

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 29° C

L 23° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 32° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 31° C

L 24° C

CM Revanth Reddy Defends Musi Beautification Project Amid Opposition Criticism

TPN , Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has made strong remarks regarding the Musi beautification project, explaining its objectives and defending the government's approach amidst growing controversy. Speaking to the media on Thursday, CM Reddy emphasized that the project aims to transform the Musi River for the betterment of Telangana's future, particularly for the impoverished communities living in the Musi catchment area.

Revanth Reddy clarified that the project was not just about beautifying the river, but rather revitalizing it to improve the lives of those affected by its pollution and poor conditions. He stated that 33 teams have been studying the river's management, highlighting the miserable conditions faced by residents living near the Musi. Reddy



added that the government's focus is on providing employment to both educated and uneducated individuals, and that opposition to such revolu-

tionary changes is expected.

The Chief Minister also took the opportunity to attack BRS leaders, indirectly accusing them of obstructing necessary reforms. He compared the opposition to those who once opposed the Land Limitation Act and other reforms. "There are always forces that oppose progress.

The poor must be freed from their cycle of poverty," Reddy asserted. He criticized some public representatives and officials for looting the state and questioned their motives behind opposing the Musi revival, calling out their "poisonous ideas."

Reddy also highlighted the broader vision behind the Musi project, drawing parallels to other development initiatives such as Mallannasagar

and Vemulaghat. He emphasized that this initiative seeks to improve living conditions for those who have been suffering for decades due to the river's degradation.

Challenging opposition leaders, Reddy dared them to visit the Musi riverbanks for three months to understand the situation. "If KTR, Harish Rao, and Etala can stay there for three months, I will stop this project," he declared.

The Chief Minister also responded to criticism regarding the cost of consultancy firms involved in the project, stating that the contract was for Rs. 141 crore, not the exaggerated figures being spread by critics. He urged citizens to support the project, which he described as a vital step toward enhancing the environment, economy, and quality of life in the region.

KTR Criticizes CM Revanth Reddy

"Struggles Are Not New to Us, Chitti Naidu is No Challenge"



TPN , Hyderabad : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of ineffective leadership and calling him "Chitti Naidu." Speaking at a BRSV meeting at Telangana Bhavan, KTR dismissed Revanth's leadership, stating that the BRS had faced far greater challenges in the past, including the fight for Telangana statehood.

KTR recalled the 14-year struggle for Telangana's formation, where the BRS fought against powerful leaders like Rajasekhar Reddy and Chandrababu Naidu. He mocked Revanth Reddy, saying, "After fighting those big battles, this 'Chitti Naidu' is no challenge for us."

He also took a dig at Revanth's recent remarks about Hyderabad's geography, saying, "Revanth Reddy talks about Hyderabad being surrounded by the sea. He doesn't even know the basics."

Highlighting BRS Achievements

KTR emphasized the BRS government's accomplishments in the state, particularly in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. "We have ensured that 95% of the jobs go to locals. There are no district medical colleges in many states, but in Telangana, we have one in every district," he said. He also pointed out the success of the Gurukul schools, where over Rs. 25 lakh is spent on each student.

He expressed concern about the corruption and inefficiency under the Congress government. KTR cited instances of builders in Hyderabad being forced to pay bribes for basic services, contrasting this with the previous administration under his father, KCR, where such exploitation didn't occur.

"Telangana Has Been Betrayed"

KTR accused the Congress government of failing to fulfill its promises, particularly for farmers and low-income families. "Farmers are suffering. They were promised Bathukamma sarees, marriage support, and much more, but nothing has been delivered," he said. He also criticized the handling of reservations and the postponement of Group-1 exams, claiming that the Congress is cheating the people of Telangana.

Concluding his speech, KTR asserted that Telangana Bhavan remains the place where people come for help, while Gandhi Bhavan and the BJP offices are ignored due to "foolish policies" and poor governance under Revanth Reddy.

KTR positioned the BRS as the true defenders of Telangana's progress, promising to continue the fight for the state's development and the welfare of its people.

Etela Rajender Criticizes Telangana Government Over Debt, Floods, and Unfulfilled Promises

TPN , Khammam : Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender visited Khammam city and launched a scathing critique of the Telangana government's management of recent issues, including the state's finances, the floods, and unfulfilled promises to farmers.

Rajender pointed out that the Telangana government has taken on a debt exceeding ₹49,000 crore over the past 10 months. He accused the government of failing to address the debt left by the previous administration and criticized the Chief Minister's decisions, particularly citing the damage caused by the recent Hydra-induced floods in Hyderabad.

The MP also condemned the government's failure to implement the Congress party's loan waiver promises. "The Congress promised to waive loans up to ₹2 lakh for farmers, but not a single promise has been fulfilled. Farmers are distressed, with many even committing suicide due to lack of support," he said. Rajender questioned how the public could trust the government to fulfill its remaining guarantees when it had not honored its previous ones.



Regarding the recent floods in Khammam, Rajender demanded urgent relief for the over 10,000 homes affected by the disaster. He called for compensation ranging from ₹20,000 to ₹1 lakh to repair eroded lands. He also reminded the government of its unfulfilled promise to build embankments along the river to prevent future flooding.

