



**Weather Forecast**

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

# DCM PawanKalyan Warns Against Misuse of Panchayat Funds, Emphasizes Quality Standards

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Deputy Chief Minister PawanKalyan has directed officials to maintain strict quality standards in employment guarantee works across the state and to avoid any misuse of panchayat funds. In a review meeting conducted today, PawanKalyan, alongside Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Krishna Teja, emphasized that funds allocated for panchayat development should not be diverted, as had allegedly happened under the previous YCP government.



PawanKalyan instructed officials to utilize funds from the employment guarantee scheme and the finance commission effectively and warned against any compromise in quality at any stage of the development process. He underscored the importance of inspections, advising that officials monitor projects closely from start to finish to ensure quality standards are upheld.

On the previous day, officials conducted quality inspections on various development works in the state's panchayats, following the Deputy CM's emphasis on

accountability and transparency. "This government is committed to ensuring that every rupee allocated for panchayat development is used effectively and transparently for the intended purpose," he affirmed.

# YS Sharmila Challenges Vijayasai Reddy Allegiance and Questions Jagan Intentions

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In an escalating dispute over family property and power, Y. S. Sharmila launched a fresh wave of criticism against YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy, challenging his loyalty to Jagan Mohan Reddy and accusing him of following a script provided by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. Sharmila urged Vijayasai to swear on his children that his statements weren't influenced by Jagan and that the family's decision, under Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy's directive, to distribute property equally among all siblings was not fabricated.



Calling Vijayasai "a person politically and financially strengthened by Jagan," Sharmila questioned his motives and loyalty. She dismissed the notion that Congress was responsible for YSR's death, asserting instead that YSR had solidified Congress's power in Andhra Pradesh with back-to-back victories. "Who would kill the golden goose?" she asked rhetorically, emphasizing that the family had no cause to doubt YSR's commitment to the party or the state.

Referring to Ponnabolu Sudhakar Reddy's appointment as Advocate General under Jagan's administration, Sharmila claimed it was part of a strategy by Jagan to evade legal troubles, while accusing him of dragging their mother into court for personal gain. "If Jagan didn't benefit from these actions, then why was the Advocate General position awarded so promptly?" she questioned.

Sharmila also challenged why there was no investigation into her father's death during the five-year period that YSRCP held power, questioning whether this inaction was evidence of incompetence or lack of interest.

Sharmila concluded by asserting her independence from TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, explaining that her family's association with him was merely cordial. She firmly stated that, as YSR's daughter, she does not need to seek Naidu's approval or work for anyone's validation.

# Vijayasai Reddy Questions Sharmila's Motives and Links to Chandrababu



accused Sharmila of holding press conferences primarily to criticize her brother and advancing a hidden agenda aligned with Chandrababu.

Vijayasai questioned how a letter, supposedly written by Sharmila to Jagan, ended up with Chandrababu. "Ninety-five percent of Sharmila's press meets seem to focus on targeting Jagan, and it's clear she's working with Chandrababu's support," Vijayasai asserted.

The MP voiced his concerns about the potential implications of Sharmila's actions, stating that it is crucial for Jagan not to face obstacles as Chief Minister in the future due to this internal conflict. The accusations and suspicions surrounding the letter's route to Chandrababu have deepened the divide within the YSR family, fueling a public and political drama that continues to garner attention.

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy has launched a fierce criticism against Y. S. Sharmila, questioning her intentions and alleged ties to former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. In the ongoing family dispute with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Vijayasai Reddy

# Protocol Department Exposes Irregularities in Rental Vehicle Bills, Orders New Verification Measures



were returned due to inconsistencies found during verification.

The returned bills reportedly contained incorrect vehicle numbers, with bike, lorry, van, and tractor numbers listed instead of the designated Innova car numbers, raising concerns about fraudulent billing practices. Despite the transition to a coalition government, similar discrepancies were noted in the June 2024 bills.

Further scrutiny revealed that even for July and August 2024, billing was inflated at a rate of ₹2 lakh per vehicle, following the same method observed previously. In response, Deputy Director Vani has instructed that starting from September 2024, each bill must be accompanied by a copy of the relevant vehicle's registration certificate to ensure accuracy and prevent further misuse of funds.

These measures are aimed at improving transparency in the department's billing processes and preventing future irregularities in vehicle rentals.

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a recent audit by Deputy Director Vani, significant irregularities were uncovered in the billing for rental vehicles provided to the Protocol Department by contractors Tenneti Travels and Srikanth Travels. Bills submitted by the contractors for March, April, and May 2024, amounting to ₹55 lakh per month and totaling ₹65 lakh,



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Inclusions	Exclusions
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Tourism Dirham + Dubai VAT	TCS not included, client has to pay directly

Flight proposed				
Flight no.	Sector	Departure	Arrival	Baggage
G9 468	Hyderabad (HYD) - Sharjah (SHJ)	10/01/2025 04:00	10/01/2025 06:35	20kgs + 7kgs
G9 467	Sharjah (SHJ) - Hyderabad (HYD)	15/01/2025 22:25	16/01/2025 03:20	20kgs + 7kgs

Hotels proposed				
Location	Hotel	No. of Nights	Occupancy	Room Category
Dubai	Jacob Garden / Raviz center point	5 Nights	15 Double	standard



# Minister Lokesh Promotes Job Creation and Industrial Growth for Youth in AP During US Visit



**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Andhra Pradesh's Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh highlighted the state government's commitment to creating job opportunities for youth and promoting industrial growth during a round table meeting with industrialists in San Francisco. Speaking at the event organized by Srikar Reddy, the Consulate General of India, Lokesh emphasized that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has recently unveiled six policies aimed at generating 2 million jobs over the next five years.

Lokesh noted that with Naidu's fourth term as Chief Minister, the state is poised for significant investments. He pointed to Kia

Motors as a successful example of Andhra Pradesh's favorable business environment. "AP boasts the second-largest coastline in the country, and with the establishment of four new ports, we are enhancing our investment appeal," he stated. The minister also revealed plans to develop Kurnool as a drone valley and establish an electronics hub in the Chittoor and Kadapa districts, building on the state's current production of 25% of the country's mobile phones and 50% of air conditioners.

Regarding the capital city of Amaravati, Lokesh announced that development works worth \$5 billion will commence in December, focusing on aqua exports, petro-

chemicals, and green hydrogen industries. He also mentioned the upcoming data center and Civil Aviation University in Visakhapatnam, which is recognized as the financial capital of the state.

Srikar Reddy commended Lokesh and Naidu's efforts to attract investments, highlighting the success of the recent drone summit in Vijayawada. The meeting brought together notable figures from various industries, underscoring the potential for collaboration and investment in Andhra Pradesh's future. Minister Lokesh appealed to the industrialists to participate actively in the state's development.

# AP Govt Suspends Online Layout Approval Services for Urban Planning

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a temporary suspension of online layout approval services as part of a significant update to its urban planning processes. The Director of the Town Planning Department, Vidyullatha, issued a statement detailing that these services will be unavailable until November 4 due to server migration and data transfer activities.



The department is currently transitioning its data from Amazon Web Services to the state data center, which necessitates this break in service. During this period, approvals for building constructions and layout plans, which are typically managed through the APDPMS web portal, will be halted.

Vidyullatha assured the public that once the migration is complete and the website is back online, the issuance of building and layout permits will resume as usual. She urged individuals, builders, developers, and engineers to take note of this suspension and to cooperate during this transition period. The government aims to enhance the efficiency and security of its urban planning services through this upgrade.

# Central Govt Relaxes Air Travel Rules for Ayyappa Devotees Carrying 'Irumudi' – Union Minister

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** In a thoughtful move to support Ayyappa devotees traveling to Sabarimala by air, the Union Civil Aviation Ministry has announced a relaxation in security regulations, allowing devotees to carry the traditional 'Irumudi' as cabin baggage. Union Minister of Civil Aviation, K. Ram Mohan Naidu, shared the news, marking this special exemption valid throughout the Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season until January 20, 2025.



This decision comes as a significant relief to devotees who previously had to check their 'Irumudi' bundles due to security restrictions. With this change, pilgrims can now carry the sacred offering with them in the aircraft cabin after standard security checks. The minister's announcement, made on X (formerly Twitter), quickly garnered positive responses from devotees, who thanked him for recognizing and respecting their religious practices.

Minister Rammohan Naidu acknowledged the unique needs of pilgrims and emphasized the government's commitment to facilitating their journey to Sabarimala. "We have taken this step to ensure both convenience and respect for tradition while maintaining necessary security," he stated.

To support the smooth implementation of this new measure, airport security personnel have been advised to accommodate devotees carrying 'Irumudi' bundles during the pilgrimage season. This adjustment aims to enhance the travel experience for Ayyappa devotees while upholding essential security protocols.

The central government's decision has been warmly received by the Ayyappa community and is seen as a balanced approach that honors religious practices within the framework of aviation safety.

# IAS Officer Amrapali Appointed as MD of AP Tourism Development Corporation

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Chief Secretary Nirab Kumar has issued orders for new postings of IAS officers who recently transferred from the Telangana cadre to Andhra Pradesh. The AP government appointed IAS officer Amrapali as the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the AP Tourism Development Corporation, also granting her additional responsibilities as the CEO of the AP Tourism Authority.



G. Vanimohan, previously serving as Commissioner of the Archaeology and Museum Department, was transferred and appointed as the Principal Secretary of the Services Affairs Department under the General Administration Department. This move relieves Polabhaskar of these duties. Vani Prasad has been appointed as the Principal Secretary of the Labor Department, with M.M. Naik relieved from his additional responsibilities in the department.

Further appointments include VakatiKaruna, who has taken over as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, with additional duties as Director of the National Health Mission. These strategic postings aim to strengthen administration across key sectors in the state.

# AP Nurses Association Elects New Leadership, Appeals to Govt for Reduced Workload

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** The Andhra Pradesh Nurses Association has elected a new executive committee and is calling on the government to address the growing workload of nurses across the state. Newly elected state president Radhama and general secretary Kotamma emphasized their commitment to advocating for the welfare of nurses and implementing proposals currently under government consideration.

In the recent elections, candidates backed by the AP NGO State Association emerged victorious, with the newly formed executive committee receiving honors from the NGO community. On this occasion, leaders of the working group

highlighted the need for an increase from three to four staff nurses in Primary Health Centers (PHCs) across districts. They also advocated for a special five-day leave policy for women nurses.

Additional demands include reducing duty hours for nurses in remote PHCs to 9 AM-4 PM and removing the age limit for availing child leave benefits. The new leadership expressed a strong commitment to pushing for these changes, aiming to improve working conditions for nurses statewide. The association intends to maintain pressure on the government until these issues are addressed.



## 'Mann Ki Baat' Program is Beyond Politics, - MP Purandeswari

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** BJP Andhra Pradesh State President and MP Daggubati Purandeswari emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' program is apolitical, focusing on issues that resonate with the public rather than political agendas. Speaking at Lollawari Street in Vijayawada's 39th Division, Purandeswari highlighted the success of the BJP's membership registration drive, which was conducted following the program and is held every six years.



Purandeswari noted that the program has led to a substantial increase in membership, with 20 lakh new members joining the BJP in Andhra Pradesh alone, thanks to the dedication of party activists. She credited the Central government's ongoing support for Andhra Pradesh's development, stating that this has garnered the BJP significant local backing. Highlighting key

projects, she assured that the Center is committed to providing assistance to the state, including funding for Amaravati's development, new railway lines, and the Polavaram project.

The BJP leader's remarks underscored the importance of the 'Mann Ki Baat' initiative as a platform for connecting with citizens on a personal level, beyond political affiliations.

## Dokka Manikya Varaprasad Calls for Reclaiming Unused Lands from Saraswati Power Company

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Former minister Dokka Manikya Varaprasad has called on the Andhra Pradesh government to immediately acquire the lands originally allotted to the Saraswati Power Company. Varaprasad criticized the lack of industrial development on these lands, noting that despite acquiring hundreds of acres from local farmers in Dhagepallimandal, Palnadu district, no industry has been set up in the 15 years since the acquisition.



He suggested that the government consider forming a cooperative society to lease these lands back to farmers, or, alternatively, reallocate them to new entrepreneurs who can initiate industries and create local employment opportunities.

Additionally, he urged the government to reclaim other underutilized lands held by inactive companies across the state.

