

Weather
Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
t° H 33° C L 25° C	t° H 35° C L 26° C	t° H 36° C L 26° C

YSR Family Rift Deepens as Jagan Takes Legal Action Against Sister Sharmila

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The political landscape in Andhra Pradesh has taken a dramatic turn as YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has filed a petition with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against his sister YS Sharmila and mother YS Vijayamma. The petition seeks to nullify what Jagan describes as the “illegal” transfer of shares in Saraswati Power and Industries Private Limited to Sharmila and Vijayamma. Jagan and his wife, Bharathi Reddy, allege that the transfers, executed through a Board resolution in July 2024, violated legal procedures.



In their petition, filed on September 10, Jagan and Bharathi request the company rectify its register and reinstate them as shareholders with the same equity shares they held prior to the contested transfers. They assert that Sharmila's actions have caused “deep disrepute” to Jagan, highlighting the family tensions that have escalated since Sharmila left YSRCP to form her own party, YSR Telangana Party, in 2021. Compounding the situation, Sharmila's party merged with the Congress in January 2024, positioning her as a vocal opponent of Jagan in the recent Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections.

The petition alleges that the transfers were made without the submission of duly executed share transfer forms or original certificates, violating Section 56 of the Companies Act of 2013. It also references a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) established in August 2019, which Jagan claims was intended to transfer certain

properties and shares “purely out of love and affection” but was never executed.

Jagan's petition underscores the emotional rift between the siblings, stating, “Respondent no. 2 [Sharmila], without gratitude and without regard to the well-being of the Applicant no. 1 [Jagan], conducted a series of actions that deeply hurt Petitioner no. 1.” He further expresses that Sharmila's public statements and political opposition have strained their relationship, leading him to withdraw his previous intention to transfer shares as outlined in the MoU.

In a letter sent to Sharmila on August 27, Jagan reiterated his past support, claiming to have provided approximately ₹200 crores over the last decade out of love for her. However, he expressed disillusionment, stating, “...in view of this and other actions undertaken by you, it makes me wonder why there should be any love and

affection or fondness towards you.”

Sharmila responded to Jagan's letter on September 12, defending her position and arguing that their late father, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, intended for all four of his grandchildren to share equally in family assets. She accused Jagan of not honoring their father's wishes and criticized his attempts to control her political career.

As the dispute intensifies, the NCLT has issued notices to all respondents, with a hearing scheduled for November 8. The ongoing family feud not only highlights personal animosities but also reflects broader political implications as both siblings navigate their roles in Andhra Pradesh's political arena. As the legal battle unfolds, the public remains keenly aware of the emotional and political stakes involved in this deeply personal conflict.

AP Cabinet Approves 3 Free Gas Cylinders Per Year



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant move, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has approved the provision of three free gas cylinders per year starting from Diwali. The scheme ensures that individuals purchasing gas cylinders will receive the equivalent amount deposited into their accounts within 48 hours. This initiative is expected to cost the government Rs 2,700 crore annually.

Another major decision made during the Cabinet meeting was the revocation of the 15-acre land allotment previously granted to Sarada Peetha in Visakhapatnam under the Jagan administration. Additionally, the Cabinet has given its nod to a number of other key reforms, including the removal of scenic and GST charges under the free sand policy. It also approved the extraction of sand from private lands (Patta lands) and an amendment to increase the number of members in temple committees across the state.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Ministers, and various officials. These decisions reflect the government's ongoing commitment to providing relief and benefits to the public, especially through the free gas cylinder scheme, and to ensure greater transparency in resource management.

Jagan Sensational Comments on Law and Order in Andhra Pradesh

Conditions Are Dirty in the state... Red Book Rule is in Effect



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy made a series of sensational comments about the deteriorating law and order situation in Andhra Pradesh, while also criticizing the current NDA government for neglecting women's welfare schemes introduced during his tenure. Jagan's remarks came after he visited the family of Sahana, a young woman who was declared brain-dead following an assault in Guntur.

Speaking to the media, Jagan expressed outrage at the rising violence against women in the state, specifically pointing out the tragic death of a Dalit woman. He emphasized that during his rule under the YCP government, initiatives like the Disha app were launched to ensure the safety of women, allowing immediate police response through an SOS feature. He accused the present government of turning a blind eye to such incidents, especially when the accused had ties to the ruling party.

Jagan further criticized the state's handling of



the Sahana case, alleging that no government officials visited the victim's family or offered compensation. He claimed the accused was associated with TDP leaders, including CM Chandrababu Naidu, and was being shielded from legal consequences.

In his address, Jagan also questioned why prominent leaders like Pawan Kalyan and Nandamuri Balakrishna had not visited victims of such heinous crimes. He listed several other incidents, including the rape of a minor in Pithapuram and a gang-rape in Hindupur, pointing out the lack of action and support from the government and local leaders.

Jagan stressed that under YCP's rule, significant strides were made for women's safety, with the introduction of people's courts, Disha vehicles, and the Disha app, which won 19 national awards. He condemned the current regime for dismantling these schemes and failing to protect women.

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Minister Anagani Satyaprasad Responds to Jagan’s Comments on Law and Order

Jagan You Don’t Have Right to talk About On Law and Order

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Minister Anagani Satyaprasad gave a sharp rebuttal to former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s remarks on the state’s law and order situation. Addressing the media on Wednesday, Satyaprasad criticized Jagan for raising concerns, particularly when over two lakh cases were registered during his own tenure.



Satyaprasad accused Jagan of acting irresponsibly after his electoral defeat, alleging that he was attempting to tarnish the image of the coalition government. The Minister questioned the former Chief Minister’s record, pointing to numerous incidents of violence against women that occurred during his rule. He highlighted that, despite over two lakh registered cases, there was little effective action taken under Jagan’s administration to curb such incidents.

The Minister also mentioned specific cases, such as the gang rape of a Dalit girl near Jagan’s residence, where the accused, Venkata Reddy, remained free for five years. He remarked that Jagan’s failure to act in these cases undermined his credibility in speaking about law and order. Satyaprasad further criticized Jagan for his inability to control the spread of ganja, drugs, and illicit liquor during his rule, which he claimed led to a rise in violent incidents, including attacks on women.

He defended the coalition government’s approach, asserting that they have been taking immediate and strict action against perpetrators, irrespective of their political or social background. He emphasized that the government is committed to punishing offenders and maintaining law and order.

In contrast, Jagan, during a visit to Guntur, had earlier accused the current administration of failing to protect women, criticizing them for canceling key initiatives like the Disha app, which provided quick police response for women in distress. He alleged that the current government was politicizing crimes and shielding perpetrators based on their political affiliations.

AP Govt Fulfills Promise to Farmers by Prompt Payment for Grain Purchases

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a remarkable step towards supporting the farming community, the coalition government has fulfilled its promise to promptly pay farmers for their grain. Demonstrating its commitment, the government deposited the payment for the grain purchased from Polishetty Sesaiah, a farmer from Dharmavaram village in Kovvuru mandal, within 24 hours, even though the promised timeframe was 48 hours.

23 Oct 2024	
Credited	₹ 139200.00 Cr
Transaction ID	
Description	APB/80/UBN0003368984/APSCSC
Account Number	XXXX XXXX 9011

This swift action underlines the coalition government’s dedication to not just meeting, but exceeding the expectations set for farmer welfare. Honorable Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan are both credited with their sincere efforts to ensure the prosperity of farmers and tenant farmers

across the state.

The promptness of the payment reflects the coalition’s mission to prioritize the well-being of the farming sector, ensuring that they are paid in a timely manner for their hard work. This initiative strengthens trust between the government and the farming community, with many seeing this as a vital step in securing their livelihoods.

Home Minister Anitha Slams Jagan for Family Dispute and Time-Pass Politics

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha strongly criticized YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of dragging his own mother, Vijayamma, and sister, Sharmila, to court over property disputes. She stated that individuals like Jagan, involved in family feuds, have no moral standing to preach ethics to others.



Speaking to the media following a cabinet meeting, Anitha took aim at Jagan’s political approach, accusing him of engaging in “time-pass politics” and only dedicating three days a week to Andhra Pradesh. She criticized him for visiting AP and spreading lies, calling

his actions a mockery of governance. Anitha also pointed out that Jagan, who is facing multiple legal cases, has managed to evade court hearings by citing his position as Chief Minister, further questioning his leadership.

On the subject of free gas cylinders, a key topic of the cabinet meeting, Anitha highlighted the government’s decision to launch the initiative from Diwali as part of the “Super Six” scheme. Despite the financial burden of approximately ₹2,680 crore, she said the government is committed to fulfilling its promise to women, emphasizing that the free gas cylinder scheme is a priority despite the state’s fiscal challenges.

Anuradha Appointed as APPSC Chairperson

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh Government has appointed retired IPS officer Anuradha as the new Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). The official orders for her appointment were issued by the Chief Secretary of the state, Nirabh Kumar Prasad.



previously served as the Intelligence Chief and the Home Secretary of the state. Her appointment comes after the resignation of the previous APPSC Chairman, Gautam Sawang, who stepped down following the formation of the coalition government in the last assembly elections. With the post vacant since Sawang’s resignation, the government has now selected Anuradha to take on this crucial role.

Anuradha, who has an extensive background in law enforcement,

AP Govt Partnership with Meta for Enhanced Civic Services Delivery

100 Types of Services through Meta Business



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meta to deliver civic services through the WhatsApp Business platform, aiming to improve accessibility and efficiency in public services. This initiative is part of the government’s commitment to revolutionize governance through digital platforms. By November 30, 2024, the government plans to introduce 100 types of services via WhatsApp, streamlining processes for citizens, businesses, and government bodies alike.

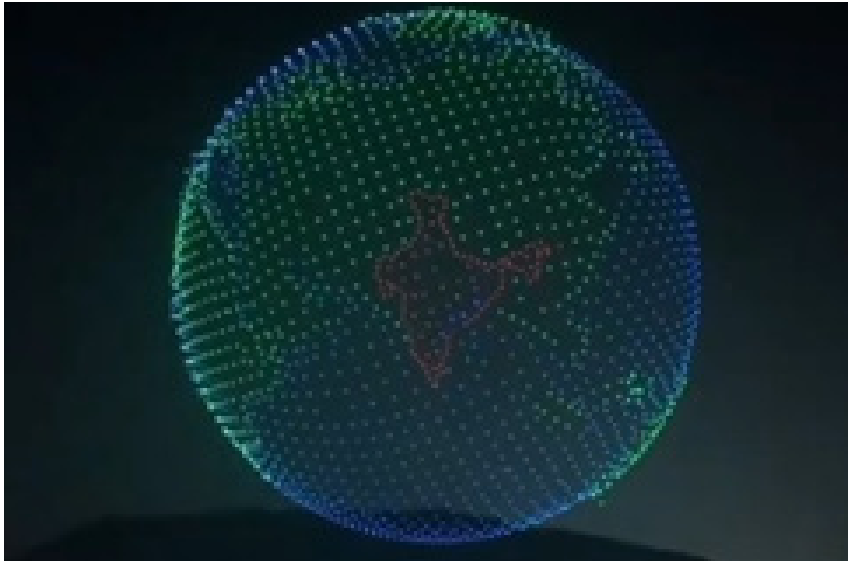
The agreement covers three key service models: G2C (Government to Citizen), B2C (Business to Consumer), and G2G (Government to Government), offering services in areas such as endowments, revenue, civil supplies, municipal administration, registration, electricity, and educa-

tion. For instance, citizens will be able to book temple services, apply for birth and death certificates, pay property taxes, and even make electricity bill payments through WhatsApp.

Key features include the ability to check the status of applications, apply for essential documents, access land records, and receive notifications on services like transport licenses, schooling updates, and higher education. The platform will also enhance communication between parents and educational institutions, offer skills training programs, and integrate AI for real-time responses.

This partnership marks a major step towards a digitally empowered Andhra Pradesh, making government services more user-friendly and accessible to the public.

