

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33 °C

L 25 °C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35 °C

L 26 °C

TIRUPATHI

H 36 °C

L 26 °C



DCM Pawan Kalyan Leads Efforts to Combat Pollution in AP

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a bid to tackle the escalating pollution levels in Andhra Pradesh, the Deputy Chief Minister convened a significant meeting with officials from the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board at the camp office in Mangalagiri this afternoon. The discussion aimed at formulating a strategic approach to combat environmental degradation in the state.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed that rising pollution poses serious health risks to residents and threatens the state's natural resources. He urged officials to create a comprehensive road map for pollution control that addresses both immediate and long-term challenges.

The meeting covered crucial aspects of pollution management, including air and water quality monitoring, waste management, and public awareness initiatives. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for collaboration among government departments, local authorities, and communities to achieve effective results in reducing pollution.

Moreover, he proposed organizing a national workshop focused on pollution control, aimed at bringing together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the country. This initiative is designed to share best practices and innovative solutions for effective pollution management.

Mr. Krishnaiah, the Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board (retired IAS officer), participated actively in the discussions, providing valuable insights into the current pollution landscape and the challenges faced by the board.

The meeting underscores the state government's commitment to improving environmental conditions and ensuring a healthier future for its citizens. With collaborative efforts between the Deputy Chief Minister and the Pollution Control Board, Andhra Pradesh aims to address pollution comprehensively and sustainably, setting a precedent for other states to follow.

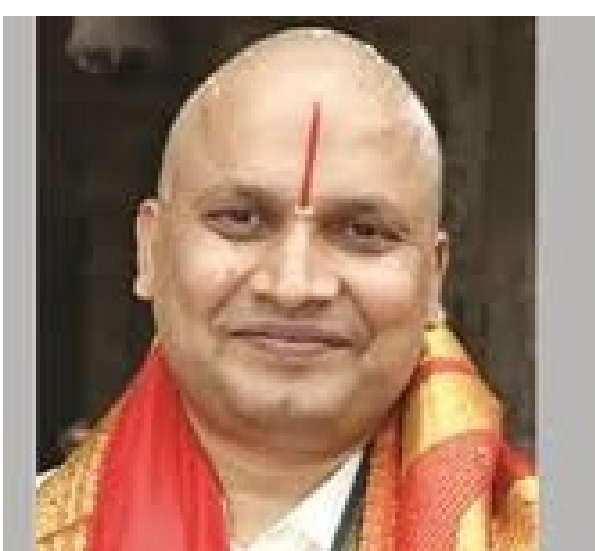
Supreme Court Has Highlighted Chandrababu's True Nature - Jagan



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In response to the Supreme Court's recent verdict in the Tirupati Laddu adulteration case, YCP president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy held a media conference, accusing TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu of exploiting the issue for political gain. Jagan asserted that the Supreme Court has exposed Chandrababu's true nature, highlighting how the TDP leader manipulated the religious controversy for political purposes.

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NOT ONLY ADULTERATION, THERE WAS A BIG SCAM... IT SEEMS



TPN,Andhra Pradesh: All eyes are on the allegations of adulteration of ghee used in making laddu prasadam, as per the statements of Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan. The Supreme Court has ordered an SIT inquiry, which consists of representatives from the CBI, AP Police, and FSSAI experts. However, behind this, it seems there is a bigger scam.

As per the records, it was **AR Foods Pvt. Limited** that supplied adulterated ghee to **TTD**. But according to a buzz, the ghee was actually supplied by **Sri Vaishnavi Dairy**, which allegedly labeled it as **AR Dairy**. This was mentioned in the Supreme Court proceedings as well. But why did AR Dairy cooperate with this, and why would Sri Vaishnavi Dairy do that? Our investigation found a few unconfirmed answers to these questions.

According to sources, **Mr. Sekhar Reddy of Jayaprakash Power (JP)** has links with AR

Foods. Sekhar Reddy is well known for his strong connections with political parties in both Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Recently, his company secured the sand mining contract from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Allegedly, Sekhar Reddy played a key role in brokering the deal between AR Dairy and Sri Vaishnavi Dairy. He is known for switching allegiance between the two major Tamil Nadu parties, DMK and AIADMK. Similarly, he has shifted between TDP and YCP in Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, the ED raided his premises and seized large amounts of gold, currency, and other assets.

The TDP government appointed him to the TTD Board, but after the ED case, he was removed. Later, he was reinstated as a special invitee to the TTD Board and also appointed as Chairman of the Legal Advisory Committee of TTD by the same TDP government. After the power shift in Andhra Pradesh in 2019, he was given the sand mining contract, which is his core business. Under the

banner of JP, he has conducted extensive business, and many allegations have been leveled against the company.

Now, the question is why **Sri Vaishnavi Dairy** was involved. **Mr. Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy** and **Mr. Bhumana Karunakar Reddy**, senior leaders of **YCP** and influential figures in the **Tirupati region** and **TTD**, are reportedly key players behind **Sri Vaishnavi Dairy**. Although their names do not appear on official documents, sources claim that they used **Sri Vaishnavi Dairy** to conduct business through **AR Dairy**. Allegedly, they earned substantial sums through this modus operandi. It is said that for this reason, **Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy's** government opted for reverse tendering, bypassing **Nandini Dairy**, and finalized **AR Dairy**. However, they are suspected of conducting business through **Sri Vaishnavi Dairy**. The Special SIT needs to investigate these claims, which have been widely circulating on social media.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Presents Silk Clothes to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Brahmotsavam



TPN, Tirumala: On the first day of the Tirumala Srivari Salakatl Brahmotsavam, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu presented silk clothes to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the state government. The ceremonial offering took place on Friday night, with the silk clothes carried on a silver platter.

The Chief Minister, along with his family, began the visit by offering special prayers at the Sri Bedi Anjaneyaswamy temple. Following the prayers, the CM's procession, accompanied by mangala instruments, proceeded to the Srivari temple. Upon arrival, Chandrababu Naidu and his family were warmly welcomed by TTD Executive Officer (EO) Shyamala Rao and Additional EO CH Venkaiah Chaudhary.

The CM and his family then paid their respects at the temple's flagpole before offering prayers to Lord Venkateswara. They also visited several other sanctums, including Vakulamata, Vimana Venkateswara Swamy, Bhashyakarla Sannidhi, and Yoga Narasimha Swamy.

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Matter of Faith- SC Orders For Independent SIT

TPN, New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ordered an independent probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the allegations of using animal fat in laddoos served as prasad at the Tirupati temple. The SIT will comprise two CBI officers, two state police officials, and a senior officer from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the central food regulator.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan stated that they do not want political drama over this issue since it is a matter of faith for crores of devotees across the world. The allegations have the potential to hurt the sentiments of people globally, the bench said, but it did not delve into the political charges.

"We clarify that we have not gone into allegations and counter-allegations in either plea. We will not permit the court to be used as a political battleground. To assuage the feelings of crores of people, we find that an investigation by an



independent SIT consisting of representatives from the state police, CBI, and FSSAI shall be conducted. We also direct that the investigation be carried out under the direction of the CBI," said Justice Gavai.

The case stems from an allegation by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that animal fat was used in the making of the lad-

doos at the temple during the previous regime led by Jagan Mohan Reddy. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the center, told the court that the situation was unacceptable since devotees from across the country visit the temple, and there are food safety concerns as well.

"Nobody doubts it's a very serious matter if there is substance in the allegations," observed Justice Gavai. After Mr. Mehta submitted that there was nothing wrong with the state SIT investigating the charges and that it could be supervised by a central officer, the court ordered an independent SIT probe to be conducted under the CBI director.

"FSSAI is the most expert apex body in matters of testing food. We don't want this to turn into political drama. If there is an independent body, there will be confidence," said Justice Gavai.

Chandrababu Naidu had last month flagged a report from a government-run lab that indicat-

ed samples from the ghee used for making the laddoos at the temple contained traces of beef tallow, fish oil, and pig fat. At least two tankers supplying ghee to the temple were found to be adulterated.

The charges sparked a massive political controversy, with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan repeatedly calling for a pan-India committee to protect 'sanatan dharma' and even undergoing an 11-day penance. Former Chief Minister Jagan Reddy denied the report as "false" and accused Mr. Naidu of "using faith for politics."

Meanwhile, the temple authorities have accused their ghee supplier of exploiting the temple's lack of in-house food testing facilities, which made it impossible to conduct routine quality checks. The Tamil Nadu-based dairy firm that supplied ghee to Tirumala in June and July claimed that its consignments had cleared lab tests and that it had documentation to support its assertions.



CM Chandrababu Naidu Presents Silk Clothes to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala Brahmotsavam

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After the darshan, Vedic scholars chanted Vedic mantras and blessed the Chief Minister and his family in the Ranganayakula Mandapam. TTD EO Shyamala Rao later presented the Chief Minister with Srivari Theertha Prasadam.

The event was also attended by State Debt and Charities Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, along with officials including State Debt Commissioner Sattyannarayana, Tirupati District Collector Venkateshwar, and Tirupati SP Subbaraidu.

In light of the Chief Minister's visit, tight security arrangements were made at Tirumala and along the route from Alipiri in Tirupati.

The offering of silk clothes by the state government is a time-honored tradition during the annual Brahmotsavam festivities at Tirumala.

CM Chandrababu Welcomes SC Ruling on Tirumala Laddu Adulteration



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed his approval of the Supreme Court's recent ruling to establish an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the Tirumala laddu adulteration case. The Supreme Court ordered the formation of a five-member investigation team, consisting of two members from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), two from the state police, and one from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The decision was announced by Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan, emphasizing the need for an unbiased investigation into the allegations surrounding the famous Tirumala laddu, which is a significant offering in the Tirumala temple.

Responding to the verdict, CM Chandrababu

took to the social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), where he stated, "I welcome the order issued by the Supreme Court to form a SIT comprising CBI, AP Police, and FSSAI officials to investigate the Tirupati laddu adulteration case. Sattyameva Jayate. Om Namo Venkatesaya." His statement reflects the importance of transparency and accountability in addressing the serious allegations of adulteration that have caused concern among devotees and the public alike.

Chandrababu's endorsement of the Supreme Court's decision signifies the government's commitment to ensuring justice and maintaining the sanctity of the Tirumala temple. As the investigation progresses, many are hopeful that the truth will emerge, reinforcing the trust of the public in the revered religious practices and offerings at Tirumala.

Why Is Subbareddy Afraid of Vigilance Inquiry?



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita has raised concerns over YV Subbareddy's apprehension about a vigilance inquiry, following the Supreme Court's decision to establish an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the Tirumala Srivari Laddu adulteration case.

Reacting to the Supreme Court's ruling, Home Minister

Anita welcomed the verdict, stating, "The laddoo case is a deeply sentimental matter for devotees, and the state government took necessary steps when allegations of adulteration surfaced." She also emphasized that the court's decision to form an independent SIT, composed of officials from the CBI and the state police, would bring clarity to the case.

Anita took a direct jab at YCP leaders, particularly YV Subbareddy, questioning why he seems apprehensive about the vigilance investigation. "Those who have done no wrong should not be afraid. Why is Subbareddy afraid of the inquiry?" she asked, highlighting that the Supreme Court had also pointed to this issue in its proceedings.

She further clarified that the Supreme Court's order for a SIT investigation was a significant step toward revealing the truth behind the allegations. "With this independent inquiry, the facts will be out in the open for everyone to see," Anita asserted, reinforcing the importance of transparency in resolving the matter.

The Supreme Court's decision, which was delivered earlier today, is aimed at uncovering the truth behind the alleged adulteration of the Tirumala Srivari laddus, a matter of religious and cultural significance for millions of devotees.

Union Steel Minister Kumaraswamy Denies Congress Allegations on Visakh Steel Plant Privatization



TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Union Steel Minister Kumaraswamy has refuted the Congress party's allegations regarding the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. In response to Congress general secretary KC Venugopal's claims on X (formerly Twitter) that contract employees were dismissed as part of a privatization strategy, Kumaraswamy categorically denied the accusations, calling them baseless and untrue.

Addressing the issue on Thursday, Kumaraswamy clarified that the 4,200 contract workers who were laid off on September 27 were reinstated within 48 hours, on September 29, after the matter came to his attention. He emphasized that the allegations of the NDA government selling the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant were unfounded and misleading.

Kumaraswamy further explained that the management of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), which oversees the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, had already made efforts to

resolve the issue. The passes of 3,700 contract workers, which had been canceled, are now in the process of being restored through an online system. Additionally, the biometric data of the affected workers will be reinstated soon.

The Union Minister criticized Congress for using the issue to gain political mileage, accusing them of exploiting the situation for vote bank politics. He reiterated that all parties involved in the discussions had agreed to continue providing necessary facilities, along with the existing gate pass system for workers.

Kumaraswamy also highlighted that the share value of public sector companies has increased significantly over the last three years due to better management practices. He urged Congress to refrain from making baseless claims and assured that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant would continue to operate efficiently without any plans for privatization.

