

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 28 °C

L 23 °C

VIJAYAWADA

H 30 °C

L 26 °C

TIRUPATHI

H 34 °C

L 26 °C

JUST NOW

Deadly Mpox outbreak hits Iowa prison, infecting multiple inmates; virus spreads through close physical contact.

New Zealand increases tourist tax by 200%, raising levy from NZ\$35 to NZ\$100, supporting economy and conservation efforts.

The chargesheet against actor Darshan in the Renukaswamy murder case reveals 39 injury marks, including “shocks given to private parts.”

BJP’s first list for Haryana polls includes 67 candidates, featuring Chief Minister; Nayab Singh Saini to contest from Ladwa.

INSIDE..

PAGE 02

Support for Flood Victims: Generous Donations Pour In

PAGE 03

Asaduddin Owaisi Condemns Communal Violence in Asifabad

PAGE 04

Traffic Advisory for Ganesh Idol Transportation: September 5-7

PAGE 05

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

PAGE 06

Yogi Adityanath and Akhilesh Yadav Trade Barbs Over ‘Bulldozer Justice’

PAGE 07

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

PAGE 08

SEBI Dismisses Claims of Toxic Work Culture as “Misguided

PAGE 09

China’s Chip March is A Growing Concern for the US

PAGE 10

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

PAGE 11

Ishan Kishan’s Duleep Trophy Plans Disrupted by Injury

PAGE 12

Sree Vishnu’s Upcoming Film “Swag” Set for October Release

KCR in farmhouse, KTR in Britain, Congress slams absence during floods

B. Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized KCR and KTR for their absence during Telangana's flood crisis.

TPCC working president accused KCR of confining himself to his farmhouse.

He praised Y.S. Jagan for effectively fulfilling the role of opposition leader.

TPN, Telangana:

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President, B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, has criticized Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) and his son K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for their absence during the recent flood crisis in Telangana. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, Mahesh accused KCR of isolating himself in his farmhouse while KTR was vacationing in Britain, instead of addressing the ongoing disaster.

Mahesh pointed out that while Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and other ministers were actively engaged in relief efforts for flood-affected areas, KCR was missing from the scene. He accused KCR of failing to offer guidance and support to those impacted by the floods. Further, he slammed KTR for making irrelevant comments on social media rather than addressing the concerns of the people.

Mahesh also recalled KCR's inaction during a previous flooding incident near MS Muktha area by Raj Bhavan, accusing him of neglecting his duties as the state's leader. He contrasted this with the current situation, where BRS leaders are criticizing Revanth Reddy for his handling of the flood crisis.

In addition, Mahesh praised Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for effectively fulfilling the role of opposition leader, highlighting the stark difference between Jagan and KCR's detachment during a critical time. He also alleged that KCR and KTR are more focused on safeguarding their accumulated wealth rather than addressing the needs of flood-affected citizens.

The Congress leader further expressed frustration with some media outlets, accusing them of biased reporting in favor of the BRS, while failing to highlight the negligence shown by KCR and KTR during the floods.

Jail for Extortionists

Hydra Commissioner Stern Warning



TPN, Telangana: Hydra Commissioner Ranganath has issued a strict warning against those exploiting the city's encroachment demolitions by extorting money in the name of HYDRA. As soon as complaints about encroachments on ponds and canals are received, HYDRA begins demolition work. However, some individuals have taken advantage of this by threatening builders and extorting money under the guise of having contacts within the HYDRA department.

Commissioner Ranganath emphasized that anyone caught engaging in such criminal

activities will be jailed. He acknowledged that instances of builders being threatened in the name of social work have come to his notice. He warned that HYDRA will not tolerate any attempts to misuse the department or intimidate others for personal gain.

Ranganath specifically warned government departments such as revenue, municipal, and drainage, as well as HYDRA officials, that threats in the name of HYDRA will not be tolerated. He mentioned that a person named Dr. Bandla Vipalaya Sinha from Aminpur had already been arrested for extorting money by posing as a social worker and threatening a local builder. The commissioner urged people to report such incidents to the local police station or the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to ensure that criminals do not exploit the system.

During an inspection in Jawahar Nagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, Ranganath discovered that several ponds, including the Indra pond in Ambedkar Nagar near the dumping yard, had been encroached upon. One of the illegal constructions identified was a farmhouse belonging to former mayor Mekala Kavva, which had been built without proper permits. Ranganath confirmed that HYDRA is investigating the issuance of such permits and that all illegal constructions, regardless of ownership, will be demolished.

'KCR can't be seen'

A flurry of posters in the city

TPN, Telangana: A wave of posters reading KCR cant be seen appeared across Hyderabad, targeting BRS leader and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) for his absence during the ongoing flood crisis in Telangana. The posters, which have caused quite a stir, criticize KCR for not being present to support the people who have twice given him power, especially as they suffer from the devastating floods. It remains unclear who is responsible for putting up these posters.

Telangana has been experiencing heavy rainfall in recent days, particularly in areas like the combined Khammam district, which has been severely impacted. The floods have caused significant destruction, with tens of people losing their lives, hundreds becoming homeless, and heavy crop losses reported in several districts, including Khammam.



KCR's absence during the crisis has drawn sharp criticism, especially from leaders of the ruling party, who argue that as an opposition leader, he should be visiting the flood-affected areas and providing support. While KCR has remained out of the public eye, BRS leaders like Harish Rao and others have actively visited the flood-hit areas and met with victims, raising questions about KCR's lack of visibility during such a critical time.



