

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 30° C

L 23° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 32° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 27° C

L 27° C

Published from : Hyderabad - Vijayawada

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> october, 2024 | 12 Pages

# Rajnath Singh Launches Indian Navy Radar Station in Vikarabad

**TPN , Vikarabad:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for the Indian Navy's Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station in the Damagudem forest area of Vikarabad district on Tuesday. This will be the Navy's second VLF communication transmission station, with the first located at INS Kattabomman in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, according to a Telangana government release. The event was attended by Telangana Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and other dignitaries. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, addressing the media earlier in Hyderabad, hailed the project as a significant boost to national security. He refuted allegations made by BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao, who claimed the project would cause ecological damage. Reddy clar-

ified that the land for the project was approved by the Telangana government in 2017 under the K. Chandrashekar Rao administration. Reddy further stated that of the 2,900 acres allocated, construction will take place on only part of the land, with no trees being cut on 1,500 acres. The Defence Ministry has already deposited Rs 130 crore with the Forest Department for reforestation efforts.

## Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Backs Navy Radar Station Despite Opposition

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has voiced his support for the Indian Navy's Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station project in the Damagundam forest, Vikarabad district, despite opposition from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS).

Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony, where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officiated, Revanth Reddy emphasized that national security must take priority over local politics. He urged the opposition to refrain from playing politics on this issue, adding, "Only if the country is there, we are there. Then we can discuss the environment."

Reddy also requested that locals be granted access to the Ramalingeshwara temple, located within the project area, and suggested that one-third of admissions to the educational institutions that will be built should be reserved for local students.

The radar station, which will be constructed on 2,900 acres of forest land, was originally transferred for the project by the BRS government in 2017. While stressing the need to protect the environment, Revanth reminded that similar projects, like the INS Kattabomman Radar Station in Tamil Nadu, have had no adverse effects on local populations. He called for unity in supporting the defense initiative.

# 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 elec-

tions 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  
→ Polling Date: November 20  
→ Counting of Votes: 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

## Group 1 Mains Exams Cleared High Court Dismisses Petitions

**TPN , Hyderabad :** The obstacles surrounding the Group 1 recruitment process have been cleared, with the High Court granting the green signal for the mains examinations. Petitions filed against the preliminary (prelims) exams have been dismissed by the court, allowing the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) to proceed with the mains exams. The TSPSC has announced that the Group 1 mains exams will be conducted from the 21st of this month. A total of 31,382 candidates are expected to participate in the mains exam-

inations. Several candidates had filed petitions against the Group 1 prelims exams, citing various reasons and irregularities. However, the High Court dismissed two key petitions, thus removing legal barriers for the process to move forward. With this decision, the TSPSC is all set to conduct the mains exams as scheduled. The dismissal of these petitions by the High Court brings much-needed relief to both the candidates and the TSPSC, ensuring that the recruitment process can continue without further delays.

# IAS Officials Criticized in Central Administrative Tribunal Hearing

**TPN , Hyderabad:** In a recent hearing at the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), IAS officials working in Telangana, who were instructed by the central government to return to Andhra Pradesh (AP), came under intense scrutiny. The officials filed a petition challenging the Department of Personnel and Training's (DoPT) orders, prompting CAT to make startling remarks about their conduct.

CAT questioned the officials on their duty towards the people of AP, especially amid the ongoing flood crisis in the state, asking, "Are you not responsible for serving the people in AP?" The tribunal also raised questions about the guidelines on local postings and the swapping of officials, emphasizing that the DoPT had the full authority over such matters. The tribunal inquired about the recommendations of the One-

Man Committee and questioned how officials from the 1986 batch could swap postings. The intense debates in the hearing have raised curiosity about the eventual ruling. Further, the IAS officials are planning to file a lunch motion in the High Court tomorrow, which could delay their reporting decision. This ongoing legal battle continues to attract significant attention.





# Results on November 23

*continued from P-1*

- 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 established. 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.

# CM Revanth Reddy Honors Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's Birth Anniversary

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to former President of India and Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary. In a solemn ceremony held at his residence in Jubilee Hills, the Chief Minister offered floral tributes to a portrait of Dr. Kalam.

Minister Konda Surekha, MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, and the Chief Minister's advisor, Vem Narender Reddy, also participated in the event. They honored the legacy of Dr. Kalam by offering floral respects to his portrait and remembering his immense contributions

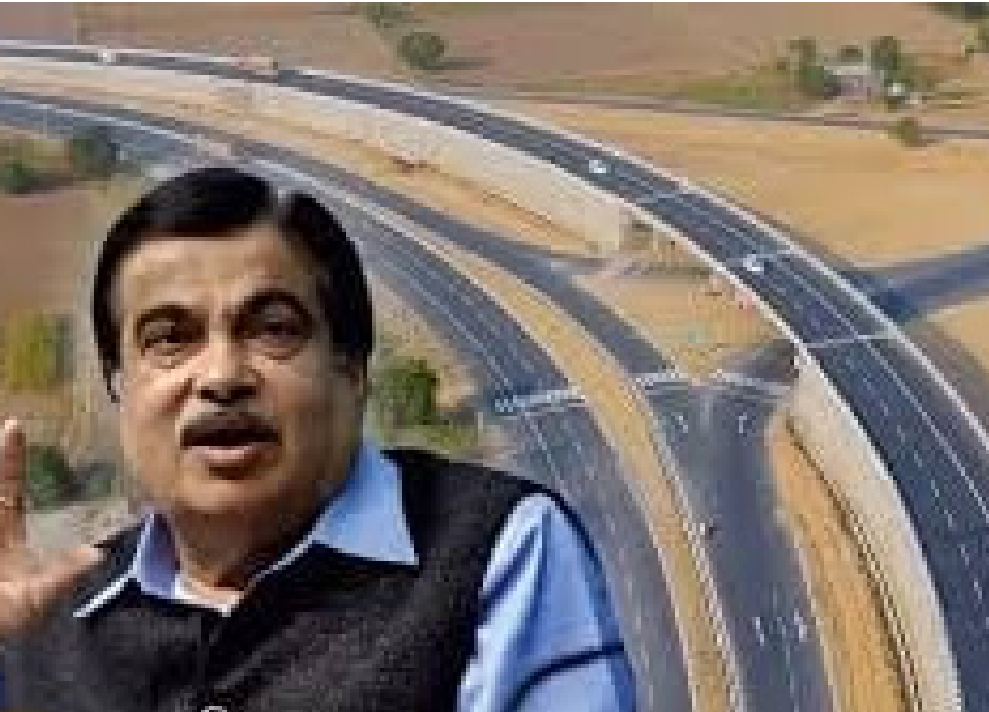
to science, education, and the development of India.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy praised Dr. Kalam as a visionary leader and a source of inspiration for generations. He recalled Dr. Kalam's humility, dedication to the nation, and his pivotal role in India's space and missile programs, describing him as a guiding light for the youth of the country.

