



Weather Forecast

| HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | TIRUPATHI |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| H 33°C L 25°C | H 35°C L 26°C | H 36°C L 26°C |

CM Revanth Reddy Stresses on Boosting Revenue for State's Annual Targets

TPN , Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, in a high-level meeting, directed officials to focus on increasing revenue in line with the state's annual financial targets. The meeting was held to review the progress of revenue-generating departments, with the aim of improving their performance to meet the state's fiscal goals.



During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy, along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, discussed strategies with senior officials from various departments. He emphasized the need for all revenue-generating departments to enhance their efficiency and ensure the timely achievement of set targets for the financial year.

performance with the broader objective of bolstering the state's financial health.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to explore new avenues for revenue generation and to optimize existing resources. He stressed that each department should align its perfor-

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari also participated in the meeting, providing insights into the current financial performance and the steps being taken to enhance it. Senior officials from multiple departments were present to share updates and discuss

The Chief Minister's review comes at a crucial time when the state is looking to boost its revenue to support ongoing development projects and welfare schemes. With focused efforts and strategic planning, the government aims to ensure steady financial growth and effective utilization of resources across all sectors.

KTR Files Petition Against Minister Konda Surekha for Defamation

TPN , Hyderabad : BRS leader and Sircilla MLA K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has filed a petition against Minister Konda Surekha, accusing her of making baseless allegations that tarnished his reputation. In the petition, KTR mentioned that BRS leaders Balk Suman, Satyavati Rathod, Tula Uma, and Dasoju Sravan were listed as witnesses.



KTR stated that from 2014 to 2023, he served as a minister in the cabinet of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He highlighted that he has been the MLA for the Sircilla constituency for five consecutive terms and served as a minister for nine years. Additionally, KTR emphasized his current role as the working president of the BRS party and his contributions to the state's development.

Surekha have caused severe damage to my reputation," KTR stated in his petition.

KTR's legal team submitted video and audio recordings of Konda Surekha's remarks to the court, along with 23 pieces of evidence to support their case. The petition also invoked Section 356 of the BNS Act, urging the court to take legal action against Konda Surekha for her comments.

"I hold a respected position in society and have worked for the progress of Telangana. I have played a key role in attracting multinational corporations to invest in the state, contributing to its rapid growth. The defamatory remarks made by Minister Konda

KTR's legal team argued that the minister's statements had harmed his dignity and requested the court to take appropriate measures under the law.

Central Government Rebuffs 11 IAS Officers' Request; Orders Posting in Andhra Pradesh



In a significant development, the Central Government has made a critical decision regarding 11 IAS officers from the Andhra Pradesh cadre stationed in Telangana. The officials, including GHMC Commissioner Amrapali and IAS Ronald Ross, had requested to remain in Telangana. However, their plea has been rejected, and they have been ordered to report back to Andhra Pradesh immediately.

The Central Government has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, stipulating that officers from Andhra Pradesh should remain in their home state and that their presence in Telangana is unnecessary. Additionally, some officers from Telangana are expected to be transferred to Andhra Pradesh.

This decision indicates a potential shift in the administrative landscape, with discussions underway about the new GHMC Commissioner to replace Amrapali. The situation has raised questions regarding the stability of current postings and the future dynamics of governance in both states.

The central authorities' stance reflects a broader strategy to streamline administrative functions and ensure that officers serve in their designated states. The impact of this decision on local governance and the functioning of the GHMC remains to be seen, as stakeholders assess the implications of these changes.

Ratan Tata

A Titan Laid to Rest with Reverence and Love

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 Chandrabakaran, 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, highlighting 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.

Bathukamma Festival: A Celebration of Life and Nature in Telangana



TPN , Telangana: Minister Seethakka extended heartfelt wishes to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma. She emphasized the intrinsic connection between the Bathukamma festival and the state's lakes, stating that the fullness of these

water bodies directly influences agricultural prosperity. "Only when our lakes are full can we harvest our crops, and only then can we truly celebrate," she remarked, urging everyone to protect these vital resources.

In her address, Minister Seethakka called for the protection of lakes, highlighting that Bathukamma is a festival dedicated to honoring them. As the monsoon season comes to a close, the Bathukamma festival symbolizes gratitude and reverence for nature. She noted that the joy of singing and clapping

during the festivities promotes health and happiness, encouraging everyone to celebrate Bathukamma with vigor.

"We should celebrate this life-giving festival with offerings of flowers and reverence for our lakes," she stated, wishing all participants a joyous Saddula Bathukamma.

K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) also remarked on the significance of Bathukamma as a cultural symbol of Telangana. He described it as a unique and beautiful heritage that celebrates flowers and

nature, observed joyfully by women and girls. "This festival is celebrated with immense joy, irrespective of age, and we hope that Bathukamma brings even more happiness and light into the lives of women," KTR expressed, extending his wishes to all women participating in the festivities.

As the state prepares for the celebration of Saddula Bathukamma, officials have made comprehensive arrangements across Telangana.

Centre Announces Festive Bonanza: Telangana to Receive ₹3,745 Crore, Andhra Pradesh ₹7,211 Crore

TPN , Telangana: Ahead of the Vijaydashami festival, the Central Government has delivered good news to the states by releasing ₹1,78,173 crore as part of their tax share for the month of October. In addition to the usual monthly tax devolution, this year the Centre has also provided an advance payment of ₹89,086.50 crore to further support state development, capital expenditure, and festive celebrations.

Telangana will receive ₹3,745 crore, while Andhra Pradesh has been allocated ₹7,211 crore. Uttar Pradesh is set to receive the highest amount at ₹31,962 crore, followed by Bihar with ₹17,921 crore, Madhya Pradesh with ₹13,987 crore, West Bengal with ₹13,404 crore, Maharashtra with ₹11,255 crore, and Rajasthan with ₹10,737 crore.

This advance payment, over and above the regular tax devolution,

is intended to give the states a financial boost to support their development projects and cater to additional festive season expenses. The timely release of these funds is expected to assist state governments in better managing their fiscal needs during this critical period. The Centre's move comes as part of its continued efforts to strengthen the financial position of the states and promote balanced regional development across the country.



Bathukamma Festival: A Celebration of Life and Nature in Telangana

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The festivities will culminate at the Tank Bund, where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, and other dignitaries are expected to attend. In light of the celebrations, police have implemented traffic restrictions around the Tank Bund area to ensure the safety and smooth flow of the event.



Mallareddy Claims Chandrababu Naidu Gave Him Political Begging



TPN , Telangana : In a sensational statement, former minister and BRS MLA Mallareddy claimed that Chandrababu Naidu gave him "political begging." During his visit to the BJP Telangana state office, he presented a wedding invitation to central minister and BJP state president Kishan Reddy, accompanied by MLA Rajasekhara Reddy.

After the meeting, Mallareddy stated, "It was Chandrababu Naidu who gave me political begging." He acknowledged that he became an MP due to Naidu's support, adding that he was elected when the TDP-BJP alliance was in place. Mallareddy also clarified that he did not discuss politics with Kishan Reddy during their meeting.