AP DCM Pawan Kalyan Backs Revanth Reddy's HYDRA Project

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's ambitious HYDRA project, aimed at demolishing illegal encroachments around Hyderabad, has become a nationwide topic of discussion. The initiative seeks to tackle the persistent issue of urban flooding during monsoons by clearing encroachments in sensitive areas, which have contributed to the inundation of public spaces. HYDRA has garnered widespread support from various



AP DCM Pawan Kalyan Backs Revanth Reddy’s HYDRA Project

continued from P-1

sectors, while also sending shockwaves through influential circles. Adding his voice to the growing support for HYDRA, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan praised Revanth Reddy’s bold move. He stated that HYDRA is a necessary step toward resolving a long-standing issue and that Andhra Pradesh may also consider a similar approach to address illegal encroachments, particularly in light of the recent floods in Vijayawada. Pawan emphasized the importance of acting early by preventing construction in buffer zones and not granting permissions to developers in sensitive areas.

Pawan Kalyan highlighted how Hyderabad has seen unchecked illegal constructions over the past few decades, particularly in ecologically vulnerable areas. He commended Revanth Reddy’s strict action against such buildings and suggested that the Andhra Pradesh government should follow suit to prevent future calamities. His comments have resonated with many, especially following the recent flooding in Vijayawada, where demands for stronger action against illegal encroachments have been growing.

HYDRA’s high-profile demolitions, including the razing of actor Nagarjuna’s N Convention in Hyderabad, have stirred public debate. Despite the controversy, several notable figures, including Pawan Kalyan, have come out in support of the initiative. His backing further solidifies HYDRA’s position as a crucial step in urban planning and flood prevention.

Sexual Assault Triggers Communal Violence in Asifabad; Shops Burned

TPN, Telangana: Communal violence erupted in Jainoor mandal of Asifabad district on Wednesday, September 4, following an incident involving the sexual assault of a tribal woman by an auto-rickshaw driver from the Muslim community. A 2000-strong mob took to the streets, targeting properties and shops belonging to the Muslim community. Videos circulating on social media show the mob freely vandalizing the market area with no local law enforcement in sight. The violence was triggered by an alleged sexual assault incident last week, in which the auto-rickshaw driver was accused of assaulting a woman from a tribal group. In protest, a bandh call was issued for Wednesday. However, the situation escalated as a large mob gathered and began attacking Muslim-owned properties in Jainoor, Asifabad.

Reports suggest that some local right-wing organizations may have played a role in backing the mob, leading to the widespread violence. Although Asifabad police were alerted and arrived at the scene, they struggled to control the large crowd. Reinforcements from nearby mandals and district headquarters were quickly dispatched to assist the overwhelmed local police. Senior police officials are en route to the area to oversee the situation and implement stronger security measures to prevent further violence. As tensions remain high, authorities are working to restore order and prevent the situation from escalating further.

CM Revanth Reddy Thanks Prabhas, Ram Charan for Donations to Telangana Flood Relief



TPN, Telangana: In the wake of the devastating floods that have affected millions across Telangana, film stars and public figures have stepped forward with generous donations to aid the victims. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has expressed his gratitude to several top celebrities who contributed to the relief efforts.

Among the prominent donors, actor Prabhas announced a donation of Rs. 1 crore, while Megastar Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan, and Allu Arjun each donated Rs. 50 lakhs. Additionally, Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu and Vice Chairperson of Heritage Foods, also contributed Rs. 1 crore to the relief efforts.

CM Revanth Reddy personally thanked

these individuals for their generosity, acknowledging the significant support they are providing during this crisis. He also praised the efforts of the Telangana government in aiding the flood victims.

Further donations poured in from the film industry and other public figures. Vyjayanthi Movies contributed Rs. 20 lakhs, young hero Sidhu Jonnalagadda donated Rs. 15 lakhs, and former Chief Justice of India, Justice NV Ramana, contributed Rs. 10 lakhs to the Telangana CM’s Relief Fund. CM Revanth Reddy expressed his appreciation for all those who stepped up to help during this difficult time, highlighting the collective effort to support the flood-affected people of Telangana.

Tornado Devastates Medaram Forests: Over 50,000 Trees Uprooted

TPN, Medaram: A recent tornado has caused extensive damage to the Medaram forests in Tadwai Mandal, Mulugu district, with more than 50,000 trees uprooted. The tornado struck on the 1st of this month, affecting a vast area of 200 hectares within the forest.

The tornado’s powerful winds, reaching speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour, resulted in significant destruction. In a three-kilometer stretch of the forest, towering

trees were toppled, leaving behind a scene of devastation. Local residents and officials who inspected the area were taken aback by the scale of the damage.

Forest department officials have launched a comprehensive investigation to assess the extent of the destruction and to determine the tornado’s impact on the ecosystem. The extensive tree loss is expected to have considerable effects on the local environment



and biodiversity.

Efforts are underway to evaluate the full scope of the tornado’s impact and to develop strategies for forest recovery and restoration.

Support for Flood Victims: Generous Donations Pour In

TPN, Telangana: 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.

Heavy Rain Alert Issued for Northern Telangana, IMD Warns of Thunderstorms



TPN, Telangana: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heavy rain alert for northern districts of Telangana as parts of the state continue to reel from the effects of recent floods. Districts likely to experience heavy rainfall on Wednesday include Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, and Mulugu. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for these areas, warning of potential isolated heavy rain.

In addition to heavy rain, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are expected to occur in districts such as Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial,

Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, and Mahabubabad. Several of these districts were already affected by heavy rains and floods over the past weekend.

