip war is far from over. The US may still be in control, but China is advancing fast, chip by chip.

As the world watches this geopolitical and technological struggle unfold, questions arise about India's role in the semiconductor race. Can India become a key player in this global battleground? The second part of this analysis will explore India's position in the evolving chip landscape.



## Apple will unveil its next generation of iPhone Pro models on September 9th

Apple is set to unveil its latest lineup at the "It's Glowtime" event, including the highly anticipated iPhone 16 series. This new collection will feature the iPhone 16, iPhone 16 Plus, iPhone 16 Pro, and iPhone 16 Pro Max. Additionally, Apple is expected to introduce new Apple Watch series, AirPods, and other hardware. The event will also detail the rollout schedule for iOS 18, iPad OS 18, and MacOS.

The highlight of the event will be the iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, Apple's flagship models for 2024. These new Pro variants will be powered by Apple Intelligence, promising enhanced features and performance. For iPhone enthusiasts eager to learn more about these flagship models, this event will provide comprehensive details on specifications, features, and pricing.



ing.

The "It's Glowtime" event will take place on September 9, 2024, at the Steve Jobs Theater, Apple Park. The event will be live-streamed on Apple's official YouTube channel and website, starting at 10:30 PM IST.

Rumors suggest that the iPhone 16 Pro could start at around \$1,099, with the iPhone 16 Pro Max priced at approximately \$1,199. In India, the iPhone 16 Pro might be

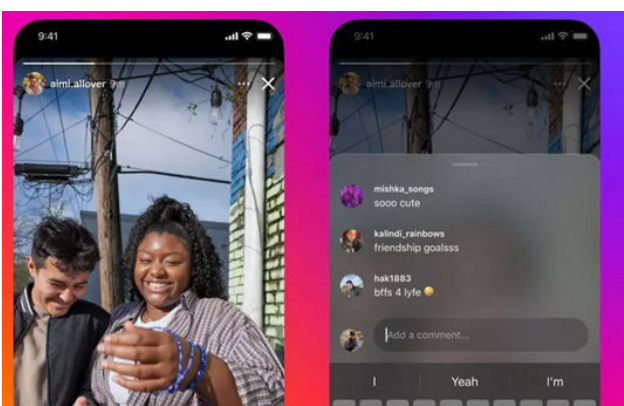
priced around Rs 1 lakh, while the Pro Max could exceed Rs 1.2 lakh. These prices are speculative and will be confirmed during the launch event. The iPhone 16 Pro models may be available for pre-order a week post-launch, with sales beginning in the third or fourth week of September.

Stay tuned for more details as Apple reveals the exciting features and specifications of its new flagship phones.

## Instagram Introduces Public Comments for Stories

Instagram is unveiling a new feature that allows users to leave public comments on Instagram Stories, Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on Tuesday. This update enables comments similar to those on standard posts, visible for up to 24 hours, in line with the duration of the Stories themselves. It remains unclear whether these comments can be archived.

Previously, Instagram users could only reply privately to Stories. The new comments feature, which reflects recent updates including new fonts, text animations, and the Instagram Creator Lab launch in India, enhances public interaction with Stories. Users will have the option



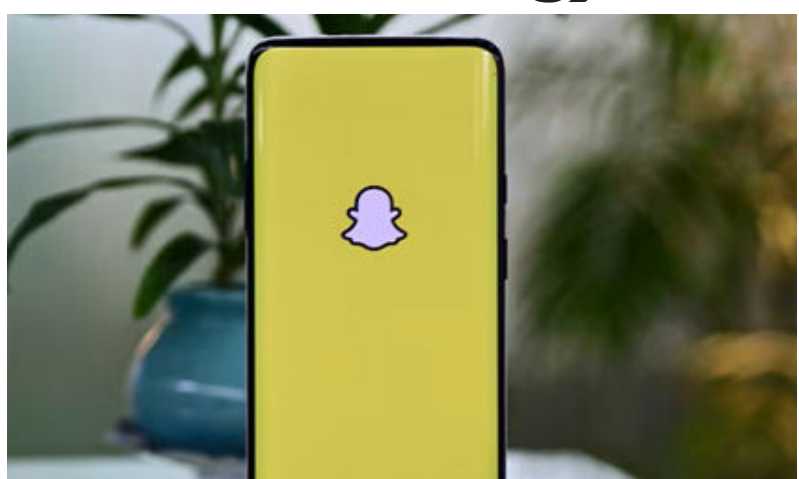
tion to enable or disable comments based on their preferences.