YCP Urges GAD to Resolve Jagan Camp Office Furniture Issue

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP State General Secretary Lella Appireddy has sent another request to the General Administration Department (GAD) regarding the government-owned furniture at former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's camp office. Appireddy asked the GAD to either collect the furniture or provide the party with a cost estimate, stating that they are prepared to pay for it if necessary.

In his letter, Appireddy highlighted that this was not the first request. He previously wrote letters to GAD on June 15, June 19, July 1, and July 29, but no action has been taken. He mentioned that Ganesh Reddy, who is responsible for the party office, has also repeatedly approached the GAD, but without any resolution.

Appireddy questioned whether the

GAD genuinely intends to take the furniture back or is merely avoiding the issue. He urged the department to clarify the situation and, if they are unable to take back the furniture, to provide instructions on where it should be sent. He added that the furniture is causing a space shortage in their office and requested an immediate response from the GAD to resolve the matter.

Supreme Court Has Highlighted Chandrababu's True Nature - Jagan

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Jagan claimed that the Supreme Court understood the deceptive political tactics employed by the TDP and sent a clear message that religious matters should not be used for political drama. He criticized Chandrababu for tarnishing the sanctity of Tirumala and falsely alleging that animal fat was mixed in the sacred laddus offered at the temple. According to Jagan, Chandrababu's claims hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees, and the courts have now exposed this false narrative.

Jagan further pointed out that even the TTD Executive Officer (EVO) appointed during Chandrababu's tenure contradicted these allegations, which he claims were designed to provoke public outrage. "A person with any fear of

God or devotion would have apologized for spreading such false propaganda, but Chandrababu shows no remorse," Jagan stated.

He also took issue with TDP's continued misinformation on social media, accusing the party of distorting facts about the Supreme Court's stance on the issue. Jagan remarked, "Even after the Supreme Court has condemned Chandrababu's actions, TDP is still resorting to false propaganda, showing no fear of God or respect for the truth."

Jagan concluded by calling on Chandrababu to publicly apologize to the people for misleading them and exploiting religious sentiments for political advantage. He expressed disappointment at the level of dishonesty being propagated by the TDP.

Rains Expected in AP, IMD Predicts Low Pressure in Bay of Bengal

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced the possibility of a low-pressure system forming in the Bay of Bengal, which could bring rains to Andhra Pradesh. Officials have stated that the North-East Monsoons are currently strong and influencing weather patterns in Madhya Pradesh. This system is expected to move towards AP, bringing light to moderate rains across both Telugu states.

In Telugu states, light to heavy showers are expected in some areas starting from the evening of the 4th of

this month. Additionally, moderate rainfall is predicted in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Coastal Andhra and Uttarandhra areas are likely to experience rain during the night of the 4th, accompanied by winds blowing at speeds of 10 km/h and 15 km/h in AP.

Despite the rains, temperatures in both states remain high, with Telugu states seeing temperatures around 34°C and Andhra Pradesh reaching up to 36°C. Humidity levels are also high, with over 70% humidity in AP and more than 80% in Telangana. As the

night progresses, the humidity is expected to rise further. Light to heavy rains are anticipated throughout the week in both states.

Recently, Telugu states have been severely affected by rains and subsequent flooding. In Telangana, the Munneru River inundated Khammam town, while the Budameru River submerged parts of Vijayawada city in Andhra Pradesh. In response to the devastation, several celebrities and public figures have announced significant donations to aid flood victims in the two Telugu states.

You Have No Right to Speak on Lord Srinivasa - Payyavula Slams Jagan

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: In a recent media conference held at NTR Bhavan in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav accused YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy of dismantling the well-established system at Tirumala during his tenure as Chief Minister. He also criticized former TTD Chairman YV Subbareddy for making several mistakes during his term.

Keshav claimed that Jagan has no right to speak about Lord Venkateswara Swamy of Tirumala, remarking that Jagan's comments on Tirumala Vishishta are a result of "people's karma." He announced that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the Tirumala Laddu adulteration case would begin soon and that the truth would emerge in due time.

Highlighting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's reverence for Lord Ven-



kateswara, Keshav said that Naidu has publicly acknowledged that the deity blessed him with a new life (Punarjanma). He questioned why Jagan, amid desertion by his party's leaders, has not shown similar faith. Keshav criticized Jagan for not signing the declaration of faith when visiting Tirumala Hill.

Praising Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Ke-

shav noted that Kalyan's comments on Sanatana Dharma should spark wide discussion. He accused Jagan of destroying the strong system at Tirumala and claimed that YV Subbareddy had committed multiple errors during his time as TTD Chairman.

According to Keshav, Jagan's political influence in Andhra Pradesh is waning, and he is using Tirumala as a political tool to regain traction. He also alleged that during Jagan's tenure, commercial activities were prioritized at Tirumala, with room rates skyrocketing from Rs.150 to Rs.2,000. Furthermore, Kes-

hav claimed that the temple's revenue had dropped from Rs.250 crore to Rs.150 crore under Jagan's rule.

Concluding his remarks, Keshav stated that Jagan is distorting facts and creating false narratives about the NDA government and CM Chandrababu Naidu, adding that the people of Andhra Pradesh no longer believe Jagan's words.

Jagan Meeting with Key YCP Leaders



- **Supreme Court Verdict on Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Case**
- **Chief Jagan Met Key Party Leaders Regarding the Issue**
- **Senior Leaders Botla Satyanarayana and Kannababu Among Attendees**

Botla Satyanarayana and Kannababu, participated in the meeting. The discussions focused on the Supreme Court's order to conduct an inquiry through an independent agency.

In addition to the meeting, Jagan is scheduled to hold a media conference at 2 PM this afternoon, where the Supreme Court verdict is expected to be a central topic. It is known that CM Chandrababu Naidu has welcomed the court's decision, expressing his support for the formation of an independent Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the matter.

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: YCP chief and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy held a meeting with key leaders of the party to discuss the recent Supreme Court verdict on the Tirumala Laddu adulteration case.

Several senior leaders, including

Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Challenges Pawan Kalyan Over Tirupati Remarks

TPN, Tirupati: YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy delivered a sharp response to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's recent statements at the Varahi Declaration Sabha in Tirupati. Bhumana criticized Pawan's remarks, likening them to the behavior of a "drunken monkey."



Dharma?" Bhumana inquired. He also criticized Pawan for bringing his daughters to Tirumala after 14 years, whereas Sanatana Dharma traditions call for children to have their head shaved at the temple within nine months of birth.

Bhumana highlighted several initiatives taken during Chief Minister Jagan Mo-

han Reddy's tenure, including the establishment of Nitya Home at Alipiri, distribution of Bhagavad Gita to students, and the construction of 3,500 temples. He further addressed allegations of irregularities in the Srivani Trust, saying, "I am ready to face any punishment if there is wrongdoing."

Concluding his remarks, Bhumana accused Pawan of wearing a "mask of orthodoxy" for political gain and reiterated that empty accusations would not replace genuine devotion to Sanatana Dharma.

Pawan Kalyan had accused the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) of adulterating the famous Tirumala laddoos. In response, Bhumana issued a challenge to Pawan, urging him to swear by the feet of Lord Venkateswara if he truly believed the laddoos were tampered with. "We are ready for any punishment if there's proof of adulteration. Can you swear at Venkanna's feet?" Bhumana asked.

He also took aim at Pawan's claims of protecting Sanatana Dharma, questioning his understanding of the faith. "Does Pawan Swami even know the basics of Sanatana

Union Minister Srinivasa Varma Welcomes Supreme Court Verdict on Tirumala Laddu Controversy

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Union Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma has welcomed the Supreme Court's decision in the Tirumala Laddu adulteration case, emphasizing the importance of uncovering the truth. Addressing the media on Friday, Varma highlighted that the five-member committee appointed by the Supreme Court includes two members from the CBI, two from the state police department, and one from the food safety department. The court has directed that the facts in this case be fully revealed.



Tirumala, claiming that the Chief Minister's religious practices were inconsistent with Hindu traditions. Varma pointed out that the Hindu practice of offering silk clothes to Lord Venkateswara has been followed for generations. He criticized Jagan for offering silk clothes in what he called a "pagan" manner, suggesting that the CM's approach deviates from established norms.

Furthermore, Varma noted that Jagan's father, YS Rajasekhara Reddy, had also faced criticism for his treatment of Tirumala traditions,

Varma expressed concern over attacks on Hindu temples since YS Jagan Mohan Reddy became Chief Minister, criticizing the state government's inaction. He mentioned several incidents, including the desecration of temple chariots and the decapitation of a Rama statue, noting that no arrests were made in these cases. According to Varma, many Hindu temples have been treated disrespectfully under Jagan's administration.

He also took aim at Jagan's handling of rituals at

asking, "Is it not true that your father saw the seven hills as only two hills?"

Concluding, the Union Minister expressed satisfaction with the Supreme Court's decision to appoint a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprised of central and state officials to bring out the truth in the laddu controversy. He affirmed his belief that Jagan's government had made significant errors in this case.

Big Relief to Nandigam Suresh in TDP Office Attack Case

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: Former Baptist MP Nandigam Suresh, who was arrested in connection with the attack on the TDP office, received significant relief from the AP High Court. The High Court bench granted conditional bail to Suresh as well as to the husband of the former Mayor of Vijayawada.



Suresh was arrested by the AP Police in Hyderabad last month for his alleged involvement in the attack on the TDP party office. After his arrest, he was transferred to Guntur. Though he initially applied for anticipatory bail, the High Court did not grant relief at the time. The police conducted thorough checks before arresting him in Hyderabad. Upon being presented in court, he was remanded to judicial custody.

The police had filed a petition seeking to place Suresh in their custody for further interrogation to gather details about the attack. With the court's approval, Suresh was taken into custody for two days for questioning. After his remand ended yesterday, the police produced him in court, and his judicial remand was extended until the 17th of this month.

However, in a hearing yesterday, the AP High Court granted bail to Nandigam Suresh, providing him much-needed relief.

Pawan Kalyan Changed After Coming to Power – YS Sharmila

TPN, Andhra Pradesh: AP Congress President Y.S. Sharmila expressed her outrage at AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's comments on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Tirupati Varahi Sabha.

"Don't think that your power will be forever," Sharmila said, making it clear that Pawan's comments targeting Rahul Gandhi in the Tirupati Sabha were baseless and unacceptable under any circumstances. She added that the Congress party condemns the involvement of Rahul Gandhi in what she termed Pawan's "religious politics." Sharmila also demanded an unconditional apology from Pawan Kalyan to Rahul Gandhi.

"After coming to power, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's dress and language have both changed. Has the Jana Sena, which was once a secular party, now turned into a right-wing party? While holding a responsible position, wearing the attire of one religion and emphasizing that religion as important—does this not make you feel insecure about other religions? Are there no other religions involved in elections? Don't people of other religions vote? Don't they have feelings?"



Sharmila went on to say, "If the ideology of the RSS is to politicize religion, then Pawan Kalyan has become a double agent for that ideology. Acting under PM Modi's direction, you have no moral ground to speak about Rahul Gandhi."

She continued, "Wasn't it the BJP that was responsible for the massacres in Godhra and Manipur? How can you expect people to believe that such a party stands for secularism? Rahul Gandhi walked thousands of kilometers to promote love, equality, and brotherhood in the country. It is not appropriate to make such comments about a person like him—don't lower yourself to that level," Sharmila clarified.

Udayanidhi Stalin Reacts to Pawan Kalyan's Comments on Sanatana Dharma

TPN, Tamil Nadu: Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udayanidhi Stalin responded to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan's comments that "no one can eradicate Sanatana Dharma." As Udayanidhi was about to board his car, media representatives questioned him about Pawan Kalyan's remarks. In response, Udayanidhi simply said, "Wait and see."



Udayanidhi Stalin's earlier comments comparing Sanatana Dharma to diseases like dengue and malaria had sparked nationwide controversy. Many political leaders and parties, including the BJP, expressed outrage over his statements. During a recent speech related to the Tirumala Laddu controversy,

Pawan Kalyan also addressed criticism against Sanatana Dharma, directly countering Udayanidhi's earlier remarks.

The AP Deputy CM declared that no one can eradicate Sanatana Dharma, adding, "If someone tries to do so, they will be washed away." He emphasized his identity as a Sanatana Hindu, asserting that while critics may come and go, Sanatana Dharma will endure forever.

Navigating The Turbulent Years Of Teenage And Young Adulthood

In today's rapidly changing world, teenagers and young adults face a complex web of challenges. As a biochemist and psychologist turned mentor, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles young people endure, from physical changes to digital distractions. These years, marked by profound morphological shifts, emotional upheavals, and the pressure to succeed, are formative yet fragile. It is during this stage of life that young minds must be particularly focused and driven. Without guidance, the very traits that should help them thrive can instead become stumbling blocks.

The Physical and Psychological Storm

Teenage years are synonymous with rapid physiological changes. The onset of puberty triggers an array of hormonal shifts, an explosion of growth hormones, testosterone, and Estrogen, which fundamentally alters a young person's physical and mental landscape. Mood swings, irritability, and confusion often accompany these changes, making it hard for teens to concentrate or maintain motivation. The pressure to conform to societal standards of beauty or masculinity further complicates matters. It's no wonder that many young people feel lost, as if they're adrift in a sea of conflicting expectations and internal chaos.