Amaravati Drone Summit-2024 Concludes Successfully, A Leap Towards Drone Innovation



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Amaravati Drone Summit-2024 concluded successfully, marking a significant milestone in drone technology innovation. The two-day event, held at CK Conventions in Mangalagiri, was organized in line with the vision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who aspires to make Andhra Pradesh the drone capital of the country. The summit focused on accelerating advancements in drone technology over the next five years and boosting the confidence of manufacturers in the industry’s future.

Several speakers emphasized that the summit has instilled renewed momentum and confidence among drone manufacturers. They expressed optimism about future developments in research and development (R&D), drone use cases, and applications in various fields. While recognizing the abundance of talent in India, they acknowledged challenges related to investment but assured that governments are committed to supporting startups in the sector.

Key Highlights:

1. Brainstorming on Drone Warfare and Anti-Drone Technologies:

Led by Professor HSN Murthy from IIT Madras, this session focused on indigenous drone technologies for defense.

2. Investment Challenges in the Drone Sector:

Amit Dutta from Hunch Mobility led discussions on overcoming investment hurdles, particularly for startups in the drone industry.

3. Aerial Medical Support and Drone Ambulances:

Anshul Sharma, co-founder of Redwing Labs, led a session on integrating drone technologies into healthcare, especially in remote areas, for services like drone ambulances.

4. Government Services Through Drones:

APMSIDC MD Dr. G. Lakshmisha, along with Finance Department Secretary J. Niwas, discussed the state’s efforts to deliver government services using drones. They highlighted procedures for funding startups and the role of drones in disaster management and flood relief efforts.

5. Development of Human Resources:

Dr. Smith Shah, President of the Drone Federation of India, led discussions on building a skilled workforce for the drone sector.

Success Stories:

K. Dinesh Kumar, Chairman and MD of the AP Drone Corporation, presented a PPT on the successful use of drones during the recent Vijayawada floods. He showcased how drones were utilized for flood mapping, monitoring damage, and providing essential supplies to affected areas. Over 437 drones with 846 crew members completed 4,073 trips during the relief operations, demonstrating the potential of drones in disaster management.

Concluding Remarks:
The summit concluded with a vote of thanks from State Investments and Infrastructure Secretary S. Suresh Kumar and AP Drone Corporation MD K. Dinesh Kumar, who expressed gratitude to all participants. The event has set the stage for significant advancements in drone technology, with a special focus on skill development and fostering innovation in the coming years.

MLA Galla Madhavi Slams Jagan for Politicizing Tragedies



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: MLA Galla Madhavi has launched a strong attack on former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YCP) leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of exploiting tragic incidents for political gain. She expressed her outrage, stating that it is inappropriate for a former CM to engage in “politics around dead bodies” and warned that if this behavior continues, it will lead to unrest.

Madhavi criticized Jagan for ridiculing the coalition government just four months after it came to power, calling his criticisms baseless. She emphasized that her government is com-

mitted to ensuring the safety of women and girls, with even the Home Minister personally visiting victims to offer support.

She accused Jagan and his party of focusing solely on discrediting the current administration, rather than contributing meaningfully. Madhavi further questioned the role of the 11 YCP MLAs who were elected, challenging them to explain their accomplishments since taking office. She also expressed her disdain for Jagan’s brand of politics, urging him to move away from divisive tactics and instead focus on constructive leadership.

Alapati Raja Strong Criticism of Jagan’s Guntur Visit

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Minister Alapati Raja made scathing remarks about former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his recent visit to Guntur, dismissing Jagan’s criticism of the TDP-led alliance government. Raja declared that Jagan “cannot impose his tyranny” and questioned his record while in office.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Alapati Raja criticized Jagan for failing to address significant issues during his tenure. He pointed out that Jagan had remained silent about serious incidents, including a rape that occurred near the Tadepalli Palace. He also criticized Jagan for not speaking out about the murder of his own father, Y.S. Vivekananda, during his time in power. Raja accused Jagan of ruling with a “criminal mindset” for five years and questioned his lack of action when Dalits, Minorities, and BCs were attacked.

Raja further questioned the distribution of the Rs. 1 crore aid that Jagan had announced for flood victims, accusing him of failing to deliver on his promises. He also expressed doubts about the Rs. 10 lakh assistance Jagan promised recently, sug-



gesting it might not be given. Additionally, Raja criticized Jagan for falsely linking political affiliations with photographs, particularly in the case of Naveen’s mother, who had been attacked, and accusing the family of YCP connections while blaming the TDP.

Alapati Raja warned that Jagan’s attempts to assert political dominance through “rowdiness, anarchy, and attacks on women” would not be tolerated and made it clear that such oppression would not succeed.

SVSN Varma Warns Gorantla Madhav

TPN, Andhra Pradesh:

In a heated outburst, SVSN Varma accused YSR Congress Party (YCP) Ex MP Gorantla Madhav of dishonoring the state during his tenure as an MP. Varma’s accusations, shared publicly on social media, implied that Madhav had been involved in immoral acts, particularly an alleged incident where girls were molested, further claiming it tarnished the state’s reputation.



consequences, warning, “We will cut your tongue.”

Varma Tagged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in his post, Varma questioned why Madhav would even dare to speak about them. In a fierce tone, Varma issued a direct threat to Madhav, demanding he “keep his mouth under control” or face severe

This harsh response comes amid rising tensions between ruling party and the opposition leaders, with both sides trading accusations and inflammatory statements. Varma’s remarks reflect the growing animosity in political discourse, further intensifying the political rivalry.

Roja Fires Back at Home Minister Anitha, Criticizes Lack of Action in Guntur and Badvel Cases

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP leader and former Minister Roja launched a fierce attack on State Home Minister Anita, criticizing her handling of recent murder and sexual assault cases in Andhra Pradesh. Roja’s comments came in the wake of ongoing political tensions between the ruling YSR Congress Party (YCP) and the opposition.



Referring to the brutal incidents in Guntur and Badvel, Roja expressed outrage at Minister Anita’s failure to visit the affected families. “Your party office is just 10 km away. Couldn’t you consult the family of Sahana, the Dalit girl who is hospitalized in Guntur?” Roja asked, condemning Anita for her absence. She also questioned why the minister had not visited the family of Dastagamma, the intermediate student murdered in Badvel, three days after the incident.

Roja accused Anita of neglecting her duties as a minister, stating, “You have no right to criticize YCP when you fail to fulfill your responsibilities.” She further alleged that under the coalition government, the number of sexual assaults and murders of women has increased, leaving women without proper protection.

Roja’s fiery remarks reflect the growing criticism from YCP leaders, who are accusing the opposition of failing to prioritize the safety and well-being of women in the state.

Chintamohan Bold Remarks, Polavaram and Amaravati Will Take Another Century to Complete

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Chintamohan made striking statements during a press conference in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Addressing the ongoing Polavaram and Amaravati projects, he claimed that both would not be completed for another hundred years.

Chintamohan shared his findings from a recent visit to Hyderabad, where he met a senior official who had served under four Chief Ministers. According to this official, the completion of the Polavaram project requires the relocation of 30 lakh tribals, an immense challenge. Furthermore, Chintamohan expressed doubt about the contractors’ abilities, claiming that no local companies have the capacity to construct the project, and even if they manage, it might collapse. He asserted that only three companies in the world — from China, the United States, and Germany — are capable of successfully completing Polavaram.

He criticized the handling of Polavaram, describing it as a “Dhanayajna” (a cash bonanza for politicians) rather than the intended “Jala Yajna” (a water project). Chintamohan also questioned the progress of Amaravati, drawing a parallel with Delhi, which took years to become a metropolis after being de-



clared the capital in 1905.

Chintamohan took jabs at Chandrababu Naidu, remarking that despite his long experience as Chief Minister, Naidu’s continuous focus on Amaravati and Polavaram has not yielded much progress. He further mocked political distractions, such as the recent drone and Laddu incidents.

In his critique of India’s current political scenario, Chintamohan advocated for a return to ballot-based elections, arguing that the ruling BJP manipulates EVMs in regions where the opposition is weak. He

also discussed the adverse effects of Andhra Pradesh’s bifurcation, lamenting the lack of budget allocation for the state.

Chintamohan concluded by stressing the urgent need for action on promises made by leaders like Chandrababu Naidu, including addressing unemployment, reducing taxes, and improving public services like free bus travel for women. He also highlighted the internal divisions within the Dalit community and the historical reasons behind the state’s bifurcation, pointing to efforts by some leaders to weaken Dalit unity for political gain.

Vasireddy Padma Resigns from YCP, Criticizes Jagan’s Leadership

TPN, Andhra Pradesh:

In a major blow to the YSR Congress Party (YCP), senior women leader and former chairperson of the Women’s Commission, Vasireddy Padma, has announced her resignation from the party. Citing widespread injustice within the party, she accused Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of committing fraud not only against her but also against the people of the state.



At a press conference following her resignation, Vasireddy Padma revealed that she had been sidelined within the party for some time. She expressed deep frustration, alleging that there was a deliberate conspiracy to remove her from politics altogether. “If you think Jagan’s era was a golden age for women, it is a big mistake,” Padma declared, emphasizing that several disturbing incidents against women had occurred during Jagan’s tenure.

She questioned why the Chief Minister and the Home Minister failed to visit families affected by violence against women, asking how it was justifiable to prevent women from actively partic-

ipating in politics. Padma argued that her opposition to Jagan’s leadership stemmed from his fraudulent actions, and she vowed to fight collectively with others who shared her views.

Vasireddy Padma further criticized the current administration for inadequately addressing the root causes of crime, despite acknowledging that the police system had improved in apprehending criminals. She called for stronger preventive measures and the implementation of social programs to ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

Padma concluded her remarks by reaffirming her commitment to staying in politics and advocating for justice. “My steps are towards the people,” she declared, signaling her determination to continue fighting against the injustice she believes has been done to her and many others within the YCP.

MP Avinash Faced a Setback In The Telangana High Court Decision

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy faced a setback in the Telangana High Court regarding his plea for relaxation of anticipatory bail conditions.

Avinash Reddy, along with his father Bhaskar Reddy, both accused in the YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case, had approached the court seeking permission for foreign travel, as one of the bail conditions prohibited them from leaving the country.



The High Court, while denying their request for immediate relaxation, directed them to file a petition in the CBI court if they required permission for any foreign trips. This decision came as a disappointment for the MP and his father, as they had hoped for more lenient conditions on their bail. The case continues to attract significant attention, given its high-profile nature and the involvement of political figures.

Union Minister And MP's & MLA's Visited Durga Temple In Vijayawada

TPN, Vijayawada: MP Keshineni Shivanath (Chinni) credited the blessings of Kanakadurga Ammavaru and the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for securing five Guinness World Records during the recently held Drone Hackathon in Amaravati. The large-scale Drone Summit-2024, which took place in the state's capital, was praised as a groundbreaking event, marking a significant achievement for the region.

On Wednesday, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram-mohan Naidu, Vijayawada MP Keshineni Shivanath, Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh, Madugula MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana-murthy, and Yalamanchili MLA Sundarapu Vijay Kumar visited the Kanakadurga Temple on Indrakiladri to offer their prayers. Temple Executive Officer (EO) K.S. Rama Rao extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, following the traditional temple customs.



After their darshan, Vedic scholars blessed the visiting leaders with Vedic chants at the blessing mandapam and presented them with *Tirtha Prasadam*s and sacred pictures of the goddess. Union Minister Ram-mohan Naidu expressed his gratitude, stating that the success of the Drone Summit was due to the grace of Ammavaru and the

leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu.

The leaders prayed for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The event was attended by local leaders and workers from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena, and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), highlighting the collective effort in making the event a success.

DRM Shri Narendra A. Patil Holds "Rail Chaupal" at Vijayawada Railway Station

TPN, Vijayawada: As part of the ongoing Swachhata Abhiyaan - Special Campaign 4.0, a "Rail Chaupal" was organized at Gandhi Waiting Hall, Vijayawada Railway Station on 23rd October 2024. The event aimed to strengthen community engagement and improve the passenger experience. Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), along with Shri Srinivasa Rao Konda, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), and other branch officers and staff participated in the initiative.



