

# Revanth Reddy Rallies Congress Ahead of Graduate MLC Elections

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called on Congress leaders to step up preparations for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections in Medak, Adilabad, and Karimnagar districts. During a virtual meeting, the CM emphasized the importance of securing victories in these key constituencies, underscoring the elections' significance for the party's prospects in the state.

The meeting, co-chaired by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, was attended by senior Congress figures, including AICC Telangana in-charge General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi, in-charge secretaries Viswanath and Viswanatham, ministers from the concerned districts, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members of the Legislative Council, and district Congress presidents.

In his address, CM Revanth Reddy outlined the key achievements of the Congress government over the past 10 months, with a special focus on addressing unemployment, particularly among the youth. He pointed out the recruitment of 11,000 teachers through the DSC process, along with the successful implementation of transfers and promotions in various government departments, fulfilling crucial election promises made by the Congress party.

Revanth Reddy stressed that this Graduate MLC election holds particular importance, as it is the first since Mahesh Kumar Goud's appointment as TPCC President. He urged the Youth Congress and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) to ensure that all eligible graduates are registered in the voter list. Additionally, he announced that a Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) committee, consisting of leaders from the four districts, would be formed by October 15 to guide the party's election campaign.

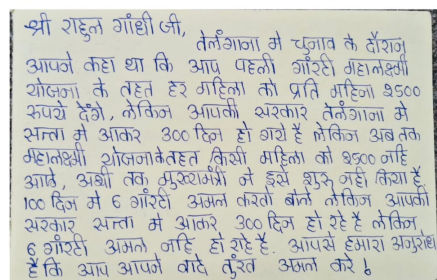
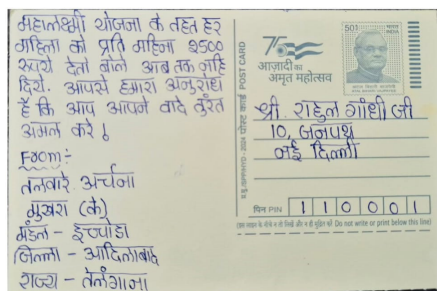
AICC General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi echoed the CM's sentiments, calling on party leaders to focus on both voter regis-



tration and the success of the candidate. Incumbent Council member Jeevan Reddy was entrusted with overseeing the election process, while district Congress presidents shared their perspectives on potential candidates.

The upcoming elections are seen as a critical test for the Congress as it seeks to strengthen its political position in Telangana, with the party keen on consolidating its support base across the state.

## Telangana Villagers Urge Rahul Gandhi to Implement Six Guarantees



Adilabad district, have written to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, demanding the immediate implementation of six guarantees promised during the Assembly elections held in November last year. The villagers expressed their frustration through postcards sent to Gandhi, urging him to fulfill the pledges made by the Congress party.

In their letter, the villagers reminded Gandhi that the Congress had promised to implement the guarantees within 100 days of coming to power, but even after 300 days, there has been no action. They also sent similar postcards to Telangana Chief Minister

A. Revanth Reddy, expressing dissatisfaction with the delay.

The six guarantees highlighted by the villagers include increasing social security pensions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000 per month, providing a monthly pension of Rs 2,500 to every woman, giving one tola of gold to beneficiaries of the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, providing scooters to girl students, offering input investment of Rs 15,000 per acre to farmers, and waiving crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh. The villagers warned that if the Congress fails to honor its commitments, they will stage a protest in New Delhi to demand action.



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Villagers from Mukhra in Echoda Mandal,

## TGERC Approves Additional Surcharge on Open Access Electricity Consumers

**TPN, Hyderabad** : The Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) has approved an additional surcharge of Rs 1.09 per kWh for Open Access (OA) consumers for the second half of the 2024-25 financial year. This surcharge will be applicable from October 2024 to March 2025.

The decision follows petitions filed by the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) and the Telangana Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGNPDCL), which initially proposed a surcharge of Rs 1.60 per kWh. The discoms cited the need to recover costs related to stranded capacity, transmission, distribution, and demand charges from OA consumers.

After a thorough review, TGERC settled on a lower surcharge of Rs 1.09 per kWh. The surcharge will apply to all OA consumers of TGSPDCL and TGNPDCL, with exemptions for those using power from captive power plants or specific green energy sources.

The commission's decision followed an extensive public consultation process, including hearings held in September 2024. During these hearings, various stakeholders, including industry representatives, expressed concerns about the surcharge's calculation and the financial impact on stranded ca-

capacity due to OA consumption. Despite these concerns, the TGERC maintained that the surcharge is essential to ensure the financial stability of the distribution companies.

According to the commission, while OA consumers can continue benefiting from competitive energy supply options, the surcharge will help discoms cover fixed costs, including infrastructure maintenance and power purchase agreements. This measure aims to balance the interests of both utilities and consumers.

The new surcharge will be in effect from October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.



## Activists Pay Tributes to Prof. GN Saibaba at Gun Park Memorial



**TPN , Hyderabad :** Human rights activists and political leaders gathered at the Gun Park Martyrs Memorial near the Telangana Assembly on Monday to pay their final respects to Professor GN Saibaba, who passed away on October 13 following complications from gall bladder surgery at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences.

A heated argument occurred between the police and the activists when the latter were asked

to vacate the venue soon after the professor's mortal remains were brought to the memorial. Despite the tension, the activists paid tribute to Saibaba by raising "Laal Salaam" slogans before departing for Moula Ali, where his remains were to be donated to Gandhi Medical College for research purposes.

Professor Kasim, a close associate, recalled Saibaba's pivotal role in mobilizing two lakh people for

a massive public meeting in Warangal in December 1998, which culminated in the historic 'Warangal Declaration' in support of the Telangana statehood movement. Kasim noted that even former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had acknowledged the significance of the Warangal Declaration during his address in the assembly after assuming office in 2014.

“Saibaba was a relentless advo-

cate for quality education, equal opportunities, and healthcare for all. He also defended the rights of Adivasis in Chhattisgarh, asserting their claim over natural resources. His work and sacrifice will inspire generations to come,” Kasim stated during his tribute. The event marked a somber yet powerful farewell to the late professor, whose legacy as an activist and academic continues to resonate across Telangana and beyond.





## KTR Alleges Congress-BJP Nexus, Claims "Big Brother" Shields Congress Leaders from ED

*continued from P-1*

In addition, KTR raised concerns about the ED's investigation into the Valmiki scam in Karnataka, where Rs 40 crore, allegedly linked to the scam, was reportedly funneled to the Telangana Congress during the Parliamentary elections. He suggested that a "Big Brother" was protecting Congress leaders from facing action by the ED.

KTR's remarks are seen as a counterattack to the Congress's recent claims, as political tensions rise ahead of key elections in the state. The accusations from both sides reflect the intensifying battle between the three major political players—BRS, BJP, and Congress—in Telangana.

## Telangana Villagers Urge Rahul Gandhi to Implement Six Guarantees

*continued from P-1*

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao shared the villagers' grievances on social media platform 'X', posting photographs of the villagers holding postcards. "Six guarantees were assured to be implemented within 100 days of government formation. It's been over 300 days and no signs of progress! People are able to clearly see through your betrayal, Mr. Gandhi," he wrote, accusing the Congress of failing to deliver on its promises.

The growing discontent among the villagers highlights the pressure on the Congress government to act on its election manifesto.

## Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Assures Infrastructure Support for Foxconn's Expansion in Telangana

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, visited the Foxconn facility at Kongara Kalan on the outskirts of Hyderabad. During the visit, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing all necessary infrastructure to companies investing in Telangana, ensuring there is no room for doubt regarding support.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Minister Sridhar Babu, held discussions with Foxconn representatives to review the progress of the Foxconn Interconnect Technology Kongara Kalan Park (FIT KK Park). He also engaged in a video confer-



ence with Foxconn Chairman Young Liu, during which he reiterated the state's assurance of full cooperation in meeting the company's infrastructure needs.

CM Revanth Reddy encouraged Foxconn to expand its investments in Telangana, particularly in sectors such as electric vehicles and lith-



ium battery manufacturing. He expressed the state government's readiness to support Foxconn's future endeavors and emphasized Telangana's potential as a hub for advanced technology and industrial growth.

The Chief Minister's visit highlights the state's proactive approach to at-

tracting global investments and fostering industrial development. He expressed optimism that Foxconn's continued collaboration would not only strengthen the state's industrial sector but also create employment opportunities for local talent.

The meeting was attended by MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, local MLA Mall Reddy Rangareddy, senior officials from the state's IT department, and Foxconn representatives.

Foxconn's expansion in Telangana is expected to be a significant boost to the state's industrial ecosystem, further positioning it as a favorable destination for global investors.

## Minister Sitakka Launches Job Portal for Differently-Abled Individuals in Telangana



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Minister for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Sitakka, launched the Telangana Handicapped Job Portal at the Secretariat to facilitate employment opportunities for differently-abled individuals in the private sector. During the event, ten appointment orders were issued to candidates through the Women and Child Welfare Directorate's helpline.

Minister Sitakka emphasized that the differently-abled face significant challenges in securing employment compared to other groups. She noted that physical disabilities are often the result of accidents or nutritional deficiencies and not within individuals' control. To address this, the

government introduced the online job portal, making it easier for the differently-abled to register and find jobs based on their qualifications without having to visit companies in person.

She also highlighted the government's efforts to allocate 5% of welfare funds to differently-abled individuals and to increase reservations in private sector jobs from 1% to 4%. Additionally, the government is committed to providing reservations for them in welfare schemes like Indira Housing. Minister Sitakka assured that the recruitment of long-pending backlog posts would begin soon, and Rs. 50 crores have been allocated in the budget for assistive devices for the differently-abled.

## Telangana Government Honors Film Industry, Plans to Introduce Gaddar Film Awards

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that the Telangana government holds the state's film industry in high regard, aiming for it to achieve global recognition. Speaking at the first meeting of the Gaddar Film Awards Committee, held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, Bhatti emphasized the government's commitment to resolving any issues faced by the film industry, as directed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

He highlighted that previous governments neglected film awards after the state's bifurcation, but Telangana, known for its rich cultural heritage, has always embraced music and arts. Bhatti praised Gaddar, calling him a legendary figure who introduced Tel-

angana's emotions and culture to the world through his music. He noted that Gaddar's influence extends to every village in Telangana, making him a symbol of the state's identity.

The committee is planning to organize the Gaddar Film Awards as a grand celebration, with the date to be finalized soon. Prominent figures including producer Dagubati Suresh and special chief secretary Ramakrishna Rao attended the meeting, with discussions on incorporating acting and cultural training into the state's skill universities.

The Telangana government's initiative marks a significant step in honoring the legacy of Gaddar and promoting the state's film industry.



## Record Liquor Sales in Telangana During Dussehra: Rs. 1,100 Crores in 10 Days



**TPN , Telangana:** Dussehra celebrations in Telangana are incomplete without food and drink, with liquor sales skyrocketing every year during Bathukamma and Dussehra festivals. This year, the trend continued, as liquor worth over Rs. 1,100 crores was consumed in just 10 days. According to excise officials, the total liquor sales during this period crossed Rs. 1,000 crores, with

bars, liquor shops, and pubs reporting significant business, bringing substantial revenue to the state treasury. Hyderabad once again topped the list for the highest liquor sales.