Additionally, Rajender criticized the government for its excessive spending on advertisements, stating that public funds were being wasted while critical relief and support were neglected. He concluded by emphasizing that true governance should serve the people and uphold promises rather than focus on self-promotion.

Telangana Government to Increase Liquor Prices Amid Surge in Sales

TPN , Telangana : The Telangana government is set to increase liquor prices across the state, with hikes ranging from Rs. 20 to Rs. 150 on various types of alcohol. This price adjustment, part of the government's biennial increase, comes in response to the rising demand and the state's reliance on liquor sales for revenue.

The government has earned substantial income from alcohol sales in recent years, and this year is expected to be no different. During festivals such as Bathukamma and Dussehra, the state saw a surge in liquor sales, with over Rs. 1,100 crore in revenue generated in just 10 days. Hyderabad, the top city for liquor consumption, played a major role in this boost.

TPN , Hyderabad: On Thursday, October 17, the Income Tax (IT) Department launched raids on several firms across Hyderabad for suspected tax evasion. The targeted companies include Goojee Properties and Developers, Anvita Builders, and other businesses.

Goojee Properties, which has stakes in both the construction and handloom sectors in Hyderabad and surrounding districts, was previously raided in February 2023 for similar concerns. The firm, owned by Yasmeen Fatima and Shaik Akbar, has been under close scrutiny due to suspected irregularities and violations of income tax rules. Authorities have been closely monitoring investments linked to the company.

IT Raids on Hyderabad Firms for Alleged Tax Evasion



Telangana Government to Increase Liquor Prices Amid Surge in Sales



continued from P-1

Telangana has 2,260 liquor shops, 1,171 bars, and many pubs, which all contribute to the growing sales figures. In the first 10 days of October, over 10 lakh cases of liquor were sold, along with 17 lakh beers. However, revenue from liquor sales has slightly decreased compared to the same period last year, with a dip of Rs. 5 crore.

Despite the decrease, the government aims to raise additional revenue by increasing the overall liquor tax, a decision that has been met with criticism but is seen as essential for the state's finances. The increase is expected to bring an additional Rs. 5,318 crore to the treasury.

IT Raids on Hyderabad Firms for Alleged Tax Evasion



continued from P-1

The raids, involving 30 teams, are being conducted at the residences of directors and managing directors in upscale areas like Jubilee Hills, Raidurgam, Kollur, and Sangareddy. Akbar, who also contested the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections from Malakpet, is reportedly a key figure in the ongoing investigations.

The IT department is said to be focusing on suspected irregularities and non-compliance with tax regulations. Investigations are still ongoing, and more details may emerge as the raids continue.

Harish Rao Criticizes Centre for Cotton MSP Discrepancy, Demands 'One Nation One MSP'

TPN , Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA T. Harish Rao on Wednesday, October 16, questioned the Union government's double standards regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton, calling for the introduction of a "One Nation One MSP" policy to ensure equal support for farmers across India.

Rao criticized the Centre for procuring cotton at a higher rate in Gujarat compared to Telangana. He pointed out that while cotton farmers in Gujarat are being paid Rs 8,257 per quintal, the MSP for cotton from Telan-

gana stands at just Rs 7,521 per quintal. The former Telangana Finance Minister lamented that despite Telangana producing high-quality cotton, farmers are not being treated fairly when it comes to procurement prices.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Rao took a dig at the Centre's focus on various national uniform policies, such as "One Nation One Election," "One Nation One Ration Card," "One Nation One Tax," and "One Nation One Market." He asked why there is reluctance in implementing a "One Nation One MSP" policy,

which would ensure a fair and equal price for farmers across all states.

Rao's remarks reflect growing frustration in Telangana regarding the Union government's approach to agricultural policies, particularly the disparity in MSPs, which he argues is detrimental to farmers in the state. His comments are likely to resonate with the farming community in Telangana, which has been advocating for more equitable treatment in national agricultural policies.



Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Visits Zaheerabad, Addresses Key Issues



TPN , Zaheerabad: Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar visited Zaheerabad on Thursday, where he inaugurated the MP Suresh Shetkar camp office and addressed several important concerns raised by the public.

During his visit, Minister Ponnamp responded to the ongoing issue of private colleges regarding teaching fee and stipend arrears. He acknowledged the concerns raised by the colleges, stating that it is justified for them to voice their issues. However, he warned that the government would take strict action against any college that attempts to close down in protest. "Departmental action will be taken if the college acts to the detriment of the students," the minister asserted.

The minister explained that the ar-

rears were a result of the administration under the previous government and assured that steps were being taken to resolve the matter swiftly.

Minister Ponnamp also reiterated the government's commitment to support the agricultural sector, stating that all farmers with loans under two lakh rupees will soon see their debts waived. This move is expected to provide significant relief to the farming community.

In a bid to enhance transportation, the minister announced that new buses will be added to all RTC depots across the state. He specifically assured that ten new buses will be granted to the Zaheerabad RTC depot, improving connectivity and services in the region.



