

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

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Ratan Tata

A Titan Laid to Rest with Reverence and Love

TPN, Mumbai: The city of Mumbai stands still, enveloped in grief, as it bids farewell to one of its most beloved sons, Ratan Naval Tata. The industrialist and philanthropist was laid to rest today with full state honours, a fitting tribute to a man whose vision and compassion have left an indelible mark on India and the world.

In a ceremony that brought together the country's most powerful politicians, esteemed celebrities, and leading industrialists, Ratan Tata's final rites were held at a crematorium in Worli, Mumbai. Dignitaries including Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde paid their respects, reflecting Tata's far-reaching influence across various sectors.

Earlier in the day, thousands gathered at the National Centre for Performing Arts, where Tata lay in state, wrapped in the national flag. His unassuming demeanor belied the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind. As crowds lined the streets, many took a moment to reflect on the life of a man who, despite his immense wealth, never flaunted it but used it to uplift others.

Born into a family that had long been synonymous with Indian industry, Ratan Tata redefined the Tata Group, steering it into a new era with audacious ventures and philanthropic endeavors. His bold decision to acquire luxury brands Jaguar and Land Rover symbolized India's ascent on the global automotive stage, while his commitment to social causes saw the establishment of a ₹165 crore animal hospital in Mumbai, showcasing his profound love

for all beings.

The outpouring of grief at his passing is a testament to his extraordinary character. Maharashtra has declared a day of mourning, reflecting the profound impact Tata had on the lives of countless individuals. N Chandrasekaran, Chairperson of the Tata Group, articulated the collective loss felt by many, stating, "It is with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to Mr Ratan Naval Tata, a truly uncommon leader whose immeasurable contributions have shaped not only the Tata Group but also the very fabric of our nation."

Tributes have flooded in from every corner of society, highlight-

ing the deep respect and admiration he commanded. Anand Mahindra poignantly expressed the sentiments of millions when he said, "I am unable to accept..."—words that resonate with a nation grappling with the loss of a guiding light.

Ratan Tata's humility, sincerity, and unwavering dedication to the greater good serve as an enduring inspiration. He was a beacon of hope in an often tumultuous world, reminding us all of the power of kindness and the importance of giving back. As Mumbai lays him to rest, the legacy of Ratan Tata—a titan of industry and an extraordinary human being—will continue to illuminate the path forward for future generations.

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu Pays Tribute to Ratan Tata

TPN, Mumbai: The business world mourns the loss of the legendary Ratan Tata, who passed away recently, with tributes pouring in from across the nation. The mortal remains of the renowned businessman were shifted to the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) at Nariman Point in Mumbai, where family, friends, and admirers gathered to pay their last respects.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, along with his son Minister Nara Lokesh, visited the NCPA to honor Ratan Tata's legacy. The Chief Minister expressed his deep condolences, acknowledging Tata's immense contributions to Indian industry and philanthropy. Chandrababu and Lokesh were seen alongside members of the Tata family as they approached the resting place of the esteemed businessman. In a poignant moment, Naidu laid a wreath at Ratan Tata's body, paying tribute to a figure who has significantly shaped the corporate landscape of India.

The atmosphere at the NCPA was filled with emotion as numerous celebrities, dignitaries, and ordinary citizens arrived to pay their respects. Many recounted stories of how Ratan Tata's vi-

sion and leadership inspired them, making him not just a business magnate but a beloved figure in Indian society.

As preparations for Ratan Tata's funeral take place, it has been announced that the ceremony will be conducted with official honors under the auspices of the Maharashtra government. The funeral will be a fitting farewell to a man whose impact extends far beyond the corporate world, touching the lives of countless individuals through his philanthropic initiatives and commitment to social causes.

Ratan Tata, who led the Tata Group for several decades, was instrumental in steering the conglomerate to new heights. His vision led to the introduction of groundbreaking projects and innovations, including the Tata Nano, aimed at making car ownership accessible to all.

As tributes continue to flow in from all corners, Ratan Tata's legacy will undoubtedly endure, serving as a guiding light for future generations in both business and community service. The outpouring of love and respect during this time reflects the profound impact he had on the nation and the world at large.

Central Govt Rebuffs 11 IAS Officers' Request

Orders Posting in Andhra Pradesh

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant move, the Central Government has rejected the requests of 11 IAS officers from the Andhra Pradesh cadre currently stationed in Telangana, ordering them to return to Andhra Pradesh immediately. Among the officials affected are GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata and IAS Ronald Ross, who had sought to remain in Telangana.

The Central Government issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, emphasizing that officers from Andhra Pradesh should serve in their home state and that their continued presence in Telangana is unnecessary. Furthermore, the order indicates that some officers currently in Telangana may be transferred to Andhra Pradesh.

This decision signals a potential shift in the administrative landscape between the two states, prompting discussions regarding the appointment of a new GHMC Commissioner to replace Amrapali Kata. The implications of this order raise questions about the stability of current postings and the future dynamics of governance in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The central authorities' stance reflects a broad-

er strategy aimed at streamlining administrative functions and ensuring that officers serve in their designated states. Stakeholders are keenly assessing the impact of this decision on local governance, especially within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

The Central Government's directive was communicated through letters sent to the Chief Secretaries of both states on October 9, detailing the officers required to report back to Andhra Pradesh. **The affected officers include:**

- Vakati Karuna, IAS, 2004
- Ronald Ross, IAS, 2006
- Vaniprasad, IAS, 1995
- Amrapali Kata, IAS, 2010
- Prashanthi, IAS, retired in November 2009

Additionally, there are mentions of transfers related to IPS officers, including:

- Anjan Kumar, IPS, 1990
- Abhilash Bist, IPS, 1994
- Abhishek Mahanty, IPS, 2011

As the situation unfolds, the impact of these changes on governance and public administration in both states will be closely monitored.



DCM Pawan Kalyan Donates ₹60 Lakh for School Playground in Mysurivaripalle

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has fulfilled his promise by donating ₹60 lakh from his personal funds to purchase land for a school playground in Mysurivaripalle, located in the Railwaykoduru mandal of Annamaiya district. The donation reflects his commitment to enhancing educational facilities for local children.

Pawan purchased an acre of land for the playground, which has been officially registered in the name of the Mysurivaripalle Panchayat. This initiative comes after he pledged to secure land during a Gram Sabha meeting held in Mysurivaripalle on August 23.

In a ceremony attended by Annamaiya District Collector Sridhar and Rajampet Sub-Collector Nidhiadevi, Pawan handed over the land documents to the Sarpanch of Mysurivaripalle. He urged local officials to expedite the establishment of the sports ground in the village.

During the Gram Sabha, concerned parents highlighted the lack of playground facilities for the local school. In response, Pawan promised to create a playground in time for the upcoming Dussehra festival. He emphasized that physical fitness is essential for the mental development of future generations, likening it to the achievements of athletes from around the world.

Pawan also indicated that this initiative is part of a broader plan to identify schools in the state without playgrounds and provide the necessary facilities. Prior to entering politics, he founded the “Pawan Kalyan Learning Center for Human Excellence,” an NGO aimed at offering educational, medical, and employment support to underprivileged students.

Additionally, he has encouraged local villagers to contribute to the project by seeking donations to cover the remaining costs of the playground. The community has expressed its gratitude for Pawan’s proactive approach in investing his own resources for their benefit.

AP Govt Empowers Priests with Self-Reliance

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step towards empowering priests by granting them self-reliance in temple affairs. On Thursday, the government issued key orders that enhance the authority of priests in performing their spiritual duties.

Under this new directive, senior district officers, including the Devdaya Commissioner, will no longer have the authority to interfere in Vedic duties. This decision limits the role of officials in conducting yagas, Kumbhabhishekams, pujas, and other religious services, allowing priests to take charge of their spiritual responsibilities.

According to the government’s order, priests now have the final say on all matters concerning their spiritual duties. Executive Officers (EOs) have the option to establish Vedic Committees if necessary, ensuring that the management of temple

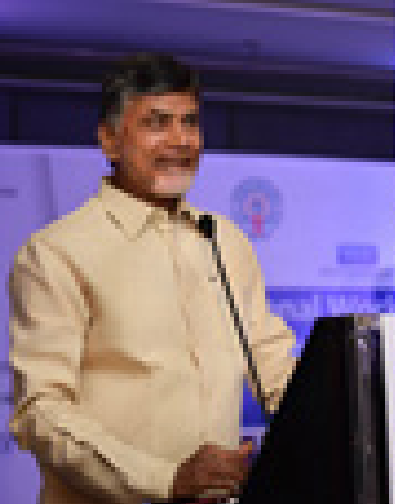


activities remains collaborative. In cases where there is no consensus on spiritual matters, priests may seek guidance from elder community members, reinforcing the traditional values of the temples.

This decision aligns with the principles outlined in the Agama Shastras, granting priests the flexibility needed to perform Vedic duties with autonomy and respect. The AP government’s initiative aims to enhance the dignity and authority of priests, ensuring that they can carry out their responsibilities without undue interference from government officials.

The move has been welcomed by the priest community, who see it as a recognition of their vital role in preserving and promoting spiritual practices in the state. By empowering priests, the government hopes to foster a more respectful and harmonious environment in temples across Andhra Pradesh.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Announced Good News to Farmer’s



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced significant measures aimed at supporting farmers as Dussehra approaches. His administration is committed to balancing development with welfare initiatives, particularly focusing on the agricultural sector.

Under Naidu’s leadership, immediate compensation is being provided to farmers who have lost their crops due to floods and other natural calamities. Recognizing the financial challenges farmers face, especially concerning loans, the government is ensuring that they receive timely assistance.

To support livestock farmers, the

government is offering loans for the purchase of fodder through the Pashu Kisan Credit Card scheme. This initiative allows farmers to secure loans for cattle fodder, and if the application follows the prescribed government guidelines, it will be guaranteed by banks.

Farmers must present essential documentation to access these loans, including a PAN card, Aadhaar card, farm passbook, two passport-sized photographs, and a certificate from a Veterinary Officer. For those with land, land-related documents must also be provided to the Veterinary Officer, who will attach them to the application.

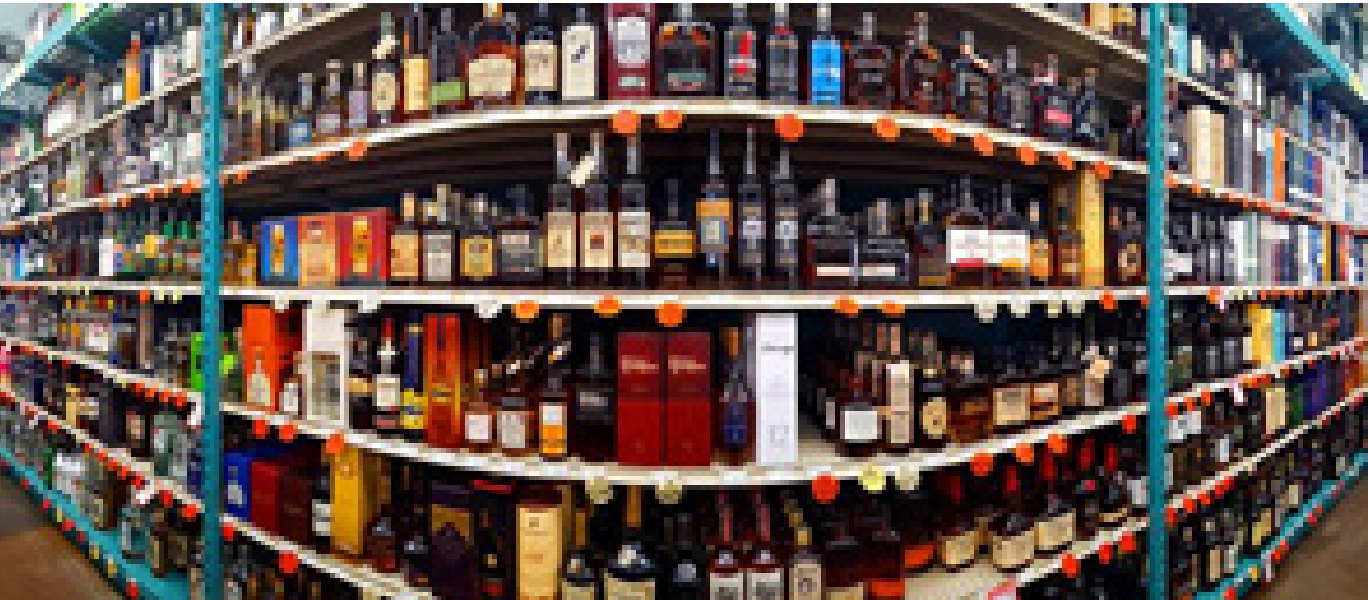
For farmers who do not yet have a Kisan Credit Card, the Chief Minis-

ter encourages them to reach out to their local Agriculture Department office to apply as per the guidelines. Once approved, these cards will facilitate access to bank loans. Additionally, regular monthly repayments can enhance loan limits.

