

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 39° C

L 24° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 32° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 31° C

L 25° C



AP CM And DCM Attended NDA Meeting At Chandigarh

TPN, Chandigarh: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties in Chandigarh, where Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan were present. The event coincided with the swearing-in ceremony of Naib Singh Saini, who took the oath as Chief Minister of Haryana for the second consecutive term.

State Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath to Naib Singh Saini, marking a significant moment for the BJP as it secured a third consecutive term in Haryana. The BJP achieved a remarkable victory in the recent Haryana Assembly elections, winning 48 out of 90 seats, thereby exceeding all expectations.

The ceremony saw the attendance of notable political figures, including

Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and senior BJP leader Anil Vij played a crucial role in proposing Naib Singh Saini's name, which received unanimous approval from all party members during the parliamentary party meeting held the previous day.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan participated in the swearing-in ceremony alongside other dignitaries. During the event, the Haryana government presented Pawan Kalyan with several ancient artifacts, including sculptures from the thousands of years-old Indus Civilization and the Umamaheswara statue, underscoring the cultural heritage shared between the states.

As the BJP government embarks on its new term in Haryana, the focus will likely be on continued development initiatives and governance strategies to build on the successes of previous terms. The support from various NDA parties, including the presence of key leaders at the ceremony, signifies a united front as they aim to further consolidate their political power in the region.

YS Jagan Meeting with YCP Leaders, Strategy for Strengthening Party

Ultimate Goal is to Make The YCP the Strongest Political Party In The Country

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and leader of the YSR Congress Party (YCP), convened a crucial meeting with district presidents and leaders of affiliated societies today. The meeting focused on reinforcing the party's structure and performance, with YS Jagan providing clear direction on future goals.



those who work hard and perform well will be rated and rewarded accordingly.

"We will assess your efforts through reports, and decisions will be made based on these observations," Jagan said, highlighting that dedication and commitment would not go unnoticed.

Jagan's ultimate goal is to make the YCP the strongest political party in the country, and he encouraged all members to work tirelessly to achieve this vision. "Your hard work will be rewarded," he assured the leaders, motivating them to take up their responsibilities with renewed vigor.

involved urging party members to be active on social media to enhance the party's reach and visibility. He stated that promotions within the party will be based on the performance of district presidents, and

During the meeting, Jagan emphasized the need to build a strong YCP presence at the village level, encouraging leaders to ensure that the party is well-organized at the grassroots. He stressed that the performance of leaders will be continuously monitored and evaluated.

A significant part of Jagan's address



Is Central Govt Planning for Jamili Elections in Feb 2027...!



TPN, New Delhi: The central government is set to conduct Jamili elections across India in February 2027, under the auspices of the Election Commission. A committee, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind, has been established to oversee this initiative. The committee has conducted a comprehensive investigation and submitted its report to the government, recommending amendments to five articles of the Constitution—Articles 83, 85, 172, 174, and 356—through a constitutional amendment bill.

For the bill to be enacted, it requires the support of 67% of the members in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, along with backing from 14 state assemblies.

Should this support be achieved, the bill will align with constitutional provisions, allowing for simultaneous assembly and parliamentary elections across the country.

Following these elections, municipal and village panchayat elections are scheduled to take place 100 days later. Union Minister Prahlada Ghoshi emphasized that the Jamili elections aim to streamline the administration of the entire country, facilitating a more coordinated and efficient electoral process. This initiative marks a significant step in Indian electoral reform, promoting unity and collaboration among various levels of government.

Four IAS Officers Report to AP Following DVP Orders

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Four IAS officers have officially reported to Andhra Pradesh (AP) following directives from the Department of Personnel and Training (DPT). Despite being assigned to AP during the bifurcation of the state, these officers had continued to serve in Telangana. The recent orders from the DVP have prompted a significant shift in their assignments.

The officers—Amrapali Kata, Ronald Ross, Vakati Karuna, and Vani Prasad—were relieved from their duties in Telangana yesterday evening and reported to the AP Chief Secretary today. Their transition comes after a lengthy struggle to remain in Telangana, where they had sought recourse through the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the Telangana High Court, both of which ruled against them.

The decision to relocate these officers to AP has been met with disappointment among them, as they had made considerable efforts to contest the DPT's orders and retain their positions in Telangana. However, with the legal avenues exhausted, they have been compelled to comply with the directives issued by the DoPT.



This development underscores the complexities and challenges faced by IAS officers in the wake of state bifurcation, particularly regarding their assignments and duties. The transition of these officers is expected to facilitate governance in AP, which has been in need of experienced administrative personnel to address various state issues. The government aims to ensure that the administration operates smoothly and efficiently, leveraging the expertise of these officers as they take on their new roles in Andhra Pradesh.



DCM Pawan Kalyan Praises MGR on AIADMK's 53rd Anniversary

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: On the 53rd anniversary of AIADMK, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his heartfelt congratulations to the party leadership, members, and supporters. Taking to 'X' (formerly Twitter), Pawan Kalyan expressed his deep admiration for AIADMK founder and legendary leader M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), praising his contributions to society and his visionary leadership.

Pawan Kalyan described MGR as a leader he respects greatly, noting that MGR's dedication to uplifting the poor and ensuring that no one goes hungry has left an indelible mark. He emphasized that MGR's leadership, which balanced welfare with development, helped Tamil Nadu become one of India's wealthiest states.

Pawan Kalyan also lauded MGR's successor, 'Puratchi Thalaivi' Jayalalithaa, for carrying forward his vision and for her exceptional governance, which earned her lasting respect as "Mother" among the people. He appreciated her efforts in fostering harmonious relations with neighboring states and her respect for the Telugu language and culture.



In his message, Pawan Kalyan expressed his best wishes to the AIADMK party, encouraging them to continue MGR's legacy of serving the people of Tamil Nadu and achieving greater development. He also reiterated his respect for Tamil language and culture, acknowledging the Tamil people's tireless struggles.

This tweet from the Jana Sena leader has gone viral on social media, highlighting his deep connection to MGR and the values he represented.



CRPF to Take Over Chandrababu Naidu's Security

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's security will now be handled by the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), as per new directives from the Union Home Ministry. This shift marks the end of the NSG's (National Security Guard) 21-year responsibility for his protection, which began following the Naxal attack on him at Alipiri, Tirupati in October 2003.

The NSG, which has been providing security to Naidu since the attack, will now refocus its efforts primarily on anti-terror operations, in line with its core mission. The CRPF, which has six battalions dedicated to VIP security, will increase its count to seven to accommodate the additional responsibilities. Along with Chandrababu, eight others will also be brought under CRPF protection.



Minister Nara Lokesh, Chandrababu's son, is already under the protection of CRPF forces. The transition of responsibilities is expected to be completed

within a month.

On the occasion of NSG Foundation Day, Chandrababu Naidu extended his congratulations to the Black Cats, expressing his admiration for their courage and dedication in defending the nation.

Invitation to Industrialists & Investors, Invest in Andhra Pradesh

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Respected Industrialists & Investors, Andhra Pradesh is now open for business with the most progressive policies in place! We warmly invite you to invest in our state, where a business-friendly government, a pool of talented young professionals, and robust infrastructure are ready to support your ventures.

Our newly launched policy framework, developed in collaboration with industry veterans, is designed to foster business growth and encourage entrepreneurship. Andhra Pradesh is building the best business ecosystem in the country, and I personally assure you that the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) will take every step necessary to help you establish and expand your operations here.

There has never been a better time to invest in India, and there has never been a better time to invest in Andhra Pradesh! Join us on this exciting growth



journey, where together we can explore new business horizons and unleash the full potential of our state.

We look forward to welcoming you to Andhra Pradesh!

Heavy Rains In AP, Scary Waves Hit Visakha and Kakinada Coasts

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh is facing severe weather conditions, as heavy rains triggered by a cyclone have left several districts in turmoil. Strong off-shore winds and widespread rains have significantly impacted life, particularly in the Rayalaseema region and coastal areas.



In Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, massive waves are crashing onto the shores, creating panic among the locals. At Visakhapatnam's popular RK Beach, waves are hitting the shops with alarming force, while in Uppada (Kakinada district), the situation has turned dire. The sea is rough, and waves are destroying houses, trees, and electricity poles, causing significant damage.

The coastal areas of Konaseema district are facing a similar crisis, with waves surging along the harbor. The cyclone, which was moving at a speed of 22 km/h over the

past six hours, crossed the coast at Tada in Tirupati district before weakening into a low-pressure system.

In Sri Sathyasai district, the Chitravati River is flowing dangerously high near Veldurthi in Sikepalli mandal, cutting off traffic to several villages.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting with district collectors and other officials to monitor the situation and ensure prompt relief measures are in place as heavy rains continue to affect the state.

Gold Prices in AP Today

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Vijayawada, one of Andhra Pradesh's key cities, is a significant destination for gold trade in the state. As of today, the price of 22 karat gold in Vijayawada stands at ₹7,160 per gram, while 24 karat gold (also known as 999 gold) is priced at ₹7,811 per gram.

The city's jewellery market is known for offering a diverse range of patterns and designs, making it a top destination for gold buyers and sellers. With a well-established



reputation for quality and craftsmanship, Vijayawada's jewellers continue to attract customers from across the region.

Mangalagiri Police Interrogates Sajjala Ramakrishna

handed over the investigation to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The CID will receive all relevant files and evidence once the necessary orders are in place.

Sajjala has been ordered by the court to fully cooperate with the ongoing investigation, and no actions against him will be taken until after the 24th of this month. As the inquiry continues, the police are focused on resolving the case expediently and ensuring accountability for those involved.

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy Alleges Harassment by Authorities

YCP leader Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, under investigation for the attack on the TDP office in Mangalagiri, accused authorities of harassing YCP leaders. After being questioned by police, he claimed that since the TDP came to power, public welfare and administration have suffered. "YCP leaders are being terrorized," he stated, emphasizing that he was not present during the incident and had provided details of his where-

abouts to the investigating officers. Sajjala criticized the TDP for using factional tactics against YCP members, alleging that cases are being filed to distract the public from unfulfilled election promises. He expressed concerns over the transparency of the police investigation and warned against the continuation of "wrong culture" initiated by the TDP government. Speculations arose about his involvement in planning the attack, prompting allegations of political pressure affecting the investigation's progress.

Devineni Umamaheswara Rao Criticizes YS Jagan

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Minister and senior TDP leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, during a media conference, launched a scathing attack on Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his administration, accusing them of widespread corruption and misgovernance over the past five years.

Rao alleged that Jagan and his associates, including Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, are responsible for a range of wrongdoings, including the wrongful arrest of opposition leaders and severe violations of democratic principles. Referring to YS Jagan and Sajjala as "A1" and "A2," respectively, in multiple cases, Rao claimed that these leaders are behind several "sins," including the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy and driving people like Abdul Salam to suicide.

He condemned Jagan's alleged "psycho administration," accusing the government of crippling the state's institutions and making



thousands of illegal arrests, including TDP supporters who posted critical comments on social media. He also mentioned that Chandrababu Naidu, the TDP supremo, was unjustly jailed for 53 days.

Rao did not hold back in his criticism of the handling of corruption investigations.

He claimed that CID probes into the state's issues are exposing rampant corruption, with billions looted through government schemes, and vowed that justice would be served. He also spoke about the state's liquor policy, accusing the YCP government of pushing harmful, substandard liquor that led to severe health crises among the public.

On the development front, Rao praised Chandrababu Naidu's efforts during his tenure, stating that Naidu successfully brought funds from the central government for key projects like Polavaram and Amaravati. He reiterated Naidu's vision to create 20 lakh jobs in five years, while calling out Jagan for his failures to keep development on track.

Rao concluded by assuring that all promises made by the coalition government, including the "Super Six" initiatives, would be fulfilled despite the alleged conspiracies orchestrated by the current government.