At the same time, the brain undergoes significant development, particularly in areas responsible for decision-making, impulse control, and emotional regulation. For parents, this can be one of the most frustrating periods, as their teens may seem irrational or prone to risky behaviours. But rather than seeing these years as a time of rebellion, it's crucial to recognize that this is a period when young adults are learning to make sense of their new bodies and emerging identities.

The Double-Edged Sword of Technology

Alongside these biological challenges comes the additional hurdle of technology. In a world dominated by smartphones, social media, and endless online entertainment, teens and young adults are more distracted than ever. The allure of the digital world often pulls them away from academic goals, career planning, and even face-to-face interactions. Studies show that the average teenager spends around seven hours a day on screens, most of it on non-educational activities.

While technology can be a powerful tool for learning and creativity, it can also lead to decreased focus, anxiety, and poor time management. The constant bombardment of notifications and social comparisons can foster feelings of inadequacy, and in extreme cases, even depression.

In such an environment, the ability to stay focused is no longer just a skill, it's a necessity for success.

Why teens need mentors



Fouzia Tarannum
Mentor and Guide for Teens and Young Adults

This is where mentorship becomes vital. As a mentor, my role is to provide the structure and support that young people need to navigate these turbulent years. Successful individuals, whether in academics, sports, or the arts, often credit their mentors for helping them stay grounded.

Take, for example, the mentorship that shaped the life of Oprah Winfrey, who attributes much of her success to her early mentor, author Maya Angelou. Mentors offer guidance, provide emotional support, and, most importantly, help young adults channel their energy in positive directions.

Three Pieces of Advice for Today's Youth

Master Your Time

Time management is one of the most important skills to develop. Whether it's blocking out time for study, creative pursuits, or relaxation, managing your time ensures you remain focused on long-term goals.

Mind Your Mental Health

The pressures of adolescence and young adulthood are immense. Don't ignore signs of burnout, anxiety, or depression. Seek help, whether through friends, family, or professionals. Mental well-being is the foundation upon which success is built.

Limit Digital Distractions

Technology can either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Learn to set boundaries. Engage with the digital world meaningfully, but don't let it consume you. Use it to enhance your knowledge, not detract from it.

Eventually, Teenagers and young adults are at a critical juncture in life, where the decisions they make now can set the trajectory for their future. The combination of biological changes, societal pressures, and digital distractions makes it easy to lose focus. But with the right mindset, proper time management, and the guidance of a mentor, they can harness this chaotic energy and channel it toward success. The goal is not just to succeed academically or financially, but to build a well-rounded, fulfilling life. And that is a challenge worth taking on.

MLA Venigandla Ramu Works Towards Development in Gudivada



TPN, Gudivada: Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu has emphasized his commitment to addressing public issues and ensuring the development of his constituency. Speaking at a public forum organized in Dondapadu village, Gudivada rural mandal, the MLA shared that he has met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu nine times to discuss development plans for the region. He assured villagers that CM Chandrababu is positive about Gudivada's progress.

At the public forum, MLA Ramu personally interacted with villagers, listening to their grievances and receiving petitions. He immediately began working with local officials to address the concerns raised. Villagers expressed satisfaction with the MLA's swift response to their problems, thanking him for his dedication.

MLA Ramu stated that he aims to provide clean drinking water to every village in the constituency within the next five years. He also mentioned his in-depth understanding of local issues, as he has visited every household and village in the constituency. The MLA is focused on planning and executing development strategies for the area.

During the event, MLA Ramu hoisted the TDP flag and reiterated his commitment to the implementation of the Super 6 schemes under CM Chandrababu's leadership. He stressed that the NDA alliance government is working hard to ensure the state's progress and the betterment of Gudivada.

Several officials and local leaders, including Gudivada RDO G. Balasubramaniam, TDP leaders, and a large number of villagers, participated in the event, showing their support for the MLA's initiatives. The MLA's efforts towards addressing public concerns and ensuring the development of Gudivada continue to gain positive reception from the community.

Tammireddy Siva Shankar Rao Assumes Office as Chairman of Vijayawada AP MSME Development Corporation



TPN, Vijayawada: Tammireddy Siva Shankar Rao has officially assumed office as the Chairman of the Vijayawada AP MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) Development Corporation. In his speech, Rao expressed his gratitude to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for entrusting him with this important role.

Highlighting the significance of MSMEs in India, Rao noted that these enterprises provide employment to around 11 crore people across the country. He further emphasized the importance of the MSME sector in Andhra Pradesh, where the alliance government has committed to creating 20 lakh jobs. Rao stated that the MSME Development Corporation will play a critical role in achieving this goal by contributing a substantial share towards job creation.

Rao also stressed the need to encourage the youth to focus on entrepreneurship and job creation, viewing it as a crucial step towards the overall economic development of the state. Under his leadership, the corporation aims to provide more opportunities for young people and strengthen the MSME sector in Andhra Pradesh.



Durbar Parade Conducted by SP R. Gangadhara Rao in Krishna District

TPN, Machilipatnam: A Durbar Parade was held by District Superintendent of Police (SP) Shri R. Gangadhara Rao IPS, where the personnel of the Armed Reserve (AR), Special Party, and Home Guards showcased their discipline and dedication. The event, aimed at addressing the concerns and welfare of the personnel, saw SP Gangadhara Rao as the chief guest.

The parade began with SP Rao receiving a salute from Parade Commander Admin RI Satish Kumar, along with AR Additional SP (In-Charge Admin) SVD Prasad. The SP thoroughly inspected the turnout of every participating officer and personnel, rewarding those with exceptional appearance and neatness.

In his address, SP Rao commended the AR, Special Party, and Home Guards for their exemplary work in recent incidents involving law and order challenges in the district. He highlighted the significant contribution of Home Guards, noting that they perform duties equally alongside Civil and AR personnel.

SP Rao emphasized that the welfare of police personnel is his top priority, ensuring that every problem faced by them will be addressed. He urged all personnel to focus on their health, advocating for regular exercise, yoga, and participation in sports. Medical camps and health checkups will be organized for the well-being of the staff, and he encouraged them to utilize health security schemes for any medical concerns. The SP also reminded the personnel of the importance of discipline, especially for AR officers, whose duties are both delicate and crucial. He assured that any instance of indiscipline would be dealt with immediately to maintain the integrity of the police force.

A. Mohan Takes Charge as NTR District DTC, Vows to Reduce Road Accidents

TPN, Vijayawada: A. Mohan has officially taken charge as the Deputy Transport Commissioner (DTC) of NTR district, with a focus on reducing road accidents and improving services for the public. Speaking at the DTC office on Bandar Road, Mohan emphasized the importance of implementing new strategies to minimize accidents across the district.

Mohan highlighted the need for officers and employees in the district to work in coordination to achieve this goal. He also stressed the importance of addressing public requests, such as new vehicle registrations, in a timely manner, ensuring

that the department provides efficient services to the people of the district.

Yam Rajubabu, Zonal President of the AP Transport Department Employees Union, met with DTC Mohan to congratulate him on his new role. Rajubabu shared past work experiences with Mohan, expressing confidence in his leadership and ability to improve transport services in the district.

Under Mohan's leadership, the transport department aims to enhance road safety and ensure that public needs are met promptly and effectively.





HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS BJP SEEKS HISTORIC WIN CONGRESS EYES A COMEBACK



Haryana is all set to go to the polls on October 5, with 90 assembly seats up for grabs. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is aiming for an unprecedented third consecutive term, while the Congress is determined to stage a comeback, leveraging widespread discontent stemming from anti-incumbency, the Agniveer scheme, and protests by farmers, wrestlers, and youth. Results will be declared on October 8, setting the stage for a high-stakes political battle.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alliance made significant inroads, leading in 46 assembly segments. Although Congress is contesting alone this time, the party hopes to replicate that success in the state elections, banking on the support of Haryana's influential Jat community.

The Candidate Landscape



A total of 1,031 candidates are contesting this year. The BJP has fielded candidates in all 90 seats, while Congress is contesting 89. Other notable parties in the fray include the AAP (89 candidates), the CPI(M) (1 candidate), and the Indian National Lok Dal-Bahujan Samaj Party (INLD-BSP) alliance, which has put forth 86 candidates. The Jannayak Janta Party-Azad Samaj Party (JJP-ASP) alliance has 79 candidates in the race. Additionally, 120 candidates from smaller parties and 477 independents are contesting this year. The number of independents is notably high, attributed to rebels from major parties—19 from the BJP and 29 from the Congress.

Compared to the 2019 elections, when 1,169 candidates were in the fray, the average number of candidates per seat has decreased from 13 to 11.5 in 2024. Among key regions, the Ahirwal (Gurugram) and Braj (Faridabad) belts, both BJP strongholds, see more than 11.5 candidates per seat, indicating fierce competition. Hisar has the highest number of candidates (21), while Kalawali and Nangal Chaudhary have the fewest, with just five candidates each.

A Close Contest Expected



In the 2019 Haryana Assembly polls, the margins were razor-thin, with 25 seats decided by less than 5,000 votes. Of these, the BJP won nine, Congress secured 12, and the JJP and other parties claimed two each. Additionally, in 53 cases, the second runner-up received more votes than the winning margin, underscoring the highly competitive nature of the state's politics.

Historically, Haryana's electoral battles have evolved from bipolar contests between the Congress and the INLD in the early 2000s to triangular ones involving the BJP, Congress, and INLD by 2014. In 2019, the competition further shifted, with the JJP emerging as a significant player alongside the Congress and BJP.

Of the last three assembly elections, two (2009 and 2019) produced hung assemblies, where smaller parties and independents played a crucial role in government formation. In 2009, the Congress formed a government with the help of independents, while the BJP allied with the JJP in 2019 to form a coalition. This trend could repeat in 2024, as fragmented vote shares across multiple parties have kept the possibility of a hung assembly alive.

Caste Dynamics in Play



Caste continues to be a decisive factor in Haryana's politics. The BJP has fielded 35 candidates from the general category (Brahmins, Rajputs, Punjabi Khatri, Baniyas), while the Congress has placed its bet on the Jat community, nominating 29 Jat candidates. The BJP is targeting the general category and OBC voters, while Congress is focusing on consolidating its support among Jats, SCs, and Muslims.

In the 2024 general elections, the INDIA bloc, which includes Congress and AAP, performed well among OBCs, SCs, and Jats, receiving 51%, 68%, and 62% of their votes, respectively. Congress also enjoyed strong backing from women (49%), youth (47%), and farmers (61%), giving the party a solid foundation to build upon in the state polls.

BJP's Concerns



The BJP faces a challenging electoral landscape. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party led in 79 assembly segments, but this dropped to just 40 seats in the assembly polls held six months later. Moreover, its vote share plummeted from 58% to 37%, highlighting the difficulty of converting national-level success into state-level victories.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have ramped up their campaign efforts in the final stretch, seeking to nationalize the Haryana polls and minimize the impact of vote-splitting candidates. While national issues have often overshadowed local concerns in past elections, the Congress appears more confident this time, buoyed by Rahul's increasing political stature.

The BJP, on the other hand, hopes that independent candidates and smaller parties will split the anti-incumbency vote, giving it a better shot at retaining power.

As Haryana heads into this crucial election, the results will serve as a key indicator of the BJP's future trajectory and whether the Congress can convert its Lok Sabha momentum into a state-level resurgence.

PM Modi Introduced The PM Internship Scheme

The Modi government has unveiled the PM Internship Scheme, targeting approximately 10 million young individuals over the next five years. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced this initiative during the Union Budget for the financial year 2024-25.

Under the scheme, each intern will receive a monthly allowance of ₹5,000, along with an additional lump sum of ₹6,000 after one year. The official website for the PM Internship Scheme went live on Thursday, marking a significant step in the rollout of this program.

The government has confirmed that the scheme will adhere to reservation policies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes candidates. Registration for the scheme will open on October 12



set to commence on December 2 and last for 13 months.

Of the ₹5,000 stipend, ₹500 will be contributed by participating companies as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, while the remaining ₹4,500 will be covered by the government. The estimated budget for this pilot project is around ₹800 crore, with advertisements already released in various regional languages to promote the scheme.

The government aims to maximize internship opportunities in the candidates' home districts. Eligible applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 24 and have completed their 10th-grade exams, holding a valid certificate and mark sheet. Reports indicate that 111 companies from the top 500 have already registered for the program.

Union Minister Amit Shah Announces Expansion of Medical Seats



Union Minister Amit Shah announced plans to increase the number of medical seats in India by 75,000 over the next decade, aiming to enhance healthcare facilities across the country. Speaking at the inauguration of the Hiramani Arogyadham hospital in Adalaj village, near Ahmedabad, Shah highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comprehensive approach to improving healthcare.

