

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 39° C

L 24° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 32° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 31° C

L 25° C

CM Chandrababu Serious on Sand Policy Implementation

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has taken a serious stance regarding the challenges faced by the public under the government's free sand policy in Andhra Pradesh. During a recent Council of Ministers meeting, he addressed the growing concerns that despite the introduction of the free sand policy, people—particularly those from the middle and lower classes—are still facing difficulties in accessing sand and are incurring high costs for construction purposes.

Chandrababu expressed his frustration, noting that the policy was introduced to ease the burden on common people and to make sand readily available for the construction of homes. However, negligence in the policy's implementation has resulted in further challenges for citizens. He emphasized that the government would not tolerate any lapses in execution, calling for an immediate overhaul to ensure the policy benefits its intended recipients.

The Chief Minister has set a strict deadline for reform, demanding that noticeable changes be implemented within the next ten days. He ordered that all barriers to accessing sand should be eliminated and stressed that sand should be easily available across the state, allowing citizens to fully benefit

from the free sand scheme.

As part of the efforts to improve the free sand policy, the government has approved a proposal to involve private agencies in managing sand reaches. This decision aims to increase sand availability and ensure smooth operations, even as the free sand policy remains intact. The CM reviewed the situation on October 11, during which officials from the Department of Mines presented several pro-

posals. They suggested that handing over sand management to private agencies would help monitor sand stock points and ensure continuous supply, as well as improve the surveillance of sand reaches.

Chandrababu agreed to these measures and directed that district-wise tenders be initiated to select private agencies for managing sand reaches. The Department of Mines will oversee this process, ensuring that private individuals and organizations are granted permissions to begin sand mining operations, enhancing overall availability.

The rainy season has posed challenges for sand excavation, causing delays in the process. Mines Department officials have indicated that even if excavations begin soon, the supply may not immediately meet demand. However, the government remains committed to addressing these issues and ensuring that the public has easy access to sand at affordable prices through both private and free reaches.

Chandrababu Naidu's focus on improving the free sand policy underscores his government's commitment to ensuring that the policy fulfills its promise of helping the common man, without adding undue financial burdens.

ONLY ONE CAPITAL AMARAVATI, VIZAG IS FINANCE CAPITAL, HIGHCOURT BENCH FOR KURNOOL

Five Innovation Hubs In The State

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has announced a significant initiative to establish the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub in Andhra Pradesh, aimed at fostering innovation and ethical business practices across the state. Ratan Tata, widely respected for his integrity in business, serves as an inspiration for the hub's mission to drive development through ethical entrepreneurship.

The primary center of the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub will be set up in Amaravati, while five other hubs will be established across the state. These centers will span Vijayawada or Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore, Chittoor, Tirupati, Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool, and Visakhapatnam, as well as Ubhaya Godavari districts in Uttarandhra. The aim is to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship by decentralizing development and creating opportunities across all regions of the state.

In addition to this, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also unveiled six groundbreaking new policies designed to create 20 lakh jobs in the next five years. These policies, introduced under the slogan Job First, mark a major step forward in the state's industrial, technological, and employment sectors. Naidu explained that these policies are intended to transform Andhra Pradesh into a hub for job creation and entrepreneurial development.

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Sajjala Over Reaction On Notices Issued

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has criticized the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his government, accusing them of engaging in factional activities and spreading false propaganda. Speaking at a press conference at the YCP office on Wednesday, Sajjala responded to the media reports that Mangalagiri police had issued notices and lookout alerts against him in connection with the attack on the TDP office.

Sajjala dismissed the accusations, stating that he had been abroad with his family from October 7 to 14 and returned to New Delhi before heading to Hyderabad. He expressed outrage over the alleged false news reports claiming he was evading authorities, contrasting his situation with Pendyala Srinivasa Rao, who he claimed had gone into hiding.

Sajjala also questioned the sudden revival of the three-year-old TDP office attack case, accusing TDP of orchestrating a false narrative to tarnish YCP leaders. He reminded that the attack followed an incident where YS Jagan was allegedly insulted by TDP leaders.

In a fiery rebuttal, Sajjala accused Chandrababu of having the ability to manipulate lies into truth. He argued that the current government was

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Telangana High Court Orders IAS Officers to Report to Assigned States

TPN, Hyderabad: In a significant development, seven IAS officers faced a setback in the Telangana High Court after challenging the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) verdict regarding their cadre allotments. The officers, Vakati Karuna, Amrapali Kata, Vaniprasad, Ronald Rose (Telangana), C. Harikiran, Lotheti Sivashankar, and G. Srijana (Andhra Pradesh), had filed a lunch motion petition seeking relief from the CAT orders, which directed them to report to their respective states as per the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) allotment.

The Telangana High Court, after hearing the petition, upheld the CAT orders and directed the IAS officers to report immediately to their allotted states. The High Court dismissed the petition, expressing disappointment with the officers for challenging the verdict in court. It emphasized that IAS officers are appointed for public service, and they should serve wherever the opportunity arises.

During the hearing, the court made key remarks, stating that such matters should

not be brought to court and that the officers should comply with the directives of the DoPT and CAT. The High Court also noted that any delay in reporting could aggravate the situation and disrupt governance.

The IAS officers had earlier approached CAT, contesting the cadre allotment orders issued during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. However, CAT ruled in favor of the government, stating that the officers should serve in the states assigned to them.

Following the High Court's dismissal, the seven officers were instructed to report to their respective states by the evening of October 16, 2024, as per the original DoPT orders. Despite seeking relief in court, the officers did not receive any stay or reprieve from the judgment.

This decision reinforces the authority of the DoPT and CAT in cadre allotments and underscores the responsibility of public servants to comply with government directives.

Notice to Sajjala From Mangalagiri Rural police

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The case involving the attack on the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in 2021 is tightening around key leaders of the Yuva Jana Samika Rythu Congress Party (YCP). Mangalagiri police have recently issued lookout notices to prevent any suspects from leaving the country, with the investigation reaching a critical stage.

The latest development saw notices issued to YCP leader and former government advisor, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, instructing him to appear for questioning at 10:30 AM on Thursday. Sajjala was reportedly stopped at Delhi airport by the police yesterday as part of the ongoing inquiry.

This comes after evidence emerged suggesting Sajjala's involvement in the attack. On October 19, 2021, members of the YCP allegedly attacked the TDP central office. Other prominent YCP leaders, including Lella Appireddy, Devineni Avinash, and Talashila Raghuram, have already been interrogated in connection with the case.

As part of their investigation, the Mangalagiri police have been calling in key YCP figures linked to the incident for questioning. The issuance of notices to prevent key figures from fleeing the country signals a more intense phase in the probe, with the authorities focusing on high-profile YCP leaders as they move closer to resolving the case.

The investigation remains ongoing, with further developments expected as the police proceed with the inquiry into the attack on the TDP office.



CM Chandrababu Reviews Preparedness Amid Heavy Rains in AP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In light of the heavy rains currently affecting Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu conducted a review meeting with officials on Wednesday to assess the situation and issue crucial directives. High-ranking officials from various districts, including Tirupati, Prakasam, Chittoor, and Nellore, participated in the meeting, which underscored the urgency of the matter.



During the review, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for vigilance, especially as the weather department has warned of potential rainfall exceeding 20 centimeters in certain areas. He urged officials to ensure that machinery and resources are on standby in anticipation of possible sudden floods.

Chandrababu also instructed the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to maintain continuous communication regarding the status of rain-affected districts. Control rooms have been established at the mandal, division, and district levels, along with the district collectorates, to monitor and respond to the situation effectively.

The impact of the heavy rains is already being felt in several areas, including Wakadu, Guduru, Tada, Sullurpet, Kota, Chillakuru, and Venkatagiri. Notably, heavy water accumulation has reached the runway of Renigunta Airport, leading to the diversion of an Indigo flight to Chennai due to landing difficulties.

The Chief Minister's proactive approach aims to minimize disruptions and ensure the safety of residents as the state braces for ongoing inclement weather. Officials

are expected to remain alert and responsive as conditions evolve, prioritizing public safety and infrastructure integrity.

The low pressure formed in the Southwest Bay of Bengal has turned into a cyclone and is moving west-northwest at a speed of 15 km/h. As a result, rains are falling in all districts of Rayalaseema and some districts of the South Coast. According to the India Meteorological Centre, this cyclone is centered 370 km from Nellore, 280 km from Chennai, and 320 km from Puducherry. Meteorological Centre officials have warned that heavy rains are expected in Rayalaseema and South Coast districts due to the cyclone's impact.

Andhra Pradesh, which is already reeling from floods, is likely to experience flash floods in Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam, and Kadapa districts due to the influence of the new cyclone. The State Disaster Management Agency has advised residents in low-lying areas to remain alert. NDRF and SDRF teams are on standby to move people to safe locations if necessary, and rehabilitation centers are being set up in various areas.

BC Ministers Meeting At AP Secretariat to Discuss BC Defense Act



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: A crucial meeting of eight Backward Class (BC) Ministers is scheduled to take place at the AP Secretariat in Amaravati Wednesday to discuss the formulation of the BC Defense Act. This meeting is part of the government's ongoing efforts to protect the rights of BC communities, aligning with a promise made by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in his election manifesto.

State BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha stated that CM Chandrababu has committed to enacting a law similar to the SC and ST Atrocities Act to safeguard the interests of BCs. He emphasized that the government is taking steps to draft the rules for the BC Defense Act, fulfilling the promise made during the elections.

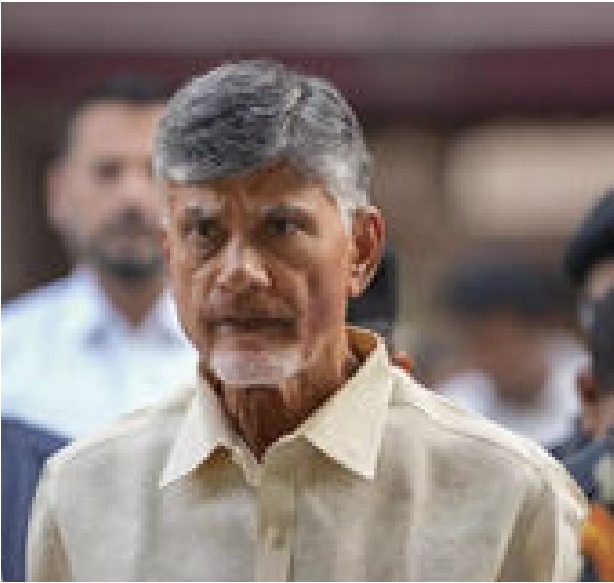
hall of the state secretariat and will include participation from several key ministers, including Kinjarapu Achchennaaidu, Kollu Ravindra, Sathya Kumar Yadav, Angani Sathyaprasad, Kolusu Parthasarathy, Subhash, and Kondapalli Srinivas. Additionally, State Home Minister Anita will also be present to contribute to the discussions.

Minister Savitha indicated that the meeting's focus will be on the formulation of the BC Defense Act, which is expected to provide robust protection for BC communities. The outcomes and decisions from this meeting will be reported directly to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, as the government seeks to ensure that the interests of BCs are adequately represented and safeguarded in future legislation.

The meeting will be held in the fifth block conference

Relief for CM Chandrababu in Skill Development Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has given a clean chit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in the ongoing skill development case. This development follows the arrest of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on September 9, 2023, related to the same case, after which he was released from Rajahmundry Central Jail 53 days later when the court granted him bail.



In the charge sheet filed by the ED, properties worth ₹23.5 crores belonging to Design Tech Systems Pvt Ltd and other companies were confiscated. The ED clarified that Chandrababu Naidu had no involvement

in the misappropriation of funds concerning the government's Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Project in partnership with Siemens.

Previously, the CID filed a charge sheet against Chandrababu along with several others in the Vijayawada ACB special court on April 5, two months prior to Chandrababu's assumption of office as Chief Minister. Allegations suggest that services of entry providers were utilized for diverting funds, with commissions paid to these entities. Additionally, ED confiscated ₹31.2 crore in fixed deposits from Design Tech Systems as part of its investigation.

Heavy Rains Disrupt Tirumala, TTD Closes Walkway for Safety



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh have led to significant challenges in Tirumala and Tirupati, with landslides reported on the Tirumala Ghat road. In response to the adverse weather conditions, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to close the Srivari Stairs walkway until Thursday to ensure the safety of devotees.