Minister Anagani Satyaprasad Addresses Errors in Land Survey



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad announced that there were significant errors in the land survey conducted during the previous government. In a meeting with Manoj Joshi, Secretary of the Central Land Resources Department, the minister discussed the need to rectify these mistakes and update the land records.

Minister Satyaprasad, along with Special Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department RP Sisodia and Director of Survey Settlements Srikesh Balaji, explored the current issues related to land resurvey and digitization of land records. Joshi emphasized the importance of conducting the resurvey process efficiently and suggested implementing armed measures to ensure security during the resurvey.

The minister also highlighted the necessity for additional funds from the Central Government to support the resurvey and digitization efforts, underscoring the government's commitment to resolving these long-standing land issues.

YS Sharmila Criticizes CM Chandrababu Promises Questioned Job Creation and Industrial Growth



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief YS Sharmila Reddy strongly criticized TDP leader and CM Chandrababu Naidu's election promises, expressing skepticism about their implementation. Speaking to the media, she

'Super Six' would be implemented in the cabinet meeting, but it was just a rerun of old promises. Naidu had previously promised investments of ₹30 lakh crore and 20 lakh jobs, but there is little to show for it," Sharmila remarked, adding that there has been no significant difference between what Naidu said in 2014 and his latest announcements.

Sharmila acknowledged that the "Job First" slogan is a positive step but questioned Naidu's ability to fulfill his promises. "Unemployment is at an all-time high in the state. Even if Naidu delivers 20 lakh jobs in five years, what about the remaining 30 lakh unemployed?" she asked, drawing parallels with similar unful-

filled job promises from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

She further pointed out the vacant 3 lakh government jobs in the state, demanding that both Modi and Naidu release a white paper on job creation. Sharmila also criticized the government's failure to provide free cylinders and free RTC bus travel for women, calling these initiatives "low-budget schemes" that never saw the light of day.

YS Sharmila urged both Naidu and Modi to address these pressing issues and deliver on their promises, especially on unemployment and industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh.

Borugadda Anil Remanded Until 29th, Shifted to Rajahmundry Central Jail



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Controversial figure Borugadda Anil from Guntur has been remanded in custody until the 29th of this month and transferred to Rajahmundry Central Jail. Anil was arrested by the Nallapadu police for allegedly demanding Rs.50 lakh from a man named Karlapudi Babu Prakash.

After undergoing medical tests at the Guntur Government Hospital, Anil was produced in the Guntur Fifth Additional Magistrate Court yesterday, where he was remanded in judicial custody. Following the court's decision, the police moved him to Rajahmundry Central Jail.

Anil, who claimed to be the state president of the Republican Party of India, has a controversial history. His office even featured a nameplate suggesting he held an MBA from London. He has previously made headlines for allegedly using Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's name to commit various misdeeds and for his inflammatory language against opposition leaders. His remarks targeting Nara Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan, in particular, gained widespread attention.

Anil's arrest marks the latest chapter in his ongoing controversies, with many watching closely as the case unfolds.

Remand Has Been Extended until the 29th Oct for Vidyasagar



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The remand of Kukkala Vidyasagar, the main accused in the high-profile case involving Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani, has been extended until the 29th of this month. Vidyasagar, who is currently lodged in Vijayawada District Jail, was recently arrested in connection with the case.

The Vijayawada 4th ACMM Court today extended Vidyasagar's remand, further deepening the investigation. Vidyasagar, who is listed as A1 in the case, faces serious charges alongside five others. Among them are senior police officers, including P. Sitaramanjaneyu (A2), Kantirana Tata (A3), and Vishal Gunni (A6), all of whom are facing serious allegations of colluding with Vidyasagar.

The remand report highlights how the accused officers, including West Zone former ACP Hanumantha Rao (A4) and Ibrahimpatnam former CI Satyanarayana (A5), allegedly conspired with Vidyasagar. The state government has already initiated action against these high-ranking officials, and the case continues to draw significant attention.

Vidyasagar's continued detention signals the ongoing efforts to bring those responsible for the sensational case to justice.

TDP Leader Sexual Video Leaked

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In Andhra Pradesh, allegations of sexual harassment against leaders of the ruling parties are gaining significant attention, particularly concerning the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). This controversy began with TDP MLA Koneti Adimula from Satyavedu, whose explicit video with district woman president Varalakshmi was leaked. Following her complaint of sexual misconduct, the MLA was expelled from the party.



Recently, another incident has surfaced involving TDP leader Khader Basha. A young woman has accused him of sexual harassment, claiming he exploited her situation by promising a ration card, housing, and pension in exchange for sexual favors. The viral video of Khader Basha, who serves as the TDP General Secretary and was a key

observer in Kuppam during the last election, has sparked outrage on social media.

Reports indicate that Basha has since gone into hiding since the video's release. As of now, neither the TDP nor the coalition government has publicly addressed these allegations. The growing scandal raises serious questions about the conduct of political leaders in the state.

Janasena President Samineni Met MP Keshineni Shivanath



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Samineni Udayabhanu, newly appointed Janasena NTR District President, met with Vijayawada MP Keshineni Shivanath (Chinni) in a courtesy visit. During the meeting, MP Shivanath congratulated Udayabhanu, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among TDP, Janasena, and BJP to promote development in Vijayawada and the surrounding district.

Shivanath expressed his confidence in Udayabhanu's ability to strengthen the party's presence, highlighting his longstanding connection with the community. He reiterated the alliance's commit-

ment to fast-tracking development in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Hon'ble CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Udayabhanu expressed gratitude to both leaders for their support and vowed to enhance coordination among the coalition parties to address public issues and maximize the benefits of government schemes. The meeting was attended by various Janasena leaders and activists, marking a significant step toward bolstering party unity and development initiatives in the region.



Minister Nadendla Conducts Surprise Inspections in Vijayawada

Strict Action Against Overpricing



TPN, Vijayawada: State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar conducted surprise inspections at Padamata Rythu Bazar and Ushodaya Supermarket in Guru Nanak Colony, Vijayawada, on Thursday. The minister reviewed the quality and pricing of essential goods being sold to the public, emphasizing the government's commitment to providing quality products at government-fixed prices.

As part of the government's price stabilization efforts, Minister Nadendla stated that the primary goal is to ensure that consum-



ers receive quality goods at reasonable prices in farmers' markets and institutional retail shops. The minister pointed out that the government has introduced essential items such as cooking oils, cowpeas, onions, and tomatoes at affordable rates in farmers' markets to help control the soaring prices in open markets.

During his inspection, the minister identified discrepancies in the supply of essential goods at Padamata Rythu Bazar, leading to

the suspension of the estate officer responsible. Expressing frustration with the improper management of counters set up for rice and pulses distribution, Minister Nadendla warned that negligence by authorities would not be tolerated.

At Ushodaya Supermarket, the minister criticized the management for failing to adhere to the government-fixed price of ₹67 per kg for essential commodities. He issued a stern warning, stating that strict action would be taken against those selling goods at inflated prices.

Minister Nadendla assured the public that essential goods, including rice, pulses, and cooking oil, are being sold at lower prices in farmers' markets and retail outlets. Palm oil is available at ₹110 per liter, sunflower oil at ₹124 per liter, and kandi dal at ₹67 per kg, all aimed at helping consumers manage rising costs.

Inauguration of Vijayadeepam Program in Vijayawada



TPN, Vijayawada: The Vijayadeepam program, organized by the Sujana Foundation and Crisp, was inaugurated at The Venue Convention Center by BJP State President and MP Daggubati Purandareshwari, who lit the ceremonial lamp. The event also saw the participation of Sujana Foundation Chairman Sujana Choudhary, MLA Kamineeni Srinivas, BJP City President Adduri Sriram, and other local leaders.

During her address, MP Purandareshwari praised the efforts of the Sujana Foundation and Crisp, highlighting their roles in providing nutritious food through Anganwadis to combat infant mortality rates linked to malnutrition. She emphasized that the central and state welfare schemes have lifted 35 crore people out of poverty and called for collaboration between voluntary organizations and public representatives for further development.

Sujana Choudhary outlined the goals of the Vijayadeepam program, which aims to enhance education quality, support students' talents, and improve job opportunities. She affirmed her commitment to transforming the West constituency into a role model for the state. The program, which involves a team of retired IAS officers, seeks to create innovative educational systems tailored to current needs.

The event concluded with acknowledgments from former MLC Somu Veerajulu, commending the initiatives taken by Sujana Foundation for local development.

Liquor at ₹99, 20k Cases to be Supplied by Monday

TPN, Vijayawada: Nishant Kumar, Director of the State Excise Department, announced that liquor is now available for ₹99 per quarter bottle, as previously promised by the state government. He stated that five nationally recognized liquor companies have agreed to sell liquor at this price in Andhra Pradesh.



According to Nishant Kumar, 10,000 cases of ₹99 liquor were already in the market as of Thursday, and by Monday, the daily supply is expected to reach 20,000 cases. By the end of this month, a total of 2,40,000 cases of liquor will be available statewide as supply is gradually increased.

In total, approximately 1.2 crore quarter bottles of ₹99 liquor are expected to be ready by the end of October. Kumar further explained that future import decisions will depend on the rate of consumption and market demand in the coming months.

DSC 2008 Candidates Demand Justice for Dual Post Eligibility



TPN, Mangalagiri: Mr. Sundarapu Vijay Kumar, Member of Parliament of Yalamanchili who received requests from the people A wave of applications has flooded the Janasena Party's central office as DSC 2008 candidates demand justice for dual post eligibility. The applicants are urging for swift action to address the long-standing issue of recruitment and appointment delays, which have left them in a state of uncertainty for years.

The candidates, who have been waiting for appointments since 2008, are calling on political leaders to end the deadlock and ensure fairness in the recruitment process. They expressed frustration with the current administration, accusing YCP leaders of stalling progress and keeping them "prisoners" of a flawed system.

With growing support from the public, these teachers are hopeful that a resolution will be reached, especially with Janasena's backing of their cause.

MLA Bode Prasad Lays Foundation Stones for Infrastructure Projects



TPN, Vijayawada: MLA Bode Prasad announced significant advancements in village development as he laid the foundation stones for various infrastructure projects under the Mahardasa initiative. During a

recent event, the MLA highlighted the NDA government's commitment to enhancing village prosperity through targeted development programs.

In Akunur mandal, foundation

stones were laid for several projects, including three CC roads and drains, with a budget allocation of ₹14.50 lakhs. Notable financial commitments include ₹19 lakhs for Akunur, ₹34 lakhs for Gandigunta, and ₹29 lakhs for Chinaogira. These projects are part of the government's broader strategy to improve local infrastructure and promote economic growth in rural areas.

MLA Bode Prasad emphasized that the coalition government is focused on village development, stating, "Through the village festival program, we are initiating construction projects that will lead to tangible improvements in our communities." He expressed optimism that these ini-

tiatives would contribute to the overall prosperity of the villages.

The foundation-laying ceremony saw participation from various local leaders and officials, including MPDO Seshagiri Rao, mandal party president Yenigalla Kudumbarao, and sarpanches from the respective villages. Their collective efforts reflect a united front in the pursuit of sustainable development for the region.

With these new infrastructure projects, the coalition government aims to foster a conducive environment for growth and improve the quality of life for residents in the villages.

MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao Lays Foundations for Key Development Projects



TPN, Vijayawada: MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao has reiterated the coalition government's commitment to revitalizing rural infrastructure through the "Village Festival" program. The initiative aims to restore the former glory of villages by providing essential infrastructure and services, creating a better living environment for residents.