"Rail Chaupal" is a platform launched by the Railway Board to facilitate direct communication between passengers and railway officials. This community interaction allowed passengers to share feedback, suggestions, and grievances, which were noted for further action.

During the event, Shri Narendra A. Patil engaged with passengers who expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness and hygiene at Vijayawada station. The DRM outlined the

various initiatives under the Swachhata Abhiyan that have improved station standards and emphasized the importance of continued passenger support in maintaining cleanliness. He assured passengers that their feedback would be addressed promptly.

ADRM Shri Srinivasa Rao Konda also sought passengers' cooperation in preserving amenities and maintaining hygiene, stressing the importance of collective efforts. The event concluded with the dis-

tribution of cloth bags to promote eco-friendly practices among passengers.

Senior officials including Shri M. Kishore, Sr. DENHM, Shri A. Sanjay, Sr. DME, Shri Md. Ali Khan, DCM, and Station Director Shri M. Sailaja, along with other officers and staff, were present at the event.

The event marked another milestone in improving passenger services and cleanliness standards at Vijayawada station.



VMC Review Meeting on City Development Initiatives at New office building

TPN, Vijayawada: On Wednesday morning, Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Dhyana-chandra held a review meeting with officials from the Revenue and Engineering Departments at the new office building. The meeting focused on critical issues related to vacant lands, properties, and taxation in areas not affected by flooding, aiming to facilitate the city's development. Commissioner Dhyana-chandra emphasized the importance of these discussions for enhancing urban growth. Revenue officials were instructed to conduct regular site visits to monitor new buildings and construction projects actively. Additionally, the need for coordination between revenue and engineering officials was underscored, particularly regarding water tax management, to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience.

The meeting brought together key officials, including G. Srujana, Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), G. Samrajyam, Executive Engineer, as well as Assistant Commissioners and Revenue Inspectors. This collaborative effort aims to improve the efficiency of municipal operations and ensure the successful execution of development initiatives within the city. By addressing these important matters, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation seeks to create a more organized and effective approach to managing urban growth and infrastructure, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The commitment to regular monitoring and inter-departmental collaboration is expected to yield positive outcomes for the city's ongoing development projects.



Cyber Crime Awareness, Joint Efforts and Modern Technology Essential - ACP Damodar

TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Central Zone ACP Damodar emphasized the need for modern technology and collaborative efforts to combat cyber crimes during an awareness conference held at the Patamata Police Station on Tuesday. The event aimed to educate bankers on the importance of swiftly addressing cyber fraud incidents.

ACP Damodar highlighted that if individuals receive notifications about unauthorized cash withdrawals from their accounts, they should immediately call the helpline number 1930. This number connects them to the National Cybercrime reporting system, allowing for prompt registration of the incident. He explained that by doing so, banks can quickly halt transactions, stopping criminals from further withdrawing funds.

The ACP stressed that effectively curbing cyber crime requires the cooperation of bankers, police, and the public. He cautioned attendees about common scams, including calls from individuals impersonating bank representatives or officials from the Income Tax Department and CBI. Many victims have been lured into providing sensitive information, often based on fake documentation.

The awareness conference included participation from Patamata Circle Inspector Pawan Kishore and Gunadala Circle Inspector Vasireddy Srinivas, among other officials. The event aimed to foster a proactive approach to tackling cyber threats by raising awareness and ensuring that both the banking sector and law enforcement agencies are equipped to respond effectively.



Young Woman Dies After Rowdy Sheeter Attack in Guntur

TPN, Guntur: A young woman who was severely injured in an attack by a rowdy sheeter has died while receiving treatment at Guntur Government Hospital. The victim, identified as Sahana (25) from Aitanagar, Tenali, was declared brain dead before succumbing to her injuries.

The accused, Naveen, a rowdy sheeter from Vallabhapura, has been arrested by the police. According to reports, Naveen and Sahana had been friends for six years. Earlier

this month, the two traveled to the Kathevaram suburb of Tenali mandal, where Sahana informed Naveen of her pregnancy and confronted him about the money she had given him. This led to a heated argument, during which Naveen violently struck Sahana's head with the door of the car.

Sahana's death has sparked outrage in the community, and the police are continuing their investigation into the case.



Urgent Call to Address Fraudulent Activities in AP Football Association

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: We, the founding members of the Andhra Pradesh Football Association (APFA), wish to bring to your attention the alarming issue of corruption and manipulation within the promotion of sports in our state, particularly regarding the recent activities of Kotagiri Sridhar, former MP, and Daniel Pradeep, former member of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP).

In the past five years, we have witnessed only "destruction and corruption" in the realm of sports promotion, with political influence misappropriating control over sports associations such as cricket and football. We commend the current leaders for their efforts in resolving issues related to the Cricket Association of Andhra (ACA) and express our hope that they will similarly address the ongoing challenges within the Andhra Pradesh Football Association.

It has come to our notice that Kotagiri Sridhar and Daniel Pradeep have been illegally registering football associations across various districts without the approval of the primary membership of the Andhra Pradesh Football Association. Six individuals affiliated with Kotagiri Sridhar are members of multiple district football associations, as well as the state-level Andhra Pradesh Football Federation. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has issued two letters dated 14.04.2022 and 27.04.2022, clearly stating that Kotagiri Sridhar is not a recognized member of the Andhra Pradesh Football Association and has misused his position as MP to arrange illegal meetings in Tirupati.

Ganja Bust at Vijayawada Railway Station, Woman Arrested



TPN, Vijayawada: Vijayawada Railway Police have arrested a woman for transporting ganja at the railway station. The accused, identified as Rehana from Hubli district in Karnataka, was caught with 4 kilograms of ganja in her possession.

The arrest was made by the Government Railway Police (GRP) in coordination with the Railway Protection Force (RPF). According to GRP CI JV. Ramana and RPF CI Ali Baig, the police swiftly acted upon receiving information and seized the illegal substance.

A case has been registered, and Rehana has been sent to judicial remand as the investigation continues.

Minister Nadendla Manohar on Free Gas Cylinder Distribution Scheme



TPN, Vijayawada: In line with the "Super 6" schemes promised in the joint manifesto, State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced the launch of a free gas cylinder distribution program, set to commence on October 31, during the Diwali festival. Under this scheme, three free LPG cylinders will be provided to eligible families, with an annual expenditure of Rs. 2,684 crores by the government.

Key Highlights:

- Three cylinders annually will be distributed to each eligible family in three block periods:
- April to July
- August to November
- December to March

- The cost of each gas cylinder, Rs. 894.92, will be fully subsidized, with the subsidy amount credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) within 48 hours of delivery.
- Cylinder booking will open three days before distribution begins, and the government aims to deliver the cylinders to all eligible households on the same day.
- The government has secured agreements

with three gas companies to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme despite financial challenges.

- To address any issues, a grievance redressal system will be set up at village and ward secretariats to resolve problems quickly, following instructions from the Chief Minister.

Minister Nadendla Manohar emphasized that the government is committed to making this program available to every household, ensuring timely delivery and efficient service.

Minister Kollu Ravindra Announces Reforms in Sand Mining Policy

TPN, Vijayawada: State Mines, Geology & Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra emphasized that the previous government had exploited sand mining without any regulation, driving up prices and burdening both the construction sector and the public. He criticized the former rulers for cutting deep into the riverbeds and increasing the cost of sand, which hindered infrastructure development.

In contrast, Minister Ravindra highlighted the coalition government's efforts to make sand accessible to the public without additional financial burden. In line with the election promise, a free sand policy was introduced, under which sand is made available at stock points with only the charges for handling and loading to be paid by the people. However, due to heavy rains since June



and flooding in the Krishna and Godavari rivers, sand extraction was affected.

To address the shortages, the government has authorized 108 new sand reaches in addition to existing ones. These efforts, along with reforms in the sand policy, are expected to boost availability and prevent illegal activities

such as sand smuggling. Minister Ravindra assured that these reforms will benefit around 30 lakh construction workers, directly impacting the construction sector positively.

Key reforms include:

- Fee waivers for DMF, MERIT, and handling charges, removing up to ₹100 per ton that was previously paid by the public.
- Residents of riverside villages can transport sand free of cost by booking directly through village secretariats or the online portal.
- To prevent black marketing and illegal sand transportation, both online and offline registration systems will be implemented for transparency.
- GPS tracking for all vehicles carrying sand to detect violations, with penalties including vehicle seizure, blacklisting, and criminal cases, potentially under the PD Act.

Stock yards will be set up in districts lacking natural sand resources, like Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Tirupati, Prakasam, and Nandyala. These stock yards will ensure a steady supply at government-approved prices, overseen by District Level Sand Committees (DLSC). Check posts will be strengthened, CCTV cameras installed on major roads, and complaints about illegal activities can be lodged via a call center or online application.

Minister Ravindra reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that sand is available in a fair and regulated manner, promoting the growth of the construction sector while preventing exploitation.

Vemulapati Ajay Kumar Takes a Charge as AP TIDCO Chairman

Minister Narayana Congratulates to Vemulapati Ajaya Kumar



TPN, Vijayawada: Minister Ponguru Narayana extended his congratulations to Vemulapati Ajaya Kumar, who officially took charge as the Chairman of AP TIDCO. The minister personally congratulated Ajaya Kumar in his chamber, marking a significant moment in the latter's career.

Ajaya Kumar expressed his deep admiration for Narayana, his former teacher, stating that he felt fortunate to have studied under such an esteemed mentor. He also highlighted the privilege of now working in the same department that Narayana oversees, calling it a unique opportunity. The close bond between the two was evident during the meeting, as Ajaya Kumar shared his appreciation for Narayana's leadership and guidance.

The appointment of Ajaya Kumar as AP TIDCO Chairman has been well received, with expectations for significant contributions to the state's infrastructure development.

Corruption Uncovered in Excise Department, Ongole Officials Report Losses of ₹2.34 Crores

TPN, Ongole: District officials have conducted a thorough investigation into corruption within the Excise Department, revealing substantial financial losses amounting to ₹2.34 crores across two elite malls in Ongole. The report detailing these findings was submitted to the commissioner. According to officials, ₹30 lakhs have already been recovered, while notices have been issued to eight private employees working in the affected malls. The investigation has highlighted the involvement of Excise Constable Ramana, who is identified as the mastermind behind the misappropriation. Despite this, the private employees have distanced themselves from the allegations, claiming Ramana is solely responsible for the corruption.

The inquiry indicates that the estimated loss comprises ₹50 lakhs attributed to the mall staff, while the remaining ₹1.74 crores is believed to have been misappropriated by Ramana himself. Reports suggest that officials are currently negotiating with Ramana, who has gone into hiding, through intermediaries. An agreement has purportedly been reached to recover ₹1.20 crores in phases, with ₹30 lakhs already deposited into the government treasury on last few days.

To address the situation, the Excise Superintendent and Ongole Excise Circle Inspector traveled to Vijayawada to meet with the Excise Commissioner. They presented their

findings regarding the cash misappropriation and indicated that appropriate actions would follow as directed by superiors. Meanwhile, the inquiry officer, Lakshmiprasanna, appointed by the government, has conducted investigations and submitted her report. A departmental inquiry was also initiated by Ongole Assistant Excise Superintendent E. Venkat. While there is a push for cash recovery, actions against involved parties may depend on the commissioner's directives.

As the investigation continues, Excise Department officials remain focused on recovering the misappropriated funds while holding accountable those responsible for the corruption within the department.

Massive Corruption Uncovered in Transfer Orders of Secretariat Employees



TPN, Ongole: A shocking investigation has revealed significant irregularities in the transfer orders of Grade-5 and Grade-6 employees under the Zilla Panchayat, raising serious concerns about corruption within the system. The inquiry, led by a three-member committee chaired by Forest Settlement Officer Lokeswara Rao, has exposed allegations of bribery and misconduct during the transfer process.

The committee has been actively collecting evidence over the past two days, interviewing transferred employees and gathering details about the alleged corrupt practices. Reports indicate that substantial sums of money were exchanged, with payments being made through digital platforms such as PhonePay and GooglePay. These transactions appear

to have been facilitated by secretaries of the Secretariat, who allegedly worked to secure their transfer orders through questionable means.