Telangana has 2,260 liquor shops and 1,171 bars and restaurants, all of which saw increased sales during the festival. Anticipating this demand, the ex-

cise department prepared a large stock, which led to high revenue for the government. Bars also stocked up adequately to meet the rising demand. The liquor rush peaked on the weekends, especially Saturday and Sunday.

By the end of September, liquor sales had reached Rs. 2,838 crores, and between October 1 and 11, an additional Rs. 1,100 crores worth of liquor, including 10.44 lakh cases, was sold. During this 10-day period, 17.59 lakh bottles of beer were consumed. The highest sales were recorded in the Rangareddy district, followed by Karimnagar, Nalgonda, and Warangal.

Despite the massive sales, there was a slight decrease in excise revenue compared to the previous year. In areas under Greater Hyderabad, including Secunderabad, Medchal, Malkajgiri, and Vikarabad, 674 liquor shops generated Rs. 312 crores, a drop from last year's Rs. 317 crores, marking a Rs. 5 crore decline in revenue.

## Court Hearing on KTR Petition Scheduled October 18



**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Nampally Special Magistrate Court has scheduled a hearing on October 18 regarding a petition filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). The

court has announced that KTR's statement, along with those of four witnesses, will be recorded on the same day.

The witnesses include BRS leaders Balka Suman, Satyavathi Rathod, Tula Uma, and Dasoju Sravan. Their statements, along with KTR's, will be crucial in the ongoing legal proceedings.

The court has also decided to record these statements on October 18 and adjourn the case for further proceedings following the testimony.

This legal development comes as KTR and key party members face ongoing scrutiny in various matters. The upcoming statements are expected to shed more light on the case and influence the next steps in the court's process.



# Telangana IAS Officers Challenge DoPT Directive to Report to AP

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Four IAS officers from Telangana have filed separate petitions in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) challenging a directive from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) that requires them to report for duty in Andhra Pradesh. The CAT is set to hear their petitions on Tuesday.

The DoPT issued orders for 11 IAS and three IPS officers, including Anjani Kumar, Abilasha Bisht, and Abhishek Mohanty, to report to Andhra Pradesh by Wednesday. These officers were allocated to Andhra Pradesh following the bifurcation in 2014 but had continued to serve in Telangana.

Among those petitioning the CAT are Vakati Karuna, A. Vani Prasad, Ronald Rose, and Amrapali Kata, who seek permission to remain in Telangana. Additionally, IAS officer G. Srija-



na from Andhra Pradesh has also approached the CAT for similar reasons.

As the deadline approaches, some IAS officers met with Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari at the Secretariat, and the state government is expected to issue reliving orders to facilitate their reporting to the Andhra Pradesh government.

## TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Announces Key Congress Review Meetings at Gandhi Bhavan



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced a series of crucial review meetings to be held at Gandhi Bhavan on October 15 and 16. These meetings will focus on district-level Congress activi-

ties and interaction with ministers.

On October 15, a Medak District Congress Party review meeting will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Following this, Minister of Panchayati Raj, S. Seethakka, will hold a face-to-face interaction with Congress leaders and workers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., listening to their grievances and requests.

Later in the day, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., an Adilabad District Congress Party meeting will be held.

On October 16, the Hyderabad District Congress Party review meeting will be conducted in the morning at Gandhi Bhavan. In the afternoon, from 3 p.m., a meeting of Congress Party affiliated organization presidents and chairpersons will take place.

These district review meetings, chaired by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar, will be attended by AICC in-charge Deepa Das Munshi, AICC Secretaries Sri Vishnunath and Sri Viswanatham, as well as Congress MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and district leaders. The meetings aim to strengthen party activities and address organizational issues ahead of upcoming elections.

# Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Visits Vandalized Muthyalamma Temple in Secunderabad, Criticizes Congress and Police

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Union Minister Bandi Sanjay made strong remarks after visiting the Muthyalamma Temple in Secunderabad, which was recently vandalized. Speaking to the media, Sanjay questioned the role of the police and their labeling of temple attackers as mentally ill individuals.

"Will the police label those attacking Hindu temples as mentally ill? Why aren't these so-called 'mentally unstable' individuals attacking places of worship from other religions?" he asked, expressing frustration over the selective targeting of Hindu temples.

Sanjay also criticized the Congress party, accusing its leaders of remaining silent on

these incidents. He stated, "When temples are being attacked, why is Congress not responding? If we raise our voice, are they going to label the BJP as a terrorist party?"

Further, he accused Congress of aligning with the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), claiming that the party was harboring terrorists. Sanjay demanded immediate and strict action against the culprits and challenged Congress to clarify its stance on the issue.

His fiery comments come amid rising concerns over religious attacks, and he urged authorities to take swift and decisive action to protect temples and religious harmony.



## Honduran Cooperative Leaders Visit India, Participate in International Conference on Cooperative Credit & Banking

**TPN , Hyderabad:** A 42-member delegation of cooperative leaders from the Federation of Co-operative Credit Unions of Honduras (FACACH) is visiting India from October 6-18, 2024, to gain insights into India's rural cooperative credit and banking systems. FACACH is a member of the Global Committee of Cooperative Credit and Cooperative Banking under the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

The delegation's visit, coordinated by the International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA) and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd (NAFSCOB), included interactions with Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, NABARD, and SHIKHAR Institute in Mumbai. They also visited VAMNICOM and the College of Agricultural Banking of RBI in Pune.

On October 14, 2024, an international conference titled "Development of Cooperative Credit & Banking Structure: Strategies for Capacity Building" was organized at The Park Hotel in

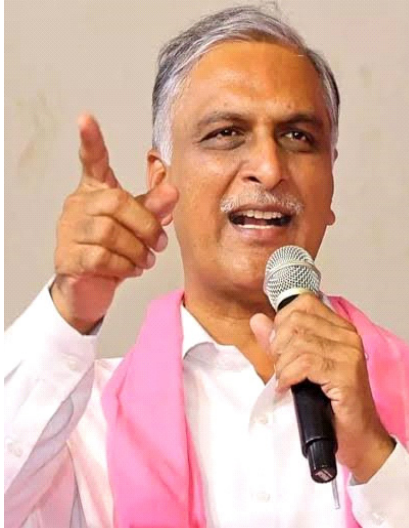


Hyderabad. Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar, Telangana's Minister for Transport & Backward Classes Welfare, inaugurated the event and emphasized the importance of democratic management in cooperatives. Karnataka's Cooperation Minister, Shri K.N. Rajanna, shared insights on cooperative governance and the role of government in their development.

## Harish Rao Criticizes Telangana Government Over Increased RTC Bus Fares During Festivals

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA T. Harish Rao has sharply criticized the Telangana government for hiking fares of Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC) buses during the festive season. Rao, representing Siddipet, expressed concern over the substantial increase in fares, which he claimed was an unnecessary burden on the public during the Dasara and Bathukamma festivals.

He highlighted that the fare for a one-way trip from JBS to Siddipet had jumped from Rs 140 to Rs 200. Similarly, the fare for



super-luxury buses from Hana-

mkonda to Hyderabad, which normally costs Rs 300, surged to Rs 420 during the festive period.

Rao took aim at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of not increasing the number of buses to meet the growing demand during the festive season. He alleged that the government's decision to raise fares deprived people of the joy and happiness typically associated with festivals, creating further inconvenience for commuters. Rao called for a review of the fare hikes and immediate steps to restore affordable transport options.

## Kishan Reddy Demands Stringent Action Over Temple Vandalism in Secunderabad

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, has condemned the recent spate of temple vandalism in Hyderabad, particularly the desecration of an idol at Muthyalamma temple in Secunderabad. After visiting the temple, Reddy urged the Telangana government to take swift and stringent action against the perpetrators.

Expressing his concern over the increasing incidents of temple desecration, Reddy alleged that the state government was attempting to downplay the severity of the acts by attributing them to mentally unstable individuals or thieves. He highlighted a recent attack at the Durga temple in the Exhibition Grounds and linked it to communal motives.

Reddy, also the state BJP president, criticized the government's inaction and demanded protection for Hindu temples. He said he had spo-



ken to Police Commissioner C.V. Anand and intended to bring the issue to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's attention. He also warned of escalating the matter to the Governor, if necessary.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Madhavi Latha and others were detained during a protest at the Muthyalamma temple. Police have tightened security in the area and assured the public of strict action against the culprits.

## BRS Leader Vinod Kumar Claims Conspiracy Against Gurukul Schools Amid New Education Initiative



**TPN , Hyderabad:** BRS leader and former MP B Vinod Kumar has raised alarm over the establishment of Young India Integrated Schools, alleging a conspiracy aimed at undermining the Gurukul residential welfare schools set up by the previous K Chandrashekhhar Rao government. These schools were designed to provide quality education for SC, ST, and BC students.

Speaking at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Vinod Kumar expressed his concerns regarding the government's ambiguous stance on the future of the 1,023 Gurukul schools. He highlighted discrepancies between government announcements and actions, questioning whether the Gurukuls would be reduced, merged, or entirely replaced by the new educational initiative.

Vinod Kumar called for a clear explanation from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy regarding the status of these institutions, emphasizing the importance of transparency for the students and their families. He noted that under Chandrashekhhar Rao's leadership, many students from Gurukuls had successfully gained admission to prestigious institutions like IIT and AIIMS.

The former MP accused the Congress government of attempting to erase Chandrashekhhar Rao's legacy through confusion and demanded clarity on the government's educational policies.

## Maoists Claim 35 Cadres Killed in October 4 Encounter

**TPN , Kothagudem:** The CPI (Maoist) Party East Bastar Divisional Committee has condemned the October 4 encounter between security forces and naxalites, labeling it a "massacre." In an unsigned statement released late Sunday, they claimed that 35 Maoist cadres were killed in the encounter in the forests between Gowadi and Bondos-Thulthuli, located on the borders of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts.

The statement included the names of the reportedly killed cadres, contrasting with the Chhattisgarh police's report, which stated that 31 naxalites had died. Most of the deceased are said to belong to the PLGA



sixth company. According to the Maoists, the encounter began around 6 am, with firing heard from multiple directions. They allege that police forces surrounded their position, and drone surveillance continued throughout the

morning. The conflict escalated, with intermittent firing lasting until late in the evening, resulting in the deaths of 14 cadres. The statement further claimed that 17 injured cadres were later killed by security forces on October 5.



## Tension in Secunderabad Over Temple Idol Desecration

**TPN , Hyderabad :** Tensions flared in Secunderabad on Monday after right-wing activists staged protests in response to the desecration of an idol at the Muthyalamma temple. The incident occurred around 3 a.m. when a man allegedly broke into the temple and damaged the idol.

Alerted by the noise, local residents apprehended the intruder and beat him before informing the police. Officers arrived at the scene and took the suspect into custody. He was later shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Since the morning, right-wing leaders and local residents have been staging protests, demanding a thorough investigation and strict action against the accused. Authorities have deployed a significant number of police officers in the area to maintain order and prevent further unrest.

Senior police officials are monitoring the situation closely and have assured the public that stringent measures will be taken against those responsible for the desecration.



## HYDRA Launches Website to Identify FTL and Buffer Zones in Hyderabad



**TPN , Hyderabad :** The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection (HYDRA) agency has launched a new website aimed at helping property buyers make informed decisions when purchasing land or houses in Hyderabad. With the rise of illegal encroachments on lakes and nalas, many plots are being sold without the necessary legal permits, especially in Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zone areas, where construction is prohibited.