During a recent event, the MLA laid foundation stones for development works in the villages of Sirivada, Arugolanu, Perikidu, Kanu Molu, Bommuluru, and Koyyuru, with a budget of ₹1.68 crore. Some of the key projects include the construction of CC roads: two in Arugolanu at a cost of ₹19.50 lakhs, one in Bommuluru for ₹8.50 lakhs, another in Koyyuru at ₹23 lakhs, and one more in Perikidu for ₹14 lakhs. These projects are being funded through employment guarantee schemes, ensuring both infrastructure development and local job creation.

In addition to the village festival works, the MLA performed a Bhoomipuja for CC road construction in Bapulapadu, which includes projects worth ₹76 lakhs in Krishnanagar, Hanumannagar, Indiranagar, and at the ZP High School compound wall. These developments are expected to improve connectivity and enhance the overall infrastructure in the region.

Jana Sena Constituency Coordinator Chalamalashetty Ramesh Babu, along with local leaders and officials, actively participated in the event. The community expressed hope that these initiatives would significantly contribute to the socio-economic progress of their villages.

The coalition government continues to focus on uplifting rural areas by improving roads, drainage systems, and other essential services under this village festival program.

Collector Srijana Relieved Amid Locality Dispute

TPN, Vijayawada: In a significant administrative move, the government relieved Collector Srijana from her duties on Wednesday night due to ongoing locality disputes. The decision follows her attempts to challenge the orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DPT) in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which were ultimately dismissed by the High Court.



ing landslides in the Paritala quarry, and overseeing flood situations in the Krishna River and Budameru.

However, her tenure was marred by disputes regarding her locality, prompting the Chief Secretary of the State Government, Nirab Kumar, to issue the order for her relief. She reported back to Telangana under contentious circumstances as the legal battle continued without resolution.

As the government looks to appoint a new collector, discussions have emerged regarding potential candidates. Kritika Shukla, currently serving in the Intermediate Board, and Cherukuri Sridhar, the former commissioner of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), are among those being considered. There is also speculation that new faces may be introduced into the administrative landscape.

In the interim, Joint Collector Nidhi Meena has been assigned the responsibilities of the in-charge collector, ensuring continuity in governance and management within the district.

Srijana was appointed as the Collector of NTR district when the coalition government took office and assumed her role on July 26. During her three-month tenure, she effectively managed several crises, including handling diarrhea outbreaks in Jaggayapet, responding to a boiler accident at the Alrtatech cement factory, addressing



Heavy Rains Hit Chittoor District, Collector Declares Holiday for Schools

TPN, Chittoor: Chittoor District experienced heavy rainfall on Wednesday, attributed to lowpressure conditions in the region. While the rain varied across locations, it was predominantly moderate throughout the day. The relentless downpour prompted Collector Sumit Kumar to announce a holiday for all private schools, Anganwadi centers, and educational institutions in the district.

In Vijayapuram mandal, residents faced severe disruptions as incessant rains led to overflowing ponds and flooded fields. The ongoing construction work on the Thachchur highway obstructed the natural drainage of rainwater, exacerbating the situation, particularly in Kaliambakkam, where

crop fields were inundated. In the Nagaripet area of Nagari mandal, rainwater seeped into residential homes, causing significant distress for local inhabitants.

Sadum mandal also witnessed a halt in daily activities due to heavy rains. The district's agriculture officials reported damage to rice crops nearing harvest, with some groundnut fields also affected. A total of 84 farmers across 22 villages suffered slight damage to crops cultivated over 117 acres.

Officials from the marketing department warned tomato farmers against harvesting crops prematurely to avoid potential losses. To aid those affected, 25 tons of vegetables were dispatched from

V. Kota to rainimpacted areas in Vijayawada and Nellore districts. Farmers were advised to drain rainwater from paddy fields to prevent grain spoilage, emphasizing that prolonged exposure to water could reduce selling prices. Additionally, measures to protect crops of Kandi, Millet, and Pesal were recommended.

District Animal Husbandry Officer Prabhakar urged livestock owners to keep their dairy cows, goats, and sheep sheltered during storms to protect them from lightning and thunder. Veterinary officers were instructed to remain on duty, and special medical teams have been deployed to address potential respiratory illnesses in cattle due to the adverse weather.

Government Liquor Shops Scandal, Allegations of Mismanagement and Irregularities

TPN, Ongole: A significant scandal has emerged regarding the sale of liquor in governmentoperated shops established by the previous YCP government, with reports indicating that approximately ₹5 crores may have been lost due to negligence and lack of oversight by officials. This situation has raised suspicions of similar irregularities across liquor shops in the district.



stock weekly, while SIs and CIs should conduct inspections bi-weekly and monthly, respectively. However, it seems that these regulations have not been enforced properly, allowing for large consignments of liquor to be diverted without detection.

In their complaint to SP Damodar, staff from the Mangamma College mall alleged that ₹1.65 crores had been handed over to the Excise Constable, leaving them vulnerable to accusations. They further claimed that there was a conspiracy to set the mall on fire, which involved bringing five liters of petrol to the site.

The Ongolu taluka police have initiated an investigation into the alleged malpractices at liquor shops. Both the Excise Constable and the CI from the Ongolu Excise Station were called for questioning as part of the inquiry. CI Ajay Kumar stated that a case would be registered against the accused based on the findings of the Excise officials' complaints.

The unfolding events highlight the pressing need for accountability and transparency in the management of liquor sales and oversight to prevent such incidents in the future.

The issue came to light on Tuesday when staff at a mall near Ongolu Mangamma College reported to SP Damodar that ₹1.65 crores were missing. The Excise Department is facing heavy scrutiny as officials rush to conduct inspections and seize stock from liquor shops and associated furniture in the district. The investigation aims to uncover manipulations in sales processes, particularly focusing on the improper handling of liquor sales without the required scanning protocols.

Ongole features 18 liquor shops and two malls where private individuals work as supervisors and sales personnel. A chain of officials, including a Circle Inspector (CI), Sub-Inspector (SI), and a constable, has

been assigned to monitor these establishments. However, reports indicate that liquor boxes from shops have been sold directly to bars, and some staff members, in collusion with the constable, have pocketed cash from sales made without proper documentation.

From 2022 to the present, investigations reveal that ₹1.65 crores were invested in the mall at Mangamma College and ₹95 lakhs at a mall near Mangamuru Road Junction, with overall estimated irregularities exceeding ₹2.5 crores across other liquor shops.

The apparent negligence of Excise authorities raises serious concerns. With crores of rupees unaccounted for, the failure to identify these issues earlier reflects poorly on the monitoring system in place. Ideally, Excise Constables should inspect

and her husband Saiteja, who had recently settled in Texas, and Siva, who had just begun his career in America after completing his B.Tech. Along with them, their friend Gopi (30) from Ojili was also involved in the accident, which occurred around 6:45 PM on Monday when their vehicle collided with another car near South Bonhomme.

Tragic Road Accident Claims Lives of Srikalahasti Residents in America

TPN, Srikalahasti: A devastating road accident in America has resulted in the untimely deaths of Haritha Reddy (27) and Siva (30), both hailing from Srikalahasti. Another local, Saiteja Reddy (31), sustained serious injuries in the incident. The group had traveled to America for their children's education, but their dreams were tragically shattered.

The victims included Haritha Reddy

Both Haritha Reddy and Gopi lost

their lives instantly, while Siva and Saiteja sustained injuries as their vehicle caught fire. Saiteja is currently receiving treatment in a hospital, with his condition reported as critical. The families of the deceased have been left reeling from the tragic news. Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy has reached out to local authorities to ensure that Saiteja receives the best medical care possible.



Sanitation Crisis in East Godavari

TPN, East Godavari: The sanitation situation in East Godavari, particularly in cities like Rajamahendravaram, Kovvuru, and Nidadavolu, is dire, with residents expressing frustration over inadequate sanitation services. Despite the government's push for a "Clean India," the reality on the ground paints a starkly different picture, as cities continue to grapple with chronic sanitation problems due to a shortage of personnel.

In Rajamahendravaram, the sanitation department operates with only 28 sanitary inspectors and about 1,150 workers. With a population that necessitates at least 2,000 sanitation workers, the current workforce is severely lacking. Out of the available workers, around 176 are assigned to duties outside the city, such as at officials' residences and primary hospitals, leaving only about 800 workers available for sanitation tasks. Among these, approximately 300 are permanent employees, while the remaining 500 are temporary workers employed through local societies.

This translates to an alarming ratio of one sanitation worker for every 50 families, which is grossly insufficient to maintain cleanliness in a bustling city. The persistent shortage of workers has led to a degradation of sanitation services that has remained unresolved for two decades, despite multiple changes in city commissioners.

The Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation operates over 60 vehicles to transport garbage, managing to remove about 162 metric tons of waste daily. The fleet includes 11 tippers, 17 dumper placers, 12 tractors, and 40 Tata AC vehicles. However, the garbage continues to pile up, reflecting a systemic failure in waste management.

The city has been implementing a doortoor garbage collection system using

around 40 vehicles, replacing the earlier push carts and rickshaws. However, recent issues with Tata AC CNG vehicles, which stalled due to pending contract bills, have exacerbated the problem. With only 20 of the corporation's vehicles operational, the garbage collection system remains under strain.

The situation is similarly bleak in Kovvuru and Nidadavolu, where sanitation worker shortages plague both towns. In Kovvuru, there are only 125 workers—95 permanent and 30 temporary—with a shortfall of 13 workers. Nidadavolu faces a more severe deficit, with only 120 sanitation workers, of whom merely 25 are permanent. The remaining 95 are temporary workers, resulting in a shortfall of around 50 workers.

In Kovvuru, the lack of a proper dumping yard adds to the complications. Workers are forced to transport waste using tricycles, which makes garbage disposal even more challenging.

The persistent sanitation issues in East Godavari underscore the urgent need for hiring additional staff to address the growing population and waste management needs. City officials are called to recognize that temporary solutions, such as hiring workers only during festivals or events, are not sustainable. A longterm strategy that includes hiring enough permanent workers and improving infrastructure for garbage disposal is crucial for maintaining cleanliness and public health.

As residents voice their concerns, it is imperative for authorities to listen and take meaningful action to resolve the sanitation crisis affecting East Godavari. A concerted effort to bolster the sanitation workforce and enhance waste management practices is essential to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents.



Nominations for Andhra Pradesh Govt Nurses Association Elections

TPN, Kurnool: The election process for the Andhra Pradesh Government Nurses Association (APGNA) is underway, with nominations officially received by District Election Management Officer B. Chennamma at the Kurnool Government Sarvajana Hospital's Radiology Department on Wednesday.

Election Details

Election Date: The elections are scheduled for the 23rd of October.
Voting Format: In this election, there will be no marks, allowing voters to select a single candidate for each position.