This feature is part of Instagram's broader

strategy to enhance user engagement by focusing on short-form content over long videos. Instagram has also introduced other recent updates, such as new fonts, text animations, and the ability to add stickers to photos and videos on Reels and Stories. Additionally, the platform has expanded the carousel limit to 20 media items and added a "song on profile" feature, allowing users to set a song that reflects their mood or personality.

The roll-out of the comments feature aims to increase interaction and engagement on the platform, further diversifying the ways users can connect with content and each other.

## Snapchat Shifts Focus to AR and Revamping Ad Strategy



Snap Inc. is pivoting its focus towards expanding and diversifying its underperforming advertising business, with a strong emphasis on Augmented Reality (AR), CEO Evan Spiegel announced in a recent internal memo. This strategic shift comes as Snapchat faces intense competition from major social media giants like Instagram's parent company Meta Platforms and ByteDance's TikTok, all vying for a larger share of the advertising revenue.

In his memo, Spiegel acknowledged the company's struggles, stating, "Despite the progress we've made over the past year, our share price has lagged because our advertising growth has not kept pace with competitors." The company has been grappling with a sluggish ad revenue growth, which was highlighted in its forecast for the current quarter, predicting a revenue of \$5.34 billion (ap-

proximately ₹44,837 crore) for fiscal 2024, according to LSEG data. This has contributed to a significant 48 percent drop in Snap's stock value this year.

To address these challenges, Snap will overhaul its advertising strategy by introducing new ad placements enhanced by Machine Learning (ML) and automation. Additionally, the company is advancing its efforts in AR technology and smart glasses, similar to initiatives by Meta. Spiegel's memo emphasized, "We are investing in AR glasses to enable people to interact with technology, the world, and each other in innovative ways."

Earlier in the year, Snap introduced generative AI tools that offer more realistic effects for users filming themselves, furthering its commitment to integrating cutting-edge technology into its platform.

## Influencer Stands by Vande Bharat Express Food Review Amid Backlash

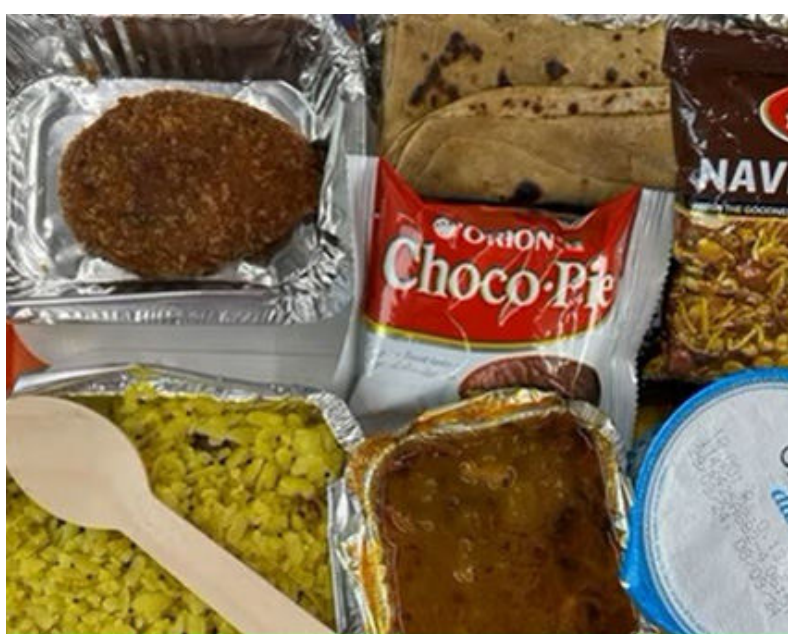
Travel influencer Shashank Gupta, who faced criticism for comparing the food served on the Vande Bharat Express to a five-star hotel experience, has defended his review. Gupta clarified that his positive assessment was not influenced by any political agenda. He made the remarks following backlash from his post on X (formerly Twitter), where he praised the train's food quality, stating it was comparable to that of a luxury hotel.