He further mentioned that just two days ago, he visited Chandrababu Naidu's residence to deliver a wedding card. Mallareddy's remarks reflect the ongoing political dynamics in Telangana, highlighting his past associations and the complexities of party affiliations. His candid comments may stir discussions regarding political loyalties and the relationships among leaders in the state.

Navy Radar Station to Be Inaugurated in Parigi on October 15: Minister Konda Surekha Invited



TPN , Telangana : Minister for Forests, Environment, Endowments, and Charitable Affairs, Smt. Konda Surekha, has been invited to attend the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a Navy radar station in Damagundam, Parigi constituency, Vikarabad district, on October 15. Parigi MLA Rammohan Reddy extended the formal invitation during a courtesy visit at the minister's residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.

During the meeting, Minister Surekha emphasized the importance of the radar station, noting that it would significantly strengthen India's defense capabilities. She also mentioned that the project would bring job opportunities to the people of the Parigi constituency and enhance Telangana's recognition by hosting the country's second radar station.

Radar Station Project Director Raj Bir Singh and several Navy officials were also present at the meeting with the minister.

Political Parties to Protest on October 16, Demanding Compensation for Flood-Affected Families in Khammam

TPN , Khammam : Several political parties have announced a protest on October 16, demanding immediate compensation for families affected by the recent Munneru floods in Khammam. At a round table meeting organized by the CPM district committee, leaders from various parties called on the State government to credit Rs 16,500 directly into the bank accounts of families that have not yet received any compensation.

Additionally, the leaders urged the government to provide Rs 3 lakh to each family that suffered significant losses due to the floods. The protest will be held at the Khammam tahsildar office.

Prominent leaders, including CPM district secretary N. Nageswara Rao, CPI (ML) Mass Line district secretary Goginapalli Venkateswara Rao, BRS senior leader RJC Krishna, and CPI leader N. Sasidhar, participated in the meeting. They highlighted the plight of residents in areas like Padmavati Nagar, Moti Nagar, and Ramannapet, where valuable items such as TVs, fridges, and important documents were washed away.

Despite visits by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and a Central team, many residents have yet to receive proper compensation. The protest aims to pressure the government into fulfilling its promises to the affected families.



Telangana Faces Degree Seat Crisis as Over 2.6 Lakh Vacancies Persist

TPN , Hyderabad: A significant crisis is unfolding in Telangana's higher education sector, with over 2.6 lakh seats remaining vacant across various degree programs for the academic year 2024-25. Following multiple rounds of admissions through the Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST) 2024, only 1,96,442 of the 4,57,704 available seats were filled, resulting in a mere 42.91% occupancy rate.



The data, released by the Telangana Council of Higher Education, reveals that the majority of the vacant seats—2,12,405—are in private

degree colleges. Out of 3,44,793 seats available in 816 private institutions, only 38.39% have been filled. Residential degree colleges, typically in high demand, also reported disappointing numbers, with just 36.87%

occupancy of their 23,574 available seats across 79 colleges. Government and university colleges fared better, filling 61.96% of their 89,337 seats.

The alarming vacancy rate is attributed to a surplus of degree seats in relation to student demand. This year, 3,90,827 students cleared their intermediate public examinations, but the number of degree seats significantly exceeds this figure. Many students are opting for more popular fields, such as engineering, MBBS, and BPharmacy, leaving traditional degree programs struggling to attract enrollments.

Interestingly, this academic year saw a shift in gender enrollment, with 1,05,329 women enrolling in undergraduate programs compared to 91,113 men. BCom remains the most sought-after course, attracting 77,469 students, followed by BSc Life Science and Physical Science with 36,733 and 32,181 enrollments, respectively. The BA stream recorded 28,362 admissions.

As the higher education landscape in Telangana shifts, the future of many degree colleges hangs in the balance, facing potential financial instability and challenges to academic quality due to these unfilled seats.

BC Welfare Leaders Thank CM Reddy for Initiating Telangana Caste Survey

TPN, Hyderabad: Leaders of the BC Welfare Association met Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to express their gratitude for the government's decision to immediately begin the BC social, economic, and caste survey in the state. The association leaders met the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the CM's residence in Jubilee Hills, thanking them for this significant step.



The meeting was attended by BC Welfare Association President Jajula Srinivas Goud, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Government Whip Aadi Srinivas, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Srihari, retired IAS officer Chiranjeevi, and several other leaders from the BC Welfare Association.

The BC leaders expressed their ap-

preciation for the government's efforts to address the socio-economic concerns of the Backward Classes

and assured their continued support for future initiatives aimed at their welfare.

CM Revanth Reddy is Against the Madiga Community - Manda Krishna Madiga



TPN, Telangana: Manda Krishna Madiga, leader of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS), criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betraying the Madiga community despite multiple promises. He claimed that no matter how many declarations the CM makes, the Madiga community will not trust him.

Referring to the distribution of appointment letters for 11,000 teacher posts, Krishna pointed out that these appointments were made without addressing the community's demand for categorization. He further alleged that Revanth Reddy's recent review meeting was another attempt to mislead the Madiga community.

Manda Krishna questioned Revanth's commitment to past promises, specifically regarding the ordinance for SC categorization, which was earlier

promised. He demanded that until SC categorization is finalized, the government should halt all Group 1, 2, and 4 exams and suspend any new notifications.

Accusing Revanth of betrayal, Krishna asserted that the Madiga community neither trusts nor will forgive the CM, warning of intensifying protests if their demands are not met. He also criticized the government for allegedly suppressing peaceful protests, as the MRPS's recent attempt to submit a petition at the Ambedkar statue was blocked by arrests.

Krishna also pointed out that the reservation system in filling 4,000 MBBS seats favored the Mala community more than the Madiga community, questioning the fairness of the process under Revanth Reddy's government.



Sabitha Indra Reddy Questions CM Revanth Reddy's Criticism of KCR in Front of Students and Teachers

TPN, Telangana: Former minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his remarks about K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in front of students and teachers. Responding to Reddy's comments on Twitter, she questioned whether criticizing KCR in such settings is an appropriate approach.

Reddy asked if the Chief Minister has spoken in any public meeting without mentioning KCR's name over the past ten months. She pointed out that Reddy often forgets whether he is speaking at a government or party event. "Are the teacher posts you claim to have provided approved by KCR?" she questioned.

She highlighted that KCR's government had sanctioned 3,202 posts in higher education and 1,081 posts in universities. "It would have been better if you acknowledged that KCR regularized 3,896 contract employees in inter, technical, and collegiate education," she added. Reddy challenged Revanth to explain why he has not fulfilled his promise of providing 25,000 teacher posts before the elections.

She criticized Revanth for stating that 6,000 schools were closed, urging him to release the list of those schools. Additionally, she questioned the discontinuation of the "Mana Ooru Mana Badi" program and inquired why the breakfast scheme in government schools was halted.