Witnesses have claimed that payments were made to the family members of former District Panchayat Officer Usharani, suggesting that the corruption may be deeply rooted. While Usharani defended her integrity, stating she acted honestly and had no involvement in the alleged misconduct, investigators have pointed to bank transactions that contradict her claims.

The inquiry revealed that some employees had written statements detailing their fear of speaking out during the investigation. As a result, written information was collected to document the irregularities. Furthermore, secretariat employees reported that they were compelled to pay bribes to the investigators who were

supposed to be overseeing the process.

On the second day of the inquiry, committee members gathered CCTV footage that could shed light on the corruption allegations. Employees from various positions within the Zilla Panchayat office were questioned, and many reported paying money to obtain their transfer orders. One employee claimed they only received their order after completing a payment through PhonePay.

The situation escalated when it was revealed that an outsourcing employee allegedly collected over ₹2 lakh in cash to facilitate the transfer orders. This employee was said to have received their transfer order shortly after the payment was made. Investigators have highlighted WhatsApp messages as part of their evidence against Usharani, who reportedly claimed ignorance about the employee's actions.

In a broader context, the inquiry has uncovered a troubling pattern of corruption and misconduct within the Zilla Panchayat, with allegations of previous District Panchayat Officers accepting bribes in exchange for favorable reports. The DLDO of Markapuram was recently suspended following accusations of harassment towards a female employee, with reports indicating that ₹50,000 was solicited to ensure a favorable outcome in the investigation.

As the inquiry continues, the committee is expected to submit a comprehensive report to the Collector, which may reveal further names and actions involved in this significant corruption scandal. The outcome of this investigation could have lasting implications for those involved and the integrity of the Zilla Panchayat system.



Modi-Pezeshkian Meeting: A New Chapter in India-Iran Relations

The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on October 22, held during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, marks a significant milestone in India-Iran relations. This was their first formal interaction, highlighting a renewed commitment to strengthening ties between the two nations, which share a multifaceted and historically rich relationship.

The timing of this meeting is crucial, as it comes against the backdrop of evolving geopolitical dynamics in the region. Both India and Iran have faced their own sets of challenges in recent years, including economic pressures and regional security concerns. By engaging in direct dialogue, Modi and Pezeshkian are signaling their intent to collaborate on key issues, enhancing bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

India has traditionally maintained a strong interest in Iran, particularly regarding energy security and trade. Iran is a vital supplier of crude oil, and India has been keen to explore avenues for further cooperation in energy, agriculture, and infrastructure development. The two countries have previously engaged in projects like the Chabahar Port, which is designed to enhance connectivity and trade routes, particularly to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Strengthening this partnership could provide a counterbalance to regional rivals and open new avenues for economic growth.

Moreover, both nations share common interests in combating terrorism and ensuring stability in the region. Given Iran's strategic position and India's rising influence, collaborative efforts in intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism initiatives could lead to a more secure environment for both countries.

The meeting also holds cultural significance, as India and Iran have deep-rooted historical and cultural ties. From literature to art, the two civilizations have influenced each other over centuries. Emphasizing cultural exchanges can further enrich this partnership and promote people-to-people connections.

In the face of global uncertainties and shifting alliances, India and Iran's commitment to dialogue is particularly noteworthy. Both leaders appear to be aware that cooperation could lead to mutual benefits, not just economically but also in fostering regional stability.

As this relationship evolves, it will be essential to monitor how both countries navigate their respective challenges and leverage their strengths. The Modi-Pezeshkian meeting could serve as a catalyst for a more robust partnership, one that is not only strategically significant but also rich in potential for cultural and economic collaboration. The path ahead promises a multidimensional relationship that could redefine India-Iran ties for years to come.

LAC Pact: Will China's Words Match Its Actions



In a significant diplomatic development, India and China are set to engage in a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. This meeting comes after an agreement aimed at resolving the long-standing military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, particularly concerning patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas.

The tensions between the two nations have persisted since May 2020, with the most serious conflict occurring in June 2020 in the Galwan Valley, resulting in the deaths of 20 Indian soldiers and approximately 40 Chinese troops. This incident marked a pivotal shift in India's approach to China, leading to a comprehensive reevaluation of bilateral relations across various sectors.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has confirmed that the recent agreement indicates the completion of the disengagement process, with military pullbacks already achieved at four of the six identified friction points. While this is a prom-

ising step towards restoring some level of normalcy, many challenges remain. India's military infrastructure along the border has been significantly bolstered since 2020, reflecting a newfound resolve to address the Chinese challenge.

Despite the current agreement, deep-seated mistrust persists in India towards China. Historical violations of agreements have eroded confidence, making it difficult for any new pact to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the Indian public. For China, rebuilding trust will require consistent, trustworthy actions rather than mere diplomatic rhetoric.

As both nations navigate this fragile relationship, the broader question remains whether China can accept India as an equal partner and address New Delhi's core security concerns. The latest agreement, while a step forward, does not fundamentally change the structural rivalry between the two powers. India's strategy moving forward will likely emphasize strengthening its own capabilities and fostering external partnerships to effectively manage the challenges posed by China.



Chill in India's Credit Market: RBI's Loan Freeze Shakes Investor Confidence

A significant chill has gripped India's credit industry following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent directive to four finance companies, halting their ability to issue new loans. This move has sent shockwaves through the financial sector, impacting not only the companies directly involved but also the broader market sentiment.

In the wake of the RBI's announcement, one finance firm was forced to cancel a planned bond sale, signaling a lack of investor confidence and heightened risk aversion. Shares of another company under the RBI's scrutiny plummeted, reflecting the anxiety gripping stakeholders in the financial ecosystem. This uncertainty comes as investors are already on edge due to existing vulnerabilities in the credit market, making the situation even more precarious.

The RBI's decision appears to be a response to concerns about the financial health and governance of these firms, raising alarm bells among investors about potential defaults and liquidity issues. The regulator's move has intensified scrutiny of the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which have been facing increasing pressure in a challenging economic environment.

Investors are now questioning the stability of the entire sector, with many reallocating their portfolios in search of safer assets. The ripple effects of the RBI's intervention have led to a broader reassessment of risk in the financial market, particularly re-

garding the creditworthiness of firms that have been operating on the fringes of regulatory oversight.

Market analysts are watching closely to see how this situation unfolds. There are concerns that prolonged restrictions on loan issuance could lead to a tightening of credit across the economy, stifling growth and exacerbating liquidity challenges for businesses and consumers alike. The fear is that if credit remains constrained, it could hinder investment and consumption, critical components of economic recovery post-pandemic.

Furthermore, this situation raises questions about the RBI's future stance on regulatory measures and its approach to managing financial stability in the sector. As the central bank navigates the balance between ensuring sound lending practices and fostering economic growth, its actions will be closely monitored by both market participants and policymakers.

In conclusion, the RBI's recent directive has catalyzed a significant shake-up in India's credit landscape, with immediate implications for finance companies and broader repercussions for the economy. As the industry grapples with this chill, the need for transparent governance and robust financial practices has never been more critical. Investors and companies alike will be hoping for a swift resolution to restore confidence and stability in the credit market.

Delhi's Air Pollution Crisis: Blame Game and Short-Term Solutions



As the festive season unfolds in the national capital, so too does the familiar haze of air pollution, casting a shadow over celebrations. With Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) soaring to 310, categorizing it as "very poor," the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage II. This stage includes banning the use of coal and firewood, particularly in restaurants and open eateries, as well as diesel generator sets, except for emergencies. Fireworks have also been prohibited, a measure particularly relevant as Diwali approaches.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi wasted no time in blaming neighboring states for the city's deteriorating air quality. She accused the BJP of "dirty politics," claiming that rising pollution levels are primarily due to stubble burning in states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, while downplaying Punjab's role, where her party governs. Atishi cited data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) showing a drop in stubble

burning in Punjab but an increase in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

However, experts have contested her claims, arguing that smoke from Uttar Pradesh is unlikely to affect Delhi's air quality due to prevailing wind patterns. Stubble fire fumes typically move in a north-west to south-east direction, making it improbable for emissions from Uttar Pradesh to reach the capital. The Uttar Pradesh government has also highlighted a significant reduction in stubble burning incidents over the past seven years, further challenging Atishi's narrative.

In contrast, Punjab's progress in addressing stubble burning remains lackluster. While the Centre has sanctioned numerous Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants in the state, only a handful are operational. Without effective processing facilities for agricultural waste, the issue of stubble burning will persist, undermining efforts to improve air quality.

Judiciary intervention only when grey areas in drafting laws: Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah underscored the critical importance of clarity in the drafting of laws, stating that eliminating grey areas can significantly reduce judicial intervention. Speaking at a training session for government officials on Tuesday, Shah emphasized that ambiguity in legislation often leads to challenges in interpretation, prompting the judiciary to step in.

“Intervention of judiciary will occur only where there is a grey area; lesser the grey area, lesser the intervention,” he explained, highlighting the need for precise legal language. This approach aims to ensure that laws are easily understandable and implementable, thus minimizing disputes and the need for court involvement.

Shah’s remarks come in the context of ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. By focusing on clarity, the government aims to create a more robust legal framework that supports governance while respecting the rule of law. He urged officials to prioritize clear definitions and unambiguous terms in legislative texts to avoid potential conflicts that could arise from misinterpretations.

Moreover, Shah pointed out that well-drafted laws not only facilitate smoother governance but also bolster public trust in the legal system. When citizens can easily comprehend their rights and responsibilities, it enhances compliance and reduces the likelihood of legal disputes.

The Home Minister’s comments resonate with a broader initiative to streamline the legislative process and improve the quality of laws enacted by the government. By investing in better drafting practices, officials can ensure that laws are relevant, effective, and less prone to judicial scrutiny.

In conclusion, Amit Shah’s emphasis on clarity in law drafting reflects a proactive approach to governance. By addressing potential grey areas in legislation, the government aims to foster a more efficient legal environment, ultimately benefiting both the administration and the public it serves.

PM Modi Discusses Release Of Indians From Russian Army With Putin



During a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed several key issues, including the early discharge of Indian nationals serving in the Russian Army. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, speaking at a media briefing, highlighted that the discussion on this topic was significant for both sides, and with Russia’s support, many Indian nationals have returned to India in recent months. Currently, the Indian embassy is pursuing around 20 cases with the Russian government, and there is hope for their timely repatriation.

The leaders also discussed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, with PM Modi reiterating that dialogue and diplomacy are essential for resolving the sit-

uation. He shared insights from his engagements with Ukrainian leadership and reaffirmed India’s readiness to contribute to peace efforts in the region.

In terms of defense cooperation, both leaders expressed satisfaction and agreed to convene the next meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Cooperation Group on Defence in Moscow soon. Discussions also included energy collaboration, particularly regarding the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project, with both sides committed to adhering to the agreed schedule for the installation of remaining units.

Economic cooperation was another focal point, with discussions on sustaining supply chains for fertilizers and coal from Russia, with President Putin promising assistance.

The two leaders planned for India to host the 25th session of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission in New Delhi on November 12, 2024.

In a post on X, PM Modi characterized the meeting as excellent, emphasizing the deep-rooted bond between India and Russia and the need to invigorate bilateral partnerships across various sectors. He also thanked President Putin for his invitation to the BRICS Summit and acknowledged Russia’s leadership in strengthening multilateralism and global governance reform.

Overall, the discussions reflected a commitment to enhancing the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two nations, showcasing resilience amid geopolitical uncertainties.

Campaigned In Polls For 1st Time For Myself: Priyanka Gandhi



In a heartfelt address at a public meeting in Wayanad, Kerala, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra emphasized the significance of her candidacy as she prepares to contest the upcoming by-election for the parliamentary seat. Surrounded by her mother, Sonia Gandhi, and brother, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka shared that although she has been campaigning for 35 years, this is the first time she is seeking support for herself.