TTD Executive Officer Shyamala Rao emphasized the importance of vigilance among staff, highlighting a disaster management plan to address the situation. Precautionary measures include maintaining diesel stocks for generators and ensuring ambulances are readily available for emergencies.



Officials have been instructed to keep the public informed about the heavy rains through SVBC TV and social media channels. Rao reiterated the responsibility of all TTD staff to prevent any inconvenience

to devotees during this challenging time. The road from Alipiri to Tirumala will remain closed until Thursday due to the ongoing rainfall and potential for further landslides.

Sajjala Over Reaction On Notices Issued

being unfairly targeted with baseless legal notices, and questioned the legitimacy of issuing new notices when the Supreme Court had already passed judgment on related matters as recently as September 20.

Sajjala further criticized the attachment of properties in the skill development case involving Chandrababu, pointing out that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had found evidence of wrongdoing. He questioned how me-

dia outlets could report a "clean chit" for Chandrababu, accusing them of misleading the public with false propaganda.

The YCP leader reaffirmed his stance, stating that the party would fight these false accusations in court, and warned that the targeting of active YCP members would not intimidate the party. Sajjala concluded by vowing to continue the legal battle, confident that the courts would deliver justice.

Gold Prices in AP



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: As of today, the price of gold in Vijayawada stands at ₹7,140 per gram for 22 karat gold and ₹7,789 per gram for 24 karat gold. Vijayawada is recognized as a significant hub for gold transactions in Andhra Pradesh, attracting buyers and sellers alike. The city is also known for its exquisite jewelry designs, showcasing some of the best patterns found across India.

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The six policies are as follows:

- AP Industrial Development Policy 4.0
- AP MSME Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0
- AP Food Processing Policy 4.0
- AP Electronic Policy 4.0
- AP Industrial Park Policy 4.0
- AP Integrated Clean Energy, Green Energy Policy 4.0

Chandrababu Naidu highlighted that the focus of these policies is on creating jobs rather than merely attracting investments. Each policy has been crafted to prioritize employment opportunities for the youth and foster an ecosys-

tem where entrepreneurship can thrive.

He also mentioned that his government will soon introduce additional policies, especially targeting sectors like IT and tourism. Naidu emphasized the importance of shifting the youth mindset from job seekers to job creators, pushing forward with the vision of Think Globally, Act Locally.

Reflecting on his government's track record, Naidu recalled the successful IT policy he introduced over 25 years ago, which resulted in the establishment of numerous engineering colleges and the

attraction of global companies to Andhra Pradesh. The current policies, he believes, will similarly transform the future of the state's youth and bolster the state's economic progress.

The CM presented the detailed plan for the six new policies through a comprehensive Power-Point presentation, outlining how the government intends to drive forward with the One Family, One Entrepreneur initiative. With the knowledge economy in mind, Naidu is confident that these policies will create a robust foundation for Andhra Pradesh's progress over the next several decades.

Kimidi Kala Venkatarao Criticizes Jagan’s Remarks on Coalition Govt

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chipurupally MLA Kimidi Kala Venkatarao expressed his anger over former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy’s criticism of the coalition government. Speaking at TDP leader Alada Bhaskara Rao’s residence in Bobbili, Venkatarao condemned Jagan for criticizing the TDP’s liquor policy, calling it hypocritical.

Venkatarao accused Jagan of monopolizing the liquor business during his tenure and enforcing policies that led to the mass consumption of low-quality alcohol, resulting in untimely deaths. He questioned whether it was not true that additional mental wards were set up in hospitals like KGH due to the rising number of alcohol-related issues under Jagan’s administration. In contrast, he said, the current coalition government is



the new “Vision 2047” now guiding future progress. He criticized Jagan for being impatient and unwilling to allow the coalition government sufficient time to prove its effectiveness.

Venkatarao highlighted the government’s work on major projects, such as the Polavaram irrigation project, Bhogapuram Airport, and Ramayapatnam Port, which are progressing at a rapid pace. He added that the free sand policy regulations caused some initial delays, but local governance

had improved significantly with the allocation of Rs. 1600 crores to panchayats.

He refrained from personal comments on Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy’s legal matters, stating that the law would take its course. Several leaders, including MLA Baby Nayana, attended the meeting.

YS Sharmila Criticizes AP Coalition Govt Over Unfulfilled Promises to People

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP Congress President YS Sharmila once again took a dig at the state’s coalition government, specifically targeting Minister Nara Lokesh. Sharmila expressed disappointment over the unfulfilled “Super Six” promises made to the people, despite claims that promises to Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been met.



Referring to Lokesh’s recent comments on platform ‘X,’ where he proudly stated that the government had fulfilled its commitment to PM Modi by securing 21 out of 22 Lok Sabha seats, Sharmila questioned why similar promises made to the people of Andhra Pradesh remained unmet. She criticized the government for its lack of transparency and progress on key issues.

“It was great to see you on the Frankly Speaking TV show, but why aren’t you addressing the unfulfilled promises made to the people of our state?” Sharmila asked, adding that it had been four months since the formation of the coalition government, yet the “Super Six” promises remained unfulfilled.

She also took a jab at Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, stating that despite his frequent visits to the national capital, no tangible progress had been made on key state projects. “The Polavaram project and the Visakhapatnam steel plants have lost direction, and there’s been no concrete development,” Sharmila said, pressing Minister Lokesh for a clear update on these projects.

Sharmila’s comments have intensified the ongoing political debate, with the opposition questioning the effectiveness of the coalition government in delivering on its promises to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Big Relief for AB Venkateswara Rao

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Retired IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao, who faced significant challenges during the previous YCP government, received a major relief with the withdrawal of two cases against him. The Andhra Pradesh government issued orders on Tuesday, clearing AB Venkateswara Rao of the charges. However, one more case still awaits a decision from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.



AB Venkateswara Rao, who served as the intelligence chief during the previous TDP government, endured a difficult period under the YCP government led by Jaganmohan Reddy. He was suspended on allegations of corruption in the procurement of surveillance equipment, and multiple cases were filed against him. The YCP government also sent recommendations to the Centre for his dismissal from service. Despite these challenges, ABV was reinstated a day

before his retirement and honorably retired as the Director General of Printing and Stationery on May 31.

The YCP government had also filed charges against ABV for allegedly speaking to the media about the Pegasus spyware and the YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case, violating the All India Service Officers Code of Conduct. However, the charges were dropped after the government failed to complete its investigation within the required six-month period, stretching the inquiry for over a year and a half.

In light of this, the government issued fresh orders withdrawing the charges against AB Venkateswara Rao, offering him significant relief after years of legal and professional battles. A decision on the remaining case is now awaited from CM Chandrababu Naidu.

Political Tensions Escalate in Kurnool

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Politics in Kurnool district have heated up following a tense standoff between Allagadda MLA Bhuma Akhilapriya and her uncle, YCP leader and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The friction escalated during Akhilapriya’s surprise visit to the Vijaya Dairy in Nandyala, sparking a political storm in the region.

During her inspection of the dairy factory on Tuesday, Akhilapriya objected to the display of Jagan Mohan Reddy’s photos in the dairy’s premises. She reportedly removed them and replaced them with pictures of current Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The incident angered Jagan Mohan Reddy, who criticized the actions of the staff responsible for posting the photos. Akhilapriya, on the other hand, warned that those responsible for the removal of the plaque of former Chief Minister NTR and throwing it in a canal would face consequences.

In a heated phone call that further intensified the situation, Vijaya Dairy Chairman Jaganmohan Reddy confronted Akhilapriya, questioning her decision to sit in his chair. Akhilapriya responded, saying she sat there at the request of the staff. Jagan fired back, asking, “Who gave you the right to sit without my permission?” Akhilapriya retorted, reminding him that he had previously sat in their



chair and challenged him, saying, “Are you threatening me? Try moving me from this seat.”

The phone conversation, filled with accusations and challenges, has now ignited a wider political controversy in Kurnool. With tensions running high, the political rivalry between the two leaders has deepened, adding to the already volatile political atmosphere in the district.

YSRCP Leader Satish Reddy Criticizes CM Chandrababu

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP State Secretary Satish Reddy lashed out at Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of spreading false narratives regarding the ongoing investigation into the Skill Development scam. In a sharp statement, Satish Reddy compared Chandrababu’s actions to “Goebbels propaganda,” referring to the infamous Nazi-era strategy of repeating lies until they are believed.



Satish Reddy addressed the claims being circulated that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attaching assets worth ₹24 crores in connection with the Skill Development scam is somehow a “clean chit” for Chandrababu. He dismissed these claims as baseless propaganda.

“The ED has made it clear that there was a massive scam in

the Skill Development case,” Reddy stated. “The investigation is still ongoing, and the ED has tightened its noose around Chandrababu’s involvement in this case. Yet, Chandrababu is attempting to mislead the public by claiming that he is being exonerated.”

Satish Reddy warned that such misleading statements are only attempts to divert attention

from the seriousness of the charges. He emphasized that the ED’s actions, including the attachment of assets, indicate the gravity of the allegations, not a clean chit as Chandrababu’s supporters are suggesting.

“The investigation is not over,” Reddy said. “Chandrababu is trying to act as though he has been vindicated, but the truth is far from it. The ED has exposed the scam, and the legal process will continue to reveal the depth of the corruption involved.”

Satish Reddy’s remarks come amidst increasing political tensions, as the Skill Development scam remains a contentious issue in Andhra Pradesh politics, with both sides making strong accusations and counter-accusations.

Samineni Udayabhanu Appointed as NTR District Janasena President

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a strategic move to strengthen the party’s presence in the region, Mr. Samineni Udayabhanu has been appointed as the NTR District President of the Janasena Party. The announcement was made by the party’s president, Mr. Pawan Kalyan, on Wednesday.



Mr. Udayabhanu, a former MLA of the Jaggayapet constituency, brings with him a wealth of political experience. His extensive background in public service and deep understanding of local issues is expected to greatly benefit the Janasena Party as it looks to expand its reach and impact in the NTR district.

In his new role, Mr. Udayabhanu will be responsible for implementing the party’s programs and initiatives, ensuring that Janasena’s vision and policies are effectively communicated to the people of the district. His leadership is expected to play a crucial role in mobilizing grassroots support and strengthening the party’s organizational structure in the area.

Party President Mr. Pawan Kalyan congratulated Udayabhanu on his appointment, expressing confidence in his ability to lead the party to new heights in the district. He highlighted Udayabhanu’s dedication to public service and his commitment to the principles of the Janasena Party.

This appointment is seen as a significant step in Janasena’s efforts to fortify its base ahead of upcoming elections, with Udayabhanu’s experience expected to be a key asset in the party’s growth and success in the NTR district. The party leadership and members have expressed optimism about the positive impact this new leadership will have on the region’s political landscape.

Vijayawada Hospital's Oxygen Supply Crisis

An Inquiry into Management Failures

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Old And New Government Hospital is under scrutiny as the oxygen plant established to ensure uninterrupted supply during the COVID-19 pandemic has been rendered non-functional. The oxygen plant, set up with PM Cares funding, has not been operational for over two years, prompting questions about its management and usage.

Despite the availability of this facility, the hospital is reportedly relying heavily on liquid oxygen supplied by private contractors. Allegations have emerged that hospital staff, under pressure from the superintendent, are making the oxygen plants useless, leading to a monthly payment of ₹50 lakh to contractors.

The India Meteorological Centre has indicated that the new hospital requires approximately two tons of oxygen daily, while the old hospital needs about one ton. Together, they are expected to consume around 100 tons of oxygen per month. This dependency on external suppliers, despite the installed plant's capacity of 3,000 li-



ters, raises concerns about financial mismanagement.

Vigilance officers have been ordered to investigate the irregularities surrounding the usage of liquid oxygen in both the new and old government hospitals. Reports suggest that funds allocated for



hospital operations are being misused, with payments of ₹25 lakh monthly going to private contractors.

The lack of oversight from higher authorities has allowed this situation to escalate. The contractor responsible for oxygen supply, based in Visakhapatnam, is accused of merely filling gas cylinders while the hospital authorities withhold details about the operational status of the oxygen plant and the gas supply.

Criticism has also been directed at the hospital superintendent,

Venkatesh, who allegedly secured promotions through questionable means and has been accused of harassing lower-level employees. As the situation unfolds, vigilance officials are focusing on the payments made to private suppliers and the reasons behind the prolonged inactivity of the oxygen plant.