MLA Madhusudhan Reddy Criticizes KTR at CLP Media Hall

TPN, Hyderabad: In a press meet at the CLP Media Hall, MLA Madhusudhan Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), urging him to be cautious with his remarks about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Reddy claimed that KTR is not fit to compare himself to Rahul and warned him to "watch his words."

Reddy highlighted the ongoing Bathukamma celebrations in Telangana, stating that women are voluntarily celebrating the festival without any external organization. He countered KTR's claims, saying, "Bathukamma is not about just one person like Kavitha."

He further criticized KTR for spreading misinformation, dubbing him "Goebbels Rao," and challenged him to provide evidence for his allegations against the Congress government. "If we reveal the facts, you won't be able to speak again," Reddy warned.

The MLA also questioned KTR's approach toward industrial investments, pointing out that KTR congratulated a company in Maharashtra but failed to acknowledge investments in Telangana.

Concluding, Madhusudhan Reddy predicted Congress's victory in the upcoming elections and cautioned KTR against misleading the public. He emphasized that the people would not forgive such actions.



Boinapally Vinod Kumar Slams CM Reddy for Politicizing Teacher Appointments

TPN, Hyderabad: Former MP Boinapally Vinod Kumar expressed strong criticism of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for turning the teacher appointment ceremony into a political platform. Speaking about the event, Vinod Kumar pointed out that both leaders delivered political speeches, diverting attention from the primary purpose of the gathering.

Vinod Kumar emphasized that the BRS government had provided 1.60 lakh jobs during its tenure and issued notifications for an additional 30,000 jobs, of which examinations have already been conducted. He accused CM Revanth Reddy of ignoring these achievements, stating that under the leadership of former CM KCR, the BRS government had recognized these job positions and worked systematically to fill vacancies.

Referring to Revanth Reddy, Vinod Kumar said, "There is no better marketer in Telangana than him. He should be aware of the 1.61 lakh jobs we filled and the 11,000 teacher positions identified under KCR's leadership."

He further criticized the Congress party for failing to issue a single notification for new jobs in their tenure so far, questioning whether Revanth Reddy's government had recognized any jobs during its ten-month administration.

Vinod Kumar also reminded the audience of his involvement in the Telangana movement, stating that he played a key role in representing the cause in Delhi and winning the Warangal MP seat twice. He added that the zonal system, which ensures 95% of jobs for Telangana locals, was established under KCR's administration.

Central Minister Kishan Reddy to Visit Musi River Basin Tomorrow

TPN, Hyderabad: Central Minister and BJP state president G. Kishan Reddy has decided to visit the Musi River basin tomorrow as the state government begins demolishing structures in the area as part of the Musi Beautification Project. Reddy aims to meet with the affected residents who will become homeless due to the loss of their homes and businesses.

During his recent meeting with party leaders from eight districts surrounding Greater Hyderabad and GHMC corporators, Kishan Reddy discussed the Musi rejuvenation and beautification efforts. He expressed concern that demolishing the homes of the poor under the guise of the Musi Beautification Project is unjust. He emphasized that residents should be persuaded to vacate their properties voluntarily rather than forcibly displaced. Reddy also suggested that only commercial constructions should be demolished initially.

He criticized the Congress govern-



ment for its decision, which he believes could leave thousands of impoverished individuals home-

less. Reddy assured the Musi victims that the BJP stands with them, stating there is no need for

fear, and announced plans to implement a new action plan for the displaced starting tomorrow.



CM Revanth Reddy Invited to Alai Balai Event by Haryana Governor's Daughter



TPN, Hyderabad : Vijayalakshmi, daughter of Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, extended a formal invitation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to attend the upcoming Alai Balai event. The event is scheduled to take place on the 13th of this month at Nampally Exhibition Grounds.

Vijayalakshmi met the Chief Minister at his residence in Jubilee Hills, where she personally handed over the invitation. The Alai Balai event, a cultural and social gathering, is an annual tradition that celebrates unity and harmony, bringing together people from various walks of life.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has expressed his appreciation for the invitation and is expected to attend the event, which holds cultural significance in the region. The Alai Balai gathering is known for promoting camaraderie and fostering a spirit of togetherness across different communities.

Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's family has been actively involved in organizing and participating in the event, which attracts prominent leaders, artists, and cultural enthusiasts from across the state and beyond.

Former Minister Malla Reddy Invites Kishan Reddy to Granddaughter's Wedding



TPN, Hyderabad : Former Minister Malla Reddy, accompanied by his son-in-law and MLA Rajasekhara Reddy, visited the BJP state office to personally invite Union Minister Kishan Reddy to

his granddaughter's wedding. During the visit, Malla Reddy handed over the invitation and shared warm memories of their long-standing friendship. Speaking to the media, Malla Reddy said, "I have known Kishan Reddy for over 30 years. We have been friends since childhood, and that's why I came to personally invite him to my granddaughter's wedding."

When asked about political matters, Malla Reddy quickly dismissed the idea, stating, "We didn't discuss any political issues. Every time, do you only

want political gossip?"

Reflecting on his political career, Malla Reddy credited former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his rise. "Chandrababu gave me my first political opportunity. It was due to his support and the BJP-TDP alliance that I entered Parliament as an MP," he explained.

The visit remained personal in nature, with Malla Reddy focusing on his long-standing friendship with Kishan Reddy, avoiding political discussions during the brief interaction.

Telangana Government Plans Short Legislative Session for HYDRAA Bill

TPN, Hyderabad : The Telangana state government is planning a brief session of the Legislature, likely lasting one or two days, to introduce a Bill based on the GHMC Amendment (Ordinance) 2024. This legislation aims to enhance the powers of the Hyderabad Road Development Authority (HYDRAA) and facilitate the merger of 51 villages into municipalities within the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Sources indicate that the session may be convened by the end of October or in the first week of November. HYDRAA has become a contentious issue in recent months, drawing significant criticism from opposition parties, which accuse the state govern-



ment of targeting lower-income residents while exempting high-profile properties, particularly those linked to Congress members.

In addition to the scrutiny surrounding HYDRAA, the opposition has expressed concern over the clearing of the riverbed to advance the Musi Riverfront Development Project. This project, along with efforts to protect Hyderabad's lakes—especially those within ORR limits—will likely be focal points during the upcoming legislative session.

As the government moves forward with its agenda, the political landscape in Telangana remains charged, with ongoing debates about the implications of the proposed changes for residents and the environment.

Raids Uncover Cockroach Infestation and Unhygienic Practices in Old City Restaurants



TPN, Hyderabad: Food safety authorities continue their crackdown on unhygienic practices in popular eateries across Hyderabad's Old City. On Thursday, inspections revealed alarming violations, including cockroach infestations, in several well-known restaurants.

The raids were conducted at Hotel Fiza and Baker, and Sukha Sagar Udipi Veg, where the food safety team uncovered multiple hygiene violations. At Hotel Fiza and Baker, the team found the kitchen refrigerator in an unsanitary condition. Food items were stored without proper labeling or covers, increasing the risk of contamination. Furthermore, the doors and windows were left open without insect-proof screens, allowing pests easy entry. Suspected leftover food was also discovered inside the refrigerator, raising further concerns about the quality and safety of food being served.