Telangana Sub-Committee Addresses Paddy Procurement Issues for Millers

TPN , Hyderabad: A Telangana cabinet sub-committee, convened to tackle paddy procurement issues, has decided not to allocate paddy from the current Kharif season to rice millers who have failed to return the milled rice from the previous season. Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasized that defaulters must promptly deliver their custom-milled rice (CMR) dues to the government.

The sub-committee, which includes Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu, and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, was formed to address key concerns regarding the procurement process. During their second meeting on October 16, discussions focused on topics such as storage facility hiring, bank guarantees from millers, milling charges, and issues related to paddy drainage.

Rice millers raised concerns about the financial challenges they face, citing that milling 100 kg of fine-variety paddy yields only 58 kg of rice, while 67 kg of rice is produced from the same amount of coarse-variety paddy. They also expressed frustration over delayed payments from the government, with dues still outstanding from the 2016-17 procurement season. These delays have resulted in severe cash flow issues that hinder their day-to-day operations.

The sub-committee assured millers that their concerns would be presented to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for resolution in the near future. The decision to withhold paddy allocation until dues are cleared underscores the government's commitment to enforcing accountability and ensuring the smooth functioning of the procurement system.

Telangana Govt Threatens to Terminate Outsourced AEOs Over Digital Crop Survey

TPN , Siddipet: The Telangana government has warned of terminating outsourced Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) if they refuse to conduct the digital crop survey. The government had enlisted 300 AEOs, including over 200 women, on an outsourcing basis four years ago for grassroots extension work. While regular AEOs have refused to carry out the digital survey, the government is now turning to the outsourced AEOs for the task.

Outsourced AEOs are paid Rs. 20,000 per month, significantly lower than the Rs. 50,000 received by regular AEOs. They are also paid every four months, unlike regular AEOs who are paid monthly. Many outsourced AEOs have voiced concerns over the physical challenges of traveling to remote locations for crop surveys, with some requesting regular salary payments and better benefits, including insurance coverage.

Outsourced AEOs like Radhika and Rohit have raised these issues in meetings with district agriculture officers and local authorities. They have also requested meetings with the Commissioner of Agriculture to highlight their grievances, including lack of insurance for duty-related deaths and inadequate support for the Rythu Bima scheme.



Four IAS Officers Report to AP After Telangana HC Ruling

In a significant development, four IAS officers—Amrapali Kata, Ronald Rose, Vani Prasad, and Vakati Karuna—reported to the Andhra Pradesh (AP) government on Thursday, following orders from the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). These officers, who were previously stationed in Telangana, were relieved after the Telangana High Court declined to interfere with the DoPT's directive.

The officers were formally welcomed by AP Chief Secretary Nirab Kumar, marking their official posting in the state. Their transfer came after the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) issued an order on October 9, directing all All India Service officers to join the states allocated to them.

Meanwhile, three IAS officers—Srijana, Harikiran, and Sivashankar—who were relieved from AP, reported to Telangana's



Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari in Hyderabad on Wednesday. These officers had previously sought to stop the transfers, filing a petition with the Telangana High Court. However, the court refused to intervene, paving the way for the smooth exe-

cution of the transfer orders.

This move is part of the ongoing efforts to streamline the deployment of IAS officers across states as per central directives.

Private Degree and PG Colleges to Reopen After Government Assurance on Fee Reimbursement

TPN , Telangana : Private degree and PG colleges, which had been observing a bandh since October 14, will reopen from tomorrow following the Telangana government's assurance regarding the release of pending fee reimbursements. The closure of these colleges was primarily due to financial difficulties caused by the government's failure to clear outstanding dues, amounting to Rs. 650 crore, which hindered the ability of colleges to pay salaries

to teachers and rent to building owners.

The bandh was supported by the Degree and PG Private College Association, which met with Deputy Chief Minister (CM) to highlight the crisis. Former MP R. Krishnaiah, who led the delegation of private college owners, expressed that the lack of cooperation from lecturers and building owners had forced them to close their institutions temporarily. However, following

the government's commitment to address the issue, the private colleges have decided to break the bandh and resume normal operations.

The private college associations have warned that if the government fails to release the pending fee reimbursements, they will be forced to launch a "death march" to pressure authorities into action.

KTR Slams CM Revanth Reddy's Delhi Tour and Governance Failures

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) took to the social media platform X, criticizing Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent Delhi tour and his overall governance. KTR remarked that despite 25 visits to Delhi over the past 10 months, the state had not earned a single rupee, and no significant progress had been made. He pointed out that many of Revanth Reddy's promises, including the distribution of sarees for women, pensions, scooters, and sewing machines, had remained unmet.

KTR also accused the Revanth government of misusing the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection (HYDRA) project, claiming it was being used to collect money by demolishing poor people's homes. He expressed concern that the poor were being unfairly targeted under the guise of cracking down on illegal constructions while the government reassured support for slums and colonies.

He further criticized Revanth Reddy for spreading doubt about Telangana's financial stability, which had led to a loss of faith in the state's economic health. KTR also raised doubts over the Musi beau-



tification project, questioning the transparency behind its massive budget of 1.5 crores and accusing the government of concealing a larger scandal.

