

Weather Forecast

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

# Paddy Procurement Amount to be Deposited in 48 Hours: Telangana CM



**TPN, Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that farmers cultivating fine rice varieties will receive a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal, in addition to the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Efforts are being made to ensure that procurement amounts are deposited into farmers' accounts within 48 hours.

During a video conference on Thursday, October 3, Reddy instructed district collectors to establish dedicated procurement centers for fine rice or provide exclusive weighing machines at existing centers. He emphasized that all procedures for identifying and procuring fine rice must be strictly adhered to.

Reddy warned that any lapses in procurement could lead to problems, urging staff to remain vigilant throughout the process.

Paddy was cultivated across 66.73 lakh acres in the state, with the agriculture department projecting a harvest of 140 lakh metric tonnes this season. It is expected that 58 percent of the harvested paddy will consist of fine rice varieties, and the cultivation of fine rice is anticipated to grow further next year.

There is currently little demand for coarse rice varieties, with significant stocks already stored in FCI warehouses.

Regarding DSC certification, officials were instructed to finalize the process by Saturday, with plans to distribute appointment letters on October 9 at LB Stadium. Officials reported that the certificates of 9,090 candidates have already been verified.

## Government Borrows ₹72,500 Crore in 300 Days

**TPN, Telangana:** The Congress government in Telangana has engaged in significant borrowing since assuming power in December 2023. Over the past 300 days, the state has averaged ₹241 crore in daily borrowing, accumulating a total debt of around ₹72,500 crore. Of this amount, approximately ₹32,500 crore came from market borrowings during the first two quarters of the current fiscal year.

The borrowing spree began with a ₹500 crore loan on December 12, 2023, escalating to an alarming monthly average of ₹5,000 crore. By September 30, ₹47,618 crore of the debt originated from the Reserve Bank of India through market sources. In September alone, the state secured loans totaling ₹5,500 crore across multiple transactions.

Looking ahead, the government plans to raise another ₹7,400 crore in the third quarter of the fiscal year. According to the Reserve Bank of India's borrowing calendar, Telangana aims to secure ₹4,400 crore in October, ₹2,000 crore in November, and ₹1,000 crore in December through various market borrowings.

Despite previously criticizing the BRS government for its debt levels, the Congress administration has surpassed its own borrowing targets. Initially, the BRS proposed a debt of ₹52,576 crore for the 2023-24 budget, but the Congress increased this target to ₹62,012 crore. The government has also extended guarantees worth ₹24,877 crore to different corporations, placing an additional burden of approximately ₹17,873 on each of the state's four crore residents.

Experts express concern that such extensive borrowing, without significant project implementation, could lead to increased taxes or service charges, impacting the public further. Without clarity on infrastructure initiatives, analysts warn that the rising debt could strain future generations.

## Congress deceived farmers with partial crop loan waiver: KTR



**TPN, Hyderabad:** BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has accused the Congress government of betraying farmers by only partially implementing its promised crop loan waiver scheme. In a pointed criticism of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao claimed that despite promises made during the elections, the government has failed to deliver full loan relief to farmers.

Rama Rao, in his post on X (formerly Twitter), criticized the Chief Minister for misleading farmers by pledging a loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh, but only extending the benefit to around 22 lakh farmers. He argued that statements made by Agriculture Minister Tummala

Nageswara Rao have further exposed this shortcoming, as 20 lakh farmers are still awaiting loan waivers.

"The Chief Minister falsely claimed that the loan waiver had been fully completed. However, the Agriculture Minister's remarks have shown that the promise remains unfulfilled," KTR stated.

He also highlighted the government's failure to meet the December 9 deadline last year for completing the crop loan waiver. "Even after 10 months, 20 lakh farmers are still without the relief they were promised. The claim of completing the ₹2 lakh loan waiver is a sham," he remarked, citing official

figures to back his accusations.

KTR expressed concern that many farmers may have been unofficially excluded from the scheme and condemned the delay in providing Rythu Bandhu investment support. He questioned the treatment of those left out of the loan waiver, stating, "What good is this government of vultures to the farmers?"

The BRS leader warned that Revanth Reddy's inaction has become a burden on the farming community, which continues to suffer under the unfulfilled promises of the Congress-led government.

## GHMC to be Divided into 4 Corporations, to have 4 Mayors



**TPN, Hyderabad:** The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to be divided into four separate corporations, each with its own mayor, Telangana's Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced on Friday, October 4.

This significant restructuring move comes in preparation for the GHMC elections scheduled for February 2026. The decision aims to improve governance and streamline administration within the rapidly growing urban areas under GHMC's jurisdiction. Further details regarding the implementation of the division are expected in the coming months.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Criticizes BJP and BRS in Nizamabad

**TPN, Telangana:** In Nizamabad district, PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a strong attack on both the BJP and BRS parties. He accused the Modi government of engaging in politics using the names of deities, asserting that they are soliciting votes under the guise of religion, caste, and figures like Lord Rama and Hanuman. Goud emphasized the need for citizens to support the Congress party, which focuses on secular development aimed at the welfare of the people.

Goud criticized the BJP and BRS for tying themselves to large corporations like Adani and Ambani, claiming they have limited their focus to serving elite interests. He asserted that KCR's government is trapped in a web of debt and has failed to address the needs of the common people. "KTR and Harish Rao are spreading falsehoods," he declared, calling for accountability from the ruling party.

Reflecting on the internal dynamics of the Con-



gress party, Goud noted his healthy competition with Madhusudhan Yashki for the PCC president position, emphasizing the party's unity and collaborative spirit. He acknowledged his long-standing connections with prominent figures such as Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka Gandhi and credited his political journey to the guidance of his mentor, DS.