Varaprasad also raised concerns regarding the safety of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's mother, Vijayamma, and sister, Y. S. Sharmila, calling for heightened security measures to ensure their protection.

## Ex-Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy, Goal to Strengthen YCP

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Former Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy emphasized the YSR Congress Party's (YCP) objective to build a strong foundation at the grassroots level, from village to district. Addressing a gathering at the residence of former Panyam MLA Katasani Rambhupal Reddy on Saturday, Peddireddy highlighted the party's strategy to engage and empower leaders dedicated to YCP's growth.



The meeting included prominent YCP leaders, such as former minister Buggana Rajendra Nath Reddy, district presidents of Kurnool and Nandyala YCP units SV Mohana Reddy and Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, ZP Chairman Papireddy, and MLAs Balanagi Reddy and Virupakshi from Mantralayam and Aluru. Former MLAs, MPs, and the city

mayor were also in attendance.

Peddireddy disclosed that party chief and former CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed the appointment of leaders for 28 affiliated organizations and two key posts per assembly constituency to bolster local-level leadership. He added that the party is committed to recognizing individuals who have contributed significantly to strengthening the party at the field level, ensuring they are given opportunities to advance YCP's mission across the state.

## MLA Yarapatineni Calls for ACB and CID Investigation into Saraswati Power Irregularities

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Gurjala MLA Yarapatineni Srinivasa Rao has urged the Andhra Pradesh government to initiate an inquiry by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) into alleged irregularities surrounding the Saraswati Power Company, associated with Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.



During a recent statement, Yarapatineni accused Jagan of using his power for personal gain, asserting that "Saraswati Power represents his insatiable thirst for money, sacrificing the lives of the poor in the process." He highlighted the company's significant financial dealings, describing it as a "Rs 10,000 crore company" that has allegedly operated under corrupt practices.

The MLA recounted his ongoing battle against the irregularities of Saraswati Power Industries since 2008, emphasizing that his efforts led to the cancellation of the allocation of Saraswati

Power Mines on October 9, 2014. He noted that in 2019, the dams were restored and permanent water allocations were established. However, he claimed that for questioning Jagan's irregularities, he faced harassment, with police cases filed against him and mobs sent to intimidate farmers who had lost their lands.

Yarapatineni questioned why mines were still being allocated to companies that have failed to make any progress over the past 15 years. He demanded a thorough review and cancellation of the limestone mine allocations to Saraswati Power, urging strict action against Jagan Reddy for encroaching on government lands. He called for criminal cases to be filed against those who attacked farmers during the unrest.

## TDP Leader Pattabhiram Criticizes Jagan-Sharmila Family Dispute over Property Transfer

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National Spokesperson Kommareddy Pattabhiram has weighed in on the property dispute between Andhra Pradesh Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his sister, Y. S. Sharmila. In a scathing critique, Pattabhi described the conflict as a "family drama" within the Reddy family, alleging mismanagement and betrayal over an agreement made in 2019 regarding asset transfers.



Pattabhi questioned the involvement of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, responding to claims that the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Jagan and Sharmila was finalized in Naidu's presence. Pattabhi argued that such claims are irrelevant, emphasizing

that this is a private family matter and that TDP has no connection to it.

He sharply criticized close aides of Jagan, Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Y. V. Subba Reddy, and Karunakar Reddy accusing them of manipulating the family situation for personal gain. According to Pattabhi, Sharmila has been

reduced to a "puppet" under Chandrababu's influence, and alleged that Jagan has failed to honor the MoU, leading to legal action involving both Sharmila and their mother, Vijayamma.

The TDP spokesperson argued that Jagan's decision to involve the courts has unnecessarily escalated the conflict. He dismissed Jagan's efforts to justify the dispute as "ghargharkikahani" (a typical family story), accusing the Chief Minister of trying to shift blame to deflect from his own decisions.

"Jagan himself dragged his mother and sister to court, creating unnecessary drama. This is purely his doing, and there's no need to involve anyone else," Pattabhi stated, urging that Jagan should resolve his family's issues without pointing fingers at others.

## Former YCP MLA Seeks Anticipatory Bail in Journalist Murder Case

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** Former YSR Congress Party (YCP) MLA Dashetty Ramalingeswara Rao, commonly known as Dashetty Raja, has approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking anticipatory bail in connection with the murder of journalist Katha Satyanarayana, who was killed in October 2019. Justice VRK Kripasagar, who presided over the case, announced that the court's verdict on the anticipatory bail plea would be delivered on November 5, following the conclusion of arguments on Saturday.



Katha Satyanarayana, a journalist with \*Andhra Jyothi\*, was attacked and killed while traveling on a two-wheeler in Tuni and Thondangi. Satyanarayana's relatives filed a complaint leading to a case being registered

against Dashetty Raja, who was then a YCP MLA, along with others. Initially, the police included Raja's name in the First Information Report (FIR) but later removed it from the charge sheet.

With the change in government, Dashetty Raja approached the High Court, fearing arrest and requesting anticipatory bail. Representing Raja, senior advocate Manohar Reddy argued that despite being named in the FIR, his client's name was omitted from the final charge sheet and claimed political motives were now at play.

Conversely, Satyanarayana's brother Gopalakrishna, represented by senior advocate Posani Venkateswara Rao, contended that the investigation had been inadequate, and anticipatory bail should not be granted, as there was no justification for it. After considering the arguments from both sides, the High Court reserved its decision, which is expected on November 5.

## Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Criticizes Sharmila and Chandrababu's Actions

**TPN, Andhra Pradesh:** YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) spokesperson Bhumana Karunakar Reddy issued strong criticism against Y. S. Sharmila and TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, questioning their intentions and actions. Reddy alleged that despite Naidu's modest ancestral property, he amassed significant wealth over the years, but failed to distribute any assets to his siblings. He recalled an incident where Naidu allegedly rebuked his younger brother, Ramamurthy Naidu, who had come to see him after a Naxal attack, highlighting what he described as Naidu's disregard for family.

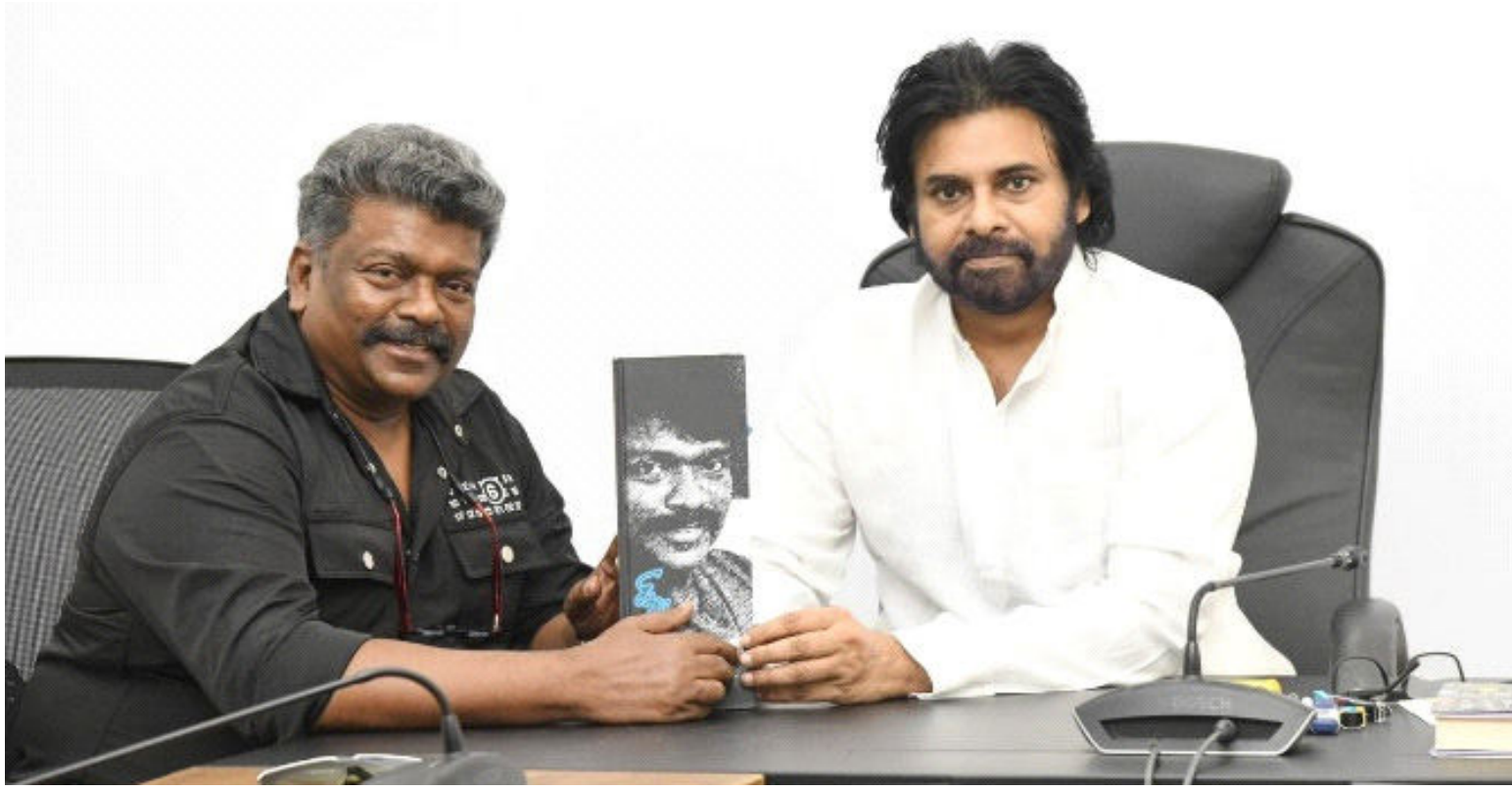


Reddy expressed disappointment over

Sharmila's rumored alignment with Chandrababu, suggesting that her actions are tarnishing the legacy of her father, the late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR). "Sharmilamma has come to Andhra Pradesh claiming to represent

YSR's legacy, yet her support for Chandrababu undermines that very legacy," he remarked. Reddy further accused Sharmila of spreading false narratives about YSR's son, Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, implying that her actions are isolating her within her family.

In praising Jagan as a "war hero," Reddy claimed that the people stood by him even during his political setbacks, whereas Sharmila's support of Naidu has left her without a strong base. Reddy stated that Sharmila's conduct is distancing her from YSR's vision, asserting that her behavior ultimately contradicts her father's ideals...



## Actor Parthiban Met Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in Mangalagiri

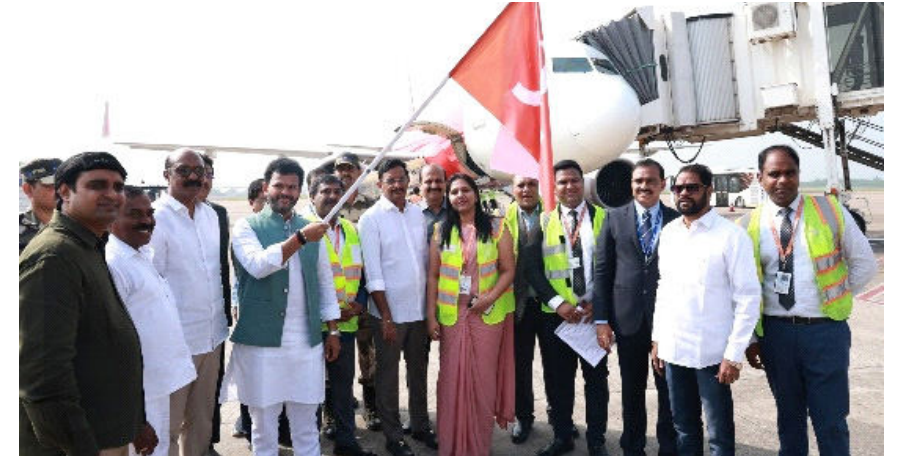
**TPN, Mangalagiri:** In a significant courtesy meeting, popular film actor Mr. Parthiban met with the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Pawan Kalyan, at the latter's camp office in Mangalagiri on Sunday evening.

The meeting, which was marked by warm exchanges and discussions,

highlighted the collaboration between the film industry and the state government. Both Mr. Parthiban and Mr. Pawan Kalyan shared insights on various initiatives that could promote the arts and culture within the state, emphasizing the importance of supporting local talent.