Reflecting on her long history in politics, she recalled starting her campaign journey at just 17, working for her father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and subsequently for her mother and brother. “It is a very different feeling,” she remarked, expressing gratitude to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for the opportunity to run. “It will be my honour to represent you if you give me a chance,” she added, highlighting her commitment to the constituency.

During her speech, Priyanka spoke about her recent visits to areas affected by devastating landslides that resulted in significant loss of life and property. “I saw the devastation with my own eyes. I met mothers who lost their children and people whose entire lives were washed away,” she said, emphasizing the resilience and compassion of the community. “Each and every person I met was engaged in helping each other,” she noted, underlining the spirit of solidarity she witnessed.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also addressed the gathering, expressing his deep appreciation for Wayanad. He assured the constituents that they would have both an official MP and an unofficial MP in Lok Sabha, both dedicated to raising their issues.

Congress, Uddhav Sena, Sharad Pawar's Party To Contest 85 Seats



The Shiv Sena faction led by Uddhav Thackeray announced the release of 65 candidates for the upcoming Maharashtra elections, confirming that seat-sharing negotiations within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition have reached a conclusion. After weeks of intense discussions, it was agreed that each of the three main allies—Shiv Sena UBT, Congress, and Sharad Pawar’s Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)—will contest 85 seats, totaling 255 seats. The remaining 33 seats in the state’s 288-seat assembly will be allocated to smaller allied parties.

At a press conference, Shiv Sena UBT spokesperson Sanjay Raut and Congress leader Nana Patole shared the finalized formula. Raut indicated that Sharad Pawar had instructed them to communicate the 85-85-85 arrangement to the media. However, questions arose when the math didn’t seem to add up, as 85 seats per party would only total 255, not the 270 mentioned by Raut. When confronted with this discrepancy, Shiv Sena’s Anil Desai attempted to clarify, saying that the seat allocation for smaller parties

would be discussed later and that “whatever remains will be divided among us.” The coalition aims to maintain unity while accommodating the interests of all parties involved.

The MVA allies had a lengthy six-hour meeting that extended past midnight before resuming discussions the following morning. Veteran leader Sharad Pawar played a crucial role in mediating between Congress and Shiv Sena UBT, which had encountered a stalemate over a few contested seats, particularly in Mumbai, Nashik, and Vidarbha.

West Bengal Prepares for Impending Cyclone, Closes Schools

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced comprehensive measures in response to an impending cyclone, which is expected to impact the state between October 25 and 26. As a precautionary step, educational institutions and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centers in nine districts will remain closed starting Wednesday. This announcement comes as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) indicated that a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a depression, with predictions of it evolving into a severe cyclonic storm.

At a media briefing, Banerjee emphasized that the state administration is fully prepared to tackle the cyclone. She noted that integrated control rooms at both state and district levels are operational 24/7. “Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the seas, and public address systems have been set up in coastal areas to keep residents informed,” she stated.

The IMD has predicted that the cy-

clone will likely make landfall between Puri and Sagar Island, with wind speeds potentially reaching 110-120 km/h. “The districts of South and North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, and their coastal areas are expected to face severe impacts,” she said. Other districts such as Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Jhargram, and Hooghly will also be affected, prompting school closures from October 23 to 26.

Banerjee directed district administrations to evacuate residents from low-lying areas to safer locations. Ferry services along the coast have been suspended, and tourist movements are being closely monitored. “We do not want to take any risks with people’s safety. Schools and colleges can serve as shelters if necessary,” she added. To ensure effective coordination, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant convened a meeting with various departments, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

Stalin Challenges Palaniswami Amid DMK's Rising Popularity

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday took a jab at Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami, sarcastically questioning whether he was living in a “dream land” to overlook the realities of the state’s political landscape. Stalin accused Palaniswami of waging a misinformation campaign regarding the DMK’s increasing popularity among the public.

Speaking after laying the foundation stones for 140 new projects worth ₹366 crore in Namakkal district, as well as inaugurating 134 completed projects valued at ₹298 crore, Stalin expressed confidence that the DMK would once again defeat the AIADMK in the 2026 assembly elections. He stated, “The electoral results of the last five years clearly indicate that the AIADMK is heading for another crushing defeat.”

During his address at Bommakuttaimedu along the Namakkal-Salem national highway, Stalin pointed out that the DMK’s influence had grown significantly since the recent Lok Sabha elections, surpassing the level observed during the 2021 Assembly elections. He asserted that Palaniswami’s remarks about the DMK’s declining respect were unfounded. “Is the Leader of the Opposition in this world or in a dream world?” he questioned, suggesting Palaniswami should interact with the women who regularly use government buses to see their relief firsthand. Stalin highlighted various welfare initiatives, such as the monthly ₹1,000 grants to over one crore women and the free breakfast scheme benefiting 20 lakh children. He stated that these programs have garnered positive feedback from the populace, reinforcing the DMK’s reputation.

Congress Questions India-China Agreement on Patrolling Rights

Ahead of a pivotal bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, the Congress party has raised significant concerns regarding the recent agreement on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The agreement aims to restore mutual patrolling rights in contentious areas such as the Depsang Plains and the Demchok region, which are characterized by legacy issues predating the 2020 incursions by China.

The Congress has demanded transparency from the government, urging it to take the Indian populace into confidence regarding the details of this agreement. They emphasized the need for clarity on how this arrangement might affect national security and border integrity. Congress leaders have posed several questions aimed at understanding the implications of this decision, particularly given the complex historical context of India-China relations and the ongoing tensions that have marked recent years. In their statements, Congress leaders have highlighted that the restoration of patrolling rights must not compromise India’s sovereignty or strategic interests.



'Border Peace, Mutual Trust And Respect Should Be Priority': PM Modi To Xi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping for a bilateral discussion on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia, marking their first formal engagement since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed the meeting, emphasizing its significance in light of recent developments in India-China relations, particularly regarding a new consensus on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Misri stated, "I can confirm that there will be a bilateral meeting held between Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping tomorrow on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit," as reported by news agency ANI. This meeting comes amid growing speculation about a thaw in relations

between the two nations.

Since the tensions that erupted following the Galwan clash on June 15, 2020, there have been limited interactions between Modi and Xi. Notably, they exchanged pleasantries during the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2022 and at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2023. Both leaders are currently in Kazan, Russia, where they will also meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa.

The anticipated breakthrough in patrolling arrangements signals a potential de-escalation of tensions, which have seen both countries amass tens of thousands of troops along their shared border. The new agreement suggests a return to pre-

2020 protocols, aiming to stabilize the situation and foster confidence-building measures between New Delhi and Beijing.

The Galwan clash had significant repercussions, leading to strained diplomatic ties and casualties on both sides. While a gradual de-escalation has occurred since then, a complete return to pre-Galwan conditions has remained elusive. This ongoing tension has also impacted various areas of bilateral interaction, including the suspension of direct flights for four years and heightened scrutiny of Chinese technicians' visas.

As Modi and Xi prepare for this pivotal meeting, the world watches closely for indications of a shift towards improved relations between the two Asian giants.



Delhi Can Play A Part: Iran President Meets PM Modi Over West Asia Crisis

Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. This meeting is particularly significant as it comes during a period of heightened conflict, including the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the Israel-Hezbollah tensions, alongside recent Iranian missile threats against Israel.

India has expressed "deep concern" regarding the situation and has consistently advocated for "dialogue and diplomacy" to alleviate tensions in the region. During their discussion, both leaders recognized the importance of peace in West Asia, with President Pezeshkian underscoring India's potential role in de-escalating the crisis due to its amicable relations with all parties involved.

India's unique diplomatic position allows it to mediate between Israel and Iran, with Modi recently having spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and now engaging with President Pezeshkian. This is not an isolated instance, as Modi is also actively seeking to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine, maintaining strong ties with both Vladimir

Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In their bilateral talks, Modi and Pezeshkian discussed enhancing India-Iran relations, focusing on strategic projects like the Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). After their meeting, Modi expressed optimism about their discussions, highlighting the historical and civilizational ties between the two nations.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs reported that the leaders discussed the need for protecting civilians amidst the ongoing conflict in West Asia, reinforcing their commitment to peace and stability in the region. Pezeshkian acknowledged India's role in Iran's participation in international forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS, indicating a collaborative future.

Modi extended an invitation for Pezeshkian to visit India soon, which the Iranian president accepted. This meeting marks the first engagement between the two leaders since Pezeshkian took office in July, following the tragic death of his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi.



US Confirms North Korean Troop Deployment to Russia Amid Ukraine Conflict

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin confirmed on Wednesday that North Korea has sent troops to Russia, marking the first official acknowledgment of such reports from the US government. This follows warnings from South Korea's intelligence agency, which suggested that Pyongyang deployed these forces to support Russia in its ongoing war against Ukraine.

Austin stated, "We are seeing evidence that there are North Korean troops that have gone to Russia," although he noted that the exact purpose of their deployment remains unclear. He added, "If they're co-belligerents, their intention is to participate in this war on Russia's behalf, that is a very, very serious issue."

The relationship between North Korea and Russia has strengthened since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with concerns that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been supplying weapons for the conflict. Last week, South Korea's intelligence agency reported that an initial contingent of 1,500 special forces soldiers had been deployed to Vladivostok, Russia, and on Wednesday, they indicated that the total number of troops sent has risen to 3,000.

Despite these developments, North Korea has denied deploying forces to Russia, and Moscow has not provided any confirmation. However, Russian officials have defended their military cooperation with Pyongyang, highlighting the growing ties between the two nations amid international sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

The implications of North Korea's military involvement in the Ukraine conflict could have significant ramifications for global security dynamics, particularly in the context of the ongoing tensions between Russia and Western nations. As the situation evolves, the international community remains watchful of any developments regarding the collaboration between North Korea and Russia.

Karen Makishima: A Beacon of Hope for Women in Japan's Politics

Karen Makishima stands as the only female candidate representing Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in her 20-seat prefecture for the upcoming general election on October 27. Her candidacy highlights the challenges women face in Japan's male-dominated political landscape. Despite the LDP's commitment to narrowing the significant gender gap among lawmakers, the party has fallen short of its target to achieve 35% female candidates in the lower house by 2025, with only 16% of its candidates being women in this election.

Surveys indicate that societal attitudes pose significant barriers for female candidates. Many believe that the LDP, which has held power for most of Japan's post-war history, lacks genuine commitment to gender equality, often failing to implement meaningful measures to improve the situation. In contrast, the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ) boasts a slightly higher percentage of female candidates at 22%.

As Makishima campaigns in her coastal constituency of Odawara, she articulates the struggles women face, noting, "The biggest drawback of having a low number of female legislators is that it doesn't change traditional perceptions, such as that women are not suited to politics."

Japan's gender gap remains a significant issue, with just over 10% of lawmakers in the lower house being female, compared to an average of 30% in other G7 nations. This disparity has drawn international criticism, particularly as Japan ranks 118th out of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum's gender gap report.

Although the LDP has set a target of 30% female lawmakers by 2033, experts argue that the party requires more concrete plans, such as gender quotas, to make real progress. Some lawmakers, like former defense minister Tomomi Inada, advocate for a detailed strategy to achieve these goals.



US "Absolutely" Ready For First Woman President: Kamala Harris

The vibrant atmosphere at Howard University's homecoming parade was a testament to the enduring legacy of the historically Black college (HBCU) and its most famous alumna, Vice President Kamala Harris. With the U.S. presidential election approaching, Harris faces a critical challenge: retaining support from Black voters, a demographic essential for Democratic success.

Recent polls, including a New York Times/Siena survey, indicate a worrying trend for Harris, revealing that her support among Black voters has dropped to 78%, significantly lower than the 90% backing President Joe Biden enjoyed against Donald Trump four years ago. This shift has raised alarms, particularly as Trump has made inroads among traditionally Democratic Black voters, especially men. At Howard's festivities, however, there were signs of strong support for Harris. Vendors sold campaign merchandise, and attendees took photos with cutouts of the vice president. Kacy Haynes, visiting from Louisiana, noted he hadn't encountered much pro-Trump sentiment during the celebrations. Despite Trump's attempts to engage with Black communities, analysts argue that the overall impact on the Black electorate should not be overstated. Michael Strawbridge, a political science professor, emphasized that the real danger lies in Black voters feeling disenfranchised and choosing not to vote at all. While Trump's outreach has resonated in specific male-dominated spaces, such as barbershops, Harris's ties to HBCUs provide a powerful platform. The homecoming season is crucial for mobilizing alumni and current students, fostering a sense of community that Harris is leveraging as she gears up for the election.



