

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

AP Cabinet Meeting Today, Decisions on Six New Policies Expected

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is set to convene today at the state secretariat, where six new policies are expected to be discussed. This meeting represents a crucial opportunity for the coalition government to finalize key initiatives aimed at bolstering the state's industrial sector and creating employment opportunities.



The proposed policies are designed to fulfill the government's election promise of generating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years and attracting significant investments. Officials have been working diligently on these policies for the past three months, conducting extensive exercises to ensure their viability and effectiveness. A comprehensive strategy has already been developed across approximately ten departments.

In recent weeks, CM Chandrababu has conducted a series of reviews, providing direction to officials regarding the

formulation of these policies. The primary focus of these new initiatives is to enhance the speed of business operations while prioritizing job creation.

Today's Cabinet meeting will address several critical areas, including policies related to industrial development, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), electronics, clean energy, private industrial parks, and food processing. The outcomes of this meeting are anticipated to have a significant impact on the state's economic landscape and employment rates moving forward.

AP DGP Responds to Interception of Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy at Delhi Airport

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Directorate General of Police (DGP), Dwaraka Tirumala Rao, has addressed the recent interception of former government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy at Delhi airport, where he was stopped due to lookout notices issued against him. This incident highlights the ongoing legal troubles facing leaders of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) since the coalition government took power in Andhra Pradesh.



Sajjala, a key figure in the previous government, encountered unexpected scrutiny from police at the airport. The DGP clarified that the action taken was a result of lookout notices issued by the Guntur Superintendent of Police. He indicated that authorities were concerned about the potential

recovery of equipment related to ongoing investigations tied to these notices.

In addition to addressing Sajjala's situation, the DGP also provided insights into the ongoing investigation

concerning the Tirumala Laddu. He confirmed that the Supreme Court did not approve the Andhra Pradesh government's establishment of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the Laddu case. The court mandated that the SIT be formed with the intention of conducting an independent investigation.

The DGP stated that the SIT would consist of two Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers, two state police officers, and an officer from the Food Safety Department. He announced that IG Tripathi and DIG Gopinath would represent the AP government in the SIT. The DGP emphasized that the SIT would operate as an independent investigative agency, ensuring thorough and impartial inquiries involving state police personnel.



AP Govt New Liquor Policy Faces Controversy Over Lottery System...

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government has recently introduced a new liquor policy that includes a lottery system for the allocation of licenses for new liquor shops. This policy aims to streamline the process and reduce corruption in the liquor licensing system. However, it has sparked controversy, particularly regarding the tenders awarded to the new liquor shop owners.

Reports indicate that individuals who received tenders for these new liquor shops are now receiving warning calls from higher authorities within the government. These calls appear to be related to concerns over the legitimacy of the lottery system and allegations of favoritism in the tendering process. The situation has raised eyebrows among political leaders and the public, leading to suspicions about the transparency of the new policy.

Critics of the policy are questioning whether the lottery system is being manipulated and whether the government is favoring certain individuals or groups in the allocation of liquor licenses. As tensions rise, the Andhra Pradesh government is under increasing pressure to address these allegations and ensure a fair and transparent process for all stakeholders involved in the liquor trade.

The Andhra Pradesh government has implemented a new liquor policy that includes a 2% cess on liquor sales, aimed at funding drug control and rehabilitation centers. This announcement comes as the state prepares to open new private wine shops today, following the closure of government-operated liquor stores that have been in operation for the past five years.

The government has revealed that the revenue generated from the newly imposed cess will be directed towards ini-

tiatives for drug control and rehabilitation. Alongside this, the government has made amendments to address retail pricing issues in liquor purchases. Under the new policy, an additional privilege fee of Rs. 10 will be applied to the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of liquor. For instance, if the MRP of a bottle of liquor is Rs. 150.50, it will now be priced at Rs. 160 to simplify retail adjustments.

As part of the new excise policy introduced by the coalition government, a total of 3,396 liquor shops have been allocated through a lottery system. The owners of these new shops are set to open their doors at 10 AM today, marking a significant shift in the state's liquor distribution landscape. The new private wine shops will operate daily from 10 AM to 10 PM.

In addition to the developments within Andhra Pradesh, applications for liquor shop licenses have also been received online from neighboring states including Telangana, Karnataka, Delhi, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. Furthermore, there have been applications from international locations, including the United States and other countries.

Despite the government's attempts to streamline liquor sales and generate revenue for social initiatives, the new policy has sparked controversy. Critics are raising concerns over the transparency of the lottery system used for allocating licenses, as many individuals who received tenders for new liquor shops have reported receiving warning calls from higher authorities. This has led to suspicions about potential favoritism and manipulation within the allocation process.

As tensions rise, the Andhra Pradesh government is under increasing pressure to ensure a fair and transparent implementation of its new liquor policy.

Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly Election Schedule Announced, Results on November 23

TPN, New Delhi: The Central Election Commission has officially announced the election schedule for the Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly elections. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar stated that polling will take place in Maharashtra in a single phase, while Jharkhand will conduct its elections in two phases.



In Maharashtra, the elections are set for November 20, with the counting of votes scheduled for November 23. The election timeline is as follows:

- Notification Date: October 22
- Acceptance of Nominations: Until October 29
- Deadline for Withdrawal of Nominations: November 4
- Counting of Votes: November 23
- Polling Date: November 20

TADEPALLIGUDEM IN GOLD CUFFS

- IS PAVAN KALA JEWELLERIES READY TO GO FOR IP?
- DEPOSITS COLLECTING ARE AT STAKE?
- GOLD MERCHANTS ARE DOING CHEATING?

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The gold business in Tadepalligudem is taking a controversial turn, with some merchants allegedly using investment schemes as bait to cheat customers. Many jewelry merchants in the area are running schemes alongside their regular business operations, in which they collect monthly installments from people, promising to deliver gold equivalent to the amount paid after one year. These merchants assure customers that they will receive gold at the rate on the dispatch date and claim it will be 916 KDM quality.

However, in Tadepalligudem, reports suggest that some gold merchants, including Pavan



Kala Jewellers, have collected significant sums under these schemes—amounting to over ₹8 crores—and are now allegedly planning to declare insolvency (IP) to escape their obligations. If these merchants declare insolvency, they are not required to repay the customers or provide gold, effectively walking away with the funds.

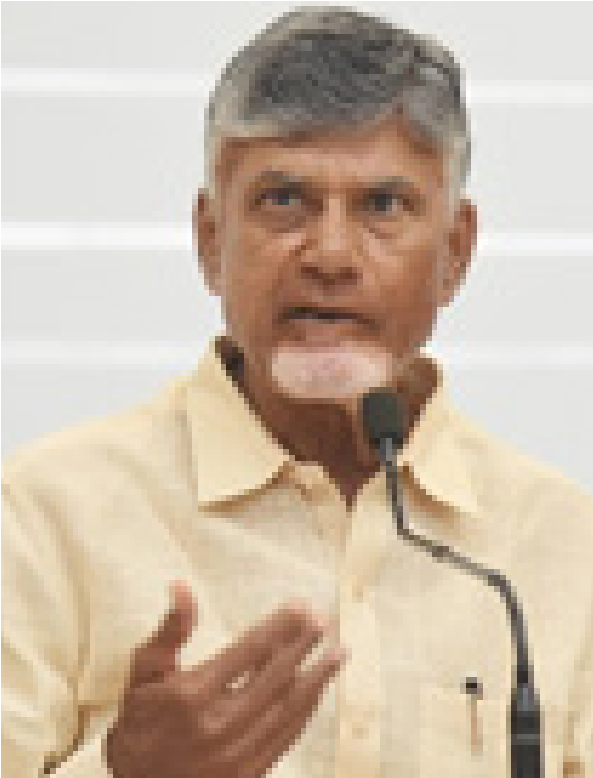


State Govt Appoints Ministers As In-Charges For Districts

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh state government has recently announced the appointment of in-charge ministers for various districts as part of its administrative restructuring. Four ministers have been assigned responsibilities for two districts each. The following are the appointed ministers and their respective districts:



- Kondapalli Srinivas:** In-charge for Srikakulam District
- Achchennaiidu:** In-charge for Parvathipuram Manyam and Konaseema Districts
- Anitha Vangalapudi:** In-charge for Vizianagaram District
- Dola Balaveeranjanyaswamy:** In-charge for Visakhapatnam District
- Gummidi Sandhyarani :** In-charge for Alluri Sitaramaraju District
- Kollu Ravindra :** In-charge for Anakapalli District
- Ponguru Narayana :** In-charge for Kakina-da District
- Nimmala Ramanaidu :** In-charge for Kur-nool and Tugobi Districts
- Nadendla Manohar :** In-charge for Eluru District
- Gottipati Ravikumar :** In-charge for Palna-du District
- Satyakumar Yadav :** In-charge for NTR Dis-trict
- Vasamshetty Subhash :** In-charge for Krish-na District
- Kandula Durgesh :** In-charge for Guntur District
- Kolusu Parthasarathy :** In-charge for Ba-



- patla District
- Anam Ramanarayana Reddy :** In-charge for Prakasam District
- NMD Farooq :** In-charge for Nellore District
- Payyavula Keshav :** In-charge for Nandyal District
- TG Bharat :** In-charge for Anantapur District
- Anjani Sathya Prasad :** In-charge for Sri Sathya Sai and Tirupati Districts
- S. Savitha :** In-charge for YSR District
- BC Janardhan Reddy :** In-charge for Anna-mayya District
- Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy :** In-charge for Chittoor District

These appointments are expected to enhance governance and facilitate effective administra-tion across the state.

CAT Rejects Interim Orders on IAS Officers’ Plea Against DoPT Transfers

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a recent development, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has declined to issue interim orders on petitions filed by several IAS officers, including Amrapali, Vakati Karuna, Vani Prasad, and Srijana, who challenged the transfer orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The IAS officers, who had been transferred to their home state cadres, approached CAT seeking to continue in their current postings.



DoPT had instructed Amrapali, Vani Prasad, and Vakati Karuna, who were assigned to Andhra Pradesh but currently serving in Telangana, and Srijana, who was assigned to Telangana but serving in Andhra Pradesh, to return to their respective state cadres. However, the officers filed petitions with CAT challenging these orders and sought interim relief to continue in their current positions.

During the hearing, the advocates representing the IAS officers argued that the DoPT had issued these instructions based on the recommendations of a single-member committee, but the report was not shared with the officers. They also contended that the authority to allocate IAS officers lies with DoPT, and questioned how the de-

partment could act on the committee’s recom-mendations without proper communication.

CAT made noteworthy comments during the hearing, pointing out the critical need for IAS officers to serve in Andhra Pradesh, which is currently facing challenges due to floods. The tribunal questioned why the officers had not responded to the committee’s appointment earlier or filed a contempt petition. In light of these observations, CAT refused to grant interim orders on the petitions, stating that the DoPT’s transfer orders would remain in effect.

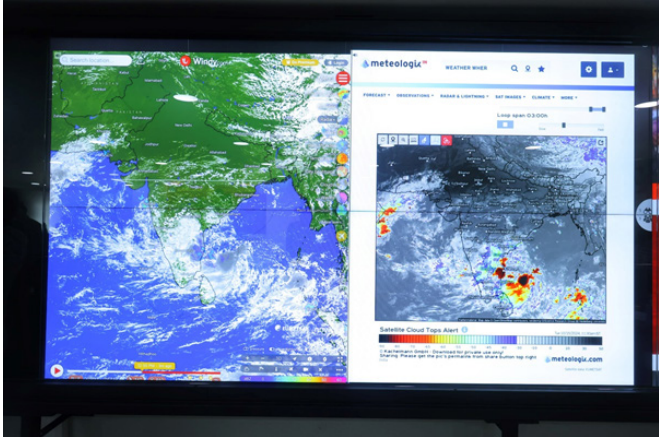
This ruling underscores the DoPT’s authority in transferring IAS officers and highlights the on-going administrative reshuffling between Tel-angana and Andhra Pradesh.

Storm Expected in Bay of Bengal in Next 24 Hours

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported that a low-pressure system over the south-central Bay of Bengal has intensified and is expected to further strengthen into a cyclone within the next 24 hours. The IMD’s Amaravati Division indicated that the system is moving west-northwest and will enter the southwest Bay of Bengal soon.

The cyclone is projected to head towards the coasts of North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and South Andhra Pradesh. Surface circulation is also developing, which is expected to result in heavy to very heavy rainfall across Andhra Pradesh for the next three days.

The IMD also announced that the Southwest Monsoon has fully withdrawn from the coun-try as of today, and the Northeast Monsoon has



officially commenced. Heavy rains associated with the system are expected to hit the region shortly, urging residents to stay cautious and prepared.