This meeting is seen as a positive step

towards fostering a relationship between the entertainment sector and government, paving the way for future projects and partnerships that could benefit the state and its artistic community. Further details regarding the discussions have not been disclosed, but the meeting has garnered attention from both fans and industry professionals alike.



## New Flight Services Launched Between Vizag and Vijayawada

**TPN, Vijayawada/Vizag:** Two new flight services have been inaugurated between Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and Vijayawada, enhancing connectivity between these key cities. The Air India Express flight services were officially launched at Vizag Airport, with Union Minister Rammohan Naidu and MP Keshineni Shivnath flagging off the new routes.

MP Keshineni Shivnath emphasized that these flights will be particularly beneficial for businessmen and individuals traveling to Amravati from Vizag. He noted the concerted efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the support from Prime Minister Modi, which have propelled the state toward progress.

Union Minister Rammohan Naidu highlighted that the introduction of these services marks an increase in the total number of flight operations between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam to three. The Air India Express IX 2548 service will depart from Vizag at 9:45 AM, arriving in Vijayawada at 10:35 AM. Additionally, the IX 2543 service will leave Vijayawada at 7:55 PM, reaching Visakhapatnam at 9:00 PM.

These new flights are expected to significantly enhance travel options for residents and visitors alike, fostering economic growth and improved accessibility in the region.

## Threat Call Received at Hotel Vivanta in Labbipet, Security Inspections Conducted



**TPN, Vijayawada:** A threat call was reported via email to Hotel Vivanta, located on Bandar Road in Labbipet, prompting immediate action from law enforcement and security personnel. The BD team and local police from Krishna Lanka police station conducted thorough inspections of the hotel to ensure the safety of guests and staff.

Upon receiving the threat, hotel management acted swiftly to inform the authorities, who arrived promptly to assess the situation. The inspections involved checking the premises for any suspicious activity or potential threats.

Authorities urged guests and the public to remain calm and assured them that there was no immediate danger. They are continuing to investigate the origin of the threat and to determine the appropriate response to ensure the safety and security of the area.



## Telugu Youth Demand Action Against Inappropriate Remarks on CM CBN

**TPN, Vijayawada:** The Telugu youth leaders from Gannavaram constituency have voiced strong opposition to recent comments made by Vaikapa leader V. Vijayasai Reddy regarding Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The youth leaders have demanded legal action against Reddy, who they claim has made inflammatory remarks that could disrupt peace in the area.

A formal complaint was filed at Gannavaram police station by Telugu Youth leaders, including constituency President Paruchuri Naresh and State Youth Secretary Kosaraju Sai, requesting intervention to prevent further provocative comments. The leaders condemned Reddy's statements, which insinuated Naidu's involvement in controversies surrounding the late Rajasekhara Reddy, YS Sharmila, and Jagannathan Reddy. They warned that such remarks could lead to unrest and questioned the lack of investigation during the previous YCP government's tenure if these allegations were credible. In a media conference, Telugu Youth leaders urged the media to avoid unsubstantiated claims that could disturb public order. Other prominent youth leaders in attendance included Vice President Tatipamula Nagayya, Telugu Women President Medepalli Rama, and several active members, who emphasized the need for responsible public discourse.

## Two Youth Drown in Krishna River Near Sitanagaram Pushkar Ghat

**TPN, Tadepalli:** A tragic incident unfolded at the Krishna River near Sitanagaram Pushkar Ghat when five young men from Vijayawada went swimming. Unfortunately, two of them, identified as Hemant Kumar (17) and Durga Prasad (23), from Rajarajeshwari Peta, Vijayawada, drowned despite efforts to save them.

Local fishermen managed to rescue three of the five swimmers, but Hemant Kumar and Durga Prasad could not be saved, resulting in a devastating loss for their families. Tadepalli police are investigating the incident and have registered a case to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the accident. The families of the deceased are grieving the sudden loss, with the incident serving as a somber reminder of the dangers of swimming in the river.



## Guntur Corporation Takes Action Against 40 Illegal Layouts

**TPN, Guntur:** In a strict move against unauthorized developments, Guntur Municipal Corporation officials have identified and taken action on 40 illegal layouts. Following Municipal Commissioner orders, teams removed boundary stones and boards from unapproved layouts along RTC Office Road and Sitaiyadonka Road.

The operation, prompted by complaints from public representatives, is part of a week-long special drive to curb unauthorized layouts across the city. The Municipal Commissioner has advised the public to avoid purchasing plots or homes in unapproved areas, as such purchases can lead to issues with land titles, court cases, and lack of essential infrastructure.

Notices are being issued to owners of these illegal layouts, and awareness campaigns are underway to inform citizens about the risks associated with purchasing properties in unauthorized areas. The commissioner also highlighted that numerous layouts within Guntur Corporation have all necessary approvals, urging buyers to choose only properties in these legal developments to ensure security and peace of mind.



## Prakasam Barrage to Srisaillam Seaplane Service Set to Launch

**TPN, Vijayawada:** The Andhra Pradesh government is set to enhance its tourism offerings with the introduction of a seaplane service connecting Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada to the scenic Srisaillam area. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit Srisaillam on November 9 for the formal launch of this innovative service, a project championed by Union Minister Rammohan Naidu.

These seaplanes, designed to take off from water and land seamlessly, have proven to be successful in boosting tourism in various countries, including the United States and the Maldives. The introduction of this service is expected to significantly benefit Andhra Pradesh, given its extensive coastal areas and tourist attractions.

Rammohan Naidu has played a pivotal role in bringing this project to fruition, emphasizing its potential for not only promoting tourism but also serving practical purposes, such as facilitating medical emergencies and responding to natural disasters. The state government, recognizing the importance of this service, has been proactive in implementing a seaplane policy following its introduction by the central government. Once operational, the seaplane service will provide tourists with a unique opportunity to visit two popular shrines, Vijayawada and Srisaillam in a single day, making it an attractive option for visitors. If successful, there are plans to expand seaplane facilities to other regions, further boosting the state's tourism infrastructure and offerings.

# Minister Kandula Durgesh Launches a Floating Restaurant

**Rajamahendravaram:** Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh has unveiled ambitious plans to position Andhra Pradesh as a leading destination for tourism in India. The announcement came during the launch of a floating restaurant on the Godavari River in Rajamahendravaram, an initiative that promises to enhance the state's tourism landscape. The floating restaurant, set against the scenic backdrop of the Uma Markandeyaswamy Temple, is designed to offer a unique dining experience for visitors.

During the launch, which was attended by MLAs Adireddy Srinivas and Battula Balaramakrishna, Minister Durgesh outlined a series of new tourism development programs scheduled to begin in April 2025. He emphasized the government's commitment to the tourism sector, noting that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has officially designated tourism as an industry, attracting numerous entrepreneurs to invest in this promising field.

In addition to enhancing the tourism sector, Minister Durgesh highlighted efforts to support the film industry. He mentioned plans to establish a Telugu film industry studio in the region, aiming to leverage Andhra Pradesh's cultural and cinematic heritage to attract filmmakers and boost tourism further.



"Many changes are being implemented to enhance our tourism offerings," Durgesh stated, expressing confidence that these initiatives would significantly foster economic growth and showcase the state's unique offerings to a broader audience. He encouraged filmmakers to consider the picturesque settings of Andhra Pradesh for their projects, positioning the state as an increasingly attractive destination for film shoots.

The floating restaurant is expected to not only provide a distinctive dining experience but also act as a catalyst for further tourism-related activities, contributing to the overall development of the state's tourism sector. With this launch, the state government hopes to enhance the tourism appeal of Rajamahendravaram and promote the natural beauty and cultural richness of the Godavari region.

## Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Accuses Former CM Jagan of Burdening AP with Electricity Charges

TPN, Addanki: Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has strongly criticized former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy for allegedly increasing electricity charges nine times over the past five years, attributing this to widespread corruption. He stated that due to Jagan's actions, the people of Andhra Pradesh are now facing an additional burden of ₹11,826.42 crores for the fiscal year 2023-24.



Ravi Kumar explained that two years ago, the state's power distribution companies (discoms) requested the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) to recover this amount from the public, but it had been postponed. He warned that if the amount is to be collected starting March 2024, the timing would coincide with the upcoming elections, leading to significant public opposition.

The minister emphasized that Jagan Mohan Reddy's government had directed the ERC to recover funds associated with alleged "looting" even after his tenure ended. He recalled that the previous government's commission decision in October had also delayed the collection of these charges. Minister Ravi Kumar pointed out that the burden of these electricity adjustment charges ultimately falls on the citizens due to misguided decisions made during Jagan's administration, calling for accountability for the financial strain imposed on the people.



## Dalit Associations Urges Action Against Perpetrators of Dalit Attacks

TPN, Amalapuram: Coalition Government Called to Address Injustice, In a significant meeting held in Amalapuram, the United State Council of Broad Dalit Associations has made a fervent appeal to the Andhra Pradesh coalition government to take decisive action against individuals responsible for attacks on Dalits during the tenure of former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. The meeting brought together representatives and affected families, emphasizing the urgent need for justice.

Key demands were raised during the assembly, including the cancellation of bail for MLC Anantha Babu, who is accused of the murder of driver Veedhi Subrahmanyam. The council insisted that Subrahmanyam's wife should be included as a second accused in the case. Additionally, the participants called for the Kodi Kathi Srinu case to be removed from the National Security Act (NSA) and investigated by the Andhra Pradesh Police to ensure a fair inquiry.

## Vijayendra Saraswati Swamiji Initiates Sri Rama Yantra Rath Yatra from Tirupati to Ayodhya

TPN, Tirupati: A Journey of Faith and Reverence, In a significant religious event, Vijayendra Saraswati Swamiji, the head of Kanchi Mutt, has launched the Sri Rama Yantra Rath Yatra from the holy feet of Tirupati to Ayodhya. The ceremony commenced at Kanchi Math, where Swamiji performed pooja programs for the Sri Rama Yantra (Sri Chakra) and subsequently flagged off the Rath Yatra alongside Tirupati Thithide JEO, Veerabrahman.

Speaking at the event, Swamiji emphasized the historical importance of Kanchi Math, stating that it houses the root yantra of Lord Rama. He revealed that a new yantra, designed in the tradition of the ancient Maha Yantra, has been created for this journey. The Sri Rama Yantra is set to be installed near the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, symbolizing a significant spiritual connection.

## Bridge in Dilapidated Condition Raises Safety Concerns



TPN, Vizianagaram: A bridge constructed less than 25 years ago over the right canal of Nagavali at Mallayapet has fallen into severe disrepair, prompting urgent calls for action from local residents. Despite its relatively recent construction, the bridge has not received adequate repairs or maintenance, leading to fears that it could collapse at any moment.

Originally built to connect the villages of Honjaram, Podali, Chittarapuram, and Waltheru to Mallayapet, the bridge has become increasingly unsafe. The protective walls on both sides have been completely damaged, raising alarms among drivers who are concerned about the risk of vehicles plunging into the canal. Many residents now avoid using the bridge after dark due to safety fears.

Community members have expressed frustration, stating that they have repeatedly brought the deteriorating condition of the bridge to the attention of local authorities and public representatives, but to no avail. Motorists and farmers are now demanding that the coalition government take immediate steps to either repair or replace the bridge to ensure the safety of all who use it.

## Tirupati Hotels Targeted by Ongoing Bomb Threat Emails



TPN, Tirupati: Tirupati is once again on high alert as bomb threat emails continue to flood local hotels, marking the third consecutive day of such alarming communications. The threats have reportedly been traced back to an individual operating under the name of Zafar Sadiq, prompting police to take immediate action.

Authorities conducted thorough checks at the hotels that received the threats, ensuring the safety of guests and staff. In a worrying development, a bomb threat email was also reported at the famous temple located on KT Road, further heightening concerns among both locals and visitors. The police are actively investigating the origin of these emails and have implemented enhanced security measures in response to the ongoing threats. Officials are urging the public to remain vigilant but reassured that there is no immediate cause for panic. The situation is under continuous monitoring as law enforcement works to ensure the safety of the Tirupati community.

## Dagadarthi Airport Construction to Begin Soon

TPN, Nellore: Andhra Pradesh Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has announced that work on the Dagadarthi Airport, a much-anticipated project for the district, will commence shortly. This declaration came during a review meeting held with various departmental officials regarding the establishment of industries and the airport.