HYDRA emphasized that even if a property is on patta land, it may still fall under an FTL or buffer zone, making it ineligible for construction permits. The agency warned that any unauthorized structures built in these zones, even with permits obtained through bribery, could eventually be demolished.

Recognizing the difficulty buyers face in determining whether their prospective property lies within these restricted zones, the Hyderabad

Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has launched a user-friendly website: [lakes.hmda.gov.in](http://lakes.hmda.gov.in). The site provides detailed information about the city's lakes and their corresponding buffer zones. Users can search by district, mandal, and village to verify if their land falls within an FTL or buffer zone.

While permanent constructions are prohibited in these areas, agricultural activities are still permitted. HYDRA

advises buyers to thoroughly check the legality of any land before purchase to avoid the risk of demolition and financial loss. The website is expected to provide significant assistance in safeguarding potential buyers from fraud and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. By making this tool available, HYDRA aims to curb illegal encroachments and protect Hyderabad's water bodies from further damage.

## Rachakonda Police Assure Support to Padma Shri Mogulaiah After Vandalism Incident

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Rachakonda Police Commissioner G. Sudheer Babu has assured full support to Padma Shri awardee and renowned Kinnera player Darshanam Mogulaiah, following complaints that unidentified individuals damaged the compound wall of the land allotted to him by the Telangana government. The 600 square yards of land, located near Kuntloor in Hayathnagar, had been granted to Mogulaiah in September along with a cash reward of Rs 1 crore.

Mogulaiah met with Commissioner Sudheer Babu at his LB Nagar camp office on Monday to report the issue. In response, the commissioner promised that the police would investigate the land dispute and ensure the protection of the property. He assured Mogulaiah that the police would take full responsibility for resolving the matter and ensuring his land remains secure.



The Hayathnagar police have already registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. Authorities are working to identify those responsible for the vandalism and are committed to protecting Mogulaiah's

property.

Mogulaiah, a celebrated folk artist, has been recognized for his contributions to preserving the Kinnera tradition and Telangana's cultural heritage.

## Raja Singh Placed Under House Arrest Ahead of Secunderabad Temple Visit

**TPN , Hyderabad :** BJP MLA T. Raja Singh was placed under house arrest on Monday when he attempted to visit the Muthyalamma temple in Secunderabad, following the desecration of an idol there earlier in the day. A team of police officers arrived at the Goshamahal MLA's residence and informed him of the house arrest, preventing him from proceeding to the temple site.



In a statement from his home, Raja Singh demanded a thorough investigation into the incident and called for the arrest of all those responsible. He questioned the motive behind the attack, raising concerns about recurring incidents targeting Hindu places of worship. "After every incident, the police claim the man was mentally disturbed. Why is it that these so-called disturbed individuals only target temples and not dargahs?" Raja Singh asked, alleging a conspiracy aimed at hurting Hindu sentiments in the state.

The desecration took place around 3 a.m. when a man reportedly broke into the Muthyalamma temple and damaged the idol. Local residents, alerted by the noise, apprehended the intruder and

assaulted him before calling the police, who took him into custody and later shifted him to a hospital for treatment.

Since morning, right-wing leaders and local residents have been staging protests, demanding strict action and a detailed probe into the incident. Police forces have been deployed in large numbers to prevent further unrest.

This incident comes shortly after a similar desecration of a Durga idol in Nampally last week, where the perpetrator, Krishnaiah Goud, was arrested and later determined to be mentally unstable. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation to maintain peace and order in the area.

## Activists Urge Telangana CM to Halt Navy Radar Project in Damagundam Forest

**TPN , Hyderabad :** Environmental activists in Telangana have appealed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to halt the construction of a naval radar station in the Damagundam Forest Reserve, citing concerns over its environmental impact. The project, set to be inaugurated on October 15, will require over 2,900 acres of forest land for the Eastern Naval Command's "Project AMBER," a Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station.

Activists from the Save Damagundam Forests Forum stressed that the forest is a crucial ecological zone, home to diverse flora and fauna, and plays a vital role in flood control for the Hyderabad region. They expressed concern

that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the project has not been made public, citing "national security" reasons.

The activists are demanding the disclosure of the EIA report to assess the potential impacts on biodiversity, water bodies, and local communities. They also called for a public hearing, criticizing the exemption granted under the EIA Notification of 2006, which bypasses the hearing due to "national security concerns."

The activists argue that a transparent, democratic approach is necessary to ensure all stakeholders have a say in the project's environmental review.

## Road Mishap in Nacharam Two Injured, Vehicles Damaged

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Two individuals were injured and several vehicles sustained damage when an auto rickshaw collided with motorists in Nacharam on Monday.

The incident occurred when the driver, Khader (40), was traveling towards Nacharam cross roads. He first struck two people on a

bike before colliding with two parked cars, causing significant damage.

Police arrived at the scene and transported the injured to a hospital. A case has been filed against Khader for driving in a rash and negligent manner, and the auto has been seized.

## RPF Personnel Heroically Save Woman's Life at Lingampalli Railway Station

**TPN , Hyderabad:** RPF constable Vishwajeet Kumar and Head Constable P. Rajeshekar showcased exceptional bravery at Lingampalli railway station on Sunday, preventing a potential tragedy.

At 9:28 am, as Train No. 17647 (HYB-Purna Express) was halting for two minutes on platform one, a woman passenger attempted to board but lost her footing,

becoming trapped between the moving train and the platform.

The quick response of the RPF personnel averted disaster, although Constable Kumar sustained minor injuries in the process. Their prompt actions were crucial in saving the woman's life.





## TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Holds Press Meet at Congress Office

**TPN , Nizamabad :** TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud addressed the media at the Congress party office, discussing key political and developmental issues. He announced that the expansion of both the state cabinet and the PCC executive committee would take place soon.

Goud emphasized that local body elections would follow the completion of caste census. He also assured that the long-standing dispute between Pocharam and Enugu in Banswada would be resolved shortly, assigning the responsibility to DCC presidents to address the issue.

The TPCC Chief criticized the BRS for irresponsible use of social media, accusing the party of spreading false propaganda against the state government and its ministers. He warned that while these tactics might bring temporary satisfaction, they would ultimately harm the BRS in the long run.

On the issue of farm loan waivers, Goud claimed that the BRS was misleading the public and urged people to compare the loan waivers given by the Congress in nine months with those provided by the BRS in ten years. He reminded the public that UPA granted Telangana for water, funds, and employment, and added that under Congress rule, 50,000 jobs have been created.

Finally, Goud stressed the need for Nizamabad to become a Smart City for further development.

## Mancherial Realtor Arrested for Land Grabbing and Attempted Murder

**TPN , Mancherial:** Kunta Srinivas, a realtor from Peddapalli, was arrested on Monday for land grabbing and attempting to murder a man. He is also implicated in the 2021 murder of a lawyer couple from Manthani.

According to Mancherial Inspector R. Bansilal, Srinivas was charged with encroaching on a 2,000 sq yard plot owned by P. Sudhakar Reddy, K. Sattaiah, and S. Sampath in Hamaliwada. During interrogation, Srinivas confessed to demolishing the plot's compound wall to seize the land, motivated by its increasing value. He also admitted to threatening Sudhakar Reddy with a sword on October 10.

Authorities seized a sword from Srinivas's possession during the arrest. The realtor has been linked to five prior criminal offenses.

## Sanjeevraopet Water Contamination: Five More Hospitalized as Crisis Continues

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Five additional individuals were admitted to the Primary Health Centre at Sanjeevraopet on Monday, suffering from diarrhea and vomiting after consuming contaminated water. This follows a distressing outbreak in Narayankhed, Sangareddy, where two people died and around 80 others fell ill by Sunday due to the contaminated water from a local well.

Patients in the area continue to report stomach issues, with some discharged after treatment while others remain hospitalized. Additional Collector Chandrashekhar visited the health center, addressing patient concerns and assessing the availability of medicines and treatment facilities. He announced that an inquiry would be conducted into the incident, promising action against officials responsible for the water contamination.

In response to the negligence, two Assistant Engineers from Mission Bhagiratha have reportedly been suspended. The officials failed to repair a malfunctioning pump motor, did not replace it with an alternative, and neglected to notify higher authorities or test the water before supply, leading to the health crisis.

## Man Swept Away in Irrigation Canal Near Nagarkurnool

**TPN , Nagarkurnool:** A 32-year-old man, identified as Ramu, was swept away in an irrigation canal on the outskirts of Manganuru village on Sunday. The incident occurred while he was riding his bike towards Gouraram.

Ramu, a resident of Vaddeman village, fell into the KLI canal, prompting locals to alert the police, who initiated rescue operations. Despite ongoing efforts by the police team since morning, there has been no trace of Ramu so far. Authorities have informed his wife, Lakshmi, and their two children about the accident. Rescue operations continue in hopes of locating him.

## Indiramma Houses in Kothagudem: Two Decades On, Many Remain Incomplete

**TPN , Kothagudem:** As Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy makes promises regarding the Indiramma Housing Scheme, scrutiny of the previous Congress government's implementation reveals significant issues in Kothagudem district. The earlier version of this scheme, introduced during late YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, saw 1,100 houses sanctioned, yet many remain incomplete and in disrepair.

Despite Revanth Reddy's recent announcement to launch a new model of the Indiramma Housing Scheme in Bhadrachalam, the state of these unfinished houses serves as a stark reminder of the earlier government's failures. Reports indicate that nearly 600 houses remain incomplete due to delayed bill sanctions and inconsistent funding, with construction halted at various stages, from lintel to slab.

Today, these sites are overgrown with shrubs and serve as dumping grounds, while the roads laid in the colony have



become unrecognizable. Allegations of irregularities have surfaced, with claims that some middlemen and local political leaders occupied completed houses, while others were sold off by beneficiaries.

BSP state general secretary Yerra Kamesh

called for a thorough investigation into these irregularities to identify the rightful beneficiaries. Kothagudem Tahsildar D Pullaiah stated that the issue would be brought to the government's attention for further action, ensuring that affected families could be included in future housing notifications.

## Fourteen Arrested for Attempted Murder and Vandalism in Asifabad Juice Centre Incident



**TPN , Mancherial:** Police have arrested 14 individuals in connection with an attempted murder and vandalism at a juice centre in Kagaznagar on Monday. The arrests follow a violent clash between two groups in the town on Sunday night during a Durga idol procession, reportedly sparked by a petty issue.

Kagaznagar DSP Ramanujam and Inspector Srinivas confirmed that the accused, hailing from various parts of the town, are facing charges related to both the attempted murder and the damage to the juice centre. Two cases have been registered against the suspects, and authorities expect to apprehend more individuals involved in the incident.

Tensions briefly escalated as the groups attacked each other, prompting police to intervene. Superintendent of Police DV Srinivasan was dispatched to the scene to reinforce security, and patrolling has been increased to maintain order in the aftermath of the conflict.

## Karimnagar Prepares for Paddy Procurement Season

**TPN , Karimnagar:** The stage is set for the establishment of 340 paddy procurement centres in the district, aimed at purchasing an estimated 4.01 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the current Vanakalam season.