The event concluded with a reaffirmation of Dr. Kalam's values and his vision for a progressive and self-reliant India.



# Nitin Gadkari Announces Rs 516 Crore Bypass to Ease Nalgonda Traffic Congestion



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has unveiled a significant infrastructure project aimed at alleviating the chronic traffic congestion in Nalgonda Town. A budget of Rs 516 crore has been allocated for the construction of a 14-kilometre, four-lane bypass road along National Highway 565, which connects Nakrekal to Nagarjuna Sagar.

The new bypass is designed to address the heavy traffic congestion in Nalgonda, where mixed traffic patterns have long been a major issue. Gadkari emphasized that the project will not only improve road safety but also facilitate smoother and more efficient travel between Nakrekal and Nagarjuna Sagar. The initiative is expected to benefit both local commuters and the regional economy.

National Highway 565 serves as a cru-

cial link between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, passing through important towns such as Nalgonda, Macherala, Erragondapalem, and Kanigiri. The bypass will improve connectivity across these regions, making it easier for vehicles to navigate without getting stuck in urban traffic.

State Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expressed gratitude for the funding, noting that there has been a longstanding demand for the construction of this bypass. The new project is expected to significantly ease traffic flow and enhance travel experiences for those traveling through the region.

This development comes as part of a broader push to enhance road infrastructure in Telangana, which has been a priority for the central and state governments alike.

# Revanth Reddy to Attend CWC Meeting Amid Speculation on Telangana Cabinet Expansion



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to fly to New Delhi on Wednesday to participate in the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Thursday. The Congress high command is expected to discuss several key issues, including the Haryana election results and preparations for upcoming polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

There is growing anticipation among Telangana leaders that following the CWC meeting, discussions may focus on the much-awaited expansion of the state cabinet and the filling of nominated posts. The cabinet expansion has been delayed, causing unrest among party leaders hoping for a position.

Previously, the expansion was expected to take place before the Haryana elections but was postponed. During Reddy's recent visit to New Delhi on October 1, he was informed that the matter would be addressed after the polls.

The Chief Minister had also visited New Delhi in August, accompanied by IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, to invite AICC Chief Mallikarjun Kharge to the unveiling ceremony of Rajiv Gandhi's statue.

However, neither Kharge nor the Gandhi family attended the event. Despite these delays, there is still uncertainty surrounding Reddy's visit due to weather conditions, according to party sources.

# Telangana Ministers Appointed as Congress Observers for Maharashtra, Jharkhand Polls

**TPN , New Delhi:** Telangana cabinet ministers have been appointed as key observers for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) announced on Tuesday. This strategic move comes ahead of the Election Commission's scheduled announcement of election dates for both states.

Among the 11 leaders designated to oversee five divisions in Maharashtra are Telangana ministers Seethakka and Uttam Kumar Reddy. In Jharkhand, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has been appointed as an observer alongside senior Congress leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Tariq Anwar.

The Election Commission is expect-

ed to announce the election schedule later today, which will have significant implications for all political parties as they prepare for a highly competitive electoral battle. The current term of the Maharashtra Assembly, which has 288 seats, ends on November 26, 2024. The Jharkhand Assembly, with 81 seats, will see its term conclude on January 5, 2025.

In Maharashtra, the ruling coalition Mahayuti, comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena, and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), will face a tough challenge from the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance. The MVA includes the Congress, Sharad Pawar-led NCP faction, and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT).

In Jharkhand, the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), part of the INDIA bloc, will compete against the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which includes the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), Janata Dal (United), and the BJP.

The Election Commission is also expected to announce dates for around 50 by-elections, including the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat vacated by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Congress has reportedly nominated Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as its candidate for Wayanad.

With key elections and by-elections on the horizon, the political landscape in both Maharashtra and Jharkhand is set to be fiercely contested.



# Ministers Launch IVF Centre and New Hostel Buildings at Gandhi Hospital

**TPN , Hyderabad :** In a significant development, Ministers Damodar Rajanarsimha and Ponnam Prabhakar inaugurated the IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) centre at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. The ministers also performed the ground-breaking ceremony and laid the foundation stone for new hostel buildings at the Gandhi Hospital Medical College. The event was attended by prominent leaders, including Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLC Mirza Riazul Hasan, Health

Principal Secretary Christina, and other medical officials.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar highlighted that the medical college had been facing challenges in accommodating the increasing number of students. He assured that the newly approved hostel buildings would alleviate these issues, ensuring better facilities for students. The government has prioritized education and healthcare, he said. The IVF facility, introduced under

the 'Arogya Sri' scheme, marks a first in Telangana at Gandhi Hospital. Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the importance of providing affordable healthcare, noting the thousands of IVF treatments offered in private hospitals, while this initiative brings it to a public facility for the first time.