The need for transparency and accountability in managing essential resources in the healthcare sector has never been more urgent, especially in light of the ongoing challenges posed by health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.



Minister Narayana Discusses Upcoming Infrastructure Plans and Funding

TPN, Vijayawada: In a recent meeting, Minister Narayana announced significant developments regarding Amaravati's infrastructure projects. He revealed that negotiations with the World Bank are nearing completion, with ₹15,000 crores expected to arrive in November and December. However, he emphasized the need to halt previous work and issue new tenders.

The minister highlighted plans to store water from the Kondaveeti River and Pala River, citing Dutch consultants' designs. New pumping stations will be established in Undavalli and Vaikunthapuram to enhance water management. He assured that all tenders for Amaravati works would be finalized by December, with assembly and secretariat tenders expected to conclude by January.

Narayana confirmed that iconic buildings in Amaravati would be completed within two and a half years, while jungle clearance is almost complete, albeit temporarily halted due to water accumulation in some areas.

Additionally, he mentioned plans to redesign the Karakatta road to withstand historical flooding and stated that tenders for connecting the Seed Axis Road to national highways would be issued within two months.

The minister also addressed compensation issues for assigned farmers, assuring that all payments would be cleared promptly. He reiterated the government's commitment to maintaining the original designs for Amaravati's structures and proposed new iconic bridges in conjunction with inner and outer ring roads.

Varla Ramaiah Criticizes Jagan Over Costly Security Measures for His Residence



TPN, Mangalagiri: In a press conference at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri, TDP Politburo member Varla Ramaiah raised concerns about the extravagant spending by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. He questioned the necessity of a ₹12.85 crore iron fence constructed around Jagan's residence, likening the expenditure to a monarch's indulgence.

Ramaiah criticized the decision to use public funds for personal security when there was no evident threat from groups such as naxalites or terrorists. He drew comparisons to historical figures and suggested that even national leaders do not require such extravagant protection.

Ramaiah further accused Jagan of misusing public money, stating that the funds could be better allocated to public welfare initiatives like the Polavaram project. He emphasized the need for accountability and urged the chief minister to recover funds that have been misappropriated during his tenure.

The TDP's statements reflect ongoing political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, with calls for transparency and responsible governance echoing throughout the state.

NDA Govt Prioritizes Development in Penamalur Constituency

TPN, Vijayawada: MLA Bode Prasad emphasized the TDP coalition government's commitment to the development of Penamalur during a public problem-solving platform program at the MPDO office. He credited Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for the ongoing development efforts.

During the event, Prasad laid the foundation stone for a CC road in PR Colony, funded with ₹18 lakh from NNRGS. He also initiated the development of Katta Road in Edupugallu BC Colony with a budget of ₹40 lakh. The MLA announced a total allocation of ₹23 crore for various road development projects in Penamalur, Kankipadu, and Uyyur mandals.

The program saw participation from local leaders, including Sarpanch Lingala Bhaskara Rao and TDP district secretary Pandupati Sudhakar, highlighting community involvement in these development initiatives.

VMC Explores Sanitation Management for a Pollution-Free City

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachandra of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation convened a crucial meeting at the corporation's head office with sanitation experts to discuss strategies for improved sanitation management and pollution reduction in the city.

The meeting focused on wastewater processing, sanitation management, and urban development, emphasizing the need for a pollution-free society. Various measures to enhance sanitation facilities and tackle existing issues were deliberated upon.

Among the attendees were representatives from Cosmic Hills Pvt Ltd in Delhi, experts from KG MP Partners, SE (Projects) Satya Kumari, Chief Medical Health Officer in charge Dr. Suresh Babu, and Accounts Officer B. Satyanarayana.



This initiative underscores the commitment of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation to creating a cleaner and healthier urban environment for its citizens. The corporation aims to implement effective sanitation practices that align

with the city's growth and environmental sustainability goals.

For further updates on sanitation initiatives and city development plans, residents are encouraged to stay connected with the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.

MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao Announced Rural Development Initiatives

TPN, Vijayawada: MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao announced the alliance government's commitment to village development through a series of welfare projects. Recently, several CC roads were inaugurated, including a ₹37 lakh project in Ramavarappadu and three roads worth ₹1.03 crore in Enike Padu. Additionally, foundation stones were laid for further projects, including roads in Pedaavutapalli and Pottipadu.

On the same day, the MLA initiated various development works in Bandarugudem, Veeravalli, and Umamaheswarapuram, funded through employment guarantee schemes. Local leaders joined in celebrating these advancements for the community.



Coastal Villages In Krishna District Face Environmental Crisis

TPN, Vijayawada: Coastal villages in Krishna district, including Nagayalanka, Koduru, and Bantumilli, are grappling with severe environmental degradation and rising sea levels. With temperatures soaring and settlements increasingly flooded, residents question their future as the wrath of the sea encroaches upon their homes.

Alarmingly, some coastal villages have lost up to 100 meters of land to the sea. Reports indicate that rising carbon emissions and unchecked deforestation are disrupting the ecological balance, leading to alarming rates of sea erosion. Despite warnings from a 2004 UN study regarding the vulnerability of these regions, little action has been taken to address the crisis.

In areas such as Ramakrishnapuram and Palakaithippa, residents report sea tides reaching up to a kilometer inland. This has resulted in substantial land loss, with some homes in Uppalavari Lanka disappearing completely into the sea over the last 25 years.

Alluri Sitaramaraju District Thrives in Strawberry Cultivation

TPN, Chintapalli: The Alluri Sitaramaraju district is emerging as a hub for strawberry cultivation in the united Telugu states. This pink fruit, originally from America and further developed by Europeans, thrives particularly well in the favorable climate of the region. Farmers are cultivating the Winter Dawn variety, with around 30 acres dedicated to strawberry farming this year in the Lambasinghi area, known for its picturesque landscapes.

Over the past five years, the area under strawberry cultivation has steadily increased, attracting both local and tribal farmers. Despite some challenges due to heavy rainfall affecting timely planting,



the farmers are optimistic about this year's yield, expected in November, coinciding with the tourist season.

Tourists flock to Lambasinghi from October to February, significantly boosting local sales. Approximately 80% of the strawberries grown are sold to these visitors, who enjoy picking the fresh fruit directly from the plantations. Currently, a 200-gram packet retails for ₹60, with potential increases of ₹5 to ₹10 expected this season.

This cultivation not only highlights the agricultural potential of Alluri Sitaramaraju district but also reflects its growing popularity as a tourist destination.

Heavy Rain Warning: Sub-Collector Urges Public Vigilance



TPN, Kurnool: Adoni Sub-Collector Maurya Bharadwaj has issued a warning of heavy to very heavy rains over the next two days, following advisories from the Meteorological Department. During an inspection of the RDS dam on the Tungabhadra River near Agasanur, Bharadwaj noted that the river is flooding due to significant rainfall in neighboring Upper Karnataka, leading to the release of approximately 50,000 cusecs of water downstream. He assured residents that there is no immediate danger but advised farmers to take precautions to protect their crops.

Additionally, Bharadwaj visited Kandukur ZP High School to as-

sess the situation and discuss the establishment of a rehabilitation center for residents of riverside villages. He issued warnings to communities like Kadidoddi, Agasanur, and Satanur about potential flooding.

In Mantralayam, the Sub-Collector urged devotees visiting the Raghavendraswamy temple to remain vigilant, particularly regarding water levels in the Tungabhadra River. He emphasized the importance of precautionary measures to ensure the safety of those participating in river rituals. Local officials, including police and revenue staff, will monitor the situation closely.

Entertaining Cultural Performances Highlight Paidimamba Sirimanotsavam

TPN, Vijayanagaram: As part of the Paidimamba Sirimanotsavam, vibrant cultural programs were organized in the fort under the auspices of the Mansas organization. The event saw participation from prominent figures, including ex-minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, who showcased their swordsmanship skills.

During the festival, volunteers from charitable organizations provided essential services, offering meals, fresh water, and snacks to attendees. Sanitation workers worked diligently to maintain cleanliness, while medical camps were set up to assist devotees.

The festivities concluded successfully, with officials acknowledging the hard work of various departments that contributed to the event's success. Collector Ambedkar praised the impressive cultural, literary, and entertainment programs held across twelve venues.



Governance is Chaotic with a Secretarial System - MLA Kuna Ravikumar



TPN, Srikakulam: MLA Kuna Ravikumar has voiced strong criticism of the secretarial system introduced by Jagannathan Reddy, labeling it as chaotic and ineffective. Speaking during a meeting with secretariat staff in Kogunuru, he highlighted a significant concern regarding the absence of a job chart for women police, noting that they lack legal status. Kuna emphasized the need to address this issue in the assembly.

He further urged Village Revenue Officers (VROs) to take proactive steps in registering revenue complaints on the Grievance Portal. Additionally, he called for a comprehensive report on encroachments within the Gonduru region, specifically from Rapaka Koodali to Ambedkar Koodali, to ensure proper governance and accountability.

The MLA's remarks reflect growing dissatisfaction with the current governance model, suggesting a need for a more structured approach to administrative roles and responsibilities, particularly for women in law enforcement.

Collector Vetriselvi Takes Initiative to Address Public Concerns

TPN, Eluru: Collector Vetriselvi emphasized the need for officials to promptly address public grievances during a recent forum where 81 complaints were received. She instructed that petitions be thoroughly examined and resolved transparently.

The Collector also directed officials to implement the 'Ullas' program aimed at making the district fully literate. Evening literacy classes will be held at Anganwadi centers from November to March, with exams scheduled for March.

In a video conference, she assured the Mines Secretary that sand supply is being managed effectively and illegal mining activities are being monitored with CCTV and GPS-equipped vehicles.



Farmers Rush to Harvest Amid Meteorological Warnings



TPN, Eluru: The Meteorological Department has issued a warning that low pressure in the Bay of Bengal may strengthen, prompting farmers in the district to expedite the harvesting of their paddy crops. With 1.91 lakh acres of paddy cultivated, some areas have already begun cutting, as farmers fear heavy rain could damage their yields.

The Agriculture Department has released guidelines to mitigate crop loss, advising farmers to store harvested grain safely, halt harvesting in areas expecting high rainfall, and ensure proper drainage to prevent waterlogging. Recent rains have already caused damage to crops, with Bhimadolu mandal recording 38.2 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours.

Farmers express concern over the increasing burden of natural disasters on their livelihoods, as conditions for rice cultivation become more challenging.

Hotel Managers Urged to Adhere to Regulations

TPN, Araku: ITDA PO V. Abhishek emphasized the importance of compliance with regulations by hotel, resort, and restaurant managers in tourist areas.



During a meeting in Arakuloya, he stressed the need for enhanced tourist facilities, including security measures such as CC cameras and maintaining visitor records. Abhishek called for a plastic-free environment and promotion of tribal products. He also highlighted the issue of unauthorized camping tents and ordered officials to improve tourism services. Attendees included ITDA officials and representatives from various hospitality businesses.

Special Measures Announced for District Development

TPN, Paderu:

Collector AN Dinesh Kumar has announced that special measures will be implemented for the development of the district, with the government ready to release necessary funds.



He made this announcement during a village festival at Ladaputtu village in the Iradapalli panchayat. Emphasizing the importance of development works decided in gram sabhas, he expressed a commitment to attract more funding for future initiatives.

In addition to the festival, Dinesh Kumar inspected the e-Crop registration process in Gondeli, urging farmers to register promptly. He also focused on the procurement of quality coffee beans from tribal farmers, stating that strong measures would be put in place to enhance the tribal coffee business. He announced plans for ITDA and GCC to jointly collect 600 tons of parchment coffee this year and encouraged the establishment of farmer producers' organizations to facilitate better collection practices.

The meeting included officials such as GCC MD Kalpanakumari and ITDA PO V. Abhishek, who discussed strategies for improving agricultural productivity and quality. The Collector's proactive approach aims to empower local farmers and boost the district's economy through targeted development initiatives.

APM Accused of Harassment by Dwakra Community VOAs



TPN, East Godavari: Members of the Dwakra communities have voiced their concerns over alleged harassment by the women's associations and the DRDA APM, claiming support from local political leaders. Protesters, including VOAs Prasanna, Lakshmi, and Poshamma, gathered outside the Mahilasakti Sangam building, expressing their grievances. They assert that despite not committing any wrongdoing, they have been falsely accused of misappropriating funds, leading to increased scrutiny from the APM.