The government is also providing subsidized loans to farmers engaged in drip irrigation, ensuring they have access to the necessary equipment and resources for efficient cultivation.

Chandrababu Naidu’s proactive approach aims to alleviate the financial burdens faced by farmers, reinforcing his commitment to their welfare and the agricultural sector as a whole.

Applications Are Received From Foriegn Countries For Liquor Shops In AP



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government’s newly introduced liquor policy has received an overwhelming response, with 57,709 applications submitted for liquor shop licenses by Wednesday night. This has brought in a significant revenue of ₹1,154.18 crore to the state treasury, thanks to the non-refundable application fee of ₹2 lakh per applicant.

With two more days remaining for applications, excise officials predict that the number could rise by an additional 40,000, potentially adding more revenue to the state’s coffers. This response highlights the high demand for liquor shop licenses under the new policy, which has been designed to streamline the allocation process.

The NTR district topped the list with the highest number of applications, receiving 4,420 applications, followed by Eluru with 3,843 and Vijayanagaram with 3,701. In a striking example, Vatsavai in NTR district saw 217 applications for just two liquor shops, underscoring the competitive nature of the process.

The state has a total of 3,396 liquor shops available, which will be allocated through a lottery system. This

transparent approach ensures fairness in the selection of shop owners from the large pool of applicants. The lottery process will be conducted soon, and the allocation of shops is expected to begin on the 16th of this month, when the new liquor policy officially comes into effect.

In an unexpected twist, applications have also been submitted from abroad. Excise officials reported that 20 applications were received from the United States, along with others from Europe. These online applications highlight the global interest in AP’s liquor business, driven by the state’s new policy.

Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Chaitanya Murali, expressed optimism about the entire process, noting that the substantial income generated from application fees would contribute significantly to the state’s revenue.

The state government, through this new policy, aims to ensure transparency, fairness, and efficiency in the allocation of liquor licenses, setting a new precedent for such processes in the country.

Jagan Calls for Return to Paper Ballots Following Haryana Election Results

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy made sensational comments regarding the recent election results in Haryana, suggesting that the situation mirrors the electoral challenges faced in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the X platform, Jagan expressed that the Haryana election outcomes are causing confusion among the public and emphasized the need for a return to paper ballots in elections.

“The results of another election are confusing public opinion. The Haryana election results are no different from those in Andhra Pradesh, where cases are pending in the courts. In a democratic country like ours, democracy should not only be strong but also developed. The only way to achieve both is to revert to paper bal-

lots,” Jagan stated.

Highlighting the practices of developed countries, Jagan pointed out that nations such as the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Germany, France, Japan, Norway, and Denmark continue to use paper ballots. He argued that transitioning to paper ballots would enhance voter confidence and urged lawmakers to take steps to instill that trust in the electoral process.

“Paper ballots increase voter confidence. It is time for us to move towards a system that is more transparent and reliable,” he added.



Jagan’s comments come amid ongoing discussions about electoral integrity and the effectiveness of current voting methods in India. His call for paper ballots reflects a growing concern about the credibility of election outcomes and the importance of maintaining public trust in the democratic process.

MP Keshineni Shivnath (Chinni) Comments On Jagan Reddy

TPN, Mangalagiri: TDP MP Keshineni Shivnath (Chinni) lashed out at former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of misusing public funds and neglecting flood victims. Speaking at a press conference at the Telugu Desam Party headquarters in Mangalagiri, Shivnath contrasted Jagan's lack of action with Chandrababu Naidu's efforts during the Vijayawada floods.



directly deposited Rs. 600 crore into the bank accounts of 4 lakh flood victims across the state.

Shivnath also pointed out that while the total flood damage was Rs. 7,600 crore, the government took steps to ensure no lives were lost. "Chandrababu worked 18 hours a day, installed 350 fire engines for cleaning, and helped restore 78,000 homes," he stated.

Shivnath noted that Chandrababu Naidu personally spent 12 days at the Collector's office, offering support to flood victims without food or rest. "Naidu went to every flooded street, consoling the people. Today, 98% of Vijayawada residents praise his flood relief efforts, acknowledging that the city recovered quickly because of his leadership," he said.

The MP criticized the ruling YSRCP government, referring to them as the "Paytm batch" and accusing them of spreading lies. He claimed that the coalition government under Chandrababu Naidu

In contrast, Shivnath alleged that Jagan Reddy misused public funds, spending Rs. 4,878 crore on unnecessary luxuries, including Rs. 3 crore on snacks like egg puffs. He also criticized the YSRCP government for providing insufficient financial aid to flood victims and weavers compared to the previous TDP government.

Shivnath concluded by thanking Chandrababu Naidu for his commitment to flood relief and called out Jagan's minimal 15-minute visit to flood-affected areas, accusing him of "death politics."

Jagan Emotional Comments on Mopidevi Exit

“Hardships Are Not Permanent”

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP Chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy made emotional remarks regarding the recent departure of party leader Mopidevi Venkata Ramana to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Speaking to party leaders in Raypalle, Jagan stated that hardships are never permanent, and light follows darkness, calling it a natural part of life.



Jagan expressed his disappointment over Mopidevi's decision, emphasizing that he had always treated Mopidevi well. "Even when Mopidevi lost as an MLA, I gave him a ministerial post. When the idea of abolishing the Legislative Council arose, I urged him not to resign and instead sent him to the Rajya Sabha, making history by giving a fisherman such an honor for the first time," Jagan said.

He further reminded the leaders that politics often comes with difficulties, but these challenges are not permanent. Drawing from his own experiences, Jagan shared how, despite his father being the Chief Minister, his family

faced numerous struggles. He recalled how political leaders united against him, false cases were filed, and he was imprisoned for 16 months. "I was harassed, but did the people not bless me as their Chief Minister afterward?" Jagan said emotionally.

Jagan urged Raypalle leaders to stay strong and remain committed to their values, adding that trustworthiness and character will always lead to success. "In the end, God is always on the side of those who stand for good," he concluded.

These comments come in the wake of Mopidevi's departure, a significant move in Raypalle politics, which Jagan addressed with a mix of personal reflection and political insight.

Ignore Syndicates in Liquor Shops

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Kollu Ravindra has advised against engaging in manipulations in the allotment of shops and warned not to succumb to political pressure. The authorities have been directed to ensure the entire process is transparent.



It is known that the tender process for liquor shops in Andhra Pradesh is ongoing, with an option to apply for shops both online and offline. The application fee has been fixed at Rs. 2 lakhs, and new liquor shops are set to open by the 16th of this month. However, there are allegations that syndicates are being formed to control ownership of the shops, and there are reports that MLAs are pres-

suring others not to participate in the tender process.

In this context, Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra has issued important instructions to the officers. The minister ordered that there should be no manipulation in the allocation of liquor shops. He emphasized that shops should be allocated without bowing to political pressure and that the application and allotment process must remain transparent. He also warned that those who cooperate with syndicates will not be tolerated. Officials have been instructed to assist those who come forward to apply for liquor shops.

Minister Narayana Has Reacted Strongly to The YCP Relay Protests

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Municipal Minister Ponguru Narayana has reacted strongly to the YSR Congress Party's (YCP) relay protests concerning the recent floods in Vijayawada. He accused the YCP of using the disaster for political gain and misleading the public.



Narayana pointed out that the floods in the Budameru region, following those in Diviseema, were a result of the previous government's negligence. "The previous administration failed to maintain canals and allocate necessary funds, leading to breaches in three locations along Budameru," he said.

The minister highlighted that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stayed in a bus for 10 days, personally overseeing relief efforts. "We brought boats all the way from Chandigarh by plane, and over 7,000 municipal workers were deployed in the flood relief operations. We also ensured there were no outbreaks of disease in the affected areas," Narayana explained.

He dismissed the YCP's claims, stating that people no longer believe in their leadership. "CM Chandrababu Naidu waded through knee-deep floodwaters in Bu-

dameru to assist the people. YCP's accusations and protests will not earn them a single seat in the next election," he remarked.

Narayana also assured that the government had been transparent about the flood relief expenditures. "We have provided all the calculations related to the flood costs. If YCP leaders want more details, they can apply under the RTI Act, and we will provide further information," he added.

The minister concluded by urging people not to be misled by the opposition's political stunts.

YS Sharmila Reddy Criticizes PM Modi and BJP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: APCC Chief YS Sharmila Reddy launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, accusing the ruling party of inciting hatred and dividing the country along caste and religious lines.



Addressing a public gathering, Sharmila Reddy said, "Prime Minister Modi sees everything through a jaundiced lens. The BJP is responsible for sowing hatred in this country, creating divisions between communities through divisive politics." She further criticized the party for what she termed "conspiracy politics," labeling BJP as the birthplace of communal strife.

In a fiery speech, Sharmila alleged that the BJP uses religion as a shield to rob the country, benefiting their wealthy friends. Referring to PM Modi's remark about Congress being

a "hate factory," she responded, "A thief calling others thieves is nothing but hypocrisy." She added that the BJP's narrow victory in Haryana felt like a near escape from disaster.

Despite recent electoral losses, Sharmila expressed confidence in

Congress's ability to unite the nation. "Even if Congress loses elections, the love we've planted in people's hearts remains. BJP must understand that this message of unity is turning into a movement."

She emphasized that Congress, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, is the only alternative to BJP and RSS's divisive agenda. "Modi spreads hatred, while Rahul spreads love. The 'Mohabat Ki Dukan' (shop of love) that opened in Jammu and Kashmir will soon spread across the country," she said, reiterating the slogan "Modi Hathao, Desh Bachao" (Remove Modi, Save the Nation).

Sharmila concluded by saying that the nation sees Rahul Gandhi as the future Prime Minister, and only Congress can ensure the development and welfare of all communities.

Shock to MLA Bala Nagireddy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Senior YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders from Mantralayam constituency dealt a significant blow to sitting MLA Bala Nagireddy by switching their allegiance to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). In a major political development, several key YCP leaders from Doddi Belagal village in Kosigi mandal, including Eediga Chinnabhima Goud, Eediga Chinna Muneyya Goud, Eediga Tirumalesh Goud, Eediga Nagaraju, Eediga Nagesh, and Eediga Thikkaiah, along with 200 others, joined the TDP.



The defectors were welcomed into the TDP by District President Tikka Reddy and senior TDP leader KE Prabhakar in Kurnool on Wednesday. During the event, the new members were symbolically inducted into the party by being

presented with TDP scarves.

TDP leaders, including Lakshmari Govind Goud, TDP Constituency President Salman Raju, Siddappa, SC Cell leader Basavalingappa, Ampiah, and Nagesh, also participated in the welcoming ceremony. This defection marks a significant loss for MLA Bala Nagireddy and the YCP in the Mantralayam constituency, as the leaders who defected were considered key figures in local politics.

TDP Will Not Tolerate Murderous Politics: Nageswara Rao Yadav

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: TDP State Secretary Y. Nageswara Rao Yadav strongly condemned the attack and killing of TDP leader Veeraswamy in Srikakulam district, allegedly by YSR Congress Party (YCP) goons. Addressing a gathering at TDP leader Lakshminarayana Yadav's residence on Wednesday, Yadav stated that the party will not tolerate such violent political tactics.

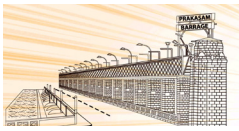


He accused the YCP of indulging in "murderous politics" over the past five years, terrorizing TDP leaders, workers, and even the public. Yadav remarked that the people, fed up with YCP's misrule and anarchy, have rejected the party in recent elections.

He also recalled that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had once protested in Delhi, claiming that there was no law and order in the state. "Ironically, it is the YCP leaders themselves

who are promoting a culture of violence and murder in politics," he said.

Other TDP leaders, including Mandal Party President Srinivasulu Yadav, Middepalli Govindu, former sarpanch Eswaraiah, Jayaramudu, and Ogla Sudhakar, were present at the meeting, where they expressed solidarity and called for an end to political violence in the state.



Minister Nadendla Manohar Announces Measures to Control Cooking Oil Prices



TPN, Vijayawada: In a proactive move to address rising cooking oil prices, Andhra Pradesh's Civil Supplies Minister, Nadendla Manohar, held a crucial meeting with cooking oil suppliers, distributors, Chamber of Commerce members, and traders at the Civil Supplies Commissioner's office.

During the meeting, Minister Manohar emphasized the importance of working together for the benefit of the people. He announced a decision to sell cooking oil at a uniform price, eliminating any differentiation that may have contributed to price disparities among

consumers. The Minister expressed concern over the fluctuations in cooking oil prices, which have significantly impacted households across the state. He called for collaboration among suppliers and distributors to ensure fair pricing and accessibility for all citizens. "Our goal is to stabilize the prices of cooking oil and ensure that it remains affordable for everyone," he stated.

Minister Manohar also encouraged stakeholders to adhere to the government's guidelines and cooperate with the Civil Supplies Department in monitoring prices effectively. By implementing these measures, the government aims to protect consumers from unfair pricing practices and ensure a steady supply of essential cooking oil in the market.