The new hostel buildings, set to house 600 students, are being constructed with a budget of Rs 80 crore.



## Telangana Navy Radar Station

# Kishan Reddy, Konda Vishweshwar Slam Objections

**TPN, Hyderabad:** Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy strongly criticized opposition leaders and activists opposing the Indian Navy's Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station project in Telangana's Vikarabad district.

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, addressing concerns about the project, dismissed activists' claims about environmental harm. He asserted that the radar station would actually help protect the forest by building a compound wall around the area, preventing further degradation caused by cattle grazers, hunters, and real estate activities. He refuted alle-



gations that 12 lakh trees would be cut down, explaining that only around 300-400 trees would be affected due to the installation of radar towers.

Reddy also responded to environmental concerns regarding radiation from the station, explaining that the radar's radiation would have no adverse effects on human health, with extremely low levels of expo-

sure. He emphasized that the radar station is vital for national security, especially as India prepares to deploy nuclear submarines, and asserted that it would contribute to global peace.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy echoed these sentiments, accusing BRS leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao, of opposing the project despite their prior approval of it. He called out Rama Rao's statement about the Musi River ecosystem, reminding him that the project had been cleared by KCR's government. Reddy emphasized that the radar station was a matter of pride for Telangana, providing strategic security for the nation.



# Quality Education in Residential Schools is a Priority, Says Deputy CM

**TPN , Hyderabad :** In a recent review meeting held at BR Ambedkar Secretariat, Deputy Chief Minister Batti Vikramarka emphasized the need for quality education in government residential schools. He instructed the secretaries of these institutions to take complete responsibility and make regular visits to the schools to monitor teaching standards.

Batti directed officials to enhance teaching and learning practices, including increased use of teaching materials, computers, and science labs. He stressed that the focus should not only be on clearing pending bills like mess and cosmetics charges but also on improving the overall quality of education. Secretaries were advised to visit one school every day and submit a report by the end of the month, outlining their observations and



actions taken to address issues.

The Deputy CM also called for special attention to residential schools located in rented buildings. He instructed the secretaries to liaise with landlords and ensure that necessary facilities are provided, while also addressing the issue of pending rent payments.

Furthermore, he announced plans to increase mess charges in response to rising costs and directed officials to finalize the decision quickly. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Special Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and Principal Secretary of Finance Sandeep Kumar Sultania.

## Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Orders Criminal Cases Against Those Locking Gurukul Schools



**TPN , Telangana :** After the Dussehra holidays, all schools, colleges, and Gurukul institutions under the Education Department are set to reopen. However, 70% of the Gurukul schools continue to operate out of rented buildings. Addressing the issue of unpaid dues for these rental properties, Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, has issued a stern warning to property owners who are locking the buildings due to pending payments.

The Minister clarified that the current dues are not for the last 10 months but have accumulated over several years. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, a meeting was held to resolve these issues, and steps have been taken to release the pending funds.

Minister Prabhakar urged property owners to refrain from taking provocative actions while the government is in the process of releasing the necessary funds. He warned

that criminal cases will be filed against those who lock Gurukul schools and disrupt classes.

“The government is committed to clearing all pending dues. As the Minister in charge, I request all property owners to remove any protest banners and ensure the smooth functioning of the schools. Legal action will be taken against those who interfere with students’ education,” said Prabhakar.

He also assured that the responsibility of clearing all dues, including past payments and mess charges, rests with the government. “We have already paid mess charges three days ago, and we will ensure that all other payments are cleared soon,” he added.

The Minister directed all Gurukul Principals and RCVOs to file police complaints if landlords cause disruptions and instructed collectors to find alternative accommodations if needed.

## Bandi Sanjay’s Strong Counter to KTR on Radar System Approval



**TPN , Telangana :** BJP MP Bandi Sanjay has strongly responded to BRS Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao over his opposition to the radar system in Vikarabad. In a recent statement, Bandi Sanjay urged KTR to first question his father, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, about the approval of the radar system. He asked, “Why did you give permission earlier, and now oppose it?” Sanjay criticized the BRS leadership for opposing a system crucial for national security, emphasizing that such opposition goes against the country’s interests.

He further commented that despite the people’s decision to teach a lesson to BRS in the last general election, there has been no change in the party’s stance. On a positive note, Sanjay expressed happiness about the VLF station being set up in the forests of Damagundam in Vikarabad district. He pointed out that the proposal to establish the radar station had been pending for over ten years, and today, thanks to the efforts of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, it has come to fruition. Sanjay expressed gratitude for the successful ground-breaking ceremony.

## KTR Slams Congress for Poor Management of Telangana Education



**TPN , Hyderabad :** BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the Congress government in Telangana for its mismanagement of the education sector, accusing it of widespread corruption and negligence. He claimed that the Congress administration has failed to support educational institutions and students, leading to widespread distress across the state.

KTR pointed out that the government is unable to pay rent for Gurukula buildings or reimburse fees to college managements, and it has failed to provide even basic necessities such as food for students. He criticized the Congress for causing a situation where students and college managements are forced to protest on the streets due to these shortcomings.

Further, KTR highlighted the indefinite closure of private degree and PG colleges across the state, which is severely impacting students’ education. He

emphasized that the government’s failure to clear pending fee reimbursements and scholarships is pushing poor students away from education.

