

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 39° C

L 24° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 32° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 31° C

L 25° C

CM Chandrababu Tribute to Police Martyrs, Honoring Sacrifice



TPN, Vijayawada: In Vijayawada On Police Martyrs Memorial Day, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu honored the sacrifices of policemen at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Ground. He reflected on the bravery of officers like KS Vyas, Paradesi Naidu, and Umesh Chandra, who lost their lives in service to justice and public welfare.

In his speech, Naidu emphasized the crucial role of the police in maintaining peace and security, pledging to strengthen the police department with a budget of ₹100 crores allocated over the past four months. He announced plans to fill 6,100 constable positions and enhance technical facilities to empower law enforcement.

Highlighting the commitment to police welfare, Naidu declared an annual allocation of ₹20 crores. He criticized the previous government for leaving ₹763 crores

in pending bills and emphasized the need for better funding and resources for police operations. He detailed investments made since 2014, including ₹600 crores for improvements, ₹150 crores for new vehicles, and ₹170 crores for infrastructure, including the Mangalagiri Police Headquarters.

The Chief Minister stressed the goal of achieving zero crime in Andhra Pradesh, asserting that a robust police system is essential for this vision. He also acknowledged the rising threat of cyber crimes and the importance of utilizing advanced technology to combat criminal activities effectively.

Naidu assured families of police martyrs that the government would support them and resolve pending grievances, including surrender leaves and other dues from the previous administration.



His address underscored a proactive commitment to enhancing police welfare, modernizing the force, and ensuring public safety. Chief Minister Naidu's remarks served as a powerful reminder of the dedication and sacrifices of police personnel while laying out a comprehensive plan for a more efficient and technologically advanced law enforcement system in Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Naidu's address at the Police Martyrs Memorial Day served to honor the sacrifices of police personnel while outlining the government's commitment to enhancing police welfare, modernizing the force, and maintaining public safety. His emphasis on technology, funding, and addressing the challenges faced by law enforcement underscores a proactive approach to governance and community safety in Andhra Pradesh.

Union Home Ministry to Address AP-Telangana Issues in Key Meeting on 24th Oct

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: On the 24th October, a crucial meeting organized by the Union Home Ministry will address the unresolved issues stemming from the partition of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which occurred a decade ago. Despite the passage of ten years since the bifurcation, several matters remain outstanding, prompting the Union Home Ministry to hold discussions aimed at finding resolutions.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 3 PM and will include representatives from both the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments. The Telangana Chief Secretary has been informed to attend, and high-ranking officials from various ministries, including power, roads, steel, agriculture, and others, will also participate.

This meeting comes on the heels of discussions held in

Delhi, where Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging them to expedite the resolution of divisional issues.

The Union Home Ministry's initiative to convene this



meeting marks another important step in addressing the complexities that have lingered since the formation of the two states. Stakeholders hope that this gathering will pave the way for constructive dialogue and lead to a resolution of the pending issues affecting both states.

CM Chandrababu and Union Minister Rammohan Naidu to Inaugurate Drone Summit Today

Drone Summit in Amaravati Aims to Establish AP as a Drone Hub

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Amaravati is set to host a significant two-day Drone Summit on today and tomorrow, aimed at positioning Andhra Pradesh as a leading drone hub. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Rammohan Naidu will inaugurate the event at the Mangalagiri CK Convention Centre.

Suresh Kumar, Secretary of the AP Drone Corporation, disclosed details about the summit, highlighting that 6,929 individuals have registered to participate. This includes delegates, participants in a drone hackathon, exhibitors, and speakers. The winners of the hackathon will receive prizes across four categories.

During the summit, the state drone draft policy will be unveiled, and two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) will be signed. One agreement will focus on drone pilot training in collaboration with the Quality Control of India, while the other will involve IIT Tirupati as a knowledge partner. The finalized drone policy is expected to be announced by the last week of November.



In addition to the summit activities, a spectacular drone show is scheduled for today evening at Beram Park in Vijayawada at 6:30 PM, touted as the largest drone show in the country.

Suresh Kumar emphasized the government's commitment to developing a drone ecosystem in the state, noting the current applications of drones in agriculture and law enforcement. He expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh will lead in the research, production, testing, and utilization of drone technology, further enhancing the state's status in the evolving field.

DCM Pawan Kalyan Announces ₹1 Lakh for Families of Diarrhea Victims in Gurla Village



TPN, Vizianagaram: In response to the tragic diarrhea outbreak that has resulted in several deaths in Gurla village, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan conducted an emergency review meeting at the Vizianagaram District Collectorate. During his visit, he addressed the pressing issues faced by the community and announced his commitment to support the affected families.

DCM Pawan Kalyan revealed that he will personally provide ₹1 lakh to each family of the deceased as a gesture of support while emphasizing that the government will announce further compensation based on the findings of an investigation led by senior IAS officer Vijayanand. The Deputy CM stated, "The AP government has been alerted regarding this serious situation," indicating a proactive approach to the crisis.

The investigation aims to determine the causes of the diarrhea outbreak, which has been attributed to polluted water from the Champavati source supplying Gurla village. Pawan criticized the previous government for its failure to provide adequate clean water, stating, "We have inherited the mistakes of the previous government."

During his visit, Pawan Kalyan engaged with local villagers to better understand their challenges. The villagers highlighted three primary issues:

- 1. Lack of Clean Water Tanks:** The fresh water tanks have not been cleaned for an extended period.
- 2. Inadequate Drinking Water Supply:** The community suffers from a shortage of drinking water due to reliance on only one tank.
- 3. Health Concerns:** The ongoing sanitation issues contribute to health risks for the residents.

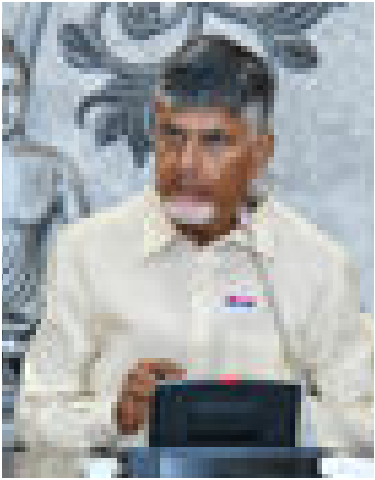
The Deputy CM assured the villagers that their grievances would be taken seriously and urged local officials to take immediate action to resolve the water supply and sanitation issues. He encouraged the community to continue voicing their concerns, reiterating his government's commitment to improving public health and welfare in the region.

As the investigation unfolds, the government is expected to implement measures to ensure access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to prevent further health crises in Gurla village and similar affected areas.





CM Chandrababu Launches Free Gas Cylinder Scheme as Diwali Gift for Women



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a bid to further support women’s welfare, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has announced the launch of a new initiative under the Deepam scheme, which will provide free gas cylinders to eligible households in Andhra Pradesh. This program, described as a Diwali gift, aims to alleviate household expenses and empower women.

Beginning on October 31, eligible families will receive three free gas cylinders per year. This initiative is projected to cost the state approximately ₹2,684 crores annually, emphasizing the government’s commitment to the welfare of women. CM Naidu stated, “This Diwali festival will bring light into homes through the Deepam scheme,” highlighting the program’s significance in enhancing the quality of life for families.

During a review meeting at the Velagapudi Secretariat, CM Naidu discussed the implementation details with State Civil Supplies Secretary Nadendla Manohar and representatives from major oil companies, including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. The CM emphasized the importance of transparent distribution, ensuring that all eligible women in the state receive the benefit without any hurdles.

The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on households, allowing women to redirect the funds they would typically spend on cooking gas towards other essential needs. CM Naidu noted, “Housewives can use the expenditure on cooking gas for other purposes,” further reinforcing the program’s goal of raising living standards among the economically disadvantaged.

To ensure smooth implementation, the Chief Minister instructed officials to begin the booking process for free gas cylinders on October 24. He also emphasized the need for beneficiaries to receive their gas subsidies promptly in their bank accounts.

Despite the state’s financial challenges, CM Naidu reiterated his government’s commitment to welfare initiatives that benefit the poor. He urged officials to execute the program effectively, aiming to avoid criticism regarding the distribution process.

The Deepam scheme was initially introduced to alleviate household expenses, and the addition of three free gas cylinders annually represents a significant enhancement of this initiative. With this announcement, the state government seeks to reinforce its dedication to women’s welfare and support for families across Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Narayana Discusses Amaravati Development with HUDCO Officials In Delhi

TPN, New Delhi: Ponguru Narayana, the Minister of Municipal and Urban Development, is currently visiting Delhi to discuss significant development projects with officials from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). Accompanied by Special Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singhal, Minister Narayana met with HUDCO officials, including CMD Sanjay Kul Shrestha and Vijayawada Regional Chief BSN Murthy.



During the meeting, the primary focus was on securing loan facilities from HUDCO for the ongoing construction of Amaravati and various development projects in Nellore. Minister Narayana outlined the state government’s vision for Amaravati, emphasizing its importance as a key urban development initiative.

Notably, it was revealed that a loan of ₹11,000 crores has already been sanctioned to the

Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRTHA) for the construction of Amaravati. Additionally, HUDCO agreed to release the pending loan of ₹165 crores, which had been delayed due to the negligence of the previous YCP government. This funding is intended for various development works within the Nellore Municipal Corporation.

The discussions mark a significant step forward in revitalizing the development projects in Andhra Pradesh, with Minister Narayana expressing optimism about future collaborations with HUDCO to facilitate urban development across the state.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Honors Police Martyrs on Memorial Day

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: On Police Martyrs Memorial Day, State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh paid tribute to the courageous police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. He emphasized the importance of remembering these martyrs and their sacrifices, stating, “The sacrifices of the immortals are immortal.”



During the observance, Minister Durgesh expressed deep gratitude for the services rendered by the police and highlighted their essential role in maintaining law and order. He led a moment of silence to honor the fallen officers, praying for their souls to rest in peace.

In his address, Durgesh remarked that the police are dedicated to public welfare, peace, and security. “It is our responsibility to remember the police martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the community,” he stated. He acknowledged the continuous efforts of law enforcement to protect the lives and properties of citizens, stressing the need for commitment, service, and selflessness among police personnel.

The minister also reaffirmed that the sacrifices made by these martyrs are not in vain, contributing significantly to the peaceful atmosphere enjoyed by society today. He urged police officers to remain vigilant and committed to their duties, reinforcing the vital role they play in safeguarding public safety.

The event was issued by the PRO of the State Department of Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography.

Central Govt Responds Positively to AP Minister Nara Lokesh’s Appeal for Skill Development

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh has received a positive response from the Central government following his appeal for support in creating 20 lakh jobs in Andhra Pradesh over the next five years. During a meeting in Delhi with Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhury, Lokesh emphasized the importance of skill development initiatives and the implementation of a Skill Census, which is being conducted for the first time in India.



The meeting, held at Kaushal Bhavan, included senior officials such as Secretary Atul Kumar Tiwari and CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation Ved Mani Tiwari. Lokesh presented a detailed overview of the Skill Census project, explaining its objectives and how it aims to identify and rectify skill gaps within the state.

Lokesh highlighted the coalition government’s commitment to making skill development a priority to achieve the ambitious job creation target. He submitted a letter outlining the specific support needed from the Central government and various ministries to meet these objectives.

The Union Ministers assured full cooperation from the Central government in response to

Lokesh’s appeal. Notable attendees at the meeting included Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, Secretary of School Education Kona Shasidhar, Director Vijayaraju, and AP Skill Development Corporation MD and CEO Ganesh Kumar.

Key Requests Made by Minister Lokesh

- Establishment of an Indian Institute of Skills in Amaravati through a public-private partnership model.
- Development of a Skill India International Center in Amaravati, akin to successful centers in Varanasi and Hyderabad.
- Setting up of a National Skill Training Institute in Visakhapatnam, for which seven acres of land had previously been allotted.



- Creation of Skill Councils in various sectors, including Gems and Jewelry in Mangalagiri, Construction in Amaravati, Renewable Energy, Handicrafts in Kurnool, Pharma Labs in Visakhapatnam, and Electronic System Design Manufacturing Centers in Tirupati.
- Allocation of resources for the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Linking AP Skill Development initiatives with National Skill Development websites.
- Significant funding for establishing skill training centers targeted at tribal populations.

This collaboration aims to significantly boost employment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh through targeted skill development efforts.

Farmers and Traders Demand Payment for Vegetable Distribution to Flood Victims in Vijayawada

TPN, V.V.S.MadhuBabu: In a bid to support flood victims, the Andhra Pradesh government initiated a vegetable distribution program through mobile vehicles during the first and second weeks of September. Priced at just ₹10 per kilogram, this initiative aimed to provide essential supplies to those affected by the floods. However, nearly two months later, farmers and traders involved in this effort are expressing frustration over unpaid dues.



Despite their efforts to assist the flood victims, traders and farmers report that they have not received any payments for the vegetables supplied. Officials from the marketing department have reportedly shrugged off inquiries, claiming no responsibility for the payments. Concerns have escalated as many wholesalers have confront-

ed estate officers, demanding answers about the outstanding bills, which have remained unpaid for over 50 days.

The lack of compensation for the vegetables distributed by Rythu Bazar Estate Officers has led to widespread dissatisfaction among local farmers and traders. They contend that their commitment to helping flood victims is being undermined by the government’s failure to settle accounts, causing undue stress on their busi-



nesses.