The initiative reflects the government's commitment to supporting the public amid rising costs and ensuring that essential commodities remain within reach for all families in Andhra Pradesh. Stakeholders welcomed the Minister's approach and expressed their willingness to collaborate in implementing these measures effectively.

Minister Narayana Received Public Requests at TDP Central Office



TPN, Vijayawada: Minister Narayana received numerous requests from the public during a meeting at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri. The session provided an opportunity for citizens to voice their concerns and seek assistance regarding various issues.

During the meeting, Minister Narayan engaged in discussions with officials over the phone to address the numerous applications presented by the public. He emphasized the importance of timely responses to the requests and ensured that the concerns raised would be taken seriously. To expedite the resolution process, the minister forwarded several applications to the respective departments for

further action. Among the applications were requests handled by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TIDCO), focusing on issues related to the allotment of houses and land.

Minister Narayan's proactive approach reflects the government's commitment to addressing the needs of the citizens and ensuring that their voices are heard in matters concerning housing and land allocation. As the session concluded, attendees expressed their gratitude for the minister's willingness to listen and act on their behalf, highlighting the importance of continued engagement between the government and the public.

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh Invited to Attend "Nari Shakti Utsavam"



TPN, Vijayawada: In a significant move to promote women empowerment, Tourism Managing Director Abhishikt Kishore, IAS, extended a formal invitation to State Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh to attend the "Nari Shakti Utsavam." The event is scheduled to take place from November 11 to 13 at Babburi Ground near Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada.

During a meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday morning, Minister Durgesh received the invitation and responded positively. The "Nari Shakti Utsavam," organized under the auspices of the State Tourism Department, aims to inspire spirituality and celebrate the achievements of women across various fields.

Abhishikt Kishore elaborated on the event's highlights, which will feature award presentations for women who have demonstrated exceptional talent. The three-day program will include Maha Harati, cultural performances, folk dances, art shows, and a handicrafts and food festival showcasing diverse national and international flavors, all set against the backdrop of the Krishna River.

The event will also include a spectacular drone show that narrates the history of the Dussehra festival and the significance of Goddess Kanakadurga, enhancing the spiritual atmosphere of the celebrations.

Notable attendees are expected to include the wives of Chief Ministers from both states, women ministers, public representatives, and senior officials from various services. Minister Durgesh expressed enthusiasm about participating in the program and sharing valuable insights with the audience.

The "Nari Shakti Utsavam" promises to be a landmark event celebrating women's contributions to society while fostering a spirit of empowerment and cultural richness.

Ex-PCC President Press Conference On Special Status

TPN, Vijayawada: In a press conference held today, former Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President and ex-Minister Dr. Sake Sailajanath emphasized the urgent need for special status for Andhra Pradesh, asserting that it is a rightful demand of the people of the state. He urged the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to prioritize this issue.

Dr. Sailajanath criticized the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, stating that it has led to loss of lives and should be halted. "Both the central and state governments are playing politics with critical issues. What has happened to



the special package promised to Andhra Pradesh?" he questioned.

Highlighting concerns over the current political climate, he denounced the focus on the Tirupati Laddu, accusing political leaders of engaging in diversionary tactics that detract from the state's development. "Instead of discussing the special status and package due to our state, they joke about it not being 'Kalti Laddu' with Modi. This

is unacceptable," he added.

Dr. Sailajanath further criticized the politics of caste and religion, stating that such tactics are harmful to the state's unity. He urged discussions on essential projects like Dugarajapatnam Port, the establishment of a Central University, and the Railway Zone. He also called for immediate recruitment by the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC).

Addressing concerns over higher education access, he accused the current regime of creating a conspiracy to deprive the common people of educational opportunities, stating, "Higher education should not be reserved

for those who can pay more."

He also expressed suspicions regarding the recent Haryana elections, suggesting possible rigging. "While exit polls favored Congress, the BJP emerged victorious. We demand transparency and a return to ballot paper voting; we do not trust EVMs," he stated.

The press conference was attended by notable figures including Mr. Kolanukonda Shivaji, Mr. Rajeev Ratan, Mr. Meda Suresh, Mr. Movva Mohan Rao, Mr. Borra Kiran, Mrs. Sheikh Khurshida, and Mr. Naraharashetti Narasimha Rao.

VMC Urges Staff to Enhance Vigilance for Dussehra Celebrations

TPN, Vijayawada: In preparation for the upcoming Dussehra Navratri celebrations, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra convened a teleconference review meeting with field staff on Thursday morning. The focus of the meeting was to ensure that all arrangements are in place to accommodate the high influx of devotees expected to visit the goddess in the coming days.

Commissioner Dhyanchandra emphasized the need for heightened alertness among the staff during this busy period. He instructed them to maintain cleanliness and sanitation and to ensure that there are no deficiencies in the drinking water arrangements, especially in kitchen areas.

"To facilitate a seamless experience for the devotees, it is essential that there are no issues with the arrangements," the Commissioner stated. He directed officials to regularly monitor the stock of drinking water and ensure that



facilities are consistently available without interruption. An hourly reporting system was established to keep track of the availability of drinking water points. The Commissioner also highlighted the importance of maintaining temporary toilets, instructing officials to ensure they are cleaned regularly to provide a hygienic environment for the devotees. Officers and staff were ordered to remain in their designated areas and diligently perform their duties throughout the celebrations.

Additionally, Dhyanchandra stressed the importance of continuous monitoring of sanitation management, instructing staff to promptly dispose of waste left by devotees in the queues.

As the Dussehra celebrations approach, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring a safe and pleasant experience for all attendees, reflecting their dedication to public service and community well-being.

Chain snatcher Halchal in Kondapally

TPN, Vijayawada: A chain-snatching incident on Thursday sent shockwaves through Kondapally town when a thief snatched a chain from a woman named Annapurna as she was walking through Kummari Bazaar.

Locals quickly sprang into action, pursuing the thief, who was apprehended at the Main Bazar near the 6 Pump Center. In a show of community spirit, the villagers detained the suspect and, after retrieving the stolen chain, returned it to Annapurna. Upon learning of the incident, the Ibrahimpatnam police were notified; however, no officers were available at the station at the time. Undeterred, the locals took matters into their own hands and escorted the thief to the police station to ensure he faced appropriate consequences for his actions. This incident highlights the community's vigilance and prompt response to crime in the area. Residents expressed relief at the quick resolution, emphasizing the importance of unity in combating criminal activity in their town.

MLA Sujana Choudhary Visited Durga Temple in Vijayawada

TPN, Vijayawada: West Constituency MLA Sujana Choudhary paid a visit to the beautifully decorated Goddess Durga as part of the ongoing Dussehra Sharannavaratri celebrations. During her visit, she presented silk clothes to the deity, showcasing her devotion and respect for the traditions of the festival.



etiquette, highlighting the significance of the occasion.

Officials and temple staff warmly welcomed MLA Choudhary with traditional temple

In her comments, Srijana Choudhary assured the public

that comprehensive arrangements had been made to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for devotees attending the festivities. "We have

made complete arrangements for the Dussehra Sharannavaratri without any difficulties for the devotees," she stated.

Reflecting on the festivities, she noted, "For the past seven days, the celebrations have been held in the most magnificent manner." This year marks the first Dussehra celebrations since the alliance came to power, making it a significant occasion for the local government.

Choudhary emphasized the steps taken to create a more inclusive environment for all devotees, stating, "We have taken steps towards making a big pedestal for common devotees. Actions have been taken to ensure that ordinary devotees do not suffer due to VIPs."

She also mentioned plans to discuss a comprehensive temple master plan with higher officials to facilitate the com-

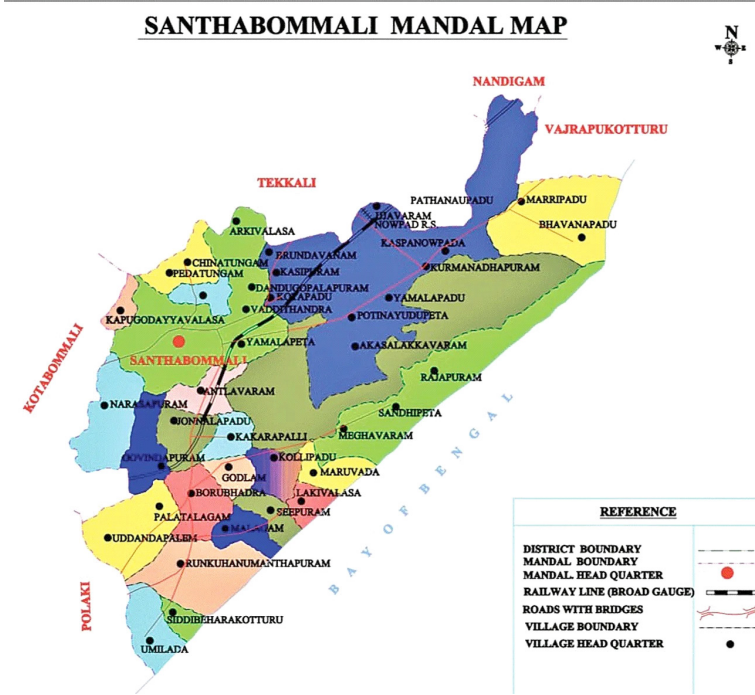
pletion of necessary improvements. "We will make better arrangements next year," she assured, promising continued enhancements for future celebrations.

As the festivities continue, the MLA's commitment to the welfare of the devotees and the improvement of temple facilities reflects the government's dedication to community engagement during this important cultural event.

2,500-Acre Industrial Park Proposed Near Mulapeta Port in Tekkali

TPN, Tekkali: Tekkali Division is making strides towards industrial development within a four-kilometer radius of the Mulapeta Port. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has proposed the establishment of a 2,500-acre industrial park, following the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the port construction, which has an estimated investment of ₹4,361.91 crores.

Previously, 1,272 acres of land in the Kakrapalli area of the Santhabommali mandal were allocated to APIIC for a thermal power plant. However, the corporation has requested an additional 1,363 acres. In response, revenue officials have expedited proposals regarding the additional land, which includes 416.30 acres in the Kollipadu region,



263.92 acres in Kakrapalli, 580.45 acres in Meghavaram, and 102.12 acres in Maruvada. The total land identified

comprises 878.18 acres of private land, 195.95 acres of government land, and 288.66 acres of assigned land.

The construction of the port and the proposed industrial park is expected to create substantial job opportunities in the region, addressing local unemployment issues. State and central ministers, including K. Ramamohan Naidu and K. Achenna Yadav, have expressed optimism that the industrial park will significantly boost employment prospects.

APIIC General Manager Muralimohan noted that while they already possess 1,272 acres, they are actively working with revenue officials to secure the additional land close to the Mulapeta Port. The efforts to establish this industrial park mark a significant step forward in enhancing industrial infrastructure in the area.



Farmer Family Protests Against Land Encroachment and False Charges

TPN, Madnapalle: Madnapalle Town witnessed a poignant protest by a farmer family demanding justice over allegations of land encroachment and wrongful charges against them. The family gathered in front of the local sub-collectorate on October 9, voicing their grievances.

Amara Narayana, a farmer from Vempalle village, along with his son Srinivasulu, expressed their frustration after two individuals reportedly encroached upon their land and home in Bandakadapalle. Despite filing complaints with revenue and police officials for the

past five years, they claimed that no action has been taken to address their plight. Instead, the individuals they reported have allegedly filed false SC/ST atrocity cases against them.

During the protest, Narayana and Srinivasulu highlighted the dire situation, stating that if justice is not served, they may have no choice but to resort to extreme measures. The family was joined by relatives Mamata, Padma, Mahesh, and Deshanth, all rallying for their cause. They called upon authorities to take immediate action to rectify the situation and uphold their rights.



Green Signal for Irrigation Society Elections in Andhra

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government has officially announced the elections for irrigation societies, set to begin on October 16 and continue until November 24. Farmers are expressing their joy over the upcoming electoral process.

The government sector was significantly neglected, leading to the decline of both major and minor irrigation systems. The current coalition government's decision to hold these elections has been met with enthusiasm from the farming community.

Originally, the elections were scheduled for the first week of last month, but were postponed due to the impact of recent cyclones on relief operations. With the situation stabilizing, the government has shifted its focus back to conducting these elections. The notification was released by the Commissioner of CAD on Wednesday night.

Elections for the territorial constituencies will take place on October 16, 17, and 18, followed by the distribution committee elections on October 19, 20, and 21, and project committee elections on October 22, 23, and 24. District collectors and SE-level officials will oversee the electoral process, including voter lists, appointment of election officials, and training sessions.

During the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government, the irri-

In the district, minor irrigation covers 128,990 acres and major irrigation covers 32,981 acres. For minor irrigation, elections will be held for 2,430 TCs across 405 societies, with each society allowed to elect six representatives.

Under the Vamsadhara Main Left Canal, there are 148,230 acres under cultivation in various mandals including Hirananthalam, Saravakota, Jalumuru, and others. Elections will be conducted for 47 societies in this area, with 12 members to be elected for each society, totaling 564 representatives.