Minister Reddy emphasized the necessity of the airport for the region, stating that it is critical for boosting local connectivity and economic development. He noted that approximately 1,379 acres of land is required for the airport, and some compensation has already been provided for the land acquisition.

During the meeting, Minister Reddy also men-

tioned plans to relocate the rice mills situated around the city to facilitate the airport's establishment. Furthermore, he highlighted the transformation of Krishnapatnam Port into a Kisan Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as part of the broader industrial development strategy.

Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana added that the foundation stone for Dagadarthi Airport was laid during the previous TDP government and criticized the lack of attention given to the project under the YCP administration. He expressed optimism about advancing the project, having discussed it with Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, who indicated that work could begin swiftly once the land acquisition process is complete.





## Germany's "Focus on India": A Shift Towards Strategic Partnership

Following the nuclear tests of 1998, the Singh-Talbot talks initiated a transformation in Indo-US relations from "estranged democracies" to "engaged democracies." A similar evolution is underway between Germany and India, highlighted by Germany's "Focus on India" policy. This development coincides with Chancellor Olaf Scholz's upcoming visit to New Delhi in October 2024, reflecting a recognition of India as a significant global partner.

Chancellor Scholz's visit marks a pivotal moment in the strengthening Indo-German partnership. His itinerary includes participation in the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Businesses, where he will engage with industry leaders alongside Prime Minister Modi. The bilateral trade between India and Germany reached a record €30 billion in 2023, with substantial German interest in India's technology and manufacturing sectors. This conference is an opportunity to transform economic engagement into long-term industrial

collaboration, further reinforcing the Green and Sustainable Partnership established between the two nations.

The recent release of two India-specific documents signals a shift in the India-German relationship under Scholz's administration. These documents demonstrate a positive alignment towards India, moving beyond lectures and acknowledging the vitality of Indian democracy. Germany's strategic focus emphasizes three key themes regarding India's rising global stature. First, India is viewed not merely as an occasional ally but as a strategic partner with enduring influence, highlighted in Germany's "Focus on India" document that designates India as a "central and active shaper of international politics."

Second, Germany recognizes India as a stabilizer in the Indo-Pacific, particularly amid concerns over China's influence. Scholz's visit to the German frigate

Baden-Württemberg in Goa underscores this commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, aligning Germany's vision with India's security priorities.

Lastly, India's unique role as a pragmatic mediator in conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war is gaining global recognition. Unlike other major powers, India maintains open diplomatic channels with all stakeholders, reinforcing its position as a reliable bridge in complex geopolitical issues.

Despite these advancements, some sensitivities remain, as evidenced by the subtle omission of Kashmir on policy maps and the dismissive tone regarding the term "Global South." Nevertheless, Germany's evolving perspective marks a move from a Eurocentric approach to an acknowledgment of global multipolarity, presenting both countries with a historic opportunity to tackle shared challenges and drive economic growth together.



## The Rising Energy Demands of AI: Nuclear Small Modular Reactors as a Solution

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming a significant energy consumer, particularly in data centers that power the digital economy. Currently, energy costs account for 46% of operating expenses in enterprise data centers and up to 60% in service provider facilities. With the demand for AI workloads soaring, energy consumption is set to rise dramatically. A report by the International Data Corporation (IDC) forecasts a staggering compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 44.7%, projecting that AI data centers will consume 146.2 Terawatt hours by 2027.

In India, the data center sector is expected to grow exponentially, with a CAGR exceeding 50%. By 2030, data centers could account for 6% of the country's total power demand, a sharp increase from less than 1% today. This rising demand, driven by energy-intensive AI workloads, poses significant challenges to India's energy infrastructure, necessitating substantial investments in capacity and renewable energy sources.

To meet this growing power demand, nuclear energy is gaining renewed attention, particularly in the form of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). Recent investments from tech giants like Amazon and Google into SMR developers, such as Oklo Inc and NuScale Power, underscore a shift towards nuclear energy as a reliable and low-carbon power source for AI-driven data centers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasized the importance of nuclear energy in India's long-term energy strategy, aiming for a fully developed nation by 2047. The government plans to deploy 40-50 SMRs to help achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, with designs that enhance modularity and safety.

SMRs, which produce less than 300 MW, offer several advantages over traditional large reactors, including quicker construction times, lower capital investment, and greater operational safety. Their modular construction allows for factory production and easier deployment, making them suitable for areas with smaller grids or remote locations.

By expanding research and development and streamlining regulations, India can harness the full potential of SMRs to meet the energy demands of an AI-driven future while advancing its clean energy objectives.

## The Undecided Voters: A Crucial Factor in the 2024 Presidential Race



As the US Presidential race approaches its climax, the latest polls reveal a dead heat between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, each garnering 48% support. With only 2% of voters undecided, particularly in seven battleground states, these individuals will likely determine the election's outcome. Given the overwhelming amount of information, especially negative coverage about Trump, why are these voters still uncommitted?

The "down to the wire" narrative is reminiscent of the 2016 election, where media predictions of a Clinton landslide ultimately fell short, resulting in a shocking Trump victory. The assumption-driven forecasts of that time raise questions about the current portrayal of this tight race. In 2020, Biden won with 51% of the vote to Trump's 47%, highlighting that attracting new voters is crucial in a polarized political landscape. This year's undecided voters may fall into this category of those who have not previously participated or who are hesitant to align with either side.

Despite Harris's campaign raising a record \$1 billion to vilify Trump—with descriptors ranging from "fascist" to "dangerous"—the 2% re-



mains unmoved. Meanwhile, Trump's campaign, despite having fewer resources, labels Harris with milder terms like "lying" and "crazy." The difference in rhetoric raises questions about how effectively each campaign resonates with these undecided voters.

Furthermore, historical context is essential; previous insults hurled by politicians often backfire, as seen with Clinton's "basket of deplorables" remark, which Trump used to galvanize support. The current media landscape, perceived as biased, may lead undecided voters to resist siding with either candidate, fearing the loss of their voice in a contentious political environment.

Ultimately, many Americans may feel uncertain about both candidates. The 2% figure refers specifically to those likely to vote, and while turnout is expected to be high, the nature of the campaign rhetoric indicates that personal attacks may not be swaying public opinion as intended. In a political arena where harsh criticism is commonplace, it appears that some voters are impervious to the barrage of insults, emphasizing their importance in this pivotal election.

## The Gandhi Legacy: Politics, Image, and Expectations

In the realm of Indian politics, the phrase "buy the rumor, sell the fact" often rings true, particularly in the context of oil and war in the Middle East. Historically, the oil market tends to respond dramatically to the onset of conflict, but reality often reveals a different narrative. This pattern mirrors the current political climate as Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, a prominent member of India's influential Gandhi family, steps into the electoral arena.

Last week, Priyanka Gandhi filed her nomination to contest the elections from Wayanad, a significant constituency. Draped in a bright lilac sari, she stood in a modest office, flanked by her mother, husband, and son, while her brother, Rahul Gandhi, provided silent support. This scene felt reminiscent of a royal family from a bygone era, especially when Priyanka referred to Parliament as "the house of the people." Such language invokes a sense of tradition, yet it starkly contrasts with the contemporary political landscape.

In a subsequent social media post, Rahul Gandhi shared a cheerful video featuring himself and Priyanka, where they discussed their affection for Wayanad. Their camaraderie and charm make for engaging viewing, as they represent a more polished image than many typical Indian politicians. However, beneath this appealing facade, I find myself questioning the substance of their political offerings. Despite their widespread social media presence and visual appeal, it remains unclear what concrete ideas or visions they bring to the table that could usher in genuine change and prosperity for India.

The Gandhi siblings have cultivated a significant following online, leveraging their fami-



ly's storied legacy to garner attention. Yet, as I sift through their posts and videos, I struggle to identify any transformative agendas or innovative solutions that resonate with the pressing challenges facing the nation. Instead, what stands out is their ability to project a relatable image, albeit one that feels disconnected from the complexities of contemporary governance.

As Priyanka embarks on her political journey, the expectations surrounding her and her family are immense. They represent a lineage that has significantly influenced Indian politics for decades. However, this legacy also comes with scrutiny and high standards for accountability. The question lingers: can the Gandhis transcend their storied past and offer a fresh perspective that truly addresses the aspirations and needs of the Indian populace? Until they provide a clearer vision for the future, their political presence may remain more about image than impact.

# PM Modi Addresses Digital Arrest In Mann Ki Baat

In the latest episode of 'Mann Ki Baat,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the alarming issue of "digital arrest," branding it a fraudulent activity that endangers society. He urged citizens to stay vigilant against such scams, emphasizing that those perpetuating these crimes are "enemies of society."

PM Modi clarified that there is no legal basis for "digital arrest," describing it as a deceitful tactic employed by criminals. He assured listeners that various investigative agencies are working with state governments to combat these growing tech-related crimes, and to enhance coordination, the National Cyber Coordination Centre has been established. This initiative aims to bolster efforts against cybercrime and protect citizens from scams, reaffirming the government's commitment to ensuring digital safety.

During his address, PM Modi played a video to illustrate the seriousness of the situa-



tion and explained how these fraudsters operate. He detailed their three-step strategy: First, they collect personal information about their targets, making them believe they are being monitored. For instance, they might mention recent trips or family details to instill a sense of familiarity

and trust.

The second tactic involves creating fear. Fraudsters often impersonate officials from various agencies, creating a scenario that pressures the victim into believing they must act quickly to avoid arrest. PM Modi stressed that

this psychological manipulation often leaves victims too scared to think rationally.

To combat these scams, he outlined a three-step approach: "Stop, Think, Take Action." He advised individuals to remain calm when receiving suspicious calls, refrain from sharing personal information, and document the encounter. If a person feels threatened, they should recognize that something is amiss.

PM Modi encouraged reporting such incidents to the national cyber helpline at 1930 or through the website cybercrime.gov.in. He urged citizens to spread awareness about these scams and to use the hashtag #SafeDigitalIndia.

Finally, he called upon educational institutions to involve students in the fight against cyber fraud, asserting that collective societal efforts are crucial in addressing this challenge.

## Bengal will be peaceful only when cross-border infiltration stops: HM Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on Sunday, October 27, that lasting peace in West Bengal can only be achieved if cross-border infiltration from Bangladesh is halted. Speaking at the inauguration of a new passenger terminal and cargo gate at the Petrapole land port along the India-Bangladesh border, Shah expressed confidence that illegal immigration would cease if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes to power in the state in 2026.

In his address, Shah criticized the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government for alleged corruption and called on the people of West Bengal to support a political change in the upcoming elections. He emphasized the significance of land ports in facilitating legal movement across borders, stating, "When there is no scope for legal movement, illegal modes of movement arise, impacting the peace of the country."

Shah urged the residents of Bengal to take a stand in the 2026 elections, suggesting that a change in leadership could lead to a reduction in infiltration and, consequently, foster peace in the region. "There can be peace in Bengal only when infiltration stops," he reiterated, underscoring the importance of effective border management.

He further elaborated on the role of land ports in enhancing connectivity and strengthening relations between India and Bangladesh. Shah noted that improving trade relations through these ports could contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

This appeal comes as the BJP ramps up its campaign efforts in West Bengal, positioning itself as a proponent of security and integrity in border management. The Minister's remarks are likely to resonate with voters concerned about issues related to immigration and regional safety as the state approaches the critical electoral cycle



## Centre attempting to destroy Kerala: CM Vijayan

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan vehemently criticized the central government on Saturday, October 26, accusing it of adopting a detrimental stance towards the state even in the face of disaster. His remarks came in the context of the recent landslides in Wayanad, where he emphasized the community's expectations for prompt central assistance that has yet to materialize.

Speaking at a party event, Vijayan expressed frustration over the lack of support from the Centre, highlighting that despite the dire circumstances, the state has been left waiting for crucial aid. "We are still awaiting the assistance from the Centre," he stated, underscoring the urgency of the situation in Wayanad, which experienced devastating landslides earlier this year.

The Chief Minister did not limit his criticisms to the ruling BJP-led government; he also directed his ire at the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), claiming that the opposition coalition is reluctant to acknowledge or support the state's recovery efforts. Vijayan suggested that the UDF prefers to see the state falter rather than flourish.