KTR was particularly critical of Revanth Reddy's recent remarks during the foundation stone-laying of the radar station works in Vikarabad. He expressed confusion over whether Revanth was representing the Congress or BJP, and he argued that the environmental risks posed by the project outweighed its benefits, particularly as it would not generate local jobs.

Minister Sitakka Responds to Harish Rao's Comments on Women's Welfare

Telangana Minister Sitakka responded strongly to former Minister Harish Rao's recent remarks on women's welfare, accusing his government of neglecting the issue. She pointed out that while Harish Rao's administration failed to deliver on promises for women's welfare during its tenure, the current government has taken significant steps to support women in the state.

Sitakka highlighted key initiatives introduced by the Telangana government, including the establishment of women's banks, support for women industrialists in district centers, and the creation of the Women Welfare Board. She also emphasized the government's maternity benefits, which include a fixed deposit of Rs. 10,000 for mothers, and the allocation of three acres of agricultural land for SC and ST poor housewives.

She criticized Harish Rao for expecting the current government to achieve in one year what his government had failed to do over nine and a half years. Sitakka pointed out that while his administration looted Rs.



550 crores, it did little for women's welfare. Furthermore, she reminded him that during his tenure, over one and a half lakh crimes and atrocities against women were reported, challenging him to provide guidance on improving women's safety.

Sitakka's response underscores the contrast between the achievements of the current government and the shortcomings of the previous one under Harish Rao.

BRS Slams Telangana Government for Unmet Promises to Employees

In light of the central government's recent announcement of a 3% drought allowance as a Diwali gift to its employees, the Congress party in Telangana has raised concerns about the state government's failure to honor several commitments made to its workforce.

Congress leaders pointed out that the Telangana government, in its election manifesto, had promised to pay the pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) immediately after assuming power, ensure timely DA declarations for government employees and pensioners, and release arrears directly to the employees. However, it has been 10 months since the Congress came to power, and 5 DAs remain unpaid. This delay has reportedly caused



the CPS pension scheme. The party reiterated that the new PRC was supposed to be implemented within six months of forming the government, but it remains pending after 10 months.

Congress also highlighted the delay in clearing supplementary bills such as GPF, Surrender Leave, and retirement benefits for around 5,000 employees and teachers who retired after March 31 this year. The party demanded the immediate release of these arrears.

Congress has called for a cabinet meeting on October 23, urging the government to address these outstanding issues, including the implementation of the new EHS system for employees, teachers, and pensioners, as promised by the BRS government. The opposition party aims to ensure that these long-standing issues are resolved promptly.

employees to lose between Rs 5,000 and Rs 20,000 per month.

In addition, Congress criticized the government for not delivering on other key promises, including the introduction of the new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and the abolition of

Congress Promises to Address BRS Neglect of Minorities: Shabbir Ali

TPN , Hyderabad:

Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Advisor to the Telangana government, reaffirmed Congress' commitment to the welfare of minorities, accusing the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of neglecting minority needs during its decade-long rule. Shabbir criticized the BRS for spreading misinformation about its policies and failing to address key concerns of minority communities. At a media briefing at Gandhi Bhavan, Shabbir emphasized Congress' efforts to rectify the previous administration's shortcomings. He highlighted the establishment of Indiramma Committees at both the gram panchayat and municipal ward levels, stressing that minorities, particularly Muslims under BC-E, are crucial to their implementation. He also pointed out that the household survey, initiated under Government



Order Ms No. 18, includes 85% of Muslims in the BC-E category.

Shabbir Ali slammed the BRS for not fulfilling its promise of 12% reservation for Muslims, a significant issue during their governance. He praised Congress for advancing minority representation, including

the appointment of a Muslim Additional Advocate General and members of the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC). In education, Shabbir outlined the Congress government's initiatives, such as the sanctioning of two pharmacy colleges, one minority law college, and an additional 2,200 engineering seats in minority institutions. He also highlighted that 720 out of 10,006 DSC appointments were made to minority candidates, with ongoing recruitment efforts aimed at benefiting these communities.

Ponnam Prabhakar Highlights Government Achievements and Future Plans for Siddipet

TPN , Siddipet: Senior Congress leader and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed his commitment to fulfilling the promises made to the people of Siddipet. Speaking at the recent appointment of Kedam Lingamurthy as the Siddipet district library chairman, Prabhakar outlined several key initiatives and assurances.

He emphasized the government's efforts in job creation, education, and welfare programs. The government is working transparently, aiming to provide jobs to the unemployed, especially through exams conducted by the state. Prabhakar also highlighted the government's provision of 200 units of free electricity and 500 units of free gas in villages, as well as



the Arogya Sri health program and free RTC bus services.

Prabhakar reaffirmed the government's commitment to housing, announcing the distribution of 3,500 Indiramma houses in the constituency. He also mentioned that loan waivers, including for loans above Rs. 2 lakh, are being processed.

Addressing education, Prabhakar highlighted the completion of teacher recruitment and the foundation of the Young India Integrated Residential School complexes with an investment of Rs. 5,000 crore. He urged the district to prioritize education, training, and job opportunities, especially for students and unemployed youth.