Shah detailed the various initiatives that Modi has championed, starting with the Swachhta Abhiyan, a cleanliness campaign aimed at reducing disease prevalence. He emphasized the government's focus on providing clean drinking water and building toilets in every household, which are crucial steps in preventing waterborne diseases. Shah also noted the promotion of Yoga and the introduction of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which offers free medical treatment of up to ₹5 lakh for eligible citizens.

To enhance the effectiveness of the Ayushman Bharat initiative, the government has prioritized upgrading primary and community health centers, as well as establishing new medical colleges nationwide. Shah pointed out that each new medical college will be equipped with a hospital that includes 14 essential departments, further strengthening the healthcare infrastructure.

In addition to increasing medical education capacity, Shah mentioned the government's plan to create a network of government-run pharmacies that will provide affordable generic medicines to the public. This is part of the Centre's broader strategy to ensure accessible and quality healthcare for all citizens.



Will Quit Politics If BJP Proves Even Inch Of Land: Bhupinder Hooda

In a strong counter-offensive, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda addressed allegations from the BJP regarding land deals during his tenure, particularly concerning Robert Vadra, husband of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Speaking to reporters in Karnal, Hooda stated that if the BJP could provide evidence that any government land was given to Vadra, he would resign from politics.

The BJP has long claimed that Vadra benefitted from land deals during the Congress regime, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah frequently mentioning these accusations in their campaigns. Hooda, however, refuted these claims, asserting, "I challenge them to give details of the land. The Congress did not give even an inch of government land to Robert Vadra."

Hooda criticized the BJP for using the issue as a political tool, suggesting they have no substantial issues to address. He emphasized his family's legacy, citing his grandfather's role as a freedom fighter and his father's contributions to the Constitution alongside B.R. Ambedkar. The former chief minister also condemned the current BJP-led government, which has been in power in Haryana since 2014, for its record of violence and alleged police brutality. He claimed that under BJP rule, 78 individuals have been killed by police, citing the violence during the Dera Sacha Sauda incident in Panchkula in 2017, where 40 people lost their lives, many of whom were reportedly from Dalit communities.

Maharashtra Legislators Stage Dramatic Protest by Jumping from Mantralaya



On Friday, the Maharashtra state secretariat in Mumbai witnessed a dramatic protest as Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal and three other legislators jumped from the third floor in opposition to the potential inclusion of the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. The group, which included a BJP MP, landed safely on a safety net installed one floor below, designed to prevent suicide attempts in the building known as Mantralaya.

The legislators, all members of the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), chose this extreme measure to voice their dissent against the government's consideration of the Dhangar community for ST status. Officials reported that none of the lawmakers sustained injuries during the leap.

Video footage captured the legislators' descent and subsequent return to the building after landing on the net, showcasing the unexpected turn of events within the secretariat. This unusual protest highlights the intense political tensions surrounding community classifications in Maharashtra and reflects broader discussions on reservation policies.



Toilet Tax In Himachal Pradesh: Chief Minister Clarifies Amid Uproar

Amidst growing outrage over claims that residents of Himachal Pradesh would be taxed based on the number of toilet seats in their homes, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu clarified that there is no such "toilet tax" in the state. Reports circulating suggested that the Himachal government planned to impose a ₹25 tax per toilet seat for residents in urban areas, which Sukhu labeled as "baseless."

According to the disputed reports, a portion of the ₹100 water charge would include this alleged tax, which would amount to 25% per household. Responding to these claims, Sukhu stated, "Before the assembly elections, the BJP held a rally in Himachal Pradesh where they promised free water meters, saying there would be no charge for water consumption. We proposed a subsidy of ₹100 per family for water, which applies to all, including five-star hotels. Only those who can afford it are paying. There is no such thing as a toilet tax."

The Chief Minister further emphasized that even large hotel chains would be included under the existing water charges, arguing that those criticizing the move need to understand the economic implications behind it.

Sukhu's comments followed sharp criticisms from various BJP leaders, including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She expressed disbelief at the reports, stating, "Unbelievable, if true! Whilst PM Modi ji builds Swachhata as a people's movement, here is Congress taxing people for toilets! Shame that they didn't provide good sanitation during their time, but this step will shame the country."

"Delhi Police Make Fifth Arrest in Record Cocaine Bust"



Delhi Police made a fifth arrest on Thursday in connection with the seizure of over 500 kg of cocaine, the largest-ever drug haul in the national capital, valued at approximately ₹5,000 crore. The latest suspect, Jitendra Pal Singh, also known as Jassi, was apprehended at Amritsar airport as he attempted to flee to the United Kingdom. This arrest highlights a potential link between organized crime in the UK and a broader pan-India network involved in drug smuggling.

Singh, who has been a permanent resident in the UK for 17 years, had flown in from London to oversee cartel operations in India. He was trying to return to the UK following the police's seizure of the drugs and the arrest of four others. Authorities believe this syndicate operates primarily out of Delhi and Mumbai, with additional ties to Dubai.

During investigations, the name of Virendra Basoya, an Indian citizen residing in Dubai, has emerged as a key figure in the smuggling network. Basoya, who has been arrested in an unrelated case but was granted bail, is believed to be a mastermind behind the operations. Following his son's wedding to the daughter of an ex-MLA in Noida, he fled to Dubai and is thought to head an international cartel.

Police also suspect that Basoya has connections with 'D-Company,' the notorious Mumbai crime syndicate led by Dawood Ibrahim, one of India's most wanted criminals. Tushar Goyal, another main accused in the case, is considered to be closely linked with Basoya, allegedly receiving lucrative payments for drug deliveries.

This major bust follows a series of drug-related arrests, including two Afghan nationals detained over the weekend in Delhi, and highlights the ongoing war on drugs by Delhi Police.

PM Modi Chairs Urgent Top-Level Security Meet On Widening West Asia Crisis

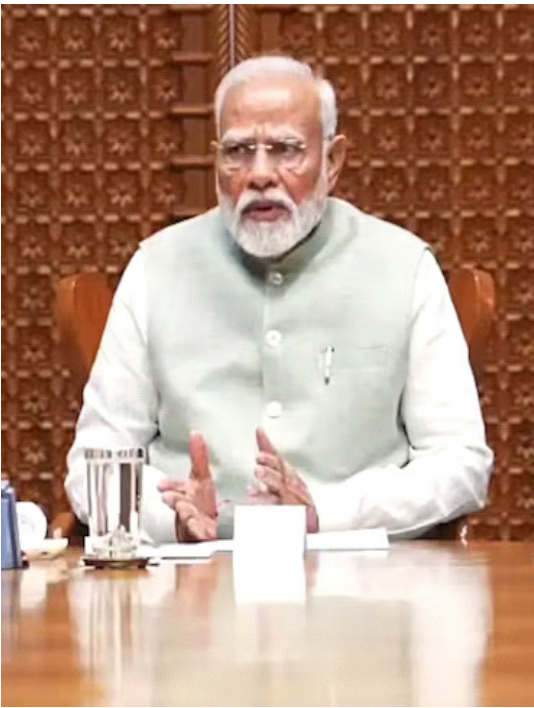
Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened an urgent meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to address the escalating crisis in West Asia, particularly following Iran's recent missile attack on Israel. This high-level committee includes key ministers such as the Home Minister, Defence Minister, Foreign Minister, and National Security Adviser, and it focused on the troubling developments in the region.

The discussions were marked by deep concern over the ongoing hostilities, with committee members analyzing various implications arising from the conflict. One of the primary focuses was on the potential impact on trade, navigation, and supply chains, especially concerning oil and petroleum products.

India has emphasized the necessity for all parties to engage in urgent diplomacy to resolve the crisis, insisting that it should not escalate into a broader regional conflict.

The fallout from the West Asia crisis extends beyond the immediate conflict zones, threatening global trade dynamics. With heightened tensions between Iran and Israel, India is preparing for significant disruptions to trade routes through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The potential for increased cargo freight tariffs looms large, especially given the connections between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have been responsible for numerous attacks on merchant vessels in these crucial shipping lanes. The turmoil began last October, leading to notable disruptions in global trade.



For India, the crisis has already had tangible effects, with petroleum exports dropping by 37.56% to \$5.96 billion in August 2023 compared to \$9.54 billion in the same month last year. The Red Sea route, which intersects with the Suez Canal, is vital for India's economy, accounting for 50% of its exports and 30% of imports, as per 2023 data.

India's overall merchandise trade reached Rs 94 lakh crore in FY23, with a significant portion—68% by value and 95% by volume—transported via sea routes. Moreover, India maintains robust trade relations with Gulf nations, which contribute 15% of its total trade, particularly in sectors such as energy, defence, and healthcare. Bilateral trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries reached \$162 billion last year.

Israel Won't Last Long: Khamenei Delivers First Public Sermon in 5 Years



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivered a rare Friday sermon, declaring that Israel "won't last long" while expressing support for Palestinian and Lebanese movements against the country. Addressing a crowd of tens of thousands at a mosque in Tehran, Khamenei justified missile strikes on Israel as a "public service."

In his first Friday sermon in five years, Khamenei brandished a gun at his side, asserting that Israel would not prevail against Hamas or Hezbollah. The atmosphere was charged as the crowd chanted their support.

Khamenei's address comes amid ongoing threats to his life and after Israel vowed to retaliate for missile attacks on Tuesday. He praised Hassan Nasrallah, the former chief of Hezbollah who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, stating, "His martyrdom will further increase this influence." He emphasized that Nasrallah's spirit would continue to inspire the fight against Israel.

Calling Hezbollah a "blessed tree" that flour-

ished under Nasrallah's leadership, Khamenei urged Muslims to support Lebanon's jihad and the battle for al-Aqsa mosque. He described the attacks by Hamas on October 7 as the "correct move," arguing that no international law should object to the Palestinians defending themselves against occupation.

Khamenei characterized Israel as a "tool" of the United States, asserting that it serves to control the region's resources. He insisted that the Zionist state is unstable and exists solely due to American support, stating, "There is no doubt that the Zionists and the Americans are dreaming—the Zionist entity will be uprooted from the ground."

This sermon, delivered just three days after Iran launched 180 missiles targeting crucial Israeli infrastructure, marks a significant moment as it approaches the first anniversary of the Israel-Gaza conflict. Khamenei last led Friday prayers in January 2020, following a missile attack on a U.S. army base in Iraq.



Nepal, India, Bangladesh Sign Pact For Cross-Border Electricity Trade

On Thursday, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh finalized a long-awaited tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade. This significant agreement will enable Nepal to export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh through Indian transmission lines, specifically during the rainy season from June 15 to November 15 each year.

In the initial phase, Nepal will export 40 megawatts (MW) of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh, using the Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur 400 kV transmission line. The agreed-upon rate for this electricity is set at 6.4 cents per unit, which is expected to generate approximately USD 9.2 million annually for Nepal.

The agreement's signing follows a series of meetings held at the energy secretary and joint-secretary levels in Kathmandu earlier this week to finalize the details. Notably, the metering point for the electricity transfer will be located in Muzaffarpur, India.

Originally planned for July 28, the signing was postponed due to political changes in Bangladesh. However, on December 6, 2023, Bangladesh's Cabinet Economic Affairs Committee had already approved the import of 40 MW of electricity from Nepal.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Kathmandu by key officials, including NEA Executive Director Kulman Ghising, NTPC Vidyut Byapar Nigam CEO Deino Naran, and Bangladesh Power Development Board Chairman Mohamad Rizwan Karim. Both Nepal's Energy Minister Dipak Khadka and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sayeda Rijwana Hasan were present, underscoring the collaborative spirit of this agreement.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Attend SCO Meeting in Pakistan

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to travel to Pakistan this month for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting. The announcement was made by Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, on Friday, October 4.

The SCO meeting, which will take place in mid-October, marks a significant occasion for regional cooperation and dialogue among member states. Pakistan's role as the host nation underscores its importance in the SCO framework, which includes countries such as China, Russia, India, and several Central Asian nations.

Jaishankar's participation is expected to focus on various issues pertinent to regional stability, security, and economic cooperation. The SCO has increasingly become a platform for discussing challenges that member states face, including terrorism, trade relations, and connectivity initiatives.

This visit comes amid a backdrop of complex diplomatic relations in the region, making it a crucial opportunity for dialogue between India and Pakistan. Although relations between the two countries have been tense, Jaishankar's attendance at the SCO meeting may open avenues for informal discussions and engagement on key issues affecting both nations.

The Ministry has emphasized the significance of multilateral cooperation within the SCO, particularly in areas such as counter-terrorism, economic collaboration, and sustainable development. Jaishankar's participation highlights India's commitment to working with regional partners to address shared challenges.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu To Visit India From October

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu is set to visit India from October 6 to 10, marking his first bilateral visit to the country since taking office. The announcement was made by the Maldivian foreign ministry, highlighting the significance of this trip. Muizzu had previously traveled to India in June for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his council of ministers.

During his visit, President Muizzu will meet with President Droupadi Murmu and hold discussions with PM Modi on various bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. The itinerary also includes stops in Mumbai and Bengaluru, where he will participate in business events aimed at enhancing economic ties.