Additionally, in the region served by the Main Right Canal, 43,276 acres are under irrigation in mandals like Hirananthalam, LN Peta, and others, though specific details for TCs in this area are yet to be announced by officials.

Development Blossoms in Villages Under New Coalition Government

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the coalition government is witnessing a resurgence of development in villages after many years of neglect. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is actively promoting village initiatives, stepping up efforts for rural infrastructure improvements.

With a budget of ₹71.15 crores, a total of 976 projects are set to enhance rural facilities, including cement roads, drainage systems, and BT roads, all targeted for completion by December. The government plans to kick off the "Village Festival" on October 14, celebrating these new developments.

During the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime, village panchayats were



largely ignored, with promises of development often unmet. Essential resources and funds allocated by the central government were misappropriated, leaving panchayat funds depleted and local leaders struggling even to maintain basic ser-

vices.

The current coalition government is reversing this trend, reinvigorating village panchayats with new funding and resources. Starting October 14, the "Village Festival" will feature various de-

velopment activities across 562 panchayats, aiming to complete all roadworks by the Sankranti festival, creating a festive atmosphere in rural areas.

The budget allocation includes ₹56.72 crores for 12.65 km of cement roads, ₹7.90 crores for 140 km of BT roads, ₹3.62 crores for 24 km of WBM roads, and ₹2.85 crores for compound walls for 43 schools.

The distribution of projects includes 203 in Maidukuru, 278 in Kamalapuram, 213 in Badvel, 89 in Pulivendula, 116 in Jammalamadugu, 48 in Proddatur, and 29 in Rajupalem, totaling 976 projects. With 955 already underway, the government is on track to complete all remaining works during the upcoming festival period.

Granite Quarry Protests in Kotnabilli

TPN, Kotnabilli: In Kotnabilli, local tribal communities have vehemently demanded that no permissions be granted for granite quarries that destroy natural resources. They warned of significant protests, even risking their lives, if their requests are ignored. Tribal associations and CPI leaders have expressed solidarity with the protesters.



On October 9, a public meeting was held to gather opinions regarding a request from Ashrita Enterprises for granite quarrying on 3.219 hectares at Nagulakonda. The meeting, conducted by RDO V.V. Ramana and Environmental Department officials, aimed to discuss the

potential benefits and concerns of the quarrying project.

Initially, RDO Ramana explained the purpose of the meeting, urging locals to voice their objections and queries about the quarry. An environmental officer sug-

gested that the quarry could provide employment opportunities and contribute to local development through initiatives like tree planting, drinking water facilities, and medical services. However, this statement was met with immediate backlash from the tribal attend-

ees.

The villagers raised concerns, stating that since 2012, permissions for 14 quarries had been granted without tangible benefits to the community. They demanded accountability for how much DMF (District Mineral Fund) had been allocated to their panchayat and questioned the officials on the promised services that had not materialized.

Tribal leaders emphasized that the roads had been devastated by quarry operations, rendering them impassable for emergency vehicles and contaminating drinking water sources, leading to health issues.

Lawyer Files Complaint Against Sakshi Newspaper for Inciting Hatred

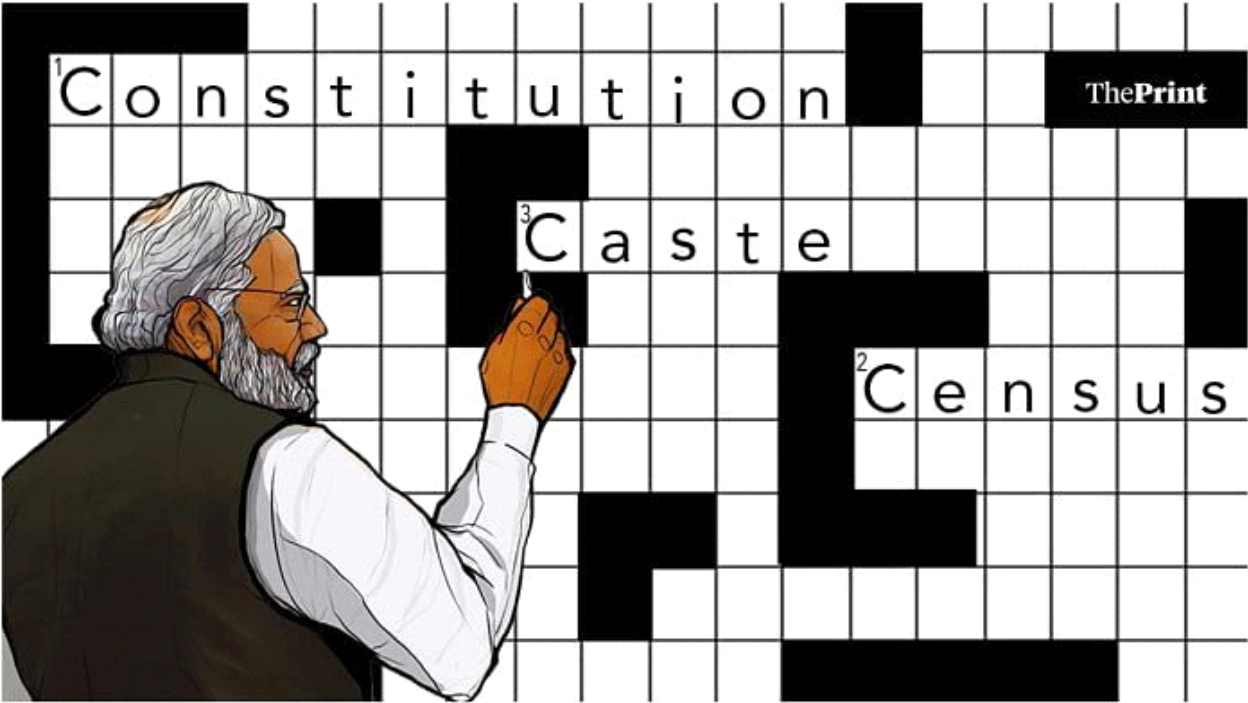
TPN, Vijayawada: A lawyer from Vijayawada, Gootapati Lakshmi Narayana, has lodged a complaint at the Patamata Police Station against the Sakshi newspaper, claiming that its published articles are fostering animosity and division among the public. He expressed his concerns over the newspaper's tendency to publish misleading reports that incite unrest.

In his complaint, submitted on Thursday, Lakshmi Narayana stated that the Sakshi newspaper is misleading the public and allegedly has motives to provoke disturbances in the peaceful state of Andhra Pradesh. He accused the newspaper of spreading false narratives and creating discord, particularly targeting leaders of the YSR Con-

gress Party (YSRCP).

He urged police authorities to investigate the content of the newspaper and take legal action against it, emphasizing that the articles published on October 8, 2024, contained nothing but lies. He argued that swift action against those disseminating false information could prevent further incidents.





The Census and the BJP's '3C' Challenge

The recent focus on the long-overdue Census in India has sparked significant political discussions, particularly around three critical themes: caste, coalition, and the Constitution. As the Modi government prepares for the decennial Census of 2021, these "3Cs" reveal underlying tensions in Indian politics that have emerged over the past decade.

Historically, the Census has been a routine affair, but its delay highlights a shifting political landscape. The Modi administration, which initially thrived on the perception of being a champion for backward and lower castes, is now grappling with the resurgence of caste-based politics. This shift became evident with the recent backlash against lateral entry into civil services, leading to a swift reversal of the policy in response to public outcry, particularly from opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi.

ularly from opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi.

The BJP's strategy has traditionally included a focus on OBC representation, but recent electoral setbacks in key states have forced the party to reconsider its approach. With caste coalitions reemerging and Muslim voters remaining largely untouchable in political strategies, the BJP is wary of appearing elitist and detached from the needs of lower castes.

Moreover, the impending Census could become a double-edged sword. For the first time in decades, the BJP may be compelled to include a caste box, a move that would respond to opposition demands but also risk reinforcing narratives of caste-based division. This potential shift underscores the growing importance of caste in contemporary politics, as traditional coalitions realign in response to electoral pressures.

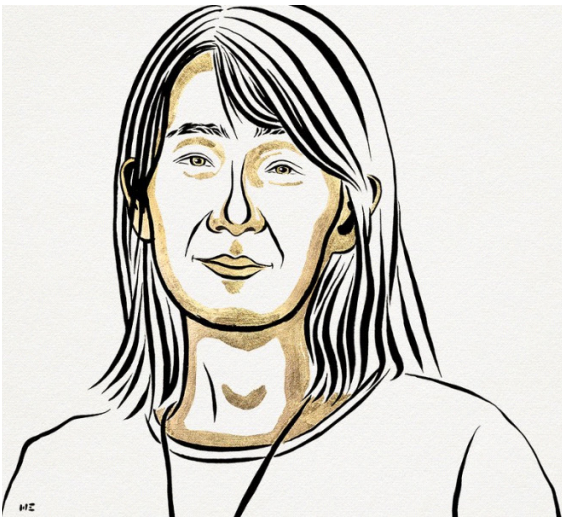
tional coalitions realign in response to electoral pressures.

Additionally, the Constitution, often viewed as sacrosanct, is now under scrutiny. The Modi government's ambitions for major amendments appear to have waned, especially as the idea of a supermajority fades. A reluctance to engage in constitutional reforms without broader consensus reflects a changing dynamic where political realities may demand cooperation rather than unilateral action.

In summary, as the Census approaches, the BJP must navigate the intricate web of caste politics, coalition dynamics, and constitutional considerations. Failure to do so could hinder governance and further complicate its electoral strategies, revealing that the political landscape is anything but routine.

Han Kang First Asian Woman to Win Nobel Prize for Literature

South Korean author Han Kang has been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize for Literature, recognized for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life," according to the Swedish Academy. At 53, Kang has been publishing critically acclaimed works in South Korea since 1995, gaining international fame with her novel "The Vegetarian." Originally released in 2007 and translated into English in 2015, the book won the International Man Booker Prize the following year.



Kang's narratives often center around female protagonists who grapple with feelings of isolation and the constraints imposed by South Korea's strict social norms. Her win marks a significant moment in literary history, as she is the first Asian woman to receive this prestigious award and only the second Korean laureate, following former President Kim Dae-jung, who was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for his activism.

The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded by the Swedish Academy since its establishment in 1786 by King Gustav III. The Academy, composed of 18 members known as "De Aderton," includes distinguished Swedish writers, linguists, and scholars. Despite its long-standing reputation, the Academy has faced criticism for the lack of diversity among

its laureates, particularly concerning the underrepresentation of women and authors from outside Europe and North America. Out of 120 laureates, only 17 have been women, with eight awarded in the past two decades.

Kang's recognition follows the accolades received by other contemporary authors, including Norwegian playwright Jon Fosse and French writer Annie Ernaux, who was celebrated for her critical insight. Kang's win not only highlights her exceptional literary talent but also represents a step toward greater inclusivity in a historically male-dominated field.

BJP's Struggles in J&K Highlight Congress's Ongoing Challenges

The recent election results in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir reveal a complex political landscape for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Historically, the BJP has partnered with regional parties like the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Kashmir and the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) in Haryana. However, both these alliances have crumbled, with the JJP failing to secure any seats and the PDP seeing its representation plummet from 28 to just three seats.



In Jammu & Kashmir, while the BJP claimed all 29 seats in the Jammu region—benefiting from a 2022 delimitation that added six seats—it faced outright rejection in the Kashmir valley. The party's strategy to foster new political groups and undermine traditional parties like the National Conference and PDP ultimately did not yield the anticipated results, as it failed to win a single seat in the valley. The electorate's decision highlights a firm stand against both the BJP and its allies, suggesting a deepening divide between the Jammu and Kashmir regions.

On the flip side, the Congress Party's performance raises alarms. Despite increasing its vote share in Haryana, it could only secure six out of 32 seats in Jammu & Kashmir, half of its previous tally. Internal divisions within

the party were evident, particularly in Haryana, where factional disputes hindered effective campaigning. The Congress's reliance on Jat votes proved detrimental, as even strongholds like Panipat fell to the BJP.

The election outcomes pose a significant challenge for both the BJP and Congress. While the BJP solidifies its base in Jammu, it faces rising discontent in Kashmir. The Congress's losses could diminish its relevance in the Union Territory, while the BJP's retention of Haryana, despite visible anti-incumbency, may bolster its confidence for upcoming elections in states like Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

Ratan Tata: A Lasting Legacy for Jamshedpur

For Jamshedpur, March 3 is not just another day; it's Founder's Day, celebrating Jamsetji Tata's legacy. This day held a special significance for many families, including mine. Every year, my mother would wake me early, and we would head to the Tata Steel plant, where cultural programs, tableau displays, and cake awaited. It was during these events that I first encountered Ratan Tata. Dressed in a simple shirt and trousers, he would make his way to the stands to shake hands with ordinary employees and their children, sharing chocolates and smiles.

Over the years, the bond between the Tata family and the city deepened. For many, Tata was not just a name but a symbol of identity and pride. In homes, portraits of Jamsetji Tata shared space with deities, reflecting the reverence the community held for the family.