In response to this ongoing issue, traders and farmers have decided to take their grievances to Nara Lokesh, seeking intervention to resolve the matter with the Rythu Bazar marketing officials. They hope to secure the payments owed for their contributions to the flood relief efforts, ensuring that such vital support can continue in the future.

Nara Lokesh Comments on Arrest of Pinipe Srikanth In Murder Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Nara Lokesh has confirmed the arrest of Pinipe Srikanth and Vad-di Dharmesh in connection with the murder of Dalit youth Durga Prasad. Lokesh accused the YCP government of fostering a culture of violence, stating that Durga Prasad was killed because his growing support could not be tolerated by certain political groups.

Durga Prasad was murdered on June 6, 2022, in Ayanavilli, Kona-seema district, leading to an investigation that has now resulted in multiple arrests. Srikanth, the



son of former minister Pinipe Vishwarup, was arrested in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, and is being brought to Andhra Pradesh on a transit warrant. YCP social media convenor Vaddi Dharmesh was arrested earlier on September 18, 2024, for his involvement in the case.

Lokesh further mentioned that Durga Prasad's family lodged a complaint with the police, placing their trust in the coalition government to deliver justice. He also noted that the police are currently searching for four additional suspects linked to the case.

ED Statement on Searches at Properties Linked to Former YCP MP MVV Satyanarayana

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a statement regarding its recent searches at properties belonging to former YCP MP MVV Satyanarayana in Visakhapatnam. The ED confirmed that the raids were conducted at five locations on October 19, 2024, as part of an investigation into violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.



originally allocated this land for old age homes and orphanages, but it was fraudulently transferred for other purposes. The investigation stems from an FIR registered at the Arilova Police Station, and the ED is continuing its inquiry into the matter.

The agency revealed that it is probing the illegal alienation of 12.51 acres of land, valued at ₹200 crore. According to the ED, the government had

Nandigam Suresh Remanded for 14 Days in Mariamma Murder Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former YSRCP MP Nandigam Suresh, accused in the murder of a woman named Mariamma, has been remanded for an additional 14 days by the Mangalagiri court. Suresh is currently being held at the Guntur District Jail in connection with Mariamma's murder, which occurred in Velagapudi, Tulur mandal, during a clash between two communities in December 2020.



was subsequently sent back to Guntur Jail.

In addition to being implicated in the Mariamma case, Suresh is also a key suspect in the attack on the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, further intensifying the legal challenges he faces. The investigation continues as authorities seek to gather more evidence related to both incidents.

Ex-Minister Pinipe Vishwarup Claims Son's False Implication in Murder Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former minister Pinipe Vishwarup has expressed his outrage, claiming that his son, Srikanth, was falsely implicated in a murder case as part of a political conspiracy. Vishwarup's remarks came after the Andhra Pradesh police arrested his son, accusing him of involvement in the killing of a YCP worker named Vishwarup.



on his way back from visiting a temple in Madurai.

The former minister also criticized the coalition government, accusing it of engaging in diversionary tactics and fueling political tensions in Konaseema. He condemned what he called "party politics," asserting that his son was being used as a pawn in a broader political strategy aimed at targeting him and his family.

YS Sharmila Criticizes Jagan for Diluting YSR Fee Reimbursement Scheme Demands Fund Release from Chandrababu

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Congress President YS Sharmila has strongly criticized former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly weakening the YSR Fee Reimbursement Scheme, a flagship initiative of her father, the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy. Sharmila, in her statement, highlighted that the scheme, introduced by her father, brought significant benefits to poor students by enabling many to become engineers and doctors.



Sharmila alleged that during Jagan's tenure, ₹3,500 crores in fee reimbursement dues were left unpaid, impacting students and their families. She accused Jagan of disregarding the welfare of students in favor of political priorities, leading to widespread frustration among parents.

Criticizing Jagan's political affiliations, Sharmila expressed disappointment that he aligned himself with the BJP, a party that her father had opposed throughout his life. She labeled Jagan as "Modi's successor," accusing him of abandoning YSR's ideals. Sharmila also condemned the previous YSR Congress Party (YCP) government's attempts to dismantle the fee reimburse-

ment scheme and claimed that the current alliance government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is similarly neglecting the program.

Demanding immediate action, Sharmila called on Chandrababu to release the pending funds without delay. "It is your responsibility to clear the dues. The fee reimbursement scheme must continue without any hindrance," she asserted on social media, underscoring the Congress party's commitment to protecting the program that has been a lifeline for underprivileged students.

Sharmila's statements have reignited the debate around the fee reimbursement scheme, as she emphasizes its critical role in supporting the education of countless students in Andhra Pradesh.

Varla Ramaiah Criticizes Jagan Governance Amid Rising Crimes Against Women

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a media conference held at the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) central office, Politburo member Varla Ramaiah launched a scathing critique of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of failing to protect women in Andhra Pradesh. Ramaiah highlighted alarming statistics from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), revealing that 25,503 crimes against women were reported in 2022 alone, marking a staggering 96.2% crime rate against women during Reddy's tenure.



to women's protection, citing the formation of 20 special teams to apprehend suspects in recent murder cases. He praised the swift actions taken by TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, who personally contacted law enforcement and ensured rapid arrests in multiple cases, including the tragic murder of a young woman in Punganur.

He questioned Reddy's efforts, asserting that he had not engaged with law enforcement or taken concrete actions to safeguard women during his time in office. Ramaiah concluded by stating that under Naidu's leadership, women have regained their freedom and safety, with law and order restored in the state, contrasting it with the perceived chaos of Reddy's regime.

Ramaiah emphasized the coalition government's commitment

Minister Subhash Accuses Pinipe Srikanth of Involvement In Murder

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Vasamshetty Subhash has alleged that Srikanth, son of former minister Pinipe Vishwarup, was involved in the murder of volunteer Durga Prasad. Speaking to the media in Ramachandrapuram, Konaseema district, Subhash claimed that Vishwarup visited Durga Prasad's family after the murder and offered them two acres of land in exchange for not filing a case. He further alleged that Vishwarup used his ministerial position to obstruct the investigation into the murder.



elections, Durga Prasad's family gained the courage to pursue justice. They approached Subhash, who took them to higher police officials to ensure the case was investigated thoroughly.

Subhash explained that Srikanth and Durga Prasad were related and that the case was stalled due to political influence. However, after YSRCP's defeat in the

The minister emphasized that those responsible for the murder should face severe punishment and called for a transparent and fair investigation into the case.

Roja Slams Chandrababu, Pawan Kalyan, Lokesh, and Balakrishna Over Rising Crimes Against Women

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP leader and former minister Roja launched a scathing attack on the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh, accusing it of failing to address the increasing atrocities against women in the state. Speaking out against the rise in violence, Roja criticized the state's inability to offer support and assurance to affected families.



She specifically targeted Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh, and other leaders, questioning their silence on the issue. "Why did people vote for you if you're not going to address these attacks on women?" she asked.

Roja also expressed her anger at Home Minister Anita's remarks on the increasing incidents of violence, calling for the restoration of the Disha app, which was introduced to aid women in distress. She claimed that more than 74 girls had been raped and murdered since the coalition government came to power.

Further criticizing Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Roja accused him of focusing on entertainment rather than governance. She pointed out that while crimes against women were rising, Naidu flew to Hyderabad on a special plane to participate in the "Unstoppable" show. Roja also took aim at actors-turned-politicians Balakrishna and Pawan Kalyan, questioning their involvement in politics while being occupied with film shoots.

Roja demanded that the leaders set aside their political theatrics and focus on the safety and well-being of the people who had voted for them, ensuring the protection of women in the state.

YS Avinash Reddy Criticizes NDA Govt Over Rising Crimes Against Women

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP MP YS Avinash Reddy has strongly criticized the alliance government for its failure to ensure the safety of women and girls in Andhra Pradesh, questioning the state's law and order situation. Reddy's remarks came during a visit to the family of a student who was tragically murdered by her lover in Badvel.



Reddy expressed his concern over the increasing atrocities against women under the current government, pointing out that there have been 74 such incidents since the coalition came to power. "Is there any law and order in the state?" he asked, accusing the government of being indifferent to the suffering of the victims and their families.

Avinash Reddy also criticized Home Minister Anita for her dismissive attitude, particularly in relation to women's safety. He questioned the government's failure to implement the Disha Act and ensure the proper functioning of the Disha App, which was designed to provide swift police response to incidents of violence against women. "If the Disha App was functional, the police would have reached the scene within 10 minutes," he stated, accusing the government of neglecting crucial safety measures.

His comments have added to growing concerns about the government's ability to protect women and enforce the law in Andhra Pradesh.



MP Keshineni Shivanath (Chinni) Discusses Recent Shifts from YCP to TDP Amidst Growing Discontent



TPN, Vijayawada: In a significant political shift, Vijayawada MP Keshineni Shivanath has pointed out a wave of discontent among YCP leaders, signaling a growing faith in the NDA co-

alition government. He emphasized that not only the general populace but also YCP leaders are increasingly frustrated with the governance under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In recent developments, three corporators from the YCP—Lakshmipathy, Modugula Thirupathamma, and another from the 61st Division—have left the YCP and joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Their induction, which occurred during a ceremony at NTR Bhavan in Guru Nanak Colony, was celebrated by both MP Keshineni and MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, along with numerous supporting YCP leaders and activists.

MP Keshineni remarked, "The YCP leaders from the flood-affected areas are seeking to serve the public better under TDP's leadership, believing that their efforts will yield tangible benefits for the community." He highlighted the gratitude from the public towards the financial assistance

provided to Vijayawada during recent calamities, crediting the TDP for its proactive response.

He further noted that the people are recognizing the development initiatives and welfare programs implemented under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, leading to a resurgence of support for the TDP. Keshineni mentioned that the effective flood relief measures orchestrated by MLA Bonda Uma have not only garnered approval from the local populace but also from disillusioned YCP leaders.

MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao emphasized the exemplary services of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in addressing the needs of flood victims,

including financial assistance and essential supplies. He asserted that this effective response has prompted many YCP leaders to consider joining the TDP, attracted by its commitment to public service.

The induction event was attended by several TDP leaders, including Boppana Bhavakumar, Madigani Gurunatham, and TDP State Secretary Navaneetham Sambasiva Rao, all of whom expressed solidarity with the recent joiners and reinforced their dedication to serving the public. The gathering underscored the growing momentum for the TDP as it seeks to capitalize on the dissatisfaction with the current administration and strengthen its presence in Vijayawada.

MLA Krishnaprasad Appeals to CM for Urgent Repairs and Modernization in Budameru



TPN, Vijayawada: On Monday, Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishnaprasad met with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Chief Minister's office to discuss urgent issues affecting the Budameru region. During their meeting, Krishnaprasad highlighted the pressing problems related to the modernization of Budameru, the diversion of floodwaters from the Velagaleru head regulator, and necessary measures to manage sudden floods effectively.

The MLA informed the Chief Minister that severe floods in September had resulted in the breaching of dams at over 54 ponds in

the Mylavaram constituency, leading to extensive flooding in numerous villages. This situation has caused significant distress for both farmers and residents in the area.

Krishnaprasad urged CM Naidu to initiate immediate modernization efforts for a long-term solution to the flooding issue and called for permanent repairs of pond embankments, as well as the development of roads in the Mylavaram constituency.

The MLA noted that the flash floods had severely damaged roads maintained by the Roads & Buildings (R&B) and Panchayat Raj departments, leaving many areas with deep potholes and destroyed bridges. He emphasized the urgent need for repairs and rebuilding of these critical infrastructures.

In response, CM Chandrababu Naidu assured the MLA that he would issue appropriate orders to the relevant departmental officials to address these issues promptly. Krishnaprasad expressed gratitude to CM Naidu for his swift response to local concerns and for prioritizing the welfare of the Mylavaram constituency.

Minister Vangalapudi Anitha Honors Police Martyrs on Memorial Day

TPN, Vijayawada: In a heartfelt address during the Police Martyrs Memorial Day event held at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada, Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitagari paid tribute to the brave police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. He honored notable figures such as KS Vyas, Umesh Chandra, Paradesi Naidu, and Prasad Babu, commending their heroism in the fight against anti-social forces.

Minister Anitagari highlighted the government's commitment to the welfare of the families of police martyrs under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He announced initiatives aimed at enhancing public safety, including the introduction of a special app by the Vijayawada Commissionerate Center to combat cyber crime. The government is also conducting awareness seminars to educate the community about cyber crimes and human trafficking.

Additionally, the minister emphasized measures to prevent road accidents and announced the establishment of a military corporation with a budget of ₹10 crores to support the families of ex-servicemen. A special narcotics task force, alongside a ministerial sub-committee, has been created with the goal of achieving a drug-free Andhra Pradesh.

Anitagari acknowledged the police's exemplary performance during natural disasters and public events, praising their efforts during the recent floods in Vijayawada. He expressed the importance of com-



memorating police martyrs, stating that it serves to inspire enthusiasm and motivation among the new generation.

To further address the drug issue, the government plans to leverage social media platforms to raise awareness among youth, aiming to protect them from the dangers of drugs and marijuana. In closing, Minister Anitagari extended his salute to the parents and families of the fallen heroes, recognizing their bravery and sacrifices.