The VOAs criticized the APM for exacerbating the situation instead of addressing the issues of irregularities. They described the current environment as oppressive, highlighting their status as wage earners who are already struggling with delayed salaries. The protesters called for an end to intimidation tactics and urged their fellow community members not to fear the investigation, emphasizing their commitment to working for the community's welfare.

Janasena Party Urges Govt to Address Public Issues

TPN, Turakapally: Potula Sainath, in-charge of the Tamballapally Constituency for the Janasena Party, urged the government to identify and address public issues. Speaking at a meeting of alliance leaders, he emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to ensure government schemes reach deserving citizens.



Sainath pledged to bring village development plans to the attention of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, highlighting the coalition government's focus on public welfare. Key alliance leaders participated in the meeting to discuss strategies for community improvement.



Analyzing India's Responses: Pannun vs Nijjar

The differing Indian responses to U.S. and Canadian allegations regarding the Pannun and Nijjar cases raise critical questions about international diplomacy and relations. Why does India engage differently with the U.S. compared to Canada, despite both being close allies?

One key factor is Canada's high-political approach. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly accused India of involvement in the Nijjar case, escalating tensions. This emotional and politically charged rhetoric contrasts sharply with India's response to U.S. allegations regarding Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, where both nations have maintained a professional dialogue focused on accountability rather than accusations.

As India and the U.S. finalize a significant drone deal, they are collaborating to investigate Pannun's alleged

assassination attempt. In this case, India is approaching the matter as a legitimate investigation rather than a diplomatic spat, unlike the confrontational stance taken with Canada. The absence of public outrage or blame signifies a mature handling of sensitive issues between major powers.

Additionally, Canada's recent actions appear politically motivated, coinciding with an upcoming election where Trudeau seeks to bolster his support amid low poll numbers. The expulsions of Indian diplomats seem more about political posturing than genuine diplomatic concerns. In contrast, the U.S. can compartmentalize electoral considerations from strategic alliances, as evidenced by their muted handling of the Pannun situation.

Furthermore, Trudeau's perceived indifference towards India, especially during his 2018 visit, exacerbates ten-

sions. His administration's invitation to controversial figures underscores a lack of respect for India's concerns, further complicating bilateral relations.

Finally, accusations that India is manipulating Canadian-based gangs ignore the complex realities of organized crime that often originate from within Canada itself. Many of these groups, like the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, have deep connections to both countries, necessitating cooperative solutions rather than blame.

Ultimately, these discrepancies highlight how diplomatic engagements can diverge based on leadership styles, domestic politics, and historical contexts. A more collaborative approach between Canada and India could yield better outcomes for both nations, particularly in addressing the challenges posed by transnational crime and extremism.

The RSS and the Reimagining of India's Historical Narrative

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) faces criticism for its attempts to align itself with India's freedom movement, despite its historical detachment from it. Dhirendra K. Jha's biography of Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar reveals that the RSS has often sought to appropriate figures and events from the liberation struggle to establish its legitimacy as the representative of the Indian identity. This strategy stems from a need to counter the narrative that highlights the RSS's absence from the freedom fight, as it often distanced itself from key anti-colonial efforts.

Historically, RSS leaders, including Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, rejected par-

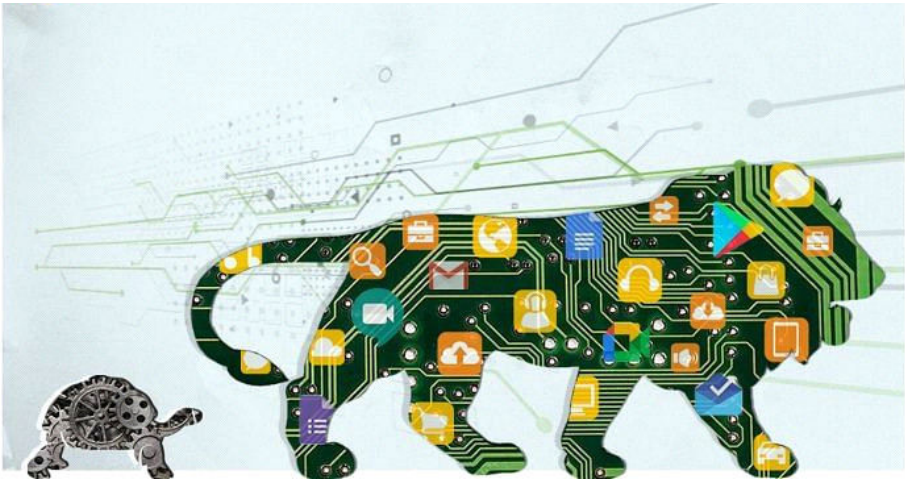


ticipation in the national movement, even dismissing the proposals of leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose. When Bhagat Singh and his comrades were executed, the RSS did not support protests against these hangings. Instead, it prioritized its internal agenda, reflecting a reluctance to engage in the sacrifices associated with the freedom struggle.

The RSS's philosophy centers on the idea of success over sacrifice, viewing figures like Bhagat Singh—who died for his ideals—as flawed due to their failure to achieve their objectives. This mindset fosters a culture that prioritizes strength and cunning over bravery and selflessness.

Today, the RSS strategically incorporates elements of the freedom movement into its narrative to reshape Hindu public imagination. By aligning itself with the likes of Gandhi and Bhagat Singh, the RSS seeks to rewrite its historical role, despite its previous rejection of these figures. The recent emphasis on a "Hindu nation" further reflects its desire to recast India's identity in a way that prioritizes Hindu heritage over the legacy of the freedom struggle.

Rethinking India's Stagnant Manufacturing Sector: Beyond PLI Policies



India stands as the world's fastest-growing emerging economy, poised to become the third-largest by 2030. Central to its geopolitical ambitions and economic growth is the need to enhance its manufacturing sector. However, despite initiatives like the 'Make in India' program launched in 2014, the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP has stagnated at 17.3% over the past decade, failing to meet the target of 25%. Additionally, exports have declined from 25.2% to 22.7% of GDP, while rising unemployment rates—particularly among youth—raise concerns about job quality.

The Indian government's reliance on Production Linked Incentive

(PLI) schemes targets specific industries for support. While these schemes can attract investment, they cannot replace the need for a stable and predictable business environment. Frequent changes in tax policies and regulatory uncertainty deter foreign investment, as demonstrated by a 43% drop in FDI flow compared to Vietnam's 32% increase.

Coordination issues between government departments further complicate the landscape, leading to inconsistent regulations that hinder manufacturing growth. For instance, conflicting policies on visa norms for foreign technicians have stalled production efforts.

North Korea's Escalation: A Shift in Strategy



North Korea's recent actions reflect a significant shift in its relationship with South Korea, marked by hostility and military threats. In January, leader Kim Jong Un labeled South Korea as his "principal enemy," severing communications and erasing any mention of reconciliation from official discourse. This marked a departure from decades of officially endorsed reunification efforts, with both Koreas claiming sovereignty over the peninsula.

Since this announcement, North Korea has intensified military provocations, including ramping up weapons tests, launching balloons carrying trash into the South, and even threatening war over alleged drone incursions. Experts suggest that these aggressive moves are intended to reinforce North Korea's rejection of "unification by absorption" into the South, as stated by Lim Eul-chul, a profes-

sor at Kyungnam University.

Recent domestic issues may be driving this newfound hostility. North Korea suffered devastating floods this summer, exacerbating internal discontent. Analysts believe Kim's regime is using heightened tensions with the South as a distraction from growing dissatisfaction among its citizens. South Korea's national security adviser, Shin Won-sik, indicated that external threats help stabilize the North Korean regime by consolidating control over a restless population.

The alleged drone incursions over Pyongyang, which North Korea claims were part of South Korea's propaganda efforts, have particularly rattled the North, given its limited air defenses. Analysts argue that this could lead to severe escalations, as any perceived breach of national security directly threatens the regime.

Revamping Justice: A New Symbolism in the Supreme Court



The Supreme Court has unveiled a new Lady of Justice statue in its judges' library, reflecting a significant shift in legal symbolism. This updated statue replaces the traditional blindfold with open eyes and substitutes the sword with the Constitution, signaling a departure from colonial legacies and emphasizing that the law is not blind but sees all equally.

Traditionally, the blindfold represented the principle of equality before the law, suggesting that courts remain impartial to wealth, power, or status. The sword, often viewed as a symbol of authority and punishment, has been reconsidered in this new context. Commissioned under the direction of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, the statue embodies a progressive vision of justice in India, aligning with recent efforts to replace outdated colonial laws, such as the Indian Penal Code, with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to sources close to the Chief Justice's office, Justice Chandrachud believes it is crucial for India to move beyond its colonial past. He asserts that the law should be perceived as a living entity that treats all individuals equally. The decision to feature the Constitution in the statue's left hand serves as a reminder that justice is grounded in constitutional principles rather than punitive measures.

The statue retains the scales of justice in its right hand, symbolizing the balance of arguments and facts in judicial proceedings. This dual representation reinforces the idea that courts carefully evaluate both sides before reaching a verdict. Overall, this transformation in the Lady of Justice statue marks a pivotal moment in redefining the relationship between law, justice, and society in contemporary India.



Kejriwal Launches ‘Jan Sampark’ Campaign Ahead of Delhi Elections

On October 16, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal initiated his party's 'Jan Sampark' campaign in preparation for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. The campaign aims to connect with residents of Delhi through direct outreach, with AAP workers delivering a letter from Kejriwal himself. In this letter, he seeks to clarify the circumstances surrounding his recent arrest, as well as those of other party leaders facing corruption charges.

Kejriwal announced that the campaign will run until October 29, with workers going door to door to share the letter. "I have prepared a letter, and our workers will reach out to Delhiites to communicate the truth," he stated. He emphasized his belief in his own integrity, asserting, "I am not corrupt; I was jailed by the BJP to impede the work of the AAP government for the people of Delhi."

In the letter, which Kejriwal read during the launch, he detailed his experience during the five months he spent in jail, claiming that the BJP's motives were aimed at disrupting the facilities and services his government provides to the public. "They arrested me to stop the services I am delivering to you," he contended, reinforcing his narrative that the arrests were politically motivated.

Kejriwal's campaign not only aims to counter the negative perceptions stemming from the corruption allegations but also seeks to strengthen the connection between AAP and the voters. By framing his narrative as a struggle against political oppression, Kejriwal hopes to galvanize support ahead of the elections, emphasizing that his party remains committed to the welfare of the people in Delhi despite these challenges.

PM Modi Renews His Membership As BJP's First Active Member

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renewed his membership as the first active member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), launching the "Sakriya Sadasyata Abhiyan" in the presence of BJP National President J.P. Nadda. Modi emphasized that this initiative aims to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and enhance the contributions of party workers for national progress.

In his announcement on X, Modi highlighted the criteria for becoming an active member: each party worker, or Karyakarta, must register 50 new members either at a single booth or within a Vidhan Sabha seat. Active members will be eligible to contest elections for positions at the Mandal Committee level and above, opening up further opportunities for participation in party activities.

The launch of this membership drive coincides with the BJP's broader campaign, "Sanghatan Parva, Sadasyata Abhiyan 2024," which Modi initiated on September 2. He urged party workers to connect more effectively with the youth and emphasized the importance of expanding the party's organizational structure in line with implementing 33% reservation for women in legislative assemblies and Parliament. Modi asserted that the BJP stands out as the only political party committed



to upholding democratic processes while striving to meet the expectations of the public.

During the first day of the membership drive, an impressive 47 lakh new members were registered. From September 2 to September 25, a total of 6 crore members joined, reflecting the party's extensive reach and the public's trust in its leadership. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh led the way with over 1 crore new members each, while Gujarat and Assam registered 85 lakh and 50 lakh members, respectively. Smaller states like

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tripura also displayed strong enrollment rates.

Looking ahead, the second phase of the "Sadasyata Abhiyan," scheduled from October 1 to October 15, will prioritize parliamentary constituencies and assembly regions that lag in membership. The focus will be on ensuring comprehensive enrollment across all Shakti Kendras and booths through detailed outreach efforts, reinforcing the BJP's commitment to grassroots engagement.