Overnight rains from Tuesday into Wednesday intensified the situation, with districts like Siddipet, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Peddapalli, and Medchal Malkajiri receiving significant rainfall. Koheda in Siddipet district recorded the highest rainfall at 22.3 centimeters, followed by Abullapur in Nirmal with 19.8 centimeters.

Khammam and Mahabubabad, which were among the hardest-hit areas from

the previous downpours, continued to receive rain on Wednesday. Rains also persisted in the united Nalgonda district, which had been severely impacted by flooding.

The IMD has also issued a yellow alert for Hyderabad, forecasting light to moderate rain with occasional intense spells and gusty winds up to 30-40 kmph. The meteorological department warned of potential water pooling on roads, flooding in low-lying areas, and slippery road conditions in the city. Authorities have suggested limiting movement in affected areas and advised the Municipal Corporation to issue necessary warnings and advisories to ensure public safety.

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BRS Donates One Month’s Salary to Flood Victims

TPN, Telangana: Siddipet, September 4: In response to the severe flooding in Khammam district, which has caused significant hardship and a desperate need for essentials, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has stepped up to provide substantial support. Former Minister Harish Rao announced that BRS leaders, including MLAs and MLCs, will donate one month’s salary to aid flood victims.



Harish Rao, addressing the crisis, emphasized the gravity of the situation in Khammam, where the floods have led to widespread destruction. He noted that in such dire circumstances, human service equates to divine service, reflecting the party’s commitment to alleviating the suffering of those affected.

In addition to the salary donation, the councilors of Siddipet have pledged the same amount from their salaries. The BRS is coordinating significant relief efforts, with goods being dispatched from Siddipet to Khammam. Harish Rao announced that six trucks of supplies will be sent to the affected areas, and he called for additional contributions to bolster the relief operations.

On the same day, Harish Rao participated in a soil distribution event organized by the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samiti at Gandhi Square in Siddipet. He praised the Samiti’s nationwide service efforts, acknowledging their 13 years of dedicated work in the Manchu Hills region. Harish Rao highlighted the importance of environmental conservation, stating that distributing clay Ganeshas aligns with the goal of protecting nature. He stressed that spiritual activities and respect for the environment are crucial, emphasizing that Matti Ganapati (clay Ganesh) symbolizes the essence of spirituality and nature.

Harish Rao’s participation in the event and his announcement of the donation reflect the BRS’s active involvement in both immediate relief and long-term support for flood victims. The party’s efforts, combined with community contributions, aim to address the urgent needs of those affected by the floods and facilitate their recovery.

Minister Ponguleti Highlights Severe Flood Impact on Farmers



TPN, Khammam: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy visited the flood-affected areas in Khammam Rural and Nalakondapally mandals on Wednesday, providing a sobering update on the damage caused by the recent heavy rains. He reported that the floods have wreaked havoc across several districts in Telangana, including Mahabubabad, Mulugu, Nalgonda, and Khammam Bhadradi Kothagudem.

Ponguleti described the situation as unprecedented, noting that the failure of local streams and bends has exacerbated the flooding. The sudden surge in water levels has forced many residents to flee their homes and seek refuge on the roads. He stressed that this level of rainfall and flooding has never been witnessed before

in recent history.

The minister highlighted that the floods, which are expected to move through Khammam district from the Krishna River and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, have severely impacted crop fields. This has left farmers in a state of distress, with their livelihoods under severe threat. Ponguleti conveyed the deep suffering of the farmers, mentioning that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had visited the affected areas and was deeply shocked by the extent of the damage.

The state government is actively working to support the affected farmers. Ponguleti disclosed that Telangana has reported a total loss of Rs 5,438 crore to the central government and is advocat-

ing for the floods to be declared a national calamity. This declaration would facilitate access to additional funds and resources for relief efforts. The state is seeking similar support from the central government as provided to Andhra Pradesh in similar situations.

In addition to seeking federal assistance, Ponguleti assured that the state government is assessing the damage on the ground and providing urgent support where necessary. Civil supply officials have pledged to procure rain-damaged grains and ensure that farmers receive the support price for their produce. The government remains committed to standing by both the farmers and the general public during this crisis.

Minister Sitakka Reacts to Tornado Disaster in Medaram

TPN, Telangana: Minister Sitakka has responded to the recent tornado disaster in the Medaram area of Mulugu district, which caused significant damage to the local forest. While the tornado uprooted vast amounts of vegetation, she expressed relief that there was no loss of life.

Speaking from the Telangana Secretariat, Minister Sitakka held phone discussions with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), and local officials regarding the damage caused by the tornado, which affected 500 acres of forest land. She or-

dered a comprehensive inquiry into the incident, noting that thousands of trees had fallen to the ground.

Reflecting on her recent visit to the area, she remarked that she did not anticipate the level of devastation. The extent of the damage became apparent after an assessment was conducted with the help of drone cameras. The PCCF is preparing a detailed report following a visit to the site.

Sitakka expressed her gratitude that the tornado did not strike populated areas,

emphasizing that if it had hit villages, the destruction could have been severe. She attributed the near-miss to the blessings of local deities Samakka and Saralamma, whose protection, she said, ensured that people remained safe.

Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay have also called for special action to address the destruction of trees. They urged the central government to send special teams to investigate the causes of the tornado and to provide special funds for reforestation efforts in the affected areas.