Mandakrishna Madiga Calls for Movement Against CM Revanth Reddy Over Broken Promises

MMRPS President Mandakrishna Madiga has called on Madigas and sub-castes to prepare for another movement against Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government, accusing it of betraying the Madiga community's trust. Speaking at a press conference at the Somajiguda Press Club, Mandakrishna expressed frustration over the government's failure to fulfill promises made to the Madiga community, particularly regarding the SC classification.

Mandakrishna reminded that on August 1, 2024, CM Revanth Reddy had announced in the Telangana Assembly that the state would be the first in the country to implement SC classification. However, this promise remains unfulfilled, with states like Punjab and Tamil Nadu having already implemented SC reservations.

He criticized Revanth Reddy's government for not following through on his pledge, saying the CM's words are empty and deceptive, particularly when it comes to the SC classification for recent notifications. He pointed out the recent appointments of



over 11,000 teachers, where Revanth Reddy handed over appointment papers without honoring the classification, likening it to an insult to the Madiga community.

Mandakrishna vowed to mobilize the community for a renewed protest if the government's inaction continues.

Congress Gears Up for GHMC Elections, TPCC Emphasizes Unity and Discipline



TPN , Hyderabad : As the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections approach, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud stressed the importance of unity and discipline within the party. In a recent meeting organized by the Hyderabad District Congress, Goud urged leaders to work cohesively towards a successful outcome.

Goud emphasized that strict action would be taken against any leader who failed to adhere to party discipline. "No one, regard-

less of their position, will be spared if they violate party lines," he stated, highlighting the need for coordinated efforts to secure Congress's victory in the GHMC elections.

The TPCC president also reflected on the Congress government's achievements in the last 10 months, underscoring large-scale welfare programs and development projects. He compared these efforts with the previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government's tenure, accusing it of leaving Telangana with a debt of Rs. 7 lakh crore over the past decade.

Goud urged leaders to study the impact of these welfare initiatives on the public, emphasizing that the party has already garnered goodwill. He also criticized the BRS and BJP for attempting to undermine Congress's image through social media and called on party members to counter this narrative.

With the GHMC elections seen as crucial for Congress's future, Goud's remarks signal a push for a unified and disciplined campaign.

KTR Urges Government to Address Group-1 Mains Candidates' Demands Positively



TPN , Hyderabad : BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has urged the Telangana government to reconsider its decision on the scheduling of the Group-1 Mains Exams and respond positively to the demands of the candidates seeking rescheduling.

KTR met with a group of Group-1 candidates at Telangana Bhavan, where they voiced their concerns over the government's refusal to reschedule the exams. The candidates argued that legal issues, including 22 ongoing court cases, must be resolved before proceeding with the exams. They also expressed concerns that the exams could be canceled if the issue reaches the Supreme Court.

KTR condemned the recent arrests of candidates protesting in Ashok Nagar and demanded their immediate release. He also called for the withdrawal of all cases filed against the agitating candidates. "The government should not be stubborn; it must listen to the legitimate concerns of the candidates," KTR stated.

The candidates further highlighted what they believe to be unconstitutional aspects of Jio Number 29, particularly regarding reservations, claiming it is causing injustice to many candidates.

KTR assured the candidates that he would advocate on their behalf and support their cause. He pledged that the BRS would provide legal assistance and apply pressure on the government to reschedule the exams. "We will ensure that justice is done," KTR promised, emphasizing that the government must act fairly in this matter.

Four Software Engineers Arrested for Ganja Sales in KPHB Colony

TPN , Hyderabad : In a significant drug bust, Balanagar SOT police arrested four software engineers for allegedly selling ganja in the KPH B Colony area of Hyderabad. The individuals were staying at the Manikantha PG hostel in KPH B Colony and were caught red-handed during a police operation.

The police seized 1600 grams of dry ganja and four mobile phones from the accused, who were reportedly engaged in the illegal drug trade while working in the city. The operation was part of a larger crackdown on drug-related activities in the region.

Authorities have registered a case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) and are conducting further investigations into the matter. The police are probing if the accused were part of a larger network involved in the distribution of drugs.

Claranet India Donates 25 High-End Laptops to Empower Poor Rural Girls in Govt. Schools



TPN , Hyderabad: Claranet India Private Limited, a Hyderabad-based technology services company, has donated 25 high-end laptops to PURE (People for Urban and Rural Education), an NGO focused on education for underprivileged communities. The laptops, valued at Rs. 32 lakh, were handed over during a brief ceremony attended by Claranet's team, including Srujani Choudhury (HR Head India), Syed Wasay (Finance Head India), and Akshay (In-Charge IT and Security), alongside PURE representatives,

including Aruna Dara.

The donated laptops include ten Dell Latitude 3420 (I-5), three Dell Latitude 3420 (I-7), and six Lenovo ThinkPads, all in excellent condition, with full warranties and home service. These laptops will soon be distributed to poor rural girls in government schools to enhance their access to technology and education.

PURE, founded by NRI Shyla Talluri, is a volunteer-driven organization working towards the upliftment of underprivileged communities. The organization focuses on various areas such as education, girl child empowerment, shelter homes, and youth leadership. This generous donation is aimed at providing better educational opportunities for rural girls and promoting digital literacy.