Granthi Vishwanath Met DCM Pawan Kalyan Regarding Movie Ticket Prices

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Grandhi Vishwanath, MD of Poorna Pictures and former president of the Andhra Pradesh Film Chamber, has urged the state government to introduce a flexible pricing policy for movie tickets. During a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday, Vishwanath highlighted the challenges the Telugu film industry is facing due to the rising influence of OTT platforms and rigid movie ticket pricing.



Vishwanath emphasized that a flexible ticket pricing policy, similar to those in states like Telangana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, could benefit the film industry. He noted that high ticket prices discourage the public, especially lower-income groups, from visiting cinemas. According to him, introducing minimum and maximum ticket rates, based on the scale and production value of the film, would attract more viewers and help small and medium-budget films thrive.

During the meeting, Vishwanath presented a souvenir copy of *Shata Vas-antala* to Pawan Kalyan and explained how the flexible rate system could re-vive interest in cinema. He stated, “This approach is beneficial for all levels of films, bringing audiences back to theaters.”

Pawan Kalyan responded positively to Vishwa-



nath’s suggestions and assured that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Chief Minister, raising hopes for potential changes in the state’s film industry policies.

Home Minister Anitha Responds Over Gang Rape Incident in Sri Satyasai District

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The recent incident of gang rape involving a mother-in-law in Sri Satyasai district, Andhra Pradesh, has prompted strong reactions from Home Minister Anita Vangalapudi. Describing the event as “very sad,” the Minister emphasized the swift action taken by law enforcement, with the accused apprehended within 48 hours using advanced technology.



Among the arrested, three in-dividuals are minors, while another has a troubling histo-ry with 32 prior cases against him. Minister Anita confirmed that the case would be for-warded to a special court to expedite the judicial process, assuring the public that the perpetrators would be pun-ished swiftly. She stressed that the government is committed to ensuring that those who commit crimes against wom-

en do not escape justice.

The Home Minister stated that their priority is to reduce crime and enhance women’s safety across the state. She announced plans for a robust surveillance system in schools and colleges and indicated that CCTV cameras would be installed near all places of worship to bolster security.

Minister Anita asserted that

her government would not compromise on women’s safety, reiterating that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is personally involved in monitoring incidents related to women’s safety. She mentioned that special courts are being established to address such cases without delay.

In parallel, former Chief Min-ister Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to take strict action against those committing crimes against women. He conducted a review meet-ing with the Director General of Police (DGP) and senior of-ficials regarding the gang rape incident, focusing on preven-tive measures and ensuring immediate punishment for the accused. He also recom-mended that the High Court establish a special court for these cases to facilitate accu-rate and timely investigations.

Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly Election Schedule Announced, Results on November 23

In Jharkhand, the elections will occur in two phases on November 13 and November 20, with vote counting also on November 23. The election schedule for Jharkhand is:

- First Phase Notification: October 18
- Second Phase Notification: October 22
- Acceptance of Nominations (First Phase): Until October 25
- Acceptance of Nominations (Second Phase): Until October 29
- Deadline for Withdrawal of Nominations (First Phase): October 30
- Deadline for Withdrawal of Nominations

(Second Phase): November 1

- First Phase Polling Date: November 13
- Second Phase Polling Date: November 20
- Counting of Votes: November 23

Maharashtra has a total of 288 constituencies and approximately 9.63 crore eligible voters, including 20.93 lakh first-time voters. For this election, 1,00,186 polling stations have been es-tablished. In contrast, Jharkhand comprises 81 constituencies and has around 2.6 crore voters, with 11.84 lakh individuals set to cast their votes for the first time.

Key Development in AP Skill Development Case

ED Attaches Assets Worth ₹23.54 Crore

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant develop-ment in the Andhra Pradesh Skill Development case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has at-tached assets worth ₹23.54 crore. These assets belong to Siemens and are located in major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune. The attached properties consist of both fixed and movable assets.

The ED’s investigation into the case was based on a prior inquiry by the AP CID. The probe re-vealed that funds meant for skill development were diverted to personal accounts through the

use of fake invoices. Assets belonging to key in-dividuals in the case, such as DTCL MD Khan-wilkar, former Siemens MD Suman Bose, and Mukul Chand, have also been attached.

This case is also notable for the earlier arrest of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandraba-bu Naidu, who spent 53 days in jail following his detention by the CID. The investigation into the skill development scheme continues, with further legal actions expected in the coming weeks.

Somireddy Criticizes Jagan for Earning Crores Through Liquor Sales

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has launched a scathing attack on YCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Somireddy alleged that Jagan amassed thousands of crores of rupees through the sale of liquor during his five-year rule. He criticized the imposition of certain liquor brands, such as “J Gang,” on the people of Andhra Pradesh, claiming these brands were pushed forcefully onto consumers.



Somireddy further ridiculed Jagan's statements on adulterated liquor, calling them absurd. He remarked that Jagan's claims were laughable, given that the government itself was complicit in promoting these questionable liquor brands. According to Somireddy, the administration's approach to liquor sales contradicted its public stance on controlling adulterated alcohol.

Drawing a comparison between Jagan and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Somireddy stated that CM Chandrababu did not engage in

such practices to earn money. He highlighted that liquor shops were allocated transparently through a lottery system during Chandrababu's tenure, ensuring fairness. Furthermore, he emphasized that Chandrababu made reputable brands from well-known companies accessible to the public, in contrast to the forced promotion of inferior liquor under the current YCP regime.

The former minister's comments have sparked debate, further fueling the ongoing political tussle between the TDP and YCP over governance, transparency, and policies related to liquor sales.

Pattabhiram Slams Jagan, Calls Him “Anaconda”

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: During a media conference, TDP leader Kommareddy Pattabhiram launched a scathing attack on Andhra Pradesh Former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of accumulating crores of rupees for personal gain. Pattabhiram referred to Jagan as “Anaconda Jagan Reddy,” claiming that he has swallowed vast amounts of public money for his personal needs.



Pattabhiram specifically highlighted the construction of a 30-foot iron fence around Jagan's residence, reportedly built at a cost of Rs. 12.85 crore. saying that Jagan is hiding behind the fence like a frightened cat. Pattabhiram went on to say that even a cat would be ashamed of such cowardice, ridiculing the for his ex-

cessive security measures and isolating himself from the public.

The TDP leader's harsh remarks are part of the ongoing political rivalry between the TDP and YSRCP, with corruption and governance issues at the forefront of their criticisms. Pattabhiram's comments have sparked widespread discussion, further intensifying the political climate in Andhra Pradesh.

I'll Not Contest if Elections Are Held Through EVM's

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former MLA Rachamallu Sivaprasad Reddy has made a bold statement, declaring that he will not contest in the 2029 elections if they are conducted through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Reddy echoed the concerns of YCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who recently expressed distrust in EVMs, calling for elections to be conducted using traditional ballot papers for fair and transparent results.



Rachamallu claimed that fraud is prevalent in elections conducted via EVMs, suggesting that the outcomes can be manipulated, much like what he believes happened in previous elections. He stated that clean and authentic results can only be achieved through the use of ballot papers, urging that the system return to this method for the sake of democracy.

The former MLA went on to allege that the verdict in recent elections was not delivered by the people, but by EVMs, implying that the results were tampered with. He pointed out that suspicions regarding the integrity of EVMs arose immediately after vote counting, with many people questioning the results. Despite these doubts, he criticized the Election Commission for not addressing public con-

cerns.

Reddy has now called on the Supreme Court to intervene and examine the issue of EVMs, stressing that democratic principles are at risk if the same technology is used in future elections. He warned that if EVMs are used again, the outcome of elections would be predetermined, and leaders would be chosen undemocratically through the misuse of technology.

This strong stance against EVMs reflects growing concerns within the YCP about the integrity of the election process and raises important questions about the future of electoral practices in India.

Lookout Notice Issued for YCP Leader Sajjala Ramakrishna in Harassment Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: A lookout notice has been issued against prominent YCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy Intercepted at Delhi Airport and others in connection with a harassment case filed by Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani. As a result, Sajjala was intercepted by immigration officials at Delhi Airport during his arrival from abroad. Reports suggest that he expressed frustration over being stopped, but after explaining his situation, he was allowed to proceed to Andhra Pradesh. However, by the time he was cleared, the flight to Hyderabad had already departed, forcing him to wait for another one.



The harassment case against Sajjala and other YCP leaders, including Devineni Avinash, Talashila Raghuram, and Lella Appireddy, has gained significant attention. Police have issued lookout notices against these leaders in connection with Jethwani's complaint. Additionally, Avinash, Talashila, and Lella Appireddy are also facing charges related to a separate incident involving an attack on the TDP office.

This development has added fuel to the ongoing political tensions,

raising questions about the involvement of key political figures in criminal cases and the impact on the ruling YCP party's image. The authorities are continuing their investigation into both cases.

Chittoor MLA Gurjala Jagan Mohan Announced Free Bus Scheme for Women in AP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chittoor MLA Gurjala Jagan Mohan made a significant announcement regarding two welfare schemes for the people of Andhra Pradesh. During a recent event in Chittoor district, he confirmed that the coalition government would implement a free cylinder scheme for the upcoming Diwali festival, followed by the launch of a free bus travel scheme for women starting the day after Diwali.



The free bus scheme is one of the key promises made by the ruling alliance government, and many leaders have previously spoken about its implementation. MLA Gurjala reaffirmed this commitment, stating that women across the state will soon benefit from free bus travel, adding to the list of welfare initiatives aimed at improving the lives of citizens.

he highlighted the need to increase pensions, distribute ration cards, and provide housing under the NTR housing scheme. He took a light-hearted jab at the opposition, remarking that YCP leaders often fail to take action, even when it comes to basic infrastructure like roads.

He credited Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for introducing several schemes focused on the welfare of women, ensuring their happiness and well-being. However, he emphasized that the current government would

bring a “double bonanza” this Diwali by rolling out the free cylinder and bus travel schemes, which he also reiterated on the social media platform ‘X’ (formerly Twitter).

These announcements are expected to bring much-needed relief and joy to women and households across Andhra Pradesh during the festive season.

While participating in a village festival in Chittoor district, MLA Jagan Mohan also laid the foundation stone for several development projects. During his speech,

Jamili Elections Are Coming Soon - Kakani

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP leader and former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy made critical remarks about the TDP and its policies, particularly in relation to the possibility of Jamili elections in 2027. He stated that if Jamili elections are held, the TDP government would only last for two years, highlighting a short tenure for the party. Kakani also issued a warning to officials, advising them not to act on the directions of TDP leaders, suggesting that those who do may face consequences in the future.



the supervision of ministers and MLAs, further accusing TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu of creating a liquor policy solely to benefit the “yellow batch,” referring to TDP's party colors.

The former minister went on to criticize the state's liquor industry, claiming that distilleries are under TDP control and that the li-

quor sold is of inferior quality. He warned that belt shops (unauthorized liquor outlets) would proliferate across the state, and suggested that the delivery of liquor to homes might become common practice.

Kakani also accused Chandrababu of planning a three-tier system for the allotment of liquor shops, with the TDP chief overseeing the process at the state level, MLAs managing allocations at the constituency level, and local leaders controlling belt shops at the village level, allowing for widespread corruption in the liquor business.

These comments have sparked heated political debate, with Kakani emphasizing the negative impact of TDP's policies on the state and its governance.

Will Rapaka Varaprasad Join TDP?

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: After the YSR Congress Party's defeat in the recent assembly elections, a wave of resignations from party leaders has been observed, with senior figures parting ways with the YCP. Among them is former MLA Rapaka Varaprasad, who recently resigned from the party, fueling speculation about his next political move. Rapaka Varaprasad was the only Janasena MLA to win in the 2019 elections, representing the Rajole constituency.

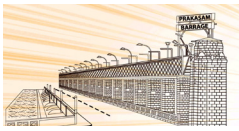
Following his victory, Rapaka grew close to the ruling YCP, distancing himself from Janasena and even criticizing its leader, Pawan Kalyan. However, in the recent elections, Rapaka, who contested as an MP from Amalapuram under the YCP

banner, faced defeat. Since then, he has been staying away from YCP activities. After the loss, he openly criticized YCP leaders for blaming EVMs and emphasized that the people simply did not vote for the YCP.

Rapaka's resignation from the YCP was expected, especially after expressing his dissatisfaction with the party for not granting him a ticket for the Rajolu constituency. He voiced his frustration, saying that despite his dedication and hard work, YCP ignored him and gave the ticket to Gollapalli Surya Rao. Rapaka also revealed that he contested for the Amalapuram MP seat on the advice of elders, even though he was reluctant.