As India's key maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Maldives holds a special place in PM Modi's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy.' The upcoming visit is seen as a reaffirmation of the importance India places on its relationship with the Maldives, especially following the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to the island nation.

Jaishankar's August visit was the first high-level trip from New Delhi since President Muizzu, who is known for his pro-China stance, assumed office in November last year. During that trip, Jaishankar assured Maldivian leaders of India's commitment to strengthening multifaceted relations and developmental cooperation. Since Muizzu took office, India's relationship with the Maldives faced challenges, particularly after he called for the replacement of Indian defense personnel stationed in the country with civilians. However, his participation in Modi's swearing-in ceremony and recent statements indicate a willingness to reinforce the historic ties between the two nations.



Russia To Remove Taliban from Terrorist List

Russia's Foreign Ministry announced on Friday that a decision has been made at the "highest level" to remove the Taliban from its list of terrorist organizations, according to the state-run TASS news agency. This shift in policy reflects a significant development in Russia's approach to the Afghan group, which has been considered a terrorist organization since 2003.

Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, stated that this decision will require various legal procedures to be implemented before it takes effect. This move aligns with Putin's remarks in July, where he identified the Taliban as an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Since the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan in August 2021, following the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces after two decades of conflict, Russia has been gradually strengthening its ties with the group. Despite this warming relationship, the Taliban remains officially banned in Russia, reflecting the complexities of international diplomacy and security concerns in the region.

The decision to potentially reclassify the Taliban signifies a broader strategy by Russia to engage with various non-state actors in the context of regional stability and counter-terrorism. It also highlights a shift in Moscow's foreign policy priorities as it seeks to establish itself as a key player in Afghanistan's political landscape. This development raises questions about the implications for international relations, particularly regarding how other countries may respond to Russia's evolving stance on the Taliban.

Sensex, Nifty: This Is the Worst Week in Two Years

Stock markets are posing a challenge for investors, with indices fluctuating frequently. The markets fell as the war situation in West Asia intensified, crude oil futures surged, and US monthly jobs data was awaited. Moreover, investor sentiment has turned negative. For the first time since 2022, the benchmark indices have dropped by 4% in a single week. Despite the selling pressure, the Nifty managed to maintain psychological support at 25,000. Market breadth on the BSE favored sellers, with 2,479 stocks losing ground while 1,579 gained.



The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 82,497 in the previous session, opened at 82,244 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,532 and an intraday high of 83,368, eventually closing at 81,688, marking a loss of 808 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 25,181, hit a low of 24,966, and a high of 25,485, before finally closing with a 235-point drop at 25,014. Nifty Bank fell by 383 points, closing at 51,462.

In the Nifty50, 13 companies advanced while 37 declined. Infosys, ONGC, HDFC Life, Tata Motors, and Wipro were the top gainers, while M&M, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Nestle India, and BPCL were the biggest losers. Apart from the IT and PSU Bank sectors, all other sector indices fell. The auto, finance, FMCG, media, realty, consumer durables, and oil and gas indices were the major laggards.

Nifty's support level is at 25,150, and resistance is at 25,300.



HSBC downgraded Bajaj Housing Finance. Brent crude December futures hit a one-month high. The board of Wonderla Holidays approved raising Rs. 800 crore through equity shares. Ireland has now become India's new Mauritius, with foreign investments flowing in significantly from there. Garden Reach shares saw a rise due to a Rs. 226 crore order from the West Bengal government. Diffusion Engineers' shares closed in the upper circuit. Nifty Realty fell by 8% this week. Former YouTube India CEO Ishaan Chatterjee was appointed Chief Business Officer of Jio Cinemas. India's services PMI fell to a 10-month low in September as import orders eased. Gross loans of Capital Small Finance Bank increased from Rs. 5,866 crore to Rs. 6,718 crore in September. The letter of acceptance given to HG Infra for the commercial development of railway land in Rajasthan was canceled. Demart shares declined following its Q2 update.

Adani Wilmar Shows 10% Sales Volume Growth, 16% Revenue Increase

Adani Wilmar Ltd announced its business update for the September quarter on October 4, revealing a notable 10% year-on-year increase in total sales volume. The company highlighted a robust performance, achieving a 16% revenue growth driven by strong execution in both its edible oils and food segments.



In its stock exchange filing, Adani Wilmar noted, "We are witnessing growth in the food business across various categories and regions throughout the country. Our extensive portfolio of oils and food products, combined with increased throughput, has provided us with a scale advantage in distribution."

Adani Wilmar is a joint venture between India's Adani Group and Singapore's Wilmar Group. In the second quarter, the company reported that revenue from alternative channels also rose significantly, exceeding Rs 3,000 crore over the past twelve months. Notably, the e-commerce segment experienced exceptional growth, with its revenue surging nearly fourfold in the last four years.

This strong performance underscores Adani Wilmar's

commitment to expanding its market presence and capitalizing on emerging trends in the FMCG sector. The company's strategic initiatives and diversified product offerings continue to resonate well with consumers, contributing to its overall growth trajectory.

As Adani Wilmar navigates the evolving landscape of the food and beverage industry, its focus on innovation and adaptability remains paramount, positioning it for sustained success in the competitive market.

India's Forex Reserves Surpass \$700 Billion Milestone

India's foreign exchange reserves have crossed the \$700 billion mark for the first time in September 2024, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on October 4. The reserves currently stand at \$704.885 billion, reflecting a significant increase of \$12.588 billion from the previous week, \$58.466 billion since the end of March 2024, and an impressive \$117.977 billion from the same period last year.



This milestone makes India the fourth country in the world to achieve such a feat, joining the ranks of China, Japan, and Switzerland. The remarkable growth in reserves is attributed to various factors, most notably \$30 billion in foreign inflows this year, primarily driven by investments in local bonds following India's inclusion in a significant J.P. Morgan index.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has emphasized the importance of building a substantial foreign exchange buffer, which acts as a safeguard during periods of heightened market volatility. Analysts at Bank of America have projected that India's forex reserves could rise to as much as \$745 billion by

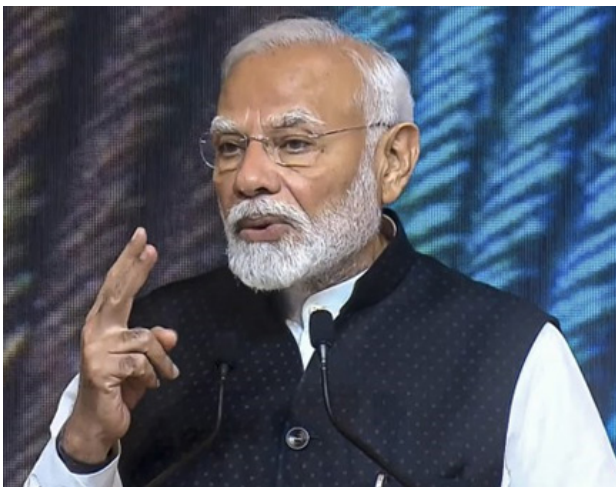
March 2026.

The increasing reserves not only bolster India's economic stability but also enhance its standing in the global financial system. This growth reflects the country's attractiveness as an investment destination, showcasing its potential for sustained economic expansion and resilience in the face of global uncertainties.

As India navigates the complexities of the global economy, this record-breaking level of forex reserves will play a crucial role in supporting its economic growth and maintaining confidence among investors.

Indian economy undergoing transformational change to sustain high growth: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the ongoing transformational change in the Indian economy aimed at sustaining high growth during his address at the third edition of the Kauliya Economic Conclave in New Delhi. He characterized India as a "sweet spot" amidst global economic uncertainty, showcasing the country's resilience and potential for growth.



In his speech, PM Modi highlighted the government's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for economic development through various reforms and initiatives. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the fluctuating global economy but expressed confidence in India's ability to navigate these uncertainties effectively.

The Prime Minister pointed out the strategic measures being implemented to boost various sectors, including manufacturing, technology, and agriculture. He stressed the importance of innovation and investment in driving economic growth, underlining the government's focus on building a robust infrastructure that supports both domestic and for-

India's Per Capita Income Set to Rise by At Least \$2,000: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday that India's per capita income is projected to increase by at least \$2,000 over the next five years, driven by overall economic growth. She highlighted that while it took 75 years to reach a per capita income of \$2,730, the next significant rise is anticipated to occur rapidly, fueled by robust investments, strong economic fundamentals, and ongoing policy reforms.



Speaking at the Kauliya Economic Conclave organized by the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Economic Growth in New Delhi, Sitharaman emphasized the country's demographic advantage, noting that nearly 43 percent of the population is under the age of 24. This youthful demographic is a key driver for organic consumption growth.

Sitharaman asserted that India is in a stronger position than many advanced economies currently struggling to grow. "We are standing out as an economy that is growing at the fastest rate in recent years, and we expect this trend to continue," she stated.

The Finance Minister also pointed to the ongoing global geopolitical repositioning, suggesting it could serve as a structural advantage for India by fostering robust supply chains with strategically aligned countries.

According to a significant document from NITI Aayog, India is projected

to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income reaching \$18,000 per annum. The country is on track to become the third-largest economy, with the potential to add \$1 trillion to its GDP every 1.5 years, primarily driven by strong GDP growth, a focus on robust manufacturing, and infrastructure development.

The country has transitioned from being labeled the "Fragile Five" during the UPA government to being recognized among the "Top Five" under the BJP-led NDA government. As such, India is increasingly seen as an emerging superpower of the 21st century.

A recent Goldman Sachs report supports this optimistic outlook, stating that India is poised to remain one of the world's fastest-growing economies until 2030. Moody's Analytics has also projected a growth rate of 7.1 percent for the Indian economy in the fiscal year 2025.

HDFC Bank Reports 7% Growth in Gross Advances, Deposits Up 15.1%

HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector lender, announced a 7% year-on-year increase in gross advances, reaching ₹25.19 lakh crore as of September 30, 2024, up from ₹23.54 lakh crore a year earlier. The bank's total advances under management, which include adjustments for inter-bank participation certificates and securitisation, grew approximately 8% YoY to ₹26.33 lakh crore from ₹24.37 lakh crore.



Sequentially, advances under management saw a 2.3% increase from ₹25.75 lakh crore as of June 30, 2024. In the latest quarter, retail loans surged by about ₹33,800 crore, while commercial and rural banking loans rose by around ₹38,000 crore. However, corporate and wholesale loans experienced a decline of ₹13,300 crore compared to the previous quarter.

In terms of deposits, HDFC Bank reported a substantial growth of 15.1%, bringing the total to ₹25 lakh crore in Q2FY25, up from ₹21.73 lakh crore in the same quarter last year. Sequentially,

deposits increased by approximately 5.1% from ₹23.79 lakh crore as of June 30, 2024. The bank's CASA (Current Account Savings Account) deposits rose 8% YoY and 2.3% quarter-on-quarter, totaling ₹8.83 lakh crore.

HDFC Bank maintained a healthy liquidity coverage ratio of around 127% for the quarter. In a recent block deal, Morgan Stanley and Citigroup acquired 43.75 lakh shares of HDFC Bank for ₹755.29 crore, with shares trading at ₹1,677.45 apiece as of 9:45 AM on October 4.

Overall, HDFC Bank's performance highlights its robust growth strategy and strong position in the Indian banking sector, amidst a competitive landscape.

eign investments.

Modi also mentioned the significance of entrepreneurship and the role of startups in transforming the economic landscape. He reiterated the need for collaborative efforts between the government, businesses, and the youth to harness India's demographic dividend and drive sustainable growth.

The Kauliya Economic Conclave serves as a platform for policymakers, economists, and business leaders to discuss and strategize on critical economic issues. PM Modi's remarks reflect a broader vision for India's economic future, aiming to position the country as a leader in the global economic arena.

In conclusion, PM Modi's address underscored the Indian government's proactive approach to addressing economic challenges while capitalizing on opportunities for growth. As India navigates this transformative phase, the Prime Minister remains optimistic about the country's trajectory toward becoming a global economic powerhouse.



India to Join Global Energy Hub

Union Cabinet Approves Entry to International Energy Efficiency Hub

In a significant move aimed at enhancing India's global role in energy efficiency, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a proposal for the country to join the International Energy Efficiency Hub. This decision is expected to bolster India's access to advanced energy practices, cutting-edge innovations, and collaboration opportunities with other member nations.

The Ministry of Power released a statement following the Cabinet's decision, noting that India's membership in the Energy Efficiency Hub will open doors for the nation to engage with a strategic group of 16 countries. These countries, which include major global players like the United States, China, and Germany, collaborate on energy practices and share innovative solutions for improving energy efficiency worldwide.

Benefits of Joining the Energy Efficiency Hub

By joining the Hub, India will have the opportunity to collaborate on global energy strategies, exchange expertise, and contribute to international efforts in combating climate change through energy-efficient technologies and practices. The Ministry of Power emphasized that this collaboration will provide India with a platform to not only share its own advancements but also to learn from international best practices.

"India's inclusion in the Hub is a testament to its growing influence in global energy policy," the Ministry of Power said in its statement. "Through this partnership, India will be able to benefit from the collective knowledge of member nations and enhance its own energy efficiency programs."