## Massive Encounter in Chhattisgarh: 30 Maoists Killed

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# We Will Fulfill Loan Waivers Even if We have to Stop Any Other Scheme

**TPN, Telangana:** Telangana Agriculture Minister Thummala Nag-eswara Rao stated that even if it becomes financially challenging, and even if any scheme is halted, the government will implement the loan waiver, Rythu Bharosa, and Rythu Bima. Responding to KTR's criticism regarding the lack of a loan waiver, the minister pointed out that the parties which previously showed no concern for the loan waiver are now talking about it. He emphasized that the Congress government came to power with the support of the farmers. Even if any scheme is paused, the promis-

es made to the farmers will be fulfilled. He assured that all the subsidy schemes will be restored. Farmers will definitely receive loan waivers of up to Rs. 2 lakhs, and no farmer should feel disheartened. He mentioned that Telangana is the only state in the country that cultivates the most crops. He added that the state produces 1.45 crore tonnes of paddy. The minister highlighted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working tirelessly to ensure that no farmer faces any difficulties. Additionally, they are providing a bonus of Rs. 500 for Sanna.



# Won't Rest Until Farmers' Welfare Funds Are Released



**TPN, Telangana:** Former Minister Harish Rao has warned that there will be no reprieve until the Kisan Bandhu funds are released before Dasara. He announced plans to stage a protest at Rahul Gandhi's residence after the festival. Rao expressed his solidarity while participating in a farmers' demonstration in Thorur, Mahabubabad district, on Friday.

During his speech, he criticized the government for neglecting the loan waiver promises, claiming it has deceived the public under the guise of six guarantees. Rao demanded the unconditional implementation of farmer loan waivers across the state, questioning the government's commitment

to connect employment guarantee schemes with agriculture. He pointed out that not a single promise made in the Congress party's farmers' declaration has been fulfilled.

He further expressed concerns about a "rowdy state" being established in Telangana, questioning the government's failure to reopen closed sugar factories and bring back the turmeric board, which were also part of the promises made. Rao alleged that poor farmers without land have lost access to the promised five lakh farmer insurance scheme. He insisted that the government must deposit the Kisan Bandhu funds before Dasara.

# AIMIM Likely to Contest 2024 Maharashtra Assembly Elections Independently

-AIMIM had won the Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat in 2019  
-With support from the Prakash Ambedkar-led VBA.



**TPN, Telangana:** The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) is likely to contest the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections independently. Despite efforts by state chief and ex-Aurangabad MP Im-tiyaz Jaleel to form alliances with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), talks with the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) have also failed. The AIMIM had previously won two seats in the 2019 Assembly elections and the Aurangabad Lok Sabha seat in 2019 with VBA's support. However, the alliance later broke down, with Ambedkar deciding to contest separately.

An AIMIM leader remarked that Ambedkar's influence is limited, particularly among the divided Dalit community in Maharashtra, where Buddhist Dalits, whom Ambedkar represents, are outnumbered by Hindu Dalits. He also criticized Ambedkar for fielding too many candidates, weakening his party's overall performance.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the MVA, consisting of the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), and Congress, outperformed the BJP and its allies. AIMIM contested independently but failed to win seats, including in Aurangabad.

The Maharashtra Assembly, which has 288 seats, saw the BJP as the single largest party in 2019, with 105 seats, while AIMIM secured two. However, recent shifts in alliances, including splits within the Shiv Sena and NCP, have altered the political landscape. AIMIM could potentially ally with the MVA, as its chief Asaduddin Owaisi maintains good relations with Telangana's Congress leadership.

# Cancellation of Dharani Portal: Minister Ponguleti's Key Announcement



**TPN, Telangana:** Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy made significant comments regarding the Dharani Portal and the Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS). He announced that the Dharani Portal will be abolished, and the ROR (Record of Rights) Act will be introduced soon, with plans to implement it by the end of October. He mentioned that the new system has been designed as a model for other states, and public opinion will be taken into consideration.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy criticized the previous government, claiming that they left the double-bedroom housing scheme incomplete. He assured that the completed houses will be handed over to the poor before Dussehra, with necessary repairs being carried out immediately.

ly. He added that 3,500 to 4,000 houses will be sanctioned for each constituency. The Minister also emphasized that the suggestions from opposition parties will be considered.

He noted that October 7 will mark 10 months since the formation of the current government. However, he acknowledged that during this period, the people have not fully achieved their expectations. In the coming days, all government schemes, including the white ration card, will be linked with a smart card. These smart cards will be distributed before Dussehra, and government welfare schemes will be provided based on eligibility through the smart card. The Minister also mentioned that the money for loan-waived farmers will be deposited soon.

On the issue of layout regularization, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy admitted that the scheme is not progressing as quickly as expected. To expedite the process, officials from the municipal and revenue departments, as well as staff from other departments, have been directed to assist with the examination of applications. In some districts, officials from the irrigation department have also been assigned to the application review teams. According to reports, only about 4.50 lakh applications had been examined by the end of last month, with less than 70,000 receiving approval. The Minister expressed his dissatisfaction with the progress in many districts and instructed district Collectors to speed up the process.

# Telangana Joins Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance



**TPN, Hyderabad:** Telangana became the seventh state to launch an action plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) on Thursday, October 3. Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha unveiled the plan during the Global South Conference on Infection Prevention, Control, and Antimicrobial Stewardship

(G-SPARC). He emphasized the urgency of tackling AMR, referring to it as a "silent pandemic" that requires immediate attention.

Narasimha highlighted Kerala as the first state to implement such a program and noted that Telangana now joins in

the battle against this global health crisis. Dr. Guru N. Reddy, co-chair of G-SPARC and CMD of Continental Hospital, warned that if left unchecked, AMR could push humanity towards extinction, with one-third of AMR-related deaths occurring in India, claiming over a million lives annually.