Nayab Singh Saini To Take Oath As Haryana Chief Minister

Nayab Singh Saini has been elected as the BJP's legislature party leader in Haryana and will take oath as Chief Minister for a second term on Thursday. His selection came during a meeting of newly-elected Haryana BJP MLAs at the party office in Panchkula, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as central observers.

During the meeting, Saini reaffirmed his commitment to the people, stating, "I had announced that the results of the recruitment exam of 24,000 youths will be declared first and after that, I will take oath. Fulfilling that promise, the results

will be declared tomorrow. The BJP does what it says."

At 54 years old, Saini previously took over from Manohar Lal Khattar in March and was viewed as a surprising choice to lead the party in a state gearing up for upcoming general and assembly elections. The BJP recently secured a record third term in the Haryana assembly elections, winning 48 out of 90 seats, a feat never achieved before in the state.

In contrast, the Congress party finished with 37 seats, marking an increase of six seats from its 2014 performance. High-profile attendees at Saini's oath-taking ceremony are



expected to include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Shah, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.



Jaishankar Calls For Territorial Integrity At SCO Summit In Pakistan

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of territorial integrity and mutual respect during his remarks at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Pakistan on Wednesday. This visit marks the first by an Indian foreign minister to Pakistan since Sushma Swaraj's tour in 2015.

Jaishankar identified terrorism, extremism, and separatism as "three evils" that hinder cooperation among nations. He underscored that partnerships should be genuine, not dictated by unilateral agendas. Addressing global challenges, he referenced the ongoing Israel-Hamas-Hezbollah and Russia-Ukraine conflicts, as well as the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that disruptions—from climate change to supply chain issues—affect growth and development worldwide.

The minister advocated for multi-faceted regional cooperation as a means to drive economic growth and prevent conflict. "Activities across borders characterized by terrorism and extremism are unlikely to encourage trade or connectivity," he stated.

Jaishankar's arrival in Pakistan was marked by a warm welcome at Rawalpindi's Nur Khan Airbase, where he was greeted by officials and children in traditional attire. He also had a brief interaction with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during an official dinner for summit attendees.

The SCO meeting, chaired by Sharif, is focused on trade and economic agendas among member nations. Sharif called for the expansion of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to enhance regional cooperation, emphasizing its potential to develop crucial infrastructure.

Honoured To Visit The Magnificent Temple Israeli Ambassador Visits Ram Mandir

Reuven Azar, Israel's Ambassador to India, visited the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya with his wife, expressing deep admiration for the devotion of the pilgrims and worshippers present. In an interview with ANI, Ambassador Azar conveyed his honor at being able to witness the magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Ram. He highlighted the emotional impact of the visit, noting how moved he was by the heartfelt devotion of those in attendance.

Ambassador Azar remarked, "People of Israel and people of India are ancient civilizations, with rich religions, traditions, and heritages. Just as we take pride in our own heritage, it is important to recognize and respect yours." He emphasized that such devotion provides strength, enhancing the significance of his visit.

During his tour, Azar reflected on the importance of location in understanding history and culture. "This is not merely a place of imagination; significant events have occurred here, and people honor those memories day after day, year after year," he said. He added that as the ambassador of Israel, it is crucial for him to connect with the people of India and understand their culture on a deeper level.

The visit followed a productive meeting between Ambassador Azar and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. The discussions focused on strengthening ties and exploring new avenues for cooperation that would benefit the people of Uttar Pradesh. Chief



Minister Adityanath emphasized the deep bond shared between the state and Israel, indicating a commitment to mutual interests.

Ambassador Azar's visit to the Ram Temple is part of a broader initiative to foster cultural connections between India and Israel. His presence at such a significant religious site illustrates the importance of cultural exchange and understanding in diplomacy. The ambassador's experiences in Ayodhya reflect a commitment to appreciating the rich tapestry of India's diverse traditions and the values they embody.

Omar Abdullah Sworn As Chief Minister Of Jammu and Kashmir

Omar Abdullah has officially been sworn in as the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant moment as it is the first government formed since the region lost its special status. The oath was administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at a ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar. Abdullah's party, the National Conference (NC), celebrated a decisive victory in the recent elections, securing 42 seats in the 90-member assembly.

Alongside Abdullah, five other NC lawmakers—Sakina Masood (Itto), Javed Dar, Javed Rana, Surinder Choudhary, and Satish Sharma—also took their oaths. The Congress party, which had previously allied with the NC, opted not to join the government despite being offered a ministerial position. Instead, they will extend support from the outside after a disappointing performance in the elections, where they managed to win only six seats, a decline

from twelve in 2014.

Notable leaders from the opposition INDIA alliance were present at the swearing-in ceremony, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, K Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, D Raja, and Sanjay Singh. Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, leader of the Peoples Democratic Party, was also in attendance.

Expressing optimism, Abdullah remarked that he hopes the Union Territory status will be temporary and emphasized the need to work closely with the Government of India to address the region's challenges. He highlighted that restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir should be the starting point for resolving the people's issues. Abdullah's return to the political forefront comes after a setback in the Lok Sabha elections, where he has now successfully reclaimed his position in the assembly by winning the Budgam and Ganderbal seats.



Zelensky Rules Out Ceding Ukrainian Land In Victory Plan

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky presented his long-awaited Victory Plan on Wednesday, rejecting any territorial concessions to Russia and calling for increased Western support, including an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO. As the conflict escalates, with Russia intensifying its strikes and seizing significant portions of Ukrainian territory, Zelensky's plan aims to secure a decisive end to the invasion.

In a speech to lawmakers in Kyiv, Zelensky emphasized that Ukraine would not accept a pause in fighting or trade any land for peace. "Russia must lose the war against Ukraine," he asserted, standing firm against ceding territory, which he described as a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty.

The first priority in his five-part Victory Plan is immediate NATO



integration. Zelensky argued that Ukraine's membership in NATO is crucial for European security, stating, "The first point is an invitation to NATO, now." He urged Western allies to lift restrictions on Ukraine's use of long-range

weapons to target Russian military positions on occupied territory and within Russia itself.

The Kremlin quickly dismissed Zelensky's plan, labeling it a "futile" effort. Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov stated that peace would only come if Kyiv recognized the futility of its current policies. Meanwhile, Russian forces announced they had captured two villages in eastern Ukraine during Zelensky's address, illustrating the ongoing military pressure.

Zelensky also criticized countries like China, Iran, and North Korea for supporting Russia, describing them as part of a "coalition of criminals." He reiterated that rival proposals for peace, such as those from Brazil and China, lack guarantees for Ukraine's security and territorial integrity.

As he prepares to present the full details of the Victory Plan at an upcoming EU summit, Zelensky aims to solidify Western backing, particularly as future support from the U.S. hangs in the balance due to upcoming elections.

Kamala Harris Will Cut Her Own Path: President Joe Biden

President Joe Biden expressed strong support for Vice President Kamala Harris, asserting that she would "cut her own path" if elected as the Democratic nominee. His comments came during a Democratic party dinner in Philadelphia, aimed at reassuring voters of Harris's potential to bring meaningful change to the White House.

Harris faced criticism from Republican rival Donald Trump after she remarked, "not a thing comes to mind" when asked what she would have done differently from Biden. In response, Biden emphasized the importance of forging an individual path in leadership, stating, "Every president has to cut their own path. That's what I did. I was loyal to Barack Obama but I cut my own path as president."

He added, "Kamala's going to do the same. She's been loyal so far but she'll carve out her own unique perspective." Biden characterized her approach as "fresh and new," contrasting it sharply with Trump's, whom he labeled as "old and failed."

The remarks aimed to bolster Harris's image as a change



candidate, especially as she navigates the complexities of representing the current administration while simultaneously positioning herself for the future. A recent New York Times/Siena poll indicated that voters were slightly more inclined to view Harris as a departure from the status quo compared to Trump.

However, Trump's campaign quickly seized on Harris's earlier comments, highlighting her admission that she had been involved in major decisions during the Biden administration. This criticism underscores the balancing act Harris must perform: advocating for change while not distancing herself from the policies of the administration she has been part of.

UK Minister Proposes Weight-Loss Injections to Combat Obesity and Boost Employment

The UK government has unveiled plans to offer weight-loss medications to unemployed individuals struggling with obesity, aiming to facilitate their return to the workforce. Health Secretary Wes Streeting highlighted the escalating issue of obesity and its impact on the National Health Service (NHS), which incurs an annual cost of £11 billion for obesity-related healthcare—surpassing expenses related to smoking, according to a BBC report.

The initiative intends to leverage innovative treatments such as Novo Nordisk's Wegovy and Lilly's Mounjaro, which have shown promising results in clinical trials. Streeting believes these medications could be "life-changing" for those affected, helping them regain control of their health and re-enter the job market. He noted that unhealthy eating habits not only shorten life expectancy but also impose significant burdens on the NHS and the economy. On average, individuals suffering from obesity take an additional four sick days per



year, and many are forced out of work entirely.

Despite the potential benefits, Streeting emphasized the need for individuals to take responsibility for their health, stating that the NHS cannot continually shoulder the costs associated with unhealthy lifestyles. His proposal coincides with a £279 million investment from Lilly, a major player in the obesity drug market and a competitor to Novo Nordisk.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer also endorsed the use of weight-loss medications, underscoring their potential to improve public health and economic productivity.



World's 2nd Sphere to Be Built in UAE Capital

Abu Dhabi has announced plans to construct the world's second Sphere, following the debut of the first Sphere in Las Vegas. This initiative, revealed by the Department of Culture and Tourism and Sphere Entertainment Co., aims to bring this innovative entertainment venue to the Middle East.

Details regarding financing and the specific location of the new Sphere in Abu Dhabi have not yet been disclosed. As of now, officials from both the Sphere and the Abu Dhabi government have not responded to inquiries about the project's timeline or other specifics.

The original Sphere, which opened in Las Vegas in 2023, is the most expensive entertainment venue in the city, costing around \$2.3 billion. It features a striking high-resolution LED screen that wraps halfway around the 17,500-seat auditorium, making it an impressive backdrop for concerts, sporting events, and other performances.

Abu Dhabi is keen to establish itself as a distinct travel destination compared to its more tourist-heavy neighbor, Dubai. The emirate has been actively seeking to enhance its cultural and entertainment offerings, especially as the UAE prepares to welcome its first casino. This move reflects a broader trend of diversifying the region's attractions and catering to a wide range of visitors.

However, the announcement comes with a note of caution, as several projects in the UAE have faced delays or have not been realized due to economic downturns. The success of the Sphere project will depend on various factors, including financing, market conditions, and the overall demand for new entertainment options in the region.

As Abu Dhabi moves forward with this ambitious plan, it seeks to attract both local and international audiences, further enriching its cultural landscape and bolstering its status as a key player in the global entertainment scene.



US presses Israel on improving Gaza humanitarian situation

The Biden administration has confirmed that US Secretaries of State and Defense, Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin, co-signed a letter last week urging their Israeli counterparts to enhance the humanitarian situation in Gaza within the next 30 days. During a press briefing, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller provided details about the letter addressed to Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer.

Miller stated that the letter aimed to convey US concerns regarding the inadequate levels of humanitarian assistance reaching Gaza. He emphasized that the communication was intended as a private diplomatic correspondence and not meant for public disclosure.

According to a CNN report, the letter warned that if Israel fails to improve access to humanitarian aid for Gazans, it could risk violating US laws related to foreign military assistance. This raises concerns about the potential jeopardization of US military aid to Israel. The letter pointed out that the State and Defense Departments are required to continuously evaluate Israel's compliance with its commitments not to restrict aid flows into Gaza.

The 30-day timeframe specified in the letter means that any consequences resulting from Israel's inaction will likely come after the US presidential election on November 5. When asked about the deadline, US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby directed reporters to the State Department for clarification. He noted that a similar letter had been sent to Israel in April, requesting concrete measures regarding humanitarian assistance.

Kirby also explained that the latest letter was prompted by a recent decrease in the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza, but reassured that this concern had been communicated to Israel in writing on multiple occasions before. The Biden administration's push for improved humanitarian conditions in Gaza underscores its ongoing efforts to address the humanitarian crisis amid complex geopolitical tensions in the region.