He also raised concerns over the government’s priorities, claiming that the Congress is spending Rs 1.5 lakh crore on the Musi river project while neglecting the education sector. KTR pointed out that the Chief Minister and the education minister seem indifferent to the issues plaguing the sector, focusing more on sending funds to Delhi than addressing the concerns of students in Telangana.

The BRS leader demanded immediate action from the Congress government, including the clearance of pending reimbursements and scholarships, to prevent further injustice to students. He stressed that the BRS would not tolerate such neglect and would continue to fight for the rights of students.

## BJP MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy’s Controversial Remarks on Hindus Spark Outrage

**TPN , Telangana:** BJP MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy’s recent remarks on Hindus have ignited a controversy. In a public statement, Rakesh Reddy claimed, “The masculinity has died among Hindus, and the community in Hyderabad lacks shame and dignity. Hindus only react when their blood boils, and that’s when attacks on Hindu deities occur. Not a single Hindu has attacked a mosque; why is that?” These comments have drawn significant

criticism and raised tensions.

He also described Hindus as “impotent and helpless” in a controversial statement. Rakesh Reddy further alleged that the police were wrongly portraying those responsible for attacks on Hindu idols as “madmen,” questioning why “the one lakh Hindu madmen in the city” have not attacked mosques. He criticized the government, accusing it of encouraging temple



attacks and alleged that certain communities, particularly the Owaisi brothers, were promoting such incidents. He urged the government to protect religious harmony and prevent further incidents that could disturb peace.

## TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Highlights Discipline and Teamwork in Medak Meeting

**TPN , Medak:** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud reiterated the Congress government’s commitment to fulfilling the promises made during elections at a district meeting held in Medak. He highlighted various initiatives, including the distribution of Indiramma houses, job creation, and free facilities on buses. Goud also mentioned the implementation of key schemes like a Rs. 2 lakh loan waiver, cooking gas for Rs. 500, 200 units of free electricity, and the establishment of a Skill University.



“These initiatives showcase the Congress government’s dedication to working in alignment with public aspirations,” Goud said. He urged party workers to actively promote government programs among the people and

ensure that the Congress retains strong public support.

Goud emphasized the importance of upcoming local body and MLC elections, urging leaders to work cohesively. “Constituency leaders and in-charges must collaborate effectively, avoiding any internal disputes. We need to work even harder in Medak, a district of great significance to the Congress party,” he stated.

Goud also stressed the impor-

tance of discipline, warning that any violations would not be tolerated. He called for collective efforts to secure strong results in the upcoming elections, particularly in Medak district, which has historical importance for the party.

Medak District In-Charge Deepadas Munshi noted that the district holds special significance for Congress, as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi once served as an MP from the region. He emphasized the need for grassroots-level work to combat the influence of BRS leaders like KCR and Harish Rao and criticized BRS for aligning with the BJP during the recent parliamentary elections.

“With a well-planned strategy, we can achieve positive results in the upcoming local body elections,” Munshi added.

## Harish Rao Slams Telangana Govt for Reducing Constables’ Leave Entitlement

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA T. Harish Rao has criticized the Telangana government for altering the leave manual of police constables, which he claims deprives them of the opportunity to celebrate festivals like Diwali and Dasara with their families.



Previously, constables were allowed to visit their hometowns every 15 days. However, the new rule restricts them to just one leave per month. Rao slammed the change, calling it unfair and questioning the government’s decision. “Is this the Diwali gift given to the constables by the government?” he asked, pointing out the discrepancy between the government’s actions and its earlier promises.

Rao also criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, recalling how he had previously criticized the government for treating constables like

laborers. Rao expressed disappointment over the reversal of the previous policy, which allowed 24 leaves annually for the constables.

Additionally, Rao demanded the government reinstate the 15-day travel allowance (TA) for police personnel, which was reduced to seven days after the Congress government

took power. He also called for the immediate release of travel allowances, surrender leave allowances, and outstanding dues for diesel used by civil police vehicles. He highlighted that funds for the maintenance of police stations, which were previously allocated by the BRS government, have not been released since the Congress took charge.

Rao urged the government to address these issues promptly and ensure that the funds for police station maintenance are released without further delay.



## MLRIT Signs MoU with Pullinam Aerospace for 10-Seater Aircraft Design



**TPN , Hyderabad:**The Marri Laxman Reddy Institute of Technology (MLRIT) in Dundigal has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pullinam Aerospace to collaborate on the design and manufacturing of a 10-seater aircraft. The signing ceremony was attended by notable figures, including MLRIT Chairman Marri Laxman Reddy, Secretary Marri Rajashekar Reddy, Principal Dr. K. Srinivas Rao, and Aeronautical Head Dr. M. Sattyannarayana Gupta, along with Pullinam Aerospace Founder Karunakaran and Co-Founder Shyam Prasad.

This strategic partnership aims to provide MLRIT's aeronautical engineering students with invaluable hands-on experience in aircraft design and manufacturing. The collaboration

is set to enhance the students' practical exposure, preparing them for careers in the aerospace industry.

During the event, Marri Laxman Reddy expressed optimism about the MoU, stating it will empower students to excel through practical training. MLRIT Secretary Marri Rajashekar Reddy also extended his best wishes to Pullinam Aerospace and the aeronautical department, recognizing the efforts of Dr. Sattyannarayana Gupta and the faculty.

The signing event was well-attended by other faculty members, including Mechanical Head Prof. Venkateshwar Reddy, highlighting the institution's commitment to fostering innovative educational partnerships.



## MANUU Launches Initiative to Develop Urdu Textbooks for Higher Education

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has officially begun its work on developing textbooks for higher education in the Urdu language. This initiative, assigned to MANUU by the Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS) under the University Grants Commission (UGC), aims to enhance academic resources available to Urdu-speaking students.