Gupta shared a photo of his breakfast on the Vande Bharat Express, which he described as "no less than any five-star hotel in terms of taste." The meal, which included poha, cutlets, also sabzi, paranthas, curd, namkeen, and a Choco-Pie dessert, was part of the special coach arranged by the

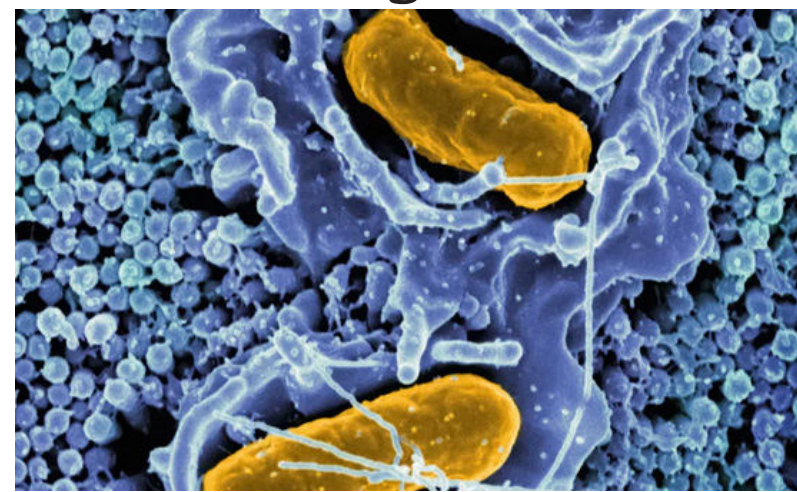
Railways for social media influencers on the inaugural Udaipur-Agra route.

The travel vlogger expressed his gratitude to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, DRM Lucknow, and the Ministry of Railways for facilitating the special train, which was intended to showcase the service and amenities offered on the Vande Bharat Express. Gupta's review has sparked debate, with some questioning the authenticity of his praise due to the nature of the influencer's promotional journey.

Gupta remains firm in his opinion, maintaining that his review was based on his genuine experience and enjoyment of the meal, regardless of the circumstances of his trip.



## Human Immune Proteins Traced Back to 2 Billion-Year-Old Asgard Archaea



Recent research suggests that the immune systems of humans and other complex organisms may have evolved from ancient microbes known as Asgard archaea. These archaea, discovered in 2015 near a hydrothermal vent in the Arctic Circle called "Loki's Castle," are thought to have existed around 2 billion years ago. This discovery, led by Pedro Lopes Leão from Radboud University and Brett Baker from the University of Texas at Austin, sheds light on the evolutionary origins of crucial immune proteins that protect organisms from viruses.

The study reveals that immune proteins such as viperins and argonautes, which are essential for viral defense, have ancient roots. Viperins, found in humans, prevent viral replication within infected cells, while argonautes, originally identified in plants, degrade viral genetic material to halt replication. By exam-

ining thousands of genomes, researchers found that these proteins are remarkably similar across archaea and eukaryotes, suggesting a shared evolutionary ancestor.

The Asgard superfamily of archaea, named after Norse mythology and discovered in the Arctic's "Loki's Castle," is crucial in bridging the evolutionary gap between simpler bacteria and complex eukaryotes. This study, published in Nature Communications, highlights that the catalytic sites of these immune proteins have remained largely unchanged for over 2 billion years, underscoring their effectiveness in combating viruses.

These findings not only deepen our understanding of immune system evolution but also emphasize the enduring legacy of ancient microbial life in shaping the defense mechanisms of complex organisms.

## Elon Musk Launches Beta Version of X TV

Elon Musk, the visionary CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has taken a significant step in transforming X (formerly Twitter) into a comprehensive multimedia platform by unveiling the beta version of X TV. This new feature aims to enhance the user experience by integrating film and live content streaming directly within the X app, thereby reducing reliance on external media players.

Currently, X TV's beta version is available on Android TVs, with plans to extend support to LG, Amazon Fire TV, and Google TV in the near future. The release is part of Musk's broader strategy to evolve X into a more versatile platform, capable of delivering a seamless multimedia experience. As the app is still in its beta phase, early users are actively testing its features, and their feedback will play a crucial role in refining the platform before its full release.

Among the standout features of X TV are:

**Replay TV:** This function allows users to store up to 72 hours of television content in the cloud, providing flexibility to watch shows at any time without missing out. **Startover TV:** Viewers can start any live broadcast from the beginning, even if they tune in after the show has started, ensuring they never miss important segments. **Free Cloud DVR:** Users can record up to 100 hours of their favorite content at no additional cost, offering a cost-effective way to keep a personal library of shows and movies.

As X TV advances towards a full rollout, it represents a promising enhancement to the X platform. This new feature aligns with Musk's vision of creating a more integrated and user-friendly media experience, making it easier for users to access and enjoy content without leaving the X ecosystem.