Telangana Health Secretary Dr. Christina Z Chongthu pointed to the state's progress since the launch of India's national AMR plan in 2017. She noted Telangana's focus on capacity building, audit improvements, and strict adherence to protocols to limit antibiotic overuse.

Dr. Anuj Sharma from WHO-India emphasized the need for collaboration to strengthen AMR strategies, while Prof. Chedly Azzouz from the Infection Control Africa network underscored the shared challenges faced by India and African nations in tackling AMR and infection control.

The recent United Nations General Assembly's target to reduce human deaths caused by AMR by 10 percent by 2030 was also a key topic of discussion.

# Konda Surekha's Comments on Samantha Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Reacts Strongly



**TPN, New Delhi:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav strongly reacted to Telangana Minister Konda Surekha's comments regarding the divorce of Naga Chaitanya and Samantha, as well as remarks involving Nagarjuna. He expressed his views on this matter through a post on the platform X (formerly Twitter). Vaishnav stated that the comments made by a woman minister in the Telangana Congress government against several prominent figures in the film industry were shocking. He called these remarks a reflection of the Congress

party's anti-women mentality. He further added that such comments reveal how the Congress party is attempting to portray the entertainment industry, which is a source of pride for the nation, in a negative light. Vaishnav emphasized that there is no place for such criticism in society. He also criticized the Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, for remaining silent on Konda Surekha's comments, suggesting that their silence might imply support for her statements.



## Mahesh Kumar Goud Criticizes BJP and BRS in Nizamabad

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Goud shared his experiences from his agricultural family background, stating that he emerged from a region affected by Naxalism to carve a niche in politics. He expressed that his 38 years of political life have taught him resilience in the face of adversity.

He reaffirmed that the Congress party has strong leadership in the district and is committed to addressing the concerns of its activists. "In the upcoming days, we will work for the welfare of our workers," he promised, underlining the party's commitment to providing recognition and support to its hard-working members.

## Massive Encounter in Chhattisgarh: 30 Maoists Killed



**TPN, Chhattisgarh:** A significant encounter unfolded in Chhattisgarh, leading to the deaths of 30 Maoists. The incident occurred at the border of Dantewada and Narayanpur districts, as confirmed by local officials. A large cache of weapons and explosives was recovered from the site, underscoring the gravity of the encounter.

On Friday, police received intelligence regarding the presence of Maoists in the Abujhmad area, situated within the Dandakaranya forest region. In response, a comprehensive search operation was launched by security forces. Upon spotting the approaching police teams, the Maoists opened fire, resulting in an intense exchange of gunfire. This confrontation lasted for several hours, marking a critical moment in the ongoing conflict.

During the firefight, 23 Maoists were reported killed, with their bodies recovered along with a substantial quantity of automatic weapons and explosives. The police have indicated that the exchange of fire continued after the initial confrontation, raising concerns that the death toll could increase as operations progressed. Security forces remain on high alert as they continue their combing operations in the area.

This encounter is part of a broader strategy by the central government, which has intensified "Operation Green Hunt." This operation focuses on eradicating Maoist activities across the region, utilizing coordinated efforts by security personnel. Over the past year alone, more than 150 Maoists have been killed in various encounters as authorities ramp up their efforts to dismantle the Maoist insurgency.

The ongoing conflict highlights the challenges faced by law enforcement in combating insurgent groups in remote regions. As security forces continue their operations, the situation remains tense, with officials emphasizing their commitment to restoring peace and stability in affected areas.



## My Farmhouse Is Not in the Buffer Zone... Officials Came and Inspected



**TPN, Telangana:** Former minister Mahender Reddy revealed that his farmhouse is not in the buffer zone and is not under FTL (Full Tank Level). He stated that KTR, Harish Rao, and Sabita Indra Reddy have been alleging that his farmhouse is illegal and should be demolished, along with any other illegal structures. However, he disclosed that the authorities inspected his property and confirmed that his farmhouse is legal.

He further stated that if his farmhouse is found to violate any rules, he will personally demolish it first. He mentioned that the officials provided a report confirming that the construction is in compliance with the regulations. He invited KTR to visit and inspect the farmhouse to verify its legality. He also revealed that he has a mango garden on the property and emphasized that the farmhouse was built only after consulting with the authorities.

# It Is Painful to Have to Tell the Congress CM About Myself

- KVP clarifies that his farmhouse is not within FTL or the buffer zone
- States that if it is found to be in violation, it will be demolished at his own expense without burdening the govt
- Appeals for transparency in the marking process

**TPN, Telangana:** Former Rajya Sabha member KVP Ramachandra Rao has written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that his farmhouse is not within FTL (Full Tank Level) or the buffer zone. However, if it is found to be in violation, his family members will demolish it at their own expense. He expressed his pain in having to explain this to a Congress chief minister, despite his decades of loyalty to the Congress party. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that this clarification is necessary. KVP emphasized his commitment to the Congress party, having been a dedicated worker for five decades, and expressed his wholehearted support for every program or scheme undertaken by the Congress government. He pledged to do his best to help implement them.

He reminded the chief minister of the MUSI purification project, which was a focus during YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure. In 2005, a scheme called "Save Moosi" was initiated by YS. He mentioned that many welfare schemes and projects were undertaken during YS's regime, but the



Congress government at the time was unable to proceed with the Moosi purification due to the enormous funds required.

As a Congress leader, KVP stressed that he does

not expect any special treatment when it comes to demolitions. He called for the law to be applied equally, treating his case just as that of any ordinary citizen. He assured that he supports programs that benefit the poor and criticized the opposition for shedding "crocodile tears" over the Moosi issue, stating that the public is aware of their hypocrisy. Addressing Revanth Reddy, he condemned the efforts of certain individuals to undermine the chief minister's ambitions.