As part of this effort, MANUU is hosting a two-day workshop focused on academic writing for authors tasked with creating these essential educational materials.

During the inaugural session, University of Hyderabad Vice Chancellor Prof. B.J. Rao commended MANUU for its significant contributions to promoting Urdu as a language of knowledge. MANUU Vice Chancellor Prof. Syed Aimal Hasan encour-

aged the authors to adopt a straightforward approach to engage students effectively.

Former Osmania University Vice Chancellor Prof. Suleman Siddiqui shared insights from the early efforts to prepare academic material in Urdu, emphasizing the importance of cultivating a diverse pool of authors proficient in Urdu, English, and the relevant subjects.

Additionally, AMU Department of Linguistics Prof. Imtiyaz Hasnain highlighted that this initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes education in one's mother tongue and acknowledges the multilingual nature of Indian society. This project aims to strengthen Urdu's role in higher education, making quality academic resources more accessible to Urdu-speaking students across the country.

## Ankura Hospital Saves Life of 6-Month-Old with Kidney Issues

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The pediatric team at Ankura Hospital for Women and Children in Attapur has successfully treated a 6-month-old baby suffering from Renal Tubular Acidosis (RTA), a serious condition that impairs the kidneys' ability to eliminate waste and acid from the blood. The infant was admitted in critical condition, exhibiting rapid breathing, severe dehydration, and no weight gain for several months, along with elevated potassium levels and increased acidity in the body.

Medical Director Dr. Ankush Kommawar explained that the baby had significant difficulty passing urine and was facing severe kidney dysfunction. After thorough evaluation, the team recommended peritoneal dialysis as a life-saving intervention. The procedure was discussed extensively with the child's parents to ensure they understood the necessity and potential benefits.

Dr. Krishna Prasad Vunnam, also Medical Director at Ankura Hospital, emphasized the importance of parental consent and collaboration in managing the child's care. The dialysis procedure was carried out by a skilled team including pediatric nephrologist Dr. Ravideep and pediatric intensivist Dr. Khalil Khan, among others.

Thanks to the timely and effective intervention by the medical team, the baby is now on the road to recovery. This case highlights the critical role of specialized pediatric care in addressing complex medical conditions and underscores Ankura Hospital's commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare for children.

## Body of Missing 7-Year-Old Girl Found in Hyderabad

**TPN , Hyderabad:**The body of a seven-year-old girl, reported missing since Saturday, was discovered stuffed in a bag in Gundlapochampally, Medchal, on Tuesday. The girl's family had moved to the city from Adilabad seven months ago in search of work, residing in Suraram where her parents are employed as construction workers.

According to police sources, the girl went missing on October 12, prompting her family to file a complaint with the Suraram police. As police teams conducted searches, local residents discovered her body in a bag in Basaragadi, leading to an immediate police response.

Authorities from Medchal arrived at the scene to investigate, joined by the Suraram police who were already handling the missing persons case. CCTV footage from surrounding roads is being reviewed as part of the investigation, and officials are examining all potential angles, including the possibility of sexual assault.

The body has been sent to the hospital for an autopsy as the investigation continues. The tragic incident has raised concerns within the community about the safety of children and the urgent need for improved protective measures.

## Hyderabad Cybercrime Police Refund Rs 39 Lakh to Fraud Victim

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Hyderabad Cybercrime police have successfully refunded Rs 39 lakh to a victim of a stock trading fraud. The 34-year-old unemployed individual fell prey to cyber fraudsters who promised easy money through investments.

Initially enticed by the prospect of quick profits, the victim transferred a total of Rs 78.70 lakh in installments to various bank accounts provided by the scammers. However, the victim soon realized he had been cheated when he could no longer withdraw his funds.

Upon receiving a complaint, the Cybercrime police launched an investigation and promptly booked a case. They issued notices to bank officials, urging them to freeze the fraudulent accounts, and guided the victim in filing a petition in court to recover the held funds.

In light of this incident, the Cybercrime unit issued a public advisory, urging individuals to be cautious of fake investment groups on social media that promise high returns with minimal risk. They emphasized the importance of skepticism towards

offers of substantial returns and warned against believing fake profit screenshots.

The advisory also recommended using SEBI-approved apps for investments and consulting a registered financial advisor before proceeding. Additionally, victims were informed that timely reporting could potentially lead to recovering some of the lost funds.

This case serves as a reminder of the growing prevalence of cyber fraud and the importance of vigilance in financial dealings.

## Telangana Government Urged to Introduce Aquaculture Courses at Young India Skills University

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Pittala Ravinder, founder president of the Telangana Fisheries Society and former chairman of the Telangana State Fisheries Federation, has called on the State government to incorporate fisheries and aquaculture courses at the newly established Young India Skills University.

In his appeal, Ravinder highlighted the importance of including specialized courses in aquaculture, value addition, fish food exports, and modern fisheries techniques. He emphasized that Telangana's abundant freshwater resources present a unique opportunity to equip youth with advanced skills in the fisheries sector.



Ravinder further advocated for the establishment of a dedicated university for inland fisheries in the state. In a memorandum submitted to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he underscored the economic significance of developing the fisheries sector, noting that it supports over 12 percent of the population reliant on this industry.

By introducing these specialized courses, Ravinder believes the government can enhance the skill set of young individuals, ultimately contributing to the growth and sustainability of Telangana's fisheries sector. His proposals aim to strengthen the state's economy while addressing the needs of the local communities dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods.

## UoH Students Protest Dissolution of Union Without General Body Meeting



**TPN, Hyderabad:** Students at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) have expressed their outrage over the administration's decision to dissolve the Students' Union (SU) for the 2023-24 academic year without convening a university general body meeting (UGBM). This abrupt decision, announced in a circular from the Dean of Students Welfare on Tuesday, led to protests as students demanded a proper meeting to discuss the matter.