Govt Siddhartha Medical College's Late Library Hours Prompt Safety Worries



TPN, V.V.S.Madhubabu: In a controversial move, Dr. D. Venkateswara Rao, the Principal (FAC) of Government Siddhartha Medical College in Vijayawada, has ordered the central library to remain open until midnight, sparking concerns among staff and students. Typically, central libraries in government medical colleges across Andhra Pradesh operate from 9 AM to 9 PM, raising questions about the rationale behind this extended schedule.

Dr. Rao's directive includes requiring library staff to work shift duties until midnight, which has left many feeling uneasy. Reports suggest that the decision may be driven by a desire to portray the coalition government negatively, with some doctors questioning the motives behind such a move. Critics argue that the library rarely sees usage during these late hours, with only a few postgraduate students reportedly attending. Concerns

have also been raised regarding the safety of students and staff during late-night hours, with parents expressing fears of potential incidents similar to those that have occurred elsewhere.

"Why is there a rule that does not exist anywhere else in the state?" questioned a concerned staff member, highlighting the discrepancy between this library's hours and those of other medical colleges in Kakinada, Guntur, and Visakhapatnam.

Dr. Venkateswara Rao maintains that the decision to keep the library open late is a necessary measure, but many within the college community remain skeptical, questioning who will be held responsible in the event of an untoward incident. As the debate continues, the college administration faces mounting pressure to reassess this decision for the safety and well-being of its students and staff.

Janasena Party Addresses Public Grievances in Mangalagiri



TPN, Mangalagiri: The Janasena Party organized a Janavani program at its Central Office in Mangalagiri, where Kakinada Rural Legislator Sri Pantam Nanaji received petitions from the public regarding various grievances.

During the event, several citizens expressed their distress over pressing issues. One notable complaint came from a Kadapa woman, V. Shobharani, who revealed that her land had been occupied by followers of YCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Anjad Basha. She alleged threats against her life if she attempted to reclaim her property. Legislator Nanaji responded by suggesting the involvement of the Additional SP of Kadapa district to resolve the matter. Concerns were also raised by farmers from Thimmapur-

am village in Dwarakathirumala Mandal, whose crops had suffered severe damage due to pollution from the South Star Ceramic Industry. They lamented that the industry had consistently violated Pollution Control Board regulations, leading to financial losses totaling lakhs of rupees over the past few years. The farmers appealed for compensation from the industry for their losses.

Additionally, outsourcing employees expressed their frustration over unpaid salaries for the past two years, highlighting their struggles to support their families and accumulating debts. They reported that their pleas to officials for job security and payment had gone unanswered. Other grievances included complaints about a severely damaged

road in Eleshwaram Mandal, which had not been repaired for a decade, and a Srikalahasti woman, Mrs. C. Deepthi, who claimed political interference had resulted in the power cut to her rice mill, leaving 50 workers unemployed and struggling financially.

Mr. T. Siva Kumar, an unemployed B.Tech graduate, shared his plight of being unable to find a stable job despite his qualifications. Responding to the needs of the community, Nanaji facilitated employment opportunities for individuals like Kumar by coordinating with local companies.

The Janavani program served as a platform for citizens to voice their concerns, with many issues being addressed on the spot by officials and local leaders.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan Inspects Rushikonda Constructions



TPN, Visakhapatnam: In Visakhapatnam Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan conducted an inspection of the constructions at Rushikonda on his return to Visakhapatnam Airport after visiting Gurla. The buildings, resembling royal architecture, were constructed by the previous government at a cost of ₹600 crores. Notably, access to these structures had been restricted prior to the elections.

During his earlier visits to Visakhapatnam, Mr. Pawan Kalyan had frequently mentioned the Rushikonda Palace, prompting him to take this opportunity to inspect the site. Accompanied by MP Shri M. Bharat, he explored the area, which includes seven large buildings and three smaller houses. Mr. Bharat provided insights into the construction details, including the buildings' dimensions, market value, and legal aspects.

As Mr. Pawan Kalyan observed the palace's surroundings and



the scenic sea view, he engaged with the staff on-site and took photos with them. Yalaman-chili MLA Mr. Sundarapu Vijay Kumar and Visakha Corporator Mr. P. Murthy Yadav further elaborated on the height and area of the buildings, highlighting the significant investment involved in the project.

After spending approximately 30 minutes at Rushikonda, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan concluded his inspection and proceeded to the airport. The visit underscored his commitment to scrutinizing the developments initiated by the previous administration and their implications for the region.



Heavy Rains Expected In Uttarandhra on October 24 and 25 Due to Cyclonic System

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Agency (APSDMA) has warned of heavy rains in Uttarandhra on October 24 and 25, following the formation of a low-pressure area over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the North Andaman Sea. The low-pressure system is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23 and will move northwestward, reaching the Odisha-Bengal coast by October 24.

APSDMA has forecast heavy rainfall in parts of Uttarandhra, with light to moderate rains expected in other areas. The agency has also cautioned fishermen against venturing into the sea from October 22 to 25 due to rough conditions and urged those already at sea to return to shore immediately. Managing Director Ronanki Kurmanath advised residents in the affected regions to remain alert and take necessary precautions as the storm approaches.

Rising Vegetable Prices Leave Consumers Struggling to Afford Basics



TPN, West Godavari: The prices of vegetables in local markets remained unchanged, causing significant concern among consumers. Shoppers now face a daunting reality where filling a bag with enough vegetables for a week costs between ₹300 and ₹500.

Most vegetable prices held steady compared to last week, with the exception of tomatoes and gourds. Tomatoes, previously priced at ₹80, have decreased to ₹60. Onions continue to sell at ₹60 for older varieties and ₹35 for new ones. Despite this minor relief, many consumers are still finding it challenging to purchase their weekly vegetable needs.

A comprehensive list of current vegetable prices reveals cucumbers at ₹50, black eggplants at ₹50, okra at ₹40, and sweet potatoes ranging from ₹35 to ₹40. Carrots and berkaya are both priced at ₹60, while green chilies and potatoes are selling for ₹40 each. Radishes are the cheapest option at ₹10, while pulses are priced at ₹80. Bananas cost ₹20 for three, and the prices for bindi (okra) range between ₹100 and ₹120, with ginger priced at ₹80.

In Palakollu, the situation mirrors that of the broader market, with eggplants costing ₹80 per kg, beer nuts at ₹85 per kg, and dosa pods priced at ₹60. Dosa and okra are available for ₹45 per kg, while beets are priced at ₹60. Onions range from ₹45 to ₹50, green chilies are at ₹60, and tomatoes are between ₹65 and ₹70. A pair of bananas costs ₹20, and a quarter kg of ginger is priced at ₹60.

With vegetable prices remaining high, consumers are increasingly worried about their ability to afford basic nutrition, raising alarms about the potential for food insecurity in the community.



Road Crisis, Residents Express Frustration Over Poor Infrastructure

TPN, Prakasam: Over the past five years, residents across various regions have voiced their dissatisfaction with the lack of attention the YCP government has given to road maintenance and infrastructure. Villagers have noted that side canals have not been properly maintained, leading to stagnant water and worsened road conditions.

In Markapuram, locals are particularly anxious about traveling, especially near the dam. A pothole near Alugu poses a significant hazard, causing drivers to fear navigating the area. The Kondepalli road is in an even worse state, with heavy rain resulting in water stagnation that has rendered the road nearly impassable. Potholes are rampant, and residents are calling on the coalition government to take immediate action to repair the roads.

Giddalur faces its own set of challenges, as the suburbs lack proper sewage drainage systems. During even light rains, water collects on the roads, turning them muddy and creating unpleasant odors. This stagnation has made it difficult for residents to walk in the area. Key routes, including those leading to the local substation, are in dire need of repair, and residents are urging officials to prioritize these projects.

In Kambham, similar issues abound. Main roads near the Honda showroom, as well as streets in Vidyanagar, Valmikinagar, and Urban Colony, have not been constructed to allow rainwater to drain effectively. Consequently, rainwater collects, turning roads into muddy obstacles.

The Struggles and Schemes Behind Andhra's Private Liquor Policy, Vultures in the Liquor Business



TPN, West Godavari: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led alliance government has implemented a private liquor policy, leading to intense competition among traders in the district. With applications pouring in and crores of rupees spent on acquiring licenses, the landscape for liquor shops is rapidly changing. However, the challenges facing licensees are mounting.

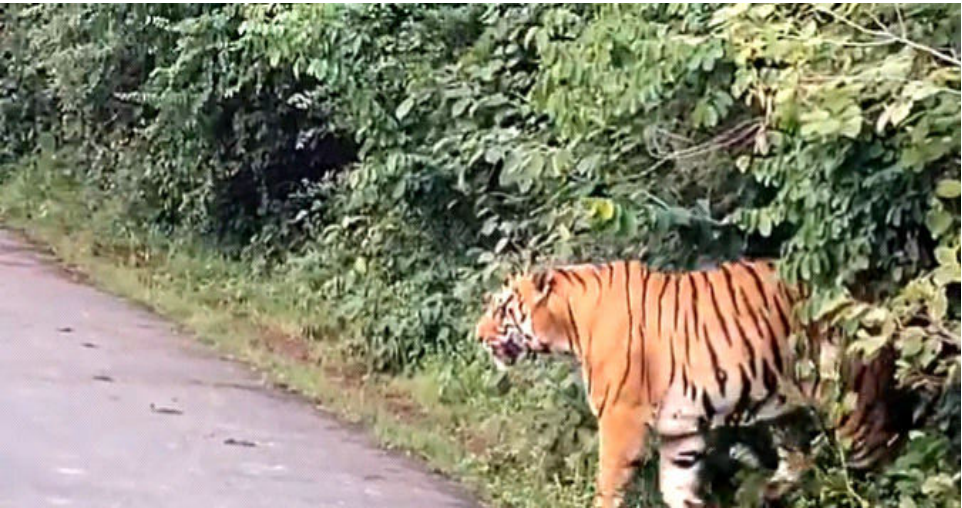
The competition has driven shop rents to exorbitant levels, with some locations demanding over ₹1 lakh per month. Despite the investment, many licensees fear losses if business does not pick up. Traders are finding it increasingly difficult to secure shops, as they have to navigate a complex web of demands from local public representatives.

In the coastal region, a "shadow MLA" is reportedly exploiting the situation, pressuring liquor licensees to share profits. This individual insists that they must purchase essential supplies, such as water and drink bottles, exclusively from merchants he recommends. Such tactics have left many licensees shocked and concerned about their ability to operate profitably.

Another MLA has attracted attention for allegedly requiring traders to inform him before bidding for liquor shops, insinuating that they should share a portion of their earnings with him. Traders suggest that this has contributed to a drop in applications in the constituency, as many are hesitant to engage with the political climate surrounding the liquor trade.

Meanwhile, an MLA bordering East Godavari district has made headlines for securing an agreement to take 20% of the earnings from all shops in his area. Despite the substantial investment of ₹50 lakhs by licensees to acquire their shops, this MLA is reportedly collecting his share without incurring similar costs.

Nagarjuna Sagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve Sees Surge in Tiger



TPN, Nagarjuna Sagar: The tiger population in Nagarjuna Sagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve Forest has seen a significant increase, rising from 68 in 2018 to an estimated 90-95 according to the latest calculations. Forest department officials are optimistic that this number will exceed 100 by 2025.

Recently, a tiger was spotted roaming the Naguleti range near Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, captured on video by forest department personnel. Officials noted that this particular tiger is approximately five years old. During routine patrolling last week, the tiger emerged from a puddle

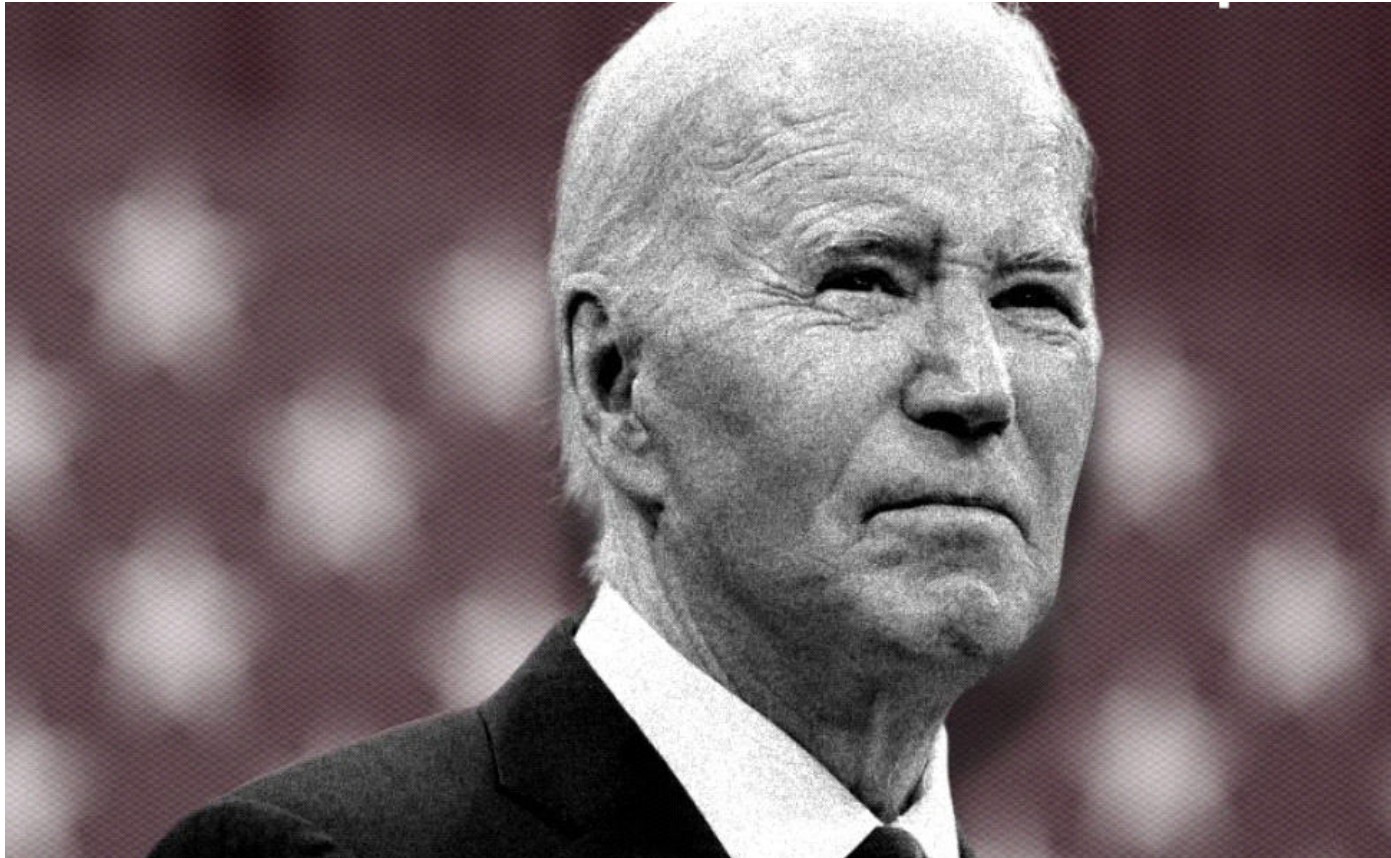
by the roadside, lingered briefly, and then retreated back into the trees.