Congress MLA Vemula Veerasham Files Complaint Over Police Misconduct

TPN, Telangana: Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veerasham lodged a formal complaint with Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad on Wednesday, September 4, expressing dissatisfaction with the conduct of police officials during his recent visit to Bhuvanagiri district. Veerasham, a member of the Dalit community, alleged that police failed to follow proper protocol during an event on August 30, where he was scheduled to meet state irrigation minister Uttam Kumar Reddy.



Veerasham, along with other party colleagues, was in the district to receive the minister, who was there to inaugurate various development works. However, the MLA claims he was stopped by police and prevented from meeting the minister, despite his status as an elected representative.

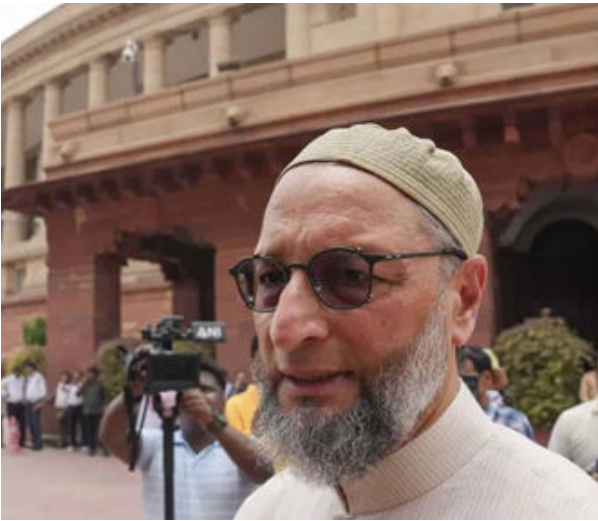
Holding the assistant commissioner of police (ACP) and deputy commissioner of police (DCP) responsible for the

incident, Veerasham voiced frustration over the lack of recognition and proper treatment by the police. He noted that two constables were suspended following the incident but emphasized that no legislator, particularly those from Dalit communities, should be subjected to such misconduct.

“The Speaker has assured us that he will conduct an inquiry into the protocol violation,” Veerasham told reporters. The incident has sparked concerns over the treatment of public representatives and adherence to proper protocol, particularly in relation to ensuring security and respect for legislators.

Asaduddin Owaisi Condemns Communal Violence in Asifabad

TPN, Telangana: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) President Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly condemned the recent communal violence in Telangana’s Asifabad district, where a mob of nearly 2000 people attacked properties belonging to the Muslim community. The violence, which erupted in Jainoor mandal, was reportedly triggered by the sexual assault of a tribal woman by an auto driver from the Muslim community.



Owaisi, who has consistently spoken out against violence targeting minorities, expressed his concern after receiving information about the attacks. The local police, though quickly dispatched, struggled to contain the large mob. Additional reinforcements were sent to the scene to restore order.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Owaisi confirmed that he had spoken with

Telangana’s Director General of Police (DGP), Dr. Jitendra, regarding the situation. “The DGP assured me that it is being monitored, additional forces are being sent, and action will be taken against those who take the law into their hands,” Owaisi wrote. He emphasized that those

responsible for the violence must be held accountable.

Owaisi, known for his vocal stance on issues affecting minorities, drew attention to the rising incidents of communal violence across the country. He criticized the emboldenment of right-wing groups and alleged covert support from the BJP, citing similar cases of violence against Muslims, including recent incidents in Maharashtra and Haryana.

In his remarks, Owaisi questioned the role of governments in failing to ensure the safety of all citizens, stressing that timely action against perpetrators could prevent further violence. His comments underscore the growing concern over the targeting of minority communities and the need for stronger measures to protect them from communal unrest.

Khammam Flood Relief Update: Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao Reports Progress

TPN, Khammam: Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao provided an update on the flood relief operations in Khammam during a press conference on Wednesday. He reported that significant strides have been made in addressing the aftermath of the recent floods.

Minister Nageswara Rao highlighted that flood relief efforts are progressing swiftly, with normalcy returning to the affected areas within just three days. The restoration of electricity has been completed, and a comprehensive cleanup of the roads is underway. The Minister confirmed that there have been no reported fatalities during this period of severe flooding.

A house-to-house survey is set to begin on Thursday to assess the full extent of the damage. Meanwhile, the Chetana Foundation and various voluntary organizations have been actively distributing food and essential supplies to

those impacted by the floods. Sanitation teams have been mobilized from neighboring districts, including Warangal and Nalgonda, to assist with cleanup efforts.

To support those who cannot cook due to the

flooding, meals and tiffin services are being provided. Additionally, relief supplies such as rugs, blankets, and oil packets are being distributed. Health camps are also being established to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases in the flood-affected areas.

Minister Nageswara Rao assured that the authorities are closely monitoring the situation along the Godavari River at Bhadrachalam and are prepared for any further developments. He expressed appreciation for the collective efforts of the community, voluntary organizations, and local authorities in managing the flood response and recovery efforts.

Traffic Advisory for Ganesh Idol Transportation: September 5-7

TPN Hyderabad : The city traffic police have announced a traffic advisory for Ganesh idol transportation from Dhoolpet area, effective from 7 am on September 5 until 10 pm on September 7. During this period, vehicles carrying Ganesh idols will be allowed to travel from MJ Bridge towards Gandhi Statue and Dhoolpet. However, other vehicles will be restricted from using the route between MJ Bridge and Puranapool from 7 pm to 6 am on September 5-7.