The circular stated that the dissolution was effective immediately, with plans for the election commission to oversee elections for the 2024-25 union. Various student organizations condemned the action, labeling it as autocratic and a violation of the SU constitution. They argued that dissolving the union prematurely disregards the rights of the student body, especially at a time when over 400

PhD admissions are still pending.

"The university cannot dissolve the students' union without following proper procedures or allowing the SU to present its report to the student community," students asserted. The Students' Federation of India (SFI) UoH unit described the decision as "undemocratic" and indicative of the administration's ongoing efforts to suppress dissent and dismantle democratic structures within the university.

Students are demanding that the administration hold elections for the students' union after completing the PhD admissions process and call for an immediate UGBM to address their concerns. The protests reflect growing discontent over governance issues and the need for student representation in university matters.



## Tahsildar Issues Certificate After Woman Threatens Police Complaint

**TPN , Jogulamba Gadwal:** In a recent incident in Manavapadu mandal, a woman and her father were compelled to escalate their frustrations over the delayed issuance of a Non-Creamy Layer certificate. After making several visits to the Tahsildar's office over the past week, they finally resorted to threatening a police complaint to expedite the process.

Hymavathi, a resident of Narayanpur, had applied for the certificate, which was crucial for her application for a staff nurse position. With the deadline for submissions looming on Tuesday, she and her father, Ayyanna, found themselves in a frustrating back-and-forth with the office of Tahsildar Waheeda. Despite their repeated appeals, the certificate remained unsigned.

As tensions escalated during their latest visit, the father-daughter duo confronted the officials, demanding immediate action. It was only after Hymavathi threatened to file a police complaint regarding the official's negligence that the Tahsildar signed the necessary certificate.

A video capturing their emotional appeal, in which Hymavathi is seen crying and pleading, has circulated on social media. In the video, she questions, "How many days does it take to sign one certificate? Today is the last date for filing my application." This incident underscores the challenges citizens face when dealing with bureaucratic inefficiencies and highlights the lengths to which individuals must go to secure essential documents.

## Inquiry Launched After Drunken Brawl Between Home Guard and Head Constable

**TPN , Adilabad:** An inquiry has been initiated following a violent altercation between a head constable and a home guard at the Sirikonda police station, reportedly fueled by alcohol. The incident, which occurred on Saturday, centered around a dispute over leave requests for the upcoming Dasara festival.

Echoda Inspector Bheemesh confirmed that both individuals involved—one a head constable and the other a home guard attached to the Superintendent of Police's office—were under the influence of liquor at the time of the brawl. The altercation not only involved physical violence but also brought disrepute to the police department.

Witnesses reported that the two had been partying on police premises prior to the fight. The home guard claimed he was assaulted by the head constable and his colleagues, while the head constable alleged that the home guard attacked him and another officer.

The inquiry aims to clarify the details of the incident, and departmental action against the head constable is expected to follow soon. The police department is taking the matter seriously, given its implications for professional conduct and accountability within the force.

## Patients Struggle with Drug Shortage at Asifabad District Hospital

**TPN , Asifabad:** The district headquarters hospital, a vital healthcare facility with 300 beds, is currently facing a significant shortage of essential drugs and syrups, impacting many patients, particularly from the tribal communities in remote areas. The hospital serves around 500 outpatients daily, and this number tends to increase during the seasonal spike in diseases like typhoid, malaria, and dengue fever.

A notice listing unavailable medications has been displayed prominently on the hospital walls, prompting patients to purchase necessary drugs and syrups from private pharmacies, often at high costs. This situation has caused considerable distress among those relying on the hospital for free treatment.

Kotnaka Vijay, a leader from a local tribal organization, expressed concern, stating, "Many patients, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, visit the hospital with the expectation of receiving free healthcare, only to be met with shortages. Officials must take immediate action to ensure the availability of essential medicines."

Dr. Pavan, the hospital's medical superintendent, acknowledged the drug shortage, affirming that efforts are underway to alleviate the situation. A report has been submitted to higher authorities requesting the necessary supplies.

Additionally, two dialysis centers within the district—one at the hospital and another at the community health center in Kaghaznagar—are also facing a shortage of iron tablets and injections critical for renal failure patients. This deficiency is leading to an additional financial burden of approximately Rs 10,000 per month for each patient.

Patients are urging the government to address these shortages promptly to ensure that necessary treatments are accessible to all.

# Nizamabad MP Arvind Criticizes PCC President and Congress Leadership

**TPN , Telangana :** Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind launched a scathing attack on PCC President Mahesh Goud, accusing him of speaking without proper understanding of the issues. "Someone who cannot even win a councilor seat is making comments about me," Arvind remarked, dismissing Goud's criticisms.

He further criticized Minister Komatireddy for misleading both officials and the public. Arvind expressed frustration over the Minister not responding to calls regarding Roads & Buildings (R&B) funds, which are crucial for development projects. He claimed that the fate of Congress would soon mirror that of KCR and the BRS.



Addressing concerns about temple safety, Arvind alleged that temples were ne-

glected under Congress rule and argued that only under BJP governance could Telangana see true development. He also questioned why voters who supported BJP in Lok Sabha elections did not do the same in Assembly polls.

Highlighting his contributions, Arvind mentioned securing unprecedented railway funds for Nizamabad, including the construction of seven bridges and upgrading the Madhavanagar ROB from two lanes to four. He blamed the state government for delays in releasing funds and bills, despite the central government's contributions.

Arvind also criticized the Congress for ignoring the railway sector and failing to establish an integrated school in the district.