The Naguleti range is home to permanent water bodies, extending to the Shiva temple and VRSP dam, creating a rich habitat for wildlife, including deer and crocodiles. An Andhra Pradesh Wildlife Officer confirmed that this area supports a healthy population of tigers, which includes two male and two female tigers. The officer mentioned that following the recent breeding season, the female tigers are expected to give birth soon. A camera trap set up by forest officials recorded a male tiger spending approximately one

and a half months with a female.

Tigers are known to establish and defend their territory, using scent marking and vocalizations to communicate with others. They spray urine containing 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline, a compound that gives basmati rice its distinctive aroma, to assert their presence. Additionally, tigers claw at trees and roar to further reinforce their territorial claims, which are crucial for their survival and thriving in the wild. The forest department continues to monitor these majestic animals closely, ensuring their conservation and protection within the reserve.

Assessing Biden's Foreign Policy: A Mixed Legacy



As President Biden approaches the midpoint of his term, it's an opportune moment to evaluate his foreign policy amidst the backdrop of his decision not to seek re-election. He inherited a complex global landscape marked by a pandemic and the chaotic legacy of his predecessor's unpredictable foreign policy, which had alienated allies and emboldened adversaries.

Upon taking office, Biden sought to stabilize U.S. foreign policy, re-establishing normalcy within NATO and rejoining international agreements. He maintained continuity in dealing with China and the Iran nuclear situation, yet his approach was often characterized by a reluctance to engage militarily, bordering on isolationism. This hesitance resulted in missed opportunities and allowed rivals like China and Russia to strengthen ties with key Middle Eastern nations.

The most significant challenge to

Biden's presidency came with the withdrawal from Afghanistan. After two decades of military engagement, the decision to pull out troops by July 2021, despite warnings from advisors about the consequences, resulted in a swift Taliban takeover. This chaotic exit not only demoralized Afghan forces but also symbolized a dramatic failure for U.S. foreign policy, leaving behind substantial military assets and a lasting sense of unreliability in American commitments.

Biden's foreign policy has also been severely tested in the Middle East, particularly with the Israel-Gaza conflict. The Biden administration's efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Arab states faced significant backlash as Hamas launched a devastating attack on October 7, 2023. The response from the U.S. was marked by mixed signals—supporting Israel while calling for humanitarian relief—which contributed to further escalation in

violence and suffering.

In the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, Biden's strategy has been similarly inconsistent. His administration hesitated to impose clear red lines regarding NATO expansion, and while substantial military aid was provided to Ukraine, the effectiveness of this support has been questioned. Sanctions against Russia, though extensive, have not significantly curtailed its actions, highlighting the challenges of maintaining a coherent foreign policy amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

While Biden did not create these crises, his responses reveal a presidency grappling with the complexities of modern international relations. As the world watches, the question remains: will Biden's foreign policy legacy be defined by stability and renewed alliances, or by missed opportunities and ongoing conflicts?

Signs of Thaw: S Jaishankar's Visit to Islamabad and Its Implications



The recent visit of Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Islamabad for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting on October 16 has sparked a glimmer of hope in the historically tense India-Pakistan relationship. This visit marks the first time in nine years that a high-ranking Indian cabinet minister has set foot in Pakistan, highlighting the prolonged absence of political dialogue between the two neighboring nations.

Although expectations for this visit to address longstanding bilateral issues—some dating back to October 1947—were low, the absence of harsh rhetoric during Jaishankar's trip stands out as a noteworthy development. In contrast to the previous SCO meeting held in Goa in May 2023, where contentious exchanges dominated the discussions, this meeting maintained a relatively

cordial atmosphere. Notably, there were no provocative references to Kashmir or the abrogation of Article 370 by Pakistan, suggesting a more constructive dialogue environment.

Jaishankar's visit comes at a time when both nations are grappling with a complex web of challenges. The mutual mistrust and historical grievances have often hampered progress in diplomatic relations. Yet, the lack of acrimony during this encounter signals a potential shift towards a more stable interaction. This could open avenues for addressing critical issues in the future, albeit cautiously.

The SCO platform itself serves as a neutral ground, where member nations can engage in discussions beyond their bilateral grievances. Jaishankar's presence in Islam-

abad, therefore, can be interpreted not only as a diplomatic gesture but also as an acknowledgment of the need for dialogue amid ongoing regional challenges. The visit may indicate a willingness on both sides to explore avenues for cooperation, particularly in areas of mutual interest such as trade, counterterrorism, and regional stability.

While it is premature to anticipate significant breakthroughs, the current thaw in relations could pave the way for more consistent diplomatic engagement. Both nations must capitalize on this positive momentum to build trust and address the pressing issues that have long plagued their relationship. As they navigate this delicate path, the international community will be watching closely, hoping for a more peaceful and cooperative South Asian landscape.

Naya Kashmir: A New Chapter for Jammu & Kashmir

The recent transition of power in Jammu & Kashmir, marked by Omar Abdullah's swearing-in as Chief Minister, signals a hopeful vision of "Naya Kashmir." This concept, rooted in the 92-year history of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC), represents a commitment to progressive governance and restoration of statehood.

One of Abdullah's first acts as Chief Minister was to pass a resolution advocating for the restoration of statehood, swiftly approved by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Joshi. Following this, Abdullah plans to seek the endorsement of the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister, further underscoring a shift toward normalcy in the region.

The NC's historical vision for Naya Kashmir dates back to 1944, when it adopted a Left-oriented manifesto aimed at socio-economic reforms, encompassing education, women's rights, and health care. This manifesto emerged as a response to the conditions under the Dogra monarchy and laid the groundwork for significant reforms after India's accession in 1947.

Under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the NC implemented crucial agrarian reforms that abolished feudal land ownership and introduced favorable tenancy laws for small farmers. These reforms were instrumental in alleviating poverty in the region. The Sheikh was also progressive in women's rights, abolishing purdah practices, though such advancements have faced challenges since the rise of extremism in the late 1980s.

In the contemporary context, the Modi-Shah administration's policies since the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 have aimed to create a new integration framework for Jammu & Kashmir, granting universal rights to all



Indian citizens. This reflects a broader ambition to incorporate the region into the national mainstream while ensuring equitable development.

Abdullah's inauguration as Chief Minister represents a pivotal moment for Naya Kashmir 2.0, as he embraces a more conciliatory approach towards the Union Government. His comments acknowledging Prime Minister Modi as "an honourable gentleman" and his decision to delay the demand for Article 370 restoration illustrate a commitment to collaboration over confrontation.

The recent elections showcased the NC's electoral strength, winning 75% of the seats in the Kashmir Valley, while the BJP secured its highest-ever tally in Jammu. The NC has also formed alliances with independent MLAs, reinforcing its position in the legislative assembly.

With a balanced approach that respects regional sentiments, Abdullah's administration aims to foster cooperation while navigating the complexities of governance in a historically tumultuous region. As Naya Kashmir 2.0 unfolds, the focus will be on sustained progress and the realization of long-standing aspirations for peace and development in Jammu & Kashmir.

Governance and Inequality: The Unseen Struggles of a Coastal Adivasi Community



The pressing question remains: will the upcoming elections lead to improved governance? Unfortunately, the likely answer is no. A significant factor contributing to this pessimism is the media's frequent neglect of governance issues. Recently, I had an eye-opening experience that underscores this reality.

I spent a day in a seemingly affluent village along the Konkan coast, not far from Mumbai—a place where wealthy businessmen, Bollywood celebrities, and sports stars have established their holiday homes. In recent years, the village has also seen a boom in middle-class tourism, with residents converting their homes into homestay hotels, offering both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned accommodations. The juxtaposition of wealth and poverty here is stark.

Yet, hidden in the heart of this prosperous village is an Adivasi enclave where the tide of progress has failed to reach. This community is marked by glaring disparities, existing in a bubble of poverty amid the affluence surrounding them. As I reflected on the upcoming Maharashtra elections, my inquiries shifted from general observations to specific questions about the community's conditions over the past five years since the last Vidhan Sabha elections.

The responses were disheartening. Despite the prosperity enjoyed by the broader village, the Adivasi residents reported minimal change in their living conditions. Access to basic amenities such as clean water, healthcare, and education remained woefully inadequate. They expressed feelings of exclusion and neglect, as though they were invisible to the political machinery that promised development.

This disconnect raises critical questions about the nature of governance in the region. As politicians campaign and make grand promises, it is imperative to consider who benefits from their policies. The apparent prosperity in the village masks the stark realities faced by marginalized communities. Unless these issues are brought to the forefront, the cycle of neglect will likely continue.

The media has a crucial role to play in highlighting these disparities and holding leaders accountable. Failing to do so perpetuates a narrative that overlooks the struggles of the most vulnerable. As the election approaches, it is essential for discussions surrounding governance to encompass not only economic growth but also social equity and justice. The hope for change lies in acknowledging the voices of the overlooked and ensuring that no community is left behind in the pursuit of prosperity.

PM Modi: India as a Model for Digital Innovation and Democracy



In his keynote address at the NDTV World Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that India has demonstrated how digital innovation can coexist with democratic values. He highlighted India's Digital Public Infrastructure as a significant topic of discussion at international forums, noting the admiration it has garnered from global leaders, including Nobel laureate Paul Romer.

Modi pointed out that while India lacked the first-mover advantage during the Internet revolution, it has created a unique model that prioritizes inclusivity. "Countries that led the digital charge often saw benefits limited to a few, driven by private corporations. In contrast, India has democratized technology, presenting a new approach to digital public infrastructure," he explained.

The Prime Minister elaborated on the government's role in developing platforms that foster innovation. He cited the seamless integration of initiatives like Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and mobile connectivity, which have transformed service delivery into a fast and efficient system. "With

UPI, India has witnessed a fintech explosion, with over 500 million digital transactions occurring daily. This growth is not just limited to large corporations; it includes small shopkeepers and street vendors," he noted.

Furthermore, Modi spoke about initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti and ONDC, asserting that India exemplifies how digital progress can promote transparency, inclusion, and empowerment rather than control and division. "This is a pivotal moment in the 21st century. Stability is crucial for growth, and India is committed to achieving it. For the first time in six decades, the people have bestowed a third-term mandate upon a government, signaling a desire for stability," he stated.

On climate change, the Prime Minister acknowledged the global challenge it poses and affirmed India's commitment to leading in this area, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions. "We have made green transitions a cornerstone of our growth strategy," he concluded, reaffirming India's proactive stance on climate action.

Priyanka Gandhi Set to File Nomination for Wayanad Lok Sabha Bypoll



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is set to file her nomination for the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll on Wednesday, October 23. Party sources indicate that prominent leaders, including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, will be present to lend their support during the nomination process.

Ahead of her nomination, Priyanka Gandhi met with Kharge on Monday to receive his blessings. On the day of the nomination, she and Rahul Gandhi will lead a roadshow from the Kalpetta New Bus Stand at 11 AM before submitting her nomination to the district collector at noon.

Priyanka Gandhi, 52, is the UDF candidate for the Wayanad seat, marking her electoral debut in the Kerala constituency. This bypoll comes five years after she entered active politics, and her candidacy has generated considerable excitement among party workers, who have adorned the constituency with posters declaring her "Wayanadinte

Priyankari" or "Wayanad's beloved."

Following the recent announcement of the bypolls by the Election Commission (EC), the Congress party wasted no time in declaring Priyanka Gandhi as its candidate for Wayanad, a seat previously held by her brother Rahul Gandhi. This strategic move positions her to make her parliamentary debut if elected, and it would mark the first time that Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka Gandhi serve in Parliament together.