Trudeau Aides Briefed U.S. Paper on India Links Before Bishnoi Claim

Two senior aides to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, including national security advisor Nathalie Drouin, reportedly shared confidential information regarding alleged Indian interference in Canada with a U.S. newspaper. This revelation comes as tensions between Canada and India escalate following Trudeau's allegations about the Indian government's involvement in criminal activities targeting South Asians in Canada.

According to reports from the Canadian publication The Globe and Mail, Drouin and David Morrison, Deputy Minister of Global Affairs, briefed the Washington Post just days before Canadian federal police linked "agents" of the Indian government to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and pro-Khalistani figure. In June 2023, Nijjar was fatally shot, prompting Trudeau to allege without presenting concrete evidence that Indian agents were involved.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has claimed that Indian agents have connections with criminal gangs, including the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, asserting their involvement in Nijjar's murder and other criminal activities like extortion and intimidation. However, India has categorically dismissed these allegations as "preposterous" and has noted that the Canadian government has failed to provide any substantiated evidence despite repeated requests.

Market Loses Steam as Indices Break Support Levels, IT Stocks Show Resilience Amid Sell-Off.



Domestic stock market indices an intraday low of 79,891. peaked at 80,646. It eventually fell 138 points to close at 80,081. The NSE Nifty opened at 24,378 and touched a low of 24,378 and a high of 24,604. It lost a total of 36 points to close at 24,435. Bank Nifty settled down 18 points at 51,239.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,220 in the previous session, opened at 79,921 today. It touched



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst

In Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 32 lost. Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consumer, Bajaj Auto, HDFC Bank were the top gainers. M&M, Sun Pharma, Eicher Motors, Sriram Finance and Power Grid were the biggest losers. Today the IT index has hit. Finance, FMCG, Media and PSU Bank indices were not good. Pharma, metal, healthcare, oil and gas indices turned red.

Nifty support is at 24,450 and resistance is at 24,600. Investors can buy shares of Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Auto, Deepak Fertilizers, HCL Tech and Coal India in the short term.

AU Small Finance Bank's profit increased by 42% to Rs.571 crore. Net interest income grew by 58% to Rs.1974 crore. Bajaj Holdings' revenue in Q2 fell 32% to Rs 1142 crore. Net profit declined by 33.1% to Rs.1051 crore. Karnataka Bank's revenue grew by 10% to Rs.2504 crore. Net profit was flat at Rs 336 crore. GRM Overseas has partnered with Solaris in Chile. Lloyds Metals and Energy's revenue jumped 32% to Rs 1469 crore. The non-tax income recorded a growth of 30% to Rs.301 crore. TVS Motors' net profit jumped from Rs.416 crore to Rs.588 crore. The income increased from Rs.9933 crores to Rs.11302 crores. Heritage Foods had a revenue of Rs.1013 crores and a net profit of Rs.48.2 crores. SBI Life Insurance's net profit has reached Rs.529 crore from Rs.380 crore.

1. Tech Mahindra

Tech Mahindra has shown resilience despite broader market volatility. IT stocks, in general, have performed



well as the sector benefits from a focus on digital transformation and strong order books. The stock could benefit from continued buying interest in the IT sector. Key support levels lie around ₹1330, and resistance is expected at ₹1350. A breakout above this level could push the stock higher.

2. Bajaj Auto



Bajaj Auto has been gaining momentum due to its strong export performance and increasing market share in the two-wheeler segment. The stock is currently trading near a key resistance level. If it manages to break ₹10,650, it could see further upside. However, if it fails, a pullback to ₹10,550 is possible.

3. Deepak Fertilizers

Deepak Fertilizers has faced some recent weakness, largely due to commodity price fluctuations. However, its fundamentals remain strong, and a bounce-back is expected as the broader market stabilizes. Key support levels are seen around ₹1050, with resistance near ₹1100. A sustained move above this could trigger further buying.



4. HCL Tech



HCL Tech, like Tech Mahindra, has been performing well due to its diversified IT services offerings and strong deal pipeline. The stock is nearing its key resistance level at ₹1,850. If it breaks through, it could move towards ₹1,950. Support is seen around ₹1,820.

5. Coal India



Coal India has been under pressure due to the general weakness in the energy and commodity sectors. However, demand for coal remains steady, providing some support. Support for the stock lies around ₹460, while resistance is around ₹480. A breakout from these levels could determine the next move.

Increased retail presence in derivatives a matter of concern: Sebi



Ashwani Bhatia, a Whole-time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), expressed concerns on Tuesday regarding the increasing participation of retail investors in the derivatives segment, specifically in futures and options, as well as other high-risk financial products. While he acknowledged the growing interest of retail investors in the securities market as a positive trend, he highlighted the potential dangers associated with this shift.

Bhatia noted that approximately 93 percent of individual traders in the equity futures and options segment have experienced losses, with total aggregate losses surpassing ₹1.8 lakh crore between the fiscal years 2022 and 2024, according to SEBI data. This alarming statistic raises red flags about the financial well-being of retail investors who may not fully understand the complexities and risks associated with trading in derivatives.

The derivatives market can be particularly volatile and challenging for inexperienced investors. While it offers the potential for significant returns, it also exposes participants to considerable risks, especially if they lack adequate knowledge and experience in managing such instruments. Bhatia's warning serves as a crucial reminder for retail investors to approach derivatives with caution and to seek proper education and guidance before engaging in trading activities.

SEBI has been proactive in implementing measures to enhance investor protection and education. However, the influx of retail investors into risky segments underscores the need for ongoing initiatives aimed at fostering financial literacy and awareness. Bhatia emphasized that while enthusiasm for trading is commendable, it is essential for investors to comprehend the underlying risks involved.

As the landscape of retail investment continues to evolve, the role of regulatory bodies like SEBI becomes increasingly vital in ensuring that investors are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the market safely. Bhatia's comments highlight the importance of balanced participation in the financial markets, encouraging investors to exercise caution and make informed decisions as they explore various investment avenues.

IMF Keeps India's FY25 GDP Growth Forecast at 7%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has confirmed its GDP growth forecast for India at 7% for the fiscal year 2025, reflecting a decline from the anticipated 8.2% growth in 2023. This adjustment is primarily attributed to the waning pent-up demand from the COVID-19 pandemic as the economy stabilizes and reconnects with its fundamental potential.

In its recent World Economic Outlook report, the IMF noted that the global battle against inflation is largely over, although some countries still face persistent price pressures. Following a peak inflation rate of 9.4% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2022, the IMF projects global headline inflation to decrease to around 3.5% by the end of 2025. This figure is slightly lower than the average inflation rate of 3.6% recorded between 2000 and 2019.

The IMF anticipates global economic growth will remain steady at approxi-



mately 3.2% for both 2024 and 2025. However, many low-income and developing nations have experienced substantial downward revisions in their growth outlooks, often linked to escalating regional conflicts.

For India, the IMF's projection indicates a gradual decline in GDP growth from 8.2% in 2023 to 7% in 2024, and further to 6.5% in 2025. This trend reflects the exhaustion of pandemic-driven demand. The latest Economic Survey supports this outlook,

estimating GDP growth in 2024-25 to fall between 6.5% and 7%.

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, IMF Chief Economist, highlighted the global economy's surprising resilience amid the disinflationary period. He noted that the U.S. economy is projected to grow robustly at 2.8% this year, but is expected to revert to its potential growth rate by 2025. Advanced European economies are predicted to see a modest recovery, while emerging markets, particularly in Asia, are projected to maintain stable growth around 4.2%.

Despite encouraging trends in inflation, the IMF warned of increasing downside risks. Escalating regional conflicts, especially in the Middle East, could disrupt commodity markets, while restrictive trade policies and prolonged tight monetary conditions may adversely impact economic growth.

Reliance-Disney merger

CCI approves \$8.5-billion deal



The Competition Commission of India (CCI) officially approved the high-profile merger of Reliance Industries and Walt Disney on October 22, 2024, releasing a detailed 48-page order outlining the conditions tied to the \$8.5 billion deal. This merger is set to consolidate significant media assets, but it comes with regulatory stipulations, including the divestment of seven TV channels.

As part of the approval process, both companies have voluntarily agreed to refrain from bundling television advertisement

slots for their cricketing rights, specifically those associated with the Indian Premier League (IPL), the International Cricket Council (ICC), and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), until the current rights agreements expire. This commitment aims to ensure fair competition and transparency in advertising practices.

The order explicitly states, "The parties will not bundle OTT ad slot sales for all three cricketing rights available with them—IPL, ICC, and BCCI for the balance tenure of the existing rights." Additionally, the companies have committed to maintaining reasonable advertisement rates for their TV and streaming platforms concerning ICC and IPL events throughout the duration of the current rights.

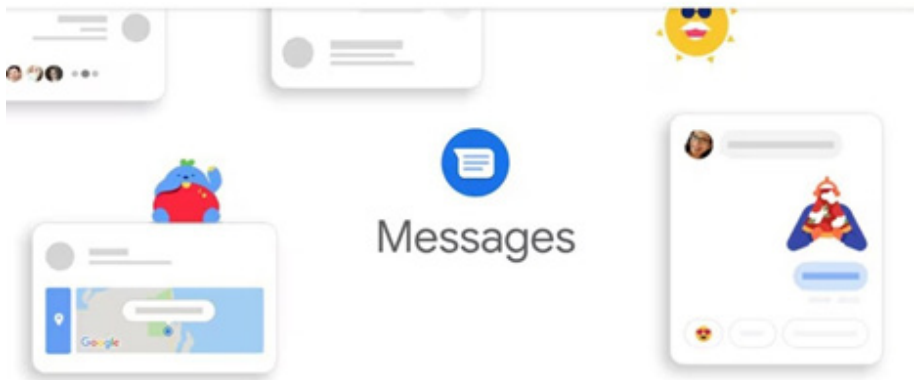
In a related development, last month the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) granted its approval for the transfer of licenses for non-news and

current affairs television channels, facilitating the merger's progression. This transfer involves channels held by Viacom 18 Media Pvt Ltd being shifted to Star India Pvt Ltd.

Reliance Industries confirmed the I&B's approval in a regulatory filing, noting, "It is hereby informed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting... has granted its approval for the transfer of Licenses relating to Non News & Current Affairs TV channels held by Viacom18 Media in favour of Star India, subject to conditions laid by the Competition Commission of India."

The merger, initially approved by the CCI on August 28, has been hailed as a landmark deal that will establish the largest media empire in India, valued at over ₹70,000 crore. The approval followed careful scrutiny by the antitrust regulator, leading to proposed modifications to the original transaction structure to address regulatory concerns.

Google Messages Enhances User Privacy with New Features



Google Messages is introducing a range of new features aimed at bolstering user privacy and combating suspicious calls and messages. As part of its initiative for Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the tech giant is leveraging advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models to enhance spam protection and ensure safer communication.

Enhanced Spam Protection

One of the standout features being rolled out for beta users is improved spam protection. Users who have this feature enabled will receive alerts and automatic filtering for potentially scam-related texts, specifically those concerning package deliveries or job offers. By utilizing on-device machine learning (ML), the Messages app can identify and classify these messages effectively. Google assures users that their text messages will remain private unless they are reported as spam, reinforcing the platform's commitment to user privacy.

Alerts for Potentially Dangerous Links

In a bid to further protect users, Google is piloting a new alert system for potentially dangerous links sent by unknown senders. Currently being tested in India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, this feature will block harmful links and notify users about their presence. Plans are in place to expand this

functionality to a global audience later this year.