## Minister Thummala Advocates Humanitarian Approach to Encroachment Removals

**TPN , Khammam:** Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao has emphasized the need for a humanitarian perspective in the removal of encroachments on government lands, nalas, and drains. Speaking at a program on Tuesday, he stated that any demolitions should occur only after providing alternative housing for the families affected, particularly the economically disadvantaged.



As the Congress government aggressively pursues demolition efforts for the Musi Riverfront project, alongside actions by HYDRAB in Hyderabad, Nageswara Rao's remarks present a contrasting approach. He stressed that construction and encroachment removal should begin only once adequate accommodations have been arranged for the impacted families.

Highlighting the importance of compassion, he urged local corporators and leaders to engage with affected families, ensuring they are informed and in-

cluded in discussions about rehabilitation. "Removing encroachments without considering the consequences can severely impact the lives of the poor," he remarked.

Additionally, Nageswara Rao called on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to appoint an expert committee tasked with studying and redesigning the proposed retaining wall alongside the Munneru stream in Khammam. He advocated for a comprehensive design that would effectively manage flood flow, preventing future inundation in the city. The minister's comments reflect a growing recognition of the need for balanced development that considers the welfare of vulnerable communities.

## Kothagudem SP Offers Support to Policemen, Listens to Grievances

**TPN , Kothagudem:** Superintendent of Police B. Rohith Raju has taken a proactive step to address the mental well-being of police officers in the district. Following a recent series of tragic suicides within the department, he emphasized the importance of mental health and resilience among officers during a conference held via police communication on Tuesday.



Rohith Raju urged police personnel not to succumb to stress over minor issues, stating, "It's crucial to remain strong." He expressed his sorrow over the recent incidents, highlighting the need for officers to consider the impact of their actions on their families and loved ones.

To foster open communication, the SP announced he would be available every Thursday to hear officers' grievances personally. He encouraged them to bring their problems directly to his attention, assuring them of his

commitment to addressing their concerns.

The SP also commended the district police for their commendable record in maintaining law and order, managing flood duties, and combatting illegal activities such as ganja smuggling and Maoist operations. He urged officers to uphold the integrity of the police force by serving the community with professionalism and good conduct.

Rohith Raju reassured his team that he would work to resolve any issues they raised during the conference, reinforcing a supportive environment for the district's law enforcement personnel.

# Congress Favouritism Exposed as Leaders Distribute Welfare Cheques

**TPN , Sangareddy:** Recent events in Sangareddy have highlighted allegations of favoritism within the official machinery as Congress leaders distributed Kalyana Lakshmi cheques and LPG subsidy letters without proper representation from officials or elected representatives. These incidents, particularly in the Andole assembly constituency represented by Health Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha, have sparked widespread criticism.

In Vatpally mandal, Congress leaders were seen handing out Kalyana Lakshmi cheques, while similar distributions of LPG subsidy letters occurred in the nearby villages of Pothulboguda and Kammalapally. The leaders actively shared photos of these events on social media, drawing ire from various quarters for their apparent disregard for protocol.

Additionally, in Munipally mandal, controversy erupted when the Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) allegedly uploaded names of select indi-

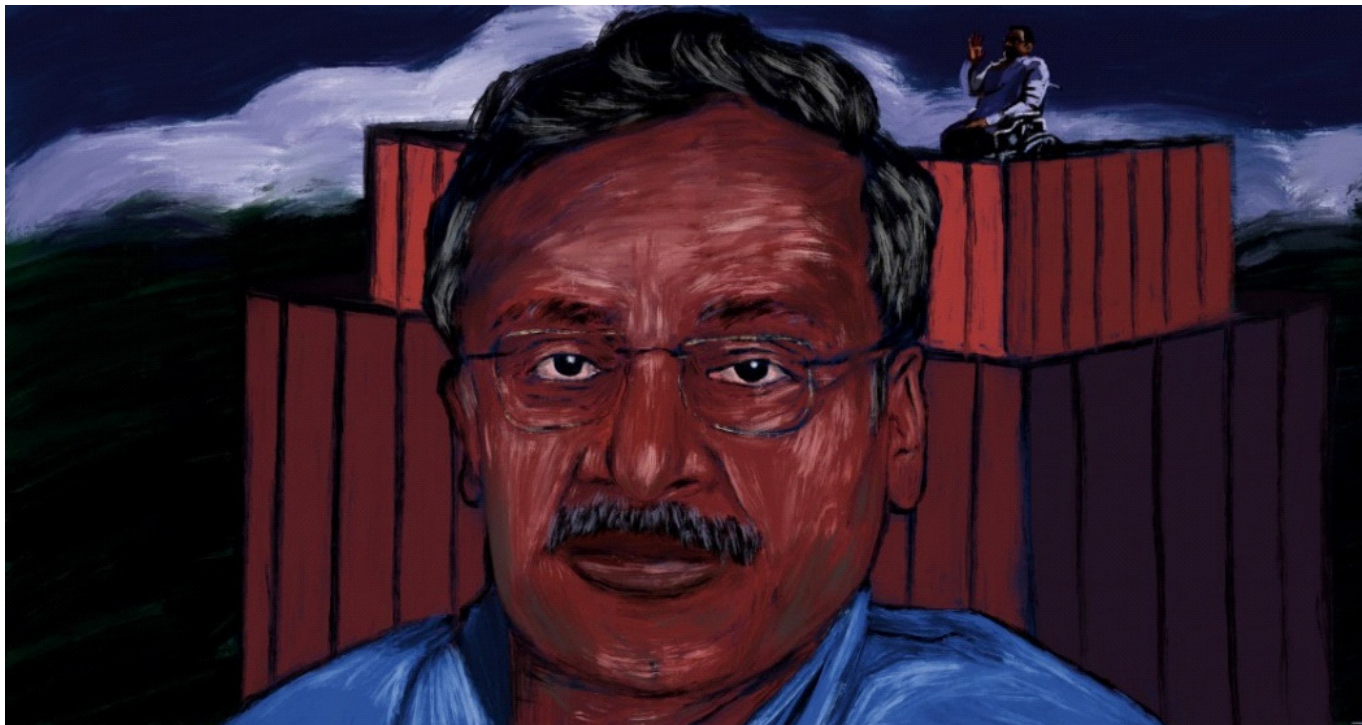


viduals, bypassing eligible beneficiaries. An audio recording of a phone call from the MPDO discussing this issue went viral, further fueling the backlash.