At Sukha Sagar Udipi Veg, inspectors observed live cockroach infestations in the storeroom. Drain water stagnation was noted near the washing area, with an open drain exacerbating the unsanitary conditions. Additionally, pre-

pared and semi-prepared food items were stored without proper labeling, violating food safety regulations.

Despite ongoing inspections, similar violations continue to surface with each raid, highlighting persistent issues with hygiene and food safety in some of the city's restaurants. While authorities are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to ensure clean and healthy food is served, the recurrence of such violations underscores the need for stricter compliance and oversight.

It remains to be seen how these inspections will improve the overall hygiene standards in eateries across Hyderabad, especially in the Old City, where such violations have become a frequent issue.

Nagarjuna Pays Respects to Rajendra Prasad After Family Tragedy

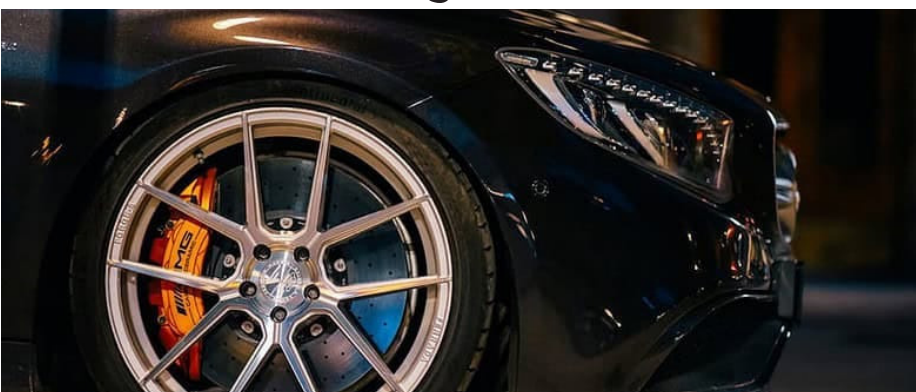


TPN, Hyderabad : Senior actor Nagarjuna visited veteran actor Rajendra Prasad, who is grieving the recent loss of his daughter, Gayathri, due to a heart attack. Nagarjuna paid his respects at Rajendra Prasad's residence in Indu Villas, Kukatpally, where he placed flowers at Gayathri's photograph.

Following this, Nagarjuna consoled Rajendra Prasad and his family, expressing his support during this difficult time. Former cricketer Vankin Chamundeswaranath, who accompanied Nagarjuna, also extended his condolences.

Notably, Rebel Star Prabhas had visited Rajendra Prasad the day before to offer his sympathies. Many prominent figures, including Megastar Chiranjeevi, director Trivikram, Icon Star Allu Arjun, Venkatesh, senior actor Mohan Babu, Ajay, Shivaji Raja, Nag Ashwin, PAC chairman Arekapudi Gandhi, MLA Madhavaram Krishnarao, and former ministers Erabelli Dayakar Rao and Talasani Srinivas Yadav, have also visited to pay their respects and offer comfort during this challenging time for Rajendra Prasad and his family.

Hyderabadi Man Wins Mercedes Benz in Dubai Duty Free Draw



A 50-year-old Hyderabad-based businessman, Rajiv Lakhota, won a Mercedes Benz AMG GT 43 (Obsidian Black Metallic) in the Dubai Duty-Free (DDF) Millennium Millionaire and Finest Surprise draw on Wednesday, October 9.

Lakhota secured the luxury car after purchasing ticket number 0826 on September 26 while traveling from Dubai to Hyderabad. An avid participant in DDF's promotions, he expressed his excitement, saying, "Thank you so much for this wonderful surprise. I cannot believe this just happened."

Other Winners

In addition to Lakhota, other winners were also announced. Jothibhasu Madhavan, a 55-year-old Indian from Sharjah, won a Mercedes Benz S500 (Obsidian Black Metallic), while Shihabudeen M, an Indian national in Dubai, won a BMW R 1250 RS (Triple Black) motorbike.

In a separate draw, a 67-year-old Syrian expatriate living in Al Ain, Ali Akram Arabo, won one million dollars in the DDF Millennium Millionaire draw.

GHMC Introduces Sirens and CCTV to Curb Garbage Dumping in Hyderabad

TPN, Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has launched a new initiative to tackle illegal garbage dumping in the city. In an effort to deter littering, GHMC is introducing a siren system at "Garbage Vulnerable Points" (GVPs), which will activate a loud alarm whenever someone dumps garbage at these locations.



Despite previous efforts to eliminate

these dumping spots, some areas have continued to suffer from illegal waste disposal. In response, GHMC is also installing CCTV cameras in collaboration with local Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs) to monitor these areas and enforce the siren system.

The initiative is being implemented under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Anjaneyu in the Uppal circle of GHMC. Officials are hopeful

that this technology-driven approach, combined with community involvement, will help curb illegal dumping and keep neighborhoods cleaner.

GHMC's efforts to integrate modern technology with civic responsibility aim to create a lasting impact on the city's cleanliness and overall hygiene, improving living conditions for residents.



Rain Disrupts Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations in Karimnagar

TPN , Karimnagar: The Saddula Bathukamma celebrations faced disruptions due to rain in several parts of the erstwhile Karimnagar district on Thursday. As the grand finale of the nine-day floral festival, women dressed in vibrant saris and adorned with jewellery gathered to celebrate with traditional dances around the deity.

However, as the women began to sing and dance, the rain interrupted the festivities. Despite the downpour, they continued with the immersion of Bathukamma in nearby water bodies. Following the immersion, participants shared 'sathu pindi'—a special flour made from various grains—marking an

important part of the celebrations.

In preparation for the event, local gram panchayats and municipalities made extensive arrangements to facilitate the festivities. This included leveling grounds, providing lighting, and ensuring access to drinking water at designated celebration

areas.

Local MLA Gangula Kamalakar, Mayor Y. Sunil Rao, and other officials participated in the celebrations across different parts of Karimnagar town, highlighting the community spirit that defines the Bathukamma festival, even in the face of weather challenges.



Katamayya Safety Kits Distributed to Toddy Tappers in Karimnagar

TPN , Karimnagar: In a program organized by the BC Welfare Department at Renuka Yellamma Temple function hall on Ramagundam Bypass Road, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar distributed Katamayya Rakshana Kavacham (safety kits) to toddy tappers. The event aimed to enhance the safety of toddy tappers while climbing palm trees.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized the importance of the safety kits, which were designed with technical expertise from Everest climbers and approved by NIT. These kits can withstand up to 1,500 kilograms, providing essential protection for toddy tappers.

Speaking at the event, Minister

Prabhakar said, "Under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, we are ensuring the safety of toddy tappers by distributing these kits. In the first phase, 10,000 kits will be provided across 100 constituencies, with plans to eventually cover all 200,000 registered toddy tappers."