# Ishan Kishan's Duleep Trophy Plans Disrupted by Injury

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan faces a setback in his comeback plans, with uncertainty surrounding his participation in the first round of the Duleep Trophy, starting Thursday. Kishan has developed a hamstring issue, which may prevent him from playing at least in the opening match.

Kishan was named in the India D squad, captained by Shreyas Iyer, set to face India C in Anantapur. The injury occurred during his recent appearance for Jharkhand in the Buchi Babu Invitational Tournament in Coimbatore. There were discussions about Sanju Samson potentially stepping in as a replacement, but it is likely that KS Bharat will take up the wicketkeeping role for India D in the first round.

As of now, Kishan has not arrived in Anantapur. Additionally, India A pacer Prasidh Krishna, recovering from surgery earlier this year, will miss the first-round match against India B at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The Duleep Trophy has been significantly impacted by injuries among key players. Suryakumar Yadav has been ruled out of the opening round due to a hand bruise sustained during the Buchi Babu Tournament. Furthermore, pacers Mohammed Siraj and Umran Malik have withdrawn from the



tournament due to illness, while all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been released from India B for unspecified reasons. In their place, Navdeep Saini has been added

to India B, and Puducherry quick Gaurav Yadav will replace Malik in India C. This series of injuries has caused a major shake-up for the Duleep Trophy's opening fixtures.

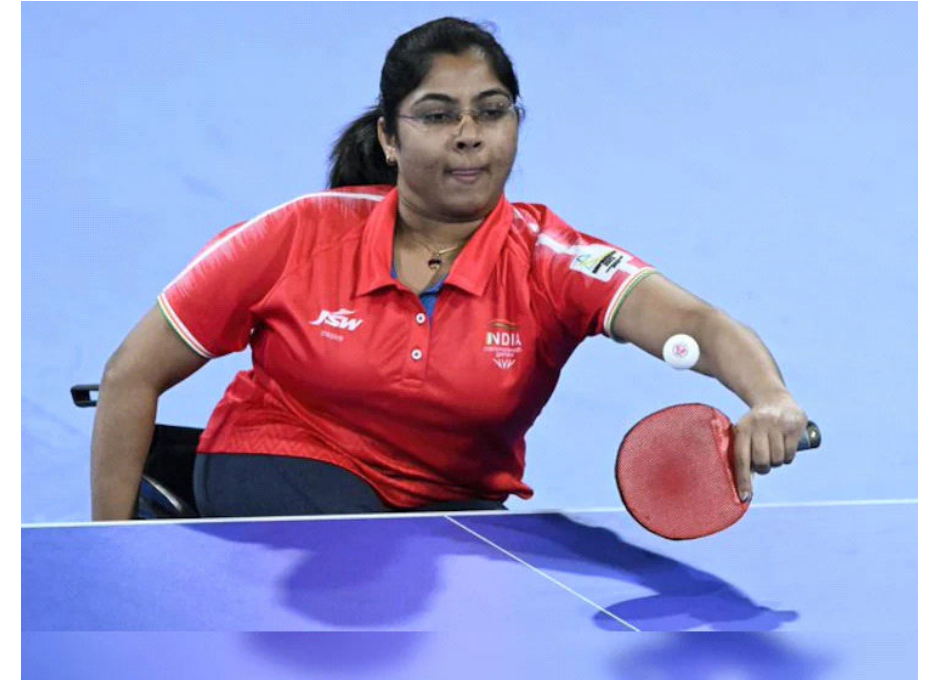
## Bhavinaben Patel's Paralympic Journey Ends with Quarterfinal Loss

India's challenge in the women's singles table tennis at the Paralympics came to an end on Wednesday as Bhavinaben Patel, the Tokyo silver medallist, was defeated by China's Ying Zhou in the class 4 quarterfinal. Patel, who made history as India's first-ever Paralympic table tennis medalist with her silver in Tokyo, fought valiantly but fell short with a score of 12-14, 9-11, 11-8, 6-11.

Patel's performance was commendable as she managed to secure the third game after losing the first two but was unable to maintain her momentum against her formidable Chinese opponent. Earlier, Sonalben Patel, competing in class 3, was knocked out in the round of 16 by Croatia's Andela Muzinic Vincetic.

In the women's doubles event, the Indian duo of Bhavinaben and Sonalben Patel also missed out on a medal. They were defeated by the Korean pair of Young A Jung and Sunghye Moon in the quarterfinals.