The bypoll for Wayanad, along with the Nanded Lok Sabha seat and 47 Assembly constituencies, is scheduled for November 13, with results to be announced on November 23. Priyanka's candidacy comes at a crucial juncture for the Congress, especially after recent electoral setbacks, including losses in Haryana.

Throughout her political journey, Priyanka Gandhi has been viewed as a potential challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a possible successor to her mother, Sonia Gandhi.

Haryana Portfolios Allocated; CM Nayab Saini Keeps Home, Finance

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has taken charge of several key departments, including home and finance, as he allocates portfolios to his Council of Ministers following the swearing-in of the new government three days ago. In total, Mr. Saini will oversee 12 portfolios, including planning, excise and taxation, town and country planning, urban estates, information, public relations, language and culture, criminal investigation, law and legislative affairs, and housing for all.

Anil Vij, who previously held the home portfolio under former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, has been assigned energy and transport, along with the labour department. The health department, previously managed by Vij, has now been entrusted to Arti Singh Rao, who will also oversee medical education and research, as well as Ayush departments.

Mr. Saini, aged 54, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Haryana during a grand ceremony in Panchkula, attended by notable leaders from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alongside a large crowd of supporters from across the state. Alongside him, 13 MLAs, including two women, took their oaths of office.



Rao Narbir Singh has been allocated the industries and commerce, environment, forests, and wildlife departments, while Mahipal Dhanda will manage the school education sector. Other notable allocations include Vipul Goel, who will handle revenue, disaster management, urban local bodies, and civil aviation, and Arvind Sharma, who will oversee jails and cooperation.

In the agriculture sector, Shyam Singh Rana will be in charge of the agriculture and farmers welfare department, while Ranbir Gangwa will manage public health engineering. Krishan Kumar Bedi will handle social justice, empowerment, and welfare for

Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Backward Classes (BCs), while Shruti Choudhry will oversee the women and child development portfolio.

Among other appointments, Krishan Lal Panwar has been allocated development and panchayats, and mines and geology. Minister of State (Independent Charge) Rajesh Nagar will manage food, civil supplies, and consumer affairs, while Gaurav Gautam (Independent Charge) will focus on youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and sports. The Governor of Haryana has allocated these portfolios on the advice of the Chief Minister, as per the official order.

Maldives to Implement UPI Following Indian Expertise

The President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, has announced plans to introduce the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in the island nation, a decision backed by his Cabinet on Sunday. This initiative follows India's commitment to share its expertise in digital and financial services, particularly during President Muizzu's recent state visit to India.



sure a smooth implementation process.

To oversee the establishment of UPI, an interagency coordination team will be formed, comprising representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology, and the Maldives Monetary Authority. This team will collaborate with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to ensure effective execution of the project.

During his state visit to India, President Muizzu also witnessed the launch of RuPay cards in the Maldives, aimed at enhancing payment convenience for both Indian tourists visiting the islands and Maldivian citizens traveling to India. This initiative is part of a broader effort to foster digital and financial cooperation between the two nations, marking a significant step toward modernizing the Maldivian economy.

CM Stalin's Remarks on Delimitation Spark Family Planning Debate

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin made headlines on Monday with his remarks regarding the Lok Sabha delimitation exercise, suggesting that it could influence couples to consider having larger families. Speaking at a marriage ceremony for 31 couples organized by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, he referenced a traditional Tamil saying, "pathinarum petru peru vazhvu vazhga," which translates to acquiring 16 types of wealth for a prosperous life.

Stalin noted that the ongoing census and delimitation process, which will reshape India's electoral map, might encourage newly married couples to abandon the notion of having smaller families. He remarked, "The Parliament delimitation process may encourage



couples to have many children and give up thoughts of a small family." However, he emphasized the importance of giving Tamil names to their children, regardless of family size.

Historically, the phrase used by elders meant to bless newlyweds with various forms of prosperity—such as fame, education, and wealth—not necessarily with the idea of raising 16 children.

Over time, societal trends have shifted toward smaller family units, as many believe that fewer children contribute to better economic stability and prosperity.

Stalin's comments have sparked a conversation about family planning and cultural beliefs in Tamil Nadu. While some may interpret his statements as a light-hearted nod to tradition, others argue that they reflect deeper social dynamics surrounding family size and economic considerations in contemporary society.

The Chief Minister's remarks also coincide with ongoing discussions about the significance of the census and delimitation process in determining political representation and resource allocation.

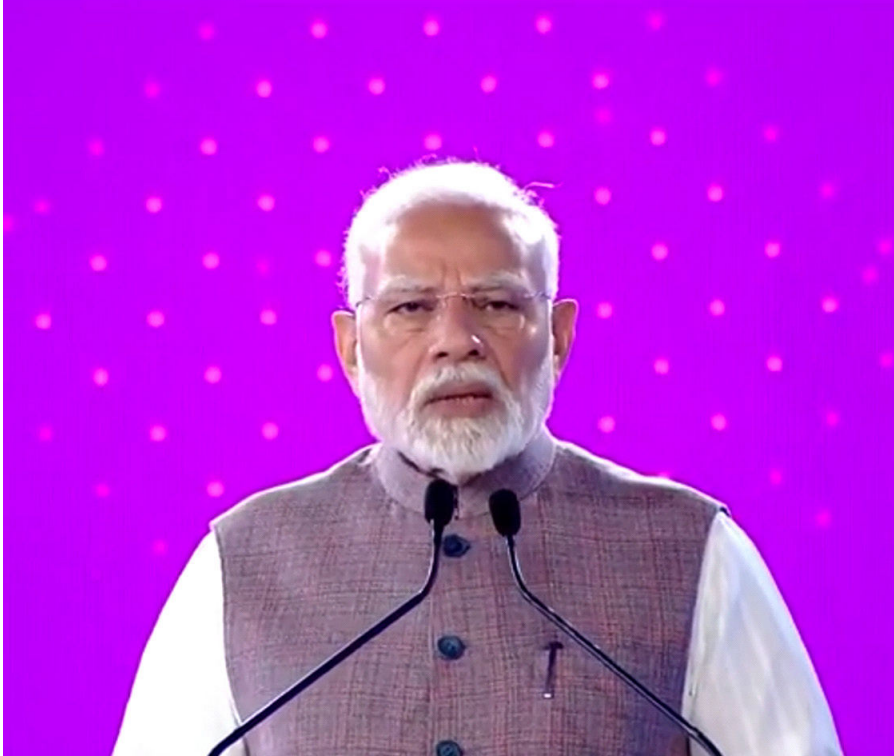
India Has Double AI Power: Modi at World Summit 2024

At the NDTV World Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the concept of "Aspirational India" as a driving force behind the country's growth in the era of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He emphasized that while AI is transforming industries globally, India is uniquely empowered by the dual forces of Aspirational India and Artificial Intelligence.

"This is the era of AI, and the future is intertwined with it. For the world, it represents Artificial Intelligence, but in India, it's a combination of Aspirational India and Artificial Intelligence. When these two elements converge, they accelerate India's growth," Modi stated.

The Prime Minister underscored his government's commitment to integrating AI into various sectors, asserting that 2023 marks a significant step in this mission. "There is no time for rest. My government is tirelessly working to fulfill India's dreams, positioning the nation as a beacon of hope amid global crises," he remarked, noting India's proactive approach to addressing a myriad of challenges on an unprecedented scale.

Modi also took a moment to address his political opposition, stating that the traditional practice of



comparing current government performance with previous administrations will no longer suffice. "Historically, governments have compared their achievements with those of their predecessors. While we have followed that path, the time has come to shift our focus. Our new metric for success will be our aspirations for the future, specifically the vision of a 'developed India' by 2047," he explained.

This forward-looking perspective underscores Modi's ambition to not only harness technological advancements but also to create a socio-economic environment that fosters growth and development. By linking Aspirational India with technological innovation, the Prime Minister aims to galvanize the nation toward realizing its full potential, setting a trajectory for success that aligns with global advancements in AI.

S. Jaishankar on Russia: A Strategic Partner for India's Future

During the NDTV World Summit in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar articulated India's emerging role on the global stage, discussing the country's foreign policy across key relationships with nations such as the US, China, and Russia, as well as its position in South Asia.

Jaishankar emphasized the long-standing relationship between India and Russia, describing it as a "time-tested" partnership. He stated, "Since Independence in 1947, Russia has never acted against India's interests," highlighting the significance of this relationship in today's geopolitical landscape, especially as Russia turns more towards Asia. He pointed out that India's growing resource demands align well with Russia's abundant natural resources, creating a mutual economic interest.

On the topic of China, Jaishankar noted a "positive outcome" from recent discussions regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC), indicating that Indian and Chinese troops would return to their pre-2020 patrolling arrangements. He described the recent agreements as a step towards disengagement, reassuring that both nations are moving towards a more stable border situation.



Shifting focus to India's neighborhood-first policy, Jaishankar outlined the importance of fostering strong ties with neighboring countries like Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. He reiterated India's commitment to being a reliable partner during crises, as seen during Sri Lanka's economic difficulties.

In a candid discussion about Canada, Jaishankar criticized Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government for perceived double standards regarding diplomatic relations. He expressed concern over Canada's handling of Indian diplomats, stating that the Canadian government imposes restrictions on Indian officials while allowing its own diplomats to operate freely in India.



Global South Looks To India's Leadership: Bhutan PM At World Summit

At the World Summit, Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay praised India's growing influence and leadership, asserting that the Global South trusts India to address significant global challenges, including the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. "The world needs India, and I am very happy that you have identified this century as India's century," he remarked, highlighting the importance of India's role on the world stage.

Tobgay emphasized India's remarkable achievements, noting its status as the world's most populous country with a booming economy that has surpassed \$3 trillion. He argued that India could have crossed the \$5 tril-

lion mark if not for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a diaspora of nearly 35 million, he stated that India stands out not only in economic terms but also in terms of leadership, which is trusted by nations in the Global South.

"The Global South looks to India for leadership," Tobgay stated. He expressed confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ability to mediate and resolve contemporary issues, including economic challenges and the need for vaccines during the pandemic. He further asserted, "If there is any person who can sort out today's problems, it is Prime Minister Modi."

Reflecting on his own background, Tobgay shared how his education in India shaped his service to Bhutan. Born in Kalimpong, West Bengal, he emphasized the impact of Indian educators on his development, saying that many Bhutanese benefited from education in India during a time when resources were limited in their own country.

In addition to discussing India's economic prowess, Tobgay commended India for its proactive stance on climate change. He noted that with a population of 1.5 billion, India is successfully balancing energy needs with environmental responsibilities, setting a model for the world.

Prabowo Subianto Takes Oath As Indonesia President, Swears In Cabinet

Jakarta: Prabowo Subianto was officially sworn in as Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday and promptly inaugurated his cabinet, reflecting a continuity of policies from his predecessor, Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. In his inaugural address to lawmakers, Prabowo vowed to combat corruption and pursue self-sufficiency in food and energy, setting an ambitious agenda for his administration.

The new cabinet comprises 48 ministries with over 100 ministers and deputies. Notable reappointments include Sri Mulyani Indrawati as finance minister and Bah-lil Lahadalia as energy minister. Sri Mulyani, a former World Bank managing director, will oversee major initiatives such as providing free meals to approximately 20 million children, a program estimated to cost the state budget 71 trillion rupiah (around \$4.6 billion) in its first year. This initiative aligns with Prabowo's goal of maintaining the annual fiscal deficit below the legally mandated 3% of GDP.

Political analysts, including Burhanuddin Muhtadi, suggest that Prabowo's cabinet selections indicate a desire to continue Jokowi's economic policies without significant risk. The retention of key figures like chief economic minister Airlangga Hartarto and state-owned enterprises minister Erick Thohir aims to ensure stability and continuity in governance.

The new administration also sees Sugiono, a deputy in Prabowo's political party and former head of the parliamentary commission on foreign policy, stepping in as foreign minister. Luhut Pandjaitan, who played a pivotal role in Jokowi's government, has been appointed to lead Indonesia's National Economic Council, further solidifying ties to the previous administration.



"Not Your Land": Australia Senator Heckles King Charles At Parliament

Indigenous senator Lidia Thorpe created a stir during King Charles' visit to the Australian parliament on Monday, shouting anti-colonial slogans that echoed her fierce opposition to the monarchy. Following the king's speech, Thorpe launched into a passionate tirade, demanding, "Give us our land back! Give us what you stole from us!" Her nearly minute-long outburst drew shocked reactions from assembled lawmakers and dignitaries.

Thorpe's remarks highlighted the ongoing grievances of Indigenous Australians, whom she accused European settlers of genociding. "This is not your land, you are not my king," she asserted, underscoring her position against the historical injustices faced by Aboriginal communities. Australia was a British colony for over a century, during which countless Indigenous lives were lost, and many communities were forcibly displaced.

While Australia gained de facto independence in 1901, it has not transitioned to a fully fledged republic; King Charles remains the head of state. His current nine-day tour of Australia and Samoa marks his first significant foreign visit since his recent cancer diagnosis, bringing added attention to the royal visit.

Thorpe is known for her provocative political gestures, often challenging the status quo. When she took office in 2022, she raised her fist while reluctantly swearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, Australia's former head of state. Her oath drew immediate rebuke from Senate officials, highlighting her contentious relationship with the monarchy.