He stressed the need for proper training for toddy tappers and urged the public to spread awareness about the safety kits through social media. District Collector Pamela Satpathy, former MLA Koduri Satyanarayana, and other officials attended the event. Minister Prabhakar also requested the removal of a nearby dump yard and called for tourism development around Manair.

Hyderabad: Interstate Chain Snatcher Arrested, ₹9 Lakhs Worth of Stolen Goods Recovered

TPN , Hyderabad: A notorious interstate chain snatcher was arrested by a joint team of the LB Nagar CCS, Rachakonda IT Cell, and Chaitanyapuri police. The accused, identified as Achuth Kumar Gani, alias Vishwanath Kolivadi, 34, hails from Kolivada village in Dharwad district, Karnataka. He was found in possession of stolen items valued at ₹9 lakhs.

During a press conference held at the Chaitanyapuri police station, LB Nagar Crime DCP Arvind Babu provided details about the arrest. Achuth Kumar, a driver by profession, had developed a penchant for luxury and chose chain snatching as an easy source of income. His criminal activities reportedly began in

2015 when he committed his first chain snatching in Karnataka. He would purchase second-hand high-end bikes through OLX, targeting women walking alone to commit his crimes.

In 2018, Achuth Kumar was apprehended by the Jnanabharathi police and subsequently sentenced to prison in Bengaluru. However, upon his release after four and a half years, he relocated to Hyderabad, where he resumed his criminal activities.

On Wednesday, while riding a bike in the Mohan Nagar area, he was tracked down by Rachakonda IT officials using technical surveillance.



Kothagudem Police Excel at Zonal Level Duty Meet Competitions

TPN , Kothagudem: The police personnel of Kothagudem district achieved remarkable success at the zonal level police duty meet competitions, securing second place overall. The event took place in Warangal on October 3 and 4, featuring participants from four districts: Warangal, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, and Mahabubabad.

Kothagudem police earned an impressive total of 22 medals, including seven gold, seven silver, and eight bronze. The results were announced by Wa-



rangal Commissioner of Police Ambar Kishor Jha on October 8, who also presented the medals to the winners and commended

their efforts.

Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju met with the medal

recipients at his office on Thursday, offering congratulations and encouragement. He noted that these annual zonal, state, and national competitions aim to enhance the skills and showcase the talents of police personnel in crime investigation and various duties.

Looking ahead, the SP expressed optimism for the district's performance in the upcoming state-level duty meet competitions scheduled for October 13 in Hyderabad, hoping for even greater achievements.

5 Arrested for Ganja Peddling and Smuggling in Mancheril

TPN , Mancheril: Five individuals were arrested on Thursday for allegedly peddling and smuggling ganja on the outskirts of Madaram village in Thandur mandal. Police seized 1.1 kilograms of ganja, a motorcycle, and four mobile phones from the suspects.

Bellampalli ACP Ravi Kumar briefed the media on the arrests, identifying the accused as Shaik Hasam, Gorlapalli Sandeep, and Bandari Shyam, all residents of Thandur mandal. Additionally, Vijay Haldar and Rajkumar Sarkar, from Easgaon village in Kagaznagar mandal, were also apprehended while attempting to sell the illegal substance.

The arrests followed a tip-off regarding their activities. Inspector Kumara Swamy, along with Madaram Sub-Inspector Soujanya and Thandur Sub-Inspector Kiran Kumar, participated in the operation.

Nagarkurnool Medical College Faces Backlash for Using Unofficial Telangana Emblem

TPN , Hyderabad: The Government Medical College in Nagarkurnool is under fire for displaying a design of the Telangana State emblem that differs from the official version. This discrepancy has sparked outrage among netizens, who are criticizing both the college and the state government.

The emblem, prominently featured on the college's arch, is not recognized as the official state emblem, leading to calls for accountability. Former digital media director Konatham Dileep expressed his dismay on social media, urging Telangana's Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and the local collector to investigate the matter. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the sanctity and value of the official emblem, warning against making the Telangana government appear foolish.

The situation highlights concerns regarding adherence to official state symbols and the responsibilities of government institutions in representing them accurately.

Farmer Dies, Four Injured in Honey Bee Attack in Sircilla

TPN , Sircilla: A tragic incident occurred on Thursday morning in Stambampalli of Boinpalli mandal, where a farmer lost his life and four others were injured in a honey bee attack while they were working in their fields.

According to villagers, the honey bees swarmed the farmers unexpectedly. The injured individuals include Kandadi Laxma Reddy, Alluri Ravinder Reddy, Kandala Raji Reddy, Kandala Naveen Reddy, and laborer Subash.

Local residents quickly transported the injured to Vemulawada hospital, where Laxma Reddy, aged 61, unfortunately succumbed to his injuries while receiving treatment. The community is mourning the loss and seeking ways to address such unexpected wildlife encounters in the future.



DKZ Technologies Managing Director Arrested in Multi-Crore Fraud Case in Hyderabad

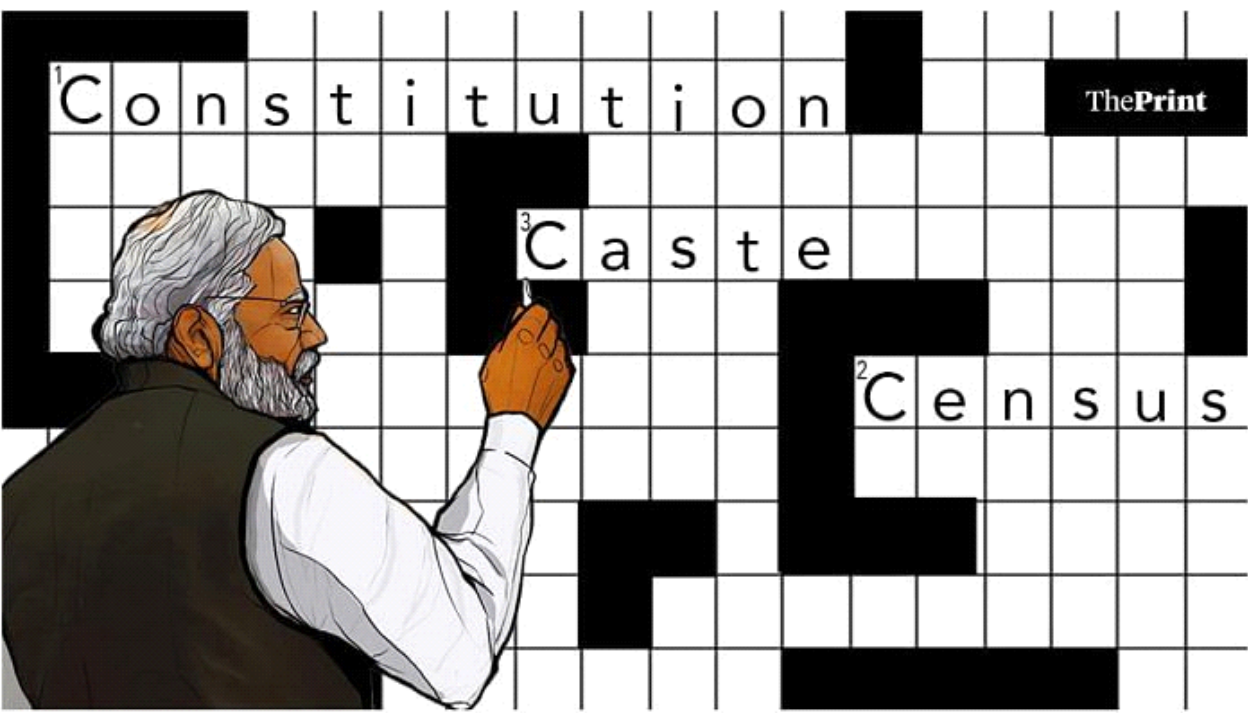
TPN , Hyderabad: The managing director of DKZ Technologies and Dikazo Solutions Private Limited, Syed Ashfaq Rahil, along with his wife and company director, Syeda Aisha Naaz, has been arrested by the Hyderabad police for allegedly defrauding investors of approximately Rs. 229 crores.