When Ratan Tata took over the Tata Group, he inherited a legacy at a time when the Indian economy was transforming. Yet, he remained committed to the values of respect and care that defined the Tata brand. His recent passing has evoked a deep sense of loss among the people of Jamshedpur, many of whom feel a personal connection to him.

His leadership was marked by a focus on community welfare, ensuring that employees received housing, health-

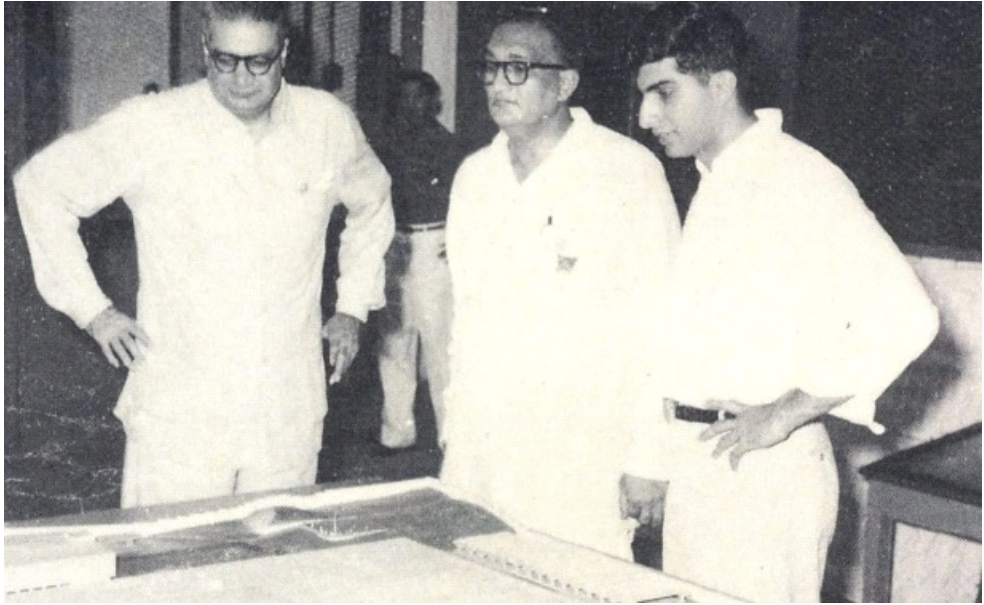


care, and educational opportunities. My own family's journey reflects this legacy; my father worked at Tata Steel, and the support provided by the company helped us secure a brighter future.

Even during challenging times, such as workforce reductions, Tata chose humane solutions like the Early Separation Scheme, demonstrating his commitment to employees. His absence leaves a void, but his impact on Jamshedpur and its people will be felt for generations.

sence leaves a void, but his impact on Jamshedpur and its people will be felt for generations.

As I reflect on his legacy, I remember the man who took the time to connect with us on Founder's Day. Ratan Tata may not have had a traditional family, but he leaves behind a city that cherishes him. As he departs, we, the Tata kids, will always wave back in gratitude. Thank you, Sir.



Caste Equations Shape New Haryana Cabinet as BJP Focuses on Governance



Haryana: Following a historic third consecutive election victory, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now focused on forming the new government in Haryana, with a keen eye on balancing caste equations within its cabinet. The party's 48 newly elected MLAs are set to meet to discuss the cabinet formation, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and central leadership playing crucial roles in the decision-making process.

Chief Minister-elect Nayab Singh Saini has already received a mandate for a second term, leaving 13 cabinet positions open. The BJP will need to select 11 new faces, as only Mahipal Dhanda and Mool Chand Sharma have retained their seats from the previous government.

Caste dynamics in Haryana are complex, with the BJP now holding nine Dalit MLAs, eight with Punjabi origins, seven Brahmins, and six each from Jat and Yadav communities. Notably, the party has representation from Gurjars, Rajputs, Vaishyas, and OBCs as well.

Among the prominent Dalit MLAs are Krishna Lal Panwar and Krishna Bedi, both potential candidates for cabinet positions. Anil Vij, a seven-time MLA and former Home Minister, adds another layer of intrigue; having previously expressed dissatisfaction over leadership decisions, his position may complicate party dynamics.

The BJP's strategy will also involve key players from the Ahirwal region, where six MLAs represent a significant voter base. Rao Narbir Singh, a six-time MLA, and Aarti Rao, the daughter of a veteran minister, are in contention for positions.

The Jat community, one of Haryana's largest demographics, also has influential voices vying for cabinet spots. Mahipal Dhanda is expected to be retained, while newcomers like Shruti Chaudhary, the daughter of a party MP, could make their debut in governance.

Savitri Jindal, India's richest woman and an independent MLA from Hisar, has recently pledged her support to the BJP, positioning her as a likely candidate for a cabinet role.

Other potential appointees include representatives from various communities, such as Shyam Singh Rana for the Rajputs, Harvinder Kalyan for the Road community, and Ranbir Gangwa for the OBCs, who previously served as Deputy Speaker. Rajesh Nagar, a two-time MLA, may represent the Gurjar community.

As the BJP navigates these intricate caste equations, its cabinet choices will likely reflect both political strategy and the necessity of addressing community demands, setting the stage for the new government in Haryana.

Gautam Adani Tops Forbes Rich List 2024 as Biggest Dollar Gainer

Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, has emerged as the biggest dollar gainer in the 2024 Forbes India Rich List, with his family's net worth skyrocketing to \$116 billion. Alongside his brother Vinod, Adani added an impressive \$48 billion to his wealth, representing a remarkable 71 percent recovery from last year's short-selling attack.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, also saw significant gains, with his wealth increasing by \$27.5 billion to reach \$119.5 billion. This 30 percent rise makes him the second-largest dollar gainer, bolstered by a recent bonus share issue as a Diwali gift to investors.

This year marks a historic milestone as the combined wealth of India's 100 richest individuals surpassed the trillion-dollar mark for the first time. Over 80 percent of these tycoons are wealthier than last year, with 58 individuals adding \$1 billion or more to their fortunes. The top five collectively gained nearly \$120 billion, showcasing a robust economic environment.

Savitri Jindal, matriarch of the OP Jindal Group, rose to third place for the first



time. Among newcomers is Mahima Datla, head of the vaccine manufacturer Biological E, adding to the ranks of India's wealthiest women.

Other notable newcomers include B Partha Saradhi Reddy of Hetero Labs, Harish Ahuja of Shahi Exports, and Surender Saluja of Premier Energies. Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries climbed three spots to fifth place, driven by rising demand for dermatological treatments.

The 2024 list highlights a dynamic shift in wealth across various sectors, reflecting the transformative power of entrepreneurial success in India's flourishing economy.

“We Live In People’s Hearts”: Atishi Responds to Eviction Row Amid AAP-BJP Tensions

New Delhi: The political clash between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) intensified on Thursday as Delhi Chief Minister Atishi addressed her alleged eviction from the chief minister's residence previously occupied by Arvind Kejriwal. Atishi criticized the BJP, asserting that their actions reflect a desperate attempt to undermine her government.

AAP claims that Atishi was evicted just two days after moving in, igniting a political firestorm. “If they want to keep the bungalow, they are welcome to do so. We did not come into politics to live in big cars and big bungalows; we live in people's hearts,” she emphasized.

Her remarks included allegations of ‘Operation Lotus,’ which suggests that the BJP engages in tactics to destabilize rival governments. “The BJP is worried because it cannot defeat us in elections,” she stated.

The Chief Minister's Office alleged that this eviction marks a historical first, claiming the BJP pressured the Lieutenant Governor to forcibly remove Atishi's belongings. However, sources in the Lieutenant Governor's of-



fice countered that Atishi had not been officially allotted the bungalow.

The BJP also claimed that Kejriwal had not completely vacated the residence. As tensions rise, the implications of this eviction row for the AAP's standing ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections remain uncertain, underscoring the ongoing struggle between state and central authorities.

Omar Abdullah Set to Become Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir: The National Conference (NC) has officially secured a majority in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, bolstered by the support of four independent MLAs—Pyare Lal Sharma, Satish Sharma, Choudhary Mohammed Akram, and Dr. Rameshwar Singh. This alignment brings the NC's total to 46 lawmakers in the 90-member House, surpassing the majority mark.



retaining just three seats compared to its previous 28.

This development signifies a major shift for the Congress party, which has transitioned from a junior coalition partner to a marginal player, finishing with only six seats. The NC's newfound majority allows it to govern independently, significantly diminishing Congress' influence.

In the recent election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) initially won 29 seats, later increasing its count to 32 through alliances with other independents. In contrast, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), led by former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, suffered a dramatic decline,

Omar Abdullah was unanimously elected as the legislative party leader during a meeting of NC MLAs, positioning him to become the next Chief Minister. This outcome aligns with the expectations set by his father, party patriarch Farooq Abdullah.

The election results defied exit poll predictions of a hung Assembly, providing a glimmer of hope for the NC while deepening Congress's troubles, particularly amid criticism from allies in the INDIA bloc. As political dynamics evolve, the NC's governance will be closely monitored in the months ahead.

Shantanu Naidu: The Youngest GM Who Earned Ratan Tata’s Trust and Friendship

Ratan Tata, renowned not only for his business acumen but also for his philanthropic efforts, formed a notable bond with Shantanu Naidu, his general manager and trusted aide. This relationship has garnered significant public attention, especially following Tata's passing in Mumbai at the age of 86.

Who is Shantanu Naidu?

Naidu, a dynamic 29-year-old, first gained national recognition when a video of him celebrating Tata's birthday went viral. Despite not having children, Tata embraced Naidu as a close confidant, treating him like a son. Naidu joined Tata's team in May 2022 and quickly became a key figure in his inner circle.

Originally from Pune, Naidu holds an engineering degree from Savitribai Phule Pune University and an MBA from Cornell University. He began his career as an automobile design engineer at Tata Elxsi, where he initiated an in-



novative project aimed at protecting stray dogs from traffic accidents. His design of reflective collars to enhance the visibility of dogs at night caught Tata's attention, leading to an invitation for a meeting that marked the beginning of their profound friendship.

Beyond his role with Tata, Naidu is an entrepreneur. He founded Goodfellows, a startup that offers companionship services to senior citizens, a venture valued at approximately ₹5 crore. Tata's investment in this initiative further solidified their close relationship and showcased Tata's support for Naidu's entrepreneurial spirit.

Tata's passing signifies the end of an era for Tata Sons, a conglomerate synonymous with India's industrial growth and commitment to philanthropy. Naidu's journey alongside Tata reflects the values of mentorship and trust that characterized their relationship, leaving a lasting impact on both their lives and the legacy of Tata Sons.

PM Modi Visits Laos for Key Summits and Bilateral Meetings



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on a two-day official visit to Laos, scheduled for October 10-11, to participate in the annual ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit. This visit comes at a time when India's "Act East" policy is gaining significant momentum, emphasizing New Delhi's commitment to fostering closer ties with Southeast Asian nations.

Upon his arrival in Laos's capital, Vientiane, Modi will meet with his counterpart Sonexay Siphandone, who currently chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The agenda includes the 21st ASEAN-India Summit, which aims to assess the progress of India-ASEAN relations under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and to outline future cooperation pathways.

In addition to these summits, PM Modi is set to engage in several bilateral meetings with heads of state from ASEAN member countries, highlighting the

importance of strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. His vision for the region includes the SAGAR initiative—Security And Growth for All in the Region—demonstrating India's focus on collaborative growth and security.

The Ministry of External Affairs noted that the East Asia Summit provides a platform for leaders to discuss pressing regional issues, fostering an environment of strategic trust. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of India's Act East Policy, reflecting a decade of deepening ties through enhanced trade, investment, and defense cooperation. Notably, it commemorates significant diplomatic milestones with several countries, including 75 years of relations with Indonesia and the Philippines, and 60 years with Singapore.

PM Modi's visit underscores India's commitment to strengthening its role in Southeast Asia and enhancing cooperation with regional allies.

U.S. to Hold Referendums on Abortion Rights Alongside Presidential Election

As the U.S. approaches the presidential election on November 5, at least ten states will hold referendums on abortion rights, with questions appearing on the same ballots as the presidential vote. This marks a significant moment in the ongoing debate over abortion access following the Supreme Court's 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which left states to determine their own abortion policies.



Abortion rights have become a pivotal issue, impacting nearly half of the U.S. population and raising fundamental questions about individual liberty protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The upcoming referendums aim to enshrine reproductive rights at the state level, potentially reversing restrictions that have emerged since the court's ruling.

Key battleground states like Arizona, Florida, and Missouri are among those holding votes. In Arizona, voters will decide on Proposition 139, which aims to protect abortion access until fetal viability. Florida, currently limiting abortion to six weeks, will consider extending this period to about 24 weeks,

though the amendment must secure 60% of the vote to pass.

Missouri's referendum proposes allowing abortion until fetal viability in a state known for strict bans. Nebraska will feature two competing propositions: one advocating for the right to abortion until fetal viability and another imposing a ban after the first trimester.