Heavy vehicles can only access the main entry point at Gandhi Statue, Puranapul, between 10 pm and 6 am, provided they present a purchase receipt. Sub-entry points for vehicles include Raheempura Road, Excise Office Lane, Balramgally Lane, Aramghar Colony, and Anitha Towers.

For exiting the area, five designated points have been

established: Shivalalnagar Road, Tappachabutra, Asifnagar T Junction, Boiguda Kaman, and Ghode ki Kabar towards Takkarwadi T Junction. Vehicles exiting via Boiguda Kaman should follow the route to Darussalam – Ek-Minar (Nampally) – Alaska Petrol Pump T Junction (Goshamahal) – MJ Market – Chatri – Bhoolaxmi Temple – Afzalgunj – Puranapul – Bahadurpura. Vehicles exiting from Syndicate Bank Agapura should use the same routes.

Jirra exit allows vehicles to proceed towards Karwan, Langerhouse, and Asifnagar. Additionally, vehicle entry into Dhoolpet market is restricted from the exit routes including Mallepally X Roads, Boiguda Kaman, Ek-Minar of Nampally, and Alaska Petrol Pump T Junction. Small vehicles are permitted to enter Dhoolpet Market at any time from the entry points only.



Telangana to Host Global AI Summit 2024: Focus on Innovation and Collaboration



TPN Hyderabad : The Telangana government is set to inaugurate the Global AI Summit 2024, themed “Making AI Work for Everyone,” on Thursday at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will lead the opening ceremony, marking the beginning of a two-day event aimed at positioning Telangana as a global innovation hub.

The summit will feature a central plenary alongside specialized tracks covering AI advancements, practical applications, and future prospects. Information Technology and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu will also be present. The event is expected to attract approximately 2,500 delegates from around the world.

Global AI experts, including Sal Khan of Khan Academy, Daniela Combe from IBM, and Peter Diamandis of the XPRIZE Foundation, will share their insights on AI’s impact across various sectors such as governance, technology, finance, and manufacturing. The summit will also include hackathons, live demonstrations, and startup showcases to highlight innovative projects and emerging technologies.

High-profile discussions, fireside chats, and interactive sessions will feature leaders from the World Bank, WHO, and NVIDIA. A significant highlight of the summit will be the introduction of Telangana’s ambitious AI City project, a 200-acre development near Hyderabad designed to foster collaboration between global tech giants and local talent.

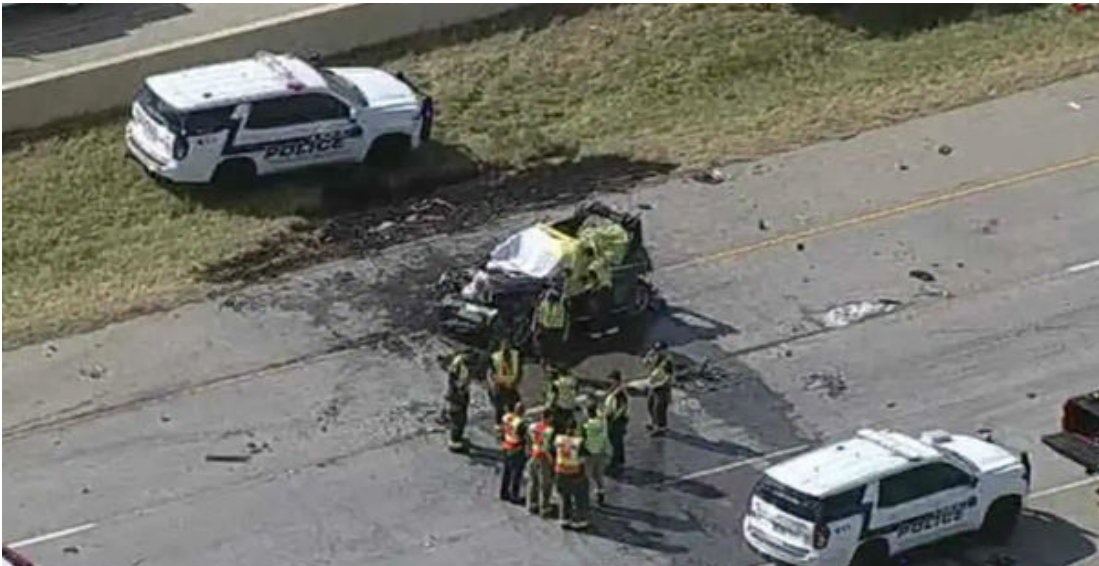
Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized, “The Global AI Summit 2024 is a critical milestone for the state, uniting leading experts to explore and advance artificial intelligence. This initiative demonstrates our dedication to innovation and places Telangana at the forefront of the global AI arena.”

Three Hyderabad Residents Among Four Killed in U.S. Accident

TPN Hyderabad : A devastating multi-vehicle accident on August 30 in Anna, Texas, claimed the lives of four Indian nationals, including two from Hyderabad. The victims have been identified as Aryan Raghunath Orampati, Farooq Shaik, Lokesh Palacharla, and Darshini Vasudevan.

The group was traveling to Bentonville, Arkansas, when their carpooling arrangement, made through an app, ended in tragedy. Aryan Raghunath Orampati, a resident of Bentonville, was returning home from a visit to Dallas. Lokesh Palacharla was en route to Bentonville to reunite with his wife, while Darshini Vasudevan, a recent Master’s graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington, was traveling to visit her uncle in Bentonville.

The accident, occurring around 3:30 PM, resulted in a collision so severe that the SUV burst into flames, complicating the identification of the victims. Authorities are now using DNA fingerprinting and dental records to confirm their identities, a process hindered by the extended holiday



weekend in the U.S.