Tension in Secunderabad as Locals Organize Puja at Vandalized Temple



TPN , Hyderabad: Tension escalated briefly at the Kummariguda temple in Secunderabad, which was recently vandalized, when local residents and religious groups organized a puja and rituals on the road on Thursday.

Devotees, including women and youth, gathered at the temple where the idol was damaged by a miscreant on Monday. They set up tents and performed religious ceremonies in front of the temple.

However, police personnel, deployed for security after the incident, intervened, stating the group had no prior permission to block the road, causing inconvenience to others. Despite the police removing the tents and carpets, the devotees attempted to resist, leading to a brief confrontation. The situation was soon brought under control by the police.

Unidentified Miscreants Attempt Break-In at Uppal Temple

TPN , Hyderabad : In a failed robbery attempt, thieves tried to break into a temple in Uppal during the early hours of Thursday. The miscreants targeted the temple's collection box but were unsuccessful in

their efforts and fled empty-handed.

According to police reports, the unidentified individuals tried to forcibly open the box to steal the money. However,

their repeated attempts failed, and they abandoned the scene without taking anything. The temple priest, who arrived in the morning, alerted the local police about the incident.

The Uppal police are currently reviewing surveillance footage from nearby cameras in an effort to identify the culprits. Authorities are working diligently to gather clues and make arrests.



Rich Tributes Paid to Kumram Bheem on 84th Martyrdom Anniversary in Asifabad

TPN , Asifabad : Thousands of Adivasis gathered at Jodeghat village in the Kerameri mandal of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district on the 84th martyrdom anniversary of tribal leader Kumram Bheem to pay homage. Minister D. Seethakka was the chief guest of the event.

The ceremony began with Kumram Bheem's family, including his grandson Sonerao, offering tributes in accordance with community traditions. They performed rituals at three wooden flags symbolizing 'Persapen' and 'Avvalpen,' the gods of Gonds.

The event saw participation from elders of the village, Adivasi leaders, and tribals from Telangana as well as neighboring states such as Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra. Processions, traditional music, and rituals marked the gathering, with some participants traveling by foot while others availed special TGRTC buses.

Tributes were paid to Kumram Bheem for his fight for rights over land, water, and forests, during which he was killed by Nizam's forces in 1940.

Panchayat Raj Minister D. Seethakka, Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh, and MLAs Kova Laxmi, Vedma Bojju, and Harish Babu paid their respects by garlanding Bheem's statue. Senior officials, including Collector Venkatesh Dothre and SP DV Srinivas Rao, were also present.

Telangana HC Permits Protest Against Ethanol Factory in Nirmal

TPN , Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court has granted permission for a public meeting, the Prajagalam Bahiranga Sabha, to be held at Pochamma Temple in Dilawarpur village, Nirmal district. This decision comes after a writ petition was filed by Katikam Raja Reddy, representing local farmers concerned about the environmental risks posed by a proposed ethanol factory.

The petition challenged the earlier refusal of permission by the sub-divisional police officer under Section 30 of the Police Act, which regulates public gatherings. During the hearing, senior counsel V Raghunath, representing the farmers, stressed that the meeting aimed to raise awareness about potential environmental hazards, such as contamination of agricultural land, which could harm future generations. Farmers have been on relay hunger strikes for 80 days, arguing that the factory's environmental impact threatens their constitutional rights. On the other hand, Senior Counsel P Sri Raghuram, representing the ethanol factory, raised concerns about law and order issues, pointing to previous protests, while highlighting the job opportunities the factory could offer.



Farmers in Adilabad Await Cotton Procurement Amid MSP Price Concerns

TPN , Adilabad : Farmers in the erstwhile Adilabad district are anxiously awaiting the start of the cotton procurement season by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). This year, cotton has been cultivated in 10.15 lakh acres in the region during the Vanakalam season.

Rs. 7,521 per quintal, a Rs. 500 increase from 2023. However, many farmers are dissatisfied with the price, pointing out that Gujarat farmers are being offered Rs. 8,257 per quintal. Without a price revision, they fear facing losses of Rs. 700 per quintal.

Adilabad district leads in cotton cultivation with 3.96 lakh acres, followed by Kumram Bheem Asifabad with 3.30 lakh acres. Nirmal and Mancherial have also contributed significantly, with 1.47 lakh and 1.42 lakh acres, respectively. Officials estimate a yield of 71.05 lakh quintals of cotton this year. The CCI has set the Minimum Support Price (MSP) at

Farmers are also facing logistical issues, with delays in procurement affecting storage at home. There are concerns that private traders and middlemen from Maharashtra might exploit the situation, offering lower prices than the MSP. The CCI has opened two procurement centers in Adilabad, with others expected to follow soon.

Private Schools in Suryapet Demand Fee Reimbursement Amid Financial Crisis

TPN , Suryapet : Private educational institutions in Suryapet district organized a large bike rally on Thursday to demand the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement funds for intermediate and degree colleges. Teachers' organizations criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its promises, which has placed school management and staff in financial difficulties.