Bhavinaben Patel, who was diagnosed with polio at the age of one, competes in class 4, which is designated for wheelchair athletes with functional arms and hands. Despite the setbacks, her achievements continue to inspire, highlighting her resilience and skill in the sport.



## Rahul Dravid Returns to IPL as Head Coach of Rajasthan Royals

opportunities in the IPL. Preferring a shorter commitment, Dravid opted for the IPL role, which requires him for just 2-3 months each year, rather than the year-round commitment of a full-time position.

In addition to Dravid, former Indian assistant coach Vikram Rathour has been appointed as the Assistant Coach for the Rajasthan Royals. Despite these changes, Kumar Sangakkara will continue in his role as Director of Cricket Operations for the franchise.

Dravid's return to the Royals is well-timed as the team begins planning for the mega auction. His association with the franchise is extensive; he previously captained the team in 2012 and 2013, and served as a team director and mentor in 2014 and 2015. Dravid's strong rapport with current Royals captain Sanju Samson, who came through the under-19 ranks under Dravid's mentorship, is expected to benefit the team.

Following his tenure with the Royals, Dravid played for Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) and later took up the role of head of the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. His transition to the Indian cricket team in 2021 culminated in the T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, ending India's 11-year wait for an ICC title.

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has embarked on a new venture, returning to the Indian Premier League (IPL) as the head coach of the Rajasthan Royals. After leading the Indian cricket team to victory in the T20 World Cup 2024, Dravid stepped down from his role as head coach to explore

## Pakistan's Historic Low Test Ranking After Series Loss to Bangladesh



Pakistan's cricket team has plunged to its lowest Test ranking in nearly 60 years following their unexpected 2-0 series defeat to Bangladesh. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday that Pakistan has dropped from sixth to eighth in the Test rankings, marking their lowest position since 1965.

The downfall was cemented after Bangladesh secured a six-wicket victory in the second Test at Rawalpindi, clinching their first-ever series win against Pakistan. Prior to this series, Pakistan had been placed sixth, but the loss to Bangladesh has pushed them down two places in the 12-team table, now led by Australia, followed by India and England.

Notably, Pakistan's decline is also reflected in the individual rankings. Shaheen Shah Afridi,

previously ranked ninth among bowlers, has fallen out of the top 10. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan remains the sole Pakistani in the top 10 batting rankings, while Babar Azam has dropped to 12th place after managing only 64 runs in the series.

The series opener saw Pakistan struggling against Bangladesh's aggressive play, resulting in a 10-wicket defeat. In the second Test, despite reducing Bangladesh to 26/6, Pakistan could not capitalize. Litton Das (138) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (78) rescued Bangladesh with a memorable 165-run partnership, leading to a dramatic turnaround. Bangladesh's bowlers, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana, delivered an inspired performance, dismissing Pakistan for 185 and sealing the match with a six-wicket victory.

## World Champion Sachin Khilari Secures Silver in Men's Shot Put (F46) at Paralympics

India's Sachin Sarjearo Khilari added another significant achievement to his illustrious career by winning a silver medal in the men's shot put F46 event at the ongoing Paralympics in Paris. On Wednesday, Khilari made a remarkable throw of 16.32 meters, setting a new Asian record and surpassing his previous mark of 16.30 meters, which he established while winning gold at the World Para-Athletics Championships in Japan earlier this year.

At 34 years old, Khilari showcased his exceptional talent and determination, achieving his best throw on his second attempt. His performance earned him the silver medal, while Canada's Greg Stewart successfully defended his Tokyo Paralympic gold with a throw of 16.38 meters. Croatia's Luka Bakovic secured the bronze with a throw of 16.27 meters.

This silver medal marks Khilari's 11th medal in para-athletics at the current Games and adds to his impressive record, which includes a gold medal from last year's Asian Para Games in China. The F46 classification is designated for athletes with arm deficiencies, impaired muscle power, or restricted range of movement in the arms, competing while standing. Khilari, who has an impaired left hand, continues to demonstrate his exceptional prowess and resilience on the global stage. His performance not only reinforces his status as a world-class athlete but also highlights his significant contributions to Indian para-athletics.





## Sree Vishnu's Upcoming Film "Swag" Set for October Release

Sree Vishnu is gearing up to enthrall audiences with his latest film, \*Swag\*, directed by Hasith Goli, known for his work on \*Raja Raja Chora\*. With the shooting phase completed and post-production work in full swing, the film's release date has been officially set for October 4th. This strategic timing is designed to capitalize on the Dussehra holidays, ensuring minimal competition and maximizing audience reach.