Amid this fallout, there are rumors of Rapaka attempting to return to Janasena, but his re-entry is facing opposition from both party leadership and grassroots workers. Additionally, reports suggest that Rapaka has had discussions with district-level leaders, but joining the TDP remains uncertain due to its alliance with Janasena.

Rapaka, a two-time MLA, having previously won from Congress in 2009 and Janasena in 2019, now finds himself at a political crossroads. If given the green light from the TDP leadership, it appears likely that he will don the yellow scarf and join the party. However, his future remains unclear as he navigates this challenging political landscape.



Minister Nadendla Manohar Seizes 100 Tons of Illegal Stored Ration Rice in N.T.R. Dist



TPN, Vijayawada: In a significant crackdown on illegal activities involving ration rice, Minister Nadendla Manohar conducted a surprise in-

spection at Sri Lakshmi Ganapati Rice Mill near Paritala village in Kanchikacharla Mandal of N.T.R. district on Tuesday. During the inspection, the Minister uncovered the illegal storage of 100 tons of ration rice, meant for distribution under government schemes aimed at providing food security for the poor.

Officials, acting on intelligence, discovered large quantities of ration rice bags hidden within the mill. The investigation revealed that the rice, distributed under central and state government schemes, was being diverted by the mill management. Instead of reaching the intended benefi-

ciaries, the rice was being purchased from ration cardholders, mixed with high-quality Sambamasuri rice, and sold at a higher price to earn illegal profits.

Minister Nadendla Manohar expressed his concern over the misuse of ration rice, which is meant to benefit the poor, and vowed to take strict action against those involved. "It is unfortunate that food meant for the underprivileged is being turned into a business commodity by illegal traders," he said. The minister further emphasized that the government would not tolerate such activities and is committed to ensuring that

the food security system works as intended.

The seized rice, along with a lorry used in the transportation of the illegally stored sacks, has been confiscated by authorities. This action is part of a larger initiative to curb the widespread smuggling and misuse of government-provided ration rice.

Minister Nadendla's firm stance on the issue has sent a strong message that illegal practices surrounding food security schemes will not be allowed to continue unchecked. Further investigations are ongoing, and strict legal action will be taken against those responsible.

Water Quality Testing Underway in Gudivada Constituency



TPN, Gudivada: Under the directives of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan, water quality tests have been initiated in Gudivada constituency following complaints of discolored and potentially unsafe drinking water in 44 residential areas. During the recent "Village Festival" program, MLA Shri Venigandla Ramu presented samples of discolored water from Gudivada, Nandiwada, and Gudlavalleru mandals, prompting immediate action from the Deputy Chief Minister.

Shri Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to take swift measures to ensure clean water supply and conduct water quality tests. In response, the Rural Water Supply (RWS) department formed six teams comprising 44 engineering assistants. These teams embarked on a field tour to collect water samples from seven affected residential areas across the three mandals.

The collected samples were sent to laboratories for detailed analysis to determine the cause of the discoloration and



assess the safety of the water. In addition to gathering water samples, the teams also collected information from local residents to document the extent of the issue.

RWS officials assured that the testing process is progressing swiftly and that arrangements are being made to provide clean drinking water to the affected areas. The findings from the water tests will be reported to the Deputy Chief Minister's office, and appropriate measures will be taken to resolve the issue.

Dyslexia Awareness Week Celebrated with a Walkathon in Vijayawada



TPN, Vijayawada: In recognition of Dyslexia Awareness Week, celebrated every October to promote understanding of this learning disorder, a 2 km walkathon was held on the morning of October 15, 2024. The event commenced at Bhavita Center, located at the Regula Anuradha Municipal Corporation School, in Vijayawada East Mandal.

The walkathon was inaugurated by NTR District DEO Subbarao, along with Apc G. Maheshwara Rao. During the event, Subbarao emphasized the importance of recognizing dyslexia, explaining to parents how to identify the signs of this condition in their children. He provided insights into the challenges faced by children with dyslexia and the critical role that awareness plays in their educational journey.

Apc G. Maheshwara Rao also addressed the audience, educating parents on preventative measures and strategies to support children with dyslexia. His discussion aimed to empower families with knowledge that can help them foster a supportive learning environment.

The event was attended by several key figures, including State Coordinator Vanaja, District Coordinator Venkateswara Rao, MEO-2 Vijayalakshmi, School HM Sujatha, and teachers from the Bhavita Center, P. Kezia and V. Vishita. Their participation underscored the collaborative effort to raise awareness about dyslexia and promote understanding within the community.

This initiative reflects a growing commitment to addressing learning disorders and ensuring that children receive the support they need to thrive academically.

Concerns Rise Over Women Police Safety in Machavaram Station

TPN, Vijayawada: A disturbing incident at the Machavaram police station has raised serious concerns regarding the lack of protection for women police officers within the Police Commissionerate. A female constable, identified as Bhavani, who was on operational duty at the Vijayawada Government Hospital, attempted suicide following alleged harassment by her superior.

Reports indicate that during a recent roll call, Machavaram Circle Inspector (CI) Prakash verbally abused Bhavani in front of her colleagues. This incident, which included sarcastic remarks, left Bhavani feeling humiliated and distressed. Following the altercation, she reportedly swallowed sleeping pills in an attempt to take her own life. Relatives quickly rushed her to the hospital, where she is receiving treatment for her suicide attempt.

This is not an isolated case; a similar incident occurred in the same police station previously, where another female constable faced harassment, leading to attempts on her life. The continuous harassment of women staff at the Machavaram police station has raised alarms about their safety and well-being in a work environment that should prioritize their protection.

The incident highlights the urgent need for systemic changes within the police department to ensure the safety and dignity of female officers. Advocacy for stronger protective measures and accountability for those in positions of authority is essential to prevent further tragedies.



Controversy Erupts Over Junior Appointments in Vijayawada's Government General Hospital



TPN, Vijayawada: A significant controversy has emerged in the Government General Hospital regarding the recent appointments of juniors to key positions, sidelining senior doctors in the process. The Health Department has initiated changes in the superintendents and principals of various teaching hospitals, including those in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Kurnool, and Tirupati. Traditionally, promotions in government departments are based on seniority, followed by counseling for filling positions. However, this standard practice appears to have been overlooked in the health sector.

Reports indicate that a superintendent, closely associated with the Health Secretary, has been given preferential treatment, raising questions about transparency and fairness in the appointment process. The Secretary of Health issued Government Order (GO) 136, which allows a professor to qualify for the superintendent position after five years of service, effectively prioritizing juniors over senior doctors who

are entitled to these roles.

Concerns have been raised that this move may be influenced by alleged financial contributions made by the superintendent to top officials in the Health Department. It has been reported that this doctor managed to spend significant funds under his purview, even on unnecessary expenditures, leading to accusations of mismanagement. The ongoing changes have sparked outrage among senior doctors who feel their rights are being compromised due to the preferential treatment given to juniors. Many senior doctors who have been waiting for their promotions to the position of Additional Director are now expressing their frustrations and calling for the cancellation of GO 136.

As the Health Department pushes forward with these controversial appointments, the demand for greater accountability and fairness in the selection process continues to grow, highlighting the need for transparency within the system.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Launches Loan Facility Pilot Project



TPN, Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has launched a pilot project to provide loan facilities to six categories of Common Interest Groups (CIGs) under the National Urban Livelihood Mission 2.0. The initiative, selected for Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam, aims to improve access to loans for groups working in various sectors.

In a meeting held on Tuesday at the VMC's main office, Commissioner Dhyana Chandra emphasized the need for coordination between bankers and Urban Community Development (UCD) staff to streamline the loan process. He instructed UCD staff to form CIGs, similar to Self-Help Groups, specifically for workers in transport, construction,

domestic services, waste management, and care sectors. The Commissioner also urged bankers to collaborate in providing loans to these groups.

Furthermore, the Commissioner directed the 19 bank coordinators present to expedite the sanctioning of loans under the National Urban Livelihood Mission and the Prime Minister's Swanidhi Scheme. The focus is on clearing pending loans for the 4,808 street vendors in the city, ensuring they receive their first, second, and third tranche loans based on eligibility.

To ensure smooth implementation, the Commissioner ordered field staff, including RPs, COs, social workers, CDOS, and bank coordinators, to work closely to provide beneficiaries with the required loan facilities.

Lead District Manager Priyanka, UCD Project Officer Venkateswaralu, and other UCD and MEPM staff attended the meeting, along with the 19 bank coordinators.

Removing Stones, Cultivating Futures, Tribal Farmers in Meliyaputti Embrace Rice Farming



TPN, Srikakulam: In the hilly regions of Meliyaputti mandal, tribal villages such as Kerashingi, Guda, and Chandanagiri have long faced challenges in farming due to rocky terrain. Traditionally, farmers cultivated paddy along with cashew, millet, and sorghum, but financial hardships arose from limited forest products and difficult farming conditions.

Recently, some farmers have taken the initiative to transform wastelands into productive agricultural land. Using bulldozers to remove stones, they have flattened the terrain for cultivation. Lacking oxen for plowing, they dig the soil with sharp shovels to create suitable furrows for planting rice. Agricultural officials report that this year, 54 farmers in Kerashingi alone have cultivated rice across 70 acres, contributing to an estimated total of 5,000 acres in hilly villages.

However, these efforts have been hindered by the previous government's policies. Under the TDP government, funding for tribal development was provided through the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), which included subsidies for farmers. Unfortunately, after the YCP government took office, funding was halted, and essential projects like the construction and repair of check dams were neglected. This led to many farmers abandoning rice cultivation due to a lack of irrigation.

With the new coalition government in power, there is renewed hope. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's announcement to link employment funds to agriculture has sparked optimism for improved irrigation.

Savara Ramaiah, a farmer from Kerashingi, noted, "With the coalition government, we finally have hope for irrigation water." Meanwhile, Shanmukha Rao, a Village Agricultural Assistant, highlighted the fertile soil's potential, saying, "We are committed to assisting tribal farmers through subsidies." As these farmers adapt, a brighter agricultural future is emerging in Meliyaputti.

New Changes Has Been Done At Dokka Seethamma Meal Scheme

managed by 2,754 cooking agencies.

TPN, Narasannapet: In a significant move to improve the quality of meals served to government school students, the coalition government has announced plans to revamp the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme ahead of Diwali. The initiative comes as a response to the poor quality of food provided under the previous YSP regime, which included items like rotten eggs, tasteless ragijava, and worm-infested chickpeas. Many students found the meals inedible and often brought food from home.

Recognizing the need for change, Education Minister Nara Lokesh ordered a comprehensive review of the meal scheme. This included gathering feedback from parents and teachers to identify what improvements are necessary to make the meals more appealing. Special meetings were held at the district level to discuss the current menu and gather suggestions.



The new menu, set to roll out from Diwali, aims to ensure that students receive nutritious, tasty, and clean meals. The government plans to provide a balanced combination of proteins and carbohydrates and will invest approximately ₹12 crores monthly to cater to around 179,000 students across 1,915 primary schools, 315 UP schools, and 419 high schools,

Some proposals from parents and educators include:

- Serving sambar bath separately instead of mixed with rice.
- Offering eggs five days a week, in forms such as fried and curry.
- Incorporating spices and greens like gongura or eggplant into ragijava.
- Providing small rice portions while increasing the total amount given to students.
- Supplying gas at subsidized rates and using aluminum utensils for cooking.
- Including fruits and buttermilk in the menu once a week.

The proposed menu includes items like Soma Pongal , Vegetable Pulao , Egg Curry , and various rice dishes accompanied by lentils and vegetables to ensure a balanced diet for students. These changes reflect a commitment to improving student nutrition and overall well-being.

Efforts to Strengthen TDP Emphasized by MLA Madhavi

TPN, Kadapa: MLA Madhavi and Politburo member Srinivasa Reddy have urged party members to intensify efforts to strengthen the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Their call to action came during a recent event in the 29th Division of Kadapa city, where a significant number of Arya Vaishyas joined the TDP, led by Arya Vaishya Yuva Shakti District President Ramu.



their official induction into the party. They emphasized that the TDP remains committed to standing by its loyal supporters and is dedicated to fostering unity and growth within the party.

During the welcoming ceremony, MLA Madhavi and District President Srinivasa Reddy adorned the new members with scarves, symbolizing

This initiative highlights the TDP's ongoing efforts to bolster its ranks and strengthen its presence in the region.