KVP reiterated that his farmhouse is not in the buffer zone or within FTL. If it is, however, he and his family will demolish it at their own expense within 48 hours, without placing any financial burden on the government. However, he appealed for transparency in the marking process for demolitions. He suggested that if the time and date of marking are announced in advance, opposition leaders and the media that support them will have the opportunity to witness the process, ensuring transparency. He clarified that this suggestion is made in the interest of fairness and transparency.

## SC, ST Commission Displeased with RGUKT Officials

**TPN, Telangana:** Members of the SC, ST Commission expressed their discontent with officials at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar during their visit on Friday. They highlighted the alarming ratio of caretakers to students, noting that only five caretakers were available for 6,000 girl students on campus. The commission directed officials to address this shortage immediately.

In addition to the caretaking issue, the commission instructed the university authorities to

improve faculty availability and took a strong stance against chief warden Sridhar, recommending his removal due to alleged misconduct and his absence from the meeting.

During the visit, students voiced their grievances, citing insufficient faculty members and inadequate basic amenities as major challenges. They reported harassment and misbehavior from the chief warden, who reportedly cited university rules to justify his actions.

In a separate incident, students released a poster accusing in-charge Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Venkata Ramana of corruption, claiming he illegally received his salary for nine months. They alleged that he appointed private individuals unlawfully and misappropriated public funds. Additionally, accusations of sexual assault against female employees were made, prompting students to call for a government investigation into his actions.

## What Happened to Those Who Showed Zeal During Jagan's Regime?

### Balka Suman's Warning to Telangana Police

**TPN, Hyderabad:** BRS leader Balka Suman issued a stern warning to the Telangana police and officers, urging them to remember what happened to the IPS officers who showed excessive zeal during Jagan's regime in Andhra Pradesh. He reminded them that when Chandrababu Naidu came to power, the police officers who made mistakes were sent home, and three IPS officers had to face consequences for their actions in AP.

Speaking to the media today, Suman predicted that by-elections in the Chennur constituency are inevitable. He asserted that the Chennur MLA is likely to go to jail in connection with the money sent to suitcase companies. Suman accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of trying to protect MLA Vivek. He boldly claimed that not even Revanth Reddy, or even God, could save Vivek.

Suman criticized the police for showing undue enthusiasm regarding the ED (Enforcement Directorate) case, adding that Vivek's case will eventually reach the Supreme Court. He alleged that Vivek spent hundreds of crores of rupees during the elections. Suman expressed his anger, saying that the Telangana police seem to have increased their devotion to God, bowing down to the feet of Revanth Reddy.

He warned the police, who are showing zeal, that there will be consequences in the future. Suman accused the police of attempting to close the case being investigated by the ED and advised them to observe the latest developments in AP as a lesson.

## KA Paul Appeals to Halt Demolitions at HYDRA in High Court



**TPN, Telangana:** On October 4, the Telangana High Court examined the ongoing demolitions by the Hyderabad Development Authority (HYDRA). Prajashanti Party Chief KA Paul filed a petition seeking a stay on these demolitions under Government Order (GO) No. 99. During the hearing, Paul argued for an immediate halt to the demolitions. However, the court clarified that it could not suspend the demolitions at this time, indicating that actions should commence only after establishing the legal framework for HYDRA.

Paul's petition requested that notices be

issued 30 days prior to any demolition of illegal constructions. After considering his arguments, the court directed HYDRA and the government to respond, scheduling the next hearing for October 14.

The Telangana government established HYDRA on July 19 this year through GO 99, which empowered it to demolish several illegal constructions within its jurisdiction. Despite initial support, increasing protests against HYDRA's actions have led to tensions, with locals attempting to prevent demolitions and alleging that these actions occur without proper notices.

Concerns regarding the legality of HYDRA have prompted individuals to appeal to the courts for intervention. In response, the government decided to grant special powers to HYDRA, issuing an ordinance to overcome existing obstacles. This ordinance, approved by Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, adds Section 374-B to the Municipal Act, empowering HYDRA to protect government properties, lakes, and drainage systems within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits.

## Jagadish Reddy Criticizes Revanth Reddy's Diversion Politics

**TPN, Telangana:** Former minister Jagadish Reddy has expressed serious concerns about the statements made by Ministers Konda Surekha and Komati-ireddy Venkata Reddy. He remarked that Surekha's comments raise doubts about her mental state and criticized the lack of substance in the remarks of individuals who hold ministerial positions. He questioned the connection between KTR and the actions of miscreants, stating that Revanth Reddy is manipulating ministers while diverting attention with sensational claims.

Reddy accused Congress leaders of resorting to diversionary tactics due to their

failure to fulfill promises. He criticized them for bringing up irrelevant issues like the failure of the Hydra project and the involvement of film stars, asserting that such diversions are harming families. He further stated that the current plight of the Musi River is a consequence of Congress's mismanagement, emphasizing that the focus should be on improving the party's mindset rather than addressing superficial issues.

Reddy concluded by asserting that the Congress party needs a thorough reevaluation of its thoughts and strategies, which he described as more polluted than the Musi River itself.





## Real Estate Sector’s Hopes for Revival During Dasara Dashed



**TPN, Hyderabad:** Traditionally, the Dasara season is viewed as an auspicious time for buyers, builders, and developers, leading to a significant increase in inquiries and bookings for new properties, including flats and plots. However, this year, the real estate sector in Hyderabad is experiencing a notable lack of enthusiasm and activity, dashing the hopes of builders and developers for a seasonal revival.

Despite the Congress government being in power for ten months following the elections, the real estate market remains in a lean patch. Builders and developers are particularly disappointed as the anticipated surge in activity during Dasara has not materialized due to a poor response from buyers.