India has long been committed to improving its energy

efficiency standards, with the government launching multiple initiatives under its energy policy framework. Becoming a part of the Energy Efficiency Hub aligns with India's objectives of sustainable growth, reducing carbon emissions, and addressing climate change challenges.

Energy Efficiency Hub: A Global Platform

The Energy Efficiency Hub is a global platform focused on promoting collaboration and innovation in energy efficiency across borders. Established in 2020, it succeeded the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), in which India was also a member. The Hub brings together governments, international organizations, and private sector entities, enabling them to share knowledge, best practices, and technological advancements.

The current members of the Hub include 16 countries—Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. With India's entry, this group will gain yet another key player, further strengthening the global commitment to energy efficiency and sustainable practices.

India's Role and Contributions

India's participation in the Energy Efficiency Hub will be implemented through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory agency under the Ministry of Power. The BEE has been designated as the key implementing body for India's activities within the Hub. The agency has played a vital role in driving energy efficiency initiatives in India, overseeing programs such as the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT)

scheme, the Standards and Labeling program, and the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC).

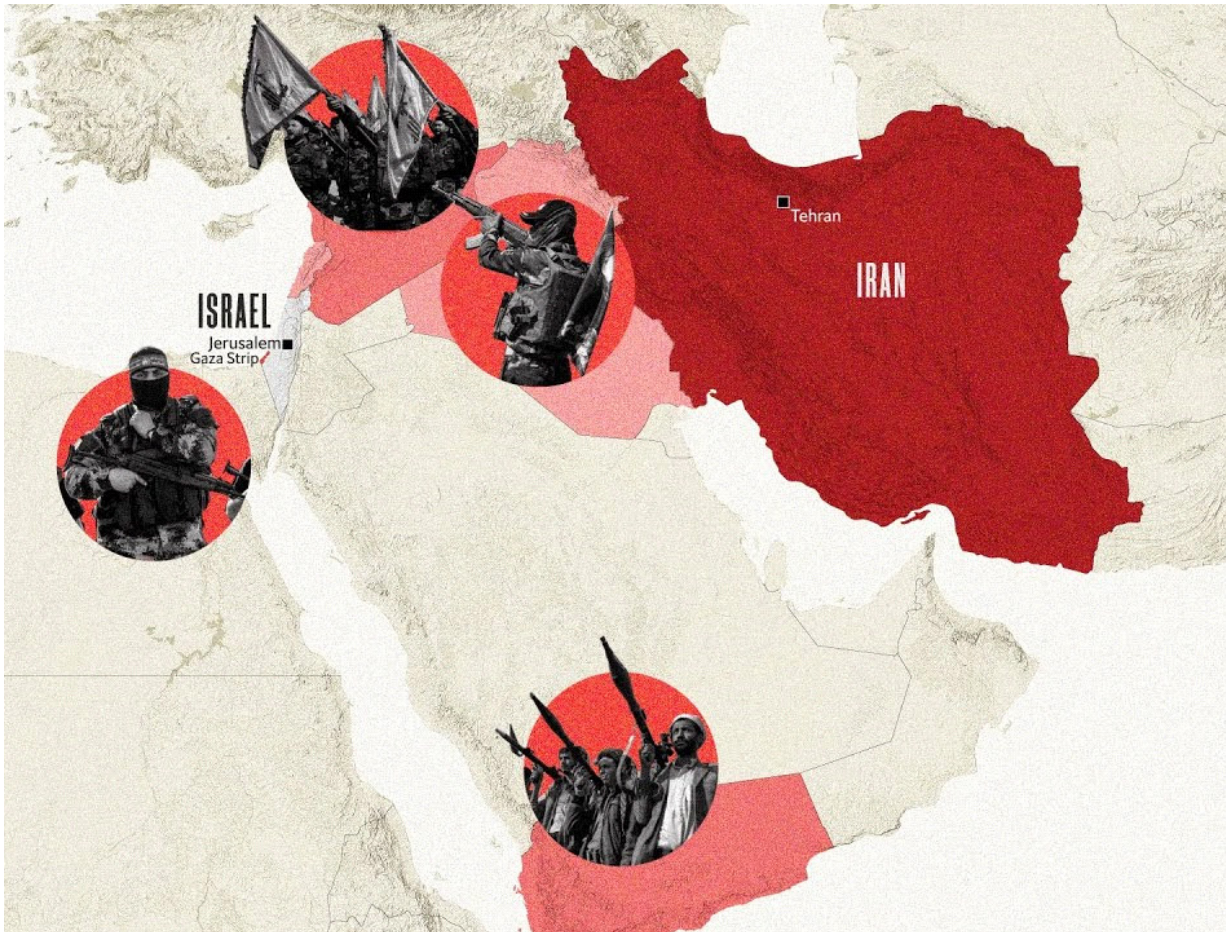
India has already made significant strides in improving energy efficiency across various sectors, from industry to transportation and buildings. By joining the Hub, India will be able to take these efforts further by engaging with leading nations and accessing cutting-edge research, technological advancements, and innovative solutions that can be adapted to the Indian context.

Boosting India's Climate Change Commitments

In addition to fostering collaboration, India's entry into the Energy Efficiency Hub aligns with the nation's broader commitment to combating climate change. Energy efficiency is a key pillar of India's strategy to meet its climate goals, as outlined in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. By promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices, India will be able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and move towards a more sustainable energy future.

The Ministry of Power highlighted that joining the Hub is an important step towards realizing India's energy and climate goals. It not only provides India with the opportunity to be part of a global initiative but also reinforces its leadership role in addressing climate change through energy efficiency.

As India prepares to join the ranks of the Energy Efficiency Hub, it marks a new chapter in the nation's efforts to advance energy efficiency and sustainability on the global stage. This strategic move will help India to strengthen its domestic energy policies while contributing to international efforts to combat climate change.



Hezbollah After Nasrallah: Who Will Fill the Void in Iran's Resistance Axis?

The death of Hezbollah's long-time leader, Hassan Nasrallah, in Israeli airstrikes on Beirut's Dahieh suburb has shaken the region, marking a critical juncture for both Hezbollah and Iran's Axis of Resistance. Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for more than 30 years, had become the face of the group, which the U.S. and several other nations have designated as a terrorist organization. His assassination, alongside the elimination of key military and political figures within Hezbollah, presents the group with its gravest crisis since its formation in 1982 during the Lebanese Civil War.

Iran's swift response to Nasrallah's death with ballistic missile strikes on Israel signals the stakes involved, but the immediate question is: who will take charge of Hezbollah, and how will the group rebuild in this post-Nasrallah era?

Hezbollah Faces Unprecedented Challenges

Hezbollah has faced Israeli offensives before, but the magnitude of this loss is unprecedented. The group's leadership structure has been decimated, including the deaths of southern front commander Ali Karaki and Iranian commander Abbas Nilforoushan. The assassination of Nasrallah is comparable to the loss of other significant militant leaders in the region, such as the 2008 killing of Imad Mughniyeh, one of Hezbollah's founders.

Rebuilding Hezbollah without Nasrallah will be difficult. The organization has long functioned as a "state within a state" in Lebanon, effectively controlling key parts of the country's politics and military apparatus. Lebanon itself remains in political paralysis, having had no president since 2022, further complicating Hezbollah's position. Nasrallah's death, coupled with leadership losses, creates a power vacuum that may take years to fill, giving Israel a strategic opportunity to weaken the group.

The Next Leader: Hashem Safieddine?

The man expected to fill Nasrallah's shoes is Hashem Safieddine, a senior Hezbollah official and Nasrallah's cousin. Safieddine, widely considered more radical than his predecessor, is deeply connected to Iran, and reportedly married to a daughter of slain Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani. Should he assume leadership, Safieddine will face the daunting task of steering Hezbollah through its most challenging phase yet. The group has lost not just its leader, but also its communication lines, some of which relied on outdated technologies like pagers and walkie-talkies, further crippling its operational capabilities.

Hezbollah's ideological foundation and organizational structure, however, may provide it with a level of resilience that differs from groups like Al Qaeda, which relied heavily on the cult of leadership figures like Osama bin Laden. While Al Qaeda struggled to recover from bin Laden's death, Hezbollah's institutional ties to Iran and its ability to tap into Lebanon's Shia population may help it weather this storm, though not without significant challenges.

Regional Reactions and Arab Dynamics

Hezbollah's future will also depend on the broader geopolitical context in the region. Iran remains the chief backer of the 'Axis of Resistance'—a coalition of Shia groups and militias spread across the Middle East, including Hezbollah. While Hamas, a Sunni group, aligns with the Palestinian cause, Hezbollah represents the Shia face of Iranian influence, making it a crucial player in Tehran's regional strategy.

The Arab world, particularly Sunni-majority states, have often viewed Hezbollah with suspicion, seeing it as a tool of Iranian expansionism. With Nasrallah's death, many of these states might see an opportunity to weaken Hezbollah's grip on Lebanon.

Israel, already engaged in a shadow war against Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies, could benefit from this internal strife, as could Sunni powers like Saudi Arabia, which have long sought to limit Tehran's influence.

Can Iran Cross the Nuclear Threshold?

The broader regional dynamics include the question of Iran's nuclear ambitions. Israel's continued military pushbacks, including its 2007 strike on Syria's suspected nuclear facility, have sought to prevent Iran and its allies from attaining nuclear capabilities. Iran's nuclear program has suffered numerous setbacks, many linked to Israeli clandestine operations, though Tehran is now considered a "threshold" nuclear state—on the brink of developing nuclear weapons.

The question remains whether the current escalation will push Iran towards nuclear weaponization. Nasrallah's death could further inflame tensions, potentially triggering more aggressive postures from Tehran. The loss of its top ally in Lebanon might push Iran to shore up its regional influence through increased military actions, which could include a race to nuclear armament. The next few months could prove pivotal, with the Middle East once again at the forefront of global geopolitics.

Conclusion

The death of Hassan Nasrallah marks a turning point for Hezbollah and Iran's regional strategy. While Hashem Safieddine is likely to assume leadership, the road ahead for Hezbollah is fraught with challenges. The group's institutional ties to Iran may offer some resilience, but the loss of its leadership hierarchy presents a significant crisis. As regional powers and Israel vie for influence, the coming months will see Hezbollah's—and Iran's—future role in the Middle East recalibrated, potentially reshaping the balance of power across the region.

WhatsApp Enhances Status Features with Likes and Mentions

WhatsApp has unveiled exciting updates to its Status feature, introducing new options for users on both Android and iOS. The latest enhancements include the ability to like status updates and privately mention contacts, aiming to increase user interaction on the platform.

With the new **likes on Status**, users can now show appreciation for their contacts' status updates with a simple tap on a heart emoji. This feature is reminiscent of the liking functionality found in Instagram stories, making it easier to engage with friends' posts. Importantly, likes are kept private; only the status updater can see who liked their post in the viewer list, ensuring a more discreet form of feedback.

In addition, **private mentions** allow users to tag friends directly in their status updates. This means that when someone is mentioned, they can easily reshare the status with their own audience, enhancing visibility while maintaining privacy. The

WhatsApp Status, now with private mentions and ❤️'s

mention itself will remain hidden from other viewers of the status, similar to tagging features on platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

These updates are part of WhatsApp's ongoing efforts to refine user experience and encourage more dynamic interactions. The new features are currently rolling out and will be available to users worldwide in the coming weeks.

Moreover, WhatsApp has hinted

at additional features for the Status and Updates tab in the near future, indicating a commitment to continuously improving the platform. With these changes, users can look forward to more engaging ways to connect with their contacts through status updates, making the messaging experience richer and more interactive. As the rollout progresses, users are encouraged to explore the new functionalities and discover how they can enhance their communication on WhatsApp.

YouTube Announces Longer 3-Minute Duration for Shorts

YouTube has announced exciting updates for its Shorts platform, allowing creators to produce videos up to three minutes long starting October 15. This enhancement is part of a broader rollout that includes new templates, an AI-powered video generation model, and improved ways to discover trending content.

In a recent blog post, YouTube highlighted that the three-minute duration will apply to videos created in square or taller aspect ratios. Existing Shorts will remain unaffected by this change, which the company noted was one of the most requested features from its creator community.

To help creators keep up with the latest trends, YouTube is introducing a template feature. This allows creators to align their clips with trending sounds while customizing them to suit their unique style. By tapping the Remix option next to Shorts, users can select "Use this template" to recreate popular content easily. Over the next few months, YouTube will also enable creators to access its video library directly from the Shorts camera, making it easier to create remixes by pulling clips from YouTube videos.

YouTube is also set to roll out Google DeepMind's Veo video-generation AI model in



the coming months. This addition will offer creators more background options and standalone video clips, enhancing the creative possibilities within Shorts.

Additionally, YouTube is launching a new Shorts trends page on mobile, helping viewers stay updated on the latest popular content. Creators will benefit from this feature, as comments will be previewed in the Shorts feed, giving them insights into audience reactions before posting.