Candidates Nominated

1. Panel Led by P. Adilakshmi:

President: P. Adilakshmi (Head Nurse, Kurnool GGH)
Treasurer: G. Vijayamma (Head Nurse, Kurnool GGH)
Vice President: V. Sri Devi (Head Nurse, Kurnool GGH)

Executive Committee

Members:
D. Manjuladevi (Staff Nurse, Kurnool GGH)
P. Leelarani
K. Sri Devi
M. Kalyani
K. Sujatha
G. Ramandevi

2. Panel Led by M. Lilavati:
President: M. Lilavati (Head Nurse, Kurnool GGH)
Treasurer: N. Lakshminarasamma (Head Nurse, Gonegandla PHC)
Vice President: G. Shanthibhavani (Nursing College, Kurnool)

Executive Committee

Members:
C. Bangari (Staff Nurse, Kurnool GGH)
UM Shantilatha
J. Umarani
A. Umadevi
D. Krishnaveni
S. Someswari

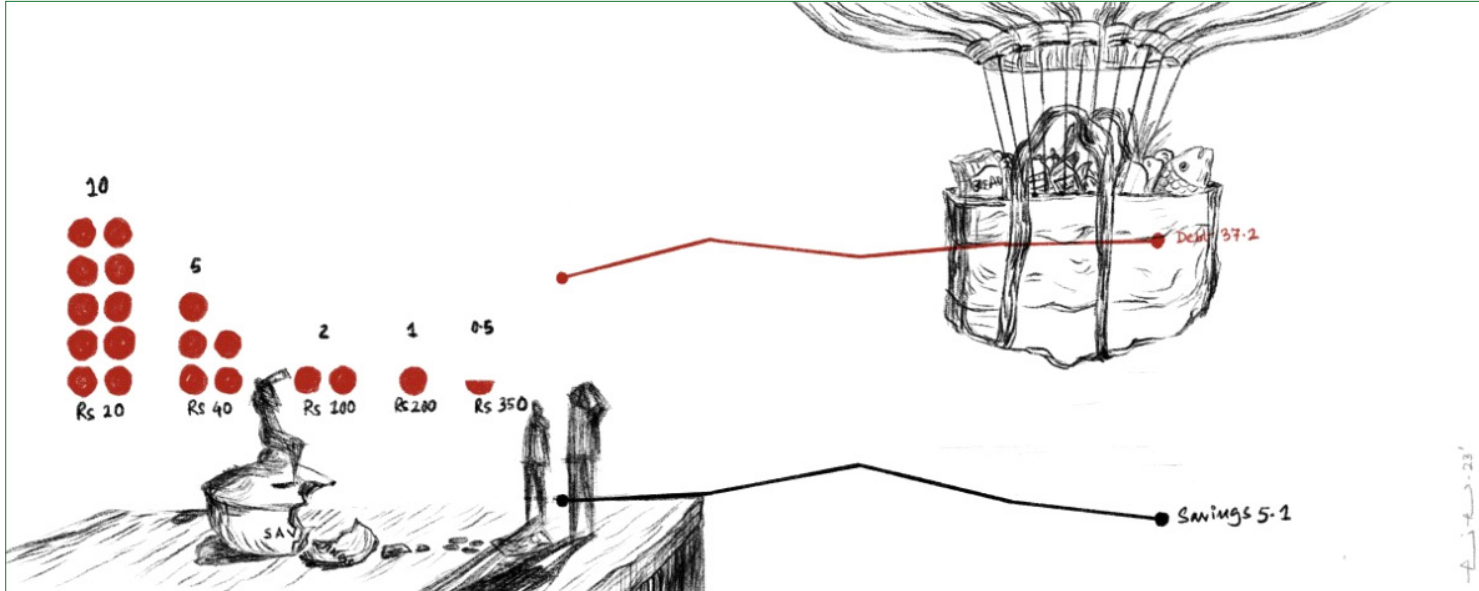
3. Independent Candidate President: K. Uma (Head Nurse, Kurnool GGH)

The APGNA elections are shaping up with two main panels and one independent candidate vying for leadership roles within the organization. The upcoming election presents a critical opportunity for the nursing community in Andhra Pradesh to elect representatives who will advocate for their interests and enhance the standards of nursing practice across the state.

Food Inflation Crisis Looms Over Festival Season

As the festival season approaches, India faces a significant food inflation crisis. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) indicates that annual retail inflation surged to 5.49% in September, up from 3.65% in August—the highest rate since December 2023. A major contributor to this spike is food inflation, which rose to 9.24% compared to 5.66% the previous month.

Prices for essential vegetables, particularly tomatoes, have skyrocketed. In the Delhi-NCR region, retail prices now hover around Rs 80-100 per kilogram, with online retailers offering discounts on tomatoes, yet still charging high rates. The wholesale market has seen similar increases, with prices reaching Rs 6,655 per quintal in Gurgaon and Rs 6,800 in Jammu & Kashmir.



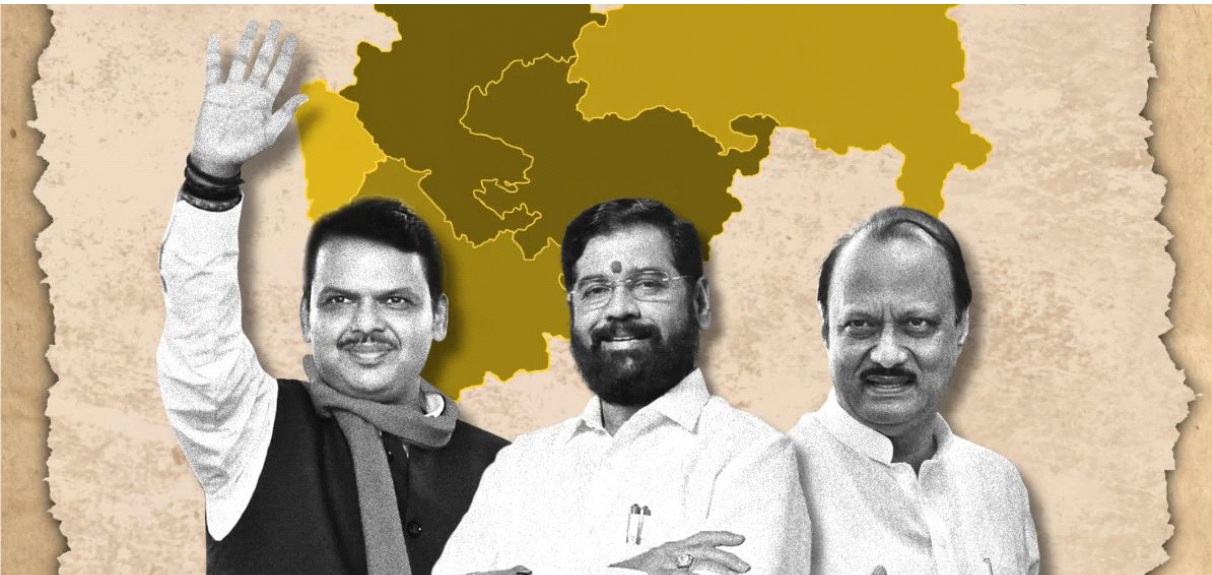
Other staples are also witnessing dramatic price hikes. In Allahabad, potatoes are selling for Rs 40 per kilogram, significantly higher than the typical Rs 20-25, while onions are priced at Rs 60 compared to Rs 25-30. Similar trends are evident across other markets, with onion prices in Jaipur and Gurgaon reaching Rs 4,500-4,522 per

quintal.

Despite these alarming inflation rates, the government has struggled to implement effective measures to curb food price rises. Between June 2020 and June 2024, food inflation averaged 6.3%, with staple items like vegetables and cereals experiencing prolonged inflation. Factors contributing to this crisis include adverse weather, poor harvests, and government mismanagement of food grain reserves.

Farmers, paradoxically, are not benefiting from rising retail prices. Many vegetable growers receive only a fraction of the retail price, with tomato farmers reportedly getting as little as Rs 3-5 per kilogram, leading to tragic consequences, including farmer suicides.

Vidarbha: The Key Battleground in Maharashtra Elections



With polling set for November 20, Maharashtra is bracing for a significant electoral showdown. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, and Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), aims to capitalize on its recent victory in the Lok Sabha elections, where it outperformed the Mahayuti coalition of the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar's NCP.

In the Lok Sabha elections, the MVA led in 153 assembly segments compared to the Mahayuti's 126, falling short of the 145-seat majority. The BJP, buoyed by its recent success in Haryana, is betting on cash transfer schemes and infrastructure development to regain lost ground.

Among the six regions in Maharashtra, Vidarbha stands out as the potential kingmaker with 62 seats. Historically, it has been a battleground for the Congress and BJP, heavily influenced by socio-economic conditions. Despite its agricultural base, Vidarbha faces significant challenges,

including poverty and drought, making it a hotspot for farmer suicides.

The political landscape in Vidarbha has shifted over the years. The Congress had a stronghold until 2014, when the BJP surged ahead. However, recent Lok Sabha results indicate a resurgence for the Congress, winning 29 seats to the BJP's 15, largely by addressing agricultural distress and promising minimum support prices (MSP).

As the elections approach, the BJP is trying to address farmers' grievances with new initiatives, but anti-incumbency sentiment could pose challenges. Home Minister Amit Shah has emphasized the need to win Vidarbha, as historically, success in this region has translated into state electoral victories.

With various social groups backing the Congress, the upcoming elections in Vidarbha will be crucial in shaping Maharashtra's political future.

Tribal Votes Key to Maharashtra and Jharkhand Elections



As Maharashtra and Jharkhand prepare for upcoming Assembly elections next month, the substantial tribal populations in both states are set to play a pivotal role in shaping the electoral landscape. Maharashtra has 25 reserved Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) out of its total 288, while Jharkhand, with its significant Adivasi demographic, reserves over a third of its 81 Assembly seats—28 in total—for tribal candidates.

Recent Lok Sabha elections have revealed a troubling trend for the ruling alliances in both states. The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, which includes the BJP, and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Jharkhand both lost ground in tribal constituencies. This decline poses significant challenges as they approach the Assembly elections, where securing tribal votes will be crucial for success.

Tribal communities have historically faced various socio-economic challenges, and their electoral choices often hinge on how well parties

ties address these issues. Factors such as land rights, development initiatives, and welfare schemes will likely influence their voting decisions. In previous elections, dissatisfaction with the ruling parties has resulted in a shift toward opposition candidates who promise to prioritize tribal interests.

As political parties gear up for the polls, both the BJP and opposition groups will need to craft strategies that resonate with tribal voters. This involves engaging directly with community leaders, addressing local grievances, and highlighting policies aimed at improving the living conditions of Adivasis.

In summary, the upcoming elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand will not only test the political strength of the ruling alliances but also underscore the importance of tribal votes in determining electoral outcomes. With tribal issues taking center stage, how effectively parties can connect with these communities may very well decide the future of governance in both states.

Tensions Rise in Shimla Amid Anti-Mosque Campaign

In Shimla's Kasumpti area, a small mosque now sits abandoned beneath tarps, guarded by two policemen, as fear grips the community. Since last month, Hindu groups have escalated efforts to tear it down, part of a larger, unprecedented anti-mosque campaign in Himachal Pradesh. Several mosques are being labeled as 'illegal' and accused of harboring 'outsiders,' reflecting a growing wave of communal politics.

Protests erupted after claims that a house had been unlawfully converted into a mosque, with local residents alleging that 'suspicious' individuals were gathering there. The mosque was sealed on September 17 following these demonstrations. Leaders of the Vishva Hindu Parishad's Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti, a newly formed committee focused on shutting down 'illegal' mosques, express a desire for Himachal Pradesh to set a precedent for targeting such structures. Madan Thakur, co-convenor of the committee, stated, "Our temples were demolished, now we are rebuild-

ing. I don't care what's breaking yours—I care about my faith."

This once-peaceful mountain state is now witnessing a surge in communal tensions, threatening its identity. The initial protest against a mosque expansion in Sanjauli has spread to multiple districts, endangering several masjids. WhatsApp groups buzz with fear, hate, and suspicion, while courts are flooded with petitions related to these disputes. Protest marches and peace rallies have become common, prompting the administration to scramble for a response to escalating unrest.

As tensions simmer, further protests are planned. Thakur recently convened with associates at Shimla's Horizon Hotel to strategize a "Jail Bharo Andolan," aiming to demand action against what they deem 'unauthorized' mosques and Muslim 'outsiders.' This movement signifies a troubling shift in the region's political landscape, with the potential to deepen divides within the community.





India sought extradition of Bishnoi gang members from Canada: MEA

On October 17, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India announced its request for the extradition of members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang from Canada. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal expressed concern over Canada's reluctance to deport individuals linked to the notorious criminal organization, which is involved in various criminal activities both in India and Canada.

Jaiswal pointed out the irony of the situation, stating that those India has requested for extradition are now facing accusations from Canadian authorities for committing crimes within Canada, while India is being held accountable for their actions. He also highlighted that there are currently 26 pending extradition requests with the Canadian government, emphasizing the ongoing challenges in bilateral cooperation on law enforcement matters.