The release of \*Swag\* has been highly anticipated, especially after the teaser received an overwhelmingly positive response from viewers. The film promises to showcase Sree Vishnu in a variety of roles, highlighting his versatility as an actor. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory, \*Swag\* aims to deliver a captivating cinematic experience.

Ritu Varma will star as the leading lady, complementing Vishnu's performance with her own dynamic portrayal. The supporting cast includes Meera Jasmine, Daksha Nagarkar, Saranya Pradeep, and Sunil, each playing pivotal roles that are expected to enhance the film's narrative depth.

The strategic release of \*Swag\* during the Dussehra holidays is a move designed to attract large audiences, as the film will not face significant competition during its opening week. This timing, coupled with the film's buzz and star-studded cast, sets the stage for a successful theatrical run.

As fans eagerly await its release, \*Swag\* is poised to be a significant addition to Sree Vishnu's filmography, promising an engaging and diverse viewing experience. The film's blend of unique characters and strategic release planning is expected to make a notable impact in cinemas.



## "Joker: Folie à Deux" Unveils Arthur Fleck and Harley Quinn in the World



Fans eagerly awaiting the return of Joaquin Phoenix as Arthur Fleck, the iconic Joker, and Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn can now enjoy a fresh glimpse of the upcoming film, \*Joker: Folie à Deux\*. The makers have released a striking new poster showcasing the duo outside the confines of Arkham Asylum, contrasting with the previously seen trailer footage, which predominantly featured scenes within the asylum walls. The new poster, set against a clear sky, bears the intriguing tagline, "The world is a stage."

The promotional material also includes a caption stating, "No longer unnoticed."

*Joker: Folie à Deux* – only in theaters and IMAX, October 4. #JokerMovie #FilmedForIMAX." This announcement marks the latest in a series of reveals as the film's release date approaches.

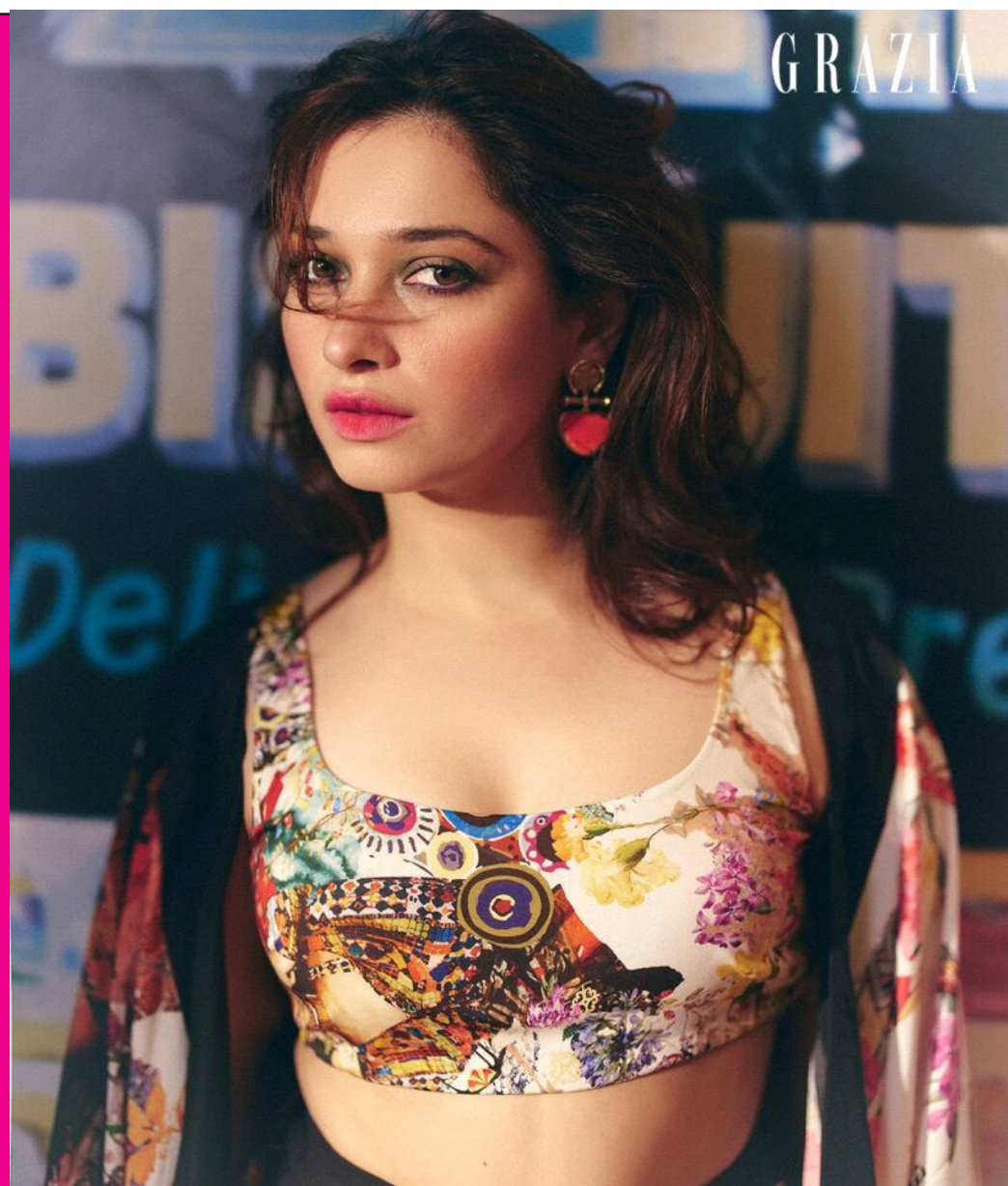
The film, directed by Todd Phillips, continues the story from the critically acclaimed 2019 \*Joker\*, exploring further the complex relationship between Arthur Fleck and Harley Quinn. With the anticipation building, the poster offers a tantalizing preview of what's to come, heightening excitement for its theatrical and IMAX release on October 4, 2024. Fans can look forward to an immersive