Aryan Orampati, originally from Kukatpally, Hyderabad, had recently completed his engineering degree and planned to extend his stay in the U.S. for two more years before returning to India. His father, Subhash Chandra Reddy, is a business owner in Hyderabad. Farooq Shaik, who also hailed from Hyderabad,

had been living in Bentonville for three years while pursuing his Master’s degree and was a close friend of Aryan.

The families of the deceased are seeking urgent assistance from Indian authorities, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, to expedite the identification process and facilitate the repatriation of their loved ones’ remains to India.

Telangana Employees Pledge ₹100 Crore to Flood Relief from September Salaries

TPN Hyderabad : The Joint Action Committee (JAC), representing various Telangana employees including gazetted officers, teachers, workers, and pensioners, has committed to donating one day’s basic salary—totaling ₹100 crore—to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund to support flood relief efforts. They have requested that this amount be deducted from September salaries. JAC leaders have formally submitted this proposal to Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari.

The flood situation in Telangana remains dire due to recent heavy rainfall, leading

to widespread flooding and significant loss of life. As of the latest reports, at least 24 people have died, and over 47,000 individuals have been evacuated to relief camps.

Khammam district has been severely affected, with 110 villages submerged and many residents stranded on rooftops and hillocks, awaiting rescue. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued alerts for continued heavy rainfall in several districts, including Adilabad, Bhadradri Kothagudem, and Khammam. Thunderstorms and strong winds are

expected, although the intensity of rainfall is anticipated to decrease in the coming days.



Telangana Food Safety Task Force Raids Popular Hyderabad Restaurants



A task force from the Food Safety Department of Telangana conducted inspections at several well-known restaurants in Hyderabad. Raids were carried out at Niloufer Cafe, Raja Deluxe, and Haiku, revealing multiple violations.

At Niloufer Cafe in Banjara Hills, the team discovered expired cheese, Kashmiri paprika powder, and roasted peanuts in the kitchen area.

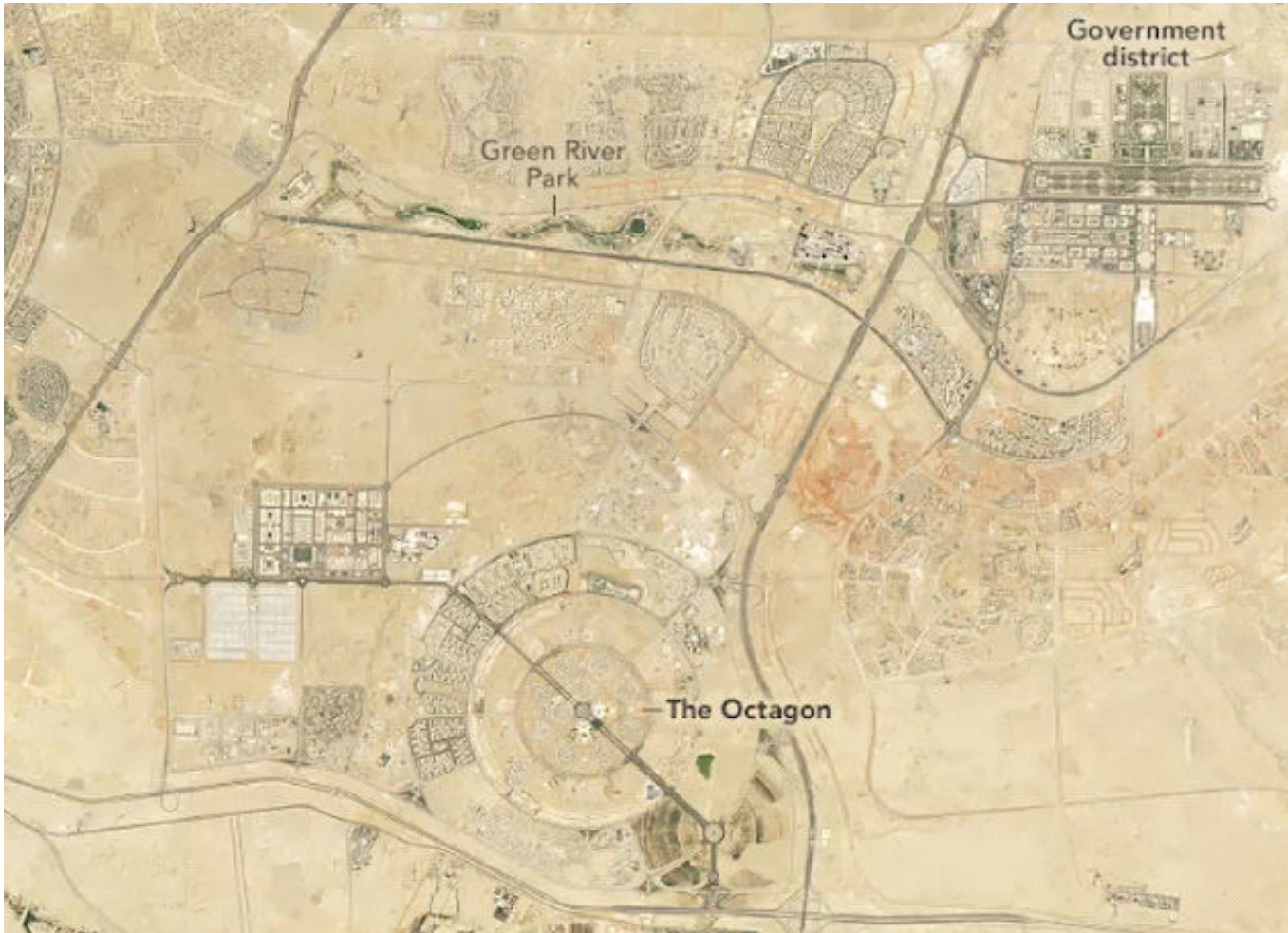
During the inspection at Raja Deluxe Restaurant, also in Banjara Hills, officials found stagnant water in the drains and noted that the doors and windows lacked insect-proof screens. Additionally, the refrigerator used for storing raw meat was found to be unhygienic, with vegetarian and non-vegetarian items stored together.