This announcement follows a recent diplomatic row triggered by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's controversial comments regarding the alleged involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Trudeau acknowledged that his government possesses intelligence related to the case but lacks "hard evidentiary proof." He recounted a conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the G20 summit, where he raised concerns about the alleged involvement of Indian agents. Modi reportedly responded by emphasizing the presence of individuals critical of the Indian government residing in Canada, whom he would like to see arrested.

Trudeau defended Canada's commitment to freedom of speech, explaining that it allows citizens to criticize foreign governments, including India's. The situation highlights the complexities of international relations and law enforcement cooperation, particularly concerning issues related to crime and political dissent. As tensions between the two countries continue to escalate, the outcome of India's extradition requests remains uncertain.



Supreme Court Upholds Citizenship Act; Justice Pardiwala Dissent on Section 6A

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, which recognizes the Assam Accord, allowing refugees from Bangladesh who entered India between 1966 and 1971 to seek Indian citizenship. The five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, included Justices Surya Kant, MM Sundresh, Manoj Misra, and JB Pardiwala. However, Justice Pardiwala delivered a dissenting judgment, arguing that the provision has become invalid over time.

Justice Pardiwala contended that Section 6A failed the test of temporal reasonableness. He noted that although the provision was valid when enacted in 1985, it is no longer justifiable due to the "efflux of time." He criticized the lack of a temporal limit, stating that the section has contributed to the influx of illegal immigrants into Assam.

The judge pointed out that the onus of registration under Article 6 of the Constitution lies with the individual, while Section 6A places that burden on the state. This shift complicates the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants, thereby undermining the section's original intent.

Justice Pardiwala emphasized that Section 6A was originally designed to assuage concerns in Assam regarding electoral impacts from the inclusion of these immigrants. He suggested that a more straightforward legislative approach could have been taken, such as conferring deemed citizenship to all who entered before 1971, rather than creating a complex statutory category with stricter conditions.

Think Micro, Act Inclusive: Haryana's Influence on BJP's Maharashtra Strategy

Following a historic win in Haryana, the BJP is approaching the upcoming Maharashtra elections with renewed confidence, focusing on five key strategies. The party aims to contest around 155 seats and promote a unified campaign alongside allies Shiv Sena and NCP, particularly highlighting the Ladki Bahin Yojana, a welfare initiative expected to resonate with voters.

A top priority for the BJP is outreach to non-dominant communities and addressing Maratha agitation demands. They aim to facilitate vote transfer among allies and tackle social and political anti-incumbency at the grassroots level. After a recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior party leaders, sources indicate that the BJP plans to release its first candidate list shortly.

In the 2019 assembly elections, the BJP emerged as the largest party with 105 seats, while its previous ally, the Shiv Sena, won 56. However, the party faced setbacks in the recent Lok Sabha elections, securing only nine out of 28 contested seats in Maharashtra. This has intensified the BJP's focus on



retaining its influence in the state, particularly given its economic significance and ongoing identity challenges, including Maratha pride and Dalit activism.

The party is closely monitoring the strategies of its rivals, especially the Shiv Sena (UBT), and is prepared to adjust its campaign if necessary. With a heightened emphasis on organizational strength, the BJP is involving the RSS more directly in its campaign efforts. Leaders like Dharmendra Pradhan are key to this strategy, emphasizing grassroots outreach and addressing concerns within the party ranks.

Additionally, the Ladki Ba-

hin Yojana, providing financial support to women, has received a positive response and is seen as a game-changer. The BJP is keen to regain lost ground in regions like Marathwada, where Maratha reservation issues previously hindered their performance.

With ongoing outreach to smaller communities and a focus on local issues such as inflation and employment, the BJP is determined to strengthen its foothold in Maharashtra. The upcoming campaign will likely leverage joint rallies and shared symbols to create a cohesive front among allies, maximizing voter engagement ahead of the elections.

Opportunistic double engine govt in Bihar responsible for hooch tragedy: Khar



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on October 17 criticized the Bihar government for its inability to curb the illicit liquor trade, following a tragic incident that claimed 36 lives in the Siwan and Saran districts. In a heartfelt message on social media, Kharge expressed his condolences to the victims' families, labeling the situation as both "painful and sad."

Kharge's statement highlighted the alarming frequency of hooch-related deaths in Bihar, urging the government to impose strict penalties on those

responsible for the illegal liquor trade. "So far, 36 people have died due to poisonous liquor in 16 villages of Siwan and Saran. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families. I request the government to give the strictest punishment to the culprits," he wrote.

The Congress leader referenced previous incidents of hooch tragedies in the state to underscore the government's failures. He noted several past incidents, including a 2023 case in Motihari that resulted in 26 deaths, and a 2022 incident

in Chapra where 71 lives were lost, along with cases from 2021 and 2022 that saw dozens of fatalities and severe injuries due to toxic alcohol.

Kharge recalled Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's 2017 promise that "liquor will not be sold in Bihar as long as I am alive." He questioned the efficacy of the liquor ban, pointing out the ongoing illegal trade despite the stated prohibition. "Why is the illegal business of illicit liquor still going on?" he asked, holding the state government accountable for the persistent problem.

Describing the Bihar government as an "opportunistic double engine government," Kharge emphasized that the continued loss of life due to illegal liquor is a direct result of the government's failures to enforce its own laws effectively. His statements reflect growing concerns about public safety and governance in Bihar amidst rising incidents of hooch tragedies.



Delhi Environment Minister Calls Emergency Meeting Amid Rising Air Pollution

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced on October 17 that immediate actions will be taken at 13 pollution hotspots in the national capital, particularly in Anand Vihar, as air quality concerns escalate with the approach of winter. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader has called for an emergency meeting at the Delhi Secretariat to strategize a special campaign targeting these hotspots.

The urgency of the situation was underscored during a high-level meeting convened by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, where key officials, including Gopal Rai, assessed the alarming pollution levels and discussed necessary interventions. Atishi urged the citizens of Delhi to support government efforts aimed at reducing pollution as part of a collective campaign.

In response to rising pollution, Rai announced the implementation of Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) after the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi surpassed 200. Key measures include mechanical road sweeping, water sprinkling, the use of anti-smog guns at major intersections, and a prohibition on waste burning. Additionally, the government will enforce bans on diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles over 15 years to alleviate vehicular emissions.

Acknowledging the seasonal rise in pollution, Rai emphasized the need for an intensified anti-dust campaign across the city, which commenced on October 7. The campaign has revealed non-compliance at several construction sites, contributing to dust pollution. Rai highlighted the correlation between winter weather conditions—such as stagnant air and lower temperatures—and increasing pollution levels.

As temperatures are predicted to drop rapidly, Rai stressed the importance of reducing pollution sources, including dust, vehicle emissions, and biomass burning. He asserted, "We need to reduce the sources. The government is advancing with 11 measures, and if necessary, we will implement emergency protocols to address pollution effectively."

With concerted efforts underway, the Delhi government aims to confront the winter pollution challenge head-on, striving for improved air quality in the capital.

Centre Denies Cricket Talks During Jaishankar's Pakistan Visit

The Indian government has firmly rejected reports suggesting that cricket was discussed between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar during their recent encounter in Islamabad. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that these reports were "not accurate," stating that no bilateral meetings took place during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, except for a brief interaction with Mongolia.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that there



was no "pull aside meeting" between Jaishankar and Dar; their interaction was limited to general conversation during a lunch event. Reports had initially surfaced claiming that the two ministers discussed the possibility of a cricket match

between India and Pakistan, a topic of great interest given the longstanding rivalry between the two nations. However, it has been over a decade since India and Pakistan last played a bilateral series, which occurred in 2012 when Pakistan visited In-

dia for a T20I and ODI series.

Since the 2008 Asia Cup, India has not played any matches in Pakistan due to ongoing tensions stemming from the Mumbai terror attacks. Although Pakistan has toured India three times since then, security concerns have prevented the Indian team from traveling to Pakistan. The two nations have faced each other in ICC tournaments held in various locations, but Pakistan is now keen for India to participate in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled to be hosted in Pakistan next February.

Biden Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Sees Major Success

A revamped student loan cancellation program for public workers has provided relief to over 1 million Americans, a significant increase from just 7,000 approvals before the Biden administration updated the initiative two years ago. President Joe Biden announced this milestone on Thursday, emphasizing his administration's commitment to teachers, firefighters, nurses, and other public servants.

"For too long, the government failed to live up to its commitments," Biden stated. "We vowed to fix that, and because of actions from our administration, now over 1 million public service workers have gotten the relief they are entitled to under the law."

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, established in 2007, promised that federal student loans would be forgiven after 10 years of qualifying work in government or nonprofit roles. However, from its inception until 2021, the program faced extensive criticism due to complex eligibility rules that led to a staggering 99% rejection rate among applicants, primarily due to issues with loan repayment plans or periods of deferment.

In response to the program's shortcomings, the Biden administration implemented temporary waivers in 2021, allowing borrowers to receive credit for previously uncounted deferments and forbearances. This year, the Education Department updated the rules for more permanent changes, resulting in a surge of approvals as borrowers reached the 10-year mark. Most recently, 60,000 borrowers were added to the total, bringing the number past 1 million and erasing \$74 billion in loans.



Education Secretary Miguel Cardona highlighted the message to prospective public service workers: a career in this field can be a reliable path to debt-free living within a decade.

Despite ongoing legal challenges surrounding broader student loan forgiveness efforts, Biden's administration has shifted focus to the significant relief already granted through existing programs, totaling \$175 billion for about 5 million borrowers. The PSLF program remains the largest contributor to this relief effort.

China Unveils Ambitious Lunar and Space Exploration Plans

On Tuesday, China announced an ambitious roadmap for its space program, outlining plans for a manned lunar mission, the construction of a lunar space station, and the exploration of habitable planets and extraterrestrial life over the next few decades. This announcement comes as part of a comprehensive national mid- and long-term development program for space science, set to guide China's missions and research initiatives from 2024 to 2050.

China has established itself as a significant player in space exploration, having built its own operational space station and successfully launched several high-profile missions. Notably,

the country completed a lunar probe mission that returned samples from the far side of the Moon, marking a significant achievement in lunar research.

The development program was jointly released by key organizations, including the China Academy of Sciences (CAS), the China National Space Administration (CNSA), and the China Manned Space Agency. It outlines 17 priority areas categorized under five key scientific themes and presents a three-phase roadmap for space science advancement.

During the second phase, spanning from 2028 to 2035, China aims to construct an interna-

tional lunar research station. In the initial phase, leading up to 2027, the focus will be on operating the existing space station and advancing the manned lunar exploration project, alongside the fourth phase of its lunar exploration program and planetary exploration initiatives.

The new plan emphasizes the exploration of celestial bodies within the solar system and exoplanets, with a goal of identifying conditions suitable for life. Key scientific themes include studying the origins and evolution of the solar system, characterizing planetary atmospheres, and searching for extraterrestrial life.



Israel's Counterattack on Iran Expected Before U.S. Election, Say Officials

American officials are bracing for potential Israeli retaliation against Iran in the lead-up to the November 5 Presidential elections. This expectation follows Iran's recent launch of over 200 ballistic missiles targeting Israel, which was prompted by Israel's military actions in Southern Lebanon that resulted in significant casualties, including the deaths of key Hezbollah leaders.

While the timing of Israel's response isn't directly linked to the U.S. elections, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly aware of the implications that escalating tensions could have on American politics. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East complicates the campaign landscape for Vice President Kamala Harris, particularly given the Biden administration's mixed response to Israel's year-long war in

Gaza. Critics from both ends of the political spectrum are voicing concerns: progressives are calling for stronger humanitarian efforts in Gaza, while Republicans accuse the administration of inadequately managing the situation.