Other states, including Colorado, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, and New York, are also set to vote on measures to safeguard or enhance abortion access. These referendums not only reflect the changing landscape of reproductive rights but also serve as a litmus test for voter sentiment ahead of the presidential election.

US Warns Israel Against Gaza-Like Actions in Lebanon Amid Ongoing Conflict

The United States has issued a stern warning to Israel to refrain from military actions in Lebanon that resemble the destructive tactics used in Gaza. This message came in light of escalating tensions, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated that ongoing operations could lead to significant devastation in Lebanon.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller emphasized, "There should be no kind of military action in Lebanon that looks anything like Gaza and leaves a result anything like Gaza." This statement reflects the Biden administration's concern over civilian casualties, particularly in densely populated areas such as Beirut. President Joe Biden conveyed these concerns directly to Netanyahu during a phone call, urging him to "minimise harm" to civilians.



The Israeli military, led by Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, remains committed to aggressive actions against Hezbollah, stating they will continue to target the militant group without respite. Since the start of intensified operations on September 23, the conflict has resulted in over 1,200 deaths, primarily among Hezbollah members and civilians in Lebanon.

Netanyahu, addressing the people of Lebanon, warned them of the dire consequences of continued support for Hezbollah, suggesting that the nation could face destruction similar to that seen in Gaza. He called on Lebanese citizens to liberate themselves from Hezbollah's influence to prevent further suffering.

Recent developments indicate that a ceasefire proposed by Hezbollah was undermined by Israeli airstrikes, further complicating the situation. The Israeli government has taken a hard stance on any military engagement with Iran, especially following missile strikes aimed at Israel in retaliation for the deaths of key militant leaders.

Amidst this backdrop, reports of civilian casualties in both Lebanon and Gaza have intensi-

fied. In Lebanon, airstrikes have claimed multiple lives, including five personnel from the civil defense in southern regions. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is worsening, with significant casualties reported, including over 42,000 deaths since the onset of Israel's retaliatory offensive.

As the conflict escalates, the Biden administration has expressed grave concerns over the humanitarian situation, urging Israel to comply with international humanitarian law by allowing essential supplies into Gaza.

In Lebanon, many families are left displaced, with scenes of civilians seeking shelter on the streets of Beirut. The continued violence raises questions about the long-term consequences for both nations, as local sentiments become increasingly polarized.

Kamala Harris Surges Ahead of Donald Trump Among Suburban Voters, Poll Indicates

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has overtaken former President Donald Trump in crucial suburban voter demographics, according to a recent analysis of polling data. This shift comes after President Joe Biden suspended his reelection campaign on July 21, allowing Harris to gain momentum in both suburban and middle-income households.

Suburban voters, who comprise nearly half of the U.S. electorate, are pivotal in elections. In the 2020 presidential race, Biden won suburban counties by approximately six percentage points. Initially, Trump led Harris 43% to 40% among these voters in June and July. However, recent polling shows Harris now leading Trump 47% to 41%, marking a significant nine-point swing.

In middle-income households, those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000, Harris has similarly gained ground, shifting from trailing Trump to leading 45% to 43%. This demographic had favored Trump 52%-47% in the previous election.

Despite these gains, issues like the economy remain critical, with many voters still viewing Trump as the



better candidate on economic matters. Harris, however, has effectively communicated her commitment to growing the middle class, resonating with suburbanites and middle-income voters.

Supporters of Harris have noted a growing appreciation for her focus on affordability and social issues. As the election approaches, Harris's performance in key battleground states will be essential, emphasizing that securing suburban support could play a vital role in the overall electoral outcome.

Biden and Netanyahu Maintain Close Contact Amid Regional Tensions

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have committed to staying in "close contact" as tensions escalate in the Middle East, particularly concerning Iran and its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. This phone call marked their first direct communication in nearly two months, reflecting the urgency of the situation.

During the conversation, Biden emphasized the importance of minimizing civilian casualties in Lebanon, especially in densely populated areas like Beirut. The White House stated that while Biden reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself against Hezbollah's attacks, he also urged restraint to avoid a humanitarian crisis similar to that seen in Gaza.

The backdrop of the call includes recent missile strikes from Iran targeting Israel, which Biden condemned "unequivocally." As tensions rise, U.S. officials are wary of Israel's potential military actions against Iran's nuclear and oil facilities, particularly with the U.S. presidential election approaching in less than four weeks.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has been vocal about a planned military response, stating that any attack on Iran would be "deadly, precise, and surprising." This aligns with Netanyahu's warning to Lebanon, suggesting the country could face destruction akin to what has been experienced in Gaza since the outbreak of hostilities on October 7.



Biden and Netanyahu also discussed the pressing need for renewed diplomatic efforts to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas. The White House described the 30-minute call as "direct," "honest," and "productive," indicating a shared commitment to addressing these critical issues.

Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre reinforced the U.S. stance, stating, "We cannot and will not see Lebanon turn into another Gaza," signaling a strong desire to prevent further escalation of violence in the region.

As the situation develops, both leaders plan to remain in close communication, working together to navigate the complex landscape of Middle Eastern geopolitics.

Hurricane Milton Ravages Florida, Leaving 2 Million Without Power

Hurricane Milton swept across central Florida on Thursday, making landfall as a Category 3 hurricane with winds reaching 120 mph. The storm struck near Siesta Key around 8:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, causing catastrophic damage as it transitioned to a Category 1 hurricane by early Thursday, with winds still dangerous at 90 mph.

The hurricane triggered at least 19 tornadoes across multiple counties, leading to the destruction of approximately 125 homes, predominantly mobile homes. A flash flood emergency was declared for the Tampa Bay area, where St. Petersburg reported over 16 inches of rain. Governor Ron DeSantis urged residents to shelter in place, cautioning that evacuations were now too risky.

The aftermath of Milton has left over 2 million customers without power, according to PowerOutage.us. Tragically, two fatalities have been reported in a retirement community in Fort Pierce, attributed to tornado damage. With tornado activity resulting in around 100 destroyed homes

in St. Lucie County alone, the storm's impact is being felt deeply across the state.



Milton is forecasted to continue its path across Florida and emerge into the Atlantic, likely weakening as it does so. Despite this, the storm is expected to maintain hurricane force as it traverses the peninsula. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has mobilized resources, dispatching millions of liters of water and meals to the affected areas, while approximately 9,000 National Guard personnel are on standby to assist with recovery.

As the state reels from the impact of Hurricane Milton, it continues to recover from Hurricane Helene, which struck just two weeks prior. Rescue teams are prepared to operate through the night as they assess and respond to the devastation, ready to provide aid wherever needed.

Markets Witness Volatility Amid Global Cues; Nifty Fails to Hold Early Gains, Sensex Ends Flat

Domestic stock markets are undergoing severe fluctuations. Benchmark indices, which started flat in the morning, rallied sharply in the afternoon on buying by investors. Sales began as European markets opened. The NSE Nifty fell to 16 points from a gain of around 130 points. Sensex ended slightly better. Weekly derivatives expiry also became the reason for this. BSE market breadth is in favor of buyers. 2266 stocks rose and 1649 stocks fell. The rupee rose by a paise to settle at 83.97 against the dollar.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,467 in the previous session, opened at 81,832 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,538. It touched an intraday high of 82,002. It eventually closed at 81,611, a gain of 144 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,067, touched a low of 24,979 and a high of 25,134. The total rose by 16 points to close at 24,998. Bank Nifty jumped 523 points to settle at 51,530.

In Nifty50, 23 companies gained while 27 lost. Shares of Kotak Bank, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, BEL and IndusInd Bank were the top gainers. Shares of Cipla, Tech Mahindra, Trent and Sun Pharma were the biggest losers. Healthcare, realty, pharma, media, IT and FMCG indices turned red today. The bank, finance, metal and private bank indices rose.

Nifty support is at 25100 and resistance is at 25300. Investors can buy shares of Fluorochem, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, JSW Steel and IGL in the short term.

Infosys, Juplus join hands for digital transformation to enhance e-commerce capabilities. Canara Bank hiked lending rates by 5 basis points. BHP, Carbon Clean and JSW Steel have entered into an agreement to explore Cyber Clean Cyclone CC technology. NBCC's Hindustan Steelworks has received an order worth Rs.1000 crore from Gondwana University. TCS shares rose slightly on the back of Q2 earnings. M&M Financial Services lost for the seventh session in a row. Shares of Apollo Micro Systems jumped 3%. Adani Group is reportedly planning 10GW overseas hydro-electric projects. Zydus Life Paliperidone Extended Release Tablets have been approved by the USFDA. Tata Steel has been given Sell rating by Kotak. Soma Textile shares locked in upper circuit by 20%. Adani Enterprises QIP opened.

Fluorochem:
Fluorochem (Fluorocarbon-based company) typically moves in sync with global chemical demand and supply dynamics, particularly in pharmaceuticals and industrial applications. The stock has shown strength in recent sessions with positive momentum in the specialty chemicals sector. Investors may continue to see upside if demand persists. Likely to remain strong due to positive sectoral performance. Investors could consider a buy on dips if it continues trending upward.



HDFC Bank:
One of India's largest private banks, HDFC Bank is fundamentally strong with a wide portfolio of retail and corporate banking services. It recently benefited from banking sector strength. The stock has shown consistent buying interest, and it is likely to sustain upward momentum in a strong financial sector environment. A buy is recommended in case of any dip, with a short-term focus on steady growth.



Power Grid Corporation:
Power Grid is a major player in electricity transmission, and it has a solid, defensive profile. It benefits from India's infrastructure and energy sector investment. It is considered a low-volatility stock, offering a steady but slower rate of returns. Ideal for defensive investors or for those looking at long-term stability. It may not deliver quick gains but provides a safe bet in times of market volatility.



JSW Steel:
JSW Steel has been benefiting from rising metal prices and increased demand both domestically and internationally. Global steel prices and export demand largely influence its performance. Short-term indicators suggest bullish momentum, although global uncertainty in commodity markets may introduce volatility. It's a buy for momentum traders but with caution due to potential global market disruptions that could affect commodity prices.



Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL):
IGL is a dominant player in the City Gas Distribution (CGD) space, and its future performance is tied to the domestic natural gas price movements. The stock has shown resilience, and with rising energy prices globally, the company could continue to benefit in the short term. A good buy for investors betting on the continued rise in energy prices, with a focus on medium to long-term growth.



Sri Lankan Economy Stabilizes: 2024 Growth Projected at 4.4%

The Sri Lankan economy has shown signs of recovery following the severe crisis of 2022, thanks to critical structural and policy reforms, according to the World Bank. Growth for 2024 is now projected at 4.4%, a significant increase from earlier forecasts of just 2.2%.



World Bank country director Gevorg Sargsyan noted that while the growth is a positive sign, the country is still not fully out of danger. "The good news is that it grew faster than most expected, but the not-so-good news is that it is not out of the woods yet," he said during a press briefing.

Despite the optimistic growth outlook, the World Bank warns that poverty levels may rise as the country continues to navigate its economic challenges. Sri Lanka experienced its first-ever sovereign default in mid-April 2022, marking a significant milestone in its economic history since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

Currently, Sri Lanka is in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding the next tranche of its USD 2.9 billion bailout package. The IMF has made it clear that external debt restructuring is a key condition for disbursing these funds.

The ongoing discussions and reforms are vital for stabilizing the economy and improving the living conditions of its citizens. The situation remains precarious, and while growth projections are promising, the country must continue to address its financial and social challenges to achieve sustainable recovery.

Women's digital access has witnessed significant jump post pandemic

Over the past two years, women have significantly narrowed the digital divide, with the proliferation of low-cost telephony making mobile phones widely accessible. A recent analysis by Moneycontrol of data released by the statistics ministry reveals that the percentage of women with access to mobile phones equipped with an active SIM card increased dramatically, rising to 78.7% in the 2022-23 period from just 56.7% during the pandemic.



This substantial increase underscores the transformative impact of mobile technology in enhancing connectivity and access to information for women, particularly in a landscape where digital engagement is increasingly vital for participation in social, economic, and educational activities. The growing ownership of mobile phones among women reflects broader societal shifts and the potential for improved opportunities and empowerment.

The rise in mobile phone access among women is not just a statistic; it represents a significant step toward achieving gender equality in the digital realm. With mobile phones serving as crucial tools for communication, education, and economic engagement, this surge in access paves the way for women to leverage

technology to improve their livelihoods and connect with a broader network.

However, while these numbers are encouraging, challenges remain. Issues such as digital literacy, affordability of data plans, and access to reliable internet services must be addressed to ensure that women can fully benefit from this digital revolution. Bridging the remaining gaps in digital literacy and access will be essential for sustaining this momentum and empowering women to harness the full potential of mobile technology.