These comments are part of an ongoing critique by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government regarding the central government's delay in providing necessary assistance to Wayanad, where residents have been grappling with the aftermath of the July landslide tragedy. The CM's remarks reflect a broader frustration with what he perceives as a lack of empathy and support from the Union government during critical times. Vijayan's statements resonate with many in Kerala, who feel that the state's needs are being overlooked amidst political disagreements. As the situation unfolds, the pressure on the central government to respond promptly to Kerala's requests for aid is likely to increase, especially as the state continues to navigate the challenges posed by recent natural disasters.

## Global South Have High Degree Of Trust In India: S Jaishankar



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the significant trust and expectations that countries from the Global South have in India during an interactive session with students at a university in Pune. He explained that the term "Global South" primarily refers to nations that have experienced colonization or are still developing, often characterized as low-income countries. "They have a high degree of trust and expectation in India, and rightly so," Jaishankar stated.

The minister cited three key instances in recent years where India demonstrated its commitment to the Global South, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that many countries received their initial vaccine doses from India at a time when the developed world was stockpiling vaccines for itself. "I cannot overstate the emotional impact of this on the world," he remarked, highlighting India's role as a responsible global player. Jaishankar further illustrated India's commitment by referencing the African Union's inclusion in the G20 under India's presidency. He emphasized that African nations view India as having a "conscience" in global matters. "For many years, the African Union wanted a seat at the G20, but previous meetings often ended with empty promises," he explained. "We took up this cause and pushed it forward, ensuring that it was accepted."

## Vijay Thalopathy Launches Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam at Inaugural Political Conference



Actor Vijay, founder of the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam party, energized supporters at his party's first political conference held in Vikravandi, Villupuram district, on Sunday, October 27, 2024. The event drew a large crowd, showcasing the star's immense popularity and the growing enthusiasm for his political venture.

In a heartfelt address, Vijay emphasized the importance of youth engagement in politics, urging his supporters to participate actively in the democratic process. "We must work together to create a better future for Tamil Nadu," he proclaimed, as he waved enthusiastically to the gathered masses. His message resonated deeply with attendees, many of whom have long admired him not only for his cinematic contributions but also for his commitment to social causes.

Vijay's political journey comes amidst a backdrop of increasing political engagement among the youth in Tamil Nadu. His party, Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam, aims to address pressing issues such as unemployment, education, and social justice.

## RG Kar Junior doctors plan to extend protests to rural Bengal

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF), the leading organization of junior doctors protesting following the tragic rape and murder of a fellow medic, is set to expand its movement beyond urban centers into rural Bengal. Debashish Halder, a prominent figure in the protests, emphasized that their efforts will persist until a thorough investigation concludes and all their demands are met. "Our movement will continue unless and until the probe reaches a logical conclusion and our demands are fulfilled in full. This will now be spread to remote rural areas," he stated.

The protests, initially concentrated in metropolitan areas, are now poised to reach deeper into the state, aiming to raise awareness and garner support from rural communities. Halder's remarks come in the wake of a rival fac-



tion's emergence—the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Association (WBJDA). This new group, reportedly formed by junior doctors recently suspended by the RG Kar Medical College council for promoting a "threat culture," has sparked further tension. Halder criticized the WBJDA's claims of victimization, noting it is

peculiar for those accused of fostering a "threat culture" to establish a rival organization backed by the ruling party. Tensions escalated when a WBJDA member filed a legal notice against Aniket Mahato, another junior doctor involved in the protests. Mahato had referred to the suspended doctors as "notorious criminals" during a meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, further inflaming the ongoing discord.

While the college council initially announced the suspensions, a recent ruling from a Calcutta High Court single-judge bench has stayed the council's resolution, stating that only the state government has the authority to make such decisions. This ruling adds another layer of complexity to the situation as the WBJDF continues its fight for justice and accountability.

## Iranian Officials Will Decide How To Respond To Israel: Ayatollah Khamenei

In the wake of an Israeli airstrike targeting Iranian military sites, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has urged officials to consider how best to demonstrate Iran's power to Israel. According to the state-run IRNA news agency, Khamenei emphasized that the "evil committed by the Zionist regime (Israel) two nights ago should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated."

The Israeli airstrikes, which occurred late Saturday, involved scores of jets launching three waves of attacks on missile factories and other strategic locations near Tehran and in western Iran. In response to the airstrikes, Iranian officials downplayed the damage, claiming it was limited. This comes amidst rising tensions in the region, with U.S. President Joe Biden calling for an immediate halt to the escalating conflict, which has raised concerns about a broader confrontation in the Middle East.

Khamenei stated that it is crucial for Iran to showcase its strength to Israel. He directed that the method of demonstrating this power should be carefully considered by the relevant officials, emphasizing that actions taken should serve the



best interests of the Iranian people and the country as a whole. His comments reflect a commitment to a measured but firm response in light of the recent attacks.

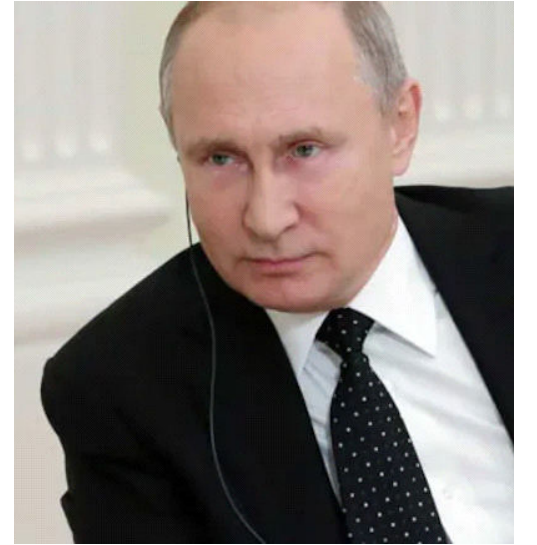
The Israeli military has not provided specific details about the impact of their strikes but has characterized the operation as targeting crucial military infrastructure. The airstrikes and the ensuing rhetoric from both sides highlight the ongoing volatility in the region, with Iran's leadership signaling a resolve

to respond decisively to perceived threats.

As the situation develops, the potential for further escalation remains high. Khamenei's remarks underline the importance of strategic planning within Iran's leadership as they navigate the complex geopolitical landscape while responding to provocations from Israel. The international community will be watching closely as Iran weighs its next steps in this escalating confrontation.

## Putin Warns of Retaliation Over Potential Ukrainian Long-Range Strikes

Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued a stark warning, stating that Moscow will employ "a range of responses" if Ukraine utilizes Western long-range weapons to target Russian territory. This declaration, made in remarks published on Sunday, comes amid heightened tensions between Russia and Ukraine, exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and support from NATO allies.



Putin emphasized that the Russian defense ministry is actively deliberating on how to counter potential long-range strikes that may be executed by Ukraine with the assistance of the United States and its NATO partners. "The Russian defense ministry is thinking about how to respond to the possible long-range strikes on Russian territory; it will offer a range of responses," Putin stated during an interview with state TV reporter Pavel Zarubin. These comments underline the seriousness with which Moscow views any escalation in the conflict that could involve strikes on its homeland.

The warning reflects Russia's ongoing concerns about the military support Ukraine is receiving from Western nations, which has significantly bolstered its defensive and offensive capabilities. As Ukraine continues to receive advanced weaponry, the potential for an escalation in hostilities increases, prompting Russia to prepare for various scenarios that could arise from such developments.

velopments.

Putin's remarks serve as a reminder of the volatile situation in the region and the potential for a wider conflict if either side escalates its military actions. The ongoing conflict has already resulted in significant loss of life and widespread destruction, and any further escalation could have dire consequences not just for Ukraine and Russia but for regional and global stability. As the situation develops, international observers will be closely monitoring the responses from both Moscow and Kyiv, as well as the implications for NATO's role in the conflict. The complex interplay of military strategy and diplomatic relations continues to shape the landscape of this ongoing crisis.



## Pakistan Seeks Additional Loan from China Amid Financial Strain

Pakistan has formally requested an additional loan of 10 billion yuan (approximately USD 1.4 billion) from China, as the cash-strapped nation has fully utilized the existing 30 billion yuan (USD 4.3 billion) trade facility. This request was made by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb during a meeting with China's Vice Minister of Finance, Liao Min, at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington.

The Finance Ministry issued a statement indicating that Aurangzeb has asked China to raise the limits under their currency swap agreement to 40 billion yuan. If accepted, this would bring the total facility to around USD 5.7 billion. However, this is not the first time Pakistan has sought an increase in its debt limit; previous requests have been declined by Beijing.

This latest appeal follows a recent extension of the existing USD 4.3 billion trade finance facility for another three years. During Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang's recent visit to Pakistan, a currency swap agreement was signed, extending the repayment period of Pakistan's debts to 2027.

The need for additional funding highlights Pakistan's ongoing financial challenges as it grapples with economic instability. The country has relied heavily on Chinese loans and financial support to manage its debts, particularly as it faces rising inflation and a deteriorating fiscal situation. The full consumption of the current trade finance facility underlines the urgency of Pakistan's financial predicament.

As Pakistan navigates these fiscal challenges, its reliance on China for financial support remains critical.



## Israeli Strikes on Iran Target Ballistic Missile Capabilities

Israel's recent airstrikes on Iran have reportedly dealt a significant blow to the country's military infrastructure, including the destruction of a secret ballistic missile factory deemed essential to Iran's missile production. The strikes, which occurred on October 26, are believed to have been a direct response to an earlier ballistic missile attack by Iran on October 1.

Experts assert that these highly accurate attacks may have severely impaired Iran's ability to retaliate and replenish its missile inventory. The Jerusalem Post highlighted that the missile factory is now "out of service," disrupting the production of key components necessary for Iran's missile capabilities, including heavy fuel mixers used for the Kheibar and Haj Qasem missiles that targeted Israel. In addition to the missile factory, Israel's strikes targeted Russian-made S-300 air defense systems and associated radar installations in Syria and Iraq. Analysts have also pointed out that a drone production facility and a structure within the Parchin military complex—known for its involvement in nuclear weapons development—were hit during the operation.



## Trump's Shadow Looms Over Global Economic Leaders in Washington

As world financial leaders convene in Washington for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, the focus has unexpectedly shifted from traditional economic discussions to the looming specter of Donald Trump's potential return to the White House. With the U.S. presidential election just weeks away, the implications of either candidate's victory are causing palpable anxiety among attendees.

Malaysia's second finance minister, Amir Hamzah Azizan, captured the sentiment succinctly: "Everybody is talking about the US election and waiting with bated breath." The starkly contrasting visions presented by Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris have made discussions about the future of U.S. economic policy increasingly urgent, particularly in light of ongoing global challenges like the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Trump's previous term saw significant upheaval in global trade, and he is now threatening to escalate that with proposed tariffs of 60% on China and up to 20% on other nations. This potential shift contributes to what a top IMF official described as a state of "high uncertainty." As Josh Lipsky of the Atlantic Council put it, "Markets hate uncertainty, and the biggest uncertainty of them all is hanging over these meetings: Who will be the next president of the United States?"

Events surrounding the meetings have reflected this tension, with discussions hosted by major financial institutions featuring key political figures and analysts debating the implications of a possible Trump victory. While diplomats have generally avoided taking sides, many are acutely aware of the potential impacts on global stability.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb of Pakistan emphasized his country's commitment to maintaining strong trade ties with the U.S., regardless of the election's outcome. This sentiment underscores a broader acknowledgment of the IMF and World Bank's role in an increasingly multipolar world, as emerging markets challenge the traditional dominance of the U.S. in global economic affairs.



## Japan Faces Uncertain Election as Ishiba's Leadership is Tested

Japan voted on Sunday in what is being described as its tightest election in years, with newly appointed Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) facing a potentially historic defeat. Opinion polls indicate that the conservative LDP, along with its junior coalition partner Komeito, may struggle to secure a majority in the 465-seat lower house, a result that could significantly undermine Ishiba's position.

The 67-year-old former defense minister assumed office just last month and immediately called for a snap

election following his narrow selection to lead the LDP, which has held power for most of the past 70 years. However, many voters have expressed dissatisfaction due to rising prices and the lingering fallout from a party funding scandal that contributed to the downfall of his predecessor, Fumio Kishida.

"I made my decision by looking at their economic policies and measures to ease inflation," said Yoshihiro Uchida, a 48-year-old Tokyo voter. "I voted for people who are likely to make our lives better."