The police have reported that the couple collected funds from around 17,500 depositors, claiming their companies were engaged in business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) activities. To instill confidence among investors, they opened several stores and asserted connections with multinational corporations.

The arrest follows the abrupt closure of their business in August, which prompted numerous investors to file complaints with law enforcement. The authorities acted quickly, registering a case against Rahil, Naaz, and others involved.

During the investigation, police conducted raids at various locations, including the couple's farmhouse and the offices of both companies. The operation yielded significant evidence, including Rs. 1.70 crore in cash, 13 laptops, and several bank cheque books.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, CV Anand, stated that special teams are continuing efforts to apprehend additional suspects, including agents and social media influencers who may have facilitated the fraudulent activities. The investigation remains ongoing as authorities seek to provide justice for the affected investors.



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, partic-

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 tradi-

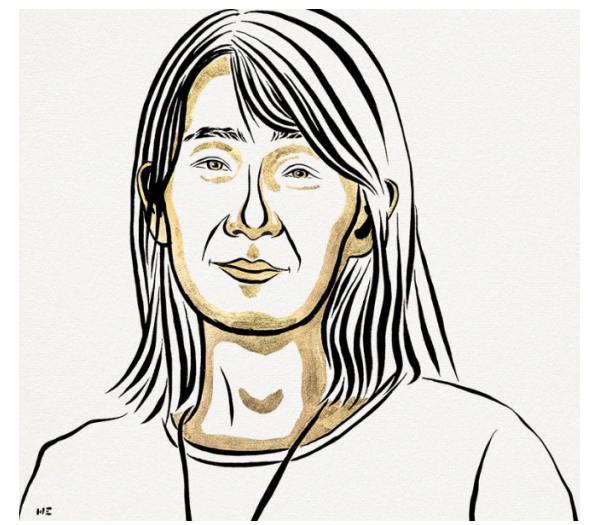
tional coalitions realign in response to electoral pressures.

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.

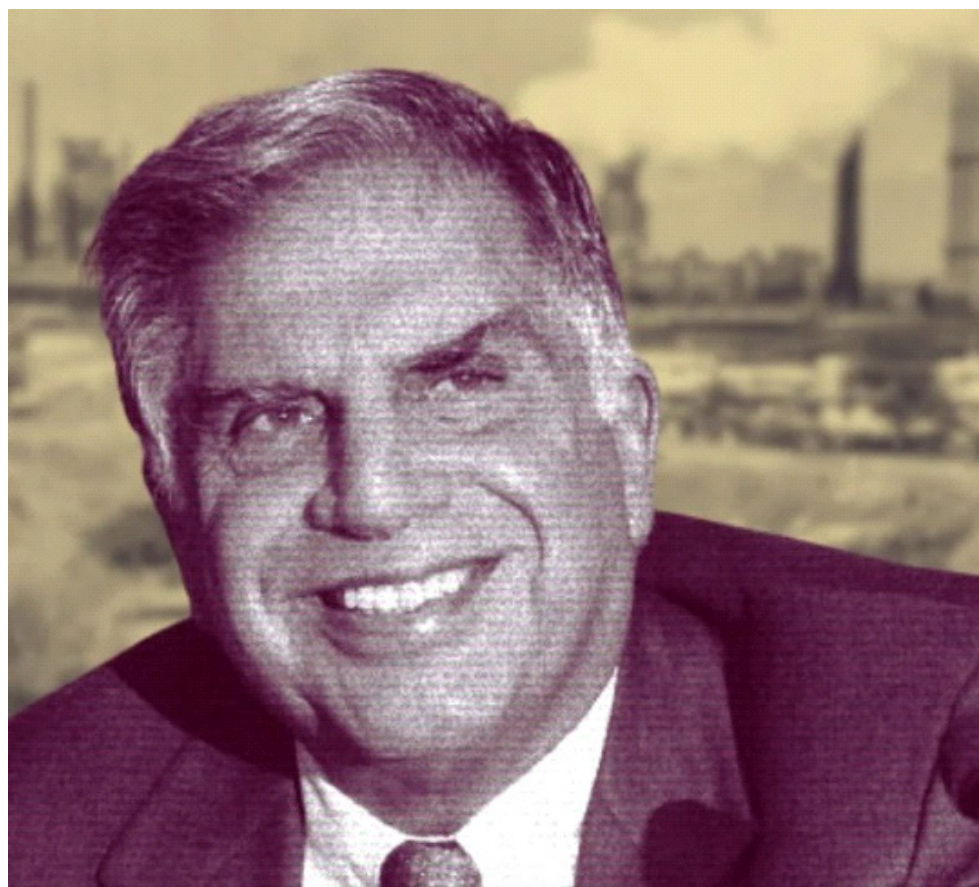
Ratan Tata: A Lasting Legacy for Jamshedpur

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 ab-

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-



ice 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.

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.

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,

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 start-up 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,

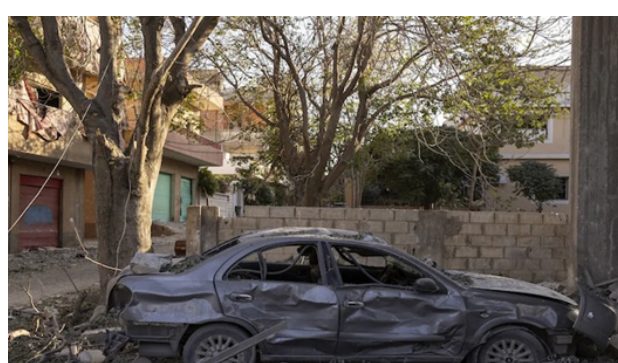
though the amendment must secure 60% of the vote to pass.

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." 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 "minimize 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.

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



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.

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.

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

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 hydroelectric 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.



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

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.

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.

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

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.