South Korea protests alleged deployment of North Korean troops in Russia



South Korea has urgently called for the withdrawal of North Korean troops reportedly deployed in Russia during a meeting with Russian envoy Georgy Zinoviev. This demand was made by South Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun, who condemned the alleged military collaboration between North Korea and Russia, describing it as a "grave security threat" to both South Korea and the broader international community.

During the discussions, Kim emphasized South Korea's readiness to mobilize all available resources from the international community to safeguard its national interests against any emerging threats. He expressed strong concerns about the implications of North Korean military involvement in Russia, particularly in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

In response, Ambassador Zinoviev claimed that the cooperation between Russia and North Korea does not undermine the security interests of South Korea. However, when questioned about the potential involvement of North Korean troops in Ukraine, Russian authorities refrained from providing clear answers.

Kim reiterated that the participation of North Korean forces in the war would constitute a violation of United Nations resolutions and the U.N. Charter. Conversely, Zinoviev maintained that any collaboration with North Korea remains compliant with legal frameworks. Recent reports from South Korea's intelligence agency suggest that approximately 1,500 special operation forces from North Korea were dispatched to Russia this month to assist in the conflict against Ukraine. Additionally, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has indicated that his government possesses intelligence indicating that around 10,000 North Korean soldiers may be prepared to join Russian forces.

Unified Securities Markets Code Aims to Decriminalize Financial Regulations

The drafting of the Unified Securities Markets Code (SMC) is underway, with the goal of decriminalizing several provisions across key financial market legislations in India. This initiative is part of a broader effort to simplify the regulatory framework governing the financial sector, as stated by a government official. The SMC seeks to consolidate and replace the SEBI Act of 1992, the Depositories Act of 1996, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act (SCRA) of 1956, and the Government Securities Act of 2007.

Under the proposed code, seven provisions are expected to be decriminalized, including three from the SEBI Act, two from the Depositories Act, and two from the SCRA. Specific sections targeted for decriminalization



include two provisions from the SEBI Act, one from the SCRA, and one from the Depositories Act. This move aims

to reduce criminal liabilities associated with minor or technical violations, thereby making the business environ-

ment more conducive for financial institutions. The SMC is designed to streamline the legal framework by reducing the number of sections across the four Acts, ultimately simplifying compliance for businesses. By addressing the regulatory burden, the government hopes to promote ease of doing business in the country.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the SMC in the Union Budget for 2021-22, highlighting the need for a more efficient regulatory landscape. Consultations between the finance ministry and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have already been completed, and the legislative department is currently drafting the bill. Following this, the

bill will undergo review by the law ministry before seeking Cabinet approval.

Once the SMC Bill is passed in Parliament, the four existing Acts will be repealed, marking a significant shift in India's financial regulatory framework. By decriminalizing certain offences, the SMC is expected to alleviate the fear of criminal liability for minor infractions, allowing businesses to focus on growth and innovation. This less punitive approach is anticipated to attract more participants, including startups and foreign investors, while enabling regulatory authorities to concentrate on serious fraud and misconduct, thereby enhancing market integrity.

Domestic Stock Markets Face Losses Despite Initial Gains

Domestic stock markets began the week on a negative note, failing to sustain the initial gains seen on Monday morning. Although the indices started the day on a positive trajectory, they soon declined and struggled to recover throughout the afternoon session. Investor sentiment remained weak due to negative signals from international markets, contributing to the overall downturn. Analysts expect this volatile market movement to persist for a few more days. The NSE Nifty fell 72 points, closing at 24,781, while the BSE Sensex dropped 73 points to settle at 81,151.

The Sensex, which had closed at 81,224 in the previous session, opened stronger at 81,770. However, it touched an intraday low of 80,811 before briefly recovering. Despite reaching a high of 81,770, it ultimately closed 73 points down. Similarly, the Nifty opened at 24,956, with an intraday low of 24,679 and a high of 24,978. It ended the day 72 points lower than its previous close.

In the Nifty50 index, only 12 companies posted gains, while 37 declined. Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, M&M, and Eicher Motors were among the top gainers. On the los-



ing side, Tata Consumer, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, BPCL, and IndusInd Bank recorded the biggest declines. Most sector indices also closed in the red, with media, metal, FMCG, realty, oil, and gas seeing the largest losses. The only sectors that managed to stay afloat were IT and finance.

The Bank Nifty dropped by 131 points to close at 51,962, signaling pressure on the banking sector. Market breadth in the NSE also reflected a bearish trend, with 697 stocks advancing and 2,128 declining.



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst

On the stock-specific front, Jefferies

rated Tech Mahindra as underperform, while Amber Enterprises surged 18% intraday. HDFC Bank received a neutral rating from JP Morgan, and 360 One Wham gained 4% on strong earnings. Kotak Mahindra Bank was rated "Hold" by Jefferies. In the IPO space, Vari Energies' offering was subscribed 2.23 times on the first day, while SEBI approved Niwabupa Health and Paras Healthcare's IPO plans.

The Nifty's support level is currently at 24,700, with resistance at 24,850, indicating a tight trading range for the coming sessions. Analysts suggest caution as the market continues to navigate external pressures and domestic earnings reports.

India Reevaluates Free Trade Agreement Strategy Amid Economic Concerns



In response to rising concerns about potential investment outflows and rapidly increasing imports from Free Trade Agreement (FTA) nations, India is reassessing its negotiating strategy for trade pacts. Following a series of FTAs that have often favored partner countries over Indian interests, the government is adopting a more cautious approach, leading to a temporary halt in discussions for trade agreements with smaller nations like Oman and Peru.

The Commerce Ministry is actively engaged in formulating a new Standard

Operating Procedure (SOP) to address the inconsistencies and lack of streamlined processes that have characterized past negotiations. This initiative aims to enhance the effectiveness of future trade agreements, ensuring that India's economic interests are prioritized and protected.

Concerns have been mounting over the economic implications of previous FTAs, which have resulted in significant trade imbalances and adverse effects on domestic industries. Recognizing errors made in handling specific chapters of

these agreements has prompted the government to take a step back and re-evaluate its strategies.

The need for a more structured and consistent approach to negotiations is crucial in light of the current global trade dynamics. The focus will not only be on securing beneficial terms but also on ensuring that India's domestic industries are not compromised in the process.

As part of this strategic shift, the Commerce Ministry is committed to ensuring that future FTAs provide a level playing field for Indian businesses while also fostering sustainable economic growth. By developing a comprehensive framework for negotiations, India aims to position itself as a more formidable player in international trade, balancing the interests of domestic stakeholders with the opportunities presented by global markets.

This recalibration of strategy reflects India's intent to safeguard its economic sovereignty while navigating the complexities of international trade agreements. The government's proactive measures signal a commitment to more equitable and advantageous trade relationships in the future.

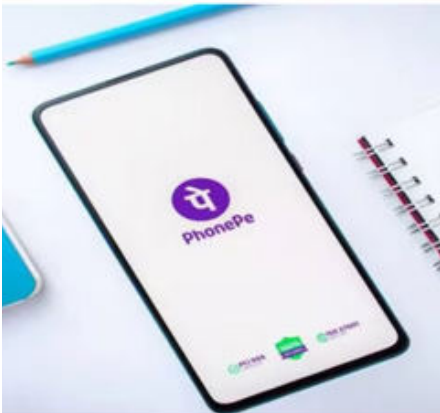
PhonePe's diversification efforts generate initial revenue amid FY24 losses

PhonePe's newly launched business segments—Pincode, ShareMarket, insurance broking, and lending—collectively generated Rs 206 crore in revenue, contributing 4% to the company's overall topline of Rs 5,064 crore for FY24. While these ventures, particularly Pincode and ShareMarket, have yet to achieve significant revenues since their inception last year, they are beginning to show income amid substantial losses as PhonePe ramps up operations.

Leading the pack is the insurance broking arm, established in 2021, which generated Rs 108 crore in revenue, despite facing a Rs 247 crore loss. The company has sold over 9 million policies to date, with 4 million sold in the past year alone, showcasing robust growth in retail insurance distribution.

The ShareMarket platform, meanwhile, reported Rs 24 crore in its initial revenue but incurred a Rs 134 crore loss. The platform has attracted 1.7 lakh active investors, a significant increase from just 50,000 a few months prior, indicating gradual growth in a competitive market. WealthDesk, the wealth management platform acquired by PhonePe last year, added an additional Rs 5 crore in revenue.

In the hyperlocal e-commerce sector, the Pincode app recorded Rs 3 crore in maiden revenue while incurring a Rs 107 crore loss. Initially offering a wide range of categories



on the ONDC platform, Pincode has now refocused on food and grocery delivery, competing directly with established players like Zomato and Swiggy while partnering with third-party logistics providers like Shadowfax and Dunzo.

The lending arm, operating as PhonePe Lending Services Private Limited, reported a turnover of Rs 66 crore but faced a Rs 128 crore loss. Despite challenges, lending is expected to be one of the few verticals generating cash from the outset, especially after PhonePe's recent launch of secured lending products in partnership with NBFC L&T Finance.

Overall, PhonePe has invested over Rs 800 crore into these new ventures, with high expectations for future scaling and contribution to the group's revenue. CEO Sameer Nigam has noted that while losses are high initially, each business is on a distinct growth trajectory and has its own gestation period.

HDFC Bank Shares Surge Following 6% Profit Increase in Q2

Shares of HDFC Bank experienced a significant boost on Monday morning, climbing over 3.5% after the bank reported a 6% increase in its consolidated net profit for the September quarter. The stock rose by 3.53%, reaching ₹1,740.55 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), while on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), it increased by 3.42% to ₹1,739.50.

This surge in stock price resulted in a market valuation increase of ₹46,433.29 crore, bringing the total market cap to ₹13,29,281.58 crore during early trading. HDFC Bank emerged as the top gainer among firms listed on both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty.

On Saturday, HDFC Bank announced a consolidated net profit of ₹17,825.91 crore for the September quarter, reflecting a 6% growth from the previous year. On a standalone basis, the largest private sector lender's post-tax net profit rose to ₹16,820.97 crore,

up from ₹15,976.11 crore during the same quarter last year.

The bank's core net interest income also showed a robust performance, increasing by 10% to ₹30,010 crore. This growth was attributed to a 7% rise in gross advances, while net interest margins remained stable at 3.46%.

Chief Financial Officer S. Vaidyanathan commented that the bank is well-positioned to navigate market dynamics and is on track to double its size within four years, as previously guided.

With these positive financial results, investor confidence in HDFC Bank continues to strengthen, reflecting the bank's solid performance amidst a competitive banking landscape. The market's optimistic response underscores the bank's strategic initiatives and growth potential in the coming quarters.

YouTube New Premium Lite Subscription at Half the Price

YouTube, the leading video streaming platform globally, is currently testing a new subscription option called YouTube Premium Lite. This plan aims to provide users with an affordable alternative to the existing Premium subscription by offering a reduced ad experience at a lower monthly cost.



According to a post by user jonahmanzano on Threads, the YouTube Premium Lite subscription will be priced at \$8.99 per month, which is nearly 50% less than the standard Premium plan, currently available for \$16.99. This move is likely to attract users who enjoy ad-free viewing but are looking for a more budget-friendly option.

While the introduction of YouTube Premium Lite is generating buzz, there has yet to be any official confirmation regarding the availability of an annual subscription plan for this new tier. As users weigh the benefits of reduced costs against the potential limitations of fewer features, the reaction to this testing phase will likely inform YouTube's decision on whether to roll it out more widely.

The existing YouTube Premium subscription offers a comprehensive suite of features, including ad-free videos, background play, and access to YouTube Music. With Premium Lite,

users can expect a similar experience but with ads appearing in some videos. This could be a strategic move by YouTube to capture a larger audience segment that may find the full Premium subscription too costly.

As the digital landscape evolves, platforms like YouTube are constantly adapting to user preferences and market trends. The success of YouTube Premium Lite could influence how streaming services structure their offerings, potentially leading to more flexible pricing models in the future.

For now, users interested in YouTube Premium Lite will need to keep an eye on further announcements from the company regarding its availability and any additional features that may accompany this new subscription tier. The introduction of this option reflects YouTube's ongoing commitment to meeting the diverse needs of its vast user base.

Zomato Under Fire for Selling 'Fake Paneer'

Zomato is facing significant backlash for its B2B service, Zomato Hyperpure, which has been criticized for selling "fake paneer," officially labeled as "Analogue Paneer" on its website. Despite the clear labeling, the product is marketed by the manufacturer as suitable for tika and gravy dishes, sparking concerns about food safety and transparency.



The controversy gained traction after social media user Sumit Behal raised alarms on X, highlighting that many restaurants do not inform customers when they serve dishes made with this analogue paneer. He expressed frustration over the misleading marketing, stating, "India loves paneer dishes, and restaurants sell fake paneer made with vegetable oils without any disclaimer. They make you believe you're eating healthy food by enjoying various paneer dishes over junk food." Behal's post ignited a wave of criticism against Zomato Hyperpure for allegedly endorsing food adulteration.

Analogue paneer is a synthetic substitute for traditional paneer, produced using cheaper, non-dairy ingredients. Unlike authentic paneer, which is derived from fresh milk curdled with lemon juice or vinegar, analogue paneer is often composed of vegetable fats and starches. One listing on Zomato Hyperpure specifies that its analogue paneer is made from skimmed milk and vegetable oil, with milk fat replaced by vegetable fat.