# Domestic Markets Poised for Mixed Movement Amid Global Uncertainty and Geopolitical Risks



Domestic stock markets are likely to move mixed this week. It is difficult to change the momentum even if there is a step direction from the international markets. If the war between Israel and Ukraine takes a

new twist, the markets may fall further if the geopolitical developments change. US elections will be crucial. Benchmark Nifty and Sensex, down 8% from lifetime highs, need to find support. There is scope for buying only

if investor sentiment changes. Shares of microcap, smallcap, midcap, PSE, realty, oil and gas, media and metal sectors fell.

#### Stock recommendations :

**Thermax:** After a 30% correction from lifetime highs, the shares found firm support at Rs.4250. Momentum was gained in September. These shares are constantly shaking even in negative market. Investors should buy at Rs.5300 with a target price of Rs.5450 in this counter which closed at Rs.5431 last Friday with a gain of 4.77%. Stoploss should be set at Rs.5260.

**Max Health:** Shares tumbled 20% as investors took profits and market sentiment remained negative. Currently shaking sideways. There are expectations that better results will be re-

leased in the September quarter. A position should be taken at Rs.930 with a target price of Rs.1050 in this counter which closed at Rs.938 last Friday with a gain of 3.51%. Stop loss should be set at Rs.900.

**Torrent Pharma:** These shares are moving better compared to Nifty and Sensex. Very few have undergone ups and downs. It is a good sign that EPS and sales are gradually increasing. It is expected that good results will be released in the September quarter. Investors should take a position at Rs.3400 with a target price of Rs.3550 in this counter which closed at Rs.3432 with a gain of 3.36% on Friday. Stoploss should be set at Rs.3370.

**Axis Bank:** Down 12% from 52-week highs, the shares are currently hovering at key support levels. Volume and momentum are steadily increasing. Investors should take a position at Rs.1180 with a target price of Rs.1300 in this counter which closed at Rs.1189 on Friday with the kick given by the results. Stoploss is mandatory at Rs.1160.



**MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM**  
Stock Market Analyst

**Divi's Lab:** This stock is currently trading at an attractive price, outperforming the Nifty. Investors are keen as a 10% correction takes place. Momentum investors should take a position in the range of Rs.5750 with a target price of Rs.6050 in this counter which closed at 5780 last Friday. Stoploss should be set at Rs.5707.

## Market Outlook

### Key Factors Influencing Next Week's Performance



As the market gears up for the upcoming week, analysts indicate that the outlook will heavily depend on several critical factors, including the release of quarterly earnings for July-September (Q2FY25), the scheduled monthly derivatives expiry, Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) activities, geopolitical tensions, and both global and domestic macroeconomic data.

Last week, the benchmark indices experienced a significant downturn, with widespread selling across all sectors. This decline was fueled by profit booking from foreign and retail investors, alongside muted earnings reports, a sluggish demand environment, margin pressures, and

cautious guidance from several companies. Consequently, the Nifty 50 concluded the week with a 2.71% drop at 24,180, while the Sensex fell by 2.24% to close at 79,402.

October has seen notable outflows from Foreign Institutional Investors, totaling around Rs 1 lakh crore. In contrast, Domestic Institutional Investors have been active buyers, accumulating equities worth approximately Rs 97,000 crore.

According to Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart, the Nifty 50 has breached a major head-and-shoulders pattern, increasing the likelihood of a test at its 200-day moving average (DMA) around 23,400. Current support levels are identified at 24,000-23,900, while resistance is expected between 24,600 and 24,700, with 25,000 acting as a significant barrier on the upside.

Palka Arora Chopra, Director of Master Capital Services, highlighted the Bank Nifty's performance, noting a decline of over 7.5% from its all-time highs, alongside a 2.51% drop this week, closing below the 51,100 mark and the 21-week exponential moving average (EMA). This trend indicates increased selling pressure, particularly following disappointing results from banks like Kotak, AU, and IndusInd. Immediate support for Bank Nifty is placed at 50,200; breaching this level could lead to further declines toward 49,600.

## Easing Power Prices Driven by Monsoon Rains and Increased Supply



Power prices on exchanges in India have seen a notable decline, attributed to improved monsoon conditions and enhanced electricity supply. Data from the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) indicates that in the day-ahead market (DAM), the average price for the first half of FY25 (April-September) has dropped nearly 12%, falling from ₹5.53 per unit to approximately ₹4.87 per unit.

In October, prices continued their downward trend, averaging around ₹4.15 per unit—about 41% lower than the ₹6.98 per unit recorded in the same month last fiscal year. The maximum price in the DAM segment during the period from October 1 to 24 reached ₹5.72 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), significantly lower than the price cap of ₹10 noted during the same period in FY24.

Rohit Bajaj, Joint Managing Director of the Indian Energy Exchange, emphasized that proactive measures by

the government and regulators have been pivotal in ensuring stable power supply throughout the fiscal year, which has led to increased liquidity on the exchange platform. He pointed out that favorable monsoons and robust hydro and wind generation have strengthened fuel availability, contributing to the significant decrease in power prices.

The trend of declining prices persisted into October, with the average market clearing price in the DAM dropping to ₹4.15 per unit (October 1-24), marking a 41% year-on-year decrease. The real-time market saw an even steeper decline of 45%, averaging ₹3.57 per unit during the same period. Experts expect this trend to continue in the coming months.

Further supporting this trend, data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) reveals that power generation in India during the first half of FY25 rose nearly 6%, reaching 951.10 billion units (BU) compared to 897.77 billion units in the same period last year. Thermal power generation increased by 5.47% to 690.13 billion units, while large hydro projects benefitted from the healthy monsoon, generating 94.50 billion units—up 4.16% from 90.73 billion units last year.

## SBI Awarded Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance



The State Bank of India (SBI) has been honored as the Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards, held alongside the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

SBI Chairman CS Setty accepted the award, which recognizes the bank's steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional services and fostering financial inclusion across the country. The bank's dedication to winning customer trust played a significant role in this achievement, as highlighted in a statement from SBI.

Global Finance's Best Bank Awards have long been regarded as a benchmark for assessing the performance of financial institutions worldwide. These awards are particularly important for corporate decision-makers navigating the complexities of the global economy, especially during challenging times.

SBI's recognition reflects its ongoing efforts to innovate and adapt to the changing financial landscape. The bank has consistently focused on enhancing customer experience and broadening access to

banking services, ensuring that a diverse range of customers can benefit from its offerings. This commitment has helped establish SBI as a leader in the Indian banking sector.

As the largest bank in India, SBI has made significant strides in digital banking, customer service, and outreach programs aimed at promoting financial literacy and inclusion. Its initiatives have not only strengthened its position in the market but have also contributed to the overall growth and stability of the Indian economy.

## Impact of Steel Import Restrictions on Indian MSMEs

Restricting steel imports from China and other countries could have serious repercussions for Indian engineering goods manufacturers and exporters, particularly Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). According to Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman of the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EPEC), these businesses heavily rely on competitive steel prices to sustain their operations. This statement comes as large Indian steel manufacturers are urging the government to raise tariffs on steel imports from 7.5% to 15% in order to protect domestic production amid an influx of steel imports, particularly from China. Similar calls have been echoed by steel producers in the US and Europe, who are also grappling with increased competition from Chinese steel exports.

However, smaller engineering exporters

argue that the issue is more complex. They contend that steel imports are not solely rising from China and emphasize a significant price disparity between domestic and imported steel. The availability of cheaper imported steel plays a crucial role in helping MSMEs maintain their competitiveness in the market.

Garodia highlighted the importance of keeping domestic steel prices competitive, noting, "The price differential between Chinese steel and Indian-produced steel is significant. This price advantage allows downstream industries, especially MSMEs, to thrive in both domestic and international markets." He stressed that while protecting domestic steel producers is vital, it should not come at the expense of the MSME sector, which forms the backbone of the engineering goods industry.



## Zomato Introduces 'Order Scheduling' Feature for Pre-Ordered Meals



Following in the footsteps of Swiggy, Zomato, one of India's leading online food ordering platforms, is rolling out an exciting new feature designed to enhance user experience: **\*\*Order Scheduling\*\***. This innovative functionality allows users to plan and pre-order their meals, giving them greater flexibility and control over their dining choices.

With the **\*\*Order Scheduling\*\*** feature, Zomato users can now schedule their food deliveries anywhere from 2 hours to 2 days in advance. This means that whether you're planning a dinner party, a corporate lunch, or simply want to ensure your meal arrives at the perfect time, Zomato has got you covered. The company emphasizes that this new option provides users with "full control over when your food is delivered," catering to the growing demand for convenience in food delivery.

The feature is currently available at over 35,000 restaurants across 30 major cities in India, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Raipur, Ahmedabad, and more. This widespread availability en-

ures that a significant number of Zomato users can take advantage of the new scheduling option, making it easier to coordinate meals with busy schedules or special occasions.

By implementing **\*\*Order Scheduling\*\***, Zomato aims to improve the overall user experience and streamline the meal planning process. This new feature reflects a growing trend in the food delivery industry, where convenience and customization are becoming increasingly important to consumers. Users can now enjoy the luxury of planning their meals in advance, reducing last-minute ordering stress and enhancing their overall dining experience.

As Zomato continues to innovate and adapt to customer needs, the introduction of **\*\*Order Scheduling\*\*** is a welcome addition for many users looking for a more organized way to enjoy their favorite meals. Whether it's for a casual get-together or a planned event, this feature is set to revolutionize the way people think about food delivery.

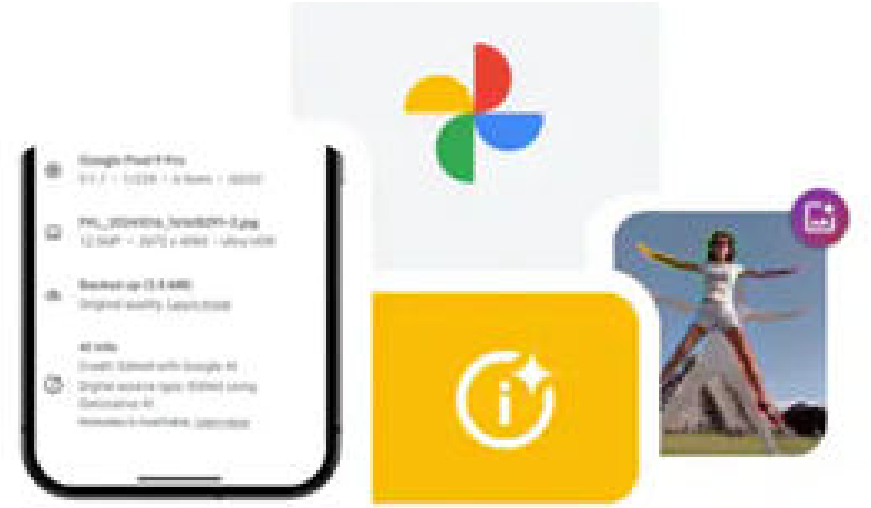
## Google Photos Adds AI Editing Labels for Transparency

With the increasing prevalence of AI-powered tools in photo editing, discerning whether an image has been generated or modified using such technology has become challenging. In response to this concern, numerous companies are now implementing synthetic watermarks or labels on AI-generated images, and Google is the latest to join this initiative.

In a recent blog post, Google announced that the Google Photos app will soon feature labels indicating whether a photo has been edited using AI tools. John Fisher, the engineering director of Google Photos, emphasized that images modified with tools like Magic Editor, Magic Eraser, and Zoom Enhance will now include specific metadata. This metadata adheres to technical standards set by The International Press Telecommunications Council (IPTC), ensuring that users can easily identify AI-enhanced content.

Beginning next week, Google Photos will display this information alongside other relevant file details, such as the image name, location, and backup status. Users can access this information in a new section labeled "AI info," found within the image details view in both the app and on the web. This addition aims to promote transparency and help users better understand the nature of their images.

The move comes as part of a broader effort to address



concerns surrounding the authenticity of digital content in an age where AI can create and alter images with remarkable realism. By clearly indicating when a photo has been edited using generative AI, Google seeks to empower users with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about the images they share and consume.

As AI technology continues to evolve and integrate into creative processes, the introduction of AI editing labels in Google Photos marks a significant step toward fostering a more transparent digital environment. Users will soon be able to navigate their photo collections with a clearer understanding of which images have undergone AI enhancements, ultimately enhancing the overall user experience in the realm of digital photography.