At Haiku, another popular Banjara Hills eatery, expired food items such as cumin seeds, black sesame, tamarind, and red lotus flour were discovered.

In addition to these restaurant raids, the task force has been inspecting other food establishments. Recently, they conducted a raid at Mithaiwala, a sweet shop located in Prashanti Nagar, Vanasthali Hills, Vanasthalipuram. The inspection revealed issues related to hygiene, food labeling, record-keeping, and expired food products. A show-cause notice has been issued to the sweet shop, and further actions are anticipated.

These raids are part of ongoing efforts by the Food Safety Department to ensure adherence to food quality standards across Hyderabad.

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.

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.

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.





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

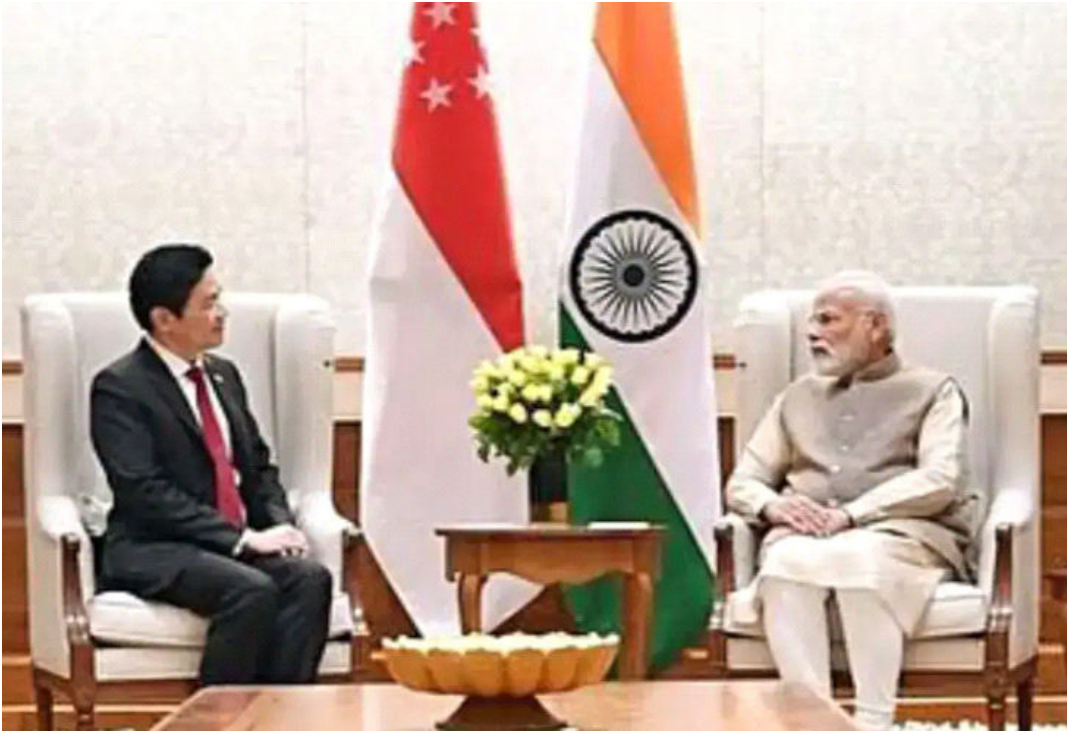
Sam Pitroda, a long-time confidant of the Gandhi family and Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, has described Rahul Gandhi as more intellectual and strategic compared to his father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Speaking at a media conference, Pitroda praised Rahul Gandhi as a "custodian 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 "bogus." 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 reinvigorate 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.



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 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 offered 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, aloo 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.

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.

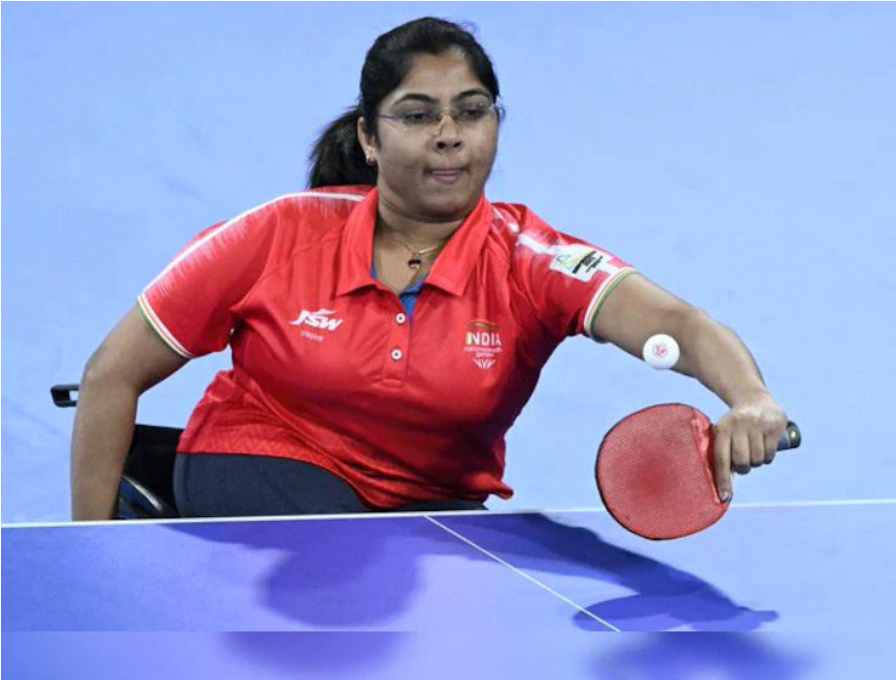
Bhavinaben Patel’s Paralympic Journey Ends with Quarterfinal Loss