In response to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions, the Biden administration has intensified its calls for Israel to enhance aid to Gaza.

Bangladesh Issued Arrest Warrant for Exiled Ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

A Bangladeshi court has issued an arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August following her ousting amid a student-led revolution. The court has ordered that Hasina be produced in court by November 18, according to Mohammad Tajul Islam, the chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

Islam accused Hasina of overseeing widespread human rights abuses during her 15-year rule, including mass detentions and extrajudicial killings of political opponents. He stated that she was at the forefront of "massacres, killings, and crimes against humanity" between July and August. This declaration has marked a significant moment in Bangladesh's political landscape.

Since fleeing the country, Hasina, 77, has not been seen in public, with her last known location reported to be a military airbase near New Delhi. Her presence in India has drawn ire from the Bangladeshi government, which has revoked her diplomatic passport. Notably, the two countries have a bilateral extradition treaty that could facilitate her return to Bangladesh for trial.

However, the treaty includes a clause that allows extradition to be refused if the alleged offense is deemed to be of a "political char-



acter." This could complicate any attempts by the Bangladeshi authorities to bring Hasina back to face charges.

Hasina's government established the ICT in 2010 to investigate atrocities committed during the 1971 independence war against Pakistan. The tribunal has faced criticism from the United Nations and human rights organizations for its procedural shortcomings and has been seen by many as a tool for eliminating political opposition. Several cases against Hasina related to alleged orchestrations of "mass murder" are currently under investigation.



Trudeau's Admission: No Evidence Linking India to Nijjar's Killing

In a surprising revelation during a public inquiry on Wednesday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau admitted that Canada lacked "hard evidentiary proof" to support allegations implicating Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2023. This acknowledgment comes amid escalating diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, following Trudeau's accusations last year.

During the inquiry into alleged foreign interference in Canada's electoral processes, Trudeau clarified that his claims about India's involvement were based on intelligence reports rather than definitive evidence. "I was briefed on the fact that there was intelligence... that made it incredibly clear that India was involved," he stated, highlighting concerns over Indian agents operating on Canadian soil.

The intelligence came from the Five Eyes network, which includes Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand, focusing on surveillance and signals intelligence. Trudeau alleged that Indian diplomats had been gathering information on Canadian citizens critical of the Modi government, reportedly passing this information to senior officials and organized crime groups, including the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

Nijjar, designated as a terrorist by India's National Investigation Agency, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, in June 2023. Following his death, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police indicated that Indian diplomats might have been involved in a plot to murder him, and that the Bishnoi gang had connections to Indian agents.



Elon Musk Donates \$75 Million to Trump's Campaign PAC

Billionaire Elon Musk has significantly increased his support for Donald Trump's presidential campaign, donating nearly \$75 million to the political action committee (PAC) he established, known as America PAC. This move underscores Musk's growing commitment to the Republican cause as the 2024 election approaches.

Musk, currently ranked as the world's richest man, has taken a prominent role in Trump's campaign, appearing alongside him at rallies, including a recent event in Pennsylvania. He has also used social media to criticize Trump's opponent, Democrat Kamala Harris, highlighting a shift toward a more visible political stance.

Trump frequently mentions Musk at his rallies, even promising to appoint him to a committee aimed at reducing government bureaucracy. The race between Trump and Harris has tightened, with polls indicating a neck-and-neck contest for the presidency.

According to filings with the Federal Election Commission, Musk's America PAC raised \$74.95 million for Trump's campaign between July 1 and September 30. The PAC focuses on grassroots efforts to mobilize voters, particularly in critical battleground states like Pennsylvania, which could ultimately influence the national election outcome.

To incentivize voter turnout, America PAC offers participants \$30 per hour, along with performance bonuses. Musk previously stated he would reward individuals with \$47 for getting registered voters in swing states to sign petitions supporting free speech and the right to bear arms.



Market Update

Heavy Losses in Auto and Media Shares



On Thursday, domestic stock market indices experienced significant losses, with a downturn attributed to a correction in auto shares, a sell-off in the real estate sector, and mixed signals from international markets. The NSE Nifty index broke through the key support level of 24,900, finding temporary support around 24,700. The market breadth on the NSE heavily favored sellers, with 2,050 shares declining while only 722 managed to rise, indicating a challenging

environment for investors. The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 81,501 in the previous session, opened slightly higher at 81,758 but soon faced pressure, touching an intraday low of 80,905. The index peaked at 81,781 before ultimately closing down by 494 points at 81,006. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty started at 25,027, reaching a low of 24,728 and a high of 25,029, before losing 221 points to close at 24,749. The Bank Nifty followed suit, settling

down 512 points at 51,288.

In the Nifty50, only 9 companies saw gains while 41 faced declines. Among the top gainers were Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro (LT), and State Bank of India (SBI). In contrast, the auto sector, along with Shriram Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), Nestlé India, and Hero MotoCorp, faced major losses. Notably, all sector indices except for IT turned red, with media, metals, real estate, private banking, consumer durables, and auto sectors showing significant declines.

As the Nifty navigates this turbulent phase, immediate support is observed at 24,800, while resistance stands at 24,950.

In corporate news, Tata Chemicals reported a net profit of Rs 267 crore for Q2, a 46% decline from the same period last year. Polycab saw its revenue rise by 31% to Rs 5,575 crore, with a 3.6% increase in net profit to Rs 445 crore. LTI Mindtree's total revenue reached Rs 9,731 crore, while Infosys reported



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revenues of \$4,894 million, with an operating profit of \$1,033 million, reflecting a growth of 3.3%. Jindal Stainless Steel recorded revenues of Rs 9,828 crore and a net profit of Rs 589 crore.

Indian Overseas Bank experienced a 22.33% rise in total income, amounting to Rs 8,484 crore, with a net profit increase of 24.42% to Rs 777 crore. Additionally, Geojit Financial's revenue surged by 50.18% to Rs 218 crore, netting a profit of Rs 57.4 crore. Notably, Nestlé India's results fell short of expectations, while Sirma SGS announced plans for a new plant in Maharashtra, and Shivalik Power received an order worth Rs 88 lakhs from GMT Industries.

Adani Enterprises

Raises ₹4,200 Crores Through Successful QIP



Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) announced the successful completion of its qualified institutional placement (QIP) of equity shares, raising approximately ₹4,200 crores (about \$500 million). The transaction, which involved the allocation of 1,41,79,608 equity shares at an issue price of ₹2,962 each, was initiated after market hours on October 9, 2024, and concluded on October 15, 2024.

The QIP witnessed strong investor interest, with bids exceeding 4.2 times the deal size. This diverse interest came from a range of participants, including global long-only investors, major Indian mutual funds, and insurance companies, highlighting AEL's position as a leading incubator of scalable businesses in India's core infrastructure sector.

AEL's incubation portfolio includes key sectors such as trans-

port and logistics—particularly airports and roads—as well as a new energy ecosystem focusing on solar and wind manufacturing, alongside data centers in the energy and utility sector. Other business areas include copper, PVC, defense, and specialized manufacturing, all of which support India's vision of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat).

The funds raised through this QIP will be allocated towards capital expenditures, debt repayment, and general corporate purposes. Leading the issue were SBI Capital Markets Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited, and ICICI Securities Limited as book-running lead managers.

Adani Enterprises continues to strengthen its financial foundation and expand its operational capabilities, demonstrating resilience and strategic foresight in its growth endeavors.

India's Trade Deficit Eases Amid Export Gains

India's goods trade deficit narrowed to \$21 billion in September, a five-month low, down from a ten-month high of \$30 billion in August, according to official data released on Wednesday. This improvement was primarily driven by a marginal increase in exports, particularly in textiles, engineering, and electronic goods, which offset a decline in petroleum exports and a significant reduction in gold imports.

In September, India's exports reached \$35 billion, a slight uptick from \$34 billion in the same month last year. This growth was bolstered by a steady rise in engineering goods exports, particularly to markets like Russia and Europe, where increased military spending has led to higher demand. Additionally, ex-

ports of electronic items, including mobile phones, to the United States contributed positively to the overall export figures.

The decrease in gold imports played a critical role in alleviating the trade deficit. With a decline in global gold prices, the demand for gold in India has also diminished, allowing for a more favorable trade balance. The reduction in gold imports reflects a broader trend of shifting consumer preferences and economic adjustments amidst fluctuating commodity prices.

Despite ongoing geopolitical challenges, India's export sectors have shown resilience, adapting to changing market dynamics. The growth in engineering

and electronic goods exports indicates a diversification of India's trade portfolio, moving beyond traditional reliance on commodities.

As the global economy remains uncertain, monitoring these trends will be essential for understanding India's economic health. Continued support for export-oriented sectors will be vital to maintaining this positive trajectory, especially in the face of potential international disruptions.

In summary, India's trade deficit has shown signs of easing, supported by a slight rise in exports and a significant decline in gold imports, setting a hopeful outlook for the coming months.



RBI Bans Four NBFCs from Disbursing Loans Over Pricing Concerns



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a ban on four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)—Asirvad Micro Finance, Arohan Financial Services, DMI Finance, and Navi Finserv—from sanctioning and disbursing loans due to serious pricing concerns. This restriction will take effect from October 21, 2024.

The RBI's decision stems from significant supervisory concerns regarding these companies' pricing policies, specifically their Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) and the interest spread charged over their cost of funds, which the regulator found to be excessive and non-compliant with existing regulations. The RBI stated that it has been actively engaging with these firms to

encourage responsible use of regulatory freedom, but evidence of unfair and usurious practices has persisted.

The central bank noted that these NBFCs failed to adhere to several critical regulatory guidelines, including those related to assessing household income and considering borrowers' monthly repayment capabilities for microfinance loans. Additionally, deviations were detected in Income Recognition & Asset Classification (IR&AC) norms, leading to the practice of loan evergreenings, improper management of gold loan portfolios, and failures in mandated disclosure of interest rates and fees.

Navi Finserv, established by Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal, and Asirvad, a subsidiary of Manappuram Finance, are now facing significant operational limitations. The ban underscores the RBI's commitment to ensuring fair lending practices, particularly in the microfinance sector, which serves many economically vulnerable customers.

The RBI's actions are a part of broader efforts to protect consumers from predatory lending practices and to promote transparency in the financial services sector. The central bank aims to foster a more responsible lending environment that prioritizes the needs and welfare of borrowers, especially those relying on small-value loans.

India's Economy, Population To Drive Carbon-Intensive Product Demand: Moody's



Moody's Ratings reported on Thursday that India is rapidly advancing its renewable energy capacity, yet the demands of its growing economy and population are likely to increase carbon-intensive product consumption. The agency projects India to remain one of the world's fastest-growing economies, with real GDP expected to grow by 7.2% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025.

India's economic growth will intensify energy needs due to rising population numbers and industrialization. Increased household incomes are also anticipated to heighten demand for energy-intensive products like automobiles. Consequently, India's share of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose to 7.5% in 2022, up from 6.7% in 2019.

The report, titled "Carbon Transition - India," highlights that the government's ability to attract private investment and manage negative impacts of decarbonization, such as job losses in traditional industries, will be crucial in

determining India's credit exposure to carbon transition and associated social risks.

India has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and has made progress towards its 2030 interim decarbonization targets. However, its rapidly growing economy continues to elevate GHG emissions. As of 2022, India was the third-largest GHG emitter globally, though its per capita emissions remain lower than those of other major economies, indicating room for improvement.

Electricity and heating represent the highest-emitting sectors, while agriculture contributes significantly, accounting for 22% of emissions—double the global average—primarily due to methane from livestock and dairy. Despite strong policy support and private investment driving renewable energy expansion, decarbonization in transportation and other sectors has lagged. To facilitate this transition, the government plans to introduce a mandatory emissions trading system by 2026.