Bhavani's Mishap Averted by Divine Intervention

TPN, East Godavari: An accident was narrowly avoided by a stroke of luck involving a group of devotees from Visakhapatnam. On Monday night, 27 devotees adorned in Bhavani malas set off in a private bus for Vijayawada to visit the Kanakadurgamma temple as part of the Vijayadashami Utsav.



However, in the early hours of Monday, the bus driver lost control while traveling at excessive speed, causing the vehicle to crash into a divider on the outskirts of Ananthapalli. The impact severely damaged the front of the bus, but fortunately, none of the devotees were injured.

Expressing their gratitude, the Bhavani devotees credited Kanakadurgamma for their safety. After ensuring everyone was unharmed, they arranged for another bus to continue their pilgrimage to the Kanakadurgamma temple, relieved and thankful for their fortunate escape.

Heavy Rains and Flooding Loom Over Ongole Dist

TPN, Ongole: Ongole is currently experiencing heavy rainfall due to a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal. The district has recorded an average of 56 mm of rainfall over the past four days, with Ongole alone receiving a maximum of 181.40 mm. As a result, many areas are facing waterlogging, with roads and canals merging into ponds and streams, severely disrupting transportation and daily activities.



The rains began intensifying on Sunday night and are expected to continue through Tuesday and Wednesday. In response, the district administration has been put on high alert, following warnings from the State Natural Disasters Department. Collector Tamim Ansaria has declared a two-day holiday for schools, emphasizing the importance of safety amidst the heavy downpour.

the Collectorate and RDO offices to monitor the situation. They are actively visiting the most affected areas, particularly coastal villages, to implement precautionary mea-

sures. In total, eight rehabilitation centers have been established across Ongole, Kothapatnam, Tanguturu, and Singarayakonda mandals for those in need.

Additionally, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu conducted a teleconference with local ministers and the collector to discuss immediate actions. Teams have been deployed in the coastal regions, equipped with boats and swimmers to assist in emergencies.

Farmers are expressing concern about potential damage to crops, particularly cotton, chilies, and kandi, as the heavy rains continue. The district administration is focused on proactive measures to ensure the safety of residents and minimize disruption caused by the severe weather.

TADEPALLIGUDEM IN GOLD CUFFS

A twist in the scheme is that if a customer misses even one installment, they are reportedly denied the gold as per the scheme's promises. Moreover, many merchants are accused of not providing the correct gold prices or the quality promised, further betraying their customers' trust.

It is suspected that these merchants are using the collected funds to sustain their business or, in some cases, as a deliberate scam to cheat customers. Some even allegedly plan to invest these funds in other ventures, such as real estate.

Pavan Kala Jewellers is now at the center of this controversy, with rumors circulating that they are preparing to declare insolvency to avoid repaying customers. Local YouTubers are warning the public to stay vigilant and seek legal assistance, urging customers to take action to protect their investments.

This alarming situation has raised concerns among the residents of Tadepalligudem, as many fear they may lose their hard-earned money to these fraudulent schemes.

Grand Celebrations for Peditalli Ammavari Sirimanu

TPN, Vizianagaram: The Peditalli Ammavari Sirimanu celebrations commenced with great enthusiasm in Jayanagaram, marking the first anniversary of Paidithalli Amma. The festivities are set to reach a peak with the Rathotsavam, scheduled to begin at 3 PM on Tuesday. The district administration has made elaborate arrangements, including a detailed security plan involving 2,000 police personnel to ensure the safety of the large crowds expected to attend.

Devotees have already started flocking to visit the Goddess, and for the first time, the state government has organized free sightings for attendees. The procession will feature the Jalari Vala, Anjali Ratham, and Paladhara Ratham, which are key parts of Ammavari's entourage.

On Monday, the Paidithalamma Tholella Utsav took place, attended by prominent figures such as former Union Minister Ashok Gajapathiraju and his family, who presented silk cloths to the Goddess in a ceremonial offering. Vizianagaram MP Kalishetti Appalanaidu's family also participated, adding to the festive atmosphere. The rituals began with the Goddess being anointed with various river waters, preparing for the Tholela festival. In a noteworthy tradition, Bantupalli Venkata Rao, the



priest, distributed seeds to local farmers after performing pujas, with many farmers waiting until midnight to collect their offerings.

Collector Ambedkar emphasized the importance of organizing the Sirimanotsava in line with traditional practices and the sentiments of devotees. He instructed that the festivities should begin at 3 PM and conclude by 5 PM, urging officials to ensure smooth operations and manage crowds effectively, especially during VIP arrivals. Food inspectors were also directed to oversee the preparation of prasads to meet the needs of all attendees.

Tragic Incident in Chittoor District: Farmer Killed by Elephants

TPN, Chittoor: In a shocking incident in Chittoor district, the movement of elephants has escalated, resulting in tragic consequences for local farmers. Areas such as Devalampet, Ayyavandlapalle, and Errapapireddypalle have reported increased elephant activity, with herds often attacking crops and leaving destruction in their wake.

The situation reached a critical point in Pileru, within the Punganur constituency, where a farmer, identified as Raja Reddy, was brutally killed by a herd of elephants. This group, comprising around 15 elephants, had been roaming the area for several days, wreaking havoc on crops and instilling fear among the farming community. When Raja Reddy attempted to protect his mango grove from the rampaging elephants, he was tragically trampled and buried beneath the soil.

This incident has sparked outrage and

concern among the local population, as farmers continue to suffer the consequences of these elephant incursions. In response, forest officials have been alerted and are working diligently to assess the situation and relocate the elephants back to their forest habitat.

The Andhra Pradesh government has already implemented measures to safeguard farmers and their crops from elephant-related damages across several districts, including Chittoor, Manyam, Vizianagaram, and Parvathipuram. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan signed a significant agreement with the Karnataka government to address these issues. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has responded positively, and the agreement includes key initiatives such as training mahouts, transferring kunki elephants to Andhra Pradesh, and maintaining elephant camps to manage the situation more effectively.



The Legacy of Sai Baba: A Life of Resilience and Resistance

Shortly after his release from prison, following the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court’s judgment, Sai called to meet. I found him unexpectedly resolute and focused. He inquired about the possibility of reclaiming his job as an assistant professor at Delhi University. I suggested he take time to recover first, but he believed returning to teaching could aid his healing and address his family’s financial struggles.

Curious about how he endured a decade in jail, I was taken aback by his response. He had taught illiterate Adivasi prisoners, many of whom were unaware of the reasons for their incarceration. Through distance education, he helped them graduate. Sai, 90% disabled and paralyzed from the waist down since childhood, credited his survival to the care of the Adivasi inmates. He also reflected on his mother’s sacrifices—an illiterate daily-wage laborer who carried him to school each day, instilling in him the importance of

education.

In an age where collective struggles often seem daunting, Sai embodied unwavering commitment and resilience. He expressed deep concern for the Adivasi communities and their challenges, highlighting the significance of collective action in finding strength and meaning.

During our conversation, he shared his health struggles but was more focused on reviving his activist work. Although he worried that his health might limit his activism, he was determined to complete unfinished writings and proposed creating a literary forum, seeking my involvement. I felt unqualified but admired his vision.

Sai was particularly anxious about his family’s well-being, especially his daughter’s education. We discussed avenues to reinstate his job, especially with a court hearing approaching regarding his termination despite his acquittal. Follow-

ing his advice, I sought assistance from Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who was willing to help.

A few weeks later, I learned that Sai had been hospitalized for gall-bladder stones. After a brief operation, he appeared revitalized. Yet, shortly after, complications arose. His pancreas became infected, leading to severe pain and further health decline. Despite our efforts to secure government assistance for his medical bills, we were unprepared for his passing on October 12 at 8:36 PM.

Sai’s death, while not entirely unexpected, is profoundly unacceptable. Following the death of Father Stan Swamy, we are reminded of the consequences of state persecution. How could a frail, disabled man pose such a threat to the state? Perhaps his very fragility was seen as a challenge. In a nation striving for strength, we must question the frailty of a state that targets the most vulnerable among us.

Arundhati Roy's Acceptance Speech for the PEN Pinter Prize 2024

Writer and activist Arundhati Roy was honored with the PEN Pinter Prize 2024, a prestigious award recognizing those who embody the spirit of playwright Harold Pinter. In her acceptance speech on October 10, 2024, at the British Library, Roy expressed gratitude to English PEN and shared the award with Alaa Abd El-Fattah, a British-Egyptian writer and activist imprisoned in Egypt.

Roy began by acknowledging Abd El-Fattah’s courage, noting that the Egyptian government deemed him too powerful a thinker to be released. She quoted him, emphasizing his persistent voice despite imprisonment: “[M]y words lost any power and yet they continued to pour out of me.” Roy emphasized that they were listening closely to his words.

She extended greetings to her friend Naomi Klein and reflected on her comrades in prison in India, including activists and journalists such as Umar Khalid and Rona Wilson. Roy highlighted the lives devastated by incarceration, particularly in Kashmir, stating, “I speak to you, my friend Khurram Parvaiz, one of the most remarkable people I know, you’ve been in prison for three years.”

Roy quoted Ruth Borthwick, Chair of English PEN, who had described the Pinter Prize as honoring those who seek to define “the real truth



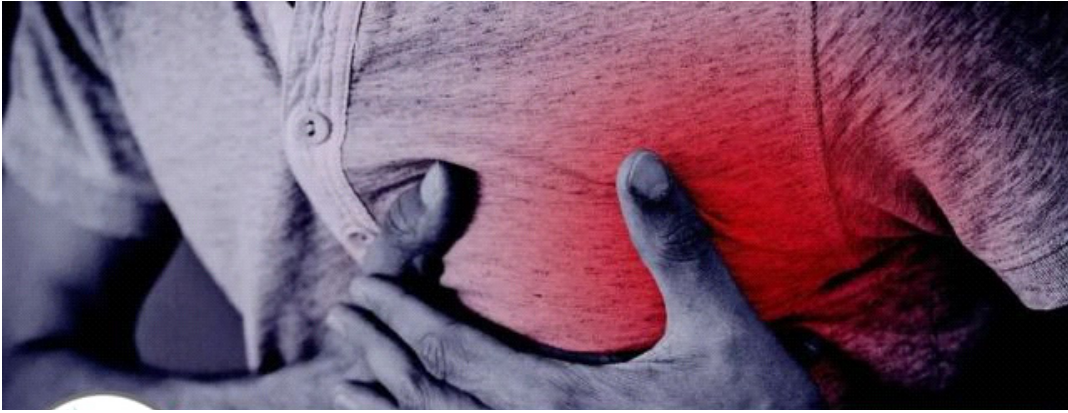
of our lives.” She pondered the word “unflinching,” contrasting it with her own tendency to “flinch.”

Drawing from a historical anecdote involving Father John Metcalf’s plea against U.S. support for Nicaraguan Contras, Roy critiqued the unflinching attitudes of power structures that ignore the suffering of innocent people. She recounted Seitz’s cold response to Metcalf’s harrowing account of violence and destruction, noting the chilling absence of empathy.

Roy critiqued the U.S. narrative of

justifying military actions, referencing President Reagan’s description of the Contras as “the moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers.” She linked this rhetoric to other historical conflicts, including Vietnam, and questioned the moral implications of policies that lead to genocide and suffering.

In her powerful speech, Roy underscored the importance of bearing witness to the struggles of those silenced by oppression, and reaffirmed her commitment to truth-telling in a world that often prefers silence.



Long-Term Cardiovascular Risks Linked to Covid-19

Recent research has underscored a significant connection between Covid-19 and an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, highlighting this risk persists for up to three years post-infection. While the findings emerge from an observational study—rather than a clinical trial—they draw on extensive medical records from approximately 250,000 individuals in the UK Biobank, making the study substantial in scale.

Historically, it has been recognized that infections, whether bacterial or viral, elevate the risk of cardiovascular events, particularly in patients with pre-existing health conditions. However, this new study is groundbreaking in revealing a long-term cascading effect following a Covid-19 infection, which diverges from the more temporary vulnerabilities typically associated with other infections.

The findings emphasize that Covid-19 does not merely pose an immediate threat to cardiovascular health but may also instigate enduring changes in the body that contribute to increased risk over an extended period. This challenges previous assumptions about the duration of heightened vulnerability following viral infections.

Understanding the mechanisms at play is

critical. Researchers believe that Covid-19 may cause lasting damage to the cardiovascular system through various pathways, including inflammation and endothelial dysfunction. The virus can trigger a hyper-inflammatory response, leading to changes in blood vessel function and an increased likelihood of clot formation, both of which can contribute to heart attacks and strokes.

Moreover, this prolonged risk highlights the importance of monitoring cardiovascular health in individuals who have recovered from Covid-19, particularly those with underlying health issues. The study advocates for healthcare providers to be vigilant in assessing heart health in patients with a history of Covid-19 infection, emphasizing preventive measures and interventions that could mitigate these risks.