Factors contributing to this sluggishness include consumer apprehensions stemming from recent demolitions by the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring Protection (HYDRAA), the government’s approach to the sector, and delays in building permit approvals. Industry leaders, such as Narendra Kumar Kamaraju, Managing Director of Praneeth Group, noted that existing

systems are not functioning optimally and highlighted the lack of clarity regarding the Dharaani portal and Bhoomatha, as announced by the state government. This has led consumers and the market to adopt a wait-and-watch approach.

Kamaraju further stated that investors are not looking toward Amaravati for opportunities, suggesting that significant action in that region is at least four to five years away. He predicted that market revival is unlikely before mid-2025 or 2026.

Similarly, Narsi Reddy, Managing Director of IRA Realty, remarked that inquiries usually increase around July but have not been encouraging this year. The recent negative sentiment due to HYDRAA’s actions has affected customer confidence, particularly in the sale of open plots, which are often the first segment to feel the impact.

Reddy urged the government to recognize real estate as a key development factor for Telangana, emphasizing its role in job creation and revenue generation. He believes that fostering positivity in the market is crucial for its revival.

## “Shame... Shame” Posters Criticize Telangana PSC’s Handling of Exams

Posters reading “Shame... Shame” have appeared on the gates and walls of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TPSC) office in Hyderabad, expressing dissatisfaction with the commission’s performance. The posters highlight complaints regarding the inadequate formulation of questions in the Group-1 exam, with candidates noting that 150 questions were poorly designed.

As the Telangana government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, nears its one-year mark, critics argue that reforms within the TPSC have not yet materialized. Concerns have also been raised about the negative impact of previous paper leakages on candidates during the previous administration.

Despite recent appointments of the TPSC chairman and members, candidates faced significant



issues during the Group-1 exam, prompting further unrest. The posters resonate with job seekers frustrated by the government’s decision to disregard Telugu Academy publications as valid study materials, which was recently communicated to the High Court.

With upcoming Group-2 and Group-3 exams in November and December, candidates remain anxious as they prepare, voicing their concerns about the evident flaws in the question paper formulation for the Group-1 exam.

## Telangana HC Refuses to Stay HYDRA Demolitions During Dasara

**TPN, Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court on Friday, October 4, declined to stay the ongoing demolitions carried out by the Hyderabad Disaster Response Assets Protection Agency (HYDRA) during the Dasara festival.

During the hearing, the court issued notices to the Telangana government, asking them to provide reasons within four weeks for proceeding with the demolition drive in Hyderabad without adhering to legal provisions, such as issuing notices to property owners.

Chief Justice Alok Aradhe, leading the division bench along with Justice J Sreenivas Rao, emphasized the importance of the issues raised by petitioner Dr. KA Paul, stating that they are of public significance. Despite this, the court denied Dr. Paul’s request to halt the demolitions.



The court has directed the principal secretary to the government, the municipal administration department, and HYDRA Commissioner AV Ranganath to respond to the concerns raised in the public interest litigation (PIL). The next steps in the case will depend on the government’s response to the court’s inquiries.

## Krishna Rao Welcomes All-Party Meeting on Hydra and Musi Demolition

**TPN, Telangana:** BRS MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao stated that it is unjust to label people as occupiers after collecting taxes from those who have been living in the area for 60 to 70 years. He welcomed CM Revanth Reddy’s announcement that an all-party meeting will be held to discuss the demolition of Hydra and Musi. He noted that if the all-party meeting had been convened three months earlier, a woman named Buchamma would not have died. He emphasized that BRS had previously called for such a meeting.



Krishna Rao demanded to know how many ponds originally existed in Hyderabad and how many remain today. He criticized the chief minister, claiming that he has been misled by officials. He urged Revanth Reddy to speak with a full understanding of the situation. He pointed out that the ponds had been fenced as per the orders of KTR, but the fencing had to be removed after farmers at Nalla Cheruvu approached the High Court.

He asserted that if BRS leaders are found to be involved in encroachments at Nalla Cheruvu or Kukatpally, action should definitely be taken. He called for an inquiry into the en-

croachments by a sitting judge. Krishna Rao warned that those who have been residing in the area and paying taxes for decades should not be considered squatters. He suggested that Hyderabad should be developed in a way that does not cause unnecessary distress to its residents. He concluded by stating that if the process is carried out systematically, they will also support the cleaning of the Musi River.

## Cyber Fraudsters Dupe Elderly Couple in Hyderabad for Rs. 10.61 Crore

**TPN, Hyderabad:** In a shocking incident, an elderly couple from Hyderabad fell victim to cyber fraudsters, losing a staggering Rs 10.61 crore through threats of ‘digital arrest’ and various deceptive tactics. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) is now investigating the case after the couple filed a formal complaint.

The 73-year-old victim, who had been hospitalized in June, received a call from an individual impersonating an official from the State Bank of India (SBI). The caller falsely claimed that an account had been opened in his name using his Aadhaar card details in Mumbai and that attempts were underway to withdraw money from it.

When the elderly man denied any knowledge of such an account, the caller advised him to file a complaint with the Mumbai police and provided a phone number. He was then informed that his credentials had been misused to open a bank account involved in money laundering activities.

To further legitimize their claims, the fraudsters sent messages via WhatsApp, posing as

officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) Department. They pressured the victim to prove his innocence by showing that his assets, along with his wife’s, were not connected to any illegal activities, assuring him that the money would be returned within three days.

The cybercriminals even conducted several intimidating ‘investigations’ through video calls, dressed as police officers, which added to the couple’s anxiety. Under immense pressure, they transferred Rs 10.61 crore in multiple installments. After the funds were sent, the fraudsters cut off all communication, prompting the couple to realize they had been scammed and report the incident to the TGCSB.