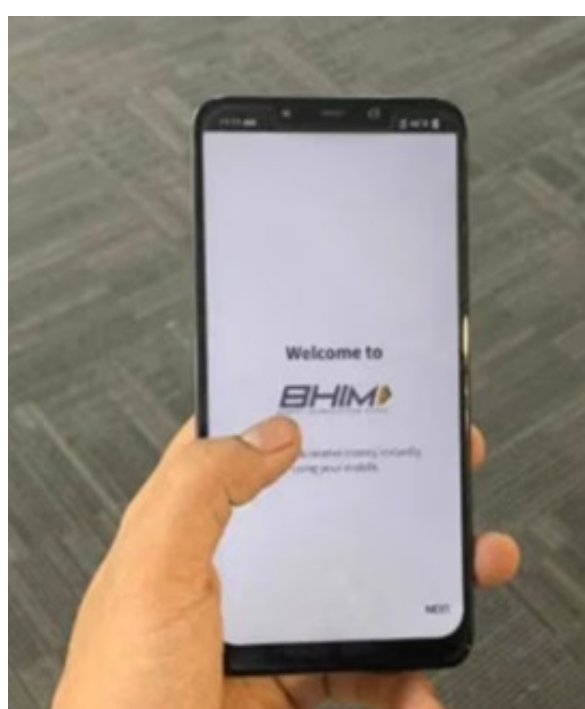
RBI Boosts UPI Payment Limits to Encourage Adoption

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.

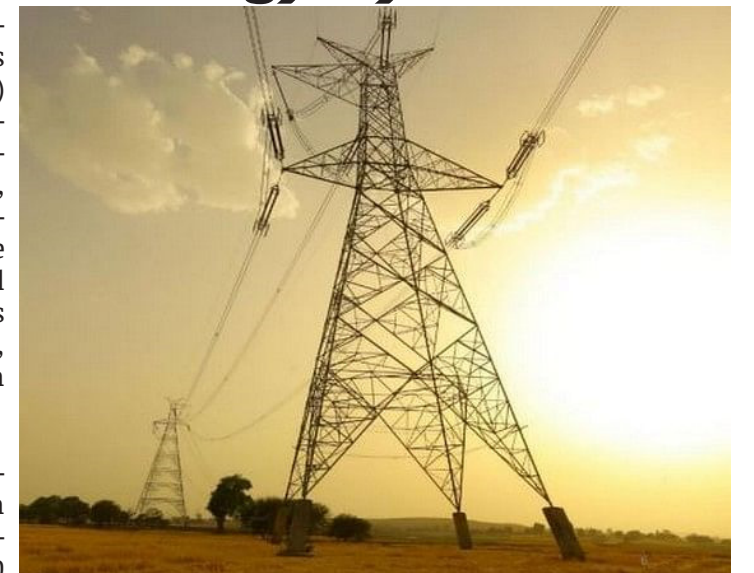
The RBI's initiatives are expected to bolster the growth of digital payments in the country, aligning with the government's vision of a cashless economy. As more consumers and businesses embrace UPI payments, the increased limits will likely facilitate larger transactions, thereby enhancing convenience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

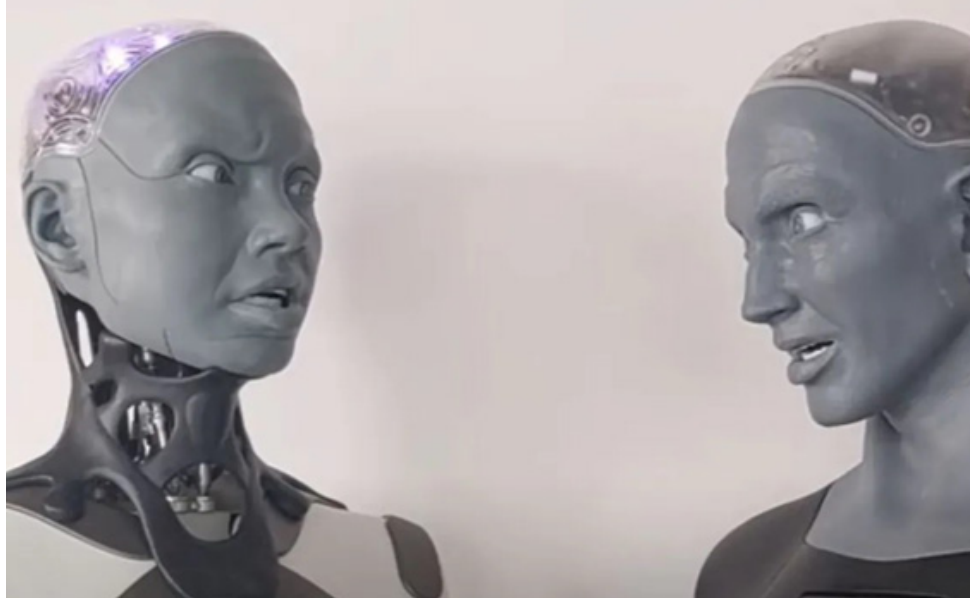


port emphasizes that the pace of RE auctions must accelerate significantly, suggesting that approximately 60 GW of capacity needs to be auctioned annually.

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.

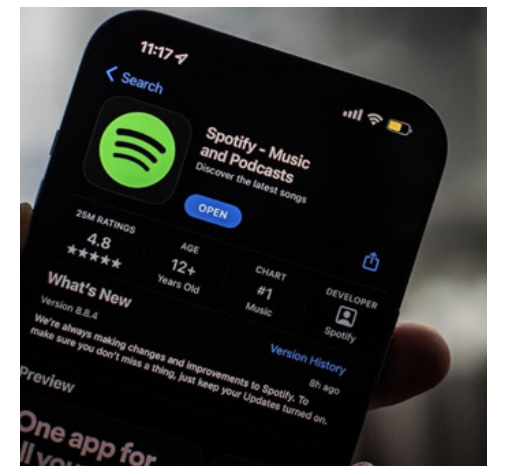
With the new free option, users in South Korea can sign up for a free account, allowing them to explore Spotify's extensive playlists, podcasts, and daily mixes. This move is part of Spotify's strategy to enhance connections between global audiences and Korean music, particularly the thriving K-pop genre.

"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



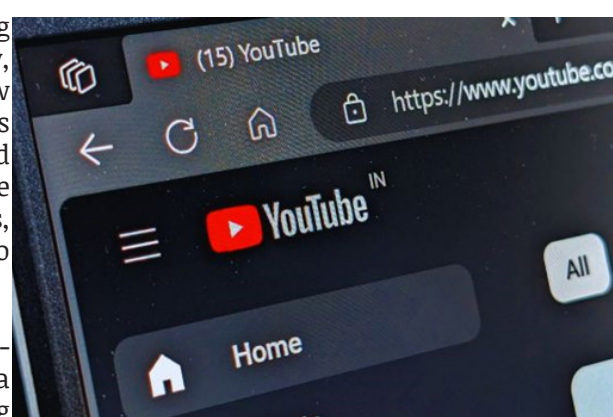
music access. Overall, Spotify's expansion of its free service in South Korea represents a significant step in its ongoing efforts to deepen its presence in the region and cater to the evolving preferences of its audience. As the platform continues to innovate and expand its features, it aims to become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



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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."