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.



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

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.

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 Sarjerao 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

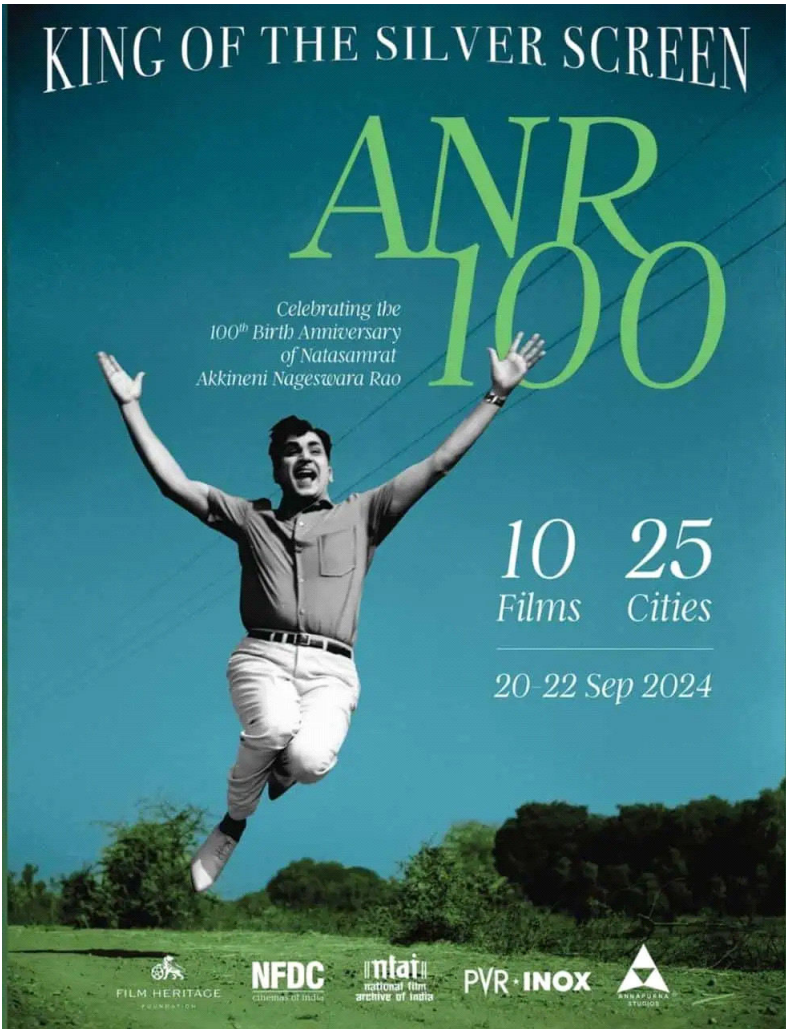
Sree Vishnu is gearing up to enthrall audiences with his latest film, *"Swag"*, directed by Hasith Goli, known for his work on *"Raja Raja Chora"*. With the shooting phase completed and post-production work in full swing, the film's release date has been officially set for October 4th. This strategic 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.



ANR 100 – King Of The Silver Screen Film Festival

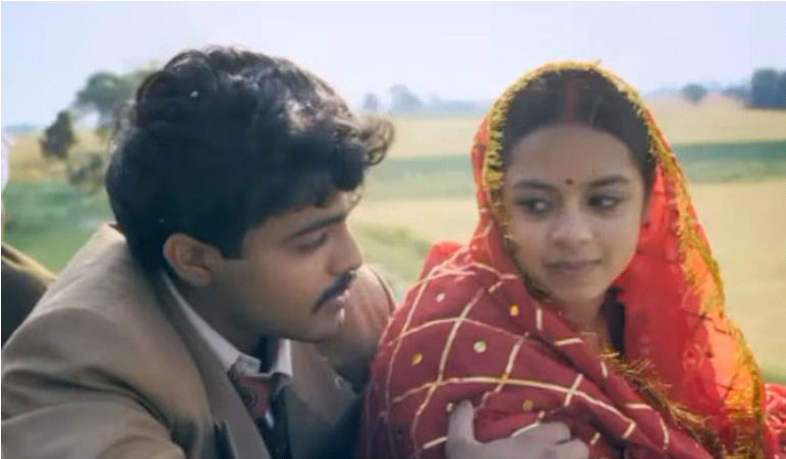
September 20, 2024, marks the 100th birth anniversary of the legendary South Indian actor, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, fondly known as Natasamrat. In honor of this milestone, the Akkineni family, in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation, is hosting a special retrospective film festival titled "ANR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

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.

"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.