China's Underground Lab Tasked With Solving A Physics Mystery

A groundbreaking experiment is underway in southern China's Guangdong province with the construction of the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), designed to explore the enigmatic properties of neutrinos. This massive project, located 700 meters underground, features a giant sphere equipped with thousands of light-detecting tubes and will be enveloped in a 12-story cylindrical water pool. Set to begin data collection by late 2025, JUNO represents a \$300 million investment in the quest to understand these elusive subatomic particles.

Neutrinos, produced during nuclear reactions, pass through matter—including the human body—at an astonishing rate. They come in three varieties and can transform from one type to another, prompting scientists to seek answers about their mass hierarchy. By study-



ing neutrinos emitted from nearby nuclear power plants, JUNO aims to shed light on fundamental questions about the universe's early days and the nature of matter itself.

The facility will also monitor solar neutrinos and those generated by Earth's radioactive decay, providing valuable insights into solar processes and geological activities. This initiative comes in the wake of signifi-

cant shifts in international collaborations, particularly as U.S. funding for joint projects with China dwindled. Despite these challenges, JUNO has attracted partnerships from institutions worldwide, including from France, Germany, and Taiwan.

While JUNO is set to outpace the larger Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) in the U.S., the project has not been without its controversies, par-



ticularly concerning data integrity and geopolitical tensions. However, the collaborative nature of JUNO remains a beacon of scientific progress amid political discord.

As the world watches, the JUNO project promises to unlock new dimensions in particle physics, potentially paving the way for future innovations that could change our understanding of the universe.



Nifty Falls Below 25,000 Amid Mixed Global Signals

The domestic stock market ended in the red on Wednesday, with the Nifty index closing below the crucial 25,000 mark once again. Mixed international signals and profit booking among investors contributed to the bearish sentiment, leaving many cautious amid ongoing market uncertainties. Should the Nifty drop below the 24,900 level, further bearishness is expected. The market breadth on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) reflected a balance between buyers and sellers, with 2,032 stocks advancing while 1,926 declined.

The BSE Sensex opened at 81,646, slightly lower than its previous close of 81,820. It reached an intraday low of 81,358 and peaked at 81,932 before settling down by 318 points at 81,505. Similarly, the NSE Nifty opened at 25,008, hitting a low of 24,908 and a high of 25,093, ultimately losing 86 points to close at 24,971. The Bank Nifty also saw a decline, settling down 104 points at 51,801.

In the Nifty50 index, 16 companies managed to gain, while 34 faced losses. Top gainers included HDFC Life, Dr. Reddy's, Grasim, Airtel, and HDFC Bank, while Trent, M&M, Hiromoto, Infi, and Adani Ports were among the biggest losers. Sector-wise, only the finance, realty, and oil and gas indices experienced gains, while the bank, auto, FMCG, IT, media, pharma, and healthcare indices turned negative.

Current support for Nifty is at 24,950, with resistance noted at 25,100. In other market developments, Hyundai Motors' IPO was oversubscribed 0.28 times on its second day, while shares of PC Jewellers hit the upper circuit limit. Additionally, Jefferies maintained a "Buy" rating on HDFC Life shares. Positive news also came from HSBC, upgrading Bharti Airtel to "Buy," while shares of Aditya Birla Money and Mann Aluminum reached their upper circuit limits following strong quarterly results.



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India's Russian Crude Imports Rise to 1.9 Million bpd in September

India's crude oil imports from Russia increased by 11.7% to approximately 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, making up about 40% of the country's total crude imports for the month, according to tanker data from industry sources. Overall, Indian refiners imported a total of 4.7 million bpd of crude oil in September, slightly higher than in August and up 8.5% compared to the same month last year.

This rise comes as Indian refiners have invested heavily in upgrading their facilities, enabling them to process a wider variety of crude grades to reduce costs. India, now the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, has become the leading buyer of discounted Russian seaborne oil after Western nations halted purchases following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Crude oil from the Commonwealth of Independent States, primarily comprising Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan, accounted for roughly 43% of India's total crude imports, an increase from



BharatPe revenue grows 39% and Reduced Losses in FY24

BharatPe announced strong financial performance for the fiscal year 2024, with consolidated revenue increasing by 39% year-over-year. The fintech firm reported revenue from operations reaching ₹1,426 crore, up from ₹1,029 crore in FY23. This growth highlights the company's expanding market presence and operational efficiencies.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of BharatPe's financial results is the substantial narrowing of its EBITDA loss. The company's consolidated EBITDA loss, excluding share-based payment expenses, decreased significantly from ₹826 crore in FY23 to just ₹209 crore in FY24, marking a reduction of 75%. EBITDA, or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, provides a clearer picture of profitability from core operations, making this improvement a positive indicator of financial health.

Additionally, BharatPe reported a 50% reduction in its loss before tax, which fell to ₹474 crore. The company has also taken aggressive measures to improve its financial standing, claiming to have reduced its cash burn by an impressive 85%. This reduction suggests a focused strategy on



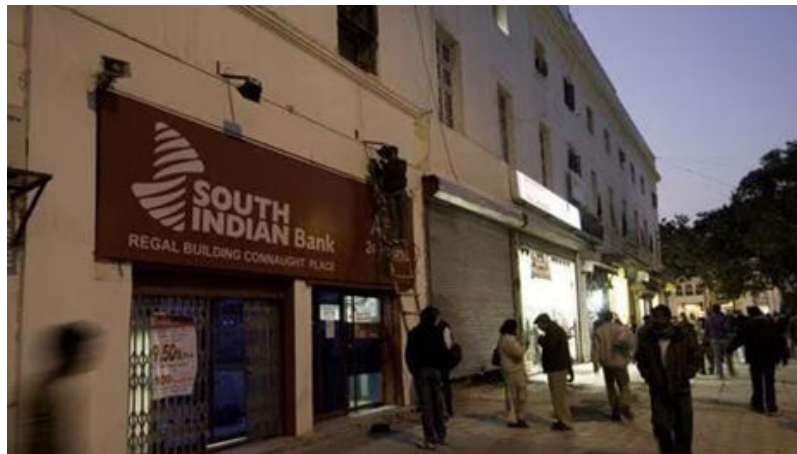
cost management and operational efficiency, aligning with the company's goals for sustainable growth.

BharatPe's robust revenue growth and significant reduction in losses reflect the fintech sector's resilience and potential, particularly in a rapidly evolving financial landscape. Backed by prominent investors like Peak XV and Tiger Global, the company is well-positioned to continue

its upward trajectory.

While the full financial results are pending publication and will need to be filed with the Registrar of Companies, the initial figures indicate a promising outlook for BharatPe as it navigates the competitive fintech market. The company's strategic moves in cost reduction and revenue enhancement could serve as a model for other players in the sector.

South Indian Bank Reports 18% Profit Growth in Q2



South Indian Bank announced an 18% increase in net profit for the second quarter ending September 2024, with earnings reaching ₹325 crore compared to ₹275 crore during the same period last year. This growth highlights the bank's continued recovery and operational efficiency amid challenging

economic conditions.

The bank's total income also saw a significant rise, reaching ₹2,804 crore for the quarter, up from ₹2,485 crore in the corresponding period a year earlier. Interest income played a crucial role in this growth, amounting to ₹2,355 crore, a

notable increase from ₹2,129 crore in the previous year.

In terms of asset quality, South Indian Bank made strides in reducing its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Gross NPAs decreased to 4.40% of total loans by September 2024, down from 4.96% a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs fell to 1.31%, compared to 1.70% at the end of the same quarter last fiscal year. This improvement reflects the bank's effective risk management strategies.

Net Interest Income (NII), a key indicator of the bank's core profitability, grew by 6.3% year-on-year, rising to ₹882.7 crore from ₹830.6 crore. The bank's provisions for the quarter remained stable at ₹110

crore, slightly down from ₹113 crore in the previous quarter, indicating prudent financial management.

The bank also reported a 13.1% year-on-year increase in gross advances, which reached ₹84,741 crore, alongside an 8.6% growth in deposits, totaling ₹1,05,455 crore. The CASA (Current Account Savings Account) ratio at the end of the September quarter stood at 31.85%, a slight decrease from the previous quarter's 32.03%.

Following the positive results, South Indian Bank's shares experienced a rebound, rising by 3.3% to ₹24.77, although the stock has remained relatively flat year-to-date.

India's Exports Up 0.5% to \$34.58 Billion; Trade Deficit Narrows

India's merchandise exports experienced a slight rebound in September, rising by 0.5% to USD 34.58 billion, ending a two-month decline. At the same time, the trade deficit narrowed to USD 20.78 billion, according to official data released on Wednesday. In comparison, imports saw an increase of 1.6% to USD 55.36 billion, up from USD 54.49 billion in the same month last year.

The trade deficit, which represents the difference between imports and exports, stood at USD 20.8 billion during September of the previous year. It had reached a 10-month high of USD 29.65 billion in August. The recovery in exports is a welcome development amid concerns about global economic conditions affecting trade.

For the fiscal year to date, from April to September, total exports rose by 1% to USD 213.22 billion, while imports grew by 6.16% to USD 350.66 billion. The cumulative trade deficit for the first half of the fiscal year is reported at USD 137.44 billion.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal highlighted that despite ongoing global uncertainties, both September exports and those for the first six months of the



fiscal year have shown positive growth. Key contributors to the uptick in exports included sectors such as engineering, chemicals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments, and electronics.

This marginal growth in exports and the narrowing of the trade deficit indicate

a potential stabilization in India's trade landscape, offering some optimism in light of previous declines. As the country navigates global economic challenges, continued focus on strengthening export capabilities and addressing trade imbalances will be essential for sustainable economic growth.

Google Shopping Page Redesigned With Infinite Scroll, Video

Google has unveiled a redesigned Shopping page aimed at increasing user retention and improving the overall shopping experience. This update focuses on creating a more engaging platform that differentiates itself from competitors like Amazon by integrating elements reminiscent of social media feeds.

The new home page features a personalized product feed, showcasing items tailored to individual user preferences, along with reviews and auto-playing video shorts sourced from YouTube. Additionally, a dedicated Deals page will highlight discounted items in a similar curated format, making it easier for users to discover bargains.



When users conduct searches on Google Shopping, they will now receive AI-generated blurbs that provide insights into essential product details. For instance, a search for jackets may yield information about materials suitable for wet climates. Initially, these features will be available in the United States.

This redesign reflects Google's strategic goal of keeping users engaged on its platform longer, allowing them to research products without redirect-

ing them to external sites. Earlier this year, Google introduced AI Overviews, which summarize search results, a feature that some critics argue could diminish traffic to websites that rely on ad revenue from visits.

Unlike digital marketplaces operated by Amazon and Alibaba, Google Shopping does not handle sales or shipping; instead, it directs customers to merchants. Maria Renz, Google's vice president and general manager of commerce, noted, "We see ourselves playing a different role than Amazon. Google has always focused on promoting a healthy ecosystem."

Shoppers can now research purchases seamlessly across Google's various platforms, from browsing suggest-

ed products on Google Shopping to watching reviews on YouTube and locating physical stores via Google Maps.

However, Google faces potential risks following a recent antitrust ruling, which found the company had monopolized the search market. The U.S. Justice Department may pursue a breakup that could separate significant parts of Google's portfolio.

While Google executives have ruled out directly competing with e-commerce storefronts regarding payments and shipping, they remain committed to connecting consumers with merchants, emphasizing their unique position in the market.

Instagram Threads Introduces Online Activity Status Feature



Instagram's microblogging platform, Threads, is rolling out a new feature that allows users to see when others are online, enhancing real-time engagement. This addition brings Threads in line with similar functionalities found in Meta's other popular apps, such as Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook.

Adam Mosseri, head of Threads, announced the feature in a post, describing it as a way to help users connect and engage with each other more effectively. The activity status indicator could facilitate conversations by informing users when their friends or followers are active on the platform.

The feature is enabled by default, allowing users to see the online status of others right away. However, it's important to note that this functionality operates independently from Instagram's existing activity status. Turning off the activity status on Instagram will not affect its status on Threads, and vice versa.

When users are online, a green dot

will appear next to their profile picture, indicating their availability. To manage this feature, users can navigate to their profile, select the hamburger icon in the top-right corner, and go to the Privacy section to find the Online Status option. Here, they can choose their visibility settings: Anyone, Followers, Followers you follow back, or No one.

While the new feature aims to enhance user interaction, many users took to the comments section of Mosseri's announcement to request additional functionalities. Popular requests included the introduction of a chronological feed, real-time breaking event updates, and the ability to send direct messages (DMs) to other users.