The primary appeal of analogue paneer for

restaurants lies in its cost-effectiveness. Priced at approximately ₹210 per kg, it is significantly cheaper than real paneer, which retails for around ₹450 per kg. This price difference allows restaurants to maximize profits, particularly when they do not disclose the use of fake paneer in their dishes.

Concerns about the health implications of analogue paneer are also mounting, especially among vegetarians who consume paneer for its protein content. Many versions of analogue paneer incorporate hydrogenated vegetable fats, which can contain harmful trans fats. These fats are linked to serious health risks, including heart disease, high cholesterol, and inflammation. As the debate continues, consumers are urged to be aware of what they are eating and to question the ingredients in their favorite dishes.

Chrome Adds 'Listen to This Page' for Better Accessibility



Google Chrome on Android is set to receive a significant accessibility enhancement with the introduction of the new 'Listen to this page' feature. Initially announced as part of last month's Android feature drop, the rollout is now underway with the Chrome 130 update.

Previously, when this feature was first tested behind an experimental flag in June, its functionality was quite limited. Audio would stop playing as soon as the user closed the Chrome app or turned off their phone's display, similar to the behavior of YouTube Music. However, recent reports from 9to5Google indicate that this feature has undergone a major upgrade, allowing audio to continue playing even when users exit the Chrome app and switch to other applications.

When users activate the feature, a reader menu appears at the bottom of the page while the article is open. If users switch to a different app, they can still control playback through the quick settings menu, enabling them to play or pause the audio and nav-

igate through the content. Users can skip forward or backward in 10-second increments, making it easy to find specific sections of text.

Additionally, Chrome now offers the ability to adjust the playback speed, ranging from 0.5x to 4x, and users can choose from 10 different voice options, tailoring their listening experience to their preferences. For added convenience, Google allows users to create a dedicated play button for webpages. By long-pressing the new tab icon, users can select "Edit shortcut" and change it to "Listen to this page."

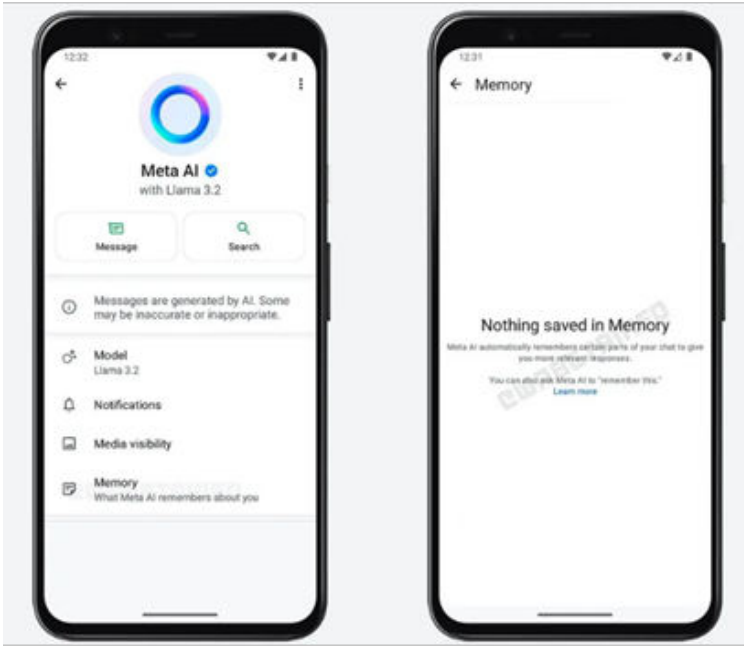
With these updates, Google Chrome is enhancing its position as one of the most popular browsers on Android. The new 'Listen to this page' feature puts it on par with Safari's similar functionality, providing users with a valuable tool for accessing content more easily and conveniently. As accessibility becomes increasingly important in digital platforms, Chrome's latest enhancements are a welcome step forward.

WhatsApp to Introduce Chat Memory for Meta AI Personalization

WhatsApp for Android is reportedly working on an exciting new feature for its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot, Meta AI. According to feature tracker WABetaInfo, this upcoming "chat memory" feature will allow users to instruct the AI to remember specific details about themselves, leading to a more personalized interaction experience.

Currently spotted in the beta version 2.24.22.9 of WhatsApp for Android, the chat memory feature is not yet accessible to beta testers. Once implemented, users will be able to ask Meta AI to retain information such as dietary preferences, professions, birthdays, and preferred conversation styles. This functionality aims to tailor the AI's responses based on the saved information, enhancing user satisfaction.

The feature tracker has shared screenshots illustrating how the chat memory feature will work. It will be integrated into the profile page of Meta AI, which users can access by tap-



ping the Meta AI title within the chat interface. Within this profile, there will be a new option labeled "What Meta AI remembers about you." This section will display any information the user has saved, making it easy to manage what the AI retains.

For example, if a user identifies as vegan, Meta AI will be able to provide relevant food recipes that align with their dietary choices. This means that the chatbot will offer suggestions based on the user's preferences, making conversations feel more tailored and relevant.

The introduction of chat mem-

ory could significantly improve user interaction with Meta AI, allowing for a more conversational and context-aware experience. Although the feature is still under development and not available for public use, its potential impact on personalized communication through WhatsApp is noteworthy. As the rollout progresses, users can look forward to a more intelligent and responsive AI that better understands their individual needs and preferences.

British Vendor Brings Kolkata-Style Jhalmuri to London Streets

In a delightful twist for street food lovers, a viral video has showcased a British vendor selling authentic Kolkata-style jhalmuri in London. The food vlogger stumbled upon this unique stall, aptly named "Jhalmuri Express," while exploring the bustling streets of the city, and the setup instantly transported him back to Kolkata.

Jhalmuri, a beloved snack from Kolkata, is renowned for its mix of puffed rice, spices, and fresh ingredients. For many who have left the city, the craving for this nostalgic treat can be overwhelming. However, this vendor has managed to recreate the essence of Kolkata right in London, offering a taste of home to expatriates and locals alike.

The video, shared on Instagram, features the vendor—who is British—skillfully preparing the jhalmuri in an authentic Indian-style trolley. The stall is equipped with both steel and plastic containers, reminiscent of the street food stalls in



Kolkata. The vlogger captures the vendor in action, starting with a generous serving of puffed rice (muri) in a steel vessel.

Next, the vendor adds a handful of fresh coriander leaves, followed by an array of spices, along with freshly chopped cucumbers and onions. Using a long, thin knife, he expertly mixes the ingredients and finishes off the dish with a squeeze

of fresh lemon juice.

The crowning touch is a classic serving cone crafted from old newspapers—just like traditional Indian street food vendors use. To complete the jhalmuri, the vendor drizzles imli chutney over the mix and garnishes it with bhujia and masala, enhancing the flavors.

Taking a bite, the vlogger describes the dish as "Kolkata style, authentic, and spicy jhalmuri in London." This heartwarming encounter highlights the power of food to connect cultures and bring a piece of home to those far away, proving that the love for street food knows no boundaries.

Kagiso Rabada Makes History as Fastest to 300 Test Wickets



South African fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has etched his name in cricket history by becoming the fastest player to reach 300 Test wickets in terms of balls bowled. Achieving this remarkable feat during the opening Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Rabada reached the milestone after delivering just 11,817 balls.

The match began with Bangladesh winning the toss and opting to bat, a decision that quickly backfired as they struggled against the South African bowlers. Wiaan Mulder made an immediate impact, taking advantage of the pitch conditions with his swinging deliveries. Rabada soon joined the attack, showcasing his skill by dismissing key batsmen Mushfiqur Rahim and Litton Das, further compounding Bangladesh's woes.

With his achievement, Rabada surpassed the previous record held by Pakistan's Waqar Younis, who took 12,602 deliveries to reach the same milestone. Other legendary bowlers such as Dale Steyn (12,605), Allan Donald

(13,672), and Malcolm Marshall (13,728) also fell behind Rabada's astonishing pace.

Fastest to 300 Test Wickets (Balls Bowled)
11,817- Kagiso Rabada (SA)
12,602 - Waqar Younis (PAK)
12,605 - Dale Steyn (SA)
13,672- Allan Donald (SA)

Rabada's remarkable performance continued as he later claimed Nayeem Hasan's wicket, helping reduce Bangladesh to 102/9. His final figures for the innings stood at 3 wickets for 26 runs from 11 overs, with an impressive economy rate of 2.40.

Ultimately, Bangladesh crumbled to a mere total of 106 runs, with Rabada, Mulder, and Keshav Maharaj each taking three wickets. This historic achievement solidifies Rabada's position as one of the premier fast bowlers in modern cricket, and fans eagerly anticipate his future performances as he continues to break records on the international stage.

New Zealand Celebrates a "Golden 48 Hours" of Sporting Triumphs



New Zealand experienced an extraordinary weekend of sporting success, hailed as one of the finest in the country's history. The remarkable achievements included winning the Women's T20 World Cup, a historic Test victory in India, and retaining the America's Cup in sailing. Sports Minister Chris Bishop described the weekend as one that will be remembered in New Zealand's sporting annals.

The excitement kicked off on Saturday when Emirates Team New Zealand dominated the America's Cup, defeating Ineos Britannia with a decisive 7-2 victory. The Kiwis secured the world's oldest international sporting trophy for the third consecutive time, finishing the ninth race off

Barcelona 37 seconds ahead of their British rivals. On Sunday, New Zealand cricket made headlines by clinching its first Test win in India in 36 years, overpowering the home team by eight wickets in Bengaluru. This monumental victory marked a significant milestone in the nation's cricketing history.

Later that day, the New Zealand women's cricket team, led by standout performer Amelia Kerr, achieved their first Women's T20 World Cup title by defeating South Africa by 32 runs in Dubai. This win added to the nation's sporting accolades and was celebrated widely across the country. Adding to the excitement, New Zealand's netball team also delivered a stunning performance, defeating the world champions Australia 64-50 in Wellington. This flurry of victories led many to question whether any weekend could rival this one in New Zealand's sporting narrative.

Jesse Mulligan, a presenter on Radio New Zealand, remarked on the remarkable achievements, calling it "a golden 48 hours for New Zealand sport." The New Zealand Herald even conducted a poll to determine which victory resonated most with fans, revealing that the T20 World Cup win was the standout moment, followed closely by the America's Cup and the Test win.



Deepika Kumari Wins Silver at Archery World Cup Final

Indian archer Deepika Kumari has secured her sixth World Cup Final medal, clinching a silver after facing a tough defeat against China's Li Jiaman, who won the final with a score of 6-0. The tournament, held recently, showcased Kumari's impressive skills as she demonstrated remarkable performance throughout the competition.

In the earlier rounds, the 2010 Commonwealth Games champion showcased her prowess by decisively defeating her opponents. She began her campaign by overpowering Li Jiaman's teammate, Yang Xiaolei, with a commanding 6-0 victory in the quarter-finals. Kumari

then advanced to the semi-finals, where she triumphed over Alejandra Valencia, the eventual bronze medallist, with a score of 6-4.

Reflecting on her experience, Deepika expressed pride in her participation in the World Cup, stating, "It's an honour to be part of this World Cup, to win this World Cup. Now, I'm going to work even harder after that." Her determination and resilience were evident throughout the event, even as she faced the challenging final match. On the other hand, Li Jiaman celebrated her first World Cup Final victory, emphasizing her composure during the matches. "The first

match was relatively tense and the last two felt like a little bit more of a challenge," Li remarked, highlighting her approach of focusing on delivering her best shots rather than fixating on winning or losing.

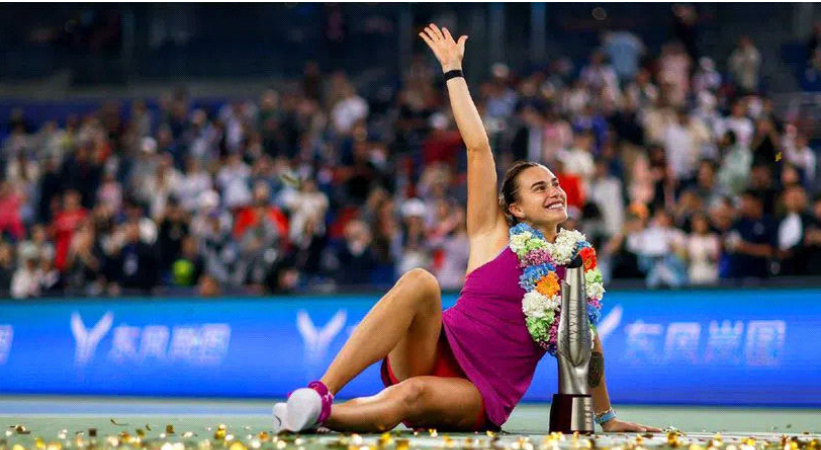
The Indian team, which comprised three compound archers and two recurve archers, concluded the season-ending event with one medal, showcasing their potential on the international stage. Deepika Kumari's silver medal adds to her illustrious career and cements her status as one of India's top archers, promising more achievements in future competitions.

Aryna Sabalenka Reclaims No. 1 Spot in WTA Rankings

Aryna Sabalenka has reclaimed the No. 1 position in the latest WTA rankings, surpassing Iga Swiatek after a week of inactivity for both players. The updated rankings revealed Sabalenka with 9,706 points, while Swiatek sits at 9,665 points, giving Sabalenka a narrow 41-point lead. American Coco Gauff follows in third place with 5,963 points, while Jessica Pegula and Elena Rybakina occupy the fourth and fifth spots with 5,785 and 5,471 points, respectively.