While further research is essential to establish causality and better understand the long-term implications, this study marks a crucial step in recognizing the broader consequences of Covid-19. It also reinforces the need for comprehensive healthcare strategies that address the multifaceted impacts of the virus beyond its acute phase. As we navigate the long-term effects of the pandemic, the findings serve as a reminder of the virus’s enduring legacy on cardiovascular health.



BJP's Political Flip-Flops: A Struggle for Credibility

During the recent Lok Sabha elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielded 110 candidates but only secured 41 victories, raising questions about its strategy. A notable case is Ashok Tanwar, a Dalit politician who was given a ticket for the Sirsa (SC) Lok Sabha constituency in Haryana, replacing sitting MP Sunita Duggal. Despite this move, Tanwar lost to Congress’s Selja Kumari, a prominent Dalit leader.

Tanwar’s political journey has been tumultuous. After previously serving as the state Congress president, he left the party to support the Jananayak Janata Party in the 2019 state elections. He later attempted to establish his own party, Apna Bharat Morcha, which failed to gain traction. Following a brief stint with the Trinamool Congress, Tanwar switched to the BJP, only to rejoin Congress just hours after rallying for a BJP candidate during the Haryana Assembly campaign.

This cycle of party-switching raises alarms within the BJP about its candidate selection process. In West Bengal, the BJP nominated sitting MP Arjun Singh, who had left the party for the Trinamool Congress after being elected in 2019. Despite his previous disloyalty, the BJP nominated him again, only for voters to choose

TMC’s Partha Bhowmick instead.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently stated that the BJP has a “very good digestion” when it comes to assimilating leaders from rival parties. While this strategy may seem pragmatic, it risks alienating the party’s core base, especially when former rivals accused of corruption are welcomed back. This practice has tarnished the party’s image and contributed to its reduced seat count in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP’s alliances in Maharashtra exemplify this struggle. The party’s decision to partner with the Ajit Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) contradicted its earlier stance against corruption. Similarly, the induction of former chief minister Ashok Chavan, previously accused of corruption, further diluted the party’s credibility among voters.

These political flip-flops have not only disappointed party cadres but have also undermined the BJP’s ideological integrity. In West Bengal, the BJP’s recruitment drive ahead of the 2021 assembly polls, aimed at attracting TMC leaders, backfired, leaving the party in a precarious position post-election.



Teams formed to enforce dust control measures In Delhi: CM Atishi

On October 15, Chief Minister Atishi announced the deployment of 99 inspection teams across Delhi to monitor compliance with dust mitigation measures at construction sites, following the implementation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage 1. This decision comes in light of recent declines in air quality, with the city experiencing a rise in "good air days" earlier this year.

The announcement followed a high-level meeting led by Atishi, attended by representatives from various departments, including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Public Works Department (PWD), and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). Atishi highlighted the importance of addressing pollution, noting the urgency to implement the first stage of GRAP as air quality dipped into the "poor" category.

Under GRAP Stage 1, 33 teams from the DPCC, revenue, and industry departments will conduct inspections at both private and government construction sites, ensuring adherence to dust control measures. These teams are required to submit daily reports to the 'Green War Room,' which oversees air quality management in the city.

Additionally, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has dispatched 79 teams for daytime monitoring and 75 teams for nighttime operations to ensure proper disposal of construction waste. To combat biomass burning, 116 teams will work continuously.

Road dust control is a critical focus, with the PWD responsible for repairing potholes to minimize dust accumulation. To further address air quality, anti-smog guns will be deployed extensively, with 200 from the PWD, 80 from the DMRC, 30 from the MCD, and 14 from the NCRTC.

Atishi also directed traffic police to pinpoint congestion hotspots, ensuring adequate personnel are deployed to manage traffic and reduce vehicle emissions, thereby contributing to improved air quality in the capital.

Arrests in Baba Siddique Murder Case: Mumbai Police Detain Fourth Suspect

The Mumbai police have arrested a fourth suspect in connection with the murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique. The latest arrest involves 23-year-old Harishkumar Balakram, who is originally from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh.



According to officials, Balakram, who was working as a scrap dealer in Pune, played a role in the conspiracy to kill Siddique and was apprehended in Bahraich.

Prior to Balakram's arrest, three individuals had already been detained. These included alleged shooters Gurmail Baljit Singh, also 23 and a resident of Haryana, and 19-year-old Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap from Uttar Pradesh. The police also arrested Pravin Lonkar, identified as a co-conspirator from Pune. Another suspected shooter, Shivkumar Gautam, remains at large.

Baba Siddique, aged 66, was attacked on Saturday night in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar area, just outside his son Zeeshan Siddique's office. Eyewitnesses reported that three assailants waylaid him and opened fire. Siddique was quickly rushed to Lilavati Hospital but was declared dead upon arrival.

The police are continuing their investigation to gather more evidence and locate the remaining suspects involved in this high-profile case. The murder has sent shockwaves through the political landscape in Maharashtra, prompting increased security measures for public figures.



PM Modi Launches IMC 24: Advocates for Global Digital and Ethical AI Use

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024 on Tuesday, coinciding with the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) 2024. The event showcases advancements in mobile network connectivity, broadband adoption, and optical fibre expansion, with participation from major telecom operators like Reliance Jio and Airtel, as well as tech firms such as Xiaomi and Qualcomm.

During his address, PM Modi emphasized that India boasts 1.2 billion mobile users and over 950 million internet users, accounting for more than 40% of global real-time digital transactions. He noted that India leads in data affordability,

with the cost at just ₹12 per GB, significantly lower than many countries that charge 10-12 times more. The Prime Minister also highlighted the expansion of 5G network coverage to all districts and the substantial growth of the optical fibre network, which has increased to cover over eight times the distance between the Moon and Earth over the past decade.

Furthermore, Modi pointed out the rise in smartphone manufacturing within India and investments in semiconductor technology, aiming for completely "Made-in-India" handsets, including their components.

Airtel Chairman Sunil Mittal introduced

new anti-spam technology aimed at blocking fraudulent calls and messages, emphasizing the importance of user safety on telecom networks. Meanwhile, Kumar Mangalam Birla, promoter of Vodafone Idea, announced the kickstart of the telecom operator's capital expenditure cycle through a follow-on public offer (FPO) that garnered bids worth ₹90,000 crore, facilitating new deals with Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung.

Birla expressed a commitment to empowering small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with technologies like 5G, IoT, AI, and cloud services through their Vi Business ReadyForNext program, aiming to drive India's digital growth.



India Signs Mega Deal For 31 Predator Drones From US

In a significant boost to its armed forces, India has finalized a deal with the United States to acquire 31 MQ-9B Predator drones, enhancing its military capabilities. Under this agreement, the Indian Navy will receive 15 drones of the 'SeaGuardian' variant, while the Army and Air Force will each be allocated eight 'SkyGuardian' drones. The total cost of the deal is expected to be under \$3.5 billion.

The acquisition was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security earlier this month and will proceed under a Foreign Military Sales contract with American manufacturer General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI). The MQ-9B Predator drone is a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capable of flying for 40 hours at altitudes exceeding 40,000 feet, with an external payload capacity of 2,155 kg.

Beyond its surveillance capabilities, the MQ-9B is armed with strike missiles, enabling it to engage targets with precision. Its advanced features include automated take-offs and landings, and it can seamlessly integrate into civil airspace.

The versatility of the MQ-9B makes it ideal for various missions, including land and maritime surveillance, anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, electronic warfare, and expeditionary operations aimed at addressing specific crises.

This deal underscores the growing U.S.-India defense partnership, which has seen significant progress over the past decade. Matthew Miller, a spokesperson for the U.S. State Department, emphasized the strategic importance of the deal during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit last year, noting its potential to enhance technology cooperation and military collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.



Nitin Gadkari Advocates for Ethanol and Flex Fuels in India

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari emphasized the importance of promoting ethanol and flex fuels during a review meeting with the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Tuesday. Held at Transport Bhawan, the meeting focused on the automobile industry's preparedness for the transition to these alternative fuels.

Gadkari urged SIAM representatives to explore innovative strategies to enhance public acceptance of ethanol and flex fuels, citing Brazil's successful implementation of these bio-fuels in its transportation sector as a potential model for India. The minister highlighted the benefits of shifting from fossil fuels to biofuels, which include reducing pollution, decreasing reliance on imported fuels, and ultimately providing consumers with more affordable fuel options.

The discussion also touched on the readiness of the automobile industry to launch ethanol-powered vehicles in the coming months. Gadkari stressed that the shift to biofuels could significantly contribute to India's self-reliance, benefiting local farmers and the economy at large. By fostering a greater understanding of these fuels among consumers, the government aims to promote sustainable and eco-friendly transportation solutions.

Gadkari's push for biofuels aligns with India's broader goals of enhancing energy security and reducing carbon emissions. The minister underscored the potential of ethanol and flex fuels to revolutionize the transportation sector, ultimately leading to a cleaner environment and a more resilient economy.

The dialogue reflects a growing recognition of the need for sustainable energy alternatives in India, as the government seeks to balance economic growth with environmental responsibilities. As the automobile industry gears up for this transition, ongoing discussions between the government and manufacturers will be crucial for ensuring a smooth rollout of ethanol-powered vehicles and enhancing public awareness about the benefits of these alternative fuels.



We Listen To US But Final Decision Will Be Ours: Netanyahu On Iran Retaliation

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on Tuesday that Israel will independently determine its response to Iran's recent missile attack, which involved around 200 missiles fired at Israel earlier this month. This declaration comes as tensions rise between Israel and Iran, particularly following the death of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Iranian general Abbas Nilforoushan in an Israeli strike in Beirut.

Netanyahu's comments contrast with warnings from U.S. President Joe Biden, who has advised against targeting Iranian nuclear or oil facilities to avoid escalating the conflict. While U.S. officials reported that Netanyahu assured Washington he would only target military sites, Netanyahu's office emphasized that Israel would prioritize its national interests in decision-making.

As the situation intensifies, Israel has also engaged in retaliatory strikes against Hezbollah positions in Lebanon. Israeli military operations have reportedly hit multiple locations, including hospitals in the Bekaa Valley, raising concerns about civilian casualties. Since the escalation of violence last month, over 1,315 people have died in Lebanon, with many more displaced due to the ongoing conflict.

Hezbollah has responded with its own attacks, including targeting Israeli troops and claiming to have downed an Israeli drone. The group has framed its actions as support for Palestinian militants in Gaza, further complicating the regional dynamics.

Humanitarian conditions in Gaza continue to deteriorate, with over 42,000 reported deaths, primarily among civilians, due to Israel's retaliatory strikes following a deadly Hamas attack on October 7. International organizations have called for urgent assistance as families in the region face dire circumstances amid the ongoing violence. The UN has raised alarms about the situation, emphasizing the need for humanitarian support.

India-Canada Diplomatic Crisis Escalates Over Nijjar Killing Allegations

India and Canada are embroiled in a severe diplomatic crisis following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. India has categorically denied these allegations, labeling them "absurd" and "politically motivated."

On October 15, Canada expelled six Indian diplomats, including the Acting High Commissioner, in connection with the investigation into Nijjar's murder, which occurred in British Columbia in June 2023. In retaliation, India announced the expulsion of six Canadian diplomats, escalating tensions between the two nations.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme claimed law enforcement had credible intelligence suggesting Indian government involvement in criminal activities, including threats to the South Asian community in Canada. He emphasized the importance of cooperation in addressing these threats.

India's Ministry of External Affairs strongly rejected Canada's claims, asserting that the allegations are part of a political agenda by Trudeau's government, which has historically provided a platform for anti-India extremists. The Ministry condemned Canada's lack of evidence supporting its assertions.

The strained relations between India and Canada date back several years, marked by incidents involving Khalistani extremists. Key events include the 2018 invitation of a convicted terrorist to a Canadian event and the vandalism of Hindu temples in Canada. Trudeau's earlier comments about anti-India activities during the G20 summit further strained ties.



As tensions rise, Trudeau accused India of engaging in "coercive behavior" against Canadians and insisted that Canadian law enforcement had attempted to cooperate with India on these issues but faced repeated refusals.

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Melanie Joly, called for India to support the ongoing investigation into Nijjar's killing, highlighting the need for both nations to address these serious allegations collaboratively.

Japan's Election Campaign Begins as PM Ishiba Seeks to Secure LDP Majority

Campaigning for Japan's October 27 election began on Tuesday, with new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba aiming to secure his ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) majority. Loudspeaker trucks and candidates distributing flyers set the stage for the upcoming vote, where key issues include rising prices, regional security concerns, and scandals within the LDP.