These updates aim to empower creators with more tools for self-expression and to streamline the content creation process on YouTube Shorts. As the platform evolves, these enhancements promise to enrich the experience for both creators and viewers alike, fostering a more dynamic and engaging community.

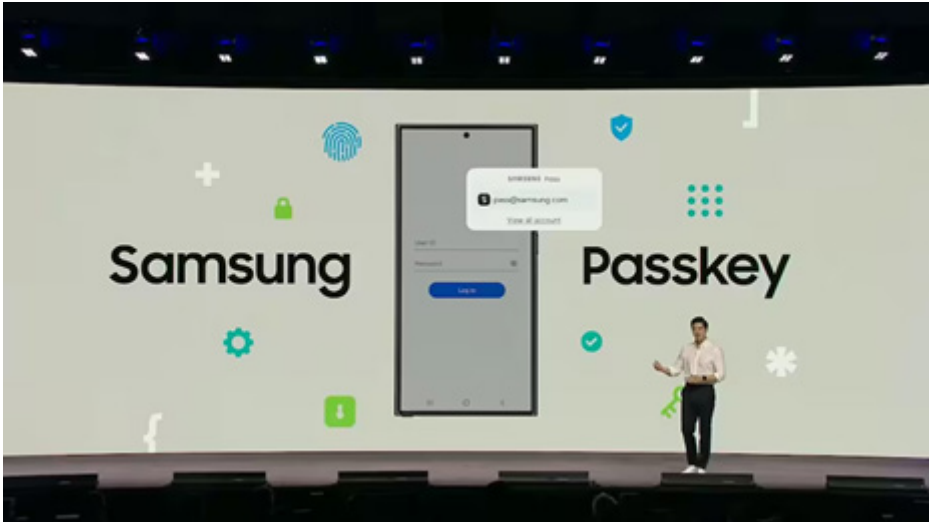
Samsung Rolls Out Passkey Support for TVs and Smart Home Devices

At the Samsung Developer Conference (SDC) 2024 in San Jose, Samsung announced the introduction of Passkey support for its range of TVs and other devices, enhancing user convenience and security. This feature is part of a broader strategy that includes advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), smartphones, and various smart home technologies.

Beginning with its 2025 models, Samsung plans to roll out Passkey support across TVs running its proprietary Tizen operating system. This feature will also extend to smart appliances, such as refrigerators equipped with the AI Family Hub, allowing for secure sign-ins. Additionally, users will have the option to log in via web browsers by scanning QR codes, further simplifying the authentication process.

Samsung also introduced Knox Matrix, a blockchain-based multi-device security solution, which will now be available on a wider array of devices, including TVs and home appliances. This development aims to bolster security across its ecosystem, ensuring users can connect and manage their devices with confidence.

In line with its smart home initiatives, Samsung unveiled updates to SmartThings, intro-



ducing a feature called Home Insight. This tool will analyze user data, device usage patterns, and history to enhance the overall home experience. Furthermore, all Samsung devices with screens will now include the SmartThings Hub, improving connectivity with partner devices.

The Tizen OS will also receive AI capabilities, particularly in devices featuring a neural processing unit (NPU). This will enable personalized experiences, such as adjusting echo and noise levels while watching TV or refining note-taking by understanding users' writing styles. Samsung is expanding its Multi-Control feature, which allows users to operate multiple devices seamlessly, now including smart monitors and Tizen-powered TVs.

Samsung's announcements at SDC 2024 underscore its commitment to innovation in user experience, security, and the interconnected smart home ecosystem, setting the stage for a more integrated future for its products.

Cancer-Causing Ingredients Found In Some Cakes

In a troubling update, the Karnataka Food Safety and Quality Department has issued a warning regarding the potential presence of cancer-causing ingredients in cakes sold by certain bakeries across the state. This alarming revelation follows a previous concern raised two months ago about carcinogenic ingredients found in street food, including kebabs, manchurian, and pani puri.

The department analyzed 235 cake samples in August and found that while 223 were deemed safe, 12 contained dangerously high levels of artificial coloring. The specific artificial colors identified, such as Allura Red, Sunset Yellow FCF, Ponceau 4R (strawberry red), Tartrazine (lemon yellow), and Carmoisine (maroon), have been linked to increased cancer risks when consumed above safe levels. Moreover, these additives may also negatively impact mental and physical health.

Experts have warned that popular cake varieties like red velvet and black forest, often made vibrant with these colors, can pose significant health risks. The department has urged bakeries to adhere to safety standards to protect consumers.

Food safety campaigner Revant Himantsingka discussed the issue, stating, "I cannot comment on the specific chemicals. In general, most of them are okay in very tiny amounts but can cause an issue if they are in excess." He emphasized the lack of consistent testing at some establishments, leading bakers to use excessive



coloring to enhance the visual appeal of their products.

Mr. Himantsingka further cautioned that the use of artificial coloring and preservatives extends beyond cakes. "People want the most colorful tomato and the most red apple, which may not exist in nature. To make them visually appealing, artificial colors and preservatives are added," he explained. He highlighted that many packaged foods contain titanium dioxide, which, while allowed in India, is banned in Europe and several Middle Eastern countries.

In response to the findings, some bakeries whose samples failed the safety tests have pledged to switch their coloring agents and undergo resampling. As the situation unfolds, the need for stringent regulatory measures has become increasingly apparent to ensure food safety for consumers.

Antarctica Turning Green: Study Finds

A new study reveals that Antarctica's iconic white landscape is undergoing a significant transformation due to climate change, with alarming increases in vegetation cover. Conducted by researchers from the universities of Exeter and Hertfordshire, the study analyzed satellite imagery to assess vegetation levels in Antarctica, which has been warming at a pace far exceeding the global average.

According to the findings published in *Nature Geoscience*, plant life, predominantly mosses, has surged tenfold over the past four decades. Specifically, the study noted that Antarctica's vegetation cover expanded from just 0.4 square miles in 1986 to nearly 5 square miles by 2021, with a dramatic 30 percent acceleration in growth observed between 2016 and 2021.

Thomas Roland, an environmental scientist at the University of Exeter and co-author of the study, emphasized the profound impact of human-induced climate change. "Our findings confirm that the influence of anthropogenic climate change has no limit in its reach," he stated. "Even in the Antarctic Peninsula—one of the most extreme, remote, and isolated



regions—the landscape is changing, and these effects are visible from space." Despite its predominantly snowy terrain, the researchers identi-

fied significant growth in green cover, a worrying indicator of climate disruption. This shift was a focal point at a conference in Chile, where nearly 1,500 scientists debated whether extreme climate events signal that Antarctica may have reached a tipping point, risking accelerated and irreversible sea ice loss from the West Antarctic ice sheet.

Liz Keller, a paleoclimate specialist from Victoria University of Wellington, noted the unprecedented pace of change: "You might see the same rise in CO2 over thousands of years, and now it's happened in just 100 years."

The study highlights the severity of extreme heat events in Antarctica, where summer temperatures this year soared up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. In March 2022, certain regions recorded temperatures as much as 70 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, marking the most extreme temperature variations ever documented on the continent.

As Antarctica continues to experience these drastic changes, the implications for global climate patterns and sea levels remain profound and concerning.

Hockey India League Returns with Exciting New Format

The much-anticipated comeback of the Hockey India League (HIL) was officially announced on Friday in Delhi. Dilip Turkey, the president of Hockey India, revealed the franchises and owners for the upcoming season, which will feature eight men's teams and six women's teams.

In a significant shift from its previous format, the HIL will now include a women's edition, expanding from the four teams initially proposed. This expansion highlights Hockey India's commitment to promoting women's hockey and enhancing its visibility on the national stage. The men's and women's leagues will run concurrently, although they will not follow a traditional home-and-away format in 2024.

The chosen venues for the upcoming HIL are Ranchi and Rourkela, promising to bring thrilling matches to passionate hockey fans. This dual-venue setup aims to create a vibrant atmosphere for players and spectators alike,



fostering a sense of community around the sport.

The announcement has been met with enthusiasm from players and fans, as the HIL previously showcased some of the best talent in Indian hockey, contributing significantly to the sport's popularity. The league is expected to not only enhance player development but also attract attention from sponsors

and media, further boosting hockey's profile in India.

Hockey India's efforts to include a women's league are particularly noteworthy, as they align with global trends emphasizing gender equality in sports. By providing a platform for women athletes, the HIL seeks to inspire the next generation of players and fans.

As anticipation builds for the return of the Hockey India League, both players and fans are eager to witness the action. With its revamped structure and focus on inclusivity, the HIL promises to deliver an exciting season filled with competitive spirit and exceptional talent. The league's revival is set to breathe new life into hockey in India, making it an event not to be missed.



Prohibitory Orders Imposed in Gwalior Ahead of India vs Bangladesh T20I

In anticipation of the T20 cricket match between India and Bangladesh scheduled for October 6, Gwalior's district magistrate has implemented prohibitory orders to ensure peace and security. These measures will remain in effect until October 7, following calls for a "Gwalior bandh" by the Hindu Mahasabha, which is demanding the match's cancellation due to alleged "atrocities" against Hindus in Bangladesh.

The right-wing organization staged protests earlier this week, claiming that the match should not proceed given the recent violent unrest and political changes in Bangladesh. In response, district magistrate Ruchi-ka Chauhan issued the prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bhar-tiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which replaced the British-era Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) earlier this year.

According to officials, the Superintendent of Police recommended these orders due to ongoing demonstrations, processions, and effigy burnings organized by various groups. The SP noted that social media was being used to incite communal sentiments and spread inflammatory content, threatening social harmony.

Under the prohibitory orders, any individual attempting to disrupt the match or provoke religious tensions via social media will face legal action. Additionally, the display of banners, posters, or other materials containing inflammatory language is strictly prohibited.

The administration has also banned demonstrations and effigy burning in both public and private spaces. Gatherings of five or more individuals, as well as the carrying of weapons or incendiary substances within a 200-meter radius of any buildings, are prohibited.

The upcoming match at the Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium marks Gwalior's first international cricket event in 14 years, prompting heightened security measures. Approximately 1,600 police personnel will be deployed to manage security and traffic during the event.



Kylian Mbappe Left Out Of France Squad For UEFA Nations League Games

France captain Kylian Mbappe will not participate in his team's upcoming UEFA Nations League matches, as coach Didier Deschamps announced the squad on Thursday. The Real Madrid star recently returned from a thigh injury, making a brief appearance as a substitute during France's surprising 1-0 loss to Lille in the Champions League on Wednesday. The decision to exclude Mbappe from the matches against Israel and Belgium aims to allow him to rest and focus on regaining full fitness.

Deschamps addressed the situation, stating, "I had an exchange with Kylian. He has a problem which is not serious. I am not going to take risks, which is why he is not in the squad."

France is scheduled to play Israel on Thursday, October 10, in an away match that has been relocated to Budapest due to security concerns in the Middle East. Following that, Les Bleus will face Belgium in Brussels on Monday, October 14. Currently, France has accumulated three points after two matches in Group A2, where Italy leads with six points.

This squad announcement marks Deschamps' first since vice-captain Antoine Griezmann announced his retirement from international football earlier this week. Reflecting on Griezmann's impact, Deschamps noted, "He had such an impact that we can't play in the same way. I am not necessarily going to change the system, but I am not going to look for an equivalent player."

PSG's Beraldo joins Brazil's FIFA World Cup



Paris Saint-Germain defender Lucas Beraldo has been selected to replace the injured Gleison Bremer in the Brazilian national squad for their upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Peru. Bremer, a defender for Juventus, sustained a serious anterior cruciate ligament injury in his left knee during a Champions League match against RB Leipzig on Wednesday. He is set to undergo surgery in the coming days.

Coach Dorival Jr. expressed his sympathy for Bremer's situation, stating, "Unfortunately, we have received news of a serious injury to the athlete Bremer, a person who deserves all our respect, consideration, affection, and support, so that he can return as soon as possible. In his place, we are calling up Beraldo from PSG."

Brazil's national team is gearing up for their ninth round of qualifiers, set to face Chile on October 10 at the Nacional stadium in Santiago. Following that match, they will clash with Peru on October 15 in Brasilia.

Currently, Brazil sits in fifth place in the CONMEBOL qualifying table, having garnered ten points from eight matches. Chile trails in ninth place, with just five points. The top six teams from the ten-nation league will qualify directly for the World Cup, making the upcoming matches crucial for Brazil as they aim to secure their spot in the tournament.

Beraldo's addition to the squad brings fresh energy and opportunity, as he looks to make an impact in these critical fixtures. With the stakes high and the competition fierce, Brazil will be relying on their remaining players to step up and deliver strong performances in Bremer's absence. The team is determined to overcome recent challenges and improve their standing in the qualifiers as they aim for success on the road to the World Cup.

India Shines at ISSF Junior World Championship with 11th Gold Medal

The team of Mukesh Nelavalli, Raajwardan Patil, and Harsimar Singh Rattha triumphed in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol team event, securing India's 11th gold medal at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Championship. This victory marks a significant achievement for Mukesh, who has now earned his fourth gold medal of the championship, including an individual gold in the 25m pistol event.