Officials are prioritizing the setup of these centres as fine variety paddy is expected to arrive this season, following the state government's commitment to provide a bonus of Rs. 500 per quintal for fine varieties. A total of 3.93 lakh acres were sown this season, with fine variety paddy cultivated on 1.18 lakh acres.

Overall, officials project a production of 5.66 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, including 2.48 lakh metric tonnes of fine variety and 3.17 lakh metric tonnes of common variety. The procurement centres are anticipated to receive 1.07 lakh metric tonnes of fine variety and 2.93 lakh metric tonnes of common variety.

While arrangements for procurement are in place, there is a noted shortfall of gunny bags, with only 17.95 lakh available out of the required 100 lakh. The Centre has set the minimum support price (MSP) at Rs. 2,320 for Grade-A variety and Rs. 2,300 for common variety paddy.



## Private Colleges in Adilabad Demand Tuition Fee Arrears, Threaten Indefinite Closure

**TPN , Adilabad:** Private degree and post-graduate colleges in the erstwhile Adilabad district are demanding the government to release long-overdue tuition fee arrears, leading to an indefinite closure of the institutions. The managements have cited delays in the reimbursement of fees for students from Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) as the primary reason for their financial struggles.

The Telangana Private Degree and PG Colleges Management Association (TPDPMA) reported that the delays have severely impacted their ability to cover essential expenses, such as rent, salaries, and utilities. SV Ramana, president of the local chapter, stated, "We are struggling to maintain our operations and will remain closed until the government clears the arrears."

With 68 colleges serving approximately 30,000 students in the region—most operating in rented spaces—the management has repeatedly reached out to government officials over the past ten months, but to no avail. While token



numbers have been issued in the past, actual payments remain unapproved.

Ramana criticized the government, noting that unlike private engineering colleges, degree and PG institutions rely solely on the reimbursement scheme initiated by the previous Congress government under YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

The TPDPMA has outlined a plan for action, including appeals to Collectors and protests starting Tuesday. Meanwhile, students are expressing concern over the disruption of their education and are urging the government to address the issue promptly to prevent further loss in their academic progress.





# Implications of Hezbollah Leader's Elimination for Middle East Dynamics

The recent assassination of Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, by Israel has sparked significant speculation regarding its broader implications for the Middle East, particularly in the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict. While concerns about a direct confrontation between Tel Aviv and Tehran, potentially escalating to a third world war, are prevalent, such fears may be overstated. Currently, the conflict largely involves Israel, supported by the US, and Iran's extensive network of regional proxies.

While a full-scale war seems unlikely, the interconnected nature of regional conflicts is once again evident. Modern conflicts are rarely isolated, as shown by the extensive movement of weapons and finan-

cial support among proxy groups, indicating complex networks at play.

## Iran's Proxy Network

Tehran has relied on proxies since the 1979 revolution, operating in countries like Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. This strategy allows Iran to exert influence while maintaining plausible deniability, complicating the US's support for Israel's actions against these groups.

## Regional Dynamics

Israel's primary goal is not to destroy Iran but to weaken its proxy network, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis. These

groups hinder normalization efforts in the Middle East, where Indian interests are also at stake. The interconnectedness of these conflicts is further highlighted by Russia's backing of Iran's proxies, which aligns with its strategy of using groups like the Wagner Group for its interests.

## India's Concerns

India is feeling the repercussions of these developments, particularly in the Red Sea—a vital trade route now fraught with uncertainty due to Houthi actions. Increased shipping costs and fluctuating oil prices are significant concerns, even as India diversifies its oil sources.

## Strategic Outlook

With interests in Chabahar port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), India is closely monitoring the evolving situation. Despite tensions, all parties seem to prefer avoiding all-out war, favoring limited military exchanges instead. Iran's experience supporting Russia in Ukraine may inform its approach, highlighting the risks of protracted conflicts.

In summary, while the dynamics are complex and fraught with challenges, the potential for limited exchanges rather than full-scale war appears to be the more likely scenario in the current geopolitical landscape.



## SC Upholds Scheduled Castes Sub-Categorisation, Rejects Reviews

On October 4, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of sub-categorising Scheduled Castes, rejecting review petitions against its August 1 judgment. This landmark decision reflects significant shifts in the conversation around reservation, though it has faced strong criticism from prominent commentators who argue that it does not represent meaningful change.

The Court's earlier 2022 ruling on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservations has been seen as a departure from its traditionally progressive stance on social justice, described as having "applied dynamite" to its jurisprudence. The recent sub-categorisation verdict seeks to restore some of the lost doctrinal integrity.

In a 6-1 majority ruling by a seven-judge constitutional bench, the Court has overruled its 2004 decision in *\*E V Chinnaiah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh\**, which had previously deemed sub-categorisation unconstitutional. This ruling also invalidated the Andhra Pradesh "Rationalisation of Reservation" Act of 2000, which attempted to implement such a scheme.

The implications of this verdict extend beyond legal boundaries, influencing the socio-political landscape and the rights of marginalized communities. It reaffirms the necessity of nuanced approaches to reservation, aiming to address inequities within the Scheduled Castes. While the Court's ruling is seen as a step forward, ongoing debates and criticisms highlight the complexities surrounding reservations and their impact on social justice.

As the legal framework evolves, the focus now shifts to how this decision will shape future policies and the broader discourse on equality and representation in India.



## Putin's Anticipation: The Significance of the Upcoming BRICS Summit

As the BRICS summit approaches on October 22-24 in Kazan, Russian President Vladimir Putin is perhaps the most eager participant. Last year, he missed the South Africa summit due to an ICC arrest warrant over alleged war crimes tied to the Ukraine invasion. This year, hosting the summit on home soil provides Putin an opportunity to demonstrate to the West that he remains influential despite sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

Putin's presence will highlight Russia's connections with key leaders like India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping, showcasing Moscow's ability to engage with powerful non-Western nations. Despite Western attempts to isolate

Russia, BRICS represents a significant coalition, comprising 24% of the global GDP and 41% of the world's population. Putin can argue that these alliances affirm Russia's role in reshaping the global order, offering alternatives to Western institutions like the IMF and World Bank.

Since its inception 15 years ago, BRICS has defied initial skepticism regarding its viability. It has expanded to include new members such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, with nearly 40 other countries expressing interest in joining. This growth suggests a robust demand for a multipolar world, challenging the dominance of Western powers.

India, as a founding BRICS member, must leverage this

platform to advocate for its interests in global governance. The UN Security Council, a relic of the 20th century, does not reflect the current geopolitical realities, and India deserves a permanent voice in decisions affecting global peace and security. The Indian government seeks reforms in international financial institutions, emphasizing its desire for a more equitable global order.

The West, particularly the US, France, and the UK, have shown support for India's position but their intentions remain ambiguous amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions, especially with the Ukraine conflict. India must move beyond merely petitioning for recognition and instead use BRICS to amplify its voice.

## Baba Siddique: A Complex Legacy in Mumbai's Political and Social Sphere

Baba Siddique, a prominent name in Mumbai's political landscape, built his influence over decades, intertwining his political career with Bollywood and real estate. As a leader in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Siddique wielded power that extended beyond the traditional boundaries of politics. His connections with the builder lobby and Bollywood's biggest stars allowed him to navigate Mumbai's intricate power structures with remarkable ease.

Born and raised in Bandra, Siddique began his political journey as a corporator in the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) in the late 1980s. He quickly established himself as a go-getter, adept at addressing local issues and connecting with constituents. His transition to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, representing Bandra West for multiple terms, seemed a natural progression for someone so deeply tied to his community. Known for tackling local problems—from slum redevelopment to infrastructural improvements—Siddique's popularity soared.

However, his influence stemmed not just from political acumen but from his charisma and ability to forge meaningful relationships. His association with Bollywood was legendary, particularly his ties to superstars like Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. Annual iftar parties hosted by Siddique became star-studded events that blended politics and entertainment, where deals were made and alliances strengthened. His friendship with Salman Khan, in particular, amplified his stature, as Siddique often offered support during the actor's legal troubles.

Siddique's influence extended into Mumbai's booming real estate sector. As Bandra West transformed into a prime real estate zone, devel-



opers sought his assistance to navigate the complex approval processes for construction projects. Siddique facilitated approvals and mediated disputes, solidifying his role as a key player in the industry. However, his close ties to the builder lobby invited controversy. Allegations of questionable land deals and leveraging political power for personal gain swirled around him, though he was never directly implicated in any scandal.

Recently, Siddique found himself at the center of renewed scrutiny after actor Kamal R. Khan (KRX) posted allegations of shady dealings within the builder lobby. Despite the police not substantiating these claims, the post went viral, igniting debates across social media platforms. Siddique's camp dismissed the accusations as baseless, yet they underscored the challenges he faces in an age where reputation can be tarnished by online speculation.

Baba Siddique's legacy is a complex tapestry of political influence, celebrity connections, and controversial dealings, making him a significant figure in Mumbai's socio-political narrative.



# Over 1.55 lakh candidates sign up for PM Internship Scheme

Over 155,000 candidates have registered for the newly launched PM Internship Scheme within just 24 hours, according to government sources. The registration began on Saturday, offering nearly 80,000 internship opportunities across 24 sectors.

Announced in the Union Budget 2024 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the scheme aims to benefit around 10 million young people over the next five years and address youth unemployment. It connects young job seekers with companies looking for talent.

Major firms such as Jubilant Foodworks, Maruti Suzuki India, Larsen and Toubro, Muthoot Finance, and Reliance Industries are among the 193 companies posting internship opportunities on the platform. Internships span various fields, including operations management, production, maintenance, and sales, with contributions from sectors like oil, gas, energy, travel and hospitality, automotive, and banking.

The portal features Aadhaar-based registration for efficient access to internships, along with tools for



bio-data generation. The initiative targets over 120,000 internships across 737 districts in 28 states and 8 Union Territories for the current financial year.

This transformative initiative, managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, aims to enhance the employability of youth by bridging skill gaps and boosting employment prospects. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to intern with the top 500 companies in India for a year. They will receive a monthly stipend of ₹5,000, along with a one-

time grant of ₹6,000.

Of the ₹5,000 stipend, ₹500 will be contributed by companies as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, while the government will cover the remaining ₹4,500.

To qualify for the scheme, candidates must have completed high school or higher secondary school, hold a certificate from an ITI, possess a diploma from a Polytechnic Institute, or be graduates with degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, or B.Pharm.

# President's Rule Lifted in Jammu and Kashmir, New Govt to Form

President Droupadi Murmu announced on Sunday the withdrawal of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, clearing the way for a new government to be formed in the union territory. The Union Home Ministry issued a gazette notification confirming this decision.

The notification cited the revocation of the previous order from October 31, 2019, which imposed central rule following the bifurcation of the former state into two union territories: Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This change aligns with the powers granted under Section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and Articles 239 and 239A of the Indian Constitution.

The recent Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections saw the National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance emerge victorious, paving the way for the formation of a government. NC vice president Omar Abdullah has been designated as the new chief minister, having been elected as the leader of the alliance.

Central rule was first instituted in the region on October 31, 2019, coinciding with the



abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which previously granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. This decision was part of a broader legislative effort by the Indian government, which included the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act in Parliament on August 5, 2019.