The protesters expressed disappointment with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who had assured them of action post-MP elections but has yet to address their concerns. They warned of escalating protests if the reimbursements are not released soon. Teachers lamented being unable to celebrate Dussehra due to financial constraints and are now anxious about Diwali.

The institutions threatened to intensify their agitation, urging the government to settle the dues or face consequences. They called on the authorities to urgently address the delayed reimbursements, as frustration among teachers grows.



Tragedy Strikes as 4-Year-Old Girl Dies of Heart Attack in Karimnagar

TPN , Karimnagar : In a heartbreaking incident, a four-year-old girl, Medipalli Ukkulu alias Sriyansh, from Jammikunta in Karimnagar district, tragically passed away after suffering a heart attack. The lively child, known for her captivating dance moves and joyful spirit, was rushed to a hospital after her sudden health deterioration, but doctors confirmed she had suffered a fatal heart attack caused by a lung infection.

Sriyansh, the daughter of Raju and Jamuna, who work in private finance, had been entertaining those around her with her cheerful dances. Despite her active and healthy lifestyle, the infection had gone unnoticed, eventually leading to the fatal heart stroke. The family rushed her to a hospital in Hanmakonda, but her condition worsened, and she could not be saved.

The death of Sriyansh has left her family, her older brother, and the village of Pangidipalli in Tekumatla mandal in deep mourning. A video of her dancing, which went viral on social media, now serves as a bittersweet reminder of her vibrant, yet brief life.



Two Crocodiles Recaptured After Truck Overturns in Telangana's Nirmal District

TPN , Nirmal : In a dramatic late-night incident, two crocodiles were recaptured after escaping from a truck that overturned on National Highway 44 near Mondigutta village in Telangana's Nirmal district. The truck was transporting wild animals, including eight crocodiles, two white elephants, two tigers, and other animals, from Patna's Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park to Bengaluru's Banner-

ghatta National Park.

The truck lost control around 1 a.m. and crashed into cement pillars, allowing two crocodiles to flee. Police and forest officials acted swiftly, reaching the site to secure the escaped reptiles. The tigers remained in their cage, while authorities cordoned off the area to prevent further issues.

Cranes were called in to lift the truck, and the animals were safely transferred to another vehicle. Officials confirmed that none of the animals were harmed, and the journey to Bengaluru continued without further delay. The Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park regularly supplies wild animals to zoos across the country, with approval from the Central Zoo Authority.

504 Quintals of Illegal Ration Rice Seized at Vadapally Checkpost in Nalgonda



In a major operation, police at the Vadapally checkpost in Nalgonda district intercepted two lorries transporting 504 quintals of illegally obtained ration rice worth Rs 18 lakh. The rice, intended for poor beneficiaries under the Public Dis-

tribution System (PDS), was being smuggled from Andhra Pradesh to Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.

The gang behind the smuggling operation had been transporting

PDS rice from Andhra Pradesh, where it was polished and sold at higher prices in other states. During a routine inspection at the Vadapally border checkpost, police and civil supplies officials seized 245.40 quintals of rice in a Karnataka-registered lorry (KA56 2700) and another 250 quintals of rice in a Gujarat-registered lorry (GJ 25 U 2727).

The main suspects, Cheemakurti Sudhakar from Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, and Syed Salahuddin from Karnataka, were arrested, while another accused, Ashok from Guntur, is still at large. Sudhakar had been purchasing rice at low prices, polishing it, and transporting 10-12 lorries of illegal rice per month across state borders.

District SP Sarath Chandra Pawar revealed these details during a media briefing, emphasizing the continued crackdown on ration rice smuggling despite persistent illegal operations in Andhra Pradesh.

Baby Dies During Delivery at Mahabubnagar Hospital; Family Accuses Negligence

TPN , Hyderabad : A newborn tragically died at the Jadcherla government hospital in Mahabubnagar on Wednesday, October 16, following a delivery performed without the presence of a gynaecologist. The family of 22-year-old Keerthi, a resident of Nagasala, has accused the hospital staff of gross medical negligence.

According to the family, Keerthi was admitted earlier in the day, and the hospital staff assured them that everything was normal. However, when she went into labor at 4:30 p.m., no gynaecologist was present. The family claims the gynaecologist had left the hospital after completing her shift, leaving the delivery



in the hands of the head nurse and other staff members.

Tragically, the baby died shortly after birth. The family alleges the nurses mishandled the delivery, claiming they "yanked the baby, held it upside down, and spanked it" in a botched attempt to as-