The LDP has dominated Japanese politics for decades, although leadership changes are frequent. Current polling indicates that the LDP remains the most popular party, with

26.4% of voters supporting it, compared to 12.4% for the main opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP). Low voter turnout and a fragmented opposition suggest that the LDP and its coalition partner, Komeito, are likely to secure victory.

Ishiba, who became prime minister after winning a party leadership election in September, has called this snap election to strengthen his mandate for policies aimed at revitalizing depopulated rural areas. He advocates for a revised Japan-US security treaty to enhance na-

tional sovereignty and supports the formation of a regional military alliance similar to NATO to counter China's influence, though he acknowledges that such changes will take time.

To retain a simple majority in the lower house of parliament, the LDP must address voter concerns stemming from a slush fund scandal and connections to the controversial Unification Church. Ishiba has promised to steer Japan's economy away from deflation, proposing a new stimulus package and support for low-income households.



Chinese premier inaugurates Pakistani airport in militancy-prone province

China's Premier Li Qiang recently visited Pakistan to inaugurate the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), a significant project funded by Beijing in a region frequently targeted by separatist groups. During a ceremony held on October 14, 2024, in Islamabad, Premier Li and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif unveiled a plaque to mark the airport's completion.

Although Li did not visit Balochistan directly, he "virtually" inaugurated the airport from the capital, located approximately 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) away. The NGIA is situated near Gwadar Port, a cornerstone of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which connects China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's coastline.

At the ceremony, Premier Li emphasized China's commitment to collaboration with Pakistan, stating, "China will continue to work with Pakistan to uphold the principle of planning together, building together, and benefiting together." This partnership is seen as crucial, given Beijing's longstanding support for Islamabad, particularly in providing financial assistance during economic challenges.

Despite the celebratory occasion, an aviation official confirmed to AFP that the airport is not yet operational for flights, although it is ready for operations. The completion of the airport is a vital step for the region, aiming to enhance connectivity and bolster economic growth.

Li's visit to Pakistan comes ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which Islamabad is hosting. This summit provides a platform for discussing regional security and economic cooperation, reinforcing China's role as a key ally for Pakistan amid ongoing security challenges, including recent violence in the region.

As the two nations continue to strengthen their ties, the New Gwadar International Airport represents a significant investment in Pakistan's infrastructure, despite the persistent risks posed by separatist insurgents in Balochistan.

Will Not Hit Iran's Nuclear Or Oil Facilities, Israel Assures US

Israel has assured the White House that any planned retaliatory strikes on Iran will not target nuclear or oil facilities, according to U.S. media reports. This commitment follows a series of tensions sparked by Iran's ballistic missile attacks on Israel on October 1, which were in retaliation for Israel's recent killings of Tehran-aligned militant leaders and a general from Iran's Revolutionary Guards.



Sources from the Washington Post, citing unnamed U.S. officials, reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu communicated this assurance during a call with President Joe Biden. Additional discussions took place between U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in recent days. The Israeli pledge was met with relief in Washington, as Biden has cautioned Israel against escalating the conflict by striking Iran's nuclear or oil infrastructure.

The U.S. administration's concern centers on preventing further regional warfare and avoiding a spike in global oil prices. This commitment to avoid hitting sensitive sites is crucial, as the conflict could quickly expand beyond the immediate

players involved.

The latest missile attack marks Iran's second direct strike against Israel, following a series of previous incidents that have heightened tensions in the region. In April, Iran launched missile and drone strikes in retaliation for an Israeli airstrike on its consulate in Damascus.

As tensions continue to simmer, both nations remain on high alert. The U.S. is closely monitoring the situation, emphasizing diplomatic efforts to contain hostilities while preparing for any developments that could impact regional stability. The evolving dynamics between Israel and Iran are critical not only for their bilateral relations but also for broader geopolitical stability in the Middle East.

North Korea Blows Up Roads Connecting It To The South

North Korea detonated sections of key roads connecting it to South Korea, as confirmed by Seoul's military on Tuesday. This aggressive act follows Pyongyang's pledge to permanently seal its southern border, amid heightened military rhetoric and activities following leader Kim Jong Un's declaration of the South as the "principal enemy."

The North accused Seoul of using drones to drop anti-regime propaganda over Pyongyang, leading Kim to convene a security meeting and direct immediate military responses. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in South Korea reported that while the roads had been long closed, the explosions represent a clear refusal by Kim to engage in negotiations.

This destruction aligns with North Korea's recent military measures, which include building mines and anti-tank barriers along the border. Experts believe these detonations may be preparatory steps for erecting further physical barriers. Video footage released by the South showed North Korean soldiers carrying out the explosions, producing thick smoke clouds as they blew up sections of both the Gyeongui and Donghae roads.



South Korea's unification ministry condemned the actions, labeling them as provocations and emphasizing the costs incurred in building the infrastructure. Meanwhile, China has urged all parties to de-escalate tensions on the peninsula.

In a related development, Kim Yo Jong, sister of the North Korean leader, accused the South of deploying drones into their airspace, asserting that the provocateurs would face serious consequences. Activist groups in South Korea have historically used balloons and small drones to send propaganda into the North.

As tensions rise, the potential for further military confrontations looms, with questions about North Korea's future actions in response to perceived threats.

Benchmark Indices Close Lower Amid Mixed Earnings Reports



On Tuesday, benchmark indices ended the day lower despite positive signals from Asian markets, primarily due to disappointing results from heavyweight Reliance Industries. The trading day began with gains but shifted to losses by the afternoon, resulting in the Sensex dropping by 152 points and the Nifty by 70 points. Despite the overall decline, market breadth on the BSE favored buyers, with 2,049 stocks advancing compared to 1,904 that lost ground.

The BSE Sensex opened at 82,101, following a close of 81,973 in the previous session. It reached an intraday low of 81,635 and a high of 82,300, ultimately closing at 81,820. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,186, hitting a low of 25,008 and a high of 25,212, before settling at 25,057, down by 70 points. The Bank Nifty, however, showed

some resilience, rising by 89 points to close at 51,906.

Among Nifty50 constituents, 18 companies saw gains while 30 reported losses. Notable gainers included BPCL, ICICI Bank, and Bharti Airtel, while HDFC Life, Wipro, and Bajaj Auto were among the biggest losers. Key sector indices such as IT, metal, pharma, and oil and gas turned red, whereas banking, FMCG, realty, and consumer durables sectors showed positive performance.

Current support for the Nifty is at 25,050, with resistance at 25,200. Analysts suggest short-term buying opportunities in

shares of ICICI Bank, MazDoc, Deepak Nitrate, Century Textiles, and Fortis.

In earnings news, HDFC Life Insurance reported a 12.3% increase in sales to ₹16,569 crore and a 14.9% rise in net profit to ₹432.99 crore. DB Corp, however, reported disappointing results, while HDFC AMC's sales surged by 38% to ₹887 crore. Bank of Maharashtra also showed strong growth with an 18% rise in sales and a 44.9% increase in net profit. Meanwhile, Adani Airport Holdings acquired a 50% stake in Semolina, which manages airport lounges, and several companies announced new contracts and partnerships.



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Reliance Industries Reports 3.62% Decline in Q2 Net Profit



Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), India's largest company by market capitalization, has announced a net profit of ₹19,101 crore for the second quarter ending September 2024, reflecting a 3.62% decline from ₹19,820 crore in the same quarter last year. The profit attributable to the company's owners fell by 4.77%, totaling ₹16,563 crore compared to ₹17,394 crore in the previous year.

Despite the decline in profit, RIL's gross revenue saw a slight increase of 0.79%, reaching ₹258,027 crore for the quarter. The performance has raised concerns among investors, particularly in light of ongoing challenges in the market.

Shares of Reliance Industries closed at ₹2,745.20 on Monday, showing a modest increase of 0.11%. This minor uptick comes amid scrutiny over the company's financial results and their implications for future growth.

The decline in net profit highlights the competitive landscape in the sectors RIL operates, including telecommunications through Jio Platforms and various digital services. As RIL continues to diversify its portfolio and invest in new ventures, the company faces pressures from market dynamics and evolving consumer preferences.

Overall, while RIL remains a dominant player in the Indian market, the latest financial results indicate a need for strategic adjustments to enhance profitability and sustain growth in an increasingly challenging environment. Investors will be closely monitoring the company's upcoming strategies and initiatives to regain momentum in the subsequent quarters.

Retail Investors Cut Stakes in Adani Stocks; GQG Increases Holdings

Retail investors reduced their stakes in most Adani Group stocks during the September quarter (Q2 FY25), with notable declines in holdings across several companies. For example, Adani Green Energy saw retail ownership decrease to 22.5%, down from 24.1% in the previous quarter.

In contrast, GQG Partners, led by Rajiv Jain, increased its stake in Adani Green Energy to 4.21%, up from 4.16%. The boutique investment firm acquired an additional 8.64 lakh shares during the quarter, highlighting a strategic interest amid the fluctuations in retail investor sentiment.

Overall, the trend indicates a cautious approach from retail investors



toward the Adani Group, likely influenced by the company's ongoing challenges and market volatility. While some group companies experienced declines in retail participation, the increase in institutional investments, particularly from GQG Partners, suggests that larger players are still finding value in certain segments of the Adani portfolio.

This dynamic shift underscores the varying perspectives between

retail and institutional investors, with the latter often taking a long-term view amidst short-term volatility. As retail investors reassess their positions, the Adani Group will need to navigate these sentiments carefully to restore confidence and attract sustained investment.

In summary, while retail investors have pulled back in the majority of Adani stocks, the rise in GQG Partners' stake in Adani Green Energy reflects a contrasting confidence from institutional investors. The interplay between retail sentiment and institutional strategies will be crucial in shaping the future outlook for the Adani Group in the coming quarters.

India's Oil Meal Exports Plummet 35% in September Amid Market Challenges

India's oil meal exports, crucial for animal feed, fell 35% in September, totaling 213,744 tonnes compared to 330,567 tonnes in September 2023, as reported by the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA). From April to September of FY24, overall exports decreased by 9%, reaching 2,082,533 tonnes, down from 2,276,120 tonnes in the same period last year. This decline is primarily attributed to reduced exports of rapeseed meal and castor seed meal.

The drop in oil meal exports is concerning for the agricultural sector, particularly given the global demand for animal feed ingredients. Key factors contributing to this decline include unfavorable market conditions, increased competition from other countries, and poten-



tial trade barriers. As a result, Indian exporters face challenges in maintaining their market share in the international arena.

The SEA emphasizes the importance of improving the quality and competitiveness of Indian oil meals to regain lost ground. This

may involve enhancing processing technologies, adopting better agricultural practices, and exploring new markets to diversify export opportunities. Additionally, domestic policies that support farmers and incentivize oil meal production could help stabilize export figures in the future.

In conclusion, the significant drop in oil meal exports reflects broader trends in the agricultural commodities market and highlights the need for strategic initiatives to bolster India's position as a leading exporter. Stakeholders in the industry are urged to collaborate and implement effective measures to navigate these challenges and improve export performance moving forward.

SBI cuts loan interest rate by 25 bps on this short-term tenure

The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced an update to its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR), reducing the interest rate for one tenure by 25 basis points (bps). This revision comes into effect on October 15, with other rates remaining unchanged.



In terms of other lending rates, SBI's base rate remains at 10.40%, with the BPLR updated to 15.15% per annum. The bank's home loan External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) is currently 9.15%.

Interest rates on SBI home loans are influenced by the borrower's CIBIL score, which means those with higher credit scores may secure lower rates. The SBI home loan website also notes that any changes in the benchmark rate, such as the Repo Rate, will directly affect the interest rates on home and related loans. An increase in the Repo Rate would lead to a corresponding rise in home loan interest rates.

This adjustment in MCLR is expected to impact borrowers looking to take out loans from SBI, offering a slightly lower interest option for those who qualify under the new MCLR framework.

The updated MCLR rates are now set between 8.20% and 9.1%. The overnight MCLR is now at 8.20%, while the one-month MCLR has been lowered from 8.45% to 8.20%. The six-month MCLR is fixed at 8.85%, and the one-year MCLR has been revised to 8.95%. Additionally, the two-year MCLR is set at 9.05%, and the three-year MCLR is at 9.1%.

SEBI increases position limits for trading members in index F&O contracts

On October 15, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced an upward revision in the position limits for trading members in index futures and options (F&O) contracts. This change aims to enhance liquidity and trading capacity in the capital markets.