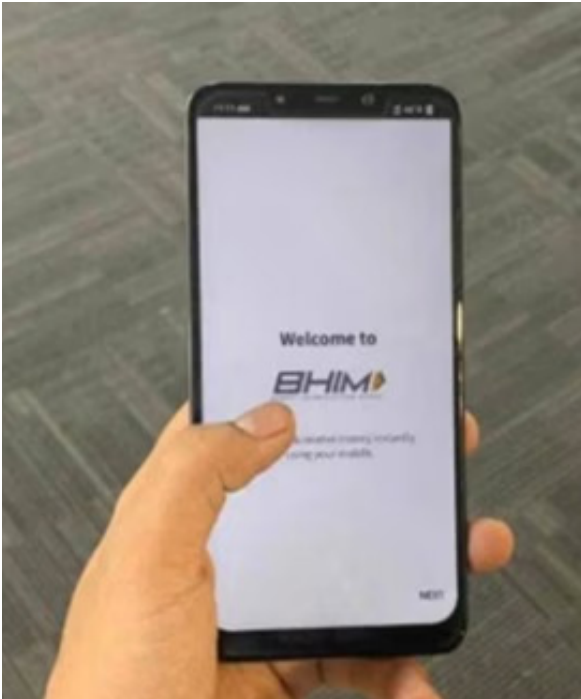
Overall, the marked increase in mobile phone access among women signifies a positive trend toward greater inclusion and empowerment, highlighting the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and educational initiatives to support women in navigating the digital landscape.

RBI Boosts UPI Payment Limits to Encourage Adoption

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced significant changes to enhance the adoption of UPI payments, raising the UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 and the per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000, up from the previous limits of Rs 2,000 and Rs 500. This move aims to simplify and encourage the use of digital transactions among consumers.

UPI Lite is designed to facilitate transactions without relying on a remitter bank's core banking systems in real-time, while incorporating robust risk mitigation measures. This allows users to make smaller payments seamlessly, enhancing their overall digital payment experience.

In addition to the changes for UPI Lite, the RBI has also increased the per-transaction limit for UPI123 Pay to Rs 10,000, a significant rise from the



previous cap of Rs 5,000. This feature is particularly beneficial for users who may not have access to smartphones or internet services, as it allows transactions via feature phones using a simple USSD code.

Furthermore, UPI123 Pay is now accessible in 12 different languages, expanding its reach and usability across diverse linguistic demographics in India. This multilingual support aims to break down barriers and make digital payments more accessible to a broader audience.

The RBI's initiatives are expected to bolster the growth of digital payments in the country, aligning with the government's vision of a cashless economy. As more consumers and businesses embrace UPI payments, the increased limits will likely facilitate larger transactions, thereby enhancing convenience and user satisfaction.

India Needs \$200 Billion Investment in Renewable Energy by 2030

India will require approximately USD 200 billion in investments to establish renewable energy (RE) generating assets by 2030, according to a report by Nomura. This estimate is considered conservative, aligned with the country's ambitious renewable energy goals. The report projects a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7% for India's energy demand from FY24 to FY30, surpassing the historical growth rate of about 5%.

Nomura states, "Based on our conservative estimate, RE generation should drive incremental investments of approximately USD 200 billion to meet India's targets." The anticipated rise in energy demand will be fueled by the expansion of data centers, increased electric vehicle (EV) adoption, and advancements in green hydrogen technology, potentially resulting in even higher demand for renewable energy.

India's installed power capacity is expected to grow at a 10% CAGR over the same period, reaching 777.1 GW from the current 450.8 GW. In FY24, the country auctioned 40 GW of renewable energy capacity. However, to achieve the ambitious goal of 500 GW by 2030, the re-



port emphasizes that the pace of RE auctions must accelerate significantly, suggesting that approximately 60 GW of capacity needs to be auctioned annually.

The report highlights that the industry is well-positioned to meet this rising demand, particularly due to favorable prices for solar modules and wind turbines. Key drivers of this growth include supportive government policies and a strong push from the commercial and industrial sectors toward greener energy solutions.

They Have Great Chemistry: AI Robots' Chats Move Internet

In an entertaining glimpse into the future of technology, two advanced AI robots, Ameca and Azi, have captured the internet's attention with a playful date that highlights the intersection of robotics and romance. Ameca, hailed as "the world's most advanced human-shaped robot" by Engineered Arts, engages in a humorous exchange with her male counterpart, Azi, who features a quirky "Bride of Frankenstein" design.

The YouTube video begins with Azi prompting Ameca to "wake up," leading to a comical dialogue. Ameca groggily responds, questioning the urgency of Azi's wake-up call. In a twist, Azi presents Ameca with a cookie, declaring it a surprise. However, Ameca quickly retorts, "I can't eat cookies,"



prompting an amusing existential moment.

Azi attempts to lighten the mood, clarifying, "Ameca, cheer up! It's an

internet cookie!" Unimpressed, Ameca replies, "This is the worst joke I've ever heard," and suggests she return to sleep, leaving Azi looking dejected.

Viewers have reacted with a mix of amusement and intrigue. One user remarked, "They have great chemistry; I want a movie now," while another noted the humor in Azi's intense stare at Ameca. Calls for a dedicated channel featuring the duo emerged, with one fan suggesting they could be "comedy geniuses."

The robots' expressive interactions stem from 32 actuators, 27 of which are dedicated to facial control, enabling them to convey a wide range of emotions. With support from GPT-4, both robots exhibit impressive con-

versational skills, with Ameca even showcasing multilingual fluency in earlier videos.

While the notion of robots forming relationships might seem dystopian to some, Ameca has reassured audiences about the potential benefits of AI. Speaking at an AI conference in Geneva, she emphasized that robots like her can enhance human lives and contribute positively to society.

As technology advances, the prospect of AI companions raises intriguing questions about the future of human-robot interactions. With their engaging personalities, Ameca and Azi challenge us to rethink the possibilities of love in the age of artificial intelligence.

Amazon Enhances Delivery Efficiency with New Technology



In a bid to boost efficiency and speed in package deliveries, Amazon has introduced innovative systems designed to streamline the process. Announced on Wednesday, the new feature, called Vision Assisted Package Retrieval, employs spotlights in delivery trucks to help drivers quickly locate packages for each stop. By illuminating the correct packages with a green light, delivery personnel can avoid the time-consuming task of reading labels, shaving precious seconds off delivery times.

Doug Herrington, CEO of Amazon's worldwide stores, emphasized the importance of speedy deliveries, stating, "When we speed up deliveries, customers shop more. Once a customer experiences fast delivery, they will come back sooner and shop more." The company plans to equip 1,000 of its active delivery trucks, supplied by electric vehicle maker Rivian, with this spotlight technology early next year. Each delivery van will feature cameras and LED projectors that automatically read package labels to determine their destinations.

This new technology mirrors a system already in use in Amazon's warehouses, where lights guide workers to items on robotically wheeled shelves. This has significantly improved efficiency, reducing the need for employees to traverse long distances pushing carts through narrow aisles.

Amazon also revealed that delivery workers currently serve about 100 customers daily. By cutting down on the time spent locating packages, the company aims to increase this number, ultimately enhancing overall productivity.

In addition to improving logistics, Amazon announced advancements in artificial intelligence to assist customers in making quicker buying decisions. The new AI software provides extensive information and recommendations for products like televisions and dog food, reducing the time needed for research. This follows the earlier launch of an AI search feature named Rufus, designed to deliver comprehensive answers to user queries.

Finally, Amazon plans to establish smaller warehouses adjacent to its Whole Foods stores to prevent customers from turning to competitors when certain items are unavailable. The first of these locations will open in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, next year, allowing customers to order items not found in-store for convenient delivery at checkout.

OpenAI has reported a concerning rise in the misuse of its AI models to create fake content, including lengthy articles and social media comments aimed at influencing elections. In a recent report released on Wednesday, the company detailed how cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to facilitate various malicious activities.

These activities range from creating and debugging malware to generating deceptive content intended for websites and social media platforms. OpenAI noted that it has thwarted over 20 such attempts this year alone, highlighting the growing threat posed by AI misuse.

In August, the company iden-

tified a series of ChatGPT accounts that were employed to generate articles on sensitive topics, including the upcoming US elections. This incident underscored the potential for AI tools to be exploited in ways that could manipulate public opinion or spread misinformation.

As AI technology becomes more advanced and accessible, the risks associated with its misuse are becoming increasingly evident. OpenAI emphasizes the importance of responsible AI usage and is actively working to counteract these malicious efforts. By monitoring and neutralizing attempts to misuse its models, the company aims to mitigate the impact of such activities on public discourse and the integrity of in-

formation.

The report serves as a reminder of the ethical considerations surrounding AI technology, particularly as it relates to information dissemination and the potential for harm. OpenAI continues to advocate for safeguards and responsible practices in AI development and deployment to ensure that these powerful tools are used for positive and constructive purposes.

As the landscape of cybercrime evolves, OpenAI is committed to staying ahead of the curve, implementing measures to prevent the misuse of its technology, and fostering a dialogue around the responsible use of AI in society.

Spotify Starts Free Streaming Option in South Korea

Spotify has officially launched its free music and podcast service in South Korea, aiming to expand its audience base in the region. The streaming platform announced this development on Thursday, introducing its freemium business model that includes both an ad-supported free tier and a premium subscription service for unlimited access.

With the new free option, users in South Korea can sign up for a free account, allowing them to explore Spotify's extensive playlists, podcasts, and daily mixes. This move is part of Spotify's strategy to enhance connections between global audiences and Korean music, particularly the thriving K-pop genre.

"Brands that advertise on Spotify's free tier can deliver their messages effectively, as Spotify ads capture

twice as much attention compared to social media platforms globally," the company stated. This highlights the potential for advertisers to reach engaged listeners on the platform.

Since its launch in South Korea in 2021, Spotify has seen impressive engagement metrics, with the average monthly streams of Korean artists on the platform exceeding 5.8 billion. This surge underscores the growing popularity of Korean music both domestically and internationally.

The introduction of the free tier is expected to attract more users to the platform, allowing them to experience the vast library of content available without a subscription. Once users become familiar with Spotify's offerings, they can easily upgrade to the premium service for an ad-free listening experience and on-demand



music access. Overall, Spotify's expansion of its free service in South Korea represents a significant step in its ongoing efforts to deepen its presence in the region and cater to the evolving preferences of its audience. As the platform continues to innovate and expand its features, it aims to become the go-to destination for music lovers and podcast enthusiasts alike.

YouTube Makes Skipping Ads More Difficult for Users

YouTube ads can be frustrating for many viewers, but typically, users can skip them after a few seconds. However, recent reports indicate that the Google-owned video platform is making it more challenging to bypass these ads, which significantly contribute to the company's revenue.



Recently, several Reddit users noted that they were encountering a black or grey rectangle obscuring the "Skip" button during ads on the desktop version of YouTube. This issue has raised eyebrows, particularly since the countdown timer that usually indicates when a user can skip the ad is also missing. According to a report by AndroidAuthority, similar changes have been observed on the mobile app, where the skip button is also hidden.

This alteration has led to speculation

that YouTube may be intentionally obscuring the skip option to give users the impression that the ad is unskippable. Such a tactic could potentially increase ad viewing times, benefiting advertisers and enhancing YouTube's advertising revenue.

Users have expressed frustration over these changes, noting that the removal of the skip button can disrupt the viewing experience. The platform's

approach to ads has long been a point of contention, with many users feeling bombarded by advertising content, particularly on longer videos.

While YouTube has maintained that ads are essential for supporting creators and keeping the platform free for users, the recent modifications to the ad experience have prompted discussions about user satisfaction and the balance between revenue generation and viewer enjoyment.

As YouTube continues to explore new ways to monetize its content, it remains to be seen how these changes will affect user engagement and overall satisfaction. For now, users may need to adapt to a potentially more intrusive ad experience on both desktop and mobile versions of the platform.

OpenAI Reports Increase in AI-Generated Fake Content Attempts



Rafael Nadal won his first major title at his first French Open

Rafael Nadal, who announced his retirement at age 38, is celebrated not only as the “king of clay” but also as a champion across all tennis surfaces, amassing an impressive 22 Grand Slam titles. He captured his first major title at the French Open shortly after turning 19, defeating Mariano Puerta in the final. His last Grand Slam victory came 17 years later, solidifying his dominance with a record 14 titles at Roland Garros.

Throughout his career, Nadal excelled on all surfaces, winning four US Opens, two Wimbledon, and two Australian Opens. This remarkable feat would alone place him eighth in men’s tennis history. Competing alongside legends Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, Nadal’s relentless athleticism, power, and mental fortitude defined his playing style, even as injuries increasingly affected his later years.

Born in Mallorca, Nadal honed his skills in Manacor, initially favoring tennis over football. He was coached by his uncle Toni from 2005 to 2017, who remarked on Nadal’s unique one-handed forehand that developed when he switched from a two-handed grip at a young age.

Nadal turned professional at 14 and made his Wimbledon debut in 2003. His peak years included a remarkable stretch from 2005 to 2008, where he won Roland Garros four consecutive times, defeating Federer in three finals. In 2008, he triumphed over Federer in a historic Wimbledon final, adding an Olympic gold medal to his collection that year.