In response to these developments, former Andole MLA and BRS leader Chanti Kranthi Kiran lodged a complaint with Collector Valluru Kranthi, presenting these incidents as evidence of systemic

favoritism towards individuals affiliated with the Congress party. Kiran urged the Collector to take action against those responsible and to ensure that welfare benefits are equitably distributed to all eligible citizens, particularly the underprivileged. The unfolding situation raises serious questions about transparency and fairness in the distribution of government assistance.





# 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



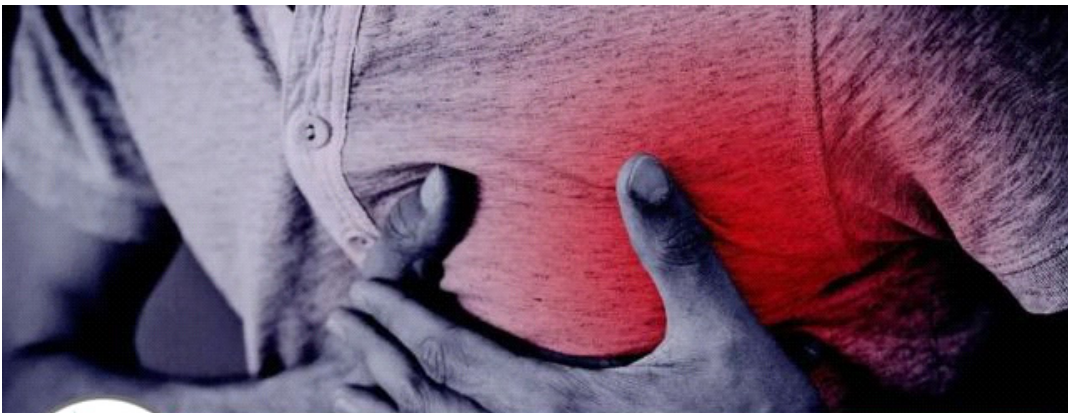
of our lives.” She pondered the word “unflinching,” contrasting it with her own tendency to “flinch.”

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.

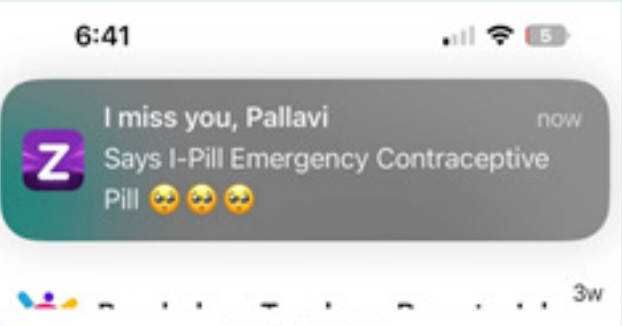
Accounts are typically banned for violating WhatsApp's terms of service, including sending spam or engaging in bulk messaging. Those involved in illegal activities

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-

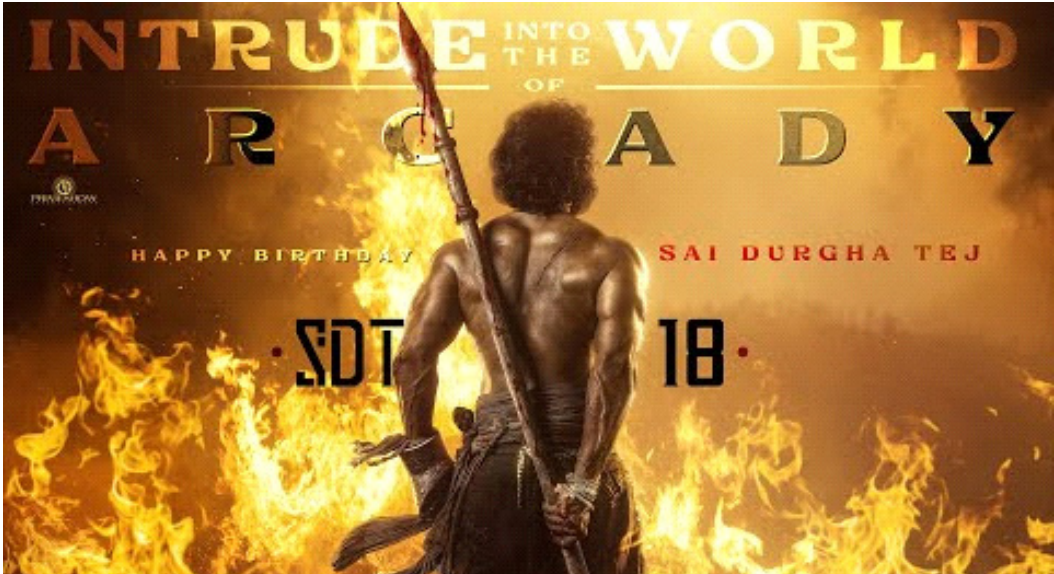
ers for India, showcasing his ability to convert starts into substantial scores, which will be crucial against a competitive New Zealand bowling attack.

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 Majmundar 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!