Investigations revealed that the accounts involved in the fraud were traced to various locations, including Jhansi, Gorakhpur, and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, as well as Bengaluru, Gurugram, and several places in Bihar and Manipur. Authorities confirmed that these accounts were “mule accounts,” set up for criminals to use for illicit transactions.

## Woman Files Complaint Against YouTuber Harsha Sai for Online Harassment

**TPN, Hyderabad:** A woman has lodged a complaint with the Cyberabad cyber crime police against YouTuber Harsha Sai, accusing him of orchestrating online trolling that has caused her significant distress. The victim claims that Sai is responsible for the harassment and has provided screenshots as evidence to support her allegations, urging authorities to take action against those involved in the trolling.

As the investigation unfolds, the cyber crime police are expected to conduct a thorough inquiry

into the claims and determine the appropriate actions against the accused.

Harsha Sai gained popularity through his philanthropic videos, earning him the nickname “Mr. Beast of India” among his followers. However, he is also facing serious allegations from a 25-year-old actress who filed a case against him on September 24. She accused him of rape and blackmail, alleging that he threatened her with nude pictures and videos to extort money.



The actress, who has appeared in a reality show and co-starred with Sai in a film released a year ago, was sent for a medical examination as part of the ongoing investigation. According to the police, Sai and the actress first met at a private party and developed a relationship, during which he allegedly raped her under the promise of marriage. He is accused of taking her nude photos and subsequently blackmailing her. A case has been registered, but Harsha Sai has not yet been arrested.





# 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



and remain available until October 25. Interested candidates can apply within this time-frame.

The Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG) will

serve as the technology partner for the initiative, responsible for shortlisting candidates from October 27 to November 7. Selected individuals will have the chance to accept internship offers between November 8 and November 15, with the program

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

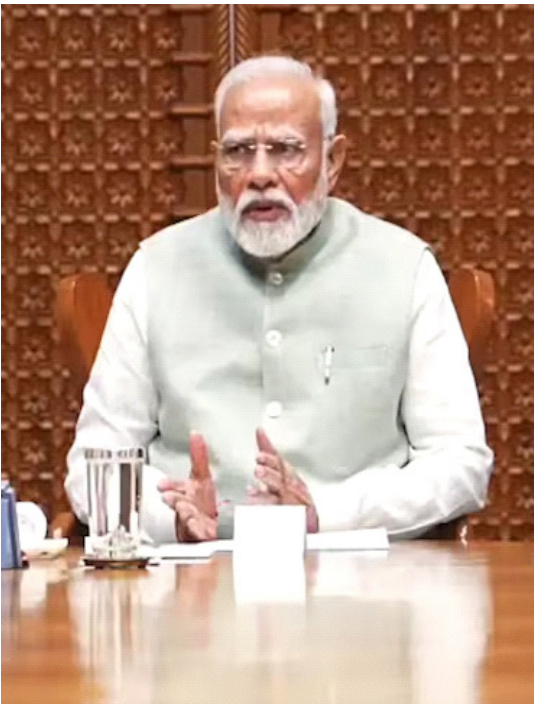
Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened an urgent meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to address the escalating crisis in West Asia, particularly following Iran's recent missile attack on Israel. This high-level committee includes key ministers such as the Home Minister, Defence Minister,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

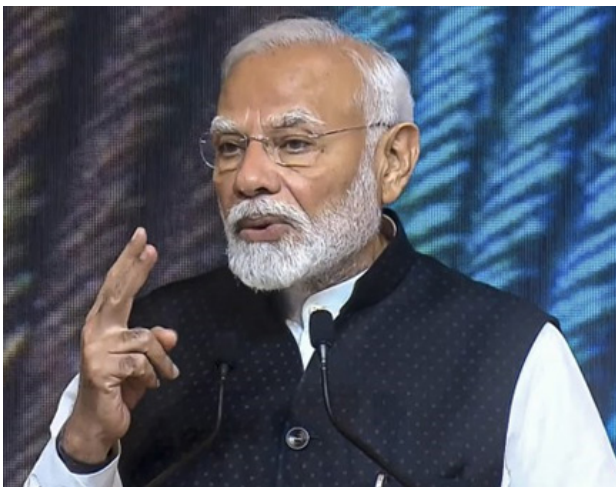
March 2026.

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).