Moody's emphasized that India faces significant environmental and social risks, including rising temperatures and pollution, alongside challenges such as income inequality and limited access to basic services. Addressing these issues through early investment in transition strategies will be vital, especially as the private sector currently handles nearly two-thirds of climate mitigation investment.

Meta Fires Employees For Misusing \$25 Meal Credits On Toothpaste, Detergent



Meta Platforms, Inc., the American tech giant behind Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp, has terminated 24 employees at its Los Angeles offices for misusing their \$25 meal credits. Reports indicate that these employees used the credits to purchase non-food items such as toothpaste, laundry detergent, and even wine glasses, prompting a formal HR investigation.

The company, which boasts a workforce of over 70,000, took action last week after discovering that some employees were exploiting the meal credit system. Investigations revealed that certain individuals were sending meals home or using the credits on days they weren't working in the office. One unnamed employee, who earns an annual salary of \$400,000, admitted to purchasing household goods and groceries, stating, "On days where I would not be eating at the office, like if my husband was cooking or if I was grabbing dinner with friends, I figured I ought not to waste the dinner credit."

This individual shared their experience on Blind, an anonymous messaging platform, and later acknowledged the misuse during the HR inquiry.

They described the situation as "almost surreal," highlighting the unexpected consequences of their actions.

The incident raises questions about the challenges large corporations face in managing employee benefits. Free food has long been a hallmark of working for major tech companies, and while it aims to enhance employee satisfaction, it can also lead to misuse if not carefully monitored.

Meta's swift response to this misconduct illustrates the company's commitment to upholding its policies and maintaining integrity among its workforce. As one of the world's largest employers, ranked 91st on Forbes' list of the greatest employers for 2024, Meta is keen on ensuring that benefits are used appropriately.

This incident serves as a reminder that while workplace perks can greatly enhance employee morale, they also require careful oversight to prevent exploitation. The repercussions faced by these 24 employees highlight the importance of adhering to company policies and the potential consequences of failing to do so.

Amazon Prime Video to Introduce Ads for Subscribers

Amazon Prime Video has announced that it will begin displaying ads to subscribers in India starting in 2025. This move follows the introduction of advertisements on the platform in countries such as Australia, Canada, Mexico, the UK, the US, and several European nations. Indian subscribers will soon experience ads while watching their favorite content, marking a significant shift in the streaming service's business model.



In a recent update on its website, Amazon stated that it would implement "limited" ads on Prime Video in India. The company emphasized that introducing advertisements would enable it to invest more in content and continue to enhance its offerings over the long term. Ads will appear during shows and movies, with Amazon promising that Prime Video will feature "meaningfully fewer ads than linear TV and other streaming providers."

Currently, competitors like Netflix and Disney+ Hotstar offer both ad-supported and ad-free plans, catering to diverse viewer preferences. Amazon also has a Prime Lite subscription available, which provides access to Prime Video content at 720p resolution and includes ads.

For users who wish to enjoy

an ad-free experience, Amazon plans to introduce a new subscription option. This ad-free plan will be offered as an add-on to the existing annual Amazon Prime membership, which is priced at Rs. 1,499 and includes access to Prime Video. While Amazon assures that this price will remain unchanged in 2025, it has not yet disclosed the cost of the new ad-free subscription.

Amazon has stated that it will notify Prime members several weeks in advance of the ad rollout, providing details about the ad-free subscription and how to sign up. The introduction of ads will primarily affect Amazon Prime members, while those subscribed to Prime Lite, who already encounter ads, will remain unaffected.

As the streaming landscape evolves, this development highlights Amazon's efforts to balance user experience with content investment, setting the stage for a new era of advertising in digital entertainment.

Coca Cola Lake In Brazil Is An Unusual Tourist Hotspot

Coca Cola has captivated fans worldwide with its fizzy taste and sugary cola flavor, making it a popular beverage that pairs well with various dishes. In India, creative food pairings with Coca Cola range from Chole Bhature to Desi Chinese cuisine. However, few can imagine swimming in a lake full of the beloved drink. In Brazil, a unique natural phenomenon known as Coca Cola Lake has emerged as a fascinating tourist hotspot, leaving food enthusiasts and travelers awestruck.



Officially named Lagao de Coca Cola, this intriguing lake is located in the Mata de Estrela reserve in the Rio Grande do Norte region of Brazil. Although its original name is Araraquara, the lake has garnered the nickname "Coca Cola Lake" due to its strikingly dark-hued water, which closely resembles the popular soft drink.

The lake's water, while not carbonated, has a deep coloration that invites curiosity and exploration. The unusual appearance of the lake, coupled with its unique environment, makes it a bizarre yet ap-

pealing destination for tourists looking for something out of the ordinary. Visitors are often drawn to its surreal beauty, capturing photographs and enjoying the chance to swim in what looks like a giant glass of Coca Cola.

Despite its unconventional name, Coca Cola Lake offers more than just an eye-catching aesthetic. The lake is situated within a lush, vibrant reserve, providing an opportunity for visitors to experience the rich biodiversity of the region. As

one explores the surrounding area, they can appreciate the natural beauty that complements this unique attraction.

This unusual lake has not only become a social media sensation but also a testament to how nature can create unexpected wonders. As more people flock to see Coca Cola Lake, it continues to cement its status as one of Brazil's most quirky and memorable tourist destinations, blending the allure of a beloved beverage with the breathtaking beauty of nature.

Study Reveals Human Sense of Smell is Faster and More Accurate

New research has upended traditional beliefs about human olfaction, demonstrating that our ability to detect changes in odors is significantly quicker than previously thought. Led by Dr. Wen Zhou from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a recent study reveals that humans can distinguish the sequence of smells with remarkable speed and accuracy.



Historically, it was believed that our sense of smell operated slowly. However, the study, published in *Nature Human Behaviour*, employed an innovative method that delivered scents to participants in rapid succession. Using a specially designed apparatus, the researchers could present two distinct scents during a single sniff, with intervals as brief as 18 milliseconds. Astonishingly, many participants could accurately identify whether the order of the scents was the same or reversed, even when the time difference was as short as 40-80 milliseconds.

Dr. Zhou highlighted that while participants were adept at detecting changes in the order of scents, determining which smell arrived first proved to be more challenging. This newfound sensitivity suggests that our perception of smell is closely tied to the timing of odors reach-

ing our noses. Interestingly, participants showed heightened success with lemon and onion-like scents, especially when the time gap between the two was around 167 milliseconds.

These findings challenge the perception that human olfaction is less sophisticated than our other senses, such as sight. Dr. Zhou posits that the ability to detect subtle changes in odors relies on a more intricate and rapid processing mechanism, rather than merely recognizing the

order of scents.

This research opens new avenues for understanding how the human brain processes sensory information, emphasizing that our sense of smell may be more refined and responsive than previously recognized. The implications of these findings could extend to various fields, including neuroscience and even marketing, as we gain a deeper understanding of how humans interact with and interpret the world through scent.

Apple Introduces Business Caller ID to Combat Spam Calls

Apple is reportedly developing a new caller ID service, tentatively named "Business Caller ID," aimed at helping users identify legitimate calls and reduce spam. This initiative will allow companies to register on the platform, providing their name, logo, and department for better visibility and trustworthiness.

David Dorn, Apple's senior director of Internet Software and Services Product, shared insights into the motivation behind this service: "We designed Business Connect to empower businesses to present the best, most accurate information to Apple users. With today's updates, we're helping even more businesses reach customers, build trust, and grow." This statement underscores Apple's commitment to enhancing user experience while also supporting businesses in establishing a credible presence.



The rise of spam and robocalls has become a significant concern for smartphone users. With this new feature, Apple aims to bridge the gap between users and legitimate businesses, making it easier for people to recognize important calls amidst the noise of unsolicited ones. By displaying verified business information, the service could significantly reduce the

likelihood of users ignoring important calls from legitimate companies.

This move aligns with a broader trend among tech companies to address user concerns about privacy and security. As consumers become increasingly wary of unsolicited calls, services like Business Caller ID will not only enhance user satisfaction but also encourage businesses to communicate with their customers more effectively.

As the rollout of this service approaches, it's expected to be integrated seamlessly into Apple's existing ecosystem, making it accessible for both users and businesses. By providing a platform where companies can authenticate their identities, Apple is not only taking a proactive step against spam calls but is also reinforcing its role as a leader in digital trust and security.



India Skittled for 46: Historic Collapse Against New Zealand

In a stunning display of bowling, Matt Henry and William O'Rourke combined to dismantle the Indian batting lineup, bowling them out for a mere 46 runs on day two of the first Test at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. This score marks India's lowest total at home and their third lowest in Test history. Remarkably, it is also the first time in 91 years that India has scored less than 50 runs in an innings on home soil.

Henry showcased exceptional control, taking 5 wickets for just 15 runs, while reaching the milestone of 100 Test wickets. O'Rourke, playing his first Test in India, made a significant impact with his ability to generate awkward bounce, claiming 4 wickets for 22 runs. Veteran pacer Tim Southee contributed with one wicket as well.

India's decision to bat first amidst threatening rain proved disastrous. Opting for three spinners, they left out key pacers, relying instead on Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. However, the New Zealand bowlers exploited the favorable conditions, and the Indian batsmen failed to adapt, resulting in five players falling for ducks.

Captain Rohit Sharma struggled against the New Zealand attack, surviving an lbw appeal before being bowled by Southee while attempting a big drive. Virat Kohli, promoted to number three after Shubman Gill was ruled out, couldn't make an impact either, falling to O'Rourke for a duck.

Sarfraz Khan's counterattacking efforts were cut short when he mis-hit a drive off Henry, leading to a stunning catch by Devon Conway. Rishabh Pant displayed a mix of caution and aggression but ultimately fell victim to O'Rourke after a brief partnership with Yashasvi Jaiswal, who also succumbed shortly after.

As the session progressed, the Indian batting woes continued. Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul both fell cheaply, leaving the team reeling. After lunch, Henry continued his assault, taking the remaining wickets and capping off a disastrous innings for India. The New Zealand bowlers walked off with a decisive advantage, leaving India to regroup for the remainder of the match. offer!

Sourav Ganguly Appointed Director Of Cricket At JSW Sports

Sourav Ganguly Named Director of Cricket at JSW Sports, Excludes Delhi Capitals for Two Years

Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Director of Cricket for JSW Sports, overseeing all cricketing properties, including the Delhi Capitals in the IPL and the Pretoria Capitals in the SA20 league. However, Ganguly will not be directly involved with the Delhi Capitals for the next two years due to a management rotation policy between JSW and the GMR Group, which co-owns the franchise.

The decision comes as part of an agreement where the GMR Group will manage the Delhi Capitals' operations in the IPL for the next two years, while JSW will handle the women's team in the WPL. Ganguly's role will primarily focus on guiding the overall cricketing strategy and development for all teams under JSW's umbrella.

Having joined the Delhi Capitals as an advisor in 2019, Ganguly worked alongside then-coach Ricky Ponting. His subsequent appointment as Director of Cricket followed a successful term as the BCCI president. JSW Sports founder Parth Jindal expressed confidence in Ganguly's expertise, stating, "Dada has always had a special place at JSW Sports. For us, he is family first and then the cricketing icon that he is."

In the wake of Ganguly's appointment, former India player Hemang Badani is expected to take over



as head coach for IPL 2025. Ganguly emphasized his long-standing relationship with the JSW Group, highlighting the vision and impact the organization has in the cricketing landscape.

While Ganguly won't influence Delhi Capitals' strategy directly for the next two years, his insights will be invaluable for other cricketing ventures under JSW's management, including the Pretoria Capitals in South Africa. This structured approach aims to enhance the performance and strategic direction of all teams associated with JSW Sports.