## Daylight saving time: UK is all set to turn back the clock

As the United Kingdom prepares to revert its clocks for the biannual daylight saving time (DST) shift, researchers are advocating for its abolishment, citing substantial negative impacts on health. A recent study published in the *Journal of Sleep Research* emphasizes the toll that seasonal clock changes have on sleep and circadian health.

The study highlights a common misconception about DST: while it is often believed to provide more sunlight, this is misleading. "It's often erroneously assumed that DST provides us with more sunlight. In reality, it only shifts our behavior by adjusting schedules forward by an hour," the research notes. Although this results in additional daylight after work or school, it simultaneously reduces sunlight exposure in the morning, as people rise and travel earlier.

In the UK, DST, also referred to as British Summer Time, begins on the last Sunday in March, moving clocks forward by one hour. Clocks revert to standard time on the last Sunday in October. Before the implementation of DST, the UK operated on Standard Time (Greenwich Mean Time) year-round. The study advocates for a return to this year-round Standard Time, suggesting that it could lead to better health outcomes.

Medical experts support the findings of the study, warning about the adverse effects of DST. Dr. Sudhir Kumar, a consultant neurologist from Apollo Hos-



pitals in Hyderabad, stated, "The acute impact of switching to DST, especially in spring, is an hour of sleep loss. This can lower productivity, impair mood and health, and reduce performance." He further explained that over time, the prolonged disruption of circadian rhythms caused by DST can have detrimental effects on overall well-being and performance.

As the debate continues, the call for the abolition of daylight saving time gains momentum, with health professionals urging a reconsideration of this long-standing practice.

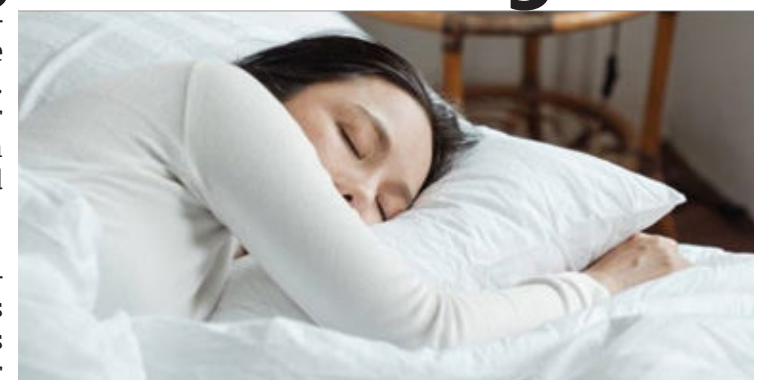
## Poor Sleep Quality to Accelerated Brain Aging in Middle Age

A recent study has uncovered alarming evidence that poor sleep quality can contribute to accelerated brain aging in early middle age. Researchers found that individuals with subpar sleep patterns exhibited higher levels of brain shrinkage, a key indicator of aging, as indicated by brain scans.

The study involved 589 participants, with an average age of 40, who completed sleep questionnaires at the outset of the research and again five years later. Brain scans were conducted 15 years after the study began, providing valuable insights into the long-term effects of sleep quality on brain health.

Clémence Cavaillès, a researcher from the University of California, San Francisco, and the study's corresponding author, highlighted the significant findings: "Our study, which used brain scans to determine participants' brain age, suggests that poor sleep is linked to nearly three years of additional brain aging as early as middle age." This revelation underscores the importance of maintaining healthy sleep habits to mitigate the risks associated with cognitive decline.

The implications of this research are profound, as poor sleep has previously been associated with diminished cognitive abilities, including thinking and memory. Cavaillès noted that individuals who experience chronic sleep issues may be at a heightened risk



for developing dementia later in life.

This study adds to the growing body of evidence linking sleep quality to overall brain health, reinforcing the need for interventions aimed at improving sleep patterns. As researchers continue to explore the relationship between sleep and cognitive function, it is becoming increasingly clear that prioritizing good sleep is essential for maintaining mental acuity and reducing the risk of age-related cognitive disorders.

In a world where many struggle with sleep issues, these findings serve as a crucial reminder of the impact that sleep has on our long-term brain health. As we age, ensuring adequate and restorative sleep may be one of the most effective strategies for preserving cognitive function.

## Record-Setting Produce Shines at UK Giant Vegetables Championships



The UK National Giant Vegetables Championships, held in Worcestershire from September 27 to 29, showcased an impressive array of record-setting fruits and vegetables, as recognized by Guinness World Records. As a highlight of the annual Malvern Autumn Show, this event has become a cherished tradition for horticulture enthusiasts.

One of the standout participants was eight-year-old Dasha Edwards from South Wales. Along with fellow gardeners Chris Fowler and Kevin Fortey, Dasha nurtured an extraordinary aubergine that measured 41 cm (1 ft 4.1 in) long, grown on her family's farm park near Cardiff. This achievement marked a notable entry for young gardeners in the competition.

In another remarkable feat, 81-year-old Ian Neale claimed the title for the heaviest green pepper, weighing in at a staggering 966 g (2 lb 2.8 oz). This colossal pepper is seven times heavier than the average variety found in local supermar-

kets, underscoring the incredible produce cultivated by the participants.

Joe Atherton, known as the "King of the Longs," made headlines with his two record-breaking root vegetables. He secured the title for the longest turnip, measuring an astonishing 4.842 meters (15 feet 10.6 inches), and the longest radish, which reached an impressive length of 7.401 meters (24 feet 3.4 inches)—even longer than a minibus. Atherton's accolades extend beyond this event; he previously set records for the longest carrot at 6.245 meters (20 feet 5.86 inches) in 2016, the longest parsnip at 6.55 meters (21 feet 5.87 inches) in 2017, and the longest beetroot at 8.56 meters (28 feet) in 2020.

This year's championships highlighted the dedication and skill of gardeners across the UK, demonstrating that passion for horticulture can lead to truly extraordinary results. With new records set and young talents emerging, the future of giant vegetable growing looks bright.

## Babar Azam Dropped from Zimbabwe Series but Returns for Australia

Former captain Babar Azam has been dropped from the Pakistan team for the upcoming series against Zimbabwe, but he will make a return for the white-ball series in Australia. Alongside Babar, fast bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah are also back in the squad after being sidelined for the two Tests against England.



The Pakistan selectors announced the One-Day International (ODI) and T20I squads for the tours of Australia and Zimbabwe, which are set to begin next month. The selections include several new faces, while notable absences include senior players like Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan. Fakhar is currently under scrutiny by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) following a tweet in support of Babar before the selectors made their decision.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi is expected to announce the new captains for the limited-overs formats later today during a media conference. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha are rumored to be the frontrunners for these leadership roles.

In a strategic move, the selectors have chosen to use the ODIs and T20s in Zimbabwe to assess new talent. However, for the Australian series, the main players will feature prominently in all matches. The three ODIs and T20Is in Australia are scheduled from November 4 to November 18, while the Zimbabwe series will take place from November 24 to December 5.

While Babar, Shaheen, and Naseem are set to participate in the Australian leg of the tour, they have been rested for the Zimbabwe series. Additionally, Rizwan will be available for the Australia tour and the ODIs in Zimbabwe, but he is expected to be rested for the T20Is in Zimbabwe.

The selected squads for the series against Australia and Zimbabwe are as follows:

Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim, Usman Khan.

Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shah Nawaz Dhanani, Tayyab Tahir.

Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (wk), Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha, Sufyan Moqim, Tayyab Tahir, Usman Khan.

## Manchester City Tops Premier League with Narrow Win Over Southampton



Manchester City secured a narrow 1-0 victory over struggling Southampton on Saturday, courtesy of an early goal from Erling Haaland. This win allowed City to provisionally climb to the top of the Premier League, setting the stage for Sunday's highly anticipated clash between title contenders Liverpool and Arsenal.

Haaland's goal, scored in the opening minutes, proved to be decisive as City managed to maintain their lead against a determined Southampton side. Despite having a wealth of chances to extend their advantage, the reigning champions settled for a single goal, demonstrating their ability to grind out results even when not at their best.

In another thrilling encounter, high-flying Aston Villa faced a disappointing 1-1 draw against Bournemouth, conceding a late equalizer that left Villa frustrated. Late goals were a recurring theme across the matches on Saturday, contributing to an exciting afternoon of Premier League action.

Brentford showcased their resilience by coming back from a two-goal deficit to defeat 10-man Ipswich Town 4-3 in a dramatic encounter. This win highlighted Brentford's fighting spirit and ability to capitalize on their opponents' mistakes.

Meanwhile, Wolverhampton Wanderers managed to escape with a 2-2 draw against Brighton & Hove Albion, equalizing in stoppage time to salvage a point. The late drama in these matches kept fans on the edge of their seats and underscored the competitive nature of the league.

With City's victory, they currently hold a two-point cushion over Liverpool, who sit second and are preparing to face fourth-placed Arsenal on Sunday. This match promises to be crucial in the title race, as both teams are eager to secure points in their pursuit of the championship. As the Premier League season unfolds, the stakes continue to rise, with every match contributing to an exhilarating battle for supremacy.

## Barcelona Dominates Real Madrid with 4-0 Victory

In a stunning El Clasico encounter on Saturday, Barcelona delivered a resounding 4-0 defeat to Real Madrid, marking the hosts' first loss in 42 LaLiga games. Polish striker Robert Lewandowski was the star of the match, scoring a rapid double within three minutes early in the second half, setting Barcelona on course for a commanding victory at the Santiago Bernabéu.



Lewandowski's goals came as a shock to a stunned Madrid defense, showcasing his clinical finishing and pivotal role in the team. At just 17 years and 106 days old, Lamine Yamal made history by becoming the youngest scorer in El Clasico history, further amplifying Barcelona's joy. Raphinha added to the scoreline late in the game, cementing a comprehensive win for the Catalan giants.

With this victory, Barcelona extended their lead at the top of the LaLiga table, now boasting 30 points—six clear of Real Madrid. The loss not only ended Madrid's impressive unbeaten streak in LaLiga, which spanned 13 months, but it also left them just one

match away from matching Barcelona's league record of 43 consecutive games without defeat.

After suffering four consecutive defeats in previous Clasico encounters, Barcelona's triumph on Saturday was a significant boost for the team, showcasing a style of play that aligned with coach Hansi Flick's aggressive tactics. The high defensive line and pressing strategy employed by Barcelona were effective, allowing them to capitalize

on Real Madrid's defensive lapses.

This El Clasico not only reignited Barcelona's hopes in the title race but also highlighted the ongoing rivalry between these two historic clubs. As Barcelona celebrates this impressive win, Real Madrid will need to regroup quickly as they face the challenges ahead in LaLiga. The Catalans have certainly set the tone for the remainder of the season, and fans will be eager to see how the title race unfolds.

## Zheng Qinwen Claims Pan Pacific Open Title with Victory Over Sofia Kenin

China's Zheng Qinwen secured the Pan Pacific Open title on Sunday, outclassing American Sofia Kenin with a score of 6-7(5), 6-3 in an impressive display. This victory marks Zheng's third title of her career and her first hard-court triumph of the season, taking just one hour and 52 minutes to defeat the 2020 Australian Open champion in their first-ever meeting.



Zheng had previously enjoyed a successful year, clinching two clay-court titles, including a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics and successfully defending her title in Palermo. However, this win signifies her first hard-court title since her victory in Zhengzhou over a year ago.

In the final, Zheng showcased exceptional serving skills, never facing a break point and allowing only one break opportunity throughout the match. As the ace leader of 2024, she delivered an impressive 16 aces, bringing her season total to a remarkable 406.

Post-match, Zheng expressed her admiration for Kenin, acknowledging the American's resilience despite playing through injury. "I want to say congratulations to you. You did a great job. I saw you were taped up and played through being hurt. I know

this feeling. You fought so hard on the court," Zheng said.

The first set saw a fierce contest, with Kenin determined to secure her first title since her breakout season in 2020. She managed to save all five break points during the set, pushing Zheng to a tense tiebreak. Zheng rose to the occasion, clinching the tiebreak with a decisive forehand winner after 67 minutes of play. Remarkably, she won 100 percent of her first-service points in the first set, going 21-for-21 and denying Kenin any opportunities to break.

In the second set, Kenin earned her only break point at 4-2, but Zheng extinguished the threat with a powerful serve. Ultimately, Zheng sealed the championship point at 5-3 with a quick reflex volley, closing out the match after a long shot from Kenin. This victory solidifies Zheng's position as a rising star in women's tennis.