As Threads continues to evolve, it will be interesting to see how the platform responds to user feedback and what new features might be introduced in the future. The addition of the online activity status is a step towards making Threads a more engaging and interactive space for users.

Netflix Faces Slowest Subscriber Growth in Six Quarters

Netflix is poised to report its slowest subscriber additions in six quarters on Thursday, as the impact of its recent password-sharing crackdown begins to wane. Investors are now keenly watching for signs of growth in its fledgling ad revenue business, which the company hopes will bolster its financial performance.

Analysts estimate that Netflix added approximately 4 million subscribers during the July-September period, according to data compiled by LSEG. This growth comes amidst a backdrop of popular Netflix originals such as *The Accident* and *The Perfect Couple*, which were among the top-streamed titles in the U.S. during the quarter, as reported by Nielsen.

As the momentum of new sign-ups begins to slow, Netflix is looking to shift investor focus toward alternative performance metrics, including



revenue growth and profit margins. This strategic pivot is crucial, especially as the company has announced plans to stop reporting subscriber numbers starting in 2025. This decision has raised eyebrows among analysts and investors, who often view subscriber counts as a key indicator of the platform's health.

The streaming giant's move to emphasize revenue and margins is part of a broader strategy to demonstrate that it can maintain profitability even with slower subscriber growth. As competition in the streaming mar-

ket intensifies, Netflix is aware that it needs to showcase its ability to generate income from multiple sources, including advertising.

In the face of these challenges, Netflix remains committed to delivering high-quality content to retain existing subscribers and attract new ones. As the company navigates this transitional phase, the upcoming earnings report will be closely scrutinized for insights into its performance and future growth prospects.

With the streaming landscape rapidly evolving, Netflix's ability to adapt and innovate will be key to its ongoing success. Investors will be watching closely for any signs of improvement in its advertising revenue and overall financial health as the company continues to evolve in the competitive streaming market.

Apple Unveils Next-Gen iPad Mini with A17 Pro Chip

Apple has officially unveiled the highly anticipated new iPad mini, now enhanced with advanced Apple Intelligence features. This latest version of the compact tablet is powered by the A17 Pro chip, promising impressive performance and capabilities that elevate the user experience.

The new iPad mini sports an 8.3-inch Liquid Retina display, providing vibrant visuals and crisp detail for users. This update comes three years after the last iPad mini launch, which featured the A15 Bionic chipset—also used in the iPhone 13 series. With the introduction of the A17 Pro, Apple claims that the new iPad mini delivers a remarkable 30% faster CPU performance and a 25% faster GPU, making it a powerhouse for multitasking, gaming, and creative tasks.

One of the standout features of the A17 Pro chip is its support for advanced



graphics technologies, including ray tracing, hardware-accelerated mesh shading, and Dynamic Caching. These enhancements enable developers to create more immersive experiences and visually stunning applications. Whether users are gaming or working on graphic-intensive projects, the new iPad mini is equipped to handle it all with ease.

Additionally, the A17 Pro chip includes a Neural Engine, which, while retaining the speed of its predecessor, intro-

duces new possibilities for machine learning applications. This allows for more intelligent and responsive interactions, making the device not only faster but also smarter.

With its sleek design and powerful internals, the new iPad mini aims to cater to a variety of users, from students to professionals and casual consumers. Apple continues to focus on enhancing its product line with cutting-edge technology, ensuring that users have access to tools that enhance their productivity and creativity.

As the tech community eagerly anticipates the device's release, it is clear that the new iPad mini is set to make waves in the market, offering a blend of portability and high performance that is hard to beat. Stay tuned for more updates on availability and features!

YouTube Enhances Shorts and Introduces New Video Labels

YouTube has recently made significant updates to its platform, including extending the maximum length of Shorts to 3 minutes. This change allows creators more flexibility in crafting engaging and concise content, enhancing the overall viewing experience for audiences.

In addition to this update, YouTube is implementing a new labeling system aimed at distinguishing videos captured with real cameras from those generated by artificial intelligence. The "captured with a camera" label will be featured in the expanded description of eligible videos, reinforcing the platform's commitment to authenticity amid rising concerns about AI-generated content.

According to YouTube, this label

serves to assure viewers that the creator utilized specific technology to verify the video's origin, confirming that both the audio and visuals remain unaltered. This initiative is part of a broader effort to combat misinformation and maintain trust among the platform's user base. Only videos featuring unedited footage or sound will qualify for this label, ensuring a clear distinction between genuine content and AI-manipulated videos.

These updates come at a time when the digital landscape is increasingly challenged by the proliferation of AI-generated media, raising questions about authenticity and trustworthiness. By introducing these measures, YouTube aims to empower creators and provide viewers with a clearer understanding of the

content they consume.

As the platform evolves, it continues to prioritize user engagement while addressing the complexities introduced by new technologies. Creators are encouraged to take advantage of the extended Short duration, allowing them to convey richer narratives within a short timeframe.

With these developments, YouTube is not only enhancing its Shorts feature but also reinforcing its commitment to authentic content. Viewers can look forward to a more diverse range of videos, while creators benefit from the opportunity to showcase their work in new and exciting ways. Stay tuned for further updates as YouTube continues to innovate its platform!





Unrelenting rain brought a halt to play on the opening day of the Test match between India and New Zealand at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday. The decision to call off play came at 2:34 PM, after heavy rain returned, following a brief respite earlier in the afternoon.

Match officials inspected the pitch around 2 PM after the outfield and initial layer of covers were removed at approximately 1:50 PM. Unfortunately,

large damp areas remained on either side of the pitch, and despite efforts to salvage the situation with hessians, it became clear that the extensive damage caused by the rain was insurmountable. Rain of varying intensities had persisted throughout the morning, preventing any play from occurring.

The toss, scheduled for 9 AM, was also canceled due to the relentless downpour that affected the city from early morning. Despite the adverse weather,

a small number of spectators were present at the stadium, eagerly waiting for any sign of play. Their only moment of excitement came from spotting star batter Virat Kohli and opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who took the opportunity to participate in an indoor net session with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar.

Looking ahead to the second day, forecasts indicate that rain may continue until at least noon on Thursday, raising concerns about the possibility of

play resuming. As a result, fans may have to wait longer for action on the field.

It is worth noting that both teams' training sessions were similarly affected by heavy rain on Tuesday, highlighting the impact of the weather on the start of this highly anticipated series. Play on day two is scheduled to begin at 9:15 AM, with the toss set for 8:45 AM, though the outlook remains uncertain.



Paras Mhambrey Rejoins Mumbai Indians As Bowling Coach

Former India bowling coach Parasy Mhambrey has rejoined the Mumbai Indians (MI) as their bowling coach, continuing a significant legacy with the franchise. Mhambrey's previous tenure with the national team concluded in June, following India's successful campaign at the T20 World Cup held in the Americas.

The 52-year-old coach will collaborate closely with MI's existing bowling coach, Lasith Malinga, and head coach Mahela Jayawardene, who recently returned to the team's coaching staff after a two-year absence. Mhambrey's return to MI marks a reunion with a franchise he has previously helped achieve remarkable success.

Mhambrey was part of the Mumbai Indians during their title-winning campaign in 2013, and he also contributed to their victories in the Champions League T20 in 2010, 2011, and 2013. His extensive experience in coaching, combined with his familiarity with the franchise's culture and ethos, positions him as a valuable asset as the team prepares for upcoming challenges.

The reappointment of both Mhambrey and Jayawardene signifies MI's commitment to building a strong coaching team, especially as they aim to reclaim their dominance in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

India Fails to Qualify for Women's T20 World Cup

India's disappointing exit from the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 has sparked significant criticism towards skipper Harmanpreet Kaur. The team suffered defeats against New Zealand and Australia, leading to questions about Harmanpreet's future as captain. In light of these performances, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly set to discuss potential changes in leadership.

According to a report by the Indian Express, BCCI officials plan to meet with head coach Amol Muzumdar and the selection committee to outline the future direction of the team and evaluate whether Harmanpreet should continue in her role. A source from the Indian board indicated, "The BCCI will certainly discuss whether to have a new captain on board going ahead. The Indian board has provided everything the team wanted, and we feel it's high time a new face leads the team."



Despite the scrutiny surrounding her captaincy, the source emphasized that Harmanpreet would remain a crucial member of the squad. The BCCI seems to feel that a transition is necessary for the team's progress.

Former Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj also weighed in on the situation, stating that the decision lies with the BCCI and the selectors. She suggested that if a change is to be made, now would be the ideal time, given that another World Cup is just two years away. "If you are not doing it now, then don't do it later. Then it is too close to the World Cup," she noted.

Mithali pointed out potential successors for the captaincy, mentioning Smriti Mandhana, who has been vice-captain for an extended period. She also highlighted the youthful energy of Jemimah Rodrigues, stating, "She's young, she will serve you longer in T20s, and she's someone who gets that energy on the field."

As the BCCI prepares for its discussions, the fate of Harmanpreet Kaur and the future leadership of the Indian women's cricket team remains uncertain.



Thomas Tuchel Appointed England Manager For Football Association

Thomas Tuchel has been appointed as England's new manager, with the German set to take charge on January 1, 2025. The 51-year-old, who has been without a club since leaving Bayern Munich at the end of the last season, succeeds Gareth Southgate, becoming the third foreign manager to lead the Three Lions, following Sven-Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello.

Tuchel brings an impressive coaching pedigree, having previously managed clubs such as Chelsea, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, and Bayern Munich. The Football Association (FA) hopes his experience and trophy-winning background will help end England's 58-year wait for a major tournament victory. However, the decision has sparked criticism regarding the FA's preference for foreign management over homegrown talent.

In an official statement, Tuchel expressed pride in his new role, stating, "I am very proud to have been given the honour of leading the England team. I have long felt a personal connection to the game in this country... To have the chance to represent England is a huge privilege."

Tuchel's success includes winning league titles with PSG and Bayern, as well as the German Cup with Dortmund. His most notable achievement came during his tenure at Chelsea, where he led the team to a Champions League title in 2021, along with the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup.

He takes over from Southgate, who guided England to consecutive European Championship finals and a World Cup semi-final during his tenure. Despite these accomplishments, England has yet to secure a major men's tournament title since winning the 1966 World Cup.

FA CEO Mark Bullingham stated, "We are thrilled to have hired Thomas Tuchel, one of the best coaches in the world." He noted Tuchel's vast expertise and drive during the selection process.

Tuchel will inherit a talented squad featuring players like Harry Kane, Jude Bellingham, and Cole Palmer, positioning England as strong contenders for the 2026 World Cup.

Spain Secures UEFA Nations League Quarter-Final Spot

European champions Spain clinched their place in the UEFA Nations League quarter-finals with a dominant 3-0 victory over Serbia on Tuesday. This win allowed Spain to join Germany in securing a spot in the knockout stage, accumulating 10 points from a possible 12 in Group A4.