Prior to the 2019 changes, the region had been under central rule since June 2017, following the resignation of then-chief minister Mehbooba Mufti when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew support for the People's Democratic Party (PDP)-led government.

## After Baba Siddique's Murder, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Makes A Promise



Former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique was tragically shot dead outside his son's office on Saturday, prompting Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to vow that those responsible will face justice. "Our responsibility is to maintain law and order. Whoever is responsible for Baba Siddique's murder will not be spared," Shinde stated.

The Chief Minister criticized the previous Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government for a perceived decline in law and order, claiming that security measures weakened during their administration, resulting in a rise in criminal activities. He assured the public that his government would deliver justice and hold lawbreakers accountable.

Siddique's murder has raised significant concerns about public safety across the state. In response, Mumbai Police arrested two suspects—one from Uttar Pradesh and the other from Haryana—while a third suspect remains at large. Shinde emphasized that efforts to apprehend the fugitive are being intensified. "They will not be spared, whether they belong to the Bishnoi gang or any other underworld group. Strict action will be taken," he affirmed.

Reports indicate that Siddique was shot multiple times, sustaining two critical gunshot wounds to his chest, and he was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries shortly after arrival.

The incident has sparked a political outcry, with a heated exchange between the ruling BJP and opposition parties.

## Kerala Assembly Calls for Withdrawal of Controversial Waqf Amendment Bill



On October 14, the Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the central government to withdraw the contentious 2024 Waqf Amendment Bill. Minister for Waqf, Haj pilgrimage, and sports, V Abdulrahiman, introduced the resolution, arguing that the bill undermines federal principles outlined in the Constitution.

Abdurahiman contended that the bill infringes on state rights concerning Waqf matters, effectively diminishing the authority of Waqf boards and tribunals responsible for overseeing Waqf properties. He asserted, "This bill not only violates the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution but also jeopardizes democratic values by replacing elected representatives with a board of nominated members and a nominated chairman."

The minister emphasized that fundamental rights, such as freedom of belief, secularism, and democracy, should not be compromised. He highlighted that certain provisions in the bill contradict the very essence of the Constitution and called for its immediate withdrawal by the central government.

The resolution received support from the opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), which proposed several amendments during the discussions, some of which were accepted. This bipartisan agreement illustrates the assembly's collective opposition to the proposed bill, reflecting broader concerns about federal overreach and the safeguarding of democratic processes within state governance.

# Congress Issues Stark Warning to Maharashtra Leaders Following Haryana Setback

Following the BJP's unexpected victory in the Haryana assembly elections, Congress leaders are recalibrating their strategy for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections, anticipated for November or December. The party's top brass convened a crucial meeting at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi, emphasizing the need for unity and hard work among Maharashtra leaders.

Sources indicate that the meeting, attended by senior Congress figures from the state, served as a platform to address concerns about complacency. Rahul Gandhi and Kharge stressed the importance of remaining vigilant and focused, encouraging leaders to avoid overconfidence in the wake of the Haryana results, although they did not directly reference the election outcomes.

Maharashtra is seen as a critical battleground for Congress, with its 288 assembly seats presenting both challenges and opportunities. The party's leadership is keenly aware that any sense of entitlement could undermine their efforts against the ruling coalition. To this end, Congress poll strategist Sunil Kanugolu provided insights on the caste and community dynamics within Maharashtra, which will play a significant role in shaping the



party's electoral approach.

During the discussions, strategies for the party's election manifesto were also put on the table. Meetings between Congress and its allies have already commenced in Mumbai to finalize this document, aiming to create a unified front ahead of the elections. The party is particularly focused on countering the BJP's tactics, which allegedly include attempts to fracture the electorate along caste lines and support rebel candidates against the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition.

The BJP's significant win in Haryana, where it captured 48 of 90 seats, marking a historic third consecutive term, has shifted the narrative within Congress.

Despite initial exit polls that predicted a tight race, the BJP's strong performance has reignited discussions about the party's strategies going forward. Congress, which secured 37 seats, recognizes the need for a robust plan to reclaim influence in Maharashtra, particularly given the historical context of electoral outcomes in Haryana.

As the party mobilizes for the upcoming polls, leaders are keen to implement counter-strategies against the BJP's narrative and electoral maneuvers. The urgency of this meeting and the subsequent strategies discussed underline Congress's commitment to regaining ground in a critical state that could significantly impact national politics.

## Lawrence Bishnoi's Gang Linked to Murder of Veteran Politician Baba Siddique

The chilling murder of veteran politician Baba Siddique in Mumbai has reignited interest in gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, whose gang is now implicated in the crime. Siddique, a 66-year-old NCP leader, was shot outside his son's office by assailants claiming allegiance to the Bishnoi gang, even though Lawrence remains incarcerated in Gujarat's Sabarmati Jail.

The Bishnoi gang operates on a global scale, with criminal activities extending across multiple Indian states and connections to figures in Canada, such as Goldy Brar. Their influence persists despite Lawrence's imprisonment, showcasing their capability to orchestrate crimes from behind bars.

The gang is notorious for extortion, murder, and arms trafficking, primarily targeting high-profile individuals, including Punjabi singers and businessmen. Lawrence, who grew up in Punjab, entered organized crime during his university days, forming key alliances that fueled his rise in the criminal underworld.

Communication is vital for the gang's operations; even from solitary confinement, Lawrence uses smuggled mobile phones equipped with VPNs to coordinate with associates, including his brother Anmol and other gang members. They maintain a roster of about 700 shooters, often recruiting underage boys unaware of the gang's identity.





# Market Gains Erase Friday's Losses

## HDFC Bank, Infi, Wipro Among Top Performers



Domestic stock markets closed with huge gains on Monday. Friday's losses were compensated. Investors started buying as better signals came from Asian markets. The indices were moving at all time highs. Shares of Infi and HDFC Bank stood out for this. Market breadth in BSE is equal for buyers and sellers. 2070 stocks rose and 1972 lost.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,381 in the previous session, opened at 81,576 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,541. It touched an intraday high of 82,072. It eventually closed at 81,973, a gain of 591 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,023, touched a low of 25,017 and a high of 25,159. A total jump of 163 points closed at 25,127. Bank Nifty rose 644 points to settle at 51,816.



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In Nifty50, 33 companies gained while 17 lost. Top gainers were Wipro, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Life, HDFC Bank and LT. ONGC, Maruti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance and Adani Enterprises were the biggest losers. Today, all indices rose except media, metal, oil and gas. Bank, finance, IT, private bank, realty, healthcare and consumer durables indices rose more.

Nifty support is at 25150 and resistance is at 25300. Investors can buy HDFC life, Indus Indus Bank, HCL Tech, Finpipe and Infi shares in the short term.

RPP Infra Projects won orders worth Rs.127 crore. Bondada Engineering received a letter of award worth Rs.390 crore from the Maharashtra Power Generation Company. Sterling Wilson's Q2 revenue rose 36% to Rs 1,030 crore. It recorded a net profit of Rs.8.5 crores from Rs.54.5 crores. The loss of Alok Industries increased from Rs.175 crores to Rs.262 crores. Bharti Airtel signs agreement with Scalar for Airtel Secure Digital Internet. Hindustan Construction received an order worth Rs.1032 crore from Maharashtra. Lemon Tree Hotels has tied up a 65-room hotel in Dibrugarh.

Ties up with HydSign with Unicommerce Solutions. WPI inflation stood at 1.84 percent in September. JSW Energy has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with NTPC. Reliance Industries' revenue was flat at Rs 2.31 lakh crore. Net profit increased by 11% from Rs.17445 crore to Rs.19,323 crore.

### 1. HDFC Life Insurance

HDFC Life has shown resilience despite broader market volatility. With increasing demand for insurance and long-term growth prospects in the sector, HDFC Life remains attractive. It has benefited from growing awareness of life insurance post-pandemic. Watch for buying interest around support levels if broader markets show strength. The company is well-positioned in the insurance market, and any dips could attract investors.



### 2. IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank has seen strong buy-



ing interest due to positive quarterly results, supported by robust loan growth and asset quality improvement. It is gaining momentum in the banking sector, driven by its retail and SME loan book growth. Given its upward momentum and overall market recovery, the stock may see more gains, especially if banking stocks perform well.

### 3. HCL Tech

HCL Tech has shown strength due to the IT sector's resilience. With strong demand for digital transformation services and cloud offerings, HCL Tech continues to attract long-term investors. Global tech spending trends are key drivers for



the stock. Positive global tech cues and robust demand for IT services will keep HCL Tech as a favored pick. Watch for any retracements for potential buying opportunities.

### 4. Finpipe (Finolex Industries)

Finpipe has benefited from its leadership in the PVC pipes segment,



particularly as the government focuses on infrastructure and rural development projects. The stock has shown some strength in recent sessions. The company's fundamentals remain strong, but traders should monitor the broader market's impact on its performance. It could see upward movement if the overall sentiment stays bullish

### 5. Infosys (Infy)

Infosys continues to be a strong performer in the IT sector with robust earnings and strong deal wins. Its focus on digital services and cloud transformation has been key to its growth. Infosys is expected to continue performing well in the short term due to global demand for IT services, though global economic concerns may cause some volatility. It's a favorite for long-term investors.



## India's Factory Output Contracts for First Time in 21 Months



India's factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), experienced a contraction of 0.1% in August 2023, marking the first decline in 21 months. This downturn is attributed to a high base effect and a drop in mining and electricity production, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

In the preceding months, industrial output had shown robust growth, with increases of 4.7% in July and 10.9% in August. However, the contraction in August suggests a shift in the industrial landscape. Cumulatively, during the financial year 2024-25, industrial growth has been recorded at 4.2% for the period of April to August, compared to 6.2% during the same timeframe in the previous financial year.

nancial year.

The decline raises concerns about the sustainability of industrial growth in India, especially amid fluctuating global economic conditions. Analysts suggest that the high base effect from the previous year, when industrial output was notably strong, is impacting current figures. The decrease in mining and electricity output also signals challenges in these sectors, which are crucial for overall industrial performance.

As India seeks to bolster its manufacturing sector, this contraction serves as a reminder of the complexities involved in achieving consistent growth. Policymakers may need to address underlying issues affecting key industries to foster a more resilient industrial environment moving forward.

With ongoing economic uncertainties, stakeholders will be closely monitoring future IIP data to assess recovery trends and identify areas requiring intervention. The focus will likely remain on enhancing productivity, addressing infrastructure needs, and stimulating demand to revive industrial momentum.

## Mutual Funds Boost Stake in Paytm by 15% Amid Rising Confidence

During the second quarter of FY25 (Q2FY25), mutual funds increased their stake in One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, by 15%, signaling growing institutional confidence in the digital payments firm. Between July and September, mutual funds ramped up their holdings as Paytm's stock delivered an impressive 70% return.

At the end of Q1FY25 (June 30, 2024), Paytm's share price was ₹402.2, while by the end of Q2FY25 (September 30, 2024), it closed at ₹688.35, reflecting a return of around 71% during the period, according to BSE analytics.

Mutual funds held approximately 4.32 crore shares of Paytm at the end of Q1, accounting for 6.80% of the company's total shareholding. By the end of Q2, this number surged to around 5 crore shares, raising their total stake to 7.86%. This increase underscores growing institutional belief in Paytm's long-term growth potential.