## Evin Lewis Leads West Indies to Consolation Victory Over Sri Lanka

Evin Lewis marked a triumphant return to One Day International (ODI) cricket, scoring an unbeaten 102 to guide West Indies to a consolation victory against series winners Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI. This match took place at Pallekele International Stadium after rain reduced play to just 23 overs per side.



Lewis, who hadn't played an ODI since 2021, reached his fifth ODI century with a thrilling straight six, achieving this milestone off just 61 balls. Despite rolling his left ankle when he was on 51, he persevered, demonstrating his commitment and skill.

In response to Sri Lanka's total of 156-3, the West Indies began their innings with a challenging task after a five-hour rain delay. The match was set in a tight timeframe, but the West Indies displayed resilience, reaching 196-2 to claim victory.

Sri Lanka's innings started positively, with Pathum Nissanka and Avishka Fernando opening with an 81-run partnership over 17 overs before the rain interruption. Nissanka, who was dropped early in his innings, reached his 15th ODI half-century, scoring

56 runs before being run out. Meanwhile, Kusal Mendis showcased explosive batting, reaching a rapid 19-ball half-century and finishing not out at 56, including nine boundaries and a six.

The West Indies lost their first wicket at 36, but Lewis built a solid partnership with captain Shai Hope, adding 72 runs before Hope fell for 22. Following Hope's departure, Lewis was joined by Sherfane Rutherford, who played aggressively, scoring an unbeaten 50 off

just 26 balls. Rutherford's innings included three sixes and four boundaries, complementing Lewis's remarkable performance.

Despite the West Indies' victory, Sri Lanka's captain Charith Asalanka was named Player of the Series for his contributions, amassing 145 runs and taking two wickets throughout the series. This match provided a much-needed boost for the West Indies as they concluded the series on a high note.

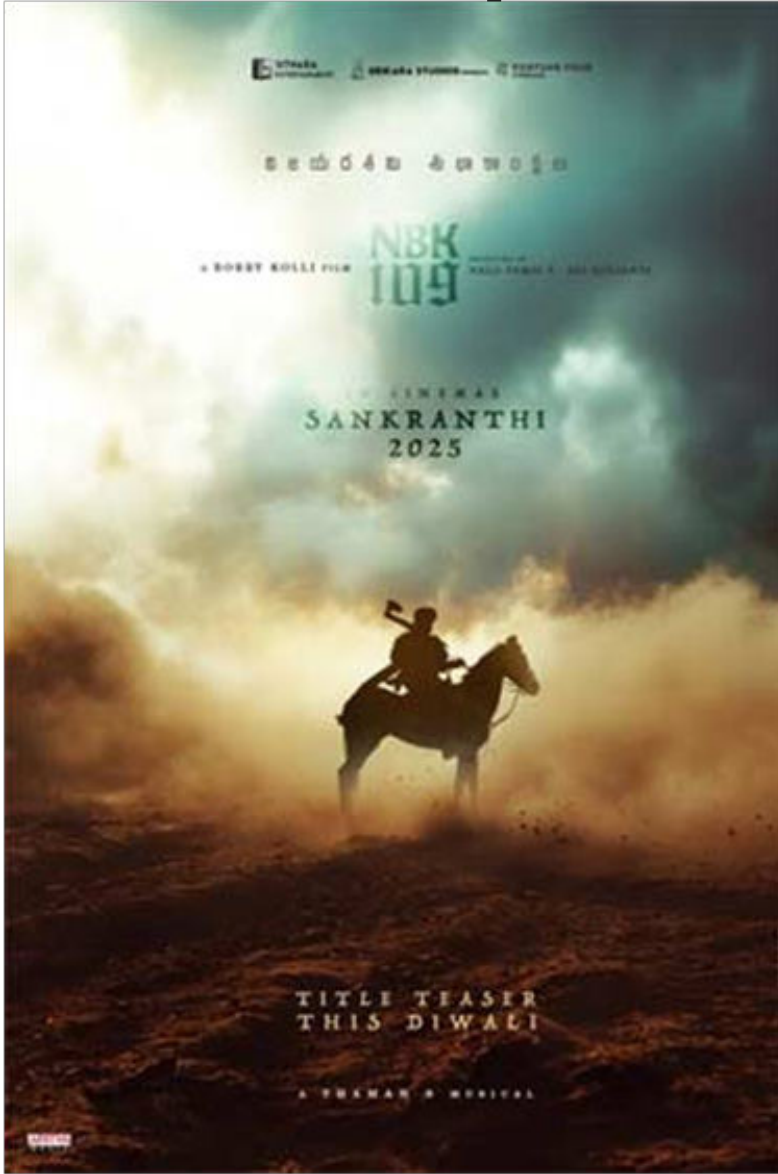
## Nandamuri Balakrishna's Next Film Title Anticipation

Nandamuri fans are currently celebrating the success of NTR's blockbuster "Devara," but their excitement doesn't stop there. The spotlight is now on Nandamuri Balakrishna, who is gearing up for a highly anticipated pan-India film. Fans are eagerly awaiting updates about this upcoming project, which has been shrouded in mystery for quite some time.

The buzz surrounding the film has been intense, particularly regarding its title. Numerous intriguing titles have surfaced over the past few years, with "Daku Maharaj" emerging as a frontrunner. However, recent reports suggest that this title may not be the final choice. As anticipation continues to mount, fans are left wondering what the actual title will be.

While "Daku Maharaj" may have caught the public's imagination, many other titles have been rumored, but none have been officially confirmed yet. Fans are keen to learn more about the film's title and storyline, and they will have to wait a little longer for any concrete information. The film is being produced by the well-known Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, ensuring that high production values will accompany the exciting narrative.

The music for this much-anticipated project is being composed by the talented Thaman, adding another layer of excitement for fans who appreciate his work. Given Balakrishna's stature and the film's production team, expectations are sky-high for what this movie will deliver.



Scheduled for release as a Sankranti gift next year, this film promises to be a significant event in the Indian cinema landscape. As fans wait with bated breath for more updates, one thing is clear: the combination of Balakrishna's star power and a captivating story will undoubtedly make this project one to watch. Stay tuned for further announcements, as this movie is sure to generate even more buzz in the coming days.

## Victory Venkatesh's Next Film: Dubbing Begins for "Venky Anil 3"

Victory Venkatesh is currently collaborating with renowned commercial director Anil Ravipudi on an exciting new film, tentatively titled "Venky Anil 3." The production team has recently announced that they are commencing the dubbing work for this much-anticipated project. A video clip shared from the dubbing studio has captured the attention of netizens, showcasing the enthusiasm of Venkatesh, Aishwarya Rajesh, and the rest of the cast. The footage appears to be from an upbeat song, further heightening anticipation for the film.

According to the production team, a substantial 90 percent of the shooting has been wrapped up. The film promises to blend Venkatesh's undeniable charm with Anil Ravipudi's signature comedic flair, a combination that fans have eagerly come to love. As excitement builds, the title and the first look poster of the film are expected to be revealed soon, adding to the growing buzz.

In addition to Venkatesh, the film features talented actresses Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh in lead roles. The cast also includes notable actors such as Upendra Limaye, Rajendra Prasad, Sai Kumar, and Naresh, who will play pivotal roles in this ensemble. With such a diverse and skilled cast, expectations are high for both the performances and the storyline.



The film is being produced by Dil Raju under the prestigious banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations, ensuring that it has the backing of a well-respected production house. Set to compete in the 2025 Sankranti race, the film is generating significant interest among fans and industry insiders alike. While the specific release date remains unclear, the excitement surrounding "Venky Anil 3" continues to grow, leaving fans eager for more updates in the coming weeks.

The horror genre film "Demonte Colony 2," which garnered attention with its theatrical release in Tamil and Telugu, is set to make waves on television. Directed by R. Ajay Gnanamuthu, the movie features Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead female role, alongside Arul Nithi in a significant part. While the film received a mixed response in theaters, it has found a receptive audience on OTT platforms, indicating its potential for further success.

Mark your calendars, as the world television premiere of "Demonte Colony 2" is scheduled for October 31 at 3 PM on Zee Telugu, just in time to celebrate Diwali. This festive timing aims to attract viewers looking for a thrilling experience during the holiday. It will be interesting to see how audiences respond to the film in its television debut, especially given the mixed reviews it received in cinemas.

The original "Demonte Colony," released as a short film in 2015, was a tremendous box of-

office success, setting high expectations for the sequel. The first installment captivated audiences with its engaging storyline and spooky elements, and fans are hopeful that the sequel will deliver a similar impact.

In addition to Priya Bhavani Shankar and Arul Nithi, the sequel features performances from a talented cast, including Arunpandian, Muthukumar, Meenakshi Govindarajan, and Archana Ravichandran. With a robust ensemble and a gripping narrative, "Demonte Colony 2" aims to build on the legacy of its predecessor.

As the premiere date approaches, anticipation continues to grow, and viewers are eager to see if "Demonte Colony 2" can replicate its predecessor's success on the small screen. Will it resonate with the television audience as it did in the theaters? Only time will tell as fans prepare for a thrilling Diwali gift filled with chills and excitement.

## Demonte Colony 2: TV Premiere Set for Diwali Celebration



## People's Media Factory Announces New Mythological Epic: Ranamandala

People's Media Factory has emerged as a dominant force in the Telugu film industry, renowned for producing content-driven films that resonate with audiences. Under the leadership of producer TG Vishwa Prasad, the banner has carved out a niche by exploring various genres, rather than sticking to just big-budget ventures. With projects like "Rajasaab" and "G2" already in the pipeline, the studio is set to make waves once again with an exciting new announcement.



The latest addition to their impressive lineup is "Ranamandala," a grand mythological film that promises to delve into the captivating story of Hanuman. Along with the title reveal, the makers have released a visually striking motion poster that hints at the epic scale and rich narrative that fans can expect. The artwork suggests a film steeped in mythology, and the excitement surrounding this project is palpable.

While specific details regarding the cast and director remain under wraps, People's Media Factory has assured fans that information will

be disclosed soon. This has led to speculation and anticipation among moviegoers, eager to learn which stars will bring this mythological saga to life and who will be steering the project creatively.

The choice to explore a mythological theme aligns with the current trend in Indian cinema, where audiences are increasingly drawn to stories rooted in cultural heritage and folklore. With "Ranamandala," People's Media Factory aims to blend traditional narratives with modern storytelling techniques, potentially setting a new benchmark in the genre.

As the production company continues to innovate and diversify its offerings, "Ranamandala" stands out as a promising venture that is expected to captivate audiences when it finally hits theaters. Fans and industry insiders alike are keenly awaiting further announcements, which will undoubtedly shed more light on this ambitious project. With a strong track record and a commitment to quality, People's Media Factory is poised to deliver yet another remarkable cinematic experience.

## 'Bagheera' Completes Censor Process, Set for Release

Kannada star director Prashanth Neel is all set to delight audiences with his latest film, "Bagheera," which is poised for a major release as a Diwali gift. Starring popular Kannada hero Sree Murali, the film has already generated considerable buzz through its striking posters, teasers, and trailers, all of which have received positive feedback from fans. The excitement surrounding the film is palpable, and the team is now gearing up for its grand launch in Telugu as well.

The action thriller "Bagheera" has recently completed its censor work, earning a U/A certificate from the board. This rating suggests that the film is suitable for a wide audience, making it accessible to families while still delivering thrilling content. The makers are confident that this film, crafted as a complete action-packed experience, will resonate with viewers from all demographics.

Directed by Dr. Suri, "Bagheera" promises to deliver an engaging narrative filled with adrena-

line-pumping sequences. The film features the talented Rukmini Vasanth in the female lead role, adding to the film's appeal. Known for her strong performances, Rukmini is expected to complement Sree Murali's charisma effectively.

Produced by Hombale Films, a production house renowned for its high-quality projects, "Bagheera" also boasts a compelling soundtrack composed by Ajanish Loknath. The music is anticipated to elevate the film's dramatic moments and contribute to its overall impact.

As the release date approaches, anticipation continues to grow, with fans eagerly awaiting what Prashanth Neel has in store. With its combination of action, strong performances, and engaging storytelling, "Bagheera" aims to make a significant mark during the festive season. Will it live up to the high expectations? Only time will tell as viewers prepare to experience this thrilling cinematic offering this Diwali.