Sensitive Content Warnings

Additionally, Google is rolling out Sensitive Content Warnings as an optional feature for its messaging platform. This feature blurs explicit media content, giving users the choice to view or bypass it. When users attempt to forward this type of content, they receive a warning about the associated risks. Importantly, all processing occurs on-device, maintaining end-to-end encryption and prioritizing user privacy. For adults over 18, this feature is opt-in, while it will be opt-out for younger users.

Protection from International Senders

Lastly, Google Messages will soon implement a feature that automatically hides messages from unrecognized international senders. These messages will be redirected to the Spam & Blocked folders. Currently set for a pilot launch in Singapore, this feature is expected to roll out to more regions in the future, enhancing overall user security.

With these new updates, Google Messages is taking significant steps to create a safer messaging environment, ensuring users can communicate with greater confidence.

US Company Vice President Fired After Receiving 25% Bonus

In a surprising turn of events, a former vice president at a U.S. company recently shared his unsettling experience on Reddit after being laid off despite commendable performance and recognition. The employee, who had been with the company for 1.5 years, recounted how he was unexpectedly informed that his position was being eliminated due to cost-cutting measures, despite having received a raise and a substantial 25% bonus just months prior.



In a detailed post, he explained, "I was let go last Wednesday. Not once did I receive negative feedback during my tenure. My review in March was very positive, and I was rewarded accordingly." He described the shock of being called into a meeting with the company's CEO and COO a week before his termination, where they assured him that the decision was not personal. Alongside his severance package of ten weeks, he initially believed there was little recourse, as the company's financial restructuring seemed unavoidable.

However, his sense of resignation quickly turned to disbelief and anger when he discovered on LinkedIn that his exact position had already been filled by someone else. "Today I went on LinkedIn and saw that they hired

someone else with my exact title, and my heart dropped," he lamented. The revelation felt like a betrayal, as he had consistently gone above and beyond, never missing deadlines and often working overtime to ensure projects were completed successfully.

Reflecting on his dedication, he stated, "I was reliable, did whatever was asked of me, and didn't even take all my PTO. I was always available, even on weekends." This commitment, he felt, was met with ungratefulness and a lack of transparency from the company.

His experience sheds light on the often unpredictable nature of corporate layoffs, especially in times of financial tightening, leaving many employees feeling vulnerable and undervalued. The emotional toll of such abrupt changes can resonate deeply, prompting discussions around workplace fairness and the treatment of dedicated employees.

North Atlantic Right Whale Population Sees Modest Increase

The North Atlantic right whale, one of the world's rarest whale species, has experienced a slight population increase, prompting conservationists to call for more robust measures from the federal government and industries to help save these majestic creatures from extinction.



This species, which can weigh up to 150,000 pounds and resides along the East Coast, faced a dramatic decline in numbers during the 2010s. By the early 2020s, their population had dropped to fewer than 360 individuals due to threats such as global warming, ship collisions, and entanglement in fishing gear. However, recent research indicates that the population rose to an estimated 372 in 2023, a 4% increase from 2020. This news is particularly encouraging after a significant drop of about 25% from 2010 to 2020.

The North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, a collaborative group of scientists, conservationists, and marine industry experts, reported these findings. Heather Pettis, a research scientist at the New England Aquarium and chair of the consortium, emphasized that while the increase is a positive

sign, much work remains to ensure the species continues to recover. "It's a really vulnerable population. One poor calving year can really impact the total population," she stated, highlighting the need for the whales to be able to calve, breed, and feed without undue stress.

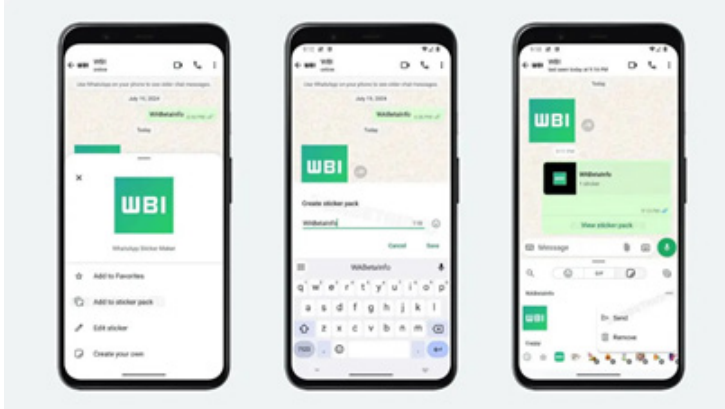
Despite the uptick in numbers, concerns persist. This year alone, five right whale deaths and four lost calves have been documented, marking the highest annual mortality count since 2019. Many of these fatalities are linked to chronic entanglement and vessel strikes, underscoring the urgent need for more effective fishing and shipping regulations.

Conservation groups have faced challenges in implementing protective measures. A coalition recently sued the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to expedite proposed ship speed rules aimed at reducing whale strikes. As these whales migrate annually from calving grounds off Florida and Georgia to feeding areas in New England and Canada, their journey has become increasingly perilous due to warming ocean waters, which have forced them to seek food beyond established protected zones.

The increase in population is hopeful, but without swift action, the future of the North Atlantic right whale remains uncertain.

WhatsApp Developing Custom Sticker Pack Feature for User

WhatsApp is reportedly working on an exciting new feature that will enable users to create their own custom sticker packs, enhancing the way stickers are organized and shared on the platform. This development, uncovered by feature tracker WABetaInfo, aims to improve user experience by providing a more organized approach to managing stickers within the messaging app.



Currently, WhatsApp users can add custom stickers to a generic section known as Favorites, which lacks organization. The upcoming feature will allow users to create specific sticker packs that can be easily shared with others, making it simpler to view and import personalized stickers.

The feature is being rolled out in the WhatsApp beta for Android version 2.24.22.13, available through the Google Play beta program. However, since the feature is still in development, beta testers will not be able to access it even after updating to the latest version.

Nevertheless, WABetaInfo has shared insights about its functionality based on the information gleaned from the update.

According to a screenshot of the new feature, users will see an option called "Add to sticker pack" when they tap on a sticker. This option is situated between the existing "Add to Favorites" and "Edit sticker" options. Selecting this feature will prompt a dialog box where users can name their new sticker pack. Once users enter a name

and hit the "Save" button, the custom sticker pack will become accessible in the sticker selection menu.

Additionally, users will have the ability to manage their custom sticker packs through a three-dot menu to the right of each pack. From this menu, they can choose to either send the sticker pack to another user or remove it from their collection.

This new feature promises to enhance sticker usage on WhatsApp, allowing for greater personalization and sharing among users. As WhatsApp continues to evolve, these innovations reflect its commitment to improving user engagement and experience on the platform.

Woman Stuck In Desert Orders Camel Via Uber, Internet Calls It "Crazy"

A captivating video making the Rounds on Instagram captures a remarkable incident involving two women who found themselves stranded in the vast desert landscape of Dubai. After their vehicle broke down, the duo faced the daunting challenge of navigating the arid terrain, with little hope of rescue. However, an unexpected twist unfolded when one of the women decided to use her Uber app, leading to a surprising ride option: a camel.



In a moment of desperation mixed with curiosity, she booked the unusual transport, and to their amazement, a man soon arrived on a camel, introducing himself as an "Uber Camel driver." The scene was surreal; one of the women eagerly climbed onto the camel, her excitement palpable as they prepared for this unconventional mode of rescue. Her friend, still in disbelief, exclaimed, "We actually got lost and ordered a camel!"

As they prepared to embark on their unexpected journey, the woman who ordered the camel couldn't help but inquire about the driver's profession. His response was equally intriguing: "I drive Uber Camel. I help people who get lost." He explained that his specialty is assisting stranded travelers in the desert, turning a potentially dire situation into a memorable adventure.

The video, reportedly filmed at Al Ba-

dayer on the Dubai-Hatta Road, showcases not just the charm of the desert but also the innovative spirit of those who navigate its challenges. The lighthearted interaction between the women and the camel driver highlights the blend of modern technology and traditional means of transport, reminding viewers of the unique experiences that can arise in unexpected circumstances.

This amusing and heartwarming story underscores the resourcefulness of individuals in the face of adversity, illustrating how, even in the desert, help can come in the most surprising forms. As the world continues to evolve, the blend of innovation and tradition creates unforgettable moments, reminding us all that adventure often lies just beyond the horizon.

Indian Hockey Team Prepares for Clash Against Germany



The Indian hockey team is gearing up for a pivotal moment as they practice one day before their first match in the India vs. Germany Bilateral Hockey Series 2024. The training session took place at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, a venue that holds great historical significance for Indian hockey.

This upcoming two-match series will see Harmanpreet Singh and his teammates face off against Germany, the reigning World Champions and silver medalists from the Paris 2024 Olympics. The excitement surrounding this event is palpable, marking the return of international hockey to this storied stadium for the first time since 2014.

The last time the Indian men's team played at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium was an astonishing 3,930 days ago. Out of the current squad, only three players—Manpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Amit Rohidas—were part of that previous playing group. Their experience in this iconic venue will be crucial as they aim to secure a strong performance against a formidable opponent.

Adding to the team's depth is Head Coach Craig Fulton, who has also played at this stadium in his career. His familiarity with the venue and experience will be invaluable as the team prepares for this high-stakes series. The presence of such seasoned players and coaches underscores the importance of this match for both the team and Indian hockey as a whole.

As the players take to the field, they are not just training; they are also carrying the legacy of Indian hockey, inspired by the legendary Dhyan Chand. The team is determined to make their mark and reclaim their status in international hockey, and a successful performance against Germany could set the tone for future competitions.

With the historic backdrop of Major Dhyan Chand Stadium and the weight of tradition behind them, the Indian hockey team is ready to embrace the challenge ahead.

Ashwini Ponnappa Set to Shine at Badminton X-L in Jakarta

Indian doubles Olympian Ashwini Ponnappa is gearing up for an exhilarating experience at the upcoming Badminton X-L event, a fun and lively badminton competition scheduled from October 31 to November 3 in Jakarta. The event promises to bring together a unique format of serious 3-vs-3 matches, with each match consisting of four games lasting 10 minutes each, allowing players to rack up points in a fast-paced environment.

Reflecting on her previous experiences, Ashwini recalls her emotional exit from the Paris Olympics, where she left the court in tears. She believes that this vibrant event, held in the iconic Istora Senayan stadium, can serve as a remedy for her competitive nightmares. The atmosphere in Jakarta is expected to be electric, with passionate fans who are known for their unwavering support and enthusiasm for the sport.



At 33, Ashwini feels rejuvenated by the prospect of competing in this team league. The anticipation of playing in front of a boisterous and shuttle-obsessed Indonesian crowd excites her, as she hopes to rediscover her love for badminton in this festive setting. The support from fans at Istora is something she greatly values, and she looks forward to soaking in the adoration that comes with the event.

Badminton X-L aims to be more than just a competition; it's a celebration of the sport, combining skill

with entertainment. Ashwini is eager to embrace the challenge, connect with fellow players, and engage with fans who share her passion. As she prepares for this unique tournament, she is ready to channel her energy and enthusiasm into the games, hoping to turn her previous experiences into motivation for success.

With her sights set on a memorable performance, Ashwini Ponnappa is ready to make her mark at Badminton X-L, transforming her past trials into triumphs in the heart of Jakarta.

Disappointed' Chirag Shetty Slams Decision To Exclude Badminton

Former world No. 1 doubles shuttler Chirag Shetty has expressed his disappointment over the exclusion of badminton from the 2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG) curriculum. This decision, announced by the CWG organizers, has drawn criticism as it also omits other popular sports such as hockey, shooting, cricket, and wrestling. Shetty believes that this move will significantly undermine India's chances of securing medals at the upcoming event in Glasgow.



In a recent statement, Shetty emphasized the popularity of badminton, arguing that it is one of the most-watched sports during the Commonwealth Games. "I think it's a very bad decision, to be honest. Badminton has consistently drawn large crowds, and it's evident from the packed venues at the events I've participated in," he said. Shetty, who alongside partner Satwiksairaj Rankireddy secured the men's doubles gold medal at the 2022 Birmingham CWG and also triumphed in the mixed team event at Gold Coast in 2018, highlighted the enthusiasm for badminton among fans.