Nippon Mutual Funds played a significant role in this increase, raising its stake from about 1.11 crore shares in Q1 to 1.44 crore in Q2, resulting in a percentage increase from 1.76% to 2.27%. Similarly, Mirae Mutual Funds increased its holdings from around 2.29 crore shares to 2.85 crore, boosting its stake from 3.92% to 4.49%.

As of October 14, Paytm's share price was trading at ₹720, down 0.57%, with a market capitalization of ₹45,838 crore. The stock reached its 52-week high of ₹998.30 on October 20, 2023, reflecting its volatility and potential for growth. Investors are advised to consult certified experts before making decisions, as market conditions can change rapidly.



## Axis Bank to Launch Innovative UPI Offerings to Enhance Payment Experience



Axis Bank announced plans to introduce new UPI-based products aimed at improving the payment experience for customers, as part of its strategy to strengthen its leadership in the UPI sector. The private lender highlighted its commitment to developing innovative solutions such as UPI Lite, UPI AutoPay, and Merchant Plug-in for seamless merchant payments.

Sanjeev Moghe, President and Head of Cards & Payments at Axis Bank, emphasized the bank's focus on leveraging advanced technology and strategic partnerships to create secure and scalable payment options. As of September, Axis Bank held a leading market share of 30.87 percent in the UPI payments service provider space, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

ration of India (NPCI).

To expand its reach, Axis Bank has been actively collaborating with both established fintech giants and emerging players in the UPI ecosystem. These partnerships aim to tap into the customer bases of newer entrants, allowing Axis Bank to offer UPI solutions directly through their applications.

The introduction of these innovative offerings is part of Axis Bank's broader strategy to cater to the evolving needs of customers in a rapidly changing digital payments landscape. By focusing on collaboration and technological advancement, the bank aims to enhance the overall payment experience and maintain its competitive edge in the UPI market.

## ICICI Securities' Minority Shareholder Accuses Sebi of Collusion on Delisting

Quantum Mutual Fund, a minority shareholder of ICICI Securities, has raised serious allegations against the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in a case concerning the company's delisting. During a hearing at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), the fund claimed that Sebi was "hand in glove" with ICICI Securities regarding the delisting process.

The NCLAT bench, comprising Justices Yogesh Khanna and Ajai Das Mehrotra, was reviewing an appeal from Quantum Mutual Fund, which holds just 0.002% of ICICI Securities' paid-up equity share capital, along with Manu Rishi Gupta, who owns 0.08%. They are contesting a recent ruling from the Ahmedabad bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that approved the delisting plan and dismissed the shareholders' objections.

The controversy centers around a letter from Sebi dated June 23, which allowed ICICI Bank some leeway under Regulation 37 of Sebi's Delisting Regulations. This exemption permits the delisting of ICICI Securities despite the parent and subsidiary companies not operating in the same line of business, as typically required.

Arun Kathpalia, the senior counsel for ICICI Securities, refuted these claims, asserting that the Sebi letter could not be contested in the NCLT or NCLAT. He emphasized the severity of the accusations directed at the market regulator.

The NCLAT has scheduled a follow-up hearing for Tuesday, where ICICI Securities will continue to present its case. The outcome of this appeal could have significant implications for the regulatory landscape and the relationship between minority shareholders and corporate governance in India.

## India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 1.84% Amid Higher Food Prices



India's wholesale inflation rose to 1.84% in September, up from a four-month low of 1.31% in August, driven primarily by increasing food prices, according to data released by the government on October 14. The wholesale price index (WPI) showed a slight contraction of -0.1% in September 2023.

Since April, wholesale prices have remained above 1%, with the average inflation for FY24 recorded at -0.7%. During this period, the country experienced deflation in seven out of the twelve months. Economists now project wholesale inflation to average between 2% and 3% for FY25.

The recent rise in inflation is influenced by a favorable base effect, despite subdued commodity prices largely due to weak demand from China. As food prices continue to fluctuate, market analysts will be closely monitoring the factors contributing to inflation trends in the coming months, as well as the broader economic implications for India.





## India slams Canada's move targeting Indian diplomats

India has firmly rebutted Canada's claims regarding its High Commissioner being a "person of interest" in the murder investigation of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, labeling these allegations as "preposterous." This diplomatic spat escalated after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of involvement in Nijjar's killing, which has strained relations between the two countries since the allegations surfaced in September 2023.

In response to Canada's assertion that Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma was implicated in the investigation, India condemned the move as unfounded and politically motivated. The Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement accusing Canada of failing to provide evidence to support its claims and suggested that the Trudeau government is exploiting the situation for electoral gain by catering to pro-Khalistani sentiments within Canada.

The statement emphasized that Verma is a highly regarded diplomat with a distinguished career spanning 36 years, and that the accusations against him deserve

to be treated with contempt. India highlighted that Canada has not shared any evidence despite multiple requests since the initial allegations were made.

Recent interactions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trudeau, including a brief exchange at the ASEAN Summit, have not alleviated tensions. Trudeau characterized the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the safety of Canadians, but India dismissed it as inconsequential.

India has continuously urged Canada to take serious action against pro-Khalistani elements operating within its borders, expressing concerns over the nexus between these extremists and organized crime. Indian officials have also noted that Canada has provided a platform for violent extremists, allowing them to threaten Indian diplomats and community leaders without consequence.

The ongoing discord highlights the fragile state of relations, with both nations facing pressure to address their respective grievances.

## Trump Should Do The Same: Kamala Harris After Releasing Medical Report



Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has called on her Republican rival Donald Trump to release his medical records, emphasizing the importance of transparency in health and policy matters. This request came a day after Harris's own medical report confirmed she is in "excellent health" and fit for the presidency.

"Yesterday, I released my medical records. Donald Trump should do the same," Harris stated on X, urging voters to scrutinize Trump's transparency regarding his health. In a video accompanying her tweet, she invited the public to observe Trump's rally performances as a gauge of his mental acuity.

During a rally in North Carolina, Harris highlighted the age gap between her and Trump, who is 78 years old. She criticized Trump for not releasing his medical information and for declining to participate in a second debate, suggesting that his team might be trying to shield him from scrutiny.

"Why does his staff want him to hide away? Are they afraid that people will see he is too weak and unstable to lead America?" she questioned, emphasizing the need for voters to have access to critical information before making electoral decisions.

Harris's recent medical report describes her as a "healthy 59-year-old female" with only minor seasonal allergies. In contrast, Trump's medical history remains largely undisclosed, though his campaign recently released a letter confirming he is in "excellent" health, with normal physical exams and "exceptional" cognitive test results.

Harris is focusing on North Carolina, a key battleground state that hasn't voted for a Democratic nominee since Barack Obama in 2008. Polls indicate it is a toss-up, making a Democratic win crucial for Trump's path to the necessary 270 electoral votes.

## Ukraine Destroys Russian Military Transport Plane

Kyiv announced on Monday that its forces destroyed a Russian military transport plane located at a military airfield deep within Russian territory over the weekend. This claim marks a significant escalation in Ukraine's efforts to target Russian military assets behind enemy lines.

Ukraine's military intelligence agency reported that the Tu-134 transport aircraft was destroyed overnight between Saturday and Sunday in the Orenburg region, approximately 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the Ukrainian border. The agency stated that these Soviet-era planes are primarily used to transport high-ranking officials from the Russian defense ministry.

Accompanying the announcement, the agency shared footage purportedly showing an arson attack on the aircraft, with flames visible, although details on how the operation was executed were not disclosed.

As of now, there has been no official response from Moscow regarding the claims made by Ukraine. Since



the onset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Kremlin has detained numerous individuals accused of sabotage and arson aimed at military and civilian infrastructure.

In recent months, Ukraine has intensified its attacks within Russian territory, focusing on military installations and energy facilities. These actions aim to disrupt Russian military logistics and supply

chains, reflecting a strategic shift in Ukraine's approach to the ongoing conflict.

The incident underscores the ongoing volatility of the situation and highlights Ukraine's commitment to retaliating against Russian military operations. As the conflict continues, both sides remain on high alert, with potential repercussions for military strategies and diplomatic relations.



## EU Condemns Israeli Attacks on UN Peacekeepers in Lebanon

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, condemned Israeli attacks on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon as "completely unacceptable." Speaking to reporters ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday, Borrell emphasized the bloc's unified stance, stating, "The 27 members agreed on asking the Israelis to stop attacking UNIFIL."

Recent Israeli strikes targeting Hezbollah have resulted in injuries to at least five UN peacekeepers. Borrell pointed out that UNIFIL, which comprises around 9,500 troops from various countries, has accused the Israeli military of "deliberately" firing on its positions, raising concerns about the safety of international forces in the region.

Borrell highlighted the importance of UNIFIL's work, noting the participation of many European nations in the mission. He stressed the need for respect for international peace-

keeping forces and the vital role they play in maintaining stability.

In a response to the escalating tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to relocate peacekeepers from southern Lebanon, alleging that Hezbollah was using them as "human shields." However, UNIFIL has reiterated its commitment to remain in its current positions, emphasizing the necessity of their presence in the area despite the risks.

The ongoing situation reflects the complexities of the region, where clashes between Israel and Hezbollah have continued to pose threats not only to local populations but also to international peacekeepers. The EU's strong response underscores its commitment to supporting UN operations and maintaining peace in conflict zones. As tensions remain high, the international community is closely monitoring developments in Lebanon and Israel.



## France Plans New Immigration Law Amid Right-Wing Push

French authorities are set to introduce a new immigration law next year as the right-wing government seeks to tighten immigration policies and border controls. Government spokeswoman Maud Bregeon confirmed the plans during an interview with BFMTV on Sunday, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive legislative approach.

The proposed bill, expected to be presented to parliament in early 2025, reflects the political shift following this summer's legislative elections, which resulted in a hung parliament. The urgency for reform has been underscored by recent incidents, including the tragic rape and murder of a Paris student, allegedly by a Moroccan suspect, sparking intense public debate over immigration and security.

One of the key features of the new legislation would be extending the detention period for undocumented migrants deemed dangerous.

## Netanyahu considers 'surrender or starve' plan for northern Gaza

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that military operations are escalating in Jabalia, northern Gaza. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are urging civilians to evacuate south, as reports emerge of a contentious strategy aimed at cutting off humanitarian aid to the region. This plan, aimed at weakening Hamas, risks trapping hundreds of thousands of Palestinians without access to food or water.

Dubbed the "Generals' Plan," this proposal, created by a group of retired generals and revealed to the Associated Press, suggests giving residents of northern Gaza, including Gaza City, a week to evacuate before designating the area a closed military



zone. Those who do not leave would be treated as combatants, subject to military regulations allowing for lethal action against them, and would be denied essential supplies.

Giora Eiland, a former head of Israel's National Security Council and the plan's architect, argues that this strategy is crucial for dismantling

Hamas leadership and pushing for the release of Israeli hostages. He outlined that the estimated 300,000 residents still in northern Gaza would have ten days to evacuate through safe corridors provided by Israel. After that, the area would become a military zone, leaving remaining individuals with the options to surrender or face starvation.

Despite the detailed nature of the plan, it remains uncertain whether the Israeli government will formally adopt it. An Israeli military spokesperson denied any connection between current evacuation orders and the Generals' Plan, while other officials indicated that some aspects might already be in effect.