## Tamannah Bhatia Shines on Grazia Cover, Prepares for Odela 2

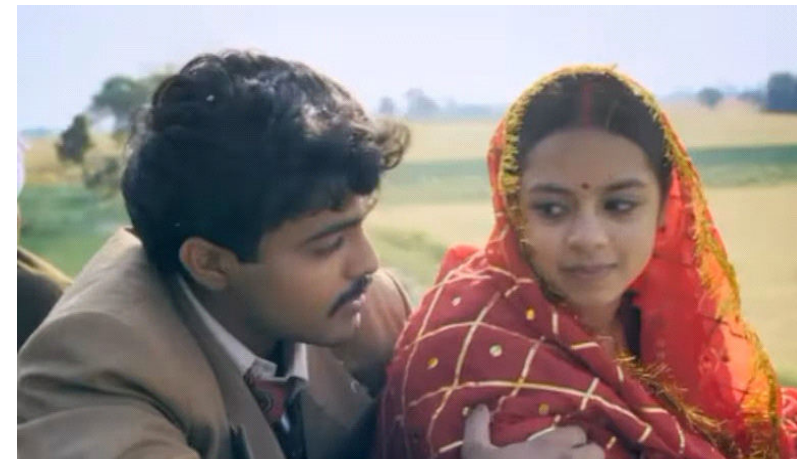
Tamannah Bhatia graces the latest cover of Grazia magazine, stunning fans with her radiant beauty and elegance. Adorned in traditional attire featuring stylish palazzos, Tamannah brings a vibrant and festive touch to the shoot with her colorful ensembles. Her appearance exudes grace, capturing the essence of timeless beauty.

The actress is currently generating excitement for her forthcoming project, "Odela 2." Known for her dynamic performances and ability to bring memorable characters to life, Tamannah's role in "Odela 2" is highly anticipated. Her fans are eager to see her embrace a new character and continue showcasing her remarkable talent.

Tamannah Bhatia's cover shoot and her upcoming film highlight her enduring appeal and versatility, making her a standout figure in the entertainment industry.