Reflecting on his experiences at previous editions of the Games, he noted, "It's very difficult to get a seat for any of the rounds. This exclusion is disappointing for the badminton community, especially as we were looking forward to defend-

ing our title."

Shetty urged national sports federations and the government to take a stand on the issue, advocating for discussions with the highest authorities within the Commonwealth Games framework. He stressed the importance of fighting for sports in which India excels, stating, "It's not just badminton; hockey and wrestling are also vital sports for us. All the sports where India performs well are being removed, and it's crucial that we address this."

As conversations around potential boycotts of the Commonwealth Games arise, Shetty believes that the decision rests with government bodies and sports associations. He hopes for a decisive response to protect the future of badminton and other affected sports in India.

Jason Gillespie Stripped of Selection Powers by PCB

Pakistan's red-ball coach Jason Gillespie has confirmed the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) decision to strip him of selection responsibilities, a move that contradicts earlier assurances he received when appointed. Following Pakistan's loss to England by an innings and 47 runs in the first Test, Gillespie and Test captain Shan Masood were informed that they would no longer have a role in selection policies.

In a media conference, a visibly disappointed Gillespie expressed his new focus on match-day strategies rather than team selection. "I'm now just the coach for match-day strategy. So, I keep out of things now and just focus on the players and getting them ready for cricket," he stated.

According to PCB sources, both Gillespie and Masood are expected to discuss their concerns with PCB officials after the third Test against England, which begins soon. While the pair has opted to remain silent on the issue for the time being, they may reconsider their positions following the series, which is currently tied at 1-1.

Initially, Gillespie and white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten were promised complete autonomy in all matters concerning team selection, including the formation of playing elevens. However, the board has since decided to implement a new selection panel, effectively sidelining Gillespie's involvement.

"I wasn't involved in the decision-making," Gillespie confirmed. He reiterated that his



priority is to concentrate on the players and their preparation, distancing himself from the selection process. "It's not for me to talk about now. I am not a selector. I am a match-day strategist as head coach, and I'm all about the players."

The newly established selection committee will consist of notable figures such as former umpire Aleem Dar, alongside ex-players Aaqib Javed, Asad Shafiq, Azhar Ali, and Hassan Cheema. This committee will be responsible for selecting squads for upcoming white-ball series against Australia and Zimbabwe, as well as influencing pitch preparations for Test matches.

Gillespie's shift in role raises questions about his future with the PCB as the team navigates its next challenges.

Sultan of Johor Cup: India Falls 0-4 to Australia, Maintains Top Position

India's junior hockey team faced a setback in the Sultan of Johor Cup, suffering a 4-0 defeat to Australia on Wednesday in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Despite the loss, India remains at the top of the points table with nine points, while Australia sits in third with seven points, following New Zealand, who is in second place with eight points.

The match marked the end of India's unbeaten run in the tournament, as they struggled to penetrate the formidable Australian defense. Daykin Stanger was the standout player for Australia, netting a hat-trick with goals in the 33rd, 39th, and 53rd minutes, while Patrik Andrew opened the scoring in the 29th minute.

From the outset, Australia exerted pressure, employing a high press that kept the Indian players on the back foot. They effectively utilized their speed, creating several opportunities to score. Despite a valiant effort by Indian goalie Bikramjit Singh, who made crucial saves, Australia managed to break the deadlock just before halftime.

India had a chance to equalize with a penalty corner late in the first half, but their attempts were thwarted by the Australian defense. After halftime, Australia's momentum continued, and they extended their lead with a deft deflection from Stanger, making it 2-0.

India struggled to mount an effective response, and Australia capitalized on their chances, with Stanger scoring again to push the score to 3-0. The Indian forwards found it challenging to break



through, facing relentless pressure from the Australian backline, highlighted by impressive saves from Aussie goalkeeper Hunter Banyard.

In the fourth quarter, Stanger completed his hat-trick, sealing a 4-0 victory for Australia. India searched for a consolation goal but could not convert any opportunities, leaving them with important lessons to take into their final round-robin match as they aim to secure a spot in the finals.



“Raja Saab” Motion Poster Unveiled

“Unstoppable 4”: Balayya Shines in New Season with Chandrababu Naidu

The highly anticipated fourth season of “Unstoppable,” a popular talk show on the Telugu OTT platform Aaha, is set to bring fans even closer to Balayya, known for his larger-than-life persona. While many may perceive Balayya as serious or easily irritated, those within the industry often describe him as possessing the playful mentality of a child. Off-screen, Balayya is known for his humorous side, particularly showcased through the interactions on “Unstoppable.” His genuine respect for elders and playful teasing of younger guests have contributed to a more relatable image, winning over even those who held negative opinions about him in the past.

Having successfully completed three seasons, “Unstoppable” is ready to launch its fourth season, and excitement is palpable among fans. The creators recently unveiled a promo for the first episode of this new season, featuring none other than Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as the chief guest. This special appearance is generating considerable buzz, promising engaging discussions and entertaining moments.

The first episode of “Unstoppable 4” is set to stream on October 25, offering viewers a chance to witness Ba-



layya’s charismatic interactions with Naidu. The show has become a platform where fans can see a different side of the star, showcasing his wit and warmth, alongside insightful conversations with notable personalities.

As anticipation builds for the new season, fans are eager to see how Balayya navigates the discussions and what surprises await. “Unstoppable” continues to break barriers and redefine the image of its host, proving to be a refreshing addition to Telugu entertainment. Don’t miss the chance to catch the new episode promo and join the fun when the show premieres!

The highly anticipated film “Dhoom Dham” stars Chetan Krishna and Hebah Patel in lead roles, supported by a talented ensemble cast featuring Sai Kumar, Vennela Kishore, Prithviraj, and Goparaju Ramana. Produced by MS Ram Kumar under the esteemed Friday Frame Works banner, this film promises to be a captivating blend of love and family drama.

Directed by Sai Kishore Macha, with a story and screenplay by the renowned Gopi Mohan, “Dhoom Dham” has generated buzz with the release of its teaser, launched by director Saab Maruthi. He described the teaser as highly entertaining and extended his best wishes to the entire team.

The teaser showcases a wealth of comedic moments, particularly highlighting the dynamic interactions between Chetan Krishna and Vennela Kishore. Their impeccable comedic timing is sure to bring audiences

plenty of laughs. The film’s vibrant atmosphere and entertaining family dynamics suggest an enjoyable cinematic experience.

In “Dhoom Dham,” Chetan Krishna portrays a devoted son who is willing to go to great lengths for his father, while Hebah Patel plays his love interest. The film’s plot unfolds with a series of entertaining situations and delightful chaos, ensuring a fun ride for viewers.

With its scheduled release on November 8th, “Dhoom Dham” is building immense excitement among fans and moviegoers. The film is set to offer a joyful mix of humor and heartwarming moments, making it a must-watch for those seeking an entertaining outing at the cinema. As anticipation grows, audiences eagerly await the chance to experience this delightful love and family entertainer on the big screen.

Promo Release of ‘Thassadiyya’ Song from “Matka”



Mega Prince Varun Tej is gearing up for the release of his latest film, “Matka,” which is currently in post-production. Directed by Karuna Kumar, this period action entertainer has already generated significant buzz among audiences, particularly due to Varun Tej’s diverse looks showcased throughout the film. The excitement has only increased with the release of posters and teasers, setting high expectations for the movie.

Recently, the filmmakers unveiled a promo for the song “Tassadiyya,” which features a retro vibe that has resonated well with fans. Varun Tej’s appearance in the promo has impressed viewers, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film’s soundtrack. The song’s lyrics are penned by Bhaskarabhatla, and it is beautifully sung by renowned singer Mano. The music for “Matka” is composed by GV Prakash Kumar, further enhancing the film’s appeal. The full lyrical video of “Tassadiyya” is set to

be released on October 24, adding to the excitement leading up to the film’s premiere.

In addition to Varun Tej, the film stars Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead, while Bollywood sensation Nora Fatehi plays a pivotal role. The collaboration of these talents promises to deliver a captivating cinematic experience. “Matka” is being jointly produced by Vaira Entertainments and SRT Entertainment, ensuring high production values and engaging storytelling.

With its grand release scheduled for November 14, “Matka” is poised to be a major highlight in the upcoming film lineup. The combination of Varun Tej’s dynamic performances, a compelling storyline, and a stellar cast creates a promising recipe for success. As fans eagerly await the film’s release, the anticipation continues to build, positioning “Matka” as one of the most talked-about films of the season.

Amaran Trailer: A Fitting Tribute

Sivakarthikeyan, a celebrated actor in both Tamil and Telugu cinema, is set to captivate audiences with his upcoming patriotic film, “Amaran.” Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy and produced by Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran, alongside co-producer Sony Pictures International Productions, this film promises to be a compelling biographical war action narrative.

The theatrical trailer, recently launched by actor Nani, offers a glimpse into the life of the late Indian Army Officer Mukund Varadarajan. It begins with poignant real footage of Major Mukund sharing a heartfelt moment with his daughter, seamlessly transitioning to Sivakarthikeyan alongside his on-screen daughter, with Sai Pallavi portraying his devoted wife.

“Amaran” chronicles Mukund’s inspir-



ing journey as he pursues his dream of serving in the army, despite his mother’s initial disapproval. The film delves into themes of dedication, sacrifice, and valor, highlighting Mukund’s unwavering commitment to his country and the sacrifices he made along the way.

Sivakarthikeyan has deeply immersed himself in the role of Major Mukund, bringing authenticity and emotion to the character. Sai Pallavi’s portrayal of his supportive wife adds an addition-

al layer of depth to the story, emphasizing the personal sacrifices involved in a life dedicated to service.

The film boasts stunning cinematography by CH Sai and a powerful musical score by GV Prakash Kumar, both of which contribute to the overall impact of the narrative. The production design also stands out, reflecting the era and circumstances of Mukund’s life.

With its release scheduled for October 31, “Amaran” has already generated considerable excitement among fans and moviegoers. The Telugu version will be released by Shreshth Movies, further expanding its reach. This biopic is set to serve as a heartfelt tribute to Major Mukund’s sacrifices and valor, promising to resonate with audiences who appreciate stories of heroism and patriotism.

Abhishek Bachchan’s “I Want To Talk” Set to Release on November 22

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan is gearing up for his next film, titled “I Want To Talk,” directed by renowned filmmaker Shoojit Sircar. The film is set to hit theaters on November 22, generating excitement among fans and moviegoers alike.

The makers recently unveiled the film’s title alongside an engaging teaser that features only Abhishek’s voice. In the teaser, viewers hear the actor’s reflections on life, with him saying, “I just don’t love to talk, I live to talk. Zinda hone main aur marne main mujhe bas yeh ek basic difference dikhta hai. Zinda log bol paate hai. Mare huye bol nahi paate.” This poignant monologue sets the tone for a narrative that promises to blend humor and heart.

Production banner Rising Sun Films shared the teaser, stating, “We all know that one person who loves lives to talk.



Here’s the story of a man who always looks at the brighter side of life, no matter what life throws at him! Tag that person you know who lives to talk! In Cinemas 22nd November.” The teaser itself is smart and quirky, filled with moments that resonate emotionally, hinting at the film’s underlying themes.

“I Want To Talk” is produced by Rising Sun Films and Kino Works, and its release marks a significant moment for fans of Abhishek and Shoojit Sircar.

This project follows Abhishek’s recent role in the sports drama “Ghoomer,” directed by R. Balki, where he portrayed a failed cricketer who helps a young batting prodigy, played by Saiyami Kher, regain her confidence after a life-altering accident.

Additionally, Abhishek is set to appear in the upcoming film “King,” alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Suhana Khan, where he will take on a more complex role. Directed by Sujoy Ghosh and produced by Siddharth Anand, “King” is expected to begin filming later this year and may be released in 2025.

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has hinted at Abhishek’s involvement in “King,” confirming his role as an antagonist, which adds further anticipation for both films. With “I Want To Talk” on the horizon, fans are eagerly awaiting what Abhishek has to offer next.