Dale Steyn To Leave Sunrisers Hyderabad As Bowling Coach

Dale Steyn, the legendary fast bowler from South Africa, has announced that he will not be returning to Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) as their bowling coach for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season. Steyn expressed his gratitude to the franchise for the time he spent with them in a post on X, stating, "A big thank you to Sunrisers Hyderabad for my few years with them as bowling coach; unfortunately, I won't be returning for IPL 2025."

Despite his departure from SRH, Steyn will continue his coaching role with the Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 competition, where the team has enjoyed significant success, winning both editions of the tournament to date. He added, "Two-time winners here in SA20, let's try to make it THREE in a row," indicating his ambition to maintain their winning streak.

Steyn was notably absent from SRH's campaign in the previous IPL season, having opted out for personal reasons. During his absence, former New Zealand bowler James Franklin took over the bowling coach responsibilities. Under Franklin's guidance, SRH managed to reach the finals, showcasing their resilience and talent despite Steyn's absence.



Steyn's exit marks the end of an era for SRH, where he has been a pivotal figure in shaping the team's bowling attack since his appointment. His expertise and experience in fast bowling have been invaluable, contributing to the development of several young bowlers within the squad.

As the franchise prepares for the upcoming season, fans and players alike will be eager to see who will step into the coaching role and how the team will adapt to this change. With Steyn's departure, the Sunrisers Hyderabad will look to build on their past successes while aiming for a strong performance in the IPL 2025 season.

Delhi Capitals appoint Hemang Badani as head coach

Delhi Capitals have made significant changes to their coaching staff, announcing Hemang Badani as the new head coach and Venugopal Rao as the director of cricket for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season. This move marks a fresh approach for the franchise as they aim to improve their performance in the league.



In conjunction with these appointments, JSW Sports, the co-owner of the Delhi Capitals, has also brought on board Sourav Ganguly as the director of cricket. Ganguly's role will encompass all of JSW's cricketing properties, which includes oversight of the Delhi Capitals in the IPL and the Women's Premier League (WPL), as well as the Pretoria Capitals franchise in the SA20 league.

Ganguly's association with the Delhi Capitals dates back to 2019 when he joined the team as an advisor, working alongside former head coach Ricky Ponting. Following his tenure as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Ganguly's return to the franchise is expected to bring valuable insights and strategic direction to their cricketing operations.

Hemang Badani, who has previously played for India and has extensive experience in coaching,

is tasked with leading the team on the field. His appointment comes as the franchise looks to build a competitive squad and improve its standing in the league. Venugopal Rao, also an experienced cricketer, will support Badani in developing the team's strategy and performance metrics.

These changes reflect Delhi Capitals' commitment to enhancing their cricketing framework and achieving greater success in the IPL. As the franchise prepares for the upcoming season, the new appointments are expected to foster a culture of excellence and competitiveness within the team.

Barcelona to Collaborate with Coldplay for Upcoming Clasico Against Real Madrid

FC Barcelona will debut special edition shirts featuring the logo of pop rock band Coldplay during their highly anticipated clasico against Real Madrid at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium on October 26. This unique collaboration marks another instance of the club's partnership with music streaming service Spotify, which has led to previous shirt designs featuring renowned artists like The Rolling Stones, Rosalía, and Drake.

In addition to the men's team, Barcelona's women's team will also sport these special shirts in their Spanish league match against Eibar on November 2. The initiative not only highlights Barcelona's connection to the music world but also aims to make a positive impact off the pitch.

Limited editions of the Coldplay shirts will be available for fans to purchase, with proceeds going towards a project by UNHCR/ACNUR and the Barça Foundation. This project focuses on addressing the effects of climate change in refugee camps in Uganda, showcasing the club's commitment to social responsibility.

Barcelona's collaboration with Coldplay emphasizes the club's innovative approach to engaging with fans and promoting important causes. As they prepare for the upcoming clasico, the team hopes that these special shirts



will not only boost team spirit but also raise awareness and funds for a pressing global issue.

With the match against Real Madrid always charged with excitement and rivalry, the addition of these limited-edition shirts is set to add an extra layer of intrigue to the encounter. Fans can look forward to a memorable clash that combines sports, music, and philanthropy in a meaningful way.



New poster from Pushpa 2

Anticipation Builds for ‘Pushpa 2’

The excitement for the highly anticipated sequel, ‘Pushpa 2,’ starring Allu Arjun, is reaching fever pitch as the release date approaches. Directed by the visionary Sukumar, this film is set to hit theaters worldwide on December 6, just 50 days away. Fans are already confident that it will shatter box office records, following the massive success of its predecessor.

Recently, the film unit unveiled a striking new poster featuring Pushpa Raj, portrayed by Allu Arjun, in a serious pose. The poster includes the iconic handprint, symbolizing the character’s presence and intensity. This artwork has generated buzz, elevating the excitement surrounding the film even further.

Allu Arjun’s performance is expected to be nothing short of spectacular, as he prepares to deliver a memorable portrayal of Pushpa Raj. Alongside him, Rashmika Mandanna returns as the leading lady, adding to the film’s appeal. The music, composed by Devisree Prasad, promises to be

a highlight, enhancing the film’s emotional and dramatic moments.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, ‘Pushpa 2’ is backed by a substantial budget, indicating the makers’ commitment to delivering a high-quality cinematic experience. With every teaser and poster release, the anticipation continues to build, hinting at a powerful narrative filled with action, drama, and romance.

As the countdown to December 6 begins, fans are eagerly sharing their theories and expectations on social media, creating a vibrant community of excitement. The ‘Pushpa’ franchise has already made a significant mark in Indian cinema, and the sequel is poised to amplify its legacy.

With just 50 days remaining, the ‘Pushpa 2’ storm is about to unleash, and the audience is ready for an unforgettable cinematic journey. The countdown is on, and it seems that this film will indeed create havoc at the box office!

Adivi Sesh’s ‘Dacoit’ Faces Cast Change

Tollywood star Adivi Sesh is on a roll with a series of exciting projects, one of which is his upcoming film, ‘Dacoit.’ Directed by Shanil Deo, this film promises a fresh narrative centered around the rivalry of ex-lovers. The intriguing title teaser has already been released, setting the stage for what fans can expect.

Initially, Shruti Haasan was cast as the female lead; however, recent reports suggest she has exited the project due to conflicts with the production house concerning her character. This news has stirred up discussions in the industry, as the filmmakers now seek to fill her role with another popular actress. The announcement regarding her replacement is expected to come next week, leaving fans curious about who will step into the shoes of the beloved heroine.

With the change in cast, it’s likely that filming will need to resume from the point of the title teaser, adding another layer of complexity to the production schedule. Despite these challenges, the anticipation for ‘Dacoit’ remains high, especially given Adivi Sesh’s growing reputation for deliver-



ing compelling performances.

cessor.

In addition to ‘Dacoit,’ Adivi Sesh is also busy with ‘G2,’ the sequel to his hit film ‘Goodachari.’ Directed by Vinay Kumar, the buzz around ‘G2’ is palpable, with promotional posters creating excitement among fans. Produced by TG Vishwaprasad and Abhishek Agarwal under the banners of People’s Media Factory and Abhishek Agarwal Arts, this sequel is expected to elevate the stakes even higher than its prede-

As the production teams navigate these changes, Adivi Sesh continues to capture audience attention with his diverse roles and commitment to quality storytelling. With both ‘Dacoit’ and ‘G2’ on the horizon, fans have much to look forward to in the coming months. The film industry is abuzz with anticipation, and it will be interesting to see how these developments unfold!

Kangana Ranaut’s ‘Emergency’ Gets Censor Certificate

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut has received a significant boost in her journey toward releasing her film ‘Emergency,’ as it has been granted a censor certificate by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Taking to Instagram Stories, Kangana shared the news, stating, “We have received the certificate for our movie ‘Emergency.’ We will be announcing the release date soon, thank you for your patience and support.”



The film, which delves into the controversial and politically charged period of India’s Emergency from 1975 to 1977, centers around the life of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the events leading up to her assassination by her bodyguards. The storyline has attracted scrutiny and debate, particularly from Sikh organizations concerned about its portrayal of historical events.

Last month, the Bombay High Court directed the Censor Board to address any representations from Sikh bodies or individuals who raised objections ahead of the film’s planned release on September 6. Following this, the CBFC’s examining committee cleared ‘Emergency’ with a ‘UA’ rating, but not without stipulations. The committee mandated three cuts and required the filmmakers to provide factual sources for certain contentious historical

statements.

Among the changes suggested, the committee highlighted the need to alter or remove specific visuals in a scene depicting Pakistani soldiers attacking Bangladeshi refugees, a point of contention for some viewers.

In ‘Emergency,’ Kangana portrays Indira Gandhi, showcasing her complex character and the tumultuous events of that era. The film features a talented ensemble cast, including Shreyas Talpade, Milind Soman, Mahima Chaudhary, Anupam Kher, and Satish Kaushik, with a screenplay written by Ritesh Shah. This film marks Kangana’s second directorial effort, following her successful debut with ‘Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi’ in 2019.

With the censor approval in hand, fans eagerly await the announcement of the official release date for ‘Emergency.’

Thriller ‘Kali’ Now Streaming on OTT

The recently released Tollywood thriller ‘Kali,’ featuring young actors Prince Cecil and Naresh Agastya, struggled to resonate with audiences at the box office following its theatrical release on October 4. Directed by Siva Seshu, the film failed to meet expectations despite its intriguing premise.

Now available for streaming on the popular OTT platform ETV Win, the makers hope that ‘Kali’ will find a wider audience online. The film’s gripping storyline, which centers around the sensitive theme of suicide, aims to engage viewers in a thought-provoking narrative.



Produced by Leela Gautham Varma, ‘Kali’ features a talented cast including Neha Krishnan, Gauthamraju, Gundu Sudarshan, Kedar Shankar, Mani Chandana, and Madhumani, among others, who portray significant roles in this thriller. The music for the film was composed by Jeevan Babu, adding to its atmospheric tension.

Despite its initial box office challenges, the filmmakers remain optimistic that the film’s transition to OTT will offer a second chance for ‘Kali’ to connect with audiences. With its engaging plot and strong performances, ‘Kali’ seeks to captivate viewers who may appreciate its exploration of complex emotional themes.

As the film begins its digital journey, it will be interesting to see how it fares in the competitive OTT landscape.

Pradeep Machiraju’s New Film ‘Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi’ Announced

Pradeep Machiraju, a prominent television anchor who made a splash in films with his debut in the hit movie ‘30 Rojullo Preminchadam Ela,’ is back in the spotlight with the announcement of his second film. The first look and motion video for the film have recently been unveiled, generating considerable excitement among fans.

The film, titled ‘Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi,’ pays homage to Pawan Kalyan’s first film and is directed by the duo Nitin and Bharath under the Monks & Monkeys banner. The title choice adds a nostalgic touch, promising a blend of classic storytelling and contemporary themes.

The first look poster features a captivating eye-to-eye romance between Pradeep and actress Deepika Pilli, set against the picturesque backdrop of a village. This visual suggests a sweet love story at the film’s heart. In contrast, the motion video introduces an intense warlike atmosphere within the village, showcasing both characters seated peacefully in their homes, hinting at the contrasting elements that will unfold in the narrative.

‘Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi’ aims to combine romance with comedy and family dynamics, all while weaving in unexpected twists that will keep the audience engaged. Pradeep Machiraju portrays a civil engineer, while Deepika Pilli plays a strong-willed vil-

lage belle, adding depth to their characters and the storyline.

The film also boasts a talented crew, with Radhan handling the music and MN Balreddy overseeing the cinematography, ensuring a visually and aurally appealing experience. As anticipation builds for this new venture, fans are eager to see how Pradeep Machiraju will shine in his second film.

With a rich mix of romance, humor, and drama, ‘Akkada Ammayi Ikkada Abbayi’ promises to be an engaging watch, solidifying Pradeep’s growing presence in the film industry. Stay tuned for more updates as the film moves closer to its release!