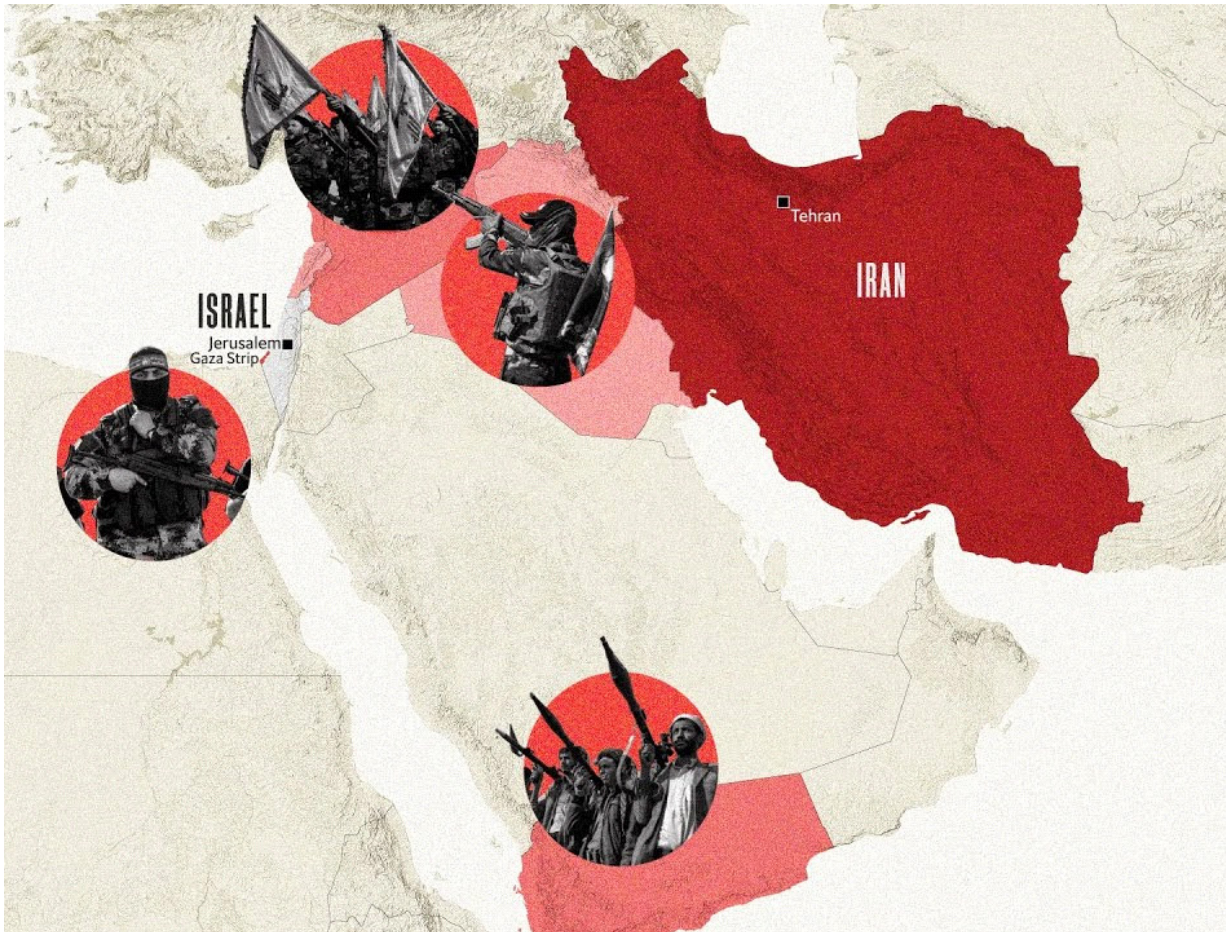
India has already made significant strides in improving energy efficiency across various sectors, from industry to transportation and buildings. By joining the Hub, India will be able to take these efforts further by engaging with leading nations and accessing cutting-edge research, technological advancements,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

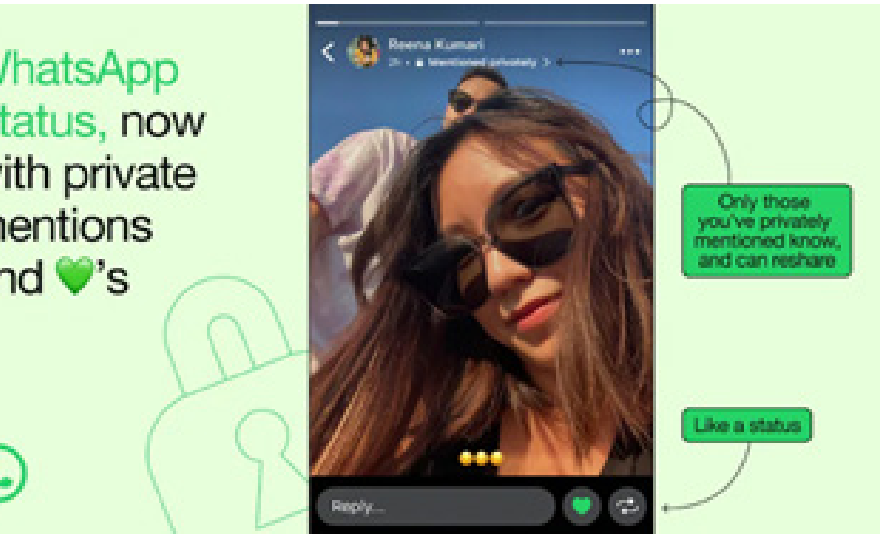


# WhatsApp Enhances Status Features with Likes and Mentions

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



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.

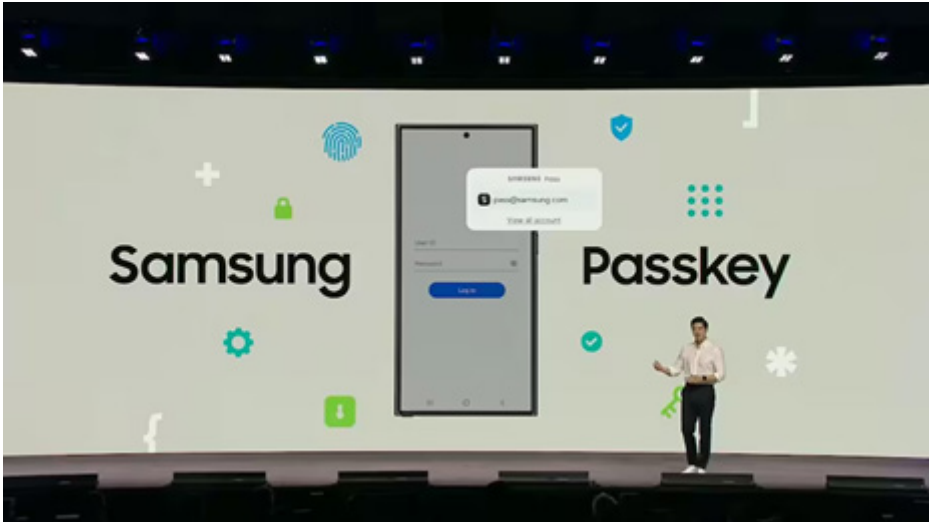
# Samsung Rolls Out Passkey Support for TVs and Smart Home Devices

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.