India continues to lead the medal tally with a total of 16 medals, comprising 11 golds, one silver, and four bronze. China follows in second place with three gold medals and one silver, highlighting India's dominant performance in the competition.

In the individual finals for the 25m rapid-fire pistol, both Mukesh and Raajwardan advanced but faced tough competition. Raajwardan finished fourth, achieving 17 hits in the first six series, while Mukesh exited earlier in the rounds, finishing fifth with 10 hits out of 25 targets.

The championship also showcased performances in other shooting events. In the junior men's 50m rifle prone event, Parikshit Singh Brar emerged as the best



Indian finisher, scoring 623.0 points over 60 shots. Shivendra Bahadur Singh followed in 14th place with a score of 618.4, while Vedant Nitin Waghmare finished in 24th with a score of 613.2.

With these accomplishments, the Indian shooting contingent is demonstrating impressive skill and determination at

the ISSF Junior World Championship. As the competition progresses, the team is poised to add more medals to their impressive tally, reinforcing India's growing stature in the world of competitive shooting sports. The championship continues to serve as a platform for young shooters to showcase their talents on an international stage.



Nayanthara's 'Test' to Stream Exclusively on OTT Platforms

Actress Nayanthara, who recently captivated audiences with her performance in the blockbuster film **Jawan**, is eagerly awaiting the release of her upcoming project, a sports drama that marks the directorial debut of producer Shashikanth. This highly anticipated film will feature notable stars such as Siddharth and Madhavan, adding to the excitement surrounding its release.

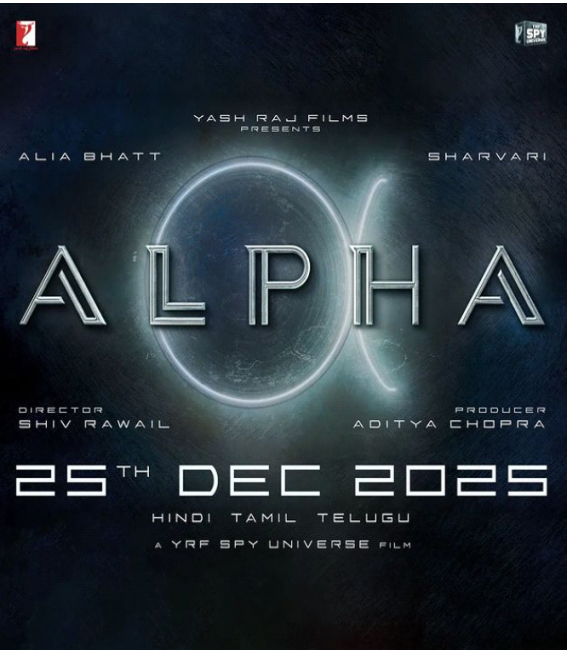
While details about the film's plot are still under wraps, the involvement of such talented actors sug-

gests a compelling narrative that will likely resonate with audiences. As the production progresses, there has been speculation that the film's release might shift to an OTT platform, which has become increasingly common for many films in recent times. This move could allow for a broader reach, especially considering the growing popularity of streaming services.

In addition to this sports drama, Nayanthara has a busy slate ahead, with several projects lined up. Her versatility as an actress continues

to shine, making her one of the most sought-after stars in the industry. Fans are excited to see her in various roles, further solidifying her status as the "Lady Superstar" of Indian cinema.

The music for this upcoming film will be composed by Shakthi Sree Gopalan, a promising talent known for his ability to create captivating scores that enhance storytelling. His involvement adds another layer of anticipation, as music plays a crucial role in elevating the overall cinematic experience.



Alia Bhatt 'Alpha' Set for December 2025 Release

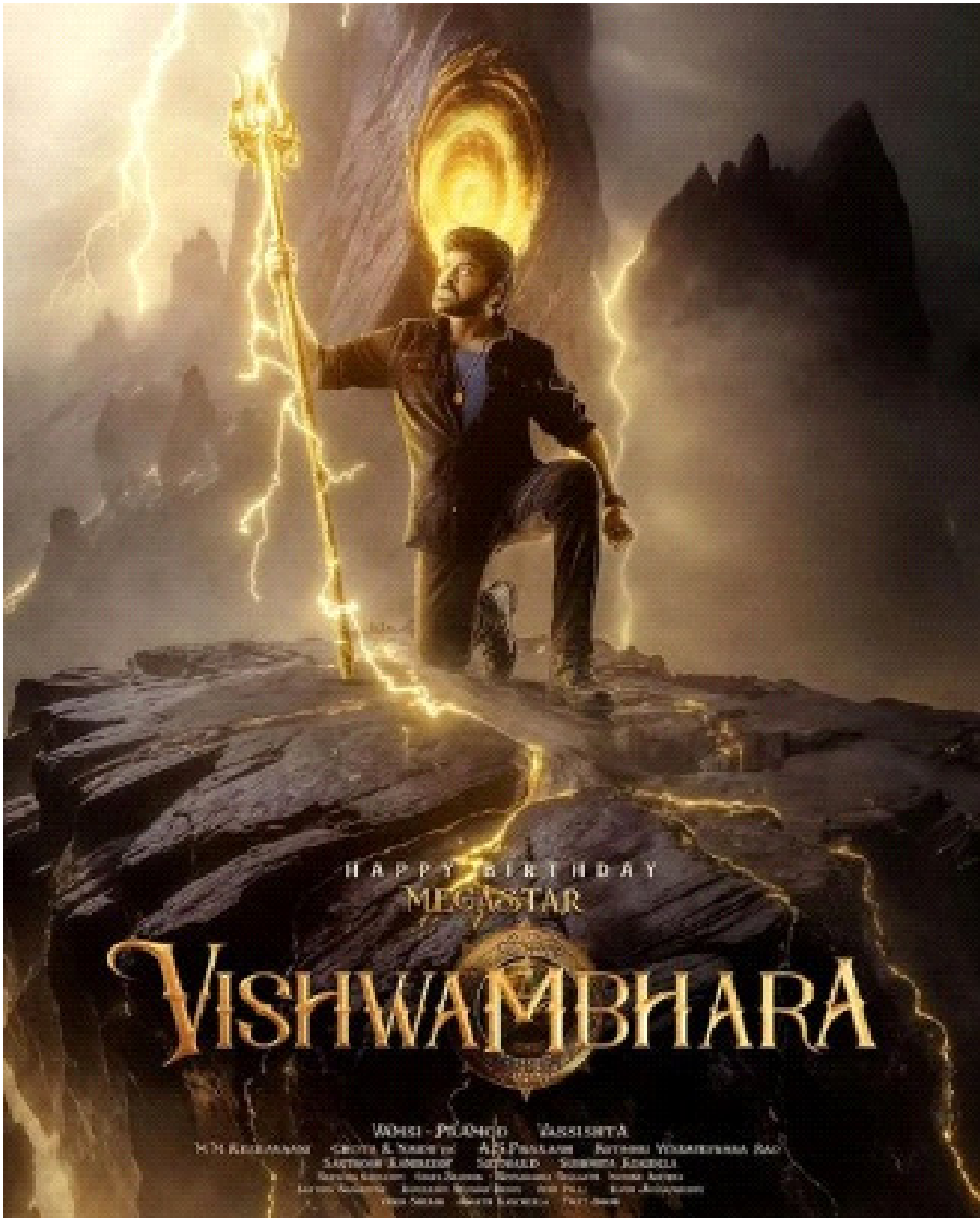
Alia Bhatt and Sharvari's highly anticipated film, **Alpha**, has officially locked in its release date for December 25, 2025. The announcement was made via a poster shared on Instagram, stating, "On Christmas 2025, #ALPHA will rise! Get ready for an action-packed holiday."

Interestingly, Alia's other film, **Love And War**, which features Vicky Kaushal and Ranbir Kapoor, was originally set to release on the same date. However, it has now been postponed to March 20, 2026, allowing **Alpha** to take center stage during the Christmas holiday.

Alpha will be directed by Shiv Rawail and marks the seventh installment in Yash Raj Films' burgeoning spy universe. This universe kicked off with the popular Tiger franchise, featuring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif. The franchise includes hits such as **Ek Tha Tiger**, **Tiger Zinda Hai**, **War**, **Pathaan**, and **Tiger 3**. Upcoming projects in this universe include **War 2** directed by Ayan Mukerji and **Pathaan 2**, as well as a crossover film titled **Tiger vs Pathaan**.

On the professional front, Sharvari was recently seen in **Vedaa**, alongside John Abraham and Tamannaah. The film premiered on Independence Day and faced stiff competition from Shradha Kapoor's **Stree 2** and Akshay Kumar's **Khel Khel Mein**. Unfortunately, **Vedaa** did not perform well at the box office, managing to collect only Rs 18.50 crore over ten days. Prior to this, Sharvari featured in **Munjya**, which performed better, crossing the Rs 100 crore mark.

As anticipation builds for **Alpha**, fans are eager to see how this action-packed film will contribute to the expanding spy universe and what fresh narratives it will bring to the screen. With the holiday release, it's poised to be a significant entry in the Indian film landscape.



Chiranjeevi's 'Vishwambhara' Nears Completion for January Release

Fans of Tollywood are buzzing with excitement for the upcoming fantasy action drama **Vishwambhara**, directed by Vashishtha and starring the legendary Megastar Chiranjeevi alongside Trisha. The film has generated significant anticipation, and updates from the production team indicate that progress is well underway.

Currently, the shooting, dubbing, and post-production work are all happening concurrently, with the filmmakers focused on completing the project as efficiently as possible. The latest reports reveal that only two songs remain to be shot, suggesting that the film is nearing its final stages.

The production team is making efforts to wrap up these last bits of filming swiftly, aiming for a release in January. With MM Keeravani composing the music, **Vishwambhara** promises to deliver an engaging soundtrack alongside its action-packed narrative. Produced by UV Creations on a grand scale, the film is expected to showcase Chiranjeevi in a captivating role that will resonate with his fans.

As the release date approaches, anticipation continues to build, with fans eagerly awaiting further updates on this highly anticipated project.

Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala Team Up For Kick Sequel

The much-anticipated sequel to the 2014 action thriller **Kick** was officially announced on October 4, generating excitement among fans. Producer Sajid Nadiadwala took to the Nadiadwala Grandson's official Instagram handle to share the news. Accompanying a striking black-and-white photo of Salman Khan from the **Kick 2** photoshoot, Nadiadwala wrote, "It was a great Kick 2 photo shoot Sikandar....!!! From Grand Sajid Nadiadwala."

The photo was captured on the set of **Sikandar**, a project that marks the long-awaited collaboration between Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after nearly a decade. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, known for **Ghajini**, **Sikandar** also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Kajal Aggarwal in key roles. The film is scheduled for release during Eid 2025, raising the stakes for Salman, especially after the underwhelming performance of his last release, **Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan**.

Kick 2 holds significant promise, coming a decade after the original **Kick** became a massive hit at the box office. The first film marked a major milestone for Salman Khan, as it was his first movie to enter the coveted 200-crore club. Alongside Khan, **Kick** featured notable performances from Jacqueline Fernandez, Randeep Hooda, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

The announcement has sparked a wave of enthusiasm on social media, with fans flooding the comments section with congratulatory messages. One fan exclaimed, "Fire h bhaijaan," while another praised his look with "Outstanding look." Many fans also shared GIFs and images of Salman Khan, showcasing their unwavering love and support for the superstar.

As anticipation builds for **Kick 2**, fans are eager to see what the sequel will bring and how it will elevate the legacy of its predecessor. With a successful team behind it, including the acclaimed Murugadoss and the iconic Nadiadwala-Khan duo, **Kick 2** is set to be a significant entry in Indian cinema.



Vijay, Pooja Hegde First Bump At Thalapathy 69 launch



The pooja ceremony for H Vinoth's upcoming film, tentatively titled **Thalapathy 69**, took place in Chennai on Friday afternoon, drawing attention from fans and media alike. The event was attended by the film's star-studded cast, including Vijay, Pooja Hegde, and Bobby Deol, creating an atmosphere of excitement.

The official announcement about Vijay's involvement in **Thalapathy 69** was made in mid-September, revealing that this would be his final project before stepping into the political arena. The film's launch marked a significant moment for both the ac-

tor and his fans, with the ceremony showcasing a friendly camaraderie among the cast members.

At the event, Vijay and Pooja were seen engaging in lively conversations, and even shared a fist-bump while posing for photos, highlighting their rapport. Vijay dressed in a traditional veshti and shirt, exuding his signature style, while Pooja looked elegant in a flowing white saree. Bobby Deol complemented the duo in a brown and blue shirt paired with white pants.

The production house, KVN Produc-

tions, shared a series of photographs on X (formerly Twitter), capturing moments from the ceremony, including the lead actors interacting with the film's crew and team. The atmosphere was vibrant, reflecting the enthusiasm surrounding the project.

Fans are particularly excited about **Thalapathy 69**, as many view it as a fitting farewell to Vijay's cinematic journey before he embarks on a new chapter in politics. The anticipation for the film is palpable, with many calling it "one last dance" for the beloved actor.