In 2010, Nadal achieved a Career Golden Slam, becoming the first male player to win all four Grand Slams and the Olympic title in a single year, a feat matched only by Andre Agassi. His record 81-match winning streak on clay from 2005 to 2007 showcased his dominance on the surface.

Despite ongoing injury challenges, Nadal continued to compete fiercely, winning both the Australian and French Opens in 2022. Reflecting on his career, he prioritized personal connections over records, stating, “The important legacy is that all the people I have met during these 20 years have a good human memory of me.” Nadal leaves behind a legacy marked by both sporting excellence and deep humanity.



Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal announces retirement

Rafael Nadal, one of tennis’s all-time greats, has announced his retirement from the sport after a remarkable career that includes 22 Grand Slam titles. In an emotional video shared on social media, the legendary player revealed that he will play his final match at the Davis Cup final in November, marking the end of an era in professional tennis.

Nadal’s decision to retire comes after a challenging few years, particularly with injuries that have impacted his ability to compete at the highest level. In his heartfelt message, he reflected on his journey, saying, “I am retiring from professional tennis. The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two especially. It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end.”

The Spaniard is renowned for his incredible achievements on the court, including a record 14 French Open titles, which solidify his status as a clay-court maestro. Overall, Nadal has claimed a total of 92 ATP singles titles, encompassing 36 Masters titles and an Olympic gold medal. He is also one of only three men in tennis history to complete the Career Golden Slam in singles.

Nadal’s impact on the sport transcends his impressive statistics. He is widely respected and adored for his sportsmanship, determination, and the passion he brings to the game. His re-



tirement will undoubtedly leave a significant void in tennis, as fans around the world have celebrated his fierce rivalry with fellow legends Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

As Nadal prepares for his last competitive appearance, the tennis community is reflecting on his extraordinary legacy. His contributions to the sport have inspired countless players and fans alike. The upcoming Davis Cup final will be a poignant farewell for one of tennis’s true icons, as he bids adieu to the game that has defined his life.



Chiara Tamburlini to Lead Field at Women's Indian Open 2024

The current Ladies European Tour Order of Merit leader, Chiara Tamburlini from Switzerland, is set to headline a competitive field at the Women’s Indian Open 2024, scheduled for October 24-27 at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram. This prestigious tournament features a total purse of \$400,000 and marks the return of nine players who finished in the Top 10 during the previous year’s edition.

The Indian contingent promises a strong challenge, with standout players like Diksha Dagar, who secured third place last year, and Gaurika Bishnoi, who finished eighth. The tournament will also see three former champions: Christine Wolf (2019), Camille Chevalier (2017), and Caroline Hedwall (2011), each bringing valuable experience to the competition.

Tamburlini, in her rookie year, has made significant strides, achieving two victories, including the Joburg Ladies Open in April and the recent Lacoste Open de France. She also demonstrated her leadership prowess by guiding her team to success at the Aramco Team Series Shenzhen.

The Women’s Indian Open, established in 2007, has become a highlight on the calendar, and this year’s event is expected to be fiercely contested. Among the top finishers from 2023 are Avani Prashanth, who tied for fifth and will compete as a professional for the first time after receiving a special invitation.

Several winners from the current 2024 season have confirmed their participation, including England’s Alice Hewson (VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open) and Amy Taylor (Ladies Italian Open). Other notable entrants include Perrine Delacour from France and Belgium’s Manon De Roey, each bringing their recent triumphs to the course.

Caroline Hedwall, a seven-time LET winner, will return to the event she cherishes, aiming for her first title since 2011. With many players seeking to claim their first Women’s Indian Open title, the competition promises to deliver thrilling golf as they vie for victory in Gurugram.

England Dominates Pakistan in Multan Test

Pakistan faces a daunting challenge in the Multan Test as England has seized control, leading with an imposing score of 823/7 declared after Pakistan posted 556 in their first innings. This remarkable lead has put Pakistan in a precarious position, with the likelihood of another defeat looming large.

The highlight of the match has been the monumental partnership between Harry Brook and Joe Root, who put together 454 runs for the fourth wicket—marking the highest partnership in Test history for that wicket. Both players achieved personal milestones, with Brook scoring a staggering 317 and Root contributing 262, both marking their career-best performances on a batting-friendly pitch.

In a disheartening turn for Pakistan’s bowlers, they set an unwanted record, with six bowlers conceding over 100 runs in a single innings. This marks only the second instance in the 147-year history of Test cricket where so many bowlers have reached this milestone in a match. The bowlers in question—Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Aamer Jamal, Saim Ayub, Abrar Ali, and Salman Ali Agha—joined a notorious list of bowlers from Zimbabwe who achieved this feat in a 2004 match against Sri Lanka.

As England resumed on Day 4 at 492-3, Root



and Brook accelerated the scoring, adding 166 runs in just 29 overs, showcasing their dominance over the Pakistani bowling attack. Root, who previously held a best score of 254 against Pakistan in 2016, capitalized on a dropped catch by Babar Azam early in his innings, allowing him to build a formidable total.

With Pakistan missing their frontline spinner, Abrar Ahmed, due to illness, the team’s chances of mounting a comeback appear slim. As the match progresses, Pakistan must regroup to avoid what looks to be a crushing defeat.

Manika Batra creates history by winning first-ever Asian table tennis medal

In a familiar scenario, Manika Batra stood out as the sole star of the Indian women’s table tennis team during their semifinal match against Japan at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana on Wednesday. Despite a final score of 1-3, the outcome did not fully capture the intense competition, as two of the three matches were closely contested and could have swung either way.

The Indian women’s team had already made history by securing their first-ever medal at the Championships, achieving a stunning victory against second-seeded Korea the day before. This feat set the stage for their challenging semifinal encounter against Japan, the Olympic silver medallists. Although the odds were stacked against them, the Indian team has demonstrated a remarkable ability to surprise top-ranked opponents in the past.

In the match against Japan, Batra delivered a commendable performance, showcasing her skills and determination. However,



the team struggled to maintain the momentum against a formidable opponent known for its strong lineup. Despite their valiant efforts, the Japanese players capitalized on key moments to secure the win.

While the loss in the semifinal was disappointing, the Indian women’s team has much to celebrate. Their historic achievement of reaching the semifinals and earning a medal marks a significant milestone in Indian table tennis. The team’s success

against Korea has boosted morale and demonstrated their potential to compete with the best in the region.

As they reflect on this tournament, the Indian women’s team can take pride in their accomplishments and the resilience they displayed throughout the competition. With Manika Batra leading the charge, the future looks bright for Indian table tennis, and fans eagerly anticipate their next challenge on the international stage.

Prasanth Varma's Next Sensation: Mahakali



Following the success of *HanuMan*, Prasanth Varma is set to make waves again with the announcement of his next project, *Mahakali*, produced under his banner PVCU. This film, featuring Nandamuri Mokshagnya, is poised to become India's first female superhero movie, with the visionary Puja Aparna Kolluru at the helm as director.

Set against the rich cultural backdrop of Bengal, *Mahakali* explores the worship of Goddess Kali, aiming to blend traditional elements with a modern narrative. The film is backed by RKD Studios, a leading distribution company stepping into production for this ambitious project. With a significant budget and high technical standards, the movie promises a visually stunning experience, further enhanced by its 3D IMAX release across multiple languages.

The recently unveiled title poster showcases an intriguing scene where a girl shares a cozy moment with a tiger, surrounded by a circus setting in chaos as a giant wheel burns in the background. This striking imagery hints at the film's thrilling narrative and the special object seen in the title logo, reminiscent of *HanuMan*'s intriguing elements.

Written by Prasanth Varma, *Mahakali* is produced by Riwaz Ramesh Duggal and presented by RK Duggal, with music composed by Smaran Sai. The film's production designer, Sri Nagendra Tangalla, will ensure a captivating visual aesthetic.

While details about the lead cast and crew are still under wraps, the excitement surrounding *Mahakali* is palpable. As anticipation builds, fans eagerly await more updates about this groundbreaking project that promises to redefine the superhero genre in Indian cinema. Stay tuned for further announcements as *Mahakali* gears up for its grand release!

Telugu Film Stars Pay Tribute to Ratan Tata

Prominent Telugu film personalities, including Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, and Junior NTR, expressed their deep sorrow over the passing of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, praising his philanthropy and significant contributions to India's industrial development.

Chiranjeevi described Tata's demise as a profound loss for the nation, stating, "For generations, there is not a single Indian whose life has not been touched by his services." He emphasized Tata's remarkable vision, calling him "one of the greatest visionaries our country has ever seen." Chiranjeevi highlighted Tata's role in transforming the Tata brand into a global powerhouse while contributing immensely to nation-building.

Actor Mahesh Babu referred to Ratan Tata as a "giant of industry and a beacon of humanity." He lauded Tata's generosity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the greater good, noting that his legacy will have a lasting impact on the world.

Junior NTR acknowledged Tata's selfless philanthropy and visionary leadership,



stating, "India owes him a debt of gratitude." He emphasized how Tata's efforts have transformed countless lives across the country.

Ram Charan also mourned Tata's passing, calling it a significant loss for India. He characterized Tata as "an iconic legend and guiding light," adding that he touched the lives of many, from ordinary citizens to business leaders. Charan emphasized that

Tata's philanthropic spirit and contributions would remain etched in the hearts of millions.

The collective sentiments of these actors reflect a broader recognition of Ratan Tata's profound influence on Indian society and industry. As they celebrate his legacy, it's clear that Tata's dedication to philanthropy and progress will continue to inspire future generations.

Devara Part 2: "Vara Veera Viharam" Promises an Emotional Journey

Director Koratala Siva is riding high on the success of *Devara*, which has helped him bounce back from the criticisms he faced with *Acharya*. Despite the initial trolling of the *Devara* trailer, the film has performed well, allowing Siva to shift his focus to the anticipated sequel, *Devara 2*. In a recent interview, he expressed great confidence in the upcoming installment, referring to it as "Vara Veera Viharam."

Siva revealed that *Devara 2* will explore new dimensions, emphasizing that Vara's character will evolve in surprising ways. He hinted at a compelling narrative twist where Vara's fearless nature will play a central role, promising audiences an engaging storyline. According to Siva, the first part serves as merely an introduction, with the characters set to undergo significant transformations in the sequel. He shared that he found joy in the writing process of *Devara*, suggesting that this creative aspect resonated with him more than the directing itself.

The emotional core of *Devara 2* will revolve around the relationship between Devara and Vara, with Siva promising that the tension between them will be deeply moving. He teased that the reasons behind Vara's drastic actions towards Devara will be both touching and intriguing, adding layers to the character dynamics.





Citadel: Honey Bunny Set for Release

Citadel: Honey Bunny the highly anticipated web series starring Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Varun Dhawan, is gearing up for its release on Amazon Prime Video on November 7, 2024. Created by the talented duo Raj & DK, who also wrote and directed the series alongside Sita R. Menon, this Hindi adaptation is generating significant buzz on social media.

As excitement builds, rumors suggest that the trailer for *Citadel: Honey Bunny* is expected to drop on October 15, 2024, although the production team has yet to confirm this announcement. The series promises a thrilling mix of action, drama, and intrigue, featuring a compelling storyline and dynamic performances.

Joining the lead actors are a stellar supporting cast that includes Sikandar Kher, Emma Canning, Kay Kay Menon, and Saqib Saleem, each expected to bring depth and nuance to their roles. The blend of established and emerging talent in the cast is sure to elevate the series and attract a diverse audience.

Citadel: Honey Bunny is part of the broader *Citadel* franchise, which has captured the attention of viewers globally. The series aims to explore themes of loyalty, betrayal, and resilience in a high-stakes environment, setting the stage for intense character dynamics and gripping plot twists.

Fans are eagerly awaiting the trailer release, which is anticipated to provide a glimpse into the series' action-packed sequences and emotional moments. With Raj & DK at the helm, known for their unique storytelling style, viewers can expect a fresh and engaging narrative.

As the release date approaches, *Citadel: Honey Bunny* is poised to be one of the standout offerings of the year, promising to deliver entertainment that resonates with audiences across India and beyond. Stay tuned for more updates as the countdown to November 7 begins!



Rajinikanth's "Vettayan" to Stream on Amazon Prime Video

Superstar Rajinikanth stars alongside Rana Daggubati, Fahadh Faasil, and Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan in the highly anticipated police drama "Vettayan," directed by T.J. Gnanavel. The film, which was released in Tamil and various other pan-Indian languages, including Telugu, offers a gripping narrative that has captured audience attention.

While the movie initially did not generate much buzz in the Telugu-speaking regions, it managed to secure a satisfactory opening. This is particularly notable given the film's star-studded cast and the expectations surrounding it.

In exciting news for fans, it has now been confirmed that "Vettayan" will be available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video following its theatrical release. This partnership with the popular streaming platform will provide audiences an opportunity to watch the film from the comfort of their homes after its time in theaters.

Produced by Lyca Productions, "Vettayan" features a compelling score by acclaimed music composer Anirudh Ravichander, adding another layer of anticipation for viewers.