According to the new guidelines, the cumulative position limits for trading members—encompassing both client and proprietary trades—are now set at ₹7,500 crore or 15% of the total open interest (OI) in the market, whichever is greater. Previously, this limit was only ₹500 crore or 15% of the total OI.

The revised Master Circular on Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations specifies that this limit applies separately to all open positions in futures and options contracts related to a specific underlying index. SEBI highlighted that position limits will be monitored for index futures and index options individually.

In light of the dynamic nature of open interest, SEBI has introduced measures for better clarity among market participants. Similar to the currency derivatives segment, the positions in the equity derivatives market will now be monitored based on the total open interest at the close of the previous trading day. Furthermore, if there is a decrease in market open interest compared to the previous day's figures, market participants may inadvertently exceed the specified limits without altering their positions throughout the day. In such cases of "passive breaches," SEBI has clarified that market participants will not face penalties nor will they be required to unwind their positions.

These adjustments are expected to foster a more conducive trading environment, allowing market participants greater flexibility in managing their positions while maintaining regulatory oversight. The move is seen as a significant step towards enhancing the overall efficiency and stability of India's capital markets.

WhatsApp Bans Over 8 Million Accounts to Combat Abuse



Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced the banning of over 8.4 million accounts in India during August 2024 as part of its efforts to combat abuse and uphold user privacy. This move is detailed in WhatsApp's latest transparency report, which aligns with India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The report reveals that 8,458,000 accounts were banned, a significant increase in enforcement actions compared to previous

months. Of these, 1,661,000 accounts were identified and banned before any user complaints were lodged, thanks to WhatsApp's proactive detection systems. These automated tools monitor suspicious activities, such as bulk messaging, which is often linked to scams or misuse of the platform.

Additionally, WhatsApp received 10,707 user complaints via its grievance mechanisms, which were addressed to its India Grievance Officer through email and postal methods. Complaints included ban appeals, account support, safety concerns, and other user-related issues, with WhatsApp taking action on 93 of these cases.

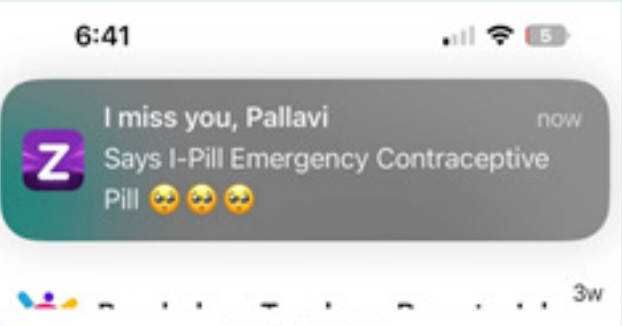
Accounts are typically banned for violating WhatsApp's terms of service, including sending spam or engaging in bulk messaging. Those involved in illegal activities

under Indian law are also swiftly flagged and banned. WhatsApp responds to user complaints regarding abusive, harassing, or inappropriate behaviour, further strengthening its commitment to a safer platform.

The abuse detection process employed by WhatsApp occurs in three stages: during user registration, throughout ongoing user activities, and in response to user feedback. By analyzing user interactions, WhatsApp can identify and take action against suspicious or harmful behaviours. Depending on the severity of the violation, accounts may face temporary suspensions or permanent bans.

This proactive approach reflects WhatsApp's ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure environment for its users while adhering to regulatory standards in India.

Woman Gets 'Miss You, Says I-Pill' Notification From Zepto



Bengaluru-based quick commerce platform Zepto has landed in hot water after sending an unsolicited notification that has drawn widespread criticism. Customer Pallavi Pareek received a message that read, "I miss you, Pallavi. Says i-Pill emergency contraceptive pill," complete with three teary-eyed emoticons.

Ms. Pareek quickly shared her concerns on LinkedIn, emphasizing the inappropriateness of the message. She stated, "First of all, I have never ordered an emergency pill from you. Even if I had, this is not something that should be described as missing me or that I should be missing it." She questioned Zepto's intent, asking, "Are you suggesting that I need to take an emergency contraceptive?" and expressing her confusion about receiving such a notification when she had not placed any order.

As a professional focused on workplace sexual harassment prevention and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Ms. Pareek highlighted the messaging's insensitivity. She stated, "Messaging is appropriate only if it is sensitive, humorous, or logical. I draw the line when notifications become flirty or sleazy. This is just too much."

Despite her criticisms, Ms. Pareek made it clear that she enjoys using the app and relies heavily on quick commerce services in her daily life. "This post is meant to highlight the flaw in thoughtless logic and messaging, not to criticize the i-Pill promotion or its availability," she clarified.

The incident has sparked a larger conversation about the responsibility of companies to ensure their messaging is appropriate and sensitive to customer experiences. As Zepto navigates this controversy, the public's reaction serves as a reminder of the importance of thoughtful communication in the digital age.

Apple Releases iOS 18.1 Developer Beta 7: Fixes Bugs



Apple has rolled out the iOS 18.1 Developer Beta 7 update for iPhones, marking an incremental improvement without significant new features. This update continues to build on the previous enhancements, notably integrating Apple Intelligence, which includes AI-driven tools like writing assistants, object removal in photos, and web page summarization.

The latest update, identified by build number 22B5075a, specifically addresses bugs affecting the new iPhone 16 series. Notably, it fixes a critical issue where system memory could crash while installing an app with a Capture Extension if another Camera Control app was active. Additionally, a lock screen problem that disrupted Spotlight functionality has been resolved.

Another bug affecting rich communication services (RCS)—which Apple introduced with iOS 18—has also been fixed. This particular issue caused failures when sending attachments after swapping SIM cards. Alongside these fixes, tweaks related to Siri, Spotlight, Swift 6, StoreKit, and the Files app have been implemented to enhance overall performance.

It's important to note that the iOS 18.1 Developer Beta 7 update is currently available only to developers enrolled in the Apple Developer program. Similar updates have also been released for iPads and Macs, maintaining consistency across Apple's ecosystem.

As for the official release, iOS 18.1 is expected to launch later this month, with a tentative date of October 26. This update will be compatible with all iPhone models that received the iOS 18 update last month, including the new iPhone 16 series. However, the advanced Apple Intelligence features will be exclusive to the iPhone 15 Pro models and all iPhone 16 variants, showcasing Apple's focus on enhancing the capabilities of its latest devices. Stay tuned for more updates as the release date approaches.

Swiggy Sets World Record by Delivering 11,000 Vada Pavs in One Order

Swiggy has achieved a remarkable feat by setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest vada pav order ever delivered—11,000 vada pavs—in collaboration with actor Ajay Devgn and director Rohit Shetty. This monumental delivery was executed using Swiggy's newly launched XL electric vehicles, specifically designed for bulk orders.

The iconic vada pavs were sourced from MM Mithaiwala and delivered to children supported by the Robin Hood Army, an NGO dedicated to combating hunger through surplus food distribution across Mumbai. The first stop for this record-breaking delivery was Airport High School and Junior College in Vile Parle, where Ajay Devgn, Rohit Shetty, and Swiggy Co-founder Phani Kishan officially received the order.

From there, the vada pavs were distributed to various Robin Hood Army-supported schools located in Bandra, Juhu, Andheri East (Chandivali and Chakala), Malad, and Borivali, bringing smiles to many children in the community.

Phani Kishan, Swiggy's Co-founder and Chief Growth Officer, expressed pride in the achieve-



ment, stating, "In the 10 years of Swiggy, we have delivered millions of vada pavs across Mumbai and other cities. Partnering with 'Singham Again' for this record underscores our commitment to food delivery—big or small—and celebrates Mumbai's love for its iconic street food."

Director Rohit Shetty also shared his enthusiasm, highlighting the meaningful nature of the initiative: "We are pleased to have collab-

orated with Swiggy for this record-breaking delivery of vada pav, bringing food and joy to children. Like Singham's larger-than-life persona, this initiative has a strong ethical foundation."

The event concluded with the children joyfully enjoying their vada pavs, marking the successful culmination of this unique Guinness World Record set by Swiggy in partnership with the 'Singham Again' team.

Scientists discover fossil of pre-dinosaur reptile in Brazil



Scientists have unearthed a remarkable fossil in southern Brazil that may offer crucial insights into the origins of dinosaurs. The fossil belongs to a newly identified reptile species named Gondwanax paraisensis, estimated to be around 237 million years old, making it one of the oldest reptile fossils discovered to date.

Gondwanax paraisensis was a small, four-legged reptile, comparable in size to a small dog. It measured approximately 1 meter (39 inches) in length and weighed between 3 to 6 kg (7 to 13 pounds). This species likely thrived in the region that is now southern Brazil during the Triassic period, a time characterized by significantly

higher global temperatures.

Researchers are particularly interested in this discovery as it could help clarify the evolutionary lineage of dinosaurs. While silesaurids, a group of reptiles, have been debated in terms of their classification as true dinosaurs or as precursors to them, Gondwanax

paraisensis may provide key evidence in this discussion.

The Triassic period is known for its role in the rise of dinosaurs, and fossils like Gondwanax paraisensis offer valuable information about the ecological dynamics and evolutionary developments that occurred during this transformative era. The discovery emphasizes the importance of continued paleontological research in understanding the complex history of life on Earth. As scientists analyze the fossil further, they hope to unravel more details about the morphology, behavior, and environmental adaptations of Gondwanax paraisensis, which could ultimately enrich our knowledge of the early stages of dinosaur evolution.

This significant find not only enhances our understanding of reptilian history but also opens new avenues for exploring the evolutionary pathways that led to the emergence of one of Earth's most iconic groups of animals—dinosaurs.

Chicago CC Claims NCL Sixty Strikes Title with Victory Over Atlanta Kings



In a thrilling finale of the National Cricket League Sixty Strikes tournament, Chicago CC triumphed over Atlanta Kings by 43 runs, clinching their maiden title. Batting first, Chicago set a formidable target of 160 runs for the Kings in their 10 overs.

Skipper Robin Uthappa initiated the charge with a quickfire 35 runs off 15 balls. However, it was Leonardo Julien who stole the spotlight, scoring an impressive 61 runs off just 22 balls. Mikyle Louis also made a significant contribution, adding 43 runs from 17 balls, helping the team post a daunting total.

Atlanta's bowling saw Ben Russell shine, taking three wickets for 28 runs in two overs. Unfortunately for the Kings, Danish Aziz struggled, conceding a staggering 53 runs in just two overs, which hampered their chances of a successful defense.

In response, Atlanta Kings faced a challenging chase. Despite a couple of promising performances, they struggled to build partnerships. James Neesham managed 29 runs off 16 balls, while Tom Bruce top-scored for the Kings with 61 runs off 21 balls. However, the Chicago bowlers maintained control throughout the innings.

Sohail Tanvir emerged as Chicago's standout bowler, claiming two wickets for just 13 runs in two overs. Ultimately, Atlanta's efforts fell short, and they could not keep pace with the required run rate.

Leonardo Julien was named Player of the Match for his explosive innings, contributing significantly to Chicago's victory. With this win, Chicago CC not only secured the title but also showcased their dominance in the tournament.

Bangladesh Cricket Board Suspends Head Coach Chandika Hathurusinghe



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has suspended Chandika Hathurusinghe as head coach of the men's national team, effective immediately. This suspension is reportedly on disciplinary grounds and could become permanent. In the interim, former West Indies cricketer Phil Simmons has been appointed as the head coach, with his contract expected to last until the 2025 Champions Trophy.

This decision follows a disappointing tour of India, where Bangladesh suffered significant defeats in both Tests and T20Is. Hathurusinghe's departure signifies an underwhelming end to his second tenure as Bangladesh's coach, which was marred by underperformance in key tournaments, including the 2023 ODI World Cup and the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup.

Hathurusinghe took over the national team in January 2023, aiming to replicate the success he enjoyed during his first stint from 2014 to 2017. Under his earlier leadership, Bangladesh made notable strides, particularly in white-ball cricket, highlighted by their strong performance in the 2017 Champions Trophy, which secured their automatic qualification for the 2019 ODI World Cup.

Simmons, who has previously coached Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, and the West Indies, will now lead the team into a two-match Test series at home against South Africa later this month. His experience and familiarity with international cricket will be crucial as the team seeks to regain its competitive edge.

The BCB's decision reflects a broader strategy to reassess and revitalize the coaching staff in light of recent results, aiming for a more robust approach as Bangladesh prepares for future international challenges. The coming weeks will be pivotal for Simmons as he attempts to steer the team back on track and restore confidence among players and fans alike.