On a rainy night in Cordoba, Spain took the lead early with Aymeric Laporte's header. Despite Alvaro Morata's missed penalty at the start of the second half, Morata later scored a brilliant goal to make it 2-0. Alex Baena capped off the scoring with a free-kick, sealing the match. Serbia's Strahinja Pavlovic was sent off, further

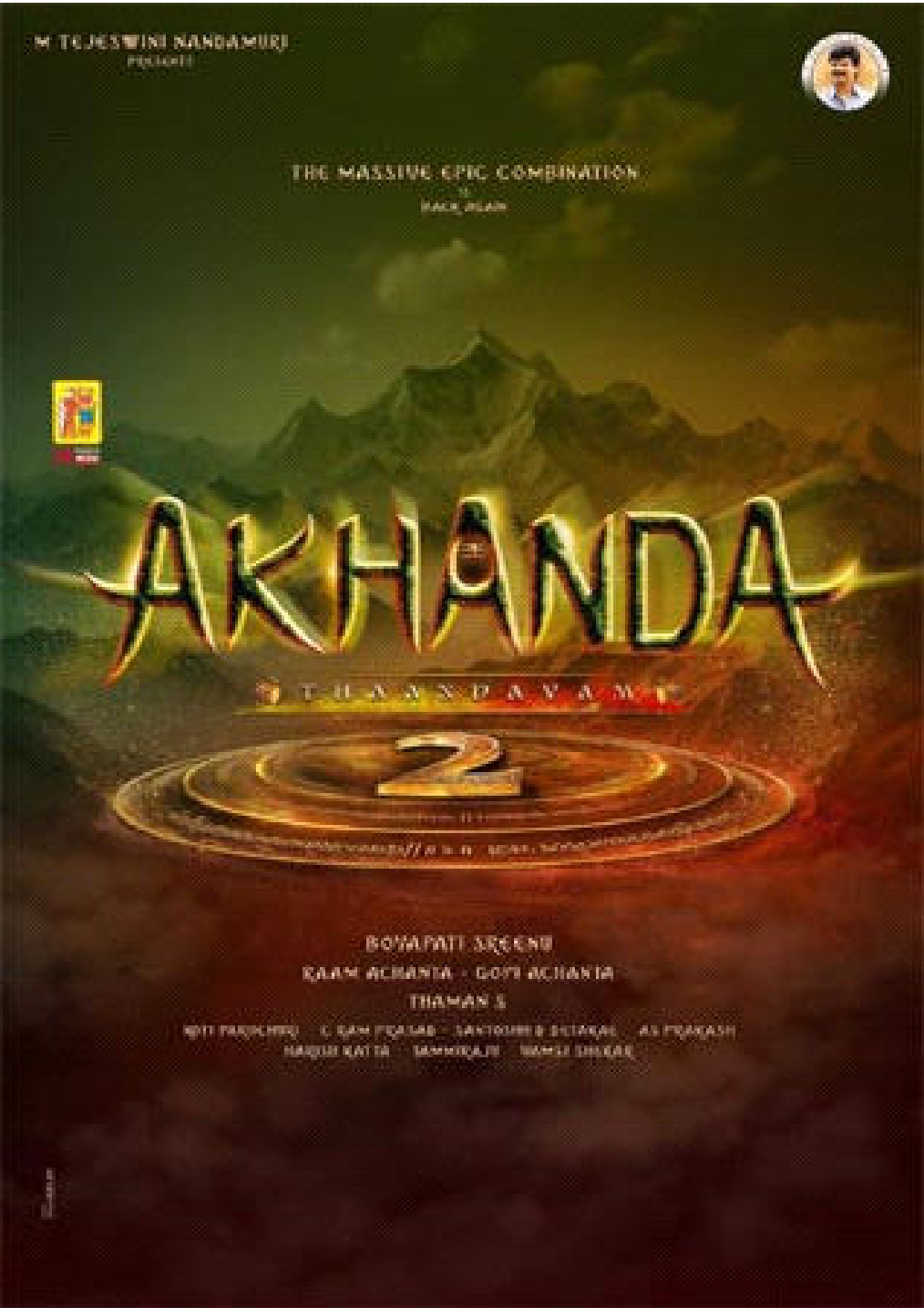
complicating their efforts.

"We're in another final phase, which is the important thing," Morata said after the match. Denmark also remains in contention after drawing 2-2 with Switzerland, with Christian Eriksen ensuring Denmark left with a point.

In contrast, Portugal dropped points for the first time in Group A1, held to a 0-0 draw by Scotland at Hampden Park. Cristiano Ronaldo made his 216th international appearance but failed to score, leaving the field frustrated. Portugal needed a spectacular save from Craig Gordon to prevent a late goal from Bruno Fernandes.



Akhanda 2 Motion Poster Revealed



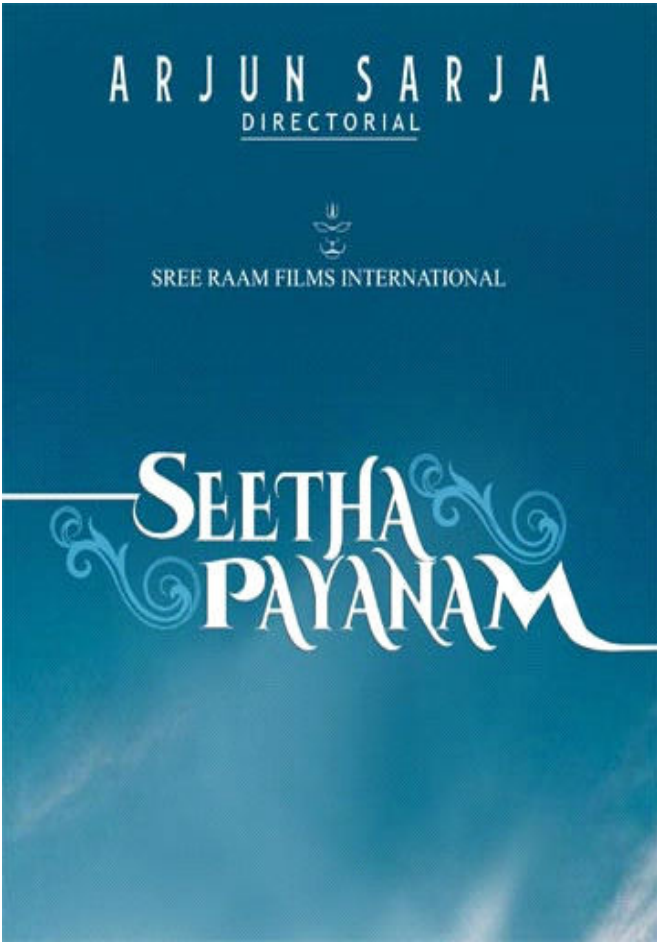
The much-anticipated sequel to the blockbuster **Akhanda** has officially been announced, titled **Akhanda 2: Thaandavam**. This project marks the exciting return of the dynamic duo, Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Boyapati Sreenu, who are set to recreate the magic of the original film.

The title reveal took place just hours before a ceremonial pooja, adding to the excitement. Balakrishna's elder daughter, Brahmani, had the honor of giving the first clap, while his younger daughter switched on the camera, making the ceremony a special family affair. With filming scheduled to commence in December 2024, anticipation is already building among fans. In the meantime, Balakrishna is focused on completing his ongoing project, **NBK 109**.

Music for **Akhanda 2** will once again be composed by Thaman, whose work was widely appreciated in the first film. Joining Balakrishna in the lead will be Pragya Jaiswal, who is expected to deliver a strong performance alongside the seasoned actor. The film is being produced by Raam Achanta and Gopichand Achanta under the renowned 14 Reels Plus banner, known for its commitment to high-quality productions.

Fans are eager for more details about the storyline and additional cast members, which are expected to be revealed in the coming weeks. The original **Akhanda** was a major hit, celebrated for its engaging narrative and powerful performances, setting high expectations for its sequel.

With the return of beloved characters and a talented crew, **Akhanda 2: Thaandavam** promises to be another thrilling ride for audiences. As the project gears up for production, fans can look forward to more updates and sneak peeks into what this highly awaited sequel has in store. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements!



Actor Arjun's next directorial is titled Seetha Payanam

Notable actor Arjun Sarja is making a triumphant return to directing after a six-year hiatus. Following his appearance in Lokesh Kanagaraj's **Leo**, the 'Action King' has officially announced his next directorial project, titled **Seetha Payanam**.

This film is set to be shot primarily in Kannada, with plans for simultaneous releases in Telugu and Tamil. The title logo has been unveiled, reflecting the heartwarming journey the story aims to depict, and it has already generated excitement among fans.

While details about the main cast are still under wraps, anticipation is building as Arjun Sarja prepares to assemble a talented ensemble for this multilingual film. He will produce **Seetha Payanam** under his home production banner, Sree Raam Film International, ensuring that his vision is realized through a personal touch.

A skilled team of technicians will also con-

tribute to the project, promising high production values and engaging storytelling. Arjun Sarja's return to the director's chair is particularly noteworthy given his extensive experience and previous successes in both acting and directing.

It's worth mentioning that in 2022, Arjun announced another directorial venture featuring Vishwak Sen, Aishwarya Arjun, and Jagapathi Babu. Unfortunately, that film was canceled shortly after production began. With **Seetha Payanam**, fans hope for a smoother journey and a fulfilling cinematic experience.

As production gets underway, more updates regarding the cast and storyline are expected to be revealed. Arjun Sarja's fans are eager to see how he will blend his acting prowess with his directorial vision in this new endeavor. Stay tuned for exciting developments surrounding **Seetha Payanam** as it progresses!

Keerthy Suresh's recent release locks world television premiere

Mahanati actress Keerthy Suresh is gearing up for the release of her highly anticipated film, **Baby John**. This Bollywood action venture features popular actors Varun Dhawan and Wamiqa Gabbi in lead roles, adding to the excitement surrounding its premiere.

In the meantime, Keerthy's recent film, **Raghu Thatha**, is making headlines again as it heads for a television debut. Although the film received average reviews during its theatrical run and subsequent OTT release, it has managed to maintain interest among audiences. The Tamil movie is scheduled to air in Telugu on ZEE Telugu channel at 3 PM on October 20, 2024 (Sunday). It will be interesting to see how the television audience responds to this film, especially considering the mixed reviews it garnered earlier.

Raghu Thatha marks Hombale Films' first foray into Tamil production, showcasing the company's ambition to expand its cinematic footprint. The film features a talented ensemble cast, including Ravindra Vijay, M. S. Bhaskar, and Devadarshini in pivotal roles. Music for the film is composed by Sean Roldan, adding a unique flavor to the storytelling.

As Keerthy Suresh continues to explore diverse roles in her career, fans are eager to see how she navigates her upcoming projects, including **Baby John**. The anticipation for both her film and the television premiere of **Raghu Thatha** reflects her growing prominence in the industry. With her talent and dedication, Keerthy is undoubtedly a star to watch in the coming months. Stay tuned for more updates on her projects and the audience's reaction to **Raghu Thatha** on television!



Vijay Antony's first look of Gagana Maargan Unveiled

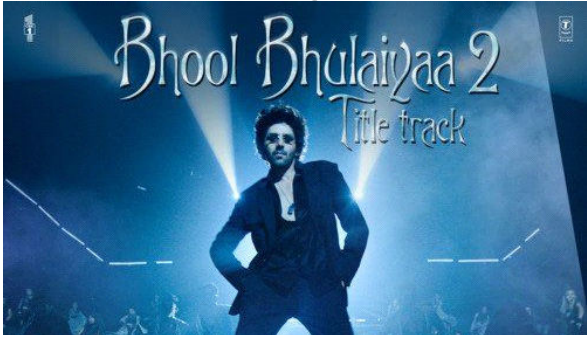


Multifaceted actor Vijay Antony, known for his versatile roles, is set to star in his next project, **Gagana Maargan**, a pan-Indian crime thriller. This film marks the directorial debut of editor Leo John Paul, who is stepping behind the camera to bring this gripping story to life.

The makers have released an intense first look poster that sets the tone for the film, piquing the curiosity of fans and film enthusiasts alike. **Gagana Maargan** is noteworthy as it is the 12th production under Vijay Antony's own banner, Vijay Antony Films Corporation, showcasing his commitment to creating compelling cinema.

The film features a talented ensemble cast, including Samuthirakani, Mahanathi Shankar, Prithika, Brigida Saga, Vinodh Sagar, Ajay Dhishan, Deepshikha, Kalakka Povadhu Yaaru Archana, Kanimozhi, and Anthagaram Natarajan in pivotal roles. This diverse cast promises to bring depth and richness to the film's narrative.

T-Series Unveils Title Track for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3



T-Series has officially released the title track for the highly anticipated film **Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3**, just two weeks ahead of its theatrical premiere. This track features an exciting collaboration between Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, international rapper Pitbull, and the original singer Neeraj Shridhar. The music is crafted by renowned composers Tanishk Bagchi and Pritam, who also worked on the scores for the previous films in the franchise. The song opens with Pitbull's signature vocal style, seamlessly transitioning to Diljit Dosanjh, and culminating with Neeraj's performance. Interestingly, neither Pitbull nor Diljit appears in the music video, which gives lead actor Kartik Aaryan ample opportunity to showcase his impressive dance skills. A significant portion of the video features a continuous shot of Kartik executing intricate dance moves, captivating fans with his energetic performance.

Fans quickly took to social media to express their enthusiasm for the unique collaboration. One fan enthusiastically wrote, "Kartik x Neeraj x Pritam x Diljit x Pitbull = Totally Goosebumps," highlighting the star-studded lineup. Another commented on the filmmaking team's acumen, saying, "The filmmaker knows the business, Tanishk Bagchi knows the chemistry!!! Fire trackkkk."