## Eating too much sugar may increase your risk of depression



Diet and nutrition significantly influence human health, and recent research reveals that a preference for sugary foods may lead to more than just weight gain. A study from the University of Surrey has established a strong connection between a love for sweets and serious health risks, including depression.

The study, published in the *Journal of Translational Medicine*, utilized data from the UK Biobank to examine the eating habits of participants categorized as health-conscious, omnivores, and sweet tooth individuals. Those with a sweet tooth favored sugary treats, cakes, and soft drinks while showing less interest in healthier options

like fruits and vegetables. Key findings indicated that individuals with a sweet tooth faced a 31% higher risk of developing depression compared to their health-conscious counterparts. The researchers measured blood samples to analyze 2,923 proteins and 168 metabolites, discovering that the sweet tooth group exhibited poorer blood markers for inflammation and glucose levels. These markers are associated with increased risks for both metabolic and mental health conditions.

In contrast, the health-conscious group, who prioritized fruits and vegetables, demonstrated reduced risks for heart disease and stroke. The study underscores how food preferences play a crucial role in long-term health outcomes, emphasizing the importance of moderating sugar intake.

These findings serve as a wake-up call regarding dietary choices and their long-term implications. By recognizing the potential health risks associated with a sweet tooth, individuals can take proactive steps toward improving their well-being. This research reinforces the idea that our food choices directly impact our overall health, urging us all to be mindful of what we consume for better health outcomes.

## Reddit is back online after hours-long outage affecting users globally



Reddit services have been successfully restored following a brief outage that lasted approximately one hour. Users of the popular social media platform can once again access Reddit both on the web and through its mobile app.

While the platform has not provided details on the cause of the outage, this incident marks the third time in the past three months that Reddit has experienced similar service disruptions. Users reported difficulties accessing content and engaging with posts during the outage, prompting discussions about the platform's reliability.

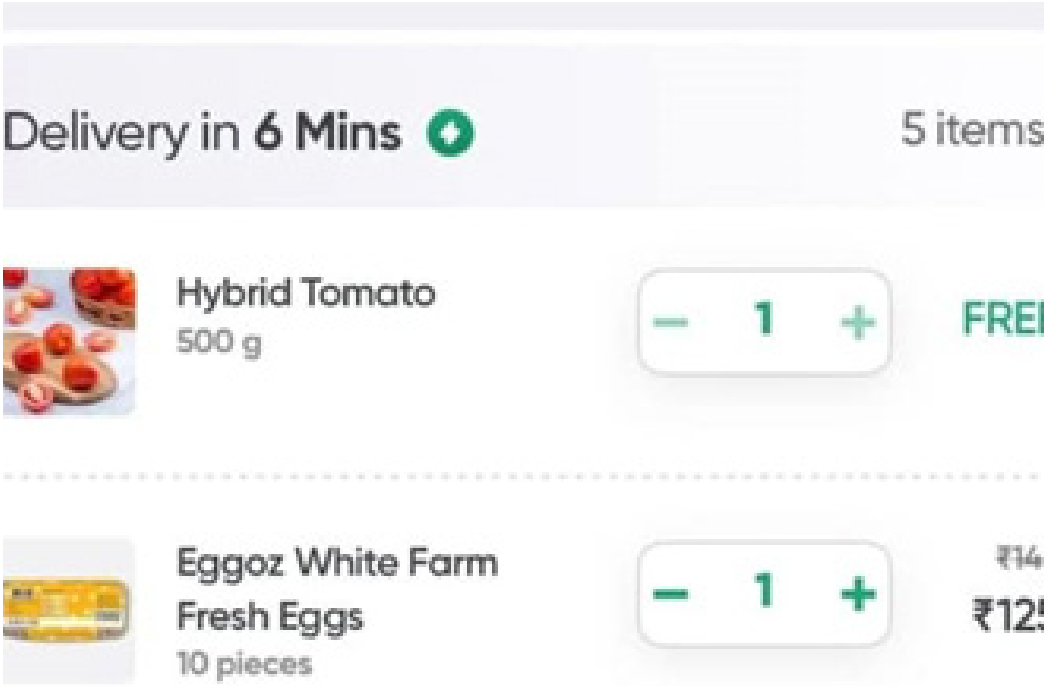
Reddit's team has yet to issue a statement regarding the technical issues that led to this latest interruption in service. The platform has faced scrutiny in the past over its ability to maintain consistent uptime, especially during high-traffic periods.

Despite these challenges, Reddit remains a popular destination for users seeking community engagement, news, and entertainment. The site features a wide variety of forums, known as subreddits, covering diverse topics from technology and gaming to health and relationships.

As the platform works to stabilize its services and enhance user experience, many users are hopeful for improvements in its operational reliability. Outages can significantly impact user engagement, as many rely on Reddit for real-time discussions and updates on current events.

Reddit has been proactive in addressing issues related to service stability, and users anticipate further updates from the platform regarding ongoing improvements and measures to prevent future outages. For now, Reddit's services are fully operational, allowing users to once again participate in discussions and explore the myriad of content available.

# Swiggy Instamart User Complains About Unremovable Free Tomatoes



A complaint on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has sparked widespread discussion after a Swiggy Instamart user criticized the automatic addition of free tomatoes to his shopping cart. The user labeled this practice as "basket sneaking" and a "dark pattern," arguing that customers should have the option to choose whether to accept free items or not.

In his post, the frustrated customer expressed, "Very bad design in Swiggy Instamart, where an item is automatically added to my cart. I don't want tomatoes, but I cannot remove it from my cart. Even if I am not paying for it, this is basket sneaking." He emphasized that the core issue lies not in receiving free tomatoes but in the lack of control consumers have

over their shopping choices. "I should have full control as a consumer of what I choose to receive, which isn't happening," he stated.

The post garnered mixed reactions from users. One commenter noted, "Customer must have the final say. Offer freebies, but the customer must decide yes or no." Others questioned the implications of the practice. "If it's free, is it still considered a dark pattern?" one user wondered, acknowledging the inability to remove the item.

Some users speculated it could be a glitch, with one remarking, "Generally, I am able to remove the free items. I don't know if it's a bug or intended." Others took a light-hearted approach, joking about the rising

cost of tomatoes, suggesting, "Send it to Chennai, please. Tomato is already nearing Rs 100/kg."

In response to the situation, another user suggested that the free tomatoes might be an attempt by local stores to offload excess stock. They humorously advised giving the tomatoes to someone in need. Comparisons were also made to other grocery apps, with a user noting that Zepto allows customers to easily remove free items if they choose not to accept them.

The incident highlights the ongoing conversation around consumer rights and e-commerce practices, emphasizing the need for clarity and control in online shopping experiences.

## Apple Smart Glasses and AirPods with Cameras Set to Launch in 2027

Apple unveiled its first mixed-reality headset, Vision Pro, at the Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) last year. With over a year since its announcement and six months since shipping, the tech giant is reportedly developing additional products utilizing Vision Pro's advanced technology to compete with Meta.

According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, Apple's Vision Products Group is actively working on at least four new devices. Among these is a potential launch of smart glasses in 2027, designed to rival Meta's Ray-Ban smart glasses. Additionally, there are plans for a new pair of AirPods featuring integrated cameras.

Gurman highlights that Apple aims to leverage the billions invested in Vision Pro's visual intelligence technology by integrating its environmental detection capabilities into more products. This approach is part of a broader strategy to enhance user experiences across various devices.

In terms of pricing strategy, Apple is preparing to release a lower-end version of the Vision headset as early as next year, expected to retail around \$2,000 (approximately Rs. 1,68,000). This model will utilize a less powerful processor and feature cost-effective materials, unlike the original Vision Pro, which starts at \$3,499 (about Rs. 2,90,000) and offers various storage options of 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB. The more affordable headset will notably exclude the EyeSight feature, which enhances user interaction.



Apple anticipates that the lower-priced model will significantly boost sales, potentially doubling the unit sales compared to the Vision Pro. Furthermore, a second-generation Vision Pro with improved performance is expected to launch in 2026.

The original Vision Pro, announced in June 2023, operates on visionOS and supports both augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies. Currently available in markets like the US, China, Europe, and Japan, the headset is powered by Apple's M2 processor and an R1 chip, setting the stage for an exciting evolution in mixed-reality technology.

## Adults Suspect Undiagnosed ADHD Due To Social Media Influence

A recent study highlights a growing awareness of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) among adults in America, revealing that 25% of respondents suspect they may have the condition but remain undiagnosed. The national survey, which involved 1,000 American adults, indicates that social media videos are playing a significant role in helping individuals connect their struggles with attention, focus, and restlessness to ADHD.

Despite this increased awareness, only 13% of those who suspect they have ADHD have discussed their concerns with a healthcare provider. This raises alarm about the potential risks associated with self-diagnosis, as incorrect treatment could exacerbate underlying issues. Psychologist Justin Barterian from Ohio State University's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health warns that symptoms of anxiety, depression, and ADHD can be similar, and misdiagnosis may lead to ineffective or harmful treatments.

Barterian notes that approximately 4.4% of adults aged 18 to 44 are diagnosed with ADHD, and many individuals do not receive a diagnosis until later in life. Increased awareness about how ADHD can persist into adulthood has led many to recognize their own symptoms, especially when they see similar behaviors in their diagnosed children, given the genetic nature of the disorder.



Interestingly, the study found that younger adults are more likely than older generations to believe they might have undiagnosed ADHD. While social media can effectively raise awareness and educate individuals about ADHD, Barterian emphasizes the importance of seeking professional help for accurate diagnosis and treatment. Consulting with psychologists, psychiatrists, or physicians is essential for addressing concerns about ADHD and ensuring that individuals receive appropriate care tailored to their needs.

As conversations around mental health continue to evolve, understanding ADHD in adults is crucial for fostering informed and effective treatment pathways.



# India Falls Short Against Australia in Women's T20 World Cup

Team India suffered a surprising nine-run defeat to Australia in their final Group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup on Sunday in Sharjah, significantly diminishing their chances of reaching the semi-finals. The outcome now hinges on the match between Pakistan and New Zealand, which will determine the fate of captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her team.

After being asked to bowl first, India managed to restrict the defending champions to 151/8. However, India's batting faltered, ending at 142/9 despite Harmanpreet's commendable 54 runs.

The skipper faced intense criticism for her decision-making during the final over. With India needing 14 runs to win and Harmanpreet at the crease, expectations were high. However, her approach in the 20th over raised eyebrows. After taking a single on the first delivery, she brought Pooja Vastrakar to face Annabel Sutherland, who bowled Vastrakar on the next ball. Arundhati Reddy was run out on the following delivery, putting Harmanpreet back on strike.



Again opting for a single, she left Shreyanka Patil to face the pressure. With 12 runs required off two balls, Patil was run out on a wide delivery, followed by Radha Yadav's dismissal for LBW. On the final ball, Renuka Singh ran for a single, but Australia clinched the victory.

Harmanpreet's reluctance to take charge during critical moments left many fans puzzled and disappointed. The loss serves as a harsh reminder of the challenges ahead for Team India in the tournament.

# PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Seek Redemption at Denmark Open



Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen are eager to bounce back at the USD 850,000 Denmark Open Super 750, starting Tuesday. Both players faced tough outings in the recent Arctic Open in Finland, where Sindhu suffered a first-round exit, and Sen bowed out in the second round.