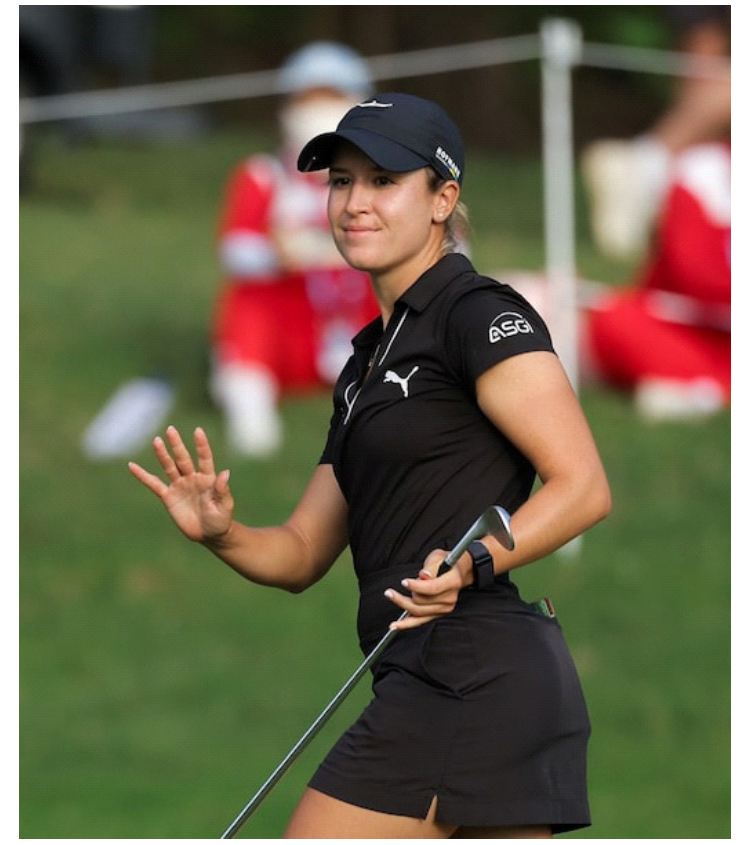
The Spaniard is renowned for his incredible achievements on the court, including a record 14 French Open titles, which solidify his status as a clay-court maestro. Overall, Nadal has claimed a total of 92 ATP singles titles, encompassing 36 Masters titles and an Olympic gold medal. He is also one of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



irement 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.

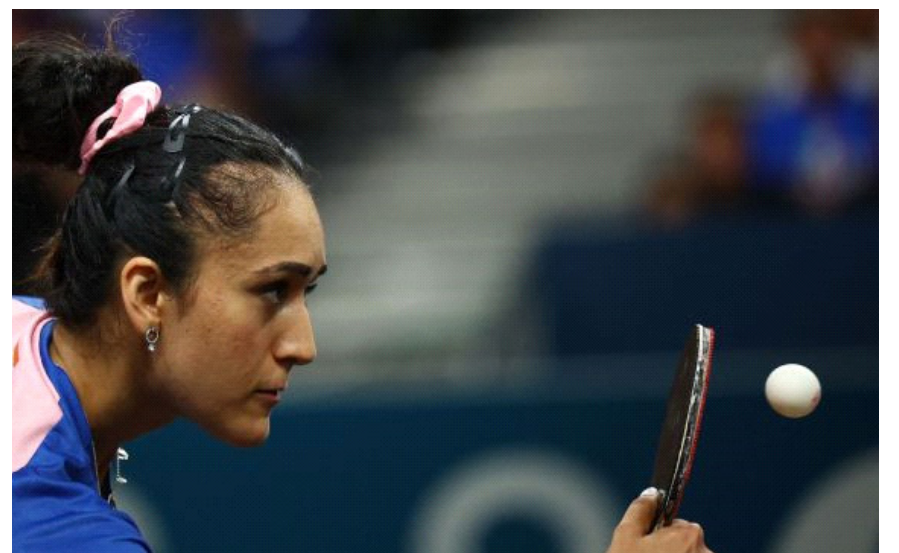
With Pakistan missing their frontline spinner, Abrar Ahmed, due to illness, the team's chances of mounting a comeback appear slim. As the match progresses, Pakistan must regroup to avoid what looks to be a crushing defeat.

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 medalists. 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



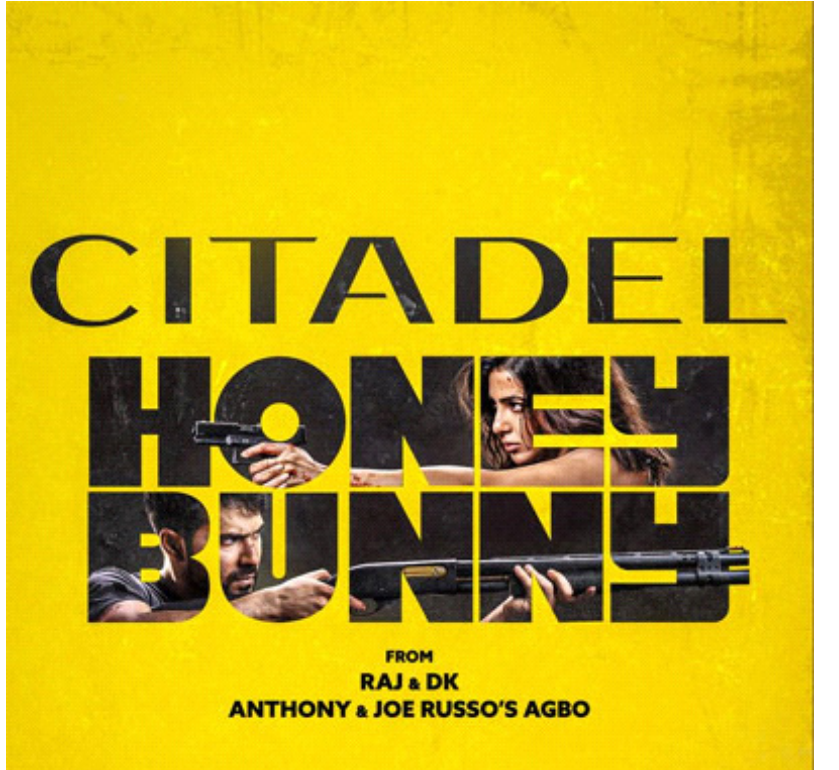
Following the success of *HanuMan*, Prasanth Varma is set to make waves again with the announcement of his next project, *Mahakali*, produced under his banner PVCU. This film, featuring Nandamuri Mokshagnya, is poised to become India's first female superhero movie, with the visionary Puja Aparna Kolluru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



CITADEL HONEY BUNNY

FROM
RAJ & DK
ANTHONY & JOE RUSSO'S AGBO

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!

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.

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

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

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.

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

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.



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.

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.