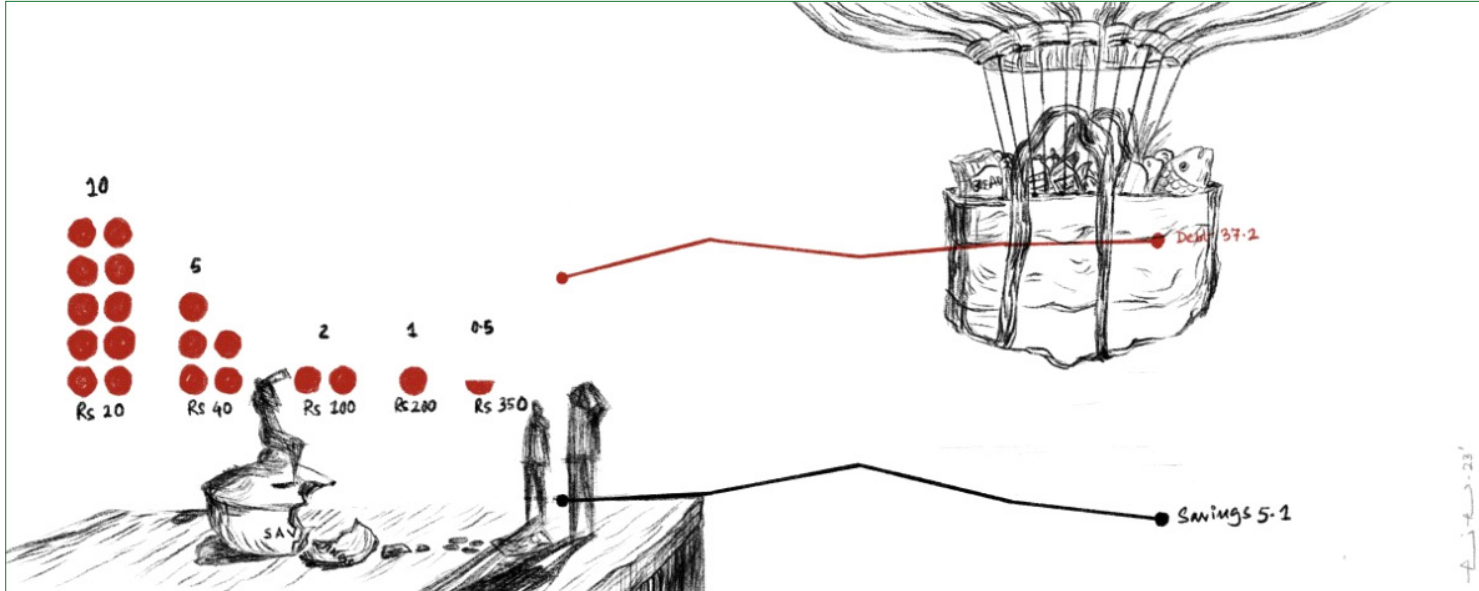
sist in the birth.

In response, Keerthi's family staged a protest, accusing the hospital authorities of negligence and demanding accountability. They expressed frustration over the absence of doctors even after the tragic death of the newborn.

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.



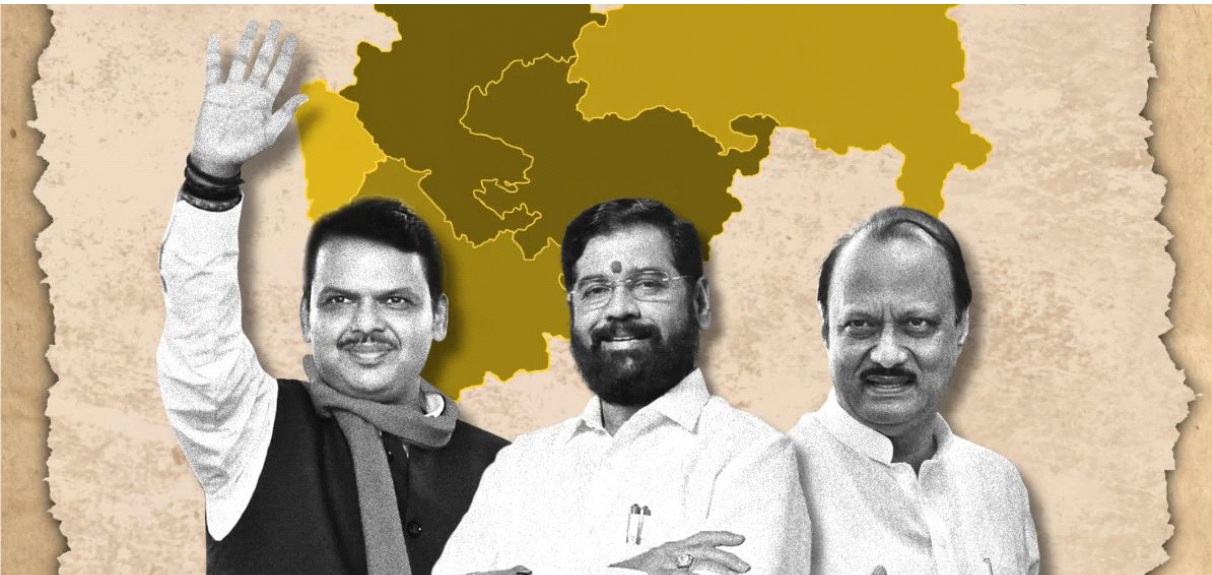
Other staples are also witnessing dramatic price hikes. In Allahabad, potatoes are selling for Rs 40 per kilogram, significantly higher than the typical Rs 20-25, while onions are priced at Rs 60 compared to Rs 25-30. Similar trends are evident across other markets, with onion prices in Jaipur and Gurgaon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

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



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

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!