## Laapataa Ladies Set to Release in Japan Next Month

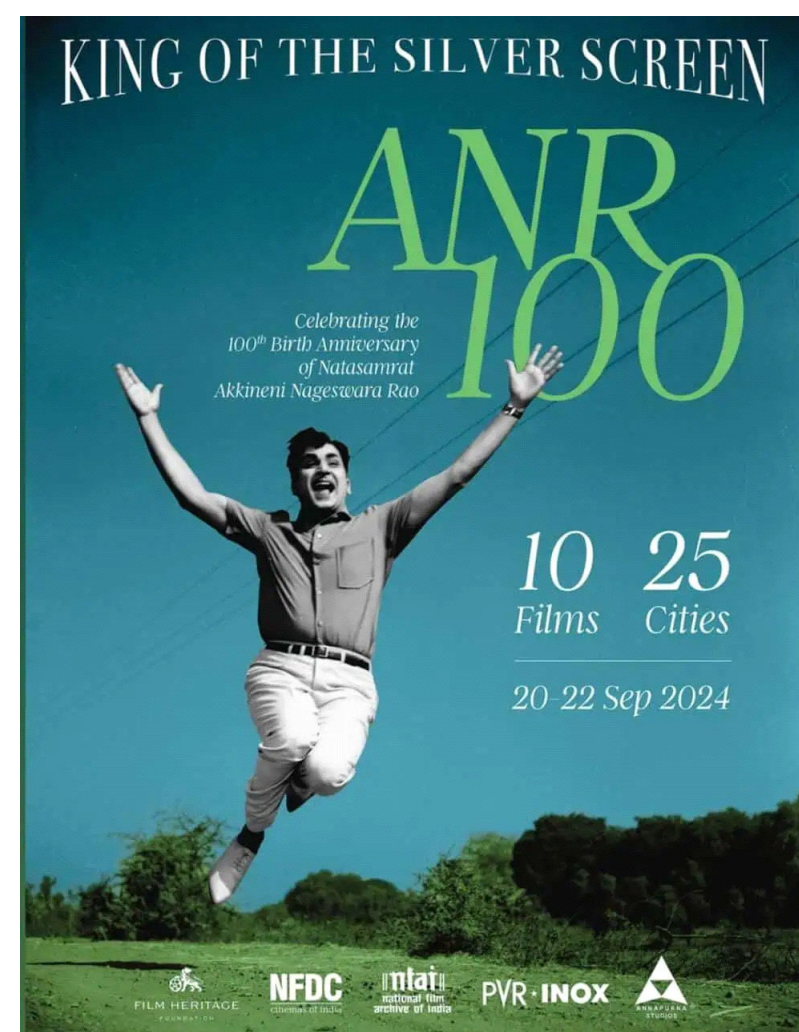


*Laapataa Ladies* is making an international splash with its upcoming release in Japan. Director Kiran Rao shared the exciting news on Instagram, announcing that the film will hit Japanese theaters starting October 4, 2024. In her post, Rao shared a snippet from the film and expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "Laapataa Ladies will be found in Japan from October 4, 2024. We are so excited for our theatrical release in Japan by Shochiku, Japan - arigato gozaimasu."

The film, which delves into rural India, tells the compelling story of two brides who become separated during a train journey, leading to a series of dramatic and intricate events. *Laapataa Ladies* captures the essence of its setting while weaving a narrative that explores themes of separation and adventure.

Produced by Aamir Khan Productions in collaboration with Kindling Productions, *Laapataa Ladies* features a talented cast including Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Nitanshi Goel, Ravi Kishan, and Chhaya Kadam. Each actor brings depth to the story, contributing to the film's rich portrayal of its characters and their journeys.

The Japanese release marks a significant milestone for the film, extending its reach beyond Indian audiences and introducing its unique storyline to a global audience. With Shochiku handling the release in Japan, *Laapataa Ladies* is poised to make an impact in the international film circuit.



## ANR 100 – King Of The Silver Screen Film Festival

September 20, 2024, marks the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary South Indian actor, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, fondly known as Natasamrat. In honor of this milestone, the Akkineni family, in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation, is hosting a special retrospective film festival titled "ANR 100 – King Of The Silver Screen."

This festival, organized in partnership with NFDC – National Film Archive of India and PVR-Inox, will feature a curated selection of ten restored classic films starring ANR. Running from September 20 to 22, 2024, the festival will span 25 cities across India, including major metropolitan areas like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru, as well as smaller cities such as Vadodara, Jalandhar, Rourkela, Warangal, Kakinada, and Tumkur.

Film enthusiasts will have the unique opportunity to witness ANR's extraordinary range and powerful performances on the big screen. The festival will showcase landmark Telugu films such as \*Devadasu\* (1953), \*Missamma\* (1955), \*Mayabazar\* (1957), \*Bharya Bharthalu\* (1961), \*Gundamma Katha\* (1962), \*Doctor Chakravarthi\* (1964), \*Sudigundalu\* (1968), \*Prem Nagar\* (1971), \*Premabhishekam\* (1981), and \*Manam\* (2014).

Each film has been meticulously restored to ensure the highest quality experience, allowing audiences to relive the magic of ANR's performances as they were meant to be seen. This retrospective is not just a celebration of ANR's illustrious career but also a tribute to his enduring legacy in Indian cinema.