Following her rise back to the top, Sabalenka shared her thoughts on social media, posting, "NI.... Let's see for how long this time." Last year, she held the No. 1 ranking for eight weeks before Swiatek overtook her after winning the season-ending WTA Finals. Sabalenka now aims for a more sustained tenure at the top.

Leading up to the Cincinnati Open, Sabalenka was ranked



No. 3, trailing behind Gauff and Swiatek. However, despite Swiatek reaching the semifinals, Sabalenka won the tournament, earning 1,000 points that contributed to her comeback. In the subsequent US Open, while Swiatek made it to the quarterfinals, Sabalenka again emerged victorious, narrowing the points gap significantly.

Swiatek, the defending champion at the China Open, opted

to skip the tournament to focus on a coaching change, resulting in a loss of 1,000 points from her total. In contrast, Sabalenka advanced to the quarterfinals in China, gaining 215 points, and later secured the title in Wuhan, defeating both Gauff and Zheng Qinwen along the way. Over nine weeks, Sabalenka amassed an impressive 4,000 points, a tally that only seven players on the WTA Tour have achieved throughout the entire year.

MS Dhoni's IPL 2025 Future Still Uncertain, CSK CEO Reveals

The future of MS Dhoni with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL 2025 remains uncertain, as no official confirmation has been made regarding his retention. Recently, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan shared that while the franchise is eager to keep Dhoni on board, he has yet to confirm his decision. Dhoni has stated he will provide an answer before the October 31 deadline for IPL retentions.

With the IPL's new retention rules categorizing Dhoni as an 'uncapped player', CSK's chances of retaining him have improved. This change allows franchises to secure players who have either retired from international cricket or haven't played in a while for a reduced fee. Reports suggest that CSK could retain Dhoni for INR 4 crore, a strategy seen by many as being tailored specifically for the legendary cricketer.

Despite the uncertainty, former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif expressed confidence that Dhoni will continue to play in the IPL. He noted Dhoni's fitness and impressive performance, stating, "If he wants to play in the IPL, he will play." Kaif highlighted Dhoni's significant impact on CSK as a player and leader, suggesting that the IPL rules may continue to evolve to facilitate his participation.

As fans await clarity on Dhoni's decision, the anticipation surrounding his potential return for another season remains high.





Prabhas Unveils Stunning New PosterFrom Raja Saab

The highly anticipated movie “The Raja Saab,” featuring pan-Indian star Prabhas and directed by Maruthi, is set to hit theaters on April 10, 2025. This film has generated significant excitement among fans, especially with the announcement of its main female leads—Nidhhi Agerwal, Malvika Mohanan, and Riddhi Kumar.

In celebration of Prabhas’s upcoming birthday, the film’s makers released an advance birthday poster that showcases the actor in a striking look. Sporting a checked shirt over a t-shirt, Prabhas exudes confidence and charisma, captivating fans with his swag-filled appearance. To heighten the anticipation, the team also hinted at a special surprise that will be unveiled on October 23, 2024, aligning perfectly with Prabhas’s birthday celebrations.

The film features Sanjay Dutt in a crucial role, adding to the movie’s star power. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad

under the banner of People Media Factory, “The Raja Saab” promises to be a grand cinematic experience. The music for the film is composed by Thaman, known for his work in the industry, further amplifying the excitement surrounding the project.

As the release date approaches, fans are eagerly awaiting more details about the film, including trailers and promotional material. The combination of Prabhas’s magnetic screen presence, a talented supporting cast, and a well-regarded director sets high expectations for “The Raja Saab.” With its blend of action, drama, and musical elements, the film is poised to be a major attraction in cinemas upon its release.

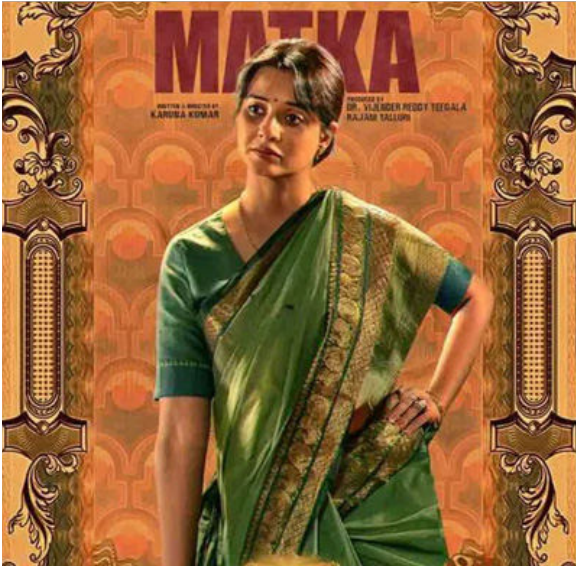
Overall, “The Raja Saab” is shaping up to be a significant entry in Prabhas’s filmography, and fans are counting down the days to both his birthday and the movie’s premiere.

Saloni first look released from Matka

Tollywood starlet Saloni, known for her infectious energy and charm, is gearing up for a captivating role in her latest film, “Matka.” Following the release of the first-look poster, fans are eager to see her portrayal of Padma in this exciting project featuring mega hero Varun Tej in the lead role.

Directed by Karuna Kumar, who garnered attention with the film “Palasa 1978,” “Matka” is produced by Vijender Reddy Thigala and Rajani Talluri. Alongside Saloni, the film stars Meenakshi Choudhary as the female lead, promising a dynamic on-screen presence.

The film is set against the backdrop of a significant true incident that impacted the nation between 1958 and 1982, adding depth and historical context to the narrative. Varun Tej’s character will showcase his versatility, as he transforms into four distinct avatars throughout the film, providing a rich and varied viewing experience. The



action thriller is set in the vibrant city of Visakhapatnam (Vizag), known for its stunning visuals and cultural significance.

Supporting performances will come from a talented ensemble cast, including Naveen Chandra, Kishor, and Ravindra Vijay, who will play pivotal roles in the story. The film’s music, composed by Jeevi Prakash Kumar, is expected to complement the intense and gripping narrative, enhancing the overall cinematic experience.

“Matka” is slated for release on November 14, heightening anticipation among fans of both Saloni and Varun Tej. As the film draws closer to its debut, the excitement continues to build, with audiences eager to witness the blend of action, drama, and history that “Matka” promises to deliver. With its compelling storyline and talented cast, “Matka” is poised to make a significant impact in the Tollywood landscape.

“Kalki 2898 AD” Set for Grand Re-Release in Russia

As Prabhas fans across the twin Telugu states gear up to celebrate the actor’s birthday, the excitement is heightened with the announcement of the grand re-release of his blockbuster sci-fi mythological film, “Kalki 2898 AD,” in Russia. This much-anticipated re-release is set to take place on November 1, with the film now dubbed in Russian, making it accessible to a wider audience in the region.

“Kalki 2898 AD,” directed by the visionary Nag Ashwin, initially premiered worldwide on June 27 and quickly became a sensation, grossing over Rs 1,100 crore. It also achieved a remarkable milestone in Russia, where it earned approximately \$1.64 million during its first release, making it the highest-grossing Indian film in the country this year. The film’s impressive performance has fueled a growing enthusiasm for Prabhas’ work in Russia, especially following the phenomenal success of the “Baahubali” franchise.



In addition to Prabhas, “Kalki 2898 AD” features an ensemble cast that includes Bollywood legends Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, along with Deepika Padukone in pivotal roles. This star-studded lineup adds to the film’s allure, attracting fans from diverse backgrounds. The film is produced by Ashwini Dutt, known for his commitment to high-quality cinema.

The visual spectacle of “Kalki 2898 AD” is complemented by a scintillating soundtrack composed by Santhosh Narayanan, further enhancing the cinematic experience. As the re-release date approaches, fans are eagerly anticipating the chance to experience this epic tale on the big screen once more.

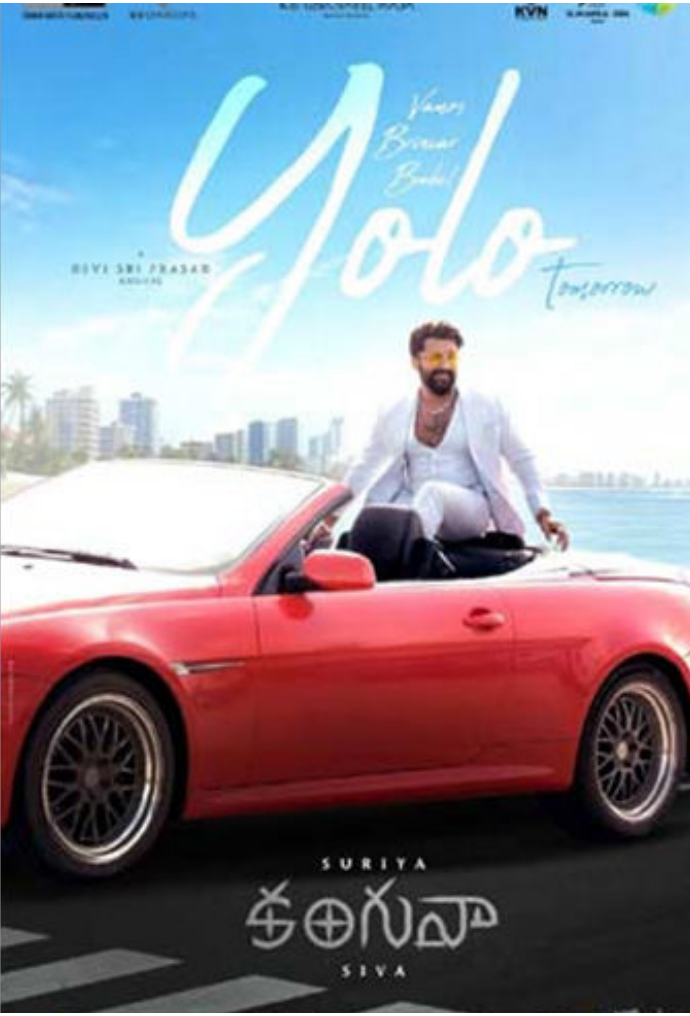
With its groundbreaking storyline and stunning visuals, “Kalki 2898 AD” is poised to reignite the passion of Prabhas’ fans in Russia, reaffirming the actor’s status as a global superstar.

New Single “YOLO” Set to Release From Suriya’s “Kanguva”

Following the electrifying success of the fiery “Fire Song,” excitement is building for the release of the highly anticipated second single from Kollywood star Suriya’s ambitious period action-fantasy film, “Kanguva.” Titled “YOLO,” the new track, composed by the talented Devi Sri Prasad, is set to drop tomorrow, October 21.

The makers of “Kanguva” took to social media this evening to unveil a striking new poster featuring Suriya, who looks stunning in an all-white suit, complete with a stylishly groomed beard. This visual teaser has fans buzzing with anticipation. Unlike “Fire Song,” which showcases the film’s period elements, “YOLO” promises to be a captivating number set in the present day, adding a modern flair to the narrative.

The audio launch event for “Kanguva” is scheduled for October 25 and will be held



at Chennai’s Nehru Stadium, where fans can expect a grand celebration of the film’s music and artistry. Directed by Siva, “Kanguva” not only stars Suriya but also features Bollywood heavyweights Bobby Deol and Disha Patani in key roles, further elevating the film’s appeal across diverse audiences.

Produced by Gnanavel Raja in collaboration with UV Creations, “Kanguva” is a high-budget entertainer that aims to captivate viewers with its blend of action, drama, and fantasy. The film is slated for release on November 14, making it one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

With the release of “YOLO” just around the corner and the audio launch event generating further buzz, fans are eagerly counting down the days until they can experience the magic of “Kanguva” on the big screen.

Action-Packed Thriller “Bagheera” Trailer Released

Sriimurali, who gained widespread recognition with his breakthrough film “Ugramm,” is all set to make waves once again with his upcoming action thriller “Bagheera.” Directed by the talented Dr. Suri and featuring a gripping storyline crafted by Prashanth Neel, this film marks Sriimurali’s debut in the Telugu film industry. Just recently, the much-anticipated trailer was released, giving audiences a thrilling glimpse of what to expect.

The plot of “Bagheera” unfolds in a world where evil seems to be on the rise, prompting divine intervention. In a society where the police force appears ineffective, Bagheera emerges as a god-like figure determined to eradicate crime. While the general public views him as a savior, law enforcement sees him as a menacing force, labeling him a bloodthirsty demon.

Prashanth Neel’s storytelling prowess shines through in this expansive narrative, while Dr. Suri skillfully brings it to life on screen. The dialogues are powerful, resonating with intensity and depth, and the direction has been praised for its clarity and impact. Technically, the trailer stands out with its stunning cinematography by AJ Shetty and an



exhilarating background score composed by B. Ajaneesh Loknath. The action sequences promise to be breathtaking, with choreography that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. Additionally, sharp editing enhances the film’s overall pacing and excitement, while top-notch production values elevate its visual appeal.

Produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the banner of Hombale Films, “Bagheera” is set to hit theaters on October 31st. The Telugu version of the film will be released by Asian Suresh Entertainment LLP, adding to the anticipation surrounding this action-packed offering. Fans are eagerly awaiting the chance to experience Sriimurali’s transformative performance in a role that promises to be both intense and unforgettable.