## 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.



## 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."





### 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.

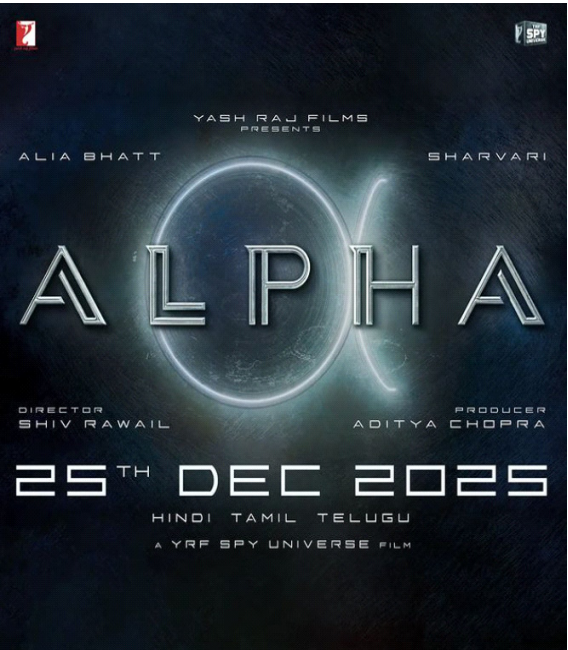
While details about the film's plot are still under wraps, the involvement of such talented actors suggests a compelling narrative that will likely resonate with audiences.

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

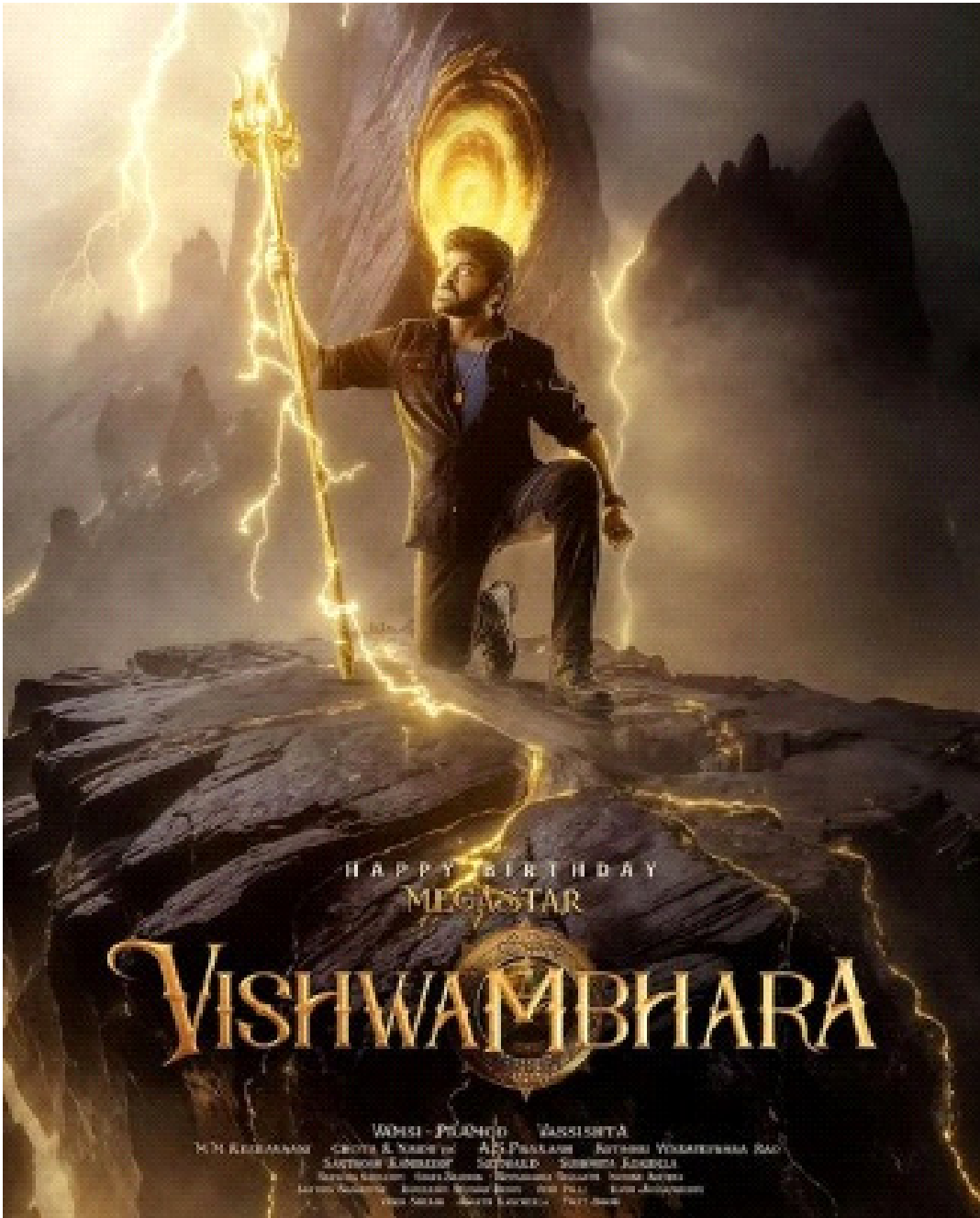
Alia Bhatt and Sharvari's highly anticipated film, *\*Alpha\**, has officially locked in its release date for December 25, 2025. The announcement was made via a poster shared on Instagram, stating, "On Christmas 2025, #ALPHA will rise! Get ready for an action-packed holiday."

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 Shraddha 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 Vinodh'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.