Rohit Sharma Rules Out Mohammed Shami for Australia Test Series

India captain Rohit Sharma has indicated that pacer Mohammed Shami is unlikely to join the squad for the upcoming Test tour of Australia. Shami, who has been recovering from ankle surgery, has faced setbacks due to swelling in his knees, making it unwise to bring him back in an "undercooked" condition for the high-stakes series.

Shami last represented India during the ODI World Cup final and has been in rehabilitation since. Rohit explained the challenges of Shami's recovery, stating, "It's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him... He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual." The skipper mentioned that while Shami was initially on track to regain fitness, this new issue has delayed his progress.

Currently, Shami is at the National Cricket Academy (NCA), where he is working closely with physios and doctors to address his fitness concerns. Rohit emphasized the importance of ensuring Shami is fully fit before returning to competitive cricket, saying, "We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia. It is quite tough for a fast bowler to miss so much cricket and then suddenly perform at his best."

The team management is monitoring Shami's recovery closely, and he is expected to participate in a couple of internal practice matches



as part of his preparation. The ultimate goal is to have him ready for international play, ensuring he meets the physical demands required for the series.

Shami has an impressive record in Test cricket, having taken 229 wickets in 64 matches at an average of 27.71. India is set to play five Tests in Australia, commencing November 22.

Kylian Mbappe Under Investigation Amid Rape Allegations in Sweden



A Swedish prosecutor has opened a rape investigation following media reports linking Kylian Mbappe to the case after his visit to Stockholm last week. While the prosecutor's statement did not name any suspects, multiple Swedish outlets, including Aftonbladet, Expressen, and SVT, have identified the 25-year-old French international as the target of the inquiry.

The alleged incident reportedly took place at a hotel on October 10. The Prosecution Authority confirmed a criminal report had been filed, but further details were withheld. According to Expressen, Mbappe is "reasonably suspected" of rape and sexual assault, a lesser degree of suspicion under Swedish law. The higher suspicion level, known as "probable cause," is usually required for pre-charge custody.

Mbappe's representatives have claimed ignorance of any legal complaint. The French forward, not selected for recent

Nations League matches, had dined out and visited a nightclub in Stockholm with friends before departing the next day. The alleged victim reportedly sought medical help after the incident, prompting the police report.

In a twist, Mbappe posted on social media, suggesting a connection between the allegations and his ongoing dispute with Paris Saint-Germain over unpaid wages, calling the reports "fake news." His entourage denounced the accusations as "completely false and irresponsible," stating that legal action would be pursued to clarify the situation.

This controversy comes as Mbappe, who joined Real Madrid this summer after a successful stint at PSG, is embroiled in a legal battle for €55 million (\$60 million) owed to him by his former club. Throughout his career, Mbappe has maintained a clean image, becoming one of the world's highest-paid athletes.

Shubman Gill Doubtful for First Test Against New Zealand

Star Indian batter Shubman Gill, who has scored three centuries in eight Tests this year, is uncertain for the first Test against New Zealand, set to begin on October 16 at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. According to reports, Gill has been experiencing neck and shoulder pain, prompting concerns about his fitness for the match.

The 25-year-old informed the team management about the discomfort on

Monday, and a final decision regarding his availability will be made on Wednesday morning. Gill's potential absence is a significant blow for the Indian side, especially given his impressive form this year.

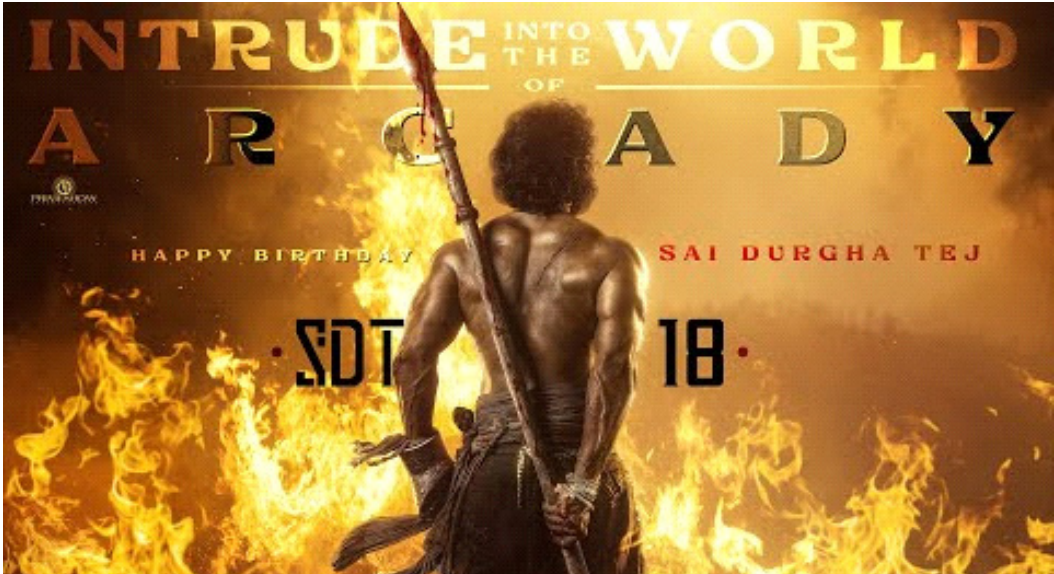
In the lead-up to the series, India is looking to build momentum against a New Zealand team that has shown vulnerability in recent matches. Gill has been one of the standout perform-

ers for India, showcasing his ability to convert starts into substantial scores, which will be crucial against a competitive New Zealand bowling attack.

India's batting lineup has already faced scrutiny, and without Gill, the team may need to rely more heavily on veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Both players have had mixed performances lately, and their contributions will be vital if Gill is unable to play.



Sai Durgha Tej’s Upcoming Film SDT 18 Glimpse



The excitement surrounding Sai Durgha Tej (SDT) continues to build with every update about his upcoming film, directed by debutant Rohith KP and produced by Primeshow Entertainment. As anticipation mounts, the makers have released a special making video to celebrate Sai Durgha Tej's birthday. This captivating preview takes viewers on an enthralling journey into a fantastical world plagued

by dark forces, where inhabitants are eagerly awaiting a hero to rescue them.

One of the standout moments in the making video is the presence of Sai Durgha Tej. While his face remains obscured in the later parts, his impressive physique and commanding presence leave a lasting impression. This glimpse into his character promises an intriguing journey

that has fans buzzing with curiosity.

The promotional poster adds to the excitement, featuring SDT standing boldly as a hero, wielding a spear amidst flames. His transformation for this role is nothing short of remarkable; the dedication he has shown in achieving his bulked-up physique reflects his commitment to the character and the film. This visual showcases not only his hard work but also the depth he aims to bring to the role.

In addition to SDT, the film also stars Aishwarya Lekshmi as the lead heroine, adding another layer of intrigue to this Pan-India project. With a blend of fantasy elements and strong character portrayals, the film promises to captivate audiences across the nation.

As fans eagerly await more updates, the combination of stunning visuals, a compelling storyline, and dedicated performances has set the stage for what could be a groundbreaking film in the industry. Stay tuned for more exciting revelations as the release date approaches!

Naga Chaitanya's "Thandel" Set for Sankranthi 2025 Release



Naga Chaitanya's upcoming film "Thandel" is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious projects of his career. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti and featuring Sai Pallavi in the lead role, the film has already generated considerable buzz among fans and industry insiders.

While the official release date has yet to be confirmed, there are strong speculations that "Thandel" will hit theaters during the Sankranthi festival in 2025. This period is already highly competitive, with several major films lined up for release, including "Game Changer," "NBK 109," "Venky Anil 3," "Majaka," and "Good Bad Ugly." If these rumors prove accurate, they underscore the confidence the filmmakers have in both the script and the project's overall potential.

Produced by Bunny Vas and presented by Allu Aravind, "Thandel" aims for a pan-Indian release, expanding its reach beyond regional audiences. The musical score for the film is composed by Devi Sri Prasad, known for his chart-topping tracks that often become integral to a film's success.

As anticipation builds, fans and moviegoers can look forward to more updates about "Thandel," including trailers, promotional events, and additional casting announcements. The combination of Naga Chaitanya's star power, Sai Pallavi's talent, and the creative vision of Chandoo Mondeti positions "Thandel" as a film to watch in the coming year. Stay tuned for more exciting news as the release date approaches.

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Prashanth Neel’s Bagheera Set for Diwali Release

Prashanth Neel is currently one of India’s most sought-after directors, celebrated for delivering blockbuster hits. He is now set to captivate audiences again with the film "Bagheera," which he has penned for Sriimurali, known for his role in Neel's earlier work "Ugramm." Directed by Dr. Suri and produced by Vijay Kiragandur of Hombale Films, "Bagheera" promises to be an exhilarating mass action film.

Scheduled to hit theaters on November 3, just two days after Diwali, "Bagheera" is generating significant buzz in the industry. The film will be released in the Telugu states by the reputable Asian Suresh Entertainment LLP, a distribution house known for its successful track record with blockbuster films.

Given Prashanth Neel's reputation for crafting pure commercial entertainers, audiences can expect "Bagheera" to be loaded with high-octane action and thrilling sequences. Sriimurali's character is described as extremely dynamic, which suggests that viewers will be treated to an engaging performance that showcases his versatility as an actor.

Alongside Sriimurali, the film features Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead, adding an exciting dynamic to the story. Music for "Bagheera" is composed by B Ajaneesh Loknath, who has previously worked on successful projects, heightening expectations for the film's soundtrack. The first song, titled "Rudhira Haara," is set to be released on October 17, promising to provide fans with an enticing taste of the film's musical backdrop.

As the release date approaches, anticipation is building for "Bagheera," with fans eager to see how Prashanth Neel's storytelling and action sequences come together. With a talented cast and crew, this film is poised to be yet another triumph in Neel's illustrious career. Stay tuned for more updates!

Samantha’s “Citadel: Honey Bunny” Trailer Drops

Star actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is set to captivate audiences with her highly anticipated web series "Citadel: Honey Bunny," which has generated excitement with the release of its gripping new trailer. Created by the talented duo Raj & DK and directed by Sita R Menon alongside Raj & DK, this action-packed thriller is slated to stream on Amazon Prime Video starting November 7, 2024.



The series follows stuntman Bunny, who recruits struggling actress Honey for what appears to be a simple side gig. However, they soon find themselves entangled in a perilous world filled with high-stakes action, espionage, and betrayal. As the years pass, their tumultuous past resurfaces, forcing the estranged duo to put aside their differences and reunite, they must protect their young daughter, Nadia, from a looming threat that could shatter their lives.

The trailer impresses with its fast-paced editing, witty dialogues, intense action sequences, and stunning visuals. Samantha's fierce and nuanced performance draws viewers in, setting high expectations for a spin-off that is

poised to deliver beyond fans’ wildest dreams.

The star-studded cast features Kay Menon, Simran, Saqib Saleem, Sikandar Kher, Soham Majumdar, Shivankit Parihar, and Kashvi Majmudar in key roles. Produced by D2R Films, Amazon MGM Studios, The Russo Brothers' AGBO, and Raj & DK, "Citadel: Honey Bunny" promises to be a sensational addition to the streaming landscape.

Additionally, the series boasts an electrifying score composed by Aman Pant and will be available in Telugu, catering to a diverse audience. As the release date approaches, fans are eager to see how this thrilling narrative unfolds. Stay tuned for more updates!

Suriya Signs His 45th Film: RJ Balaji to Direct

Suriya is on a roll, consistently delivering films one after another. Currently, he's focused on the post-production of his new movie "Kanguva," which features Bobby Deol in a significant role. But that's not all—Suriya has now signed on for his 45th project, and it's shaping up to be a noteworthy addition to his filmography.

A standout feature of this upcoming film is that it will be directed by none other than RJ Balaji, a beloved radio jockey, actor, and activist known for his engaging storytelling and unique comedic flair. This collaboration marks a significant shift as Balaji steps into the director's role for a major feature film.

Adding to the excitement, the musical score will be crafted by the legendary AR Rahman, who is renowned for his ability to create captivating soundtracks that resonate

with audiences. The combination of Suriya, Balaji, and Rahman sets high expectations for what promises to be an extraordinary cinematic experience.



Produced by Dream Warrior Pictures, with SR Prabhu at the helm as the producer, this project is being touted as a biggie, and the first look poster has already generated buzz among fans. The intriguing design hints at a film that is not only ambitious but also special in its own right.

As details about the film continue to emerge, fans are eagerly awaiting more information on the storyline, cast, and release date. With Suriya's proven track record, RJ Balaji's creative direction, and AR Rahman's musical genius, this collaboration is poised to become a major highlight in the upcoming cinematic landscape. Stay tuned for more updates as this exciting project unfolds!