At Arena Fyn in Odense, they aim for better results in this prestigious tournament.

Sen, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, will face China's Lu Guang Zu in his opening match—a first-time encounter. Should he advance, a potential clash with Indonesia's Jonatan Christie awaits in the second round, with reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn likely looming in the quarter-finals.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist,

aims to quickly address her recent performance issues after losing to Canada's Michelle Li, an opponent she had previously defeated ten times. Under new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il, Sindhu will begin against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po, with a possible second-round matchup against China's Han Yue if she progresses.

India's representation extends beyond Sindhu, with several competitors in women's singles, including in-form Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and promising talent Unnati Hooda. Bansod, who reached the quarterfinals of the China Open, will face Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh, while Kashyap competes against Thailand's Supanida Katethong. Hooda, the 2022 Odisha Open winner, takes on Lauren Lam from the USA.

In women's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will face the fifth-seeded Malaysian pair Pearly Tan and Thinnah Muralitharan. The Panda sisters, Svetaparna and Rutaparna, will compete against Chinese Taipei's Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tung.

Mixed doubles will see the duo of B Sumeeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy face Canada's Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang, while Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath meet Indonesia's Rehan Kusharjanto and Lisa Kusumawati.

# England Defeats Finland 3-1 in Nations League

England secured a comfortable 3-1 victory against Finland in the Nations League on Sunday, showcasing a more familiar lineup under interim manager Lee Carsley. Jack Grealish opened the scoring in the 18th minute, finishing off a well-executed 17-pass move. Despite several opportunities, Finland couldn't capitalize, failing to challenge goalkeeper Dean Henderson effectively.

Trent Alexander-Arnold doubled the lead with a stunning 25-yard free-kick in the 74th minute, deployed at left-back for this match. Declan Rice sealed the win by converting a cross from substitute Ollie Watkins with just six minutes remaining. Although Finland managed to score a late consolation through Arttu Hoskonen in the 87th minute, they remain at the bottom of Group B2, having lost all their matches.

Carsley praised his team's response,

saying, "We played with a lot more control... we created chances, but we can do better." Greece maintained their position at the top of the group, beating the Republic of Ireland 2-0 in Athens, extending their winning streak to four matches.

In another match, Austria dominated Norway with a 5-1 victory in Linz. Marko Arnautovic shone with two goals, putting Austria ahead early in each half. After Alexander Sorloth equalized for Norway, Arnautovic restored the lead with a penalty in the 49th minute. Defender Philipp Lienhart and Stefan Posch added headers to the scoreline, while Michael Gregoritsch capped off a dominant performance with another header.

Norway's star striker, Erling Haaland, struggled to make an impact against a solid Austrian defense, managing only a shot that hit the post early on. Austria's win propelled them to second



place in Group B3, level on points with Slovenia and Norway.



## Sachin Tendulkar Honored By Dallas Cowboys During NFL Game

Sachin Tendulkar received a custom Number 10 jersey from Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones during an NFL game in Houston, a significant honor that underscores cricket's expanding presence in the United States. Tendulkar, a co-owner of the National Cricket League (NCL), is pivotal in introducing cricket to American audiences through its innovative Sixty Strikes format.

The recognition at such a prominent NFL venue highlights a remarkable intersection between cricket and American sports. Earlier on Sunday, Tendulkar launched the NCL's community outreach initiatives by inspiring hundreds of young athletes at the University of Texas at Dallas.

"Cricket has given me so much, and being here in Dallas—both teaching these young athletes and receiving this incredible recognition—has been truly humbling," Tendulkar expressed. He emphasized

the importance of dedication and passion, encouraging the youth to pursue their dreams both on and off the cricket field.

The NCL is quickly gaining traction, combining high-level cricket with cultural events and community engagement. The tournament, featuring notable players like Shahid Afridi, Suresh Raina, Shakib Al Hasan, and Chris Lynn, aims to establish itself as a premier event on the global cricket landscape.

Based in Dallas, the NCL has also drawn cricket legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Wasim Akram, and Sir Vivian Richards to mentor participating players. This blending of sports and mentorship signifies a promising future for cricket in the U.S., as Tendulkar continues to inspire the next generation while fostering a love for the game in new territories. The tournament is set to conclude on Monday, further solidifying its impact.



## Harmanpreet Singh Becomes Expensive Player at Hockey India League Auction

India captain Harmanpreet Singh was the star of the Hockey India League auction, becoming the most expensive player on Day 1 with a price tag of ₹78 lakh, sold to Soorma Hockey Club. The auction saw all eight franchises investing heavily, particularly in core players from the Indian men's hockey team.

Following Harmanpreet, Abhishek was acquired by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for ₹72 lakh, while Hardik Singh went to UP Rudras for ₹70 lakh. Notable purchases included Amit Rohidas and Jugraj Singh, both sold for ₹48 lakh to Tamil Nadu Dragons and Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, respectively. Sumit was picked up by Hyderabad Toofans for ₹46 lakh.

In total, 54 players were sold on the first day, including 18 international players, with franchises spending a combined ₹16.88 crore. German player Gonzalo Peillart was the highest-priced overseas player at ₹68 lakh, also going to Tamil Nadu Dragons. Dutch player Jip Janssen was sold for ₹54 lakh to the same franchise.

The auction's active participation reflected the growing competitiveness of the league, and with franchises keen to strengthen their squads, the remaining days promise more excitement. Each franchise is managing its budget, with varying amounts left for further acquisitions as the auction progresses.





# Pawan Kalyan's "Hari Hara Veera Mallu" First Single Dropping on Diwali

Power Star Pawan Kalyan's much-anticipated film, \*Hari Hara Veera Mallu: Part 1 – Sword vs Spirit\*, is slated for a grand release on March 28, 2025. Directed by Jyoti Krisna, this epic action-adventure stars Nidhi Agerwal alongside Kalyan.

Filming resumes today with the main cast back on set, and exciting news is on the horizon as the first single from the movie is expected to drop during Diwali. Pawan Kalyan himself has recorded the song's Telugu version, while versions in other languages will feature different singers. The track is reported to explore the theme of Dharma.

New posters for the film have recently been unveiled, fueling excitement among fans who are eager for more updates. \*Hari Hara Veera Mallu\* is a pan-Indian production from Mega Surya Production, featuring a powerful soundtrack by the legendary MM Keeravaani. The film boasts an ensemble cast, including Bobby Deol, Nassar, Sunil, Raghubabu, Subbaraju, and Nora Fatehi in key roles.

As the release date approaches, fans are eagerly anticipating more thrilling announcements regarding this cinematic journey. Stay tuned for further updates as this grand project unfolds!

# Vishwak Sen's "Mechanic Rocky" Set for November 22 Release

Vishwak Sen is gearing up for his next film, "Mechanic Rocky," an action-packed entertainer that promises both thrills and humor. Originally slated for a Diwali release on October 31, the film's release has been rescheduled to November 22. This new date gives "Mechanic Rocky" a solo run at the box office, free from major competition, which could work to its advantage.

The film's promotional campaign is gaining momentum, with the theatrical trailer set to debut on October 20. In a striking release date poster, Vishwak Sen exudes an air of intrigue, hinting at the film's engaging storyline. Co-stars Meenakshi Chaudhary and Shraddha Srinath also feature prominently in the poster; Chaudhary dazzles in a beautiful traditional saree, while Srinath showcases a modern, urban look, reflecting the film's dynamic nature.



As part of its marketing efforts, the team behind "Mechanic Rocky" has already released a teaser titled "First Gear," along with a couple of catchy songs that have generated buzz among fans. The film is produced by Ram Talluri under the SRT Entertainments banner, indicating a strong backing for this exciting project.

With its mix of action, comedy, and intriguing character dynamics, "Mechanic Rocky" is poised to capture audiences when it hits theaters. Fans are eagerly awaiting the trailer, which is expected to provide a deeper insight into the film's plot and characters, further fueling anticipation. Mark your calendars for November 22, as "Mechanic Rocky" aims to rev up the excitement in cinemas this fall.

## First Single 'Le Le Raja' from Varun Tej's 'Matka' Released, Featuring Nora Fatehi



Mega Prince Varun Tej's highly anticipated pan-India film, "Matka," directed by Karuna Kumar, is set to captivate audiences with its period storyline. The film's makers have generated buzz by releasing the first single, "Le Le Raja," a vibrant club beat that promises to draw in crowds.

This retro-style track features Bollywood beauty Nora Fatehi, who enchants viewers with her captivating presence and vintage dance moves. Music director GV Prakash Kumar has crafted an impressive composition, blending catchy beats with Neethimohan's melodious voice and Bhaskarabhat's engaging lyrics.

"Le Le Raja" is expected to be an instant chartbuster, as it combines modern music elements with nostalgic vibes, appealing to a wide audience. Varun Tej showcases multiple looks throughout the film, adding to the anticipation surrounding his character. Opposite him is Meenakshi Chaudhary, who plays the female lead.

With its grand release scheduled for November 14, "Matka" is poised to be a major event in the film industry, and the excitement surrounding the project continues to grow. Fans are eager to see how the film unfolds, especially after this promising first single.

# Upendra's Film \*UI\* Set for December 20, 2024 Release



Kannada superstar Upendra's highly anticipated film \*UI\*, which he both stars in and directs, has officially locked in its release date. The film is set to hit theaters on December 20, 2024, across nine Indian languages, including Telugu.

To announce this exciting news, the makers revealed an intriguing poster featuring a bold caption: "ALL THESE DAYS, YOU WATCHED MOVIES AND DECIDED WHETHER THEY WERE A HIT OR FLOP. THIS MOVIE WILL WATCH YOU AND ....."

Produced by G. Manoharan and KP SreeKanth under the prestigious banners of Lahari Films and Venus Entertainers, \*UI\* is shaping up to be a groundbreaking cinematic experience. The film's music, composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, has already generated considerable buzz, heightening anticipation among fans and moviegoers alike.

As the release date approaches, the excitement surrounding \*UI\* continues to grow, with expectations for innovative storytelling and unique visuals. Upendra's dual role as both actor and director adds another layer of interest, promising a captivating experience for audiences.

Fans can look forward to further updates, including teasers, trailers, and promotional events leading up to the release. With its ambitious scope and creative vision, \*UI\* aims to make a significant impact in the Indian film industry.

# Kiran Abbavaram's Film "KA" Set for Grand Diwali Release



Kiran Abbavaram, known for his charming boy-next-door roles, is set to make a dynamic return with his upcoming period film, "KA." This ambitious project, produced on a large scale, has already generated excitement with its impressive teaser and two hit songs. As anticipation builds, "KA" is shaping up to be a must-see this Diwali, with its release scheduled for October 31.

The teaser has captivated audiences, creating a buzz among moviegoers eager to experience this thrilling period drama on the big screen. The release date poster showcases Kiran Abbavaram in a striking pose, exuding intensity as he wields a weapon and is surrounded by trishuls, adding to the film's allure and intrigue.

"KA" marks Abbavaram's most prestigious pan-India project, set to be released in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. This

wide release strategy highlights the film's potential to reach a diverse audience.

Directed by the talented duo Sujith and Sandeep, "KA" tells a gripping action-packed story rooted in a village backdrop. The film promises to deliver compelling content, and the makers are gearing up for extensive promotional activities across all languages to heighten anticipation leading up to the release.